

DANGERS OF CIVILIZATION.

Bashful Young Man Has a Streak of Hard Luck at His Best Girl's Home.

A young man from Silver Lake called to spend the evening with a Castle Rock girl the other night, says the Castle Rock (Ore.) Advocate. A storm came up and the girl's father asked him to remain over night. He was a bashful young man and the next morning when he was invited to a seat at the table he very reluctantly accepted. He was very nervous and agitated. He sat opposite the mirror and discovered that he had forgotten to comb his hair. Then he dropped his fork on the floor and as he stooped to pick it up he upset his coffee. Matters went from bad to worse until the young man quit eating and put his hands under the table.

The loose end of the tablecloth was lying in his lap and when he touched it he turned pale. He thought it was his shirt and in his nervous excitement while dressing he had forgotten to put the garment inside his trousers. There was no time to lose. He hurriedly stuffed the supposed shirt inside his trousers. Two minutes later when the family arose from the table there was a crash. The dishes lay in a broken mass on the floor. The young man pulled three feet of the tablecloth out of his pants and fled through the door. He is now hiding and the girl is looking for a less bashful lover.

MAKING PRECIOUS STONES.

Chips of the Ruby Turned Into Stones of Commercial Size—Are Pronounced Genuine.

Rudolph Oblatt, a chemist and expert on precious stones, is reported to have invented a process for the fusing of particles of ruby, known as ruby waste, into stones of a commercial size. The stones which he has produced have received considerable attention from local geologists and are pronounced genuine. He selects, says the New York Commercial, from the small, rough, genuine ruby particles whose colors and qualities are practically the same. One chip he places upon the top of a U-shaped platinum tube. He then applies the heat, which is concentrated by a special process and forced upon the ruby with an air pressure of 800 pounds. As the chip is melted he adds other chips until he has built up a genuine ruby whose weight varies from five to ten carats. The operation requires from one to two hours.

After the ruby has been produced a difficult task remains—that of cooling of the stone, which is at a tremendous heat. This is accomplished by a scientific process which prevents cracking. The ruby is sent to the precious-stone cutters, where it passes exactly through the same process as a stone from the Burmah mines.

Cold in the Upper Air.

The sending up of self-registering instruments upon kites at the Blue Hill observatory, near Boston, has shown that a passenger during an excursion into the upper air would need a variety of clothing. If it chanced to be a normal summer day on the ground, with the temperature at 72 degrees F., and the breeze blowing freshly at 20 miles an hour, he would need to take his furs and mittens, for by the time he had reached an elevation of 11,000 feet the thermometer would register nearly 40 degrees lower and the wind would be blowing a hurricane.

Curious Justice.

Justice in the British possessions on the west coast of Africa is peculiar at times. A writer in a London publication tells the story of a couple of officials—Brown and Jones—who one night were cycling home from the club without lights and were pounced upon by a zealous policeman. Summoned before the district commissioner's court, they found themselves the only persons competent to try the case. So Brown sat upon Jones and fined him five shillings, adding a few remarks as to the danger of neglecting a salutary regulation. Then Jones ascended the bench, smarting, and, having addressed Brown in terms that would have fitted a murderer, said that he was determined to put a stop to such pernicious practices and imposed a fine of ten shillings.

According to the government reports nuts are very nourishing food and by no means indigestible, as some suppose. They are highly concentrated and therefore should be eaten with some discretion. The wanton destruction of forests has reduced the supply of nut-bearing trees, and the department of agriculture is doing all it can to encourage repianting.

A dog was playing a piano in a circus in Yorkshire, England, recently, when one of the audience called out "Rats!" The dog immediately vacated his seat and "went for" the rodents. The piano kept on playing.

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Mail trains arrive and depart as follows:

South Bound.	North Bound.
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12:55 p. m.	9:33 a. m.
3:17 p. m.	3:40 p. m.
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GROUSE IS A CLEVER BIRD.

It Evades the Hunter by Tricks That Display Its Intelligence, Even When Wounded.

The grouse has 100 tricks of defense says Outing. It will sometimes lie still until the hunter is within a yard of it, then soar straight upward in his front, towering like a woodcock; again, it will rise 40 yards away, and the sound of its wings is his only notice of its presence. It will cower upon a branch under which he passes, and his cap will not be more than a foot below it as he goes, and though it has seen him approaching, it will remain quiescent in frightful fear until his back is turned. It will flush then, and when he has slewed himself hurriedly around he will catch only a glimpse of a brown, broad wing far away.

Wounded and falling in the open, it will be found—if it is found at all—with the telltale speckles of its breast against the trunk of some brown tree against which its feathers are indistinguishable, and the black ruff about the neck of the male will be laid against the darkest spot of the bark. Often it will double like a fox; often, as man draws near, it will spring noiselessly into some spruce and hide until he passes, dropping then to the ground and continuing its feeding; often, too, it will decline to take wing, though unhurt, and will run fast for a half mile—so fast that the most expert woodsman will be unable to keep pace with it. This it will do only on leafy ground and never when snow would betray its tracks.

X-Rays in Incandescent Gaslight.

M. Blondlot, a member of the French Academy of Sciences, discovered, not long ago, that invisible rays, capable of penetrating solid substances, are given off from the incandescent mantles of the Welsbach light.

Being the "son of one's father" may be a hindrance or a help. It is first necessary for the son of a father to "make good," says the Albany (N. Y.) Argus. Having shown cause—having lived down the handicap and proved the non-existence of silly conceit or stupidity—thereafter the son of his father has much easier sledding than a young man of equal abilities but of obscure parentage. His father's friends will help him; the family name, influence, prestige and traditions will all help him, so that while "not merely the son of his father," he will show, if he has sense, that his road is a great deal easier, straighter and smoother because his father broke the path for him to travel.

Italian Immigrants.

In 30 years 1,391,076 Italians have come to this country. This immigration has a very peculiar character. Until 1890 the percentage of women was less than 15, but now it has increased to 39. This indicates that the immigration has a marked tendency to become permanent.

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