

The census of 1870 showed that there were 25,000,000 books in the libraries of the United States, and it is believed that even now there is not in the country a book for every inhabitant.

Much of the color blindness that is becoming quite common is said to be caused by the use of tobacco, which, being a narcotic, benumbs the nerves. Sometimes the victim loses sight altogether. But it is noticeable, says the *Graphic*, that the old smokers are the fastidious about the colors which the tabacconists give their cigars.

Judge Cook, of Jacksonville, Ala., recently bought from the State for \$20 as a speculation, forty acres of land on which the taxes had become delinquent. On looking up the site of the land he found to his great astonishment that it lay within the corporate limits of the town of Anniston and was worth \$10,000, at a low valuation.

Miss Minnie Freeman, the heroic school teacher of Myra Valley, Neb., who saved thirteen school children by her presence of mind in the recent "blizzard," has already been overwhelmed with offers of marriage. The *New York Tribune* thinks that "the applicants for this vacant position must regard her as sure proof against family breezes."

A two-cent stamp will now carry a letter from any place in the United States to any point in Mexico or Canada. An arrangement for reciprocal postal facilities has been in operation between this country and Mexico for some months, and a similar agreement has just been concluded with Canada. Two cents to take a letter over the biggest part of this continent.

The City of Liverpool is to be supplied with water from a reservoir in Wales, which is to be four and one-half miles long by a half-mile to a mile broad and eighty feet deep. There will be three miles of pipe, each sixty-eight miles long, with filtering-beds and secondary reservoirs. The aqueduct alone will cost \$15,000,000.

A little Esquimau woman, who left her native home on the eastern shore of Greenland when fifteen years old, has resided in this country long enough to learn the language and to develop the fact that Esquimaux are as white as other people when the dirt and grease are washed off. Among other things, she says the people of her nationality never wash or bathe in all their lives, have no rulers, no form of government, every one does as exactly as he or she pleases, and all are contented with their lot, as they know of nothing better.

Mrs. Edna Hill Gray Dow, of Dover, New Hampshire, enjoys the distinction of being the only woman in this free country ever elected to the presidency of a street railroad company. Mrs. Dow is forty years old, married, and rich. She invested a few hundred dollars in the Dover street railway, only to discover that a Boston syndicate was bearing her stock, hoping to gain control of the property. She resented that, and whenever any weak shareholders wanted to sell out, she bought before the Boston syndicate caught up, and speedily she got in control; and, fully aroused, she elected herself president.

The proposed linking of the Old World with the New is thus discussed in the columns of the *Juneau (Alaska) Free Press*: "The great project of building a railroad across Siberia, now being pushed to completion by the Russian Government, strongly holds out the idea that in the very near future a great iron belt from this side of the world will meet it half way, and travel by land from the New World to the Old will have been accomplished. Great railway corporations are now seriously looking into this, as it seems, stupendous project, but in reality not as great an undertaking as Eastern people believe. The country that will necessarily have to be crossed in Western British Columbia and Central Alaska is far from being the frigid zone that many believe it to be. The line would undoubtedly in its course north strike the headwaters of the Yukon river, then keep down that mighty stream to within perhaps 100 miles of the coast, at or near Nulato, where it would leave the river and running nearly west would terminate at Cape Prince of Wales, within about fifty statute miles of the Siberian coast. Very little difficulty, except, perhaps, in crossing the ranges at the headwaters of the Yukon, would be apprehended from deep snows in winter. The climate along the Yukon is dry and but very little snow falls there—from eighteen inches to perhaps two feet in depth. Extreme cold from 70 to 80 degrees below zero, only prevails about two months of mid-winter and this would be the greatest drawback to winter travel. Immense forests skirt the route nearly to the coast and about midway down the Yukon are, probably the greatest coal banks in the world. Branch lines would tap all the coast settlements and the rich mineral sections of the interior. With such a fair country before them it will be wonderful, indeed, in this enlightened and progressive age, if work has not commenced on such a line within a very short time."

## THE KAISER DEAD.

A Lingerin Illness, Ended By the Peaceful Hand Of Death.

Scenes at the Death—His Age, Birth Place And Daily Habits.

One of the mightiest potentations of earth has passed away in the death of William, Emperor of Germany. He was born on the 22d day of March, 1797, and therefore, would have been 91 years old had he lived thirteen days longer.

His death occurred at 8 o'clock in the morning, surrounded by the different members of the Royal family, and the end was a peaceful one. On account of the Emperor's extreme old age, it must necessarily follow that his life has been one of strict simplicity and attention to business. He was proud of his native land (Prussia) and his one great aim was the advancement of its interest, and the display of military powers.

He was the second son of Frederick III. In 1858 he became regent on account of the mental condition of the King of Prussia. On the death of Frederick William II, on the 2d of January, 1861, he assumed the Crown of Prussia as William I. This fact led to the solution of the grave centripetal questions which had so deeply and long agitated the German States. Under the astute manipulations of the peerless statesman and diplomatist, Prince Bismark, who was made Prussian premier in 1862, Germany became united and King William was proclaimed Emperor. The 18th day of January was the 17th anniversary of his reign as Emperor.



THE DEAD EMPEROR.

He married on June 11th, 1829, Maria Louise, of Saxe-Weimar. He leaves two children—Frederick William, the Crown Prince of Prussia, who is dying of cancer, and Louisa, the present Grand Duchess of Baden.

The Emperor's ability as a statesman appeared in life, and now that he is dead, more so, almost lost in the greater grasp and sagacity of his Premier, Bismark. It is with difficulty we try to measure it because untested. He had from the first the guidance and assistance of one of the world's greatest State manipulators.

One of the most formidable of European Powers is suddenly bereft of a head. The effect of his demise will be felt the world over, and the results upon the people of the States, which, under his reign, were united into an Empire and which have never been tried by a transition from one reign to another, watched with keen interest by other people.

The Germans are not a contented people politically, notwithstanding their military strength and military achievements. There is among the people a deep seated desire for an unfettered representative government. The survival of Prince Bismark may intercept a revolution, but a disruption of the union and the establishment of some form of government more representative in character may follow.

### Furs for Decorative Purposes.

A Washington letter to the *New York Graphic* says: Going into a taxidermist's studio a day or two since to buy a pair of owl's eyes—they can be had for from fifty to sixty cents, according to the expression wished for—I noticed many elegant furs lying in heaps upon the floor. They are used principally for decorative purposes, although one sees much fur worn upon the streets of Washington. I asked the proprietor to give me a few of his prices. "Here," he said pointing to a magnificent white polar bear skin ten feet long, "is a rug, handsomely mounted, for which I ask \$200. I had a lovely Korean tiger skin the other day, for which I got \$500. These are rare. A lady who visited my studio and saw this skin remarked that it must have been a pretty large buffalo! A royal Bengal tiger skin will sell for from \$100 to \$150. The musk or ox skin, which a few years ago sold for \$35 or \$40, is now worth \$150 as a sleighing robe. I have an eider down quilt, eight feet long by five wide, beautifully pieced, which is worth \$100. A good lion rug costs \$400. An angora rug can be had for from \$6 to \$20. I have just mounted as a rug for a Washington lady a beautiful monkey skin. It rests on gold plush. Here is a lovely reindeer skin, which Greely carried with him to the North Pole. It came from Norway, and can be had for \$10."

An ode by a poet is dedicated to "Senora." It is all about snoring. Here it is. It is, according to the laureate standard of pay, worth \$1 a line: "Oh, the snore, the beautiful snore, filling the chamber from ceiling to floor; over the cover-let, under the sheet; from her dimpled chin to her pretty feet; now rising aloft like a bee in June, now sunk to the wall of a cracked bassoon; now, flute-like, subsiding, then rising again, is the beautiful snore of Elizabeth Jane."—*Chicago Herald.*

## FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

### Feeding for Strength.

One of the remarkable results in the experiments made at the Wisconsin station was shown in the tests of the strength of bones. Those fed mainly for the production of lean meat bore a strain of 1,000 pounds. Others, apparently the same, made from a feed of corn meal, broke at 300 pounds. Perhaps farmers can see from this why it is that corn alone is not good food for horses hard at work. It puts on fat, but it does not wear, because it gives so little for making muscle. The world-wide preference for oats as food for working horses is not an accident. It is one of the best grains for giving strength. Farmers learned this practically long before science explained the reason.

### Loss of Wool in Sheep.

Dry feeding and close penning have the effect of causing congestion of the skin, and this causes the wool to become loose and be pulled off or rubbed off by the sheep scratching themselves. To avoid this trouble give the sheep some sliced turnips or potatoes, with a little salt, and a dram, for each sheep, of epsom sales sprinkled over them. Continue this for a week. A little oat straw given in place of clover hay occasionally will be useful. For ewes having lambs a mixture of oats, buckwheat and flaxseed ground together will be useful for increasing the milk. A pint daily will be sufficient. Where early lambs are reared a supply of carrots, mangels or rutabagas should be grown for the ewes, as these encourage the flow of milk more than any other food.—*New York Times.*

### Salt for Cows.

A commission appointed by the French Government to inquire into the use of salt for domestic animals reported on the matter as follows: 1. Salt ought to be given to domestic animals to replace the saline matter washed out of their food by boiling, steaming, etc. 2. Salt counteracts the ill effects of wet pastures and food on sheep, and prevents foot rot. 3. It increases the flow of saliva, and therefore hastens fattening. 4. In making mixtures of chaff, potatoes, beets, bran, oilcake, etc., salt always ought to be added. The daily allowance recommended by the commission was: For a milk cow or ox, two ounces; for a fattening stall fed ox, two and a half to four and a half ounces; for a lean sheep, one to two ounces; for a lean sheep, one-half to three-quarters of an ounce; for a horse, one ounce.

### Onions.

Mr. Wm. H. Derby, of Revere, read a very practical paper before the meeting of the Boston Market Gardeners' Association on December 21. The general rules for growing crops are varied by different conditions of soil and climate, and the speaker confined himself to the methods of onion growing at Revere, where the business has been steadily growing and is fairly profitable. Good seed is a very important item. To grow it one must select carefully the best bulbs and place them in a dry place to keep with tops on. Early in spring they are set out after cutting off the old tops, if any remain, in rows three feet apart and six inches between the bulbs in the rows. The crop is carefully cultivated and weeded, and in September the seed is cut and stored in a dry place until it can be cleaned. A barrel of onions will produce about ten pounds of seed in a favorable year, but sometimes less than half this amount. The land at Revere is mostly strong clay loam, and works best by applying in the fall heavy dressing of coarse manure, which is ploughed in; land thus enriched will admit of working a week earlier in spring than if not thus heated, a very important point with onions, which must be planted early, the earlier the better. May 12 being as late as is considered safe. The rows are sown 12 inches apart, with 9 to 12 seeds to the foot or 3½ pounds per acre. If celery is to be grown on the same land, as is usually done at Revere, each eighth row is left blank for the celery. Clean culture is very important, and for this purpose the Arlington wheel hoe is used very often, and several hand weedings are needed. The best crops are usually grown on the strongest clay land. The crop is housed, after drying in the field with the tops on, and sold as wanted through the fall and winter. This crop is subject to blight and smut and is infected by green flies or lice. There is no remedy of much value, though many have been tried. Formerly the onion growers used to grow them continuously on the same land, but recently they have adopted the plan of growing them only one or two years in the same place, thinking that they thus avoid the diseases to some extent. When asked what fertilizers, if any, he used, Mr. Derby replied that he relied almost entirely on stable manure, although he had experimented with many other things in addition, but had not on the whole received return enough to warrant a repetition of their use. His average crop was 600 to 700 bushels per acre on land one-eighth of which is occupied by celery, and on rare occasions he had known 1,000 bushels per acre to be grown.—*N. E. Farmer.*

### Recipes.

NOODLES FOR SOUP.—One teaspoon of

four, two tablespoons of yeast, a little salt and two eggs, mix hard with milk and roll out as thin as a wafer on a well-floured board, cover with a cloth and set in a warm place (not hot); after an hour or two, cut into small pieces and drop into the soup; boil ten minutes and serve hot.

BEAN SOUP WITHOUT MEAT.—Parboil one pint of beans, drain off the water and add fresh, and let boil until tender, season with salt and pepper, add a piece of butter the size of a walnut, or more if preferred; when done skim out half the beans, leaving the broth and the remaining half of the beans, now add a teaspoon of cream or rich milk, a dozen or more crackers broken up; let it boil up and serve.

CHICKEN SALAD.—Mince the meat of a chicken fine; then chop the white parts of celery, and prepare a dressing as follows: Rub the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs smooth; to each yolk put one teaspoonful of made mustard, half as much salt, two raw eggs, a wineglass of strong vinegar and a tablespoonful of the best olive oil. Put the celery in a salad bowl; lay the chicken on that and then pour over it the dressing. Lettuce cut small may be used instead of celery, but the latter is much more delicious. Cut the whites of the eggs in rings to garnish salad.

BROTHER JONATHAN.—Shorten a piece of bread dough as for biscuit, add a little salt and flour and knead thoroughly. Place upon a buttered plate to get light and cover with a basin. Two cups will serve six people. An hour before dinner, peel and slice some apples into a well buttered basin, nearly cover with water, then turn the light dough over it; cut a large hole in the center and cover with a deep basin; place on the stove and let it steam. The dough will puff up and fill the upper basin. It should steam an hour more or less according to the size. Eat with sweetened cream flavored with nutmeg. The basin should be well greased as the apples are apt to burn down.

### A Bonnet That Saved Two Lives.

"The biggest piece of luck I ever saw," once said Allan Pinkerton, the detective, to a correspondent of the *Albany (N. Y.) Argus*, "happened to a raw Scotchman and his wife that I knew. This Scotch fool had been a chartist; a price was set on his head; he had a sweetheart, Joan Carfrae, a bookfunder's apprentice, and a lass that had caught his heart a-singing chartist songs, who married him with his head all but in the noose; and some friends shipped them by stealth to Quebec, he as a ship's cooper and she as a cook on the bark Kent, April 9, 1840. On May 8 the Kent was wrecked on Sable Island, but the crew and passengers were saved by the aid of friendly Indians, who took everything that came ashore. The cooper and wife finally got from the scene of the wreck to Fisherman's Village in a small boat, and from there by a fishing smack to Aspy bay, where the Unicorn, of Quebec, changed mails with the Britannia, one of the first steamers across the Atlantic. They were helped from here to Montreal, where the cooper got work heading beef barrels, and the couple soon got to housekeeping famously in one room. But members of the Coopers' union confidentially told him this job would shut down at a certain date, and so he impulsively decided on going to the thriving little city of Chicago. After buying their tickets they had no money left. The steamer was to leave that very afternoon. The cooper's little bit of a wife came and confessed that she had criminally ordered a bonnet at the milliner's; that it could not be got for the charges; and pitifully pleaded that they wait for the next boat, a week later, that the money might be earned, and the precious bonnet secured. The Scotch cooper roared like a mad bull, but finally consented. They got the bonnet; but that husband made that wife's life little short of a hell till"—and here Pinkerton roared the startled passengers out of their dozing—"news came in a few days that the boat they would have taken, had it not been for that lucky bonnet, blew up; and every soul on board was lost!

"I tell you that little song-singing wife has had her way about bonnets ever since!" chuckled Pinkerton. "For that little Edinburgh girl was my Joan!—and that fool cooper that ran away from the Queen's officers was me?"

The estimates of acreage product and value of corn, wheat and oats for each State and Territory have been issued by the statistician of the Department of Agriculture. The area of corn harvested, excluding abandoned or worthless acreage, is 72,000,000 acres. In round numbers the product is 1,456,000,000 bushels, valued at \$646,000,000. The area of wheat was 37,400,000; product, 456,000,000 bushels; value, \$309,000,000. The area of oats was nearly 26,000,000 acres; production, 659,000,000 bushels; value, \$200,000,000.

Over 5,000 acres of good timber land near Hawkinsville, Ga., sold at auction recently for \$8. Some of the land went for less than one-half cent an acre.

## LADIES' COLUMN.

### The Czarina's Necklace.

The *Weiner Allgemeine Zeitung* tells that on the Czarina's fortieth birthday anniversary the Czar gave her a necklace composed of forty emeralds. In order to collect forty stones of blameless perfection and sufficient size, Russian agents had been engaged for nine months in traveling to all the great European cities in search of emeralds. The Czar's purpose had to be kept a profound secret, since if it had been known that so great a potentate was in want of so many emeralds the price would have risen to a prodigious height. "The Czarina," says the *St. Petersburg correspondent* of the *Vienna paper*, "although she possesses a more splendid collection of jewels than any other European sovereign, was so delighted at this unexpected addition to them that she danced around the saloon like a child, with the necklace in her hand."

### Sara Bernhardt's Costume.

Usually the bride is the principle feature of a wedding, but when the Princess Jabolonski married the son of Sara Bernhardt all eyes were turned to her mother-in-law, who, as she entered the church, was entirely concealed by a long gray mantleau trimmed with black fox. Throwing this back, she revealed a gown of gray sicilienne, a silver belt, and an exquisite bonnet of aurore crepe. The bride's gown was of creamy white satin, the front looped with orange blossoms, and the whole covered with old point à l'aiguille, worth \$5,000. I hear that this lace was presented to the Princess; some years ago, with the request that it should be worn on her wedding day. The corsage was strikingly beautiful, for a broad lace Louis XIII. collar encircled the throat, ornamented the front of the waist, and was fastened at the left of the belt by satin ribbon and orange blossoms.—*Bron lyn Eagle.*

### Passive Beauty of Peasant Women.

One sees very many beautiful women among the Croats and Slavonians. It is quite surprising the number of lovely faces that are to be seen in a gathering of Croatian peasants. The beauty of these countries inclines so the passive, Madonna-like style of loveliness, in which figure dreamy, gazelle-like eyes and an expression of languor that tells of gentleness personified. In Servia and Roumelia, too, one finds this type of beauty prevalent, and in these Balkan States, so recently dominated by the Turks, the women still possess a timid, retiring disposition that causes them to go about with half-veiled faces. The legacy of Osmanli dominion imparts to the Servian and Roumelian maiden the additional charm of mystery. One sees two heavy braids of dark hair descending, perhaps, well nigh to the ground, and a pair of large, languishing black eyes lighting up features that are half concealed behind a veil of tulle.—*Courier-Journal.*

### End of the Short Hair Craze.

"The short hair craze has sort of run out," said a Washington lady barber. "Some of the hair has got discouraged through being cut so often, and never given a chance to grow, so that now it won't. That is the trouble with lots of heads I could mention. It doesn't do for a young lady to cut off her hair short loolate in life. That's why there are a great many wigs being worn this season. You saw all those young ladies with short hair last summer? You don't see them now. Sometimes hair grows out very well after it has been cut short. Sometimes it doesn't. We have sold quite a number of wigs on account of this change of fashion. There were some pretty suits of hair spoiled by that short hair cut. Some refuse ever to grow long again, some grow out stiff and straight, some lose all their natural color. Soft blonde hair came out stiffer and darker. Some did not suffer from the fashion, but many did. Young ladies who had soft, curly hair of rich natural color, were struck with the short hair craze. And now—well, they are awfully sorry. All the curl is gone. The softness is gone, too, and so has the rich color. The most common result has been the entire loss of the natural tendency to curl. Constant cutting has made the hair straight. Sometimes they have their own natural hair that was cut off made over into wigs."

### Fashion Notes.

Gray and red is a favorite combination in children's dresses.

Braided coiffures are again in vogue, especially the braided coronet or diadem.

Bodices for promenade costumes are sometimes made with the basques set on separately at the waistline.

Shaded plush embroidery, exactly matching the dress material, is the newest trimming for cloth costumes.

Black veils induce tan and white ones injure the eyes, so gray and blue should be chosen, even if they are not so becoming.

Clasps of old silver are used to fasten outer garments, and these are sometimes elaborately ornamented, often being set with small turquoises, garnets, etc.

A light felt bonnet noted recently had a fluted plaiting up the centre over the crown, which gradually widened

into a fan-plaited brim, the sides being quite plain.

Green is in high favor for short mantlets, as it forms a very effective background for the colored beaded back-meries with which these pretty garments are usually trimmed.

A somewhat original hat for a young lady was in turban shape, the plain brim being made of red velvet and the fall crown of dark blue plush. A cluster of red and blue ostrich feathers placed at the back was the only garniture.

### Close to a Huge Grizzly.

Sylvester Scott, of Sonoma County, Cal., is considered in that region the greatest bear-hunter in the State. To a *New York Sun* correspondent he said: "I have killed in all, during the twenty-five years that I have lived on my mountain ranch, not less than 385 bears. I quit keeping account after a while, and the exact number is certainly something more. I have also killed a great many California lions and wildcats, but I never kept any record of them. For eight years I got away with an average of 44 bears a year, and probably 10 or 12 panthers. The bears were principally brown and black, but there were a great many grizzlies too. The best bear year was 1878, when I got 64, sometimes killing four in one day. For the last three years I haven't hunted much, because bears are getting scarce in my neck o' woods.

"I've read lots of yarns about fellows fighting bears with butcher knives, but I reckon those stories are not told by genuine bear hunters. They don't sound just right. I never allowed myself to get away from my gun, and I never fought with a knife. I never got into any collar-and-elbow wrestle with a grizzly, and don't want to, but I've blown the heads off 'em when they were within two feet of the end of my gun, and that's close enough.

"The closest call I ever had was in the spring of '81, four or five miles west of my place, in a deep gulch covered with a rank growth of chaparral. A holy terror of a grizzly had been living on the fat of the land in Sonoma County for about eight years. He had killed loads of beef and mutton, and every hunter in the county had been out looking for him. I had been out myself on his trail for several years. He had been trapped and shot lots of times, but always got away. He was a rouser—at least a 1,500-pounder. I concluded to make a business of downing the old fellow, and set out with my pack of hounds for a steady hunt. After a long run the dogs drove him into this gorge, the sides of which were too steep for him to climb. They brought him to bay in a clump of chemical, but he was so game that he wouldn't climb a tree. A grizzly can shin up a tree when he wants to, and the biggest of them do go up after nuts; but get a grizzly riled and he won't run or climb for anybody.

"A grizzly will stay with the dogs and bat them whenever they come within reach until he gets a sniff of a man, when he will scatter the dogs and make a break for the fellow that he knows put up the job on him. I had been trying all day to draw him out with the dogs, and finally went in closer to the brush. He got a sniffer of me and out he came, followed by the whole pack. They were biting his legs and hanging on to his hide as thick as bees, but he paid no attention to them. He was bound for headquarters, and he came a-running. I had an express rifle, built for lion and tiger shooting in Africa, given to me by an English sportsman named Adkinson, and I was ready for him. His big red mouth, set with great sharp teeth, seemed about a yard wide. When he got within two feet of the muzzle I let him have it, and he fell as dead as a nail, with a big hole in his head. My dogs had fought that bear from early morning until four in the afternoon, before I could get a shot at him. I can't say that I felt particularly scared. I knew I had to make a centre shot, and it wouldn't be healthy to get nervous, even if it did look scary; but I was sure of my gun, and knew what was going to happen to Mister Bear.

### The Origin of Leap Year.

The custom observed every four years of permitting the fairer sex to assume the right and prerogatives appertaining to their brothers during the remaining three is a very ancient one, according to a *New York World* correspondent. When it originated is not definitely known, but a law enacted by the Parliament of Scotland in the year 1288 is doubtless the first statutory recognition of the custom. That law was as follows: "It is statute and ordinance that during the reign of Her Most Blissit Majesty, the fourth year, known as Leap Year, ilk maiden lady of lawful age and low estate shall have liberty to bespeak ye man she likes; albeit, she refuses to tak hir to be his wife, she shall be mulcted in ye summe of xx dundis or less, as his estate moit be, except and awis gif he can mak it appear that he is betrothit to anither woman, that he then shall be free."

There is a volunteer regiment in Kentucky that served in the civil war and was never mustered out. The members of it want pay from the day of Lee's surrender to the present time.