

# Orange County Observer.

ESTABLISHED IN 1878.

HILLSBORO, N. C. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1893.

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A bank in Arizona has issued the following notice: "This bank has not busted; it owes the people \$30,000; the people owe it \$55,000; it is the people who are busted; when they pay we'll pay."

The peace of Europe is, in the opinion of the New York Herald, threatened by Italy, which, practically bankrupt, her people poverty stricken and discontented, might find at least a temporary salvation in war.

A "massage stone" is coming into use in England that is made of unglazed china and provided with a sort of dorsal lump for holding in the hand and has the rubbing surface slightly undulated, not to say ridged. The stone is white and even when used on recently washed skin it soon becomes darkened, showing that it squeezes a good deal of material from the pores.

Doctor Baker, Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Health, has been making a thorough examination and study of consumption and has come to the conclusion that it is a communicable disease. He accordingly recommended at a meeting of the Board that it be placed upon the list of communicable diseases and treated as such. This the Board decreed, and hereafter consumption will be known as a communicable disease.

An ingenious fire alarm was exhibited at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences. A hollow ball of aluminum is supported at one end of an arm, with a counterpoise at the other end, the whole being in equilibrium at the ordinary temperature and pressure of the air. The apparatus is purposely made not sensitive enough to show the ordinary natural changes of pressure, but if the specific gravity of the air becomes diminished considerably, either from a rise of temperature or an admixture of coal gas in sufficient quantity to become explosive, the balance is destroyed, and the ball in falling completes an electric circuit by which an alarm bell is set ringing until the normal state of affairs is again established.

The varieties of sleigh bells this season will be larger than ever, announces the Chicago Herald, and manufacturers will enter more to luxurious tastes. As one can now pay \$50 or more for a whip, so can he give \$10 for a body strap of bells. For that he can get a strap covered with Alaska sealskin, with sixty silver, brass, gold or nickel bells, the metal not being, of course, so precious as the names indicate. Somewhat cheaper straps are made of beaver or mink, wool seal, kangaroo, ooze calf or Persian lamb. Or if the pleasure-seeker wishes, he can imitate the tastes of the Russian, the Laplander or the Tartar. In foxtail plumes he can find the upright, the drooping and the hanging plumes, or some elegant horse hair plumes, for \$30 per pair.

Says the New York Tribune: "Juvenile blackguardism constitutes the principal theme of discussion in the new annual report of the Howard Prison Association, which contains a good deal of interesting information concerning those organized gangs of young delinquents, which are among the greatest curses of all great cities. The 'toughs' of New York have their counterpart in the 'corner-boys' of Dublin, the 'scuttles' of Manchester, the 'hoodlums' of San Francisco, the 'blood tubs' of Baltimore, and the 'barrikens' of Australia and New Zealand, who in certain cities in New South Wales and of Victoria even succeeded in terrorizing the police. Many methods have been suggested for dealing with the problem, the most satisfactory and efficacious of which seems to be that adopted by the Canadians, which is locally described as the 'curfew bell' plan. Driven thereto by the intolerable behavior of the young rowdies, the Canadian police now lock up in jail for the night all disorderly or loafing lads found in the streets after the ringing of the bell at nine o'clock. The effect of this stringent regulation is shown to have been highly satisfactory in Canada, but it is doubtful whether it would be possible to carry out any such drastic measures in so large a city as New York, where more-over the juvenile criminals are far more wide awake than their 'pals' across the border."

## NEW QUARTERS.

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## GLASS FRONT.

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### XMAS, 1893.

Variety is the Spice of Life.

## THE HILLSBOROUGH BOOKSTORE.

Fancy Goods, Novelties and all kinds of Books. Times are hard but we have the best quality of Goods at hard time prices. Rocking Chairs, Stands, Book and Hat Rocks, Picture Frames, First-Class Pocket Knives and Scissors, Dolls, Toys, and Fireworks.

### See Our TEN CENT Counter for Little Folks.

The Largest Assortment of Xmas Goods ever seen in Orange County.

Xmas, 1893.



Xmas, 1893.

REMEMBER

# N. W. BROWN & CO.

Offer you a Full line of General Merchandise.

Bring us your Produce.

#### Made a Cat False Teeth.

The cat that owned the false teeth had lost his own, and had his jaw broken besides by a drunken wretch who beat him with a cobble-stone.

Something must be done for him, for life supported on "spoon vittles" was a bug in, and a young dentist in the neighborhood, who had become greatly interested in the unfortunate cat, resolved to try the experiment of making him a set of false teeth.

Taking the cast for the plate was a terrible piece of work, as Captain objected to it with all his might, but it was nothing to what followed when the teeth were fairly in. If the animal had plunged and scratched while the plate was being fitted, he acted like a mad thing when it was firmly attached to his jaw—although it was well made and fitted perfectly.

He could not understand that it would enable him to continue the luxurious feasts to which he had been accustomed, and for several days he was furious over it. Every possible and impossible scheme was tried to get the uncomfortable thing out of his mouth; he tore at it with his claws, he shook his head violently to make it drop out, he butted against heavy pieces of furniture, and if any one came near him he growled and scratched at them.

There seemed to be danger of his going mad, and his friends were sorely puzzled to know what to do with him, when, greatly to their relief, he calmed down and appeared to have come to the conclusion that his new possession was after all a blessing in disguise. He was once more gentle and affectionate, as he had been previous to his misfortune; and the plate was now often taken out between meals and put back again. In this way it was worn comfortably for over a year.—San Francisco Chronicle.

In his Year Book of the Universities of the World Doctor B. Kukula states that there are now 147 universities. That in Paris leads with 9215 students, followed by Vienna with 6220 and Berlin with 5527. The smallest on the list is the university at Founah Bay, Sierra Leone, Africa, with twelve students and five instructors.

#### Age of Trees.

Elm, 300 years; ivy, 335 years; maple, 510 years; larch, 576 years; orange, 630 years; cypress, 800 years; olive, 800 years; walnut, 900 years; Oriental plane, 1000 years; lime, 1100 years; spruce, 1200 years; oak, 1500 years; cedar, 2000 years; yew, 3200 years. The way in which the ages of these trees have been ascertained leaves no doubt of its correctness. In some few cases the data has been furnished by historical records and by traditions, but the botanical archeologists have a resource independent of either, and when carefully used, infallible.

Of all the forms of nature, trees alone disclose their ages candidly and freely. In the stems of trees which have branches and leaves with netted veins—in all exogens, as the botanist would say—the increase takes place by means of annual deposit of wood, spread in an even layer upon the surface of the preceding one.

In the earlier periods of life trees increase much faster than when adult—the oak, for instance, grows more rapidly between the twentieth and thirtieth years—and when old the annual deposits considerably diminish, so that the strata are thinner and the rings proportionably closer. Some trees slacken in rate of growth at a very early period of life, and layers of oak become thinner after forty, those of the elm after fifty, those of the yew after sixty.—New York Times.

#### Chinese Paper Weights.

The odd little paper weights, cups, seals, trays, bowls, teapots, animal figures, idols and knickknacks in soapstone of various colors, which travelers bring from China are made, for the most part, from the output of mines near Wenchow. When the steatite is taken out it is very soft, but hardens quickly in the air. As to the colors there found the British consul at Wenchow enumerates purple, red, mottled red, black, dark blue, light blue, gray, white, eggshell white, jade color, beeswax and "frozen" color. The white, jade color and "frozen" are considered the finest and bring high prices. There are 2000 miners and carvers in these mines.—New York Telegram.

#### Hired Relations.

One of the curious national branches of industry which have grown to enormous proportions in Bucharest, the capital of Roumania, is the noble profession of "hired relatives," which undertakes to furnish to everybody in want of parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, etc., the necessary persons to represent them.

Persons who desire to get married, for instance, and have no parents to figure at their respective weddings, or who are in possession of such who decline to give their consent to the marriage of their sons and daughters, need do nothing more than station themselves near the entrance to the Marriage License Bureau. There they will soon find themselves accosted by some "gentleman" or "lady" who for a moderate sum of money is willing to take the place of the absent parent.

For twenty lei (\$4) quite a respectable-looking father can be hired. Fifteen lei is paid for a brother and a fashionably-dressed mother costs the same amount. Investigation has disclosed the fact that some of these professional mothers have figured at marriages fifty times a year.

The police department is just devoting considerable time to the suppression of this nefarious business, which has been flourishing unmolested for some time.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

#### Heroic Work by a Servant.

The heroism of a servant girl saved a span of valuable horses for John Moser, of Perkiomeville, Penn. The large barn on the farm was set on fire, and the men, when they discovered the flames, feared to enter the stables to release the horses and four head of cattle. The daring girl, however, dashed into the burning building and freed the plunging horses and was burned on the hands and face, though not seriously. She was greatly cheered by the men who watched the brave deed. The barn was destroyed.—Philadelphia Record.

In 1699 Gilbert recorded that other bodies besides amber had electric properties.

#### A Remarkable Fast.

The death of Mrs. Charles Peck, eighty years old, of the county town of Lyme, Conn., terminated a remarkable case of involuntary fasting. Mrs. Peck was taken sick forty-nine days before, and a strange feature of her illness manifested itself at once in her inability to take any kind of nourishment, even fluids. At first she had little inconvenience on account of her enforced fast. Her general health was not seriously injured, and her weight was not materially diminished. At the end of two weeks, however, she became emaciated, and finally was unable to quit her couch. Skilful physicians were puzzled on account of her aversion to food, and were at their wits' ends to afford any relief. During the last two weeks she was unconscious and reduced about to the condition of a skeleton. The doctors were amazed by her wonderful vitality. One of them managed to force a little water down her throat, but afterward she could not take even water. She died of starvation on the forty-ninth day of her fast. In view of her great age and feebleness at the beginning of her sickness, her family physician believes her fast the most wonderful one in history.—New York Tribune.

Vice-President Crocker, of the Southern Pacific, has announced that his company does not propose to make any fight against the hordes of tramps who are beating their way westward on freight trains. He has arrived at the conclusion that it is useless to unload the ticketless tourists, because they get aboard trains in sufficient numbers to overpower the trainmen. Therefore Mr. Crocker believes that time can be saved and bloodshed averted by allowing the tramps to ride so long as they are peaceable. No proclamation to that effect has been issued from the company headquarters, but it is to be mutually understood that the trainmen are not to molest the "hobos" except in self-defense. It is likely, remarks the Portland Oregonian, that the other lines extending from the Rockies to the Pacific will follow the Southern's example in this respect, if they have not already done so in a quiet way.

#### CURIOUS FACTS.

Maps were invented by Anaximander, a Greek, about B. C. 568.

A woman in Tanner, W. Va., gave birth to her twenty-ninth child a few days ago.

A grouse recently flew into a store at Eugene, Oregon, and was captured alive.

Four rings were used in the marriage ceremony of Mary Stuart to the unfortunate Darnley.

The preliminary surveys for the Pacific Railroad required four seasons, and cost over \$1,000,000.

The first woman's face represented on a coin was that of Puleheria, the Empress of the Eastern Empire.

The largest known species of night-flying insect is the Atlas moth, a resident of the American tropics, which has a wing spread of over a foot.

A New York cat whose teeth had been knocked out by a drunken ruffian, had a false set made for it by a dentist and wears them comfortably.

A bar of steel costing \$1 may be worked up into \$350 worth of needles; made into knife-blades it is worth \$325; made into balance-springs for watches the same bar would be worth \$250,000.

The natives of Botorudes, one of the hottest regions of the earth, believe that heaven will be a land of cool streams and shady groves entirely cleared of all underbrush and cactuses.

The only genuine skeik is the Governor of Medina. His office is said to date from the time of the Prophet. It is now generally applied as an honorary title to the head man of an Arab village.

The watch that Admiral Farragut carried through the war is now in the possession of a California cadet at Annapolis. The citizens of Vallojo gave the timepiece to Farragut in 1858, when he was a naval captain.

Baron Felder, of Vienna, has occupied his time for many years in gathering rare butterflies. Recently he sold his uncommonly beautiful and almost perfect collection to Lord Rothschild for the sum of £5000.

A peculiarly severe punishment in use among the Chinese is the loss of sleep. The criminal is kept awake by his guard until he dies. The sufferer lives two weeks under the torture, and almost always becomes a raving maniac.

The original designation of the Russian ruler was autocrat, a term borrowed from a title of the Greek emperors. The title czar was taken first by Autocrat Waldimir about 1120. The Russian rulers were called czars or grand dukes until the sixteenth century, when they claimed the title of Emperor.

The censor had charge of Roman morals, and was always kept busy. There were two censors, and their office was held sacred and regarded as superior to all others save the dictatorship. It was a part of their duty to preserve a register of the citizens and their property, and they acted partly as superintendents of the census, partly as assessors.

A recent writer asks whether ants talk, and relates that he saw a drove of small black ants moving apparently to new quarters. Every time two met they put their heads together as though they were chatting. To investigate the matter he killed one, and the eye witnesses of the murder hastened away and laid their heads together with every ant they met. The latter immediately turned back and fled.

#### The Ocean Telephone Possible.

Professor Silvanus P. Thomson is one of those who believe that ocean telephony is not only possible, but that the means of attaining it are within our grasp. Telephone cables for the deep sea will, however, require to be made on a different plan from the existing telegraph cables; that is to say, a single conductor of stranded copper insulated and surrounded by an iron sheathing that comes between the outgoing wire and the water which serves as the return part of the circuit. The going and return wires will have to lie side by side within the sheathing. Moreover, the whole circuit will probably have to be broken up into sections which are capable of acting upon each other by mutual induction.—London Globe.