

EXTEMPORIZING A CIPHER.

Feeble Minded Clerk Contrived Bland Message for His Incapable Employer.

When Wall street first caught the fever for "industrial combinations" and began the reorganization of everything...

Half an hour later, when the assistant came back, he asked him if he had sent it.

"Not just that way," said the clerk. "I reworded it. The first word on a Postal blank, the second on a Western Union, and so on."

IN FEATHER FACTORIES.

Employees Suffer from Inflamed Eyes and Congested Lungs—Often Fatal.

Women workers in feather factories suffer from "dust disease" the same as stonecutters. In such factories the atmosphere is charged with almost invisible particles of feathers...

QUEER FREAK OF NATURE.

Body of Prehistoric Animal Found Imbedded in a Big Lump of Coal.

A wonderful freak of nature was unearched recently in Howell, N. M., in a car of coal. The remains of some prehistoric animal were found imbedded in a round lump of coal weighing 41 pounds.

BASEBALL TILL MIDNIGHT.

People of Dawson Went Wild Over the Game During the Season Last Summer.

"The Yukon country went wild over baseball last summer, and crowds attended the games at Dawson twice a week between eight p. m. and midnight, from May 31 to August 25 last. There were between 3,000 and 4,000 persons at each game, and I take it that nowhere else in the world has the game ever been played at night from eight o'clock on toward the midnight hour."

AND HE SAWED THE WOOD.

Veteran of Sixty-Two Celebrates His Birthday and Surprises His Friends.

The other day in the blacksmith shop occupied by Jasper Brown a crowd of men were indulging in good-natured banter, says a Penacook item in the Concord Patriot. Among the number were Dudley L. Smith, a veteran of the Twelfth New Hampshire volunteers, who lost a leg at Gettysburg, and Samuel G. Sanborn, a retired blacksmith, who is living on the old home place.

ICE FORMED ON FIREMEN'S CLOTHES.

Protects Them in Extremely Cold Weather.

"Pity the poor firemen," said the citizen who watched the ice-coated relays of men fighting a stubborn blaze in a Chicago street the other day, reports the Post. "They are animated icebergs."

THE KUTHO-DAW.

Great as has been the amount of labor expended on the various Bibles of the world, the palm for execution must be given to the Kutho-daw, which is a Buddhist monument near Mandalay, in Burma. It consists of about 700 temples, each containing a slab of white marble on which the whole of this Buddhist Bible, containing more than 3,000,000 syllables, has been engraved.

NO BITTER FEELING.

Tomson—Didn't it make you furious to think that burro stealer succeeded in getting the last few thousand of that cranky old aunt of yours?

DEFINED IN CONFIDENCE.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what is a re-acted period?

Pa—A re-acted period, my son, is the period due at the end of your mother's remarks. Remember, however, I am giving you this explanation in strict confidence.—Chicago Sun.

EXCUSES HIS TEACHER.

Miss Pert—What an intelligent little thing your dog is!

IRRIGATION IN THE EAST.

Benefits Derived from Water Source in Regions That Have Irregular Rainfall.

That irrigation may be employed as usefully in the humid portion of the United States as in the arid section is announced by the department of agriculture. A bulletin has been issued, showing the results of many experiments in this field, in which a steady water source was drawn on as an auxiliary to an irregular rain supply.

Near Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where rain is ordinarily bountiful for the crops, a grower of strawberries has found that the addition of a plant for irrigation enables him to insure a perfect stand and rapid growth of new plants. Spraying, and irrigation between the rows, put in fine condition for marketing a crop of berries which for lack of rain at the critical moment had colored and hardened without sweetening.

WATER REDUCES WEIGHT.

This Claim Is Made by a Frenchman Who Made Experiments with Guinea Pigs.

It is generally believed that excessive, or even moderate, drinking of water is conducive to an increase of flesh, and that therefore stout people should carefully avoid nature's beverage. That the direct contrary is really the case is the statement made by Henri De Parville in the Journal Des Debats, Paris. M. De Parville states his case in part as follows: "The fact that drinking water makes one thin instead of fat has recently been clearly shown by M. Maurel in his experiments with guinea pigs. This investigator injected into a guinea pig 25 grams of water at six a. m. and 25 grams at six p. m., the experiments being continued for three days. During this time the animal took 72 grams of bran, 258 grams of carrots and 210 grams of carrot stalks. The total quantity of water in the food was 130 grams, so that the entire amount of water taken each day was 181 grams."

DUCK FARMS IN CHINA.

One of the Enterprises Conducted with Profit Along the Extensive Canals.

There are duck farms all along the canals in China. These are profitable Chinese canals, as a rule, considering the population upon them and their varied uses, are cleaner than canals in the United States, says the Chicago Chronicle. There are few, if any, factories to contaminate them. The Chinese use of certain sewage for fertilization also prevents contamination to a great extent. The canal water is used for laundry, bath and culinary purposes indiscriminately. A canal in the United States could never be what it is in China, but the Chinese have a number of clever devices and ideas in connection with canals which can be adopted in the United States with profit.

WHY THEY ARE TRAMPS.

Facts Gleaned by an Investigator Concerning the Tramp Fraternity.

An eminent professor who spent some time traveling about the country asked every tramp that he met why he didn't work. He interviewed 2,000 vagrants, and, classing them according to the reasons they gave for not earning their bread in an orthodox manner, we get the following: Six hundred and fifty-three said they were willing to work, but could not obtain any; 445 could not give any reason that would hold water; 261 thought that no one ought to be foolish enough to do so—well, they intended living on those same people.

RAID ON IRISH NAMES.

Hebrews, Poles and Others in New York City Assume Celtic Patronymics.

There is an unwritten law on the East side among the immigrants from Russia and the adjacent regions of eastern Europe that a man may change his name if he thinks it is too long or too cumbersome to carry through life in America. Sometimes the changes produce surprises, says the New York Sun.

MEETING AN EMERGENCY.

Cornell Professor Who Was Not to Be Disturbed by Warring of the Elements.

Prof. Hiram Corson, of Cornell, is not only a great Shakespearean critic, but also a person who upon occasion, knows how to meet an emergency with true Shakespearean elevation of soul, says the New York Times. It is told of him—and all good stories in that neighborhood are told of him—that he was once aroused from his nightly slumbers by his wife, who had become frightened at a thunderstorm.

OBeyed DOCTOR'S ORDER.

Literal Obedience Almost Resulted in Explosion of Dense Patient.

Dr. William Oeler, formerly of Johns Hopkins, now regius professor of medicine at Oxford, was talking during his recent Canadian tour about the importance of precision in the writing of prescriptions, states the New York Tribune. "Whenever a sentence may have two meanings," said Dr. Oeler, "rest assured that the wrong meaning will be taken. Hence, it is important in prescription-writing and in directions to patients that the greatest clarity and precision be obtained."

WOULD TAX MONOPOLISTS.

Wealthy Kansan Favors Enactment of a Law Limiting One Farm to a Man.

Topeka, Kan.—It is proposed to have Kansas compel the owners of land in excess of the amount necessary for a livelihood to pay an additional tax or license. Edwin Taylor, who owns more than 1,000 acres of the richest land in the state, is the father of the proposed legislation. Mr. Taylor says he has more land than he is entitled to; that he is a land monopolist, and that he is willing to divide his property with smaller holders or pay an additional tax. Mr. Taylor is one of the advanced thinkers of the state, besides being one of the state's wealthiest men. In a speech on the subject before the State Horticultural society he said: "There may be a discrepancy between my practice and my precept concerning land. I say in explanation that I have played the land game according to the rules in force, and I believe these rules to be unjust and unwise. For my part, I believe in one wife and one farm for one man, and I would have the laws so changed that Mormonism in either would be impossible."

WHAT IS A "RECTORINE"?

Simply the Graceful and Gracious Accompaniment of the Rector's Daily Life.

It seems to the Chronicle that there is some misapprehension among certain of the diocesan clergy concerning the meaning of the word "rectorine." At this time says the Indianapolis Church Chronicle of recent date, when the diocese is looking forward to the advent of two or three new "rectorines," a thorough understanding of this word should obtain, in order that we may know what to expect of the "rectorines," and they know what to expect of us. Recently, in congratulating a rector upon the prospect of giving his parish a "rectorine," he wrote back, in terse and trenchant terms, "this parish will have no rectorine," and then he continued: "It is a source of amusement to me to hear of a feminine lay-rector."

Now a "rectorine" is not necessarily a "feminine lay-rector," whatever that may be. Established usage has not put any such odious construction on the word. In saying this we have not the Century dictionary to fall back upon, or any dictionary, but why should the dictionary have a monopoly of all the good words? And "rectorine" is a good word; short, convenient and musical. The "rectorine" is not any more the "female rector" than the "coarina" is the female car. She is simply the better part of the rector, the graceful and gracious accompaniment of his daily life. As the nectarine is something sweeter than nectar, why may not this analogy be applied to the rectorine? Not one who wields the "rod of empire," but whose tact mitigates the rod, her husband wields.

PITIES THE AMERICAN MAN.

An Englishman Says Husbands in This Country Are Much Abused.

The American man is more consistently considerate and generous to women than any fellow on earth, and in no country does he get sharper snubbing for his pains. The handling of husbands by wives in America amounts to an art, a profession, almost a science, says the London Chronicle. Based on the theory that the more one has to do the more one can accomplish, ladies who have hard-working, enterprising spouses simply retire from active life. If he manages his office and business satisfactorily, why not take over the house and servants?

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ONE ON THE "JUDGE."

Enterprising Visitor Became Convinced That His Honor Was No Politician.

A corpulent negro woman came into the office of Judge George I. Griffin, of the South City court, in Kansas City, Kan., one morning lately and inquired for the "judge," relates the Kansas City Star. "What can I do for you?" asked the judge. "Is yoh runnin' foh judge ag'in?" she asked. "Yes, I'm trying to get the nomination," the judge replied. "What's the consideration foh votes dis year?" "What?" almost yelled the judge, beginning to understand the drift of the conversation. "Ah means," explained the negro, "dis money with one dollar or two dollars dis election?"

NEW VESSEL WITH A HISTORY.

The four-masted vessel Mary L. Newhall, which was launched recently in Maine, has a history. The frame is of live oak and probably the best ever built in that state. It was got out in 1862 by the United States government for a war vessel, and was sent to the Kittery navy yard. Before the keel was laid the great fight between the Merrimac and the Monitor came off, and the result changed the naves of the world. It was seen that wooden vessels were doomed, and the building of the ship was abandoned. The frame, still on the hands of the government, was sunk in Portsmouth harbor, and there remained in years under water, until purchased and raised two years ago.

DOES AWAY WITH FLASHLIGHT.

A Frenchman has a means of doing away with the flashlight for taking photographs in rooms and after dark in the open. An incandescent gas burner, equipped with white cardboard reflectors, was used in a recent experiment with satisfactory results. The time of the exposure was from 15 to 20 seconds. The photographs when developed and printed have all the appearance of the ordinary "flash."

CHANCES THE WOMAN MUST TAKE.

A man is like a piece of cloth warranted to wash—and matrimony is the laundry. It may improve him, give him starch and freshen him up, or it may take all the color out of him.—N. Y. Times.

LIGHT LITERATURE.

"You're getting gloomier every day," said the solititous friend. "Why don't you read some light literature?" "That's the trouble now. I've been reading my gas bill."—Washington Star.

ACME OF MEANNESS.

A man has been arrested in New Jersey for swindling people by selling them glass eyes that were not what he represented them to be. The champion mean man seems at last to have been caught.

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