

The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

M. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER.

The man who talks in his sleep is not as much of a nuisance as the man who sleeps in his talk.

GERMAN papers express serious alarm at the spread of irreligion in the fatherland. The number of Germans in the large cities receiving neither baptism nor confirmation amounts to hundreds of thousands. In Prussia alone there are 30,000 irreligious persons who have never been baptized.

The *Panama Star and Herald* says a Chilean resident in Tacna is 150 years old, according to his own statement, but his neighbors claim that he is older, and a document is in existence which he signed 142 years ago. He still works in his garden and is in good health. He attributes his long life to his simple, frugal habits.

At a pigeon shoot near Newark, N. J., a pointer dog owned by a resident of Harrisburg, Pa., caught a wounded bird by springing into the air after it. The bird was six feet above the ground when the dog's jaws closed on it, and the old trap shooters entered in the sweep-stake shoots said that it was the finest catch ever seen.

A horse in San Francisco has a large and well-shaped mustache. If men will persist in the barbarous practice of docking horses' tails they may expect to see this sort of thing become general. It has every appearance of being nature's sarcastic intimation that the docking ought to be done at the other extremity of the animal.

In one of our churches at Jefferson City, Mo., the minister's son commanded the young woman who acts as organist to observe a certain rule in relation to the music, and when she refused he struck her. The pastor paid the fine and costs, and a spirit of Christian harmony once more reigns in the choir.

In Kearney, Neb., there is a "world's fair excursion and investment company." It invites persons to pay to it \$52 in installments of 50 cents a week, and in return promises to take them to and from the World's Fair in special trains, pay for their meals en route, and their living expenses for a week in Chicago at the best \$3 per day hotel, and furnish them with tickets of admission, guides, and printed information.

Of all the coiners of words, the railroad companies are the most atrocious offenders. The latest and worst instance is the placing upon the Pennsylvania road of a train which is to be known as the "Illindopeny" special. The hideous monster of a word is formed by combining the earlier portions of the names of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and adding the abbreviation of New York, these being the States through which the train is to pass. Such a murder of the language should be a felony.

One of the novelties at the St. Pancras Exhibition in London, England, was a sausaged machine, driven by electric motor. In conjunction with this machine it has been proposed to employ an electric heating attachment, whereby the savory dish can be delivered cooked and smoking hot to the purchaser. It begins to look as if the shrewd individual who conceived the idea of a universal pig-utilizing machine into which the animal could be put at one end, to emerge at the other as cured hams and blacking brushes, was no visionary, but only a prophet a little in advance of his time.

A CITIZEN of Stamford, Conn., has been driven insane by his young lady neighbor practicing on the piano, and his mania took a very queer form. When it seized him he went to all the piano dealers in town and ordered them to send costly instruments to the young lady's house at intervals of half an hour. As he was rich his odd orders were complied with, and the young woman, despite her objections, had ten instruments blocking the street in front of her house, besides two in the parlor and one in the hall. Finally the madman was captured and the pianos returned, but the young lady has ceased to practice.

The late Major Bartelot was educated at Rugby, where he is still remembered as the hero of a funny school-boy blunder. "What is the meaning of the word 'adage'?" was the question which was being asked by the master. Various shots were made of the usual wild description, when it came to young Bartelot, who, without hesitation, replied, "A place to put cats into." Every one laughed; and the master, who was as much mystified as the rest, called him up at the end of the lesson and asked him what had put such an idea into his head. "Well, sir," said Bartelot, looking very much injured, "doesn't it say in Shakespeare 'Like the poor cat in the adage'?"

Viewed from Chinese Eyes. Apropos of Americans, says the *Pekin Gazette*, it is impossible to understand these barbarous people. One thing is certain, if they do a thing, they do it with all their might. Thirty years ago they had a big civil war. The whole country was turned into military camps and battle-fields, and everybody, even to the women-folk, were engaged in the war in one way or another, and one army numbered 2,000,000 men. And now there are young men old enough to vote who have never seen a company of soldiers in their life. In fact, these people seem to think that another war will never break out, especially in their part of the world. A person can travel across the American continent without seeing a soldier, and follow the main lines of travel, too. In fact, at the present time there is only one soldier for every 2,000 persons, while Russia has one soldier to every ninety.

forest and sinking funds in loans accounted for £5,500. The university income does not now vary from year to year, except in quite small amounts.

The tower of a public building now in course of erection at Philadelphia is to be provided with a clock, which, for size alone, will be one of the marvels of the world. The center of the dial (twenty-five feet in diameter) will be 351 feet above the street. The bell is to weigh between 20,000 and 25,000 pounds and will be second in weight to the great Montreal Cathedral bell, which weighs 28,000 pounds, and it is calculated that its peal will be heard even to the most distant part of the city. Chimes similar to those of Westminster will be used, ringing at the quarter, half, three-quarters and hour. The minute hand is to be twelve and the hour hand nine feet in length, while the Roman figures on the dial will measure two feet eight inches in length.

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A DEVICE that will enable a railroad employee to determine when a car is loaded consistent with safety or with economical wear has been a long "felt want" in railroad circles. An apparatus has been invented to supply this demand, and owing to its simplicity it is likely to come into general favor. The device consists of two distinct parts, the upper part being attached to the truck, above the spring on the side of the car, while the other part is fixed below the spring. An adjustable pin is carried by the top part, and the bottom end of this touches an index finger that works over the dial of the bottom piece. When the apparatus is once adjusted the index, as the car is loaded, will indicate on the dial "full load" or "over-loaded" as the case may be.

NO MORE pitiful story has been told in the papers than that of the two little girls lost in the sand hills of Western Nebraska. It is a terrible thing to think of a child lost in the city and scores of mothers have had the most painful experiences over the few hours' absence of little children wandering half crazed and helpless about the city. The dangers that beset children in certain city districts are very great, and the alarm of parents is always excusable, but with what painful tenderness will the hearts of mothers and fathers turn to the two little wanderers in the almost desert region of a newly settled country? Who can picture the sufferings of a little 8-year old girl who in the wild wanderings of five or six days made the distance of seventy-five miles. The stoutest men, those most resourceful when lost under such conditions, suffer greatly in mind and body, and what must have been the sufferings of this little one, wandering for days where there was little to sustain life, and where the solitude was as great as though the child had been in the middle of the great desert? Much is occasionally said of the fortitude and the endurance of the Indian children subjected to privation and danger, but here is a case of visionary, but only a prophet a little in advance of his time.

Carrying the Gospel into the Enemy's Camp. The Plymouth Church of Chicago is described in a most interesting and suggestive paper in the *Chautauquan*. It is the article is an account of a piece of missionary work which the church has just started, which deserves serious and general attention. It seems that Dr. Günsaulus, the popular pastor of Plymouth, realized keenly that his audience were made up of the select of the city, and that the "neglected" were not reached. He visited the theaters Sunday night, found them full of the very people he wanted to touch, and going to his people asked their help. The result was that the church decided to rent Musi Hall, a down-town audience room with a capacity of some 3,000 and a magnificent organ, to lead its pastor and choir each Sunday evening, and to say away itself giving the space to the class to be reached. The first service was held in October last and was a great success.

The press and the people have caught the spirit that planned these meetings and have fallen into line with wonderful appreciation and enthusiasm. The increasingly large number of people who can not gain even standing room at these services, and the inconvenience of having to go so early to the hall in order to secure a seat, seem to constitute a necessity for a larger hall. Dr. Günsaulus has been urged to go to the Auditorium, but as his chief desire is for spiritual results rather than a large crowd he has hesitated to take this step.

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The Oxford University income amounted to £65,000 last year, of which £30,000 came from fees and other internal services, the degree fees alone coming to just £10,000. The university draws about £16,000 from various external sources, £13,000 from trust funds, £6,000 from the colleges, and the profit from the Clarendon Press was £5,000. It speaks well for the administration of the university property that "agency and management" cost only £220. Professors take about £10,000, university officers £5,000, examiners £5,000, and readers £2,500. The Bodleian cost £7,500, the museum £4,800, the Taylor Institution £2,000, and the botanical gardens £1,100, while £6,000 went in various internal expenses, and the in-

THE BATTLE OF CREDITS.

DR. TALMAGE GIVES A SKETCH OF THE HERESY HUNT.

There is an exciting question in almost every denomination—Are the theologians losing temper in the discussion?—No one is bettered by it.

Dr. Talmage dealt in this sermon last Sunday, with the very timely topic, "The Battle of Creeds." His text was taken from Proverbs xxvi, 17, "He that passeth by and medleth with strife belongeth not to him that like one that taketh a dog by the ears."

Solomon here deplores the habit of rushing in between contestants, of taking part in the antagonism of others, of joining in fights which they ought to shun. They do no good to others and get damage for themselves. He compared it to the experiment of taking a dog by the ears. "Nothing so irritates the canes as to catch them by the lug." Take them by the back of the neck and lift them, and it does not seem to hurt or offend; but you take the dog by the ear and he will take you with his teeth. In all the history of kennels no intelligent or spirited dog will stand that. "Now," says Solomon, "you go into quarrels or controversies that are not yours and you will get lacerated and torn and bitten. He that passeth by with medleth with strife belonging not to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears."

This is a time of resounding ecclesiastical quarrel. Never within your memory or mine has the air been so full of missiles. The Presbyterian church has had a controversy so great that it finds it prudent to postpone its settlement for at least one more year, hoping that it may be a new general assembly may have grace to handle the exciting questions. The Episcopal church has cast out some of its members; and the great baptisties are in a state of alarm.

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