SOME BIG THINGS.

THIS CONTINENT HOLDS MANY RECORDS.

Some of the Numerous Natural and Artificial Marvels to be Found in the Western Hemisphere—Wonders Peculiar to Nations of the Old World.

America holds the record in many natural wonders and artificial triumphs. The largest lake in the world (Superior), the longest river (Missouri), the largest park (Yellowstone), the finest cave (the Mammoth), the greatest waterfall (Niagara) and the only natural bridge (in Virginia) are all to be found within the borders of this continent. Here the biggest fortunes are made, the most energetic commercial enterprises undertaken, the largest deals are effected and the most wonderful inventions are perfected, while the country produces a greater amount of raw material than any other. It is interesting, however, to note where the champion examples of natural wonders and mechanical skill exist, and in the list it will be found, according to the Washington Star, that America can claim many of these. Young as she is her generous patronage of all arts and sciences can be compared with great credit to other countries. Musicians, artists and other celebrities "on the road" in America find such financial success awaiting them that they regard it as a play-ground of delight and her support to science is just as open-handed. Two famous workhouses for scientific purposes are also here—the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, California, containing the largest telescope in the world, with its lens of thirty-six inches and focal length of fifty-six feet, and the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison at Orange, N. Y., which was completed in 1887, and is the largest private laboratory in the world.

The largest farm in the world is situated in Louisiana, owned by a northern syndicate. Its area comprises 1,500,000 acres, which are threaded by private railroads and steamships and telegraph lines.

The longest telephone line is between Chicago and New York, while the longest telegraph span (5,000 feet) is across the Kistnah River in India.

China owns the largest canal in the world, which may be traced to a distance of 1,000 miles. The longest wall is also here, extending 1,250 miles, and the longest stone bridge near Sangang, known as the "Lion Bridge." This continues for five miles over an area of the Yellow Sea and is supported by 300 hugh stone arches. The roadway is seventy feet above the water and is inclosed in an iron network. A marble lion twenty feet long rests on the crown of each pillar.

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE WONDER.

Fine as this is, it hardly seems so wonderful as the Brooklyn bridge, which is the longest suspension bridge in existence, being 5,989 feet, and looking at a distance like a piece of delicate lace held in midair. The longest iron bridge is over Lake Ponchartrain, in New Orleans, being twenty-two miles, though the highest is at Garabit, France, 413 feet in the air; the longest span cantilever is over the Indus, in India, and the quickest ever built at Tyrone, Ireland, being a seventy-four foot span made in eight days.

The longest tunnel is at Chemnitz, in Austria, and the deepest artesian well ever bored is at Pesth, in Hungary, 8,140 feet below the surface of the earth, where the temperature of the water is 158 degrees Fahrenheit.

The largest fortress is Fortress Monroe, Va., though the rocky Gibraltar is stronger than any other in the world.

The Czar of Russia possesses an estate of 100,000,000 acres, which fact pronounces him the greatest landowner of all countries. The largest landowner of Great Britain is the Duke of Sunderland, who owns 1,358,000 acres, and the costliest mansion was built by the Marquis of Bute, who expended more than $8,000,000 upon it. The largest deer park, an area of 52,000 acres, is in Copenhagen, and in Chicago is preserved the heaviest aerolite, which fell in Greenland in 1870. Its weight is 49,000 pounds. India owns the largest heathen temples and Rome the largest church, St. Peter's, which can seat 54,000 people. The tallest tenement is in New York, which every one knows as the swell "Osborne," which is fourteen stories high.

The tallest monument is the Washington obelisk, 555 feet high, but the largest monolith is in Karnak, Egypt being 108 feet. The highest chimney, 474 feet, is in Glasgow. The largest aqueduct in use is the Croton, of New York, which is thirty-eight miles long, but the longest ever built is in Peru, 360 miles.

The deepest coal mine is near Lambert, Belgium, 3,490 feet; the biggest dock in Cardiff, Wales, and the strongest electric light at the Sydney lighthouse, Australia, which is of 18,000 candle power, while the largest lighthouse is at Cape Henry, Va., 165 feet high and eight feet thick. The largest bank is the bank of England, in London; the oldest college in Oxford, founded in 1050; the largest library, the National, in Paris, being 2,200,000 volumes; the largest theatre, the Paris Opera House, covering three acres; the largest bronze statue, Peter the Great, 1,100 tons, in St. Petersburg; the largest stone statue in Japan, forty-four feet high; the largest railroad station, St. Pancras, London, and the largest college in Cairo, with 10,000 Mohammedan students and 300 teachers.

Damascus has the honor of being the oldest of all cities.

HEBREW BIBLE WORTH $125,000.

The most costly book in the world is a Hebrew Bible, owned by the German government, which a few years ago refused the pope's offer of $125,000 for it; the greatest price paid for a modern painting was for Millet's "Angelus," which brought $110,700, bought by an American; the most costly medicine is metallic gallium, which sells for $100,000 a pound, and a man would be very ill before sending for a prescription that bore its magic formula.

Though orchids frequently bring prices that make the poor man stagger, the highest recorded price for a single flower was given for a tulip in Amsterdam by an enthusiast, who paid $250,000 for it. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain always wears a rare orchid in his button-hole, sometimes to the value of $1,000.

The Rothschilds smoke the most costly cigars that are made—the "Henry Clay Sobranos," which cost $1.50. These are wrapped in gold leaf and packed in little inlaid cedar wood cabinets. These millionaire princes buy three cabinets at a time, containing 42,000 cigars, 20,000 Havanas and one kind originally made for Marshal Prim as a present for Napoleon III. at a cost of 30,000 francs. Each cigar was tipped with gold at each end and stamped with the imperial N in gold. By way of acknowledging the gift Napoleon sent him a pair of magnificent Sevres vases.

The most expensive dress that has been worn for many a day was one lately purchased by the famous Mrs. Mackay, who paid $50,000 for it, the gown being embroidered with pearls disposed in a tasteful design of flowers and trailing leaves. Even this did not equal the suit of the celebrated fop, George Villiers, the first Duke of Buckingham, who, going as ambassador to France in the reign of Charles I., took with him a suit of white uncut velvet and a cloak to match, both covered with diamonds, a feather made of diamonds and sword girdle and spurs set with the same gems, the whole costume representing $1,000,000 of the present value of money.

The most expensive headdress of modern times was worn in Paris during the exhibition year by a lady who had chosen a miniature Eiffel tower a yard high and formed of diamonds, which were vouched to be genuine and cost $100,000.

The most costly jewel in the world is owned by the royal house of Germany, being a superb sapphire valued at $16,000,000. The Emperor of Austria possesses the most valuable opal, which weighs seventeen ounces and is worth $250,000. The "Mattam," belonging to the Rajah of Borneo and weighing 367 karats, is said to be the largest white diamond, and the largest steel-blue diamond, called the "Imperial Kimberley," from the famous mines in Africa, weighs 180 karats and is held by a London syndicate, which values it at $1,000,000.

A GOOD-SIZED RUSSIAN FARM.

The largest bee-owner is one Harbison, of California, who keeps 6,000 hives; the greatest cattle breeder Gustav Jovanovitch, called the "King of the Steppes," who pastures more than 1,000,000 sheep with 34,000 shepherd dogs upon his 6,000,000 acres in Russia.

The largest dairy in the world is owned by Queen Victoria at her model farm near Windsor. It has floors of porcelain tiles of white and blue, containing medallions of the queen her husband, and each of their children, marble columns supporting the roof and windows of stained glass bordered with daisies, buttercups, primroses and May blossoms. Bas-reliefs of the seasons and various agricultural designs complete the ornamentation and marble tables and basins are ranged around the wall at intervals, while a perpetual stream of waters runs through the building.

Semipalalinsk, in Siberia, holds the record for the most intense cold, as the mercury drops there to 76 degrees below zero, and some parts of Africa cannot be equalled in heat, as the thermometer registers 135 degrees. The Bay of Bengal and the Bay of Fundy have the highest tides, measuring 60 and 70 feet; the deepest sea soundings have been made at Tristan d'Acunha, 46,236; the most northerly point reached was by Lockwood in May, 1888, being 83 degrees, 24 minutes, 5 seconds; and the farthest south by Ross in February, 1842, 17 degrees, 11 minutes; the highest altitude ever reached was in the balloon ascent of Coxwell and Glaisher, who attained 37,000 feet in 1862; and the highest inhabited altitude is the Buddhist cloister in Thibet. Glass stands first of all elastic substances; pearl is the heaviest of animal substances; mercury is the heaviest liquid; the heaviest woods are pomegranate and lignum vitæ; cork the lightest wood; emmensite has the highest explosive power of any substance yet invented, and platinum is the most ductile metal, capable of being drawn so fine as to be invisible.

The oldest printed newspaper is claimed by the Chinese, as the proprietors of the Imperial Gazette celebrated its fifteen hundredth anniversary at Pekin in 1882. The oldest European newspaper belongs to Germany, dating from 1447. The oldest American is the Boston News Letter, dating from 1704. France expends more than any other country in public works, and this same land has the biggest pawnbroking business. The worst riot occurred within her bounds at Mayence in 1346, when the citizens burned 12,000 Jews, so hated and persecuted in the middle ages.

A TREE 350 FEET HIGH.

The tallest standing tree is in Tasmania, 350 feet high, but the "Mammoth," of California, which has now fallen, was 100 feet taller. Though California grows the largest fruit and flowers, the most enormous flower is a native of Sumatra. It was discovered by the suite of Sir Stamford Raffles and named Rafflesia in his honor. When the bud, which is like a monstrous cabbage, unfolds it shows five petals, flesh-colored and marked with yellowish-white protuberances, surrounding a cup of an intense purple that will hold a gallon and a half of liquid. The flower is nine feet in circumference and gives out a most repulsive odor like tainted meat, which is, however, attractive to insects.

The vulture beats the record of birds for flight, travelling 150 miles an hour. The elephant is the longest lived, reaching his five score of years before he is gathered to his fathers. The flea is the strongest insect relatively, leaping 200 times his own length; but the beetle is the strongest of insects, as it is able to move a mass 1,200 times its own weight. The Mordella beetle has the greatest number of eyes, possessing 25,000 infinitesimal orbs of vision. The Japanese rooster, Mino Hiki, has the longest tail feathers of any bird, as his vanities measure on the average twenty feet. The Australian jungle fowl builds the biggest nests, which are often eighteen feet in height.

The most valuable specimens of pocket-knives are owned by the cutlers of Sheffield in England. One is a knife not larger than a thumb nail, having twenty blades. Another, only an inch long when closed, has seventy blades, each made in a beautiful manner, illustrating nearly all the shapes given knife blades. Another one has 220 blades, all exquisitely etched with portraits, landscapes and other subjects, while still an other contains 1,840 blades, all provided with hinges and springs and closing into the handle. These are valued very highly, the most expensive reaching $500. A knife with 100 blades was presented to George IV. by the Sheffield cutlers and can still be seen among the royal plate at Windsor.

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADIAN.

The public schools at Dundas, Ont., have been closed on account of an epidemic of measles.

The ice in the St. Lawrence is breaking up rapidly, and already much damage has been caused by floods.

The Quebec loan was well received on the London market in view of the fact that it is made for the purpose of repaying the debt of the province.

On Saturday evening a young man named Bernard was fatally stabbed at Clarence Creek, Ont., by a man named Lafleur, who is now in custody.

A raid was made on the proprietors of the shanties on the ice bridge at Niagara Falls by an American deputy marshal, who arrested one man for selling liquor without a license.

The retail grocers of Hamilton and London will endeavour to secure legislation authorizing the attachment of the salaries of civil servants in cases of debt, and for the establishment of a uniform system of weight and measures for fruit.

The election of Mayor Villeneuve, of Montreal, will be contested on the grounds of corruption and treating with the candidate's knowledge. The election of three of the aldermen will also be contested.

The Montreal Monde says it is now certain that there will be an appeal to the Privy Council from the decision of the Supreme Court in the Manitoba school question.

A special mass in honor of St. Roch and to secure an abatement of the present epidemic of scarlet fever in Montreal, will be chanted in the Church of Notre Dame this week. Abbe Marre, in making the announcement on Saturday, said that St Roch would be the best health officer under the present circumstances.

To check the scarlet fever epidemic in Montreal, Dr. Laberge has called upon every physician in the city to report immediately to the Board of Health all infectious and contagious diseases, and upon all schoolmasters to see that children having contagious diseases do not attend school.

The Behring sea trouble is not yet all over. The British Government has asked the United States authorities for a modification, for the present year at least, of the terms, which are too harsh for the interest of Canada. The United States suspect a trick to give Canadian sealers a chance of reaching Behring sea before the regulations are agreed to, so that they can continue fishing until notified.

BRITISH.

The Westminster Gazette advocates a national memorial to Mr. Gladstone in the shape of a fund for the establishment of village libraries.

At the annual meeting in London on Tuesday of the shareholders of the Bank of British North America a dividend of seven and a half per cent. was declared.

The British Government has published correspondence that shows that the killing of King Lobengula's envoys was due to a series of misapprehensions, and Lord Ripon exonerates the military authorities who were concerned in their death.

The emigration season is opening badly in England. During the past month the number of emigrants to Canada, as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, declined from 2,257 to 2ff9.

A woman, who twenty-five years ago met Sir Francis Cook on a railway train going from London to Richmond, is now bringing an action for breach of promise of marriage.

A meeting of the Associated Chambers of Agriculture held in London on Tuesday declared in favor of an enactment dealing with the slaughter of cattle at the port of debarkation.

Referring to ex-Lieut-Governor Royal's pamphlet, the Pall Mall Gazette says England would be by no means willing to give up Canada.

Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, who was appointed a judge on the bench of the English High Court of Justice in 1879, died at Ipswich on Sunday evening, aged sixty-five years.

Referring to the proposed fast Atlantic service, the London Chronicle says that the Canadians abound in courage, and even the Radicals admit that Canada's pluck makes it difficult for the Motherland to refuse to co-operate with her.

The report of the disaster to the British column in Abor territory, under the command of Capt. Maxwell, is confirmed. The Indian troopship Malabar sailed from Portsmouth for Bombay on Saturday with twelve hundred soldiers on board.

UNITED STATES.

The thermometer registered 70 degrees above zero at Burlington, Iowa, on M rch 3.

It is stated that the accounts of John Y McKane, at present serving his sentence in Sing Sing, show a very serious shortage.

It is rumoured in Cincinnati that ten thousand Knights of Labour will secede from the order because of dissatisfaction with Grand Master Sovereign.

The Rev. Alonzo T. Wood died suddenly on Sunday in the pulpit of the Westminster Presbyterian church, in Omaha, Neb., after announcing his text.

The Rev. Father Tighe, a Catholic priest of Boonton, N.J., in the course of his sermon at Newark on Sunday evening, said that the A.P.A. was a hell-founded organization, and must be driven from the land.

Julia Shine and Lizzie Scott, attendants at the Detention hospital at Chicago, were discharged on Saturday for cruel treatment of insane patients.

A man named De France was sent to the Sioux Falls penitentiary on Tuesday to serve a life sentence for robbing a mail-carrier of one cent.

Gebhard Lewis Mayor, of Boston, about thirty-three years of age, recently a divinity student in the Baptist Theological Seminary in Newton, Mass., has disappeared as the result of the discovery that he had two wives living, and that he conducted two separate households.

Congressman Breckinridge, of Kentucky, was placed on trial in Washington in a suit for fifty thousand dollars for alleged seduction and breach of promise. Madeline Vinton Pallard charges that Breckinridge seduced her when she was a school girl eighteen years of age, that he is the father of several children born to her, and that he promised to marry her, which he failed to do.

GENERAL.

There have been severe earthquakes in the southern part of Russia.

Princess Maria, wife of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, is in a very critical condition.

The Prince of Wales is at present at Cannes for the regatta in his yacht Britannia.

The Brazilian Government has prolonged the state of siege in Rio Janeiro until May.

The Persian Government has announced that the mint will no longer coin silver, and that the importation of silver will be forbidden from April first.

King Behanzin, of Dahomey, before surrendering to the French, desired to send a message to his dead father, and selected his mother for the messenger, and he had her at once decapitated.

The matron of a children's asylum in Kana, Denmark, has been sentenced to death for murdering a fourteen-year-old boy, an inmate of the home. During the trial the startling discovery was made that the supposed woman was a man.

Queen Liliuokalani, in an interview regarding her expectations of restoration, said she had faith in the triumph of justice and the greatest faith in the American nation and in President Cleveland.

The entire fleet purchased by the Brazil Government to replace the warships seized by Admirals Mello and de Gama has arrived at Rio, and a decisive naval battle is expected to take place immediately.

The Hawaiian Provisional Government is alarmed at the influx of English and Canadian immigrants, who are said to be in sympathy with the Royalist party, and it is believed that before long an attempt will be made to seize the Government buildings.

The representatives of the foreign powers were formally notified by the Brazil Government on Sunday that active operations against the insurgent fleet at Rio Bay would be resumed at the expiration of forty-eight hours.

The opinion in St. Petersburg is that Germany will derive more benefit from the new treaty than Russia, who, in closing it, was influenced by political considerations, the Czar wishing to dampen the enthusiasm of France, and maintain a conservative policy.

Insanity on the Increase.

The twenty-sixth annual report of the Inspector of Lunatic and Idiotic Asylums for Ontario shows that insanity is on the increase in this Province. In 1867 the percentage of insane people was .062, and in 1891 the percentage had increased to .164. In the former year there were only 951, and in 1891, 3,468 patients. In the bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture in May last, compiled from the census of 1891, the number of the insane (and presumably also of idiots and feeble-minded in the Dominion is given as 13,355, of which Ontario is credited with 5,855, and, as stated, 3,468 were resident in the Provincial institutions on September 30th, 1891, so that the remaining 2,387, or 40 per cent., remained outside of asylum care. It is also stated in the bulletin referred to that while the insane of the Province in 1871 numbered 4,081, there were 5,855 in 1891, being an increase of 1,774, or 43.5 per cent., in the 30 years, while the increase of the entire population was 30.5 per cent. The most searching investigations as to the causes, and the most careful diagnosis of the cases of insanity coming under observation are constantly being made, with the view at least of limiting the inroad of the disease in all its forms; but while much has been accomplished in determining the causes, little or nothing has been effected to stay the continual recurrence of the malady. A consensus of modern opinion exists, however, that the large percentage of cases due to hereditary tendencies are developed by secondary agencies, such as intemperance, sensual habits, and immoral, unrestrained indulgences, by which the physical and mental resources, are sapped of energy and left an easy prey to the then preponderating tendencies. That such is the main channel by which this dreadful disease is transmitted admits of but little doubt. The superintendents of the Ontario institutions are a unit in ascribing a large proportion of the admissions from year to year to heredity. Superintendent Dr. Clark, of Toronto Asylum, in discussing this question a number of years ago, and at a later date also, estimates the admissions of such cases at from 40 to 45 per cent., and quotes other eminent authorities as stating that a much greater percentage of the total admissions are due to heredity. Superintendent Dr. Bucke has also written exhaustively in even stronger terms to the same effect. Superintendent Dr. Clarke, Kingston Asylum, in his report for 1891 states that out of the whole number of admissions for that year, namely, 147, the cause of insanity in no less than fifty of them was heredity.

Dr. Russell, Medical Superintendent of the Kingston Asylum for the Insane, says: "As a predisposing cause of insanity I am satisfied that heredity is the greatest. In proof of this I have compiled a table of statistics from our present population which amply proves it. The information which we get of family history is usually very meagre, and the subjoined table is not by any means an exhaustive one, but it is sufficiently clear to convince us of the potency and far-reaching consequences of heredity as a factor in propagating insanity." Dr. Russell shows from tables that "out of 896 patients 264 had insane relations in varying degrees of consanguinity, but the most curious phenomenon of all is the fact that we have had three married couple, here at the same time. Whether this is a mere mental coincidence or is susceptible of explanation by some physical law is a matter of opinion and speculation. I am inclined to the view that it may be explained by the law of mental contagion or sympathy. It is not an uncommon thing when one head of the household becomes insane to find the other head of the household become morbid from worry and anxiety, and if the natural mental stability happens to be not very strong it is quite explicable that the borderland may be overstepped and result in down right insanity." The satistical record given of heredity by Dr. Russell, of the Kingston Asylum, is no doubt more or less the experience in other asylums, and is sufficiently appalling to strike us with consternation and to lead us to inquire if there is no remedy to stem this tide of mental degeneration. It is now generally recognized that the insane are the wards of the State, and if it be the duty of the State to care for them, then it is equally the duty of the State to protect itself against carrying unnecessary burdens which are unduly taxing its resources and spreading broadcast moral and social degeneration among the people. Legislation prohibiting the marriage of those who are mentally defective, or who have hereditary taint would undoubtedly strike at the root of the cause, but the difficulty of enforcing such a law is at once apparent. Our only hope seems to lie in a wider diffusion of knowledge on this question. All the agencies at work for the moral and social uplifting of the people should be especially charged to sound an unmistakable note of warning on this all-important question.

Hood's Cured After Others Failed

Scrofula in the Neck—Bunches All Gone Now.

Sangerville, Maine.

"C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:

"Gentlemen:—I feel that I cannot say enough in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla. For five years I have been troubled with scrofula in my neck and throat. Several kinds of medicines which I tried did not do me any good, and when I commenced to take Hood's Sarsaparilla there were large bunches on my neck so sore that I could not bear the slightest touch. When I had taken one bottle of this medicine, the soreness had gone, and before I had finished the second the bunches had entirely disappeared." BLANCHE ATWOOD, Sangerville, Maine.

N. B. If you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy any other.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Cures

Hood's Pills cure constipation by restoring the peristaltic action of the alimentary canal.

Didn't Want to Insult Him.

An Irishman visiting London entered a dairy and asked for a pound of sugar.

The dairyman smiled and said:

"Did you ever 'ear of a dairy selling sugar?"

"Arrah now," says Pat, "maybe if I asked ye for a pound of chalk you might 'ave been ready to give it to me," and walked out of the shop.

In the course of this month and next the following vessels will be completed in readiness to be placed in the British Fleet Reserve:—Bonaventure, cruiser, 4,360 tons, speed 20 knots, total cost £243,311; Astræa cruiser, 4,360 tons, speed 19·75 knots, cost £250,047; Cambrain, cruiser, 4,360 tons, speed 19·5 knots, cost £226,092; Antelope, torpedo gunboat, speed 19·5 knots, cost £61,070; Hazard, torpedo gunboat, cost £71,618.

Correct.

Examiner.—"Now, Johnny, if I add four apples to three apples, what do I have?"
Johnny—"Colic, sir!"