

PAST GREAT FAMINES.

Visitations of Distress During the World's History.
It must not be supposed that which is now devastating India, which is it, is unique in the world's history. The annals of history give a record of not less than 350 famines, dating from scriptural times down to the present, says Frank Leslie's daily. Famine and pestilence have been in hand, the one the other, and vermin and death always been among the chief. So recently as 1855 there came plague of locusts in Utah and only so far inland, prevented the total destruction of the crops and consequent famine.

Besides insects and vermin there may be other causes of famine, some natural, some artificial. Among these are rain, drought and other meteorological phenomena, war, defective agriculture, defective transportation, legislative interference, currency restrictions, speculation and misapplication of grain. In connection with this last-named item it may be said that, although it has been cursed with famine more in any other country, having had 34 in the century, as a whole country always produces food enough for all of inhabitants, and even years of famine there are regions of plenty sufficient to feed the starving if only the grain will be brought to them. It is natural, therefore, to suppose that the causes of famines are quite as much artificial as natural and that legislative weight could do much to prevent

SOLD FOR OLD JUNK.

Place of Faust, the Famous Carpenter, Goes to Second-Hand Dealer. The house in Roda, Saxe-Altenburg, where Dr. Johann Faust, the famous carpenter and soothsayer of legendary fame, was born toward the last quarter of the fifteenth century, was knocked down to a native junk dealer \$25 the other day, and is now being dismantled.

Five years ago, when the child's fair commission dispatched a small army of curiosity hunters to all parts of the globe to seek attractions, a good people of Roda asked a cool \$500 for the little pile of brick, wood, mortar and dust that was to be taken down and reected in this city. At the price was considered too stiff, and the negotiations fell through. In order that the house might not fall down, the municipal fathers of the little town ordered its immediate demolition, says the New York Sun.

This historic structure stood until late 1896 on a rock eminence near the Jenischisches Thor (city gate). It was frame building, very rickety, and had been extensively repaired. There is a legend that it dated back to the year 150 or 1400, as do many other buildings of Roda. That Faust saw the light in one of its dingy rooms, with floors of rammed earth and tiny windows in dark frames, is attested by several authentic statements in the town chronicle, and also in the Faust Buch, printed in 1857, from which all later writers on the Faust legend quote, and which is their chief authority.

BOTH WERE GENTLEMEN.

Afterthoughts and Their Reactions Shown That.

One cold and stormy evening last winter a prosperous-looking business man stopped in the vestibule of a large brick building, on his way out, and attempted to light a cigar, says the "Cuff's Companion." An "urchin with a handful of papers also stood within the arch, stamping his feet on the stone steps to warm them, as he justly cried for wages.

The wind blew out the last match and the fire-coated broker had about no person, and he turned to the boy and said:

"Here, boy, give me a match."

The lad eyed the gentleman furtively as he inquired: "Say, mister, is that a command or a request?"

Instead of being angry at this reproof the gentleman—for he was such—replied kindly:

"A request, my boy, a humble request; and I'll take a couple of evening papers, I guess," he added, as he received the match from the younger's hand and passed him a quarter, "and you may keep the change."

"That man's got manners if he's a regular ter 'em," said the boy, as his iron-bound case was opened.

"That boy won't always have to sell papers if he practices what he preaches," thought the brother, as he sat down to read the news.

A Jubilee.

There has been a great jubilation as what would be a suitable name for his year, in view of the fact that it is Victoria's 60th year, as a reigning monarch. When the 50th year was celebrated, it was named the Jubilee.

This recalls the story of an old lady, who was asked by her grandchild: "What is the meaning of this year 'jubilee'?" "Well, my dear," was the wise answer, "it is this way. If you have been married to a man 50 years, the man is alive, it is a golden jubilee."

Jews Worshipping in a Desert.

In the Jewish Chronicle appears an account of a remarkable Jewish congregation in South Africa, with population of 12,000 and 1,000 women. They live in a desert, 3,000 miles from any communication. The winter

if ever the place becomes an important center, this record will stand as evidence of the efforts made by its heroic founders to celebrate the traditional observances of their faith.

Volcanic Islands.

Since the beginning of this century no less than 52 volcanic islands have risen out of the sea. Nineteen of that number have since disappeared and ten are now inhabited.

GILA MONSTERS VENOMOUS.

A Servant Who Has Satisfied Himself That Their Bite Is Deadly.

Prof. John Van Denburgh delivered an interesting lecture at the Academy of Sciences upon the subject of the Gila monster. A good-sized audience was present, says the San Francisco Call.

"It has become a common supposition for years," said the lecturer, "that the bite of a Gila monster was as poisonous as that of a rattlesnake, but many of the scientists denied this. Numerous eminent scientific men stated that from actual experience they had demonstrated that the bite was harmless. One of these, Dr. Schufert, had himself been bitten by the reptile, and besides the pain occasioned by the ordinary bite of an animal, no ill results followed."

The lecturer then stated that he had demonstrated that the saliva of the Gila monster was poisonous. Its bite would in almost every case cause death if the teeth of the lower jaw penetrated the skin. It was the upper jaw of the reptile which sank into the flesh of Dr. Schufert, and as the secretion of the glands of the upper jaw was harmless the doctor lived.

The speaker said that he had injected the saliva of both the upper and lower glands into pigeons, and in every case where that from the lower jaw would penetrate the skin, it was the upper jaw of the reptile. It was the upper jaw of the Gila monster that caused the death of the victim. He showed why so many animals which are bitten by the poisonous reptile live. The ducts which lead from the glands to the mouth open between the lower lip and the gum. For the saliva to enter a wound it must be forced up from the lip to the teeth, and thence into the wound. Thus it is hard for the poisonous fluid to reach the blood, even if the victim is bitten by the lower teeth.

BECOMING POPULAR IN EUROPE.

Demand for American Hardwoods Steadily Growing on the Continent.

A significant fact in the industrial world of Europe is the steadily increasing demand for hard woods that are indigenous to the soil of America. As may be supposed, oak leads the foreign shipments, although tulip, poplar, ash, gum and black walnut, whenever a good quality can be secured, are in some demand.

European consumers like the quality of American oak, and, since it is known to be plentiful here, it will probably be in increasing demand. Cottonwood has been shipped to Germany in considerable quantities, where cheap wood is required for furniture, and other uses. Much of this lumber is forwarded from New Orleans, and since a great part of the oak, ash, poplar, cottonwood and other timbers demanded by the foreign market is in the southern states, it is not improbable that lumber for foreign markets will be largely shipped in future from the gulf ports. In speaking of this master the Northwestern Lumberman says that the European market requires lumber cut of exact thickness, and of accurate length, trimmed so as to have the butt square and true. Space for piling in the yards of the old world is an object, so that random, uneven lengths are objectionable, and, since the foreign buyer insists that he shall have just what he bargains for, quality should be strictly attended to.

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SALARY.

Can Be Live at Ease on the Income from His Savings?

"I shall not attempt to answer the question: How much of his salary does the president expend?" writes ex-President Harrison in an article in the Ladies' Home Journal, on "The Social Life of the President." "But those who think he can live at his ease after his retirement on the income from his savings should take account of several things: First, that the net income from safe investments does not exceed four per cent; second, that the amount invested in a home yields no income, and third, that he must have a private secretary, for his mail will be so large that he cannot deal with it himself. A son of one of our most eminent presidents who had lost all of his means told me that it was pathetic to see his father, who was in ill health, laboring beyond his strength to answer the letters that came to him. But if the president retains a fair measure of health he will take care of himself. If he was ever capable of directing the affairs of the nation he may be trusted to administer his own business; and if he has the skill to do it, he need not be worried about his expenses."

The Groom's Clothes Were Badly Burned and the Bride Muddy.

There was a time in Oregon when the male inhabitants mostly wore buckskin trousers, because there was no other material available for garment making. Oregon's climate, of course, is damp and buckskin once wet shrinks frighteningly in drying. This reminds an old pioneer, says the Covalis (Ore.) Times, of the first wedding he ever went to in Oregon. He said: "It occurred in the winter of 1845 at Oregon City. The bride walked two miles through mud to the church. She was arrayed in white, and when she appeared in church her gown was badly bedraggled. The groom wore buckskin trousers. Once they were dry, but they failed to reach his shoelaces. They ended somewhat about the calf of the leg, and the groom wore no socks. It was a strange costume for the chief contractor at a wedding, but the groom was undaunted. His name was Sharp and the name of the bride was Edie." Though they were wedded in unsightly spite, it is presumed that they lived happily until the husband years afterward, killed a man and went to the penitentiary, and the wife married another man.

King of the Hellenes.

The official title of the Grecian monarch, which is king of the Hellenes, said to have been adopted by way of a challenge of the sultan's sovereignty over the millions of Hellenes residing in Macedonia, Roumania, on the islands of the Aegean sea, and the Levant and on the coast of Asia Minor. King George's eldest son, Crown Prince Constantine, seems to have been named in the same spirit of defiance of the grand Turk, and in the fourth year of his age, which facts are recorded on her gravestone in the churchyard of Little Wilbraham, about six miles from Cambridge.

Thomas Parr, more familiarly known as "Old Parr," was born in 1453 and died in 1505, at the age of 152 years and nine months, having lived 17 years in the sixteenth, 10 in the sixteenth and 25 years in the seventeenth centuries.

On a tombstone in Llandaff Cemetery, N. H., is the following: "Widow Susanna Brownson was born August 31, 1809, and died June 12, 1882, aged 103 years." She had lived in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

A Remarkable Centenarian.

An Englishwoman Who Lived 150 Years in Three Centuries.

At first thought it appears well nigh impossible that one human life could touch three centuries before death came. The English papers have recently been discussing longevity in its various phases and find at least three well-authenticated cases of people who lived to three times change the last three numerals in the year date, says the New York World.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs, a Cambridge-shire lady, did so. She was born in 1809 and died on March 23, 1893, in the one hundred and fourth year of her age, which facts are recorded on her gravestone in the churchyard of the Great St. Peter's in the heart of the city on the Bosphorus founded by Constantine the Great, which for 1,000 years was the capital of the Grecian half of the Roman empire.

A Rare Beefsteak.

The first piece of beefsteak that ever reached the gold fields in Alaska sold for \$48 per pound. The piece of beef steak was carried 250 miles by Thomas O'Brien, from Forty Mile Creek to Circle City, and weighed a fraction over twenty pounds. It was put on exhibition at Circle City and attracted much attention, and was subsequently disposed of for \$480, the proceeds going to swell the miners' hospital fund at that place.

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IN HONOR OF WOMEN.

A Pretty Custom That Prevails in a Swiss Canton.

It is interesting to note how two small communities conpire to do honor to their womankind on account of services rendered in days long past, says the New York Journal. The Swiss canton of Argovie recently celebrates a fete which dates back to the year 1712, when Seigneur de Hallwyl held a regatta of amanoe to assist some Bernese troops who were hard pressed by the Catholic canton. On a given Sunday the women of the commune of Melterschwanden and Fahrwangen assume lordship over the masterful sex. The married women and girls issue invitations to their husbands and friends and the whole community assembles at a village inn. The men who are hereditary to the women shelter and chaperone their guests throughout the evening, and when dancing is done they escort the poor, weak men back to their own firesides. A pretty custom, deserving to be perpetuated.

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Propriété Améliorée

VENTES A L'ENOA.

PAR HARRY H. HODGSON.

ANNONCE JUDICIAIRE.

VENTE EN PARTAGE
Dans l'affaire de Louise Gehlbach,
exécutrice testamentaire, vs
Pauline Gehlbach et al.,
Dossier No 52,126.

-DANS LES-

Second et Troisième Districts.

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