

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

IS WOMAN'S VANITY INCURABLE?

By Prof. Emile de Lavelye.

Vanity and the love of the clothes which engenders are marked among the savages who tattoo themselves before putting on garments...

ACCIDENT THE MOTHER OF INVENTION.

By Prof. Ernst Mach.

It is by accidental circumstances, or by such as lie without our purpose, foresight and power, that man gradually is led to the acquaintance of improved means of satisfying his wants.

Granting that the most important inventions are brought to man's notice accidentally, and in ways that are beyond his foresight, yet it does not follow that accident alone is sufficient to produce an invention.

IN THE FIRELIGHT.

The fire upon the hearth is low, And there is stillness everywhere. While winged spirits, here and there, The firelight shadows muttering go.

THE LAST TIME.

"How many times do you want me to say it?" demanded Miss Calloway. "I thought we had that all settled finally and forever."

this regard almost entirely to the reflex actions which they have inherited with their organism; they are almost totally incapable of individual experience, and considering their simple wants, are scarcely in need of it.

EDUCATION CRIME'S GREATEST FOE.

By James Anson Farber.

Would you prevent crimes, then cause the laws to be clear and simple. Make the laws to favor not so much classes of men, but men themselves. Would you prevent crimes, then see that enlightenment accompanies liberty.

PEOPLE GROWING IN POWER.

By Ada May Krecker.

It needs only a glance and a thought to appreciate that the distinguishing marks of our current institutions and culture are the impress of the people. The people who erstwhile were of no importance and negligible factors in national affairs are now the determining influence.

COST OF LIVING NOWADAYS.

Was It Come Down Since the Panic of 1907 or Not?

The London Economist figures a decline in average cost of commodities during the first four months of 1908 of 1 per cent and a decline from the high point of last year to May of 15 1/2 per cent.

But this conclusion is likely to be disputed by any householder. His living expenses have not decreased, except through buying less; the average citizen will say it now costs more to live than before the panic.

Bradstreet's figures show that prices of packed provisions are down 9 per cent from last year, fruits 30 per cent, and leather, textiles, drugs and oil something like 10 per cent.

The best sign of future reduction in cost of living is the promise of good crops in 1908; the worst is the reviving tendency to speculate rise in prices.

QUEER STORIES.

Glass windows are still scarce in the City of Mexico.

England has about 13,000 square miles of coal fields.

Jena is to have a biological (phylogenetic) museum as a memorial of Prof. Haeckel.

The gray and black Agropina moth of Brazil is thirteen inches from wing tip to wing tip.

Nearly \$4,000,000 had to be paid in Geneva last December in legacy taxes when the Baroness Adolph Rothschild died.

The latest wonder in the installation at the London Hippodrome of a series of tiny machines that silently generate sea air into the auditorium.

A record apple harvest is expected in Devon and Somerset, England. There is every possibility of 1908 proving the greatest apple year known in these counties.

Eight medals awarded to Major C. Stuart, including the small gold medal for the battle of Roraima and the Army of India medal with five clasps, realized \$1,000 at auction in London.

France has three-fifths of an acre of forest to each inhabitant. That country imports annually \$20,000,000 worth of wood. State forests there yield an annual \$1.75 an acre, and cost 95 cents annually.

For having "coconuts" made of iron weighing twenty-one pounds each, on the front row of her stand at a fair, so that they could not be knocked off, Sarah Hayer was fined \$15 and her son \$2.50 at Newton, England.

The French gardening methods by which an acre of ground is made to yield \$2,423 per annum by the forcing hot bed process has been introduced in England. Vegetables are produced all the year and are forced by a steady temperature of 90 degrees.

A WEAK SPOT.

The thought that made the Navy Man Lose His Composure.

"Speaking of nerve," said a Massachusetts Congressman, "there generally is a weak spot in the most colonial variety, if it only can be found. In this connection I remember my grandfather used to tell a good story.

"Some forty or fifty years ago a longshoreman's eating place in Boston was the resort also of truckmen and other teamsters whose business brought them out early in the morning.

"One gray November morning about 5 o'clock a stranger entered this place and took his seat among the habitués. He ordered a substantial breakfast and ate it slowly and with evident enjoyment. Then he took his hat down from the peg on the wall and started to go.

"Much 'bliged," he said, genially. "So long."

"The proprietor had a good many rough customers to deal with, and his pistol was handy. In a second it was out and the man covered. Then he demanded the price of the breakfast.

"The man, apparently unmoved, looked at the shooting iron with curiosity. It was a queer, clumsy affair of ancient date, and it was evident that he had never seen its like before. Suddenly his expression of curiosity changed to one of apprehension, even terror, and he drew back a step.

"Is—that—a stomach pump?" he faltered.

"This story has a happy ending." The Congressman concluded. "The man kept his breakfast!"—Boston Post.

Exterminated.

First Fan—What makes that crack pitcher stamp around the mound so much before he throws the ball?

Second Fan—Why, you chump, those are immediate delivery stamps; that's where he gets his rapidity.—Toledo Blade.



Fruit Clipper.

Inventors seem to realize the difficulties encountered by the fruit gatherers and pickers, as they are continually endeavoring to invent devices which will render such work less irksome.

Six Pieces at Once.

A California man thinks that the common method of dissecting pies by the aid of the ordinary knife is too slow and also too inaccurate for these days of haste and bustle.



being shown in the illustration. This pie cutter comprises a base adapted to support a pie of the common size and shape. Hinged to the back of the box is the cutter proper, consisting of a lever and the knife blades.

UTILIZING THE ZEBRA.

The development of the African colonies has been retarded, says a writer in the New York Sun, on account of the difficulties of transportation.

In South Africa trek oxen are used, but vast numbers of these are killed by the dreaded tsetse fly. North of the Zambesi, horses, mules, donkeys and draft animals of every kind are found infested with the same scourge.

A year ago it occurred to Captain Nys of the Belgian Grenadiers that if the zebras, which roam in innumerable herds, could be trapped and tamed they would solve the transportation problem.

After trying unsuccessfully different methods of trapping the zebras, Captain Nys had an immense corral, or staked enclosure, built, with a funnel-shaped mouth into which the animals could be driven by hawks. Once inside, the zebras would find grass and fresh water, and all their natural surroundings. In the various corners stables would be built, and here the animals might gradually be tamed.

After many difficulties, an army of some seven hundred natives was engaged and instructed. Captain Nys had to travel many hundreds of miles to get these men from their chiefs, always going on foot, for horse or mule is impossible in the tsetse-fly country.

It took several months to construct the stockade, which enclosed two hundred acres. Then, one morning, the army of beaters spread out, fan-like, for fifty or sixty miles, and gradually drove in some three thousand seven hundred zebras.

When the captain saw this immense herd nearing the funnel of his corral, he thought his troubles were at an end; but disappointment awaited him. Suddenly the herd stampeded. A large troop of lions were worrying them in the rear, and overwhelming the army of beaters, they doubled back into the wilderness. Barely twenty-five animals were taken.

Three times the zebras were driven back by the lions, but the fourth time was a success, and seventeen hundred animals were entrapped in the enclosure. They fought and bit one another, raced hither and thither, and dashed their pretty bodies against the solid fences, crippling, and in many cases killing, themselves. For four or five days many of the zebras refused to eat or drink. Some even resorted to death. But gradually most of these great animals were tamed.

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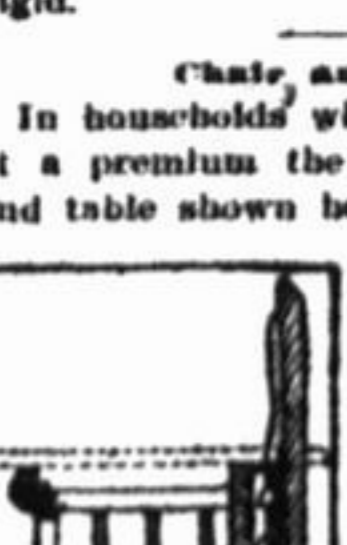
NEW INVENTIONS.

A clock of unique design and construction is the recent invention of a Philadelphian. As shown in the illustration, it resembles a globe used in the school room to explain the formation of the earth.



CHAIR AND TABLE COMBINED.

In households where spare space is at a premium the combination chair and table shown here would be found exceedingly useful. Like the folding bed, it can be instantly changed for either purpose required.



simply turning back the top. The large space required for the table is thus dispensed with, an additional chair being also provided. The top of the table in this combined piece of furniture also constitutes the back of the chair.

STUCK IN THE ASPHALT.

Secretary Taft's Experience on a Newly Paved Street.

Certain anxious engineers of the District of Columbia are seeking to ascertain to whom they shall charge \$500,000 worth of asphalt in which Secretary Taft floundered and from which he was rescued with difficulty.

One evening recently the Secretary and Arthur L. Vorys, of Ohio, his campaign manager, dined at the New Willard with Senator Warner. At 8:30 the department carriage called for the pair, and they started for the War Department. Pat McQuade, driver of Secretary of War for more than forty years, was on the box.

The fast-trotting boys whistled the carriage around the White House and along and into 17th street on the west side of the State, War and Navy building. Then their pace was almost instantly checked and McQuade came near to being swung from his seat.

"Oh, out at it! Oh, out at it!" he shrieked. "Don't you know it's wet asphalt 'er drivin' in?"

"Gwan; sure I've got the Secretary of War wid me," retorted McQuade, scornfully.

"Oh, don't care if you've got the President of the United States; get out at it," insisted the watchman.

"Let's get out of here, Vorys," said Taft, after he had listened for a moment to the argument between the watchman and the coachman. He walked forward a pace and then, Vorys, profiting by the exhibition of his chief, perched for a moment on the edge of the carriage, like a bird poised for flight, and then jumped with his nearly worn down in the sticky stuff, but righted himself quickly and made for the sidewalk. Being much lighter than Taft, he finally made solid footing.

The street at this point is wide, and although the Secretary of War was making a valiant fight, he was getting bogged down and wove in the morass. Vorys at last found a board, which he dragged to the curb and thrust into the quagmire.

Then he walked upon it and lent the Secretary a helping hand. It required some work to get the Taft feet loose, and at one time they discussed the advisability of cutting the Secretary's shoes and leaving the oblate, but eventually the rescue was effected.

A Mole Catcher.

A farm manager at Podderty, Dingwall, Scotland, watching a mole continue at work, saw one gull hovering over and occasionally alighting upon a turnip field in which the observer and others were at work. A particularly large and handsome bird attracted his attention by the graceful way it floated slowly over the drills, intently scanning the surface of the ground.

He dropped, and fell into the turnip ground, and rose with a shake for a prey. Resting a few minutes, it gradually began again a further search for prey. In a few minutes a second mole was unearthed.

A Freshman Rebuffed.

He—Tell me, dear, why are you like a table?

She—Why?

He—Because you're wood. She—(Indignantly)—No, because I'm hard.—Yale Record.

The Whom Habit.

"See you later, old pal. I'm going to lunch."

Old Favorites.

Get up and bar the door, O! It fell about the heartless door, O! And a guy then it was then, O! When our parents had gotten to bed, O! And she called them to the door, O!

The wind blew hard from north to south, O! And blow hard the door, O! Search our windows for our parents, O! "Get up and bar the door, O!"

"My head is in my bonnet, O! Gudeman, as ye may see, O! And it should be bar'd this mornin' year, O! It'll be bar'd by me, O!"

They made a pacton 'twon them then, O! They made it firm and sure, O! Whoever should open the foremost door, O! Should rise and bar the door, O!

Then by there can't two gentlemen, O! At twelve o'clock at night, O! And they could see neither house nor hill, O! Nor coal nor candle light, O!

And, oh, but they were cold and wet, O! An' it was an awfu' sight, O! And when they saw the open door, O! Their hearts lap at the sight, O!

"Now, whether is this a rich man's house, O! Or whether it is a poor, O! But ne'er a word was said o' them speak, O! For barring o' the door, O!"

Then first they ate the white pudding, O! And they ate the black, O! And 'twon thought the gudewife to be here, O! Yet ne'er a word she spak, O!

Then the ass unto the other said— "Here, man, tak' ye my knife, O! Do ye tak' af the said man's beard, O! An' I'll kiss the gudewife, O!"

"But there's nae water in the house, O! And what will we do then, O? "What all will at the puddin' brew, O! That boils into the pan, O!"

O up then started our gudeman, O! And an angry was he, O! "Will ye kiss my wife before ye eat, O! And scaned me wi' puddin' brew, O!"

Then up and started our gudewife, O! Glad three ships on the floor, O! "Gudeman, ye've spoken the foremost word, O! Get up and bar the door, O!"

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