

### TIMELY TOPICS.

Flies totally disappeared from the districts affected with yellow fever.

A Louisville young woman advertised in the papers for an escort to a concert and forty young men replied.

By rolling it in a blanket soaked in hot mustard an apparently lifeless child was resuscitated at Wethersfield, Conn., recently.

In England and Wales there are 68,538 persons of unsound mind, an increase of 1,902 over last year. The ratio to population is 27.57 to 10,000.

The Prince of Wales in going next year to Australia, China and Japan, and Gen. Grant, at the same time, will visit India, China and Japan, returning to the United States by way of California.

The lady conductor of a well-known English magazine recently cut out a leaf from an entire edition of the periodical because a novel running through its pages contained a reference of a libelous nature.

Statistics show that the actual consumption of eggs in the United States is about 10,600,000 barrels. The poultry marketed or consumed in 1877 is estimated at 680,000,000 pounds of the value of \$68,000,000.

Edison, the inventor, proposes to prospect in California for ore bodies by means of electricity, and thinks he can determine by the resistance to the current the extent of any ore body, and also determine its relation.

It is noted by a New Jersey nursery dealer, as a feather in the crest of the sparrow, that whereas formerly he employed two boys all summer long in keeping four acres of rose-bushes clear of the destructive slug, this season has been wholly unnecessary since the advent of the sparrow.

Much litigation is likely to grow out of the mill explosion in Minneapolis. The insurance companies refuse to pay the whole damage, on the ground that they are liable only for the actual loss by fire; but the mill owners hold that fire caused the explosion, and that, therefore, the entire loss was in consequence of fire.

They have a novel mode of discovering a criminal in Japan: The magistrates of the village of Awa, being unable to discover the author of a series of mysterious crimes, opened a poll, inviting every citizen to name on his ballot the person whom he thought guilty. One notorious ne'er-do-well was elected as the culprit by a great majority, and having confessed his crime was promptly executed.

At the Paris Exposition there is a curiosity, made of all the different kinds of lace that could be used for the purpose, is a reproduction of the Cathedral of Milan, a structure of wood with every spire, cupola and minaret covered first with blue then with the different "points" selected. The stonework is close crochet, which imitates carving, the fret work is Irish, the rugged parts are grained tape lace, and one is reminded of Napoleon's curious remark: "Those towers," he said, "are as delicate as Flemish point, and to this day look as if taken out of a box."

That the electricity of the atmosphere is as necessary to vegetation as sunlight, air, and water has been established by experiments made by M. Grandeaun, Professor of the French Ecole Forestiere. In April, 1877, he took two tobacco plants, each weighing 3½ grammes and having four leaves. They were both planted in boxes containing mould of identical quality, and placed side by side in a position favorable to their growth. But one of them had placed over it a cage, consisting of four rods one metre fifty centimetres high, joined at the top and covered with wire gauze, which permitted the free circulation of air, light, and water, but completely protected the plant from the action of atmospheric electricity. They were left uninterfered with until the middle of August, when the results obtained were as follows: The plant in the open air had attained a height of three feet five inches, while the other was only two feet four inches; the former weighed 273 grammes and the latter 140 grammes; when dried their respective weights were thirty grammes and fifteen and a half grammes. Similar experiments made with maize and wheat gave analogous results.

### Carrying the Bill Through.

A Washington correspondent says that as one representative was leaving the United States capital after the close of the recent session, a pension agent who hails from his district came up to him and said:

"Well, general, you did not get my bill through."

"Your bill, sir?" asked the general.

"Yes, my bill for granting pensions to the heirs of those who were called out by General—"

"Oh!" exclaimed the general. "Yes, I remember. Yes, why, I carried that bill through both houses without any trouble."

"You did! I did not see anything about it in the newspapers."

"My dear sir," said the general, in his most tragic tones, "I carried your bill through both houses in my pocket. At the next session, sir, when there will be less excitement, I shall have it passed. Good-by; I will see you again, sir, in December."

### The Order of the Garter.

The Order of the Garter, with which Earl Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury have been invested by the Queen of Great Britain, is one of the oldest and most famous of the orders of knighthood that remain in Europe. The exact date of its foundation is not known. One authority ascribes it to 1192, when in a battle with the Saracens on St. George's Day, Richard Cœur de Lion commanded twenty-six of his knights to wear around their legs thongs of blue leather. But most writers agree that it dates from Edward III., though the precise date is in dispute, Froissart giving 1344, and Stow 1350. General tournaments in that time were held at Windsor. At one of them, says the familiar story, the Countess of Salisbury let fall her garter when dancing with the king, and the king picking it up, tied it round his leg. There were smiles from the company and jealous glances from the queen, noticing which Edward restored the garter to the countess, saying "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*," (Evil to him who evil thinks) and added that those who smiled would shortly see the garter advanced to such honor and renown as to account themselves happy to wear it. There have been writers to ridicule this story, but none to suggest a more probable theory. The order was founded in honor of the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, St. Edward the Confessor, and St. George, the latter of whom had then become the guardian saint of England, and was considered the special patron of the order. It has always borne the title of "The Order of St. George" as well as of "The Garter."

The original dress of knights was a blue mantle tunic and capuchin, embroidered with garters of gold and blue silk, the largest of which was worn on the left shoulder of the mantle. Henry VIII. changed it, as did Charles II. after him, but Charles for the last time. As now used, it consists of a dark blue velvet garter, edged with gold, and bearing the motto in letters of gold, and worn below the knee on the left leg; a mantle of blue velvet, lined with white taffeta; a hood of crimson velvet; a surcoat also of crimson velvet, and lined with white taffeta; a hat of black velvet, lined with taffeta, and bearing a plume of ostrich and heron feathers, fastened by a band of diamonds. The collar is of gold, being composed of twenty-six pieces, each in the form of a garter, and has appended to it a figure of St. George on horseback. A lesser St. George is enamelled on gold and set with diamonds, being suspended over the left shoulder by a dark blue ribbon. The star has eight points, and is of silver, having the cross of St. George in the centre and being embroidered on the left breast.

Of the royal family, beside the Queen and Prince of Wales, who belong to the order, there are the Dukes of Edinburgh, Connaught and Cambridge, and Prince Leopold; of foreign sovereigns, the kings of Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Belgium and the Hellenes, and emperors of Germany, Austria, Russia and Brazil, beside the Shah of Persia; of titled persons from abroad, the dukes of Saxe Meiningen, Brunswick and Saxe Coburg Gotha, the grand dukes of Mecklenburg-Strelitz and Hesse Darmstadt, (Louis IV.,) the crown prince of Germany, and the princes Christian of Holstein and William of Prussia.

Among the English nobility who have been invested with the order are Earls Granville and Shaftesbury, the Dukes of Wellington, Devonshire, Somerset, Sutherland and Westminister, and Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe. The late Earl Russell was of the number, as was also the late ex-King George of Hanover. Few members of the British House of Commons have received the honor. Palmerston was the last. Walpole received it while in the House, as did Lord North fifty years later—Lord North being designated in debate as "the noble lord with the blue ribbon." It was offered the younger Pitt, who declined it for himself, but asked that it might be given to his wayward elder brother, second and last Earl of Chatham. The request was granted, but the king wished it distinctly understood that the bestowal was in consideration of services rendered to the crown by all the members of the family. A writer in *Belgravia* relates that when it was offered to the late Lord Fitzwilliam, he asked how much it would cost. "About a thousand pounds," some one replied, whereupon the noble lord quietly remarked that he thought he could make a better use of his money.

### An Inconvenient Witness.

A lawyer sometimes picks up a witness that he is quite willing to drop as soon as possible, as witness the following: A Mr. Lawrence was on the stand in Milwaukee during the trial of Russell Wheeler for murder, and said that he knew the prisoner well and knew him to be a peaceable, law-abiding citizen. When cross-examined by the district attorney, the following colloquy took place:—

District Attorney—You have testified, Mr. Lawrence, that you consider the defendant a law-abiding citizen.

Mr. Lawrence—I have, and I do so consider him.

D. A.—You know that he has been a gambler?

Mr. L.—I know he has.

D. A.—Do you consider it exactly proper to call a professional gambler a law-abiding citizen?

Mr. L.—So long as the district attorney allows gambling to be carried on in the city without restraint of or punishment by law, I consider it perfectly proper to describe a professional gambler as a law-abiding citizen.

When the laugh had subsided the district attorney blushed "loudly" and said to the witness "That is all."—*Chicago Tribune.*

### SMALLEST MAN IN NEW YORK.

Little John Bolland, the Broadway Street-sweeper.

Persons passing through Broadway late at night may have often seen a diminutive figure, with a broom a yard taller than himself, engaged with the night gang in cleaning the street. The little sweeper's name is John Bolland, and he lives at number 538 East Eleventh street. Next to "Tom Thumb" or Commodore Nutt, "Little Johnny," as he is called, is perhaps the smallest man in this country. He lives in a small, dark, rear room of a big tenement house. An old woman who occupies an adjoining room was asked if she knew him.

"Know Johnny!" was the reply; "bless me! I have known Johnny for thirty years. Why, Johnny is next to Tom Tum; you've heard tell of Tom Tum?" The old woman went on to relate numerous anecdotes about the smallest man in New York, when he appeared in person. He came up the steps and walked briskly into the room. He is not more than three feet tall, but very broad for his size. His head and neck are out of proportion to the rest of his body, being as large as those of a full grown man. He was reticent at first, but gradually became more communicative. He said he was forty-six years old, and was born at Ballyhoohie, County Cavan, Ireland. There he lived until he was twenty-one years old. In the old country Johnny had a small hoe and a spade made for him, and contentedly raised potatoes until his parents died and his brothers and sisters came to America.

Deserted by all his relatives, Johnny felt lonesome, and when the ship which took them away returned, he went to the captain and told him he was going to America also. The captain advised him to stay in County Cavan, but his resolution was taken, and he came to New York. His small stature was a sore trial to him at first. He was sensitive on the subject, and when he ventured into the streets a large crowd would follow him, and their curiosity so annoyed him that in sheer desperation he at last made his way to his friend the captain and told him he wanted to go back to Ireland. The captain soothed his wounded feelings and told him that when once he became known persons would stop annoying him. So he went back and stolidly took no notice of the attention he attracted. He has lived in New York nearly twenty-five years, and for eight years has been employed on the street-cleaning force at full pay. "I can sweep two piles to any of the others' one," he said sturdily, straightening his little shoulders. Gentlemen sometimes offer him money, but he refuses all alms. P. T. Barnum once offered him a large sum to exhibit him, but the proposal was refused.—*New York Tribune.*

### Imprisoned in His Own Tomb.

About fifteen years ago (says a New York paper) the late William Niblo, of Niblo's Garden, built a handsome tomb in Greenwood Cemetery. He expended a great deal of money upon it, and it naturally became one of the attractions of that pensive resort. Among the eccentricities of the veteran manager was that of visiting this tomb on sultry Sunday afternoons, and sitting there, novel in hand, until the shadowing of the grand path before the door showed him that evening was near. One day Mr. Niblo passed through the lodge-gate as usual, saluted the attendant in his customary courtly style, and wandered away.

That night Mr. Niblo did not return to his home in this city. Nothing was thought of it as he had such a number of friends whom he might visit and remain until late, but when the morning showed the room unoccupied and the bed undisturbed, then alarm seized the household. Search was made; the clubs, the places of public resort, the theaters—all were visited. He had not been there the night previous. Then one remembered the visits to the Greenwood tomb.

When those who were searching for William Niblo reached the gate of the cemetery they were met by the man in charge. He remembered that Mr. Niblo had been there so many days before that it had become a custom. What was the matter? Mr. Niblo lost? "Come to think of it, I didn't see him go out of here when I locked up. He must be in the tomb."

The tomb has an ornamental door let into the solid rock surroundings. It is massive, thick, uninviting—and seems just the aperture for a perpetual home for the dead. Beyond it is an airy apartment, in which the sunlight filters. When Mr. William Niblo entered his favorite resting-place that summer afternoon so long ago, he sat in his accustomed seat, opened his book and fell to reading. The wind rose, the vault was filled with air until a propulsive force was generated, and then, suddenly, there came a short, sharp click, with semi-darkness after it. Mr. Niblo was shut in. The vault door had sprung to.

He was found sitting composed in the tomb, and by no means so much agitated as was any one of those who were looking for him. He explained the accident, his shrieks for assistance and then his relapse into a calm and philosophical consideration of the circumstances. He knew that no one could hear him call, but he felt that the active brains of his friends would seek him out, and that sooner or later he would be liberated.

A Nevada newspaper tells how a Pinte squaw shoots: "She will throw herself on her back, clap both feet to the bow, draw the arrow with both hands and, letting drive, send it clean through the body of the deer."

### Detected by a Dog.

The judges who preside at the Courts of Correctional Police, in Paris, would be almost justified in claiming an increase of pay this year, so large are the additions made to their duties by the influx of visitors, fashionable and unfashionable, and by the consequent increase of petty offences. Pocket picking and all sorts of stealing and cheating have become unusually prevalent within the past few months, and the ingenuity of the knights of industry has developed itself to an extent which could hardly have been expected by the bitterest cynic.

Another most elaborate device for abstracting articles from the shop counter has just been divulged in the police court, and deserves to be ranked among the brightest inventions of the Exposition era. The actress in the performance—for this time it was not a "knight," but a "lady" of industry—made use of a small child as a sort of stalking horse to cover her manoeuvres, and by this means contrived to carry off a considerable booty before she was detected. On coming into a shop, the child was set down upon the counter, in a sitting posture, close to some pieces of lace or other coveted articles, while the supposed mother asked to be shown something else. Very soon afterwards she managed to administer to the ill-fated infant a severe pinch, which naturally caused it to howl aloud, and upon this the lady would hurriedly snatch up her pretended offspring, and with many apologies for its misbehavior, carry it off, together with the object which it was desired to appropriate.

This trick, simple as it was, seems to have had a great success, owing no doubt to that feeling of sympathy with maternal love with which the French nation is so amply gifted. As long as the objects stolen were only of moderate dimensions, everything went well. The affectionate mother was easily able to hurry away into a cab before the search after her began. But from one species of theft she unluckily proceeded to another, and at length conceived the mistaken idea of carrying off a huge piece of pork. The usual proceeding had been adopted and safely carried out up to the time of exit into the street. But the booty had hardly been taken out of the shop when some voracious dog wandering in that vicinity was lucky enough to catch scent of it, and made an attack upon the party, in which several other cuts soon joined. The astonishment of the bystanders was followed by inquiries, explanations, and at last the appearance on the scene of the pork butcher, who succeeded this time in recovering his property, and bringing the too audacious thief to justice.

### Entitled to Thirty-seven Million Dollars.

The heir to an estate of \$37,500,000 died in Philadelphia on a recent Sunday. In the year 1768 Sir Andrew Chadwick, an English baronet, died in London, leaving a very rich estate curtailed upon his son. After this son died, the property fell into the hands of the heirs-at-law, who enjoyed it until it finally became a subject of litigation, and was thrown into the chancery courts, where possession was contested for many years. The true heirs became scattered and lost, and in 1874 the English courts advertised for Thomas Chadwick, the direct descendant of Sir Thomas Chadwick, the seventh generation removed. The man in question was living in a suburb of Philadelphia. He was then sixty-seven years old, and had been in business as a miller, but had retired on account of his age and feeble health. Proceedings were taken to recover his share in the state, and a New York lawyer was sent over in the interest of Mr. Chadwick, Samuel Booth, of Providence, R. I., and the two sons of Samuel Chadwick, Thomas Chadwick's brother. These were the only heirs, and all were living in this country. As mentioned above, Thomas Chadwick died suddenly of heart disease, and his two sons, Cornelius and Ferdinand, now succeed to his interest in the English estate.

The property is valued at the enormous sum of \$37,500,000, not including interest on some items now held in trust by the Bank of England. The property consists of real and personal estate, mostly in London, the most valuable being 1,009 houses in the British metropolis. Both the New York lawyer, who is looking after the legal interests of the heirs, and the firm of English solicitors, unite in pronouncing the claims of the American claimants as indisputable.

### Fashionable Hair.

Many ornaments are used for the hair, writes a correspondent. Silver flagee combs are very fashionable, as are pins of red or pale yellow gold. The shell comb is seen in a variety of shapes. Dyed hair has had its day. So many persons are suffering from the effects of the various dyes that physicians are prohibiting the use of the different kinds of coloring matter. The French government makes a study of the preservation of life. When dyed hair became the fashion the government ordered a board of scientific men to analyze blondine and other kinds of dye. The result was a report that the use of these dyes impaired the eyesight and the complexion, and a perseverance in the use produced ill-health and shortened life. The French government then prohibited, by a legislative act, the use of hair dyes. The American women are the most profitable customers which the French chemists have. A weak-minded young lady for a series of years changed her dark hair to blonde. She was forced to discontinue its use, and now appears with dead gray hair and blue goggles. She has utterly ruined her eyes, complexion, hair and health. Her handsome young husband carries around a wreck of the beauty he married six years ago.

### THE MARVELLOUS MICROPHONE.

A Simple Little Instrument which May be Said to be a Surprising Extension of the Ear.

By the courtesy of Agent Falls Pacific Mills, who is quite an enthusiast in scientific matters, we spent a lightful hour a few days since in experiments with that latest marvel of discovery, the microphone, a little instrument which becomes to the ear what a microscope is to the eye. This discovery of Professor Hughes of Great Britain, who, while experimenting with the telephone, found a new alarm through which he has succeeded in detecting an instrument by which sound magnified or increased and conveyed a wire, in a wonderful manner. The microphone of Mr. Falls, imported from England, is a simple little affair, a thin piece of deal, perhaps five inches by three, insulated by means of four layers of rubber, one at each corner, on which it rests; to this is attached an ordinary battery; a small piece of platinum is fastened with a bit of wire to the board, and another piece of carbon like an inch and a half pipistem pivoted near the center, from little supports, one end resting upon the board, strapped to the board; the wires which the sound is to be conveyed attached to either corner of the board, and connected by other wires with a carbon vibrator and the battery; a carbon, highly charged as it is with mercury, possesses the power not only of conductivity, and of reproducing sound, but of vastly increasing its power. As the microscope reveals to the eye of man the most insignificant of natural works, so does the microphone disclose to our hearing even inaudible sound.

Mr. Falls has connected with the microphone some six hundred feet of wire, and in the room at the other end an ordinary Bell telephone attachment. During the experiments which we made with the assistance of Mr. Rideout, a watch was placed upon the instrument, and through the nearly one-eighth of a mile of wire came to the ear not only separate ticking, resounding like the heavy beating of a marine or tow-boat, but we could clearly detect the whirl of the minute wheels, the buzz and friction of the delicate machinery of the watch. Then the watch was removed and the gentlest sweep of the down of feather, brushed as lightly as possible across the board, reached the ear magnified to sound like the coarse grating of a file or the scraping of a heavy brush. Then a small wire cage, containing two common house flies, was placed on the instrument, and to the listening ear six hundred feet away, distinctly came the soft and irregular patter of the feet as the flies walked over the board, and as they flew from one side of the cage to the other, the sound as they struck against the fine wire was heard with a sharp metallic ring, altogether like that of the hammer of a boiler welder as he rivets the bolts in the iron cylinder. We were somewhat sceptical in relation to this last experiment, seemed so much beyond credence, that the wires were detached, the annunciator fastened to the instrument with only a few feet of wire, and we sat down in front of the little wonder and with our eyes made certain that there was no possibility of deceit as to the source of the marvellous sounds to which we listened; but there was no difference in the footfalls of the fly came with no seeming greater distinctness than when transmitted through six hundred feet of wire, and we see no reason why miles may not be added with the same result. Conversation in the room where the instrument was located, without the intervention of mouthpiece, as in the telephone, was distinctly heard at the other end of the wire. This is the instrument which in Halifax, England, was attached to the pulpit of a chapel, the connecting wires being carried to a house the distance of a mile, every word of the sermon being transmitted with distinctness and even enabling the listener at the close to hear the janitor as he walked up the aisle, closed the Bible, and returning closed and locked the door. As to the uses to which it may be put, there is scarcely any limit to the imagination already in surgery it has been practically applied, as a detector of bullets and other foreign bodies, and it is thought likely to prove invaluable in a diagnosis of lung, heart and other diseases. Our brief examination convinced us of its right to stand as one of the marvels of this age of wondrous discoveries.—*Laurance, Mass., American.*

### Senator Blaine on Farmers' Influence.

The farmers of the republic will control its destiny. Agriculture, commerce and manufactures are the three pursuits that enrich a nation—but the greatest of these is agriculture, for without its products the spindle cannot turn and the ship will not sail. Agriculture furnishes the conservative element in society, and in the end is the guiding, restraining, controlling force in government. Against storms of popular fury; against frenzied madness that seeks collision with established order; against theories of administration that have drenched other lands in blood; against the spirit of anarchy that would sweep away the landmarks and safeguards of Christian society and republican government, the farmers of the United States will stand as the shield and the bulwark—then selves the willing subjects of law, and therefore its safest and strongest administrators.—*From Speech at Minneapolis.*

The women of Cyprus, like all the Greek women, chew great quantities of mastic, imported by the island to Sicily and deem it graceful to appear always biting this gum, and it will soon be in order for a later Byron to remark: "Mastic of Cyprus, now we've come. Leave, or leave off chewing gum."