

MAJ. HARPER
IN MEXICO.Just Look at Him! Gallivanting In
Mexico Like a Young Man.

HE THINKS IN ENGLISH.

But There is No Telling But What He is
Walking Spanish—He Gets Off a Rig On
Silver.

We copy the following from the Lenoir Topic of this week. It seems that the distinguished and clever President of the Chester and Lenoir Railroad is having a good time out in Mexico. He has doubtless gone out to swap—well, say silver.

From a private letter from Maj. Harper we are permitted to print a few extracts that may be interesting to our readers.

The letter is dated Tuesday morning, Nov. 19th, on board a train on the Mexican National R. R. near Catacoro, Mexico:

He says: "On yesterday we came from San Antonio, over International & Great Northern R. R. to Laredo, where we crossed the Rio Grande, the line which divides the United States from Mexico. It was an uninteresting ride, no towns of consequence and very few cultivated farms—just one continuous and never-ending sight of mesquit and cactus; enough of the former to supply two States if any was needed, and, the C. & L. R. R. could not pull the cactus we saw—say from Lenoir to Hickory in a month.

At Laredo we struck the Mexican National R. R., which is Narrow Gauge and a daisy one. The first thing I did at Laredo was to change \$30 in greenbacks for Mexican money, getting \$55.50 therefor. The idea for this you will discover is that a good square meal at the R. R. eating house for \$1.00 each costs us really 56c. We took sleeper for Mexico, \$9 Mexican money.

The train here is made up different from ours—after the mail and express comes Pullman sleeper, then "coche de primera clase," then the "segunda clase," and last the "tercera clase." As you may not be thoroughly at home in Spanish, I will explain that the terms indicate the 1st, 2nd and 3d class cars in the order named. On our return we will take pleasure in translating Spanish to you—if we are not too busy.

We are nearly half way now between Laredo and Mexico. Have been all morning in a plain, say 20 miles wide, that looks like a desert. No rain here for years, and vegetation pretty much out of sight. The mountains are all bare.

What the very few Mexicans we see and their donkeys subsist upon I can't say. The interesting country about Monterey we passed in the night and did not see. We got good meals at the R. R. eating houses. The goat's milk in the coffee was new to me and I don't fancy it; everything else was O. K. No farming along here and no towns except at long intervals.

The houses when you do find them are mostly adobe, one story and flat roof. Fine cigars are sold on the train for a quarter and the quarters for a little less than 14c of our money.

The free silver cranks should come down here and exchange their American currency or coin for Mexican of equal or superior weight and fineness receiving nearly \$2.00 for \$1.00. Baggage is inspected by Custom House officials at the line going either way. Trunks are taken out and unlocked by the owner. Hand baggage on Pullman cars is inspected in the car, if not taken out for the purpose. We left ours in the car. I had mine open except one end fastening and walked out to see the performance going on in the baggage room. When I returned to my seat to have mine attended to I found a shabbily-dressed Mexican woman opening it. As she had no badge of office or uniform I thought she was a second class passenger who was about to mistake my grip for hers, and promptly told her to hold up. If I

had requested her to "go to Ballyhack" she would have understood me just as well. She was an attache of the Custom House force, but spoke such bad Spanish that I could not understand her any better than she did me. We are due in the city tomorrow morning for breakfast.

The Railroad and Government officials are all very nice and agreeable. I write on the moving train and I could do better if seated at a desk. I hope you can read it. If there is anything that you can't make out it may be Spanish that I inadvertently used. I do my thinking in English, however."

Ancient China.

In early times, as far back even as 2000 B. C., we find that science in China had reached a fairly advanced stage. The Chinese possessed undoubtedly a great knowledge of astronomy; inscriptions have been found which prove this. In the "Chou-King," a book of records, we read that Emperor Yao, who reigned 2357 B. C., did much to advance the study of this science. He ordered his astronomers to observe the movements of the sun, moon and stars, and showed them how to find out the commencement of the four seasons by means of certain stars. We read also that he told them that a year consisted of a little less than 366 days, and as he divided the year into lunar months, he taught them the years in which the additional lunar month ought to be included. It is also known that the Chinese had the annual calendar, that they observed the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and were able to calculate eclipse and knew the differences between the equator and the ecliptic. It is quite probable that the ecliptic was not known of before the Mussulmans occupied the mathematical tribunal, which they held for three centuries.

Astronomy has always been closely connected with astrology. By means of astronomy the time was ascertained for the numerous public ceremonies recorded in the imperial calendar; it likewise regulated the affairs of the government. But the calendar has long since ceased to be used for this latter purpose, and the majority of the Chinese population merely look upon it as a means of continuing the mysterious ceremonies and oracles connected with the different positions of the planets. It is ordered in the "Collection of the Laws" that at each eclipse ceremonies should be gone through to deliver the eclipsed sun or moon. At this time, therefore, an alarm is sounded on the drums, the mandarins arrived armed, utter many oburgations, and thus deliver the endangered bodies.

In the seventeenth century certain Jesuit missionaries arrived in China. On seeing the low state into which the Mathematical Tribunal had fallen, they offered to help it. They found an observatory containing many instruments which shows plainly that this branch of science had at one time reached an advanced stage. The decay of science is not to be wondered at when we remember that twenty-two dynasties were brought on the throne by actual revolutions. Nor is this decay confined to astronomy. According to the ancient books and traditions, we find that various branches of science had reached a high degree of culture.

The Emperor Kang-hi who reigned in the seventeenth century, had a great love of study himself, and endeavored to advance the general education in China. The Jesuit missionaries instructed him in geometry and physics. He translated some textbooks into Chinese.

The Chinese have generally been credited with the invention of gunpowder. A certain document has been found, however, by Archimandrite Palladius; a Russian sinologue; stating that in the ninth century a Persian regiment, under the Chinese sovereign, made known a material similar to wild fire, which was afterwards used for fireworks.

Apparently, chemistry has never been studied, unless by a certain sect, the Tao-tse; who spent all their time endeavoring to discover the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life.

The Chinese have not a great knowledge of geology. The mines have been worked without any machinery, and are not very deep; therefore fire-damp

has rarely been the cause of destruction. Coal was extracted at as early time as 200 B. C., in the dynasty of Han. Although the mode of extraction was very primitive, enough was obtained to satisfy all wants.

About 1861 the government handed the exploration of the mines over to American prospectors. The work, lasting from 1862-64, was directed by Prof. Pumpelli, who at its termination sent the Eupueror a report and a map of the coal fields. The Smithsonian Institute of Washington have had these documents published; they have also appeared in the diplomatic correspondence of the United States (1864.) Later on, Baron de Richtofen did similar work, and found that the coal fields in China are even more extensive than those in North America.

Research work has not been carried far in natural science. In zoology their classifications are quite wrong. The drawings in zoological and botanical books can often scarcely be recognized. Their most ancient work on botany dates 2700 B. C., and is a treatise written by the Emperor Shen nung, it is merely enumerative. Another work, the "Rh-ya," dates from 1200 B. C., and shows signs of progress. The "Peantsao," an encyclopedia, is, according to M. Bretschneider, of little value.

This Russian investigator speaks of the Chinese as follows: "It is an undeniable fact that the Chinese do not know how to observe, and have no regard for truth; their style is negligent, full of ambiguities and contradictions teeming with marvelous and childish digressions."

However, in a more recent communication, M. Bretschneider retracts his words, and says that it is more that the Chinese will not observe, than that they cannot for Liehi-Tehen, author of several interesting pamphlets, brings forward many facts concerning cultivated plants.

With regard to medical science, it is very elementary. Occasionally here and there a successful doctor is to be found. This lack of knowledge is not to be wondered at, for Buddhism forbids dissection of bodies. In the temple of Confucius a bronze figure is to be found on which all the different parts are marked where the surgical needle may be applied. The needle is practically the only instrument used in the profession.

The height of civilization in China was reached at the end of the reign of Kang-hi. The gradual decline is supposed to have commenced with the Tartar domination.—From Nature.

Bob Toombs' Grandson.

A Jacksonville, Fla., preacher Rev. R. Toombs DuBose, amazed his congregation last Sunday by fishing a keno outfit from under his pulpit, and showing them how the game was played. He declared that a prominent city official was interested in a keno game, which was opened there last week. This Reverend gentleman is equal to the Western preacher who, when he had completed his discourse, gave out as the closing song, "Ta-ra-boom-ta-ra." The choir began to sing it with a will, when up rose a visiting Reverend and expostulated. The parson who had given out the hymn told the choir to go on, that it was his church and he would have the choir sing what he chose, and accordingly the choir proceed with "Ta-ra-boom," and sang it through, after which the benediction was pronounced.

A woman was arrested at Saundersville, R. L., on the charge of murdering her father.

HOW TO PREVENT CROUP.

SOME READING THAT WILL PROVE INTERESTING TO YOUNG MOTHERS. HOW TO GUARD AGAINST THE DISEASE.

Croup is a terror to young mothers and to post them concerning the cause, first symptoms and treatment is the object of this item. The origin of croup is a common cold. Children who are subject to it take cold very easily and croup is almost sure to follow. The first symptom is hoarseness; this is soon followed by a peculiar rough cough, which is easily recognized and will never be forgotten by one who has heard it. The time to act is when the child first becomes hoarse. If Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is freely given all tendency to croup will soon disappear. Even after the croupy cough has developed it will prevent the attack. There is no danger in giving this remedy for it contains nothing injurious. For sale by O. M. Royster, Druggist. 45-4t

THE SADNESS OF A SAD END.

He Fell Flat and There You Are. Colorado is Nearly As Good As North Carolina.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COL., Nov. 21. Col. M. E. Thornton, Hickory, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Not hearing from you for some time, I will drop you a line to you, supposing of course our Cripple Creek gold craze has long ago struck you as it seems to have caught most all men who speculate at all from San Francisco to New York city being here in the hot bed of it and learning the thousands of queries from all states and to see money rolling in here from Gold Stocks is beyond anything known in America on gold mining. Three daily Boards here and all crowded and thousands and thousands of stocks transfer daily. It really seems as if the excitement had only just begun here and many new Co's. are forming just now and some of them excellent properties indeed. I myself took one-fourth the capital stock of a Company today, which we finally close up tomorrow. We have now property and splendid showing and first class location in the heart of the camp, but owing to the formation of so many Cos., stocks in new Cos. start on our exchanges at low figures and the better get up as their merits deserve.

We do not want our stock to go to the board at less than ten cents a share, if we can prevent it and we have sought to use this means. To place 100,000 shares of this stock to parties outside this city who will hold it a short time till we complete all our patents and get ready to shove it, then the stock will be valuable and ready for sale. In order to raise immediate money to this end, we will sell of this stock a limited number of shares at .01c or \$10 a 1000 shares. To outside parties making it an object to them to touch this and giving the ground floor chance to them who will touch it outside of our city knowing full well that in so doing those who do profit, and this deal will only be the more ready to take hold of other good deals in stocks. When we offer this and will give us a man in outside circles to aid in placing other stocks and thus repay us for what we loose in this offer. I am speaking this personal Mr. Thornton. Now I deal in stocks and of course desire all the outside patrons I can get as any man does and I write this sufficient to say to you if you can sell stocks let me know. I will send you our daily or weekly reports of sales here on the exchanges. If you have the nerve to risk a little touch, a few thousand shares of our present stock at .01c or \$10 a 1000 say 10,000 or so. Think you will not regret it as but few will get this chance, as only a limited number of shares will go at this. I figure on a good price for my stock, so if you want in, send draft payable to me for amount to cover what you take at \$10 a thousand shares at once so we will get not later than 10th of December by that time we can issue the stock and send to you. Respectfully Yours, W. L. DAWSON.

The Lenoir Topic recently said that a young man in Caldwell county bought a marriage license on Saturday and was going to get married on Sunday. Saturday night he went to a corn shucking. Before he began to shuck corn he pulled off his coat and hung it up, the license being in the pocket. When he had finished shucking he went to get his coat, when, lo! he found it not. An old cow had eaten the coat, license and all. The young man made a few broken remarks, went home in his shirt sleeves, and on Monday morning bought him another coat and when he gets his license he says he will marry forthwith.

Danger From Catarrh.

The most important feature about that very common complaint, catarrh in the head, is its tendency to develop into some other more serious and dangerous disease. The foul matter dropping from the head into the bronchial tubes or lungs is very liable to lead to bronchitis or consumption, that destroyer which causes more deaths in this country than any other disease. As catarrh originates in impurities in the blood, local applications can do but little good. The common sense method of treatment is to purify the blood, and for this purpose there is no preparation superior to Hood's Sarsaparilla. The powerful action of this medicine upon the blood expels every impurity, and by so doing cures catarrh and gives health to the entire organism. 46-4t

The Bank of England.

The Bank of England, the most powerful monetary institution in the world, celebrates its second centennial anniversary this year. This fact adds interest to an article in the Social Economist for September, in which the history of the bank is briefly sketched. Its projector was William Patterson, a Scotchman, and his immediate purpose was to aid William III in the difficult task of raising funds to carry on war with France. By the terms of the charter \$6,000,000 were to be raised, and the subscribers were to form a corporation styled "The Governor and Company of the Bank of England." The privilege of keeping the accounts of the public debt, paying dividends, and issuing notes was to be given to the bank, and, for this, an annual allowance of \$20,000 was granted. The entire capital was to be loaned to the government at 8 per cent. This interest, with the allowance just named, gave the bank an income of \$500,000 a year. The capital was increased at various periods until it expanded to the present figures, about \$72,700,000. The government debt to the bank reached \$73,400,000 in 1816, one-fourth of which—however, was afterward repaid. On the remaining \$55,075,000 the bank now receives interest from the government at the rate of 2½ per cent.

The first notes of the Bank of England was issued in 1695, and were of the denomination of \$100, reckoned in our money. At various times notes of from \$50 to \$5 were put forth, but at present no notes are issued for less than \$25 nor more than \$5,000. The Bank of England has the exclusive privilege of issuing notes payable on demand. These notes are all made in the bank building, and when once redeemed are never again put forth.

Taking the world at large (it may be said that the notes of the Bank of England are regarded as the safest paper in circulation. But this institution like all other banks, has had its troubles. Its management has been frequently assailed and sometimes justly. In the great panic of 1825, when 770 banks in Great Britain failed, the Bank of England was shaken, the gold accumulation diminishing from \$700,000,000 to only \$5,000,000.

At the present time the bank employs 1,060 persons. The governor and deputy governor each receive a salary of \$5,000 a year, which is far below the American standard. There are twenty-four directors, each necessarily holding \$15,000 of the bank's stock, with an annual compensation of \$2,500. These directors are expected to direct and they generally do so. The reason why this bank is the center of England's financial system is found in the simple but important fact that all other banks keep their bullion reserves at the Bank of England. The bullion reserve averages from \$5,000,000 to \$70,000,000 daily. As regards the bank's earning power, it is stated that the highest dividend ever paid by it was 27½ per cent., during the years 1753-63. For twenty years the dividend has averaged about 10 per cent.

William A. Shoemaker, attorney for H. H. Holmes, convicted at Philadelphia of murder, was held under \$1,500 bail in that city Monday to answer a charge of subordination of perjury. He manufactured evidence tending to prove that Benjamin F. Pietzel, for whose murder Holmes was convicted two weeks ago committed suicide. Shoemaker paid a woman \$20 to sign and swear to this statement.

When a person begins to grow thin there is something wrong. The waste is greater than the supply and it is only a question of time when the end must come.

In nine cases out of ten the trouble is with the digestive organs. If you can restore them to a healthy condition you will stop the waste, put on new flesh and cause them to feel better in every way. The food they eat will be digested and appropriated to the needs of the system, and a normal appetite will appear.

Consumption frequently follows a wasting of bodily tissue because nearly all consumptives have indigestion. The Flaker Digestive Cordial will restore the stomach to a healthy condition in a vast majority of cases. Get one of their books from your druggist and learn about this new and valuable remedy.

When the children need Castor Oil, give them Laxol,—it is palatable.