

Speaking of China, will Germany's nibble be followed by England's bite?

The chief trouble with American juries is that they hang too much without ropes.

That man who called a back fence the woman's telephone probably referred to their talking over it.

Ex-Consul General Iasigi is to keep books during his term in prison. That is hard labor, for those who find it difficult.

It's such a pleasure for the girls to look over the hats in the millinery stores, they never think of those behind them in the theater.

Ohio has decreed that all medicines containing poison must be labeled with a skull and crossbones. Will the distillers observe the law?

An Eastern contemporary says that "a philosopher is a man who rides a philosophede." Nonsense! The modern philosopher usually is a woman.

The Sultan has declared riding the bicycle to be immoral and irreligious. So would you, perhaps, if you had 365 wives, each clamoring vociferously for a wheel.

The Boston City Council has ordered the police force to wage war upon bean-shooters. Here is a commendable crusade; it is little less than criminal to waste beans like that.

Governor Pingree of Michigan says that "asphalt is the paving of the future and will be used exclusively." How about that future place which is said to be paved with good intentions?

Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, of Versailles, Ky., announces that she will be a candidate for President in 1900 on the Prohibition ticket. Good! If Josie can carry her own State she will have no trouble with the rest of the country.

A novel called "The Typewriter Girl" has appeared in England. It is rather remarkable that the typewriter girl hasn't been made prominent before now in fiction. She wields a vast influence over the world's destinies in these busy modern times.

Turkey is buying a lot of big Krupp guns. Should Russia in consequence of this maneuver take the Sultan by the throat, his Ottoman majesty would pretty certainly develop a case of croup, which Krupp himself would find it impossible to alleviate.

A new zone, the Intemperate, is to be added to the list, if the words of Dean Farrar prove true. He lately said, with refreshing bluntness, that he was afraid England was creating a zone of drunkenness in all parts of her empire which was destroying many of the native races.

The New Orleans papers continue to call attention to the fact that the mortality of the city during the epidemic was but little higher than the normal figure. But this will count for nothing in a yellow fever scare. The safe and profitable thing to do is to give the closest attention to thorough sanitary work.

John Chinaman has had a thought and wants his head rubbed. He has found that he can get Great Britain to defend all his coasts. All he has to do is to give Great Britain the aforesaid coasts and she will defend them to the bitter end. It is as simple and practical as the Irishman's plan for selling his frying pan to get something to cook in it.

The proposed telegraphic communication between Iceland and the Shetland Islands would give the world daily weather reports from Iceland. The weather predictions made in that far region would not affect the attendance at a picnic, say on the Penobscot or the Sacramento, but they would show that the ends of the earth are getting nearer together. Such approximation means progress.

That the curiosity seeker sometimes finds more than he wants is shown by a recent experience of Mark Twain. Mr. Clemens has been viewing from the gallery with artistic appreciation the performances of the Austrian Reichsraths. When the show broke up in a general row, he was violently welted over the head by a Czech deputy. Of course it was a case of mistaken identity and an apology followed, but it is safe to say that the humorist will be satisfied to gather his further impressions of Austrian legislation at long range.

It is well understood that Japan is steadily preparing to lock horns with Russia for the control of the far east. The island empire is building a large and powerful navy and is steadily improving its military strength. The presence of Germany adds to the obstacles which Japan would have to overcome. Should Germany side with Russia, which she might readily do if her interests should lie that way, Japan's chances of success would vanish and the sacrifices she has made to secure Korea would be entirely lost.

It is hardly probable that the "Dolly Varden" paper currency to be substituted for that in use at present will be a great improvement over the elaborate works of art that it displaces. Perhaps the nearest approach to perfection in

paper money is in the highly unornamental notes of the Bank of England. The engraving is such that any ordinary engraver could duplicate it to perfection, yet the notes have rarely been counterfeited with success. The safeguards are in the paper and the ink, and not in the engraving. The history of counterfeiting shows that there are always engravers as skillful as other engravers.

The proposal of the War Department to reduce the strength of the ten cavalry regiments by transferring men to artillery regiments has caused a good deal of indignation in army circles. This practice of weakening an arm or branch of the force to increase another is known among army men as "skeletonizing," and is claimed by them for evident reasons to be destructive of the esprit de corps and the spirit of discipline. Frequently whole companies have been decimated by this process and officers find themselves attached to divisions of troops which practically have no existence except upon paper. The artillery seems to be specially favored in this respect. In 1890 two companies of each regiment of cavalry and infantry were skeletonized for the benefit of the artillery, and now, it seems, the process is to be further continued. Skeletonizing has been pronounced illegal by the judge advocate of the army, but as long as Congress refuses further to increase the army the War Department is practically compelled from time to time to repeat the process in order to keep each branch of the service as efficient as possible. Secretary Alger has withdrawn, for the present, the order which has called forth so many protests, but will probably in the end be compelled to insist upon it.

From the subversion of the Roman empire to the fourteenth or fifteenth century women spent most of their time alone, almost entire strangers to the joys of social life; they seldom went abroad, but to be spectators of such public diversions and amusements as the fashions of the times countenanced. Francis I. was the first who introduced women on public days to court; before his time nothing was to be seen at any of the courts of Europe but gray-haired politicians, plotting the destruction of the rights and liberties of mankind, and warriors clad in complete armor, ready to put their plots in execution. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries elegance had scarcely any existence, and even cleanliness was hardly considered as laudable. The use of linen was not known, and the most delicate of the fair sex wore woolen shifts. In Paris they had meat only three times a week, and one hundred livres (about twenty-five dollars) was a large portion for a young lady. The better sort of citizens used splinters of wood and rags dipped in oil instead of candles, which, in those days, were hardly to be met with. Wine was only to be had at the shops of the apothecaries, where it was sold as a cordial; and to ride in a two-wheeled cart along the dirty, rugged streets was reckoned a grandeur of so enviable a nature that Philip the Fair prohibited the wives of citizens from enjoying it. In the time of Henry VIII. of England the peers of the realm carried their wives behind them on horseback when they went to London, and in the same manner took them back to their country seats, with hoods of waxed linen over their heads, and wrapped in mantles of cloth to secure them from the cold.

"When the potato crop is short," said an old farmer, "I never have any to sell, but when there is a great hue and cry that potatoes are going to be scarce and I plant a lot of them, the bottom drops entirely out of prices. Two or three years ago there was no end to the comments on the decadence of the horse. He was going out of use forthwith, the bicycle was supplanting him for cheap purposes, trolleys and rapid transit had finished him up as a suburban necessity, and the few people who simply wanted him to ride about with were taking their exercise in some other fashion. Of course, as a draft animal he must still be in evidence, but this was about all that was left to him. Horse raisers went out of business or turned their attention in other directions. It didn't pay to grow ordinary animals, and the average hard-headed farmer is not very much given to doing unprofitable things when he knows they do not pay. Even with the greatly decreased demand for horses, which is the natural result of electricity and steam, the supply has run very low. Horsemen are beginning to discover that there is a possibility of something not very far from a horse famine. And just here comes a curious working of the law of supply and demand. That which it is difficult to secure immediately arises in market value, and good horses are growing scarce and expensive. Especially is this the case with saddle horses. It is said that a really first-class saddle animal will bring almost any price one chooses to ask for him on account of the scarcity. One of the most profitable of industries for the next few years where land is cheap and pasture good will be the raising of horses, and these should be good ones. It costs just as much to bring up the cheapest kind of a colt as to raise a good one, and the wonder is that there is not some concerted action taken toward clearing the country of some of the wretched stock that still exists. Horse breeders' associations could do excellent work in this direction."

No Chance to Fight. "Jones and his wife are a happy couple." "How do you know?" "She's deaf and he has the writer's paralysis."—Cleveland Leader. The father of triplets considers three of a kind better than two pair.

BODY SNATCHING. A Vocation Once Profitable Is Recalled by Recent Ghouliah Outrages.

Body snatching has again thrust itself upon public notice through a series of particularly atrocious offenses, one at Dunning, near Chicago; another at Millville, N. J., where a woman's grave was desecrated and her body dragged from the coffin and mutilated; and a third at Londonderry, Ohio. In the latter case the body of Carlton Kelly was taken from its grave, doubled up in a trunk and shipped to Columbus, dumped into the cellar of the Ohio Medical college and re-embalmed, doubled up into another trunk and left on a street corner. It was finally found by the police and returned to its grave. Twenty years ago grave robbing was a vocation profitable enough to keep a considerable amount of talent employed. But the burying ground custodians of to-day scarcely recall an instance of the kind within their experience.

"Body snatching is a lost art so far as the large cemeteries are concerned," said the assistant superintendent of Graceland cemetery in Chicago. "Such a thing would not be possible in a well regulated burying ground of to-day. Aside from other considerations, it would be next to impossible to get a body out of Graceland without being detected in the act. The grounds are patrolled through the night, and every precaution is taken to prevent depredations of any kind. The memory of the oldest employe here probably does not furnish a single instance of the kind."

Another cemetery superintendent said: "The body snatching business ceased to be profitable when we began to use the pine box to inclose the coffin or casket. Before the introduction of this outer box it was comparatively easy for the grave robber to make a narrow excavation at the head of the grave, lift the wooden lid over the glass through which the face of the corpse is seen, smash the glass, insert a body hook under the chin and jerk the body out of the grave. But now the whole grave must be excavated and the lid of the pine box unscrewed before the coffin is accessible. This takes so much time and so increases the chances of discovery that few care to engage in the business for the money there is in it.

"As a matter of fact the commercial value of a corpse is very slight nowadays. The physicians and schools can

steering purposes only. In this tricycle cab the coachman or operator sits in the rear and the passenger in front. The conveyance is propelled by a simple up and down movement of the feet, just as a sewing machine is operated, and there is no chain or sprocket arrangement.

The cab is so constructed as to be suited for all kinds of weather. For bright, balmy days, when no covering

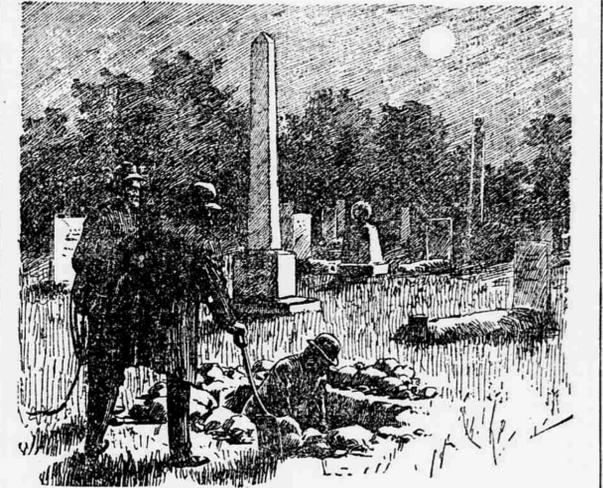


CHEAP CAB QUESTION SOLVED.

is required, there is a hood arrangement that can be detached. In stormy weather it can be easily replaced, thus affording all the protection desired from the weather.

Dining Cars in England.

Dining cars have existed in England for nearly twenty years, but until quite recently they have only been available for first-class passengers, says the Boston Herald. Four years ago dining cars for third-class passengers also were introduced between London and Scotland, between which points the traffic is almost entirely third-class. One route from Scotland passes through Leeds, consequently dining cars between London and Leeds being available for third-class passengers by this route, the other route was constrained to follow the example on its local London and Leeds service. Naturally Liverpool and Manchester complained that similar accommodation was not afforded to them. Thereupon the Midland Company, which carries an unusually small percentage of first-class passengers, adopted a practice of allowing third-class passengers to use the first-class dining car without extra charge. Theoretically, they were re-

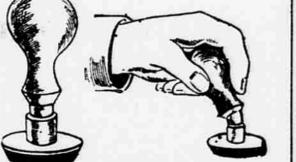


BODY SNATCHERS AT THEIR GHOULISH WORK.

quired to leave the car when they had finished their meals; practically, of course, they sat still and refused to budge. Habitual passengers between London and Manchester soon got to know about this and booked when they wanted to dine en route third-class by the Midland rather than first-class by the London and Northwestern. So now it is announced that the Northwestern will run third-class as well as first-class dining cars both from Liverpool and Manchester.

New Idea for a Rubber Stamp.

In using the rubber stamp with a rigid handle it is more or less difficult to get a good, clean and regular impression, as the operator is likely to press one side of the stamp to the paper heavily, while the other edge will



A JOINTED HANDLE.

barely touch. A new idea in stamp-making is to supply a universal joint in the handle, so that when the rubber type is pressed to the surface of the paper every part stamps evenly because the pressure is uniform.

Swinburne, the Poet.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, the poet, is one of the most eccentric individuals in England. He is a perfect master of Greek and French, but it is his delight to pretend to be entirely illiterate, and though he left Oxford with a great reputation, he never took his degree. Mr. Swinburne lives near London, but he is rarely seen in society. One of the most pleasing traits in his character is his devotion to children.

Many Aged Men and Women.

The French village Sournay has among its 600 inhabitants as many as fourteen who have passed their eightieth year. There is no physician in or near the village.

LATEST IN CYCLES.

Fifty Tricycle Cabs Can Be Seen on the Streets of Berlin.

A tricycle cab is one of the latest features of the streets of Berlin. It is called the Heydt cycle, so named after the inventor, and a company has been organized in the German capital which now has fifty of these tricycle cabs in use. The cab is built on the principle of the bicycle, with the difference that it has three wheels instead of two. The two large wheels support a comfortably cushioned seat on their axle, and the small wheel in the rear is used for



READY FOR THE BATTLE.

The Democratic managers intend to inaugurate the Congressional campaign at an early day, says Senator Jones, national commander of the allied forces of Democracy. While the Republicans are quarreling and fighting among themselves over Cuba, the money question and civil service reform, the Democrats are ready to make a determined effort to capture the next House. The reports received from all parts of the country are of the most encouraging character.

According to these reports, the Democrats are practically certain to gain eight seats in Illinois, seven in Indiana, five in Iowa, four in Kentucky, five in Maryland, seven in Michigan, four in Minnesota, twelve in New York, six in Ohio, five in Pennsylvania and two in West Virginia.

This makes a total gain of sixty-three and it is not expected that the Republicans will gain more than four seats, making the next Democratic gain sixty. According to these figures, the next House would stand: Republicans, 171; opposition, 186. It is not doubted that the Populists and the silver Republicans will act with the Democrats in the next Congress. In organizing the House the Democrats would be allowed to name the three principal officers and the chairmen of all the important committees, while one of the House officers and a number of the less important chairmanships would be given to the Populists and Silver Republicans.

"So far as the State of Kentucky is concerned," says Representative David Highbaugh Smith, of Hodgenville, Larue County, "the Republicans have had their day in court down there and have shown themselves to be unworthy of public confidence. The administration of Governor Bradley is so disastrous a failure as to amount almost to a disgrace. The men who have been sent to Washington by the Kentucky Republicans during their lease of power have not made a favorable impression on the country. The old commonwealth is back again in the Democratic column, and there it is likely to stay. At the next election for members of Congress the Democrats will carry every district except the eleventh and the delegation in the next House will consist of ten Democrats and one Republican. Silver will be the battle cry all along the line. The platform will be the same in every district. It will be such that there will be no need for fusion. The candidacies in various districts will be distributed among the Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans, according to the vote polled in 1896.

Gold Standard Blindness.

Like all other champions of the gold standard the Chicago Times-Herald assumes that if a farmer only succeeds in paying his debts, it is proof positive of his prosperity, and further, that he ought to be supremely happy. It overlooks the circumstance that men may and do pay debts under great disadvantages. A man may have a mortgage on his farm. Grasshoppers may come and destroy a crop; drought may come and ruin another; his barn may be overturned in a cyclone, his house be consumed by fire, sickness and death may invade his family circle. Still, by almost superhuman effort, and by denying himself and his loved ones many things which they need, he may at last pay the mortgage. But would this prove that the grasshoppers, the drought, the cyclone, the fire and the sickness and death were blessings and helped him to do it? According to the Times-Herald's philosophy, yes. The mortgage might surreptitiously change a \$1,000 mortgage into one of \$2,000. The farmer might succeed in paying it, but would that make the act of changing the figures any less a crime, or a disadvantage to the man who is compelled to pay \$2,000 when he only agreed to pay \$1,000? No matter what robbery and extortion are practiced upon the debtor, it is all right so long as he succeeds in paying. That is the infallible gold standard proof.

One Way to Wipe Out Deficit.

We observe that quite a number of moral Republican editors are pointing with pride to the gratifying increase in the internal revenue receipts. If an impetus can be given to the general drunkenness of the country the grand old Republican party will be rescued from the hole in the treasury and the ship of state will avoid the rocks.

Will Not Down.

With a yawning chasm between receipts and expenditures, with protection in abundance and revenue a negative quantity the Republicans say they want the tariff let alone for ten years. No doubt, but the people who pay these taxes do not propose to let it alone. "Maw, make Bill keep quiet; every time I hit him with the hammer he hollers."

As the Republicans Reason.

Wonderful is the logic of Republicanism. According to this system the Wilson bill brought about a deficit of \$70,000,000 fourteen months before it was passed, and now it has brought about a deficit of \$46,000,000 five months after it has been repealed.

National and Individual Footpads.

When a man with a gun robs a defenseless man on the street he is called a footpad, and we send him to the penitentiary. If we can catch him. When

a man with many guns robs a defenseless country of its property and rights we call that diplomacy, sometimes; statesmanship sometimes, and sometimes war. The moral element about the same in both cases, or a little in favor of the footpad, who takes chances, while his august exempt takes none.—Louisville Times.

Political Pointers.

We now have government by bar. Secretary Gage wants prosperity the bankers only.

If every Democrat puts his shoulder to the wheel 1898 will be a great year for the people.

Is there a Democratic club in your vicinity? If not, why not? The work of organization is going on everywhere.

Do you belong to a silver club? not, why not? The battle of your prosperity can never be won without your aid.

In the Congressional campaigns every Democratic candidate for Congress must stand on a platform that indorses the Chicago platform in every particular, as well as the financial issue.

Do not allow a goldbug into Democratic club with which you are connected. Point to the fact that no man cannot be a Democrat and an advocate of the British gold standard one and the same time.

Are there any gold bugs in your vicinity? Find out who they are and about them. As such they have business to meddle in Democratic politics. They belong in the Republican party.

If you see an article in this paper which contains any points that would in your opinion remove doubt from the mind of a Republican neighbor please send him a marked copy. The great majority of Republicans are honest and need to read the truth honestly told.

It is the duty of every Democrat to make a personal neighbor-to-neighbor campaign in behalf of the Democratic platform. Work among Republicans who are disappointed at the election of the administration in slumping to the gold standard. Honest Republicans will be glad to listen to you.

Says State Senator Burley (D) of West Virginia: "The Republicans of our State are almost equally divided on the silver issue. We cannot go before the people with a gold basis platform, and at the same time hope for success at the polls." Mr. Burley is not only a Republican, but is also an advocate of the gold standard."

THE SOLDIER ABR-AD.

The Private is Seldom Seen in the Main Streets of German Cities.

The private soldier is seldom seen in any of the leading thoroughfares of the streets of the large German cities, observed a recently returned military gentleman, to a reporter, not, however, because he would not like to be seen there, but because it is quite a job for him should he show up in a crowded street. In Europe it is different from this country, for military officers have to wear their uniforms constantly. Indeed, many of them have no other clothing. In this country it is extremely rare to see an officer in uniform, and never unless he is going or returning from some function where the uniform is necessary, and which, as I say, is very, very rare. There are in all of the large cities and towns of Germany hundreds and hundreds of officers. It is an imperative duty of the soldier to formally salute every time one passes, even if the same officer passes him ten or ten times in an hour. The private soldier generally takes a side street, so as to avoid meeting officers, for saluting every five minutes in a day, and sometimes oftener, which would be the case should he travel in the principal streets, gets to be tiresome after it is observed for three or four hours. The soldier is nearly always loyal, and takes a pride in saluting his superior officers, but there is often too much of a good thing in military life, as there is in other walks of life. Even in the side streets he has considerable saluting to do, but nothing in comparison with what he would have to do should he venture on the largely traveled streets. The officers are very particular in insisting on salutes, and should a soldier attempt to pass them without doing military honors, on the excuse that he did not see the officer, the result would be somewhat serious to him.

Drinking Oysters.

It may sound odd to speak of "drinking" oysters. One would assume their opportunity to quench their thirst was fairly good, but oysters must be "drunk," "drank" or "watered"—as oystermen say—before they are fit for market. The "drinking" process is simply a matter of fattening, or, to be more truthful, inflating.

When oysters are "raised" (taken from the beds to the air) they are dumped aboard of the sloops, and when a load is obtained the sloop sails for some fresh water stream. At the mouth of these streams are floats into which the oysters are dumped at full tide. As the tide ebbs, and the fresh water from the stream gradually freshens the water in the floats, the oyster opens. He appears to be drinking, but instead is simply allowing the fresh water to wash out the salt. When this is completed the oyster closes. The fresh water causes it to swell, sometimes till the shell gapes open. Thus the oyster becomes plump, and when opened looks fat and fit.