

THE PINE KNOT.

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This is the season of drowning accidents, and numerous cases are being reported every day. But boys will go swimming and boating in warm weather, and the most that can be done is to impress upon them the necessity of the utmost carefulness while about the water.

The oldest man in the world is said to be James James, who resides at Santa Rosa, Mexico. He is 135 years old. He was born near Dorchester, South Carolina, in 1752. It is asserted that he was one of the laborers at Fort Moultrie during the unsuccessful attack by the British fleet in 1776. If this is true he was then 24 years old.

It is estimated that there are 3,000,000 working women in England, about one-half of whom are in domestic employment. Further, that half the working-class families of the land are maintained by the work of women's hands, at ridiculously low wages. The *British Weekly* suggests that jubilee year is a good time to make some efforts looking to a betterment of their condition.

A \$1,200-clerk in the Surgeon-General's office, War Department, has been dismissed under peculiar circumstances. In order to make a little extra money he hired a post-office box, and issued to distant points a circular offering to secure government employment for those desiring it for a consideration. In answer to inquiries he fixed the price at \$10, and appearances indicated that he would have done a thriving business, but for an investigation by post-office officers. The facts were reported to the Secretary of War, who ordered the clerk's summary dismissal. He protested that he intended no offence, as his plan was simply to forward, in answer to remittances, copies of the civil service rules.

Evidence continues to pour in showing that whoever made the statement that Mrs. Langtry was the first alien woman to become a citizen of this country was quite far from the facts. Judge Thomas Moran, of Chicago, the Associate Justice of the Appellate Court, says that his mother, a native of Ireland and subject of Great Britain, took out papers and became a naturalized citizen of New York State as far back as 1836 or 1837. He says that prior to the adoption of the Revised Statutes, about 1830, an alien could not inherit or hold title to land in New York. "My mother," he said, "came here as a child, and her father acquired property in New York. It was probably to enable her to retain her right and title on this that she became naturalized. Very likely many other ladies in a similar position in the original States and colonies did the very same thing; so I imagine the occurrence is much less rare than the papers think. Until the Legislatures of the different States changed the law it had to be done."

Icebergs are at present numerous in the path of European steamers, according to the reports sent the Hydrographic Office from the captains of various vessels. Since June 3 there have been sighted as many as thirty-three bergs. Captain Bakker of the Dutch steamer Scholter saw one 300 feet high, at a distance of seventeen miles, and passed within a mile and a half of it. Captain Brockelman of the Adolf saw one 240 feet high with two others 100 feet high, on succeeding days. Captain Campbell of the English ship St. Rovans saw a berg two miles long and 200 feet high on the 16th in latitude forty-four degrees, longitude forty-eight degrees. Fourteen apparently new derelicts are reported this month.

This is the age of paper, and the *West-ern Manufacturer* suggests that an exhibition of paper objects and manufactures would fittingly commemorate the bicentenary of the first paper mill in this country, next year, to be held at Philadelphia, the birthplace of the trade. Paper is the receptacle and disseminator of science, the products of art and literature, the great means of keeping industries and commerce thriving. It barrels our flour, wraps our goods, enters into articles of personal wear and household use, and when we die sometimes forms our coffins. It rolls beneath our railway cars and forms our buggy tops. We eat off it, drink from it, wear it on our heads, necks, bosoms, and feet, carry it in our pockets in lieu of handkerchief, and tile our houses, line our carpets with it, pack up our goods in paper boxes, and divert our leisure moments with paper cards. We make 500,000 tons yearly, import largely, and yet, like *Oliver Twist*, ask for more. Rags, wood pulp, straw, old rope, the bark of the cotton plant, and even the membranes in the interior of silkworm cocoons, yield it.

Green Cadets at West Point.

"Fall in!" the command was, sharply. You should have seen those green boys trying to get in ranks. There were now about 100 "beasts," and they looked like a herd of Texas steers, though more subdued. After a while the "beasts," including my trembling self, were strung out into a long, wavering line, and a cadet corporal commenced to call the roll of candidates. Each one was instructed to answer, "Here!" Some who answered, "Present," were nipped in the bud, and taught a lesson in cadet discipline. One poor fellow who was rather tardy in replying to his name, was commanded to "step out" and answer to his name. "Step out" is the West Point slang for "make haste," and when the "beast" actually did step out of rank, he was surprised at the celerity with which he was made to step back. The formation was for dinner, and we were retained until the battalion of cadets had started. They marched off, headed by the drum corps, with all the accuracy and beauty of a vast machine. Finally our time came. The plebes at the head of the column interpreted the meaning of the command: "Forward, march," and the procession started for the large granite structure known as the mess hall.

It was like running the gauntlet. One cadet in the rear of the line hollered at me in a voice of special envy: "Drag in your chin about a yard, mister! I want to see less slouching among you beasts; stand up; sir!" I tried to obey. Each plebe had his coat buttoned full up, the palms of his hands to the front, and all the while his toes digging up the gravel of the area.—*Philadelphia Times*.

Spending Money Judiciously.

John McDonough, the New Orleans millionaire, said one day: "This is what many people do not understand—spending money judiciously. They are afraid of spending money. A man who wishes to make a fortune must first make a show of liberality and spend money in order to obtain it. By a dinner I once gave to the Spanish authorities I obtained their good will and esteem, and was enabled to make a large sum. To succeed in life, then, you must obtain the favor and influence of the opulent and the authorities of the country in which you live. This is the first rule."—*Dry Goods Chronicle*.

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FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The Japanese make cheese from beans and peas.

Over 300 people in Rome, Mich., had the mumps at the same time.

An average human pulse at infancy is 140 per minute; at two years, 100; from sixteen to nineteen, 80; at manhood, 76; old age, 60.

Cairo in Egypt was founded in 973 by the first of the Fatimite caliphs. Saladin surrounded it with strong walls and magnificent gates.

Six thousand houses were thrown down, 30,000 inhabitants killed, and a conflagration kindled, which spread still wider destruction, by the terrible earthquake in Lisbon in 1755.

The first auction ever held was in Great Britain in 1700, when Elishur, a Governor of Fort George, in the East Indies, publicly sold the goods he had brought home to the highest bidder.

If a Chinaman desires the death of an enemy he goes and hangs himself upon his neighbor's door. It is a sure cure to kill not only that particular enemy, but members of his entire family will be in jeopardy of losing their lives.

When a Chinaman desires a visitor to dine with him he does not ask him to do so, but when he does not wish him to stay he puts the question: "Oh, please stay and dine with me!" The visitor will then know he is not wanted.

A new trade for women in Albany is that of "neighborhood darning." The woman who follows it has for her customers a dozen or twenty households, each of which she visits weekly, and spends a few hours in doing up the family darning and mending.

PINE CITY, Washington Territory, claims to have the smallest living woman. She is twenty-seven years old, twenty-nine inches tall, and weighs thirty-three pounds.

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