

CONDENSED STORIES.

When Sir Evelyn Wood had his famous irregulars out once after the hostile natives in Cape Colony, he found himself in a curious fix, says London M. A. P. He was on one side of a ravine with his small force. The enemy occupied the other side in thousands, keeping well in bush cover. To go straight across at them might mean another Isandula, and Sir Evelyn was too cute to be caught in a trap of that sort.

A Modest Request. General Alger in his book, recently published, tells of a unique request that came to the war department from a young lady in Boston during the Spanish-American war. He says: "Her note paper, handwriting and rhetoric vouched at least for the culture of the writer. Her request was simple and plainly worded. With much unfeigned earnestness she stated her case. The press dispatches had announced that the volunteer regiment of which her brother was a member was to leave for Cuba on a fixed date. But the brother's birthday occurred two days after the date assigned for his embarkation. A birthday box of cake, jellies, pies, etc., she said, had been forwarded to him and would not be received if the regiment left on the date announced. She naively asked that the regiment be detained until the sweetmeats arrived, as she was sure it would make no difference to the government, whereas it would be oh, such a disappointment for my brother!"

Wanted More Talk. Booker T. Washington tells this story in his autobiography, "Up From Slavery." "The number of people who stand ready to consume one's time to no purpose is almost countless. At one time I spoke before a large audience in Boston in the evening. The next morning I was awakened by having a card brought to my room and with it a message that some one was anxious to see me. Thinking that it must be something very important, I dressed hastily and went down. When I reached the hotel office, I found a blank and innocent looking individual waiting for me, who coolly remarked: 'I heard you talk at a meeting last night. I rather liked your talk, and so I came this morning to hear you talk some more.'



From an English Source. An English newspaper tells by way of illustrating what it calls "the native procreancy of the American child" this story of an incident on board an Atlantic liner: A little girl barely seven years of age who had fasted every day at the moon dinner on the first day out was not asked by the steward in attendance whether she would have cheese. The man offered the little miss ice cream, fruit and cakes, only to receive a refusal in each case. On asking whether there was anything else on the table she would like, the small diner replied with a great air of dignity: "Yes. Bring me some Camembert and champagne, please."

There is talk of another cotton mill to be established at Charlotte by local capitalists.

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UP-STAIRS AT MORRIS BROTHERS.

Russia and America as Fuel Rivals. London Petroleum Review.

No industry in the world has greater opportunity for springing surprises on the world than that of petroleum, and what has recently happened in Texas may just as readily occur in Russia, and with vast quantities of fuel oil thrown on their lands the producers would find themselves in a very awkward dilemma, while the shareholders would experience a striking shrinkage of their dividends. The Russian industry appears to be concerned too much with the present; there is no preparation for possibilities, and existing facilities are not sufficiently elastic to be able to cope with abnormal conditions. They may surely take a very profitable lesson from the manner in which the vast and sudden increments to the oil production have been dealt with in America. In less than a year such arrangements have been made and such facilities have been provided that cargoes of oil are now leaving Fort Arthur for distribution to various continental markets. With an energy and an organizing effort which we fear could not have been initiated in Russia, the first steps are being taken which augur well for the future of liquid fuel, and a fine stroke has been made for the capture of the chief European markets, where liquid fuel will undoubtedly soon be one of the necessities of modern industrial and commercial life. The only future we can foresee, is one in which Texas oil will figure very prominently. If not alone. Thus, perhaps, when this has been accomplished, Russia will awake to a loss which will be as irremediable as momentous. We would wish that enterprise and energy were more dominant notes in the policy of the great Eastern producers, but it would seem that nature has been waiting for Russia to take her opportunity of solving the liquid fuel problem, and at last she turned to America as her only salvation.

Injury to the Wheat. Yorkville Register.

Although it will probably be some time yet before anything like a definite estimate can be arrived at, there is little reason to doubt that the wheat crop has been seriously injured by the freeze of the past few days. Wheat was generally some late in this section and a very large proportion of the crop is just sprouting—the stage in which it is most susceptible to injury by the ruder forward frosts. The situation looks to be quite serious, but still there is reason to hope that the damage may not be as great as has been feared.

There are now 210 rural libraries in the State and applications are pending all the while for the establishment of new ones. Fifty-one of the 97 counties in the State have libraries, all of them being housed in white schools save three in Edgecombe and one in Orange.

A movement is on foot to increase the salaries of members of Congress from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per annum, the change to take effect with the next Congress.

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A Happy Christmas to all our Customers THOMSON COMPANY.

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