

# **FORIALS**



# OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Will the Panama Canal Pay?

will not pay. He begins by asserting that the projected waterway could not hope to gain any of the commerce now passing between Europe, on the one hand, and Asia and Africa on the other. The figures seem conclusive on this point. The distance from the English seaport Plymouth to Yokohama in Japan is 1,725 miles less by Suez than by Panama. Even by the way of the Cape of Good Hope. Plymouth is nearer to Shanghai by 745 miles than it would be by a Panama canal. As regards the trade between Europe and Australia, there is a slight difference in favor of Panama on some of the routes, but this, according to Colonel Church, would be more than counterbalanced by the canal tolls. With reference to the west coast of South America, we are reminded that the most valuable part of its freight traffic comes from the nitrate deposits of Chile. It is, in the first place, uncertain how long the nitrate traffic will last, owing to the doubt concerning the depth of the deposits; and, even as things are now, it is questionable whether the nitrate trade, more than threefourths of which goes on sailing vessels, would take the Panama route, owing to the fact that an extensive region of calms adjoins the western terminus. The value of the trade of our own Pacific slope is not disputed by Colonel Church, but he believes that the greater part of it will continge to be conveyed across the continent by rail. There is no doubt that our transcontinental railways have superseded the Cape Horn route, which used to employ-a huge fleet of elipper-ships, and they have practically absorbed the trade which used to cross the isthmus by the Panama Rallroad. In 1869 the traffic between New York and San Francisco via the Panama Railway was valued at \$70,-000,000, but ten years later it had shrunk to less than \$5,000,000.-Harper's Weekly.

#### New Names for Old Vices.

pircumstances;" to persuade ourselves, in fact, that black is is now expressed that the American farmer can never again seldom anything more than at worst dark gray, and that raise corn enough to congest the market, and that prices are in some cases it is white to all intents and purposes. If a likely to be sustained at a high level. This must stimulate financier organizes a gigantic swindle, or a clever woman corn production, and there is plenty of ground where it ruins a hundred men, no vindictive punishment follows; it may spread. The "corn belt" is a wide one, extending is decided to be inconvenient to prosecute, or men find across the continent, and new methods of cultivation, the themselves laughing that there are still so many fools in utilizing through irrigation of millions of acres now unthe world. If a woman kills her paramour, or a man in a tilled and the increased yield coming from more skillful passion stabs a nagging wife, the first thought may be of farming can add enormously to the output.-Troy Times. the rope, but the second is of a petition to the Home Secretary. Last, if the marriage tie is broken-especially in high places-there is an immediate tendency to invest with a mist of romance and pretext finding what is nothing better than weakness and vulgarity. Is the tendency good or bad?

If the people decide that they are only going to hang men and old or ugly women, you come perilously near the doctrine that before a woman commits a murder she must took in the glass. Murder and swindling are ugly words, but no nation has ever been, or ever will be, the better for using pleasanter synonyms for crime.-London Spectator.

## Railroad Accidents and Their Causes.

URING the past year on all the railroads of the in this country as against 22,000 in Great Britain, it must be answered that the liability to railroad accidents in- Indians well to do, the richest tribes being three or four creases with the density of traffic. That is to say, the risks times as wealthy as the same number of average whites of collision, etc., are greater the greater the number of New York World.

oughly "recon-

structed" soon aft-

er the last gun of

the conflict had

been fired, writes

trains that pass over a given stretch of line in a given N attempt has been made by Colonel George Earl time. Now, here again statistics prove that the density of and that girl you were engaged to get Church, in the journal of the Royal Geographical traffic over English roads is far greater than that over our married? Society in London, to show that the Panama Canal own, so that when we have taken this into consideration, we find that the difference in sufety of travel is even more gether. marked than the mere statement of the relative total number of persons killed and injured would suggest.

Two of the most prolific causes of accident are the use of single track for trains traveling in opposite directions (it another girl. was on single track that the recent collision occurred) and that most unreliable system of safeguarding a stopping train by sending back a rear flagman. The first condition we can only hope to remove gradually as the increase in density of traffic warrants the laying of double track; but it is obvious to the most unobservant passenger upon our what's th' matter?" railronds that, half the time, rear-flag safeguarding is worth very little in protection against rear collisions.

If American railroad men are asked to explain the difference in results between the two countries, they point to News. the fact that in Great Britain signalmen, and railroad employes generally, remain in the service of the company and at one particular class of work for many consecutive years of service, and, consequently, attain remarkable skill and accuracy. Traffic conditions in Great Britain, moreover, are less variable, whereas in this country the volume of traffic varies greatly with the season of the year, and during the rush attendant on the moving of Western crops, for instance, it is necessary to take on a large number of temporary employes whose services are discontinued when the rush season is over.-Scientific American.

#### Great Future of Corn.

▼ORN is the great American crop. Is it to become the world's king of cereals? There is some reason for believing that corn has entered upon a career unexampled heretofore in the history of grain production and consumption. A recent report based on the latest developments in this direction notes the significant change that has come about. Until within a few years HE tendency of the age is to find excuses; to per- Europe had little use for corn, but now is buying and eatsuade ourselves that an action which at first sight ing it freely. There is so great a demand from all parts of looks detestably bad is in reality not one which the the world that last year's crop, enormous as it was, is likely community ought to punish severely and swiftly, but to be pretty thoroughly consumed. Of course this sustains one for which we should try to find "extenuating prices, and the corn grower profits accordingly. The belief

#### More Indians than Ever.

HE removal of 3,000 Choctaws from Mississippi and Louisiana to the Indian Territory, which is now in progress, need inspire no eloquence about red men's wrongs and "palefaces' broken treaties." The treaty breaking was on the other side; these members of the tribe are descended from those who failed to move West in 1830 as they agreed, and they are exchanging a precarious and hard existence for comparative affinence.

Our Indians do not now fare badly. Far from dying out, they are increasing in number. The census of 1890 reported 249,000 of them; Secretary Hitchcock's recent report shows an increase to 269,000. Allowing for Indian admixture in men reckoned as whites, there is more Indian United States, 167 persons were killed in railroad blood in the country to-day than when the Pilgrims landed, accidents (collisions, derailments, boiler explosions. Then the tribes were decimated by disease and wasted by etc.) and 3,5% passengers were injured. During the wars; great tracts of uninhabited forests lay between same period on British roads not a single passenger them, and they could not hold lands so much wider than was killed and only 476 were injured in railroad accident. they used. Now their descendants mainly dwell in compact

miles of track | communities, usually civilized and prosperous The rise in value of their lands has made most of the

## ESCAPED A SPY'S FATE.

Georgia Congressman Had a ! lose Call One of the most popular members of

Congress is Representative Livingston, of Georgia, a former Confederate soldier who was thor-



Livingston.

a Washington correspondent. He was telling, in the A ppropriations Committee room at the Capitol, the story of his nar-

row escape from Yankee soldiers during operations at Atlanta. He and a Texas scout were sent on a perilous mission in citizens' to the city and the streets as well as I did the hog paths around my own farm, and General Hardee directed me to ascertain information about the enemy, which I believed I could do from a woman living in the city," sand Mr.

"We rode up to the back gate, but to our astonishment the Yankees were in her house. I sprang back into my saddle and we galloped away, the Yankees bot after us. Years afterward. the late General Cogswell, of Mussachusetts, and I met here in this committee room, and I happened to learn that he was the military commander at Atlanta at that time. Then I told him my story.

"When I finished telling it General Coggswell put his arm on my shoulder and said:

"'Let us be friends through life. sin mighty glad the boys did not catch As a soldier, you know what would have been your fate under the circumstances, and we never would have met under such delightful condi-

"From that day until his death Gen eral Coggswell and myself were as fast friends as any two men who ever wore the blue and the gray. I was laid to rest among the people he served

good fighting stock, his grandfather. who was born in Ireland, having served under Washington in the revolutionary war. Before entering public life he followed the pursuits of a farm er and was vice president and president respectively for eleven and four years of the Georgia State Alliance. For many years he has been a power in the Democratic politics of Georgia. He was elected to the Fifty-second Congress and has sat in that body ever since.

## THE OLD WOOD FIRE

How It Was Built and Kept Alive by an Expert. After the evening chores were done

my father would appear in the doorway with the big black log coated with snow, often of ampler girth than himself, and fully breast-high to him as he held it upright, canting in one clothes. "I knew every path leading way and another, and walking it before him on its wedge-shaped end. He would perhaps stand it against the chimney while he took a breathing spell and planned his campaign. Then, the andirons hauled forward on the hearth, and the bed of half-burnt brands and live coals raked open, the lcy log was walked into the chimney, where a skillful turn would lay it over, hissing and steaming, in its lair of hot embers, says a writer in the Atlantic Monthly. It seemed a thing alive, and its vehement sputtering and protesting made a dramatic moment for at least one small spectator. The stout shovel and tongs, or, perhaps, a piece of firewood used as a lever, would force it against the chimneyback; then a good-sized stick, called a "back-stick," was laid on top of it, and the andirons were set in place. Across the andirons another good-sized stick was laid, called a "fore-stick." and in the interspace smaller sticks were crossed and thrust and piled, all quickly kindled by the live coals and brands. In very cold weather a fire was kept burning all night, our father getting up once or twice to replenish it. Even in summer the coals rarely became extinct. A good heap of them, covered with embers at bedtime, would be found alive when raked open in the morning.

> We don't believe we ever knew any one who was not all right in theory.

## SAGE DROVE BARGAIN.

Then Made Neighbor Pay for Ride in

Russell Sage has not squandered very much on clothes and personal luxuries during his long life, still he has spent some pretty large sums on horses, his love of which has amounted to almost a passion. Some time ago he paid \$10,000 for a team of trotters for use at his country place on Long Island, and the first time he was to drive them he asked Frank Tilford. who was a neighbor of his, to go with him. How Uncle Russell made the rotund Tilford pay for his outing is still told with great glee throughout the countryside.

After driving a little way a team was seen approaching drawing a load of salt hay out from the meadows along the shore. Immediately said Sage:

"I am paying too much money for bedding for my horses. Now we'll see what this man wants for his load of hay."

So the stranger was stopped and the aged financier began negotiations. "What do you want for that load of

"Five dollars," was the reply. "Five dollars?" said Sage. "Why. it is not worth a cent more than three. It does not cost you anything; all you have to do is to cut it."

"Well," replied the farmer, "it takes a good half day's work, and the use of my horses and wagon." But Sage would not pay \$5, so a compromise was made for \$4 for the load

delivered. Where shall I leave it?" said the farmer.

"At Frank Tilford's," said Uncle Russell, and, turning to Tilford, as

they drove on, he said: "You see, Frank, if he knew that hay was for Russell Sage he would not let it go for less than \$7. And, by the way, when he leaves it at your place, just let your man bring it over to my barn."-Mail and Express.

The School for Scandal. "Look at the crowd of women going into Mrs. Gabble's house. What's the attraction?" "Detraction. The sewing circle meets

there to-day."-Philadelphia Press.

HUMOR OF THE WEEK

STORIES TOLD BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Odd, Curious and Laughable Phases of Human Nature Graphically Portrayed by Eminent Word Artists of Our Own Day-A Budget of Fun.

Tom (who has been away)-Did you

Jack-Yes; but we are not living to-

Tom-Why? What's the trouble? Jack-Oh, no trouble at all. She married another man and I married

Fast, All Right. "Did you sell Mrs. Stuckumgood that piece of goods and guarantee the col-

ors to be fast?" "Why, ye-ye-yes, sir. Wh-wha-

'Nothing, only she's developed palpitation of the heart trying to catch 'em since they started to run."-Baltimore

The Boy Guessed Right. "Now, Johnny, can you tell me who

built the ark?" "No." "That's right, Johnny-it was Noah.

Ella, give Johnny the prize picture card."-Baitimore News.

Prose and Poetry. "What is more welcome than a full moon?" whispered the poetic young

"Why, a full coal scuttle," replied Man wants but little here below, the practical girl, and then he said no



Tommy-Say, pop, what's the difference between a pessimist and an op-

His Pop-One's married and the other is single.

Wasn't Quite Sure. Mrs. Nextdoor-Your daughter has

improved wonderfully in her plano playing. Mrs. Homer-I'm glad to hear you

say so-if you are really sincere. Mrs. Nextdoor-Why, what do you mean?

Mrs. Homer-Well, you see, we didn't know whether she was improving or whether we were merely getting used to it.

Frequent Occurrence. "A woman has been arrested for disfiguring her children."

"Why, thousands do that and are never molested."

"Disfigure their children?" "Yes -cut their hair."

After the Reception. tivated him. The papers described it

as a "fetching gown." Edith-Probably because it "fetched" her a husband.

The New Conductor. "This rustic youth wants me to get him on his feet," said the street rallway official

"Make him conductor," replied the brother official, "and he will get on other people's feet."

Changed Conditions. Green-1 understand you live in very quiet part of the town. Brown-We did until recently. Green-Then you have moved? Brown-No. Twins.

All She Needed.

I need some money to go shopping with," announced the fond wife,

"It would be better for your health if you walked back and forth," suggested the indulgent husband, handing her the 10 cents for car fare.

His Very First Appearance. The Villain-Were you troubled with stage fright when you made your first appearance?

The Comedian-I guess so. Mother says I set up a howl and refused to utter a word. Fully Equipped.

He-Are you sure that you are fitted to be a poor man's wife? She-Sure! Why, my love, I know every bargain counter in town.-New York Weekly.

When the Box Passes Roderick-The good and bad go to Van Albert-I don't understand.

Roderick-Why, good people and had money.

Land of Midnight Son. Rodrick-Yes, that last polar expeillion almost starved. Van Albert-And yet you say they had three meals per day?

Rodrick-Yes, but the days up there are six mouths long.

Not Sure of Him. "Why are you so sure that be loves

you? "Because he stays away from me in hopes he can overcome the fascination of my presence. And there is only ments, with families living on floor one thing that bothers me-I fear he above floor towering in the air, the will succeed."-Cleveland Plain Deal- money for the hand-organ man is

The Best Way. Wifey-This flat doesn't exactly suit me. There are some things very nice about it, and others I don't like.

Hubby-Well, my dear; you must learn to take the bitter with the suite -Philadelphia Bulletin.



She-Ain't your little sister very small for her age? He-She's list er half sister.

From Experience.

ongeniality?" Paw-Lending out your scythe and instead of one." shovel and getting a saucer of prunes over the fence in return.-Philadelphia the organ man's answer; and, without Bulletin.

Matter of Sex. But women folk are queer; They want the big, round earth, because

They think it's woman's sphere. Quite Appropriate. He-I wonder why Mrs. Splugg dresses so loud? She-Oh, her husband is quite deaf.

Appropriate, She Thinks. "She says she's got tired of making do even the hand-organ business on cake for church sociables." "Yes, I noticed that she always

ake.' "-Philadelphia Bulletin. Between Friends.

"I'm getting tired of boarding houses," said the young man who parts his hair in the middle. "I've haif a mind to get married!" "Of course," growled the old bach-

elor. "It takes just about that amount of mind to think of such a fool thing."

Knew Her Business. Softleigh-Are you quite sure Miss

Banks is not in? The Maid-Of course I am. She gave me one of your photographs in order



Second Fellow-Yaas; the other day I ordered fried eggs and when the waiter got back he brought me spring

The Perversity of Politics. "They say he has run through a fortune trying to get elected to office." can't even get a job as walking dele gate."-Philadelphia Bulletin.

His Only Chance. Weeks-I called my wife down this morning. Meeks-What for?

An Artful Dodger. Miss Elderleigh-I never yet say the man I would marry. Miss Youngun-Indeed! But then suppose he saw you first.

Weeks-Because she was upstairs.

Two Points of View. He-Did you ever notice how high Miss Neurich carries her head? She-Yes, poor girl; she has a necl like a giraffe.

A Barrier.

"What have you in the way of beet steak to-day?" asked the cheerful cus tomer who hadn't paid his bill. "Well," replied the frank butcher, " reckon about the only thing in the way is its price."-Baltimore News.

Patience Rewarded. Smith-I hear Short, the coal man has come into a large fortune. Jones-Well, he's entitled to it. Smith-Oh, he is, eh? Jones-Yes. He's been lying h weight for it a good many years.

On the Links. First Caddle-I've got a snap. Second Caddle-What doin'? First Caddie-Chaperonin'. De old man give me a \$1 to tell him every time de dude kissed his daughter, an' dude give me \$1 not to tell.

Paradoxical. The Humorist-I can't think of a single joke. The Paragrapher-That's funny.

Friendly Comment. Myer-Meeker's wife buys all his ties for him. What do you think of

Meeker's nerve in wearing them.

ORGAN GRINDERS BETTER OFF.

Helped by Concentration of Popula-tion, an Old Gentleman Finds.

In these days of flats and tall tenethrown down to him wrapped up in

"I should think," said a benevolent appearing old gentleman who was walking along a South Side street the other day, to an Italian organ grinder who could speak English enough to be understood; "I should think that the money coming fown that way, all done up so, would add greatly to the interest of the business. You never know just what you are going to get until you actually open the papers. You might find \$5. There's a mystery in every package."

"Notta much mystery," said the organ grinder, smilingly.

He was willing to admit that there was a certain enjoyment in opening the package-it might contain large money; but he had never come across any gold there yet; people give the organ grinder now just what they used to give, namely, cents.

"Well, then," said the benevolent old gentleman, who appeared to be a man who had time to stand around and talk, "if they don't give any more thean they used to, how can you afford to double Ostend-Paw, what is "neighborly up on your plant like this? A big expensive organ, and two men to run it.

"More people," was the substance of undertaking to reproduce his dialect, what he told the old gentleman was that in no end of blocks where there used to be houses with one family aplece there would now be found, in flats or apartments, five or ten familles; and that, while people might not give individually more than they did years ago, there were ten times as many of them to give. So that even on small profits the greater volume of business nowadays made it possible to

the grander modern scale. "Ye-es," said the benevolent old promises the committee a 'sponge gentleman, turning as he spoke, and wrapping up a coin in a piece of paper, which, turning again, he handed to the suave organist, who smiled again as

he opened it. It was not a great mystery that this package contained, but it was greater than a cent.-Chicago Inter Ocean.

AN ACCOMMODATING NEIGHBOR Following Conversation Between Two

Young Women Overheard. The following conversation of two young ladies was overheard a few nights ago on a Sixth avenue electric

"Do you know, I think she is absolutely the meanest woman I ever knew?

"Why, what is the matter with her?" "Matter? Why, everything. She does nothing but borrow from morning to night. You know. She has the apartment just across the hall from us, and the day she moved in she started by borrowing an egg from mother. The next day she borrowed a cup of sugar, and since that time she has borrowed everything from a piece of butter to the baby carriage, and has never made any attempt to return a single thing, I have often told mother that I was going to borrow some of the things back, but she has always forbidden me. Last night, however, I had to write some letters, and I had no lnk. It was raining very hard, and mother was out, so I resolved that rather than go out in the rain I would disobey orders and ask our neighbor to let me have her ink. I asked her, and what do you think she said? 'I haven't any ink, but I'll let you take my shoe polish. It is just as good. It dries owicks "Yes; and now his money's gone he ly, but you can write just as well with it.' Oh, I never met a meaner weman in my life."-New York Times.

Patti's Smallest Audience

Mme. Parti, whose one appearance on the concert platform during a London season does not nearly satisfy the wishes of her many admirers, tells a story of the occasion when her sadience was the smallest on record, consisting as it did of only one person. The lucky indivdual was a child. During a tour some years ago in America Mme. Patti was unable to sing at one of the concerts; the bad weather kept her indoors.

While she was quietly resting in her hotel, she heard a child crying, and going into the room where the child was, Mme. Patti found that the little one was in trouble because her mother had gone to hear Mme. Patti sing. She had wanted to go, but was not well enough to be allowed out of doors.

Mme. Patti tried to console the child, and at last she said she would sing to her. The child did not accept the offer very readily; she said she wanted to hear Mme. Patti sing! However, before the first song was finished the child had recognized the great singer, and when the little imprompts concert was over, the audience was supremely happy.-Golden Penny.

Beheme that Failed. "I have a question for you," said the

bashful young man. "Turn it loose," replied the fair one "If," said the b. y. m., "you thought

of another fellow what you think of me, would you marry him?" "When the other fellow asks me," answered the fair gum chewer, "I'll let you know by postal card."

No Amateur. Bill-That man is a horrible Har. Jill-O, I don't know; I think he's good at it .- Yonkers Statesman.

Moths must be cold-blooded even Gyer-Not much; but I admire tures; they frequently appear in over looker's nerve in wearing them. coats in August.