

THE New York commission wishes to utilize Castle Garden as an aqua-rium.

French statesmen have offered a reward of 1,000 francs for the best athletic game.

THE candles at Mrs. Roger A. Pryor's receptions, in New York City, stand in candlesticks 200 years old.

WHEN a New York man goes to Philadelphia to be married his friends invariably send a tribute in the shape of a floral pillow inscribed with the word "Rest."

VINNIE REAM HOXIE, the sculptress, is described as "an emotional little creature, with an alternate tear and smile in her eyes." Here are the elements of a rainbow.

THE numerically smallest religious denomination discovered by Porter's census takers is that of the Schwankfeldians. There are 306 of them, and they dwell in Pennsylvania.

JOSEPH BOND, colored, living near Toronto, has lain in bed in the sulks for twenty-seven years, and is now approaching death, all because his mother sold her farm against his will.

WHEN his father dies young John Jacob Astor will have an income of \$3,000,000 per year and can grace his table with early vegetables, fill his coal bins and have ice in his refrigerator.

THE salmon fishermen of Maine are in earnest in their war against the seals, that seem to be multiplying along the coast. They say a bounty of \$2 a head must be offered by the State on seals, or else long there'll be no salmon.

Four educated Apache Indians at Solomonville, Ark., turned their newly acquired knowledge in the direction of forging notes in a government quartermaster's name, and will have the pleasure of engaging in industrial pursuits in prison.

THE quickest trial on record is reported from Oconee, Ga. A man who stole an umbrella from a store was arrested, arraigned, pleaded guilty, and paid a fine of \$29.25 inside of fifteen minutes. After the trial he claimed the umbrella, but didn't get it.

AN Iowa farmer fed in November two acres of corn to his cows as their sole ration, and sold the milk they produced to the creamery for \$60, and had 6,000 pounds of skim milk, 280 pounds of which will make as much pork as a bushel of corn, for his trouble of milking.

THE editor of a weekly paper in Kansas has been shot at twice, assaulted three times, and had the windows of his office smashed in three times within the space of four months, because he declared that the Mayor ought to be impeached for drunkenness.

AT Columbus, Ohio, the other night a lady caught a rat making off with her gold watch and chain, which she had left upon a dresser on retiring. The rodent had dragged his prize nearly twenty feet, and in a minute more would have disappeared in his hole with it.

MAINE has produced a Kee'y with a mysterious motor. He lives in Monroe, and says that his machine is capable of one to ten horse power, and does not derive it from steam, water, gas, or any agency now known. He's going to hitch the machine to churning and pumps.

THE American railway passenger coaches used on the English lines are in every manner superior to the compartment car, but they are American, and John Bull won't patronize them on that account. He'd rather freeze to death in a box-stall than have a whole car with steam heat.

NEAR Winnipeg Lake, Manitoba, a large herd of famishing wolves attacked a party of Indians and killed a number of them. This is a new solution of the Indian question, though rather hard on the Indians, and the Canadian Indians have been far more peaceable than the American.

EVERY preacher in the State of Georgia could be walked to jail under an old law, which says that each and every one of them must read the laws of the State from his pulpit four times a year. Somebody, who got bitten in a horse-trade with a preacher, has found the law and proposes to enforce it.

A WISCONSIN saloon man refused to stop selling liquor to a certain woman's husband, and she called upon him and said: "Next time you sell him a drink I will come in here with an open keg of powder and a lighted candle, and you and I and all the rest of the crowd will go up together with a bang." He tumbled.

THERE was a slide in the Himalaya Mountains of India in January which beat the circus out of sight. Over 250 acres of surface, and extending to a depth of twenty feet, took a tumble of over two miles and built a barrier sixty feet high across a valley. Everybody was invited, and there was no extra charge for reserved seats.

A MISSOURI man applied for a divorce on the ground that his wife refused to

go to a card party with him. Her defense was that she didn't know one card from another, and the Judge dismissed the bill and complimented her for her refusal. He said it was the rule for women who didn't know anything about cards to go to card parties.

A COACH horse balked on the streets of Boston and nothing would start him. A man brought out a small electric battery, put on the current, touched the animal on the flank, and he got out of that so fast that he ran over two men and a dog. It is believed that the subtle current would even move twelve loafers off a grocery platform.

TWO STENOGRAPHERS took 120,000 words of the Senate silver debate, which closed at midnight after lasting fourteen hours. They dictated their notes into phonographs for typewriters to transcribe, had all the copy ready for the printer by 8 o'clock in the morning, and the *Record* was on the desks of the Senators when Congress convened.

THE Indian is a fighter only when favored by circumstance. He always wants the odds in his favor, and big odds at that. Military men figure that a troop of 100 cavalry can charge and scatter a band of 500 mounted Indians on the open, and that with a loss of only 5 per cent. On the other hand 100 Indians in a gulch will stand off 500 whites.

THERE is a curious little bit of red sandstone on exhibition in New York. It has on it a remarkable resemblance to the profile of Christ, head, beard and mustache, and even the eyelashes being distinctly visible, although the pebble is only an inch long and the profile little more than half an inch.

It was picked up at Oberammergau by Mrs. Oliver T. Bacon, of Atlanta, Ga.

A NEW flash-light fire alarm has recently appeared in Copenhagen. It consists of a small cartridge filled with Bengal light composition, and provided with a fuse which carries a small capsule of strong sulphuric acid. When the temperature of the room rises above the melting point of paraffine, the sulphuric acid is liberated and ignites the fuse, which, in turn, sets fire to the Bengal light. The device can be supplemented by a piece of fusible metal, which in melting will establish an electric current and ring a bell.

A TRICK that is going the rounds just now is to measure by the eye the distance to which you must push away the central one of three silver dollars side by side, their circumferences touching, so that the distance from the lower edge of the central coin, so removed, shall be equal to the distance apart of the outer edges of the two other coins. You will probably do as every one else does, put the coins side by side and push the middle one upward along the table until you think you have done a rash thing by pushing it so far. When you measure you will find out. It's an old perversity of the eye.

AN old project for a line of steamships from England direct to Chicago via the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, has been revived since the depth of the Canadian canals has been increased sufficiently to accommodate ocean steamers. An agent of this syndicate is now on a visit to the different lake cities making contracts for freight by the new line, and so far he has met with sufficient success to satisfy him that the undertaking will be a success.

The capital stock of the company will be \$5,000,000, and there will be ten steamships built to begin with. These steamships will cost from \$125,000 to \$150,000 each and will form a weekly line with two trips running wild.

SIR ROBERT WRIGHT, who has been appointed to the seat on the High Court of Justice left vacant by the death of Baron Huddleston, on one occasion, while at Oxford, was summoned before the Dean of Balliol for the purpose of being censured. The Dean was exceedingly caréful of his dignity, as well as of his personal appearance.

Wright looked the Dean well up and down while the latter was delivering his lecture, and finally interrupted him in the middle of one of his most telling periods, by remarking, confidentially, "I know you will excuse me, sir, but I think you cannot be aware that your waistcoat is unbuttoned." Completely nonplussed, the Dean was only able to stammer out: "Oh, thank you, Mr. Wright. So very kind of you, I am sure. Good-morning, good-morning!"

JUDGE OGDEN HOFFMAN, of the United States District Court, in San Francisco, tells a St. Louis *Democrat* interviewer of a foolish lawsuit that once occurred in Fresno County. Two brothers lived on a ranch near Fresno. One was greatly given to going into the woods and listening to the birds. The other and older brother resented this, which he called loafing, and one day, finding the younger man sitting on a tree trunk, rapt in contemplation, he asked him what he was doing. "Oh, I'm listening to the birds that sing for me."

"The — you are," was the answer. "I'll let you know that those birds sang before you showed up on the ranch, and that they are singing especially for me." Words ended in blows, and an arrest followed. In court the judge, after getting the story of each brother, said dryly: "Now, I'll fine you fellows \$20 each for disturbing the peace, and mind you, those birds sing for me."

## FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

### HOW GRANDMA LOST HER BONNET.

An Interesting Sketch for Little Girls to Head—Chicago's Baby Drummer.

"Yes, dearie, that is right pretty," said Grandma Hobbs, as Nannie pranced before her with her new hat set jauntily on her curly head. "I hope there won't anything bad befall it."

"Didn't you ever have a hat, grandma?"

"Not exactly, dearie; but I had a bonnet when I was about your age, and well do I remember the sudden and awful end it came to. It was a 'seven-strand,' made of wheat-straw that we'd gathered from the field when the kernel was in the milk. Father used to give us a little corner of his wheat-field for bonnet-straw."

"Mother got Kizzy Trip, a spinster that went around the neighborhood making bonnets, to braid and sew mine; then it was hung in a barrel and bleached over burning sulphur. I dare say it was as big as a peck basket, but I thought it a wonderfully beautiful bonnet."

"I hadn't had it very long when our hauling-bee took place."

"What's a hauling-bee, grandma?" said Nannie, hanging her hat carefully on the tall post of grandma's chair.

"Oh, it was a gathering of men and great yokes of oxen to haul buildings from one place to another. Father had built him a new barn, and the little house we lived in was going to be drawn close to it for an ell to the new house he meant to build when he got able."

"It was a long distance from the barn, and down hill part of the way. It had only one room, and was low, so it wasn't very heavy. We didn't move out, for we had nowhere to go."

"Mother kept right on weaving at the long web of 'wale,' and Sally and I had to wind the quills; but I'm afraid they had 'naughty noses,' we were in such a flutter to see all that was going on."

"Father had put long 'shoes,' or 'skids,' beneath the house, like the runners of a great sled, so that it would slide along easier."

"The men came early, with more than twenty pairs of oxen, which were hitched in three strings—two at the corners of the house and one string in the center—and at the word the drivers all plied their long goads, and such shouting! You could have heard them a mile."

"Hi! hi! hi! Gee up! Haw, Bright!" and grandma's eyes sparkled as she described the exciting scene.

"The little house was jerked forward and all the beams and timbers groaned and cracked. Down came the pewter plates off the dresser and scurried over the floor, the brass kettle tumbled off its peg with a great rattling and the cradle rocked crazily."

"Baby Joe screamed, little Jake dashed under the bed that stood in one corner of the kitchen, and for a moment I was tempted to crawl after him. But mother said there was no danger, so I got very brave at once."

"In a little while I found that bro'ner Toby had climbed, by a short ladder in the loft, out through the chimney-hole in the roof and was having a ride on the sidewalk in front of the residence of Levi Yoder.

It was brought from Illinois a year or two ago, and is now about twelve feet high, with a bushy top and many lateral branches. The other Sunday one of the family noticed a puff of smoke proceed from one of the limbs, and by watching it closely, puffs identical in appearance to cigarette smoke were seen starting every now and then from all over the tree; sometimes from the leaves, sometimes from the bloom, sometimes from the bark of the limbs or trunk of the tree."

The puffs are at irregular intervals; sometimes two or three at once from various parts of the tree, and sometimes they are several seconds or a half minute apart. They just seem to come at haphazard from any part of the tree, and as they ascend in the air look exactly like the smoke from a cigarette.

Since the curiosity first became generally known, large crowds, both of town and country people, can be seen there at any time in the day. All

doubting Thomases are soon convinced on the first visit that the tree "do smoke." Among the white people it is only looked upon as a curiosity, and many, of course, make explanations of the phenomenon, which, perhaps, are plausible enough to their authors, but which carry very little in conviction to the minds of all.

But the negroes don't like the thing at all. One negro woman, after intently watching the puffs a few minutes, started off on a run, saying: "I wouldn't lib dar fur nuttin': people better go to doin' better 'bout dis town."

A negro man said: "I'm gwine stay way from dat thing. I can smell de brimstone clear down to de liberty stable."

"But that's also very indefinite."

"Well, my husband sometimes comes home at midnight and unlocks the door with his pocket-knife or buttock-hol or anything else that comes handy, and you ought to know about what sort of a key would fit such a lock."

He studied over it awhile, but finally had to admit that he was up a tree.

### How Mail-Cars Are Manned.

Nearly every railroad in the United States carries, at least once a day, one or more men whose business is to receive, sort and deliver the mail gathered at the towns along or near that road.

If there is little work to be done one man does it alone, in a small room built in a part of the baggage-car or smoking-car. As the business increases, two or more men work together, having a whole car for their accommodation. The car is drawn directly behind the engine, so that there shall be no occasion for any passing through it. With still more business, between the large cities, two or more cars are run, until between New York and Chicago we have whole train run exclusively for the mail service, made up of five cars and worked by twenty men. A line of railroad between two cities, used in this way, for sorting the mail, is called an "R. P. O.," i. e., "Railway Post-office," and there is an immense number of such in the country, taking their names from the chief offices on the line.

Such are the "Boston and Albany," "Boston, Springfield and New York," "Portland and Island Pond," "Chicago and Cedar Rapids," and many hundred others. The runs vary greatly in length, ranging from twenty miles to as high as a thousand miles. The extremely long runs, with the exception of the "New York and Chicago," are found only in the West, where there are great distances between the cities. On such a run there will be two or more men, one crew sleeping while the other works. The "New York and Chicago" is divided into three sections. On this run the twenty men who start out from New York are relieved by as many more at Syracuse, and these in turn are relieved at Cleveland by another company who take the train into Chicago. As a general thing, however, a run is planned to be about the distance which can be covered in a day.

On all the more important lines there are two sets of men, one for day and for night service. If the run is a short one with but little mail, one man does the work alone, running every day, and usually having several hours to rest at one end of the road or the other.

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