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## GENERAL NEWS.

### Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

Monday was town election day in Connecticut. The Republicans lost a number of towns.

The recent storm damage at the town of Velasco, Texas, is announced to aggregate \$400,000.

The federal party in Porto Rico affiliates itself with the Democratic party of the United States.

Georgetown, S. C., Monday night was guarded with six companies of state troops, to prevent a race riot.

There are 12,000,000 Sunday school scholars in the United States—one seventh of the entire population.

The British steamer Eaglepoint at Philadelphia reports that she passed Monday and collided with the British steamer Biela. The latter sank and the Eaglepoint took off all hands and carried them to Philadelphia.

The Chinese peace commission has been announced. One is the commander-in-chief of the Chinese army, the man responsible for the fierce attacks upon the legations. The other members of the commission are acceptable to the allies.

The call for the convention in Virginia to tackle the constitution will be delayed as long as possible in order to get the expected ruling of the United States supreme court as to the constitutionality of the grandfather clause in the constitutions of Louisiana and North Carolina.

When the women of Long Island found that they couldn't sit on their porches or lie down without being assaulted by swarms of mosquitoes, they organized "Mosquito Clubs." They armed themselves with cans of kerosene and went out on the warpath, pouring oil on every patch of water they could find. The combination was successful.

A dispatch from Hong Kong by the Associated Press gives more particulars of the capture of Capt. Shields and 53 American soldiers by the Filipinos, the news of which the censor at Manila refused to allow to be cabled. The report is that Capt. Shields and men, stationed at Boag Mariadque island embarked September 12th on the gunboat Villaboa and landed on Mariadque, September 14th, where 300 of the enemy armed with rifles supposedly from Luzon, surprised the Americans. The latter fought for several hours until their ammunition was exhausted, after which they were overpowered and surrendered, relief being impossible. Four of the soldiers were killed, among whom according to reports was Captain Shields. The Americans also had several wounded. Lieutenants Reeves and Bates, of the staff on board the gunboat Yorktown, left Manila Monday. After gathering troops they proceeded to Mariadque to verify the reports regarding the fate of Capt. Shields and his men and, in case the native rumors are well founded, to punish the rebels and release the captives. News from this expedition is awaited with some anxiety at Manila. In the meanwhile the censor prohibits the transmission of news concerning the affair.

### The Strike Situation.

New York, Oct. 2.—Those in charge of the strike settlement negotiations say that they are progressing as satisfactorily as could be expected, and the refusal of the men to accept what has been offered by individual companies does not cause a serious hitch. President Mitchell now says the strike is complete and that there will be no resumption of work without their being first a convention representing every colliery. The miners now declare that their union must be recognized. The Lehigh Valley Coal company has offered to pay its employees a net increase of ten per cent, wages and reduce the powder a dollar and twenty five cents per keg. Otherwise the situation is unchanged.

### Rice and Population.

In deciding whether China's population is dense or sparse it ought to be remembered that the country produces rice. Countries which produce rice yield at least two crops a year. Countries which produce corn, on the other hand, only yield one crop a year. Therefore, proportionately to its extent, a country which produces rice ought to support at least twice as large a population as a country which produces corn.—Scottish American.

### A Remedy.

Amateur Tutor (who has been abroad)—Ah, my man, you are an eye doctor, I understand?  
Oculist—I am an oculist, sir.  
Yes, well, what I want to know is whether there is any way to prevent the eyes from filling with water while sleeping?  
None that I know of except to steel your heart against the sufferings of the audience.—London Tri-Buzz.

White's Black Liniment—full size 25c bottle for 15c. It cures pain.  
J. E. Hoar

## THE SECRET SERVICE.

### Thresome Work of Reading a Cipher Dispatch of 2,000 Words.

Some governments make use of numerals for their ciphered communications with their agents abroad, others a mixture of numerals and words, and yet others exclusively words. Of course, the only problem that needs solution in dispatches of this kind is to ascertain the key number or key word. When that is accomplished, the remainder is easy, though generally very tedious. Indeed it is difficult to conceive of a more thresome, head splitting piece of work than either to cipher or decipher a dispatch of some 1,500 or 2,000 words. The writer talks from sad and weary experience.

Some governments change the key word or key numerals with each dispatch, according to a settled arrangement. Others, again, change it every month. Sometimes it is placed at the beginning of the dispatch, at other times at the end. To the uninitiated a dispatch of this kind will appear in the nature of a Chinese puzzle, but to an expert cryptographer the deciphering of a government code dispatch is mere child's play.

Occasionally the dispatch will appear a mere jumble of consonants without any meaning, while at other times it will be so ciphered as to contain sensible and plausible sentences, the meaning of which appears on the surface. It was a code of this kind that was used by the Spanish secret agents in this country during the war with Spain, and the clever staff of secret service men employed by the United States government were in a very short time possessed of a key to the cipher in question.—New York Tribune.

## A KAFFIR "SMOKER."

### The Native Women Are Enthusiastic Devotees of the Weed.

In South Africa the native woman smokes incessantly. Your native servant smokes as she cooks and as she washes. The tobacco she likes is rank. The dainty cigarette an English or Russian lady of fashion enjoys, smoked through a quill, so that no nicotine can stain either teeth or fingers, would be sneered at by a Kaffir. "Give me a pipe and something in it I can taste," is in effect what she says.

The men Kaffirs are beyond tobacco. They smoke something so vehement that it makes them cough and splutter, lose their breath, choke and sneeze to an alarming degree. They like snuff, too, and are fond of offering and taking pinches of it ("schniff" they call it) when they meet and visit one another.

Regarding tobacco as too mild for their taste, the Kaffirs take another weed and smoke that. They proceed to arrange a smoking party, by squatting on the ground and getting ready their "pipe," a cow horn with a thin tube in it inserted half way down at right angles to the horn. The end of the tube is in a basin, and it is from it that the smoker sucks the strong stuff that makes him incapable of anything but a series of coughs and chokes for some time after he has had his turn at the pipe, which is passed around from man to man, until a perfect chorus of coughs rends the air.

The tobacco the Boers smoke looks like poor tea and is peculiar in flavor, yet Englishmen who have become used to it acquire such a taste for it that they never ask for any other kind.—London Mail.

### Life Saving Fig.

The Australian coasting steamer Kameruka, while going from Eden to Sydney, traveling at full speed, struck on a reef at Moruya head. There being no rockets on the ship, the captain tied a life line to some pigs which formed part of the cargo and had the animals put overboard. The pigs swam to the shore, taking the line with them, and by establishing communication every soul on board was rescued.

### Acorns as Charming Ornaments.

Take a large acorn, suspend it by a thread so as to nearly touch the water in any glass vessel, set it upon your mantelshelf, bracket or table, and let it stand there for about two months without in any way interfering with it excepting to supply fresh water.

The acorn will burst, throw a root down into the water and a stem upward, sending out from the stem beautiful green leaves.—Home Notes.

The oldest house in England stands near St. Albans' abbey. It is octagonal in shape and the walls of its lower story are of great thickness. It is 1,100 years old and is still fit for habitation.

## DEMOCRATIC CLUBS.

### F. D. Winston Issues an Address Urging Formation of More Clubs in Order to Carry the State for Bryan and Elect 9 Congressmen.

Raleigh, Oct. 1.—Francis D. Winston, chairman of the State association of Democratic clubs, which was formed here September 26th, tonight issued an address in which he says:

"The organization, in its working force, has representatives in all parts of the State. The object is to assist in giving Bryan and Stevenson the electoral vote of North Carolina and to help elect nine Democratic congressmen. To this end all patriotic citizens are cordially invited to co-operate. The platform and principles of the association are found in the platform of the Democratic party promulgated at Kansas City.

"The clubs have no candidates other than those named by Democratic conventions. This association is organized for effective campaign work. The executive committee of the association directs that an urgent appeal be made to the various county and township executive committees to proceed at once to organize clubs in each township in the State. White supremacy clubs organized in the late campaign can easily be organized into party clubs. To this end it is urged that the various county chairmen will at once proceed to appoint suitable organizers in their counties, who will enter actively in the work. It is recommended that sub-electors for each county be appointed when practicable. Most efficient aid can also be had of the local club organizers. County chairmen are requested to call a meeting in various counties Saturday, October 13th, for organizing clubs. It is also urged that at such speaking by candidates or other Democrats a club be formed. Do not let the opportunity pass to organize. These clubs are a part of the party machinery and are subject to the party authority. The two main purposes for which they are to be formed are to distribute literature and to bring out a full vote. It is presumed that the last campaign secured full registration.

"As soon as a club is formed send the names of the officers to F. M. Simmons, chairman, Raleigh, N. C. Also send a list to Max Ihmsen, national secretary, New York city. Let each club appoint an active committee to secure the attendance of voters at the polls. A full vote will give the Democratic party 50,000 majority. The issues involved are momentous, vital and far-reaching. Our free institutions are endangered by the colonial policy abroad and by aggregations of wealth at home. Let North Carolinians make a firm stand against both.

"The State association adopted as its emblem a button containing a picture of that great tribune of the people, William Jennings Bryan, upon a field of silver, encircled by these burning words from his great speech of acceptance: 'The Man Rather Than the Dollar.' In this sentence is contained the true theory of government.

### A Long Bath.

A man who is a lawyer and a journalist in one of the smaller inland cities of Ohio tells of an uncle he has in the region of Massillon. This relative is one of the pious members of a small community and, being possessed of considerable executive ability, has been for more than 20 years the superintendent of a thriving Sunday school. His besetting sin, if it might be called such, is his propensity to exaggerate stories in order to make them interesting to his auditors.

Some time ago he was telling his lawyer-journalist nephew of how he cured himself of the ague. It was several years ago, and, having tried every remedy in vain, he at last consulted an old Indian doctor, who advised him, he says, to go down to the creek each morning immediately on rising and sit in the cold water up to his chin. He was to sit there one minute the first morning and then double the time each day for 30 days. The uncle says he followed the prescription and was cured.

The nephew, who happens to be of a calculating turn of mind, figured out how long his uncle would stay in his cold bath on the twentieth day. He found that the last treatment would last a few days over six months.—Cleveland Leader.

### Her Way.

"Is Georgiana a sympathetic friend?"  
"Well, when she praises anything I wear she does it in a way which makes me feel that everything I usually wear is simply hideous."—Indianapolis Journal.

The average duration of marriages in England is 25 years; in France and Germany, 26; Norway, 24; Russia, 23.

A leaf is only a metamorphosed branch and the covering of seeds only a metamorphosed leaf.

## A Human Hiss Cowed the Lion.

At Cape Town a lion tamer was going through a performance in a cage with a full grown lion lately caught. Suddenly it was seen that the brute was putting the trainer through his paces rather than being put through itself. Softly, crouching and creeping, the big cat edged itself between the thoroughly unnerfed man and the door of the den, fixing its victim with two rolling yellow orbs of flaming ferocity and sawing the empty air with its tufted tail as it crouched preparatory to springing.

Many men among the audience, used to the ways of wild beasts, saw and comprehended, but only one man possessed the knowledge and the presence of mind to avert the apparently inevitable. Pursing up his lips as though he were going to whistle, he emitted a horse, low, rasping hiss.

The beast heard and understood, for the sound was an exact imitation of the noise made by the giant constrictor when its huge body is coiled for the throw that never misses, that never relaxes and that no beast of the field is strong enough to withstand. Again and yet again the raucous sound rasped the stiffness, and the angry brute drew back its head, its great eyes grew small and dull, the hackles rose and stiffened on its back, and it cowered, whining, on the floor of the cage.

### What "Yours Sincerely" Means.

Perhaps the jerry builders of London who construct ceilings part of which tumble into one's soup and floors which unexpectedly drop into the cellar would not be so glib to subscribe themselves "Yours sincerely" if they knew the origin of the phrase. The Stone Trades Journal, waxing classic and Vitruviuslike, gives the source of the thing, which to students is old, but which may be new to the gentry who profess to provide shelter for a great part of the community:

"The extent to which marble is entering into the decoration of modern buildings is but a repetition of the history of Roman architecture. The fact is that the old Roman jerry builders used defective slabs of marble in erecting residences to sell at reduced rates and covered up the defects with a cement of which white wax formed the chief ingredient. They looked just as stately as the others till an exceptionally hot sun melted the wax and revealed the fraud; hence a perfect building was said to be 'sine cera' or 'without wax,' and a friendship perfected by the trial of adversity was said to be 'without wax.' The signature 'sine cera,' as a symbol of genuine affection and probity, has been used ever since and is perpetuated in the English word 'sincerity.'"

### Cowardice of Sharks.

Many tales have been told of how human beings have been devoured by the fish that is known as the "man eater." Although many of these have been greatly exaggerated, they are to a certain extent true. It is also true that sharks have been known to follow a ship for days, picking up and eating that which had been thrown overboard as waste.

Notwithstanding all this the cowardliness of sharks is well known among men who have been much to sea in southern waters. The fiercest shark will get out of the way of a swimmer if the latter sets up a noisy splashing.

A shark fears anything that splashes in the water. Among the south sea islands the natives never go bathing alone, but always in parties of half a dozen or so, in order that they may make a great hubbub in the water and thus frighten away the sharks. Once in awhile a too venturesome swimmer among these natives foolishly detaches himself from his party and forgets to keep up his splashing. Then there is a swish, and the man eater comes up from under him like a flash, and he is gone.

### Likewise Mistaken.

A small boy was fishing on Sunday morning. He had a basket of fish alongside of him. A clergyman happened to see him, and, going over to where he was busily watching the bob, said:

"You naughty, cruel boy! Don't you know that it is a sin to fish on the Sabbath? Besides the sin, think of the cruelty of it—taking the poor little worm out of the ground and sticking that nasty sharp hook through its body."

"That ain't no worm. That's an artificial fly!" answered the boy.

"Ah, I was mistaken," said the preacher.

"So were these fish," said the boy, picking up the basket and showing them to the clergyman.—New York Sun.

## STATE NEWS.

### Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

A \$50,000 company has been formed at High Point to manufacture iron bedsteads.

The new State pension lists are now being printed. There are 224 more pensioners than there were last year. The warrants are to be sent out on December 15th.

The State has chartered the Gilmer Brothers Co., of Winston, to deal in dry goods. The capital is \$150,000, and John L. Gilmer, R. J. Reynolds and others are stockholders.

Raleigh, Cor. Charlotte Observer: Charentas, a horse born and bred in this city, was sold last year by the Raleigh man who owned him for \$150. The buyer resold him last spring for \$5,200, and the horse has won \$30,000 or thereabouts this season.

Danbury Reporter: The factory and machinery of the Walnut Cove Lumber Co., at Walnut Cove, were burned Monday night. A large amount of lumber which was stacked in the yard was also burned. We are informed that the company carried some insurance.

"The City of Charlotte," the North Carolina exhibition car, owned by O. L. Barringer and Will Bason, of Charlotte, was burned Monday morning at Kingston, O. Will Bason, the manager, and an assistant were awakened by a dog and barely escaped with their lives. Loss \$12,000; insurance \$8,000.

Go. Aycock delivered a strong and telling speech at Fremont, to a large crowd, Saturday afternoon. He handled the national issues eloquently, showing the evil of trusts and imperialism, convincing those present that Bryan was the people's friend and stood for what the masses wanted. Several Populists announced their intention to support Bryan and Stevenson.

Greensboro Record: In February last J. H. Clark was granted a divorce from his wife, Julia Clark, in Guilford superior court. No defense to this action was made, the ground for such failure being that Mrs. Clark did not know of it and was then living with him. In the action brought she swears that she had not abandoned him, and that in swearing that she had, he knowingly committed perjury. Justice Pritchett heard the case and said there was probable cause and he would hold him to a justified bond of \$500 for his appearance at December term.

Raleigh Post: Otho Wilson, once king of Gideon and Grand High Priest of Popelism, whose royal appointment in years gone by was "Otho the First," has taken shelter under the "Full Dinner Pail." Otho has joined the United Order of Levenus Rounders and is now doing service as storekeeper and ganger. It was a short step that Otho had to take in order to gain fellowship in the Republican ranks, as he has only been a few inches removed from the breastworks of the G. O. P. for several years past. It required little effort on the part of the quondam king of Gideon to make the step. Otho has been doing service for Collector Carl Duncan for several days past in the vicinity of Garner, where distillation of the liquid product of corn is conducted by private individuals.

### Price of Cotton.

News-Observer: A hundred thousand dollar cotton mill can afford to shut down in order to get cheap cotton, a one horse cotton farmer can afford to shut down in order to prevent selling his cotton at a sacrifice.

The fight for low cotton by the spinners is on. They will win the fight if cotton farmers rush their cotton to market. If the farmers hold most of their cotton and keep down receipts, they will win their fight for high cotton. The price of cotton is largely based on comparative receipts; with small receipts the price will go up. If they let the cotton buying world see big receipts, the price will go down.

If the farmer sells his cotton for less than it is worth, his loss is complete, and he is a permanent loser. If the cotton mill man has to pay what cotton is worth, he may be troubled for a few weeks, but he and his associates can put up the price of the product of the mill and suffer no permanent loss.

It is to the interest of the south to have this small crop of cotton bring its full value to the men whose toil has made it. Comfort at home and the education of the children are absolutely dependent upon this. It is to the interest of the south for the mills to do well, to pay good prices for cotton and get good prices for their product. The motto is "Live and let live."

Farmers: Hold part of your cotton if you wish to get its value.

The chairman of the finance committee at Galveston shows that \$881,000 has been received and not millions as has been reported. Myg is needed.

White's Black Liniment. It cures Sciatica, Rheumatism and Neuralgia. A 25c bottle for 15c. J. E. Hoar