

TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author; not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper, and particularly careful in giving names and dates, to have the letters and figures plain and distinct.

## TO DEFEND NEW YORK.

### IMMENSE FORTIFICATIONS TO BE BUILT.

One of the Standing Jokes on Uncle Sam to Be Terminated—Mortar Batteries of Vast Destructive Power Will Be Mounted Behind an Impregnable Fortress.

Coney Island Cannon.  
The engineering department of the United States army has perfected the last details of the plans for a work of vast importance, as it will complete the defenses of New York harbor against any known power of war. These plans are for a great fort of modern mortar batteries, to be constructed facing the ocean and defending the broad gateway of the harbor. The land on which this fort will stand lies at the east end of Coney Island and has been purchased by the Government for \$500,000.

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high tide. During the heavy seas of early spring a large part of the island is under water. Its only buildings are three fishermen's shanties, now uninhabited. No drier spot exists on the island than this, and it is a hundred acres, whose air is polluted by the stench from the fertilizer factories at Breezy Point, just across the narrow inlet to Jamaica Bay.

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## "PREACHER OF NATURE."

A Reformer Prussian Soldier Who Believes in Dress Reform and a Simple Religion.  
Johannes Gutzeit, the so-called "preacher of nature," who attracts considerable attention in the famous old city of Leipzig, is an ex-Prussian army officer, who has taken up his abode in that hotbed of German socialism. He is a tall, handsome man, and he affects a curious costume which excites amusement and astonishment alike in strangers. His shoes are heavy and low cut; dark gray woolen stockings reach to his knees; his trousers of white wool cover the upper part of his legs, while a broad, loose gown of the same material falls almost to his feet. This gown is fastened about his body by two long rows of buttons and a waist-girdle of cloth. On his head, from which long hair falls to his broad shoulders, he wears at times a crown of leaves.

Gutzeit was born in Koenigsberg, Prussia, in 1853, and was a member of a wealthy family. He early showed a liking for the life of a soldier and entered the army in 1871. For a number of years he served as a lieutenant and differed little from his comrades. At the end of that time, however, he determined to quit the service in order to give to the world his religious and sanitary theories. He advocates a return to the simple life in vogue in the days of the apostles and is a strict vegetarian. He is a dress

reform, an eloquent and impressive talker, a lyric poet of some ability, and his published works on his theories in religion and dress have had a wide circulation.

He is Eighty Years Old and Has a Stretch of Eleven Feet.

The king of crabs ornaments the cabin of the British steamship Euphrates, which arrived from Japan with a cargo of tea, says the New York Recorder. He is the biggest specimen of his kind ever seen in New York, and is known as a lion crab. Capt. James Edwards, the commander of the Euphrates, and his crew had a lively time in capturing the crustacean.

He was seen when the vessel was at Hakodate, Yezo. Efforts were made to capture him alive, but he fought so valiantly that he lost his life in his struggle to escape. He was palmed aboard and stuffed as a curiosity, and now occupies a place against the wall of Capt. Edwards' cabin, with an inscription in Japanese above, which, translated, means "a thousand miles in a thousand minutes." He will be taken to the London Zoological gardens. He is valued at \$250.

In his native element the crab was of a deep green color, but in death he became red. The body is round, resembling that of a turtle, and is 7 inches thick and 40 inches in circumference. There are 10 legs, the forward ones measuring 61 inches in length and the hindmost pair 25 inches. The pincers of the forward legs are each 6 inches in length; the first joint is 22 inches, the second 8 inches, and the third 25 inches in length. The distance from claw to claw measures 11 feet.

His appearance indicated that he might have made a fierce battle for his captors and afforded food enough when killed for three or four men's company. One of the sailors, a Japanese named Karena, explained that the lion crab is a very rare specimen and difficult to capture. He is supposed to move at the rate of a mile a minute, and is held in reverence by many of the religious sects in Japan. He grows an inch every year, and this particular crab is supposed to have been nearly 80 years old at the time of his decease.

Helpful Allments.  
The value of cow-pox, voluntarily induced, as a protection against small-pox, is generally recognized. The same principle has been successfully extended to some of the worst diseases among animals, and it is expected that it may yet be applied in the case of some virulent human diseases.

In England gout is a very prevalent and painful disease. In this country it is less common. Our climate inclines us to excessive mental activity. As a result of this the brain appropriates nervous force at the expense of digestive system, and so disposes us to dyspepsia; but dyspepsia compels us to indulge somewhat sparingly in rich food, in the too free eating of which gout originates.

Of the two diseases, dyspepsia is to be preferred. It seldom interferes with the day's work, and, except in very obstinate cases, is almost certain to be relieved by proper diet and exercise.

Sick headache may often be counted in the class of helpful ailments, though it is a "bitter pill." There are two forms of it: one has its primary source in the brain, the other in the stomach. In both cases there is commonly some hereditary tendency to the disease, but the exciting cause is overwork; of the brain in one case, of the stomach in the other.

The headaches necessitate occasional rest, while the dread of them acts as a constant check upon ten-

dencies which might otherwise result in grave harm. Indeed, attention to diet, with a little letting down of the average cerebral activity, professional, business or domestic, will generally insure a comparative immunity from attacks.

Acute rheumatism often gives rise to permanent heart trouble. Chronic rheumatism, on the contrary, may be healthful in cases of heart disease. For instance, enlargement of the heart tends to increase until it reaches the dangerous limit. The patient's safety depends largely on his training himself to such habits as reduce strain on the heart, rheumatic joints in the lower limbs are an admirable aid in this respect. The former rapid movements cease. A fatal running to meet the cars or the ferryboat is out of the question.

The rheumatism is an uncomfortable companion, no doubt, but it may help to a long life—a decade or more, perhaps, beyond the three-score and ten.—Youth's Companion.

## A CITY OF RUNAWAY HORSES.

Dangerous Character of a Stroll in Bangor.—The Wild Maine Colt.

The report of the statisticians that more lives are lost in the United States every year through runaways than by railroad disasters will be readily believed by Maine people, for in that state the runaway horse often causes more fatalities in a single month than can be laid to the railroads for the entire year. Almost every other man in Maine owns a horse of some kind, but only a small proportion of the owners are horsemen, and the horses for the most part are a wild, untrained lot, easily frightened by the breaking of a breeching, tug or whiffletree, or by any of the numerous little accidents that are liable to occur at any time. Thousands of fine colts are raised in Maine, but few of them are properly broken, with the result that the state is filled with unmanageable, dangerous horses.

Bangor has long been noted for the runaways that occur almost daily in its streets, and so pronounced has the nuisance become that in certain localities pedestrians are in more danger than they would be in crossing West street or Broadway in New York. Bangor is the center of a large farming district, and hundreds of untrained colts and green horses come into the city every day from the surrounding country. At this season of the year several hundred farmers' teams are daily huddled together in the open market places of Pickering and Haymarket squares, and when a runaway occurs there the results are disastrous. The principal streets of the city are traversed by an electric railroad, and the cars on the line, with their peculiar noise and occasional emission of sparks, are the pet aversion of the country horses.

It is not unusual thing to see a horse or a pair of horses, attached to a heavy cart, go tearing along one of the crowded business streets, wrecking carriages and knocking down pedestrians in their path, and perhaps finally taking to the sidewalk and crashing through the front of a shop. Four and five runaways frequently occur in a single day, and the exciting events are a fruitful source of items for the local newspapers. Occasionally human life is sacrificed. Within a year two of the most eminent lawyers of the city, the Hon. Lewis Barker and ex-Judge James F. Rawson, have met their death in the streets from runaway horses, and matters have reached such a stage that a promenade in a saw-mill is a safe undertaking compared with a stroll in Bangor's business streets.

## Old Aztec Mines.

A group of old Spanish or Aztec mines have recently been discovered at Las Placitas of this county, about twenty miles from this city, says an Albuquerque (New Mexico) correspondent of the St. Louis Republic. So many years have elapsed since these mines were worked that all trace of their history has been lost and the present inhabitants of the country know absolutely nothing about them.

Prospectors recently got on to the trail of what they thought was something good, and by pushing their investigation came upon unmistakable evidences of workings.

A very extensive system of underground work has been brought to light. The mineral discovered, while not of the highest grade, is rich enough to pay handsomely, and runs generally from \$50 to \$80 to the ton. The remains have been found in several places of what were once furnaces for smelting the ore. There are also large quantities of slag, and in several instances have been found what are clearly remains of implements used by the workmen.

But what will still be more interesting to the general reader is that these explorations have developed unmistakable evidences of the fact that the work on these mines which was performed by nobody knows how many centuries ago, was wrought to a summary conclusion by an earthquake or general upheaval of some sort, for not only are the mine workings, smelters, furnaces, etc., buried under some fifteen feet of earth, but there have been found on the same level the ruins of what was once an aqueduct for bringing water to the camp from a source about ten miles distant.

The camp of Las Placitas, referred to, is on the eastern slope of the Sandia Mountains, about twenty miles from Albuquerque, and promises to become one of the most interesting fields of archaeological research yet discovered in this country.

## A Telegraph Blunder.

Thirty pupils of a deaf and dumb school in Virginia started for home over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad last week. The conductor of the train telegraphed to Parkersburg, "I have thirty mutes on board. Be prepared to receive them." The dispatch was received all right, but the operator read it miles instead of mutes. Two cattle-cars were awaiting his train as it pulled into Parkersburg.

## The Refinement of Gallantry.

Fair but unfortunate maiden—Dear me! That's the twentieth time I've had to get up to let some fellow get by. It seems as if every man in the land wanted to pass me.

Gallant but crude companion—Can you blame them?

## A GOWN FOR CALLING.

One of the Newest and Most Striking of Fashion's Fancies.

One of the latest models is a close-fitting coat of black broadcloth, with skirts which are long in the back and sides, but slope away in front, to show a deep waistcoat of watermelon pink cloth, which has rows of black braid forming a series of points down the front. The collar is flaring and does not close. It is lined with black velvet. A very handsome calling gown is made of biscuit-colored vogue,

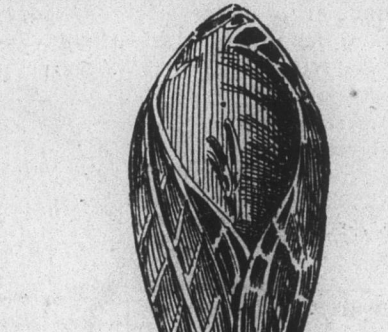


and embroidered on the front of the skirt with silk, shading from biscuit to cinnamon brown, with a touch of gold here and there to illuminate it. Around the bottom is a ruche of cinnamon brown feathers. The coat bodice is very long in the back, but only covers the hips; it is opened over an embroidered waistcoat which fastens with small gilt buttons. The high flaming collar and revers are faced with brown velvet and edged with the feather trimming. The felt hat is the same color as the dress, and is trimmed with cinnamon velvet, ribbons, and feathers.

## A PECULIAR PRODUCT.

Nicaragua Has a Plant with a Single Leaf Thirteen Feet Long.

Nicaragua has one of the most peculiar plants to be found anywhere. In 1869 Dr. Berthold Seeman discovered it and in 1872 it was forwarded to Mr. Hull, an English horticulturist. It was a plant with a single leaf and the latter was thirteen feet



and eight inches long. It somewhat resembles the Indian turnip. The spathe of the plant contained a flowering portion over four feet in length. In honor of a Mr. Godwin, an intimate friend of Dr. Seeman, the plant was called the Godwinia. During the flowering time the plant has a most disagreeable odor.

## Seal Penching.

Here is the method employed by the hunters of British Columbia who poach upon the sealing grounds: When the schooner sights a seal the little boats are lowered: A hunter armed with two shotguns and a rifle and two sailors to pull the boat take their places and the hunt begins. The boat is pulled quietly toward the animal. In nine cases out of ten the seal takes alarm and dives out of sight before the boat is brought close enough to use the guns with effect, and in no case does the hunter shoot unless he feels sure of his quarry.

The seal when shot at once commences to sink, and the boat has to be pulled rapidly up to it, when the body is "gaffed" and hauled aboard. This is repeated as long as a seal can be seen. In many cases only one or two will be killed during a two days' hunt, while at other times as many as twenty will be taken.

## A Feminine Triumph.

Old Lady—No use talkin', I used to say this higher education of gals was all fustled; but I see I was wrong. There's my granddarter, for instance. She's just a wonder.

Friend—I understand she graduated with high honors.

Old Lady—Yes; graduated from Vassar, and she kin do what neither her mother nor me could ever hope to do if our lives depended on it.

Friend—Indeed! And what is that?

Old Lady—She kin tell the time a train is goin' to start by lookin' at a railway guide.—New York Weekly.

## An Antique Custom.

The English people are very fond of keeping up antique customs. In olden times the Fruitlers' Company of London annually presented twelve baskets of apples to the Lord Mayor, and the Lady Mayress put a bottle of wine in each of the empty baskets for the carriers, who were also given a dinner. Of late years pineapples, nectarines, peaches, and other choice fruits have been substituted for apples, and this year the ceremony was observed Oct. 7.

## A YOUTHFUL SPECULATOR.

He Cornered the Shoestring Market and Made \$55,000 in Three Months.

A coterie of traveling salesmen in the lobby of the Palmer House, Chicago, were discussing the subject of fortunate investments and enterprises that have proved unusually profitable when one of the gentlemen remarked: "The queerest case that I ever knew of this kind was that of a boy at Andover, Mass. The youngster was the only son of an old cobbler who had mended shoes and boots all his life and had saved enough to buy a modest home and to lay up a small balance in the bank. The old man died awhile ago, leaving everything to his overgrown, gawky, shiftless son."

"The latter never did a day's work in his life, and as soon as he found himself the possessor of the little shoe shop he at once commenced casting about for a purchaser. He soon converted his property into cash. Then he went down to a suburb of Boston to talk with the manager of a large factory that turns out about half of the shoestrings made in this country. The youngster contracted for the entire output of that shoestring factory for one year! Then he went to another large manufactory at Newark, N. J., and secured a similar contract."

"These two institutions are the only shoestring factories in America. The shoestring business for the ensuing year had been cornered, excepting the goods that were already in the hands of wholesale dealers in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. The young speculator invested his cash in buying up this stock, and within a few weeks had everything in his own hands. This was a corner which the trade had not foreseen. Shoe dealers throughout the country who had ordered their usual stock of goods were horror stricken to learn that there was a shortage in shoestrings. Well, now, shoestrings are very small things, but they are quite necessary to the shoe business. Within three months the Andover boy sold his contracts with the manufacturing concerns at a net