COVERED WITH ARMOR.

ious Method of Prote

nimal Was Exposed to Indian I to and Her Guner Clothed Her in a Complete Cost of Mail.

A late copy of the Buffalo Gap (S. D.)
dirror gives an account of an ingenious
invention of a citizen of that place,
docidit Ferguson. We learn from the
dirror's excellent account that Mr.
Ferguson is a blackemith, having a
hop in Cheyenne avenue, and living
with his wife and family in the subirbs. He has long been known to his
fellow-townsmen as a most ingenious
and has been responsible for several inventions of more or less merit,
among them being a safety sog-catch
on mine-hoisting apparatus. We claims
on expert knowledge on mine-holsting
machinery, says the New York Tribane, but we should say that a dogcatch must be a very important thing
about the mouth of the shaft, and it
can not be pleasant to have dogs constantly tumbling down on the miners.

Hat Mr. Ferguson's present invention
is something as far removed from mining as possible. He has lived on the
frontier (though born in Connecticut)
and been through several Indian diaturbances. In these he has always lost
more or less stock, for, though never a
stock-raiser, he was been in the kabit of
keeping a cow and sometimes a calf or
two. These the Indians have invariably swooped down upon and killed.
Buffalo Gap is situated only a few miles
west of the Bad lands, and when the
inte trouble began it instantly occurred
to Mr. Ferguson that it probably meant late copy of the Buffalo Gap (S. D.)

west of the Bad lands, and when the inte trouble began it instantly occurred to Mr. Ferguson that it probably meant the loss of another cow, as he owned one of these useful and nutritious animals. The thought was depressing, and he began to cast about for some plan to prevent the coming sacrifice, if possible. While turning the matter over in his mind Mr. Ferguson happened to glance in an illustrated copy of "Don Quixote." He had scarcely opened the volume when the idea came to him: Why not construct a bullet-proof armor for his cow? To think is to act with Biookitt Ferguson, and inside of thirty minutes he had the patient beast in his shop and was busy hammering out thin plates for her back.

hammering out thin plates for her hack.

Mr. Ferguson is a rapid workman, and at the end of a week's time he had the cow clad in complete mail. Her body was covered with large plates, and her neck, head and legs with smaller ones, all carefully articulated so that she could walk, lie down, and indeed perform all ordinary movements with case. In the helmet holes were of course, left for eyes and mouth, though these were no larger than were absolutely necessary, and had she been as bibulously inclined as the kindjate of Branksome hall she would have "drunk the red" Unlike the ghost of Hamlet's father she word her beaved down. Her norms Mr. Ferguson had topped with sharp steel points, thus rendering her armed as well as protected. Mr. Ferguson had considerable difficulty in deviating a suitable covering for her tail. Plates were found out of the question. Finally, however, he hit on the plan of the latest was the same than the plan of the latest was the same than the plan of the latest was the latest was the same than the plan of the latest was the latest was spread. On mats apread as well as protected. Mr. Ferguson had considerable difficulty in deviating a suitable covering for her tail.

Plates were found out of the question. Finally, however, he hit on the plan of the latest was the way the was the life a grave and supplied by strangers.

The method had been carefully swited and the beine and polished, and the head received and retrieved and the had been refusely decorated with mach cere mony in the graveyard, which is in a beautiful grove. Each mound was proading the same than the safe to be found in every native was indicated and the hald been refusely decorated with mach cere mony in the graveyard, which is in a beautiful grove. Each mound was proading the proper of the hall the hald been refusely the was the lates Plates were found out of the question. Finally, however, he hit on the plan of winding her tail with wire, like a garden hose, and he found that it worked admirably, interfering but little with its flexibility and affording reasonable protection. The complete armor weighed about three hundred pounds. When every thing was fluished the cow was led out to the Ferguson homestead and allowed to graze about in the neighborhood on the dry prairie grass, there being but little answ. She soon became accustomed to the cost of mail and paid no attention to it. Twice a dny she

BANQUETING THE DEAD.

How Bedshists in Japan Entertain Delagates from the Spirit Land.

Not long ago a number of elderly and much-traveled gentlemen were grouped in a semi-circle around a big fire-place of a down-town hotel, swapping yarns and telling experiences. Among them was Dr. G. H. Colton Salter, who for many years was United States Consul in Japan and afterward entered the Chinese Government arrives. When Dr. Salter's ars was United States consul in apain, at afterward entered the Chinese Government service. When Dr. Salter's urn came to produce an original story anded on personal experience, says as San Francisco Chroniele, he told the wing tale:

"The many stories published during he last months about Indian ghost ances and the Messiah eraze remind as of one of the most remarkable incients I have ever witnessed during my one excerts the orient. Let I am sure here are but few Americans or Eurocans who have had the opportunity to se the sights of which I am going to all.

see the sights of which I am going to tell.

"The native religion of the Japanese is, as you know, Buddhiam, and there is no creed which is so full of superstition as this. Some of the ancient beliefs of the Buddhiats are calculated to frighten the faithful and vividly portray the horrible punishment that awaits the siaful man after he closes his earthly career, while others, with charming simplicity, show that the greatest aim of the Hindu religion is the release from existence. The doctrine of the transmigration of souls and a hope for a better fate in a future life are the principal foundations upon which Buddhiam rests. Nagasaki, where I resided for many years, was famed for the splendid festivals in honor of Buddha, or Gautama, the founder of the religion. Owing to the work of missionaries and the consequent spread of Christianity in Japan, many of these religious fetes are no longer publicly observed, and the one of which I am about to speak had its last grand celebration in 1886, just before I left Nagasaki.

"It is called the Mataidre, and was

salci.
"It is called the Matsidre, and was "It is called the Matsidre, and was held during the last week in August or the first week in September, continuing four days. These days were set aside for the reception of the spirits of the dead, who, according to a legendary belief, return once every year to their old homes. For many weeks previous to the festival preparations had been in progress. The houses of the believers had all been carefully swept, cleaned and polished, and the home altars, which are to be found in every native house, had been redecorated and refurnished. The interior of all the buildings had been profusely adorned with flowers, the streets had been repaired and the whole city was in holiday attire.

course of years the family of any one of
the alient aleepers had completely
died out his grave had been embellished and supplied by strangers.
The spirits were supposed to arrive
and depart by water from the sea, and
for four nights and days the living communed with their dend and were with
them in spirit. The souls of the departed were supposed to hover around
the tombs like substantial, visible
beings, and they were treated with
every attention due to sacred and distinguished visitors from the other world.

"The night of the second day was devoted to a grand terpsichorean entertalnment, or spirit dance, and the graveyard was transformed for once into a
ball-room, where ghostly dancers were
supposed to hold revely. The scenes
under a strong and everlasting impression on me. The night was perfect, the
moon was at its full and the air was
fragrant with the perfemes of thousands of flowers. Myriads of lights
were flickering on the hill-sides which
surrounded the city, and the colored
lanterns swayed gently to and fro, keeping time to the chimes of the silvery
bells in the temple tower, which furnished the music for the mystic entertalnment. Around an artificial lake in
the center of the graveyard the people
knelt in silent devotion, worshiping on
the ahrine of Buddha, whose emblem,
the lotus flower, rose from the middle
of the lake.

"On the last night—on the night of
nights, as it was called—a grand procession finished the festival. The people
marched in parade to excert their spirit
visitors to the water from, where they
were to depart. Boatmen carried on
their shoulders a gigautic craft built of
wood and straw, in which the dead were
supposed to be seated, and which was to
convey them back to spirit-land and to
Ohata, the grant talier heyond the sea.
This boas, which is called Pukuy, was a
mater plees of Japaness carpentry. It
was aliesty feet long, and had a stateity must, with a huge sail, which bore in
cative characters like inscription; 'Naidinasawid, a word which is a symboli

DIAMOND DRUMMERS.

Fortunes on Their Persons.

Concerning Precious Stones Gies in Conversation with an Hast-gra Dealer—Habits of the Draumers.

"You might be surprised," said a prominent Broadway dealer in precious stones to a New York World man, "if I should tell you that rubies are now in greater domand than dismonds."

"Why, that seems almost incredible," remarked the reporter.

"Indeed it does," continued the merchant, "But nevertheless it is true. Rubles are becoming very scarce, as the mines are about worked out. Only a few days ago a friend of mine sold a ruby weighing little over a carat for two thousand dollars. The sale took place in Chicago, and I knew both of the men in the transaction.

"The market for diamonds just now is inactive. Since the first of the year, however, there has been an advance of at least twenty-five per cent. On this account you will find that small dealers will not invest in them to any extent for fear the price will fall again."

"Where do most of the diamonds come from?"

"Where do most of the diame

"From a mine in South Africa, owned by the Rothchilds-De Roer syndicate. It is the only field being worked at present, and they are doing their best to keep up the price of diamonds."

"Are diamonds just as popular as "Are ever?"

ever?"

"Not by any means. At present there is a great craze for colored stones. Brown, blue, black, green and canary are the favorites, but those with the bluish tinge command the highest prices. Moonstones have sprung into popularity within the past few months, and nearly every dealer in the city has at present a good stock of them on hand, mounted in studs, rings, buttons and necklaces. If properly set they make a most beautiful necklace, and although they are not nearly as valuable, make a most beautiful necklace, and al-though they are not hearly as valuable, I think they are every bit as handsolme as pearls. The moonstone has also be-come a very fashionable stone for gen-tlemen's wear."

"Is there much of a demand for opals?"

saked a reporter.

"Well, once in awhile some one will brop in and ask to see some, but I never seep them. I wouldn't give them, safe

are brought over here every year, and the majority of these stones go direct to Maiden lane and John street dealers.

to Maiden lane and John street dealers. They are then sent to all parts of the country by special salesmen. This is a line of business that a man takes up at a very early age and remains in for the rest of his life."

"Does one man carry many?"

"That's according to his ability and trustworthiness. The stock of a salesman generally runs from seventy-five thousand to one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of diamonds, which they carry about their persons, never in a case or traveling bag.

"Most of the salesmen carry these

thousand dollars' worth of diamonds, which they carry about their persons, never in a case or traveling bag.

"Most of the salesmen carry these jewels in vests made of leather, and securely bound by straps to their bodies. This vest has a sot of deep pockets with finps which can be snapped shut. As a rule the salesman must be a good athlete. They go heavily armed, and when they see any snapleious characters they quietly slip out of the way.

"Upon reaching a notel the first thing they do is to deposit the stones in the safe. Then an easy breath is taken, probably for the first time in twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Some of the more timid salesmen, or the beginners, will not leave their hotel after dark for fear they may be followed by crocks, who, not knowing they have get rid of their diamonds, might do them bodily injury.

"The life of traveling diamond salesmen is not by any means pleasant. They never make chance acquaintances, for if they did so they might meet the same man on a zeries of trips for years afterwards, and upon becoming intimate the fellow could easily get away with the vestful of diamonds when the opportunity offered. Many a crock would have the patience to wait for four or five years and then think himself fully repaid if he could get away with a good loud of diamonds, for they come nearer to being mency than any other articles of value. Another thing of interest about the diamond nalesmen is that they never drink or gamble. The first time they are found indulging in either vice their occupation is gone forever."

"Do they have to furnish any thing?"

"None at all. There are very few men who could treat with their lives. Yea must take into consideration that when a man starte set on the road with a vestful of diamonds they carry, and the unity men employed in this business are those whom their employers would treat with their lives. Yea must take into consideration that when a man starte set on the reaction."

"That is almust out of the question that when a man starte set of the question

A QUEEN'S JEWELS.

A very curious action has just been recorded in the court of the recorder of Rangoon. The plaintiff was one of the wives of Mindoon Min, King of Burmah, Thebaw's father and predecessor, and is known as the Limban Queen, and she claimed as sole heiress of her daughter, the Sawlin Princess, to be entitled to a large amount of jewelry deposited with the detendants in 1878 under anusual circumstances. The Princess, it seems, tays the Chicago News, was a great favorite with her father, King Mindoon Min, who made her large and frequent presents of gems and jewelry of all kinds. In 1878 Mindoon Min was as the polet of death, and it was known that confusion is the palace would follow on that event. It was apparently foreseen that his successor, Thebaw, would—as, in fact, he did—murder most of his relatives at once, and while the King ley dying special measures for guarding the palace were taken. The Limban Queen and her daughter, the Sawlin Princess, dreading what the near future had in store for them, concerted measures to get the jewels of the latter out of the palace to a place of safety where they would be accessible in case of need later on. For this purpose they toek into: their confidence certain barsar dealers, who had access to the ladies' querters to sell their wares, and by their sid snoceeded in getting out all the jewels, packed to look like sweetmeats. These dealers and one Aga Khorasani, a Mahommedan merchaut, ware the defendants. They absolutely denied any depost of the kind, but the recorder found against them on the facts and decided that about three thousand precious six es, which were specified by weight and value in a list made at the time in the palace and retained ever since by the Queen, had, in fact, been placeo in their charge immediately prior to Mindoon Min's death, and in anticipation of that event. The Princess died a few nowths after. The Queen, her mother, remained in prison until the British troops occupied Mandalay in 1885, when she was, of course, released. All this time she heard not largely on the evidence that nine years ago, and three years after the deposit, one of the defendants had in his possession a large ruby cut in the shape of a wild duck, which was described in the Queen's list as having been handed over to the defendants in the sweetment boxes in 1878. A decree of restitution was therefore made against all the defendants except one, in regard to whom

WOULD ANIMALS SMOKE?

was therefore made against all the de-fendants except one, in regard to whom the action was held barred by the statute of limitations. Subsequent to her release from imprisonment the Queen was prevented from suing for five years in consequence of her pov-

In the Berlin Zoological Gardens Prof. Paul Meyerheim, painter of animal life, has been trying the effects of the fragrant weed on various denizens of the gardens, with results which are as novel as they are undoubtedly amusing. Chief among the subjects of his experiments, says the London Telegraph, was the brown bear. He declares that the "common brown bears" are genuine enthusiasts for tobacco. "When I puff my cigar amoke into their cage," he remarks, "they rush to the front rubbing their noses and backs against the bars through which the smoke has penetrated." The professor, with some temerity, once experimented on the lion. The greature was asleep, and this was the moment selected for puffing a volume of tobacco smoke in his face. Did be at once wake up with a savage growl, iash I is tail, and springing at the bars, thake the massive Iron? Not at all. He awoke and "stood on his legs," which steems a natural enough attitude to adopt, and "amezed powerfully." Then he quietly lay down on his aide and "elevated his nose, as if saking for a second dose." It may be news to some naturalists to hear that goats, stags, and liasmas all devour tobacco und eigars with remarkable antisfaction. It is certainly somewhat of a wante of the material to let a prime Havana be "bolted" in one gulp by an antelope; but the professor was actuated by a praisatworthy desire to discover scientific facts, and also by a wish to get on good terms with creatures whom it was his business to sicetch. "I made a personal friend," he writes, "of an exceedingly malicious guanseo, or wild liams, by simply feeding him again and again with tobacco."

Observation parties are the latest thing in society. An observation party are asked by the host to observe the furnishing of the dinnertable, for instance. Then they are given five minutes to write down a list of the articles that are on the table. The person whose mansary is best and who can write down within the prowelled time—five minutes, may—the arrival mumber of articles on the table transp

A PREHISTORIC MONARCH

While removing the earth for the foundation of a new hotel to be erected at Crittenden, Ariz, the diggers discovered what seems to be the tomb of a king, though of what people it would doubtless purrie an antiquarian to say. The workmen had penetrated at some eight feat below the surface of the ground what they took to be stone of a soft, frishle asture, but which was evidently masonry of very superior workmanship when they reached the tomb itself. This was composed of large square blocks of stone, which was identified as red or rose granite, and comented together with such skill as to at first cause the whole, measuring twelve by fifteen feet, to appear as a solid mass. The opening of this, while very difficult, as the use of powder was prohibited by the archaeologists placed in charge of the exhumation by the authorities, was accomplished by night, when the interest and curiosity of the party was so great that the work was continued by lamplight till dawn.

The tomb when opened, says the Phifadelphia Times, was found to contain a gigantic image of a man lying at full length sud made of clay mixed with a sort of preparation which gives it a bright blue color and a slight clasticity, the whole appearing to have been subjected to great heat. The image represents the naked figure, except for a very tight girdle about the waist, a pair of close-fitting sandals and a crown on the head shaped very much like a bishop's miter, but topped with the head of a hawic or eagle. The features are roughly solded, are of an imperious cast, and of a man in middle age, with a prominent nose and a very wide mouth, but with chock bones so low as to preclude all idea that the original could have been an Indian. The hands, which are as small as a woman's, and bear on the backs the head of the bird, as on the crown, are crossed on the breast and hold an image about three hehels long, of a squatting figure, probably that of a god. The feet are also crossed, the right presenting the people from the back. This was done with all possible

CHINESE COURT ETIQUETTE

Recent dispatches from Poking state that a great change had occurred in dislomatic relations between the Chines Government and the foreign Minister accredited to the Imperial Court. It known, says the New York Tribune that, barring a few exceptions, thes diplomats were never admitted into the presence of the Emperor, and that the had to transact business with the Transact business and the Property of the P presence of the Emperor, and that the had to transact business with the Tau Li Yamen, or Foreign Affairs Bure The young Sovereign of China p lished on December 13, 1890, a deer m which he says, among other this

liahed on December 12, 1890, a decree, in which he says, among other things highly complimentary for the diplomatic corps at Peking:

"It is nearly two years since we have taken in hand the ruins of government; and our duty is to receive the envoys of all friendly countries. We decree, therefore, that a reception in honor of the foreign Ministers and Charges d'Affaires shall take place during the period of the first moon of next year, and the

therefore, that a reception in honor of the foreign Ministers and Charges d'Affaires shall take place during the period of the first moon of next year, and the Taung Li Yamen will get in due time the necessary orders fixing the date of the reception. On the succeeding day a banquet will be offered to the diplomatic body in the palace of the Taung Li Yamen. That ceremony shall be repeated every year at the same epoch. These arrangements show that we entertain the most sincere desire to maintain and strengthen continually our good relations with friendly countries. Let this be respected?

In launching forth his decree, the young Emperor Sish-Tu-Yen implicitly abolished the humiliating ceremony of the Kaou-Taou, which was required formerly of any foreigner admitted into the Imperial presence. He was aware that the foreign Ministers of this time would not submit to such a ceremony. The Kaou-Taou consisted in making, not only before the Emperor himself, but even before a yellow draped manikin representing him, the three kneelings down and the nine "prosternations" prescribed by Chinese stiquette. In 1805, Count Golofkine, the Russiau Minister appointed to the Court of Peking, was requested to do the Kaou-Taou before a yellow pappet supposed to represent the "Son of Heaven." He indignantly declined to submit to that humilintion or to cross the Chinese frontier. In 1703, Lord McCartney, the British Minister, also refused to perform the Kaou-Taou, and consented only to put one knee down, as he would have done before his sovereign in London. He was finally received by the Emperor Kien-Loung; but the "Council of Rites" blamed the latter; and the augurs predicted all sorts of evils as about to fall upon China, whose ruler had forgotten for once the time-honored customs. Still, almost one century later, in 1878, the foreign Ministers were received in a body by the Chinese sovereign, whose Empire was passing then through a series of calamities. The Imperial decree announcing that annual receptions will be given to the forei amounts to a revolution in the govern-mental customs of the Middle Kingdom

SKUNK FARMING.

who self of the top. The corews, away was self of the top. The corews, away was self of the top. The corews, and a faught lead of the posterior of the person and a faught of person of the person of

CONDITION OF THE CROPS

THE PROSPECT FOR WHEAT SEEMS UNUSUALLY GOOD.

All Show Good Consistent The Condition of Shra Stock Butter Than

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The Ap-eturns to the Department of Ag-ulture make the condition of wind wheat 96.9 and of rye 25.4. The season for feeding was favorable over whole winter wheat area; the soil of generally easily worked; the soil of prepared with musual cure, and severing followed by gentle rains, as clean to properly pack the earth a insure prompt and perfect germition. On portions of the Atlantic a dulf coasts the time of seeding a somewhat prolonged by occasionals, but the delay was not serie and the desired area was planted a good growth acquired by the adventishment.

Suitable weather and soil cond snabled the farmers of the Ohio States to put in the full breadth entirely favorable circumsta proper combinations of sur moisture which continued noisture, which continued until cold weather, sent the planting into winter juarters with a sturdy growth

A SEASONABLE FALL.

In portions of Kansas and Nebraska the prolonged drouth of last summer extended into the period of seeding, in-terfering somewhat and rendering ger-mination alow, but the seasonable

mination slow, but the seasonable weather during the late fall and early winter was sufficient to offset the disadvantage of the late start.

The entire season was favorable in California, while in Oregon the dry seed bed received moisture in time to secure a good though late growth. The weather was generally mild over the whole area, and while the snowfall was comparatively light, it came when most needed, protecting the plant during the coldest weather.

PAVORED SECTIONS.

PAVORED SECTIONS.

The Ohio valley and trans-Mi

pi States were especially favored, the growth in many sections continuing throughout the winter with sufficient sovering when needed and an entire absence of damage from freezing and heaving. Brown and bare spots are seldom met with, the growth and color

being remarkably uniform.

The Hessian fly, which was feared in December in the central West, is yet in abeyance, but the presence of the pest is noted in many localities and serious injury might follow should the early

California 99 and Oregon 97.

California 99 and Oregon 97.

Conditions of law export.

The returns make the percentage of losses among farm animals during the past year of 1.7; cattle, 3; sleep, 4, and swine, 8.4. Horses receive better care than any other class of stock, and the animal losses vary but little. The percentage of the loss of cattle is alightly higher than was reported in 1898 and 1899, the ensetty of food swelling the figures in porisons of Maness and Nobrasks. The losses of Maness of Maness and Nobrasks. The losses of Death.

New Young, April 29, The total number of deaths in this city for the work suding at mon to-day was 1,100 as against 1,100 for the procedure week. Eighty-three of these were during the beautiful and procedure week. Eighty-three of these were during the hotal marginity for the