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#### HIDDEN GOLD.

The Hoard of Precious Metal That is Secreted in India.

It would be an immense benefit to all mankind if the stores of gold held by individuals in India could be made available for general use. Ever since the dawn of history that country has been gathering gold and hiding it away. Treasures of almost incalculable value are possessed by many Indian princes. When the maharajah of Burdwan died the stock of gold and silver left by him was so large that no member of the family could make an accurate estimate of it. A report made to the British government by a secret agent stated that on the estate of the defunct potentate were a number of treasure houses, one of them containing three rooms. The largest of these three rooms was forty-eight feet long and was filled with ornaments of gold and silver, plates and cups, washing bowls, jugs and so forth—all of precious metals. The other two rooms were full of bags and boxes of gold mohurs and silver rupees. The door of this and other treasure houses had been bricked up for nobody knows how long.

These valuables, according to an ancient custom, were in the custody of the maharajah's wife, the vaults being attached to her apartments, but none of them was allowed to be opened save in the presence of the master. One vault was filled with ornaments belonging to different gods of the family. The natives of India commonly bury their hoards, and among the poorer classes a favorite hiding place is a hole dug beneath the bed. Disused wells are sometimes employed for the same purpose. It is undoubtedly a fact that very many hoards thus deposited are lost forever. Gold is also valued on religious grounds. The gods take up great quantities of gold, silver and precious stones. The temples contain vast amounts of the yellow and white metals. The habit of hoarding seems to have been induced by ages of misgovernment, during which oppression and violence were rife. No feeling of safety existing, it was natural that the natives should adopt the practice of reducing their wealth to a concentrated shape and hiding it.—Brooklyn Eagle.

#### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The day after you meet the average man he asks you to take sides.

Flattery has a pretty bad name, but it gets better returns than disagreeable candor.

Of this you may be sure—that the black sheep in every family was once the most petted lamb.

When a baby cries in its father's arms he discovers that it is crying because it wants to go to you.

A man never knows until he has fallen into a hole how many paths he might have taken to avoid it.

When two men get their pencils mixed, ever notice how jealously the owner of the longer pencil insists on getting his own back?

Time flies so rapidly that it seems only a few months from the time a boy is crying for a jumping jack until he is paying for it.—Acheson Globe.

#### Frog Egg Curiosities.

Frogs' eggs are laid before they really become eggs in the true sense of that word. They are always laid under water and when first deposited are covered with a sort of envelope in the shape of a thin membrane. In this shape they are very small, but as soon as they come in contact with the water they rapidly absorb that element and in so doing go through a queer transformation. The thin membrane containing the little seedlike egg is quickly changed into great lumps of a clear jelly-like substance, each section joined to the other, the whole forming a string from a few inches to several feet in length. On the inside of each of these lumps of jelly the eggs come to perfection and in due course of time add their quota to the frog population of the world.

#### Costly Competitions.

When a new cathedral or a new college is to be built it is well that architects should compete for it, for then, other things being equal, the best man gets the job and the best possible kind of building is assured. Few persons, though, realize what it costs an architect to enter a competition. They do not understand the time and labor that must be devoted to the design, the estimates, etc. There is one firm of architects in this city that spent \$2,500 last year on a single competition. This firm entered ten competitions altogether, winning four of them, and the total cost to it was \$7,000.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

#### A Tight Ring.

To remove a tight ring from the finger take a long thread of silk and put one end under the ring and draw it through several inches, holding it with the thumb in the palm of the hand. Then wind the long end of the silk tightly round the finger down to the nail. Take hold of the short end of the silk and, holding it toward the finger, unwind it, and the silk, pressing against the ring, will withdraw it.

#### Time Limit Fixed.

"Jane, hasn't that young man gone yet?"  
"He is just going, papa."  
"Jane!"  
"Yes, papa."  
"In precisely sixty seconds you will say, 'He has just gone.'"  
"Yes, papa."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

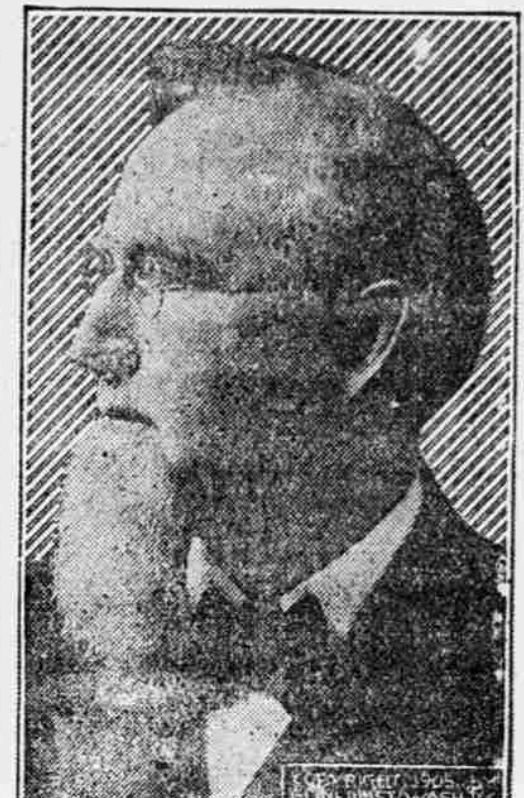
#### Medical Etiquette.

Medical etiquette, instead of being kept up, as people so often imagine, in the interests of the doctors, is maintained in the interests of the public. It is they, not the doctors, who would suffer most were it done away with.—London Spectator.

#### THOMAS H. CARTER.

Montana Republican Who is Again in the Senate Chamber.

Thomas Henry Carter of Montana, who, after an absence from the United States senate of four years, is again a member of that body, was born in Ohio in 1854 and took up the practice of law in Iowa soon after being admitted to the bar, but in 1882 removed to Montana and later was sent to congress as a delegate, Montana being



THOMAS H. CARTER.

then a territory. After its admission as a state he was its first representative in congress and in 1891 was appointed commissioner of the general land office by President Harrison. In the presidential campaign of 1892 he was chairman of the Republican national committee, was chosen to the senate in 1895 and served until 1901.

Senator Carter relates an incident of a trip he once made in the south. "I was introduced," he says, "to the wife of a man who was running for congress. I wanted to be pleasant to her, so to start a conversation inquired: 'So your husband is running for congress?'"

"Yes," she replied.  
"I suppose it keeps him pretty busy," I ventured.

"Yes," was the very short reply.

"This rather froze me, but I came to the front again with what I thought was a humorous remark:

"I suppose he kisses all the babies in the district."

"This was unfortunate. She flared up angrily.

"Don't believe a word of it. He hasn't had time to kiss his own babies for two months."

#### THAT CHINESE BOYCOTT.

Methods of the Celestials in Keeping American Goods Out of China.

The boycott in China against American goods continues, and the problem of securing satisfactory adjustment of the difficulty that has arisen becomes more and more complex. The Chinese merchants declare they will not handle American imports until the American congress makes satisfactory changes in the laws governing exclusion of Chinese from the United States. Although congress has been in session since early in December, no such legislation is yet in prospect. The Chinese minister at Washington recently telegraphed his government that it was extremely improbable legislation such as the Chinese desire would be enacted.

The methods of the boycotters are unique and characteristic of the orient. The Chinese who are engaged in keeping American goods out of their country do not hesitate to threaten with death those who refuse to obey instructions. At Shanghai the Chinese agents of leading American firms have been notified by their fellow subjects that they must give up their employment



A BOYCOTT NOTICE.

unless they wish to be shot or have their throats cut, their houses burned down and their families destroyed.

The inscription reproduced in this column is a notice which has been posted in many parts of the Chinese empire. It intimates in terms which the oriental understands that any merchant having to do with American goods should look out, as a boycott has been decided upon, to be in force from the 18th of the sixth moon. There is a figure of a tortoise, upon which are characters meaning "cold blooded animal." The notice ends with a threat which signifies more than the English equivalent of the characters express, but which may be translated thus: "Those who buy American goods read this. They shall receive adequate treatment."

#### A WONDERFUL PROOF.

The Burning Glass as a Demonstrator of the Sun's Heat.

"The sun's heat is so great"—  
But an intelligent young woman interrupted the scientist impatiently.  
"After all," she said, "it is guesswork, this talk about the excessive heat of the sun. You can't prove any of your claims."

He was disgusted.  
"I can't?" he cried. "Why, it is the easiest thing in the world to prove that the sun is hot enough to melt iron, granite, the hardest substances known, into liquid, into steam."

"How would you make such a proof?" she asked incredulously.

"With the burning glass," said he. "A burning glass is slightly rounded. Thus it bends into a focus—it concentrates upon one small point—a number of sun rays. The tiniest burning glass, catching only a few rays, will light a fire, set off a gun or bore a red hole in your hand."

"Yes."  
"The solar heat which the burning glass collects for us is the tiniest fraction of the sun's actual heat. We can prove this by focusing with our glass rays from a powerful lamp or a great fire. We get a small, bright spot, a little heat, but this heat is nothing to compare with the heat of the lamp itself.

"So, knowing, now, that the solar heat which the burning glass gives to us is but a fraction of the heat of the sun, we take a burning glass a yard in diameter—such glasses have been made for the sole purpose of convincing skeptical persons like yourself—and this glass concentrates many hundreds of sun rays for us, and it gives us a heat greater than we can obtain in any furnace, a heat that will melt rock into vapor."

The scientist smiled triumphantly.  
"There is your proof," he said. "The burning glass will only collect a tiny portion of a burning object's heat, and the tiny portion of the sun's heat that it gives us is yet sufficient to change in a jiffy a block of granite into a puff of steam."—Exchange.

#### A FEARFUL PEST.

The Feroocious Mosquitoes That Swarm in Scandinavia.

Hunters find the mosquitoes a terrible pest in parts of northern Scandinavia. One writes: "The warmth of the sun is rousing our deadly enemies, the mosquitoes, into active warfare. Attacked as we are by a few score of viciously piping skirmishers from the mighty host, we have before advancing to look to the joints of our harness and don our gauntlets; then in descending the long slope toward our bivouac the scores of the foe are gradually multiplied to hundreds, the hundreds to thousands, the thousands to myriads, till we are at length enveloped in a dense cloud of winged fiends. The horses are a distressing sight. From nose to tail, from hoof to withers, their unfortunate bodies are covered with what might be taken at a casual glance for gray blanket clothing, but which is really a textile mass of seething insect life, so closely set that you could not anywhere put the point of your finger on the bare hide.

"For such small creatures mosquitoes exhibit an astonishing amount of character and diabolical intelligence. They dash through smoke, creep under veil or wristband like a ferret into a rabbit hole and when they can neither dash nor creep will bide their time with the cunning of a red Indian. We wore stout dogskin gloves, articles with which they could have had no previous acquaintance, and yet they would follow each other by hundreds in single file up and down the seams, trying every stitch, in the hope of detecting a flaw."

And the same writer concludes: "The problem presents itself, why are these vermin so horribly bloodthirsty and so perfectly formed for sucking blood? It is one of the great mysteries of nature. On the uninhabited stretches of Finmark they must as a rule exist on vegetable diet, the chances of blood so rarely occur."

#### Genesis of Cotton in America.

The first planting of cotton seed in the colonies was in the Carolinas in the year 1621, when seeds were planted as an experiment in a garden. Winthrop says that in 1643 "men fell to the manufacture of cotton, whereof we have great stores from Barbados." In 1736 it was cultivated in the gardens along Chesapeake bay, especially in the vicinity of Baltimore, and at the opening of the Revolution it was a garden plant in New Jersey and New York, but its real value seems to have been almost unknown to the planters until about 1780.

#### The Chameleon.

The American chameleon, a small lizard, inhabits various parts of the southern United States. The little animal has the remarkable habit of quickly and completely changing its colors, varying from brown to yellow and pale green. Its food consists of insects. The little animal is perfectly harmless to higher forms of life, is often kept as a pet and has been worn attached to a chain as an ornament. The toes are provided with adhesive pads, which enable the lizard to run upon smooth, vertical surfaces.

#### The Room at the Top.

"All the lower berths are taken," said the ticket seller. "You'll have to take an upper berth."  
"Of course," grumbled the professor. "There's always room at the top."—Chicago Tribune.

In the British museum are books written on oyster shells, bricks, tiles, bones, ivory, lead, iron, copper, sheepskin, wood and palm leaves.

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