

# WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

**Neighborly Interest in His Doings.**—Matters of moment and mirth gathered from his daily record.

Texas has a female contractor.

A California prune orchard covers 3,300 acres.

A Virginia girl earns a living by training horses.

Lexington, Ky., has two feminine bank officials.

There are many women-riding teachers in New York.

New Orleans has a fine orchestra of women exclusively.

A New York blacksmith shop is managed by three sisters.

A woman carries the mail over a 40-mile Texan route.

A locomotive engineer of the Cairo Short Line is a woman.

Yellowstone Park contains an area of 3,575 square miles.

At a single bakery in Boston 10,000 pies are baked every day.

Eastport, Me., has fifty-nine sardine packing establishments.

There are 10,000 more women than men in the District of Columbia.

Nutmeg hickory is the strongest wood grown in the United States.

A store in Kingston, N. Y., was robbed six nights in succession recently.

The Hains Medina Valley Railroad Company is presided over by a woman.

The blossom of the prickly pear has been adopted as the state flower of Montana.

In the United States, the rainfall of the four seasons is about equal in each season.

Dr. Annie Walter, of Mississippi, has charge of the woman's hospital at Soo Chow, China.

Bertha Fize, 13 years old, of North Adams, Mass., killed herself after a quarrel with her elder sister.

New York canal men fear the new Illinois drainage channel will divert much of their freight trade.

Governor Matthew is reorganizing the Indiana militia by weeding out all members of trades unions.

Peter Cline, wanted in Iowa for theft, has been wearing female attire for three years, to escape arrest.

The largest typewriting establishment in the world is in New York, and is conducted by two sisters.

Massachusetts has appointed a force of inspectors with a view to stamping out tuberculosis in cattle.

Last year nearly 1,000,000 head of cattle sheep and pigs were received at the Baltimore stock yards.

It has been proposed to erect a chapel in memory of Professor David Swing at the Chicago University.

Two dogs were recently arrested in New York for following people in the street, and two more for fighting.

Secretary Carlisle proposes to induce deposits of gold by paying out the accumulated souvenir half dollars.

A syndicate of capitalists is to build a \$1,000,000 theatre near the corner of Monroe and Clark streets, Chicago.

In June of the present year 16,000,000 children were found to be enrolled in the schools of the United States.

Daisy Majors, a 16-year-old girl, who has acted as postmistress at Wampum, Pa., is found to have embezzled \$1,500.

Brooklyn has six large libraries, containing in all about 300,000 volumes.

Two prominent lawyers of New York, Judge Fitzgerald and John W. Goff, began life as porters in a dry-goods store.

Officials of the United Mine Workers deny the rumour that the coal miners of Illinois contemplate another general strike.

Boston and New York capitalists have formed a syndicate to purchase a line of newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The Chicago papers are crowing lustily over the fact that the total registration in that city is larger than that of New York city.

Montana's increase in gold production this year is nearly 75 per cent., the receipts showing an increase of 18,468 fine ounces of gold.

Miss Frances E. Willard suggests a Christian theatre—one conducted in a way that religious papers could advertise and recommend.

John Jacob Astor ran the engine on a train on the Illinois Central railroad from Fort Dodge to Sioux City, a distance of 100 miles.

A colored man named Steward has become the owner of the birthplace of President James Monroe, on the Potomac, near Mount Vernon.

The 14-year-old son of Justice Hammett of Blackville, S. C., who had been whipped by his father for smoking cigarettes, hanged himself.

A decrease of \$14,281,596, of which \$10,000,000 is in the item of pensions, is shown by Secretary Smith's estimates for the next fiscal year.

The Boston School Board has ordered that all luncheons sold in the Public schools must be subject to the approval of the committee on hygiene.

General Amos Beckwith, who was chief of the commissary department of General W. T. Sherman's army, died in St. Louis at the age of 69 years.

A Virginia mother, fearing that she might forget the ages of her children, kept a bottle for each one into which she dropped a pea on each birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Turrel, of Litchfield, Mich., have just celebrated their ruby wedding, marking the sixty-fifth anniversary of their marriage.

Colonel James H. Church, of Todd County, Kentucky, dreamed that he was to die at a certain time and date. He was a corpse to the minute.

Joseph T. Field, of Red Bank, N. J., is just 102 years of age. He has three children, born since he was 72, and he is mentally as bright as the youngest.

Workmen engaged in excavating for a railroad track at Hingham, Mass., unearthed five skeletons over six feet in length, with jaw bones of unusual size.

Mrs. Julia Josephine Irvine, acting president of Wellesley College, was graduated from Cornell University in 1875 and was for several years a teacher in New York city. She afterwards became a student of Leipsic University, and in 1890 was appointed professor of Greek in Wellesley.

Mr. Maxim is having a curious controversy with the United States Patent Office, which declines to allow a patent for his flying machine on the sole ground, as he claims, that it is a flying machine. He can patent the separate inventions of which it is made, but that would cost \$2,000 and would give indifferent protection.

Mrs. Elizabeth Heilmann, postmistress of Williamsbridge, N. Y., is, in addition, a real estate operator, a notary public and political boss of the town. She doesn't vote herself, but the ticket she favors "goss." She is said to have done a great deal for the improvement of the place, where she is known as "Queen Elizabeth."

## SLAIN BY MALAY PIRATES.

### A Chinese Vessel Back to Port With Most of Her Crew Dead on Deck.

There came into Singapore recently one of the most ghastly sights that have come into the port for very many years. A Chinese tongkang, which had left Singapore on the 6th or 7th inst. with a crew of eight men, returned to port in charge of three men only. Four bodies of the other members of the crew, fearfully mutilated, were lying on the deck, just as they had been killed by Malay pirates, whom the poor Chinese had generously offered to assist and were assisting. Another member of the crew had jumped overboard and was drowned.

It appears from the story gathered from three men left of the crew that their boat, named Kim Hock Hin, took her clearance from Singapore on the 6th inst. with a cargo of 400 piculs of rice, 50 cases of petroleum, and several hundred dollars in cash, for Linggi, a Dutch island near Rho. They had a crew of eight. Shortly after they left Singapore they were met by a Malay prahu, on board of which were three Malays from one of the neighboring islands. These three men asked if the tongkang would tow them, as they were tired. The Chinamen generously gave them this concession and cast out a rope, taking the prahu in tow. Everything went well, and in the night time the wind fell slack and all the crew were asleep on deck except the man at the helm.

The man at the helm states that, before he was aware of what was doing, the Malays had pulled their boat up alongside and had jumped on board. They made one rush for the sleeping crew, and succeeded in despatching four of the poor wretches where they lay, cutting them up in a shocking fashion. Resistance was hopeless; indeed, before they scarcely had their eyes open they were sent into eternity. One man of the crew became so frightened that he jumped overboard and he was drowned, unless possibly he has been picked up by a passing boat, which is extremely doubtful. The other three men begged for mercy, and, seeing that they had all in their power (although one of the men was afterward badly wounded on the arm from a kris cut), the Malays listened to their prayers, and did nothing else in the way of attempting to take human life. They plundered all the money they could find in the boat, and managed to get altogether something like \$500. They never touched the cargo; and they seemed satisfied with the money. They then packed up the money into their prahu and left.

The three Chinamen left alone decided on returning to Singapore. The chief boarding officer went down and, with assistance, brought the boat to the landing stage near the Master Attendant's office, with its ghastly burden on board just as the men had been cut down. The Chinese remaining of the crew were particularly asked if the Malays were from Singapore, and they replied in the negative, saying that they believed they came from some of the islands close to Singapore.

## Amenities of War.

Archibald Forbes, in an article in Scribner's Magazine says that the abstract theory of the "amenities of war" is preposterous. You strain every effort to reduce your adversary to impotence; he falls wounded; whereupon, should he come into your hands, you promptly devote all your exertions to saving his life and restoring him to health and vigor in order that he may go home and swell the ranks of your enemy. This is no doubt humanity, but it is supremely illogical.

Marbot recounts in his memoirs perhaps the most absurd application ever made of the theory of the "amenities." In the battle of Austerlitz a body of beaten Russians, about five thousand strong, strove to escape across the ice on the Satachan Lake. Napoleon ordered his artillery to fire on the ice, which was shattered, and men and horses slowly settled down into the depths, only a few escaping by means of poles and ropes thrust out from shore by the French.

Next morning Napoleon, riding round the positions, saw a wounded Russian officer clinging to an ice-floe a hundred yards and entreating help. The Emperor became intensely interested in the succor of the man. After many failures, Marbot and another officer stripped and swam out, gradually brought the ice-floe toward the shore, and laid the Russian at Napoleon's feet.

The Emperor evinced more delight at this rescue than he had manifested when assured of the victory of Austerlitz. He had no compunction as to the fate of the unfortunates whom his artillery practice of the day before had sent to their death.

## Proving It.

Briggs (emphatically)—"I tell you that fellow Strawberry knows the value of a dollar."

Griggs—"You must have been trying to borrow some money from him."

# HEALTH.

## For Erysipelas.

Would it come amiss to any one or his family to know how to cure themselves of the distressing complaint known as erysipelas? Here is the cure:—When first attacked, take an emetic of ipecac, then some thorough cathartic. Make a strong decoction of the bark of spotted willow, which is the whistled wood we knew in boyhood; wet cloths in this and bathe the parts affected as often as they itch or burn.—T. C. Coe.

## Cotton Wool for Burns.

A writer on health matters says:—Cotton wool bids fair to supersede many of the common remedies in the treatment of burns. The cotton should be applied to the burnt parts as soon as it is possible, and if blisters have formed they should not be opened. When it can be done without incurring considerable delay, the cotton should be carded into thin flakes before its application. These flakes should be laid on the injured part, and piled one on the other until they form a soft covering, which, under high pressure, should be about an inch in thickness. A bandage should then be passed around the patient to prevent the cotton falling off; but care must be taken not to draw the bandage tight, or allow it to press the body. Its object is simply to retain the cotton in its place.

## Nettle-Rash.

Nettle-rash, hives, or urticaria, is an affection of the skin, generally known to be harmless, and hence often considered of very little importance, both by the family and the physician.

As it is rarely mistaken for any contagious disorder, this indifference is perhaps partially justified; but if it is remembered that nettle-rash is usually the manifestation of some cause remote from the skin and hidden from the eye, it will be seen that it may be a danger-signal of some disorder likely to follow unless the nettle-rash itself receives attention.

The occurrence of nettle-rash has in some instances led to the discovery that the patient was suffering from intestinal worms. At other times it may be the precursor of an asthmatic attack.

In individual cases the eating of such simple and, to most persons, nourishing foods as fish, eggs, strawberries or pineapples invariably causes nettle-rash in an aggravated form. The question of the freshness or want of freshness of the articles eaten does not enter into these cases, and the cause of the disagreement is not wholly unknown. The warning is not to be disregarded, however, since persistence in eating the prohibited article results in profound disturbance of the system.

In all cases of nettle-rash attention should be given to the diet, though in some instances the strictest regimen will not be followed by any improvement. In certain of the latter cases some local irritant, such as chafing of clothing, or bites or stings of insects, will account for the trouble.

The separate wheals, or raised spots which constitute the rash are caused by a local congestion, followed by an escape into the tissues of the serum—the watery element of the blood. It is the pressure of this watery fluid upon the minute nerves supplying the skin with sensation which occasions the tingling, burning or itching symptoms which are so familiar to the many sufferers from this complaint.

Nervous influences cause hives in some instances. Emotions, such as anger, fear or excitement of any kind, are known to produce it.

Those who are subject to hives, besides guarding against extremes of any kind, should particularly avoid exposure to cold and dampness of the extremities, since such exposure is prone to affect unfavorably the normal functions of the stomach and liver. It must be remembered that derangements of these organs cause the majority of attacks of nettle-rash. Overloading the stomach, especially with unripe or over-ripe fruits, should also be avoided.

## Aches and Pains.

The meaning of aches and pains will be better understood if we consider for a moment the exact significance of pain. Everybody knows that pain is associated in some way with nerves, and people are often heard talking learnedly about nerves when in reality they know very little about them. Every part of the body is abundantly supplied with nerves, which are of two kinds—motor nerves, which carry messages from the brain to the muscles, and thereby enable us to move; and sensory nerves, which convey impressions to the brain from the sensory organs, such as the eye, the ear, and the skin. The brain receives the impressions and interprets them, turning them into what we call sensations, and according to the nature of the sensation we call it pleasurable or painful. We thus see that in many cases the nerves themselves have only a subsidiary share in the matter; they correspond merely to telegraph wires, and transmit messages from one part of the body to another. If the connection be broken at any point, messages can no longer travel—for example, if the nerves of the arm are cut, we should feel no pain, even if the hand were completely burned and destroyed. We are now in a position to understand how pain may originate. It may depend upon an unhealthy state of the brain, upon injury or disease of a sense organ, or sometimes it may depend upon the condition of the nerve itself. In many instances the difference between pleasure and pain depends simply

on the amount of stimulation which is applied. There may be only a comparatively slight difference between the heat which warms us pleasantly and that which scorches us, giving rise to a distinctly painful sensation. The eye is especially sensitive to such differences. It is stimulated by light, and when the light is too intense or glaring, as when the sun shines brightly after a recent fall of snow, we soon begin to suffer from aching and pain in the eyes.

## ALEXANDRA, DAGMAR AND ALIX.

### Two Czarinas and a Coming Queen of England.

The pathetic scene which is being enacted in Russia must perform draw sympathy from all nations; but for us it seems to have a specially sad interest, owing to the twofold cords which bind our royal family to that of Russia, says a London letter. Firstly, there is the close tie between the Czarina and our Princess of Wales; and secondly, the near kinship of the Princesses Alix, whose marriage seems likely to take place under such terribly mournful circumstances. Princess Alix has spent a great deal of time in England since the death of her mother. She is one of the favorite grand daughters of the Queen. When one thinks of the terrible shock and troubles which have told so heavily on the health and spirits of the Czarina one cannot restrain a feeling of pity for the bright and winning girl who is called to a position which is at once of supreme importance and magnificence and of nearly overwhelming anxiety. With our sympathy for the sorrow of the Russian royal family is mingled, moreover, a sincere regret that the peace of mind of the Princess of Wales should be once more so rudely broken. The Princess was much attached to her brother-in-law, for whom she had also a great admiration and respect; but her sorrow is intensified by the fact that the blow falls on the sister to whom she is so devoted. The two Princesses of Denmark were quite inseparable in their youth; they dressed alike, shared each other's joys and sorrows in particularly close union. The cloud which had shadowed the Princess since her great trouble two and a half years ago, seemed to be slowly dispersing, and the Princess had regained much of her natural health and spirits. It is to be feared that this fresh shock will undo much of the good that change of scene and a quiet life have wrought. The Princess has gone back to Sandringham, feeling ever so much better for her long visit to her daughter in the Highlands, and has been full of vigor and in excellent health. She and her daughters have caught the fashionable cycling fever, which is likely to become ten times more fashionable now that it is under royal patronage, and have learned to bicycle. Of course, their cycling expeditions are confined to their private property, for it would hardly be dignified for our future Queen to be seen riding a bicycle in public, although it is quite a fallacy that a knickerbocker costume is a *sine qua non*; a fairly short skirt, and the absence of befrilled petticoats is all that is required.

## WILL ALWAYS BE A DESERT.

### The Sahara Generally Above the Level of the Sea—No Chance of Flooding.

One-fifth of the whole African continent is desert, the area being estimated by Mr. Ravenstein at over 2,250,000 square miles, of which all but a small fraction is contained in the tract of land popularly known as the Sahara.

Except for some school children who know better, and school teachers who are instrumental in that being so, the misconception of the Sahara, which is widespread, would be practically universal. The average man pictures the Sahara as a vast sea of sand, for the most part below the sea level, across which the camel speed before the poison blast of the simoon from oasis to oasis. Schemes for flooding the Sahara have come before the public occasionally, and we have read accounts of the vast inland sea which might be formed, rivaling the Mediterranean in size, giving a southern coast to Morocco and Algeria, and admitting steamers directly to the wealthy states of the Soudan.

The Sahara, as known to the geographer, corresponds badly with this conception, for, in fact, there is no risk of the "ship of the desert" ever being supplanted by the ships of the sea. Few parts are below sea level, and they are small and scattered. In the interior the desert is a plain high above sea level, covered with vast dunes of red sand in many parts; in others it is an elevated plateau with lofty mountain ranges of bare rocks intersected by stony valleys. It is arid, save where a spring bubbles up and gives rise to a small oasis of grass and palm trees. The Sahara proper is unknown except for a few trade routes regularly traversed by Arabs and occasionally by adventurous Europeans. These utilize the oases as resting places, stepping stones, as it were, and keep up communication between the wealthy Mohammedan states round Lake Chad in the south and Tripoli, Tunis, Algiers or Morocco on the Mediterranean. Between the trade routes all is a bank of sand or barren rock. Exploration is only possible when water, as well as food, can be carried, and this condition has practically stopped all attempts at discovery for the present, on account of the great expense and the purely scientific nature of the possible return. A railway running from the French possessions on the Mediterranean across the desert to Timbuctoo, the scarcely known trade centre near the Niger, is talked of. Such a line may be constructed in the future, but the difficulties are enormous; much greater than those overcome by the Russians in the Transcaucasian line through the deserts of central Asia.

## Bad as a Bullet.

Hospital Physician—"This man seems to be half dead, and yet I cannot find anything the matter with him. Where is he from?"

Ambulance Driver—"I got him at the door of the St. Fashion Assembly Hall. There is a ball going on there."

Physician—"Ah, I see. He probably stepped on a lady's dress and she said, 'Sir!'"

## He IS DOING PENANCE.

### The Man is Making it Pay to be sorry for His sins.

This Chinese person deserves no sympathy, though he is suffering physical pain inflicted by his own desire and doubtless for money-making purposes. A long bodkin has been thrust through both his cheeks. His eyes are nearly closed, and the large photograph from which this picture was made plainly shows the torture that is depicted in the man's face. He is voluntarily doing penance for his sins, and the story of his various enormities is told in large characters on the board behind him.



A VERY WICKED YOUNG MAN.

Although he is suffering he derives both pleasure and profit from this act of self-immolation. The public heart is touched to see this young man so very, very sorry for the evil he has done, and the public pocketbook flies open and coppers are showered on him, for, of course, he cannot do anything to support himself while he is standing here advertising his wickedness. On this side of the sea we would probably call him an impostor and a mendicant, and lock him up. But in China his action is looked upon as very commendable. He has probably been drafted into the Chinese army before this.

## A CURIOSITY OF LUNACY.

### Periodic Recurrence of Mania by Which the Patient Lives Three Lives.

There is a special form of mental disease first described in France, whose definite character is given to it by its periodicity, and hence it is called folie circulaire. In it there are three sections of the mental circle that the patient moves in, viz., elevation, depression and sanity, and in this round he spends his life, passing out of one into the other, for it is, when fully established, a very incurable disease.

The patient takes an attack of mania, during which he is joyous, restless, troublesome, extravagant, and often vicious. He eats voraciously, sleeps little, and never seems to tire. His temperature is a degree or so above the normal, his eye is bright and glistening, he is enamored of the other sex, he shows diminished self-control and no common sense.

This lasts for a few weeks, or a few months more commonly, and then he passes sometimes gradually and sometimes rather suddenly into a condition of depression, during which he is sluggish, dull, looking differently, dressing differently, eating differently, fearful, unreliable and sedentary in habits.

This state will last a few weeks or months and the patient will brighten up into what seems recovery, and is to all intents and purposes in his normal state. This, again, lasts for a few weeks or months, and he gradually gets morbidly elevated. You find he is passing through every minute mental phase and habit he did at first; depression follows as before, and then sanity; and this round of three states of feeling, of intellect, of volition, and of nutrition, goes on, circle after circle, till the patient dies. He lives three lives.

## ARE THE PLANETS PEOPLED?

### Late Discoveries Strengthen the Belief That They are Inhabited.

Sir Robert Ball, in the November number of the Fortnightly Review, shows how since the days of Wherwell and Brewster the contention that the other planets are inhabited has been strengthened by fresh discoveries.

For instance, spectroscopic research has demonstrated that hydrogen, carbon, sodium, iron, calcium and other elements necessary for building up the framework of living beings are widely diffused throughout the universe. There is not the same emphatic demonstration of the existence of oxygen, because it has been held that the well-marked lines in the solar spectrum attributed to oxygen are due to the oxygen in the earth's atmosphere. But in all probability this life-giving gas is just as abundant on many other globes as on this one.

There have also, however, been discoveries tending to limit the contention with regard to life on other planets. The varying size, gravity and temperature of the planets have to be considered. The weight of a planet must stand in important relation to the framework of the organisms adapted to dwell upon it. Sir Robert Ball concludes:

"The character of each organism has to be fitted so exactly to its environment that it seems in the highest degree unlikely that any organism we know here could live on any other globe elsewhere. We cannot conjecture what the organism must be which would be adapted for residence on Venus or Mars, nor does any line of research at present known to us hold out the hope of more definite knowledge."

The Turkish Government has appointed a commission to investigate the massacre stories from Armenia.