

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

"Prosperity has ruined many a man." "No doubt; but if I'm given any choice in the matter I'd rather be ruined by prosperity than by adversity. The process is more enjoyable."—Chicago Post.

Double Vision.—Judge—"Have I not seen you twice before under the influence of liquor?" Defendant—"If you were in that condition, your honor, you probably did see me twice."—Philadelphia Press.

Timely Warning.—"Here, Johnnie," said the proud mother, "you may have one of the first crullers I ever baked." "And be careful, Johnnie," added the father, "not to let it fall on your toes."—Ohio State Journal.

Candor—"You see that lady over there?" She is Mrs. C. I fell in love with her at first sight. What do you think of that?" Synnex—"I think it would have been better had you taken a second look."—Boston Transcript.

Say, Blacum, why don't you listen to Budgett's after-dinner remarks?" "Because I prefer to read them in the morning paper. They sound so much better after the reporters put them in shape."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"But why," we ask of the great inventor, "do you have this huge balloon at the top of your machine, and the large wheels and steering gear beneath it?" "Because," he answers, "with patient consideration for our inability to grasp an idea when it juts out before us, I am not sure whether this will be an airship or an automobile."—Baltimore American.

NEW THING FOR GIRLS TO DO.

Five Young Women of St. Paul Who Have Been Chopping in the Minnesota Forest.

George J. King, the well-known hotel man of Pelican Lake, has just returned from his claim near the Big Fork river in Cass county, where he and Mrs. King have been living since December, most of the time in a tent, says a St. Paul correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Mr. King says five young women from Minneapolis are their nearest neighbors and all have been spending the winter on their homesteads in the woods. These women came out with store clothes, wraps and furs, but have discarded them and are now wearing shirts and jackets made from blankets.

They were armed when they went into the woods with lathing hatchets and meat saws, but they have substituted four-pound axes and two men saws for the playthings. The experiences of the young women would fill a book, but they do not compare with the astonishment of the two bachelor storekeepers in the wilderness when the five damsels paraded up to the store for supplies.

One of the young women was in need of something to protect her feet, as her shoes were worn out. The best the bachelors could offer was German wool socks, and, while she was waiting for a pair of small-sized lumberman's overboots to complete her outfit, Miss Homestead pruned around the forest with the sforded socks and a pair of birch bark soles lashed to her feet with binding twine.

Mr. King is authority for the statement that the young women are becoming expert in the use of their axes. They can cut down trees, but the stumps look so much like the work of beavers that an experienced trapper would think he was on the trail of the dam builders. The young women are more careful now, for in felling a tree they managed to drop it on one of the cabins and the owner was compelled to go visiting until her house could be rebuilt.

"They are the greatest bunch I ever saw, and I didn't think they would stay one night in the woods," said Mr. King. "But they appear to enjoy it, and none of them have been sick since they settled on their claims early in the winter. Yes, they are all young—from 20 years up. They will come out in a few days and go to Minneapolis for awhile, but they will be back on their claims again this summer. It will be easier for them to go in then, for they have cut three miles of road through the timber, and when they strike that road there is no danger of their getting lost unless the beavers work a crosscut on them while they are away."

MENU FOR KING'S DINNER.

London Is Busy Speculating Upon What Can Be Had for a Half Million.

If 500,000 persons are to be feasted for \$20,000, what may they expect to have in their menu? A little elementary arithmetic shows that the money available amounts to 600,000 shillings, and, assuming that a shilling a head would be available for the regaling of the king's humble guests, a representative put an inquiry to a director of a well-known firm of refreshment contractors as to what he would be prepared to provide.

It was suggested that the time of the year might influence the tastes of the diners; but, with a knowledge born of long experience in furnishing similar feasts, the gentleman interrogated observed, smiling, that that made no difference. Dog days or winter, the banquetters would expect very solid and filling sustenance; and he expressed his conviction that for the sum named it could be perfectly practicable to provide a "square meal" of joints, sweets, cheese, a limited quantity of beer or mineral waters, and perhaps even a trifle in the nature of dessert.

If, as is most probable, local benevolence should come forward to furnish the liquid portion of the dinner, and amateur waiters would minister to the needs of the feasters, then the banquet may become more elaborate.—London Telegraph.

HOME SILK CULTURE

The Notable Undertaking of a Generous Southern Woman.

A Noble Project Which Looks to the Provision of Employment for Poor People of the Gulf States.

It is proposed to introduce silk culture and manufacture into the south. To this end the commissioner of agriculture in Washington asks congress for an appropriation of \$10,000 for experimental purposes, and says: "We annually import \$50,000,000 worth of raw silk which should be raised in this country."

The governor of South Carolina has appointed a scientific commissioner to take charge of the enterprise—Miss Henrietta Aiken Kelly, of Charleston. She has spent six years in Italy, making a scientific study of silk worms and mulberry culture, and is soon to return to this country and push the work already begun. She has appointed a committee in each county in South Carolina to act until she takes charge in person, says a Washington report.

The secret of silk culture is ability to select eggs that will hatch. This is obtained only after careful scientific research with the microscope, and this is what Miss Kelly is now doing in Paris—completing her study of the Pasteur microscopic selection of seeds (eggs), the only successful method in raising cocoons.

Miss Kelly emphasizes that this silk culture movement will provide work for the poor and unemployed, particularly of the gulf states.

Her American representative, Mary T. Lawton Metcalf, of Great Falls, Staten Island, acting chairman of the centennial committee of scientific silk culture in the United States, lays great stress on the part it will play in settling the dark and ominous race problem of the south.

Before Miss Kelly began her six years' course of scientific silk culture investigation in Paris she achieved distinction as an original and successful teacher in the south. She was the principal and proprietor of the Charleston (S. C.) Female seminary when she went abroad to study silk culture.

Miss Kelly's influence and personality have impressed themselves on every life of girlhood with which for 25 years she has come in contact. In every state of the union may be found women who are training sons and daughters by methods learned at her school—upon the basis that the mind triumphs over matter, that love of country promotes its progress and is a noble passion.

She is now prepared scientifically to provide a noble agricultural industry for the unemployed masses of the south and all sections of the United States where the mulberry tree is indigenous and luxuriant. Miss Kelly proposes to establish a national college of scientific silk culture (sericulture) in the buildings of the Charleston female seminary. She offers this property, valued at about \$30,000, free of rent, for five years to the United States government, through the department of agriculture. The secretary of agriculture has recommended to congress an immediate appropriation of \$10,000 annually for five years to be devoted to scientific silk culture.

Italy's Monarch Is Considered the Cheapest Guest a Nation Can Have.

The big reception given to Prince Henry of Prussia by the United States makes it interesting to learn that the most economical royal visitor a country can have is the king of Italy, says a New York exchange. The German emperor is also an economical guest, as he does not care much for mere show. Give him some soldiers to look at and a review, and it is all he wants. It has been estimated that a private host can entertain the emperor for a week in the very best style for the trifling sum of £1,000.

Leopold of Belgium is an expensive visitor. To entertain him and his suite for a week costs no less than \$20,000. The last time the shah went to England it cost \$100,000 to entertain him for a week, and there was not "much doing" at that.

That little visit of the czar to France cost the republic a pretty penny. Special messengers were sent to invite him at a cost of \$5,000, and \$50,000 was expended in cleaning up Dunkirk, where he was to land, and putting it in a presentable shape. The government erected triumphal arches at a cost of \$50,000, and spent \$5,000 for flags.

Then there were 5,000 picked troops to be got ready, besides the review troops. These picked troops were specially trained, drilled and quartered for over six weeks at a cost of \$100,000, and 25 military bands were put down in the estimates at a cost for food and extra expenses at \$12,500.

The naval review held for the delectation of the czar cost \$250,000, the item for coal alone being \$100,000. In saluting powder to the value of \$25,000 was burned, and the cost of guarding the czar was estimated at \$30,000. On housing and feeding him and his suite the sum of \$75,000 was spent, and there was an extra appropriation of \$50,000 for laundries.

The Light That Failed. He gazed on her with love beaming from his eyes, while her orbs flashed back an effulgence that rivaled the electric light.

"You are you are," he breathed, rather at a loss for words of affection, "you are the light of my life!"

She gave him a look of alarm, and then whispered softly in his ear: "Take care my father does not put you out!"—Stray Stories.

MOURNS FOR GOOD OLD TIMES.

Bishop Potter Tells Yale Students That Modern Life Has Lost Simplicity of Few Generations Ago.

Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York, during a simple address in Battel chapel, says a New Haven (Conn.) dispatch to the New York Herald, told the students of Yale that modern life has lost the simplicity of a few generations ago, to its infinite detriment, viewed from the standpoint of humanitarianism. Artificiality has come into control, not only in commercial interests, he said, but has invaded the artistic interests, and seems likely to become a substitute in philanthropic endeavors for the sympathetic and close interest that was ennobling in the old-fashioned charity.

"Almost all in our commercial pursuits and even in many artistic pursuits," said he, "tend today in a different direction. We are in danger not only of overcapitalizing money, but of capitalizing mind also, so that at last the thinking will be done by only a handful of men."

"And an artificial society tends not only in the direction which I have indicated, but it tends more and more to isolation. In our fathers' communities there could not be illness in a house without drawing sympathy and help from those in the next house. There could be no great sorrow in any home without receiving the sympathy of the village, reaching out to that family to soothe and to share; but with the piling up not only thousands but millions in our population, we are drifting further and further apart."

SCHEME TO SAVE POSTAGE.

Circulars Sent to England by American Firms to Be Mailed Back to This Country.

It seems hardly credible that business circulars of firms in the United States should be sent to England to be mailed at London to addresses in the United States for the purpose of saving postage, yet this is the actual fact. This curious state of affairs is said to have been revealed at Liverpool by treasury instructions to the customs officers. These officers have been ordered to seize large consignments of circulars sent by business men in the United States to their Liverpool agents. These firms receive circulars in bulk. They are then addressed, a half-penny stamp is placed on each and they are dumped back into the Liverpool post office, to be carried back to America in the mails.

Under the laws of Great Britain the postage rate for such circulars is half a penny for two ounces to all countries in the postal union, but in the United States the postage is two cents, equivalent to one penny. It is therefore obvious that business firms which send out thousands of circulars a week can save money by shipping them in bulk at a low rate of freight to Liverpool and then having them sent back to the United States.

WOES OF SMALLPOX JOKER.

Makes a Street Car Full of People Feel Uncomfortable for a While and Now It Is His Turn.

"Better not sit near me," said William P. Carroll, of Mount Vernon, to a man named Gifford in a Second avenue car at New York the other day. Gifford moved. Other passengers asked Carroll what caused the blotches on his face. "I am going to a hospital," was his answer. Then there was a panic. Gifford told Policeman Gleason, also a passenger, that Carroll seemed to have smallpox. Carroll did not deny that such was his disease, and Gleason had the car stopped at Twenty-sixth street and held all the passengers prisoners until an ambulance and health board physician came. Before they came there was a blockade of street cars and great excitement.

Carroll was taken in the ambulance and the car ordered to the barns for fumigation, but later the railroad office was notified that Carroll did not have smallpox, and admitted playing a practical joke. He was taken to Yorkville police court, where the magistrate told him he was several kinds of a fool and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment in default of \$300 bond for good conduct. His scared and outraged fellow passengers were foaming with rage and threatened to sue the railroad.

Mummy a Bone of Contention.

Whether a certain mummy case contained all that was mortal of a princess of the Incas is the question which the court of appeals at London has been called on to decide. The London and Northwestern railroad has asked for a new trial in an action in which it has been called upon to pay \$65 damages for injuring, while in transit, a mummy said to be that of a member of the royal family of Peru. The company contends that the mummy is not a mummy at all, but only an embalmed body of some person who died long after the conquest of Peru, and that legally the plaintiff can have no property in a corpse.

Level of Black Sea Changed.

The recent earthquake at Ehemakha, in which thousands of persons were killed, has had a curious effect on the level of the Black sea and the Caspian. Ridges of rock have appeared at points where the chart formerly marked fathoms of water. As a result of this the harbor of Krasnovodsk, from which the central Asian railway starts, has been rendered unapproachable by large vessels.

Too Apparent.

The English millers, says the Chicago Record-Herald, will make no attempt to furnish proof for those who argue that the consumer does not pay the tax.

FLYINGSHIP CONTEST

Plans Being Made for Grand Contest at St. Louis Fair.

Capital Prize of \$100,000 to Be Offered by the Management for the Most Successful Machine—Conditions Being Fixed.

General conditions to be observed in the airship race for the capital prize of \$100,000 offered by the St. Louis world's fair management have been agreed upon by the committee of aeronautic experts. The entire field, including time of the runs, shape of the course, qualifications of contestants, conditions of entry, facilities for construction, repair and experiments, allowance for size of machines, and weight of engines, bearing of weather conditions, was gone over and tentative rules decided upon. These rules will have to be submitted to the sub-committee of the executive committee and to the executive committee itself before they can be made public in their entirety. It has been decided that the sub-committee will submit drafts of the rules to engineers, students, aeronauts and aeronautical societies in America and Europe and obtain their views on the subject, changing the rules if that course seems best.

It was decided definitely that the \$200,000 appropriated for the contest by the board of directors of the exposition should be divided as follows: \$100,000 for a grand capital prize, \$50,000 to be divided into a number of subsidiary prizes, \$50,000 devoted to the conduct of the competition and the payment of its expenses.

A figure eight course has been decided upon as the aerial speedway over which all flights in competition shall be winged.

The course has been laid out by the experts, with its focus marked by a huge captive balloon above the Washington university tract of the exposition site, and its elliptical orbits sweep outward over the open country to the southeast and the northwest. Captive balloons will indicate the measurement of ten miles in the air, over which distance the airships must fly in the shortest average time of a series of trials to capture the fortune that has been hung up in the midheavens by the world's fair management.

TELLS WHEN RICHES CURSE.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Discusses Wealth and Salvation Before His Bible Class.

"Riches do not bar one from salvation. Salvation depends on whether the man possesses the gold or the gold possesses him."

Thus, epigrammatically, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who some day will inherit a fortune of more than \$300,000,000, expressed himself before the young men's Bible class in the Fifth Avenue Baptist church at New York city.

Mr. Rockefeller has heretofore avoided touching on the subject of riches in his Sunday talks to his Bible class.

"When Jesus said that it was impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven as it was for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, in my opinion He did not mean that His words were to be construed in the literal, broad sense.

"If ambition and pleasure are the ruling passions of one's life they should be thrown aside. Christ should come first. If the rich man places his possessions first he cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven.

"But the possession of wealth will not bar one from Heaven. It is the improper use of it. The improper use of any ability or earthly possession is equally offensive in the sight of God."

NEW RECORD IN KLEPTOMANIA

Man of Wealth and Position Arrested in Paris for Cutting Ribbons from Women's Dresses.

A curious incident occurred on the boulevards of Paris the other day. While a crowd was watching a cinematograph a man attempted to cut the ribbons attached to a woman's reticule. He was arrested as a thief. At the police station he gave proof that he was a man of wealth and position.

When questioned by the commissary of police the prisoner indignantly denied that his intention was to steal the reticule, but declared that he could not resist the temptation to take the ribbons. He said he carried scissors with him to cut ribbons off women's dresses when he had an opportunity. The truth of his statement was proved by the discovery in his apartment of thousands of pieces of ribbons. After indemnifying the woman he was released on promising not to begin again.

Points About Life Insurance.

Talking about life insurance carried by President Roosevelt—between \$75,000 and \$80,000—it is said that Senator Depew has \$500,000, George W. Vanderbilt \$1,000,000, and John Wanamaker \$1,500,000. There are numerous "riska" of \$100,000 to \$500,000, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, but when we come down to the plain people the man who can carry \$5,000 and feel easy when the premiums are due is probably as happy as any of the others.

Chicago Women's Opportunity.

The ancient Greek sandal, consisting of a sole laced over the bare foot, is to be affected by New York, Boston and Philadelphia society women this season. Here is a chance for Chicago women, says the Chicago Record-Herald, to show that there is nothing in the old taunt about the size of their feet.

YEARS OF THE PONTIFICATE

Duration of the Reigns of Some of the Popes—Only Two in the Last Fifty-Five Years.

Pope Leo XIII. has just celebrated the completion of the twenty-fourth year of his pontificate. If he live for one year longer he will finish the destruction of one of the most ancient traditions of the Catholic church. Down to the 16th of June, 1871, it was widely believed that no pope since Peter could reign for 25 years. That was the length ascribed to Peter's pontificate, and in all the 1,800 years between him and Pius IX., the predecessor of the present pope, none had ruled so long. That none could do so had become an article of firm belief.

The pope was told on his accession: "Non videris annos Petri" ("Thou shalt not see the years of Peter"). There had been almost 260 popes in these 18 centuries, and the rule had not had one single exception. It was natural, therefore, that when the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession of Pius IX. approached there should be general apprehension throughout the Catholic world. The pope himself did not expect to reach the limit which none of his predecessors since Peter had attained. But the fated date came and went and Pius IX. still lived. He lived six years longer, and when he died on the 7th of February, 1878, he had reigned for nearly 32 years, says Samuel E. Moffett, in the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

Now Leo XIII. seems likely to give the tradition its final blow. In another year, if he live, two popes in succession will have done what no single pope before them ever did in 18 centuries. Already the combined reigns of Pius IX. and Leo XIII. surpass all records in the long history of the papacy. There have been only two popes in the last 55 years. On an average in former times there would have been eight in the same number of years. In the 42 years following 891 there were 19. On several occasions there were two in a single year. In 1590-92 there were four in less than two years. The average length of a pontificate from the time of Peter to that of Pius IX. was less than seven years. Under the last two popes it has been nearly 28 years.

Leo XIII. has already surpassed all the predecessors of Pius IX. except Pius VI., who assumed the tiara just before our revolution, on February 15, 1775, and reigned for 24 years, six months and 14 days, until August 29, 1799. It was with the last-named pontiff that the era of papal longevity may be said to have begun, for his successor, Pius VII., reigned 23 years, five months and seven days, from March 13, 1800, to August 20, 1823—a record that had not been touched in the thousand years from Adrian I., who was the contemporary of Charlemagne and Haroun-al-Raschid, to Pius VI.

Pius IX. was comparatively a young man at the time of his election, but Leo XIII. was not. If he can complete his quarter-centennial the traditional limit of the years of Peter will be disposed of forever.

HANDWRITING HARD TO READ.

The Typewriter Threatens to Relegate Among Lost Arts That of Penmanship.

With the almost universal use of the typewriter in correspondence, billing, mercantile papers, and in authors' manuscripts, has come about the inability of men to read ordinary handwriting, says the Chicago Tribune.

This use of the typewriter may have had something to do with making handwriting more extraordinary than it ever was, but in the days when a certain school of almost illegible handwriting was so affected by lawyers, physicians, clergymen, journalists and literary men, it is doubtful if the mere lack of practice in present day penmen causes them to turn out manuscript to compare with that of years ago.

"Whatever is the matter," says an observer in a big publishing house, "it is true that young men and young women of to-day almost have lost the art of reading matter written by pen or pencil. They come to me by the half-dozen every day, asking that I help them out in deciphering letters or manuscript. In such cases I know that the manuscripts are not as bad as those of 40 years ago, and this for several reasons:

"We have better paper nowadays; we have better pens, better pencils, and it is no longer as 'fashionable' for anybody using a pen to affect an untidy letter. Some of this angular penmanship affected by young women is hard to read when it comes to proper names, but otherwise I find the pen written letter to-day remarkably easy to read.

"Why can't the young folks read it? Simply because they are spoiled by typewritten letters and manuscript. I don't know if penmanship is to become a lost art, but the reading of it seems to be promising of such a fate."

What Teacher Used.

"Does your teacher use adverbs and adjectives, children?" asked the schoolmaster, in addressing a class of pupils on adverbs and adjectives.

"Yes, sir," said the class in chorus.

"Well, what does she use when she does not use adverbs and adjectives?"

There was a silence. No one seemed to know. Finally a very little fellow waved his hand.

"Well," said the schoolmaster, "what does she use?"

"She generally uses a ruler."—Gold-on-Penny.

Too Many Vines in Portugal.

It is proposed in Portugal that no new vines should be planted in the country for some time. In this way it is hoped that over-production of wine and a consequent fall in prices will be avoided.—Albany Argus.

LUXURIOUS WOMEN'S CLUB.

London Magnates to Provide Sumptuous Residence for Those Who Earn Their Own Living.

A rather curious scheme for providing a residential club in the west end of London for women who are working in various professions has been set on foot. Three well-known millionaires are associated in the venture, which is to be called the Twentieth century club.

The plan is to provide a comfortable, even luxurious, home for those who have no time to obtain either comfort or luxury. Three large houses in Stanley gardens, west, have been thrown into one and beautifully decorated and furnished. Each member of the club is to have her own bedroom, with the use of a music room, reading room and lounge for after-dinner coffee and afternoon tea. The members will dine at separate small tables.

After dinner they will be able to step out from three large French windows into a beautiful private garden, with flowers, shade trees and comfortable seats. The charge for these luxuries will be only half a guinea weekly, while 18 pence a day will cover the cost of meals, including fish, eggs, bacon, toast, rolls, etc., for breakfast, and a late dinner, with soup, fish, a choice of at least four joints, game when possible, pastry, pudding and cheese.

A grand piano has been presented by one of the promoters of the club. The club is not a charity, but is intended to help working women. The promoters do not desire any profit. If more than four per cent. should be earned on the investment the surplus money will be spent on the club. In the event of the scheme proving a financial success similar clubs will be established all over London.

NAPOLEON RELICS.

Remarkable Memorials of Great General Are Destined for Metropolitan Art Museum.

Several remarkable relics of Napoleon Bonaparte were removed from boxes in the public stores at New York the other day and inspected by groups of interested employees of the appraiser's department. Resting in a velvet lined mahogany box was the death mask of the great French emperor taken by Dr. Francis Antommarchi, who attended him at the time of his death on the island of St. Helena. In addition to the mask the collection includes a case of silverware presented by Marshal Bertrand to Dr. Antommarchi. There is a telescope carried by Napoleon in his campaigns. There are two pretty miniature aquarelles, one a portrait of Empress Louise, the other a portrait of Mme. Achille Murat. These relics have been hidden from the world in the heart of the Andes for many years, and their existence was unknown. They were recently entrusted to Morgan Hart to bring to this country. Mr. Hart has just arrived at New York with his father, Charles Buriet Hart, United States minister to Colombia. As soon as the custom house has passed the boxes Mr. Hart intends to tender everything to the Metropolitan museum of art for exhibition.

KILLS SIX ELEPHANTS.

Remarkable Record of Hunting Which is Attributed to a Nobleman of France.

Paris is digesting the biggest elephant story in her experience. Viscount Bourc de Bozas was sent by the state on a scientific mission to equatorial Africa in January, 1901. He pursued his researches for many months without any notable event. One day he went forth in search of big game. Just at the moment when he had begun to despair he perceived two large elephants looming up before him. Hardly had he prepared to fire when another charged out of the thicket at him.

The viscount, nothing daunted, fired two shots at the first, two at the second and plumped a volley into the third, killing all three. His deeds of valor did not end there. Three other elephants then appeared. The six men accompanying the viscount quickly relieved him of his emptied weapons and passed him another loaded one. Then he attacked the three others with such deadly effect that they succumbed.

Thus in less than four minutes Viscount Bourc de Bozas killed with his own hand six mighty elephants.

Snake at Religious Worship.

The odor from 100 ill-smelling tobacco pipes now pervades the sacred atmosphere of Westminster Abbey every day instead of the sweet incense one might expect to find there. This is the result of an innovation started the other day, when Archdeacon Wilberforce invited the workmen who are making the abbey ready for the coronation to spare 20 minutes from their dinner hour for religious worship. He gave them an ounce of tobacco each, telling them they could sit still a smoke during the service and make themselves happy. So each day at noon the men sit on the stone benches and smoke while the services proceed.

Trials of Royal Surgeons.

Surgeons have performed an operation on Emperor William's face, says the Chicago Record-Herald. For the future peace and happiness of the surgeons let us hope the face may come out all right.

Woes of Society.

The blow has fallen, exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald. New York society has been forced to give up ping-pong because it is within reach of the middle classes. Pity the sorrows of the rich.