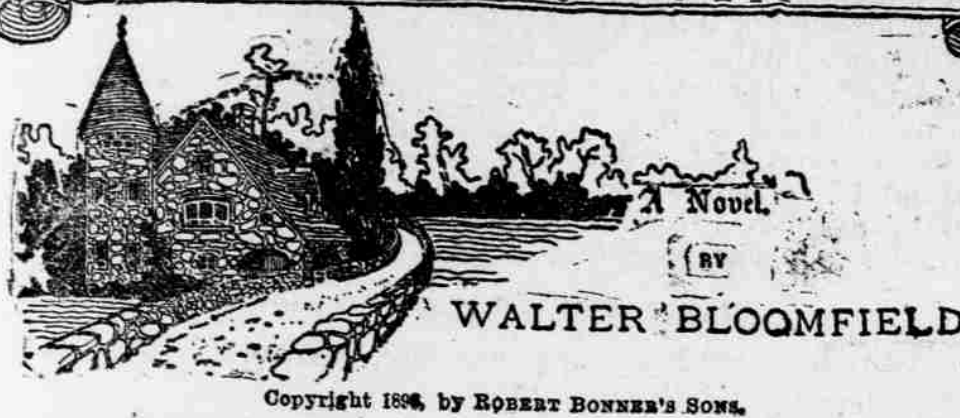


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## Holdenhurst Hall



WALTER BLOOMFIELD

CHAPTER XII.  
Continued.

The stirring events which occurred just previous to my entry into Constantinople were eclipsed by the momentous changes in the Turkish Government which took place in the summer and autumn of 1903. Sultan Murad having by the absurdity of his acts convinced everybody of his insanity, he was again deposed, and a young boy, scarcely twelve years old, and set in his place as Amurath IV. I saw the youthful Amurath for the first time on the day his high dignity was conferred upon him, and thought he was an exceptionally handsome boy. Certainly I perceived nothing in his clear-cut features, his aquiline nose, his full, lustrous, dark eyes, which denoted in any degree the fierce, bloody and remorseless tyrant he afterward became. Being too young to rule, though not to reign, all power reposed in Mahpeker, mother of the Sultan. Mahpeker was a clever woman, sincerely desirous, I believe, of the happiness of her son, and of the stability and prosperity of the State, and to secure these objects she scrupled not to seek the advice of Sir Thomas Roe—conduct which gave mortal offense to the Grand Vizier and other high officers of State, and tended not to the security of the Turkish throne.

The difficulties with which the Sultan's mother had to contend were numerous and great, for the lunatic Murad and a host of parasitical pashas who surrounded him had depleted the treasury and suffered the defenses of the country to fall into decay.

Sir Thomas Roe having recommended me for various public employments his recommendations were adopted. I undertook the tasks, and acquitted myself with so much satisfaction to the court that other commissions were given to me without any suggestion by my friend, my success being due not to any exceptional ability in me, but simply to honesty—a quality rarely found in a Turkish official, nor expected in more than a minor degree.

Early in 1905 the health of Sir Thomas Roe was such that it determined him to return home, and arrangements were made for Sir Thomas Phillips to represent England at the Porte. In three years I had grown accustomed to life in Turkey, which was not at all distasteful to me. During the minority of Amurath IV, my services were frequently requisitioned by Mahpeker and her advisers in drafting dispatches to foreign nations, my services being rewarded with magnificent presents. I visited the Seraglio when I would, and on two occasions was examined by the assembled Ulema as to the respective military strength of the nations of Europe. The ten chests of Venetian sequins remained unopened, and my English money was not decreased by one penny. I had purchased numerous slaves, yet notwithstanding all my expense I waxed richer and richer, and my personal influence increased daily. Such being my condition in 1905, it will be small wonder that I was disinclined to return to England with Sir Thomas Roe, more especially as at that very time the Grand Vizier, in the name of Mahpeker and the Ulema, offered me the distinguished position of Governor of the Vilayet of Trebizond—which, as all men know, is an important province and port on the Black Sea coast—stipulating only that I should embrace the Mussulman faith. I was but twenty-five years old, and the prospect of being king in everything but name of a large and beautiful province was too flattering to resist, and I accepted the position with its accompanying condition, much to the disgust of Sir Thomas Roe, whose friendship for me declined from that hour. A few days later my noble friend sailed for England, and the last words I heard him speak informed me that he had hoped for better things of me than had appeared. At this distance of time it is easy to perceive in whom lay the fault which wrought this estrangement, and this incident is one of many which make a retrospect of my life very melancholy to me.

In delivering to me the warrant for my office the Grand Vizier, a crafty old Turk, with a long white beard and a magnificent but deceptive eye, complimented me on my honesty and truthfulness, to which qualities, he said, I owed my appointment, inasmuch as the Sultan's mother had been very favorably impressed therewith, though, for his part, he thought these were virtues which might be carried too far. Honestly, he further observed, was in itself a commendable thing, and sometimes worked well (as in my own case, where it had gained for me this valuable appointment), yet it might not be lost sight of that the tribute from Trebizond must at least be maintained if not increased, and that the good will of himself and some of his brother officers was only to be retained by gifts. With regard to truth he could not speak so favorably—that it was frequently inexpedient to employ it was the daily experience of all men, but carefulness on occasions when its use was dispensed with was doubtless needful. "Lie with suffi-

cient circumstance to ensure belief," said this consummate deceiver, "yet with not so much circumstance that the forgetful thereof shall embarrass thee on another occasion. In this lies the whole art of lying." Thus admonished, and with an overpowering sense of my newly acquired dignity, I set out for Trebizond accompanied by a numerous retinue.

The city and province over which I was appointed to rule had been deplorably ill governed from time immemorial. The people had been harried and plundered by an unbroken succession of incompetent despots, and no man's life or property was secure. Before I set foot in Trebizond, I had resolved to use the unlimited powers entrusted to me in reforming any abuses which I might find prevailing there. Having taken up my abode in an ancient castle which faced the sea and stood just within the city walls, I addressed the chief men of the city who had gathered to receive me, and occasioned them much consternation by announcing my intention of living as simply and frugally as possible, of administering impartial justice between man and man irrespective of rank, office, or wealth, and of my willingness to hear personally all cases in which suitors for justice could show reasonable cause for appeal against the judgment of the cadis. "The authority," I said, "delegated to me by the Commander of the Faithful, to inflict death on any inhabitant of this province who shall incur my displeasure. I will never exercise except to punish the evil doer whose deeds in the judgment of men shall merit that penalty. The annual tribute of Trebizond fixed by the Sultan's advisers is a heavy one—heavier, I fear, than you can pay without hardship. Nevertheless, it must be paid, punctually and fully; but I hope by the laws I will enact and the impartiality of my rule soon to lighten your burdens, to which end I will direct all the energy of my nature, confident of success if only your present protestations of loyalty be sincere."

The domestic establishment of my predecessor (who—marvelous in a Turkish pasha—had died a natural death) was large, expensive, and mostly useless; so I deemed it a fitting subject for a first experiment with my reforming hand. I reduced it four-fifths, and reconstructed the remainder on a system which I had devised myself—abolished the office of purse-bearer, personally controlled the treasury, and kept a sleepless eye on accounts rendered to me by my subordinates. Verily the ways of reformers are hard, and the opposition of those whom it is sought to benefit is too great to measure. At first my rule was as unpopular with the people as that of any of my predecessors had been, which is saying much; but I lived it down, and in a few years converted hatred into tolerance, which I later was changed to esteem when it was ascertained that I scrupulously adhered to my original declaration. Trebizond prospered enormously under my rule, and in ten years had become one of the wealthiest and most peaceful vilayets in the empire, whereas before it had been one of the poorest and most turbulent. Mahpeker's Grand Vizier, who, true to the traditions of his race and office, had fixed the tribute of Trebizond at ten times as much as had ever before been wrung from that province, was astounded to see from me the sum he had demanded, and was at a stand to know how I had accomplished such a wonderful feat. In his dilemma the Vizier resorted to the Court Astrologer from whom, after narrating the circumstances, he asked for enlightenment. After practicing divers fooleries with an astrologer the astrologer informed the Vizier that the Beardless Pasha of Trebizond had discovered a gold mine, and an announcement which so powerfully excited the cupidity of the Vizier that he undertook a journey to Trebizond to see whether it was really so or not. With great difficulty I proved to this vile wretch that his credulity had been abused—that my success was due merely to my acting directly contrary to his advice; and he returned to Constantinople, disappointed and disconcerted. But during his absence from the capital a faction had been formed against him, his peculations had been exposed, and a passage leading to the Seraglio was won by the Seven Mutes and there unceremoniously strangled.

Years came and passed away, and many were the changes in the government of Turkey. In 1902 Amurath, at that time a youth of twenty, assumed power with a rigorous despotism which has never been exceeded in the history of the world. Fortunately for his people, Amurath was a man of great capacity. Though himself inconceivably cruel, he was politic enough not to permit overmuch tyranny in others. His Majesty professed great regard for me, and did me the honor and his people the benefit to enact for his whole empire some salutary laws which I had enforced with advantage at Trebizond. My position was assured by the mandate of the Sultan and the

loyalty of the people, my status that of a dependent prince, my wealth greater than that of any other pasha in the empire.

And thus circumstanced did I live on. In 1940 the Sultan died of a fever, accelerated by terror at an eclipse of the sun, and was succeeded by his brother Ibrahim.

A man Snail slow in action, dull of apprehension, Rich in delay and doubt, confusing all things, whose milder temper, though appreciated by the people with whom he was in immediate touch, soon effaced the good effects of Amurath's iron discipline. Ibrahim reigned but eight years, and the power and wealth of Turkey dwindled so marvelously under his rule that to save the empire from disintegration the Murti agreed upon an edict to extinguish this feeble-minded voluptuary; and he was accordingly bowstrung, and his son, the present Sultan Mahomet IV., then a child of seven, set in his place.

The regicide of 1948 failed entirely of its object, and the people of Turkey were plunged into even greater misery by the deadly rivalry for supreme influence which ensued between the Sultanas Mahpeker and Tarkhan, grandmother and mother of the infant Sultan Mahomet. The feud was maintained with the utmost bitterness, and each of the principals attracted to herself a faction of pashas. The Turkish treasury, always the prey of Court officials, was soon emptied by the host of thieves who saw in this division an opportunity to enrich themselves; and poverty and disaffection prevailed in the land. Demands for money from my province became larger and more frequent, until at last they could no longer be met. In a vigorous remonstrance to Sultana Mahpeker and her advisers, I reviewed my conduct during the whole term of my pashalik, insisting upon the impossibility of increasing the tribute from Trebizond, and requesting permission to resign my office. My report did not reach Constantinople until a few days after the death of Mahpeker, who had been assassinated by a partisan of Tarkhan. About the time this intelligence was brought to me, my son, a charming boy of fifteen, the delight and hope of my life, succumbed to malaria, and I determined to return to England.

The corrupt cabal then ruling at Constantinople would, I was sure, oppose my departure from Trebizond, for a like reason and probably by similar means that Signor Battista's departure from Constantinople was opposed in 1922. Of this I had no doubt, and I ordered my conduct accordingly, escaping in a Muscovite merchant ship to Tagnagor, when I traveled slowly, and with no incident worth the telling, to London, arriving in the latter city on Christmas eve of the year 1951, bringing with me a goodly store of Turkish money and jewels, and the ten chests of sequins just as they were nine years before, and as they remain even to this day.

December 3.—I am disposed to think there are very few men who can look back upon a long life with unmixed satisfaction, but I hope the larger number of men are more happily circumstanced in this respect than the old man who pens this record. There remains but little for me to tell, and I am weary of writing about myself. At Holdenhurst I found my brother, Mathew alive and happy in the companionship of his wife and sons and daughters, as, thank God, he is to-day. And now twenty years have passed since I returned to England, all of which (except a brief and fruitless visit which I made to Venice in 1930 to discover the heirs of Signor Pietro Simona) have been passed in this quiet English village where I was born. The alchemical investigations with which I have occupied my leisure have failed to yield the results I had hoped for, and my only wish now is that my life (which by many signs I know is now surely tending to its close) may be prolonged sufficiently to allow me to found a hospital for the poor of St. Edmund's Bury with the Venetian sequins which for safety have lain so many years immured in the Abbott's Cell beneath this house. Is it too much to pray for, that my Maker shall regard the charitable act I contemplate as some slight remuneration for my bitterly repented renunciation of the faith of my fathers and of the riotous excesses of my youth and middle age? Truly do I now well perceive that Lust is a flame which rages fiercely and expires, while Love endures forever and is clothed with immortal youth.

ROGER TRUEMAN.  
To be continued.

**A Still in a French Church Spire.**  
An interesting discovery has just been made at Quezac, (Lozere), France, by some customs officials. As the result of anonymous information they climbed into the spire of the church, and after a careful search found a still which, although dating from the seventeenth century, was yet in a perfect state of preservation and capable of being worked. Naturally the requirements of the law with regard to apparatus of this description had not been complied with in this case, but who was the offender? The vicar in charge of the building? The sacristan who visited weekly? The interrogated, the former declared that he had only recently come into the parish and had never set foot in the spire. He was therefore totally ignorant of the existence of the incriminated vessel. The sacristan, however, could not allege so valid an excuse and his explanation not being considered satisfactory, he will be proceeded against.

Chairs were in use in Egypt as long ago as 3359 B. C.



**Tomato Sauce.**  
Put one pint of tomatoes into a saucepan, with a slice of onion. Cook five minutes, then strain. Put one tablespoonful of butter into a pan, add one tablespoonful of flour; when smooth add the tomatoes, stir until thick, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

**When Making Soup.**  
All the tedious skimming and straining of soup can be avoided if one takes the precaution to put in a small unpeeled onion at the very start and permit it to remain until one is ready to thicken the soup. When lifted out it will be found that this vegetable has served as a magnet to draw to itself all the floating sediment, leaving the broth as clear as crystal, yet in no wise impairing its nourishing quality.

**Farmers' Fruit Cake.**  
One pound sugar dried or evaporated apples, soaked over night in warm water. Drain off water and simmer two hours in two cups molasses. One cup melted butter, half cup thick sour cream, two teaspoonfuls soda, one cup brown sugar, four eggs, four and a half cups sifted flour, browned in the oven, cassia, ginger, cloves, nutmeg, lemon rind grated, each one teaspoonful. Bake in moderate oven.—What To Eat.

**Curried Rice.**  
Wash in several waters one cup of rice; put it into two quarts of boiling water; add one teaspoonful of salt; when the rice is nearly tender pour it into a strainer; put over the fire one cup of stock; add to it two teaspoonfuls of curry rubbed in a little cold water; then add the rice to this and cook until tender; serve in the centre of a platter; pour the gravy over it; squeeze the juice of half a lemon over all and sprinkle over it a little chopped parsley.

**Boston Brown Bread.**  
One even cup Indian meal, two heaping cups rye meal, one teaspoonful salt, one teaspoonful soda, one cup molasses; mix very thoroughly together the meal, salt and soda; add one pint of hot water to the molasses and stir; pour the molasses and water into the middle of the meal and stir till a smooth batter; put in a buttered tin boiler, cover tightly and set in covered iron kettle to boil three hours, adding water as may be necessary; when done set the bread boiler in the water for ten minutes.

**Tomato Jelly.**  
Pass the contents of a can of tomatoes through a sieve, rejecting nothing but seeds and coarse fibres (if any). Put two cups of this puree over the fire with two slices of onion, two cloves, a sprig of parsley, a piece of bay leaf, four peppercorns, or a bit of green pepper, and two teaspoonfuls of tarragon vinegar. Let simmer fifteen minutes, then skim out the vegetables, etc., and add half a teaspoonful of salt and half a two-ounce package of gelatine, softened by standing some time in three-fourths a cup of cold water. Stir until the gelatine is dissolved and pour in moulds.

## HINTS FOR THE HOUSEKEEPER

Gane chair seats become more elastic if washed in hot water and soap. Dry them in the sun and air.

A piece of soft paper wet with kerosene oil will clean an enamelled bath tub or bowl that has become dingy.

Dwellers who live in apartment houses should know that turpentine poured down the kitchen drain pipe will keep the water bugs away.

Lamp burners which are in constant use should be boiled occasionally in soda suds, then scrubbed and polished with brick dust, when they will do as good service as new ones.

Save all your broken and crooked carpet tacks and keep them in a box in the kitchen for cleaning bottles. They are better than shot, for the sharp edges scrape off all the stains.

Kerosene added to boiling starch—a tablespoonful to a quart—will prevent the smoothening irons from sticking and will give a gloss to the articles; the scent will all evaporate in the drying.

When silver spoons become discolored from eggs scour them with fine table salt. This will remove the discoloration, which is caused by the sulphur in the egg, and not scratch or wear the silver.

For tomato fritters scald and peel ripe tomatoes and chop them fine. Season with salt and pepper and stir in enough flour to make a thin batter. With the flour mix about half a teaspoonful of soda. Fry in deep fat and serve hot.

Nickel plating which has spots of rust may be cleaned by covering it for a few days with nutmeg tallow. Follow this treatment with a brisk rubbing with powdered rotten stone and then by a bath in strong ammonia, a rinsing in clear water and a final polishing with dry whiting.

## Some of the Best Jokes of the Day

**The Solution.**  
How old is Cupid? Hard to tell, So youthful still he sings; Perhaps you judge him like a tree And count him by his rings.

**Closely Packed.**  
"Was the jury packed?"  
"I guess it was. They were all fat men, and one of 'em must have weighed fully 500."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Her Reason.**  
"I never thought she loved him."  
"She didn't."  
"Then why did she marry him?"  
"She had a grudge against him."—Chicago Post.

**Cure For Stammering.**  
Mother—"My little boy seems to have recently acquired the stammering habit."  
Doctor—"Have him quit reading war news."—Cleveland Leader.

**An Exception.**  
Kwoter—"It is always true that if you want a thing well done you must do it yourself."  
Knox—"How about an operation upon yourself for appendicitis?"

**No Trifling Detail.**  
Miss Trueso—"Am I to understand, papa, that everything is settled in regard to my wedding?"  
Mr. Trueso—"Yes, my dear, everything—but the bills!"—Chicago Journal.

**She Lost a Boarder.**  
Prospective Boarder—"Do you object to children?"  
Landlady—"No, indeed. I have ten of my own."

Prospective Boarder—"Well, er, if I decide to take a room I'll let you know."

**His Long Suit.**  
First Lawyer—"How are you getting on with that will case of yours?"  
Second Lawyer—"Famously. I have just got another postponement."

F. L.—"Any chance of settlement?"  
S. L.—"I am not worrying. I am long suit, you know?"

**That Settles It.**  
Flora—"He told me her life's history."  
Dora—"There isn't a word of truth in it."

Flora—"How do you know?"  
Dora—"Because she told it to him herself."—Yonkers Herald.

**Flint and Steel.**  
Mrs. Highmore (with cold dignity)—"To what am I indebted for the honor of this visit?"

Unexpected Caller—"To your careless servant, perhaps, madam. I dare say she forgot that you were not at home."—Chicago Tribune.

**No Fear.**  
Boroughs—"I'm afraid I've got heart trouble."  
Lenders—"Oh, you needn't be afraid that you'll ever die suddenly."

Boroughs—"Think not?"  
Lenders—"No, you'll pay the debt of nature slowly, just as you pay all your other debts."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

**An Excellent Idea.**  
"Girls who want to go in for literature," he said, "should take up the realistic school of fiction."

"You think so?"  
"Oh, yes, indeed. And then they should write domestic stories that deal with the home."

"But why?"  
"Because it would do them a lot of good to get the necessary experience."—Chicago Post.

**A Wonderful Gain.**  
Miss Vassar—"Of all the six-months-old babies I think Mrs. Dumpling's is the cutest little thing."  
Miss Sparty—"Oh, do you know her?"

Miss Vassar—"Yes, indeed! She was in college with me. She was in the '95 class there."

Miss Sparty—"The idea! She's easily in the 170-pound class now."—Philadelphia Press.

**Prepared For That Emergency.**  
"If you can listen to me for a few moments," began the soft-voiced person in the suit of faded black, "I would like to show you our new publishing scheme. We give with every copy of our magazine—"



The Ambidextral Culture Society, of England seeks to increase the ability to use the left hand, but without aiming to add to production in the arts by the simultaneous use of both hands.

Radium promises to fill a need of the Paris municipal laboratory. Measurement of the electricity of the air has depended upon water, which gives trouble by freezing in winter, but radium offers a means of measurement unaffected by cold.

Water is often thought to be almost absolutely incompressible, but Professor Tait has now calculated that the ocean would rise 116 feet higher than at present if it were not compressed by its own weight. We are indebted to this compression, therefore, for two million square miles of our dry land.

Rivers seem to have played a considerable part in limiting the distribution of animals. A notable instance of many noted by W. L. Distant, a British zoologist, is that of the viscacha, a rabbit-like rodent of South America, which is abundant south of the Uruguay, but is unknown to the north, where the country seems quite as well adapted to its habits.

According to the United States consul at Callao, Peru, that country has many rich, large mineral deposits of gold, silver, copper, mercury, lead, sulphur, coal, salt and petroleum, not to name those of less importance. He further states that the only things necessary to develop these vast deposits are capital and labor, which would make the republic as renowned for its mineral wealth as California, Australia and South Africa.

Left-eyedness is looked upon by Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia, as of greater significance than left-handedness. He is seeking facts concerning the two and their association, but suggests that both may be due to the abnormal location of the speech centre in the right side of the brain. He believes ambidexterity should be discouraged, while he has seen only bad results in the attempt to correct a decided use of the left hand.

Leprosy has been investigated by Jonathan Hutchinson, the great English pathologist, in all parts of the globe where it prevails. He finds nothing to justify the idea of contagion, as attendants in leper hospitals do not contract the disease, nothing like an epidemic is ever known, and even transmission from husband to wife is rare. He attributes the disease to decayed or badly cured fish—not to any excessive use of fish in good condition.

What is known as the "universal transferable steering propeller," a French invention, is a light explosive motor that can be attached in place of a rudder to any existing boat, without boring a hole in the stern post, and can be removed when desired. It enables anybody to convert a rowing boat into a gasoline launch for the temporary needs of his day's outing. No rudder is necessary, and as the propeller can be turned completely around a reverse action is given. A launch to which a twelve-horsepower propeller has been attached towed three hundred-ton canal barge loaded with 150 tons of sand.

**What Piques Like Most as Food.**  
There is a professional fisherman of my acquaintance in Tipperary who kills many pike during the winter months, for which a finds ready sale in the town. He told me of one customer who was in the habit of so beating him down in price that he felt justified in resorting to somewhat questionable means to increase the weight of his fish. In the manner of the winning of the stakes in the celebrated "Jumping Frog" sporting event, he would introduce some weighty substance into their interior, stones, bits of iron railing, &c.

Once he went so far as to stuff two old handless fattens. He had picked from a refuse heap down the gutter of one before taking it to his customer, who, after weighing it carefully, and after much haggling, paid him a fraction less per pound for it than he might have perhaps obtained elsewhere. Meeting him next day, he was instantly aware that there was trouble in the wind by the opening remark, "What do pike feed on, Paddy?" "Och and indeed, your Honor, but there's mighty little that comes amiss to thim sticks and stones they like well, but they would give their two eyes for flatirons."—Country Gentleman.

**Found a Rat That Wore Diamonds.**  
A rat, wearing around its neck a gold ring set with a solitaire diamond, was killed recently. The family cat was the fortunate ratter, and so proud was she of her prey that she carried it into the house, where it was about to be brushed out when the sparkle of the diamond was noticed.

A examination showed that it was the ring of Miss Maggie Adams, lost two years ago. It fitted so tightly about the neck that the rat must have nearly strangled. It is supposed that the rat, when young, had slipped its head through the ring and had never been able to get it off.—Philadelphia Press.

Harbin is about 600 miles north of Port Arthur, 350 miles west of Vladivostok and five days by boat on the Sungari River from Amur.



The Birmingham school authorities not only teach the children how to cook, but how to shop economically.

In nearly forty instances languages have been first reduced to writing by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

In Persia, India and China the lower classes still live, as a rule, together with their animals in the same dark and unventilated huts.

By the flash of an electric spark one hundred and twenty-five millions of a second in duration a rifle bullet can be photographed in its flight.

The most valuable almanac in the world is preserved in the British Museum. It is written in red ink on papyrus, and it is believed to be about 3000 years old.

The life of a dime is only four or five years, because it changes hands ten times while a half a dollar is moved once from one person's pocket into the till of another.

The smallest coin in the world having a genuine circulation is probably the Maltese "grain," a tiny fragment of bronze about as big around as the top of a slate pencil and having a value of only one-twelfth of a penny.

The deepest hole in the earth is near Ketschau, Germany. It is 5735 feet in depth, and is for geological research only. The drilling was begun in 1880, and stopped six years later because the engineers were unable with their instruments to go deeper.

John Burns, member of Parliament for Battersea, recently took a 200-mile walk with an infantry battalion in order to see the work done by the army. He made an average of twenty-five miles a day and declared at the end of the trip that he enjoyed it greatly.

The largest dwelling house in the world is the Freihaus, in a suburb of Vienna, containing in all between 1200 and 1500 rooms, divided into upward of four hundred separate apartments. The immense house, wherein a whole city lives, works, eats and sleeps, has thirteen courts—five open and eight covered—and a garden within its walls.

**A Queer Snake.**  
Some timbermen who were working out railroad ties near Lehigh Creek, a short distance from Fullerton, Ky., recently caught the first large snake of the season. After they had landed him they became greatly perplexed from the fact that he was of a variety that had never before been heard of. They brought him to town, where his snakehood was carefully inspected at a respectable distance.

He bore all the marks of a common blacksnake, but protruding from his neck at one side near the head was a long horn, apparently as sharp as a needle. Nothing like this had ever been seen or heard of before. The snake was finally despatched, when careful investigation revealed the fact that he had swallowed a small game cock and one of the steel gaffs had protruded through the reptile's neck.—Cincinnati Inquirer.

**The Talk of the Day.**  
A school for dogs is the latest development of the educational movement. It has been established in Paris, with the object of teaching, not letters, but politeness. The school-room is furnished with chairs, tables and rugs, to give the necessary "local color" to the surroundings. The dog pupils are trained to welcome visitors by jumping up, wagging the tail and giving a low bark. When the visitor leaves, the dog accompanies him to the door and bows his farewell by bending his head to the floor. He is trained likewise to pick up a handkerchief, glove or fan that has been dropped and return it to the owner. He is taught further to walk with "proud and prancing steps" when out with his mistress.

**Dance to Take Strain Out of Muscles.**  
Dr. Bischoff, of Vladivostok, Chile, describes the hard work of the mining peons, who carry 150 pounds of ore in bags strapped to their shoulders while they climb up hundreds of feet on ladders, often consisting only of notched trees. They toil without a recess from 6 a. m. to 4 p. m., and might seem to be in need of all the rest they can get, but before supper they prefer to take the strain out of their muscles after a fashion of their own—viz., dancing vehemently to the sound of a fiddle for an hour or two, or even longer if their lady friends happen to muster in force.—Health Cure.

**An Odd Custom.**  
It is an old fact in modern history that the tombs of the Kings of Sardinia and the cradle of their destiny, Savoy, are now in the hands of France. Only Kings Victor Emanuel II and Humbert I. are buried in Italy. The rest, from the thirteenth century, in the Abbey Church of Haute-Combe, near Chambery, with the peace of Villafranca, 1860, transferred to France, with the rest of the provinces, in return for French aid against Austria. By a strange oversight, the tombs of the kings were not "extra-territorialized."