

The Democratic Sentinel

RENSSELAER, INDIANA.

J. W. McEWEEN, PUBLISHER.

THE YOUNG REPUBLIC.

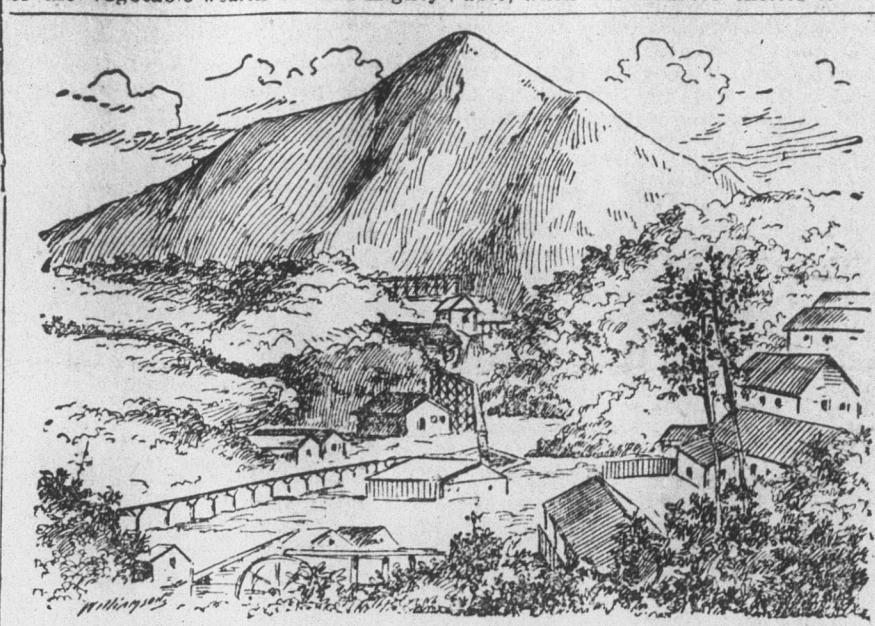
BRAZIL, ITS RIVERS, FORESTS, PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS.

A Country Larger than the United States—The Immense Amazon Valley and Its Trackless Woods—Vegetable and Mineral Wealth.

A Mighty State.
Recent stirring events in Brazil, the overthrow of an old and well-established government, the foundation of a republic, and the present struggle for its preservation, have given to this far-away country an interest which otherwise it could never have acquired.

In shape Brazil closely resembles a heart—a heart of enormous extent, by the way, being nearly 2,700 miles from north to south, nearly the same from east to west, and comprising within its territorial limits about 8,200,000 square miles. Great Britain has more territory, but the dominions of Great Britain are scattered over all the globe; the Czar has under his control a greater number of square miles, but they are contained in two continents; in Brazil alone can it be said that in one political and geographical division is comprised a greater extent of territory than in any other country on the globe. Excluding Alaska Brazil has 300,000 square miles more of area than has the United States, or, to use a familiar expression, is as large as the United States and one-half of Mexico. It is nearly as far from the most northern point in Brazil to the most southern as from New York to San Francisco, or from the frontier of Mexico to the Arctic circle. We are accustomed to think of Brazil as a tropical country, but as a matter of fact the most northern province of that vast country is almost as far from the equator as the State of Missouri. The coast line is nearly 4,000 miles in length, and a vessel that would sail from Cape Orange to the State of Sao Paulo do Sul must make a voyage equal in length to that from New York to Liverpool. It is difficult to grasp the idea of so enormous a country, nor is the difficulty lessened by a contemplation of the fact that of this vast territory more than two-thirds are drained by one river system, the greatest in the world. Some

the path has been made. On one occasion, in the Province of Amazonas, a road was made by the Government. These, however, are rich beyond all computation. The world has little idea of the vegetable wealth of this mighty



A BRAZILIAN GOLD MINE.

country. The varieties of timber are almost without number, and the supply is inexhaustible. Prof. Agassiz counted on one piece of land not half a mile square 117 varieties of valuable timber,



A HOME ON THE AMAZON.

many of which were dark, heavy woods, a beautiful as rosewood or mahogany, and susceptible of as high a polish. Over 400 different species of ornamental woods were exhibited at the last National Exposition held in Brazil, and even this exhibition was believed not to ex-

the Republic of Brazil, are a few wandering tribes of Indians. They will not work. Why should they, when on account of the heat of the climate even the lightest clothing is almost unendurable, when the nearest shelter is suffi-

cient to protect them from the weather, and when the neighboring forest and the stream before the door supply every want. This immense province, therefore, of 700,000 square miles has but 70,000 population. Grao Para, with 400,000 square miles of area, has but 300,000, and Maranhao, with 108,000, has only 385,000. The three Amazon provinces, with an area larger than that of the United States east of the Mississippi, having a total of 775,000. Most of these aborigines are as yet uncivilized; they are savages in the truest sense of the word; warlike, revengeful; many of them are cannibals, and all are dreaded by the whites, who slowly and with great difficulty, have been able to drive them back. They never will civilize them. Politically, Brazil is divided into twenty States and one "neutral municipality," the boundaries following those of the provinces which constituted the Empire. There is an enormous discrepancy both in the size and in the population of the States. From the enormous State of Amazonas, with its sparse population, to the petty State of Lencois, which has only 39,000 square miles, though its population, 275,000, compares favorably with that of several which are in geographical extent, greatly its superior. The total population of the republic is 9,913,000, which, considering its size, is very scanty, and to be accounted for by the extent and uninhabitable of the forests which constitute the valley of the Amazon. Besides the capital there are several cities of much commercial importance. At the mouth of the River Amazon, the alluvium of the stream, deposited for ages after age, has gradually built up an island, whose size may be imagined from the statement that it exceeds the combined area of the Azores, Madeira, Heligoland, Malta and Gibraltar, and opposite to the southern shore of this island, from which it is separated by the Iara River, lies the flourishing City of Para, the metropolis of the Amazon Valley. Iara, though with a population of only 70,000, is an exceedingly important city, since all the trade of the Amazon passes through the hands of its merchants, and though its manufactures are insignificant, its exports are enormous. In the year 1888 the exports of rubber alone amounted to \$2,000,000, but at a valuation of \$6,462,000, while the exports of precious woods, hides, coffee, sugar and other articles rendered the rubber export insignificant by comparison. The State of Pernambuco, also a maritime State, has a capital of the same name, generally called the Venice of America, on account of the numerous canals which run through it in every direction. From Pernambuco the principal export is sugar, and no small share

of the business of its 170,000 inhabitants consists in handling this and the coffee, which is the next most important export. Among the important seaports the city of Bahia must take place in the first row. It is located in the State of the same name, which is the second in population in the republic. Its lower extremity is on the Tropic of Capricorn, so that the city has a climate almost exactly that of Havana, which lies under the Tropic of Cancer; the State has 300 miles of coast line, an area of 68,000 square miles and a population of 1,164,000, the city itself, the "neutral municipality" already mentioned, having a population of 406,000. Nearly two-thirds of the sugar and coffee exports of Brazil find their way to the outside world through the magnificent harbor of Rio, and in sight of the wonderful Sugar Loaf Mountain, a remarkable natural formation, may be seen at one time the flags of every maritime nation in the world. In 1888 3,320,185 bags of coffee were exported from Rio alone, each bag weighing 132 pounds, and more than two-thirds of the entire export coming to this country. Reciprocity with such a country would pay well, and the sound policy which has dictated a commercial

treaty will doubtless bear rich fruits in the near future.
The city of Rio de Janeiro does not differ greatly from other cities save in such respects as are incidental to its situation and climate. It is fairly well built, well lighted, and has good communications in the shape of street cars and other conveniences, but the drainage is imperfect, and yellow fever is almost constantly present, though rarely assuming a malignant form. Several natural elevations in the city give it an extremely picturesque appearance, and the abundance of tropical vegetation imparts a luxuriance to the scene witnessed nowhere save under a tropical sky. Besides various public institutions founded under the empire and fostered by the liberal policy of the rulers, the city can boast of one of the finest libraries in the world. When the ruling family of Portugal emigrated to Brazil the royal library was taken along, and so the Brazilians have a collection of over 100,000 volumes, many of which are of great value. The early Portuguese travelers and settlers, and, historically considered, of immense value.

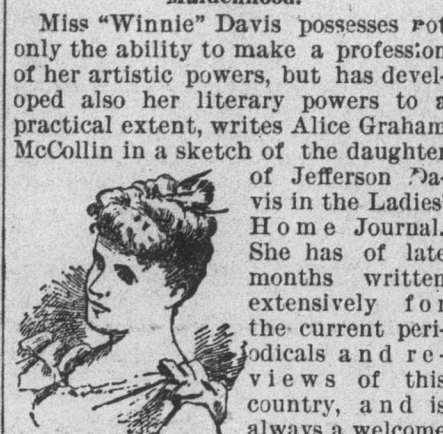
Protecting Ships' Bottoms.
The question of providing some effective method of protecting ships' bottoms has come to be a matter for serious consideration. The condition of the bottom of the flagship Charleston when taken out of the water the other day at Mare Island is described as astonishing. All sorts of marine growths, animal and vegetable, covered the entire wetted surface so thickly that it was impossible to inspect the steel plates; and until these growths shall have been removed, when it is feared more or less corrosion will have set in, this investigation cannot be made; and the problem how to protect the bottoms of our new and costly ships, especially in the Pacific, will be again presented to our naval authorities. One of the modes suggested for overcoming this difficulty is the use of Japanese lacquer. It appears that this idea emanated from a lacquer manufacturer of Tokyo, who noted the fact that lacquered objects that have been subjected to sea water were found to be practically uninjured after a considerable period of immersion. Experiments were made on ship plates at the Yokosuka Navy Yard, and soon after the bottom of the Fusu-Kan was lacquered. The result was so satisfactory that many other vessels of the Japanese navy have since been subjected to the same process. Experiments are now in progress with anti-fouling lacquer that promises very well. The contractors guarantee a lacquer coat for three years, and, according to the rates charged in Japan, the cost of applying it to a vessel like the Charleston would be \$2,600, at 13 cents per square foot. The lacquer would in all probability cost about double the price here. It is understood that plates thus prepared are now at the New York Navy Yard under test. Lieut. Murdock, who has devoted a great deal of attention to the subject, estimates that the lacquer process, assuming that it will last three years, is cheaper in the long run than painting.

How to "Saw By."
Some boys do only what they have seen done by somebody else; other boys, the boys who make a mark in the world, look at things with their own eyes, and if a thing needs to be done, set about doing it. Without brag or bluster they act as if their motto were, "What man has not done, man can do." Of one such boy the Washington Post prints a characteristic anecdote.
A few years ago a green country boy applied to the superintendent of a Western railway for work, and, somewhat against the superintendent's wish, on account of the danger to life and limb attendant upon such occupation, was given a place as brakeman of a freight train.
On one of his first trips it happened that his train met another freight train at a station where the side track was not long enough to accommodate either of them. The conductors were debating which train should back up to a point where they could pass, when the new hand ventured to suggest that neither should back; that they could pass each other by means of the short side track if the thing was managed right.
The idea excited a good deal of laughter on the part of the old trainmen, but the boy stood his ground.
"Well, how would you go about it?" asked one of the conductors, confident that the lad would soon find himself against a stump.
The boy took up a stick and traced in the sand a diagram to illustrate his plan.
"Good gracious!" said the conductor, "I believe that will do it!"
And it did do it. To-day every trainman in America knows how to "saw by" two long trains on a short side track, but it is not so generally known that the thing was never done until an inexperienced country boy, who is now the manager of a great railway line, worked out the problem for himself.

Redemption of Paper Money.
Paper money drops from circulation, but is not lost; whenever a note becomes very much soiled and worn it is sent to the Treasury for redemption. The women experts employed to examine the money sent in are wonderfully skillful. It is marvelous how deftly they will poke over a few charred fragments of notes and set an accurate valuation upon them. Not very long ago a poor woman sent a wee corner of a twenty-dollar bill, with a pitiful story about her baby's having burnt it. Hardly more was left than a fragment big enough to show the figures of the denomination, but she will get the money back. Mice are great destroyers of paper currency, and some of the most hopeless specimens that come in have been chewed up for beds for these little rodents. Sometimes a pillow-bill of indistinguishable ash will arrive, accompanied by a certificate stating the amount represented. Of course, such a case is hopeless. It is usually a kitchen-stove catastrophe. Kitchen stoves burn up more cash every year than is lost in any other way. People confide their hoards to them for hiding, and when they are lighted the greenbacks go up in smoke. It has been estimated that one per cent. of paper money is lost or destroyed. Of the old fractional currency it is reckoned that eight million dollars' worth has been totally lost.

DAVIS' DAUGHTER.

She Is the Ideal Realization of Southern Maidenhood.



Miss "Winnie" Davis possesses not only the ability to make a profession of her artistic powers, but has developed also her literary powers to a practical extent, writes Alice Graham McColin in a sketch of the daughter of Jefferson Davis in the Ladies' Home Journal. She has of late months written extensively for the current periodicals and reviews of this country, and is always a welcome contributor. She sings delightfully, playing her own accompaniments with charming simplicity. In appearance Miss Davis is even prettier than her portrait makes her. Tall, slender, fair-haired, with gray eyes of peculiar beauty, she is the ideal realization of Southern maidenhood. She has a sweet Southern voice and a manner which evidences the gentle, courteous heart beneath. Her mother bears tribute to her as "the best and dearest of daughters." Her father when on his deathbed said that she had never disobeyed or given him pain, and without an exception everyone who comes at all under her gentle refinement feels her to be a woman with "Heart on her lips, and soul within her eyes. Soft as her climate, and sunny as her skies."

Clever Collie.
T. Sidney Cooper, the English animal painter, says that he often made valuable studies in Cumberland, at places where Scotch drovers' hatted their cattle for the night. On such occasions, he often had a chance to see illustrations of an animal's intelligence, as well as of its physical perfection.

One day, when there was a pouring rain, a man consented to sit for me at the inn where I was staying. He brought his collie with him, and both of them were dripping wet; so he put off his plaid, and laid it on the floor by the dog.

I made a very successful sketch of the man, but before I had finished it, the dog grew fidgety with the wet plaid, and his master said, "Tak' it awa', mon, tak' it awa'!"

The dog took the end of it between his teeth, and dragged it out of the room.

After I had finished the drover's portrait, I asked him if he thought his dog would lie quiet for a time, as I wished to sketch him.

"Oh, yes, mon," he answered, "he'll do anything I say to him. Watch! Watch!" he called, and then "whusht!" for him, as the Scotch say.

As the dog did not appear, we went together to look for him, and found him sitting before the kitchen fire, with the end of the plaid in his mouth, holding it up to dry. I expressed my admiration of his intelligence, and the master replied:

"Ah, he's a canny creature, sir! He knows a many things, does that dog, sir. But come awa', mon; the gentleman wants to mak' your picture."

A Fatal Ring.
Round the neck of the holy virgin of Almdens, the patron saint of Madrid, for whom a fine new church is being built close to the royal palace, a very beautiful diamond ring hangs on a thin gold chain. The ring belonged to the late King Alfonso XII., and a strange history is connected with it, which may well appeal to the minds of the superstitious Spaniards. On the day of his wedding to Mercedes, the daughter of the Duke of Montpensier, the King gave the ring to the bride, who wore it till her early death. After the funeral the King gave the ring to his grandmother, Queen Christine, who died soon after. Infanta Maria del Pilar, the sister of the King, then became its possessor. She had worn it only a few days when she died. Then the ring became the property of the King once more, and he gave it to the sister of his late consort, Princess Christina, the youngest daughter of the Duke of Montpensier. Three months later the girl was dead. The King had now become aware of the unfortunate coincidences, and instead of giving it away again he himself wore the ring, till he also went to his early grave. Pall Mall Gazette.

Don't for Wives.
Don't "nag" your husband.
Don't think your husband's heart is bigger than his stomach.
Don't be afraid to assert your rights as an equal partner with your husband.
Don't repeat what your husband tells you.
Don't whine.
Don't be afraid to live within your means.
Don't try to wear a \$25 bonnet on a 25-cent income.
Don't attempt to make a "society man" of your husband.
Don't complain when your husband wants you to stay at home with him in the evening.
Don't publish your domestic grievances abroad.
Don't scold any more than is necessary "to keep peace in the family."

Sit and Set.
The use of the words "sit" and "set" is well defined in the following example: A man, or woman either, can set a hen, although they cannot sit her, neither can they sit on them by the hour if the wind will allow. A man cannot set on the washstand, but he could set the basin on it, and neither the basin nor the grammarians would object. He could sit on the dog's tail, if the dog were willing, or he might set his foot on it. But if he should set on the aforesaid tail or sit his foot there, the grammarians as well as the dog would howl. And yet, strange as it may seem, the man might set the tail aside and than sit down, and neither be assaulted by the dog nor the grammarians.

The fellow who stole the contribution-box at Goshen, Ind., is supposed to have just returned from the seashore.—Columbus Post.

ADULTERATION SCARES.

If People Are Given Adulterations It Is Frequently Their Own Fault.

There are few subjects more easily treated by a skillful writer, who desires to scare up a sensation, than the adulteration of food. It is unfortunately true that there are dishonest men engaged in the food traffic, as there are in every other kind of business known to civilization, and it is also true that a dishonest man, especially if he be driven by competition, will sell dishonest goods. It therefore happens that substances are sold to the public, sometimes, as food, which are either not food at all, or inferior in quality to those which they are represented to be. This is an evil, to expose which is distinctly within the province of the public press. No greater service can be rendered, at least of a secular character, than to put the reader on guard against frauds of this character. No small part of the success of the American Analyst is due to the fact that we have performed services of this character fearlessly, constantly, and with some measure of skill. It is one thing, however, to expose an evil, and entirely a different thing to describe it in such a way as to destroy public confidence. This latter is the error into which sensational writers are almost certain to fall. The reader of one of their articles must necessarily lose confidence, either in the purveyor or in the writer of the article, and it is fortunate, for everybody but the writer, that the public generally may be credited with enough common sense to distrust the writer rather than the great body of reputable dealers. The so-called "Exposure of the Tricks of Trade" is tolerably certain to be so sweeping and general as to be unworthy of respect, and the general reader recognizes this fact. A conspicuous example of this kind of journalism was the recent publication of a column article in the New York Sun, on "Adulteration of Coffee." It begins with the statement that "Pure coffee is expensive, and therefore there are immense quantities of stuff sold as pure coffee which are in reality compounds of various substances which cost less." Then, after specifying "chicory, acorns, mangel-wurzel, peas, beans and flour," as some of these substances, the writer says: "The estimate has been made that the people of the United States who buy spurious coffee under the name of pure Mocha, Java, or Rio are cheated annually to the extent of about \$18,000,000." Now it may be true that this estimate has been made. Any other absurd estimate may be made at any time, by anybody, with perfect ease. The question remains whether it is worth while to waste printer's ink on the publication of it. Other sample statements in the article referred to are these: "The general public without expert knowledge is utterly unable to distinguish the counterfeit." "The purchaser, therefore, has absolutely no protection short of chemical or microscopical analysis." "Very few persons will take the trouble to protect themselves from such imposition." "There is a process * * * so as to produce an article that will deceive some experts." The only safeguard the writer of this article suggests (although he does admit that some dealers sell honest goods) is to buy green coffee, roast it yourself, and grind it with religious exclusion of any adulterants. Evidently the whole tendency of such an article is mischievous, and it does gross injustice to a most reputable class of business men. Nobody of ordinary intelligence doubts that coffee is sometimes adulterated. Nobody questions the notorious fact that what is sold under the trade name of coffee, at less than the market price of pure coffee, is a mixture. The inference, however, that people are cheated to any appreciable extent is unquestionably false. Not one grocer in a hundred sell these mixtures under the claim that he is selling pure coffee. The customer, unless phenomenally ignorant, knows that when he is buying "coffee" for 20 cents a pound he is not getting coffee, and he is, therefore, not cheated. If he really wants pure coffee, and will tell his grocer so, he will not be cheated once in five hundred times. As was said, it is the mission of the American Analyst to expose the tricks of dishonest dealers. This we do without fear or favor, but the rehearsal of well-known facts coupled with the inference that the great body of dealers in a standard article are guilty of deliberate swindling, is work that is unworthy of any first-class periodical.—American Analyst.

Curiosities of Matrimony.
There are seventy people whose customs forbid the wife's relatives to hold any communication with the husband, or, conversely, the husband's relatives and his wife to speak to one another. Yet, in the former case, it is the husband who goes to live with his wife's parents, and in the latter case the wife who goes to live in her husband's home with his father and mother.

The native Andamanese women have a curious custom. When any of them are left widows the bereaved wife is accustomed to procure the skull of her late husband and carry it about with her suspended by her side. She also uses it as a sort of a treasure box, placing in it her money, jewels, or any other valuable articles she may have.

It is a law of good society in China that young widows never marry again. Widowhood, therefore, is held in the highest esteem, and the older the widow grows the more agreeable does her position become with the people. Should she reach fifty years, she may, by applying to the emperor, get a sum of money with which to buy a tablet on which is engraved the sum of her virtues. The tablet is placed over the door at the principal entrance to her house.

The Zaparos, a tribe of South America, have a curious way of courting. The love-stricken young man goes out hunting, and on his return throws his game at the feet of the young lady who has smitten him, together with a sufficient quantity of fuel to cook it. If she takes up the game, lights a fire and commences to cook it, he knows his suit is accepted; but, if not, he turns away, a sadder, if not a wiser, man.

HUMOR OF THE WEEK.

STORIES TOLD BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Many Odd, Curious, and Laughable Phases of Human Nature Graphically Portrayed by Eminent Word Artists of Our Own Day.

Where Dullness Is Profitable.
"How are things in your business?"
"Dull, I'm glad to report."
"Glad to report?"
"Yes, I'm a saw-sharpening."—Kate Field's Washington.

A New Way to Pay Old Debts.
Judge—If you wish to establish your innocence you will have to prove an alibi.

Prisoner—Sure, that's aisy. I can prove a lie by Mike Murphy, who owes me \$10, although it's after swearing to tell the truth I am, but it's a lie your honor wants, ye shall have it.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Mean Thing.
Miss Clamwopper, who wears false tresses, but imagines nobody knows it, calls on her friend, Miss Snobblerly.

Miss S.—Has Dobinsky finished your portrait?
Miss C.—I'll have to give him another sitting, so he can get the right color of my hair.
Miss S.—If that's all, why don't you send it to him by a servant?—Texas Siftings.

Most Watch the Weather.
In a New York restaurant. Customer (to waiter)—Here, this check's wrong.

Waiter—What's the matter with it?
"Why, I have had bacon and eggs and you charge me 75 cents, when the bill of fare says 25 cents."
"You are quite right, sir, but you had two glasses of water at 25 cents each. If you want water at a lower rate come around immediately after a rain-storm."—Arkansas Traveler.

Look Out for Number One.
"So you gave your sister a beautiful birthday present, did you, Tommy?"
"Yes, I always give Susie a present on her birthday 'cause mine comes a week after hers."—Yankee Blade.

A First Class Klecker.
—Life.

"Two Souls," Etc.
"How did you ever come to marry, old man? Thought you'd determined to stay single!"
"I had; but I was introduced one day to a girl who had determined never to marry, and our thoughts seemed to harmonize so completely that—well, we married each other."—Puck.

A Potent Medicine.
The Doctor—Are you aware that balsam of fir possesses rare properties as a medicine?
The Head of the Family—I do. I can recall instances where a sealskin saque soothed a tremendous irritation in my family. There's nothing like a balsam of fur.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

The Term Was Misleading.
Grandma Gokwitt—Robert, what's a sweep smelter?
Robert (just home from college)—A man who buys the sweeping from jewelers' shops for the gold in them.
"Laws-a-me! Can he smell the gold?"—Jeweler's Weekly.

Fitting Advice.
Bard—I have a poem here on "power," and I don't know just where to place it. What would you advise me to do with it?
Pard—Get it in one of the magazines, of course.—Yonkers Gazette.

Knew His Man.
Genius—The world is in league against me.
Friend—Look here, old man, if a quarter will do you any good you can have it; but that's all I've got.—St. Joseph News.

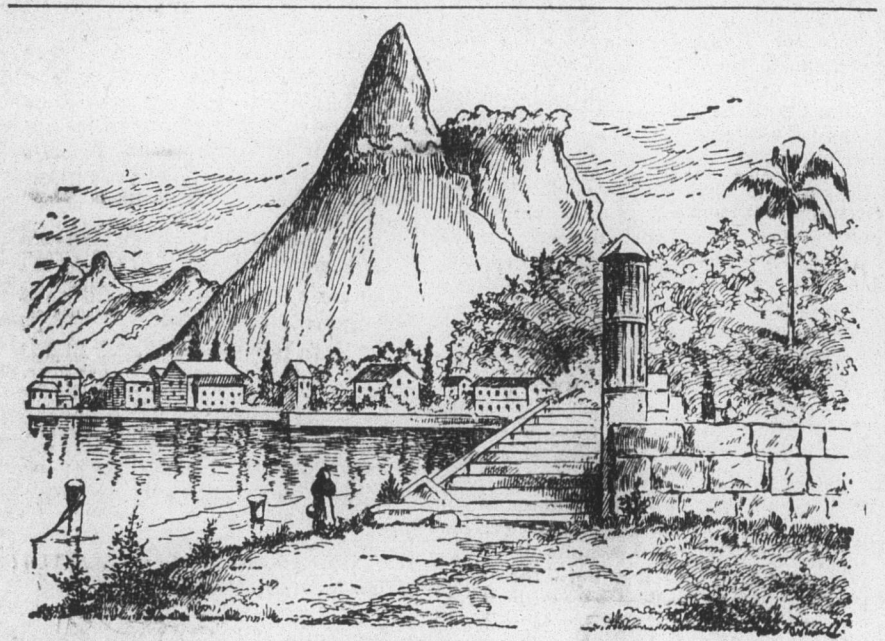
Well, He Could Cure St. Cheap.
Newspaper Manager—Why, what's the matter with our advertising rates?
Patent Medicine Man—They give me that tired feeling.—Somerville Journal.

Will Telegraph.
A telegram, something after the following form, may soon be sent from Chicago:
"J. H. So-and-so. Your son has just fallen from the top story of the Masonic Temple. Will telegraph result as soon as he gets down."—Arkansas Traveler.

St. Paul's Day.
St. Paul's Day is the 25th of January, "the weather day," as it is called in odd corners of the country still. There is an old superstition to the effect that:
"If St. Paul's Day be fair and clear,
It doth betide a happy year," etc.
It is impossible to say how such sayings originated.

Persian Shoes.
The Persians have shoes made of wood and richly inlaid which are really little raised platforms with a strap across the front for the toes to step through. A pair of these are often elevated as much as a foot from the ground, and are veritable stilts.

There is nothing which this age, from whichever standpoint we survey it, needs more, physically, intellectually and morally, than thorough ventilation.



THE "SUGAR-LOAF" AT RIO DE JANEIRO.

Idea of the size of the Amazon may be gained from the statement that over 300 rivers, any one of which would elsewhere be deemed a considerable stream, unite to make up this giant among rivers. For nearly 4,000 miles, according to Herndon, does the Amazon flow in Brazil and the countries to the west, and some conception of its magnitude may be gained from the fact that 900 miles from its mouth it receives a tributary itself 2,000 miles in length. At Nauta, 2,300 miles from the Atlantic, the Amazon is nearly a mile wide, at the entrance to the Madeira it is three miles, at Santarem it is ten miles, and if the Para River be included in its mouth, it empties into the sea in a gigantic stream 180 miles in width. At frequent points in its lower course it is an inland sea, the low shores of which are not visible from either side, and so effectual a barrier is it that until the advent of steam power the people on the opposite banks had little more intercourse with each other than if they lived on different sides of an ocean.

Brazil is thus the most thoroughly watered country on the globe. So numerous are its water courses, and so closely do they interlock, that only a few short canals are necessary to enable vessels of considerable size to traverse the interior of the country from end to end. Nor is this all; the magnificent Rio Negro, the greatest northern tributary, itself 1,000 miles long, is connected by natural canals with the Orinoco, so that river or canal transportation is a possibility from the southern extremity of Brazil to the north coast of South America. The Amazon is always full; there is no annual rise as in other rivers; its waters are gathered from every part of a great continent, so that when in one region the dry season prevails, in another the annual rains are falling, and its banks are a ways overflowing. The tide of the ocean is perceptible 450 miles from the mouth and a curious feature of the river is its system of side channels, joining the main river at intervals, so that one may travel 1,000 miles from the mouth without ever entering the main stream. It is safer, not to do so, for at certain seasons the "bore" or tidal swell in the river rises in tremendous waves fifteen to thirty feet in height, which sweep everything before them, uprooting the stoutest trees and endangering the strongest ships. The Amazon is the river of a continent, it rises within seventy miles of the Pacific, and drains most of South America, and although only partial steam communication has been established over 10,000 miles of inland water travel have been thus opened up to the world. The whole of the Amazon Valley, which, as already stated, comprises two-thirds of Brazil, is one vast forest of tropical vegetation. A recent traveler says that from the plains of Venezuela to the pampas of the Argentine Confederation there is a bewildering diversity of grand and beautiful trees at every point intertwined with vines of such prodigious size as elsewhere to be deemed trees, while the matted and creeping plants, draped, festooned; corded, matted, and ribboned in every direction, form an almost impassable bar to the progress of the traveler. Long ago Buckle pointed out that the exuberance of nature in a tropical climate, under a burning sun, with water in abundance, was almost as great a barrier to the progress of civilization as the rainless deserts of the Sahara or Arabia. Nature is too abundant. When a piece of land, with infinite pains and labor, has been cleared of the indigenous plants, a thousand species of grasses spring up, and by the utmost exertion the husbandman is unable to save his crop from the weeds. A road must be cleared through the forest with the hatchet and machete, to enable the traveler and his company to pass, and a few days later it is impossible to detect where



THE AMENITIES OF TRAVEL IN THE AMAZON VALLEY.

a cathedral above the houses of a city, when tapped, supplies whitish liquor which, fresh from the tree, is drunk like milk; allowed to remain until coagulated, it provides an excellent article of rubber. Woods, fruits, resins, dyes, oils, essences are in exhaustless profusion, than her forests, these would be sufficient to insure her untold wealth. From the forests of the Amazon the houses of the world could be built, and filled with



A BRAZILIAN MINER.

the most elegant of furniture; its vegetable world would clothe the world's people in garments of cotton or flax; its fruits would supply all Europe; and the fish of its waters would keep from famine the millions of Asia. The wonderful abundance has prevented settlement. Time and again have efforts been made to establish colonies on the banks of the Amazon, but in vain, and the only inhabitants of the great State of Amazonas, the largest in