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Charity pawn shops, where people may get more nearly the worth of their goods than they are compelled to part with than now, are suggested by some of the charitably disposed, states the Detroit Free Press.

A composite picture of the American of the future would be worth going along way to see. According to Henry Watterson, of the Courier-Journal, he will be a union of Cavalier, Puritan, Celt, Teuton, Scandinavian and other elements too numerous to mention.

Now the cry of suffering comes from India, where, it is reported, 50,000,000 are on the verge of starvation, not because there is unusual deficiency of food, but because excessive taxation and the monetary uncertainty have reduced the pittance left to the people to a line bordering on pauperism.

A Buenos Ayres paper says that the agricultural products of Argentina have troubled in the last ten years. The value of this year's crop amounted to \$87,050,000. The grain, principally wheat, in excess of home need, is valued at \$27,000,000, ranking above hides and next to wool in the value of Argentina's exportable products this year.

The rate of mortality of London is shown by a recent report to have steadily decreased with the introduction and perfection of adequate means for disposing of the sewage of the city. In the latter half of the seventeenth century the annual average mortality is estimated at something over eighty per 1000; at the end of the eighteenth century it had dropped to fifty per 1000, and in 1892 it was only 19.1 per 1000.

The "Excelsior," the largest diamond in the world, is now deposited in one of the safes of the Bank of England. It was found in June last in the mines of Jagersfontein, Cape Colony, by Captain Edward Jorganson, the inspector of the mine. In his opinion, corroborated by that of the director, Mr. Gifford, the "Excelsior" is a stone of the purest water, and is worth about \$5,000,000. It is fully three inches in height, and nearly three inches in breadth, weighing 371 carats, or about seven ounces Troy. The color of the Jagersfontein diamond is white, with a very slight bluish tint; and its lustre is matchless. At the center is a very small black spot, which experts consider will be easily removed in the cutting. According to M. N. West, the British Government have offered half a million pounds sterling for this diamond to the proprietors, Messrs. Bortmeyer and Bernheimer, but the offer has been refused.

The American Lawyer, in a long and careful editorial, sets out that litigation, especially in the New York courts, is declining. The work of the lawyer is undergoing a great change, his chief forum has been transferred from the courtroom to the office. This result has been brought about by the growth in number and wealth of corporations which wish legal counsel and will pay well for it but desire, as a rule, to keep out of court. The fees of \$500, \$1000 and \$5000 once considered magnificent in trial practice, are small in comparison with the fees now paid for the service of counsel. William Nelson Cromwell, of Sullivan & Cromwell, of New York, for managing the affairs of a great estate received a fee of \$250,000 and a splendid service of silver as a token of gratitude. John E. Parsons, of the firm of Parsons, Shepherd & Ogden, received \$250,000 for his services in the organization of the sugar trust, and there are many practitioners whose fees amount to \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year. As showing the decline in the number of cases tried, the firm of Herblow, Byrne & Taylor, the head of which was lately appointed to the Supreme Bench by President Cleveland, has but one case in the New York Supreme Court at its last term, such a firm as Everts, Chase & Beman has but forty-four cases in that court. Arnous, Ritch & Woodford filed but eleven, and so on through the list of great law firms. Yet the practice of these firms is lucrative beyond the dreams of fifty years ago. Clients pay their money now, not to get into court, but to be kept out of it.

\$30,000

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12th,

at and below COST for Cash our entire Stock of

Dress Goods, Silk, Wool and Cotton, Clothing,

Millinery, Corsets, Gloves, Hosiery, Laces,

Embroideries, Fans, Ladies' Handkerchiefs,

Carpets, Blankets, Shawls, Quilts, Cashmeres, Table Linen,

Trunks, Bags, Gentlemen's and Ladies' Underwear

100 Ladies Wraps Regardless of Cost

This is an opportunity you do not often have, so it will do well to call early and get the best BARGAINS.

JAS. WEBB, Jr., & BRO.,

HILLSBORO, N. C.

FUN.

The politician isn't narrow-minded—he is willing to put himself into anybody's place.—Elmira Gazette.

"Man wants but little here below"

Is something as to sound.

But doesn't count, most people know,

When pay-day comes around.

—Washington Star.

Judge—"Have you anything to offer the court before sentence is passed?"

Prisoner—"No, your honor. My lawyer took my hat skilling."

The Wife—"How did you dare, sir, to scold me before Mrs. Brown?"

The Husband—"Well, you know, Maria, I don't scold you when we are by ourselves."

—Kate Field's Washington.

"Can I change my occupation under the terms of this insurance policy?"

"What do you wish to be?" "A football player."

"No." "Can I become a Brazilian insurgent?" "Yes."

—Life.

Jack—"While I was out hunting I ran right into a den of rattlesnakes."

George—"Not much fun in that."

Jack—"No, but for me, but the snakes had a rattling good time."—Good News.

She—"Dearest, suppose you didn't love me nearly as much as you do now, would you marry me?"

He—"You bet I would. You don't know how much I think of your father."

—New York Herald.

Proprietor—"What's the row at the bargain counter?"

Floor-walker—"No row at all. A party of college girls are among the crowd, and are working to the front by a dying wedge."

—Puck.

Father—"The teacher says that you don't half learn your lessons."

Little Boy—"Yes, sir. You see the teacher said if I studied hard I might grow up to be a great man."

"Of course. Don't you want to be a great man?"

"Huh! And get shot at by all the cranks that's running round loose!"

—New York Telegram.

Old Hardcase—"Yes, Miss Young, thing has given me some encouragement; at least she hasn't refused me."

She says she first wishes to see my family Bible. I presume she wants to make sure that I am no older than I say."

Friend—"No, she doesn't."

"Eh? Then what can she want?"

"She wants to see if you come of a long-lived family."

—New York Weekly

Persian Cliff Dweller.

The approach to Shiraz is a succession of surprises. The town, a compact and yellow mass of crowded dwellings, appears to rise abruptly and close at hand above the level plain which we are crossing. All at once a profound ravine opens in front of us, and perched high up on the summit of the yellow cliffs on the other side are the houses which we saw from the plain. Descending steeply to the rocky floor of this ravine, which is an ancient river-bed, we turn to the left and ride along under the perpendicular ledge. There are filthy pools along the bottom of it, and black slimy stains descend the rocky wall from the festal wooden balconies and projecting windows of the town above us. In the people overhead are dying of cholera, they are surely very quiet about it, and there is no sign of life at any of the windows. We come to the chaper khaneh (inn) on the other side of the ravine. It is locked up, and a little further on the ravine opens out to a broad river, which we cross by a bridge, and enter an imposing caravansary of the time of Shah Abbas.

In this way we avoid entering the town. The river is bordered on both sides by vertical cliffs, and from the gate of the caravansary, looking back across the bridge, we get the most striking view of Yazdikhab. The long ledge on which it stands is pierced by many caves and openings along the top, and from a distance it is difficult to make out just where the town begins, where the caves become windows and doors. They are accentuated in many places by jutting windows and crazy-looking balconies propped by sticks, at a great height above the stream below. This long rock ends in a thin wedge where the ravine on the other side enters the river bed. Separated at the other end from the main range of cliffs by a species of drawbridge, it can easily be made inaccessible as a vulture's nest perched on a crag, and the dark streaks which stain the cliffs below heighten the resemblance to a roosting pair of these scavengers of the desert.—Harper's Magazine.

New York and Massachusetts have each been represented in the carnival twenty-eight times. Pennsylvania follows with twenty-five representations.

The Money of the World.

Acting Director of the Mint Press has prepared a table of the monetary systems of the world. The table shows that the aggregate stock of gold is \$3,582,605,000; silver, \$4,042,700,000; uncovered paper, \$2,635,873,000. Stock of gold possessed by principal countries is as follows: United States, \$604,000,000; Great Britain, \$550,000,000; France, \$800,000,000; Germany, \$600,000,000; Russia, \$250,000,000. The stock of silver is as follows: United States, \$615,000,000; Great Britain, \$100,000,000; France, \$700,000,000; Germany, \$211,000,000; Russia, \$60,000,000. The stock of silver is divided as follows: United States, \$538,000,000 full tender and \$77,000,000 limited tender; Great Britain, no silver full tender, \$100,000,000 limited tender; France, \$650,000,000 full tender, \$50,000,000 limited tender; Germany, \$103,000,000 full tender and \$108,000,000 limited tender; Russia, \$22,000,000 full tender and \$38,000,000 limited tender. The ratio prevailing in nearly all principal countries between gold and legal tender silver is 1 to 15. The ratio between gold and limited tender silver is as a rule 1 to 14.38. The respective ratios in the United States are 1 to 16.90 and 1 to 15.98.

The various monetary systems are divided among countries: Gold and silver—United States, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, Netherlands, Turkey and Japan. Silver—United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Scandinavian Union, Australia, Egypt, Canada and Cuba. Silver—Russia, Mexico, Central and South America and India. Of the uncovered money South America has \$600,000,000; Russia, \$500,000,000; United States, \$412,000,000; Austria, \$260,000,000; Italy, \$163,000,000; Germany, \$107,000,000; France, \$81,000,000; and Great Britain, \$60,000,000. The per capita circulation of gold in the United States, \$9.01; United Kingdom, \$14.47; France, \$20.52; Germany, \$12.12; Russia, \$2.21. Per capita of all classes of money is: France, \$40.56; Cuba, \$31.00; Netherlands, \$28.88; Austria, \$26.75; Belgium, \$25.53; United States, \$24.34; United Kingdom, \$13.42; and Russia, \$7.15.

The world annually manufactures \$7,200,000,000 worth of textile fabrics.

The Manufacturers' Record Has Published

two pages of letters from bankers in all parts of the South in regard to the general condition of business, but especially as regards the financial position of Southern farmers. Without exception these letters say that the enforced economy of the last two years has caused a complete change in Southern farm methods; that the farmers are giving more attention to diversified agriculture, and that they are now well supplied with corn and provisions, which will prevent the heavy drain of former years pay for Western food-stuffs. Summing up these reports the Manufacturers' Record says: "They show that the whole economic policy of Southern farm interests is undergoing a change and the credit system is being superseded by a cash basis. The low price of cotton for the last few years forced upon the farmers the necessity of raising their own food-stuffs, and added to this was the decision of bankers and factors to advance much less money on cotton than formerly. The result has been a change that for the time being, while passing from the credit with its liberal buying to a cash system requiring the closest economy, there has been less trade with farmers, and hence a decreased volume of general business in the South. But this has brought about a more solid condition of business in those dependent upon farm trade throughout the South than we have had for many years. Merchants are carrying small stocks and buying only as needed; farmers are paying off their debts to such an extent that without exception these letters from bankers say that the farmers are less in debt than for years. The money that formerly went North and West for provisions and grain has been retained at home, and the fall result is that this section is probably less in debt to its own banks and less in debt to the North and West for supplies than in any year since the war ended."

The four leading Danville Hill newsmen have entered into an agreement not to sell the dime trash of the "Jesse James" type. Since the boy murderers, Pate and Stark, declared that they owed their ruin to these novels there has been a decided crusade against their sale in Danville.

How Newspapers Get the President's Message

Frank G. Carpenter tells in the Washington Star how Presidents' annual messages are handled by the correspondents at the National Capital. It seems the message is taken from the White House to the Capitol by the assistant private secretary. There is a good deal of red tape about the matter, and though the cable cars run directly from the White House to the Capitol, a President's message is always taken in a carriage, and usually behind a spanking two-horse team. The carriage is the office turnout of the White House. It trots out of the yard of the Executive Mansion down to the Treasury, then along the west side of Fifteenth street and down the south side of the avenue. At the bottom of the avenue it skirts the Peace monument and goes up to the Senate. Here Mr. Pruden gets out, carrying a big official envelope in his hand. This contains the message. He carries it up to the front door of the Senate, where he is usually met by old Mr. Bassett or by the clerk of the Senate, who announces that there is a message from the President of the United States. It is then carried up to the clerk's desk, and it is there read. The words in which the message is delivered to the Senate are uttered by Mr. Pruden as follows: "I am directed by the President of the United States to present a message in writing."

Copies of the message are given to the newspaper correspondents, and they are sent out by the press associations to all the papers in the country. It used to be that manifold copies were handed over to the newspaper men and they rushed for the telegraph offices in order to send the news to their papers. At this time correspondents kept carriages and fast horses at the Capitol during such times and made races to get possession of the telegraph wires. Before the telegraph came into existence it took the mail a week or so to give the message to some parts of the United States, and the Cincinnati Gazette once made a great fuss about its feat of publishing the President's message within sixty hours after it had been delivered to Congress. It ran a pony express from Washington to Cincinnati, and it cost \$200 to get the news.

What becomes of the President's messages after they are delivered? The copy that goes to the printer is cut up into pieces or takes, and is of little use after it is set up. The earlier messages, which were written by the Presidents themselves, were carefully filed away, and in the crypt of the Capitol there are several of General Washington's messages, written in his peculiar, clear, bold hand. The messages which are sent to the Senate are stored away in the State Department vaults, where all the laws of the Congress of the United States are put, and they form a part of the manuscript history of the country.

The healthfulness of New York is a reason for rejoicing in the midst of the prevailing gloom, maintains the Tribune. In spite of the increase of population, the number of deaths in 1893 was little greater than in 1892—only forty-one larger—while the number of births increased more than 2000. The death rate for last year was 23.46 per 1000, against 24.26 in the previous year, while for the last ten years the average has been 24.72. The Board of Health's most recent estimate of the population of the city is 1,891,306, the estimated increase from the previous year being nearly 50,000, so that a year from now the population will approximate closely to 2,000,000.

Only thirty-five vessels have been built at Baltimore during 1893, while sixty-one were built there in 1892. The registered tonnage shows an even greater decline. In 1892 it was 17,277 tons, while in 1893 it was but 5583. "This," comments the New York Sun, "is a striking indication of the extent of the depression in the shipping industry during the year."

The New York Journal avers that the hard times have had a curious effect in reducing the sales of condiments, sauces and similar table luxuries. A man who has a family to provide for would rather buy corned beef than curry when the money runs short.