VOL. I. NO. 23.

RED SPRINGS, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1892,

B. W. TOWNSEND, Manager W. F HARLLEE Editor

of y hav been Governors of States as live have been Cabinet officers.

tors of autographs remark that, typewriter never will supplant uch letters altogether, it will make scarcer and more valuable.

increased use of commercial feris in licated in the establishment 100 factories in the United States annually place on the market \$20,composition worth of fertilizers.

Frame shows symptoms of becoming con of the duel, and may indulge in ation hostile to this form of recrea-The fact is, explains the sarcastic by Francisco Examiner, that the duel had late become dangerous.

The decimalists say that the twentythe day is doomed. The day is to consist of ten hours, the hour will be divided into ten decades, each of which will contain ten minutes, each minute to conditand each second ten flashes. Lymp this basis a clock has already been

The United States is known to be somewhat of a railway country, but it is not generally understood that it possesses marly one half of the total railway mileage of the whole world. Considermy that more than four fifths of the present gigantic system of railways has been constructed since the close of the Civil War, this fact is the more significourt. The United States has outstripped other countries in many things, but more than all in the matter of railways.

The Boston Cultivator says: "War and agriculture are naturally antagonistic There is a reason for this, especially since gunpowder came into vogue as the great destrustive war agency. Nitrates are in important constituent of gunpowder. Even the smokeless powders contain them. Nitrates are the most important element of plant foo 1. Think how mary crops have grown poorly while war has been wasting in useless smoke the material through which they would have become thriving and prolific."

The New York Independent believes that the cultivation of athletics at girls' schools and colleges is likely to receive some stimulus from an award made by the United States Freasury Department to Miss Bertie Burr, of Nebraska, for rewaiting two young women from drown-Mes Burr, who learned how to swim at Levell Seminary, Auburndale, Mass, will receive, not the silver medal awarded for heroism, but the gold medal only granted for cases of extraordinary during and endurance.

There are 250,000 women in New York City, exclusive of those in domeshe service, who support themselves and are without male protectors. There are 343 trades open to them, but many of them are compelled to accept whatever wages may be offered or starve, or fall. There are trained sewing women who work nineteen hours a day for twentyfive cents. Boys' new trousers, bring thurty-five cents a dozen; ordinary it meers from 12; to twenty-five cents a just, and shirts from 61 to 124 cents.

A gentleman came ashore in North America the other day who has been living at Rio Janeiro for nearly twenty years. He has read English papers; his wife is an English woman, and although he was born in the State of Maine, his South American life and business show their effects. "Why do they go out to Chicago to hold the convention?" he asked, "and what's all this nonsense about having a world's fair there? I thought the place was pretty well burned down. They can't have got it into shape for people to be comfortable there " And he did not like it, adds the New Orleans Piesyune, when there was mention made of Mynheer Van Winkle.

Flying machines for use in war have engaged no little attention of late on the part of inventors. Maxim, the designer of the famous gun, claims to have produced one which can be controlled. He declares that he can till his aerial carwith explosives and hover in it over the city of London, holding that great metropolis at ransom to the extent of as many millions of pounds as he chooses to mention. Thus situated be can announce his terms by dropping a small package containing a statement of them and his "Itimatum of "Cash or Crash!" His contrivance is a cylinder of aluminum containing a three-fourths, waquum, its ollapse being prevented by strong ribs havie. It is propelled an I steered by electric gear, and is further sustained and balanced by the wings of a great acroplane, with an automatic arrangement of a compensatory nature that brings the machine immediately back to the herizontal when it tends to vary

Twelve members of the Unite! States | DOROTHY HANCOCK'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Quoth the Governor to his dame, When the French fleet sailing came Into Massachusetts Bay. "We must make a feast straightway. " Spread a board of bounteous cheer For the gallant Admiral here.

Nothing loath the three-years' bride, Fair Dame Dorothy, complied, And with fine housewifely zeal Planned at once a bounteous meal Fit to set before a king. Or a kingly following. But, alas! when all's complete Comes this message from the fleet:

Might the Admiral dare to bring To this gredly gathering "All his officers, and then Cortain of his midshipmen?" Who can paint the dire dismay

Of Dame Dorothy that day? Thirty guests she'd bidden there; Now so late as this prepare For a hundred more at least? Just a moment stood she there, In irresolute despair-Just a breathless moment -- then

She doth call her maids and men. And herself doth lead them down, To the green mall of the town. Where her neighbors' cattle graze All along the grassy ways. There they milked the grazing berd, At the fair young madam's word, Wondering how she ever dared Take such liberties as these

While the townsfolk stood and stared, Without even "If you please," But straight on the milking went, While the fair young housewife sent Mountail messengers here and there, Borrowing of her neighbors' fare. Not a neighbor said her nay On that memorable day, Fruits, and sweets, and roasted game From their larders freely came; Cakes and dainties of the best,

At Dame Dorothy's request. Then triumphantly she flew, Spread her tables all anew, Whipt her foaming milk to cream, While just down the harbor stream She could see the approaching guests. With their starred and ribboned breasts. Long before that day was done All the townsfolk, every one, Were they young, or were they old, Laughed applaudingly when told

How Dame Hancock spread her feast For "a hundred more, at least," - Nora Perry, in July St. Nicholas.

ACCIDENTAL MARRIAGE

" Be sure you ride with Potts!" shouted Carrie, after the boat was fairly under way, whereat a little smile rippled across the neighboring passengers' faces.

It was an odd speech, but May and I understood it, for we had talked over forehand regarding our journey, and this last admonition of Carrie's was simply to give accent to an oft-repeated charge, We were going to a lovely nook, discovered by Carrie the year before, in the heart of the Cutskills.

Suffice it to say that we had to ride many and many a long mile to reach the aforesaid center, and that the line of stages that led to our little nook was owned and run by two stalwart, steadfast

men, named Potts and Kramer. Potts was a lively follow, as round and is rosy, and as shiny as a fresh redcheeked apple Kramer was taller, darker, more taciturn. Potts entertained his passengers with a series of jokes, squibs, anecdotes, legends, mysteries and tales. Kramer attended strictly and solely to the business of driving his four horses. So it was no wonder Carrie screamed out to us: "Be sure you ride

But "woman proposes and man disposes," as we found out that balmy summer morning, when, on the Catskill Landing, we asked, for the Potts and "Here, ladies," said a tall man, who

we know must be Kramer, motioning us to a half filled stage. Instead of getting in we looked around Ah, ves! there he was, the jolly, round-

faced Jehu, whip in hand, hie lips curled up in a pleasant bow, his eves twinkling "We don't want to ride with you,"

said May, with charming candor, "we want to ride with Mr. Potts, because he talks tile most." "Ha' ha! ha!" shouted Mr. Potts.

Well, ladies, I appreciate the compliment, I really do, but it's impossible for me to add another fare. You'll have to ride with Mr. Kramer. He's a folly fellow. Get him started and he'll talk the top off of a meeting house."

Mr Potts' argument was irresistible. We merkly got into the half-filled stage not wound our way up over the long hills, with Mr. Kramer sitting bolt upright in front of us, looking neither to the right nor to the left and oblivious of all remarks that might be made behind him In vain would May lean forward and say in her most winning manner:

"I do wonder what that pretty little place is called over there?" or "Which of these peaks do you think is the high-

Not a sound came from his lips till, casting aside all subterfuge, she would

"Mr Kramer, won't you tell us?" And then, in briefest monosyllables, would come the answer

At last Mr. Kramer suddenly stopped before a little wayside inn, and landed all our dusty and tired fellow-travellers at their destination. Then we went on our way again - sole occupants of the capacious vehicle. May yawned again and again. At last she gave a heart-breaking sigh, and exclaimed "What a dreadfully dreary ride this is

to be sure!" Mr. Kramer turned his head ever so slightly, and looked back at her. For once his lips parted of their own accord. He was going to say something without

being asked. "Do you see that house over there?" asked he, pointing to a pretty cottage half hidden by clambe ing vines and surrounded by a mass o brilliant flowers,

"that is where I live." "Ah," said May, dijusting her blue

dear, cozy little place-the prettiest one we've seen for miles."

coluntary remark, May seemed disposed to encourage him by sufficient praise.
"Are you married?" she continued, fearful that the generous impetes to

Speech would dry up forever.

Yes, Mr. Kramer replied, looking out of my blood; that I wo out of my thoughts forever. back at us with a curious twinkle in his eye; "I was married sort of acci-

"Dear me" cried May, with vivacity; I am certain from your manner that there was something very odd about your about the incident, or accident, which ever it was ?"

"If it will pass away the time for you," Mr. Kramer replied: "I don't nind telling you how I won my wife. But I have got a hoy almost as old as

imprened quite a while ago."
It would have scarcely surprised us more if the town pump had suddenly ommenced a narrative.

"I was born in the little village we passed through, back yonder, and so was Fanny Davis. We went to school together; sat in the same seat in church; the same ice ponds; went to the same husking bees; but we didn't love each the peace maker. other much for all that.

"I could not understand or take a joke, and, as Fanny often made me a target for her fun, the natural consequence was, we were generally at swords'

"I was one of the first country boys who enlisted. There wasn't a more awk wark boy in the regiment.

"I'll skip the history of the war, and only say after more than three long years spent in marching and countermarching from battlefield to battlefield, I came back to the village down there, a your wedded husband? Do you promise different man from the one who went to be a true and loving wife to him till

"Such a time as they made over the little fragment of our regiment, when we came home all ragged and weary and worn. Everybody turned out. The folks got up a big reception down in the

"They gave us more good things than than we could eat in a month, and made speeches that were a good deal more flowery than our path had been.

All the old neighbors and friends crowded around us, and I had all I could do, for a while, shaking hands. I had often dreamed of this home-coming down under those southern stars, and thought of the old familiar faces that would brighten when they saw me, and the friends whose hands I would like to take first; but in all my dreams I had never

thought of Fanny. "By-and-by there was a little pause. I looked up, and there, not more than three vards off, with checks like roses and eves like stars, she stood, looking at me with such a look as I never thought she could ried. I tied the knot myself about five have for any one, much less for me.

"It was so unexpected my heart stood still for a moment. She came forward and seized hold of both my hands and said, in a choked voice:

"Sam, you are a brave man. I am not worthy to untie your shoe; but I want to take your hand and tell you how I honor you, and how sorry I am for all the unkind things I have done and said in days

"You see the war had educated her

"I seemed suddenly to be lifted into a delicious and rarified atmosphere, impregnated with a divine radiance that ilumined everything around me. All the ong years of the war rolled like a flashing panorama before my brain. Commonplace actions that I had before counted only as my duty, grew strangely heroic. I was proud of the bars on my shoulders. I felt every inch a hero. And yet it seemed as if I would rather see her tearfilled eyes look at me in that way than to have all the honors the world could af-

"That night, when I went to bed, I dreamed of the lights, the music, the flowers, the speeches, but at last everything melted into two soft, sweet, tearfilled eyes, with a luminous soul behind them, which said over and over, 'You are a hero, you are a hero." "When I woke the world was all right

side up. The war was gone forever, and I had slipped back into my old place as easily as if I had never left it. Outwardly everything was the same; but inwardly, what a change there was!

"Of course I went to see Fancy. No distance would have been too great, no storm too severe, to hinder me. And many a time when I have walked a mile and more, just to touch her little soft hand, or look into her eyes, I would think of the times upon times I had gone almost as far the other way, so that I should not

"I followed Fanny like a shadow. I a way out of the trouble if possible, asked her to marry me over and over her, something within me would speak by the hour with an eloquence and force that I would have been incapable of in ordinary moments. Oh, the plans I made! The pictures I drew of the beautiful future we might have!

"At first she always said 'No' to my question; not harshly or with ridicule, but just a little soft 'No, I don't love you, that seemed as if it was so frail and so slight that I could overcome it if I only persevered. Sometimes, too, she'd look up to me, when I was pleading, with a sudden, shy glance that seemed a reflection of the one that had electrified me that night in the old church.

"So things went on for over a year. Everybody in the village got to know of our affair, if it could be called by that name, and some said I was a fool to would have me, and some said she was a fool not to take me, if she could get me. very last quarrel we should ever have. Fanny, worn out by my persistency, had angrily told me never to speak to her of love again; never even to come where sertion. she was. Then, for the first time, I think I gave up all hope. I avoided was sobbing as if her heart would break. Fanny as she wished me to for a long time, but I couldn't stop thinking of good-by to me! I may not see you again,

again without her. I reasoned it all out; shoulder, and said, between his sobs; 'l

glasses more firmly upon her nose, "what | that ranny and 1 were not surred to each | other; that even if she would marry me, we should live a cat-and-dog life; for As this was Mr. Kramer's first and only she had a quick temper, I was obliged to oluntary remark, May seemed disposed acknowledge, and I had an obstinate will. I said over and again that I would conquer the mad, persistent feeling that seemed to rush through my veins, a very part of my blood; that I would put her

"I was thinking over all these things that day, as I said, and had just given Fanny up, and then concluded I could not give Fannie up, when I saw her coming toward me. I did not even know if she would speak to me, but she didmarriage. Would you mind telling us just a cool little not, as much as to say We will be friend y acquaintances, and no more.' At first, I thought I would pass her, but I deliberately walked back

"She said nothing after the first greeting, nor did I speak after that, either. you are, so you see the events I refer to The silence was just beginning to get a little awkward when we met Judge Bentley going down town, evidently in a hurry; but he stopped a moment, gave each of us a sharp look through his goldbowed spectacles and said

" 'Haven't been quarrelling again, children, eh? Now, why can't you be reconciled and happy! It's fust as easy to be rode in the same hav wagon; skated on good and happy as -the other thing. Let us bury the batchet on the spot. I'll be

"A sudden thought seemed to strike him, he said "I will tell you what I'll do. I'll

marry you out of hand, and then you will be happy forever. " Samuel, do you take Fanny to be your wedded wife, to have and to hold forever? Do you promise to be her

faithful and affectionate husband till death parts you?" "Yes, that I do, cried I, with all my

"'Fanny, do you take Samuel to be

"Perhaps I'll think about it, judge, said Fanny, with a little of her sauci "Then, raising his hands impressively,

" I pronounce you man and wife, and let every one hereafter hold his peace." " 'There, there, children,' he continued, 'it's all done now. I'll just have time to salute the bride and catch the

"So he stoop d, and before Fanny could protest, kissed her on the forehead and went puffing down the street. "We had almost reached Fanny"

house, and soon I left her there, still sub dued, but laughing a little at the judge's "The judge met Mr. Paine, editor of

the Saddem Gazette, a little further on, " Paine, do you want a news item? I've only got a minute to give it to you.

Sam Kramer and Fanny Davis are mar-"Of course, Paine wasn't going to be such a fool as to miss an item like that So home he went and wrote up half a column or more on the happy event, at the end congratulating the bride and

ant port of matrimony after a long and stormy courtship "Well, that upset the town. When I read that item I was so weak I couldn't stand up. It never had occurred to me, or Fanny, or to the judge, either, I don't believe, that it was a bona fide marriage; but there it was all down in black and white, and it didn't look the least bit

groom on their safe arrival in the pleas-

"Of course, everybody I met congratulated me. The more I denied it, the more they believed there was something

like a joke.

"After a day or two things began to look so serious I went to see Lawyer Searing; he was an old friend of mine and a war comrade, too. I gave him a history of the whole case, and asked him what he thought of it. He deliberated while, and then jumped up and shook my hand, saving:

" It is my honest opinion, Sam, that Parson Hathaway couldn't have married you any better than that if he had tried.

"What did I do? I sat down and put my head in my hands, and groaned. All my hopes were fulfilled. What I had been fighting for with all my strength had come to pass, and I was more unhappy than I had ever been before in my life. You see, I wasn't thinking of my self at all. I was thinking of Fanny. What, if she should take it hard? I al most knew she would. Of course I should never claim her as my wife unless she chose to come to me of her own free will. But the fact that we were legally bound to each other stared me in the face, whichever way I looked.

"I thought about it all night, and then concluded I must see Fanny and find

"I found her quiet and self-possessed. again. From a taciturn man I grew to but her eyes had a suspicious redness be a great talker. She must have in around the rims that showed she had pired me, I think, for when I was with been crying. I plunged right into the Fanny. I have come to tell you how

> how serious it seems to be. Ned Searing says it looks very much like a legal mar-"Fanny's face grew white as a cloth

sorry I am that little joke happened, and

"Ah, said I to myself, she is going to

take it hard, I am afraid, and without giving her time to speak, I went on God knows. Fanny, if I could have it undone again by giving my right hand up, I would do so. I have been ready to marry you any time during the past year, but I never wanted to force you into any. thing like this. As it is, the ceremony makes no difference to me. I have said a hundred times that if I did not marry von I would not marry anyone. You are think for a moment that Fanny Davis | not free to marry anyone else, no matter how much you may wish to. But I have thought and thought over the matter and Finally we had what I thought was the I have concluded there is a way out of the difficulty. I will go away, and then, after awhile, you can go to some other State and get a divorce from me for de-

"Long before I had finished Fanny Said I at last: 'Funny, won't you say as I am going away soon.' And then, "One day I was walking up the street, instead of saying good by and letting me thinking for the hundredth time of our go, she flew to me and put both arms last interview, and trying to be a man around my neck, laid her had on my

will never let you go; I thought I didn't

love you, Sam, but I do, I do! "For a moment I was completely bewildered. I half doubted my sanity, even, for it was hard to realize that the girl who had treated me so coldly when begged her to take me for her husband, now that I came to renounce her, was clinging to me and saying she would never let me go.

"By-and-by we got more composed and sat down to talk matters over, and then it seemed as if we had suddenly changed characters, for Fanny was all meekness and submission, and I was the one who made terms and conditions.

" If all the lawyers in the State pro nounce that a legal marriage, said I, at length, 'I will never call you my wife till you come to me of your own free will in the old church down yonder, and promise before the dominic and all our friends to be my true and loving wife. "And she did. God bless her, she did." -- [New York News.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

RAILBOAD SPEED. - Seventy five miles an hour is 110 feet a second, a d the energy of 400 tons or a train of cars, moving at that rate is nearly twice as great as that of a 2,000 pound shot fired from a 100-ton Armstrong gua. This is the extreme weight and speed now reached in passenger sorvice, and, indeed, is very rarely attained and then but for short distances, but sixty miles is a common speed, and a rate of forty or fifty miles is attained daily on almost every railway in the country.

A REMARKABLE ASTRONOMICAL FEAT. -Two persons may be born at the same place and at the same moment exactly, and yet, after fifty years have rolled around, they may both die at the same instant, and still one may be more than 100 days older than the other. I think I hear some one say "impossible," and 'How could such a state of affairs be brought about?" but it is not impossible it is simply an astronomical and geographical fact, very easily proven. A calm reflection shows this oddity turns on a very obvious problem in circumnavigation. Suppose now, that two persons were born at the same instant in Philadelphia, from whence a trip around the world may easily be made in one year; if one of these per sons constantly goes toward the west, in fifty years he will be nifty days behind the stationary inhabitants, if the other sails equally as fast toward the east he will be fifty days ahead of them. One, therefore, will have seen 100 days more than the other, though they were born at the same instant, lived continually in

the same latitude, and died together. PRINTING THE NEWS AREAD OF TIME. -On May 23, at about 8 p. m., a dispatch dated Melbourne, Australia, May 23, was received at the newspaper offices, says the St. Louis Globe Democrat, announcing that Deeming, the murderer, was hanged at about 10 a.m. This was startling intelligence. Here, apparently, was the information of the occurrence of an event fourteen hours before it could have happened. It was Sunday night with us, about an hour after sunset, when the news came; it was Monday forenoon, several hours after sunrise, when the news was sent, and the news had to go half way round the globe before reaching

But how or why does this seeming break in the ordinary course of the cal endar occur? This is all very simple when the causes are known. There was nothing the matter with the calendar. The affair occurred just as reported, and the variation or disagreement in the three is due merely in the difference in longitude between the two places. By common consent of the Nations,

ongtitude on the globe is reckoned from Greenwich, England. The prime meridi an is considered to be at that point. Melbourne is, in round figures, 145 degrees east of Greenwich, and St. Louis is 90 degrees west of Greenwich-that is, in passing along the globe westward from Melbourne to St. Louis 215 degrees of longtitude are traversed. Each fifteen degrees constitute an hour in time. The earth makes a complete revolution from west to east through 360 degrees in twenty-four hours. In each hour, therefore, it turns fifteen degrees. Places fifteen degrees east of us see the sun an hour before we do. Places ninety degrees east of us see it six hours before we do, and so on. The sunrise, noon, sunset, and all other hours come to those places, as a consequence, earlier than they do to us. The present hour of the day to the inhabitants of St. Louis, whatever the hour may be, came to the inhabitants of Melbourne about fifteen and two-thirds hours ago. To places west of us this or-

der of things, of course, is reversed. But at what part of the globe does the day begin? This was a problem which once bothered the scientists. The sun is rising in some part or other of the globe; the sun is always setting or on the meridian. Therefore, it is daylight always somewhere. Yet it was necessary to select a conventional starting point for the day. It was desirable, too, that the place of transition should be in the ocean. At last the chief countries of the world agreed that the change of the day should take place along a line drawn nearly porth and south through the Pacific Ocean. This is called the date line. Under this arrangement the new day is considered to make its advent on Easter Island. This island is west of Chili, and about a third of the distance between that country and New Zealand. Thus, when it is Sunday on the American continent, it is Monday on the Easter Island. That island and the places to the west of it along the date line always keep shead of us one day. This is why or Sunday night in St. Louis it was Monday forenoon in Melbourne at the same instant of absolute time.

Farms Buried in Sand.

The worst feature of the Mississippi flood is the fact that the river is apt to leave a deposit of sand, varying in thickness from one inch to ten feet, over a large extent of land that was formerly fertile. In the flood of 1858 a great many farmers in the American Bottom on going back to their premises after the subsidence of the waters, found their property covered with river sand in beds so thick that two or three years elapsed before good crops could be raised. It is yet too early to tell what will be the result this year, but the experience of 1858 is apt to be repeated in many localities. - (New York Journal. | long time together, tossing a piece of

RICHER THAN FUR-SEALS

SEA OFFERS ARE BEING RAPIDLY EXPERMINATED.

They Bear the Most Precious of All Skins - Their Habits and How They are Hunted.

MARINE mammal of greater value than the seal is being rap-Midly exterminated in Bering Sea and in the waters along the northwest coast, owing to long continued neglect on the part of the Treasury Department to enforce existing laws for its protection. As a result this Government s likely to have to undertake the support of several hundred natives on western islands of the Aleutian chain, who have hitherto depended on the chase of the sea otter for their living. The final destruction of this interesting beast angnifies the reduction of population in that region to absolute savagery, and even to starvation. Already the formerly prosperous inhabitants of certain villages have been brought to such extremities as to be obliged to subsist on seaweed, being only saved from perishing by stores of provisions contributed by the

steamer Bear and other ships. The fur of the sea otter is the most beautiful and costly of all peltries. It has as fixed a value in the market to-day as any of the precious metals, a prime skin being worth \$150, while an exceptionally good one will sometimes fetch as much as \$350. From the earliest times it has commanded as high a price as to-day. The Japanese prized it above all other materials for garments as long ago as 1000 years before the discovery of America by Columbus, and mighty tycoons clothed themselves with its shimmering velvet. When the Russians first opened up the Aleutlan Islands and the Hudson Bay traders secured the coasts of Puget Sound and Oregon, they found the natives commonly wearing sea otter cloaks, with which they parted for a trifle, not valuing them equally with the hair seal or the sea lion, the flesh and skins of the latter being more palatable

The offers of the traders made hunting for sea otters brisk, and more than 10,-000 persons were annually engaged in pursuit of the animal from 1741 until 1845, when their numbers were so far reduced as to render the industry on such a scale no longer remunerative. Some notion may be got of their original plentifulness from the fact that in the year 1804 a single vessel carried to Russia 15,000 skins, worth then, as now at least \$1,500,000. The work of extermination was carried on at a frightful rate. During the first year after the discovery of the Pribylov Islands, which are the breeding ground of the fur sanls, two sailors killed there 5000 sea otters. The next year they secured 1000. Six years latter not a single sea otter reappeared, and none has been there since. With similar rapidity they were wiped out all along the Aleutian chain and down the northwest coast as far south as the

southern boundry of Oregon. Sea otters spend most of their lives at ea. The mother brings forth a single young one, for the safety of which she exercises the utmost solicitude. During infancy it is carried most of the time on the body of its mamma, who floats on her back while her offspring uses her as a sort of raft to play about on. When frightened she takes the pup in her mouth and dives. If surprised by the hunter on land she never thinks of deserting the pup, but clasps it tightly in her arms and turns her back to receive the spear or bullet. In feeding the animal usually fetches a number of shelltish to surface and eats them while lying on its back in the water, laying them on its breast and breaking and devouring them one by one. Crabs, fishes and the tender fronds of seaweeds form a portion of its diet while of sea urchins it is particularly fond, and it is said to break the n open by taking one in each paw and smashing them together.

The Aleuts declare that the sea otter is the most intelligent and clever of all marine animals, just as the bear is the wisest of all beasts on land. Certainly no living creature surpasses it in keenness of sight and hearing. The hunters know better than to light a fire within five miles to the windward of its haunts, and many an obbing and flowing tide is required to so wash away the scent of human footprints on the beach as to satisfy the animal of the safety of landing there. The natives, who seek the Islands of Suanach and Chernolours in pursuit of it during the winter, often spend many weeks there without making a fire, lest the smell of it frighten the quarry. For the same reason they refrain from smoking or chewing tobacco, and the refuse of their food, instead of being scattered on or near the beaches, must be carried inland and buried. It is asserted that when the sea ofter is hunted down in its desperation it will sometimes dive and jam itself into a crevice in the rocks beneath the water. never rising again,

The mother sea otter sleeps on the surface of the water with her pup claspe I in her fore paws. The latter can never be reared by hand. Attempts to bring up young ones are often made by the Aleuts, who very commonly capture them alive, but they invariably refuse to eat and die of starvation. The newborn animal has a coat of coarse brown and grizzled fur, which becomes gradually darker, thicker and finer as it gro va older, so that at the rears of age it is in prime condition. At five years the creature is full grown, and is then a lit tle bigger than an'a luit beaver, measuring about four feet from the mazzle to the tip of the tail. It has a white nose and white mustache and whiskers. The fur is glossy like velvet, with white hairs scattered all over it. Its legs are short, with webbed feet and mails like a dog's. The hind flippers are powerful swim ning organs, by means of which it can travel very rapidly in the water, and it is a famous diver.

The creature prextremely playful and will be on its back in the water for i

seaweed into the air alternately from paw to paw and catching it at each toss before it falls into the sea.

The ancient method commonly practiced by the Alcuts in the chase of the sea otter was the "spearing surround." As described by Seal Commissioner Henry W. Elliott, to whom the writer is chiefly indebted for his information on the subject, this kind of hunt is engaged in by fifteen or twenty skin boats with two men in each, all being under control of a leader chosen by common consent. When the weather is moderately good the boats start out in a long line, slowly pected to find the game. As quickly as one of the animals is discovered, asleep most likely, the hunter who has spied it lifts his paddle for a signal. At the same moment he darts toward the prey, which nearly always takes alarm before. it can be struck and instantly lives. But the canoe keeps right on and stops directly over the spot where the beast disappeared, leaving circular rings with floating oubbles from its quick-caught breath. The other boats immediately deploy and scatter, forming a circle half a mile wide around the place where the

sea otter was last seen. Thus arranged, the hunters wait pa tiently for the reappearance of the animal, which must come to the surface for breath in from fifteen to thirty minutes. When this happens the boat nearest darts forward like its predecessor, while all hands shout and throw up their spears to make the sea otter dive again, thus giving it scarcely an instant in which to recover itself and expel the poisoned air from its lungs. A sentry is placed over the second diving wake as before, and the circle is drawn anew. In this manper the surprise is quickly and often repeated, sometimes for two or three hours, until the victim, from oft-interrupted respiration, becomes so exhausted and filled with gases as to be unable to sink, and then it is easily speared. Arrows five feet long, exquisitely made and pointed with barbed pieces of bone, are shot at the prey whenever there is an opportunity, the regulation being that

the game belongs to the man whose shaft strikes it first. Contact with civilization has taught the natives to use powder and ball instead of their old-time weapons in the chase of sea otters, and, what with the incessant popping of rifles wherever the animals make their appearance, it cannot be long before the last of them is killed on the northwest coast and among the islands of

Fisheries of the Great Lakes. Census Bulletia No. 173 gives de-

the Aleutian chain. - Washington Star.

tailed and valuable information regarding the fisheries of the Great Lakes, These are the most extensive water fishcries in the world. The number of people fed, the number who make a living by the industry, the capital invested, the returns thereon, and the various enterprises closely dependent on the fisheries, make up an important item in the grand aggregate of American compercial pursuits. Special mention is made in the bulletin of the wonderful productiveness of the waters of the Great Lakes in the yield of fish. Careful estimates, based on the known production in 1880, 1885, and 1889, show that in the decade terminating with the census of 1890, over 1,000,000,000 pounds of fish were taken, which yielded to the fishermen over \$25,000,000. Tables are given, showing that 6896 persons were engaged in 1889 in the capture of fish on the Great Lakes. These employed 107 steamers, valued at \$357,650; other vessels and boats, worth \$325,438. The apparatus use I consisted of 3831 pound nets and trap nets, the value of which was \$822,919; gill nets to the value of \$408,.. 797; seines worth \$15,089, and other apparatus amounting in value to \$97,252, The capital invested in shore property directly connected with the fisheries was \$804,814. These items give, as the total investment in fishing property, \$2,332,-959. The quantity of fish taken was 117,085,568 pounds, the value of which at first hands was \$2,615,784. All those statistics show large gains over 1880.

The lakes rank in the following or ler in respect to the magnitude of the fishing industry: Erie, Michigan, Huran and St. Clair, Superior, Ontario. This is a change from 1880, when Outario ranked above Superior. The industry has grown on every lake except Ontario, where it has diminished. The decline in the fisheries of Lake Ontario is attributed to the rigid enforcement of legislation designed to prevent commercial fishing. The varieties rank as follows in regard to the quantity taken from all the lakes. Herring, 53,660,921 pounds; whitefish, 15,326,488 pounds, trout, 11,201,631 pounds, sturgeon, 2,798,. 725 pounds; all other species, 34,097, 803 pounds. Bass and trout take the lead in value per pound, whitefish come pext, with other varieties following at & diminishing ratio. -- Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat and Chronicle.

The Great Salt Desert of Asia.

Some seventy odd miles south of Tehe-

ran, in Persia, is a large tract of land known as the Great Salt Desert of Asia, and a wonderful curiosity it is. A traveller, C. E. Biddulph, with a par , visited the section and c rot a very interesting account of what he as ". The salt tract is a great area, being covered with an incrustation of solid salt of various depths, and resembles somewhat a vast frozen lake. From the outer edge for about three miles toward the centre of the field the salt is found to be soft with an admixture of earth. Beron I this distance the salt began to assume more the appearance of solid ice, and will sustain the weight of horses, mules, camels, etc. At a distance of about eight miles towards the centre it was pecessary to employ the service of a large ham ner and an iron tent peg to break off a piece of this phenomenal incrustation to carry away as a souvenir. - Boston Cultivator.

Women were employed in printing offices as long ago, it is said, as 1530,