

...bursting of the monsoon...  
...in India would be impossible...  
...out its monsoon, and the periodic...  
...each of one of these great rain...  
...is always hailed with delight. The...  
...west monsoon sets in generally to...  
...the end of April the steady wind...  
...blowing from the Indian Ocean and...  
...bringing up from the dense volumes of...  
...which slowly collect in dark masses...  
...of cloud as they approach the contin...  
...From Adam's Peak in the Isle of...  
...right along the Eastern and...  
...Ghats and the Nilgiris, every...  
...is gradually shrouded in mist, in...  
...of standing out clear and sharp...  
...at the sky. Darker and denser be...  
...the cloud masses; the horizon as...  
...a heavy lead appearance, some...  
...kindling into a lurid glare—...  
...to the sense of oppression, both...  
...and physical, which accompanies...  
...The atmosphere becomes "close" and...  
...and heavy as to man and beast; but...  
...is borne with patience, for re...  
...at hand. Flashes of lightning play...  
...as they approach the contin...  
...from a weedy...  
...perhaps, a...  
...suddenly springs up into a tempest...  
...along the shore the white waves are...  
...in foam against the rocks or over...  
...burning sand. Then a few great...  
...of rain fall, like balls of lead...  
...the apparently leaden sky; the...  
...lightning is changed to sheets of...  
...and suddenly the flood-gates of...  
...are opened, and not rain, but...  
...of water, are poured forth, re...  
...ing the parched earth, carrying fer...  
...over the surface of the country, fill...  
...the wells and natural reservoirs with...  
...ash stores, and replenishing the dwind...  
...rivers and streams. The whole...  
...seems suddenly recalled to life...  
...station may almost be seen to grow...  
...from the baked mud of the river...  
...emerge countless fishes which for...  
...or months before have lain there...  
...por.

**Eating Off Gold.**  
...Astor's supper to twenty of her...  
...mate friends was given in New York...  
...Monday night. On this occasion the...  
...ous service of solid gold was used...  
...yellow dishes are seldom brought...  
...from the Astor vault. They cost...  
...\$500, it is said, though I have heard...  
...figures exaggerated to \$250,000...  
...how, there is no great extravagance...  
...them, for the metal can at any time be...  
...ed into good bullion and only the...  
...manship lost. I have attended many...  
...the Astor entertainments, but never...  
...when the gold utensils were displayed...  
...friend who has had that estimable...  
...illegally declared that she didn't enjoy...  
...experience very much, after all...  
...In the first place," she said, "the...  
...bles were completely overcome and...  
...anitized by the plates on which they...  
...served. The daintiest morsel...  
...ed to have no flavor at all, and after...  
...I fancied that they became im...  
...inated with a peculiar metallic taste...  
...then I got it into my head that the...  
...sitting opposite me was a detective...  
...guise, placed there so see that I...  
...t slip a plate into my bodice. He...  
...afterward introduced to me, and I...  
...reason to believe that his covert...  
...had been purely sentimental, but...  
...spoiled my supper all the same. No...  
...k you, fine china ware is good enough...  
...me."

**Martyr for His Beard's Sake.**  
...Persecuted for Wearing his Beard" is...  
...an inscription on the tomb of Joseph...  
...mer, who died at the age of 84, at...  
...master, Mass., in 1873. Palmer, in...  
...tion to other eccentricities, wore a...  
...and flowing beard at a time when...  
...one else went smooth shaven. For...  
...he was "persecuted, despised, jeered...  
...regarded almost as a fiend incarnate...  
...known far and wide as a human mon...  
...and with his name mothers used to...  
...ten their children when they were...  
...Clergymen, and, among others...  
...George Trask, the anti-tobacco re...  
...labored to show him the scandal...  
...is course, but to all who asked why...  
...he persisted in making himself a "mon...  
...ity" he only replied that he would...  
...if any one could tell him why some...  
...would, from 52 to 365 times a year...  
...be their faces. At one time he was...  
...ked by a party of men who proposed...  
...are him without his consent, but de...  
...ed himself vigorously and repulsed...  
...assaults. For this he was thrown...  
...jail, and there again was forced to...  
...to preserve his beard intact.

**Light in His Own Death Trap.**  
...Arkus Warner, of Shushan, N. Y.,...  
...became bothered by chicken thieves...  
...A few nights ago he set a large...  
...trap at the entrance of his chicken...  
...decor. He also loaded a shotgun...  
...powder and fine salt and placed it...  
...door of the coop, so that when the...  
...was opened the gun would be dis...  
...ged, and the intruder would receive...  
...contents in his body while held in the...  
...of the steel trap. The same day...  
...friends of Warner's came to visit...  
...They drank cider all day until late...  
...evening. When the visitors were...  
...to go Warner went to help them...  
...the horse. They broke a strap...  
...ner had one in the chicken coop...  
...forgot about the trap and the gun...  
...went after the strap. When he...  
...ed the door of the hen house he...  
...ped in the trap. The gun went off...  
...bored a large hole in his side. The...  
...broke his leg. He will die.

...that is the difference between a...  
...jovial friend and the sale of a bo...  
...silver mine? One is whole souled...  
...the other is a sold hole.

**Gen. Gordon's Death.**  
...A young-appearing fellow applied at a...  
...police station in Boston for a lodging on...  
...Saturday night. "Too late—it is after...  
...10 o'clock," said the lieutenant. "I was...  
...to the theatre, and couldn't get here any...  
...sooner," said the tramp, who finally got...  
...a bed in another station.

**In June last the Larcel said of Gen. Gordon:**  
"His life is as great a mystery as his character. His physical endurance in the desert would be difficult to understand in a strong man, but in a man with angina pectoris, and with a horror of meals, it is simply a kind of miracle."

Persons addicted to the habit of sticking their tongues out while working, should take warning from the experience of an Alleghany man, who, while chopping wood a few days ago, was struck on the chin with such force by a fragment as to almost completely sever his organ of speech.

The very remarkable statement is made in the Medical Times that Dr. Fleischl, of Vienna, has discovered that the hydrochlorate of cocaine, administered hypodermically in doses of from one-twelfth to one-fourth of a grain will cure morphinism, alcoholism, and similar habits within ten days.

A Cincinnati printer, who brought suit to compel a telephone company that had removed his telephone because he used profanity in a message through it, to replace the instrument, has been defeated in the Supreme Court of Ohio; the Court held that the company had the right to remove the instrument.

The Royal Academy of Turin will, in 1886, award a prize of \$2,400 to the author of the best work that appears between 1873 and 1886 on any subject connected with physics, chemistry, physiology, geology, geography, or statistics, or to "the author of a brilliant or useful discovery." The prize is open to competitors of all countries.

A young Englishman has had his left leg specially exempted from the insurance granted him by several companies, whose losses through the sudden weakness of that limb had led him to be wary in the matter. Hence clauses in his policy provide that he cannot recover unless proof is made that his injuries shall not have been caused by the faulty member.

A thief who snatched a satchel out of the hands of a lady who was about to be photographed in a Chicago gallery fell a victim to progressive science before nightfall. The photographer, hearing the noise while he was adjusting the camera, pulled the trigger and took an instantaneous photograph by means of which the thief was arrested later in the day. He was identified by the "subject," and had some of her money in his pocket.

Italian papers are bewailing the extent and intensity of immigration fever among the peasantry. They say that the slip loads of emigrants who are taken from Italy to America are draining Italy of its most productive factors. The tide of emigration they say, is assuming proportions which is calamitous to the State, and they instance the fact that one Prefect alone issued last year six thousand passports for emigrants to America.

The telephone system is likely to be soon developed to a great extent on the Continent. The Belgian Cabinet has asked the Governments of France and Spain to allow Mr. Deubenski, an officer in the Belgian army, who has invented a new kind of telephone, fitted with a microphone, to make experiments between Madrid and Brussels in nearly a thousand miles, and should Deubenski prove the capabilities of his telephone for inter-transmitting messages at Madrid and Brussels, we are probably within measurable distance of the time when we may converse with the American colony in Paris.

The Mudir of Kassala is a sorely tired man. He has been besieged by the Mahdi's forces for nine months, and, as if this were not enough, he has had a number of wild beasts in captivity thrown upon his hands by the death of his owner. The trade in animals for menageries and zoological gardens has developed greatly of late years, the Soudan and Nubia being the main hunting grounds. One of the principal providers of wild animals for show was a Jew of Vienna named Kohn, who had brought to Europe at various times from Nubia a large number of lions, giraffes, antelopes, and ostriches. He had collected a number of these shortly before Kassala was invested, and had them in the town at the time of the attack by the rebels. After a short time he died at the age of 72, and history has not yet recorded what became of the beasts.

France has followed the example of Germany in raising microbiology to the rank of a recognized science. The establishment over which Dr. Koch presides in Berlin is the completest and best equipped in Europe. He has four army surgeons as assistants, and some sixty or eighty students, among whom are not a few savants of standing are daily pursuing their researches in his laboratories. Dr. Koch, who was a modest veterinary surgeon in Breslau four years ago, and who has never had a regular academic training, was looked upon with some distrust and jealousy by the German universities when his studies in bacteriology brought him into prominence and won him the support of Prince Bismarck and the favors of the Government, but the opposition to his theories has nearly altogether subsided, and he has been named Professor in the medical faculty of Berlin.

In the *Gazette des Hopitaux* Dr. Rendu gives the number of cases of diphtheria in Paris in 1880 at 9,500, an enormous

**Have a Smile.**  
A forged check—Shackles.  
A pitched battle—A baseball game.  
The married woman's sphere—A ball of darning cotton.  
Frigid comfort for a hungry tramp—The cold shoul er.  
Called back—That part of us contiguous to the spinal column.  
Honesty is the best policy—outside of a certificate of insurance.  
Strange as it may seem the editor's pocket-book is often a blankbook.  
It's very seldom that the umbrella gets left. We know whereof we speak.  
When a policeman plays poker he always smiles if he draws a pat club flush.  
If your mother's sister uses only one kind of perfumery it is making game of her to say she is a "one scent any?"  
Recent despatches from the seat of war in the Soudan have aroused a suspicion in the minds of some cynical observers that General Wolesey is being paid by the day.  
A wit who was asked what he had rather be during the three stages of life, replied: "Till thirty a pretty woman, till fifty a successful general, the rest of my life a cardinal."  
A Virginia white man, accused of stealing apple brandy, chose to be tried by a jury of colored men. He thought his chances for "justice" would be better.  
A new dictionary of the Chinese language comprises forty volumes. When a Chinese editor gets stuck on the spelling of a word, he has to delay publication for a week or two in order to consult the lexicon.  
The wife of William Black copies his manuscript in such a hand that one page of his makes four of hers. Black may be popular with the novel-readers, but you can wager that his wife is a great favorite with the printers.  
On one occasion a friend of Lord Alvanley came for advice under the following circumstances: "Mr. — has threatened to kick me whenever he sees me in society. What am I to do when he comes into the room?" "Sit down," replied his lordship.  
Confessions of a Lowell journalist: What was almost a plot for a good ghost story was enacted in the editorial-room of this paper late one night recently. One of the staff came in in the dark and to his horror found himself confronted by a strange white shape, motionless, but full of terror in its ghostly phosphorescence. Starting back, he hastily struck a match, and then at once the mystery was solved. It was the clean towel we had given us for Christmas.  
A few weeks ago a gentleman entered the office of a well known insurance agent and, tossing a paper on the counter, said to the clerk: "That's run out and I want to get it renewed." The clerk unfolded the document and with a smile inquired: "Are you sure that this has run out?" "Oh, yes," said the gentleman, "my wife told me it run out yesterday." "Well, I am sorry for you, but we are not taking that kind of risks now," responded the clerk as he handed it back to him. It was his marriage certificate.  
Attached to the staff of a Prussian general is a young officer, who is ordered on special duty to Egypt; on bidding him good-bye, the general says to the aide: "Bring me back a mummy." The aide-de-camp returns in about six months. "Well, where's my mummy?" "I've got it, general. It is down-stairs." "Well, let us go and see it." The sarcophagus is opened; the general and his aide unroll the bandages. When the mummy is at last exposed, the intelligent Dutchman exclaims: "Why your confounded old mummy is dead!"

**The Busy Bee's Occupation Gone.**  
The spurious honey is now put up in little square boxes, which sell for from twenty to thirty cents a pound. It looks like honey, and it is said that it takes an excellent judge to tell that it is a fraud on the bee. The comb is manufactured with such skill that but few can tell it from the genuine article. It is made from paraffine or beeswax, and the honey is blown into it by machinery. Another kind is put up in glass vessels like ordinary jelly packages, the centre of which contains a piece of honeycomb, and the honey is made by pouring about six parts of glucose around one part of honey in the comb. Some of it is adulterated with glucose, some with cane sugar, with the syrup of inverted cane and others by heating ordinary sugar with an acid; but it all resembles honey and to a certain extent has its flavor and odor.

**Historic Fraud.**  
The last great fraud by which the Bank of England has been defrauded was that of Austin Bidwell and his accomplices. On the 18th of April, 1872, Austin Bidwell called upon a 'fellow named Green, in Saville row, and under the assumed name of Warren gave him a handsome order. On May 4th he paid Mr. Green another visit. He was then professedly on his way to Ireland, and having about him a large sum of money asked Green to take charge of it during his absence. Green hesitated to take the responsibility, but remarked that the branch Bank of England was in Burlington gardens, close by, and offered to introduce Warren there. This was done, and Warren opened an account by a deposit of £1,200. He gave his name as Frederick Albert Warren, and his address as Golden Cross hotel. He paid in and drew out moneys to a considerable amount, and shortly began to offer bills for discount. They bore the best of names and were discounted without hesitation. On the 17th of June, 1873, a bill of Rothchild's for £1,500 was offered and was discounted in due course. Having thus gained, by transactions in genuine bills, the confidence of the bank authorities, the supposed Warren commenced operations of another kind. Bills came in thick and fast for discount, still bearing the same first-class names—Rothchild, Blydenstein, Suse, and Silbexoth etc.; but they were now cleverly-executed forgeries. The bank continued to discount without suspicion. Naturally, however, it paid in its own notes, of which the numbers were recorded, and which, when it was discovered that the bills were forged, would be difficult to realize. Bidwell, in order to dispose of these and to diminish the chances of identification, opened an account in another name (Horton) at the Continental bank. Here he paid in the notes received at the Bank of England, taking French and German money in exchange. Hills—under the name of Noyes—acting as his clerk. Sometimes, by way of variety, Hill changed notes into gold at the Bank of England itself, alleging that the coin was for export, but the gold he obtained was brought back again by Macdonnell and exchanged for fresh notes, which, thus obtained, would have no obvious connection with the original fraud. George Bidwell undertook what may be called the manufacturing department—namely, the preparation of the plates and the printing of the bill forms for the forgeries. By thus dividing their labors, and working each in a distinct department of the fraud, the gang hoped to evade discovery until they had made what they regarded as a sufficient haul, when they would doubtless have retired to foreign climes to enjoy the fruits of their labors. How much further they would have gone it is impossible to say, for they had already offered forged bills to the amount of over £12,217, when a happy oversight led to their detection. Two bills for £1,000 each, professedly accepted by Mr. Blydenstein, and payable three months after "sight," were not "sighted"—that is, the date of acceptance was not inserted. A clerk of the bank was sent to Messrs. Blydenstein's to get the omission rectified, and was met by the startling information that the bills were forgeries. With some little trouble, the whole of the gang were arrested, and, after a trial lasting eight days, were convicted and sentenced to penal servitude.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

**Imitation in Birds.**  
I remember distinctly hearing a thrasher often repeating in its madcap song some notes new to my ear, which could not be ascribed to any Michigan bird of my acquaintance. After patiently waiting for some time in the glazing sun of a bright June day, I heard the notes so plainly that I was thoroughly convinced they were an imitation of the song of the European bird—the "chuck-will's widow," so called, a species allied to our whippoorwill, and named—as in our familiar Northern representative of the family—from the words so plainly uttered. This I then learned, then, the notes of the "chuck-will's widow" at least \$80, and probably quite a thousand miles from Michigan, and yet reproduced them so distinctly that one could easily distinguish them, and from mere descriptions in books at once tell the name of the bird imitated.

Here, mounting to the top of the tallest tree near its nest, it pours forth ecstatic melody, executing the most difficult strains with the same ease that it delivers the simplest notes. All noises are attempted; the schoolboy's whistle, the bark of a dog, or the bleating of a lamb are equally well executed and issue from its throat in a continuous, harmonious strain, frequently of an hour's duration. What wonderful mimicry; what a contrast to the best attempts of ventriloquists and imitators, travelling through the country to reproduce before audiences a few mumbled sounds or attempted imitations of the sounds and notes uttered by birds and mammals.—[Dr. Morris Gibb.

"A short absence," says Mirabeau, "quickens love; a long absence kills it." He! then the fellows who have been out of office twenty-four years have no desire whatever to go in. That's about as much as a Frenchman could be expected to know about politics.