

part.
To check this profanation of the Lord's day he engaged four women, teachers of week day schools, to instruct such children as he should send them on the Sunday in reading and the church catechism, for which they were to receive one shilling each.

A visible improvement being effected in a short time both in the manners and morals of the children, Mr. Rakes' scheme attracted general attention. Her majesty Queen Charlotte admitted him to an audience, and expressed high approbation of his plan. Numerous schools formed on the same model sprang up in the principal towns, and a society, under high patronage was formed in London in 1785 for the establishment and support of Sunday schools throughout the kingdom. This was the first stage of the Sunday school.

GRATUITOUS INSTRUCTION.
A great impediment to prosperity was the expense of hiring the teachers. It is not certain who first conceived the idea of gratuitous instruction, but this in time came about, and the result was that by the year 1800 teaching in the Sunday school was almost universally without remuneration.

In 1803 the Sunday School union was formed, which, by its numerous publications agents and branch societies in the different parts of the kingdom, exercised a wide influence. The Institute of the Church of England, which operated in a like manner, is of a similar date.

Scotland boasts of Sunday schools as early as 1782. But it was not till 1786, when the Society for Promoting Religious Knowledge among the Poor was formed, that they were publicly recognized, nor until 1797, when the first Free Sunday School society was organized, that free Sunday schools became general. At first these met with considerable opposition from portions of the ecclesiastical court, but this soon vanished, and Sunday school unions existed in most of the large towns.

Sunday schools in Ireland had been in a measure anticipated in County Down in 1770, but the system pursued by Mr. Raikes was not adopted till about 1785, since which date its system has been similar to that of England.

In Ireland the Sunday School society was established in 1809.

The Roman Catholics, in the United Kingdom at least, have numerous Sunday schools.

THE FIRST IN AMERICA.

The First Day or Sunday School society, formed in Philadelphia in 1791, is the first permanent Sunday school organization in the United States of which there is trustworthy record. It was composed of members of different denominations, including the Society of Friends. Its constitution required that reading and writing from the Bible and such other religious and moral books as the society approved should furnish the course of instruction. The New York Sunday School union was organized in 1816, the Philadelphia Sunday and Adult School union one year later. These three societies recognized the union of different denominations, and led to the organization of the American Sunday School union at Philadelphia in 1824. The object of this union was to concentrate the efforts of Sunday school societies in different sections of the United States, and to start schools wherever there were children found in sufficient numbers to attend them.

It naturally came about that as new states were settled and the various denominations were strengthened, increased attention was given by each to its own Sunday schools, and denominational unions to promote these were formed. As years passed the question book was added to the original recitation, and at length in a great degree superseded it. Later on came lesson helps, texts, maps, black board exercises, etc. In the earlier schools reward tickets were given, and when these had sufficiently accumulated they were exchanged for books. This stimulated the production of works of a character suitable to young minds, and from this has been developed the Sunday school library.

Good Words for the Reporter.

Reporters differ in many ways. Some are purely descriptive, in some a blimp of humor is magnificently developed, some permeate a story, short or long, with idiosyncrasies of personality. Others are cast iron in recital, and make their stories as piquant as an algebraical problem. A good reporter, gifted with natural spirits and health, is a thing of beauty and a joy forever in any well regulated newspaper office. Every door is open to him, and the field of life is spread before him with its sunshine and its shadow. In the course of an evening he talks with presidents and walks with princes. He sits with the sorrowful and mourns with the humble. No place is too sacred, none too lowly; no man is too high, too rich, too great for him to approach, none too poor, too humble for him to serve. He is as much at home in the palace of a millionaire as in a hospital ward of a prison. He writes with equal readiness the glib utterances of a deftly bled bishop and the harrowing confession of a poor devil in the Tombs.

A good reporter must be discreet. How much he hears that he cannot tell; how much he knows that it would not be fair for him to reveal. He sees the best and worst types of society, and has his hand more constantly upon the pulse of affairs than any minister, lawyer, doctor or merchant.—Joe Howard in New York Graphic.

ing taken a twist with his lariat round the horn of the saddle, drags the bawling little creature, extended at full length, up to the fire, where it is held before it can make a struggle. A less skillful roper catches round the neck, and then, if the calf is a large one, the man who seizes it has his hands full, as the bleating, bucking animal develops astonishing strength, cuts the wildest capers, and resists frantically and with all its power. If there are seventy or eighty calves in a corral the scene is one of the greatest confusion. The ropers, spurring and checking the fierce little horses, drag the calves up so quickly that a dozen men can hardly hold hold them, the men with the horns, blackened with soot, run to and fro; the calf wrestlers, grimy with blood, dust and sweat, work like beavers, while with the voice of a stentor the tallyman shouts out the number and sex of each calf. The dust rises in clouds and the shouts, cheers, curses and laughter of the men unite with the lowing of the cows and the frantic bleating of the roped calves to make a perfect Babel.—Theodore Roosevelt in The Century.

Prisoners Placed on Parole.
In New York the court may send the prisoner to what is known as the state reformatory instead of the state prison, provided it is his first offense. He goes to the reformatory for the maximum time fixed by law as the penalty for his crime. For example, if the maximum term for burglary is twenty years and the minimum term one year, his sentence is fixed at twenty years. At any time after one year that the directors become satisfied that the prisoner will lead an honest life they may, after providing employment for him, either by the board or his friends, permit him to go out on parole. The conditions are something like this: He shall report to the warden at the end of each month what amount he has earned, what expended, what his associates have been, and other matters pertaining to his life. This must be verified by his employer. If these conditions are faithfully observed during the term stipulated in the parole, whether it be six or twelve months or longer, at the end of that time he receives an absolute release, which restores him to citizenship.

If he violates the conditions of his parole he may be returned to the prison on an order issued by the directors and be compelled to serve out his full term, or if incorrigible may be transferred to the state penitentiary and there be compelled to serve out the maximum term. In Ohio the man may be paroled at any time after serving the minimum term, but the parole continues in force until the end of the maximum term is reached under substantially the same conditions as are in use in New York.—Chicago Times interview.

The "Echo Maker" at Sea.
Another device, which may be called the echo maker, that of Mr. De la Torre, has been examined by a board of naval officers, of which Commander Bainbridge Hoff, United States navy, was the head, and report was made to the navy department of a somewhat favorable nature. It may consist of a flaring funnel screwed on the muzzle of a rifle. It is operated by firing the rifle in the direction of the supposed obstacle, such as a rock, an iceberg, another ship, or a cliff. If the obstacle is there, the beam of sound projected through the funnel strikes the obstacle and rebounds; and as the echo is more or less perfect in proportion as the obstacle is more or less parallel to the ship from which the gun is fired, and as it is near or remote, the position of the obstacle may thus be inferred.

The board reported that De la Torre's method was firing a blank cartridge from a rifle in the presence of objects as small as a spar buoy and as large as a fort, and catching the return sound or echo. He claims that a sharp sound projected at or nearly at an object, and only when so directed, will in every case return some of the sound sent, so that theoretically there will always be an echo, and the difference in the time between the sound sent and the echo will indicate the remoteness of the object. The board found that a return sound could be heard from the side of a fort a half mile off, from passing steamers a quarter mile off if broadside to, from bluffs and sails of vessels about the same distance, and from spar buoys 200 yards away.—Arnold Burges Johnson in Popular Science Monthly.

The Races of Australia.

The inhabitants of the continent of Australia have always been a stumbling block in the classification of the races, owing to their exhibiting in a mixed form some of the characteristics of two distinct races. Their complexion, features and peculiarities of the skeleton are distinctly negro like, yet the frizzly hair so characteristic of that race is not found in the Australian. The supposition is that they are not a distinct race at all, but a cross between two branches of two primitive stocks. It has been supposed that the frizzly haired Melanesians or Oceanic negroes, which include the Papuans of New Guinea and the inhabitants of the Western Pacific islands, originally peopled the Australian continent, and that a modification of their physical characteristics was brought about to some degree by the infusion of a low form of Caucasian, such as is now found in the interior of the southern parts of India, among the modifications being the change to straight hair.—Globe Democrat.

substantial paved
the spacious boulevard, shaded by leafy birches and poplars; the canal, spanned at intervals by graceful bridges; the picturesque tower of the water-works; the enormous cathedral of Alexander Nevski; the bourse; the theatres; the hotels; the market places—all seem to indicate a great populous center of life and commercial activity; but of living inhabitants there is not a sign. Grass and weeds are growing in the middle of the empty streets and in the chinks of the travel-worn sidewalks; birds are singing fearlessly in the trees that shade the lonely and deserted boulevard; the countless shops and warehouses are all closed, barred, and padlocked; the bells are silent in the gilded belleries of the churches, and the astonished stranger may perhaps wander for a mile between solid blocks of buildings without seeing an open door, a vehicle, or a single human being. The city seems to have been stricken by a pestilence and deserted.

If the newcomer remembers for what Nizhni Novgorod is celebrated, he is not long, of course, in coming to the conclusion that he is on the site of the famous fair; but the first realization of the fact that the fair is in itself a separate and independent city, and a city which during nine months of every year stands empty and deserted, comes to him with the shock of a great surprise. The fair city of Nizhni Novgorod is situated on a low peninsula between the rivers Oka and Volga, just above their junction, very much as New York city is situated on Manhattan Island, between East River and the Hudson. In geographical position it bears the same relation to the old town of Nizhni Novgorod that New York would bear to Jersey City if the latter were elevated on a steep terraced bluff 400 feet above the level of the Hudson.

AN EPHEMERAL LIFE.
The Russian fair city, however, differs from New York city in that it is a mere temporary market—a huge commercial caravanary where 500,000 traders assemble every year to buy and sell commodities. In September it has frequently a population of more than 100,000 souls, and contains merchandise valued at \$75,000,000; while in January, February or March all of its inhabitants might be fed and sheltered in the smallest of its hotels, and all of its goods might be put into a single one of its innumerable shops. Its life, therefore, is a sort of intermittent commercial fever, in which an annual paroxysm of intense and unnatural activity is followed by a long interval of torpor and stagnation.

It seems almost incredible at first that a city of such magnitude—a city which contains churches, mosques, theatres, markets, banks, hotels, a merchants' exchange, and nearly 7,000 shops and inhabitable buildings, should have so ephemeral a life, and should be so completely abandoned every year after it has served the purpose for which it was created. When I saw this unique city for the first time, on a clear frosty night in January, 1898, it presented an extraordinary picture of loneliness and desolation. The moonlight streamed down into its long empty streets, where the broken snow lay two feet deep upon the sidewalks; it touched with silver the white walls and swelling domes of the old fair cathedral, from whose towers there came no clangor of bells; it sparkled on great snowdrifts heaped up against the doors of the empty houses, and poured a flood of pale light over thousands of snow-covered roofs; but it did not reveal anywhere a sign of a human being. The city seemed to be not only uninhabited, but wholly abandoned to the arctic spirits of solitude and frost.

A BUSY MULTITUDE.
When I saw it next, at the height of the annual fair in the autumn of 1870, it was so changed as to be almost unrecognizable. It was then surrounded by a great forest of shipping; its hot, dusty atmosphere thrilled with the incessant whistling of steamers; merchandise to the value of 125,000,000 rubles lay on its shores or was packed into its 6,000 shops; every building within its limits was crowded; 60,000 people were crossing every day the pontoon bridge which connected it with the old town; a military band was playing airs from Offenbach's operas on the great boulevard in front of the governor's house, and through all the streets of the re-animated and reawakened city poured a great tumultuous flood of human life.

I did not see the fair city again until June, 1885, when I found it almost as completely deserted as on the occasion of my first visit, but in other ways greatly changed and improved. Substantial brick buildings had taken the place of the long rows of inflammable wooden shops and sheds; the streets in many parts of the city had been neatly paved; the number of stores and warehouses had largely increased, and the lower end of the peninsula had been improved and dignified by the erection of the great Alexander Nevski cathedral.—George Kennan in The Century.

Overworked Locomotive Engineers.

The greatest precaution that railroad companies have taken of late years to guard against the possibility of accidents has been the allowance to engineers of eight hours' sleep and rest between each trip. Many a time both my fireman and myself have, unawares, dropped asleep from fatigue and exhaustion, while our train was rushing along the track with its precious cargo of human freight. But none of those about the track knew of the negligence save ourselves. Of course, we did not take these naps knowingly or purposely, but would drop asleep unconsciously, and not awake till the engine passed a switch or rustic depot, causing an echoing noise that served to bring us to our senses.

This was particularly the case in the seasons of excursions, when an engineer, after making one long trip, would go home, eat his frugal meal and prepare to take a much needed rest, when suddenly a messenger would arrive and summon him to report at once for another long trip. The order was imperative, for if the engineer refused he would forfeit his position. Many accidents have occurred in this way which were attributed to other sources. One night I ran two miles past an important station before awakening, and when the conductor asked me the reason, I replied that the air brake refused to work because the rubber hose had burst. Then I had to take a hatchet and file and ruin a section of hose to verify my report, which was made in writing to the officers of the company.—Engineer in Globe Democrat.

happen in in-
The case showing
just at this time
and her colony of
the simple cir-
abundance of rabbits,
the laboring class of
obtain sufficient animal
for meat for themselves and
go by night to catch a rabbit
When game-keepers or police step
poor fellows are sent to prison and
as poachers. The government of
New South Wales, instead of securing these
experts in the art of snaring, and canning the
meat as fast as the rabbits are caught, are
inviting men who, with vile poison, are about
to spread disease among the poor creatures,
so that they may die an awful, lingering
death, the flesh and skin also being wasted.
The English government and "gentry" are
at great expense in watching and punishing
the very men in England who would be in-
valuable in Australia. If they would give
these "poachers" a free passage to Sydney,
and the heads of government there would
take them by contracting to present them
with a homestead, when the rabbits were
caught, they would do it right away, ten
times faster than these poisonous cholera
doctors. By employing artists in canning
millions of dollars might be made of the pre-
served rabbit meat. How much more sens-
ible to make money of the flesh and skins! If
the quantity should be immense and put the
price down very low so much the better.
The poachers would make money at even five
cents per rabbit, as they would catch on the
average of 200 every day, and a million could
number at first. The delicious food could
then be taken to England and sold at a price
within reach of every half starved agricul-
tural or other laborer.—George Gardner in
New York Herald.

Forming a Town Lot Syndicate.

A Lincoln man who has just returned from an extended tour of the country recently struck a small town in Missouri where the shanties composing the metropolis were surrounded by numerous acres of land staked off into lots. Before one of the magnificent trade emporiums sat an old man smoking a corn cob pipe and apparently plunged in meditation. The Lincoln man assumed an air of profound innocence and accosted him, when this dialogue ensued:

"What are these stakes here for?"
"Town lots, stranger? This hazy town is just er goin' to have a boom. An opery house will be built thar, ef nothin' happens."
"Who owns this property?"
"A syndicat. Ye wou'd see ary files on this town."

"What is a syndicat?"
"Why, ye see, a syndicat is er lot of fellers in thar city who has money, and they sorter get together and buy up a farm, and they stake it off, ye see, an' start a boom. Thar thar land was thar Widder Maguire farm, but thar syndicat bought it, and staked it off."

"And how does the syndicat do its boom-
ing?"
"Wal, one feller in thar syndicat gets control of it all, ye see, and he sells a lot to another feller, an' it goes round an' round, an' every time it goes round the price is riz."

"But then it would never be sold out of that body?"
"It wou'dnt, eh? Stranger, yer wrong. Finally, er lot is sold to some outside feller, and then it's deddicated, ye see, an' don't go 'ound no more."
"Thanks; now I know all about it."—Nebraska State Journal.

Searching a Hindoo Priest.

In a temple within the palace enclosure a daily offering of a goat is made to the blood loving goddess "Kali." We did not see the day's sacrifice, but the blood was yet fresh which flowed from the neck of the little offering, which is severed by one blow from the high priest. I was looking at the goddess with her necklace of skulls through my opera glass. I saw the priest suspected me of some disrespect to the deity. I gave him the glass. He marveled at the huge size the image assumed. I then turned the glass and made him look through the diminishing end.
"Wow! Wow! Wo-o-w!" was his exclamation of surprise.

After making our offering I was about to light my cigar in the court with a magnifying or sun glass. I saw his reverence wanted to see the thing. I motioned him to hold out his hand. His face wore an expression of sweet innocence as the rays of the sun began to brighten on the back of his fist, but when they got to a little focus and shot a hot shaft into his brown sun he uttered another "Wow! wow! oh, wow! wo-o-w!" I never saw such merriment as the other priests and attendants exhibited, and the good old chap seemed hugely to relish the joke. But I noticed that every now and then he would look at the little roasting spot and rub it with his other hand. He will know a sun glass hereafter.—Carter Harrison in Chicago Mail.

The "Three Sixes" Alarm.

Speaking of fires, one occasionally hears the remark that the alarm sounded "three sixes." Now what is meant by "three sixes" is an enigma to most persons. It is popularly supposed it is a general alarm, and will bring to the scene of action all the fire apparatus in the city. This is a mistake. The "three sixes" are substantially equivalent to a double third alarm. Fire and Water, a journal devoted to the firemen's interests, explains that ordinarily a third alarm calls out an average of eleven engine companies and four hook and ladder companies. The "three sixes" sent out after a third alarm has been sent in will bring twenty-two engines, eight hook and ladder companies, two water towers, the chief, two assistant chiefs and several chiefs of battalions. These numbers might vary a little, according to the location of the fire.

The full force of the New York city department consists of fifty-five engine companies, eighteen hook and ladder companies, two water towers, two fire boats, one chief of department, two assistant chiefs and twelve chiefs of battalions.—Scientific American.

Wives of Newspaper Men.

There are not a few newspaper men whose wives are constant helpmates in their profession. The wife of Frank G. Carpenter, the Washington correspondent, used to clip every day, from a score or more of newspapers, articles which might in future be of use to her husband. These she would date and then file away in envelopes in a cabinet made for the purpose. Consequently, Mr. Carpenter has lots of clippings on any subject that was ever written about in the public press. He says it is the best thing of its kind in existence, and his wife is responsible for it.—New York World.

Quickly Disposed Of.

Magistrate to prisoner—Drunk and disorderly; what's your name?
Prisoner—Gawge Washington (sic) Johnson, sah.
Magistrate—Well, Gawge Washington Hick Johnson, it's \$10 or thirty days.—The Epoch.

The Plattsmouth Herald

Is enjoying a Boom in both its
DAILY AND WEEKLY
EDITIONS.

The Year 1888

Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

Political, Commercial
and Social Transactions

of this year and would keep pace with the times should

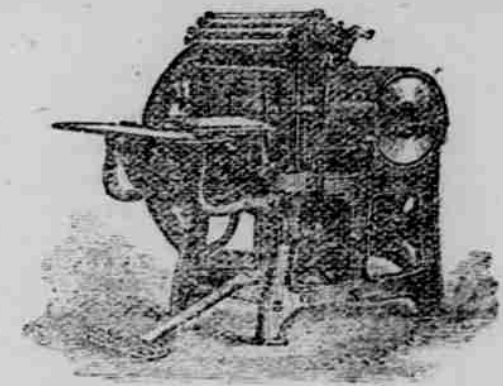
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