

## SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

### INTERESTING NOTES AND MATTERS OF MOMENT.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A SCHOOL district in Grant county, Kansas, contains only one family. The father, mother and eldest son have elected themselves trustees and appointed the eldest daughter, at \$5 a month, to teach the younger children.

A KENTUCKY calf, one day old, performed the wonderful feat of jumping from a cliff to the river below, a distance of 500 feet, without rumping a hair. The calf was taken down the river and hauled home in a wagon safe and sound.

THE Indians of Guiana have a curious numeration. They count by the hand and its four fingers. Thus, when they reach five, instead of saying so, they call it a "hand." Six is, therefore, a "hand and first finger," and so on to twenty, which is called a "man."

A FOUR-LEGGED chicken came into the family of Dave Myler, of Johnson City, Mo. As two of the legs were for forward locomotion and the other two always insisted on walking backward, that unfortunate chicken found it difficult to advance in the world and gave up the effort in despair.

A CROW with one foot four inches longer than the other was captured and tamed by Abe Cartwright, a trapper in Sullivan County, Penn. Cartwright made a crutch stilt for the bird, which was at first strapped to its foot. This became unnecessary as soon as the crow learned what an assistance the crutch was as a means of defense as well as locomotion.

ONE of the residents of Cherry street, Geneva, N. Y., is the owner of a dog that imitates the sound of the Cereal company's steam whistle. The whistle gives the musical scale, and when sounded in the morning and at noon the dog catches the notes and repeats them with wonderful accuracy. He has mastered the rising scale, but is now practicing on the falling scale which his owner expects him to acquire.

SURGERY'S discovery of a way to obliterate facial blemishes has given the detective forces a great deal of difficulty in locating well-known criminals. By these operations the whole character of the facial expression is changed by a few deft jabs of a lancet. The wounds heal in a very short time, and in most cases can never be noticed. The criminal fraternity are not slow to take hold of this knowledge, and in consequence the descriptions in the possession of the detectives cannot always be depended upon.

A VERY curious temperance society exists in the Siberian village of Ashlyka. Every year, in September, the members meet in the church, and make a solemn promise to abstain from wine and spirits for a whole year. They also sign an agreement that any person breaking the pledge shall pay a fine of twenty-five rubles to the church, and submit to be spat upon by his more continent fellows. The most peculiar feature of the whole business, however, is that the members on the day of the year when the pledge expires allow themselves wine and brandy during the few hours which intervene before the pledge for the ensuing year is made.

ONE of Uncle Sam's most faithful servants, in Maine, but one that draws no salary, lives at the Portland Head Lighthouse. This is a large, gray parrot, brought from Africa some time ago and presented to the keeper of the light. The bird soon noticed that when the fog began to blow from the ocean, somebody would cry out, "Fog coming in; blow the horn!" One day the fog suddenly began to come in thick, and no one noticed it, as they were all busy. Poll noticed this and croaked out, "Fog coming in; blow the horn!" and now, whenever fog is perceptible, Poll never fails to give warning.

EDWARD BELL and John Merkert went gunning for a hornets' nest located in the swamp near Abbott avenue, Morristown, N. J. Merkert was the marksman, and, after partly destroying the nest with a load of shot, dropped into a clump of bushes to escape the angry onslaught of the disturbed hornets. A nest of bees was concealed in the clump of bushes, and, between the attack made upon him by the combined forces of hornets and bees, Merkert found himself in very warm quarters. Bell succeeded in driving away the stinging insects, but not before his companion had been stung so that his face puffed up to twice its normal size, and both eyes were closed.

THE French papers have been noting the curious way in which the career of President Carnot was connected with the figure "7." He was born in 1837, was admitted to the Ecole Polytechnique in 1857, was elected by virtue of Article 7 of the Constitution to the office of President of the Republic, in 1887, was assassinated at the age of fifty-seven years, in the seventh year of his presidency, in a carriage containing seven persons (four inside and three outside, a coachman and two footmen), on the seventh day of the week, by an Italian (a word of seven letters). Finally, he was borne in triumph to the Pantheon on the first day of the seventh month of the year, seven days after his death.

An exciting incident occurred the other day while General Count Musin-Puskin, Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Province of Russia, was reviewing the troops at Nikolaev. There was a park of forty guns on the field, and their simultaneous discharge startled the General's charger, which bolted at a terrific speed toward the railway just as a train was approaching. An aide-de-camp vainly endeavored to overtake the animal, saying that his husband had hanged himself in her absence. When she came back with a host of neighbors and crocodile tears in her eyes, there was her husband sitting at the table, laughing till his sides ached. The chairs were still dangling on the rope.

or two were hidden in a cloud of dust. Fortunately, both the Commander-in-Chief and the lieutenant escaped with some severe contusions, the former having one of his ankles sprained.

THE Savannah (Ga.) News tells this remarkable story: Near Idlewild Park, Thursday, while John J. Burru, a farmer, was engaged in preparing ground for sweet potatoes, he discovered a chicken snake about five feet long, which he killed. Noticing that it was of unusual size in proportion to its length, he cut it in two to make a post-mortem examination, and found that the stomach contained two large-sized opal glass eggs. Mr. Burru says that when a boy he was visiting a cooper who lived near Tallahassee by the name of Wells Hamlin, and while there, a setting hen had been driven from her nest by a large chicken snake. The snake was soon after killed, opened in his presence, and eighteen eggs taken from its body. He furthermore said that the eggs were put back under the faithful old hen, and that every egg hatched out a lively young chicken.

It is dangerous to gratify curiosity or violate precedent at the Chinese Imperial Court. The Empress Dowager is a great stickler for etiquette. Recently she required the services of Dr. Li Te-chang, Vice-President of the Imperial Academy of Physicians at Peking, for one of the members of her suite at the Park Palace. The learned doctor had never been inside these famous palace grounds, and his curiosity was fired to see the many curious objects of which he had heard wonderful tales. So he bribed a eunuch to show him around the grounds. While the two were leisurely walking about and enjoying themselves, the Empress spied them. She at once despatched servants to punish their effrontery. The eunuch was seized, thrown on his face, and accommodated with fifty blows of the bamboo on the calves of his fat legs. The doctor was docked three months' pay and received a severe reprimand, while his assistant was ordered never to venture again into the Empress's presence. The affair created a sensation, because of the high position of the physician and of the humiliating punishment dealt out to him.

THE most striking cases of lapsed memory are to be found in persons who have had a severe illness, or are temporarily diseased mentally. The more common form of the malady, too, is the forgetting of every incident of the past save one, on which the morbid mind never ceases to harp. A very pathetic case of the kind is recorded in Beck's "Medical Jurisprudence." It is that of a young clergyman who was accidentally shot in the forehead just two days before his marriage was to have taken place. For a long time his life was despaired of. He recovered, but his mental faculties had become impaired. He remembered nothing but the idea of the approaching marriage. Everything was absorbed in that one recollection; his whole conversation related to the preparation for the event. He would never speak on any other subject; it was always within two days of his wedding. Years went on, youth passed away, and still in a couple of days more his marriage would take place. In this condition the unfortunate man reached his eightieth year, and no doubt sank into the grave with the one lifelong idea as the last thought of his mind.

A REAL infant phenomenon keeps all the medical men and pedagogues of the good old town of Brunswick, Germany, in a state of wonder and delight. The little son of a local butcher, a baby just two years old, can read with perfect ease anything written or printed in German or Latin characters. A few weeks ago three Brunswick doctors had the baby introduced to them at the house of one of the learned gentlemen. The first thing the little one did when brought into the consulting room was to stand on his toes at the table, reading out from the books that were lying about. All that could be ascertained as to the why and wherefore of this uncanny accomplishment is that, when the baby was eighteen months old, and his grandmother took him out, he always immediately caught sight of the inscriptions over shops, and asked about them as only a small child can, till he had fathomed the meaning of the letters. It was the same at home; books and newspapers had greater fascinations than lollipops and toys, and whatever the parents playfully told him he remembered, with the result that at the age of two years, he reads with perfect ease. Apart from his accomplishment in reading, the boy's development is quite normal.

AN inhabitant of Voro, in Finland, named Selquist, who for a long time past has been living on bad terms with his wife, had lately a narrow escape from being poisoned by her. She called at a chemist's, and asked for some rat poison. As these creatures are very rarely seen in that neighborhood, the chemist had his suspicions aroused, and gave the woman a perfectly harmless drug. On second thoughts he decided to mention the matter to the husband, and requested him to say nothing about it to his wife. In the evening, when she was preparing the porridge, the man kept a watchful eye on her movements, and noticed that she scattered something out of a paper into the saucepan. When the porridge was ready he sat down to the table and began to eat. After a while he got up in great excitement, paced up and down the room and at last fell fainting on the floor. This was what the woman expected. She now pulled down a rope through a hole in the ceiling with a noose, which she placed round her husband's neck, whereupon she ran up stairs into the garret in order to pull up the rope and hang her husband in that fashion. Meantime the husband got up and tied a few chairs to the rope. The wife did not return to the room, as she dreaded the sight, but went out into the village to raise an alarm, saying that her husband had hanged himself in her absence. When she came back with a host of neighbors and crocodile tears in her eyes, there was her husband sitting at the table, laughing till his sides ached. The chairs were still dangling on the rope.

MONT ST. MICHEL.

## THE WHITE MAHATMA.

### WHAT PROF. BALDWIN DISCOVERED CONCERNING EAST-ERN MAGIC.

By the Use of Natural Laws and Some Humbug He Mystified and Frightened Adepts in the Mystic Art.

And what is a Mahatma? Prof. Baldwin explains it etymologically as meaning "a great soul." In its technical sense in India and Tibet it designates a person who can do wonderful things that border upon the supernatural, and who is looked upon as an expert or adept in the occult sciences. It is not an official title, but is bestowed by general acclaim. In this Mahatma differs from a Yogi, who is a priest by profession. A fakir is a lower order of religious mendicants, who impose on the public by mere sleight of hand.

How did the Professor become a Mahatma? Starting in life as a public expositor of the frauds of spiritualism and the tricks of conjurers, he gradually became interested in mesmerism, hypnotism, telepathy and all kindred subjects. While he emphatically repudiates any belief in the supernatural, he yet holds that there are unseen forces in nature which can be utilized in a manner that seems supernatural to the vulgar, and are not within the mental powers of the race to explain on any known scientific basis. That that

The private seance was given. The Yogi did their best to eclipse all the former brethren whom the White Mahatma had seen. Some of their exploits were undoubtedly marvelous. Still the Professor refused to see anything in them save the operation of natural laws. He leaned over to the Maharajah and said:

"I can scatter all these men with a mere wave of my hand."

"Do it," replied the Maharajah, with an incredulous smile.



The Professor bade his interpreter address the Yogi as follows:

"How dare you come before me, who am the king of all supernatural workers, with such transparent tricks as these? With a wave of my hand, I can summon fire from heaven to burn you."

And then he brought his hands together and instantly flames burst

know nothing of. They can establish telepathic communication better than any people on earth. I have studied their methods. I am satisfied that under certain conditions of health and environment I can communicate with my wife half a mile off. Nay, when I am to be a hundred miles away from her, I simply agree that at a given hour every day we shall both shut up ourselves alone in a dark room, and I know that if any accident or harm befall her I shall feel the impact of a distinct mental impression.

But in other respects, even the best work of the Yogi has been greatly exaggerated. It is the old story of the three crows. Stories pass from mouth to mouth, and are exaggerated at each successive repetition. Nay, even eye witnesses of unimpeachable character cannot be trusted. I met a fellow-countryman in India who was a firm believer. Among other wonderful things which he related was the following: A certain Mahatma, in his presence and that of numerous others, had thrown a ball of thin rope up into the air, after attaching one end of the rope to the ground. The ball soared upward until finally it disappeared into space. The rope was held taut. Then a child ran up the rope and also disappeared into space, where the Mahatma shortly followed him. Then ball, child and Mahatma all returned to solid ground. I said I could not believe this unless I had the evidence of my own eyes.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The number of millionaires in England is not as great as one might believe. According to the report of the income tax officials there are in England seventy-one persons with an annual income of \$250,000, over 1,100 draw \$50,000 annually, and only about 10,000 have an income of \$10,000.

SEAWEED has not even in our wildest moments ever been dreamt of as an instrument of electoral corruption. Yet the Tokio newspapers are just to hand contain an account of the trial of a member of the Japanese Parliament who was accused of bribery by corrupting his constituents with presents of edible seaweed.

BULLET-PROOF vestments turn up everywhere. To be shot at by soldiers is really the latest fad. While the nations of the earth have been spending millions of money to create impregnable armor out of steel, subversives (perhaps) of their surplus lands; in fact, a start in life, especially for the squaws and children, thus securing for them settled homes. This is the culmination of the success and failure of the entire Indian administration for the past one hundred years, and the earthly salvation of the remaining reservation Indians depends upon it.

dians in the United States," by Thomas Donaldson, expert special agent of the Census Bureau. It is a most exhaustive and comprehensive review of the whole subject, a most valuable work of reference to which every student should have access. Mr. Donaldson's conclusions as to the best Indian policy for the future is stated in these words:

"Finally, the changes necessary in the Indian policy to improve the Indian's condition are: Enforced education under authority of the nation or the States and Territories; enforced labor, by making the reservation Indians work for themselves, either as laborers, herders or farmers; enforced allotment on proper land, with allowance for houses, cattle and horses prior thereto from the proceeds (perhaps) of their surplus lands; in fact, a start in life, especially for the squaws and children, thus securing for them settled homes. This is the culmination of the success and failure of the entire Indian administration for the past one hundred years, and the earthly salvation of the remaining reservation Indians depends upon it."

## BATTLE WITH AN OCTOPUS.

### Five Fishermen Have a Terrible Experience.

A huge octopus was hoisted on Fisherman's Wharf on Thursday afternoon from Capt. Charles Collins' boat, and the four members of the crew shuddered as they handled it and told of their terrible fight with the creature.

THE Rev. Dr. Griffith John, an American missionary at Shanghai, says that the opium habits of the Chinese will tell against them in time of war. A native writer, speaking of the enormous deportation of opium from India to China, says: "It is not only thus the foreigners abstract so many millions of our money, but the direful appearances seem to indicate a wish on their part to utterly root out and exterminate us as a people."

THE Philadelphia Police Department has just made a contract for the purchase of an electric launch, to be used as a harbor patrol boat. The great speed which these little craft can be made to develop, together with their noiselessness, makes them admirably adapted for such a purpose. It is held that they will prove successful in approaching vessels without alarming any thieves who might be at work on their decks. Should this experiment with the boat prove a success the electric launch service will be made an important adjunct to the Philadelphia Police Department.

THE gross capital stock of all American railways exceeds \$5,000,000,000. The average dividend since 1890 has been less than 2 per cent. In 1893 seventy-five American railroads, operating over 25,000 miles, went into the hands of receivers, with a bonded indebtedness alone of \$18,000,000,000. It is estimated that over five million of our population are dependent for livelihood on the railroads of the United States. The comparison of the miles of railroad to each ten thousand of population, as stated by Senator Call recently in Florida is 68 miles; Georgia, 25; Alabama, 22; North Carolina and South Carolina, each 20; Virginian, 21; Tennessee, 16, and Kentucky, 15.

ACCORDING to the Lewiston Journal a Maine man says that the wild lands of Maine would make thirteen States as large as Rhode Island, two as large as New Hampshire and Vermont, and one twice as large as Massachusetts. These lands are located in the following counties: Aroostook, 2,888,618 acres; Franklin, 589,962 acres; Hancock, 362,893 acres; Oxford, 558,654 acres; Penobscot, 827,604 acres; Piscataquis, 2,000,542 acres; Somerset, 1,785,888 acres; Washington, 624,128 acres. The spruce timber lands of Maine are worth more to-day than the pine fifty years ago. This statement is based on the opinion of lumbermen who have been engaged in the business for forty years. The value of these spruce lands has been greatly enhanced by the enormous demand for pulp wood.

"When all was over my friend came back to me triumphant.

"Now," he said, "do you believe?"

"No," I replied, "I saw nothing."

"In vain I appealed to my assistants.

"In vain I pointed to the negatives that I had taken. My friend turned upon me furiously and said 'I think you are not telling the truth. I think you are a knave.'

"He turned on his heel and never spoke to me again."

Professor Baldwin emphatically disbelieves in the current stories of fakirs who bury themselves alive for months at a time, and are then resurrected by their followers. He holds there is a trick here. The fakir is buried, undoubtedly. Unprejudiced watchers are placed over his grave until the allotted time has expired. But in the interim the fakir has made his way through a subterranean passage to the outer air and does not return till the time when he is to be resurrected.

As mementoes of his visit to India Professor Baldwin has a marvellous collection of jewelry—rubies from Burmah, green rubies, rose diamonds, moonstones—amethysts, as well as photographs of places and scenes, and of the Rajahs, Maharajahs and Sultans who entertained him and presented him with royal gifts.—[New York Recorder.

SAYS a gossip in the St. Louis Globe Democrat: "The town of Kilberg, in Bavaria, has some very valuable mines and pits which it works itself. The surplus revenue is more than sufficient to run the town, carry on all works of improvement and pay a small sum annually to every man who has occupied a residence for at least twelve months. There is a town in France which has an enormous amount of money invested at the bank, the result of this nearly repays all local expenses. While mentioning this fact in London on my way home, I was told that in a great part of Yorkshire no taxes of any kind were levied during 1893. This was not the result of any great windfall, but of a clerical error in preparing the estimates for 1892, which resulted in a surplus being left more than sufficient for the requirements of the following year."

It is said that while the fashion of writing one's name with a middle initial, thus, John A. Smith, is rapidly disappearing from America, it is as rapidly becoming the fashion in England. This way of the writing the name was not long ago so widely recognized as distinctively American that foreigners, writing to an American who had no middle name, or one which the correspondent did not know, would always invariably supply one, thus, John X. Smith or William Z. Jones. Americans are dropping the fashion now, and writers sign their full names, as William Dean Howells, Ruth McEnery Stuart, while society men have come to use the initial first, "part their names in the middle," thus, J. Alonzo Smith, W. Henry Jones. The old American habit is rapidly taking possession of England, and it is said that the fashion was set by Mr. Gladstone, who has invariably signed his name William B. Gladstone.

FRANK SCINELLA, an Italian organ grinder, called at the Emergency Hospital last night. He appeared to be in great misery, and Dr. Pyle asked him what the matter was.

"I got a sprain-a wrist."

"How did it happen?" inquired the doctor.

"I play-a 'High School-a Cadet-ta.' Him very fast, to mak-a demon. He spray-a de wrist."

Further inquiry brought out the fact that the Italian had been playing in front of the American House, and that some men had offered him half a dollar if he would play as fast as he could. In trying to comply with the request he had twisted his wrist out of joint.—[Boston Herald.

FAST FREIGHT RUN.

What is claimed to have been the fastest long-distance freight-run ever made in this country was made from Memphis to Kansas City by a special train loaded with bananas on June 18, the speed averaging 40.4 miles an hour for the 484 miles, and reaching a maximum of 64 miles an hour, which was kept up for six miles.—[Chicago Herald.



MAHATMAS IN PRIESTLY COSTUME.

from the linen garments that they wore around their loins and their back. Shrieking, they snatched off their garments, thrust them away and fled from the scene.

This exploit earned him