

The new Japanese Parliament refuses to allow ladies to listen to the debates.

Illinois and Wisconsin have counties in which the English language is never used.

It is stated that although the college men in the United States are only a fraction of one per cent. of the voters, yet they hold more than fifty per cent. of the highest offices.

There seems to be a strange fatality associated with the office of Secretary of the Treasury. Within a few years three Secretaries have died during their terms—Polger, Manning and Windom.

Statistics on the foreign commerce of the Port of New York for the past year show that over one-half of the foreign commerce and nearly two-thirds of the imports of the United States passed through that port.

According to the St. Louis Republic, there are 24,000 fewer people living on the farms and in the villages of Massachusetts now than there were in 1860, but there are 1,032,000 more people in the cities than there were at the same date.

The Boston Transcript chronicles the fact that the picturesque and extraordinary phases of life characterized the old Japan are rapidly passing away as Western civilization is obtaining a greater and greater foothold in the country.

The United States of old supplied the world with mackerel. To-day, laments the New Orleans Times-Democrat, it does not catch enough for home use, and the greater portion of the mackerel it consumes are imported, the country paying out over \$10,000,000 a year for foreign fish.

Says the Baltimore Herald: Hamp, one of the Indian chiefs who recently visited Washington, is as straight as an arrow and a strikingly handsome savage. Little Wound was never wounded in his life, and Young-Man-A-Fraid-of-His-Horse is the most daring rider of all the Sioux tribes. You can't trust even a redskin's name.

The Detroit Free Press protests that the haughty pride of a haughty Indian chief is all bosh. "From old Red Cloud down to the lowest sub-chief," scoffs the Michigan humorist, "they will beg, borrow and steal, and a plug of tobacco thrown into the mud will result in a scramble like dogs after a bone. They brag and boast, but have no real pride."

The Chicago Herald estimates that the recent Indian campaign will cost the people of the United States not less than \$2,000,000. Of this nearly \$1,000,000 was spent on transportation of troops and supplies; \$187,702 for extra clothing and garrison equipment for a winter campaign, \$70,000 for horses broken down and \$87,000 for difference in price of supplies purchased for troops in the field and the price at the post where the troops were drawn.

A census bulletin just issued shows not only the radical changes that have taken place in the class of vessels used for transportation on the great lakes, but the increase in the tonnage and valuation during a brief period of five years. In 1886 the net tonnage was 629,652; in 1890 it had reached 826,360, an increase of 191,708 tons. The estimated value of these vessels in 1885 was \$30,597,450, and in 1890 the aggregate valuation was \$88,128,500, an increase compared with 1885 of \$57,531,050. The figures presented also show that sailing vessels are fast giving place to vessels propelled by steam.

By the classification of States made by the Census Bureau, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas form the "Northern Central Division," while Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California form the "Western Division," the others being the "North Atlantic and Southern Central." This recognizes no Eastern States, notes the Boston Transcript, but it is not improper to apply that term to all those east of the Missouri River, for the centre of the United States from east to west between New York and San Francisco is west of the Missouri.

The former customers of a Berlin (Germany) restaurant will have the sympathy of epicures everywhere. Mine host has but recently failed, and the settlement of his affairs has brought to light a very peculiar bit of trickery. Venison was always to be had at his place, and it must have been a popular dish, as venison is necessarily scarce and expensive in Berlin. One of the restaurant's creditors is a dealer in horse-flesh, and that gentleman has brought in a large bill. Inquiry develops the fact that the venison of the establishment was nothing else than this same horseflesh. The revelation is a cruel one and seems almost unnecessary. When a man is eating horseflesh and supposes that he is eating venison he is all right. He is, practically, eating venison. And it is a misfortune and a loss, financially and otherwise, if he is ever enlightened on the subject.

A LULLABY.

Tiny rays of golden light
Through the half-closed shutters stream,
Slender as the moon's first beam.
Hearts are gladdened by the glow
Shed upon the winter air,
And a voice that's soft and low
Steals from out the casement there.
Soft and low a mother sings
To the baby of her breast;
While the tender music brings
Thoughts of loving hearts at rest.
Years fly back; I look again
Into two eyes sweet and deep;
Hears a mother's low refrain—
"Sleep, my little baby, sleep."
Passing at the cottage gate,
In the stream of golden light,
For a little time I wait—
Years have lived again that night.
Days I thought had passed away,
Come back to me with a sigh;
Called up by a home-like ray,
And a mother's lullaby.
Then the mother's sweet song dies;
Through closed blinds I see the bed
Where a sleeping baby lies—
Smiling lips and curly head.
Then a prayer I whisper low—
Bless the little one unknown,
For the sake of long ago—
Then I go my way alone.
—F. S. Mines, in *Godley's Home Journal*.

Molly's Experiment.

BY EMMA A. OPPER.

"Going to—teach school?" Harry Burton echoed, much as if Molly had said she was going to South Africa. "I commence next Monday," said Molly, merely and commenced mending the lace ruffle of a white apron. Harry strove for a like indifference and composure. This was made difficult by the fact of Molly's older sister, Celia, having gone behind Molly for the purpose of communicating her sentiments to the caller, in dumb show. Her sentiments seemed to be humorous despair and resignation. "Where is the school?" Harry inquired, stilly. "Four miles north of here. District number twelve," said Molly. "Have you—positively engaged it?" "For the life of him, Harry could not help gazing. He had been at a dance with Molly the night before, and she had worn pink roses on a pink China silk gown. Not that the Paines were rich; but—good gracious!—neither were they poor. "Certainly!" said Molly. "I applied two weeks ago, and I had a card from the directors yesterday. I am engaged, and am to begin next week." Molly went to the work-table for some thread. Molly was rather petite, with a pretty complexion, a straight nose, and a charmingly modest mouth. She was always as proudly self-possessed as though she was twice eighteen and a half, and to-day she was, to Harry Burton, madly so. "For how long a term?" he queried, the bewildered, exasperated, miserable feeling which had taken possession of him deepening every minute. "Ten weeks," said Molly. Molly threaded her needle. "Until February, then?" Harry murmured. "Shall you—come home for Sunday?" "Probably not often," said Molly. "Are you fixing that thing to wear?" Harry demanded. "This apron. Yes. You can hardly be a school-teacher without an apron," said Molly. She turned her pretty brows lightly at his angry vehemence. The sun struck through the window on her hair, which was a rich red-brown; her lips, softly parted, showed her white teeth; her blue-gray eyes were lowered. Harry Burton, throbbing with his honest love for her, which had been long growing, and which, under such a wretchedly thin him, suffered such a wretchedly thin that he winced. He would not be treated so like a boy—a baby! He would not pretend anything but disgust for the homely dress Molly was wearing. He was to him, chiefly for his tormenting—and unbecoming, if so. "Good-by, then!" he said, coolly rising. "I'm going to Pomeroy to-morrow, and if you leave next week, good-by, if so." He shook hands with Celia warmly, and with Molly distantly, and stalked out. Celia took him to the front door. Celia was pretty, too. "I don't know," she murmured, frowning in sympathy with the irate young man, and smiling because she could not help it, "what is Molly. It's ridiculous. We've talked and argued and implored and here's the result. I was sure she'd back out, and I haven't said a word to anybody about it. I've been positively ashamed to do it. But she's going to do it—she actually is—and now it will have to come out. I don't know what all the girls will say. If she'd ever done anything of the kind before—or if she needed the money—or if—anything! But for Molly to do it!" Celia laughed, helplessly. "But this was unsatisfactory." "Don't you know what her reason is, anyhow?" Harry asked, bluntly. Celia dropped her eyes. Being a woman and a sister, she thought she knew. But how could she say to Harry Burton that she suspected Molly's freak to have a very remote connection with himself? That she was fairly convinced that Molly was hurt, or incensed, or jealous, or—being at sea as to the cause, Celia could not rightly gauge Molly's emotions; but she knew something was wrong. How could she tell him that she deemed Molly's startling act to be a rebellious, indignant attempt to even matters—to show him her indifference—to go away from him altogether, and let him see how severely she could do it. Celia knew not the reason of her pretty sister's dudgeon. How, then, could she impart to her pretty sister's admirer her vague suspicions? It was an admirer only—not a fiancé. It would be manifestly improper. Celia remained silent. "Well, good-by!" said Molly's admirer. His tone was funeral; so was his expression. He drifted down the path as though it made no difference where he went to. He divined that Celia was

WORDS OF WISDOM.

The reward of one duty done is the power to fulfil another.
The fear of being called a coward makes lots of cowards act like brave men.
The turn in the long road traveled by most men is usually the turn into the cemetery.
'Tis astonishing how soon the whole conscience begins to rave if a single stitch is dropped.
The sudden death of a friend of his own age has a greater effect on a man than 1000 sermons.
The world is getting on towards 6 o'clock in the evening.
When you find two men in the same business claim to be friends, you have two more hypocrites.
There probably never was a man so good that he did not hope in his heart that his successor would be a failure.
If people worked as hard after a marriage to keep each other as they did before the engagement to win each other, marriage would be more of a success.
Why is it that everyone has something to be blamed of? The blame there are no exceptions to the rule would seem to indicate that no one can be wise enough to prepare for to-morrow's evil.
Good manners are the settled medium of social life, as species is of commercial life; returns are equally expected of both; people will no more advance their civility to a bear, than they will their money to a bankrupt.
Bears Tackle a Locomotive.
Engineer Smith, of one of the Lake-land and Bartow trains in Florida, reports having quite a little adventure the other day while on his southern trip. While crossing "Rattlesnake Ford" trestle two large bears, it appears, emerged from the woods at the side of the track, and trotted on the trestle ahead of the train. Smith gave a pull with the throttle, and the engine bounded forward. The bears heard the on-coming train, and plainly did not like the situation. They were afraid to leap from the trestle, which was quite high, and began trotting to gain the other side. Finding that the train was gaining on them, both turned just before reaching the middle of the trestle, and standing upright, faced the train, and put up their fore-paws like accomplished and trained prize fighters.
The train rushed on, and the cowcatcher struck both bears, fairly throwing one about twenty feet into the air and out of the trestle, and lifting the other one some ten feet into the air. The latter, as he came down, fell on the platform in front of the boiler, and, clutching the brass rods, managed to retain his hold there. Frightened by the roar of the engine so close to him and the hot iron beneath him, brain hastily scrambled up and crawled onto the fore part of the board that runs from the cab onto the front of the engine.
Catching sight of the fireman's face through the window, the bear growled savagely, suffering severely from his wounds, probably, and started for the window. The fireman had just been raking the fire and his huge iron poker was down before him, and he was standing near the window he threw it open and urged at the bear with the red-hot iron poker. The hot iron went sizzling into the bear's hide, and the agonized beast gave a terrible howl and tried to spring up at his assailant. The engine gave a lunge and the bear, as if he had dropped the bear, falling almost directly under the wheels, but he scrambled off in some manner, only losing part of his hind leg. He rolled down the embankment, and, with a loud groan of pain and rage, bellowed and took their way to the woods.
It all passed so quickly that the engineer and fireman could hardly realize the facts in this strange adventure, and when they got to Bartow they had a wondering crowd around the engine examining the bear, and the fireman who had climbed up the engine and ran along the footboard.
A Great Monument Built by Shellfish.
Who built the Washington monument? Funny creatures with shells made it long ago at the bottom of the sea. Some of them were left their homes behind, but all of them left their homes behind, then when they died, to furnish material for a memorial to the father of his country.
If you will go up to the top of the hill, at the foot of which are the fountains, and stand closely around the monument, you will find their surface smooth, with no visible trace of the individual shells that lent their substance to this mighty structure symbolical of eternity. This is because they shells in the water, when they were squeezed together by pressure and otherwise metamorphosed as to be reduced to a simple mass of lime. In many marbles, however, you will discover the shells quite visible, so that their very bodies, preserved for goodness knows how many centuries, lends beauty to the polished rock. Few things can be more interesting than to observe the trace of what was once a living organism in a formation which so evidently dates back to an epoch long before the earliest possible appearance of man upon the globe.
But the mere deposit of such shells did not make marble. It required geologic action to effect the transformation of the limestone into the material which composes the Washington monument. For instance, when, by the cooling of the earth's crust, the latter was crumpled up so as to form mountains, great heat was developed, and limestone beds in places where such action took place went through a process of crystallization by the heat, thus forming what is known as marble. Wherever traces of the original shells which compose the limestone are found they are called fossil shells. If the monument contained such shells, visible in their original shape, it would be a most interesting memorial of the world before the deluge, as well as of the immortal George.—Washington Star.
Seven hundred alliances were organized in Iowa last year.
Paris, France, and London, England, are to be connected by telephone.

FALCONRY.

A REVIVAL OF ONE OF THE NEW DIVERSIONS.

Picture Description of the Sport
—How to Train a Hawk for Field Pursues—American Birds of Prey.

The brancher may be caught by the lure of a pigeon or a quail, and the hawk by means of a decoy and a net. There is a deadly enmity between the hawk and the owl, and the owl is frequently used as a decoy to induce the haggard to swoop down for the opportunity of a blow at his hated enemy. A tame hawk or falcon also makes an excellent decoy for his wild brethren.
In the early spring hawks' nests can be found within twenty minutes' journey by rail or ferry from New York City, and young ones procured, which will prove interesting pets to those who care to bestow time upon them. Should a demand for young or trained birds arise there is plenty of dealers in birds and animals who would hasten to comply the market with both the domestic and imported article, but if any of the readers of this paper think of seriously trying their hand at hawk-keeping, they will enjoy the sport the more and understand the birds the better if they rear and train them by their own hand.
Hawks and falcons, being of wild and violent natures, are at first insensible to both punishment and caresses; hence with an intractable bird want of light and food is the only punishment that will affect it, and it is of the utmost importance that the same person should always administer its food and care for the bird's welfare. Having secured a cracker, shake it with the handle of a brush, and scatter the crumbs about the hawk's feet, and then usually terminate with bells. With an old army buckskin gauntlet protect your hand and wrist, place the bird upon your gauntlet wrist, and carry it about with you night and day, giving it the opportunity to rest. If your falcon or hawk tries to bite and fight you, douse his head into a pail of cold water, and it will quiet him, and then put him in complete darkness. Three days and nights of this will make the wildest bird inclined to be docile to a certain extent. Next teach the bird to take its food quietly, allowing no fluttering, fighting or undue excitement during its meal. Feed it with your hand and never without whistling or giving the peculiar call, whatever it may be, by which you intend to summon the bird in the future, when you wish it to resume its perch upon your wrist. It will by this means learn to recognize the call and associate the noise with food, and food with its perch upon your gauntlet, will always fly to your wrist when you call. Familiarize your charge with horses, dogs and strangers.
When the ruling classes wish to strengthen their power over their poorer brethren, they seek to make the poor dependent upon the bounty of the rich for their support, and by thus destroying the independence of the so-called lower classes, the ruler in power retains his position. Now exactly the same policy must be pursued with a wayward or self-willed bird that prefers freedom and self-support to wearing a plumed hood on its head and bewails on its legs. With such a bird, excite its appetite by forcing it to swallow pellets of tow mixed with a little wormwood and garlic. This will increase its hunger and thereby make it more dependent upon its master, and consequently more docile, and the pleasure it derives from the gratification of this artificial appetite will attach it more closely to its master who feeds it.
In a week or less the bird is tamed, and then you can commence with the training. Take the falcon out in your yard, or, if you live in the city and have no back yard, seek a retired spot in the park. Put a piece of meat on your hand and, calling the bird, teach it to hop on your hand. By no means allow it to peck at it, or to scratch it, but answer your call. Next fasten the meat to a lure made of a flat piece of wood and covered on both sides with the wings of the bird you intend to hunt or the skin of the animal you expect to be gentle in its behavior, not pinching my wrist when perching upon it, and when the bird swoops down upon the lure at the full length of the string and will then obey the call, you are on the road to success and know that the bird recognizes the lure, and knows that by answering your call it will be entitled to the meat for its reward. This point gained, you need no longer fear allowing your bird freedom, because at a moment's notice you can reclaim him with the call or signal even if he is soaring high overhead, at the sound of the call he will descend to his accustomed perch upon the buckskin gauntlet.
I know, having as a lad reared many, and taught them to come at my call and to be gentle in their behavior, not pinching my wrist when perching upon it. This is half the battle, and any one with time and patience can do the rest.
In selecting a bird try to secure a brancher, that is, a bird that has been long enough out of the nest to hop from limb, but is as yet incapable of flight and consequently unable to provide for its own wants. Pampers are always servile, and as this young bird must live upon your charity he will be more easily tamed than a haggard, that is, a fall grown bird that is perfectly competent to hunt for himself and supply his own wants, and is consequently independent, and, under restraint, fierce and savage. Young birds that have just left their wild cradle on rock or treetop are called eyas, and are the most easily tamed and trained; but they are apt to lack the strength and audacity of the brancher or the haggard.

THE HEIR TO AUSTRIA'S THRONE.

The visit of Archduke Francis Ferdinand to the court of St. Petersburg is said to be regarded with great satisfaction in Russia and Austrian Government circles. The Archduke is heir presumptive to the Austrian throne, and there is a general belief that his visit has a matrimonial object. The marriage of the prospective Emperor of Austria to a near relative of the Czar would put an end to all danger of war between the two empires for many years to come. It was recently stated that the young Archduke was to marry his cousin, Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria, but the match seems not to have been definitely arranged. If the visit were merely of a political character Ferdinand would be accompanied by some of the Austrian Ministers, as he is rather young in the science of statecraft.
Considerable uncertainty exists in the public mind as to the identity of the heir presumptive to the Austrian crown. The direct heir to the throne is Archduke Charles Louis, the Emperor's brother, Archduke Otto, whose wife is the Princess Maria, a daughter of the Emperor of D'Este ever since he inherited the wealth of his uncle, the Duke of Modena, amounting to £50,000. Failing Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who is unmarried, comes his younger brother, Archduke Otto, whose wife is the Princess Maria, a daughter of the Emperor of D'Este ever since he inherited the wealth of his uncle, the Duke of Modena, amounting to £50,000. Failing Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who is unmarried, comes his younger brother, Archduke Otto, whose wife is the Princess Maria, a daughter of the Emperor of D'Este ever since he inherited the wealth of his uncle, the Duke of Modena, amounting to £50,000.
The Prince recently visited England, and it was said at the time that he wished to improve his acquaintance with the English. The Duke of Devonshire, who has several rather good-looking Princesses to be married off. He is, like most of the Hapsburgs, a very distinguished-looking man, is very carefully educated, has considerable artistic attainments and is said to be a good soldier.—Chicago Post.
The spread of women's clubs throughout the country has led Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller to prepare a practical guide which is to contain directions for organizing a club, suggestions for proper management and a form of constitution ready for use. The manual will be the only one of its kind extant.

ALL ABOUT ASBESTOS.

Asbestos is a fibrous, white, gray, or green mineral not fusible. The variety called rock cork very much resembles cork, is soft and easily cut, and so light as to float on water. Rock leather and rock wood are varieties some of which are used in the manufacture of paper. The finest fibrous variety with easily separable fibres is called amianthus, because cloth made of it was cleansed by passing it through fire. This cloth was used by the ancients to wrap dead bodies placed on the funeral pile so as to preserve the ashes of the body unmixing. It was also woven by them into handkerchiefs and towels. Of late years it has been considerably used as fire-proof roofing, flooring and packing in safes, journal boxes and rock steam-pipes. Paper has also been made of it, but though, at red heat, the paper remains uninjured, the writing disappears. It is said that Charlemagne had a tablecloth of asbestos, which, for the funeral pile so as to preserve the ashes of the body unmixing. 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