

RED SPRINGS COMET.

EQUAL AND EXACT JUSTICE TO ALL.

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Twelve members of the United States Cabinet have been Governors of States.

Autographs of the President and members of his Cabinet are now for sale at a low price.

The increased use of commercial fertilizers has led to the establishment of many fertilizer factories in the United States.

Those who show symptoms of becoming unpopular should be careful not to give offense by indulging in a course of recreation.

The decimalists say that the twenty-four hour day is doomed. The day is to be divided into ten decades, each of which will contain ten minutes.

The United States is known to be one of the great railroad countries, but it is not generally understood that it possesses nearly one-half of the total railway mileage of the whole world.

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 destructive agency."

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 Treasury Department.

There are 250,000 women in New York City, exclusive of those in domestic service, who support themselves and live without male protectors.

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.

Flying machines for use in war have attracted 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.

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 both the three-years' bride, Fair Dame Dorothy, complied, And with five housewife's zeal Planned at once a bounteous meal Fit to set before a king. Or a kindly following. But, alas! when all's complete Comes this message from the fleet: "Might the Admiral dare to bring To this goody gathering 'All his officers, and then 'Certain of his midshipmen?' Who can paint the dire dismay Of Dame Dorothy that day! Thirty guests she hid behind 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 grazed. All along the grassy ways, They milked the grazing herd. At the fair young madam's word, While the townsfolk stood and stared, Wondering how she ever dared Take such liberties as these: "Without even 'If you please.' Not straight on the milking went. 'Till the fat young housewife sent Mounted messengers here and there, Borrowing of her neighbors' fare. Not a neighbor's ear for aye. 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, Tied triumphantly she flew, Spread her tables all to cream, Whipt her foaming milk to foam. 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.

AN ACCIDENTAL MARRIAGE.

"Be sure you ride with Potts!" shouted Carrie, after the boat was fairly under way, whereas a little smile rippled across the neighboring passenger's face. It was an odd speech, but May and I understood it, for we had talked over a number of things pretty thoroughly beforehand regarding our journey, and this last admonition of Carrie's was simply to give vent to an oft-repeated charge. We were going to a lovely nook, discovered by Carrie the year before, in the heart of the Catskills. Suffice it to say that we had to ride many and many a long mile to reach the wonderful nook, 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 fellow, as round and as rosy, and as shiny as a fresh red-checked apple. Kramer was taller, darker, more taciturn. Potts entertained his passengers with a series of jokes, quips, 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 with Potts!" 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 Kramer line. "Here, ladies," said a tall man, who we knew must be Kramer, motioning us to a half-filled stage. Instead of getting in we looked around expectant. "Ah, yes! there he was, the jolly, round-faced Jehu, whip in hand, his lips curled up in a pleasant bow, his eyes twinkling already. "We don't want to ride with you," said May, with charming candor. "We want to ride with Mr. Potts, because he talks to 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 jolly fellow, too, but you'll find he'll talk the top-off of a meeting house." Mr. Potts' argument was irresistible. We meekly got into the half-filled stage and 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 piece is called over there?" or "Which of these peaks do you think is the highest, Sam?" Not a sound came from his lips till, casting aside all subtlety, she would say: "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-travelers 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 me!" 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 climbing vines and surrounded by a mass of brilliant flowers, "that is where I live." "Ah," said May, adjusting her blue

glasses more firmly upon her nose, "what a dear, cozy little place—the prettiest one we've seen for miles."

As this was Mr. Kramer's first and only voluntary remark, May seemed disposed to encourage him by sufficient praise. "Are you married?" she continued, fearful that the generous impetus to speech would dry up forever. "Yes," Mr. Kramer replied, looking back at us with a curious twinkle in his eye. "I was married sort of accidentally."

"Dear me," cried May, with vivacity; "I am certain from your manner that there was something very odd about your marriage. Would you mind telling us about the incident, or accident, which ever it was?" "If it will pass away the time for you," Mr. Kramer replied, "I don't mind telling you how I won my wife. But I have got a boy almost as old as you are, so the history events I refer to happened quite a while ago."

It would have scarcely surprised us more if the town pump had suddenly commenced 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; rode in the same hay wagon; skated on the same ice ponds; went to the same husking bees; but we didn't love each 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' points."

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"That rummy and I were not suited to each other, that even if she would marry me, we should live a cat-and-dog life; for she had a quick temper, I was obliged to acknowledge, and I had an obstinate will. I said over and over 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 up to my thoughts forever."

"I was thinking over all these things that day, as I said, and had just given Fanny up, when I saw her coming toward me. I did not even know if she would speak to me, but she did—just a cool little nod, as much as to say: 'We will be friendly acquaintances, and no more.' At first, I thought I would pass her, but I deliberately walked back with her."

"She said nothing after the first greeting, nor did I speak after that, either. 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 gold-bowed spectacles and said: "'Haven't been quarrelling again, children, eh? Now, why can't you be reconciled and happy? It's just as easy to be good and happy as to be the other thing. Let us bury the hatchet on the spot. I'll be the peacemaker.'"

"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?'"

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RICHER THAN FUR-SEALS.

SEA OTTERS ARE BEING RAPIDLY EXTERMINATED.

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

A MARINE mammal of greater value than the seal is being rapidly 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 is 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 signifies 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.

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FISHERIES OF THE GREAT LAKES.

Census Bulletin No. 173 gives detailed and valuable information regarding the fisheries of the Great Lakes. These are the most extensive water fisheries in the world.

The census shows that 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 commercial pursuits.

Special mention is made in the bulletin of the wonderful productivity 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 1,900,000,000 pounds of fish were taken, which yielded to the fishermen over \$25,000,000. Tables are given, showing that 6596 persons were engaged in 1889 in the capture of fish on the Great Lakes. These employed 107 steamers and boats, valued at \$357,650; other vessels and boats, valued at \$525,438. The apparatus used consisted of 3831 pound nets and trap nets, the value of which was \$822,919; gill nets the value of \$408,797; seines worth \$15,089, and other apparatus amounting in value to \$97,252.

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Women were employed in printing offices as long ago, it is said, as 1650.