

Mr. Henry Plauddealer

J. VAN DYKE, Editor and Publisher.

McHENRY, ILLINOIS.

Some enterprising business men are filling old honeycombs with glucose and shipping them to Europe, labeled "California honey." At present the enterprise is said to be very profitable.

The bridegroom in an elopement at Sandersville, R. I., was 17 and the bride 14. They walked six miles in rain and mud before finding a clergyman who would perform the ceremony, and their lodging that night was in a barn.

Six members of the United States Senate were foreign born—Messrs. Farley, of California; Fair, of Nevada; Jones, of Florida; and Sewell, of New Jersey, are Irishmen. Senator Jones, of Nevada, was born in England, and Senator Beck, of Kentucky, in Scotland.

The new public building now going up on the Government square at Denver, Col., is to be one of the finest structures in the West. One wing is designated for a high school, the other for a free public library. There will also be a lecture hall, with a seating capacity of 1,000.

Dr. James Abernathy and John F. Abernathy, although not related, were born on the same day, married twin sisters on the same day, and, after living to be three score and ten years of age, died recently, at their homes in Gaston, N. C., on the same day, but their residences were five miles apart.

An Indianapolis merchant drove into town every morning, left his horse in a stable, and then drove home. The beast was by no means overworked in this light service, yet it grew thin and ill, as though from hard usage. The owner at length found out that it had been hired out nearly every day by the liveryman. A jury has awarded damages to the amount of the money earned by the horse.

In nearly every city and large town of the United States a Young Men's Christian Association was an active religious agency ten years ago. Only a few of these organizations are in existence to-day, and the survivors are in the largest cities. It was found that they tended to draw young men away from the churches, and, therefore, they lost the countenance of the clergy, who have gradually adopted most of the social ideas on which the associations were conducted.

The precautions taken in Prussia to guard against trichine in swine are exceedingly careful and thorough. Berlin is divided into districts, each of which has its separate inspector of swine's meat, an official who is held to strict accountability. In Königsberg there is an establishment in which the meat infected with the dreaded parasite, is boiled for twelve hours, and then subjected to the action of chemicals that reduce it to a powder.

The statement has been made that the use of postal cards has decreased the sale of writing paper in the United States \$12,000,000 annually. In the first place, according to figures given by the Springfield Republican, the sale of writing paper has not decreased at all; and, in the second place, the amount now manufactured in a year is not worth \$10,000,000, including that used for blank books, envelopes and other purposes requiring sized paper. Last year the Government sold 293,000,000 postal cards.

EMANUEL LUMK, a barber of Altoona, Pa., announces his ability to live ten hours with his nose and mouth hermetically sealed. Those acquainted with him see no reason why he should not be able to accomplish what is coupled with his name, for he is able to breathe for a long time without the use of mouth or nostrils, communication between his lungs and the outside world being kept up through his ears. When smoking a cigar he often exhales the smoke through the same extraordinary channel, to the profound astonishment of those who are unaware of this freak of nature.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF STATISTICS FOR GERMANY FOR 1880, THE POPULATION OF THE SINGLE STATES AND PRINCIPALITIES COMPOSING THE GERMAN EMPIRE STANDS AS FOLLOWS:

Prussia.....	27,251,067
Bavaria.....	5,271,516
Saxony.....	5,271,516
Württemberg.....	1,970,132
Hessen.....	1,970,132
Mecklenburg-Schwerin.....	576,257
Mecklenburg-Strelitz.....	106,860
State-Weimar.....	300,518
Saxe-Meiningen.....	207,147
Saxe-Altenburg.....	152,062
Cologne-Geldern.....	124,479
Rhineland.....	80,149
Lower-Saxony.....	71,083
Reuss (first line).....	60,758
Reuss (second line).....	101,265
Oldenburg.....	149,259
Schleswig-Holstein.....	292,747
Wendland.....	35,342
Schleswig-Lippe.....	35,342
Lippe.....	126,216
Leckeburg.....	64,941
Alten-Lorraine.....	1,571,971
Total population of the German empire.....	65,149,172

THERE is another case of prayer cure, and this time in Maine. Mrs. Dunnell, of Bath, was supposed to be in the last stages of consumption, and her physician having abandoned hope, she determined to try the efficacy of prayer. Her friends scoffed, but the devout woman believed her faith would make her whole. As she tells the story, she never prayed with more absolute faith herself, nor was a request to friends for prayer ever made with a more earnest or devout confidence. The morning after the prayers were offered they seemed granted, for

she appeared to be and felt herself perfectly well. So she informed her attendant, and, arising from her bed, on which a day before she was unable to feed herself, she dressed herself, and an hour later ate breakfast with the family. Upon the following Sunday she attended church three times, and since has made many calls upon her friends. The physicians decline to commit themselves to the miraculous theory of the cure, but admit that a very sick woman became immediately and unexpectedly well.

THERE is a remarkable case in New York. For about seven months a tall, broad-shouldered, fierce-looking Greek has been a prisoner in Raymond Street Jail. He was arrested on a charge of stealing a boat, but he has never been able to speak a word in his own defense, because he understands no English, and his language is not known to any of the interpreters. He was indicted for grand larceny, but he has never been tried, as, when produced in court, he was not able to plead to the indictment. Every time after being arraigned he was returned to Raymond Street Jail to await the discovery of some one who could speak his own language. Upon the records he appears as Giuseppe Franz, a sailor. He is supposed to belong to one of the isles of Greece, where a dialect different from the ordinary Greek is spoken, as the Greek Consul was unable to understand him. The Greek seems to have become almost crazed by his condition. He is so fierce and powerful that he overawes his keepers.

"An old operator," thus illustrates, in a New York paper, the craze for speculation in stocks in that city: "I was dining on the avenue not a week since with a party of ladies and gentlemen, making perhaps twenty in number. Somehow, inadvertently, for all the parties, without exception, were perfectly well bred, the subject of stocks and Wall street came up. One of the ladies present showed an intense interest. 'What! are you, too, dealing in stocks?' queried a venerable and most aristocratic old lady of Knickerbocker ancestry. 'Yes, I am! And you? Come now, be honest; since you asked the question, answer me as I have answered you. Are you, too, not in stocks, auntie?' 'Well, yes, I am,' laughed the good-natured dowager, 'and, what is worse, I am on the short side.' Before the conversation was over it was discovered that the whole party, with three exceptions, were dabbling in stocks, and two of the latter were just out, and that through necessity, having lost all their money on the 'short side of Northwest.'

Speed at Which Wings Are Driven.

The speed at which some wings are driven is enormous. It is occasionally so great as to cause the pinions to emit a humming sound. To this source the buzz of the fly, the drone of the bee, and the boom of the beetle are to be referred. When a grouse, partridge, or pheasant suddenly springs into the air, the sound produced by the whirling of its wings greatly resembles that produced by the contact of steel with the rapidly revolving stone of the knife-grinder. It has been estimated that the common fly moves its wings 330 times per second, i. e., 19,800 times per minute, and that the butterfly moves its wings 10 times per second, or 540 times per minute. These movements represent an incredibly high speed, even at the root of the wings; but the speed is enormously increased at the tips of the wings from the fact that the tips rotate upon the roots as centres. In reality, and as has been already indicated, the speed of the tips of the wings increases in proportion as the tips are removed from the axis of rotation, and in proportion as the wings are long. This is explained on a principle well understood in mechanics. A pin or wing hinged at one end is made to vibrate, the free end of the rod or wing always passes through a very much greater space in a given time than the part nearer the root of the wing. The progressive increase in the speed of the wings, in proportion as the wings become larger, explains why the wings of bats and birds are not driven at the extravagant speed of insect wings, and how the large and long wings of large bats and birds are driven more leisurely than the small and short wings of small birds. That the wing is driven more slowly in proportion to its length is proved by experiment, and by observing the flight of large and small birds of the same genus. Thus, large gulls flap their wings much more slowly than small gulls; the configuration and relative size of the wings to the body being the same in both. This is a hopeful feature in the construction of flying-machines, as there can be no doubt that comparatively very slow movements will suffice for driving the long powerful wings required to elevate and propel flying-machines. The speed of the wing is in part regulated by the amplitude of the wing. Thus, if the wing be broad as well as long, the beats are necessarily reduced in frequency. This is especially true of the heron, which is one of the most picturesque and at the same time one of the slowest flying birds we have. I have timed the heron on several occasions, and find that in ordinary flight its wings make exactly sixty up and sixty down strokes, i. e., 120 beats per minute. In the pterodactyl, the great extinct Saurian, the wings were enormously elongated, and in this particular instance probably from 50 to 60 beats of the wing per minute sufficed for flight. Fifty or sixty pulsations of the wing per minute do not involve much wear and tear of the working parts, and I am strongly of opinion that a comparatively safe means of locomotion as far as the machinery required is concerned.—*Francis's Magazine.*

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AUSTRALIA.

Some Interesting Facts About the Island-Continent.

[Letter from Melbourne.]

Victoria, of which Melbourne is the capital, is about the same size as England, or a State of moderate area in the Union. Forty-four years ago the colony or province was uninhabited by any folk except the aborigines. It now contains nearly 1,000,000 people, and the population of Melbourne numbers 250,000. This quickly-rising city has some resemblance to some American towns and many features that are novel. Visitors are less struck with its architecture than with the width of the streets. In the city proper all the main thoroughfares are 99 feet wide, and they cross at right angles. On each side runs an open drain, and underground sewerage has not yet been adopted. Melbourne is visited seven or eight times in the summer by a scorching wind from the north, which dries up the surface moisture and carries off the germs of disease that live on damp. The hot wind is peculiar to Southern and Central Australia. The interior of the island-continent is a vast expanse of plains intersected by few ranges of mountains and traversed by few rivers. These plains support cattle and sheep in great abundance, but are subject to periodical drought. A dry season kills off the herbage and evaporates the lakes and swamps, leaving the winter time. The winds that travel over the inland plains collect heat from the surface, and their temperature rises high above the dew-point. On their visit to the southern regions these warm, dry winds suck up the moisture and wither the herbage. To the native vegetation the hot wind does little injury. The leaves of the eucalyptus and acacia (the two predominant genera) are thick and stored with oil, and the roots are spread like net-work through the under soil. The agriculturist does not mind the hot wind, for it comes at harvest time, when the crops are ripe; and the flocks of the grazier do not suffer unless the dry season lasts long, for sheep thrive on shrubs and herbs when the grass fails. It is remarkable how long the flocks can resist a drought on the inland plains. Even when the surface looks quite bare they are able to find food, and can get on well so long as the holes retain water. About once in six or eight years a drought occurs over the vast interior, and sheep perish in thousands. It is the worst calamity of the season time, when the crops are ripe; and the flocks of the grazier do not suffer unless the dry season lasts long, for sheep thrive on shrubs and herbs when the grass fails. It is remarkable how long the flocks can resist a drought on the inland plains. Even when the surface looks quite bare they are able to find food, and can get on well so long as the holes retain water. 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