



comes visible in a black stain, or crust, covering the diamond. On examination this is found to be composed of graphite.

Vulgarity.

A loud-voiced American lady was explaining at a London reception why it was that she had come to Europe. "I have a house in New York," she remarked, with an obvious sense of self-importance, "in which I have twenty bed-rooms." "It must be a palace," remarked the hostess, graciously. "Oh, else a hotel," added a more cynical commentator.

"It is my own house," the lady ran on, "and it costs a pile of money to keep it up! Why, I have ten or twelve servants, even when I am not entertaining!"

There was a pause, during which the company either looked bored or exchanged peculiar glances, and then awaited in silence her explanation of her journey across the Atlantic.

"I cannot endure having the same furniture," added the lady, after a critical examination of the rings on her fingers, "longer than four years. I have refurnished my house three times in twelve years, and it is now time for another revolution. I have come abroad to look at furniture and to get some new diamonds. But, do you know, I cannot find anything that I want to buy? Everything seems cheap and second-hand in the furniture line."

By this time the hostess was blushing from mortification at having been caught by her friends in the act of entertaining so vulgar a woman. Whether the visitor was exaggerating or not the resources of her establishment and the capriciousness of her taste, she was making an indecent display of her wealth.

Another American of the same type undertook to entertain an English company with a detailed account of his expenditures for dress and wine.

"I order about thirty suits of clothes a year," he remarked, with a smile of self-approval, "and seven or eight overcoats. My wines seldom cost me less than three thousand dollars a year, but they are the choicest brands which I can import. I seldom find anything in England which I consider fit to drink. As for cigars, mine come direct from the best Havana factory. I have to pay well for them, but I must have the best."

This, too, was highly seasoned talk for guests who were not accustomed to hear any one bragging about fine clothes, wines and cigars.

There are vulgar people in England who like to make a show of their newly acquired wealth and importance. There is nothing distinctively American in vulgarity, but the trait attracts more attention in Americans because they travel extensively in Europe, and some of them flaunt their diamonds and their bad manners in the fashionable hotels of the great capitals. American reputation abroad suffers more from occasional displays of this kind than from any other cause.

Trapping Turkeys.

One of the methods by which wild turkeys are taken by native hunters, as described in "Hunting and Fishing in Florida," by Mr. C. B. Cory, Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, certainly does little credit to the intelligence of the turkeys.

A place is found where turkeys are numerous. Corn is scattered about, and if that is eaten more corn is placed there the next day. The birds are fed in this manner for a week or two, until they become accustomed to going there for food.

Then small logs are laid forming a square box about six or eight inches in height; possibly two logs on each side, one above the other. Inside is placed the corn, and the turkeys enter it readily, as the obstruction is not sufficient to excite their fears.

The next night another log is added, raising the box a little, perhaps a foot or so, and this process goes on until the small logs form a cone-shaped box, narrowing at the top, leaving an opening perhaps a foot or eighteen inches wide, by which they can enter at the top.

Corn is placed in the box, and a few turkeys leading to it, as usual, and the turkeys, mounting the last log, drop in and eat up the corn. And now they are caught. The opening is so narrow that, although a turkey can easily jump down through it with closed wings, it cannot jump out again with its wings spread.

Unhappy French Queens.

Of sixty-seven Queens of France only thirteen have died without leaving their histories a record of misery. Eleven were divorced, two executed, nine died young, seven were soon widowed, three cruelly treated, three exiled; the poisoned and broken-hearted make up the rest.

London's Insane.

The London County Council has decided to spend £1,000,000 on the provision of new asylums for the insane. The expenditure is to spread over five years, and at the close of that period it is believed that the provision of asylum accommodation will be fully adequate to the wants of the metropolis.

Cross as a Signature.

The cross mark, still used occasionally instead of a signature, did not originate in ignorance. It was always appended to signatures in medieval times as an attestation of good faith.

Cut flowers will keep very fresh if a small pinch of common salt is put in the water in which they stand. The ends of the stem should be cut off a little every day to keep open the absorbing pores.

There are three ex-Mayors of the town in the newly elected City Council of Bath, Me.

THE ROMANCE OF A PICTURE.

Meissonier's Favorite Painting Recaptured from a German. William A. Coffin, in a paper entitled "Souvenirs of a Veteran Collector" in the Century, describes the unique art treasures of Mr. Samuel P. Avery, of New York. Mr. Coffin relates the following story of one of Meissonier's most famous paintings:

The picture shows Marshal Saxe, with a body of troops, interrogating a peasant at a crossroads in the forest, and taking notes. In 1880 Mr. William H. Vanderbilt was sitting to Meissonier for his portrait, and Mr. Avery and Mr. Lucas were invited by the artist to come to his studio during the sittings, as Mr. Vanderbilt did not speak French. One day Mr. Vanderbilt asked, "What picture does M. Meissonier think is the best he ever painted?" Meissonier, replying through Mr. Lucas, spoke of two, the celebrated "1814" and "Le Rensongnement." The latter picture, he said, with a sigh and a deeply felt "hehns," was in Germany, in the hands of the enemies of France.

It had been painted for the Exposition of 1867, and was bought by M. Petit, who asked fifty thousand francs for it. Mr. Walters had offered forty-five thousand francs, but a German banker in Paris, M. Mayer, paid the price and got the picture. He was a well-known collector, and his family home was in Dresden. When the war of 1870 broke out, M. Mayer left Paris, and took the picture with him. Mr. Avery had seen his gallery every time he went to Dresden, and knew the picture. The conversation in the studio continued, and Avery and Lucas agreed that "Le Rensongnement" was, indeed, a wonderful canvas. Petit had tried to buy it back, but could not get it. It was thought it would be impossible to get Mayer to sell it, but Avery, authorized by Mr. Vanderbilt, resolved to try. He did not wish to make a trip to Dresden at the time, so he wrote to Mayer that a friend of his wanted the picture, but not as a matter of business.

It was not to buy to sell again. The banker replied that he had been often importuned to sell the picture, but had invariably refused; yet, now that he felt himself growing old (he had then reached the age of 80), and that as after his death his family might not care to keep it, he would take a certain price for it. He added that he might change his mind over night, for he found it hard to decide to sell. Avery lost no time in telegraphing, and the next day received the canvas by parcels post; the marvelous picture was actually in his room in the hotel! A draft on London was sent to Dresden at once, and the deed was done.

Mr. Vanderbilt and his two fellow-conspirators now set about arranging a surprise for Meissonier. The next day was to be the last sitting for the portrait, and when they arrived at the studio one of them carried a parcel, which was placed in a safe corner. The sitting proceeded, and at last Meissonier said the portrait was finished; there was not another touch to be added. "Now you may see me sign," he announced, and the act was accomplished with a due observance on the part of the company of the importance of the moment. The artist then went into another room to put the little portrait in a frame he had ready for it. "Le Rensongnement" was quickly taken from the corner, set in a frame on the easel, and the three men stood by to see what Meissonier would do. "When he came in and suddenly saw the picture," says Mr. Avery, "he almost went crazy in his joy. He got down on his knees before it so that he could look at it closely, and cried out, 'Oh, mon bon tableau! Oh, mon bon tableau!' and with difficulty found words to express his delight. He loved his picture that he never expected to see again, and his heart was full."

Road to Knowledge.

"Every one who has the reading habit—and everybody reads—has one of two objects in view: to acquire information or to experience a mental pleasure." It writes "Drosch" in his "Library Talks" in the Ladies' Home Journal. "No matter how inferior the book read, when you sit down to read you intend to learn something new, or to kill time," which is a colloquial way of saying that you wanted to turn your mind into pleasant channels. There is a certain type of mind that only gets pleasure out of reading when at the same time it is getting knowledge. That kind is the exception, and it reaches full satisfaction only by becoming what we call a scholar. For the mind seeking knowledge by reading the signboards are many in these days, and, instead of the way being narrow and arduous, there is no other highway in life quite so carefully marked out as the road to knowledge. In many little towns and crossroads the State has marked the entrance to it with a school-house which is free to everybody. And from there up through the high school and the normal school to the college, the State lavishes money, and rich men and churches give millions to make the way plain and easy. In no other line of effort can so much be had for nothing as in the acquisition of knowledge. Even for those whose time is limited by the necessities of bread-earning, there are Chautauqua circles and University Extension societies. The world was never so kind to the inquiring mind as it is to-day.

Ink Stains.

It is said that when ink is spilled upon a carpet or anything made of woolen the spot should immediately be covered with common salt. When this has absorbed all the ink it will, carefully take it off with an old knife or spoon and apply more salt. Keep doing this until the ink is all taken up.

It is easier to lose a vote than to win one.

GAGE ACCEPTS THE OFFICE

He Will be McKinley's Secretary of the Treasury.

CANTON, Jan. 29.—Lyman J. Gage will be the next secretary of the treasury. He arrived at Major McKinley's house a few minutes before 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was warmly welcomed by the president-elect, who straightway withdrew with him for a private conference which lasted till 6 o'clock. The president-elect and his secretary of the treasury had a full and very satisfactory talk, in which they discussed at length the financial and tariff policies of the next administration and considered the problems that would call for immediate solution by means of legislation. The president-elect and Mr. Gage are in thorough accord upon all financial, political and economic policies. The demand for Mr. Gage's appointment comes from nearly every commercial center of the country and from men of both parties. He is endorsed not only by the business world, but by many labor organizations as well.

The direct claim is made in nearly all of the mass of letters and telegrams which have reached Major McKinley respecting Mr. Gage that the direct effect of his appointment will be to hasten and render certain the restoration of confidence. Major McKinley has been thinking about Mr. Gage for several weeks in connection with the treasury portfolio, but had been led to believe that he could not accept it. It has also been Major McKinley's intention from the day he was elected to choose a western man for secretary of the treasury if he could find an available man.

Money Among the Pigs.

EXETER, N. H., January 29.—Daniel O'Callahan, a well-to-do farmer of this town, is 80 years old, and has a rooted distrust of savings banks. When his promising son, John, tired of the poor fare and hard work on a rocky New Hampshire farm and started west to seek his fortune, he left a roll of \$500 in his father's custody. The old man hid the money in the hog pen. The hogs scented the greenbacks, and one day succeeded in rooting them out, and, finding them palatable, devoured the whole \$500. This was a year ago.

John did not make his fortune. He roamed around the mining camps, contracted a disease of the eyes, and then came home. He asked his father for the \$500, and when it was not forthcoming, took a drink. The old man called in a doctor, who prescribed a "greenback" plaster. The old man made his son a "gift" of \$100, which worked wonders. He asked for more, and did not get it, so he sued the senior O'Callahan. The jury gave a verdict in favor of the old man. This makes the hogs guilty of grand larceny, but they are dead and gone.

Charged With Forgery.

ANNISTON, Ala., Jan. 29.—Rev. A. R. Fowler, who is minus both hands, has been arrested here being wanted in Eleberton, Ga., on a charge of forging three rent notes and a mortgage on a farm. Fowler was pastor of the Eleberton Presbyterian church for three months last year, but it is said that rumors of crooked dealings caused the church to have him resign.

Fowler lost his hands within a few weeks of each other about three years ago. He took out an accident policy of \$5,000, and seven days afterward one of his hands was shot off while hunting. When this wound healed, and before the first policy was taken out, Fowler went out gunning again in a few days and came back with the other hand blown to pieces. The insurance company is fighting the payment of the policy, on the ground that the loss of the hands was not due to accident.

The case is now before the Supreme court of Georgia, and Fowler claims that the trouble he is now in was instigated by the insurance company to prejudice his suit. It is not explained how the alleged forgeries were committed.

May be a Fraud.

CHILLICOTHE, Mo., January 29.—Charles Stevens, who was acquitted of the murder of William Ellis at the present term of the Circuit court in Livingston county, was found dead in the road a few miles from his home, having been shot through the head some time last night. It is feared that this is the beginning of a fraud which may end in the further loss of life, as there are men in either faction who will not hesitate to shoot if they think they are in danger.

Stevens, it will be remembered, was indicted and tried for what is known as the haystack murder on the night of October 12, 1895. William Ellis, a young man, of this city, was called from his home by some one in a buggy and that was the last seen of him alive. His charred body was found the next morning in some burning haystacks on the farm of S. H. Patterson, ten miles south of Chillicothe, and the crime was brought home to Stevens, and he was indicted. It came out in the trial that Stevens served a term in the Nebraska penitentiary for murder under almost similar circumstances to that state, he having concealed the body of his victim in some haystacks.

The county coroner and a jury went to the scene of the killing to investigate.

Murder in the Air.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 29.—Peace reigned in Chinatown yesterday, but hatchet-men from all sections of the Pacific coast are hurrying to San Francisco to avenge the death of Little Pote. Sam Yip merchants venture outside their homes only when absolutely necessary and under protection. Any white man who can produce evidence of his skill with a pistol, has no difficulty in securing a fat berth as body guard to some wealthy Mongolian.

GAGE IS THE MAN

McKinley May Appoint Lyman Gage His Treasurer.

THE FINANCIER CALLED TO CANTON

He Has a Big Backing and It Seems Certain That the Secretary of the Treasury is at Last Settled Upon.

CANTON, O., Jan. 28.—The complex political problems surrounding the selection of McKinley's cabinet are now believed to be practically solved, and Lyman J. Gage of Chicago, as secretary of the treasury, is regarded as the key to the situation and the almost certain choice of the president-elect. This moral certainty is strengthened by the fact that the president of the First National bank of Chicago is now on his way to Canton, in response to the telegraphed request of the major to visit him. Chairman Hanna came here and was engaged for several hours yesterday in secret conference with Mr. McKinley. It is the understanding that Mr. Hanna approved of Mr. Gage as chief of the treasury department. It is known that ever since the election of Mr. McKinley a powerful personal political influence has been exerted on him, especially from friends and republican leaders in Chicago and the middle western states to procure the appointment of Mr. Gage for the treasury portfolio. The work has been done in such a quiet and dignified manner that public attention has not been directed toward the influence until recently. It is now believed that Mr. Gage's appointment to the treasury will be determined this week.

When that position is filled the other portfolios can easily be disposed of, excepting that to be given to New York. That problem remains as intricate as ever, but the impression prevails that General Woodford has the best chance of appointment. The president-elect does not seem to have been influenced against General Woodford by the mild protest which was entered against him Tuesday from eastern visitors. Col. John Hay is here in the interest of a friend and now does not expect a cabinet appointment for himself. Gen. W. M. Osborne, who has been the guest of Cornelius N. Bliss at Teukil Island on the Georgia coast, will remain here until Friday and then return east.

Where is Gomez?

New York, Jan. 28.—A dispatch to the Sun from Havana says: It is reported in this city that General Gomez is in the province of Matanzas. In the press censor's bureau nothing is said about it. In other official circles the same secrecy is maintained. Ignorance, real or pretended, is painfully apparent here.

The whole attention of the island is now centered on Gomez, although it is always difficult to tell with certainty the whereabouts of the Cuban leader. Gomez never permits his position to be exactly known until he strikes one of his unexpected blows. But that he had passed the boundary of Santa Clara province appears quite certain.

Forty persons more were arrested Monday and sent to the common jail on political charges. Weyler's persecution is producing the natural effect of augmenting emigration to the United States and at the same time stimulating the universal disaffection and the purpose to resist Spain to the very end.

It is said that Major Fondevilla will soon be promoted to the rank of colonel. The truth is that Weyler has offered him a reward for his recent massacres. Weyler is an intimate friend of Fondevilla and brought him to the island as one of the men in whom he had greatest confidence. He served also under Weyler in the Philippine and Canary islands. The news of his promotion for the savageries which have made him infamous is therefore not at all extraordinary.

There is no truth in the report, originating in Key West, and which has caused considerable amusement here, that the blowing up of the gunboat Cometa will result in a duel between General Weyler and Navarro, which would be impossible, in fact, as the general had left the capital before the news of the gunboat affair reached this city.

Nevertheless, as has already been reported, there is bitter feeling and much rivalry and jealousy between the navy and army. Admiral Navarro and Weyler have exchanged angry notes about several matters, and this duel has been going on for a long time, but pens, ink and paper are the only weapons used.

Bad Weather at Sea.

New York, Jan. 27.—Two anchor liners, each a week overdue, crawled into port Tuesday. Both were from the Mediterranean. One was the Karamania, which left Gibraltar, December 31, and the other was the Elysia, which came out January 5. Both met arctic weather and thundering waves. The Karamania's bows were bulging with ice and her decks covered with snow, while her derricks and ventilators were white with frost. The Elysia, which had 273 steerage passengers, met a west and north hurricane January 23.

Idaho's Senatorship.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 28.—The populists in the legislature yesterday trotted out a new candidate for senatorial honors in Henry Heitfeld, a farmer, but he failed to draw the democratic vote and failed of election. The ballot resulted: Heitfeld, populist, 25; Dubois, silver republican, 27; Nelson, populist, 15; scattering, 3. The democrats and populists were in consultation last night, and it is hoped that something will happen to bring the one to an end.

PHILADELPHIA HAS A BIG FIRE

Millions go up in the flames—Wanamaker Scorching.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The most disastrous conflagration that has visited this city in recent years broke out shortly before 7 o'clock yesterday morning in the basement of the big grocery of Hanscom Brothers on Market street, and before the flames were gotten under control property amounting in value to \$2,500,000 or more had been destroyed. The flames were first discovered by John Wagner, a reserve policeman, who was passing the building at 6 o'clock. He immediately turned in an alarm. Before the engines reached the scene the entire rear portion of Hanscom & Bennett's big restaurant was ablaze. A second alarm was then sent in and a few moments later a general alarm was sounded.

Immediately adjoining Hanscom Brothers on the west was the five-story building occupied by Blum Brothers, manufacturers of women's cloaks. The flames spread with almost lightning rapidity and the Blum building was soon a mass of flames.

While the flames were sweeping west on Market, the umbrella manufactory of Hirsch Brothers, the largest in the world, which adjoined the restaurant, caught fire. The inflammable nature of the immense stock of light silks added fuel to the flames and in half an hour the building, extending from 1309 to 1315, eight stories, on Market street, was a mass of flames.

CATCHES JOHN WANAMAKER.

On the north side of Hirsch Brothers, immediately across Silver street, stood the new seven-story building of Dunlap Brothers. The first floors were occupied by the Collins Carriage company. The flames swept through this structure and destroyed it completely. The shop of contractor Lewis Havens caught fire from the rear of Blum Brothers and three firemen were caught by a falling wall. Frank Piper of Engine Company No. 30 was the only man seriously injured.

At 6:15 a. m., fire was discovered in the tower of John Wanamaker's dry goods store. A stream of water from one of the water towers was run up to the burning tower, but the supply was either too small or the apparatus defective, as the stream would not reach. The tower contained a handsome clock and chimed at 9 o'clock the entire tower collapsed, the clock falling through to the first floor. Two lines of hose were then gotten on top of the gigantic structure and the flames, which had threatened to destroy Philadelphia's most famous store, were soon under control.

Suffering in New York

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 27.—A special to a morning paper from New York says: There is famine and suffering in New York. Tens of thousands of men are out of work, and thousands of them, doubtless, are suffering the pangs of hunger. Isolated cases are reported daily in the local press, but no attempt has been made by the newspapers or by any organized charity to secure statistics and no one knows even approximately the extent of the unfortunate brigade.

These are the conditions which have been discovered in one case: A woman on the floor of a big house, wasted to the last degree, penniless, which means she can get neither the food nor medicine she lacks; on the floor below, in the same house, is the headquarters of a society organized to give quick relief to those in the extremity of need, but dying from inanition for lack of funds, because people have not subscribed to aid its purpose.

At the top of the house, No. 154 West Houston street, live Thomas Edwards, his wife, Mary, and Mrs. Edwards' mother. Edwards is 28 years old and his wife is a year his junior. They had two children, who died, and so escaped their parents' fate. A year ago Mrs. Edwards was attacked by consumption. She was a handsome woman then, with wonderfully fine eyes. The disease has run a hasty course, and she is now so emaciated her thin wrist would almost pass through the circle of her wedding ring.

Death From a Bed-Post.

CHICAGO, Ill., Jan. 27.—I. T. Benham, a traveling salesman for the Hoffman Publishing company of Minneapolis, committed suicide in his room at the Grace hotel by hanging himself to the bedpost with a neck scarf. The body was found at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon. His wife and family are living in Spokane Falls, Wash., and it is said that Benham had recently been served with a notice that his wife was seeking a divorce on the ground of non support. The suicide left a letter addressed to Mrs. Charles M. Fassett of Spokane, but the seal was not broken and the contents are not known. He was about 65 years of age.

Fire Water Store Burns.

New York, Jan. 27.—Fire which started in the basement of the six-story building, 29 Pearl street, yesterday brought the whole fire-fighting force in the lower section of the city to the scene. The basement was occupied by Walden & Co., wholesale liquor dealers.

Mrs. McKinley Prepares.

CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—Mrs. McKinley arrived in Chicago yesterday morning, the guest of Captain and Mrs. McWilliams, 3861 Lake avenue. She was accompanied by her cousins, Mrs. McBarber and Captain Heislund of Canton. Mrs. McKinley comes to personally look after the preparation of her inauguration gown, which will remain in the city for several days. Major McKinley will not join his wife here for the present, but may pay another visit to the city later on.