

SCORPION BY MAIL.
Animal Had Crawled in the Pamphlet while at Jamaica.

A few days ago C. G. Lloyd, the botanist, received through the mail a pamphlet issued by the botanical department of the colonial government of the island of Jamaica. Upon removing the wrapper and straightening out the folds of the pamphlet there was disclosed the remains of a deadly scorpion. It is characteristic of this venomous insect to seek a hiding place in anything of tubular shape which will give it the opportunity of crawling to the far end of its castle and there awaiting the chance of giving some unsuspecting person a glimpse of the River Styx. In this case the scorpion, while prowling around among the mail sacks in the Kingston postoffice, discovered the pamphlet and immediately crawled into the opening. Unfortunately for "his scorpionship," or fortunately for some mail clerk, the pamphlet was placed under a pile of mail matter in the sack, with the result that the insect was flattened out. Mr. Lloyd saw in an instant the nature of the foreign corpse, and wisely put it aside until he held an inquest. Like an Indian, the only good scorpion is a dead one, and not even a hardened coroner would dare to sit on one if the thing showed evidences of playing possum. The weight on this scorpion was so heavy that his tail took the familiar curve it assumes when the business end is ready to go to work. The "stinger" is forced out to its full length. Mr. Lloyd says that this is only an instance of how insects are accidentally transmitted from one part of the world to another. The accompanying danger is correspondingly great to those who handle the mail matter.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

How the Filipinos Bury Their Dead.
 A Manila correspondent of an American newspaper says that the Filipinos do not bury their dead under ground, but in tiers of masonry. In Manila, Paco cemetery is the most important place of burial. The high walls of masonry in which are the long vaults, each the size for one body, are built in circles, one within the other, with a walk between. As the coffin is thrust in the vault the mourners bend the air with their walls, but they stand by quietly while it is sealed with bricks and mortar; when the final crevice had been filled they quietly disperse. These vaults are hired, not bought, of the church, and when the rent is not forthcoming the body is torn out, no matter in what state of preservation, and the vault rented to some one else who can afford to pay. The bones thus desecrated are thrown in a heap in a place prepared for the purpose, where there is a large and gruesome collection.

ARE YOU GOING ABROAD?
 If you contemplate a trip to Europe during the summer, please remember that any ticket agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R'y can furnish you rates, tickets and up to date information, as well as reserved berths on ocean steamers—all lines—in advance of sailing.

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The Vocabularies of Civilization.
 If the English language is soon to be the universal tongue, one is inclined to feel rather sorry for those who have to acquire it. For, according to a German statistician, who has made a study concerning the comparative wealth of all the languages of modern civilization, ours is the only one which heads the list with the enormous vocabulary of 260,000 words. Germany comes next, after a great drop, with 80,000 words; then follows Italy, with 75,000; France, with only 30,000; Turkey, with 22,000, and Spain, with 20,000 words. Fortunately the literature of a nation does not depend on the number of words in its vocabulary, for did not the French masters of the pen in the seventeenth century work with the small capital of 5,000 words?

Lake Chelan's Upheaval.
 Lake Chelan, in the state of Washington, just east of the Cascade range of mountains, was recently the scene of a strange disturbance. Without warning, the water in the center of the lake, which is some forty miles long and three or four broad, rose to a height of fifteen feet. Immense waves rolled upon the shores, and a large creek emptying into the lake ran dry for three hours. There is an Indian tradition of a volcanic crater having once existed in the neighborhood of the lake.

Soft Sawder.
 "When I was discharged my employer let me down easy." "How so?" "He said I could get work more readily than an inferior man."—Detroit Free Press.

Why are we warned to look out for certain individuals who are more than capable of looking out for themselves?

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CITY MAKES MONEY.
Good Profit Made by Topeka in Selling Electricity.

In the current issue of the Industrialist, a magazine published at the University of Kansas, there is an account of the Topeka electric plant, by Henry M. Thomas. He has recently made a thorough investigation of the situation in Topeka and he arrives at the following conclusions: "In spite of the mistakes that have been made, city ownership and operation of the street lighting system has proved a paying investment to the municipality. As one result of the experience, it is not unreasonable to expect that in the future the city will exhibit great capabilities of management, and will still further improve the service and reduce the expenses. When the plant was founded the lowest bid that had been received from a private company was for \$10 per light per month; and while there are no data beyond November, 1889, yet it is believed to be a near and safe approximation to assume that the cost per lamp did not exceed that for the thirty-eight months immediately following the date just mentioned, for which time we have already presented exact statements of cost. According to the table given, the cost per lamp per month from November, 1889, to January, 1893, was \$8.40, which leaves a difference of \$1.60 per lamp per month in favor of the city operation. The number of lamps at this time was 134, and on the assumption that the saving just mentioned was continuous from 1887 to 1893, there was a total saving to the city over what a contract for \$10 per light per month would have involved of \$21,186.80. And had the same rate of economy been prolonged up to the time of the rebuilding of the plant, the amount retained to the city would have been the large sum of \$33,561.60. When the building of the plant was under contemplation the Edison company endeavored to secure the street lighting, by representing a bid for the extremely low figure of \$6 per light, but even at this rate the city would have suffered a loss of 87 cents per light per month, amounting, for the year covered by this investigation, to \$2,693.52, in view of the economies effected by the new apparatus."—Nebraska Journal.

Experiments with Wireless Telegraphy.
 Experiments are reported with wireless telegraphy during ten days between Chamonix and the Vallot Observatory, on Mont Blanc; the straight distance was seven and five one-hundredths miles and the difference in height two miles. After a description of the transmitting and receiving stations, the results are summed up as follows: The experiments were made every day during eleven hours. The signals were satisfactory only for a distance between the oscillator spheres equal to eight one-hundredths of an inch. The absence of water in liquid form did not interfere, neither did the intervention of clouds. Although atmospheric electricity actuated the apparatus several times, it did not make communication impossible.

A Homeopath.
 From Judge: Mrs. Jones—Did Mrs. Smith's son graduate as an allopath or a homeopath? Mrs. Brown—Homeopath, I think. He's been livin' at home ever since he took his degree.

Color in Commerce.
 The United States consul-general in Frankfurt says "that it is important to study the taste of people in the matter of color, as well as in regard to shape, in designing goods for a foreign market. Saxon makers of needles drove England out of Brazil by wrapping their goods in pink paper instead of black. Other Germans are catering to the fondness of Russians for red in their dress. France recently learned how distasteful green is to a Chinaman, but it cost a good deal of money to make the discovery."

England Loans Most Money.
 England is the great money lender of the world. A statistician estimates that she has \$550,000,000 invested in land and mortgages in countries abroad. She lends to foreign governments and municipalities an average of \$200,000,000 annually. She finances railways in India, Canada, the United States, Australia, South Africa and South America, her investments of this class aggregating \$2,100,000. English capital is invested in this country in water and gas companies, cattle and horse raising, breweries, flour mills, street railways, iron manufacturing and mining.

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PHOTOGRAPHS AS PROOFS.
They Are About as Conclusive as Figures "That Never Lie."

"Speaking of freak photographs," said an old newspaper man, "reminds me of a singular little incident. About three years ago, if you remember, a story went the rounds of the papers that a flying machine had been seen maneuvering in the air at a number of different places in the middle west. Some of the reports seemed to be well authenticated, and it was certainly strange that the same yarn should come from so many widely separated points. One day while the thing was being generally talked about, a certain big journal received a photograph from a town in Nebraska showing an enormous cigar-shaped machine caught in the top of a huge oak tree. According to the story that accompanied the picture the aerial navigators had attempted to land and fell foul of the oak. There was no doubt as to the genuineness of the tree in the photo, and it was at first thought that the machine had been 'painted in,' which is an old trick with pictorial fakery. When an expert was called in, however, he declared positively that the picture had not been doctored, and on the strength of his opinion a reproduction was printed. How the trick was done afterward leaked out. It seems the photographer first took a separate picture of a small pasteboard model of a flying machine, which was only about a foot long. One of the beauties about photography is that you can make everything the same size, and the photo of the model was as big as the photo of the tree. The model was then cut out of the picture with a pair of scissors and pasted on top of the branches of the oak, and a new photograph was taken of the combination. It was the most deceptive-looking job I ever laid my eyes on."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Not What He Meant.
 He—"How would you like to own a—er—a little puppy?" She—"Oh, Mr. Softly, this is so sudden!"

Wash this paper for other verses
 The lady got angry and said 'Oh fudge!' But Miss Maud Muller married the Judge, And they lived in a house built of brown stone With eight fine children they called their own.

The children grew famous for beauty and grace, And a Maud Muller bonnet soon shaded each face. While Maud Muller legends it's easy to see Helped to cut down the bills for their small history.

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Its One Soldier Left Behind.
 When Southend, an Essex village in England came to send off to the war its quota of reservists, only one man for the reserve could be found. But a big and excited crowd having assembled at the station, the one man reserve was carried shoulder high onto the platform. Then the band played. As the train was starting the musicians struck up the plaintive farewell air, "Auld lang syne," and handkerchiefs were waved and the air rang with the deafening cries of "Goodby!" and "God bless you!" The train at last disappeared outside the station. Then, lo! the reservist to whom they had shrieked farewell was standing on the platform. He had been left behind.

A Butterfly Specie.
 The inhabitants of New York were astonished on Sept. 7 by an invasion of butterflies, which suddenly appeared by thousands fluttering about the tall buildings, alighting on the grass in the parks, spreading their broad, orange-hued sails above the roaring traffic in the streets, and even threading the wily mazes of the Brooklyn bridge. They belong to the variety known as the Monarch, or Milkweed butterfly, which measures from three to four inches across the wings. The cause of their strange invasion is not known. They disappeared as suddenly as they had come.

A Social Marvel.
 "He is the most notable rich man in this section of the west. We have plenty of rich men who came here without a cent, but he is the only rich man who came here rich. I tell you he is to be credited with a great force of character."—Detroit Journal.

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TRAINS DEPART:

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Passenger east, No. 4.	9:57 A. M.
Freight east, No. 24.	12:01 P. M.
Freight east, No. 28.	2:35 P. M.
GOING WEST.	
Passenger west, No. 3.	9:40 P. M.
Freight west, No. 27.	9:15 P. M.
Freight, No. 23 Local.	4:10 P. M.

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J. P. MANN.

John Wesley the Great Man.
 From Scribner's for December: No man lived nearer the center than John Wesley. Neither Clive nor Pitt, neither Mansfield nor Johnson. You cannot cut him out of our national life. No single figure influenced so many minds, no single voice touched so many hearts. No other man did such a life's work for England. As a writer he has not achieved distinction, he was no Athanasius, no Augustine, he was ever a preacher and an organizer, a laborer in the service of humanity; but happily for us his journals remain, and from them we can learn better than from anywhere else what manner of man he was, and the character of the times during which he lived and moved and had his being.

Dublin Visited by a Cyclone.
 Dublin, Ireland, was visited by a regular cyclone recently, which did a good deal of damage in the city. The cyclonic character of the storm may be judged by the marked course it took, passing over a narrow breadth. In one street the driver of a hearse was blown off his seat, and only for some people holding on to the hearse it would have been over with the coffin. As it was some of the mourning coaches were capsized, as were several cabs in the street. A number of houses were blown down, and roofs taken off by the storm, which was one of the most severe ever experienced in Dublin.

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A Noble Hero.
 We have just heard of a narrow escape that Mrs. Ham Twombly had a little while back. It seems she was boiling a kettle of soft soap out in the back yard when her gingham apron caught fire. If she hadn't had the presence of mind to scream it might have been our painful duty to chronicle a dreadful holocaust. But Bill Sloane, who happened to be going down the alley at the time, jumped the back fence and let her down by the nape of the neck in the cistern. We understand Ham Twombly, when he heard of it, offered Bill \$5 as a reward for his heroic conduct, but Bill nobly refused it. While the fire was being put out in the cistern the kettle boiled over, and Mrs. Twombly lost three or four gallons of good soap. She has the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

How to Learn Good English.
 From Gunton's Magazine: If the pupil always hears correct English from his teachers and is always corrected when he uses incorrect English he will acquire a correct use of the language without spending several years studying books devoted to rules and their many exceptions, diagrams, parsing, spelling lists, etc. After the pupil has learned to use correct English, while learning something else which he writes and talks about, five hours a week for one school year is all that is necessary for the systematic teaching of English grammar.

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