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Washington Claim Agents.

The San Francisco "Examiner" Estab-
lishes a Claim Agency in
Washington.

The San Francisco Examiner is frequently in receipt of complaints from its subscribers in all parts of the Coast, States and Territories that legitimate claims against the government for Indian depredation and lands, postal and pension claims in trusted to the care of various attorneys and claim agents have not been properly prosecuted, or, if so that the charges of the agents or attorneys for fees and alleged expenses have been so great as to leave little or nothing for the claimants. We have been frequently urged to make war upon these rapacious attorneys, but for many reasons it is almost impossible to do so in such a manner as to benefit our subscribers. We might possibly succeed in driving a dishonest or over-greedy attorney out of the field, but his place would be immediately taken by another, and the fight would be endless and its results practically useless. We have therefore decided, as the best means of curing the evil, to establish in Washington a Bureau of Claims, which will take charge of all such matters and push them to a speedy end, in all cases where it is possible, successful issue. Mr. John Wedderburn, our Washington correspondent, and up to the time of his death Secretary to the late Senator Hearst, in which position he has had much experience in presenting and pushing such claims, will have charge of this bureau and will employ all necessary legal and clerical assistance of the first grade, making only such charge for their services as will cover the actual cost and pay him a reasonable price for the time devoted to the work. Mr. Wedderburn is known to every member of the Pacific Coast congressional delegation, to whom inquiries as to his standing and reliability can be addressed. The necessity for the establishment of such a bureau is well shown by the following petition, which has been extensively circulated in northern California.

To the Hon. the Senate of the United States in Congress Assembled—GENTLEMEN: The undersigned petitioners would most respectfully represent that we are claimants against the Government for losses sustained by Indian depredations committed in Humboldt county, California, at different times since 1850; that we were induced to employ an attorney here to properly prepare said claims, and another at Washington by power of attorney to prosecute them there; that we have paid our attorneys here for making out all papers in said claims, besides being at considerable expense in attending with witnesses the Government commission here that examined our claims; that now our attorneys at Washington (Messrs. —) are asking us to sign a contract giving them one-third of whatever may be recovered from the Government as their fee, besides requiring us to pay all accruing costs for prosecuting said claims. This we consider an extravagant and unreasonable charge. Therefore we pray your honorable body to amend the bill now pending before you for settling these claims that it will embody a clause allowing attorneys such fees and commission for attending to said claims as shall be deemed just and equitable, and your petitioners will ever be most thankful.

Parties having claims of any kind against the Government, will address all letters to the Examiner Bureau of Claims, 70 Corcoran Building, Washington, D. C., where Mr. Wedderburn may also be consulted in person.

No Difference Perceptible.
Jones—Very stupid girl, that Miss Wilpin.
Smith—How so?
"Why, you see we were guessing conundrums the other evening, and I asked her what was the difference between myself and a donkey."
"Well?" Why, by Jove, she said she didn't know."
"Well, as far as that goes, I don't either."—Texas Sittings.
Nothing the Matter with the Deacon.
First Deacon—You've got that horse yet, I see.
Second Deacon—Why shouldn't I have him?
First Deacon—You are always selling or trading your horses, you know.
Second Deacon—There isn't anything the matter with this horse.—New York Ledger.
An Efficacious Medicine.
"Ah, doctor, allow me to give you my heartiest thanks for that medicine you prescribed for me."
"So it helped you very much?"
"Yes, indeed, immensely."
"How many bottles did you use?"
"I didn't drink any myself, but my uncle got away with one bottle, and soon after breathed his last. I inherit all his property."

Charming Rattlesnakes.

In the yard in the rear of a house in Jacksonville, Fla., a colored man could be seen yesterday, surrounded by venomous snakes. The rattlesnake, coach whip, gopher and many other of the most poisonous species were well represented.

The writer, a correspondent of the Globe-Democrat, was amazed. He well knew that he had not "tackled" any cheap quality of snake-producing elixir, and, like Josh Billings, came to the conclusion that the back yard belonged to the snakes.
The scribe watched the colored man place the serpents in a huge box, and then ventured in. He at once discovered that he was in the presence of Silas Foman, the celebrated snake charmer, who is well known in Chicago and other cities by managers of museums and snake dealers. He is a copper-colored man, about five feet eight inches in height, dresses neatly, wearing cuffs, belt and collar made from the skin of the rattlesnake. In reply to questions, he told the following story:

"I am a native of Hayti, and have been in this country seventeen years. A few years ago I determined to engage exclusively in the snake business. In my childhood my parents would gratify me by permitting me to have a rattlesnake as a companion, and as I grew older I became fonder of those reptiles, and always delighted in making them a study. I would sometimes get bit by them, but my father had a remedy that would soon heal the wound. In 1883, while in Lee county, near the Everglades, I captured a snake which was shipped to New York. I was paid \$70 for it, and have been following the business ever since. On all rattlesnakes four feet long and over I realize from \$25 to \$50 each. The smaller snakes I generally use myself for the manufacture of my snake oil, which will cure any rheumatism or neuralgia in existence. I learned this from the Seminole Indians. When I first went among them I was crippled with rheumatism, and was a great sufferer. I was completely restored in a few days by the application of rattlesnake oil.

"Before Pablo Beach was thoroughly settled I caught hundreds of snakes in that vicinity, but the largest and best quality of rattlesnakes to be found in this country are at Fort George Island at the mouth of the St. John's river. The snakes at this place are very gentle and can be easily tamed. Last month I succeeded in capturing forty-four snakes there and was only bit eight times. I have secured from the Seminole Indians a fluid that I use when bitten, and with it the bite of a rattlesnake, or, in fact, any other snake, is no more serious than the bite of a mosquito."

The writer was anxious to know how he captured the snakes, when the charmer replied: "If you will come with me over the river, near the old base ball park, I think we will catch one. You see I have 'tip', a dog that I have trained, that aids me in capturing the snakes. To tell the truth, he finds them for me."

The snake charmer, the scribe and the dog at once started for the spot mentioned to capture a snake. It was fully an hour before the dog obtained a clew, and began barking; finally he dropped and pointed his tail straight into the air.

The snake charmer ran to the spot, and by the use of a mirror attached to a stick six feet long, he gradually drew the snake until within arm's reach, when he reached out and secured the reptile, not, however, without the fangs penetrating his right hand. He applied his antidote, and smilingly requested the reporter to "take a bite," too, which was emphatically refused.

Returning home, the snake-charmer took out a piece of red silk, shook it in front of the reptile, who with its deadly fangs penetrated it. Silas then jerked the silk violently away and the fangs were removed.

The Very First American Railway.

The first railway built in the United States was three miles in length, extending from the granite quarries at Quincy Mass., to the Neponsett river. It was commenced in 1826 and finished in 1827. The gauge was five feet. The rails were pine, a foot thick, covered with hard iron, which was in turn strapped with iron. In January, 1827, a short coal road was completed from the mines to Mauch Chunk, Pa. The rails on this road were also of timber, with flat iron bars. The first locomotive for use on a railroad was invented by Richard Trevithick in 1804, and the first in Wales.

George Stephens built the first really successful locomotive in 1814, and tested it upon the Killingwood road in the north of England. The first locomotive for actual service constructed in America was E. I. Miller's Best Friend," built for the South Carolina Railroad company in 1830. Peter Cooper built a little experimental locomotive early in 1830, before the "Best Friend" was completed.—St. Louis Republic.

There is no difference between a dead miser and a live one, for in either case his dream of life is one.

Strange Southern Birds.

"Didn't you never hear 'bout elpenstretchers?" asked Sam Hopkin the other day.

Sam is a little colored chap that runs errands and makes himself generally useful about an uptown hotel. He sails from Charlottesville, Va., and what Sam doesn't know about the Virginia woods isn't worth knowing. Sam may rifle with the truth sometimes, but he puts on such an air of injured innocence when any of his statements are doubted that you are almost forced to believe him.

"Never heard 'bout elpenstretchers?" he again repeated. "Why, they're the surliest birds in all Virginia. What they're like? Why, bless yo' stars, they ain't like nothin' in these hyar parts. Yo' kin only find 'em in the swamps back o' Charlottesville, in the spring time, too."

"What they is in the summer? They ain't nowhar. They's jess frogs an' lizards. Well, when yo' takes your gun in, goes out in the morn' at night. Yo' see they burrows in the ground day times an' comes out at night to feed."

"They's bigger'n a quail, an' most as big as 'en. Ain't got no feathers—only long bristles, like a porcupine. They's as black as yo' hat, too, an' looks like a young rooster with his feathers all pulled out. Good to eat? Yes, sirc. Mos' as good as 'possum. Yo' has to be might keerful, too, for if a elpenstretcher sticks yo' with one o' them ar quills yo's a dead man, sartain sure. In the summer time they changes into lizards an' frogs. They's jess the biggis' frogs yo' ever see, too."

"An' yo' never heard o' soras neither? Well, sakes alive! Why, me an' my Cousin Bill killed mos' a thousand o' 'em in one night. Soras is jess like black birds, only smaller."

"All yo' has to do is to go in the woods with a pitchwood light an' a long pole. I jess went out one night with a light an' pole, an' Bill he held a big bag. Jess as fas' as I'd knock 'em off the limb they'd fall in Bill's bag. But they's common all over Virginia. "Then they's the gings cutus, bigger'n a nelephant, and the whangdoodle bird that flies aroun' nights and carries off pigs and cattle. An' say, mister, they's got a green bug down there mos' a foot high, an'—"

"Hol' on, sah! That ain't half they's got down there." Then, as I had turned to leave, after expressing my incredulity, Sam remarked, with an air of injured innocence:

"Well, ef it doan' jess beat me. These hyar Yankee won't b'lieve nuthin' less they sees 'em."—New York Herald.

Living Jewels.

The most interesting thing noticed by a Kansas City, Mo., man while traveling in Mexico was a habit that the ladies of Chihuahua and Zacetas have of wearing fireflies for jewelry.

The legs of the flies are shaped like hooks and appear to have been formed expressly in the interest of the ladies. These living diamonds shine as no others can, for the fireflies in that part of the world emit light of rare brilliancy, such as not seen in those of the north. So beautiful and strong is the light they give to the world that other objects may be seen by the aid of it. The habit of wearing fireflies is indulged in by the ladies of the poor classes to a large extent, and even the society ladies often pick up the shining brownies and fasten them in their hair, just as an American girl will gather wild flowers for a similar purpose.—Jeweler's Weekly.

A New Glove Mender.

It is quite a difficult matter to repair one's gloves so neatly and perfectly that it cannot be detected as a non-professional's work, but there is a little invention which facilitates this work to such a degree that even untrained hands can do it with neatness and dispatch. The apparatus is made of nickel, and consists of two parts, which press against each other by means of a spring. Part of the top edge is provided with small teeth in close range to each other. The seam of the glove to be mended is carefully press between these teeth, and the needle passed in and out at every opening. Repairing done in this manner is so perfect that it cannot be noticed.—New York Journal.

Delmonico Potatoes.

Chop either raw or cold boiled potatoes fine, place a layer in a pudding dish, sift over a little flour, then more potatoes, seasoning, etc. When the dish is full, pour milk over, set it in the oven and bake to a nice brown. It is well to cover for awhile so as to steam the potatoes at first, then remove and finish. If raw potatoes are cooked thus allow forty-five minutes for the baking; those already cooked will not need baking more than thirty minutes.

Florida Camphor.

The new industry of camphor production gives promise of being permanently established in Florida. It is believed that in ten years' time there will be more camphor trees than orange trees in Florida, and that the camphor industry will be more profitable than of sugar. It is stated that the camphor obtained from the Florida trees approaches more nearly to that of Japan than of Chinese camphor, since the odor of safrol is distinctly recognizable.—New York Advertiser.

DE WITT'S

Cure Dyspepsia, Heartburn, Biliousness, Indigestion, Liver Complaint, Nerveless, Etc.

LITTLE EARLY

These Little Pills have the most perfect action and pleasant effect of any pill ever made. Sold by Druggists, or sent by mail for 25 cents.

AN INTELLIGENT MULE.

Jupiter can boast of the most intelligent mule on record, says the Florida Times-Union. His muleship is free, white (gray) and twenty-one years old. Every night this much admired animal proceeds to the life saving station. It is customary for the man on watch to discharge his coston signal (a red light) when vessels come too near the beach. Now his muleship has "caught on" to what this signal means. So every night at 8 o'clock the sailor's four-legged friend proceeds to walk the beach, and if a vessel comes too near the shore his muleship assumes the attitude of a stubborn bull when trying to be led by the horns, but instead of a coston signal he sends forth a neigh that makes night hideous. "Port or starboard you helm," is the order on the ship, and away sail the jolly tars in perfect safety and with a grateful heart to the four-legged patrolman.

The people at the World's Dispensary of Buffalo, N. Y., have a stock-taking time once a year and what do you think they do? Count the number of bottles that've been returned by the men and women who say that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery or Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription didn't do what they said it would do.

And how many do you think they have to count. One in ten? Not one in five hundred! Here are two remedies—one the "Golden Medical Discovery," for regulating and invigorating the liver and purifying the blood; the other, the hope of weakly womanhood; they've been sold for years, sold by the million bottles; sold under a positive guarantee, and not one in five hundred can say: "It was not the medicine for me!" And—there is any reason why you should be the one? And—supposing you are, what do you lose? Absolutely nothing!

Not too late. Daughter—"I will have to break my engagement with Mr. Niccetto, mother. I find I do not love him."

Mother—"When did you make that discovery?" Daughter—"Last evening. I saw him out walking with another woman and I did not want to murder her as I did."

Waiting for Points. Mrs. De Style—"Have you decided in the pattern for your coat?" Miss De Style—"No, mother, I am waiting for this month's number of the Gentlemen's Magazine.—New York Weekly.



In reading over the literary items of the week, I found not much to interest me, until my eye caught sight of an article headed "Jenks' Dream." Imagine my surprise to find it ended up with a recommendation to use Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. Nevertheless, being a great sufferer from sick headache, I determined to try them, and, to my great joy, I found prompt relief, and by their protracted use, a complete immunity from such attacks. Pierce's Pellets often cure sick headache in an hour. They are gently laxative or actively cathartic, according to size of dose. As a pleasant laxative, take one each night on retiring. For adults, four act as an active, yet painless, cathartic. Cause no griping or sickness. Best Liver Pill ever made. Smallest, Cheapest, Easiest to take. For Constipation, Indigestion and Bilious Attacks, they have no equal.

Manufactured at the Chemical Laboratory of the WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.
W. N. U. York Neb. 121

Spur Wire Fence.

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CHILE'S ACTUS CREAM. Cure Chapped Hands, Face and Lips, Tack Sores, Pimples. Makes rough skin soft and smooth without being sticky or greasy. Delicately perfumed. Removes face powder, soap and makes it adhere to the skin, imparting at once a brilliant complexion. Price 25c. Mailed to any address on receipt of price. Send postal note, silver or stamps. Address plainly, CHILE'S & CO., 718 Chamber of Commerce, Chicago.

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near a County Seat in the Republican Valley, Nebr., to trade for live stock, or stock of merchandise. Address Box 180, York, Nebr.

SWEET POTATOES

Sent out to be sprouted on the spot. No expense required. Directions for growing FREE. Address T. J. SKINNER, Columbus, Kansas.

VASELINE.

FOR ONE DOLLAR sent us by mail, we will do three times as much for you. To any person in the United States, all the following articles are packed in a neat box. One two-ounce bottle of Pure Vaseline, 10c. One two-ounce bottle of Vaseline Cream, 10c. One jar of Vaseline Cold Cream, 10c. One cake of Vaseline Soap, 10c. One cake of Vaseline Soap, unscented, 10c. One cake of Vaseline Soap, scented, 10c. One two-ounce bottle of White Vaseline, 10c. — \$1.10

Or for stamps any single article at price named. If you have occasion to use Vaseline in any form be certain to accept only genuine goods put up by us in original packages. A great many druggists are crying to persuade buyers to take Vaseline put up by them. Never yield to such persuasion, as the article is an imitation without value, and will not give you the result you expect. A bottle of Blue Seal Vaseline is worth all the druggists at ten cents. Chase & Mott Co., 215 State St., New York.

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No More Collecting! No More Collecting! \$45 Machines only \$16. We are now selling our Western Improved Singer Sewing Machines—sent out complete with all accessories and warranted for 5 years for only \$16. Send for circular and see full description of this and other styles to M. A. Seaton & Co., 707 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill.

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I have a positive remedy for the above disease; by its use thousands of cases of the worst kind and of long standing have been cured. Indeed so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease to any sufferer who will send me their Express and P. O. address. T. A. STICOM, M. C., 181 Fenrl St., N. Y.

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