

BIBLES BY THE TON.

The American Bible Society Issues 1,380,892 Copies During Year.

Of These 719,622 Were Distributed in Other Lands - The Total Receipts Amounted to \$370,064.

The eighty-third annual report of the board of managers of the American Bible society shows that during the year the total receipts for the living amounted to \$100,267; legacies, \$176,471; total receipts, \$370,064; disbursements, \$364,529; cash balance March 1, 1899, \$5,535.

The payments by the society's auxiliaries for the purchase amounting to \$69,082.39. In addition to this, they remitted on donation account in cash \$29,896.49, and authorized besides a transfer from their credit balance to donation account of \$2,624.62.

The invested funds were increased by legacies and gifts during the year \$3,700, and the total amount on the 31st of March, 1899, was \$416,652.58. The income from these permanent funds for the past year was \$18,052.85.

Three new century presses, the most perfect of their kind, have been put in place. They are very rapid and accurate. A rounding and backing machine and a case-making machine have also been purchased. These machines are capable of turning out 5,000 volumes a day.

The total issues for the year amount to 1,380,892 copies; more than half of which, 719,622 were distributed in other lands.

Somewhat more than one-half of the books issued during the year were printed and bound at the Bible house. Among the new issues are a duodecimo Portuguese Bible; the Gospels and acts from the modern version in Spanish, printed in large type and attractive form, and the New Testament and Psalms in the language of the Marshall Islands.

The Bible society record issued for the year, 207,207, a monthly average of 17,272.

There are 12 agents serving the society in other lands, whose whole time is devoted to its interests.

Besides these agents, 243 persons are reported as having been employed for a longer or shorter time in distributing the Scriptures in foreign lands.

FRENCH MAY USE OUR COAL.

Government Orders Examination with Idea of Adopting It for Navy.

The French government is making inquiries as to American coal, with a view to adopting it for the use of its navy. Lieut. De Farmon, the naval attaché of the French embassy at Washington, has been ordered to examine American coal now in use on American warships, and, having completed his inquiries, is now preparing a favorable report to the French admiralty. The officer at Norfolk and Philadelphia examined the practical uses of the kinds most used by the American navy. He also conferred with Admiral Bradford, of the bureau of equipment, and learned the advantages which, in the opinion of the navy department, the American coal possesses. Letters from Admiral Dewey reciting the experience of the squadron at Manila and giving the preference to American over British coal were submitted to him.

Lieut. De Farmon's observations lead him to the conclusion that American coal makes a slight percentage more smoke, but less ash and clinker than the Cardiff coal, which is the standard of the world over.

GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

Odd Characteristics of the Representative of Germany at Washington.

Baron von Holleben, the German ambassador, made a short visit to New York the other day. The neighborhood in the vicinity of the imperial embassy always know when the baron is away, as there is an air of "sweet nothing to do" throughout the great house when the austere baron is not present. The secretaries get through with their work an hour or two earlier and the servants have time to chat with one another. They relax perceptibly in manner, and open the door wider for an occasional visitor. No one dares disturb the baron at his meals or when he is busy. Even if he has made an appointment, and the caller should happen to arrive when the other arrangements, the baron is excused. For this reason he is not overrun with visitors, and his house wears a forbidding air.

Dictionary of College Slang. A literary worker is compiling a dictionary of American college slang, and it will give also, of course, the college yells. If this work falls into the hands of the natives of our newly-acquired islands, and they mistake it for the English language, some interesting results may be expected.

Like a Mushroom. Mountain View is the name of a new city of Oklahoma which grew up in a day. Larger cities, however, have disappeared in a night. As a rule, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, they have been cities constructed on the Mountain View model.

Opposed to the Trust. The American boy, in the opinion of the Chicago Tribune, may be counted as standing opposed to the combine ever since he learned that there was to be a trust in the thrashing machine.

Thrashing Machines. A thrashing machine trust has been formed, but the Danville (Ill.) News says it can't be complete without Gen.

FRAUDULENT CURIOS.

A Bona Fide Collection of Any Description is Now Hard to Obtain.

The hunter of curios needs a careful training if he is to build up a bona fide collection. This is not so easy as it seems, for the imitation of curios has been brought to an art of itself. There are certain factories in Europe in which all kinds of works of art that are likely to interest the collector are manufactured. The stamping of China with old marks, the treating of arms and armor with acids to make them look ancient, the staining of carved ivories with oil to make them yellow, and their subjection to heat to make them crack, are all so cleverly done as often to deceive the expert. The man who is engaged to drill holes in imitation of worm holes in pieces of furniture is almost an artist, and in Hungary there is a factory where a fairly passable imitation of Dresden china is made. Science has been enlisted to carry out one of the most profitable branches of this faking of curios. There has lately been discovered a disease which eats away bronze and gives it an appearance of antiquity. All old metallic objects in which copper and certain alloys have been used, are liable to be attacked by this corroding affection. Skilled fabricators of antiquities are known to inoculate their reproductions with spots of bronze disease. Many amateurs have an idea that they may pick up a priceless work of art or curio for a mere song, and they look in at-out-of-the-way auction rooms for that purpose. This is the chance for the forgers, and in the majority of cases they land their game.

A RUSSIAN'S VISION.

It Forms a Curious Contrast to the Czar's Professions of Peace.

In curious contrast with the professed love of peace of the present czar of Russia comes the publication of a pamphlet, "The War of the Future in the Year 18—," the vision of a Russian patriot, which was received with the greatest interest in Russia proper and was translated into French and German immediately after its appearance in Russia, says the Boston Herald. The story describes a war of Russia against Great Britain, Italy, etc., starting from the supposition that Russia possesses a naval port in the Arctic ocean not far from the North cape and a much stronger fleet than now.

The author is hiding under the pseudonym "A. Bjekomo" (meaning White sea), but his disguise is rather thin, for everybody knows that Admiral Makaroff is behind it. Only last year the czar authorized the use of 90,000,000 rubles toward the opening of Jekaterinopol, on the so-called Murmannic coast of the Arctic, a splendid harbor, which, on account of the influence of the gulf stream, is open the year round, and toward the building of additional men-of-war. The minister of the navy recently went with Admiral Makaroff to visit this new port, and railroads will be built to connect it with Archangel and St. Petersburg, the building of these railroads being now assured beyond a doubt.

Would this not prove that the czar has but small hopes of the ultimate victory of his peace projects?

LONGEST KNOWN.

The Lengthy Sentence That Was Pronounced Upon an Indian Swindler.

The tribunal of Modica, in the Sicilian province of Syracuse, has just pronounced a sentence which is declared to have no parallel in the judicial annals of Italy, as it has probably few in those of any other country. A man named Lupo Salvatore, of Comiso, had passed himself off as an advocate, and had with consummate skill committed 63 different acts of serious fraud in which he succeeded in using the machinery of the law. He had forged the signatures of the president and judges of the high court, of the king's procurator, and of the chancellor of the court. From this last-mentioned official he had even, with splendid audacity, stolen for a short time the seal of the chancery, which he needed to give effect to his fraudulent documents. The sentence is even more remarkable than the crimes. Salvatore was condemned to three years' imprisonment on each of the 63 cases, which brings the total of the sentence to 189 years, though the longest incarceration which the convict can be legally made to undergo is 39 years. The penalty inflicted is in each case the minimum for the offense. Had the court decided upon the maximum, which is ten years, the aggregate term of imprisonment would have been 630 years.

Santiago Americanized.

George Kennan tells in the Outlook how Santiago is becoming Americanized. American hotels and restaurants bearing such names as the "Luttrell house," the "United States hotel," the "American and French hotel," the "Arizona saloon," the "California saloon" and the "Chicago restaurant" are now to be found in all parts of the city; and the proprietors even of Cuban and Spanish cafes invite American patrons by means of rudely-painted signboards setting forth in quaint English the merits of the food, drink or entertainment to be found therein. Among such signs that he noted in the course of a day's walk about the city were: "Sweet Meats." "Everything is here for snail." "Hot lunches at all hours." "Customers treated kindly and quikly."

Sea-Mile Film.

A photograph film ten miles in length is somewhat of a novelty, seen in this age of big things. Three of them are now being made for use in a cinematograph. The cost is about \$1,000 a mile.

OUT OF TUNE.

Steve's Unwillingness on Its Feet Affects a Piano's Sweetness of Tone.

The girl had a new piano. She was a musical girl, and it was as nice a piano as could be found. When she had it properly set up and ready for use there was probably not a happier girl. But as she sat down to play a look of discontent and wonder spread over her face. It was strange, but this new piano was certainly out of tune; certain notes sounded like the hammering of a piece of iron. That would never do; she couldn't play on a piano like that; she couldn't understand it, either, for certainly that piano had a very sweet tone in the shop. So the piano man was sent for in great haste, and came to see what the trouble was, very much astonished himself. He ran his fingers over the piano and then, turning, gazed curiously around the room.

"That is a most curious and important man," thought the girl, as she watched him, his fingers moving over the keys, but his eyes wandering searchingly from one piece of furniture to another. Finally he left the piano, went to a stove in the room, tucked a piece of paper under one leg, and went back to the piano, when, strange to say, every note was as sweet and clear and full as could have been desired and there was not a suspicion of discord. During the cold weather a stove had been placed in the room, and not standing evenly, with certain vibrations of the piano it was made to move and there followed a little clattering of iron, which, coming simultaneously with the striking of the keys on the piano, sounded as if that instrument had produced the disagreeable sound.

"That is all right now," said the man as he left the piano, "only it was a stove man you needed instead of the piano man."

THE DUTCH HOUSEWIFE.

Her Constant Desire for Cleanliness Amounts Almost to a Crime.

The Dutch woman is before and above all things a housewife. Indeed, her love of home comes very near akin to worship, and the greatest compliment that can be paid to her is to praise the neatness and sweetness of the house that is her kingdom, says the Girls' Realm. She is famous all the world over for her remarkable cleanliness, and even in the very poor quarters of the cities, where the houses are small and crowded together, the windows are daintily decked with curtains of spotless white, the rooms well swept and tidy, the humble furniture carefully dusted and polished.

This desire for cleanliness, in fact, almost amounts to a crime, and housewives and servants alike evince a strong partiality for scrubbing, cleaning and washing. Even in well-to-do families a domestic training is considered a natural and necessary adjunct of the daughter's education, and each household duties apportioned to her. She is likewise taught to make her own dresses, to knit her own stockings and to keep her wardrobe in repair.

Nor does she shirk these duties, as it is to be feared so many of her English sisters do; on the contrary, they are carried out faithfully, cheerfully and as a matter of course, and it is due to this excellent training in her girlhood days that the Dutch woman makes so model a housewife. We might go further and say that it is through this training that the Dutch girl has earned the reputation of being "free and light of heart, and a stranger to the feeling of ennui," since she is always healthfully and helpfully employed.

THE SCOTCH RUSHLIGHT.

In the Days of the Candle Tax It Was Made at Night in the Greatest Secrecy.

Home-manufactured rushlights and candles were in constant use by the Scotch peasantry, says Good Words. Boiled animal fat gave the required tallow, and the same green rushes as were used for cruise wick supplied it also in this case.

In making rushlights all the green coating of these rushes was stripped off; but for candle wick a thin strip was left on either side of the pith to strengthen and support it. Otherwise the manufacture of these two lights was very similar. This substance from the rushes, when dried, was tied to a rod, then dipped into the boiling fat and allowed to cool, and this process was repeated until the rushlight, or candle, had become the desired thickness. In later years candles were made in molds. The tape was passed through a hole in the center of the mold and knotted to prevent it slipping. The fat was then poured in and allowed to cool.

These molds, during the days of the candle tax, were jealously guarded by the owners, and hidden in the most secret corners from the prying eyes of the exciseman. The candles were usually made at night in some out-house, and watchers were posted at convenient corners to give timely warning of any approach of the ubiquitous officer.

Canada's Extent.

Those who only casually look at the map are seldom impressed with the enormous size of our northern cousin. Canada needs only 237,000 square miles to be as large as the whole continent of Europe; it is nearly 30 times as large as Great Britain and Ireland, and is 500,000 square miles larger than the United States.

Heavy Cable.

The latest cable which has been laid across the Atlantic weighs 650 pounds to the mile. This is the biggest of all the cables.

HORSE OF THE UNDERTAKER.

Circumstances in Which It Takes on the Briskness of the Living.

The horse of the undertaker, drawing the black and sober wagon, is commonly driven, not at a walk, but a trot, though a trot that is never fast. There are times, however, when the horse seems to take on an aided touch of briskness and animation, in keeping with its surroundings, as, for instance, when it is seen, as sometimes it may be, with its black wagon, in the busy, quick-moving throng of vehicles that fills the streets in the neighborhood of Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, at the theater hour at night, says the New York Sun.

Here and at this time, in this constant weaving of light and motion, of cars running back and forth on the elevated road overhead, and moving cars, cable, trolley and horse, on the streets below, intermingled with all sorts of vehicles, including carriages of all descriptions, coaches, broughams, hansoms, electric cabs, and so on, everything and everybody seems to be in a hurry; or, if not in a hurry, to be going with a rush, quickly, eagerly, with the anticipation of pleasure. The cars are crowded as they push by, and every carriage is drawn briskly.

Emerging from the busy traffic may sometimes be seen an undertaker's wagon, its black, varnished sides glistening in the electric lights, its stiff plate shining and its horse going right along smartly. The wagon is just as black, just as decorous as ever, and the driver the same, but it seems as though the horse had caught the spirit of the throng.

THE MACHETE'S DEADLY CUT.

Lieut. Lyng, from Havana, Tells How a Spaniard's Body Was Severed.

The execution possible with a machete when wielded by a Havana Cuban horseman is told by Lieut. Lyng, assistant surgeon U. S. A., who is home in Minneapolis on a furlough from Cuba. During his service in Cuba Lieut. Lyng, whose swarthy complexion causes him to be mistaken for a Cuban officer often than for a native of Norway, which he is, collected many photographs and relics, says the Chicago News.

"While I was in attendance in one of the operating wards," said he, "a Spaniard was brought in who had been all but cut in two by a machete. The blow severed his left arm just below the armpit, and proceeded through the man's body until it encountered the spine and breastbone. Few soldiers who fell afoul of a deft fencer with the machete ever lived to tell the tale."

Among Lieut. Lyng's collection of photographs is one of a gigantic heap of bones of reconcentros whose bodies had been thrown in a pile on the outskirts of Havana and covered with lime. Another picture shows a pit full of skeletons, where the work of the quicklime had been left to vultures. These were bones of persons whose bodies were dug up and moved out of cemeteries because relatives had been unable to keep up the installment payments on their graves.

DAFFODIL LAND.

A New York Artist's Description of the Charm of the Scilly Islands.

A letter written by a New York artist who is painting there gives an enthusiastic description of the Scilly islands, which have, so far, been comparatively unknown to American tourists. Even the English have been slow in realizing the charm of the islands so near their own shores, but it seems that this spring many artists have gone to "daffodil land," and the winter exhibitions will probably be flooded with pictures of the islands. Daffodils have always grown in great profusion in the Scilly islands. February and March are the height of their blossoming time, and, to quote the artist's letter:

"The whole land is a blazing sea of brilliant yellow daffodils, surging up upon gray rocks and falling back in foambursts of white narcissus. Even the tuip fields in Holland don't give such gorgeous effects of color. You should stand on one of the little hills here and look across the small fields if you want to see the loveliest things in the world; yet, sometimes I think the flower-drifted land is more beautiful under moonlight than in the daytime; and, daytime or nighttime, the air is scented as though it blew straight from Araby the blest."

Not Strictly Poetic.

Mrs. Sherwood, speaking of Julia Ward Howe's keen sense of the ridiculous, relates that once upon a time a lady at Newport, trying to get a fine sentiment out of her, said, one moonlight evening on a vine-hung veranda: "Mrs. Howe, do say something lovely about my piazza." Whereupon every-one listened for the reply. That delicately cultivated voice responded: "I think it is a bully piazza."

A Blacking Box as a Coffin.

A poor middle-aged couple appeared before the Shoreditch board of guardians the other day, says a London exchange, to show cause why they should not defray the burial expenses of their child. The woman said the child was buried in a blacking box. She had received a letter from the vicar about it, and had had to get "a white coffin with white nails for the child."

One Spot Avoided by Sparrows.

In the fourth edition of Yarrell's "British Birds" Prof. Newton, F. R. S., gives in a footnote the curious fact that in the village of Sheparot, a moorland village of Devon, England, the sparrow is never seen. This is the sole exception known to the professor to the sparrow's universal distribution in England.

DOUBLE HEADLIGHT.

Device to Be Used on Locomotives Promises Safer Travel.

Electric Apparatus to Give a Beam of 6,000 Candle Power, of Which One-Third is Reflected in the Air.

The locomotives of fast passenger trains in the future will be equipped with powerful electric double-ray headlights, designed to give added safety to all trains traveling at night. The apparatus is so arranged the engineer in his cab will be able to determine the proximity of any train within seeing distance, according to atmospheric conditions, by looking up in the air, as well as along the track ahead.

The first of these new electric headlights to be operated in the United States was placed several months ago on an engine running between Cincinnati and Indianapolis, to give it a trial. The experiment has been a success, and several of the electric illuminators, it is understood, will shortly be attached to fast passenger engines on the same road running out of the Central depot in Chicago.

The electric headlight, reflector, dynamo, and steam engine for driving the motor are the invention of Edgar A. Edwards, a Cincinnati electrical engineer, who spent over five years in perfecting a compact and easily handled piece of machinery.

Besides furnishing an arc headlight of 4,000 candle power and a verticle signal beam of 2,000 candle power, this mechanism is designed to supply an entire train of sleeping cars or passenger coaches with incandescent electric lights. While the apparatus is designed specially for railroad service it can be used on vessels at sea or by the government service for signaling and other purposes.

The most important feature of the system is the plan for utilizing a portion of the light as a signal to indicate, at a distance, the approximate location of a locomotive approaching from any direction. This is accomplished by placing an auxiliary plane reflector on the headlight case at an angle of 45 degrees, in such a manner that one-third of the total 6,000 candle power of the headlight is projected vertically from 1,000 to 2,000 feet in the air, making a beam of light that can be seen from any point within a radius of from five to ten miles according to the weather.

MEETS GIANTIC ICEBERG.

British Ship Encounters a Mountain of Ice 600 Feet High and a Mile and a Half Long.

Capt. Fitzgerald, of the British steamship St. Andrews, which arrived at New York the other day on its maiden voyage from Newcastle, England, says he saw the monarch of the iceberg fleet on this trip. The St. Andrews is a vessel of 4,450 tons, and when it reached the region of the banks Capt. Fitzgerald posted double lookouts. The vessel was steaming at ten knots on the morning of April 3 in latitude 43.35 and longitude 47 when the man in the crow's nest shouted that icebergs in plenty could be seen off the starboard bow. The first berg, a mountain 200 feet high, was then a mile to the northward. West of it was the giant, a towering mass of ice 600 feet high and a mile and a half long—so Capt. Fitzgerald declares.

The St. Andrews was soon abreast of it, and the crew had a view of the great berg, which was nearly oblong in shape, its top crowned with spires and pinnacles, displaying all styles of architecture. Enormous fissures and chasms rent its rugged sides, and the water that splashed into the sea from one gigantic cataract would have swamped three ships like the St. Andrews.

The berg was one of 13, floating from three-quarters of a mile to a mile north of the St. Andrews, but near enough to send the temperature down far below the freezing point.

COLLISIONS AT SEA.

To Be Averted by a Marvelous Little Instrument—An Official Test Given It.

An official test was given on the government tug Daniel S. Lamont to the cophone, an instrument designed to prevent collisions at sea. The cophone was some time ago adopted by the government for the revenue cutter service, and is about to be introduced generally.

The instrument is simple in construction. A vane, shaped like a block of steel rail, on the pilot house of a vessel, is connected with a dial wheel in the cabin by a brass rod. The operator places receivers, not unlike those used on a telephone to the ears. When during a fog, a ship whistles or the boat nears a reef, the vane catches the sound on the side on which it occurs, transmits it through funnels to the receivers, and the operator, by turning the dial until the maximum volume of sound is reached, can determine to the fraction of a point where the ship or reef is located. A whistle can be heard many miles away. The instrument never fails in accuracy.

During the tests the exhaust of a tug in the harbor was heard and located when the boat was but a dot on the horizon.

Souvenirs for Everybody.

Relics from the Maine wreck and Cuban dungeons are now manufactured "while you wait" by a number of Havana curio dealers.

Great Shop Wages.

In 300 New York sweat shops the highest wages earned, according to the board of health report, is 45 cents for 18 hours' work a day.

HEAT IN PHILIPPINES.

While Not Excessive in Summer Season It Will Prove Trying to Our Soldiers.

Dr. W. F. R. Phillips, the government expert in charge of the section of climatology of the weather bureau, was asked as to the effect the approaching rainy season will have on the health of soldiers in the Philippines. He said:

"Of course the health of the soldiers will depend to a considerable extent on the care and consideration given them by their officers and on the location and sanitation of their camps during the rainy months. The great cause for apprehension will be the terrible uniformity of temperature which exists throughout the summer season in the Philippines, especially around Manila and other low-lying coast-stations. The temperature itself will not rise unusually high. It is not likely in the hottest part of the day to go above 87 degrees; but then it is not likely during the next six months to fall below 77 degrees. In other words, the nights at Manila will have a temperature as high as the average August midday temperature in Chicago.

"A man accustomed to the climate of the temperate zone cannot realize what this means until he experiences it. At no time in the day or night does the body become cool. The incessant heat, especially in cases where persons are required to undergo exercise of any kind, becomes almost intolerable and cannot but be detrimental to health. We know too little to say what will be the probable effect of the high degree of moisture that prevails in the Philippines upon our troops. That it does not conduce to sunstroke, I think I have pretty well established, although a popular fallacy obtains throughout the country to the effect that additional moisture in the air tends to promote sunstroke."

STANDS THE TEST.

Practical Experiment at Washington with the Marconi System of Wireless Telegraphy.

The first thorough test at Washington of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy was conducted under the supervision of Col. James Allen and Col. George O. Squier, of the signal corps. Communication was established between the state, war and navy departments building and the naval observatory. The distance traveled by the waves was more than a mile.

No attempt was made to send formal messages, but words were flashed through space, which demonstrated that messages can be transmitted between two points without the use of wires. The day was perfect and the conditions were all favorable.

Col. Allen, with the assistance of signal corps men, was in charge of the transmitter, which was placed on top of the state, war and navy departments building, while Col. Squier was in charge of the receiving instrument on top of the naval observatory.

It took several hours to adjust the instruments and to perfect the connection. When this was done words were ticked off by Col. Allen which were reproduced by Col. Squier. Not all of the words were successfully reproduced, but enough to demonstrate that with more perfect adjustment messages could be transmitted. Col. Allen said the test was quite satisfactory for that distance. He expects to be even more successful in subsequent operations.

ODD PRANKS PLAYED BY CUPID.

A Married Man and Woman Pass Each Other on Trains in Different Directions.

Cupid played some odd pranks with James H. Geltner, of Bethlehem, and his bride, Pearl Knowland, of Indianapolis, Ind., but they finally outwitted him.

They were to have been married at Indianapolis, but the bride decided to have the ceremony performed at the home of her cousin, Mrs. James Berry, of Jeffersonville. She wrote Geltner a letter, saying she would meet him there on the appointed day.

He failed to get the letter, and took a train for Indianapolis. In blissful ignorance he passed a train en route on which his bride was going to keep her supposed engagement at Jeffersonville.

They arrived at their destinations, and, finding no one waiting for them, decided to return at once, in the hope of locating the missing loved one. Again they passed each other en route.

The bride again started toward the Ohio. As she stepped from the train at Jeffersonville she encountered the anxious groom waiting for another train to Indianapolis. They repaired to the home of the cousin and Rev. George H. Finger united them in marriage.

One Ton of Crystal Quartz.

The largest quartz crystal known is that found by J. E. Burton last December in a mine in Calaveras county, Cal. It is reported to be 11 feet seven inches in circumference, four feet two inches in diameter, three feet six inches wide and two feet two inches high, and to weigh over 2,200 pounds. It is thought that a large part in the center would cut a pure ball of crystal from 12 to 14 inches in diameter.

Books in the British Museum. Dr. Richard Garnett, the keeper of printed books in the British museum, says there are about 2,000,000 books in the museum. The catalogue, which is not all printed, used to consist of 3,000 volumes. When it is all printed, however, it is hoped to condense it to 1,000. About \$20,000 is annually spent on the compilation of the catalogue alone.

Dead of Westminster Abbey. In Westminster Abbey 1,173 persons have been buried.