

**TAKES PAPER OFF WALL.**

**Steam Bath For Removing Old Room Decorations.**

A paper hanger estimating on a job which requires the removal of old paper from the walls is always figuring in the dark, for the reason that it makes a great deal of difference whether he has one layer of paper to take off or more. In other words, it is impossible for him to determine whether the work of removal will require the services of a man for half a day or two days.

Steam has been found to be well suited for this work, and by its aid it is said to be possible to remove the paper without regard to the thickness of the paper in a manner quicker and more cleanly than heretofore. The apparatus by which this is done is entirely portable, and a complete plant is shown in the accompanying illustration. It consists mainly of a kettle in which is combined a water holder and



PAPER REMOVER AT WORK.

a gasoline tank and burner for getting up steam. The water compartment holds four gallons, which is more than ample for half a day's work. The steam generated passes through a rubber pipe to a hood, which is held for a short time on the wall to be cleaned. The paper under the hood immediately becomes saturated, and the hood is moved to another spot, and the place just vacated is gone over with the paper hanger's spade, the paper being easily removed. The spade follows the hood, and in an incredibly short time a great deal of old paper is removed.

A few minutes' application of the steam under the hood is sufficient to remove the thickest deposit of paper which one would be likely to find. As high as fifteen coats of wall paper, one on over the other, have been penetrated by the steam and then removed.

With this implement it is possible to calculate almost to a penny the cost of the labor of removing paper. Another advantage is that it is sanitary. The application of the steam is said to remove all germs or vermin of any character whatever. Bugs which are harbored under the paper are killed instantly.

**Luzy Germ in New Orleans.**

Dr. Arnold Pfaff of the national bureau of education, who believes that laziness among school children is caused by a germ, has found specimens of the germ in school children of New Orleans and is now looking for a cure for the disease. The blood of schoolboys which was analyzed by Dr. Pfaff was drawn from their ears. He selected those who seemed chronically disinclined to study. After an analysis he assured the teachers that the boys were not responsible for their condition, but were the victims of a disease. On this hypothesis the boys were allowed to get off easily on their final examination. Dr. Pfaff had all the boys under treatment and assured their teachers that they would be cured before the next term began.

**Successful Smoke Consumer.**

A German firm has patented a system for consuming smoke and preventing the wasting of coal which has been tested at the experimental station of the Bavarian "Revisions Verein" in Munich, where it was found that 72 per cent of the combustible value of soft coal from the Saar district can be utilized when this smoke consumer is used. The director of a rope and cable factory at Frankfurt, Germany, where the system has been in use for some time, reports a minimal development of smoke only when fires are started or replenished; at other times no smoke is visible and the saving of coal amounts to more than 20 per cent.

**Meningitis Caused by Inhalation.**

Professor Wetenhoffer, who was sent by the German government to Silesia to study the genesis of cerebro spinal meningitis and the best method of treating it, comes to the conclusion that it is undoubtedly one of the diseases caused by inhalation, which first attacks the tonsils and is conveyed thus through glands to the brain. It only attacks where the glands have become weakened. In all the cases examined by him the tonsils show hypertrophy and are increased in size by inflammation. The professor is of the opinion that the root of the disease is to be found in the insanitary conditions of dwellings.

**For a National Cooking School.**

Congress is to be asked at its next session to make legal provision for a national school on food, cooking and service, the movement in this direction taking its start in Chicago at the meeting of the International Stewards' association, at the Great Northern hotel. More than 2,000 chefs, stewards, restaurant men and hotelkeepers are interested in the movement, which has for its object pure food for the public, natural methods in cooking and sanitary ways of serving food.

**SUSPENSION BRIDGES.**

**Used by Man Hundreds of Years Ago For Crossing Streams.**

The towline is doubtless the earliest, as it is still the simplest, application of a rope for the removal of material. Hitched to a floating log, the genesis of all water craft, canoe or sledge, it was used before history—learned the art of writing or mankind the art of reading.

The towline was combined with the suspension cable as a means of crossing streams in the mountains of Hindustan at a very remote period. The suspension cable, often several hundred feet in length, was made of twisted fibers or slender stalks of climbing vines. This was solidly secured to large trees or masses of rocks on the banks of the chasms to be crossed. On this cable a wooden block, grooved underneath, was placed, suspended from which was a small rude platform or at times a simple loop of rope for the passenger or baggage. The wooden block, with its attached load, was pulled across the chasm in either direction by a towline attached to the block. This rude contrivance is the genesis of the most refined aerial ropeways of the present day and of the suspension bridge also, which is, of a crude form, of very great antiquity.

When the Spaniards first visited Peru they found suspension bridges which could be traversed by men and burdened animals. Some of these bridges were of over 200 feet span and were formed of half a dozen cables of twisted osiers stretched from bank to bank and passed over wooden supports. These cables were bound together by smaller ropes and were covered with a layer of bamboo, which formed a support for the roadway.

**THE SOMALI.**

**They Are Habitually Idle and Always Merry—Their Peculiar Headdress.**

By nature Somali are alternately docile and savage, nearly always merry and habitually idle. Even in busy Aden they work as little as possible and then do no manual work, for their inherent pride forbids that. Cab driving, boat manning and grooming are the general crafts of the Aden Somali. In the interior of his own country his principal occupations are plundering and cattle lifting, at which latter pursuit he is said to be unparalleled in skill. In religion they are all Mohammedans.

The great peculiarity of the Somali is, however, his hair, for, contrary to the custom of most races professing Islam, he does not shave his head, but allows his locks to run wild. Nor is his hair the wool of the negro, for instead of growing in one dense cluster all over his head, as is the case of the Galla, for instance, it tangles into long cords, not unlike those of a poodle, which, parted over his forehead, hangs down on both cheeks, often projecting almost as far as his shoulders.

Not content with the show of hair that nature and neglect insure him, he plasters his head with a peculiar light clay, which has the effect of bleaching its blackness to a light reddish hue, and a Somali in a new tobe, as their winding sheet of a garment is called, and a freshly clayed head is the very acme of dandyism.—Blackwood's Magazine.

**An English Mantrap.**

A mantrap has been found in Alford, Lincolnshire, England, which shows the barbarity of a century or so ago. It is probably the largest mantrap in existence. It is seventy-six inches in length, and its jaws, with teeth protruding two inches, will open fully two feet two inches by eighteen inches. Old time landlords who chose to insist upon their rights in their entirety, as they often did, were at liberty to plant these barbarous engines about in the undergrowth of their inclosed land for the benefit of any trespasser or possible poacher who might chance to set foot near them. Their use was abolished by law in 1827.

**Not a Lottery.**

Deacon De Good—"It won't do; it won't do. We must not have games of chance at our church fairs."

Mrs. De Good—"But this is not a game of chance."

"You propose to sell tickets and give prizes."

"Oh, no; you are mistaken. We shall sell the tickets, of course, but we can't give prizes, you know, because we haven't any to give. There is no chance about it."—New York Weekly.

**Heavy Wedding Rings.**

There are some heavy old wedding rings at Ark Braddan, in the Isle of Man, such as might be handy when the fustled bridegroom loses the ring. Leaning against the north wall are some very ancient rings of stone, through which, in days of long ago, before the jewelers' windows glistened with wedding rings at all prices, the bride and bridegroom joined hands, it is said, and were wedded.

**For Her Own Protection.**

"Yes, madam," said the salesman, "this is the most exquisite dinner set we ever handled. The price is \$150."

"I'll take it," said Mrs. Richley, "if you'll agree to mark it 'imitation; price, \$6.90.'"

"Of course, but—that's rather an odd request."

"Yes, but I want to deceive our servant girl."—Philadelphia Press.

Perfection can only be attained in the physical by allowing Nature to appropriate and not dissipate her own resources. Cathartics gripe, weaken, dissipate, while DeWitt's Little Early Risers simply expel all putrid matter and bile, thus allowing the liver to assume normal activity. Good for the complexion. Sold by J. R. Ledbetter, Hood Bros., Benson Drug Co.

**BLUFFED BY BUTLER.**

**Made General Bingham Believe He Had Booth's Diary.**

General John A. Bingham was a member of the military tribunal that tried Mrs. Surratt and the Lincoln assassination conspirators.

After the trial in the subsequent debates in the house General B. F. Butler frequently charged that the commission had arrived at an unjust verdict and had convicted an innocent woman. In a memorable debate he boldly proclaimed that if the contents of a diary which had been found on the dead body of J. Wilkes Booth were ever made public it would disclose the fact that it contained the proof of Mrs. Surratt's innocence, which proof had been infamously suppressed by the commission. When General Bingham made a movement as though he would repeat such an accusation, Butler dramatically drew a memorandum book from his breast pocket and held it aloft, but did not utter a word. Bingham naturally supposed that Butler had a copy of a diary such as he had spoken of. As a matter of fact the book contained nothing but blank leaves. General Butler was just bluffing.

The diary was in possession of Secretary Stanton, but President Johnson finally demanded it. It was an interesting book, but it threw no light upon the great conspiracy. Johnson's private secretary was W. W. Warden, who was the correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, and besides was in the employ of the New York Tribune bureau to supply it with all the information he consistently could. To him Andrew Johnson intimated that he would not be averse to the publication of Booth's diary and permitted him to make a copy of it.

Warden took it after midnight to James Rankin Young, the Washington correspondent of the Tribune, and the next morning the Tribune and the Baltimore Sun had a big beat. Sam Bowles of the Springfield Republican reproached his correspondent for failing to get a copy.

"Well," said the correspondent, "I am not like Jim Young. I have a home to go to, and don't have to prowl around till daylight." Nobody enjoyed this report as much as James Rankin Young.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS.**

No one likes a man who is everlastingly saying "Beg pardon."

The man who talks too much, as a rule, does not talk enough at the right time.

Two heads are better than one, but one of them nearly always does the business.

Most men have the same experiences. The only difference is that some men talk and some don't.

When you are working very hard take some comfort in this: Those who are idle don't seem to be having a very good time.

We suppose newspapers do annoy their readers a good deal. Still newspaper men, as a rule, do the best they can. It is an annoying business.

The word "homemaker" is working overtime when applied to any rich woman who keeps several servants. The real "homemakers" work overtime by not keeping any.—Acheson Globe.

**The Uncomfortable Howdah.**

The elephant's howdah is that bed of Procrustes in which one can neither sit nor stand with any approach to reasonable ease, and in which a recumbent attitude is impossible. Its advantages are, first, that, standing in it, a man can shoot on every side of him; second, that it is convenient for the carriage of the occupant's paraphernalia, his guns on racks on either side, his ammunition in a trough in front, his other requisites in leather pockets here and there on the sides of the machine or, as to that, be blanket on his seat, and, third, that in the hinder compartment an attendant can sit or stand to hold that monstrous umbrella over his head or, when quick loading is required, take from his hand the gun just fired and recharge it. Those are advantages; otherwise the howdah is an abomination.—Blackwood's Magazine.

**Edwin Booth as a Smoker.**

Without a cigar Edwin Booth, the tragedian, was scarcely ever seen. Even while engaged on his professional duties his beloved weed was present in the wings, ready to be snatched from his dresser's hand for enjoyment during the sometimes exceedingly brief intervals between the exits and entrances. Twenty-five cigars a day were at one time his usual allowance, an allowance, however, not infrequently exceeded.

**The Nation's Timekeeper.**

Americans get their correct time from a little room in the naval observatory, located on Georgetown heights, in the suburbs of Washington. The observatory was originally intended to detect errors in ship chronometers and to regulate them properly. This work constitutes one department at the institution, but perhaps its most important function is that of being the nation's timekeeper.

For coughs and colds no remedy is equal to Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar. It is different from all others—better, because it expels all cold from the system by acting as a cathartic on the bowels. Affords immediate relief in Croup, Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, etc. Children love it. Sold by J. R. Ledbetter, Hood Bros., Benson Drug Co.

The Junior Order increased its membership in North Carolina by a thousand last year. Seventeen new councils were instituted.

**NEWSPAPERS IN SCOTLAND.**

**It Is Sometimes a Very Difficult Matter to Buy One.**

The American custom of glancing over the morning paper as you sip your coffee at breakfast goes with you abroad, but it is no simple thing always to get a morning paper. On coming down to breakfast the first morning in Edinburgh, I found there was no paper to be had, but, thinking it was a simple matter to buy a Scotsman on the street, I went out on Princes street and walked three blocks without the sight of a newsboy. "Where can I get the morning Scotsman?" I said to a policeman. He thought for a moment. "Well," said he, "there's a great news shop about three blocks up, and ye might find one there." I followed the direction and found myself in a large news distributing depot. There were stacks and stacks of newspapers and magazines all about. "I would like the morning Scotsman," I said. The man in charge looked bewildered. "I'll see," he said, "if we have one." He fumbled around a little while, and then went back into the rear of the store for fully three minutes. At last he came back, saying, "We haven't one." "Well," I said, "this is about the strangest thing I have seen. Can't get the morning paper here in Edinburgh?" "No," he said, "ye'll find it diffeicult." "What do they publish papers here for, anyway?" I rejoined. "Do they want to keep them out of the hands of the people? Don't they want people to read them? Do they print papers to keep the news secret?" He bridled at once. "I want ye to understand," he said, "that the Scotsman is not published for the general public; it's published for the subscribers."

The Scotsman, you know, probably ranks next to the London Times. "Well," I said, "this is all new to me. In my country publishers want to have their newspapers read. They want to sell all they can. They don't try to keep them out of the hands of the general public." Can you tell me where I can get one, for I want to see the morning paper, though perhaps I shall have to get a letter of introduction to buy one? "Well," he answered, "there's a woman about a hundred yards from here that takes the Scotsman. She might sell you hers." I took the direction carefully, found the woman who took the Scotsman—she kept a thread and needle store—I bought her copy, and reached the hotel a half hour late for breakfast, which I had ordered before going out on the difficult quest of buying a morning paper in the great city of Edinburgh.—Boston Watchman.

**BUSINESS SENSE.**

All things come to him who doesn't wait, but hustles.

Too many clerks and not enough salesmen—that is the cry.

The sheriff is always making googoo eyes at the store that doesn't advertise.

Resolve not to worry so much about your competitor. Take the lead for a change.

Many succeed because they advertise correctly and ever so many fail because they don't.

If you never do more than you are paid for, you will never get paid for more than you do.

If you have no confidence in your employer, for heaven's sake be honest and go in and tell him so. Draw your pay and quit.—Brains.

**First Use of Potatoes in Ireland.**

In the garden adjoining his house at Youghal, Raleigh planted the first potatoes ever grown in Ireland. The vegetable was brought to him from the little colony which he endeavored to establish in Virginia. The colonists started in April, 1585, and Thomas Harriot, one of their number, wrote a description of the country in 1587. He describes a root which must have been the potato:

"Openank are a kind of roots of round form, some of the bignesse of walnuts, some farre greater, which are found in moist & marshy grounds growing many together one by another in ropes, as though they were fastened with a string. Being boiled they are very good meat."

The Spaniards first brought potatoes to Europe, but Raleigh was undoubtedly the first to introduce the plant into Ireland.

**Rossini and Meyerbeer.**

Rossini, walking one day on the boulevard with the musician Braga, was greeted by Meyerbeer, who anxiously inquired after the health of his dear Rossini. "Bad, very bad," answered the latter. "A headache, a side ache and a leg I can scarcely move." After a few moments' conversation Meyerbeer passed on, and Braga asked the great composer how it was he had suddenly become so unwell. Smilingly Rossini reassured his friend: "Oh, I couldn't be better. I only wanted to please Meyerbeer. He would be so glad to see me smash up."

**Ready to Reconsider.**

"No," said she, "I'm not afraid I do not love you enough to become your wife, but I shall always be your friend and sincerely wish for your happiness."

"Oh, that's all right," he rejoined, "I have made up my mind to —"

"Please don't do anything rash," she interrupted.

"I'll not," he continued, "I'm going to propose to Miss Plump-leigh to-morrow."

"Oh, horrors!" she exclaimed. "Please give me another day to consider, dear."—Chicago News

Evaporated peaches 10c per lb. The Acme Grocery Co.

**BIGGEST FARM IN THE WORLD.**

**Owned by Man Who Offered to Pay Mexican National Debt.**

In a moment of vinous enthusiasm Daniel Webster put his hand in his pocket, asked how much the national debt was, and offered to pay it himself. A Mexican farmer, Don Luis Terrazas, a great friend of President Diaz, once offered to assume the Mexican national debt; and it would have kept him awake nights if his offer had been accepted. Don Luis has what you might call a tidy little farm at Chihuahua; about eight million acres. Takes the Mexican Central trains more than half a day to cross it. Whew! Don Luis is thought to own more than a million cattle, but a bagatelle of a hundred thousand or so more or less never bothers him. His stable consists of some 100,000 horses; his sheepfold of 700,000 sheep. From 200,000 to 300,000 calves are branded with his brand every spring. More than a thousand cowboys and so on keep his cattle on a thousand hills. At his slaughter and packing house near Chihuahua City, 250,000 cattle, as many sheep, and hogs innumerable are killed; and away they go in his own refrigerator cars. Some 40,000 persons dwell on his estate and are ruled by this Arabian Nights farmer, who lives in a two-million (silver) dollar castle and is a swell and nabob such as these United States know not.—Everybody's Magazine.

**Longing and Labor.**

If wishing were being, we'd all be beautiful. Healthy and wealthy, wise and pious. If wishing were having—what pleasure untold; With a heartful of joy and purseful of gold!

But wishes, alas, are but empty bubbles, And the longing heart may teem with troubles! So idle wishing is vain, forsooth, As the endless search for the fountain of youth.

But work that holds wealth may be had for the taking; Though it may not bring health, 'tis a balm for heartaching. And study makes wise, and love, people say, Gives the beauty that's truest, which lasts for aye.

Then away with longing, and, ho, for labor! And, ho, for love, each one for his neighbor! For a life of labor and study and love Is the life that fits for the joy above.

—Emma C. Dowd.

**Origin of Steam Whistles.**

As the train approached a crossing the engineer lifted a tin horn from the seat beside him and blew a long, resonant blast that was scarcely audible above the rattle of the cars. A farmer on his way to market failed to hear the warning blast. The next instant he, with his cart, a hundred pounds of butter and a thousand fresh eggs, was mixed up in a monster omelette by the side of the track. The farmer was unhurt, but very angry. He brought suit and recovered full damages from the railroad. This happened in England in 1833.

The president of the road sent for George Stephenson and said angrily: "Our engineers can't blow their horns loud enough to clear the tracks ahead. You have made your steam do so much, why don't you make it blow a good loud horn for us?"

Stephenson pondered. An idea came to him. He visited a musical instrument maker and had constructed a horn that gave a horrible screech when blown by steam. From this horn the locomotive whistle of today descends.

**Characteristics of European Cities.**

An observer, says a correspondent of the Leeds Mercury, has drawn up a little table in which he arranges the principal cities and towns of the world according to a classification which has at least the merit of novelty. Each town is considered from the point of view of the trades which are carried on in it. According to these statistics, in Paris there reside the most tailors, upholsterers, bonnet makers, barbers, advocates and men of letters, men or women. In London we find the most cab and carriage proprietors, engineers, printers, booksellers and—though most people would scarcely credit it—cooks. In Amsterdam we find the most dealers and money lenders. Brussels is celebrated as the place where the largest number of boys smoke. It is in Naples that we find the most street porters. We see the largest number of beer drinkers in Berlin. Florence possesses the most flower sellers, and Lisbon is celebrated as containing the most balliffs.

**Locating Avignon.**

Sir Frederick Pollock used to tell this story of the dilettante society: The qualification for membership was that the candidate had been met in Italy by the proposing member, but once it happened that a candidate was elected who had been met at Avignon. The error was discovered and the society proceeded to vote "that, in the opinion of the society, Avignon is in Italy." This, however, seemed a ticklish precedent to establish, so they gravely laid their heads together and solemnly resolved in a further motion "that, in the opinion of this society, Avignon is the only town in France which is in Italy."

**ERA OF THE BAD GIRL.**

**Nearly 600 Delinquent Girls Last Year Before Bar in Chicago.**

The bad boy is disappearing; the bold, bad girl is taking his place, according to William O. LaMonte, for five years clerk of the juvenile court, who spoke before the Social Economics Club yesterday.

"During the first six months following the establishment of the juvenile court," declared the speaker, "only six delinquent girls were brought before the bar. The year before last the number increased to 384, and it is growing constantly. I believe when the totals are made for last year the number will be found to reach nearly 600. You women—we all—ought to work day and night to create a public sentiment which will cause the extinction of those infamous dance halls in which nearly all those girls started on their downward career.

"At the State refuge at Geneva every room is full; in nearly every room there are cots to accommodate the overflow. It is impossible to build cottages fast enough to meet the increase."—Chicago Dispatch.

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