

STEAMERS ON THE CONGO.

There is Now a Large Fleet Plying on Eight Thousand Miles of Waterways.

Twenty years ago Henry M. Stanley, who had reached Stanley pool to begin his five years' work planting stations on the waters of the Congo...

There are to-day 103 steamboats traveling up and down the upper Congo and its tributaries or preparing in the shipyards at Stanley Pool for launching.

It was a gigantic undertaking to transport the 50 steamers to the upper river. They had to be carried piece by piece on the backs of men.

TURNED OFF THE WELL GAS.

How the Owner of a Natural Gas Well Accounted for its Sudden Failure.

Here is a story of the late Paul Rainey, the coke magnate, and his friend, the late Charles Latimer, eminent engineer.

"Struck what?" cried Mr. Latimer. "Struck a pocket, that's what you've struck. You'll see. It can't last, I tell you."

And thereafter every time Mr. Latimer met Mr. Rainey he berated him for scorning the divining rod, and warned him that his gas supply would soon be exhausted.

Mr. Rainey began to expect this attack every time Mr. Latimer came in sight. And he prepared to counteract it by saying: "But the gas still flows, Charlie."

"It was only a week or two before," said Mr. Rainey in telling the story.

India as a Coal Market. India is rapidly becoming an important factor in the coal market.

The Goat as a Milker. The goat produces more milk annually in proportion to its live weight than any other animal kept for milk production.

EDITING MANUSCRIPTS.

Ludicrous Blunders Are Sometimes Made by the Most Experienced Authors.

"Most authors are furious at the bare suggestion of editing their manuscripts," said a man who used to be a reader in a big publishing house.

"Another writer, for whom we got out a story, made one of his characters 'empty his revolver' at a retreating burglar, and a moment later 'sent two bullets crashing through a window' to show a rival how quick he was on the trigger.

It is a common thing for writers to locate well-known streets, parks, art galleries and monuments in the wrong cities, and they make the sun rise and set at all the points of the compass.

NOVEL REMEDY FOR OBESITY.

Practice Climbing Stairs and Your Surplus Fat Will Be Quickly Taken Off.

Not so very long ago a Philadelphia Inquirer man got off at the twelfth floor of a big office building instead of the eleventh, as he had intended.

"Climb a flight of stairs" disdainfully rejoined he of the 300 pounds between puffs.

"Mean to say you've walked all the way up here?" "That's just what I mean. Elevators are running, too."

"I know that. Came up in one myself a few minutes ago. But how on earth do you account for doing all this climbing?"

"Neither am I. Never was more sensible in my life. Just made a new discovery, that's all. Realized how fat I've been getting the past three years."

"Well, it was in spite of everything I could do to stop the accumulation of tissue. I was afraid I would soon do for the fat-boy act in a side show until one of my friends bet me a bottle of ginger ale that I couldn't climb three flights of stairs in this building."

"The reporter nodded in the affirmative." "Well, it was in spite of everything I could do to stop the accumulation of tissue."

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The Experience of Fathers. It is the experience of fathers that they get more enjoyment out of daughters who are not the popular craze with young men.

GEN. CHAFFEE.

Something About the American Officer Who Wrote to Field Marshal Von Waldersee.

"That letter in which Gen. Chaffee 'called down' Field Marshal Count von Waldersee for German looting must have been an amusing document," said an ex-officer of volunteers.

"During the engagement at El Caney Chaffee was in command of a brigade in Lawton's division, and on the morning of July 1, when the fighting began, he was saddled with 300 or 400 of our Cuban allies."

"During the heat of the general engagement the allies were forgotten, but early in the afternoon there was a lull in the action, and while Chaffee was consulting with some of his regimental officers a Cuban aide came rushing up and reported that the native division was out of ammunition."

"Another perpetual motion man is William H. Doyle, of Hermon, who has contrived a big wheel with an elaborate system of springs. He is 75 years old and has been working on his idea for half a century."

"Why he paints his face. Reasons for a Time-Honored Custom That is Prevalent Among the Indians. Every point mark on the Indian face is a sign with a definite meaning which other Indians may read."

Very peculiar are some of the honorable symbols painted on the Indians' faces. There are fish, flesh and fowl of all kinds—dog-salmon, devilfish, starfish, woodpeckers, eagles, ravens, wolves, bears, sea lions and sea monsters, mosquitoes, frogs, mountain goats, and all manner of foot, claw or beak marks—each with a special meaning of its own.

First Convict—Did the new arrival explain how he looted the 'Steenth national?" Second Convict—Oh, yes! It is plain that the art of eliminating a bank's surplus has made great strides since we were in the business.

A Common Observation. What a failure most of us make of life.

PERPETUAL MOTION.

Log Choppers in the Woods of Maine Think They Have Discovered the Secret.

There are two things of which Maine people never tire—trying to enforce the prohibitory liquor law without actually creating a drought, and rigging up perpetual motion machines.

To pass away the time the boys began tinkering with this truck, and finally they got it fixed together, apparently, in its original form.

The inventors, or discoverers, say that one ball rolling down a sluice or spoke will furnish sufficient power to raise three balls in the elevator, and that, consequently, there is nothing to prevent the wheel from turning indefinitely.

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A DOMESTIC CATASTROPHE.

In Which the Independent Spirit Mr. Housekeeper Gets the Worst of It.

When the general superintendent of the household department is sick there is no amount of good will on the part of the rest of the family that will induce things to run smoothly.

"I'm a very busy man and this is one of my busiest seasons, but I'll be blanked if we'll have another girl round here to bunzo us and increase mother's nervousness."

The lower pan was hot, but he hung on grimly and hurried. The rubber dropped from one foot, the slipper slipped, and he came down so hard that he saw stars with his eyes shut.

When she entered the pharmacy the proprietor was too busy stacking almanacs to hear her footsteps. She tapped on the brass scales and became out smiling, says the Chicago Daily News.

"What can I do for you?" he asked, with a courteous bow. "Ah, monsieur," she replied, "you can do nothing now; you have done much in the past. I come to say zank."

The pharmacist was puzzled. "I am afraid I don't recall the circumstances," he said, shaking his head.

"Ah, monsieur's memory is weak. Two years. I come one night. Ze wind. How ze wind blew zat one night two year ago! Ah, monsieur, and ze sleet. Horrible ze thought! I come and ask for ze poison. I was ze one miserable singer. My voice fail. No longer ze audience call for Marie. Ze audience hiss ze song. I no longer want life. I come for ze poison. Monsieur sell ze belladonna without ze prescription or ze question."

"Did you take it?" gasped the pharmacist. "Monsieur will listen. I stand in ze dressing-room. I would take ze poison in ze moment. While I wait I have one idea. I put ze belladonna in my eyes. Ze shine like stars of ze north. Glorious! I run out on the stage. In ze box sit ze rich old man. He fall madly in love with my bright eyes. He beg me to marry him. He worth many millions. I am his wife to-day. Suppose monsieur had refused ze poison on zat wild night two year ago?"

"It would have been bad for you?" "Horrible! And now I will buy something of monsieur. Give me two stamps and one postal, please!"

The pharmacist sighed and opened the stamp drawer. When his visitor was at the door smiling a farewell he beckoned her to return.

"Was ze change right?" she queried. "Yes, but you forgot to take an almanac."

He forced a collection of variegated pamphlets in her hands. "Here is a good selection. Calendars, recipes, jokes and the pictures of great men who take preparations."

Wilhelmina's Present from Her People. The Dutch national present to Queen Wilhelmina on her wedding was the picturesque forest of the Orangewood, in Friesland, near Heerenveen.

A Bad One. Manager (to the new actor)—Your performance of "Hamlet" is the very worst I've ever seen. If there had been any money in the house I should have been bound in honor to return it at the doors. As it is, several friends have sent in and peremptorily demanded that their names should be removed from the free list.—Tit-Bits.

Modest. Mr. Johning—So yo' want to marry mah daughter, eh? What am yo' prospects? The Suitor—Well, I ain't got no title to lib up to.—Puck.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Montreal's death rate in 1900 was 24.47. There were 7,351 deaths.

The income tax of India is levied on all incomes of £33 and upwards.

The green goods business is flourishing in Corea, where court officials are permitted to circulate debased and even counterfeit currency.

The text of the proposed law for the prevention of malaria in Italy provides, among other things, for the gratuitous distribution of quinine to the poor by municipal authorities.

Henequen will continue to be Mexico's most important article of agricultural export for a good many years to come.

The Cape of Cairo railway is at present being extended from Bulwajo to Wanki, a place about 200 miles farther north, where a great coal discovery has just been made.

The typhoon of the orient is an own sister of the West India cyclone. It is generally in low latitudes, late in the summer or early in the autumn, at the western edge of the Pacific, not far from the Philippines.

There exists in Mexico 10,234 mining titles to 25 different classes of mines distributed throughout 26 states and territories.

Silver mines naturally lead, numbering 4,109. Gold mines number 928, while 2,220 are classed as gold and silver mines.

The silver and lead properties number 1,510, copper, 286, and mercury, 113.—Modern Mexico.

SYMPTOMS OF CROUP.

Some Advice About the Disease Which May Serve as a Guide to Proper Treatment.

Croup is an inflammation of the larynx, occurring in young children, which is accompanied by a tough, fibrous deposit covering the vocal cords and other parts of the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea.

Physicians are not agreed as to the true nature of croup, some believing that it is simply a diphtheria of the larynx, others that it is a disease entirely distinct from diphtheria.

The symptoms of croup are simple those of suffocation, varying in intensity according to the thickness of the membrane filling up the larynx, and the degree of the resulting obstruction.

There may be only a slight huskiness in the voice and cough, or the voice may be very feeble, or even reduced to a whisper, while the breathing is rasping. After the change in the voice, we may look for progressive shortness of breath, which may increase rapidly until suffocation is imminent.

The skin becomes cold and blue, the nostrils dilate widely with each inspiration, and the whole body heaves with the effort to draw air into the lungs through the almost closed larynx.

The short breath of true or membranaceous croup differs from that of false or spasmodic croup by being constant. In false croup the attacks come on in the night, and during the day the child may seem nearly as well as usual; but in true croup there is no relief, the condition growing steadily worse and worse.

In diphtheritic croup the child is seriously ill with fever, depression, a weak pulse, and all the other signs of a dangerous disease.

Formerly the only hope of relief in severe cases of membranaceous croup was in tracheotomy, that is to say, cutting an opening into the windpipe below the larynx and inserting a curved tube, through which the air could reach the bronchial tubes and lungs. This is now almost entirely supplanted by intubation, or the insertion of a tube between the vocal cords, thus restoring the natural channel for the passage of air.

In cases of nondiphtheritic croup this procedure often saves the child's life, but when the case is one of true diphtheria the little patient has still the original disease to contend with, although he is saved from suffocation.

How Sharkey Treated. Tom Sharkey, the prize fighter, recently went into a drinking place and joined thirty or so of his friends.

Drinks flew about rapidly, and Sharkey each time took a cigar. The able seaman was much preoccupied every time it was his time to buy, and he soon had all pockets filled with perfectos.

Sharkey soon began to discourse on his favorite topic of money, and remarked proudly that when he got too old to fight he would have enough money to keep him the rest of his life.

"And if you don't have the money, you'll have enough cigars to start a cigar store." The sailor overlooked the thrust, and when the other fellows had laid out their spare change he turned to the crowd and said: "Well, boys, it's my treat. Have a cigar!"

And he handed each a weed from his pockets.—N. Y. Press.

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