GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Natal was annexed to the British empire fifty-nine years ago.

Every year salmon become scarcer

in Scotch rivers. Poultry imported into Jersey from France now has to undergo quaran-

The Brazilian coast city of Bahla has about 200,000 inhabitants, who live in 17,000 houses.

George N. Dale, consul at Coaticook, Canada, reports a decline of American trade in Quebec as the result of high duties here.

Since he began yachting about fifty years ago Lord Brassey has sailed nearly 200,000 miles in a dozen yachts of varying tonnage.

A publisher in St. Petersburg has issued a directory giving, in 223 pages. the addresses of all the pharmacies and drug stores in Russia.

The Bulletin des Halles (Paris) estimates the number of horses in the world at 74,600,000, the number of mules and asses at 12,100,000.

The Prussian state railway administration has begun to use American electric light apparatus for the lighting of postal and passenger cars.

Consul C. Donaldson reports from Managua, March 25, 1902, that the croy of coffee now nearly gathered is the largest ever produced in Micaragua

Leipzig, like the American universities, has found it necessary to establish a course in elementary Greek for young men admitted from the Heat-

Eight hundred representatives from seventy German towns protested unanimously at a meeting in Berlin against any increase in the duties on neces saries of life.

Dover's (England) municipal electric tramways made a clear profit of \$5,500 and carried over 3,000,000 passengers during the working year just com-

Some of the girl students imprisoned in the Boutirka jail at Moscow have refused all food for several days and have been removed to hospitals in a state of collapse.

William Ernst, now grand duke of Saxe-Weimar, is the only person living who would have a valid claim on the throne of Holland were Queen Wilhelmina to die.

Prof. Albert Michelson of the depart ment of physics, University of Chicago, has invented a machine so delicate as to be able to measure the width of a hair. By its means, it is said, h has discovered that matter of any kind is no more solid than water, save in a

Pittsfield, Mass., which calls limit the "gem city of the Berkshires," has been the home at various times of many literary celebrities, among them being Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holes, Hawthorne and Herman Melville. On East street stands the house in which Longfellow wrote "The Clock on the Stairs."

The sultan of Turkey recently received petitions from the officers in garrison at Uskub and three adjoining towns setting forth that their pay had failed to materialize for a long time, and that promotion was at a standstill. Abdul Hamid responded by promoting sixty-five officers of the garrison at Przina who had not petitioned.

The youngest princess at the corona tion services will be Victoria Alexandra of Wales, who has just had her fifth birthday. The little earl of Arlie, who is in his ninth year, will, it is said, be the youngest peer to take part in the coronation. The father of the boy died leading a cavalry charge in South Africa over a year ago.

King Charles of Roumania, born April 20, 1839, was elected prince of Roumania, April 20, 1866. More fortunate than his elder brother, Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern, whose election to the Spanish throne had to be declared of no effect, in spite of which it caused the Franco-Prussian war, he reigned wisely and prosperously for thirty-six years.

It was gravely decided last week by Justice Marean of Brooklyn that a wife may hit her husband on the head with a stove lifter without being adsadged guilty of giving sufficient provocation for a divorce. Mrs. Louis Hartman deemed it necessary to regulate her spouse and while doing so employed the domestic implement named, giving him one smart rap on the head. Then his stepson threw him downstairs. Louis appealed to the court for relief from such a strenuous home life, but his honor gave the decision noted above, holding that the smault did not establish cruelty within the meaning of the law affecting laulted divorce

3. H. Hale of South Glastonbury, Conn., a large peach grower and genmales that the peach crop of Con will reach 1,000,000

BRET HARTE.

There is quiet in the valleys.

And the pines are bending low;
On the sandy desert mountain all is barren, dry and hard.

For the minstrel's soul is dying,
Far away from home he's lying.

All the winds and all the waters wall the passing of the hard.

All the winds and all the waters wall the passing of the bard.

He has gone like those before him.

And his work in life is done.

Honor crowns the gifted singer; glory smooths the care-worn brow.

But we feel we cannot leave him.

And his country long will grieve him;

Oh that we could call the dying to return and meet us now:

and meet us now!

-S. E. Greene.

The Black Cat's Warning.

BY SPENCER BOYD.

(Copyright, 1902, by the S. S. McClure Co.) broad plazza apparently in the act of parting. A cat. black as midnight, perched upon the girl's shoulder and formed a pleasing contrast to her white dress, and set off to advantage her blond loveliness.

Flora, in defense of her pet, was wont to declare that it possessed a soul that had once inhabited the body of the Magi, or even that of Zoroaster him-"For, said she, "he literally worships the fire, adores all the sunny places and his powers of divination are wonderful."

Mr. Lyndon did not share her admiration of the animal-it seemed to regard him with a peculiar malevolence

Just before leaving, she asked his assistance in closing a number of windows, which had been left open on account of the warm evening.

The situation of the house was somewhat remote, sheltered from the street by extensive grounds and intercepting shrubbery, and to one unfamiliar with

the place, might have appeared lonely. This tendency was ordinarily restricted through reason of the immediate family consisting of some five or six persons, but for various reasons, as Flora explained, almost every member had been called away from the city, and now there was only her brother at home, though her father was expected

on a train that arrived about midnight.

Mr. Lyndon listened to this explanation with great apparent interest. It was surprising, indeed, with what gravity and attention he hung upon her words, or, rather, it was natural and Not the least pleasing element in his consideration was that his regard seemed more deeply enlisted as the evening wore to a close—a str tribute to the girl's fascinations. -a striking

He performed the task of clesing the windows with great care, which may have accounted for the time it occupied, or perhaps he was deliberate rather than careful, so as to extend his visit and engage to the furthest limit a social intercourse so charming.

Indeed it must have been the latter reason, for one of the windows was left unfastened, though the negligence was not apparently detected.

It was now near 11 o'cock, and all

having been arranged, Mr. Lyndon took his departure.

Flora passed into the house, and as she did so, a certain uneasiness possessed her-an occult prophecy of evil which she vainly tried to banish. As is usual with these impressions the cause was direct, and, in this case, even immediate; but failing to appreciate the logic of the situation the girl felt tormented and mystified. She proceeded to her rom more agitated than she would admit, and especially oppressed by the ghostly slience of the spacious

A bat careered through the hall crechost-like rushes.

The silence and the sound were equally terifying and intolerable. She de-termined to knock on her brother's door, that, even though ridiculed, her fears might be allayed. There was no light within, but she persisted in her summons, first with a timid appeal,

then with peremptory vehemence.

No answer was elicited and finally she opened the door. The bed was unoccupied, and the girl realized that she was alone in the house.

one within

She then very cautiously deposited upon the bureau a package, the contents of which had quite recently occu-pled Mr. Lyndon's attention as well as

She felt now that she had been indis creet, for Mr. Lyndon was a compara-tive stranger, yet the desire for display had overcome her scruple, and her judgments and she felt, with some regret, that she had allowed to go unchallenged a laughing estimate of the cas-ket's value—one very largely in excess of the truth. The casket contained some score of diamonds.

Mr. Lyndon in the meantime, pur-

sued his way towards the center of the city. Happening into a saloon which was frequented by college boys, he saw, with half a dozen comrades, the brothed whom Flora thought safe within his While lounging near the own room. group he inadvertently heard that the was about to adjourn to certain private rooms where the great American game would occupy their attention ome hours.

This, of course, was but elightly interesting to Mr. Lyndon, so he proceeded on his way, after discovering that the train which Flora expected at 12

was some hours late. He slowly extracted a purse from his pocket and proceeded to examine its contents. This was effected with speed and accuracy—the purse being empty.

He stood and studied the time table
with earnest attention, seemingly engrossed to the exclusion of all other

Flora determined to remain dressed until her father should arrive. She was a girl of more than ordinary courage, and, though at first the loneliness oppressed her, she felt reasonably secure. She settled into an easy chair and began reading.

This was an excellent idea, she thought, and well designed to protect her from any feeling of nervousness.

After reading for some time she, merely out of curiosity, raised her eyes to look at the clock. To her surprise it had stopped, yet—no, she distinctly hear it ticking.

It was 10 minutes after 11 when she began reading and now it was three minutes later. She had read for at least half an hear—of owners she had—and it mass them.

stopped and then resumed its work. In the morning she would have the clock

Four times she read for similar half hours, and four times the clock stopped Therefore it must have been after 1, though the clock indicated less than a quarter of an hour for her entire literary recreation.

She rose to her feet, wondering why her father did not come. Feeling op-pressed, she opened a window and gazed inquiringly into the unanswerable The cat purred contentedly on the

arm of her chair. For some reason she did not continue her study of tactics-she had been reading the "Manual of Arms," left through

her brother's error. She now determined to retire, feeling perfectly quiet after her first ner-vousness. It was really absurd that she should have felt agitated at all. MAN and a woman stood upon the broad piazza apparently in the pear in the morning—the sunshine's tranquil gold dreaming upon the floorthe melody of the birds whose notes tell in liquid showers amid the showers She would listen, too, for the woodpecker with its crimson head of fire burning behind its driving bill, like the glare of the explosion that gives the

projectile its furious energy. She would know the exact time to arise by noting through the transom when the golden lance of sunshine ripped the palpitating shadow in the

As she lay meditating, with her hand upon the soft fur of her pet, she felt soothed and lulled by its soft purring. Suddenly the sound ceased. The cat rose with arched back and glaring eyes. Glancing up, she saw outlined against the transom a human head. Death was

hers for the asking, and less! She looked upon the floor and in a moment it was peopled with shadowy faces, and she felt the carpet torn by champing teeth.

The paralysis of her terror was also her safety. She made no sound that would direct the attention of the head from the diamonds to herself.

Terror had wrapped her so close in his weaving that she could not wound herself against the thorns of danger. Slowly the girl realized her situation.

The first signal was like a stunning blow; then she came to the realized anguish, the nerves working into tormented surprise, the chaos of misery, excitement of fear. She wondered what would be the out. come. Death, indeed, but under what

circumstances? Remote from human aid-choked with strong hands about her throatthat grinning sepulcher of a head against her face, while the congested veins blackened. Oh, the horror of such a death! And worse than all physical

pain, the nameless agony of fear.

Was there no help? Could that desperate intruder terminate the whole design and mystery of her existence? Doubt and agony and groping hope

lay upon her heart. How long she lay in that condition she could not tell. Ages of torment she knew, records of uncaring minutes were

The great house seemed burled in night and silence. The world had fallen away in its circuit, and this fragment whereon the house was builded lay lost in space. She felt that the fathomless ocean held no more imperious or sterner solitude.

After these maddening moments that deride the longevity of the centuries, she suddenly thought of an escape.

She rose slowly. It were easier to step barefoot on burning plowshares, yet the girl did not falter. She reached the bureau where the diamonds lay, drew them with trembling lingers from their case and stood absently fingering ating intense alarm with its silent the blazing jewels as though loath to leave their sparkling company; then, without replacing any of the stones, she left them in scattered confusion and walked slowly to the other end of the

Those blazing crystals might well hold the attention of that terrifying head for the moment at least.

Then, summoning all her resolution. she rushed to the door and with furious haste pressed the spring that closed the

heavy transom.

As it closed with crushing force upon known conditions and softly opened the door to her room, as though fearing to intrude. To her relief there was no

Some hours later Flora's father and brother returned. Their return was not coincident through design, but the result of an accident which was elicitng an earnest but coherent narrative from the younger man and an appearance of dark disapproval from the ly terminated as they entered the house by moans and curses. The two men sprang up the stairs in mad haste, and moment later stood before Flora's

bloody fingers a mangled, monstrous mass of bruised flesh, was Lyndon.

Calmly regarding him with malignant eyes lay the black cat, while upon its ebon fur the blood from the wounded hands fell in long, spattering drops. Flora lay within, huddled in a scarce recognized shape of chattering fear, ex-

citement and tears.

The cause of the tragedy—the diamonds—by that common law of perverse fate, were the only actors in the play that showed no sign of the experience.

A STRANGER BIRD.

Killing of a Big Pelican Mear an Illinois City.

Inter-Ocean: W. D. Fluent killed big pelican recently on the dike in Al-ton harbor. The bird had been hoverton harbor. The bird had been hovering along the river, and was apparently injured when he was first seen. He had been flying alongshore and close to the water, frequently swimming, and Mr. Fluent crossed the river in his naphtha launch to get a shot at the big bird. The pelican measured 9 feet from tip to tip of its wings and was 5 feet 8 inches from the tip of its beak to the tip of its tail.

The pelican is a stranger in this part of the country, although they sometimes come up the river in Secka. None as big as the one killed has ben seen in this part of the country in many years. It will be stuffed and mounted by Mr. Fluent.

The late Lord Kimberley once said:

UNCLE BILL

MND



N these days uv trusts an' mistrusts, it behooves us farmers ter have our corners well roundeditor handed him the latest market tryin' ter corner the beef trust they'll quotations with the remark, "I see that both be in the same fix." stres touched the highest market of the season yesterday.

"A steer can touch most enything he starts after if he only has the right kind uv a combination behind him," contin-ued Uncle Bill. "My, my, seven dollars an' forty cents a hundred, on foot, makes a feller feel like doffin' his hat ter a steer. I took a load in ter Chicago last week an' they brought so durn much money that I kinda hankered ter buy 'em back ag'in. One stock broker said 'Wall, ole man, yer got the right stear on the market this time,' an' I said, guess I did, sure enough, an' at that I jumped straddle uv a steer an' he started ter go pell mell through the stock yards. grabbed hold uv his tail an' one horn an' hung on fur keeps, until we finally fetched up in a bull pen, with the steer a leetle might winded, an' me a breathin' sort uv hard. It created some ex-



A Settin' on the Beef Trust.

citement an' when they asked me what I done that fur I told 'em that the government was a tryin 'ter set on the beef trust, an' I wanted ter show 'em that the only way ter do it was ter jump on an' hang on until they had it

winded. "Don't you think that the beef trust is a good thing for the farmer?" asked

the editor. "Its my opinion that if Uncle Sam would jump on ter some uv the trusts what is, an' has been trusts fur years, that he would have a more practical ground ter work on; the law uv supply an' demand will always regulate the markets on meat stuffs. The combine they're bound ter have a bargain day, sooner or later, an' the farmers out our way are agin' trusts uv all kinds. can hold our cattle, but gosh 'll mighty,

"Do you mean the price of steers?" asker the editor. "I mean the price uv meat ter the workin' people. Why every hotel a feller stops at the subject uv the beef rust is the topic at the table; one hotel stopped at I asked a travlin' man what he thought uv this meat proposi tion, an' he was tryin' ter cut a pieco uv beef at the time, so he said, "It's tough, ole man, tough,' an' at that the hotel man stepped up an' said, 'gentle-men, the beef trust has got everything cornered, an' that was the be it,' and the travelin' man told him that

whatever he done, ter be cheerful about

who'll hold us, if this thing keeps up?'



Git a Corner on Pork

it, fur the 'Lord loveth a cheerful liar, an' if he had eny tales ter tell 'bout tough meat ter go an' tell 'em ter the "The butcher is a weary man these

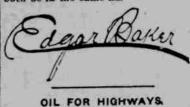
days," quoth the editor.
"Yes, it's terrible harrassin' on nerves ter git a good place uv steak out uv the neck uv a critter, but the hotel man belps him on. The average hotel man can find steak closer ter a

The recent census returns show that the population of Belgium now stands at 6,888,810, having doubled during the last 69 years. Belgium is now the most densely populated country in Europe.

sociation of New York is demanding that fruit sold on the walks be covered to protect it from dust. The sale of candy is already regulated in this re-

steer's care than the butcher can 'cause his conscience don't dull his knife," said Uncle Bill.

"The pork market is not far behind that of beef," remarked the editor. "The hog is a hard thing ter corner." said Uncle Bill, an' eny one as don't believe that, let him git out an' try ter corner one. I tried ter git a corner on pork the other day; sold a lot uv hogs fur seven cents a pound, but one uv 'em didn't want ter leave his happy some-ough-ough-ough, so I said the market's got yer cornered this time an' yer has ter go, but argument is wasted on a hog when they git contrary, for jest as I thought I had him in the corner uv the fence I'll be durned if he didn't make a break an' went through my legs. I grabbed for his tall, an' say, I skinned a cat quicker'n yer could say scat, an' when I got up agin the hog an' me was both a wanderin' down the path that leads the other way. An I'm afeerd ed out," said Uncle Bill, as the that when the government gits through



Denver Will Make a Liberal Test of Petroleum on Her Dirt Roads.

The board of public works will sprinkle several streets with oil instead of surfacing them with macadam or asphalt. It is said that the oil lays the dust, keeps down weeds, and permeating the natural surface of roadways, forms a coating within six months which possesses many of the attributes of asphalt. This surface hardens into a kind of cushion one and one-half inches thick, sufficient streets where there is no heavy traffic

President Speer of the board of public works said yesterday that board had been experimenting with oil as a road-making material since last February. He got the idea from Los Angeles, where 14 miles of streets have been improved by the use of The board has tanks made for sprinkling the streets with oil. The board's early experiments showed that Colorado oil will not fill the requirements because it has no asphalt base. The base of the state's oils is paraffine. A carload of oil from Beaumont has therefore been shipped by board. With this will be mixed residum from the oil refineries at Florence. The board thinks that this is the best combination for Denver

The streets to be sprinkled will be first graded, rolled and graveled. Then the oil, heated to 250 degrees, will be sprinkled over them from the tanks The oil will gradually harden between the particles of gravel and earth and packing make a firm surface.

President Speer estimates that roadways of the city can be improved in this way for an average cost of \$1,000 a mile. To lay a mile of as-phalt costs \$100,000 and with other materials from 35 to 50 per cent less. After the original thorough sprinkling with oil the surfaces of streets will shed water. According to statements of the public officials in cities where the system is in use, one an nual sprinkling with oil is all that is required to keep streets so treated in good condition, except where they are cut by heavy vehicles.-Denver Re-

ELECTRIFIED HOUSES

Explanation of an Apparently Re-Markable Phenomenon.

Cassier's Magazine: An instance of non-familiarity with simple scientific facts is illustrated by an article that 18 inches thick and after that sand goes the rounds of the press once twice annually, namely, the stor-the electrified house. The article u-ly states that some one has discovered that everything he touches in his house will be built high enough to allow for lamps, etc.—gives him an electric shock. Hence, he fears there is some connection between the arc-light wires and the water pipes near his residence. The electric-light inspector is, therefore, summoned, and reports that the wires of his company are intact and that the electricity must come from

It does not dawn on any of the people consulted that the discoverer of the henomenon is unconsciously performing one of the simplest and oldest of electrostatic experiments, the shuffling of his shoes over the dry carpet raising the potential of his body to several thousand volts, which discharge at every opportunity. One may even get electric discharges from his knuckles to the brass lock of a handbag which he may be carrying while walking on a pavement during cold, dry weather

But, dismissing newspaper science, it is somewhat astonishing, in view of the many ways in which in cold, dry countries electricity is unintentionally devoloped and manifested by sparking. that the first knowledge concerning this phenomenon did not come to the anattraction of light substances by amber. The explanation of this, however, may be that the scientists of bygone days did not reside in cold, dry countries.

A new portrait of President Buchan-an, painted by William Chase, of New York, has just been hung in the green-room at the white house, and the old portrait, which became discolored, has been removed, at the request of Mrs. Harriet Jane Johnson, President Bu-chanan's niece, who replaced it with the new likeness.

Deces is situated 150 miles northeast of Calcutta. In the seventeenth century it was the capital of Bengal. In 1800 it had a population of 200,000, and was noted for its product of fine mualins. Growing imports of Manchester cottons ruined its industries, however, and by 1891 the population had dwindled to \$2,000.

A Bavarian governmental report states that the American locomotives in use on its railways have proven super-for to those of German make. This re-fers to the engines, which were said by Christian De Wet, the elusive Boer for to those of German make. This research, is said to be the descendant of the great Dutch admiral of various continents; papers to be altogether unsatisfactory.

CURIOUS HOME FOR BIRDS.

A Pair of House Wrens Utilize an Unoccupied Hornets' Nest

Charles C. Abbott, M. D., in St. Nicholas: Those who are familiar with our ommon house wren know how often it happens that very strange nesting sites ere at times decided upon by this bird. It is not so long ago that a small watering pot, hanging within easy@each of a pump constantly used, was taken pos-session of, and the wrens, all unmindful of people constantly coming and go-ing very near them, raised their brood and returned the following summer. A permanent box was placed in the spot after the second season, and this has ince been used.

Wrens have been known, too, to enter houses through open windows and attempt nest building indoors, and in places, too, very inconvenient to the family, as in a card basket on the piano, and on the pole supporting portleres. But more curious than all other instances, it seems to me, is the follow-In the spring of 1901 a hornet's nest that had long hung in my hall was emporarily placed in a covered porch. Some weeks later, a pair of wrens were noticed examining it very critically, and they finally decided that as a nesting site it was in every way admirable. The fact that I was frequently sitting on that porch, often with two or three people, in no wise troubled them. The birds were absolutely fearless.

Having chosen the hornet's nest as a summer residence, the wrens first cleared out sufficient space for their use, and chipped a new circular entrance to It. This they made the more secure by placing in front a platform of twigs, many of which were thrust through the paper walls. This was not always easily done, and gave rise to some cross words, or so it seemed. Except a few feathers, there was nothing carried into the hole made by the wrens in the body of the hornets' nest. As soon as all was to their liking, eggs were laid and

the broad successfully reared. While the parent birds were noticeably tame during the days of nest-making, they were even more so when there were young birds to look after. With-out really troubling them, I tried in many ways to test their confidence in my good will toward them. Several times I leaned against the pillar supporting the roof of the porch, so as to bring my face within 18 inches of the opening to the nest. Twice, under such circumstances, one of the old birds darted past me and entered, but at other times waited most impatiently until

again sat down in the chair near by. One fact that interested me greatly was that, when interrupted by my coming, the wren, firmly holding a wriggling worm in its beak, would scold crossly, making a loud whirring and shrill sound. How the bird could make the sound and yet retain the worm in its beak I leave to others to explain.

TO BRIDGE SALT LAKE.

Southern Pacific Is About to Build a Long Trestle Across It.

One of the most remarkable tasks f railroad engineering undertaken in the West in recent years is about to be begun by the Southern Pacific in Utah. For the sake of saving four and one-half miles the railroad is about to build a new line 105 miles long, and for part of the way the road will run on a timber trestle across the Great Salt lake. It now runs around the northern end of the lake over a route bothered by many sharp

curves and heavy grades work will take three years to complete. It calls for an expenditure of \$800,000 a year. The most formidable part will be the building of the trestle across the main body of the lake, at a point where it is seven miles across.

The lake bed is comprised first of a layer of fine sand from 6 to 30 inches in depth. Then comes a hard strat-um of soda formation from a foot to and blue clay alternately for an indefiite depth.

The road will be built on pries a rise of the water, which at this point is now about 30 feet deep. It has been the experience on the

lake hitherto that sand tends to ac-

cumulate around driven piles. If this should be repeated here the result will be a shallowing of the water and increased security along the road. Besides saving time on the Southern Pacific, the construction of the line will bring immense deposits of guano on islands in Salt lake withir

easy reach of a market.-New York

HOTEL PUNERALS.

They Are Infrequent, Because Objected to by Landlords.

Baltimore Herald: "Landlords of hotels object to funerals, for their houses are eminently places of good cheer, and on that sunshine of good cheer they want no shadow of sorrow cast. Hence, when a guest dies under the roof of one of the landlords he uses all means possible to have the funeral services held elsewhere.

"And as a rule, the landlord has no difficulty in achieving that, because the dead guest's family wishes his body to be buried from his home. For he is nearly always a transient guest and it would seem both heartless and irreverent to bury him otherwise. But, if he is a resident guest (a thing that happens once or twice in a thousand years). the landlord easily arranges with the undertaker to hold the services in the

latter's parlors.

"And thus it happens," concluded the observer, "that not one man in a thous-and ever sees a funeral from a hotel."

The Real Problem. She-I found the sweetest little flat yesterday, and if we have to live in a flat after we are married I want it. And it was only \$4,500 ayear.

He—Yes, but — She—But what? He-My salary is \$3,000. What shall we do with the other \$500?-New York

Not the Latest.

Helen—Is that the latest book you are reading, dear?
Miss Reeder—Oh, no dear, no! Why. this book has been out since noon yesterday.—Ohio State Journal.