

The people of the United States spend \$25,000,000 annually for baking powder.

The Washington Memorial Arch Fund of New York was increased by upwards of thirty cents this week.

AFTER the Johnstown and other disasters by flood, the ruin wrought by high winds and the tremendous loss of property by storms on the Atlantic coast, the east should be in a humble and contrite mood and the cry of "Westward, ho!" will doubtless receive more respectful attention.

THERE is a strong sentiment in Mexico in favor of a reciprocity treaty with this country, but the feeling is that the initiative should be taken by the United States.

GEORGE W. CHILDS, of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, and Anthony J. Drexel, the head of the great banking house of Drexel & Co., are said to be the warmest of friends.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES has spent the better part of a long life in writing poetry that men and women can read without a blush, can understand without a pickaxe or microscope, and are happier, better and nobler for perusing.

THE innocent and guileless people who live in cities are no match for their country cousins.

SOME scientific people have figured that the rock of Niagara is being worn away by the waters at such rate that in a few thousand years the cataract will work up to Lake Erie.

AGRICULTURE being still the leading interest in the country, the crops are prime factors in determining the business situation.

THE records kept by Mexico show that the exportations of merchandise from the United States to that country were many millions of dollars in value greater than our official documents reveal.

A YOUNG man down in Indiana has set an example which the young women will do well to imitate.

THAT Queen Victoria is a woman of more than ordinary force of character, is clearly shown by the fact that during her recent visit to Wales she on several occasions flattered the natives by addressing them in their own language.

THE relations of employer and employee have vastly changed within the last century. The modern system, involving vast corporations and combinations of capital, is a comparatively new creation.

A GOOD many towns in New England have celebrated their 250th birthdays recently, and the fact that they pass for very old communities shows what a very young country we are, after all.

A FEMALE CYCLIST.

How the Wily Machine Ran Away With an Estimable Lady.

She Took an Afternoon Outing in Central Park and Added Materially to the Attractions of that Interesting Resort.

Among the many interesting things to be seen in Central Park, the past week, was my wife's mother on a bicycle. It was not her intention originally to enter into competition with the menagerie, but it's a frozen fact that the two hippopotami were nothing to her after she got fairly started.



TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN.

I may add that the difficulty was right there—getting started. With the aid of two men and a step ladder my wife's mother can climb upon a good, square-riggered horse with a stout leg under each corner of him, and do it so nicely that the beast will snarl through his teeth, but with a bicycle it is different.

My wife's mother, who is not a young girl, but a woman of about fifty, is a very stout woman, and she is very fond of riding.

My wife's mother had hired a bicycle for her afternoon outing, and she had taken it to the park, where she had been riding for some time.

Then she decided that it was safe to try the park. There is a place close by where women can hire bicycles, and there my wife's mother asked for and obtained one with a rugged constitution and a gentle disposition.

"Can I help ye thin wid that haythin machine, I dunno?" he inquired politely.

"I can ride real well on my own bicycle," said my wife's mother with true feminine mendacity, "but this ugly thing lies down every time I look at it."

By this time No. 13 had lifted up the machine and was holding it on one side while my wife's mother mounted on the other. Several spectators had strolled up meanwhile.

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A VALLEY OF WONDERS.

Marvelous Sights Along the Course of the Colorado River.

On the Colorado river, a distance of 100 miles, are mountains of salt extending miles. The salt is so pure that a newspaper can be read through blocks of six and eight inches.

It is a stretch of desert, dark woods known as the Black Forest. A year never goes by that a number of immense blacksnakes are not overpowered in that locality, as they are always prowling around looking for unwary teamsters and unsuspecting pedestrians.

El Dorado canyon is greater than the Grand canyon of the Colorado. The tops of the windows of the steamer fill do not project out more than six inches, yet I may put my head out and look as high as I can and I can't see half way up the mighty walls of the canyon.

The Colorado river and the Virgin you can run clear up into Nevada and Utah. Many people have been caught up into mountainous Nevada by boat, but that's just what I have been doing right along.

I suppose I am one of those persons who come under the street phraseology of "a man of the world."

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INDEED, IT WAS QUITE A SNAKE.

Antique But Heartily and Probably the Progenitor of a Family.

"I know that den of big black snakes over in Potter county, near Simon Kent talks about in the Item, but I never knew about the 14 foot snake that tried to capture a mule," said a man from Wellsville.

"I bigger any doubt of it, though, for a haver one than that tried to get away with Charles." Volving a blacksmith from Mike Mills, one day last summer, and two others, one 10 feet long and the other 12, waylaid old Mr. Compton and his daughter and were bound to carry them off.

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A HORSETHIEF IS DISCOVERED.

A Clergyman Tells the Story of His Connection with It.

A reporter for the San Francisco Examiner had an interview with Rev. Lawrence Grassman, who had just returned from Japan.

"I belonged to one for two years. I always did like a good horse, and when I first located in Omaha, I purchased a rather good animal. I had just got fairly settled down when one day a man by the name of Strong called and asked me if I didn't want to join the Horse Thief Club.

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WILLY VANDERBILT'S ROW WITH HIS CHEF.

Announcement of the row between William K. Vanderbilt and his \$10,000 chef is the sensation of the hour and society is very much interested and amused.

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THE DIPPER.

A Number of dippers could be started from the head of the water shed any given of area, tracing the brooks and streams from source to mouth, they register a perfect chart of the waterways of the district.

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