

# The Sheridan Road

## News-Letter.....

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### FOUND IN AN OLD STUMP.

Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon is Discovered in Illinois.

Considerable excitement has been created recently in southern Illinois over a discovery made by Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm close to the village of Dongola, in Union county, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. Penrod in digging a black stump out of a potato field, close to his residence, found a stone which was about a foot long and eight inches in diameter. The peculiar shape of the stone, which resembled a pocketbook, attracted his attention, and upon close examination he found carved on its face in English the following words: "This stone contains the original manuscript of the book of the Mormon. Joseph Smith."

The ravages of time had apparently made little headway on the stone, and upon close examination he found the stone was hollow. A hole had been drilled entirely through it, and at both ends red cedar plugs had been driven. Upon removing one of the plugs, several sheets of paper, containing writing in hieroglyphics that could not be deciphered, were found. The characters are peculiar, following no known line of ancient writing.

At the bottom of the last page was found written in English: "The finder of this manuscript will deliver the same to the elders of the Mormon church." The stone still remains with Mr. Penrod, and already communication has been made with the Salt Lake church, giving the incidents of the find. It is thought the Mormon church will take steps at once to secure the stone and also the manuscript.

### ARRESTS AT PARIS FAIR.

Police Report Also Tells of Strange Articles Found in the Grounds of the Exposition.

The exposition police report, just out, shows a total of 13,997 arrests on the fair grounds. The causes are thus divided, says the Chicago Tribune:

Murder, 4; murderous assaults, 115; crimes against morals, 362; minor assaults, 1,192; defacing property, 401; theft, 4,003.

Strangers arrested were 1,159. Of these 44 were Americans, which was less than any other nation, except Denmark and Polynesia, which had one each. The total number of articles found and turned over to the police was 66,317, including a satchel containing \$45,700 in American money, which never was claimed; more than 6,000 umbrellas, one set of false teeth, 248 single garters, 22 corsets wrapped in newspapers or otherwise, three burglar's kits, five crosses of the Legion of Honor, 14 foreign decorations, one pair of lady's russet slippers, only slightly used, and many other queer articles.

This museum, with the exception of what may be claimed before May 1, will be sold at auction for the benefit of charity.

### QUEER ACCIDENTS TO GUNS.

Mishaps on a British Battleship That Caused Fear Among the Crew.

While the British battleship Thunderer was off Milford Haven, Wales, not long ago a curious accident to one of her guns caused much alarm among her crew. A target had been put out for practice with the ten-inch breechloading guns. When one was fired by electricity only a portion of the projectile was discharged, the base plate of the shot and a portion of the frame being left in the gun. When the plate was removed the pressure of gas forced a portion of the projectile from the breech of the gun. On the second gun being fired a hole about three inches in diameter was blown through the projectile, the other part of the base plate being left behind. The base plate was, in this case separated from the rest of the projectile.

Such accidents are believed never previously to have occurred on board any ship. There was much alarm among those in the turret, as the bursting of the guns was for a time feared. It is suggested that either the powder in the projectiles was damp or there was water in the guns. So far as can be seen both guns are sound.

### Sin of Using Tobacco.

In early colonial days the use of tobacco was considered far more sinful and degrading than indulgence in intoxicating liquors. Old-time legislation reveals some curious attempts to check the spread of the "creature called tobacco." Landlords were fined if they permitted it to be brought into their taverns. No one could take tobacco publicly nor in his own house or anywhere else before strangers. Two men were forbidden to smoke together and no one could smoke within two miles of the meeting houses on the Sabbath day. In Connecticut in early days a great indulgence was permitted to travelers—they were allowed to smoke once during a journey of ten miles.

### FRANKS OF A PRINCE.

Wilhelmina's Future Husband Was a Lively Youngster a Few Years Ago.

Perhaps Prince Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the fiance of Queen Wilhelmina, is a sober, industrious royalty now, but according to this story he was a pretty lively fellow a few years ago, says the St. Louis Republic. Once a governess of some cousins of his, scions of the dual house of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, lived in a grand, solitary castle planted in the middle of a boundless plain of sand, like a tent in the desert. Henry Vladimir von Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who was there on a visit to his cousins, had taken a violent dislike to the governess, who objected to his rather free-and-easy manners with her noble pupils. One Sunday morning the children started with her in a carriage to drive to the little church a few miles away from the castle. Mme De X—, the governess, was on the front seat with the two countesses, and Duke Henry Vladimir had installed himself on the back seat. More than once she felt as if something queer was going on behind her, but when she looked around the boy was stiff and solemn, looking the other way.

At last the party reached the church, in front of which a little crowd of noble neighbors and peasants had assembled. Henry Vladimir jumped out first and gallantly offered his hand to the governess. She thought this unwonted politeness rather strange, but on jumping out her skirt and one or two petticoats fell at her feet, where they softly arranged themselves in a sort of balloon, from which she emerged a little more dressed than "Venus Rising from the Sea," but not much. On the morrow the young Mecklenburg-Schwerin was sent home with the brand of shame upon him.

### WOOD LOOKS LIKE METAL.

A New Process by Which Strength and Hardness Are Given to the Fiber.

A European scientist has discovered a method by which wood may be given the appearance of metal. Outside of the added value for decorative purposes which this may give, the advantage to be derived is not clearly apparent. The wood is said to be rendered exceedingly hard and strong, although it is equally uncertain what part of the process may be assumed to confer these desirable qualities upon wood which was soft and weak before treatment, says an industrial exchange.

The process is described as follows: The wood is first soaked for three or four days in a solution of caustic alkali at a temperature of from 75 to 90 degrees centigrade, and is then transferred at once to a bath of hydrosulphate of calcium, to which a saturated solution of sulphur in caustic alkali is added after 24 hours. The wood remains in this bath, which is kept at a temperature of from 35 to 50 degrees centigrade, and finally it is soaked for about 30 to 50 hours in a solution of acetate of lead. The wood is then dried at a moderate temperature and may be polished with a burnisher of hard wood. In this case it can be made to acquire a brilliant metallic luster and if the surface is previously rubbed with a piece of lead, tin or zinc and a glass or porcelain burnisher is used the effect is increased. The wood treated in this way resembles a metallic mirror.

### ANIMALS THAT WEEP.

Many Species of the Brute Creation Shed Tears When Frightened or Hurt.

"He cried like a calf," is a remark sometimes heard. It is no disgrace for a calf to cry and he sheds tears in quantities when his emotions justify them. It is even easier for him to cry than for many other animals, because his lachrymal apparatus is perfect and very productive.

A scientific writer writing in La Nature says that the ruminants are the animals which weep most readily. Hunters have long known that a deer at bay cries profusely. The tears will roll down the nose of a bear when he feels that his last hour is approaching. The big, tender eyes of the giraffe fill with tears as he looks at the hunter who has wounded him.

Dogs weep very easily. The dog has tears both in his eyes and voice when his beloved master goes away and leaves him tied up at home. Some varieties of monkeys seem to be particularly addicted to crying, and not a few aquatic mammals also find it easy to weep when the occasion requires it. Seals in particular are often seen to cry.

Elephants weep profusely when wounded or when they see that escape from their enemies is impossible. The animals here mentioned are the chief ones that are known to weep, but there is no doubt that many others also display similar emotion.

### No Chinese in Potter's Field.

Among the thousands of bodies buried in the potter's field of New York there is not one of a Chinaman.

### MISTAKEN FOR "JOHN L."

An Amusing Anecdote Regarding the Late Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Among the many anecdotes of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan which have been traveling through two hemispheres since the death of the eminent composer, the following, as told in Sir Arthur's own words, is by no means the worst, says the Brooklyn Eagle:

"I was traveling on a stage in a rather wild part of California, and arrived at a mining camp, where we had to get down for refreshments. As we drove up the driver said: 'They are expecting you, Mr. Sullivan.' I was much pleased, and when I reached the place I found a knot of prominent citizens at the whiskey store. The foremost of them came up to a big burly man by my side and said: 'Are you Mr. Sullivan?' The man said 'No,' and pointed to me. The citizen looked at me rather contemptuously, and after awhile said: 'Why, how much do you weigh?'

"I thought this was a curious method of testing the power of a composer, but I at once answered: 'About 162 pounds.' 'Well,' said the man, 'that's odd to me, anyhow. Do you mean to say that you gave fits to John S. Blackmore down in Kansas City?' I said: 'No; I did not give him fits.' He then said: 'Well, who are you?' I replied: 'My name is Sullivan.' 'Ain't you John L. Sullivan, the slugger?' I disclaimed all title to that, and told him I was Arthur Sullivan. 'Oh, Arthur Sullivan?' he said. 'Are you the man as put "Pin-afore" together?'—rather a gratifying way of describing my composition. I said: 'Yes.' 'Well,' returned the citizen, 'I am sorry you ain't John Sullivan; but still I'm glad to see you anyway—let's have a drink.'

### VERY OLD CHECK CASHED.

It Was Drawn Over Twenty Years Ago, But Was Good for the Money.

In the year 1879 C. W. Merchant, of this city, was engaged in buying cattle all over this part of Texas, says the Galveston (Tex.) News. In those days Fort Worth was the headquarters for banking business, and Mr. Merchant, in common with all cowmen, had his money on deposit in one of the banks there. While in Haskell county that year he purchased five head of beef cattle from a Mr. Mobley and gave his check for \$100. On account of the distance from Fort Worth and the inconvenient facilities for transacting such matters, Mr. Mobley did not present the check for payment until six months after its date. When presented the cashier informed the gentleman that Mr. Merchant had long since closed his account with the bank. Nothing further was ever done to collect the check, until recently both gentlemen met in the town of Haskell, just 21 years later, and began talking of "old times."

Mr. Mobley suggested to Mr. Merchant that he held an unpaid check signed by him and dated 1879, and wanted to know if it was still worth 100 cents on the dollar. He was informed that it was, and on inquiry as to how it came into his possession explanations followed and Mr. Mobley got the \$100.

In speaking of the incident to the News correspondent, Mr. Merchant said that in 1879 he purchased something like \$60,000 worth of cattle, and most of them in small herds, and that, with a "saddle horn" for a memorandum book, it was very easy to lose run of a \$100 check.

### WHEN LIFE IS DEPARTING.

Phenomena Which Electricity Has Disclosed in Animate Nature.

A. D. Waller, of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has devised an electrical means of distinguishing between living and dead matter. His statement of the method is somewhat as follows: Living matter responds to an electrical stimulus by yielding an after current in the same direction. The same matter after it has been killed by heating or other method does not respond to excitation unless it does so by causing a reversed current, due to polarization. This phenomenon is characteristic of all living matter, animal or vegetable. The similar induced current is the last sign of life and its amount may even be used to measure the amount of vitality remaining. In order to make this test the body is first connected to a delicate galvanometer and if there is any deflection caused this is corrected; an electrical stimulus is administered to the body and then the galvanometer again connected to it. If there is now a deflection of the latter the body is living; no deflection shows that it is indubitably dead.

There may be lots of insincerity in the world but the knowledge of it should make us thankful for the friends into whose eyes we can look and feel sure of their loyalty. —Ex.