

**He Had to Watch Them.**  
The late George M. Stearns, the noted Massachusetts criminal lawyer, was a great lover of poker. He was also very fastidious in his personal habits and immaculate in his dress. One night he was out until a late hour with a convivial party, indulging in his favorite amusement. The next morning at the breakfast table his wife, observing with surprise his untidy appearance, remarked: "George, can't you spit without soiling your shirt bosom?" "George" looked at her a moment, and then remarked solemnly: "Mary, if you had been in the party I was last night, you wouldn't have turned your head to spit."

**Tennessee Praise.**  
Dayton, Tenn., Dec. 11.—(Special.)—Among many prominent residents to praise Dodd's Kidney Pills is Mr. N. R. Roberts of this place. He tells of what they have done for him, and his words will go deep into the hearts of all who are suffering in the same way. He says: "I was a martyr to Kidney Trouble, but Dodd's Kidney Pills completely cured me. I shall always keep them on hand in case there should be any return of the old trouble, but I am thankful to say they did their work so well there has not been the slightest sign of my old complaint coming back. The pain in my back used to be terrible. If I got down I had a hard job to get straight again. But my back is like a new one now and I can stoop as much as I please. I don't believe there ever was any medicine half so good as Dodd's Kidney Pills."

**A Tip for Her.**  
Mr. Stammeron—Oh, Viola!—er—that is, M—M—Miss Sere, I—er—lul—lul—lul—  
Miss Sere (coily)—Yes, Mr. Stammeron, say it. Don't be afraid.  
Mr. Stammeron—I'm afraid it's g—going to t—t—take me so lul—long to say it that you'd bub—better remark "This is so sudden" now.—Philadelphia Press.

**THE TOWER OF BABEL.**  
History Leaves No Data by Which to Estimate Its Height.

The exact date of the building of "Nimrod's Folly," as the Chaldeans say in alluding to the Scriptural tower of Babel (the Armenians speak of it as the Tower of the Confusion of Tongues) or the height to which it penetrated the rarefied atmosphere of the oriental plains will perhaps never be known. The date of the laying of the foundation of the famous structure is usually set at 2,257 years before Christ, or in the year of the flood 101. The expression of the sacred historian that its top was to "reach unto heaven" is now generally set down as a strong Hebrew phrase denoting a very lofty tower, but not necessarily meaning that one would reach to the abiding place of the Lord and His hosts. Proof that this is probable may be found in several places in the holy writ. The walls of the cities of Canaan are described by Moses in similar phraseology. The spies sent out by him returned and reported that the cities of that country were great and were "walled up to heaven." See Deuteronomy 1:28, 9:1. There is a Jewish legend in the Talmud which tells us that God did not put a stop to the building of the tower until after it had reached a height of 10,000 fathoms, which is equal to nearly twelve English miles.

The sacred historians have not in a single instance left data upon which we can base a calculation of its exact height and general dimensions, and it is because of this omission that the imaginative orientals and other ancient writers have given such fabulous and extravagant traditions concerning it. Even St. Jerome alleges from the testimony of eyewitnesses who claim to have seen and examined the ruins of the skyscraping shaft that in his day (born 345 A. D.) it was over four miles high. While considering these untenable notions it may not be out of place to mention that other fanciful writers make its height range all the way from a single furlong to 5,000 miles in height.—Pittsburg Press.

**A BRAIN WORKER**  
Must Have the Kind of Food that Nourishes Brain.

"I am a literary man whose nervous energy is a great part of my stock in trade, and ordinarily I have little patience with breakfast foods and the extravagant claims made of them. But I cannot withhold my acknowledgment of the debt that I owe to Grape-Nuts food. "I discovered long ago that the very bulkiness of the ordinary diet was not calculated to give one a clear head, the power of sustained, accurate thinking. I always felt heavy and sluggish in mind as well as body after eating the ordinary meal, which diverted the blood from the brain to the digestive apparatus. "I tried foods easy of digestion, but found them usually deficient in nutrient. I experimented with many breakfast foods and they, too, proved unsatisfactory, till I reached Grape-Nuts. And then the problem was solved. "Grape-Nuts agreed with me perfectly from the beginning, satisfying my hunger and supplying the nutriment that so many other prepared foods lack. "I had not been using it very long before I found that I was turning out an unusual quantity and quality of work. Continued use has demonstrated to my entire satisfaction that Grape-Nuts food contains all the elements needed by the brain and nervous system of the hard working public writer." Name given by Postum Co., Battie Creek, Mich.

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# EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

**THE CHEAP AND VICIOUS PLAY.**  
**A** REMARKABLE and, we are glad to think, exceptional illustration of the evil effects of cheap and vicious plays upon young spectators is found in the case of the 13-year-old Toronto girl, who kidnapped a baby in the hope of obtaining a reward and afterward killed the child when she found it a nuisance and herself liable to detection. The girl is of low intelligence, like most of the frequenters of the very cheap theater, and she was stimulated to crime by seeing a play in which the plot hinged upon the kidnapping of an infant with the usual expectation of ransom. It mattered little to her that the villains or villainesses, we do not happen to know which, were subsequently foiled, and the child restored unharmed and unransomed to the millionaire's family from which it was originally stolen. The "beautiful moral lesson" which plays of this stamp are frequently advertised to teach does not invariably have time to strike home. In fact the idea that vice is always punished and virtue always triumphant is worked out with such painful attention to criminal detail that its value as a moral corrective amounts to practically nothing. It is to be regretted that no plan can be devised for the legal suppression of the vulgar, sensational and cheaply vicious play. Theater-going is a matter of individual taste, and so long as a production keeps within the limits of ordinary decency it cannot be interfered with by the law, whether it be the story of a nasty intrigue imported from Paris for Broadway consumption or the adventures of a Western desperado as exhibited on the Bowery. Some day we may change all this, but for the present the only check upon the evil is the spread of social work by the churches and settlements, the increase of free lectures and other forms of entertainment by the educational authorities and the development of clubs and gymnasiums in the neighborhoods from which the patronage of the cheaper play is most largely drawn. But the play has already a long lead in the race.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**HANG ON TO YOUR POLICIES.**  
**S**OME New York reports say that many holders of life insurance policies are refusing to pay further premiums on them, on account of the recent revelations of crookedness in some of the companies. This is folly. By allowing their policies to lapse without making any sort of terms with the companies the holders would lose everything which they have paid in. Not only so, but they would thus increase the funds which would be at the mercy of the crooks in such companies as the crooks dominate. There is a strong probability that most of the insurance companies are managed honestly and economically. Moreover, the big companies which are being looted by some of their officers are likely to be solvent still. It is not certain that they are solvent, for the examination of their assets by the committee has yet to take place. In the absence of a careful, impartial examination from the outside, the public will be in doubt as to those companies' exact financial status. There has been so much crookedness in the conduct of some of their leading officers that the word of those persons as to the monetary standing of their companies would carry no weight with the policy holders. The death claims can undoubtedly be paid, but the holders of the ten, fifteen and twenty years term policies will not, at those policies' maturity, get anywhere near the amount which they were led to believe they would get, although the technically guaranteed payments will probably be met. The sensible thing for the policy holders is to hang on to their policies and make the best terms possible with the companies. When the committee of inquiry in New

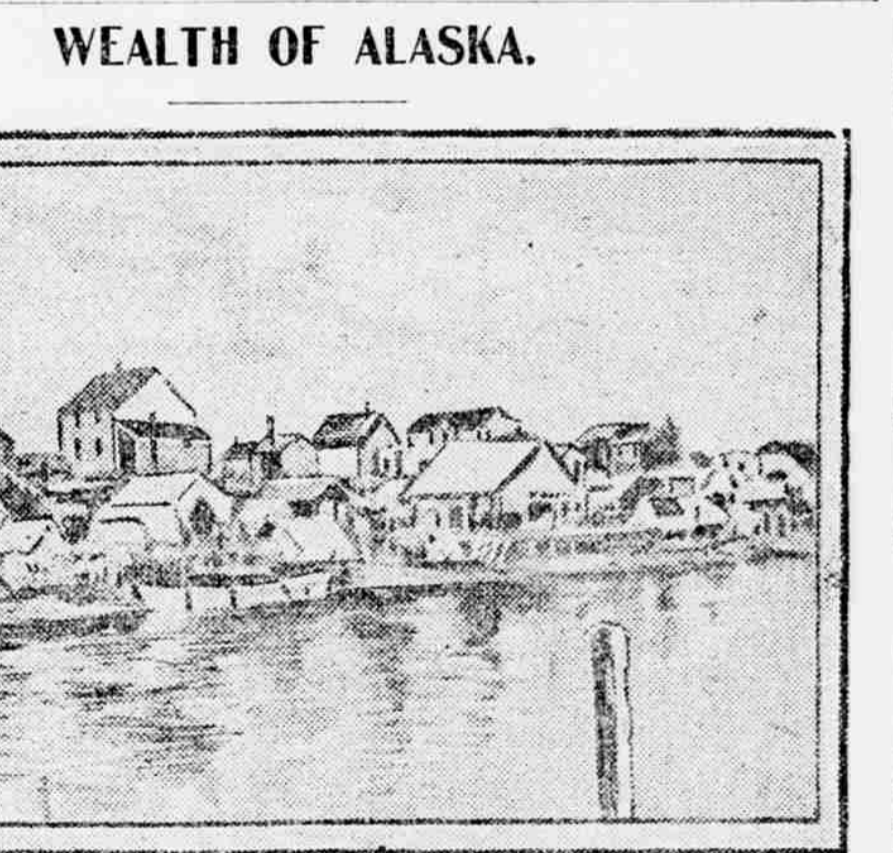
**STRENUOUS STILLNESS.**  
Perfect stillness is something that scarcely seems compatible with physical strenuousness; nevertheless, posing for an artist may become, in the maintenance for long periods of a difficult attitude, one of the most trying of athletic feats. When Meissonier, the famous French artist, was painting one of his battle scenes he hired several old soldiers for models, seasoned, tough veterans, whose experience and endurance would, he thought, be useful in enabling them both to understand the positions required and to hold them. They did so, indeed, as well as any one could; but it was an every-day affair for a model to faint, and more than once to collapse with exhaustion, and require the services of a physician. Especially difficult were the poses representative of cavaliers slain or wounded and falling from their saddles. Despite an ingenious arrangement of straps and slings hung from the ceiling of the studio to afford such support as was possible, these poses remained so hard that one old soldier declared fervently when the picture was finished: "Monsieur Meissonier, I have been six times wounded, and once nearly frozen on the field, but it was all nothing to this. Nothing! Nothing! It is not hard to fall out of the saddle, really. A bullet helps one so neatly one scarcely knows when one touches the ground. But then, you see, one is allowed to fall all the way; one is not halted in mid-air. "You are painting a great picture, monsieur, and I am proud to be in it; but if you could have put me there with a pistol instead of a paint-brush, I should have preferred it." It was long a current tale that the model for another painting by Meissonier, entitled "The Brawl," actually died as the result of long posing in an unnaturally strained position for one of the two intertwined and struggling combatants in the picture. This was not true. Indeed, he lived to boast much and volubly of his achievement, and it served him as his chief professional recommendation afterward. Rolling up his sleeve and displaying an arm heavily cleft with muscle, he would say to a prospective employer: "Monsieur, behold! Is not that an

York finishes with the Mutual, the New York Life and the Equitable it will take up some of the other companies. It is fair to presume that the Hydes, Alexanders, McCalls and McCurdys will not be found diffused through the whole insurance fraternity, or through any large part of it.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

**HE WHO NEGLECTS HIS COUNTRY.**  
**T**HE notion prevails among some Americans that there is something degrading and debasing in being in politics. There are many American citizens who pass as educated, intelligent and respectable, who yet pride themselves on their ignorance of politics and their abstention from political activity. This false and foolish notion is passing away, but there is still too much of it. Such an attitude is based on the delusion that politics is a small, petty, and almost unnecessary business, with which men of ability need not concern themselves, because almost anybody can attend to it as well as its requirements demand. The truth is, of course, that what Abraham Lincoln truly called "the great business of government" is the greatest and most important business on earth, on whose capable, intelligent, and upright transaction the welfare of every other business depends. Furthermore, in this country every citizen is a shareholder in this business. Furthermore, this nation offers to its citizens such opportunities for personal freedom, prosperity and advancement as no other offers. Hence both gratitude and self-interest should move every citizen to take an interest in politics, that this great business, which is his in every sense, may be efficiently and uprightly carried on. Politics is corrupt only when and where honest and able citizens neglect to attend to their business. Yet hundreds of thousands think themselves more respectable because they neglect their business! The shame and the folly of it! May the day soon come when the American citizen who does not take an interest in politics—the American citizen who neglects his country—will be classed with the man who neglects his family.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

**BUSINESS WOMAN'S HOME.**  
**T**HERE is something radically wrong with the woman who never longs for a little home of her own. I know some brilliantly successful business women who live the year round in hotels because they declare they cannot shoulder household responsibilities, but they are always more or less restless, lonely and pettish. It is very nice to be able to touch a button and know that a small uniformed boy is running to do your bidding, but there will come moments when you wonder why everything tastes alike on the handsomely appointed table, and you wish you might cook just one little meal, or know the joy of buying the pretty furniture you see in the shop windows, or lay in a supply of dainty linen. Furthermore, you do not have to be married to feel these yearnings. It is the little touch of femininity and gentle womanhood that you do not want to crush out of your life. But you say, "What has this to do with my succeeding in business?" Do you expect to remain always in business? Are there not moments when you look forward to having a home of your own, financed by some good man and managed competently by yourself? Then let me give you a tip. Don't lose your grip on home life and home interests. Keep your hand, if ever so lightly, on the domestic plow, or you will forget how to steer it.—Woman's Home Companion.

**WEALTH OF ALASKA.**  
**NOME CITY AS SEEN FROM SNAKE RIVER.**  
Word comes from Nome that the gold output of that locality for 1905 will be \$16,000,000. This breaks all previous records for that district. Its yield in 1904, which was its highest up to that time, was \$7,000,000. Nome is only one of Alaska's gold-producing districts, but it is the most prolific of them. Extending along the valley of the Yukon and its tributaries from the Canadian boundary westward to Bering Strait there is a string of gold camps—Eagle, Circle, Fairbanks, Rampart, Council City, Nome, and others. All of them are increasing their contributions to the country's annual gold yield. For 1905 Alaska's entire gold production will be about \$15,000,000. And this is only the beginning.



**Too Many Vindications.**  
A man named Bill was always getting in trouble. "But," he would say to his friends afterward, "I was vindicated. Wicked men said cruel things about me, but I was vindicated." After this had happened seven or eight times an old fellow said: "Bill, I quit you right here. You have been vindicated more often than becomes an honest man."—Acheson Globe.

**Arrested the Actors.**  
The law against smoking in theaters in the City of Mexico is so strictly enforced that recently the entire personnel of the actors in the Renacimiento Theater were marched off to the commissary and fined at the close of the performance for smoking on the stage in an act of "Zaza."

**Oleaginous Confidence.**  
"The new brother appears like an oily sort of person, don't you think?" "Yes. Seems to think he'll slip past St. Peter without any trouble."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Bees' Morals Corrupted.**  
On landing in Australia, our hive of bees industriously collected quantities of honey. Finding, however, that there was no winter such as we have in England, it gave up laying in stores. Its morals are corrupted, for it is no longer "busy," and leads a butterfly life.

**Asked and Answered.**  
"Dessert," said he. "I hope is pie." His manner made her smart. She was not cross, but her reply Was "just a little tart."—Philadelphia Press.

## CONGRESS

The Senate convened at noon Monday, and prayer was offered by Edward Everett Hale, the chaplain. Sixty-eight Senators responded to the roll call, and the oath was administered to the new members. Senators Allison and Morgan were appointed to wait upon the President, with a similar committee from the House. Resolutions in memory of the late Senator Platt of Connecticut were passed. The House convened at 12 o'clock, and Joseph G. Cannon of Illinois was re-elected Speaker, over John Sharp Williams of Mississippi. Officers of the House were sworn in and the oath administered to new members. The rules of the Fifty-eighth Congress were adopted, and seats were assigned by lot. Many important bills were introduced.

The Senate gave practically all of its time Tuesday to listening to the reading of the President's message. The document received the closest attention. President Roosevelt's message received the attention of the House for two and a half hours, and it was applauded. The House received and ordered referred to one of the regular election committees a protest from the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois stating that Anthony Michalek, who was sworn in as a member of the House from that district, is not a citizen of the United States. Upon motion of Mr. Goldfogle of New York a resolution was read expressing the sympathy of the American people for the distressed Russian Jews.

The Senate began business in earnest Wednesday, several hundred bills and resolutions being introduced. A resolution directing the committee on judiciary to inquire into and report whether under the Constitution Congress has authority to supervise marine, fire and life insurance was adopted without debate. At 1:56 p. m. the Senate went into executive session, confirming the appointments of Secretary of State Root, Assistant Secretary of State Bacon and Justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia McComas. The House, in committee of the whole, considered the emergency appropriation bill for the Panama canal, after the committee on rules had prepared a rule to force consideration of the measure, and providing for unlimited debate.

The Senate on Thursday adopted a resolution directing the committee on naval affairs to investigate the condition of the old frigate Constitution with a view to its repair. Mr. Tillman's resolution calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to campaign contributions by national banks was adopted. In executive session the nominations of Charles J. Bonaparte, Secretary of the Navy, and Truman H. Newberry of Michigan, assistant Secretary of the Navy, were confirmed. The extradition treaty with Denmark was ratified. The House passed the Panama canal appropriation bill without opposition after adopting an amendment by Mr. Bonny of Colorado cutting the amount from \$16,500,000 to \$11,000,000 and defeating amendments by Mr. Williams of Mississippi limiting the appropriation to \$6,858,333 and by Mr. Prince of Illinois fixing the sum at \$10,000,000. An amendment by Mr. Williams striking out the bonding feature of the bill under which a tax disability against the proposed bonds is removed was defeated, 152 to 107. An amendment by Mr. Burgess of Texas giving the Secretary of War authority to fortify the canal at each terminal also was lost. An amendment by Mr. Mann of Illinois requiring detailed statements of canal expenditures and estimates to be furnished to Congress at each regular session and restricting all expenditures to money appropriated by Congress was adopted. Both houses adjourned until Monday.

**National Capital Notes.**  
Senator Kittredge presented to the President the other day eighty members of the South Dakota Press Association. Secretary Bonaparte has sent to the Speaker of the House an urgency deficiency bill calling for \$1,000,000 for the navy. Bills were introduced in the House by Mr. Smith of Illinois for 1-cent postage and by Mr. Murbok of Kansas creating a commission to investigate railway capitalization. Senator Beveridge introduced a bill providing joint statehood for Oklahoma and Indian Territory and for New Mexico and Arizona. The bill is identical with the one introduced in the House by Representative Hamilton of Michigan. Captain Frank Frantz, who recently was nominated to be Governor of Oklahoma Territory, has issued a statement objecting to the incorporation of a prohibition clause in the measure providing statehood for Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. Representative Morrell of Pennsylvania introduced a bill providing that all persons desiring to operate automobiles passing from one State to another must obtain a license granted after an examination under the direction of the interstate commerce commission. Commander Cameron McR. Winslow, formerly naval aide to the President and now in the command of the Mayflower, has been selected to command the new protected cruiser Charleston, which will go to the Pacific station early in the year to become the flagship of the Pacific squadron, taking the place of the Chicago, which is badly in need of repairs. Representative Hardwick of Georgia reintroduced a joint resolution declaring that it is the policy of the United States to grant independence to the Philippines as soon as a stable government is established in the islands.

**Odds and Ends.**  
The paying out of the second half of the claims of revolutionary soldiers of Cuba began Dec. 4. Mark Pitman, head master of the Cloatche school, founded by him in 1808 at Wallingford, Conn., died, aged 75 years.

**WOMEN GAMBLERS OF YORE.**  
Lord Kenyon's Threat Proof Practice Was Common 100 Years Ago. However one may deplore the present craze for gambling among women, it can at least be urged in their favor that they do not indulge their love of cards to anything like the same extent as did their sex a century ago, when Lord Kenyon made his famous scathing comments from the bench and threatened that any women convicted before him of public gaming "should certainly exhibit themselves in the pillory, though they should be the first ladies in the land."

Only a short time before his lordship made this severe threathree leaders of the world of fashion—ladies of high rank and moving in the most exalted of social circles—had each been fined £50 for making their houses centers of gambling for high stakes, and it was stated at the time that there were hundreds of other great ladies whose drawing-rooms were nothing less than gambling infernos, where tens of thousands of pounds were lost and won in a single night and the floors of which, when dawn broke, were strewn ankle deep with cards. "There is scarcely a house of any importance," wrote a chronicler of the time, "the hostess of which has not her faro bank, and where the world of fashion, including royal princes and princesses, does not congregate daily to play for the highest stakes. It is notorious that many of these ladies add ten of thousands of pounds yearly to their pin money in this discreditable fashion." Nor was this encouragement of gambling by women any innovation, for a couple of generations earlier it was a common thing for ladies of rank to open gambling-houses for the entertainment of their aristocratic friends and the plenshing of their own purses—and this they did in defiance of the law.—Tit-Bits.

**Kansas Lazy Man.**  
The laziest man in Kansas was sitting under a tree puffing his cornob. "Why don't you start cutting down your corn?" interrogated the stranger on the slate-colored mule. "Too much trouble, pard," drawled the lazy man. "I'm waiting for a storm to come and blow it down." "Well, why don't you chop up some wood?" "What's the use? Got a horseshoe stuck in the woodpile so the lightning will strike it and make kindling wood out of it all in a second." "Then why don't you prepare dinner?" "Too tired. Wait till a cyclone comes along and blows all the feathers off the chickens, so I won't have to bother picking them."

**The Jumping Explained.**  
Gagley—I was just watching Markley while he was talking to you. It was so funny the way he kept jumping up and down. What did he remind you of?  
Borroughs—Of the \$10 I've owed him since last winter.—Philadelphia Press.

**Seems to Be Wanted.**  
"I notice that Hall Caine is credited with saying that he does all his best thinking in church." "Wonder where he utilizes it?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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