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NORTH CAROLINA STATE LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF RALEIGH, N. CAR. F. H. CAMERON, President. W. E. ANDERSON, Vice Pres. W. H. HICKS, Secy.

The only Home Life Insurance Co. in the State. All its funds loaned out AT HOME, and among our own people. We do not send North Carolina money abroad to build up other States.

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A WOMAN'S QUESTION.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING. Ever you know you have asked for the costliest thing Ever made by the Hand above— A woman's heart and a woman's life, And a woman's wonderful love? Do you know you have asked for this priceless thing As a child might ask for a toy? Demanding what others have died to win, With the reckless dash of a boy.

A WHITE ROSE AND A STRAW.

Mr. Frederick Woodman, aged twenty-two, was the master of the village school of Pigeonboro, and one of the best little men, as far as temper and looks were concerned, that you could possibly imagine. All his scholars—and, in fact, almost everybody liked him. Indeed, it would have been very difficult not to like such a well-spoken gentle and amiable little gentleman.

THE GOLD SHOULDER.

Expressions which are apparently fanciful and illogical are sometimes more telling than others in which no criticism could find a flaw. For instance, the curious and rather awkward phrase, "giving the cold shoulder," has acquired by usage a force which could scarcely be equalled by the most faultless English.

LEFT HANDEDNESS.

At the late meeting of the British Association, Dr. H. Muirhead made a communication on "left handedness." He thought it depended upon which half of the brain took the lead. Left handedness once begun in a family was likely to run in it.

THE BIBLE.

ITS WISE AND WHOLESOME COUNSELS. Who composed the following description of the Bible we may never know. It was found in Westminster Abbey, nameless and dateless; but, nevertheless, it is invaluable for its wise and wholesome counsels to the erring race of Adam.

CURIOSITIES OF CURRENCY.

The bank officer who saw a compensating advantage from the passage of the silver dollar bill because payments of silver would be so bulky as to assist in checking runs, and in cases of large amount would render a wheelbarrow necessary, probably based his remarks upon a knowledge of the experience of the Swedish merchants of the last century.

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Varieties.

—Every prisoner in the Covington (Ky.) jail got a Christmas present. —Mr. Henry Esler, of Bergen county, N. J., has been postmaster of the Saddle River Post-office for twenty-five years. He was appointed at the time the post-office was established, during the administration of Franklin Pierce, and through all the changes of the Government has retained his position down to the present time.

—The Poor Directors of Erie county, Pa., have applied to the County Commissioners for the sum of \$25,000, to improve the almshouse by the addition of a department for the insane. The Commissioners have refused to comply, and the Directors ask the Court to issue a mandamus compelling the former officers to grant the money.

—The apple which tempted Eve is not probably in existence, but there is a very old one in Muhlenburg county, Ky. It grew at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, and is now in the possession of Mrs. Drake, widow. Mr. Drake received it from her, she being betrothed to him, just as he departed for the army. He kept it during the whole war, and when the war was over he returned and married her. The apple, which has been sacredly preserved in the family, is dry and shrivelled, nothing remaining but the woody fibre.

—Mrs. Mary Pardo Sanchez, of Malaga, Spain, died on Wednesday morning at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Mesa, No. 83 Middagh street, Brooklyn, at the remarkable age of one hundred and ten years, five months and sixteen days. She was the thirtieth daughter, her mother having had sixteen boys and fourteen girls. She came from Spain fourteen years ago, and was married seventy-three years ago. Both her husband and father were architects. When she was ninety years of age she lost her sight, and was totally blind. At ninety-seven she recovered her second sight, and could see much better than her daughter. She was smart, and did the housework until after she was one hundred years old. She was up and about the house until within a few days of her death.

—The Hungarian papers announce the death, in prison, of the celebrated bandit, Rosa Sandor, known in Hungary as the "Robber King." He was born at Szejed in 1813, and both his father and grandfather were robbers by profession. His achievements, however, soon eclipsed those of his family, and he was admired as much as he was feared. The reckless courage with which he attacked the police, and even military escorts, on the high road in broad daylight, his generosity toward the poor, and his gallantry toward women made him a sort of national hero. He was twice captured and imprisoned, but afterwards pardoned, but soon resumed his old pursuits, and in 1872 he was captured for the third time, and sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life, and was carried out.

—The French Court of Cassation consists of fifty-six members, and their salaries aggregate \$210,000. The first president has a salary of \$9000 a year; the three other presidents each receive \$5000 a year; the forty-five councillors \$3600 each, and the six functionaries called procurers general and advocates general—much like public prosecutors—receive salaries varying from \$3000 to \$9000. The several courts of appeal are estimated to cost \$1,207,250—there being 25 first presidents, 92 procurers general, 617 councillors, 94 procurers general and advocates general, and 61 substitutes. The first presidents get, with a few exceptions, \$3000 a year, while the majority of the other presidents get only \$1500. The salary of the councillors of the Court of Appeal is from \$1000 to \$2500, while that of the procurers general and advocates general is not more than \$1200 a year.

—The House of Priam might, in the opinion of Dr. Schliemann, have had more than one hundred rooms, and he thinks it was originally five or seven stories high. One of the rooms now contains a jar so large that it is nearly filled by it. Four of such jars have been found by him, each measuring five and a half feet high and four feet seven inches broad. The large number of jars found on the ground floor induces the belief that it was used for store-rooms. The four huge jars contain a number of beautiful terra-cotta vases, of which also many fine specimens were found in the brick-colored ash-heaps with which the rooms are filled. Dr. Schliemann thinks the most remarkable thing in the ancient mansion is that here and there beneath it the walls of a still more ancient building are found; he describes them to the first city erected on the site of the famous city. All the fragments of pottery which he has seen in the rooms of the mansion immediately below the Trojan stratum have, he says, on both sides a beautiful lustrous red, on both sides a color which he has never found anywhere except in the strata of the first city. He is further of opinion that the great circuit wall was not built by the people which inhabited Troy at the time of the catastrophe, but by their predecessors.