

FOREIGN NOTES.

A Large Railroad Station—Gigantic Railroad Scheme—Water Chestnuts—Shocking Occurrence—&c. &c.

The English city of Birmingham now has the largest railroad station in the world. It is just finished at a cost of \$2,000,000.

It is said that nephth residuum is to be experimentally used by Russian naval officers, with the view of using it to heat the boilers of the imperial Black Sea fleet.

The German government is reported to be highly satisfied with the new torpedo boat which was tried at the recent manoeuvres of the fleet.

Besides possessing great strength and speed, the boat has water compartments which enable it to be suddenly filled and its deck sunk to the level of the sea without seriously impairing its rapid motion.

The extending destitution in Paris is attested by the amount of the budget of the public assistance for next year, as just submitted to the Paris municipal council.

In the middle of the performance of Wagner's "Gotterdammerung" at the Court theatre at Munich the other night, a gentleman named Hummel, an architect from Vienna, suddenly became mad, and just as the music of the third act was commencing he made a violent attack on a lady who was sitting near him.

Journalists have been excused from serving on juries in India, the judge, in so deciding, following the precedent laid down by another judge in Natal.

The German and Russian newspapers have referred to another gigantic railway scheme believed to be entertained by the Russian government—to wit, a great Pacific railway running from Ekaterinburg, through Tobolsk, Yeniseisk, and Irkutsk, to Nicholaievsk on the Amoor, with one branch to Irkutsk and Kiakhta, another to Herat and India, and a third to Bkchara and Kashgar.

Irrespective of the large number of books recently ordered by the civil administration to be withdrawn from public circulation, the holy synod at St. Petersburg has also now established a new Index Expurgatorius, including over seventy books and religious tracts, mostly distributed by the Pashkovites.

In that healthy seaside resort, Swanage, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset, with a population of 2,350, there were living no fewer than 148 persons between the age of 70 and 92, in November, 1882, and the number at present is about the same.

Lieut. Ludovisi, who struck and insulted a broker officer, and shot him dead in the duel which followed, was tried by court-martial at Rome the other day for the former offense, and condemned to two years' military seclusion and the forfeiture of his commission.

"Water chestnuts" (eaten by the old lake dwellers in Switzerland) are largely grown in China. Every canal is full of floating islands of them; and the gathering looks like the picture of Athelney in flood where young and old are going about after the apples in boats.

A curious instance, says the Pall Mall Gazette, concerning the extraordinary variety of influences which affect English trade is afforded by the late trade report from Sheffield. Owing to the drought in Queensland, which reduced the flocks of one great holder from 27,000 to 5,000, large orders for sheep-shears and other hardware had been canceled, much to the inconvenience of the capital of cutlery.

The most perfect and comprehensive application of electricity to lighting ships of war has been attained on board the British iron-clad Colossus by the use of the Anglo-American Brush system.

with a full load of 180 amperes and an electro-motive force equal to 80 volts. The dynamo rotated at the rate of 400 revolutions a minute with 40 pounds pressure of steam.

The London Vegetarian Society gave a dinner to about 120 ladies and gentlemen at the Health Exhibition the other day. The object of the dinner, which is one of a series, was to show how an ample and varied diet could be procured without the use of any sort of animal food.

Another murder has been committed in Vienna, somewhat resembling that in the Matzleinsdorfer strasse; the scene on this occasion being the Schaeffer Gasse, which is in a much more central part of the city. Early on Saturday morning an invalid bachelor of 46, named Kostler, a retired officer, whose only attendant was an old woman, was attacked by a youth of about 20, who had been seen for some time prowling about the neighborhood, and who took advantage of the absence of the old woman to enter the house and attack Herr Kostler with a hatchet, completely shattering his skull.

When I was at Lake View, in August, at the New England Assembly, and having a "real nice time" telling the children about China in the headquarters of the C. Y. E. R. U., one day, I was accosted by a bright little girl, who wished to know "what people eat in China, and whether those dreadful stories about eating rats were true."

I answered as well as a few words would serve me, but did not satisfy the curiosity of the eager inquirer. Later, I devoted a half hour to talking about the "Daily Food of the Chinese," to some forty boys and girls; and here I repeat the matter for the sake of others curious to learn the truth—trusting a little natural indignation and plain speaking may be excused me.

Americans are fond of wonderful stories. Nothing pleases them more than to hear something revolting or strange about other people. Nations and races who resemble themselves, are not worth attention. Hence, travellers—knowing fellows, all of them—usually find it profitable to startle them with accounts as marvellous as they are false.

Not that these accounts are always wholly untrue, but that solitary instances and occurrences are magnified to represent habits and customs of a whole people. Belonging to this class of accounts, are those relative to the use as food in China, of certain animals. I find that many Americans believe that dog soup, cat fricassee and rat a la mode, are to be found daily on every table in the Empire.

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The Chinese do not keep many cows, and it is true that beef is not esteemed as good as pork, and that many will not eat beef on account of religious scruples. Milk, butter and cheese are almost unknown articles of diet. The Chinese think it is robbing the calves to take milk from the cows.—[Yon Phou Lee, in November Wide Awake.

Throwing down the Gauntlet.

From time immemorial throwing down the gauntlet has been a symbol of defiance, a challenge to battle both in real contests and in the mimic warfare of tournaments.

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BEDLAM IN A VAN.

Scenes Attending the Transfer of Patients of an Insane Asylum.

"We are all going to heaven, girls; come on; get in quick."

A big furniture van stood in the yard of the old Essex county insane asylum at Newark yesterday afternoon, and the remark was made by one of the patients as she sprang in and took a seat. The other female patients caught the infection, and, to the great relief of the doctor and attendants followed like a flock of sheep until the van was filled. Then the van was driven to the new asylum buildings, on South Orange avenue, near the limits of the city.

The new building is an imposing structure extending three hundred feet on South Orange avenue, with two wings of nearly equal extent. Over the main doorway is the word "Retreat" carved in relief on the capstone in massive letters.

WEALTH IN THE GUTTER.

The Pickers up of Unconsidered Trifles in the Street.

Notwithstanding some drawbacks and occasional periods of stagnation the rag business of the United States, particularly of the west, appears to be flourishing, and has reached wonderful proportions both as to quantities handled and in value. The miserable creature with bag or basket in hand collecting what can be found in the alleyway does not seem much in the world's concerns, but to the wholesale dealer the ragged, bent old collector is a much more important item in the business community than many might suspect.

There is one firm of rag and waste dealers in this city doing a business amounting to \$1,000,000 a year, and the business is constantly increasing. There is another firm of paper manufacturers in this city whose business, exclusive of what it supplies to its own mills in Wisconsin, exceeds half a million dollars annually.

The family with whom he lived resided not far from the Alapaha swamp. One day he and another boy were sent to the swamp to feed a sow. When within a short distance of it a large American tiger or jaguar sprang out of the bushes and brought Stewart to the ground. He fell on his face, and the jaguar seemed to be in no hurry to kill him.

The death of Thomas Stewart in Berrien county removes a singular character from the scene of life. He was a correspondent from Milledgeville, Ga. He first appeared there in 1845. He was not remarkable for anything except for scrappiness, being of small stature, lean and of a clay bank color, the result perhaps of private meals off of the chimney clay.

Will Blood Stains Wash Out?

To the present day the superstition is rife that blood stains cannot be washed out. During the French Revolution eighty priests were massacred in the Carmelite chapel at Paris, and the stains (called) of their blood are pointed out to-day. Sir Walter Scott, in his "Tales of a Grandfather" declares that the blood stains of David Rizzio, the Italian private secretary of Mary Queen of Scots, who was stabbed in Holyrood Palace by certain Protestant leaders, are still to be seen. In Lancashire the natives show a stone called the "Bloody Stone," which was marked show Heaven's displeasure at some of Cromwell's atrocities at Gallow's Croft.

A TALE OF GRISLY HORROR.

A Half-Burned Corpse Found Sitting Upright in a Chair.

In a little two-story on Kookuk street and Oregon avenue, St. Louis, in a kitchen on the lower floor, William Klittich came to his death under circumstances full of grisly horror. He was married a couple of years since to a pretty young woman, a typical German blonde, with soft blue eyes and child like face, with whom his life, according to the common testimony of those who knew them, was a home-spun idyl.

Shriek upon shriek rang out then, and in a few moments the family living upon the upper floor can in. The flames hissed away into a sickening steam as bucket after bucket of water was cast upon the dead, and then for the first time. The frightened men and women had time to look at what was before them.

When the reporter saw the body some effort at decorum had been made. A sheet with horrible greasy stains had been cast over the formless horror, yet despite the fact that loving hands had been at work, the view was awful. Instead of the normal ghastliness of death this body was marked with black baked charrs, and there was a ghastly effect where the right ear and the hair had all baked into one pitch-like whole, intensely distressing to look upon or remember.

The Coroner held an inquest and post-mortem this afternoon, and after an exhaustive examination of all the incidents of the tragedy, came to the conclusion that Klittich had either died suddenly in his chair while smoking, or had shot himself in the stomach, where it was found the bullet missing from the revolver had gone; that his pipe had dropped from his relaxed mouth and that the fire had fallen inside his vest, where it had speedily kindled into a flame.

A CHECKERED CAREER.

"Chawed" by a Tiger, Bitten by a Moccasin, Struck by Lightning, Tried for Murder, and Dying a Natural Death.

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News has reached this city of the death of Mrs. Barnice Panahi Bishop, the wife of Charles Reed Bishop, at her residence in Honolulu, Sandwich Islands. For years she had been afflicted with a cancer, to which her untimely end was undoubtedly due. Mrs. Bishop was the highest chief in the Sandwich Islands, her maiden name being Barnice Panahi. On the death of Kamehameha V., the last of the original line of native kings, in 1872, she was offered the throne, but declined it.

The detractor may, and often does, pull down others; but he never, as he seems to suppose, elevates himself to their position. The most he can do is maliciously to tear from them the blessings which he cannot enjoy himself.

Two ounces of soda dissolved in a quart of hot water will make a ready and useful solution for cleaning old painted work preparatory to repainting. This mixture, in the above proportions, should be applied when warm, and the wood work afterwards washed with water to remove all traces of the soda.

The average specific gravity of bricks is 1.84; the weight of a cubic foot, 115 pounds which absorbs one fifteenth of its weight of water; the cohesive force of a square inch is 275 pounds; it is crushed by a force of 562 pounds on a square inch; the weight of a cubic foot of newly built brickwork is 117 pounds; the weight of a rod of new brick work is sixteen tons.

into himself a wife, but the parents of his girl did not favor the alliance, so they decided on elopement. In those days, even a hero could get married without shoes, so he started for his future wife, succeeded in getting her from the house, and the happy pair were on their way to the parson's when Stewart was bitten on the foot by a moccasin, a dangerous reptile. Even that did not stop him. They proceeded to the parson's and were united in wedlock. Stewart did not die from the snake bite. History does not say whether the snake died.

Next we hear of Stewart, he was being tried for his life for the murder of a man named Wheeler. The evidence was all against Stewart, and everybody thought he would hang. He was defended by the now venerable Judge Hansell, of Thomsville, Ga. then a young lawyer just "starting out." So able was the defense, so pathetically did the young lawyer dwell upon the many hair breadth escapes of the prisoner, who seemingly had been preserved through them all through providential intervention, that the jury brought in such a verdict as sent him to the penitentiary for six years. While in the penitentiary he learned the painter's trade, and after satisfying the sentence of the law, returned home.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The sawdust and refuse of the sawmill is now made to yield fourteen gallons of turpentine, three or four gallons of rosin and a quantity of tar per cord.

Civilization has its drawbacks. It is said that not only has the acuteness of vision of civilized man fallen below the standard common among savage nations, but at the same time the eyes of civilized man often depart from the normal or approximately spherical formation, either becoming flattened from front to back so as to bring the retina too near the surface, or elongated from front to back, so as to remove the retina too far from the surface.

Mercury is firmly believed by the Chinese to possess wonderful virtues. They hold that it not only prolongs life, but expels bad vapors, poison, and the gloom of an uneasy mind. The doctrine of the transmutation of mercury into other metals prevailed 2,000 years ago. Cinnabar was known to the Chinese in the seventh century before the Christian era.

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Two methods are in use in Philadelphia to prevent chemical obstructions in water pipes. One is to coat the interior of the pipe with coal tar pitch, which does well enough for large mains and keeps the passage tolerably clear for more than a quarter of a century. The other method is the one called "bower-baff," which consists in subjecting the pipes at a high temperature to the action of steam or air, so that there is a film of magnetic oxide acquired by the metal, which insures a clean surface for a long time.

In a communication to the Physiological Society at Berlin Dr. Falk stated, as a result of his researches on drowning, that when rabbits are suddenly plunged into water having a temperature of 40 or 50° F., cramp of the expiratory muscles occurs and respiration ceases. The methods of restoring the apparently dead have no relation to the effect of cutaneous stimulation upon respiration. Cold water dashed upon the chest acts on the heart alone; on the naps of the neck it acts upon the lower brain.

A German technical journal says that the advantage gained in having the flesh side of the leather soles of boots and shoes outside is mainly the peculiar facility it affords in the application of grease for preserving the leather, since the pores are so much larger, besides permitting the introduction of fine sands or iron filings, etc., which increase the resistance to wear. Again if the more compact portion of the leather be outside, when the outer layer is worn away it leaves the interior in a soft and tender state, which abrades very rapidly, while if the soft side be first exposed it may be protected, as above mentioned, and when removed leaves a compact layer, even when worn down almost to the thinness of paper.

She Might Have Been Queen.

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