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BY

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An Egyptian has sued four of his wives for divorce at one time. He may not claim it, but we think he is entitled to wholesale rates.

The fiddlers' convention at Pullen Park next Thursday is for fiddlers only—and those who attend to enjoy the music. But we hope a few violin players will attend and hear some real music.

In answer to a young lady inquirer, we will state that a surprise party and a surprise marriage are not precisely the same thing. A surprise party is singular, while a surprise marriage is plural, there being two surprised parties, as a rule.

Recently a lady passenger was carried by her destination, and she had to spend the night in Raleigh. Of course she sued the railroad, and some of our envious neighbors are jubilating. They take no account of numerous suits which would be brought if the railroads should fail to get other passengers to Raleigh.

An American circus is stranded in France and the two hundred employes are in a bad condition, as work is not easily secured in that country. But certainly this government will not allow them to suffer. However, the government has no fund to relieve stranded Americans in a foreign country.

The tax valuation of property has increased nearly \$200,000 in Anson County in a year. Anson is a good county. But, unfortunately, an increase originating at the hands of tax listers is never taken seriously, for when a county is after money it can easily increase the value of property. However, we trust that Anson is forging ahead.

Pretty soon you will hear that Raleigh has not the hotel facilities for handling the Fair week crowd. The Yarrowborough, Park and Carrollton will all be open. The three can care for more people than the hotels of any other town, Greensboro not excepted. Then there are other smaller hotels; numerous boarding-houses of a good class, and many private homes will be open that week. The crowd will be a record-breaker, but no one will fail to find accommodations.

NICE STATE OF AFFAIRS.

The open session of the South Carolina Dispensary Investigation Commission has brought to light financial reports which show that the Dispensary has not been the money-making institution that some claim it is, or, if it has made money, it has been gobbled up by the hangers-on.

It was brought out that the Dispensary Board owes over \$500,000, has orders outstanding for more than \$200,000 worth of "goods," and has only \$1,200 to its credit with the State Treasurer. It is claimed, however, that they have on hand in local dispensaries about \$338,000 worth of goods and considerable stock in the State Dispensary; also a lot of "accounts," real estate, teams, office fixtures, etc. However, unless the real amount is kept from public view, it is doubtful if a profitable balance sheet could be shown. In the assets more than \$65,000 in "railroad claims" appears. That is a pretty large amount of such claims, and it is not likely that the accumulation will grow much less.

STILL IN DOUBT.

It is understood that the peace plenipotentiaries have practically agreed upon everything except the matter of indemnity and the disposition of the island of Sakhalien. There has been a virtual deadlock for a week upon those questions.

During the past three days it is believed that President Roosevelt, acting for this country, France, England and Germany, has been in close touch with the envoys, and with the Czar and Micado. Long messages have been exchanged, and there still seems to be hope of peace, though the envoys seem hopelessly apart.

No one doubts that Russia is willing to pay a large sum, but the amount Japan insists upon, the cost of the war to that government, is a staggering amount. However, while negotiations continue there is hope, and it may all end well any day.

George Vanderbilt sold some cattle at his Biltmore farm this week. Twenty-eight Jersey's brought \$6,855, which is quite a help to a poor farmer like George at this season of the year.

The yellow fever is spreading. Four places are infected outside of New Orleans. The quarantine regulations in nearby States are so strict that business and traffic is nearly paralyzed. It has ever been thus when yellow fever exists.

The Joys of Inland Bathing.

Quiet inland bathing offers you no such extravagant opportunities to be a poseur. If the water is warm, you loll in it at your ease; your mind is soon stupefied by the sensuousness in which you are enfolded; the interest of your sleepy eyes does not extend beyond the gentle ripples that widen away from the slow, submerged strokes of your arms. After a while you roll over on your back and drowsily, execute at intervals a languid "shoo fly" leg motion, while you look drowsily up into the void. Now and then you will raise your arms and flap them down through the water like a pair of sweeps; it is only a tired sort of effort. And finally, in the supreme abandonment of indolence, you lay your head back, far

back, until the water creeps up about your eyelids; you stretch out legs and arms motionless, and lie, breathing tranquilly, sensible of no other movement in the world than the slight flux and slip of the water upon your heaving chest. Then may you realize, perhaps, something of the lark's sensation when, with wings outspread, it hangs suspended between earth and sky. He who has never thus suspended himself idly in still water, with fathoms below him and infinity above, has not experienced one of the sensuous delights of existence. Unfortunate man, who goes to his grave believing that there is nothing better than bed for weary limbs and a jaded brain!—Arthur Stanwood Pier, in the August Atlantic.

The Making of Calls.

As regards calls being made by new residents of a few months' standing upon new arrivals, some little hesitation is experienced as to whether they ought to call or not, being themselves but recently established in the neighborhood. Actually, they have the privilege of calling upon those who have come to reside in a place later than themselves, if they care to avail themselves of it, and unless they do so, they must wait until circumstances bring them together, that is, meeting at the houses of the neighbors or in connection with parish affairs. Temporary residents have no hesitation on this head; they are not expected to call upon each other as residents do upon newcomers. They make acquaintance in various ways in the first instance, and follow it up subsequently if inclined so to do. Oftener than not they do not come across each other during their brief stay, and they meet so seldom that the acquaintance does not develop into a calling one.

In country towns, temporary residents are seldom called upon by the residents in the town. The exception to this is when they have a "friend in court" in the person of one of the residents, who can ask several others to call, or who can introduce them at gatherings. Those who take houses for short periods can not expect to be called upon as a general rule; indeed, in some communities no notice whatever is taken of their arrival or departure, and they are left severely alone. In others, those not very much to the front are glad of the opportunity of making their acquaintance, and introduce them readily to their friends.

When first calls should be returned is another knotty point to be determined. No one wishes to call too soon, neither do they wish to call unduly late upon those who have been kind enough to call upon them. Within ten days, again, is an average time, and three weeks the outside limit for so doing. These first calls are surrounded by some little amount of worldly-wise consideration in the matter of returning them, and not infrequently the names of the callers are submitted to one who knows a little about their bearings. Whose call should be returned at once, and whose call might be deferred until a convenient season, are matters decided by the friends in question; failing this friendly aid, the decision is left to chance and what judgment can be brought to bear upon it through environment and personal observation.—Jane Armstrong.

No, Anxious Inquirer, the statement that the Democratic party is seeking for a Moses to lead it out of the wilderness is not equivalent to saying that it wants a dead one or a patriarch for its leader. It is simply equivalent to saying that they are in need of an angel.—Haverhill Gazette.

The grand jury at Washington continued the investigation of the cotton leak scandal, but with secrecy.

OPINIONS IN A NUTSHELL

We really don't see how Uncle Russell Sage can expect the Lord to wait until he reaches par, when he can be had at 89.—Boston Journal.

While there may not be as much whiskey sold here as during the time of open saloons there appears to be plenty to go around.—Durham Herald.

The voting out of the dispensary by Union County, S. C., is but one of the indications that the people of that State are going to do the great moral institution to death.—Charlotte Chronicle.

The country wagons will soon be bringing in pumpkins instead of watermelons, and not long after that it will be time to call the 'possum dog.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Famine in Spain, famine in the United States! Only ours is an awful and unassuaged hunger for freight cars to carry the harvest.—New York Evening Mail.

The pacification of the Russian people is proceeding with gratifying results from the autocratic point of view. Forty have been killed and more than 200 wounded in the latest lesson.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

The "paternal" character of the Russian Government may be seen in the sentence of Sienkiewicz, the Polish novelist, to imprisonment in his own house. It is like sending a child to bed in the daytime.—Springfield Republican.

The reputation of submarines is so good that the President should trust himself on the bottom of Oyster Bay in the Plunger. Why not let some of the candidates for the nomination distinguish themselves.—New York Evening Sun.

It is authoritatively stated Senator Gorman is not in poor health, and has no thought of resigning. We should say not. The only thing that will retire him from politics will be a lack of votes to re-elect him to the Senate.—Pittsburg Gazette.

Captain Jansen, of a Boston fruit steamer, reports that the Gulf Stream has shifted two points of latitude farther north. The Russian peace commissioners will refuse to believe it. They find Baron Komura colder every day.—New York Evening Sun.

A lot of crooks taken in by the New York police on suspicion of belonging to the wire-tapping gang were well-dressed, gray-haired and respectable in appearance. That combination justly arouses suspicion over there.—Boston Herald.

Mr. Roosevelt's obvious abhorrence for a trust in food products is perfectly logical, considering his position on the question of race suicide. If people are to be brought into this world the cost of nourishment must not be made prohibitive.—Kansas City Times.

When we stop reading in court proceedings of pistol toting cases, "judgment suspended on payment of cost," and instead the proceedings shall read "12 months on chain-gang" it will be a wonderful help to cowards to leave their pistols at home.—Our Home.

It is to be considered that Japan is to-day in a position where she can enforce absolutely every demand she makes of Russia. Russia is not asked to give up anything she has possession of, save the indemnity. An indemnity is not more costly than war, and it is all that Russia has any choice about.—Louisville Post.