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The Mountain Banner

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NONSENSE. BY MYRTLE MAE. O, 55d'wethick! I wish I was dead; Boys haven't got half sense— John wanted to know awhile ago

THE HISTORY OF PAPER. Preceding the use of papyrus by the Egyptians, records were kept and correspondence carried on by inscribing on clay bricks, metal plates, ivory tablets, etc., the matter to be preserved or communicated.

According to authorities, papyrus, a reed which could be unrolled into sheets, began to be used as paper 3,051 years before Christ, and thenceforward, for 3,000 years or more, papyrus was the only paper.

Europe learned the art of paper-making from the Saracens, or Arabs, in the seventh century, and they probably learned it from the Chinese. The process that the Saracens brought to Spain after their conquest in 704 had been in vogue in China over 1,000 years.

The use of paper for documents began about the tenth century. The use of rags for paper-making began in the eleventh century, prior to that cotton, flax, etc., being used. The earliest record of the building of a mill for paper-making is 1370, the mill being erected in Germany.

The rag engine, by which the raw material is reduced to pulp, is a German invention less than 200 years old. As late as 1756, in this land of ingenious workmen, rags were reduced to pulp by stamps or in mortars.

1,800 years ago: "All the usages of civilized life depend in a remarkable degree upon the employment of paper." The brothers Fourdrinier reaped no advantage from their invention. They spent their entire fortune and died in poverty, the eldest in 1855, aged 90 years.

The first paper-mill in the United States was established in Germantown, Pa., in 1690. The first paper company in Massachusetts was granted a patent in 1728. The mill was started in Milford in 1730. It was run with varied success for some years, and then ceased operations.

HOW McPHERSON DIED. Gens. McPherson and Logan, who had been to Gen. Sherman's headquarters (before Atlanta), rode up to the rear of the Seventeenth corps and dismounted in a clump of trees in front of an open stretch, which had probably been a field, at one time.

THE DANCE OF DANCES. Scotch reels and country dances were the fashion in 1814; then came the quadrille in 1815, and then the waltz, the pioneers whereof were Lord Palmerston, Mme. de Lieven and the Princess Esterhazy.

CHINESE MARRIAGES. The addresses on Chinese letters are always translated in San Francisco. Of the names that the translator turns out from the curious little marks on the envelopes, the Lees are most numerous.

THE SATISFIED BOY. It is happiness to be in as contented a frame of mind as was the boy of this anecdote: A small boy was hoeing in a sterile field by the roadside, when a passer-by stopped and said: "Pears to me your corn is rather small."

HISTORY OF A SONG. Will S. Hays, of Louisville, Ky., has made a small fortune by writing songs. Among his popular compositions are "Mollie Darling," "Nora O'Neal" and "Evangeline." But he got no money from the latter, though it gave him a start in his business.

A SAD SCENE. Mr. Cheney, a farmer of Indiana, having a married daughter living in Nebraska, was shocked by a telegram from her husband saying that her body would arrive the next evening.

REJECTED POEMS. The Boston Transcript gives three columns of "rejected poems" with this introduction: "Nothing gives an editor more genuine pain than to reject poetry, and yet the limits of the ordinary newspaper are such that a great deal goes into the waste-basket which, if printed, would furnish unalloyed delight to critical and sympathetic readers.

ONE DOLLAR A WORD FOR AN EDITORIAL. Mr. William North, a quarter of a century ago a New York journalist of repute, was asked to write an "editorial" calculated to inflame the public on coercive totalitarianism.

NO MORE "EXHORTERS." The "Exhorter" of the Methodist Episcopal Church is said to be rapidly becoming extinct. The disappearance of this order of men is not owing to the want of a field in which they may operate—for the field was never broader, nor more in need of such a service, than at this time.

THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN gives the following particulars of the killing of the terrible outlaw William Bonny, known as "Billy the Kid," by Sheriff Pat Garrett, of Lincoln county, New Mexico: Garrett was informed of the Kid's whereabouts while in Lincoln county, and arrived at Sumner in search of the outlaw after nightfall.

A MURDERAL BOX. BY W. W. STONEY. She's perfect to what with in a walk; And her shoulders show well on a soft dress, As she lounges at night and greets her girls, And plays with her bracelets and furls her fan.

PLEASANTRIES. FOLLOW the example of trees—keep some things in the shade. MANY of the richest planters of San Domingo live on coffee grounds. NEVER write the word "fims" backward. It will be a "sin" if you do.

A DRY-GOODS house advertises lawn dresses that will wash. Isn't it the business of a laundress to wash? THE hog may not be thoroughly posted in arithmetic, but when you come to a square root he is there—the hog is.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "Will you tell us what Mrs. Langtry's maiden name was?" Certainly; her maiden name was to marry Mr. Langtry. MANY a newspaper has been assassinated in the same way as the late Sultan Abdul Aziz, by means of scissors.

CAUGHT in the act: Clara—"O Charley, you naughty boy! I saw you thump your cigar away just as I came round the corner." Charley—"Why didn't you say you wanted it? How was I to know?"

THE genial old proverb manufacturer who wrote, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," forgot to add that all play and no work makes Jack a professional sport at 20 years of age, and lands him in the penitentiary at 30.

POTATOES.—When did potatoes begin to lose their flavor, the cook must summon all her skill to none for the loss. An excellent way of cooking them is the following: Peel and slice some potatoes and arrange them in a deep baking dish, putting salt, pepper and bits butter between each layer.

SENATOR GARLAND, of Arkansas, was appealed to by Forest and Stream for directions how to cook a possum. "The bent of my mind," he replied, "is that if you would boil the possum in salt and red-pepper water until he is quite tender, and then brown him well in an old-fashioned oven or skillet, wherein around his body a goodly number of potatoes are baked and browned, you will have a dish unrivaled and more than Oriental, and a person who could not relish it, whether he took the possum hot or cold, would have no celestial fire in his soul, nor music either."

SUPERFLUOUS: "And so you learn dancing, Bob? And how do you like valsing?" "Oh, it's not bad! I can manage very well myself; but I think a girl's rather in the way!"

THE PREVENTION OF STROKES. The following hints for the prevention of stroke are given by a New York physician: "To avoid stroke, exercise, in excessively hot weather, should be very moderate; the clothing should be thin and loose, and an abundance of cold water should be drunk. Workmen and soldiers should understand that as soon as they cease to perspire, while working or marching in the hot sun, they are in danger of stroke, and they should immediately drink water freely and copiously to afford matter for outrageous transpiration, and also keep the skin and clothing wet with water. Impending stroke may often be warded off by these simple measures.

BEHIND the cessation of perspiration, the pupils are apt to be contracted, and there is great frequency of micturition. When there is marked exhaustion, with a weak pulse, resulting from the cold-water application, we should administer stimulants. The free use of water, however, both externally and internally, by those exposed to the direct rays of the sun, is the best prophylactic against stroke, and laborers or soldiers and others who adopt this measure, washing their hands and faces, as well as drinking copiously of water every time they come within reach of it, will generally enjoy perfect immunity from stroke. Straw hats should be worn, ventilated at the top, and the crown of the hat filled with green leaves or wet sponge. It is better to wear thin flannel shirts, in order not to check perspiration. We may expose ourselves for a long time in the hot sun, and work or sleep in a heated room, and enjoy perfect immunity from stroke if we keep our skin and clothing wet with water."

A COW'S CUD. The situation, the structure and the size of the rumen or paunch point it out as the first and general receptacle for the food, which receives in the mouth only sufficient mastication to enable the animal to swallow it. When swallowed, it is then received by the rumen, and morsel after morsel is taken until this, the first of the animal's four stomachs, is comparatively full. A sense of repletion precedes rumination, during which act the animal generally prefers a recumbent posture. It is not to be supposed that all the food taken is again ruminated; it is only the bulky or solid portions that undergo the process. When the rumen is moderately full, it will contract on its contents, and first squeeze out the fluid portions, which will pass onward into the third or fourth stomachs, while the solid part will be embraced by the oesophagus, or stomach pipe, and returned to the mouth. By the term "loss of the cud" is meant a cessation of the chewing of the cud, which occurs as a symptom of most internal diseases of cattle.

FARMING IN CHINA. True domestic happiness exists in Chinese farm-houses, for every house is a little colony, consisting of three generations—namely, the grandfather, his children and his children's children. They live in harmony together. All those that are able to work on the farm, and if more labor is required the stranger is hired to assist them. They live well, dress plainly, and are industrious, without being in any way oppressed. The female members of a farmer's household have much more liberty than those of higher rank. They have small feet, as usual, but they are not confined to the house or prevented from looking on and speaking to strangers, as are the higher classes. If a stranger enters the court of the house unexpectedly he will see a number of ladies, both old and young, sitting on the veranda, all industriously employed on some work—spinning, sewing or embroidering, and one probably engaged in culinary operations. They are, however, very shy with strangers, and fly at the approach of one, so it is not easy to catch more than a glimpse of their domestic life.

TO COOK A POSSUM. Senator Garland, of Arkansas, was appealed to by Forest and Stream for directions how to cook a possum. "The bent of my mind," he replied, "is that if you would boil the possum in salt and red-pepper water until he is quite tender, and then brown him well in an old-fashioned oven or skillet, wherein around his body a goodly number of potatoes are baked and browned, you will have a dish unrivaled and more than Oriental, and a person who could not relish it, whether he took the possum hot or cold, would have no celestial fire in his soul, nor music either."

A PHILADELPHIA drug clerk bludgeoned in compounding a dose for his own taking, and lost his life thereby.