

THE DEADLY FER DE LANCE.

So Numerous on the Island of Martinique as to Be a Constant Menace to Life.

Former residents of Martinique, says the New York Sun, declare that the perils of any expedition carrying aid to the volcano sufferers about St. Pierre will be gravely increased by the presence of the deadly fer-de-lance.

St. Pierre fairly swarms with the venomous reptiles. It is principally because of their presence that ascents of Mont Pelee, otherwise not

infrequent.

It is a curious fact that in cases of seismic disturbance snakes make for the low land. When Mont Pelee was disturbed in the middle of the last century the fer-de-lance overran the streets of St. Pierre, although they are naturally a grassland snake.

Suppose, now, that the shore beyond the district where all life has been blotted out has become the refuge of these creatures. What will happen to the men who land there, particularly if they are ignorant of the danger? It is not pleasant to think of. The fer-de-lance does not wait to be attacked. He is a born murderer. When he has once set his venomous mind on a man he will follow until one or the other is slain.

Government Plant Culture.

The United States department of agriculture now has well equipped laboratories for the investigation of the diseases of plants in Washington city, Florida and California. There are also 50 experiment stations where plant diseases are studied, and in perhaps half that number of colleges practical courses on plant life are given.

An Important Niagara Industry.

One of the most important industries attaching to the cheap power now produced by Niagara is the electrical tearing apart of the molecule of common salt resulting in the formation of caustic soda and bleaching powder.

Smallpox Statistics.

Smallpox, as officially reported in the United States from December 28, 1901, to May 2, 1902, presents a grand total of 30,815 cases, with 921 deaths, in contrast with 22,344 cases and 349 deaths in the corresponding period of 1901.

An Afterthought.

It is always well to remember, says the Chicago Record-Herald, that the extinct volcano, like the reposing wasp, will bear watching.

The Popular Sensation.

It's a poor place, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, that can't get up a volcano or an earthquake scare now.

St. Pierre's Sole Survivor.

A murderer, imprisoned in a cell beneath the earth, where he lay for four days of horror after St. Pierre had been buried under the discharges of the volcano, is said to be the sole survivor of all the thousands of St. Pierre. No stranger or more dreadful story could be conjured by the wildest imagination of the romancer, and such a story would be criticised as too improbable, even in romance.

A New German Coin.

The mint of the German government has struck off a three-mark silver piece, commemorative of the visit of Prince Henry to the United States.

R. R. MEN'S HOME.

President L. S. Coffin, in an address before the locomotive engineers' convention, gave the following interesting statement regarding the standing and growth of the "Home:"

"From the report made to me by the secretary-treasurer and managers of the Home I make out this epitomized statement of the present status of the home and the financial relation to it of each of the brotherhoods that contribute to its support. While

1890, there are no very reliable records of receipts and disbursements until November, 1892, so this statement will only apply from this latter date save a few exceptions; from that date up to the present time the Home has sheltered and cared for seventy-one needy and in some cases very helpless brotherhood men. Of these helpless men one was a telegrapher, twenty were B. R. T., seven B. L. F., seventeen O. R. C., twenty-six B. L. E. members. The total amount of money received from the brotherhoods and auxiliaries was \$74,167.61. The total disbursements since 1892 as shown by the books and vouchers exceeds the receipts from the brotherhoods and auxiliaries, strange as it may appear, \$5,038.18, while it is difficult to account in an itemized manner as I would like to do so as to make it perfectly plain and satisfactory to everyone, but to those that are fa-

miliar with the history of the home the first few years of its life, I think will be satisfied with what I may say here. Many of you will recollect that for those years we issued a little "Home Journal" as the only medium between the brotherhoods, the public and friends of the Home and the Home, except what was done mostly by me in public addresses at the different conventions of the brotherhoods and at the union meetings, as many of you may recollect. We had agents to solicit advertisements, and many out of sympathy with the object of the Home gave us "ads." So subscriptions and "ads" helped to run the Home to quite an extent those years."

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" with col & cuffs 15	Aprons.....5-10	" Fancy.....35-40
" open front or	Overalls.....8	" Child's.....5-8
" pleated.....12	Jackets.....5	Shirtwaists.....15-25
" Flannel.....4-8	Towels.....2	Skirts, plain.....15-20
" Negligee.....12	" Roller.....2	" fancy.....35-40
Collars.....2	Napkins.....1	" dress.....40-50
Cuffs, per pair.....4	Table Covers.....5	Chemises.....5
Underdrawers.....4	Sheets.....4	Drawers.....5
Undershirts.....4	Pillow Slips.....2	Stockings, pair.....2
Night Shirts.....4	Pillow Shams.....10-25	Night Dresses.....5
Socks, per pair.....2	Counterpanes.....5	Aprons.....5-8
Handkerchiefs.....1	Doylies.....1	" plain, col'd.....4
" silk.....1	Tray Cloths.....1	Corset Covers.....4
Neckties.....2	Rough Dry, per lb.....5	Toilet Napkin.....1
Coats.....10-25	Collars.....2-5	Washcloths.....1
Vests.....20	Cuffs, pair.....4-6	Tidies.....2
Pants.....25	Undervests.....3	Wrappers.....10-25
Sweaters.....25	Handkerchiefs.....1	Blankets.....15
Combination Suits.....4	" silk.....1	Curtains.....25-\$1.00
Pajamas.....5	Chemisettes.....3	Quilts.....20-30

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