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While fairy-like beings appeared on each hand.
There were mountains like ours, with more beautiful green,
And far brighter skies than ever were seen,
Birds with the hues of a rainbow were found,
While flowers of exquisite fragrance were growing around.
Not long were they left to wonder in doubt
A being soon came they had heard much about,
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He looked like the pictures we see every day.
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But he took them on board and drove them away.
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All our Gloves we are sending to Bunce,
Santa showed them suspenders and many things more.
Saying I also took these to friend Bunce's store.
Santa Claus then whispered a secret he'd tell,
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THE BIG CUT-OFF.

THE MISSOURI MAKING A CHANNEL ACROSS THE PENINSULA OPPOSITE VERMILLION.

Ponca, Neb., Journal, April 28.

A gentleman who witnessed the freak of the flood at North Bend was in town Friday. He says the new channel across the neck of Great Bend was not cut by the force of the water running over the upper side, as is generally supposed, but by the water undermining the bank on the lower or east end of the new channel, which kept caving off till within a short distance of the upper current, when with a mighty roar that could be heard for miles, the river broke through and a new channel for that part of the Missouri was made. The peninsula of Great Bend was one of the largest on the river, and was a no small source of burden to steamboats. It was in the form of an elongated ox-bow, very narrow at the points. Across its neck was only half a mile, while to make the distance around by river it was necessary to pull about eighteen miles against a stiff current. Now, with the new channel, all this surplus travel will be saved, and the half mile will be as good as the former eighteen. Water through this new cut-off is said to run with immense swiftness, and debris which was seen floating down stream is described by our informant as going faster than the passenger trains used to on the Dakota Southern. This freak of the river will leave Vermillion an inland town, so far as the Missouri is concerned, by about three miles.

The farm of Mons. Nelson lay on the neck of Great Bend, and the channel cut across, taking his barns, sheds and all out-buildings, and was last Friday morning within about two rods of the large two-story house that he erected last summer at an expense of nearly $2,000. Eye-witnesses on the bluffs say that there was one spot in the course of the new channel which was higher than the surrounding bottoms, and here some sixteen or twenty cattle and a number of sheep belonging to Nelson had collected. Those stationed on the bluff could see the river, as, with apparent eagerness to grasp its prey, it devoured rod after rod of the earth which lay between it and the cattle, and steadily crept toward them. At last but a few feet more of land was left for them to stand on, when all at once that little was undermined, then it wavered a moment and with a mighty crash pitched into the seething waters, hurling the cattle into the air for an instant, when they too disappeared beneath the waves.

The World's Schools.

The national bureau of education is preparing a circular soon to be published, a few interesting statistics from which have been given to the press. They embrace a summary of all the available information concerning the schools of the civilized world, in which is included Japan and the Sandwich Islands. It is noteworthy that a powerful heathen nation is admitted into the precincts of civilization, when that civilization is making a display of the very feature in which it takes the greatest pride. It is but a few years since the civilized and Christian worlds were held to be coextensive. It was an inherited belief of Christians that nothing good existed outside of that portion of the earth covered by Christianity, and the classification of nations into civilized and barbarous was more significant of the difference in their religious than in their political and industrial advancement. But of late years a good deal of the old-fashioned bigotry has disappeared, and much broader and more correct views of the relative advancement of races have prevailed. It has been discovered that the Christian civilization contains much that is conventional, and which it would be improved by eliminating, and that some of the so-called barbarous nations have much in their theory and practice which may be profitably imitated. In a comparison of educational work—a work which is the especial hobby of Christian nations—Japan proves to be fully up to the most advanced Christian standard, and far ahead of what that standard was less than half a century ago. It is not the least proof of Christian progress in civilization that Christians have come to consider as civilized those enterprising oriental who, whatever may be their shortcomings, are not imbued with the barbarism of bigotry.

According to the forthcoming circular there were enrolled in the schools of the world at the latest accessible dates 41,678,000 pupils, taught by about 1,000,000 teachers. The latter number is indefinite because in several instances the number of teachers is not reported. The United States heads the list grandly with 9,373,195 pupils and 371,144 teachers. It is comforting to know that in 1878 the number of children attending school was somewhat in excess of the number of voters, furnishing as it does an indication that the quality of the coming average voter will be better than that of the present one. France comes next with 4,716,935 pupils and 110,709 teachers. Both France and the United States maintain about a fifth of their respective populations at school, a proportion which is not quite reached by Prussia. The latter country had in 1871, 4,007,776 pupils, under the supervision of 47,936 teachers. England and Wales are reported with 3,710,882 pupils and 69,527 teachers, the number of pupils being about a sixth of the population, which is about the same proportion as that shown in Prussia. Austria and Hungary are given separately, the former being credited with 2,134,683 pupils and 31,196 teachers, and the latter with 1,559,636 pupils and 20,717 teachers. In Austro-Hungary, therefore, not more than a tenth of the population attend the schools. Japan has 2,162,962 pupils with 59,825 teachers, but as the population of that empire is an unknown quantity, the proportion of pupils to population can not be accurately determined. It is probably not far from that which obtains in Austria-Hungary.

It will be perceived that the United States and France are the leading school going countries of the world, and if school-learning is of that class of knowledge which is power, they should lead the world in power also. Next to them in school-going rank are England and Prussia, while to a not very good third position be our Austria and Japan. The oriental heathen empire which was until lately denied a place in civilization, is in the matter of education fully up to one of the great powers of Europe. But the most surprising feature of the statistics is the wide variation in the proportion of pupils to teachers which they exhibit. In the United States there is an average of one teacher to thirty-five pupils, and the popular impression is that the schools suffer from a paucity of teachers. In France there is one teacher to forty-three pupils, a number which is too great for the American idea of good work at school, but when England is reported with one teacher to fifty-four, Prussia with one to sixty-nine, and Austria with one to sixty-eight pupils, the impression is irresistible that much of the school life of the pupils is practically wasted. Bavaria has one teacher to seventy pupils, but it would be hard to convince an American school teacher that the Bavarian children are properly taught. Japan employs one teacher to thirty-six children, thus ranking next to the United States in the quantity of teaching force in her schools. The efficiency of our common schools has been a matter of considerable European comment, but when the relative number of teachers is considered no other explanation is necessary. Good schools and over-worked teachers are wholly incompatible, and the quantity of teaching force in our schools might be increased with very great advantage.

Southern Iron and Steel.

New York Tribune.

One of the largest manufacturers of Iron and Bessemer steel in Pennsylvania is about to transfer his works to Alabama. He finds there the ore, the fuel and cheap labor, all at hand, and asserts that he expects to make the manufacture pay higher profits than in the north, even after taking into account the cost of removal and the larger rates of transportation in the south.

The bulletin published by the census department last week shows the great development of the iron and steel interests in the upper southern states in 1880. West Virginia increased its production from 72,337 tons to 147,487 tons. This state has stored away in her mountains more iron and coal than Pennsylvania, and lacks only capital to work them and railways to open a way to the market to make her as rich as her northern neighbor. Alabama, owing to the fact that she has already outlets by railway, increased her production in the enormous ratio of 792 per cent.; Georgia, 265 per cent.; Tennessee 125 per cent.; Kentucky, 43 per cent. A singular fact in this report is that only three states have not increased their yield of iron during the last ten years, one of which is North Carolina, notwithstanding its enormous iron deposits and the low price of labor. The simple reason of this is that the Unaka and Nantahela mountain ranges in which the iron lies are as yet unopened to railway. Much of the iron-bearing territory is, however, already owned by northern capitalists, and will some day be worked, though now it is covered by the primitive forests and given up to the possession of bears, wolves and moonshiners.

It is not only railways that are needed in the south to develop her mineral resources, but practical sense in the management of those already built. The charges for freight and transportation, being usually treble those of northern roads, are calculated to deter all kinds of producers who must send their goods to distant markets. It is pretty shortsighted policy to choke off the goose before it lays any golden eggs at all, as our southern neighbors probably will see some day.

The Man With a Racket.

Detroit Free Press.

He was probably from Deadwood, or Custer City, or the Gunnison Valley, or from some of the other places where they wear one shirt three months and have no other wish except to die with their boots on, no matter how many square feet of cow-hide there is 'em. There was only one other man in the saloon when he entered and inquired for five fingers of straight pizen. This solitary man sat with a leg on either side of a chair, his chin resting on the back of it. His eyes were half closed, his tongue hanging out a bit, and his mind was at rest. The new arrival swallowed his liquid, wiped off his chin on his coat tail, and suddenly came down in front of the sleeping man with:

"I'm from the headquarters of Grizzly river! I'm the only living reptile as ever crossed Rattlesnake Perrary or swum the length of Alligator Lake!"

"Eh!" was all the other said, as he slowly opened one eye.

"I've fit the hull Pawnee tribe of Injuns to once! I've gone out at midnight to tackle catamounts, and got up airly in the morning to pull cinnamon b'ars out of thar' dens! I've licked buffler bulls out of countenance, and I've made a grizzly shake all over by one yell!"

"Y-e-s," drawled the man on the chair as he drew in his tongue and opened the other eye.

"Don't tackle me!" yelled Deadwood, as he leaped high in the air and clicked his teeth together. "The man who tackles me is pulp in just two seconds!" Don't sit thar and look at me that way, for I'm an avalanche on wheels—a landslide with a gait of ninety miles a minit—a tornado which plays ball with the peaks of the Rockies! That's the kind of a tomahawk I am—that's the racket I've worked ever since I was ten days old!"

The man on the chair yawned heavily, stretched his arms, and lifted himself up with the motions of an elephant.

"Whoop! waugh!" yelled the other. "I've lost my notched stick, but I'll make oath that I've wiped out forty-seven white men and over a hundred Injuns!"

The other slowly removed his old hat and flung it on the floor. Then he pushed up his sleeves and tightened his belt and gave himself a shake.

"W-what's the matter, old man?" earnestly inquired the man from Deadwood.

The other poked his hair until it stood up like wires, got clear of the chair; and began to fumble under his coat-tails.

"W-what yer gwine to do, cie pard?"

"Gwine fur to git yer racket! I don't 'low nobody to jump up and down and holler and whoop and waugh on me when I'm straddle of a cheer and sound asleep.

"Yer don't! When I'm dead sorry. Fact is, I took yer for another man—for a wall-eyed, crook-backed, knock-kneed sofy-pillar from Calico Flats—and I meant to make wolf-meat of ye in jist leven Shy Ann seconds. Shake, old pard—put it thar! and if that 'ere kyote behind the bar don't trot out his choicest pizen and lots of it, I'll slice off his internal ears and gin 'em to ye fur sleeve-buttons!"

The Care of Watches.

It is necessary to bear in mind that there is no such thing as a perfect time-keeper, and the poorest of all is the portable time-keeper called a watch; and yet of this very piece of mechanism is expected the most remarkable results, and by many it is believed that if a watch is well regulated, absolute time keeping is sure to follow; but such is not by any means the case. A watch may be ever so finely and correctly made, yet without three important adjustments, and be a very poor time-keeper. These adjustments are for temperature, position and isochronism. The first means that the watch shall perform the same in a temperature of 32 degrees Fahrenheit as it does in a temperature of 100 degrees. The second means that the performance shall be the same in all positions, and the third that the watch shall run the same throughout the twenty-four hours, or that the first hour when the watch is fully wound, shall be performed in exactly the same time as the twenty fourth hour, when the watch is nearly run down. These adjustments are seldom made excepting in the higher grades and even in these they are rarely reduced to a fine point, and even when they are carried to the limit of human skill and ingenuity they are still imperfect, and the performance of the watch can be improved by observing certain conditions, among which are the following, viz: Wind once a day and as nearly as possible at the same hour, and, as we are more regular in our time of arising than retiring, it is better to wind in the morning; besides, it gives the watch the advantage of the strongest part of the main spring during the daytime, when it is tumbled and tossed about by the motions of the body.

Although the watch may be adjusted to high and low temperatures, there still remains an intermediate error which has never yet been entirely overcome, and, although slight, yet it tells on the second hand of the watch; so it will readily be perceived that it is well to keep the watch in as nearly a uniform temperature as possible. At night, or when not on the person, the very best plan is to hang the watch up, as by so doing we avoid to the greatest extent the position errors, for they still exist in a slight degree, although the adjuster has done his best. If it is desirable to lay the watch down at night, it should always be placed in the same position and with the same side up; but, whether it is laid down or hung up, the same conditions should be observed every night, in order to insure the best performance of which the watch is capable; for, should there by a slight difference in time (and it is rarely otherwise) between the hanging and lying positions, the watch—if properly regulated—will gain at night what it loses in the day-time, or vice versa. This difference in position, though it be but a second or two a day, will, if unprovided for, make an excellent watch an indifferent, if not a poor, performer. In taking the watch from the pocket, pull it out straight and place it back in the same manner, avoiding any circular or see-saw motions to facilitate the operation, as it materially interferes with the motion of the balance, and causes an error in its time-keeping, and, for this reason, in winding a key-wind watch the key only should be turned and the watch held still,—a point rarely observed by any one in performing this operation.

The above being true of the finely-made and carefully-adjusted watch, it also holds good, and to a much greater extent, in the lower grades, in which there are few if any adjustments, and where temperature alone often makes a difference in time between the extremes of 32 degrees Fahrenheit and 100 degrees Fahrenheit of nearly six minutes in twenty-four hours, and the position errors amount to from fifteen seconds to a minute in the same length of time. When these facts are taken into consideration, the wonder should not be that they perform so poorly, but that they perform so well.

Many are under the impression that it is injurious to a watch to allow it to run down, though this is not the case; but it does very materially injure its performance for several days after such an event, and in many cases the watch must again be regulated before it can be relied upon.

The balance of an ordinary watch in the course of eighteen months vibrates or revolves upon its pivots over 235,000,000 of times. When the oil disappears the pivots become dry, and the abraiding or cutting process begins, and, if not arrested by the application of fresh oil and the removal of the old, the pivots are soon spoiled. A good watch should be regularly cleaned once in eighteen months. By observing the above conditions the very best results may be obtained from the pocket time-piece, and when of the best quality and carefully adjusted remarkably close performance may be expected, but this will, and necessarily must, be far from perfect.

Blue Grass Pasture.

Iowa State Register.

There is a general objection to allowing grass to become over a few inches high in pastures, as it will become tough and not relished by stock. Such is not the case with blue grass except in May and June, when it goes to seed. For fall and winter pasture the taller the grass the tenderer it is. And the way blue grass is generally treated is the greatest reason why it is unpopular with many grazers. Blue grass must never be eaten off close as it is the custom with other grasses. It should be so managed by the owner that it will always have a heavy coat on the ground. Where the grass is short the sun strikes the ground, parches the soil or dries up the roots of the grass, and growth ceases. Rains have but little effect, as the succeeding hot suns soon drink up the dampness, and in one day the same place is as dry as before. Whilst, if a bountiful crop is allowed to accumulate, the long grass will produce a constant and luxurious crop, supplying three times as much pasture as when cropped short. If this practice were once inaugurated by those now objecting to blue grass, the full virtues of this kind of pasture would be more fully appreciated. Keep in mind if the soil is well fed and not stripped bare of its covering it will furnish a full return for expense and capital invested. After going to seed early in June, blue grass never becomes tough or tasteless, and no loss will occur if it is allowed to grow uncropped to any height. Blue grass can be safely sown on the snows of winter. But it is useless to spend time spreading such seed if it has the least taint of must caused by heating in some process of gathering, preserving in the straw, or in being too closely packed after it is threshed. Most failures in success in this grass grow out of defective seed. The best way is for every farmer to gather his own seed when it is ripe in June, and preserve it carefully. But sow freely and largely. You need not to experiment with it to see if it will do. Its character is so well known, and its true merits so fully established that there is more sense in experimenting with corn or potatoes. If the seed can be obtained, withhold not the hand. Sow it on pastures, along lanes, in fence corners, in groves, on steep or broken lands, and it will pay, and pay richly.

Almost Crazy.

How often do we see the hard-working father straining every nerve and muscle, and doing his utmost to support his family. Imagine his feelings when returning home from a hard day's labor, to find his family prostrate with disease, conscious of unpaid doctors' bills and debts on every hand. It must be enough to drive one almost crazy. All this unhappiness could be avoided by using Electric Bitters, which expel every disease from the system, bringing joy and happiness to thousands. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by Ish & McMahon. (4)

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