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It is said there is a single county in Iowa that raises more wheat each year than all the New England States.

An English authority computes that in the last three or four years more pigs have died in the United States from cholera than have been raised in the British Isles.

A Swiss engineer named Ritter wants the City of Paris to adopt his plan for obtaining an "inexhaustible" supply of water from the Lake of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 312 miles away. The cost is given at about \$60,000,000.

The new metal turkeys with which France has been experimenting have proved unable to stand the new projectiles hurled by the modern high explosives. This, says the London Times, condemns all iron-plated shells without giving them a chance of showing what they could do.

A Florida rind is one of the phenomena commented on by a Southern exchange. It is said to weigh four pounds, and to measure six inches in diameter at the largest point. The body proper measures thirteen inches, and the top root is thirteen more, making its total length twenty-six inches.

The National Cemetery at Fredericksburg, Va., is the third in size, there being over 15,000 soldiers buried there, drawn from the neighboring battlefields of Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania and the Wilderness. The cemetery itself lies on the battlefield of Fredericksburg and in the midst of most solemn associations, yet only two Decoration Day services have ever been held there. These were in 1886 and 1884.

It is said that the primrose was not Lord Beaconsfield's favorite flower at all, although the English political society that perpetuates his Tory principles takes its name therefrom. The story that it was from the fact that the Queen sent to grace his coffin a wreath of these flowers, with a card bearing the inscription, in her own handwriting, "His favorite flower." But she meant the favorite of her own husband, Prince Albert, and not of Beaconsfield.

Some idea of the extent of the use of natural gas in Pittsburg, Penn., and vicinity, and the profits of the business may be had from the report of one of the companies just presented. It states that on February 29 the last of the treasury stock had been sold, so that the entire capital stock of \$7,700,000 is now subject to dividends. Rent, operating expenses, interest and taxes for the year amounted to \$4,95 per cent of the earnings, or \$1,709,702.74. Monthly dividends of one per cent, amounting to \$42,626.50 have been paid. The number of house connections made from the lines of the company during the year 1887 was 4712. A year ago the company contracted to operate the lines of two other companies. The united business of these three companies amounted on March 1 to the supplying of 672 manufacturers and 11,955 dwelling houses, and, through other distributing companies, the supplying of 113 factories and 10,961 dwellings, or a total of 23,707 contracts.

"The spiritualists of France," says the New York Commercial Advertiser, "have lately been celebrating the anniversary of the death of their great possessor, Allan Kardec, who was removed an almost inappreciable distance from this world in 1869. It will probably surprise most people to learn that about a hundred spiritualist journals are now published, of which M. Birman, who spoke at the Kardec celebration, gave some account, and that, according to his estimate, there are about two million spiritualists in the world. What seems unaccountable is that more of their journals are published in Spanish than in any other language. One is printed in Hindostanee, fourteen in France, one is issued at Geneva, four in Belgium and one in Buenos Ayres. The Spiritist, the great German spiritualist organ, is published at Leipzig, and is said to be 'purely scientific,' being problematically so according to the science of the late ill-fated Dr. Zöllner, who, if we remember rightly, was a professor at the University of Leipzig, went mad over spiritualism, and died in a lunatic asylum."

The New York Sun's recent correspondent at Stuttgart, Germany, sends an extraordinary account of precocious depravity. A boy of eight, living in the little village of Oberdorf, became the possessor of a new pair of boots which excited the envy of a comrade of twelve. This premature highwayman led the little proprietor of the boots into a deserted quarry, crushed in his skull with stones, took off the coveted boots, put them on, walked home, and supped with a good appetite. The boy was found, and the boots, of course, revealed the murderer. The boy's monstrous depravity appears to be hereditary, as his father had just finished a term in prison for homicide. To set off this tale of youthful wickedness, here is one of even more precocious heroism. An inquest at Bristol, England, on the body of Frank Jenkins, aged six months, moved the jury to a vote of admiration for Johnny Jenkins, left to play with a lighted lantern, set himself on fire, Johnny, who was in charge, took the baby out of his cradle and dragged him down stairs, shouting for assistance. A neighbor who came and put the flames out was too late to save the child.

THE BEAUTIFUL

Beautiful faces are those that wear— It matters little if dark or fair— Whole souls honest pruned there. Beautiful eyes are those that show, Like crystal pans where earth lies glow, Beautiful thoughts that burn below. Beautiful lips are those whose words Leap from the heart like songs of birds, Yet whose utterance prudences guards. Beautiful hands are those that do Work that is earnest and brave and true, Moment by moment the long day through. Beautiful feet are those that go On kindly ministry and fro, Down to the lowliest ways, if God will it so. Beautiful shoulders are those that bear Ceasless burden of kindly care. With patience, grace and daily prayer. Beautiful lives are those that bless— Silver rivers of happiness, Whose hidden fountains but few may guess. Beautiful twilight as set sun, Beautiful goal with race well done, Beautiful rest with work well done. Beautiful grave where grasses creep, Where brown leaves fall, where drifts sleep Over worn-out hands—oh, beautiful sleep!

THE HEIRESS.

She was known as Aunt Lucinda by all Boynton, because that was Phoebe Williams called her, and Boynton liked to do what Phoebe Williams did. When Aunt Lucinda and Phoebe had bought Squire Brand's house, and come to live in Boynton, the general verdict was that Aunt Lucinda's niece was an uncommonly pretty girl. A few weeks of acquaintance had settled the fact that she was, moreover, a remarkably nice girl; and Boynton had never had occasion to alter his decision. What, alas! had been a powerful consideration with a certain portion of the town was the well-grounded belief that Phoebe was Aunt Lucinda's heiress. There was no proof of it, since nobody had mustered the courage to ask them; but it was a serious matter.

John Wells was standing in the middle of the snow-piled flower-bed, in his best attire. Phoebe paused at his side. "You look like patience on a monument," she declared, with a half hysterical laugh. "I don't feel unlike it," said John, joining her with a long stride. "Why?" Phoebe demanded, calming down under the friendly glance of John's eyes. "I don't feel unlike it," said John, joining her with a long stride. "Why?" Phoebe demanded, calming down under the friendly glance of John's eyes.

Three days afterward, Boynton was shocked and sympathetically grieved by the news of Aunt Lucinda's very sudden death. Shocked and grieved, but—alas, for human nature!—far beyond these emotions in depth and intensity was the astounded horror which gripped the second and complimentary piece of intelligence. Aunt Lucinda had not possessed a fortune, and as a natural consequence, Phoebe Williams was not an heiress! The report was well founded. Phoebe herself had told Judge Campbell so with her own lips, when he had called to assist in the funeral arrangements, and had put a delicately-framed inquiry on the subject.

nobody could make you happier. I may hope for a speedy answer, may I not? I may call for it soon?" "Yes," Phoebe responded, sweetly. "I shall be glad to see you." He did look very handsome standing there, tall and manly, under the stars. Phoebe bestowed a faint smile upon him as she slipped limply away. Eben Luke stood leaning against the fence. He interposed himself in Phoebe's path, with a calm smile of proprietorship, and Phoebe stopped, not quite unwillingly.

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DO FIGURES LIE?

Two women had 30 chickens each, they took to market. They agreed to divide equally the proceeds of their sale. The one who had 30 chickens for a dollar, getting for the 30 chickens \$15. The other sold hers 3 for a dollar, getting for her 30 chickens \$10. The merchant called on to divide the money said: "You sold your 30 chickens for a dollar, and you sold your 30 chickens for a dollar. That makes 60 chickens at a rate of 5 for two dollars. Well, 5 into 60 goes twelve times—twelve times is 36. That makes 36 dollars your chickens have brought." But, as shown above, the women actually had \$25 in pocket. And yet the merchant's figures were right!

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BUDGET OF FUN.

Humorous sketches from various sources. Peculiar People—One Was Enough—A Great Commercial Truth—Betrayed the Old Man—Short in Experience.

There was a young doctor of Skye, Whose patients seemed destined to die; But he left them one day, To go fishing, they say, And they all got well, just for a guy.

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WHERE COLORS COME FROM.

A well-known artist gave me some curious information the other day regarding the sources from which the color one finds in a paint box are derived. In the quarter of the globe in which I was engaged in my work, vegetable and mineral—employed in their manufacture. From the cochineal insects are obtained the gorgeous carmine, as well as the crimson and purple lakes. Sepia is the inkly fluid discharged by the cuttlefish to render when attacked.

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WORDS OF WISDOM.

Work, for time is flying. The only disadvantage of an honest heart is credit. A man may say too much even upon the best subjects. Labor rids us of three evils—tediousness, vice, and poverty. You should forgive many things in others, but nothing in yourself. The one prudence in life is concentration; the one evil is dissipation. When a thing is well meant we should always take it that way, if we possibly can. Men are won, not so much by being blamed as by being encompassed with love. Silence never shows itself to so great an advantage as when it is the reply to calumny and defamation. The art of exalting lowliness and giving greatness to little things is one of the noblest functions of man. Forbearance and self-control smooth the road of life, and open many ways which would otherwise remain closed. As riches and favor favor close a man, we discover him to be a fool; but nobody could find it out in his prosperity. When we desire or solicit anything, our minds run wholly on the good side or circumstances of it; when it is obtained, only on the bad ones. Have often seen signs for opportunities of usefulness, whilst we neglect the openings in little things which would lead to the accomplishment of most important successions. Opium occupies the first place in the foreign trade of Persia. It insures the largest and most direct cash return to the producer, and, as a natural consequence, the area under cultivation is increasing greatly. The two principal markets are Hong Kong and London. The quantity of morphia contained in Persian opium is 11% to 12 per cent, while in other opium producing countries it rarely exceeds 10 per cent. Peppermint, or white poppy, of which opium is the inspissated juice, is grown principally in and about Ispahan, and Shiraz, and the plants are cut and pressed, and the juice is separated from the residue. The quantity of opium obtained after each successive incision being proportionately inferior quality. Next, the plants themselves are cut and pressed, and the juice is separated from the residue. The quantity of opium obtained after each successive incision being proportionately inferior quality. Next, the plants themselves are cut and pressed, and the juice is separated from the residue.

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A SPRAY OF APPLE BLOSSOMS.

They lay on the broad, low window ledge, Where the hand of a little child Had placed them—dewy, and fresh, and sweet— And the grandmother had smiled, And softly stroked with her wrinkled hand The curly, tumbled hair, best head. And then the nodding bright were still; Unrolled the snowy thread. For, borne on the breath of the apple bloom, She lived in the golden past; She saw an orchard where blossom snows Were falling thick and fast— From upon the fair, best head. Of a maiden in girlhood's prime, Reading a letter, worn and creased From folding many a time. "When the apple blossoms are here once more, I shall come back, Alas!— Shall come for my answer." The scent of a wind. Which rattled the patient's hair, Brought to her ears a well-known voice, "She turned in a startled way, 'I have come for my answer; what is it, dear?'" What could she do but lay Her hands in the eager, outstretched ones! Ah! life is sweet in June, When hearts keep time to the liquid flow Of life, and light, and true; And when, in her snowy, floating veil, She stood on her bridal morn, She would have had the tinted apple bloom Her white robe to adorn. Through the open window the western wind Blew soft on the wrinkled face, When a smile shone, sweet as that could be Which had lit her girlhood's grace. A little voice called her transient thoughts: "Grandmother, how do you feel?" If you knew that the clock has been striking six, And he wants you to pour his tea?" —Good Housekeeping.

PITH AND POINT.

A plane talker—The carpenter. Diamond dust—Money paid for a solitaire. The way of the world—Twelve ounces to the pound. Artists ought to know how to draw the color line. Cats are the poets of the lower animals. They alone cultivate the mews.—Pittsburg Chronicle. The pale moon of still life should naturally look for his next subjects among the moon-shiners.—Boston Post. When a burglar breaks into a house he generally steals up stairs, and everything else he can lay his hands on.—LIFE. New York has a baseball club called "The Girls." It is doubtless referred to as the Feminine.—Narrative Herald. How astonished some dead men would be if they could get out of their graves long enough to read their epitaphs.—LIFE. The judges are now nearly as well paid as the baseball players, but the game is not nearly so interesting.—Toronto News. A kid goes further than a blow.—Said King, the little wizard. "It may perhaps," was John's reply, "on the score of civilization."—Washington Critic. Fair friends, "And do you ever soak your brushes, Mr. Palette?" Artist—"No, I'm happy to say I never was, and I'm so low as that."—Harvard Lampoon. The cooking-school lectures are closed until fall to allow the pupils to experiment on the new compounds and give the proprietors a chance to recover.—Boston Globe. Judges should certainly wear robes. It doesn't seem right to be sent up for ten years by a man who wears a three-button cutaway coat and a speckled trout waistcoat.—LIFE. If, with the poets, we believe That Adam sinned to be with Eve, They're sure of sacrificial blood, Eve's blood is sure to be repaid, For ever out the earth since then, Their kindly soulders.—Boston Courier. "Speaking about clubs," remarked Mr. Cumso, who had just been elected a member of the Manhattan, "they are the signs of civilization. You never hear of savages forming themselves into societies for mutual improvement and pleasure." "Oh, nonsense!" replied Mrs. Cumso, "I've seen the signs of civilization ever since I could walk."—Tit-Bits.

THE COLORED REPUBLIC.

Mr. Charles H. J. Taylor, ex-Minister to the Republic of Liberia, puts the value of the public property in that country at \$1,000,000, or \$1 per capita. The "nation" has a bonded indebtedness of \$2,000,000, and over \$7,000,000 have been sent to it by benevolent persons in this country and England. There are about as many Cabinet Ministers as in the United States. There are only four post offices in the country. The navy consists of two gunboats, presented by the English Government, which are rotting on the sand. Some time ago the President of the United States recommended to Congress the giving to the infant republic of Liberia, which she had refused to accept, a small crew and provisions for ten years were provided. The army consists of one regiment, numbering 417 men, of whom 299 are officers and 118 are privates. The President's body guard numbers 19, of whom 17 are officers. In some of the counties there are not enough citizens to hold the offices, but in the others there are just about enough to go round. Class distinctions prevail to the extent they did in the Southern States during slavery times. The citizens dominion over the colored population is not as cruel as they carry them on their backs to school and do all kinds of work for them. Candidates for admission to the bar are required to read the first chapter of John's gospel and to spell the columns of words in Webster's spelling book as far as "epithet" and "hyphen." The laws passed by the legislature of Liberia are generally last two weeks, and the laws enacted fill about three pages.—Atlantic.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Consular reports show that the average wages of women employed as cloak and dress-makers in the large cities of Germany amount to from \$1 to \$2 a week, while makers of underclothing earn about \$1.50 to \$2.50 a week, but work harder. Few of these workers think of leaving what is known in this country as "square meal" oftener than once a week on Sunday.

ONE OF THE PLANS BY WHICH THE INDIANS HUNTED THE BUFFALO.

One of the plans by which the Indians hunted the buffalo was by stampeding a herd and driving them over a steep precipice to sure death below. Miss Glass has been married to Mr. Brittle in Pittsburg.