

Downers Grove Reporter.

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS.

The indications point to a greater interest in base ball this season than usual. No way to stop it.

Congress has prohibited prize fighting in the territories. It should now prohibit fights in congress.

New York railroads are now compelled to check bicycles, the same as trunks, and they musn't smash 'em either.

Some scientists intend to go to Mexico to study stars, it is said. It was for that that Peter Maher went there, wasn't it?

General Weyler's work is deteriorating somewhat, but then one can't do good editorial work where all is not calm and peaceful.

The man who wrote "After the Ball" has been sued for damages by a bicyclist. It appears to be a case of "screecher" vs. "scorcher."

Should Mr. Armour have to pay the State of New York \$1,150,000 for selling oleomargarine, that bold and greasy Croesus will be considerably cowed.

A shortage of thirty millions has been discovered in the securities of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, but the owners don't mind a little thing like that.

It's the same in politics as in other things. The "bosses" are always willing to let the people have their own way when they find they can't help themselves.

From this distance it looks as if it would be easier to make up a list of those Transvaal Englishmen who were not in the conspiracy than to enumerate those who were in it.

The county commissioners of Spokane called for bids for the burying of the county poor, and although one undertaking firm offered to do the work at one cent each, no award was made.

The stone slab upon which George Washington once took oath is broken, while the oath is still intact. In these days it is not likely that the man in public life would permit the oath to outlast the slab.

In Sweden, according to travelers who have resided in that country, it is a household custom to provide rooms where the children may go and cry, and scream, and make all the noise they need to. In all other parts of the house they are expected to be quiet and mindful of the presence of their elders. On the whole it seems rather a good plan—good for the children and good for the elders, too.

The clergymen of Warrensburg, Mo., are in open warfare against High Five, a game of chance, which twenty-seven of the Warrensburg church ladies have been playing. The ladies have filed counter accusations against the clergymen for playing the game of Up-Jenkins, which they say knocks High Five sky high. At this distance it looks as if the ladies would play the dickens with the pastors.

Probably the first instance of a court recognizing the Roentgen discovery as a means of establishing a fact in evidence is that in which the District United States court at Wichita, Kan., on April 4, directed that a shadowgraph be taken of the wrist of Peter Noel, who is suing the Santa Fe road for \$10,000 damages for wrongly setting the fracture of his wrist. The question of what the best evidence is in a case of that kind came up, and all the parties interested, as well as the court, agreed in the light of modern science, a shadowgraph of the wrist would be the best evidence. Consequently the court directed Lucien Blake, professor of electricity in the state university of Kansas, to make the test in court.

Of the various woods classified by the national forestry commission, white pine ranks first from the standpoint of commercial use, and the other pines next, these being used chiefly for house finishing and other kindred purposes. The general use of oak in the better grade of house finishing and in manufacture of furniture gives that wood next place. Then comes the less important hard woods, including ash, birch, maple, etc. Hickory, which is used chiefly for wagon stock, is one of the woods least used, the annual cut not reaching more than 250,000,000 feet, as against 3,000,000,000 feet of oak. Black walnut has now become so scarce that it has practically ceased to be quoted in the lumber market. A small quantity still exists in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, but it is sold by the single tree.

The supposition that pirates no longer exist is quite erroneous. The Rifian pirates of the mountains opposite Gibraltar appear to carry on their work in defiance of all nations. When we consider the case of the Armenians and that of the Rifian pirates, we may easily perceive how feeble the civilized world has become.

The medical writer who not long since inveighed against soup as unwholesome had perhaps not heard of the soup lady, aged 104, whose chief article of diet was soup.

When to Spray.

I have apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, apricot and crab apple trees. Some of them are now in bloom. With what material, when and how often shall I spray?—A Subscriber.

For full instruction how to spray all kinds of fruits send to your experiment station for a spraying calendar. As to the fruits mentioned above we will answer by publishing the advice of the Cornell experiment station:

Apples.—For the scab, spray first with copper sulphate solution before the buds break. This, however, is a spraying of small importance. Spray the second time with Bordeaux mixture when the leaf buds are open, but before flower buds expand. 3. Repeat the last spraying after the petals have fallen. 4. Spray with the Bordeaux mixture ten or fourteen days after the third spraying. 5 and 6. Repeat 4 at about every two weeks. For the canker worm apply paris green very thoroughly as soon as the first caterpillars appear. Repeat this in eight to ten days, and follow up at like intervals if necessary. If you are troubled with the bud moth, spray with Paris green as soon as the leaf tips appear. Repeat before the blossom buds open and twice after the petals have fallen. For the condensation, spray with Paris green immediately after the blossoms have fallen. Repeat this in ten days, and if later broods are troublesome repeat this spraying every one to three weeks. Paris green may be added to the Bordeaux mixture, and the two applied together with excellent effect. For the case-bearer, spray as for the bud-moth.

Peaches.—For brown rot, spray before the buds swell, with copper sulphate solution. Spray before the buds open with the Bordeaux mixture. Repeat this when the fruit has set, and again about fourteen days after. When the fruit is nearly gone, spray with the ammoniacal copper carbonate. Repeat at intervals of five to seven days, if necessary. This applies to the apricots and nectarines as well as to the peach.

Plums.—For the brown rot, spray as for the peach. For the leaf-blight, spray when the first leaves have unfolded, using Bordeaux mixture. Spray again with the same mixture when the fruit has set. Repeat at intervals of two or three weeks. Use a clear fungicide after the fruit is three-fourths grown. For black knot, during the first warm days of early spring, spray with Bordeaux mixture. Repeat when the buds are swelling and again during the latter part of May. Repeat again in June and July. For the curculio, spraying is not always effective. Jar the trees after fruit has set at intervals of one to three days for two to five weeks. For the plum scale, spray in autumn as soon as the leaves have fallen, using kerosene emulsion diluted four times. Spray twice in spring with same solution before the buds open. For the San Jose scale, thorough application of kerosene emulsion, as under plum scale, may prove effective, if followed later in the season by others, diluting the emulsion to avoid injuring foliage.

Pears.—For leaf blight or fruit spots, use copper solution as the buds are swelling. Just before the buds open use Bordeaux mixture. Repeat after fruit has set, and at intervals of two or three weeks as seems necessary. For leaf-blight, use kerosene emulsion before buds swell in the spring, diluting the emulsion five to seven times. For scab, when the leaves have unfolded in the spring, use kerosene emulsion diluted fifteen times. Repeat this every few days till the insects are destroyed.

Cherries.—For black knot, spray as for black knot in plum. For rot, spray with Bordeaux mixture as soon as the buds break. Repeat when fruit has set, and when fruit has grown spray with ammoniacal copper carbonate. For the aphid, use kerosene emulsion when the insects appear, and repeat every four days if necessary. For the slug, when the insect appears, use arsenites, hellebore, or air-slaked lime. Repeat every two weeks if necessary.—Farmers' Review.

Care in Cultivating Orchards.—The cultivating and manuring of orchards require a good deal of thought and temperance. Too much of either may be bad and too little of either is certainly bad. Too much manure and cultivation may cause such a rapid development of the tree that it will yield more readily to adverse circumstances. Too late cultivation in the fall may start a new growth of wood that will not have time to ripen before growth ceases.

Whitewashing Apple Trees.—The old New England custom of washing the apple tree trunks with lime is probably a good one. It is noticed here and there in the west. The trees are first scraped with a scraper, at least in New England, where scrapers can be obtained that have been used for scraping the bottoms of ships. The scraping takes off all the loose old bark, removing thereby many insects and insect eggs. It also makes easy the work of whitewashing.

Garden Suggestions.—High-priced gardeners are generally disappointing. Set all bush berries in long straight rows, seven feet apart, and plants three feet apart in the row. Set strawberries in rows 3 1/2 feet apart and two feet apart in the row. Long straight rows are easily cultivated and kept free from weeds. Extra care in all details of the garden will increase size and quality of fruit and stimulate a love for the work.—M. A. Thayer.

The young man who prides himself on being original was talking to Miss Cayenne. "Your mother seems very much amused at that little story I told her last night," he said, self-approvingly. "Yes," she replied, "Ever since I can remember, mother has laughed whenever she heard that story."—Washington Star.

LAND OF THE BLACKS.

NATIVE TRIBES OF AFRICA DYING BY SWORD.

The Good Christian Nations of Europe Making Quick Work of Exterminating God's Creatures—A Disgrace to Century—Congress Still.



AFRICA HAS LONG been picturesquely named the "Dark Continent," but it might now be more appropriately called the "Bloody Continent." A few years ago it was dark in the sense that Europeans knew little about it.

Since they have shed their light upon its remotest places it has been turned into a land of bloody strife and turmoil from end to end. A number of bloody outbreaks, of such a character as to interest even Americans unconcerned with European policy, help to call attention at this moment to the perpetual condition of Africa. It is hardly to be doubted that this condition will continue until all the warlike races of Africa are exterminated or reduced to the condition of hopeless subjectation.

There are three great regions of Africa which are of supreme interest at this moment. They are the Egyptian Sudan, Abyssinia and South Africa. To the first two places belong the distinction that Europeans have suffered there about as much as the natives.

A strong Egyptian expedition, under British officers, has started to attempt to reclaim the Sudan from the Mahdi,

beyond their country. The Matabele were mowed down in thousands by Dr. Jameson and his troopers and machine guns before their land was finally conquered for the British South Africa Company. The remnant of them will possibly make a hard fight now.

Another element of trouble lies in the Delagoa Bay situation. Under a treaty England has the first right to purchase this portion of Portuguese East Africa, if it should be offered for sale. It lies between the Transvaal and the ocean, and its possession would enable the British to surround the Beers. The German Emperor, it is believed, is prepared to resist by force this advance of the British.

To the north of Portuguese East Africa is German East Africa. Dr. Peters, the late administrator of that territory, is now being tried in Berlin for cruelties to the natives. He hanged men and women for petty thefts.

In the Indian Ocean, off the east coast of Africa is the great island of Madagascar, which the French have just conquered after a campaign very deadly to themselves. Lately the natives revolted and burned a religious mission house and killed several of its occupants.

A punitive military expedition has just done its work near Mombasa in British East Africa.

The British are now occupying Ashanti, in the interior of Africa, behind the Gold Coast Colony, and hold King Prempeh a prisoner.

The French have occupied Timbuctu, the capital of Eastern Sudan, a mysterious city hitherto known to us chiefly on account of its comic-opera name.

The Sultan of Morocco is slaughtering his subjects.

This is but a glimpse of the bloody work that is going on in Africa.

Putting a crown on the head, puts nothing kingly in the heart.

IT LOOKS BEHIND.

A Telescope Which Is Said to Double the Usefulness of Ordinary Glasses.

Man's eye had an extra eye in the back of his head. Scientists say that they can still find traces of this eye in a certain irregular formation of the skull at the point where the ancient eye-socket used to be, says the New York World. These irregular places are called rudimentary eyes, but they are not to be found in all people. In fact, a man who can boast of a rudimentary eye is quite a superior person. Of course, these rudimentary eyes are of no real use to anybody, not even to the owner of them, but they serve to show us that at a certain stage in our career nature thought it was a wise thing to enable us to keep a watch in the rear. A foreign firm of opticians have very considerably endeavored to supply, as far as may be done by mechanical means, the loss of this rear-vision eye. They have constructed a telescope which enables the user to look around a corner. By its means you may see and remain unseen, a circumstance which possesses obvious advantages. They call the invention the stereo-telescope. Stereo comes from a Greek word meaning solid, and in this connection it is used as indicating that the image, as seen through the stereo-telescope seems an exact counterpart of the object and not a mere picture of it. The two tubes that extend horizontally carry an object glass at either end. The eye pieces are placed on an axis at right angles to that of the object or oblong tubes. When the observer looks through the small peep-holes he sees a different field with each eye. The rays of light from the objects that lie in the field of vision are reflected by means of prisms, so that they turn the corner of the right angle. Thus you may leisurely study an ob-

WORSHIPERS OF FIRE.

SOME FACTS COLLECTED ON A QUEER SUBJECT.

They Adore the God of Fire—An Expert at the National Museum Who Can Make Fire by Rubbing Sticks Together.



THE National museum has just secured a remarkable collection illustrating the practice of fire worship on this continent. It appears that most of the American aboriginal tribes have had more or less of this sort of religion in the past, and to the present day they have ceremonials associated with the making of new fire at stated intervals. For this purpose they always employ the most primitive method—that is to say, the rubbing of two sticks together. For example, the Zuni use an agave stick with sand to help the friction. The sand is wet, because this renders the fire-making more difficult, and, therefore, more meritorious in the sight of the gods. One of the objects in the collection referred to is a so-called fire pump, utilized by the Onandagas at the feast of the White Dog, at which a white dog is sacrificed. This tool utilizes the mechanism of the pump drill for making the point of a stick revolve rapidly in another piece of wood, thus finally obtaining ignition. The Hindus, by the way, have a similar sacred fire drill, by means of which they make fire nine times each day for nine days at a periodical festival.

The Hupa Indians, of California, are remarkably expert fire makers. With a couple of simple sticks of soft mesquite wood, which they keep very dry, they can produce fire in ten seconds. This method of fire making requires such expert manipulation that few civilized men have ever been able to acquire the art. Mr. Walter Hough, one of the ethnologists of the National museum, knows how to do it. The writer has seen him make fire in a couple of minutes by revolving between the palms of his hands a stick, the point of which was inserted in a hole in another piece of wood. Presently smoke would begin to come from the hole, and soon a spark would catch some tinder of which a pinch was supplied for the purpose. For such tinder American savages use some very odd things. The Eskimo of Point Barrow employ for the purpose willow catkins; those of Cumberland gulf use the white fibre of arctic cotton, while in some parts of Alaska shredded cedar bark is made to serve. The aborigines of Ecuador employ for tinder the linings from the nests of a certain species of ants, while in Mexico a substitute is found in a kind of fungus which is soaked in saltpeter, dried, cut in sheets and sold in small packets. In Japan the flowers of a species of artemisia are dried for tinder.

The most remarkable ceremonial of fire worship that survives in this country is practiced by the Navajos. They believe in purification by fire, and to this end they literally wash themselves in it. The feats they perform with it far exceed the most wonderful acts of fire-eating and fire-handling accomplished by civilized jugglers. In preparation for the festival a gigantic heap of dry wood is gathered from the desert. At the appointed moment the great pile of inflammable brush is lighted and in a few moments the whole of it is in a fine blaze. A storm of sparks fly one hundred feet or more into the air, and ashes fall about like a light shower of snow. The ceremony always takes place at night and the effect of it is both weird and impressive.

Just when the fire is raging at its hottest a whistle is heard from the outer darkness, and a dozen warriors, lithe and lean, dressed in narrow white breech-cloths and moccasins simply and daubed with white earth so as to look like so many living statues, come bounding through the entrance of the corral that encloses the flaming heap. Yelping like wolves they move slowly toward the fire, bearing aloft slender wands tipped with balls of eagle down. Running around the fire, always to the left, they begin thrusting their wands toward the fire, trying to burn off the down from the tips. Owing to the intensity of the heat this is difficult to accomplish. One warrior dashes wildly toward the fire and retreats; another lies as close to the ground as a frightened lizard, endeavoring to wriggle himself up to the fire; others seek to catch on their wands the sparks that fly in the air. At last one by one they all succeed in burning the downy balls from the wands.

The test of endurance is very severe, the heat of the fire being so great. Having burned off the balls of down the warriors next set about restoring them again. On the end of each wand, one after another, appears presently a fresh ball of eagle down. It is supposed to be the one fact that was burned, re-created, but in fact this is only a juggling trick. Each man holds in his hand a ring that is covered with down. When the proper time arrives he permits this ring to slide along the wand to its extremity. The performers in this ceremony sometimes wear immense false moustaches and huge spectacles, in imitation of the white men.

John J. Burke, the well known eccentric comedian who was so much in evidence in the Henderson extravaganza is now starring in a farcical creation entitled, "The Doctor," and is reported to be meeting with strong success.



MAP SHOWING THE DISTURBANCES IN AFRICA.

who rules in absolute despotism at Khartoum. The dervishes and Mahometan Desert tribes who maintain the Mahdi's power, believe that he is the direct representative of Mahomet, and in fighting for him lies their only hope of heaven.

While a British expedition is going to the Sudan, a Belgian expedition from the Congo Free State, which has an outlet on the West Coast of Africa, has started for the same region. This expedition has been re-inforced by Houassa, native troops, from the British colony of Sagos, also on the west coast. The Belgians are probably now fighting in the heart of Africa.

The brutalizing occupation of the Europeans in Africa does not tend to make them humane and generous in their treatment of one another. The whole world has lately been reading about one illustration of this fact.

A body of Englishmen, supposed to be the pick of the pioneers of their race in Africa, being chiefly officers and men of the military police of the British South Africa company, has made a murderous raid into the Transvaal, one of the few colonies in Africa that have any claim to respectability. It is said that the Boers are pretty high handed with the natives, but the fact that there are so many of the latter left in the Transvaal after so long a period of colonization is in itself a tribute to their masters.

These Englishmen started out cheerfully with machine guns and other arms to enter the territory of a foreign and friendly state and slaughter the peaceful and unoffending people. Even the severe defeat they received did not make them realize that they had done wrong. Their African experience had destroyed their moral sense.

It must not be supposed that the defeat of Jameson's raiders and their shipment to England has ended the trouble in the more civilized parts of South Africa. There is intense and warlike hostility between the English and the Dutch elements in Cape Colony, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal. Cable reports say that both sides are preparing to fight. There is always an abundance of armed men in those places. The reports also say that German officers are helping the Boers and that Germany has promised them material aid in a possible struggle with the British.

Besides this possibility of a general conflagration in South Africa, there is some hard actual fighting there. The Matabele have risen again in the British South Africa Company's territory. They killed seven white men near Bulawayo, and since then a much larger number of the natives have been killed.

The Matabele are a brave, strong and fierce race, allied to the Zulus, who fought so hard before the devastating British influence swept over and

A Mutual Fondness. "Harold," said Mrs. Pulsiver, "when you talk in your sleep about the kitty it always wakes baby up. She just dotes on a kitty." "So do I," answered Mr. P., grateful for his escape.—Detroit Free Press.

SOME RECENT PATENTS.

- A keyless bicycle lock. An improved sanitary corset. A bottle that cannot be refilled. A pipe for blowing soap bubbles. A combination sideboard and extension table. A new alternating electric motor, by Nicola Tesla. A machine for ornamenting glass dishes, by which the dish is both scalloped and crimped by one motion or operation. A machine for the manufacture of "wire glass," by which a network of wire is imbedded in the glass, adding to its strength and flexibility. A self-roller for journals on the principle of capillary attraction. A wick lays alongside the journal and extends down below into an oil receptacle. A pineapple knife, with a tubular quill-pen-shaped point adapted to gouge out the eyes of the apple; a thumb-piece guide, which can be set so as to gauge the depth of the cut. An amusing toy, in which the whale swallowing Jonah is depicted. A metallic whale rests in a tank of water, in which "Jonah" has been cast. A powerful magnet inside the whale attracts the metal "Jonah" and draws him into its open mouth. Ancient Indian temples at Ceylon are being illuminated by electricity.

ject while under cover, the head being in such a position as not to admit of its being seen. When the tubes are thus extended, the observer may stand behind a tree or a wall and reconnoiter from his concealed position. There are also open points in favor of the instrument. The field of vision is enormously extended. You may study objects at opposite points of the compass with no more trouble than the winking of your eye. The stereo-telescope may be folded up, in which position, being held with the tubes upward, it enables the observer to look above an object obstructing his view, such as a hedge, wall or crowd of people.

Aluminum Coffins. Aluminum coffins are the latest and the New York, Pittsburg and St. Louis undertakers carry them in stock. They are made of uniform width, square ends and vertical sides and ends, such being the accepted shape of the modern burial casket. They are finished with a heavy molding around the bottom and at the upper edge, and with pilasters at the corners and with a round molded top. They are provided with extension bar handles. Aluminum caskets are not covered, but finished with a metal surface burnished. They are lined in the same manner. The non-corrosive qualities of aluminum as well as the lightness of the caskets recommend them. A six-foot aluminum casket weighs but 100 pounds, an oak casket of the same size 190 pounds, a cloth casket with metal lining about 175 pounds. Other metallic caskets weigh from 450 to 600 pounds. Aluminum coffins are not likely to become popular among the poor, as their cost ranges from \$400 to \$750.—New York World.