

SHE GAINED HER END

French Cabinet Minister and Wife Go to Dinner Without Invitation.

Wife of Head of Marine Department, Who Rules Her Husband, Places Him in an Embarrassing Position

All Paris is laughing at a story which has just leaked out from Palais Elysee.

The wife of M. Pelletan, the minister of marine, is very ambitious and proud of her husband's position and though she has been Mme. Pelletan only a short time it is an open secret that she rules her husband.

The other day President Loubet gave a dinner to corps diplomatique to which M. and Mme. Pelletan had not been invited, but the wife of the minister, who hoped to get some news of the foreign situation, could not resist the temptation of going uninvited.

Just as the president and ambassadors were ready to go into the dining-room at the Elysee the doors of the saloon were thrown open and a guard loudly announced: "Monsieur le Ministre de la Marine et Mme. Pelletan."

President Loubet, who was conversing with the Russian minister, was dumfounded, stopped short and hurried to meet the new arrivals.

"I am delighted to see you, minister, but I am giving a diplomatic dinner and—I have really not had the pleasure to invite you."

"But," stammered M. Pelletan, "my wife—I mean I am sure that we have been invited," then turning to his wife, "You have the card. N'est ce pas?"

Mme. Pelletan, greatly confused, blushing handed her husband a card.

The president looked at it and burst out laughing.

"But, my dear minister, that invitation is for the day after tomorrow, but I shall, of course, be delighted to have your pleasant company to-night as well."

M. Pelletan, with a suspicious glance toward his wife, consented, but the diplomats had to wait almost an hour longer for their dinner.

And now they are dying to find out what explanation Mme. Pelletan gave her husband, who had evidently not been allowed to see the president's invitation.

QUAIL PLENTY IN OKLAHOMA.

Severe Game Law Recently Enacted in the Territory Has Caused Increase in the Birds.

With favorable weather conditions during the nesting season next spring, there should be more quail in Oklahoma in the fall of 1904 than at any time since the country was opened. The game law enacted by the last legislature was so prohibitive that during the past open season for quail, which closed February 1, the killing of birds was reduced to a minimum. Not only was it against the law for any person to ship quail to points outside of Oklahoma, but an Oklahoma sportsman could not ship quail on common carriers from one point to another in Oklahoma Railroad and express companies dared not accept prohibitive game for shipment. The Oklahoma who are quail this year either killed them himself or caused some person to violate the law in buying them.

The game law has been strictly enforced this season, and many heavy fines, sometimes as high as \$300, were imposed upon violators. There has been an abundance of quail, and in several western counties, especially Day, prairie chickens were plentiful.

THOUGHT HUSBAND DEAD.

New York Woman Learns He is Rich and Living in California—Will Try to Find Him.

After having believed for over 16 years that her husband was dead, Mrs. Charlotte Weyant, of New York City, has received word that not only was he alive, but had amassed a fortune, and was living in a small town near Las Angeles.

Early in the spring of 1891 Harvey Weyant, a prominent business man of Springfield, Mass., owner of the Wellington brick works, disappeared from his home, taking about \$70,000 with him. He left no word where he was going or his reasons for leaving. Four months later his wife received a letter from a mining camp in Nevada in which he said he was going on a prospecting tour in the mountains. Since then nothing was heard of him until recently, when a friend of Mrs. Weyant informed her where Weyant was and the extent of his prosperity. His wife will try to find him.

Charm Worked Too Well.

A story of witchcraft in East Africa was told at a meeting of the Folklore Society in London recently by Robert Webb. A man applied to a witch doctor for a powerful charm to kill an enemy. He was given a parcel to bury in the path down which the victim was to walk. To test its efficacy the man buried it just outside the door of the witch doctor's hut. A female slave of the magician was the first to leave the hut, and on passing the spot fell dead. The witch doctor sued his client for the value of the dead slave, and the case was tried before the native courts.

Trouble with San Domingo.

The charitable supposition, says the Chicago Tribune, is that San Domingo is only suffering from wind on its little stomach.

THINGS CAME HIS WAY.

Not Only All the Schnapps He Wanted, But a Nice Bunch of Money as Well.

This is how one of the regular patrons of the auction sales of things seized by the customs officers—a hooked-nosed man, whose specialty is the collection of curios—got a present of \$100 by butting in at a sale in which he had no interest, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

There was a lot of the best schnapps put up. The curio collector had strolled into the auction room, and, having nothing else to do, took a glass of the stuff. He liked it so well that he took more.

A clique of dealers usually buys at its own price, all good liquor that is put up at auction by the customs authorities, and there was a committee of one anxiously viewing the action of the curio collector, inspired with a fear that he might bid on the schnapps and compel the clique to give up more than it usually did.

The committee went alongside the hooked-nosed man and asked in a whisper if he intended to make a bid on it. He was just smacking his lips over a fifth glass of the gin. He winked knowingly, all his commercial curiosity aroused by the strange manner of the committee, and intimated that he might do so.

The committee thereupon said with much solemnity, that it would be the financial advantage of the curio collector if he refrained from bidding. Fifty dollars, the committee said, would be about the figure.

The curio man rose to the occasion. He remarked, with the air of a connoisseur, that the schnapps was of a very superior kind, and that he really could not think of letting his chance to acquire a part of it go for so small a sum. Then he drank some more.

The committee came alongside again and suggested 75. The curio man said: "Thash mere bagatellish!" and surrounded another glass.

The committee had only a few more minutes to strike a bargain and desperately murmured: "One hundred." The curio man said, or made an effort to say, that under the circumstances, he would accept, and the committee suggested that the payment would be made after the sale.

The curio man proclaimed that it was a question of cash in hand, or he would buy the whole lot of schnapps. The committee, in apparent fright, handed over the money, and the curio man, after a last draft, departed to tell the joke to his friends.

VESSELS FOR PHILIPPINES.

Boats of Eight Draught Built in Sections in the United States.

Ever since the United States came into possession of the Philippines there has been a growing demand on the part of the navy for small boats suited for the waters surrounding this group of 1,200 or more islands. Only craft of light draught are adapted for use in the outlying possessions, and these could hardly be built in the United States and sent across the ocean under their own steam. It was a difficult problem, which at one time seemed almost to baffle solution. But Uncle Sam has worked out the perplexing question in a highly satisfactory manner, says the New York Tribune.

Having viewed the matter from every point, it was finally decided to build government steamers for use in the Philippines in sections. In this way they can be constructed in this country and shipped readily on the deck of a transport, or by other means, to the point of destination.

Bids for such boats were at once asked for, and the builders were allowed to work out their own designs. The offer of a shipbuilding firm at Morris Heights, N. Y., was finally accepted, and already the boats have been constructed and are ready for service.

Each vessel is composed of five sections, and is 80 feet long, 18 feet beam and draws three feet six inches. The vessel is built entirely of steel, the plating being one-quarter inch thick. Each section has a steel deck, and is watertight.

The boiler section, having the greatest weight and establishing the water line, is first floated in assembling the craft. The other sections, working either fore or aft, follow in order. The sections are all fitted with sea valves, and sea water is admitted into their bottoms until they reach the common water line.

Chinese Smuggled In.

It seems that the smuggling of Chinese into the Philippines has become a money-making industry, but the exposure of one device on the Toyo Kisen Kaisha steamship line has taught the Manila customs officers caution. Seven Chinese were brought over and actually landed on the beach near Manila, where they were captured. The ship's officers declared these Celestials were stowaways, but one of the Chinese declared that they had paid money to be landed in Manila, but had been thrust into a little apartment and left without food or water during the whole voyage from Hong-Kong. The steamship company was fined \$300 each for the coolies, but appealed the case, and it will come up before the court of customs appeals.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Hawaii's Population.

Regarding the population of Hawaii, figures show a steady decrease in the number of natives and a steady increase in the number of persons of foreign birth, especially Japanese and Chinese. In 1872 the number of natives was, in round terms, 50,000, and in 1900, 30,000. In 1872 the number of Chinese was, in round terms, 2,000, and in 1900, 25,000. The record of Japanese among the population only begins with 1884, when the number was 136 persons, but in 1900 the number was over 61,000. The total population of 1873 is given at 56,897, and in 1900 at 154,901.

SCIENCE STARTLED SULTAN.

Electric Apparatus on American Warship Filled Sultan's Mind with Wonderment.

An interesting account of the effect of modern mechanism on the minds of semi-barbarians is contained in an account contributed to the Scientific American by E. C. Rost, of the negotiation of Gen. Bates' celebrated treaty with the sultan of sulu in 1899. The visit of this potentate and his suite to the cruiser Charleston is thus described:

"Great was their wonderment at the things which they saw. At the suggestion of an officer, the sultan touched an electric button. Instantly a Chinese servant appeared as if by magic. Again, under directions, he operated the button, this time twice, and behold a United States marine stood in the doorway. From that time on every ornament aboard ship that in any wise suggested an electrical button was pushed by the sultan or some member of his suite. He was conducted into a dark room and told to turn the button that adjusted the lighting apparatus. The flood of light that resulted left him with gaping mouth and dilated eyes. His wonderment continued to grow apace throughout the entire afternoon. Whenever opportunity afforded, the sultan repeated the performance of pushing electric buttons and turning electric lights on and off. He even went so far, when he thought himself unwatched, as to try to appropriate one of the bulbs aglow with light. But the funniest thing of all was when the mighty chief, upon invitation, fired the Col's automatic gun. The explosion of the first discharge seemed to root him to the spot. His hands still gripped the trigger, with the result that shells continued to pepper the surrounding waters. Again and again the royal gunner begged that they stop the action of the infernal machine, not knowing that the medium of cessation lay in his own hands. So thoroughly frightened was the sultan, it was impossible to make him loosen his hold, and an officer ordered the cutting of the tape, thus stopping the supply of ammunition. The one-pounder was next brought into play, and at the first loud boom the sultan called the ammunition display off, refusing to go near one of the eight-inch guns, which he had also been invited to fire. In the meantime his attendants, whose knives had been magnetized, conceived the idea that the Evil One himself was aboard. They begged and implored to be taken on shore, and, quite forgetful of their baser of rice, they scurried down the gang-ladder. At night the searchlight was brought to bear upon the Moro town of Bus Bus. The instant desertion of the town followed, even to the dogs, for many weeks thereafter no amount of persuasion could induce the inhabitants to return.

Gen. Bates made his headquarters in the town of Jolo, and thither the sultan and his staff came on several occasions to discuss the treaty. Subsequently another visit was made to the Charleston. This time the mother of the sultan accompanied the party. A photograph owned by one of the officers rendered very pleasing selections for the entertainment of the guests. The aged dame sat entranced throughout the performance. It was not until the time came for her son to affix his signature to the treaty that she awakened. Under one condition only would she permit the sultan to sign—the photograph must become hers at once. For a time that photograph threatened to be the means of upsetting all of Gen. Bates' well-laid plans for the amicable taking over of the islands. Fortunately the owner was prevailed upon to part with the machine in the interests of his government, and the coveted music-producer changed owners at the signing of the treaty by the sultan."

AMERICANS IN PORTO RICO.

Various Estimated from Six Hundred to Five Thousand and Number Swelling.

The question is, how many Americans are there in Porto Rico? The number has been variously estimated at from 600 to 5,000, but all estimates are mere guesses, states the San Juan News.

A census was taken in 1899 at the close of the year, and at that time, according to the enumeration, there were 1,069 persons on the island who were born in the United States. This was one year after the occupation, and conditions since then have changed so that the figure is scarcely of any assistance at all in estimating the number now here. Of the total of 1,069 on the island born in the United States, 680 resided in the department of Bayamon, which is the district where the capital is located. Of those in this district nearly all resided in San Juan, the capital being the residence of 631 of the 680. Of the 1,069 born in the United States and residing here, only 281 were women.

Of course these figures do not include the soldiers who were here, and excluding that element in the population we believe that most observers will admit that the number of Americans on the island has increased since that date, and also that for a year or so the number has been decreasing.

Perhaps the year 1902 was the year of the largest number of Americans on the island. The population is so restless and so constantly changing it is difficult to get any accurate estimate.

Land Area of Philippines.

The Philippine group of islands have a land area of 140,000 square miles. The six New England states, together with New York and New Jersey have about an equivalent area. The population of the islands is about 8,000,000, including 1,000,000 savages.

Portraying Character.

Never does a man portray his own character more vividly, than in his manner of portraying another.—Richard Stray Stories.

ADOPTED BY THE CREEKS.

Only One of the Five Whites Admitted to the Tribe Still Among the Living.

Capt. F. B. Severs, of Muskogee, I. T., is the only living white citizen ever adopted by the Creek tribe of Indians. Unlike the other nations, the Creeks were averse to the adoption of whites and the records, so far back as the Creeks have records, show the adoption of but five persons of white blood, says the Kansas City Star.

The law of adoption in the Creek nation, unlike those of the Cherokee, Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, is very strict. To adopt a citizen requires a vote of the council and a decree of the Indian judge of the tribe. In the other nations there is a general law which provides that a white person, male or female, by taking up residence in the nation and by marrying an Indian by blood, according to the Indian marriage ceremony, becomes a citizen of the nation and is thereafter entitled to all rights and privileges of a full-blood Indian. There have been no adoptions in any of the tribes since the Curtis act, passed in 1896. These intermarriages and adoptions have caused much trouble in the final settlement of the Indian estates.

The five citizens adopted by the Creeks were Capt. F. B. Severs, Christopher Belcher, David B. Whitlow, Shelton Smith and Sophia Spaulding. All were adopted before the civil war. Severs and Belcher came to the Indians as licensed traders and married Indian wives. David Whitlow was a missionary. Shelton Smith was a blacksmith and worked among the Indians, repairing their crude weapons of war and chase. Capt. Severs has acquired property until he is now one of the wealthiest men in the Creek country.

Sophia Spaulding was the only white woman ever adopted by the tribe. The story of her adoption reads like a romance. Her father was named Tilley and came to the territory from Alabama 50 years ago, bringing with him his wife. Three children were born. Then the mother died. A little later the father died, but before death he left his children in the care of the town king, Talwamoc, of Old Hickory. The other children died, but Sophia lived and later was legally adopted by the tribe. She lived with the Indians until she reached womanhood, when she married a man named Spaulding. She participated in all the disbursements of money by the United States she applied for admission to the rolls as a citizen for allotment, she was admitted, but her children were refused.

WHEN THE WIRES SING.

They Are Influenced by Terrestrial Changes Caused by Meteorological Forces.

Everyone has noticed at times that the telegraph lines strung along the streets and roadways are singularly musical, emitting a humming sound that can be distinctly heard at a considerable distance. When telegraphy was in its infancy the yokel used to think that the noise was made by messages passing over the wires. Most educated people know that this is a silly theory, but they will be surprised, says a scientific exchange, to find that their own theory is about as ill founded. Dr. Laska, a Polish meteorologist, declares that the noise is not given out by the wind at all, but that it is caused by unseen terrestrial changes caused by meteorological influences. He hopes by a close study of the sounds to be able to discover a means of foreseeing what the weather is to be.

Whatever theory he forms in this direction it is to be hoped that it will be more reliable than the meteorological forecasts which have hitherto been given to the world. There is something humiliating in the fact that the English weather defies the scientists. The meteorological office, with all its facilities, seems to be unable to give us more than a rough idea in figures of the weather which we have to enjoy—or otherwise—and that is not very consolating.

There is an opening for Dr. Laska, and there is a further opening for him if he can put the wires to use when Mr. Marconi has once for all proved that they are no longer necessary for the transmission of messages. And the waste, instead of watching for colored sunsets, will then put his ear to the telegraph poles. Curiously enough, the heathen in his Hindu blindness foretells the arrival of the rainy season by listening to the sounds of the lonely wires which cross the vast expanses of his country. He found it out long ago and the scientists laughed at him for his pains.

Germany's Military Strength.

The peace footing of the German army is about 585,000 officers and men; the war footing is 3,000,000 trained officers and men. All of these can shoot at a man and hit him. Every German is liable to service, and no substitution is allowed. The conscript, between the ages of 17 and 27, must spend two years in active service, and four in the army of reserve. About 400,000 young men reach the age of 20 every year, but emigration or physical or moral disability reduces the number liable to service to about 360,000. Of these only 60,000 receive actual military training. More than 500,000 trained soldiers are turned out every decade. Particular attention is paid to target practice, with the result that when a German battalion fires a volley, "every bullet finds a billet."—N. Y. Press.

Painful Reminiscences.

She—I love old times, they seem to remind one of the past, somehow. Don't you think so? He—Well, there is only one tree that reminds me of the past—the birch.—Stray Stories.

FANCY TASKS IN SCHOOLS.

Much Time is Taken Up by Pupils in Learning Things of No Use to Them.

The fathers and mothers of New York are beginning to waken to the fact that there is altogether too much fancy teaching in the public schools, and not enough of the solid essentials; that the children are drilled in the fancy branches and do not know how to read and spell. That a common school education has become something uncommon, indeed, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A committee acting in behalf of Compulsory Group has been looking into the matter. Their report is full of meat. "Teachers and pupils," they say, "are called upon to do not too much, perhaps, but too many things to permit their doing anything well or thoroughly."

"It will hardly be contended," again they say, "that pupils graduated from the elementary public school of this or any other city are as well grounded and as proficient in the common school branches of study as could be desired, or as the time and money ostensibly appropriated to that end would seem to warrant."

Some other comments made by the committee are as follows: "A common school education—to provide which is universally acknowledged to be the primary object of the public or common school system."

"A close examination of the courses will lead to the conclusion that the ordinary child between the age of 8 and 14 years cannot begin to digest the profuse abundance of ostensibly mental paludism so rigidly prescribed for him."

And here say the fathers and mothers, is the meat of the whole matter: "The conclusion seems to be inevitable that a sound economy in public school administration demands the doing away in elementary schools with so much at least of instruction in special branches as may be required in order to afford pupils and teachers time and opportunity for efficient prosecution of the ordinary school course of study."

Children who attended the common schools in the early days were taught to read and spell, the elements of mathematics, the geography of the earth on which they dwelt, the elements of grammar how to write.

These are old-fashioned things in the opinion of the professional educators of New York. The children must draw, even if they do not know how to spell; they are taught construction work, sewing and cooking, when no man can swear that they know how to read, are drilled in music, physical training and hygiene, even if impressed with the belief that seven times eight make 42. The board for the promotion of the practice has an important task, therefore, and judging from the results of its recent session it is proving itself equal to its far-reaching responsibilities.

LEFT-HANDED PENMEN.

Are Not Considered Desirable as Clerks in Government Departments at Washington.

Few business men will employ a left-handed person as clerk or bookkeeper, and the prejudice against them extends to the government departments at Washington. The chief of the departments entirely willing to overlook bad penmanship on the part of a really good and industrious clerk, but it is the man or woman who writes with the left hand at which the ball is aimed. The dead line is drawn just the moment it is ascertained that a clerk is left-handed, and he is forthwith informed that if he has the desire to continue in government service it will be necessary for him to write with his right hand. This information is always a bitter pill for the left-handed penman, but there is nothing to do but begin to write with the right hand or "throw up the job," and few are anxious to quit government service even for this cause. No matter how perfect a hand the left-handed clerk may write, there is no alternative but to learn to write with the right hand, and sometimes it takes months to get to the point where even a legible hand if written by the clerk who is forced to "learn the business over."

But during this period of making the change the chiefs are easy and patient and make the work as light as possible on the unfortunates.

One of the best men in the department of commerce and labor began his career in the bureau of statistics. He had left a predecessor's desk in the government printing office to accept the clerkship in the bureau. He began to write with his left hand and he almost threw a fit when the chief told him to put the pen in the right hand, that left-handed penmanship didn't go. Then it was that he wished he was back in the big printing press, where any kind of "handwriting" pressed matter just so the correct marking was made on the proof and was plain enough for the compositor to decipher.

King's no Doctors.

King Edward of England is a fellow of the Royal college of physicians, also of the Royal college of surgeons, having studied medicine and surgery a good deal while prince of Wales. Two of his predecessors on the English throne, Henry VIII. and Charles I., were also physicians. Proude says that "bluff King Hal" was one of the best doctors of his time, an assertion which is not perhaps entitled to overmuch consideration, but the first Charles was really an intelligent and helpful patron of the healing art.

Quoted Him.

The amateur detective considered himself a Sherlock. "I will sift this to the bottom," he remarked at supper. "Oh, go out and sift the ashes," replied his weary wife.—Chicago Daily News.

Rarity of Playwrights.

Bronson Howard was asked why there were so few playwrights. Said Mr. Howard: "The aspirant must write his plays, which is one occupation; he must sell them, which is a separate occupation; he must, in the meantime, earn a living, which is still another occupation—a threefold difficulty which is practically insurmountable save in certain cases." "What are the cases?" "I have always imagined, from the tribulation of obstacles, that triplets might be born playwrights," answered Mr. Howard, "and we know how rare they are."—Boston Post.

Good Progress.

"And how are you coming on in the art of croquetry?" asked Mrs. Oldgirl. "Oh," said Mrs. Newlywed, proudly, "I think I am doing well. Mr. Newlywed tried something I made yesterday, and guessed that it was a dessert without my giving him a hint at all!"—Cincinnati Times-Star.