

Brother Kruger, of the Transvaal, seems to be quite an authority on the making of good Rhodes.

Paderewski has unlimited confidence in the financial ability of this country. He's coming back again next year.

It is one of the peculiarities of our politics that not every man who would make a good President would also make a good candidate.

Paderewski is a thorough artist. Any one can tell that by the ease and nonchalance with which he strikes and holds on to the \$2 note.

A Toledo mail carrier has been arrested for destroying a mass of election circulars. The people to whom they were addressed will rise as one man in his defense.

Russia is making less noise and gathering in more fresh territory than any other nation, but one good thing about the Czar is that he never had any designs on American soil.

A New York scientist brings forward a claim that "life is nothing more than a luminous effluvia." Life in New York may be nothing more than this, but the professor ought to see what it is out here.

The gold-bearing part of Forty-Mile Creek, in Alaska, has been discovered to be entirely in the United States. The dividing line is the 141st meridian, and thus far the longitude of the earth has not been shoved around to suit British interests and pretensions.

It is not a good thing to have ill-health; it is not a good thing to have bodily ailments; but it is a great deal better to have bodily ailments that work out manhood than good health that works out imbecility.

It is impossible to estimate the value of tact in the household, even when exercised only by a single member, but, where all share in it and use it for the general good, there will be some of the most exquisite pleasures of home life.

The English Government has explained at last that it proposes to go somewhere or most anywhere up the Nile to fight anybody it meets and to stay at any point it reaches, which as an exposition of purpose is as clear as the Nile itself.

Everything which takes the mind out of self, that comfortable corner where it loves to nestle, and forces it into the bracing air of the outside world, tends to develop within us that faculty of realizing which is the root of all sympathy and the corner-stone of all social welfare.

Reports from New Orleans are to the effect that the handicapping system has been applied to baseball with good results in equalizing clubs of different caliber. After this successful experiment it is to be hoped New York and Louisville will be able to cut more of a figure in the National League race.

The Armenians in America have during the last two months sent \$33,000 from their slender resources to their suffering countrymen, through the Rev. M. G. Hitchcock, of Boston, besides what they have sent through other channels. Most of the Armenians in the United States are poor laboring men.

It is not the indolent or the easily-worked man that has the necessary amount of leisure for the attainment of some desirable local or general object. It is rather the busy man who, by the careful husbanding of fractions of time which other less thoughtful people would waste, can and does achieve incomparably great and valuable results.

What an inexhaustible source of pleasure and profit abounds in that home wherein a tender mother dwells, and from whom may be derived the wisest maxims and rules of happy life! In such a home ought to be found the dutiful daughter and the tender and affectionate son. In that home may be acquired the beauties and knowledge of the world, without the danger of being infected by the bad example abroad.

Ever since war talk began numerous predictions as to its results have been made by the military engineers of the daily press. All that we have read were interesting, but none seem to have approached in scientific accuracy that of a New York man who writes to the Evening Post. This engineer lays down the broad proposition that in a modern naval war, as every international conflict in these days is bound to be, the nation having the largest number of ships is certain to triumph. As England at present has nearly twice as many ships as any other country in the world it is impossible to lick her. This writer gives some facts to prove that in nine out of every ten naval engagements between modern armored vessels all the combatants on both sides are certain to be sunk. It may happen occasionally that two vessels will meet under such circumstances that one may escape, but the chances are always in favor of each getting in one good shot which will sink the other. Certainly in all combats where more than one ship is engaged some on both sides are sure

to go to the bottom. This for the reason, he says, that the modern ironclad can stand but little damage, and in a better skelter fight some effective shots are certain to be made. This writer, therefore, argues that if, as he attempts to prove, modern naval battles will be merely battles of extermination, the nation having the largest number of ships is certain to finally wind up as mistress of the seas. That is to say, England's navy can stand the loss of more ships than any other country possesses, and still be in good fighting condition. From the standpoint of this argument Germany could not hold out against Great Britain six months.

The Supreme Court of the United States has rendered a decision which denies the claim made by Theodore F. Brown in a lower court when he refused to answer in an interstate commerce case, alleging that his testimony might incriminate himself. The decision affirms the right of the court to compel an answer by a witness to questions relating to interstate commerce, but it was not unanimous, as Justices Field, Shiras, Gray and White held that the constitutional provision is sufficient to relieve Brown from the requirement to answer. The decision is a highly important one, as under it the commission will be able to force witnesses to testify in cases where other evidence would not be strong enough to convict of breaches of the interstate commerce law. Up to date it could not do this, for which reason the law was practically a dead letter, railroad officials discriminating in favor of certain persons and places and laughing in their sleeves at the futile character of the efforts made to compel them to deal justly with the public. Some railroad officials are quoted as objecting to it, that it is a return to the barbarous methods of the dark ages; that under it a man may be compelled to go on the witness stand and then and there brand himself as a felon, incurring thereby the contempt of the community, apart from any question of punishment by the court. They say this is an abridgment of the constitutional privilege of the citizen, but if it be his constitutional privilege to commit felony it at least is a constitutional right of other citizens to know of such things and visit with contempt where the law may not formally punish. It will be well if the decision by the Supreme Court puts a stop to the commission of these felonies by common carriers, though it may be feared that it will not entirely abolish the favoritism to the few which is a rank injustice to the many.

Wafers of Gold and Silver.
The time-honored custom of showering rice upon the departing bride and groom has its painful side. Many young couples have begun their honeymoon in actual physical pain, thanks to the stony grains which have stung their eyes and ears and found their way into their clothes and down their necks. Worse disasters than this are on record. Horses have taken fright at the reckless showering of these grains, and this, in some cases, has led to the overturning of the carriage and severe injury of its occupants. Attempts have occasionally been made to mend this state of affairs, but until lately nothing has taken the place of rice. The problem is at last solved, however. At a recent double wedding confetti was used as a substitute for the offending rice. For the benefit of such readers as are unacquainted with confetti, I may describe them as tiny paper wafers, principally gold and silver, with a few colored ones intermixed by way of adding to the effect. The progress of each bride down the staircase to the carriage on this particular occasion was made in a shower of gold and silver—surely quite as good an omen for her future prosperity as could possibly be afforded by the prosaic grains of rice. The effect of the myriads of sparkling confetti was absolutely charming and fairy-like as they fluttered to the ground, the sun catching them as they fell. Certainly they clung about the dresses of the newly married couples, but they did no harm, and were soon shaken off. In the house, as they fell on the floral decorations and sparkled among the roses and ferns, they produced a result that is well worthy of note by those whose business it is to provide novelties for functions of this sort. As for the horses, they were sublimely unconscious of the tiny gold and silver pieces with which their backs had been sprinkled by the time they started.

Perpetual Sunshine.
This occurs on the coast of Peru, where, although it may perhaps be misty occasionally, the blue sky is always visible through this whitish veil. Perpetual sunshine, when the sun is above the horizon, also exists in the Sahara, the great desert of Africa, and in the other rainless regions of the earth—namely, the high lands of Iran, various tracts of Turkistan and China, the plateau of Gobi, and also in Australia, between the southern colonies and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Should clouds appear in any of these districts the heat of the sun is so intense that they are dispersed almost before they have formed.

Spanks and Blows.
Mother—Oh, you naughty boy. You have been to dada's desk and upset all his papers. What will he say when he comes home?
Son (hopefully)—I know what he'll say, but you'd spank me if I told you.—A. J. Sloper.

Mrs. Townsend—Does your husband spend much of his time at home?
Mrs. Peabody—No; he hasn't been able to in the past, but I expect that he will have a great deal of leisure after this. He has just been appointed to a public office.—Somerville Journal.



Sunny Spain.
The duration of sunshine in the various countries of Europe was recently discussed at a scientific meeting in Berlin. It was shown that Spain stands at the head of the list, having on the average 3,000 hours of sunshine per year, while Italy has 2,300 hours, Germany 1,700 hours, and England 1,400 hours. Madrid has almost three times as much sunshine as London.

Rust-Covered Gold.
According to a report of the U. S. Geological Survey the gold found in the Cripple Creek district occurs sometimes in particles too small to be seen with the naked eye, and at other times in plates and spongy masses, some of which are as much as a quarter of an inch in diameter. The gold is generally coated with a rusty, yellow-brown film composed of some compound.

The Best Whip-Stocks.
The dogwood, which first adorns the woods with its beautiful blossoms, and then splashes them with gorgeous dabs of red when its berries come, is said to furnish the best material for whip-stocks. The wood is hard, tough and elastic, and is beautifully marked with knots. The ornamental knobs of the dogwood are sometimes imitated in whipstocks made from other kinds of wood, but no imitation ever equals its original.

Barneget's Bright Light.
The lighthouse at Barneget, New Jersey, is to be furnished with one of the great German searchlights shown at the Chicago exposition. This, it is asserted, will be the most powerful light anywhere employed for such a purpose. At Chicago, when the light was elevated to a height of 240 feet, its illumination at a distance of eight miles is said to have been sufficient to render newspaper print legible at night. It is hoped that the light will penetrate fog effectively enough to warn mariners off the coast in bad weather.

Old Facts About Patents.
The Patent Office at Washington has on record 968 patented devices; 10,122 different models for plows; 9,348 devices and machines for the use of shoemakers; 278 patented methods of making soda water and similar beverages; 11,785 patented buttons, buckles and other contrivances for fastening clothing and harness, and more than 16,000 patents for electrical appliances. The greatest number of patents under one head, that of carriages and vehicles, is 20,066. For velocipedes and bicycles alone, 2,388 patents have been issued.

Sleeping Bees.
At a recent meeting of the Entomological Society of Washington, a description was given of the sleeping habits of two species of bees in Southwestern Texas. Certain small dead bushes are selected by the bees as sleeping quarters. The sleeping insects grasp the thin twigs and thorns of the bushes with all six of their legs, and according to the reader of the communication describing them, Mr. Schwarz, they obtain additional security against falling off by inserting the tips of their widely separated mandibles firmly into the wood.

Distorting the Sun.
Observations made at the Kharhoff Observatory last year indicate that the forces which produce the black spots on the sun may have a wonderful effect in heaping up the solar surface in the neighborhood where the spots exist. Some of the measurements showed that a line through the center of the sun from a group of spots to the opposite side was as much as 200 miles longer than other adjacent diameters of the sun. This seems to show that the surface of the radiant globe is swollen out at the points where great eruptions occur.

Helium in the Stars.
In discussing the wonderful discovery of helium, an element of the sun, now known to exist in certain rare minerals on the earth, Mr. Lockyer, the English astronomer, calls attention to the fact that some stars, or suns, are hotter than others, and that the hottest of all stars have atmospheres consisting almost entirely of hydrogen and helium. The earth, which was once itself a little sun, has plenty of hydrogen but apparently very little helium. Yet, Mr. Lockyer remarks, the earth "once had an atmosphere just as glorious in its hydrogen and its helium as any of the other stars are now glorious. What has become of that helium?" This question, he thinks, will have to be very carefully considered by men of science in the next few years.

Need of Permanent Arbitration.
The immediate duty before the conservative forces of England and America is to organize for the establishment of a high-class continuous board of international arbitration. In this matter the lead may well be taken by the representatives of that religion which is "first pure, then peaceable." With the aid of the great educational institutions and of the vast commercial interests of the two lands, and in the present revived attention to the subject, it ought to be an easy matter to get Parliament's assent to the opinion already formally expressed by the Congress of the United States in favor of the principle of arbitration. What is needed is a permanent system, in place of the

placement and haphazard examples to which we are accustomed, admirable as their results have already proved. Once established between England and America, such a system would gradually spread among the nations of Europe, the more rapidly because of the general conviction that another continental war would show a climax of horrors. Sooner or later arbitration would be followed by disarmament, which is the logical sequence of no other premise, and yet will be the turning-point of the continent toward true democracy and progress. However near or far the ultimate acceptance of the idea, it would, as between us and our English cousins, take the sting out of the viper of war, to which, like the husbandman in the fable, nations too carelessly give the warmth and nourishment of the hearthstone. In the knowledge that disputes would be automatically settled by an impartial tribunal, it would no longer be possible to play a boisterous tune upon a people by pulling out the stop of "patriotism." And it is not too much to hope that in the spread of this idea the whole earth would at last realize the great laureate's noble vision of the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.

Herein lies a great opportunity for the English-speaking race to lead mankind to the glorious destiny of peace. It is a mission to kindle the imagination and the heart.—The Century.

Use of Charcoal.
Now that the so-called waste of the woods is utilized by the kindling wood industry, and small fagots may be bought for two or three cents at the grocery, charcoal is no longer used in city houses for starting fires in the morning. If one wished to buy a small quantity of charcoal to-day he would be puzzled where to get it. The grocers no longer keep it, and the charcoal wagons are so scarce that it is a rarity to see one. Plumbers usually keep a supply on hand, and they will sell a few cents' worth to their customers. Otherwise one must depend upon the wagons which have certain routes that they take every week. In first-class hotels and restaurants, hard wood charcoal is used for broiling and cooking. A charcoal fire gives a brown, crispy look to meat that cannot be obtained by any other fuel. Coal will smoke and taint the meat and a wood fire will burn it. Charcoal gives a steady, even heat, and does not burn. The best cooks insist on charcoal fires for all their cooking. Those who can afford French cooks in their private homes are good customers for the charcoal wagons also. In Delaware County there are a number of chemical factories where the hard woods are used for wood alcohol and acetate of lime, and the charcoal thus made would be a waste if it could not be used in the city hotels. Prepared or granulated charcoal for filtering purposes is now used quite generally, and the trade in it for manufacturing is rapidly increasing. In the South this is more particularly true than in the North. New Orleans is a great center of the charcoal industry in the South, and many canal boat loads are brought to the city every week to supply the retail demand. This is then granulated or pulverized for filtering water that is to be manufactured into ice. Great quantities are put up in small packages and sold at the drug store for various purposes.

The Bicycle in Japan.
The Japanese were infected with the bicycle craze several years ago, says Theodore Wores, the artist, and it broke out in peculiar ways. I took my safety wheel with me to Japan, and I found it of great assistance. It was not much of a novelty except in the country. I arranged a sketching outfit that I could pack on my machine, and in this way I made a number of long trips into the country, where a bicycle attracted attention. One day I was jogging along on my wheel when I saw something coming toward me which I could not size up. As it drew nearer I saw that it was a Japanese riding one of the old-fashioned high wheels. Probably the machine had done service in the United States, and had been sent with a lot of other second-hand, out-of-date machines to Japan. The rider was an expert, and evidently perfectly happy with his wheel. He was dressed in Japanese costume, which is not the best adapted for bicycle riding, and he rode without using the handle bar. In one hand he held a gayly colored parasol, and in the other a fan that he worked vigorously, for the day was warm. He managed his wheel easily with his feet, and he was apparently enjoying the impression that he was sure to make on the natives. Of course in the large cities of Japan there are many up-to-date wheels, but they were mostly owned by foreigners.

A Poser.
Professor Zanker, the famous Orientalist, one day received the copy of an inscription which a friend and admirer of his declared he had found in a mediaeval tome. The scribe promising to forward the valuable manuscript as soon as he got it from its owner, a relative of his. The inscription ran as follows:
"Coy era woh rosserfor guinrom doog."
For three days the professor puzzled his brains without making any sense of it. Then his little son, a fourth form boy, came to his father's study and spied the strange writing on the desk. After looking at it for a while he asked his father since when he had taken to writing backward.
"What do you mean?" said the astonished professor.
"Why," replied the latter, "if you read this from right to left it runs this way. 'Good-morning, professor, how are you?'"

Street Crowds in Caracas.
One of the features of the city of Caracas, Venezuela, that most strongly impresses a foreigner is the rapidity with which a crowd gathers in the streets. This is best exemplified when some of the many wandering musicians, in whom Caracas abounds, prepare to give an impromptu open-air concert. Their first notes no sooner echo through the neighborhood than there gathers to listen a vast throng that almost blocks up the thoroughfare. The cobblers and all the other tenants of the entries, having no doors to open nor stairs to descend, are on the spot almost instantaneously. They eagerly drink in the music, but at the same time bear a wary eye upon the hats of the musicians, and no sooner do they observe the slightest indication that one is about to be taken off for the purpose of taking up a collection by passing it around among the crowd than they disappear even more quickly than they came.

Phenomenal Memories.
Centuries of training have made the Japanese memory a phenomenal one. It is the custom to number the houses on a street in what you might call their chronological order instead of their sequence; that is, in the order of their erection, so that number eleven may adjoin nine hundred and ninety-nine on one side, and number seventy on the other. Number one may be three miles from number two, and number ten may be midway between them. In the city of Tokio there are nearly fourteen hundred streets. When a street passes through more than one ward, the houses are numbered independently; so there may be five or six numbered twenty and eight or ten numbered two—perhaps miles apart. Therefore, when a stranger sets out to find a certain number in a certain street, his task is a formidable one. After hunting for three or four hours and finding seven or eight houses with the same number of the street six or eight

miles apart, he will sit down in the nearest tea house and cry or curse, as the case may be, until he gets cooled off. Then he will hire a Jap-kisha man, write the address on a piece of paper, and go whirling up and down streets and alleys until he is landed at the proper place without the slightest physical, mental, or moral damage. The Jap-kisha men are coolies without education or mental training. Most of them can read and write the names of streets and men and merchants and factories. They know the location and the number of every one of the three hundred and eighteen thousand and some odd houses in Tokio, and the name of almost every one of the one million five hundred thousand inhabitants. Even when an address is given incorrectly they are at no loss to find it, and if you will tell them accurately where you want to go, they will take you without the slightest delay or hesitation. The same phenomenal memory appears in other classes of the people, and you have to be careful about telling a Japanese gentleman the same story twice.



Better Roads.
A correspondent of the Youths' Companion sends a suggestive clipping from a local paper. The idea is advanced that one reason why the farmers of the country cannot have free postal delivery is that roads are so hard to travel. If the roads were good, postmen on cycles might deliver the mails everywhere. The thought is one which dwellers in the country will do well to ponder.

The increasing interest in the subject is attested by the space given to the discussion of the question in the daily newspapers and other periodicals. In a recent issue of the New York Independent Professor Shaler of Harvard University and several other experts fill eight pages with their contributions respecting the need of better common roads, the best methods of construction, and the obvious value of highways convenient for travel.

Massachusetts sets the example for the rest of the country, and Professor Shaler, who is a member of the highway commission, gives an account of the method adopted by that commonwealth to promote the building of good roads. Under this system three-fourths of the expense is met by the State, and the rest of the cost by the counties in which the work is done. The Massachusetts plan of State aid has been tried two years without showing serious defects, and Professor Shaler regards it as a practical method of dealing with the road-building problem.

An important suggestion in these articles concerns the proper technical training of civil engineers who wish to make highway construction a specialty. The highest skill in engineering is required to exemplify the best methods in highway work. The study of materials to be used and of their proper disposition is a necessary preparation for expert treatment of the road question.

The old theory in rural districts, that any one who could order workmen about vigorously and make animals do their best was fit to be a highway constructor, is giving place to the sensible conclusion that careful training is needed for work which is designed to increase the convenience and prosperity of the community.

Out of the Ruts.
"Neglect" is the only thing that makes most bad roads.
Adam was the first man, but Macadam stands first as a road-maker.
If better roads would be of no advantage would worse ones be a disadvantage?

Good drainage, top and bottom, will do much toward making a road good and keeping it so.
The spring rains are near at hand, when farmers will again climb fences to town and back.

Every farmer should take a "half day off" and plant trees along the highway. And then look after them.
Fix the road leading past your farm. If it is too much for you to do alone, insist on having the neighbors, the township, or the county assist you.

Marriage of the Dead.
A strange custom prevails among a certain tribe in the Caucasus. When a single young man dies, some one calls upon the bereaved parents who has carried to the grave a marriageable daughter in the course of the year, and says:
"Your son is sure to want a wife; I'll give you my daughter and you shall deliver to me the marriage portion in return."
A friendly offer of this description is never rejected, and the two parties soon come to terms as to the amount of the dowry, which varies according to the advantages possessed by the girl in her life-time. Cases have been known where the young man's father has given as much as thirty cows to secure a dead wife for his dead son.

What Are Lake Dwellings.
In various parts of the world—in New Guinea and in certain parts of South America and Africa, for instance—the natives live in houses built upon piles of wood driven into the bed of lakes. They use this kind of dwelling either for safety's sake, since they cannot be attacked without due knowledge, or because the country being marshy, dry land is not easily to be had for building purposes. It is curious that our remote forefathers in this savage state—before even the records of history began—built unto themselves similar houses. In their case it was doubtless defence against enemies that led to the construction of such dwellings.

Husband—Here they have brought me an account for a ball costume; how is that? Wife—Oh! don't you remember? It is for the green dress I wore last year at the ball where we first met. Husband—8-0-0-0! and now I am expected to pay for the net with which I was caught.—L'Annuaire.

Nature is very kind; by the time a man is shelved socially, he is glad of it.