NEWS ITEMS.

A dance was recently given at Sand Point, Idaho, at which a little disturbance took place, resulting in the serious wounding of Cucumber Pete, Irish Mollie, and Iolanthe, and the killing of Steamboat Johnny.

A special cable tells the story of the crime of Berthe Detz, a Berlin servant girl. She gave birth to an illegitimate child, and to destroy all trace of its existence, she passed it through a sausage machine.

In the bar-room of the Queen's hotel, Orillia, last night, Mr. A. B. Tudhope was shot by William Hood, who was under the influence of liquor. Tudhope, who was shot just below the heart, has a slim chance of recovery.

The Haris Petit Journal publishes a declaration ascribed to the Pope, in which his Holiness is made to state his desire for a reconciliation between Church and State, and further, that he is not opposed to the Republican form of Government.

Rev. N. H. Martin, curate of Christ church, Chatham, engaged himself to marry two young ladies on the 15th February, and a third on the following day, but he fled from the town on Saturday afternoon and has not been heard from since.

FARM AND GARDEN.

The German farmers of Pennsylvania have extremely healthy apple trees by washing the bark with lime.

When eggs for hatching are received from a distance unpack them and let them stand 24 hours before putting under the hens for hatching.

Every farmer should by feeding stock or in some other way calculate to earn something in the winter. If more farmers did this farming would be more profitable than it is.

For troublesome weeds, and for grass in sidewalks, driveways, &c., apply a dressing of coarse salt; this will kill all growth. Be careful not to put it on anything that should not be destroyed, however.

When a cow is two years old a wrinkle begins to form at the base of her horns. At three years this wrinkle is fully developed. When she is five years old another will form, and after that one will come each year. Thus her age can be known.

When Alexander Pope, the celebrated poet, visited the Orient nearly two centuries ago he obtained a slip of one of the willows of Babylon whereon the Israelites hung their harps. This he planted in his garden at Twickenham, near London, and it grew to a big tree.

WIT AND WISDOM.

The Shah, when in Britain, said there were no ladies so beautiful as the Scotch.

Now matter how cleanly the seafaring man may be while on the ocean, he has a strong antipathy to being washed ashore.

The friend who becomes a lover continues still to be a friend; but the lover who becomes a friend ceases forever to be a lover.

Sunday School Teacher—"Who loves everybody, Johnnie?" Johnnie—"My pa does, cos he is trying to get into the Town Council."

"Do you call that a game of football?" "Certainly." "But they don't seem to be doing kicking." "Oh, they'll do that after the game's over."

Stranger (to Bridget, scrubbing the front steps)—"While you're on your knees Biddy, pray for me." Bridget—"Oh, Lord, make this fellow a gintleman!"

Father—"Well, Tommy, how do you think you will like this little fellow for a brother!" Tommy (inspecting the new infant somewhat doubtfully)—"Have you got to keep him, papa, or is he only a sample?"

"Well, Mr. Bronson," said a dominie, I hope you derived profit from the services this morning." "Sir," retured Bronson, inclining to be indignant, "I assure you I drop business on a Sunday and attend church with no hope of profit."

Hawkie had always his answer. On one occasion a worthy doctor thought to put him out by asking, "What is the biggest fib you ever told in your life, Hawkie?" The old man's eye twinkled as he replied, "Weel, doctor, ye're an honest man."

A man who had been ill with influenza went into a shop the other day. The shopman asked him how he had been affected. He said he could not be bothered doing anything. "Oh," said the shopman, "I have an apprentice that has been ill that way for four years."

At a farm not far from Glasgow the farmer told his lad to give the kye their Hogmanay. The boy gave each of them a sheaf of corn, and also put two down the well. The farmer asked him what he did that for. "Oh, sir, said the lad, "that's the best cow in the byre."

At Rosebank School, Dundee, there is a boy who happens to be the only son in a family of eight. His teacher, unaware the other seven members of the family were girls, was advising her young pupil to get some of his brothers to assist him with his lessons, when the boy, with a look that meant a great deal, proudly exclaimed, "I'm the brither!"

A dying miser sent for his solictor and said, "Now, begin, and I will dictate particulars." "I give and bequeath," commenced the man of law. "No, no," interrupted the testator. "I do nothing of the kind. I will never give or bequeath any thing. I cannot do it." "Well, then," suggested the attorney, after some consideration, "Suppose you say, I lend until the last day?" "Yes, yes; that will do," eagerly rejoined the miser.

THE BUSY MAN'S COLUMN

MISSING LINKS OF NEWS RACILY PARAGRAPHED.

A Melange of Information That Everybody Wants to Read—People and Things—Natural and Artificial Wonders Described in Taking Style.

The Penobscot Indian tribe now numbers only 386 members, and this is a gain of nine during the year.

The jeweler has drills so small that they can bore a hole only one-thousandth of an inch in diameter through a precious stone.

Ancient monuments show that the cultivation of wheat had been established in Egypt before the invasion of the shepherds.

It is a common sight among the Esquimaux, according to a traveller's story, to see a nursing infant with a quid of tobacco in its mouth.

The following advertisement appears in several leading papers of Georgia: Wanted—"A young lady for clerk of the County Court of Elbert County, It will be necessary for her to marry the county judge. Address County Judge, Elberton, Ga."

There is grim humor in one clause in the will of the late Solomon Abrahams, of Boston. After making a number of charitable bequests the testator remarks: "I remember all my cousins, aunts, uncles and grandfathers, but I give them nothing."

"Which succeeds better, the city or the country boy?" is said to be a favorite question for discussion in country debating societies. The general trend of opinion seems to be that the country boy succeeds better, but only after he becomes a city boy.

A California prune grower has refused an offer from a Bordeaux firm for his prune crop in sacks. They would of course be repacked and shipped as French prunes. But the Californian means to improve his style of packing and make the profit himself.

Recently a girl in one of the public schools of this city was asked by her teacher to explain the difference between the words balance and remainder. Her answer was: "You can say 'A man lost his balance and fell,' but you cannot say 'A man lost his remainder and fell.'"

The U.S. half-dollars, quarters and dimes which are now coming from the government mint are unique in that they bear the initial of their designer. It is a very small letter B, and it is not distinguishable at first glance, but it is there, and the government evidently proposes to let it be.

The conductors of all the street cars, omnibuses and other vehicles for public accommodation in Warsaw, Russia, in that part of the city between Novaya Praga and the suburb of Brudno, are women, and are said to fulfill their duties more accurately and to the better satisfaction of the public than men.

A movement to abolish the "annoying anachronism" of church bell ringing is talked of in San Francisco. The Report of that city contends that the theatres have as good a right to use steam whistles as the churches have to use bells, more especially as the theatres would not, in announcing their performances, awake people before daylight in the morning.

Dr. Leo Pribyl says that the Germans and Swedes are utilizing their peat bogs in the manufacture of naphtha, tar, solar oil, paraffine, acetic acid and gas, and the peat yields an elastic fiber which, freed from dust, is employed for weaving into carpets. Good peat also furnishes a cellulose which is valuable to papermakers. Besides serving as a wholesome litter for live stock, it is also used to preserve perishable goods. Meat and fish are now packed in peat litter for transport between Trieste and Copenhagen.

The late Ebenezer F. Bowditch, of Boston, had a large farm at Framingham, and on it was the largest flock of sheep in Massachusetts. He was conspicuous as a breeder and importer of horses, sheep, cattle, and swine. had hounds which he used in hunting, and made many experiments with fertilizers and other things in the general interests of agriculture. He was practical in his investigations, and used to put all his improvements upon their cash basis, showing what they would be worth to the farmer who must rely upon his farm for a living.

An elevated railroad is to be built in Rio Janeiro soon. The official permission has been granted and all preliminaries for the construction have been arranged. It is a kind of a belt line route, going one way and returning another. It is said that a network of elevated roads is being planned for Rio which will embrace the whole of the federal district of the city. The service contemplated is to reach the outer points every hour, nearer points every twenty minutes, still nearer every ten minutes, and in the heart of the business district trains are to be run every five minutes.

Some interesting and rather surprising statistics on the use of the telephone in European countries have been collected. In London, the greatest commercial city of the world, only 1.5 persons in 1,000 use the telephone. The telephone is used most in countries where the service is owned or controlled by the state. In Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden from 100 to 400 persons in every 100,000 of the population are subscribers. In Great Britain only 58 persons in 100,000 use the telephone. In Berlin 11, and in Paris 4.2 out of every 1,000 inhabitants use the telephone.

There are two Kansas Citys, one in Missouri and one across the river in Kansas. But, according to the Kansas City Star, they are really only one city. It says: "The practical union of the two cities has progressed because it was natural that it should; men own property in both cities; men sleep in Kansas City, Mo., and work in Kansas City, Kan., and men have their homes in Kansas City, Kan., and their places of business in Kansas City, Mo. Morning and evening the cars are crowded with workers ef every grade going both ways. It is difficult to tell which crowd is the larger."

The deceitfulness of the sex! The New York Press says that there are now boldly displayed in the shop windows of that town the patent artificial hips that the close-fitting skirt has called into being. They are of rubber, filled with air, and fit snugly inside the corset, so closely as to defy detection. But if you should see a woman with an abnormal hip development on one side, all out of proportion to the other, you may know that she is not a subject for orthopedic surgery, but simply the victim of a practical joker, or that some depraved pin has pierced the lip pad and allowed the air to escape.

Kate Field tells, in her Washington, about her first visit to John Brown's old home, up in the North Woods, some time ago, and her scheme for buying it when she heard it was for sale. Hurrying to Boston, she mentioned the case to Wendell Phillips and Ralph Waldo Emerson, who sent her nice, sympathetic notes, but neither money nor advice. A male friend then volunteered to rush out on the street and collect it among his friends, but he failed. Only one person up there, a lady, actually contributed any cash; that is, aside from Kate Field's own $100. But within forty-eight hours after she had stated the case to a New York gentleman he had picked up eighteen subscriptions, each of that amount. With this $2,000 the farm was bought and a good tenant secured, who still remains. "When I revisited the Adirondacks recently," says Miss Field, "I found our property worth three times what we had paid for it, the house in good repair and John Brown's grave the Mecca of all tourists."

Two negroes have attained to judgeships in British colonies. One Joseph Renner Maxwell, is chief judicial officer at the Gambia, in Africa, and oddly enough he has written a work upon the negro question in which he speaks with apparent horror of the most striking outward peculiarities of his race, and urges as the only method of elevating the negro of the future miscegenation with other races. The other negro judge is Sir W. C. Reeves, chief of Barbadoes, in the British West Indies. He presides over the Supreme Court, and there are in the island seven police magistrates of subordinate jurisdiction.

A Boston physician thinks that humane people who are so fond of raising funds for the unfortunate in foreign lands might more wisely do something for the consumptives of their own country. In New England there are at least fifteen thousand consumptives, half of whom might be benefited if they could afford to live in another climate. And the same thing is true of the whole region, which he calls the "consumptive belt." He thinks all consumptives ought to go to New Mexico, where consumption is altogether unknown among the natives, and he calls on the churches to start a consumptive emigration movement in that territory.

In only five states has a mother any absolute legal rights to the custody of her children. These are Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oregon and Washington, where both parents have equal rights in the matter. In other states a mother has no control over her children, not even if driven from home by her husband's cruelty, unless she applies to the court for the custody. In other words, the father, by right of fatherhood can claim his child, but motherhood is not enough, the court must be appealed to before the mother can have absolute right to her children. This injustice is so tangled with legal technicalities that it is hard to unravel the snarl, but since it has been done in five states it can be done in others.

In some manner a cat found its way into a cyclorama building several days ago, says the Portland Press. The man in charge attempted to chase the trespassing feline through the door, but the cat evidently thought there was a better way of escaping the rising temper of the irate man. It looked cautiously about, as if to avoid stepping on the prostrate forms of heroes slain in battle. Finally its eyes caught sight of a tree. A projecting limb hung very low and here the cat thought to find a place of safety. It gave one leap, and, no doubt, was the most disgusted cat in Portland when it learned by sad experience that the tree was on the canvas. It picked itself up and slowly slunk through the door, down the stairs and out of the building.

"Joss," so far from being, as I among others always imagined, a Chinese word, is merely the mispronunciation of the Spanish dios, God, says a writer in Blackwood's. The discovery of this fell heavily upon me. It reduced my knowledge of Chinese from two words to one; but I have learned several since, but will not write them here, as I do not know what they mean. A. and the writer both started with the determination of studying Chinese, and the writer let A. buy a grammar; but on discovering that the single letter i had 145 ways of being pronounced, and that each pronunciation had an entirely different meaning, we said that there was no poetry about the Chinese language, that it was not worth learning, and A.'s grammar was secretly consigned to the river mud by being dropped overboard.

CONQUERED!

A Young Man Teaches His Future Wife a Useful Lesson.

The young man made up his mind that he was not going to have any more nonsense from that girl. It was late. He had stayed the other man out, and now she looked right at him and said:

"You have stayed long enough. You can just go home."

He was between her and the door, anyhow, and he looked very black as he said he wouldn't.

"Then I will leave you," she retorted. "Good night."

He caught her wrist and exclaimed:

"No; you stay here."

It was a slender wrist, but she shook it vigorously, saying:

"Aren't you ashamed of yourself, you big, ugly fellow? Let go."

"I'm not ready for you to go."

He looked very black and ugly. The girl's red mouth set itself angrily.

"I don't want to stay."

"You will have to."

"I hate you."

"You can stay till you get over it."

"O-o-o, you ugly thing!"

They were quiet some time, she snapping her angry eyes at him, he stolid and sullen. Presently she whispered: "You hurt me."

"You have hurt me," he returned.

"Let go!"

"No."

Then she got angry again and presently pouted: "Oh, you can let go; you think I will run, but I won't. I don't want to stay, and you make me against my will, but you needn't hold me, you big, ugly thing."

He thought a moment, then he let go, watching her narrowly. She sat quite still, scowling furiously with her pretty brow tied in knots and her mouth one angry pout. Presently she said, "May I go now?"

"No."

"When may I go?"

"I don't know."

"I hate you."

"I love you."

"O-o-o-ogh!"

He began to feel that he couldn't keep up much longer. She was so adorable and spunky. She needed the lesson of course. It was time she learned to be respectful to the man whose engagement ring she wore, and he meant to teach her right there. He got up and put his hands on her shoulders, held her stubborn little face in place, and kissed her. She squirmed fiercely, and in an enraged whisper protested; "It's all very well to be kissed, but not because one has to. How I just wish I were big enough to pound you? How dare you make me do anything? O-o-o-ogh! I hate you!"

He went right on kissing her, but her little face was tied up into such a tangle of rage and her pink fists doubled up so fiercely that he bethought him that he might be going too far. He dropped his hands and, without a word, turned into the hall, picked up his hat and laid his hand on the door-knob. There was a rustle of crisp muslin beside him and a plaintive little voice said:

"Oh, dear! Are you going, and not kiss me? How cruel!"

"I thought——" but she interrupted:

"Oh, yes; but you aren't making me do it now!"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Ancient Colossal Statues.

The famous Colossus of Rhodes, which has been described so often that the subject is becoming threadbare, cost 300 talents, or about $375,000 in United States currency. But the above is a trifle compared to the price paid for a colossal statue of Mercury, made for the city of Averni, in Gaul, by Zenodorus. The artist was engaged on this great work for ten years, and the total cost to the city was $1,775,000. What the gold and ivory statues of Athena, in the Parthenon, or the Jews of Olympia, both of which were made by Phidias, cost is not stated by any ancient or modern author. Athena was arrayed in a movable drapery of pure, unalloyed gold, which weighed forty talents. The coin value of the drapery alone, according to the above figures, would be $580,000. The head of the Olympian Zeus was covered with locks of pure gold, each weighing six minae. or about the value of $25,000 in United States money.

Size and Color of Human Hair.

Measurements have shown that the size of a human hair depends much on its color, and that they vary from the 250th to the 600th part of an inch. Blonde hair is the finest and red is the coarsest. A patient German savant who counted four heads of hair of different colors, but of equal weight, reports as follows: Number of hairs to the blonde head, 140,000; on the black, 103,000; brown, 100,000; red, about 90.000.

Is the Earth Hollow?

The orthodox Icelander believes that the earth has an opening through it from pole to pole; in other words that it is the exact counterpart of a gigantic head. According to their ideas all waters which flow to the north are drawn thitherward by a suction created by the ocean's tumbling downward through the hollow which they firmly believe exists. Their authority for this curious belief is the "Utama Saga," a semi-sacred work written early in the fourteenth century. If this ancient volume is to be relied upon, one Bjorn Liefson, a fisherman, who was driven northward by a fierce gale about the year 1291, is the only human being who has ever seen the spot where the waters of all oceans plunge downward and are not seen again until they have passed entirely through the earth and again appear, bubbling and frothing like a mammoth spring, at the south pole. Symmes, an American Arctic explorer is said to have entertained a notion somewhat similar.

Profound Changes are Working.

The application of steam and illuminating gas again tended to concentrate great forces of men and women in the workshop and in the factory and in the upper stories of city warehouses. The power of steam cannot be sent far distances. Illuminating gas can only be carried in large pipes at light pressure on short lines. This phase is passing. Profound changes are working. By means of a wire, power, light, and the direction of the work can be carried long distances. The power of the waterfall in the narrow gorge where there is no room for a factory can be carried on the wire to the far-away uplands, where under the best conditions of life the workshops may be established.

Sign of a Good Appetite.

A man may be said to enjoy a good appetite when, after eating all that is before him, he is not willing even to leave the table.—Boston Transcript.

The Leaning Tower of Saragossa.

A committee appointed to report on the famous Torre Nuova in the Piazza San Filipe, in the capital of Aragon, has issued a pesssimistic account. It is feared that this clock tower—a very fine example of the kind—will have to be pulled down. Excessive rains and floods have caused a subsidence of the soil and the structure is deemed unsafe. The construction of this torre inclinada was begun in the fifteenth century, under the direction of two Spanish, one Jewish and two Moorish architects. It is octagonal in form, 300 feet high, 45 in diameter and leans about 10 feet out of the perpendicular. Stone steps, 260 in number, lead inside to the top gallery, whence a magnificent and beautiful view is obtained over the city itself, the fertile plains of Aragon watered by the rapid-flowing Ebro and away to the north where the Pyrenees are seen. The edifice, built of bricks, has at a distance a Moorish aspect, the face of the structure being diapered with brickwork, but the design and execution are much coarser than are generally seen in purely Moorish buildings; the various windows, galleries, battlements and turrets, together with designs partly Byzantine, partly Arabesque, demonstrates its mixed architecture. It has been stated that the leaning of the tower was due to the caprice of the architects, but an old crack in its side and a careful examination of the foundation led to the conclusion that it was want of care on the part of the builders. The Aragonese speak of the ancient crack as an old wound in its side of which the Torre Nouva is now dying. This "old wound" was under treatment in the year 1860, but an unfortunate relapse threatens to result in an entire collapse.

Ladies of Lisbon.

Miss Batcheller, daughter of the American Minister to Portugal, says that the Lisbon girls are beautiful and attractive, but are very closely guarded, never appearing unattended in the street and rarely being seen on foot. Carriage driving of a decorous kind is a favorite amusement, but the girl who follows the Queen's example, and appears on horseback, is regarded as very advanced in her ideas. The girls play a little tennis in summer, dance and play cards for amusement in winter.

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Lindsay, Feb. 4th, 1891.—5

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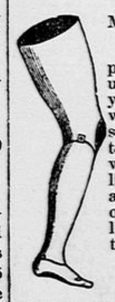

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Nov. 1890.