

Family Silver Melted in the Mint.

"In the spring of '73," said Col. A. Loudon Snowden, ex-superintendent of the mint, "I received a collection of the most exquisite silverware, with instructions to melt it down. It had been the property of Joseph Bonaparte, and was presented to him by his brother, the emperor. Joseph left it to his private secretary, and it was the latter who, previous to his going away, desired it to be melted down. Much of the plate was mounted with gold and so skillfully that you might have supposed that the precious metal would weigh pounds, though when it was all reduced, there was hardly any gold to speak of. The regret of my life is that I was not rich enough to buy the plate, though not unill the secretary would have been too proud to sell it.

"In the old days," continued Col. Snowden, "heaps of family silver used to come to the mint to be melted down from people who had met with financial reverses. During the last days of my incumbency of the office of superintendent much less used to come than formerly, because plated ware had come into general use. I remember once that a gentleman very well known in Philadelphia society brought me a splendid design in silver that he desired to have reduced. It was a gift to his wife on their wedding and the thought of parting with it was very painful to him. It had cost probably \$5,000, but there was not more than \$300 worth of bullion instead of melting it at once I advanced him the money for six months, and allowed the design to remain in the vaults. At the end of that time I agreed to keep it intact for six months more. At the consummation of the second period he saw me and said he could not see daylight yet, and the third gift went into the melting pot. Three weeks after that he dropped in on me to say that fortune had smiled on him again and that he had made \$50,000. He said he would have given half of it to get his silver back to its old form. I am regrets, of course. The man is now wealthy."

The Forests of Siberia.

The Russian journal of the finance minister has published a long article on the forests of eastern Siberia, of which the following are the principal passages: "The immense forests of pine, larches, firs, cedars, birches, aspens and limes which form almost the exclusive wealth of this vast region belong for the greater part to the state. During a great number of years this source of wealth was almost entirely unproductive. It is only since 1869 that a more or less regular administration of forests has been established, and at the present time the extent of the forests in eastern Siberia is estimated at 2,435,350 decaities (about eleven square yards each). These are divided between Tobolsk, Tomsk, empaninat and Akkolinsk. Of these forests 21,577,000 decaities have been surveyed, and 50,979,570 have been valued approximately. The hundred and five forests have been conceded to the peasants, and they have an extent of 1,082,240 decaities. In comparison with their enormous extent, the forests of eastern Siberia give at the present time but an insignificant revenue. The want of means of communication and an insubstantial population greatly hinder its development. Still, the revenue is increasing, for in 1876 it was only 40,000 roubles, and in 1885 it was more than 111,000. The chief center of the trade is the town of Tomsk, and thence Tumen, which is the point of departure for the river traffic."

Concerning Cigarette Smoking.

In spite of the opposition encountered by our protest against cigarette smoking, which it will be remembered, first raised the question about this form of the use of tobacco, it is now generally admitted that we were right and our opponents wrong in the matter. The rapid consumption of the finely shredded leaves very close to the mouth has been proved to render the practice of smoking cigarettes peculiarly objectionable. Moreover, it has been shown that the provision of a tube and the absorption of a plug of cotton will lessen the evil, they do not wholly deprive the cigarette of its objectionable qualities. We are not, as is well known, advocates of the distillate of tobacco. If moderately and wisely employed it is a valuable sedative to the nerves, and has an especially soothing influence in the majority of instances. There are, however, certain properties of the tobacco smoke which ought to be more generally understood. It is unquestionably in some way a special sedative to the heart's action.

Henry Ward Beecher's Voice.

The power of Mr. Beecher's voice shows no diminution. A well-known artist, who is a member of his congregation, called on the Plymouth pastor one evening and found him amid a circle of friends in a happy mood and expression. Among other stories he told that of the poor young man with one lung, which has been paraphrased by negro minstrel companies for many years past. The consumptive lays his hand on his left side and says in a hoarse whisper, "This lung is all gone." Then smiting the right side of his chest with his clenched fist he adds in a stentorian roar, "at here I'm all right." The artist describing Mr. Beecher's energy of utterance in pronouncing on the soundness of his right lung, says that he gave him such a start as almost to cause him to fall from his seat.

Old Gold Workings Revived.

Mining was prospected within a few miles of Douglas, Cal., 305 years ago, ages before the ground was disturbed by the miner's pick in any of the so-called older states or territories, and the present indications are that ere long the most important mining field of that remote period of antiquity will become the most important of modern times.

Transparent Paper.

Paper of proper thickness is rendered transparent by soaking in copal varnish. When dry it is polished, rubbed with pumice stone, and a layer of soluble glass is applied and rubbed with saff. It is stated that the surface is as perfect as glass.

The Tribune Supplement.

McCOOK, RED WILLOW CO., NEB., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1886.

The Frees & Hooknell Lumber Co. DEALERS IN LUMBER! Sash, Doors, Blinds, Lime, Cement, HARD AND SOFT COAL. MAIN OFFICE AT McCOOK, - NEBRASKA.

KILPATRICK BROTHERS. (Successors to E. D. Webster.) HORSES BRANDED ON LEFT HIP OR LEFT SHOULDER. JOHN F. BLACK. Breeder of Improved Sheep.

SPRING CREEK CATTLE CO. J. D. WEBBORS, Vice President and Supt.

STOKES & TROTHER. P. O. address, Carleton, Nebraska.

EATON BROS. & CO. P. O. address, McCook, Nebraska.

ALWAYS THE BEST AND Up to the Times. DAILY Nebraska State Journal

THE WEEKLY STATE JOURNAL. Eight Pages—Fifty-Six Columns, With Large Four Page Sunday Supplement.

THE WEEKLY STATE JOURNAL. Eight Pages—Fifty-Six Columns.

THE CENTURY FOR 1886-87.

THE CENTURY is an illustrated monthly magazine, having a regular circulation of two hundred thousand copies, often reaching and sometimes exceeding two hundred and twenty-five thousand. Chief among its many attractions for the coming year is a serial which has been in active preparation for sixteen years. It is a history of our own country in its most critical time, as set forth in

THE LIFE OF LINCOLN.

BY HIS CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIES, JOHN G. NICOLAY AND COL. JOHN BAY. This great work, begun with the sanction of President Lincoln, and continued under the authority of his son, the Hon. Robert T. Lincoln, is the only full and authoritative record of the life of Abraham Lincoln. Its authors were friends of Lincoln before his presidency and were most intimately associated with him as private secretaries throughout his term of office, and to them were transferred upon Lincoln's death all his private papers. They will tell the inside history of the civil war and of President Lincoln's administration, important details of which have hitherto remained unexplained, and they might first appear in this authentic history. By reason of the publication of this work,

THE WAR SERIES, which has been followed with unflagging interest by great audiences, will occupy less space during the coming year. Gettysburg will be described by Gen. Hunt (Chief of the Union Artillery), author of "Ten Days in the Wilderness," and by Gen. Meade. Sherman's march to the sea, by General Howard and Slocum. General Q. A. Gillmore, Wm. E. Smith, John Gibbon, Horatio Porter and John S. Mosby, will describe special battles and incidents. Stories of naval engagements, private life, etc., will appear.

"The Hundredth Man," a novel by Frank R. Stockton, author of "The Lady or the Tiger," etc., begins in November. Two novels by George W. Cable, stories by Mary Halleck Foote, "Uncle Remus," Julian Hawthorne, Edward Eggleston, and other prominent American authors will be printed during the year.

Subscription price, \$4.00 a year, 35 cents a month. Dealers, postmasters, and the publishers, will receive a copy of the new and beautiful illustrated 24-page catalogue (free), containing full prospectus, etc., including a special offer by which new subscribers can get back numbers to the beginning of the War series at a very low price. A specimen copy of the new catalogue will be sent on request. Mention this paper.

"THE IDEAL MAGAZINE" for young people is what the papers call St. Nicholas. Do you know about it—how good it is, how clean in the way it is written, how there are any boys or girls in your house who do not try it for a year, and see if it isn't just the element you need in the household? The London Times has said: "It is a magazine like it on this side." Here are some leading features of

St. Nicholas FOR 1886-87.

STORIES BY LUISA M. ALCOCK and FRANK R. STOCKTON. A SHORT SERIAL STORY BY MISS BURNETT, whose charming "Little Lord Fauntleroy" has been a great feature in the past year of St. Nicholas. WEAR STORIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. GEN. RADEAU, chief-of-staff, biographer and confidential friend of General Grant, and one of the ablest and most popular of living military writers, will contribute a number of papers describing in clear and vivid style some of the leading battles of the civil war. They will be panoramic descriptions of single combats or short campaigns, presenting a sort of literary picture-gallery of the grand and heroic contests in which the parents of many a boy and girl of to-day took part. THE SERIAL STORIES include "Juan and Juanita," an admirably written story of Mexican life, by Francis Courtenay Baylor, author of "On Both Sides"; also "Jenny's Boarding House," by James Otis, a story of life in a great city. SHORT ARTICLES, instructive and entertaining, will abound. Among these are: "How a Great Panorama is Made," by Theodore R. Davis, with colored illustrations; "Winning a Commission" (Naval Academy), and "Recollections of the Naval Academy"; "Boring for Oil" and "Among the Gas Wells," with number of striking pictures; "Child-Sketches from Hugo Eliot," by Julia Magruder; "Victor Hugo's Tales to his Grandchildren," recounted by Bramble Matthews; "Historic Girls," by E. S. Brooks. Also interesting contributions from Nora Perry, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Dorothy Miller, H. H. Boyesen, Washington Gladden, Alice Wellington Rollins, J. T. Rowbridge, Lieutenant Frederick Schwatka, Noah Brooks, Grace Denio Litchfield, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop, Mrs. S. M. H. Platt, Mary Mapes Dodge, and many others, etc., etc.

THE CENTURY CO., New York.

CITY BAKERY. A. PROBST & BRO. PROPRIETORS. WE KEEP ON HAND BREAD, PIES & CAKES. GRAHAM BREAD. Cakes Made on Order.

M. A. LIBBEE, INSURANCE! McCOOK, NEB. Fire and Lightning, Tornado and Cyclone, Life and Accident, Endowment and Semi-Endowment Furnished in the Best Companies in the United States. Applications Promptly Attended to. Correspondence Solicited.

THE INTER OCEAN OF CHICAGO. Leading Republican Newspaper. IN THE NORTHWEST.

THE INTER OCEAN has from the beginning been the defender of home institutions and American rights. It has advocated the rights of all before the law, of protection to American labor, and of the rights of Americans by birth, by true citizens of the Republic. It believes in the West and Western development, and in the future of our people will be in the Mississippi Valley, and to hold and aggressive in its opposition to the unyielding policy of the money-changers of New York City and the Eastern party because it believes the principles of free trade and that, honestly carried out, would correct the rights and advance the interests of the whole people. It is not, however, a Republican paper, but in all its views and its editorial work, it stands for the best and truest interests of the Republic.

The Daily Inter Ocean. Published every day in the year.

The Semi-Weekly Inter Ocean. Published on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, and contains the news condensed from the Daily.

The Weekly Inter Ocean. Has the LARGEST CIRCULATION of any weekly paper West of New York.

SPECIAL OFFERS. There is a great demand for all parts of the country for a condensed and cheap history of the United States. Most of such books are so large and expensive as to be out of the reach of most families. Yet every boy and girl ought to be familiar with the history of their country. It can be had for a very low price in a book which is both interesting and instructive.

Brown's History of the United States. Can be ordered with THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN, one year, at the very low rate of

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS.

THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN is \$1.00 per year, and any person sending four yearly subscriptions for the year, accompanied by the full subscription price of \$4.00, will receive a copy of BROWN'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

FOR SALE—CHEAP. One new 3-seat, 3-spring wagon; one second-hand buggy. Also, one 2-seat covered carriage, second-hand. Will sell the above articles at decided bar gains. Call and see me.

B. F. OLCOTT, Prop., City Livery, McCook, Neb.

BANKSVILLE ITEMS. School in this district commenced Monday, Nov. 29th, with Frank Albrecht as teacher. Mrs. H. F. Leib has gone on a visit to her parents at Booneville, Iowa. Mr. E. L. Walker, who has been quite sick, is on his feet again. School in the Dodge district commences on Monday, Dec. 13th. Mr. W. C. Frampton, who has been teaching in the Vincent district, has been engaged. A. J. Pate has bought the tract of land recently owned by J. A. Brewer, a few miles north of here. Harry Walker of McCook, has recently moved his family upon his claim, four miles west of Banksville. Harry usually spends the Sabbath with his family. The McCook schools being closed temporarily by reason of the prevalence of diphtheria, Mr. Webster is sojourning upon his claim. Mr. Relph, brother of Wm. Relph, has recently come here from Iowa, and is prospecting with a view of settling among us. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Relph, who were recently married, have settled upon John's claim, two miles east of this place. Abram Williams' mother and his wife and family, who have been expected from England, are detained by reason of the sickness of Abram's little boy. The following named farmers have purchased wind mills this season: H. F. Leib, P. Wesch, Wm. Relph, W. A. Gold, W. H. Benjamin, Francis Cain, James Hill, Sidney Dodge, Amos Goodenberger, John Goodenberger. T. C.

VAULT NOTES. Rev. Armstrong and wife started for Chicago, last Thursday. R. H. Chrysler, of Bartley, was on our streets, last week. Great credit is due Daniel Clements for generous hospitality extended to those less fortunate, during the late storm. Charles Anderson and Mr. Sprague, on the South Side, have made final proof on their respective claims. G. B. Nettleton was shaking hands with old neighbors, last week. Mr. Bradley and family arrived from Christian county, Ill., last Friday, and will make Nebraska their future home. The literary was started with favorable indications of success. Cyrus Colvin, foreman of the Perry ranch, reports all well and doing well.

The surprise party on the South Side, at the residence of Mr. Sprague, was well represented by old and young. Solon McCroskie's boy is reported on the sick list, we are sorry to learn. Hope he will speedily recover. RALPH.

RIVER CANYON RUMBLINGS. Frank King gave a "stuffy pull" on Wednesday evening, the 24th inst., at which all present seemed to enjoy themselves, especially with the sweetest long drawn out.

Matt Brown has his new house finished, and on Monday evening, the 29th inst., he was favored with a genuine surprise or house warming by the young folks of his neighborhood. Pop corn and games were the principal amusements.

Many of our people are enjoying the privilege of attending the revival meetings at Box Elder. We conclude that there must be considerable interest in the meetings by the way they are attended.

We understand that Mr. and Mrs. Ira Kimball, former residents among us, have returned to these parts, after wandering around in search of some better location, and are going to take up their residence at McCook. Welcome back. REX.

CALIFORNIA EXCURSIONS. Omaha, Neb., Nov. 16, 1886. DEAR SIR: I take pleasure in announcing that we have arranged to run first-class California Excursions to San Francisco and Los Angeles, as follows:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th. Leaving Omaha on morning train at 8:10 A. M., and on trains connected therewith. Round trip rates for these excursions will be: To San Francisco and return direct, \$60.00; To Los Angeles and return direct, \$60.00; To Los Angeles and return via San Francisco, one way, \$35.00; To Los Angeles and return via San Francisco, both ways, \$65.00. Tickets will be limited to six months. Further information may be obtained from any agent of the B. & M. R. R. or from the undersigned. Yours Truly, P. S. RUSTIE, Gen'l Pass. and Ticket Agt.

ESTRAY NOTICE. From my premises, southeast of McCook, 3 two-year-old heifers, branded with a bar on each shoulder and hip, and a cross on jaw. A liberal reward will be paid for their return or for information leading to their recovery. JOHN EVERTS.

FOR SALE—CHEAP. One new 3-seat, 3-spring wagon; one second-hand buggy. Also, one 2-seat covered carriage, second-hand. Will sell the above articles at decided bar gains. Call and see me.

B. F. OLCOTT, Prop., City Livery, McCook, Neb.

THE LAPLANDER'S SNOWSHOES.

Essentials of Their Construction—How the Happy Males Headway Upon Them.

(To save Time.)

Says an observer in these regions describing the lapp snow-shoe, or "ski," or "skidor": "There are two ribs of birch or fir, six feet long, four to five inches broad, and about a half an inch thick. In the middle, on the upper side, is a hollowed, smooth spot for the foot, above which there is a strap, the space allowing the insertion of the point of the shoe. On the other side a groove runs along the entire center. The ski is pointed and slightly curved at one end, and the edges rounded." It might be added that the "skidor" is a solid piece of wood, has a weatherboard or bottom, turned up in front, and depends for its bearing surface on the snow on its extreme front edge, and is fastened rather than by a wide spread, as in the common snow-shoe of bent form and cross-weaving of thongs. The common snow shoes, like those used by some of our mountain Indians, are, however, used in a few parts of arctic Europe, but mostly among the Norwegians and Finns.

The lapp runs on these "skidors" as the snow shoes are used, but mostly assisting him are two short birch poles or staves with which he shoves himself along, like an Indian poling his canoe through shallow water, but the lapp has one pole in each hand. When a lapp goes down-hill on his skidors he uses one as a sled on which to slide and steer, while with the other he turns his foot and scrapes the skidor, thus regulating his speed. He has the same theory I quoted once already. The lapp begins to run on ski when a mere child, and attains great skill in this sport. He runs with the greatest ease up or down hill, jumps the steepest inclines, and sports across lakes and marshes, through forest and field; hunts the wolf and the bear, or follows the runaway reindeer, and undertakes extremely long journeys, following his herd or visiting distant parts.

Mr. Oscar Dickson, one of Nordenakold's patrons, being in Lapland at Quiekok, thought he would get up a series of races among the Lapps on skidors to test their capabilities of making the speed they claimed. The distances which they thought they had traveled over the interior ice or mer de glace of Greenland was 145 miles in thirty-seven hours, two days and hours going and coming. Mr. Dickson planned his races so as to have about an equal length of course, and it really was 141 miles long. The competition for the high prize started on the 11th of April, and occupied a whole week. Three hundred and fifty francs was the highest, or first prize, and was won by a lapp who had been with Nordenakold on his Greenland inland expedition. He got over his 141 miles in 21 hours and 22 minutes, including all his rests and stoppages, or about 7 miles an hour kept up steadily for nearly a whole day.

The second prize was secured by a lapp who got in only half a minute after the first. Two others got in within 22 hours, and four more within a day. All of them were apparently unexhausted, and joined heartily in the festivities that ended this singular contest, many of the contestants returning at once to their homes, fifty to seventy-five miles distant, from which they had come to join in the races.

The ostrich's characteristics. (Translated from French.) The sight of a dog is sufficient to frighten an ostrich badly. At such a vision, if permitted, the ostriches in the corral would immediately be speeding over the sandy plain, through a waste of tall, wild, sunflowers, at a gait which would astonish a horse-trainer. Mr. Skelbly has three dogs on his farm, but they are all kept behind the buildings out of sight of the ostriches. When a keeper approaches them to annoy them, they emit a hissing sound, like a goose, and try to bite the intruder. They have no strength in their bills, however, and are harmless unless they get a chance to kick. Unlike the emu, which is exhibited often as an African ostrich, they have but one toe on each foot. This is a terrible weapon.

The bird kicks forward. The force is shown in the exploit of one bird, which kicked a stout board on the side of its corral, and broke it in two at one blow. The toe is pointed, and will cut like a knife. The bird which was killed at one kick had its breast laid open with an ugly wound. Of the young birds all are perfectly shaped except one, which has a club-foot, and which walks on the back of the clubbed foot, the toe turning up. The gait of even this bird is elastic. All the birds walk precisely after the fashion adopted by many young ladies in San Francisco of late, whose gait may, therefore, perhaps, be correctly described in the future as the "ostrich walk." It is as if the birds stepped on hot gratings.

The feet are taken bristly up and raised high, and the body and head oscillate. This style was learned in south Africa and not in San Francisco, and is as old as the race of desert birds.

Traveling English Nobodies. (Translated from San Francisco Argonaut.) I often observe that Englishmen traveling in America and accepting entertainments of all kinds from the best people are described as "Mr. So-and-So, of London," or "England." An English gentleman of any position at all will have some certain definite abode. If he is worth fettering and flogging he will be "Mr. Smith, of some house, park or manor in the country, or some respectable street, place or square in London," and he will have it so printed on his visiting cards. These things may seem small, but they mean a great deal, and if American society attended to them more there would be less imposters, intentional and tacit, eating its dinners, spooning with its daughters and a cepting attentions and favors at its hands which they have not the intention nor the means to return.

Losing the Literary Instruct. (Translated from London.) People read so much in these days of multiplied presses that they are in great danger of losing the literary instinct entirely, the sense of style becoming dulled to a degree which makes it incapable of discerning what is literature and what is mere reading matter, good for the moment perhaps, but good for the amount only.