

MOONLIT MEADOWS.

On these white nights, when over hill and wood... The brooding mystery of midnight lies...

Marooned

I accepted my Aunt Maltrevor's invitation to her river picnic, for the simple reason that I dared not refuse...

ing straight for a barge moored by the fowpath. We did not capsize, but we lost a lot of paint and woke up the bargee...

It is against Dulcinea's principles to let a little thing like Mrs. Maltrevor disconcert her...

I suppose we must have sat in silence for quite half-an-hour after that. I smoked and Dulcinea smoked...



IT'S REALLY RATHER FUNNY.

way that went straight to her heart. We conversed quite amicably. "Guthrie is almost sure to win the Singles, of course," I remarked carelessly...

Arriving punctually at 1:30, at the lock which Mrs. Maltrevor had appointed as rendezvous, I found the lady surrounded by the youth and beauty of Maston...

A small flotilla of boats lay in the stream ready for us, and as soon as my aunt had introduced the baronet to everyone except Mrs. Neville Ponsobly...

"You cannot fight against Fate when it has Mrs. M. on its side," I observed as I handed Dulcinea into the Sancy Jane...

It is against Dulcinea's principles to let a little thing like Mrs. Maltrevor disconcert her, and it is due to her to say that she never lost grip of the situation...

Young Perkins laughed. (I detest him.) "Very serious indeed," he replied, holding up in each hand the half of a lemonade bottle...

"You can follow at your leisure, dear," she remarked to Dulcinea, with a meaning look at me. I knew the look. It said, "If you haven't proposed, do it now..."

A smile spread from the corners of her mouth, dimpled in her cheeks, and I knew my answer even before she spoke...

HATCHING SNAKES' EGGS.

Tip on Reptile's Snout which it breaks its Way Out. Because of the popular aversion to the serpent family there is a surprising amount of ignorance about even the simplest of snake habits...

The European ring snake is closely allied to our common water snake and goes by the scientific name Tropidonotus natrix. Curiously enough, all other members of the genus Tropidonotus are viviparous...

The eggs are laid in July or August in a soft bed of loam or decaying vegetation or in a heap of manure. The older snakes sometimes lay as many as a dozen eggs or more and they usually stick together...

The young hatch in late summer or autumn. Before hatching they develop a sharp calcareous growth on the tip of the snout known as the egg tooth, with which the shell is slit open...

At first the young live on insects and worms, but within a few weeks they are strong enough to attack and devour young frogs. Strangely enough, although the adults are strong swimmers and spend much time in ponds and streams hunting the fish and frogs...

Surprised Several Times. "Patience—Didn't he surprise you when he kissed you?" "Patience—Yes; you know he said he was only going to kiss me once!—You-knowers Statesman."

Not Expected Him. Employer—So you want a job, eh? Well, what did you do at your last place? Boy—I didn't do nothing. I was the office boy.—St. Louis Times.

FACTS IN TABLOID FORM.

New York city has an average of one and one-half million visitors each week. Taxicabs have become so popular in London that the demand for them exceeds the supply...

What are declared by experts to be practically inexhaustible layers of asphalt have been discovered in Syria, twenty-five miles from the port of Latakia, on the road leading toward Aleppo.

The Forestry Department has been conducting experiments with the hope of finding some commercial manner of making use of the white fir which is found on the Pacific coast in great quantities. Very little of it has been cut.

Paris of Oklahoma are being prospected and mineral deposits in various districts show that gold, silver and copper are likely to be found in large quantities. Asphalt is also being found and this latter mining is likely to be started immediately.

The total production of metals of the world for 1907 showed that 713,000 tons of copper was produced, 992,800 tons of lead, 98,700 tons of tin, 738,400 tons of zinc, 14,100 tons of nickel and 19,500 tons of aluminum. Of the precious metals, gold, silver and quicksilver, there were no official reports.

It is comparatively estimated that the area of first class timber in Mexico comprises from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 acres. The heaviest stumpage of pine and oak is found in the states of Chihuahua, Durango, Jalisco, Michoacan and Guerrero. The best timber is still more or less remote from transportation.

The new patent laws of Great Britain have caused the investment in England of fully £25,000,000 of foreign capital. Germany has contributed the largest portion of the money for chemical manufactures. Naturally the measure is considered one of the most popular ever enacted by the British government.

Arkansas claims to have the largest peach orchard in the world and 1,000 men and 300 teams are annually employed harvesting the crop. The orchard is in Sevier County and has 200,000 trees. It covers 2,800 acres and trees on 2,000 acres are bearing. Five hundred freight cars will be used to haul the crop to market.

A Kansas woman, whose husband has been in the habit of sleeping late on Sunday mornings, adopted the plan of preparing something particularly pleasing to eat for the Sunday morning breakfast. The plan worked all right for a time, but now the husband has contracted the habit of eating Sunday breakfast in his pajamas and then going back to bed.

The combined imports and exports for the twelve months ending June 30, 1908, were \$3,055,000,000. It compares favorably with the total of the preceding year, in which our foreign trade was \$2,315,000,000, and \$2,571,000,000 two years ago. This contrast shows that in the latest year our volume of foreign trade has fallen off somewhat less than 10 per cent, due wholly to a decrease in imports of about 12 per cent from the preceding year.—Wall Street Journal.

It is said to be owed to the frogs of western Australia that that part of the empire is English and not French. About 1800 a party of prospective French colonists landed on the west coast of Australia, but on the first morning they were alarmed by the loud croaking of the frogs, which they took for demons, and retired with all speed to their ships. Western Australia might have preferred the frog to the swan as her emblem, just as Rome might have preferred, instead of the eagle, the goose that saved the capital.

Experiments in the domestication and training of elephants in the Congo Free State indicate that they can be used to advantage for portage work in regions where the opening up of the country is most difficult because of lack of transportation facilities. Central African elephants could not be tamed and made to perform the same services as their Asiatic fellows in India, a bulletin issued by the Congo government announces the complete success of experiments conducted at an "elephant farm" at Apl.—Consular Reports.

Tomatoes are imported in increasing quantities into England from Italy. The quality of these tomatoes is stated to be good and the prices low. Large quantities of canned tomatoes are also shipped now each season from Italy to the eastern part of the United States, and the American shipments to Italy are much smaller than formerly. It is suggested by one of the leading importers in Liverpool that the American tomatoes are frequently packed before they are fully ripe, and that this practice renders them undesirable for use. The Italian tomatoes are carefully selected, and are only packed when of a ripe and rich color.

A curious court story went the rounds some little time ago about a lovely foreigner, one of whose verbal slips gave King Edward occasion for a hearty laugh. A very lively personage, with a delightful accent, she made such a favorable impression upon the King that he asked her to be his partner at bridge. "But, sir," she said, "I really don't know how to play." The King would take no denial, however, and she became rather embarrassed. "I assure you, sir," she said, "I could not think of playing. I don't know the difference between a king and a knave." There was an awkward silence, and then she realized what she had said and was covered with confusion. The King laughed it off, and now tells the story with gusto.—Dundee Advertiser.

EDITORIALS

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS IN AMERICA.

NO PERSON should get the idea from the statement of the Interstate Commerce Commission that the number of deaths from railroad accidents in the first three months of the present year was smaller than for any similar period since 1901, that railroads are exercising greater care of their patrons. Such is not the case, in the opinion of the commission, which attributes the decrease to the smaller number of trains operated and to the shorter hours of employees, due to business depression. During those three months 728 persons were killed and 15,441 injured in railroad accidents. Of the killed, 67 were passengers, 194 were trainmen engaged in the operation of trains and 65 were trainmen who were killed in railroad yards. There have been 1,190 collisions, all of which might have been avoided by use of the block signal system. In these collisions 62 persons were killed and 1,337 injured. There were also 1,442 derailments directly traceable to defects of roadbed or equipment. The neglect of operators, signalmen and trainmen caused 13 accidents, in which 3 persons were killed and 63 injured. This is a grievous record, considering the ability that has been shown by Americans in other lines of business. Railroads appear to be an exception to the rule that greater efficiency marks the conduct of corporations every year.—Chicago Journal.

CONGRESS' GREAT SPENDING.

THE aggregate of all the appropriations made by Congress this year reaches the abnormal sum of \$1,088,804,804, or more than \$88,000,000 in excess of the budget of the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that the river and harbor bill, which last year carried an appropriation of \$37,000,000, was omitted. About one-half of the increase is chargeable to the army and navy, \$23,000,000 for the latter and \$14,000,000 for the former. The army and navy, by the way, are becoming expensive necessities, and annually cost nearly \$100,000,000 each. In fact, so enormous were the appropriations that Representative Tanney, the chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, felt called upon to apologize for their excessive size, while the Democrats, through Representative Fitzgerald, of New York, presented comparative figures that are almost as startling. Mr. Fitzgerald asserted, for instance, that the expenditure during the four Roosevelt years, 1900-1909, amounted to \$3,428,000,000, while during the civil war years, 1862-1865, they reached only \$3,394,000,000. According to Mr. Fitzgerald, never but once in our history did the expenditures of our government reach the thousand million dollar mark. During the fiscal year 1865, when the country was in the throes of the bloody and expensive civil war, the expenditures aggregated \$1,394,655,000, of which \$1,050,890,400 were for the maintenance of the army. To-day, in a time of profound

NINE CHEESES.

Anecdotes in which the mean and grasping man is outwitted or held up to ridicule are popular everywhere and always. Few ancient towns are without their historic or traditional instances of stinginess punished or sharp practice defeated. In one village of New England there is still current such a tale concerning an unpopular parson of more than a century ago. Although a learned man of impressive manners, this clergyman was noted for undue reluctance to expend and readiness to acquire. He had a habit of pleading poverty and hinting for gifts.

The parish, although with some murmuring, had responded with fuel for his kitchen, hay for his horse, Thanksgiving turkeys for his table, and a "subscription cloak" of black satin for his wife when her wedding mantau became shabby. The murmurs increased when it was found that the parson turned an honest but overshrewd penny by selling, instead of using, many of these donations. But they were not loud enough to disturb his stately calm, and he went his way without condescending to notice them. At last, however, fortune played him trick for trick.

One pleasant winter day he made a round of calls, and at each house, when just about to leave, he casually asked his hostess if she could let him have a little piece of cheese, as his wife happened to have none in the house, and unexpected company had arrived. In each case, the good housewife, instead of a little piece, generously presented him with a whole cheese, which he graciously accepted. As he turned from the door-stone, at the close of the last visit, while the mother of the family and her brood of nine children stood politely gathered to watch him drive away, he carelessly pulled the wrong rein—the sleigh tipped sharply on a drift, and out from under the ministerial laprobe rolled nine large cheeses, which spun friskily away in all directions over the icy crust.

His hostess understood the situation at a glance. "Don't disturb yourself, pray, sir," she urged, politely, as he made a motion to descend. "It is quite unnecessary. The children will gather them up and none be overburdened, nor will there be any quarrelling for the privilege. See, it is just a cheese to a child."

So it was; and the embarrassed parson, unable to escape, was obliged to receive back his cheeses, with due thanks to each giggling volunteer, as they came up in gleeful procession, one by one. "Too well he knew that by the next day the whole parish would be laughing at his misadventure, although he could scarcely have guessed that the joke would be recalled a hundred years after."

ELEVATOR SERVICE IN ROME.

Tenants of Apartment House May Ride Up, but Must Walk Down. Why central heating, running water, electric lights and elevator service is not just as possible in Italy as anywhere else in the civilized world is a problem. Now, for instance, a new apartment house here on Monte Flincio

peace, the nation is spending more money than it did in the time of civil war. Very few people appreciate the fact that while Great Britain's navy in 1907 cost \$149,000,000, the United States navy in 1908 will cost \$122,000,000, a sum as great as the expense of the French and German navies combined. The maintenance of the army is also reaching a figure which places this country on a par with the military nations of Europe.—Henry L. West, in the Forum.

THE TROLLEY.

ONE of the greatest adjuncts to modern civilization is the trolley. It brings the city to the country, the country to the city, and binds each together with a closer community of interest than ever was possible before. The tired workers of the city it brings to the enjoyment of the cool air, green trees, the shaded ponds and streams, the peace and restfulness of the countryside. Those suffering from the monotony and ennui of rural life it brings to the city, to the kaleidoscope changes and excitements of the streets, to the mart, the theater, the church and the lecture room. Thus it gives the recreation which is found in change to the urban as well as to the rural dweller and increases the enjoyment of life for both.

There are to-day nearly 40,000 miles of electric railways in the United States, and the network of connecting lines is extending with wonderful rapidity. Millions are invested in the business, which has become in many quarters a sharp competitor with the steam cars in passenger transportation. A considerable express and freight business is springing up on many lines, and soon the trolley will have problems for solution just as soon as the steam railroads. In rural sections the trolley is working a revolution in values. It is developing hamlets and towns and villages and building up recreation places for both the urban and rural dweller. By bringing the former from the heated, crowded streets into the pure and invigorating atmosphere of the country it is performing the part of a physician, which is not the least among its blessings.—Utica Globe.

ENGLAND'S NAVY EVER READY.

GREAT BRITAIN is not only building enough ships to keep herself in numbers and tonnage equal to any two rival powers; she is also keeping the personnel of her navy up to the mark, and is providing—as at Rosyth—docks and naval bases ample in equipment and convenient in location. Tremendous as is the display of power in the number of ships in the North Sea, her demonstration of readiness to use them all efficiently is even more impressive. To have sent out this mighty fleet with scratch crews might have been better than nothing. To send it out with ample and amply trained complements is an achievement fit to command the admiration of the world.—New York Tribune.

BUDDHIST PRAYING WHEEL.



Praying wheels are in common use among the Buddhists of the Orient. The arrangement consists usually of a little box of prayers printed on paper, which is whirled around by the hand, the pious one believing that with every revolution he is laying up as great a store of merit as though he had recited all the prayers with which the box is filled. Sometimes the praying wheel consists of a cylinder, set upright and revolving on an axis. In this cylinder are arranged, one on top of the other, sheets of paper upon which the prayers are written. The sheets must be wound on the axis from left to right and the wheel when set in motion must revolve in the opposite direction, so that the writing passes in front of the person turning the wheel in the way in which it is read, from left to right. If made to revolve from right to left it is held sacrilegious.

The picture of the Japanese Buddhist priest and praying wheel reproduced herewith was taken at the great temple of Zenkōji, at Nakano, Japan, where there are two of them. They are comparatively rare in Japan, only the Tendai and Shingon sects of Buddhists using them.

profoundly proclaims its "lift." Largely the apartment houses are devoid of this convenience, and one mounts to the six or seven stories on his two feet, as best he may. This is by no means an extreme example of the curious mechanical clumsiness of Italy. They have absolutely no mechanical genius and they will not allow foreigners to come in and exercise theirs. I am told that if an American or an English capitalist wished to erect apartment houses or any other buildings in Rome he would find that he would not be allowed to buy materials or hire workmen, and that his way would be blocked by every sort of obstacle. The Italian is extremely jealous of his own country.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Rather Contradictory. "Can you actually foretell the future?" "Madam, in foretelling the future I am a past master."—Baltimore American.