

THE ZONE OF FIRE IN CUBA.

People seem to be stupefied by their suffering and misery. It can be truthfully said of the whole province of Matanzas that it resembles nothing so much as a great ash heap. And the same is true of the three other western provinces, says the Review of Ulysses Grant was, says Hamlin Garland in McClure's. A boy of 13 who could drive a team 600 miles across country and arrive safely; who could load a wagon with heavy logs by his own mechanical ingenuity; who insisted on solving all mathematical problems himself; who never whispered or lied or swore or quarreled; who could train a horse to pace or trot at will; who stood squarely upon his own knowledge of things without resorting to trick or mere verbal memory—such a boy, at this distance, does not appear "ordinary," stupid, dull or commonplace. That he was not showy or easily valued was true. His unusualness was in the balance of his character, in his pose, in his native judgment and in his knowledge of things at first hand.

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GRANT AS A BOY.

He was unusually determined, resourceful and resolute.

Some of the good people of Georgetown, Ripley and Batavia go far in their attempt to show how very ordinary the same thing in various parts of the world is both interesting and amusing to the thoughtful observer, says Cassier's Magazine. On American ferryboats the import is well known of the "ting-ting" or "jingle-jingle" of the bell by which the man in the wheelhouse communicates with his fellow mortal in the engine room. On the Thames, however, it would be considered practically impossible to convey information in this manner, and the captains of the small paddle steamers on that stream stand on the paddle boxes and sing out: "Ease 'er!" "Back 'er!" etc., apparently to nobody in particular, while these interesting remarks are promptly repeated in shrill tones by a small boy into a speaking tube which communicates with the lower regions. On the Seine, in France, this process is simplified and a large trumpet-shaped mouth-piece flares out in front of the man at the wheel, and he yells his commands into this funnel, the other end of which is supposed to reach the engineer. The large steamers on the Rhine, in Germany, are controlled, not by the usual wheel placed in the wheelhouse forward, but by a very large wheel on a vertical axis, placed right amidships upon an elevated platform or bridge, and several men pass the handles from right to left, or upon occasion trot round in a circle, and it would doubtless be considered a serious temptation of Providence, or at least a reflection upon the fatherland, if anyone were to attempt to construct a Rhine steamer with the ordinary form of steering gear.

THE CLAIRVOYANT OPERATOR.

She buys or sells wheat with a twist of the wrist.

An odd sight is to be witnessed daily on the Consolidated exchange. Visitors for some time have noted a little group of women who stand all day long in the gallery at the Broadway end of the building, says the New York Mail and Express. They also notice one particular broker on the floor who is continually craning his neck and glancing at one of the women in that group. Every once in awhile, after a glance, he jumps into the wheat pit, which is just under the edge of the gallery, and makes a trans-

action upon the floor.

One day a wonderful bird tapped at the window of Mrs. Nansen's home at Christiania. Instantly the window was opened and the wife of the famous Arctic explorer in another moment covered the little messenger with kisses and caresses. The carrier pigeon had been away from the cottage 30 long months, but it had not forgotten the way home. It brought a note from Nansen stating that all was going well with him and his expedition in the polar regions.

Only the observing will notice, however, any connection between his operations and the woman whom he watches.

From 10:30 o'clock till three o'clock she stands there, with one hand resting over the railing. With slight movements of this hand she gives orders to buy and sell wheat to the broker. The number of fingers extended indicates the number of thousands of bushels to be done, and a twist up or down of the whole hand tells the broker whether to buy or sell.

But that is not the queer part of it. A stranger asked one of the brokers, a friend of his, who the woman was.

"Why," was the reply, "that's the clairvoyant operator. She's a real clairvoyant all right and she reads the future in the market and buys or sells accordingly. Or at least she thinks she reads the future, and maybe she does, for she has lasted longer than the ordinary woman speculator. She has been at it for months."

CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA.

Liver of the Dog Said to Be an Infallible Remedy for Its Bite.

CRITICAL AGE FOR GENIUS.

Host of Eminent Men Who Have Died at the Age of Fifty-Six.

Fifty-six years seems to be a fatal age for people of genius. Among those who have died at that age may be mentioned Dante, the Italian poet; Hugo, Capet, king of France; Henry VIII, king of England; Henry IV, emperor of Germany; Paganini, Italian violinist; Alexander Pope, English poet; George Sale, English orientalist; Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome; Frederick I, king of Prussia; John Hancock, American statesman; Marie Louise, empress of France; Philip Massinger, English dramatist; Saladin, the great sultan of Egypt; Robert Stephenson, English engineer; Scipio Africanus, Roman general; Helvetius, French philosopher and author; Henry II, the first of the Plantagenet line; the elder Pliny, Roman naturalist and author; Julius Caesar; Charles Kingsley, English author; Juan Prim, Spanish general and statesman; Henry Knox, American revolutionary general; Thomas Mifflin, American patriot; Murray, the novelist; George Whitefield, English founder of Calvinistic Methodism; Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, favorite of Queen Elizabeth; Johann Casper Spurzheim, German physician and phrenologist; and Frederick II, emperor of Germany.

Long-Distance Riding.

For riding long distances, the great secret is—keep an even, steady pace, and cut down the stops. Order your meals to be ready beforehand, if possible, and avoid strictly any unnecessary delays on the way, such as stops to alter the position of saddle or harness, which should be placed absolutely right before starting; dismounting to ask the way—which ought to have been made perfectly familiar by previous riding over the whole course, a part at a time—or pauses to extract small eatables, etc., from a bag—all things that may be wanted should be carried in a light basket fixed upright on a carriage, and easily fastened with one hand while riding, says the Irish Cyclist. The comfort and ease of a long ride depends immensely on the proper management of such small details as the above.

Champion Game Slayer.

Earl de Gray holds the championship among the world's hunters for the quantity of game killed by one man.

He is now 35 years old, and during the past 20 years has averaged 25,000 head of game each year. On one occasion he shot at 50 pheasants in three minutes and killed all but one of them. He has killed 11 tigers, a number of elephants and rhinoceros, bears and lions.

The People of New York City.

It is said that more than 76 per cent of those who people New York city today were born of foreign mothers,

while more than 40 per cent were themselves born on foreign soil. Peter Stuyvesant ruled in his day over 1,400 New Yorkers, who conversed in 18 different tongues.

METHODS HERE AND ABROAD.

Ways of Steering Boats in England, France and Germany.

A comparison of the different methods of doing what is practically the same thing in various parts of the world is both interesting and amusing to the thoughtful observer, says Cassier's Magazine. On American ferryboats the import is well known of the "ting-ting" or "jingle-jingle" of the bell by which the man in the wheelhouse communicates with his fellow mortal in the engine room. On the Thames, however, it would be considered practically impossible to convey information in this manner, and the captains of the small paddle steamers on that stream stand on the paddle boxes and sing out: "Ease 'er!" "Back 'er!" etc., apparently to nobody in particular, while these interesting remarks are promptly repeated in shrill tones by a small boy into a speaking tube which communicates with the lower regions. On the Seine, in France, this process is simplified and a large trumpet-shaped mouth-piece flares out in front of the man at the wheel, and he yells his commands into this funnel, the other end of which is supposed to reach the engineer. The large steamers on the Rhine, in Germany, are controlled, not by the usual wheel placed in the wheelhouse forward, but by a very large wheel on a vertical axis, placed right amidships upon an elevated platform or bridge, and several men pass the handles from right to left, or upon occasion trot round in a circle, and it would doubtless be considered a serious temptation of Providence, or at least a reflection upon the fatherland, if anyone were to attempt to construct a Rhine steamer with the ordinary form of steering gear.

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