

THE PINE KNOT. SOUTHERN PINES. N. C.

The only civil pensions paid by the United States go to the widows of Presidents Polk, Tyler, Grant and Garfield, and the widow of Rev. Mr. Cheatnam, who was killed with General Canby in the Modoc massacre. The former get \$5,000 a year, while the latter receives \$1,200.

Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, who is much interested in every phase of woman's work, has kindly furnished the pupils of the Detroit School of Journalism with a motto which shall inspire them to do good work. In a letter to the director of the school, Mrs. M. L. Rayne, the lady says:

I admire your enterprise and see in it a great good to many. To suggest a motto to keep in sight of those good girls I am imagining you to be training into systematic methods of journalistic work let me beg you to remind them thus: Good work is never wasted; it brings back to you the exact worth of what you put into it. It is, therefore, the only safe investment in the world.

ROSE ELIZABETH CLEVELAND.

The Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company of New York, with its four lines of road, carried 115,103,501 passengers during the year ending September 30, 1886. This is equivalent to 390,000 persons daily. The number of passengers carried by all the surface roads for the year was 101,165,034. The elevated roads received an average of a little over six cents for each passenger, their gross earnings being \$7,423,216, and the net earnings \$3,960,101. From the latter \$1,531,985 was paid for interest and rentals, and \$274,909 for taxes and on structure. The snug sum of \$1,560,000 was paid in dividends, and \$99,631 carried to the surplus account. The roads could well afford to pay a large sum annually for their valuable franchise.

The headlines in a Chicago paper run as follows: "Sinfulness of London—Eating, Drinking and Wickedness Running Riot—The People Daily Swallow 500,000 Oxen, 2,000,000 Head of Sheep, 200,000 Calves, 300,000 Swine, 8,000,000 Head of Fowls, 500,000,000 Pounds of Fish, the Same of Oysters, and Any Quantity of Other Stuff, Washed Down with 200,000,000 Quarts of Beer." According to the last census report London had a population of about 4,000,000 in round numbers. On this basis of computation it would appear that each citizen of the metropolis consumes every day one eighth of an ox, half a sheep, several breasts of veal, a good-sized ham, two chickens, a hundred or more pounds of fish, the same of oysters, to say nothing of vegetables and other things, and worst of all he drinks fifty quarts of beer a day. It is difficult to understand how famine can exist under these circumstances.

The London *Telegraph* tells of a curious custom among the natives of Java in the neighborhood of the Bromo volcano. "It is said that whenever an eruption takes place the natives, as soon as the fire (the molten lava, no doubt, is meant) comes down the mountain, kindle at it the wood they use as fuel for cooking. They keep in the fire thus made for years, and whenever it goes out, through neglect or for any other reason, they never kindle it anew from matches, but they get a light from their nearest neighbors, whose fire was originally obtained from the volcano. The fires in use up to the late outburst in the native cooking places were all obtained from the Bromo eruption of 1832."

THERE are only ten pensioners on the rolls who have lost a leg at the hip joint.

The Walking Staff.

"Canes," said a Detroit dealer to a *Free Press* reporter, "are intended as a support. But it is only old gentlemen or those who are lame who use them in that way. They are a sort of ballast for a well-dressed man to keep him in equipoise."

"What are favorite sticks?"

"Blackthorn, snakewood, malacca, ebony, oak and ash, with ivory, silver or bronze heads. Young men use slender, flexible steel canes, unless they are pedestrians. Then they carry a walking stick or alpenstock."

"Here are some of the fashionable knobs," continued the dealer. "This head of Mephistopheles in silver, with ruby eyes, cats' heads, tigers' heads and different fancy styles are popular. But the neatest of all is just a carved bar or scroll, that will not be passe in a year or so. Here are the flexible steel canes, with loaded heads, and the dirk canes. These are used for protection in case of assault."

"Are canes as much used as ever?"

"They are indispensable. A man cannot walk with his hands in his pockets, nor carry them swinging at his side, when he is out at his leisure. Canes are not used during business hours. They belong to the promenade toilet. Notice a dozen young men on the street of an afternoon and you will see a character distinction in the way each one handles his cane. Elderly gentlemen are very fond of theirs. Some of them bring singular sticks here to be made up—one from the branch of an apple tree that grew near his childhood's home, another a bough from some great man's grave. It used to be a common fashion to bring sticks from foreign trees, but that was when a stick was more a staff than it is now. I have noticed one thing. A homely old knotted cane is always highly valued, perhaps from associations. The proudest cane is the presentation stick with a big gold head, and a long inscription. And it is the most uncomfortable one to carry, as it needs constant watching."

Imprisoned for E listing S'aves.

A few weeks ago a public statement was made by Gen. Howard that an Iowa soldier was, during the war, imprisoned by order of Gen. Halleck for freeing slaves. The name of the soldier was not then given, but he has responded for himself. He was Dr. Ransom L. Harris, of Tabor, Fremont County, Iowa, a Lieutenant of the First Kansas Colored Volunteers. He says it happened near Springfield, Mo. Slaves came into camp and gave valuable information regarding the movements of Price's army, and he decided to utilize them by enlisting them, but Halleck heard of it and ordered them sent back to their masters and him put into prison. The slaves, however, managed to escape. The doctor was released after several weeks, and subsequently led a large number of those slaves in five hard-fought battles in the Southwest.—*Chicago Journal*.

Qualifications of a Millionaire.

"What makes a millionaire?" asked a man.

"Energy," responded one.

"Perseverance," said another.

"Opportunity and ability," responded a third.

"Strict attention to business," hazarded another.

"I should say all these things and add one or two more in the same line," said a fifth.

"All wrong," remarked the first speaker.

"Wrong!" chorused the five.

"Yes."

"What makes a millionaire, then?"

"The necessary millions."—*Pittsburg Dispatch*.

Massage:

To France belongs the credit of giving to modern medicine a scientific system of massage; and yet, in spite of many able works, and various discussions at the Academy of Sciences and other learned societies, it remained a sort of secret practice, almost wholly under the domain of empiricism; but with the waning interest of French physicians the Germans and Scandinavians took up the subject; and about ten years ago Dr. Mezger of Amsterdam brought massage to be acknowledged as a highly valuable method. He placed it upon the basis of practical knowledge, thus taking it out of the hands of ignorant charlatans. He did not write much about it, but simply employed the teaching of facts. To physicians who wrote to him for an explanation of his treatment he only said: "Come and see." To Prof. von Mosengeil is owing the present accurate and scientific knowledge of the subject; by his careful and painstaking observations he has brought massage into high esteem so that it is now acknowledged as a special branch of the art of medicine.—*Chamber's Journal*.

The "Noble Forehead" Idea.

It is popularly supposed that the high forehead is essential to a good brain, and intellectual superiority is usually associated with the conception of a "two-storied brow." Dr. William H. Mays ably combats this idea in the *Western Lancet*. He says "the size of the forehead depends much on the line or growth of the hair that limits it. A man may have what is called a low forehead; but if the hair could be removed to the height of four or five inches, the same individual would present as fine a specimen of the traditional "noble forehead" as could be wished, a perfect "dome of thought," particularly if the frontal sinuses happened to be large or protuberant. Again, a low forehead has ever been held a sign of beauty in women, and has certainly never been regarded as an impeachment of her mental capacity. The truth is, the front part of the brain has very little to do with the intellectual process. It is the posterior lobes of the brain with which the higher faculties of the mind are associated."

Charms for Chinamen.

Charms form a prominent feature of Chinese life, and these can be purchased in Chinatown in bewildering variety, and almost every Chinaman has one or more. These are purchased by tourists from the East as bric-a-brac or curiosities. One of the most common is a dagger about twelve inches long, made of coils of various kinds, and known as the sword charm. Brass mirrors can be purchased for a small sum that will cure mad people. The money dagger, that costs perhaps a dollar, is to hang on the bed or about the room to ward off malignant influences, demons, genii and other troublesome possibilities. Other and less expensive charms are the leaves of the sweetflag and Artemisia joined in a roll, and near beds or bunks or over the lintel a branch or sprig of peach blossoms is often seen that will drive off the most powerful demon. Gourds, tiger claws and a thousand and one other objects are sold for the same purpose, rich and poor being, as a rule, equally superstitious.—*San Francisco Call*.

Drawing the Line.

Magistrate—You say you are a tourist? Prisoner—Yes, sir. I love nature in all her radiant beauty—

Magistrate (hastily)—Never mind that! How much money have you about your clothes?

Prisoner—Seventy-five cents!

Magistrate (severely)—Then I shall commit you as a tramp. We draw the line between tourists and tramps at \$1.—*Philadelphia Call*.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The Sultan of Morocco has 6000 wives, they say.

In northern Asia now they are making whiskey of reindeer milk, which is rich in alcohol.

Prof. Hughes, F. R. S., is of opinion that a ribbon instead of a rod of metal is the best lightning rod.

The government pays out \$7,000 in pensions every hour, according to the calculation of a Washington correspondent.

A farmer at Suisan, Cal., sent a friend an apple weighing eighteen ounces, saying that it was the smallest on the tree. Some of the apples, he asserts, would weigh over two pounds.

A lady named Augustina Ahumada has died recently in Santiago, Chili, at the age of 115 years, and at Talca Mrs. Juana Gatica has died, aged 130 years. The latter leaves two sons, one 88 and the other 95 years of age.

A repeating rifle, invented by a French officer, can be loaded with its seven cartridges in ten seconds and completely discharged in four, and it does not require to be removed from the shoulder until the magazine is exhausted.

When the English first came over from Germany even England itself was not off. There were many different kingdoms and kings. Little by little these kingdoms were united. Then there was one principle king and the other kings were under him; afterwards the kings dropped off and the principal became the only one among the English.

Eugene Tyler of Adairville, Ky., is pretty well charged with electricity. It is said that after rubbing his hands together quickly, he can place them on a man's shoulders and control him completely, and that no one has yet been found that can resist the influence thus exerted. He can also light a gas jet by an electric spark sent from his finger two feet away from the burner.

The mappa was a table napkin in use in ancient Rome for wiping the hands and mouth at meals; vulgar persons fastened it under their chins to protect their clothes from stains, as some do now. In ordinary cases the host did not furnish his guests with napkins; but each person brought his own mappa with him, occasionally carried away in it some of the delicacies which he could not consume at table.

What a Shark Eats.

The shark has the reputation of a rapacious appetite and a good, strong stomach. He is not satisfied with trifles, nor can the keen edge of his appetite be turned by a "diet of worms." He requires a substantial bill of fare, and like the black country operative who asked the carver for a "piece of meat that would not bend," he is fond of solids. The stomach of a shark, which was recently captured in Watson's Bay, was opened and an examination of its contents made. According to the papers, among other things discovered were a number of human bones, the leg of a pair of gray tweed trousers, a pocket containing a penny, the buckles of a pair of braces, the blade of an oar, an empty beer bottle, the seat of a child's rocking chair, two tin meat cans, a gum pot, an old gridiron, and last but not least, a half-digested silk hat. It is presumed the fish had been out to dinner with some gay fellow sharks the night before.

Cordial Relations.

"Are their relations cordial?" asked one friend of another, respecting a couple of politicians.

"Blamed if I could tell. You see I was over in the corner when they came up to the bar, and I could only see the neck of the bottle, but it looked more like whiskey."—*Washington Critic*.