

THE NORTHWESTERN.

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Lillian Russell indignantly denies that she is engaged to William C. Whitney. Miss Russell's denial was the first news of the matter that got into general circulation.

A military expert says, in Harper's Weekly, that the number of wagons and animals required to supply an army increases in geometric ratio with each day's march from the base. The statement makes it easier to understand why forces can be moved so much more rapidly in the offices of sensational newspapers than in the field.

Heavy is the burden of poetic ancestors which weighs on the little son recently born to the Hon. Neville Lytton, heir-presumptive to the earldom of Lytton. Through his father he is grandson of Owen Meredith and great-grandson of Bulwer Lytton, and through his mother great-grandson of Lord Byron and grandson of Wilfrid Blunt.

The establishment of international telegraphs and telephones has made possibly direct dialogues between the foreign offices of different governments. A writer in the National Review sees herein a lightening of the duties of diplomatic functionaries and a possible diminution of their importance. The world is becoming one neighborhood.

During the past winter, which has been marked by uncommonly high temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, a similar elevation of temperature appears to have occurred in the Southern Hemisphere, which, of course, has its summer when we have our winter. In South America, South Africa and Australia exceedingly hot weather was experienced while our part of the world was enjoying a mild winter.

The studies of the zodiacal light made at sea led Mr. F. J. Baydon, formerly of the British navy, to remark that the air over the Pacific Ocean appears clearer and better adapted for celestial observation than that lying over the Atlantic Ocean. Honolulu is admirably situated for clearness of air, and it may become an important outpost in astronomy. It has already been selected as one of the chief points for the study of the vibrations of the earth.

A very large attendance has characterized the Paris exposition ever since the formal opening. The American attendance is much larger than was anticipated. President Loubet of the French republic, attends every dedication made necessary by the delayed completion and throwing open to the public of the various buildings. The two palaces of fine arts were opened, with pictures by several hundred American artists prominently displayed. American sculptors have a fine display, while architects, engravers, and miniature painters have a separate section. It is claimed that America excels in all the arts except sculpture.

It is well known that Mrs. Emmons Blaine has made munificent provision for establishing the Chicago Institute, with the twofold object of providing ideal educational conditions for kindergarten to college and offering to teachers the best advantages for professional training. One feature of the enterprise which is not often mentioned is of much importance. After the staff of instruction was appointed, the twenty-six men and women who comprise the staff were placed under salaries and were allowed a year for maturing their own qualifications before being called to their respective chairs. Most of them are now pursuing special studies at universities.

In a little western town, originally settled by Quakers, stands a church in which the practice of seating men and women apart still prevails. A few years ago, a newcomer mustered courage to cross the aisle and sit beside his bride. The second Sunday another man committed the same offence, and the third Sunday saw a generous sprinkling of bare heads alongside spring bonnets. The aged minister, with outraged sense of propriety, chose for his text: "Let destruction come upon him that unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself; and mineed no words in exposition." The men who had dared to stray from established custom rebelled at being eternally doomed to sitting beside their wives, and left the church in a body. The result is that today in that little town stands two church buildings, side by side, counterparts in size and paint and outlook; but in one the sexes are divided by a middle aisle, while in the other "promiscuous sitting" prevails. The trivialities which hinder Christian civility may travel far for an apter illustration.

Fire insurance experts report that the last year has been one of great fire losses. They think the "moral hazard" as the risk of people burning their own property to get the insurance money is called, was probably smaller than usual on account of the good times. When buildings are pretty well occupied there is less temptation to commit the offence than in a period of stagnation. Just now, electricity comes in for a good share of the blame for fires. As a cause, it operates for the most part out of sight, behind walls and under floors.

SCIENTIFIC TOPICS.

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

A Scientific Discussion of the Indian's Art in Respect to Charming Serpents—Some Useful Inventions—Interesting Discoveries.

Snake Charming in India. With a musical instrument made of reeds or bamboo the Hindu, or native of India, manages to soothe the evil spirit of the deadly Indian serpents, playing a peculiar droning melody that, according to its quickness or slowness, causes the snake to raise its body and sway its head about in time with the music, or to lie quietly with dull eyes watching the immovable musician. Gradually the player may draw the poisonous cobra de capello to his side without danger so long as the music lasts; but many snake charmers, either through carelessness or fatigue, have lagged with the music and have been struck and fatally poisoned by the fierce snake. Many are the stories told of the powers of these snake charmers, however. A General Campbell of the British Indian service tells how a big cobra was found at the bottom of a well near his headquarters. The soldier hurried to get his gun and a crowd of natives remained to pelt the hated snake with stones. In this way they drove it into an opening in the brickwork of the well. Two snake charmers were sent for. They were let down into the well by means of ropes, and one of them began to play a shrill and monotonous tune on a sort of bagpipe. His companion stood on the other side of the hole where the snake was hidden, and held a long pole with a slip noose attached to its end ready to noose the snake as soon as its head should appear. For a time the snake appeared unconscious of the seductive music, but in about half an hour, during which the playing had been constant, the cobra was heard to move, and soon out slowly came its ugly head. In an instant the slip noose had done its work and the snake was a dangling prisoner. After being holated from the well the snake charmers carried their prize to an open place and released it. The ugly snake made a rush at the bystanders and sent them scattering. The piping charmer now tapped the snake on the tail, causing it to turn angrily, but hearing the subtle music the cobra coiled up and lifted its head in the striking position. But it did not strike. The head swayed a little from side to side, and not till the music stopped did the creature spring at the musician, who barely escaped being struck by a quick leap to one side. Many of our own wild creatures are singularly affected by certain notes repeated in succession. Often have I caused a rabbit to sit up in his tracks by whistling in a low tone some simple tune. The squirrel will chatter from his treetop if you whistle to him. But if you keep it up the little fellow will gradually work his way down to the trunk of the tree and will crouch there and listen as if spellbound. Try whistling a simple warble near a catbird. The impudent little fellow will ruffle up his feathers, cock his head on one side, listen attentively for awhile and then will try to imitate the sound.

Expectoration in New York. The board of health of New York is giving considerable attention to the question of regulating and abating the practice of expectoration. A recent ordinance of that board might be profitably adopted by the health boards of other cities. It forbids expectoration in cars, other public conveyances, and in public places and requires that notices to such effect shall be posted. It further provides that the proprietors of cigar manufactories and printing offices must provide cuspidors in proportion to one to every two persons employed in such places. It is probable that eventually the demands of the public will compel the introduction of cuspidors in smoking cars and the smoking room of ferry boats. The question of preventing the atmosphere from becoming laden with infectious germs and microbes is causing a great deal of discussion all over the country at present, and if promiscuous expectoration can be stopped a long step in the desired direction will be made.

Photographic Washing Apparatus. Every amateur has his own troubles in printing, toning and washing films, plates and prints, and even with the best of appliances to be purchased at the photographic shops this task is none too pleasant. However, William Fitzgerald Crawford, residing in London, England, disclosed in a recent



Water Motor Washing Bath. patent a water motor washing bath, which, he asserts, makes the toning, fixing, and washing processes comparatively convenient and pleasant. The apparatus by which he accomplishes this consists of two grooved discs or wheels, mounted upon a horizontal axis and belted by means of cords with a tiny water wheel, by which they are revolved in a trough. This is for washing only. For toning, fixing or printing, when the water has to be kept out of the bath, the straps are removed, and the discs turned by hand, by a crank or milled buttons. To hold films and prints suitable carriers are provided. These are placed between the discs, with their opposite sides in corresponding radial grooves. A rubber band, which encircles the circumference of the discs prevents their falling out when the discs are revolved. The toning, developing, fixing or rinsing solution is placed in the trough. For simple washing plates the trough is filled with water and placed under a running spigot, when the small water wheel shown at the top of the device is caused to turn, thus rotating the discs.

and thereby thoroughly washing the plates held between them.

Improved Cycle Cab.

All the bicycles hitherto in use are adapted to carry only one person, or are so arranged that when two or more are carried each rider must aid in the propulsion of the machine. James C. Anderson, a Chicago inventor, has turned his attention to the designing of a vehicle which is adapted to carry two persons through the physical exertions of only one. The inventor states that the machine will be found useful in cities and towns for the purpose of conveying a passenger comfortably and economically to any locality expeditiously. The person who propels the machine also has full control of the steering, which is accomplished by turning the front wheel exactly as though it were the forward wheel of an ordinary bicycle, and the driver is also expected to maintain the cab in an upright position when at rest, in order that the passenger may seat himself or alight in perfect safety. The vehicle is composed of two frames, which are hinged to each other, with the handle bars



CYCLE CAB FOR PLEASURE OR BUSINESS. attached at the rear of the forward frame, causing the wheels to turn in opposite directions and aid in maintaining the equilibrium of the machine.

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The Pineapple of a Poisonous Nature? The chemists now say that we must give up the pineapple as an article of food, and be particularly careful to keep its juices out of our circulation. They find that the pineapple has a very bad record. In Java, the Philippines and through the far east it is said and believed that the juice of the green and growing plant is a blood poison of an extremely deadly nature. It is said to be the substance with which the Malays poison their krishes and daggers. It is also said to be the "fingernail poison" formerly in use among aboriginal Javanese women, who cultivated a nail, or more, on each hand, to a long, sharp point, and that the least scratch from one of these was certain death.

The Toucan on Its Roost. The amiable, usually silent and generally sleepy bird known as the toucan, had to carefully adjust itself before going to sleep for it will become overbalanced and fall from its roost or perch. It first cocks up its little scut of a tail which is not more than three or four inches long, in a very slow and cautious manner. This must materially affect its balance, for it never moves on its perch after the tail is once adjusted. Later it gently turns its huge, unwieldy bill around by degrees and lays it along its back in the usual bird fashion. It then perches on one foot and goes to sleep. If awakened suddenly it will tumble down in a heap, being unable to adjust its balance owing to the weight of its ponderous bill.

Driest Spot on Earth. The reputation of being the driest spot on earth is claimed by Payta, in Peru, a place about five degrees south of the equator. In February there was a fall of rain of more than 24 hours, the first for eight years. The average interval between two showers is seven years. Sea fogs are common. Of about nine species of plants noticed by a recent visitor seven were annuals, and their seeds must have remained dormant in the ground for eight years, in spite of the lack of rain the long-rooted Peruvian cotton is grown in the dried up river bed, furnishing crops that yield subsistence to the natives.

AMONG THE THIEVES.

DIAMOND "BOOSTERS" THE SLICKEST OF THEIR KIND

And Steal Precious Jewels Under the Eyes of the Dealers—Some of the Methods by Which They Operate—Dressy Women Thieves With Male Accomplices.

Perhaps the wildest thieves in the world are those known as boosters—persons who make their living by stealing diamonds. Men and women engage in this business and as a rule they are hard to capture owing to the clever method of their operating. The method is something like this: A swell carriage, rented for the day at a livery stable, drives up to the door of a big jewelry house, a footman jumps down and holds open the door and the proprietor of the store with his eye out for customers, rubs his hands as he sees a fashionably attired man get out and extend his hand to a woman, also dressed in the height of fashion. The jeweler is obsequious when his customers stroll in, gaze around the store as if they intended to buy the place if they should chance to like it. They want to see uncut diamonds—the lady wishes to replace some lost from a tiara or a necklace. The proprietor is delighted to show his stock. The big safe is opened and a tray of beauties placed before the customers. The man who accompanies the woman shows but a languid interest in the proceedings. Evidently his mission is solely to pay for the gems; he looks into the show cases and examines the silverware while the woman picks up the diamonds one by one, holds them to the light, has them weighed and puts them back in the tray. There is nothing there which exactly suits her—she is afraid the stones will not match her necklace. If the proprietor wishes to try his expert hand at matching she perhaps produces a diamond necklace from a chateleine bag—a necklace with two or three diamonds missing. There is the last proof that she is a genuine customer.

The jeweler handles the necklace reverently and sets some of the choicest stones in the vacant settings to try their effect. But still the woman is not satisfied. She cannot make up her mind. At last she picks out two stones and tells the jeweler to set them aside with her name on them, and if she cannot find a better match elsewhere she will return for them. She gives him a name and address—always an address in a fashionable locality. The jeweler puts the diamonds in a little box and stows it away in the safe. He tells her he is sure she will return, as he is confident she cannot match the diamonds more closely. The escort yawns and suggests they had best be moving. And they move. The carriage drives away, the proprietor seeing his wealthy customer to the door, and after it has been gone an hour, or maybe less, the jeweler discovers that one or more of the valuable diamonds which were in the tray, are gone. He is loath to suspect the lady. He searches everywhere, takes out the little box to see if he put too many in it, counts the remaining diamonds again and again to satisfy himself that some are really missing and at last it dawns upon him that he must have been robbed. Perhaps before the police have been summoned the boosters have dismissed their carriage and are on a train bound for anywhere out of town. A diamond worth \$250 or \$300 is worth the risk and the expense of a \$4 carriage for an hour.

Another trick of diamond thieves of this character is known as "switching" gems. In this practice the make-up and general plan of approach is the same, calculated to throw the jeweler off his guard and make him think he is dealing with a wealthy couple who desire to buy a few thousand dollars' worth of diamonds. The man who intends getting the stone has a "phony" diamond concealed in one of his hands—a paste affair which presents a good appearance to a casual glance but will not stand the tests. While examining the tray of diamonds the thief gets his eye on a stone resembling as much as possible in size and cut the one he has in his hand and at a favorable opportunity, when the proprietor is talking with the woman confederate, for instance, he "switches" the paste diamond to the tray and gathers in the genuine stone. The most watchful dealer may be victimized in this way, for if he knows how many diamonds he had in the tray and takes a mental survey of them before his customers leave there are all the stones apparently just as they were when he showed the tray. He cannot detect the substitution at a glance and often after the customers have decided not to buy and have driven away he puts the tray back in the safe without a suspicion of anything wrong, and it may be a week later that he discovers a "phony" diamond in the lot. Then, of course, pursuit is almost hopeless.

Leading Political Economist. Professor de Gustav Schmoller, whose declaration that Brazil must soon become a great state under German influence, has been the rector of the University of Berlin since 1897. He is one of the foremost political economists of Europe, and for years has lectured in German universities on political science, economics and history. Professor Schmoller was born at Heilbronn in 1838, and studied in the University of Wurtemberg. In 1864 he was called to a chair in Halle, and from 1865 to 1872 he was dean of the University of Strassburg. In 1882 Prof. Schmoller was transferred to Berlin as professor of history of political science. His opinions upon national matters are of great weight.

A VALUABLE WILD BEAST.

The Gorilla Is Hard to Capture and Is Always in Demand.

"At the present time there are no wild animals in such great demand for exhibition purposes as the gorilla," says a dealer in all kinds of wild beasts. "A full-grown gorilla stands about four feet six inches high and is worth \$1,200 to \$1,500. They sell easily for such prices, owing to the fact that they are rare and very difficult to capture. Chiefs in the interior of Africa have been offered large sums if they would succeed in catching one of these beasts. Numbers of little gorillas have been captured at various times, but they have always pined away and died in a short time. The chief difficulty about the capture of the gorilla is that he lives in very unhealthy districts where fevers prevail. A white man has to fight the climate as well as the animals. In addition to the well-known ferocity of the gorilla he is regarded with a superstitious awe by the natives, who have a legend to the effect that this terrible beast carries away the women to the jungles. They also regard the gorilla as endowed with supernatural powers. Two men sent out last year by a well-known German firm that deals in wild beasts perished in the wilds of Africa while seeking for gorillas. It may seem surprising to an American, equipped with all the appliances of science for the subjugation of the animal kingdom, that it seems impossible to capture and cage a gorilla. But if his fearful strength is considered and his wonderful shyness, it will prove to be not so much a matter of strength after all. All kinds of suggestions have been made to hunters with regard to the devices to be used, such as traps, pitfalls and like appliances, but none of these has proved to be successful. One of the largest gorillas ever captured belongs to the zoological gardens in London. The animal stands four feet nine inches high. It is so valuable that it offers of \$1,500 and \$2,000 have been made without acceptance."

AVOIDABLE ACCIDENTS.

How Familiarity with Accidents Begets Carelessness.

There is no saying truer than that familiarity breeds contempt, says an old Pittsburg railroad man. Take, for example, men who handle high explosives. When they first go on the work they handle the explosive tenderly and gingerly, but with the constant handling of the dangerous compounds they grow careless, and dangerous and deadly explosions are frequently the result. We had a bad accident at one time, and in order to clear the tracks it was necessary to dynamite the wreck. On the wrecking train the dynamite was in one box on a flat-car, with the caps in another, while a third box was provided in which to place the dynamite cartridges when capped and ready for use. The two men in charge of the dynamite, as the wrecking train neared the scene of the accident, began to make ready the explosive. One man affixed the cap to the cartridge, and then tossed it to his companion, some seven or eight feet away, who caught and laid it in the box. We never knew exactly what happened. Either one man missed his catch or the other dropped a cartridge in capping, but the car, dynamite and men were wiped out of existence; a large hole where the car and tracks had been marked the scene of that familiarity-breeds-contempt accident.

Warning Off Danger.

There is at least one lady in Kenwood who believes thoroughly in the efficacy of prayer. About a year ago her husband engaged in a business venture that looked rather uncertain. But his wife had strong faith that it would turn out well. "Go ahead, John," she said, "and let us put our trust in the Lord. I pray every night that we may have no reason to regret the risk we are taking." The affair seemed to turn out pretty well right from the start. Handsome dividends were paid all through the summer and during the winter and great joy was in the home of this man and the sharer of his fortunes. But there came a turn about a month ago. The business ceased to pay, and since then the losses have been increasing every day. Nothing was said about it at the fire-side around which so much happiness had centered during the past year until the other day, when it was suggested by the husband that it would be well to cut down expenses. Questions followed, as a matter of course, and then it had to be confessed that the business was not going well. "Dear me!" exclaimed the distressed lady, when all the truth had been revealed to her, "I must begin praying again tonight!"

Commerce of Belgium.

The commerce of Belgium has made most remarkable progress. The budget for 1900 shows that from the modest figure of 202,000,000 francs (\$28,986,000) in 1831 the general commercial total with foreign countries for 1898 was 6,298,000,000 francs (\$1,215,514,000); from 1860,000,000 francs (\$35,895,000) the special commerce has risen to 3,821,000,000 francs (\$739,383,000), and 1899 will bring that up to 4,900,000,000 francs (\$772,000,000). Half a century ago Belgium was scarcely known. Today its products and manufactures are in the markets of every known corner of the globe, and this little country, with its 6,000,000 inhabitants, only a few more than the city of London, ranks as the seventh industrial country of the globe.

Longest Canal in the Erie. The longest canal in the world is the Erie, in New York, extending from Albany to Buffalo, a distance of 364 miles.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON I, JULY 1—MATT. 14: 22-33.

"Of a Truth Thou Art the Son of God" —Matt. 14:33—Light From Other Scriptures—Christ Still a Tempest—On the Troubled Sea.

"And straightaway." As soon as he had sent away the five thousand men besides women and children, whom he had fed with the five loaves and two fishes (see Lesson XII, of last quarter), "Jesus constrained them," Urged, compelled by his authority and influence, contrary to their own natural desires. The disciples were reluctant to go away and leave their teacher alone in this desert place at night. It seemed like disloyalty and desertion. "To get into a ship," better as in R. V., to enter the boat, the one they had come in; not very far, for it could be propelled by oars. "And to go before him unto the other side." Mark: "to Bethsaida"; John: "toward Capernaum," this being the ultimate point to be reached.

"Apart." Privately, by himself alone. "To pray," as his disciples must pray, if they would be like their Master. "And as he prayed, the faithful stars in the heavens shone out." "And when the evening was come." The second or late evening, beginning with sunset. The darkness had now descended upon the whole scene. "He was there alone." This season of prayer alone with God, lasted several hours, for it began in the evening after sunset; and he does not come to his disciples till the fourth watch, or between 3 and 6 o'clock the next morning (v. 25).

"But the ship (the fishing boat) was now in the midst of the sea, which was here only about five miles across. When Jesus came to them they had gone twenty-five or thirty furlongs (John 6: 19), which would be not quite three miles, the Greek stadion (stadium) being considerably less than our furlong.—Dr. Broadus: "Tossed with waves." The expression in the original is forcible, "tossed by the waves."

"And in the fourth watch of the night." Between 3 and 6 o'clock in the morning. The night was divided by the Romans into four watches of about three hours each from sunset to sunrise. "Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea." In the extremity of their danger, exhaustion, and despondency, Jesus came to his disciples by his supernatural power over nature.

"They were troubled, saying, 'It is a spirit.'" The word in the Greek is not the usual one for "spirit." It was rather an apparition, a ghost, a phantom, a specter, and hence to them a sign of disaster or death. But "they cried out for fear" (the apparition was worse than the storm), and therefore (v. 27) "straightway Jesus spake unto them." They could recognize the familiar tones of his voice. "Be of good cheer, it is I. Your Master, I, who a few moments ago made the storm cease by me. 'Peace be still,' I, who have wrought so many miracles in your presence, I, who am the Son of God.

"Lord, if it be thou." Rather "since it is thou," not expressing a doubt, or at most but the lingering echo of doubt driven away by Christ's reassuring words. "Bid me come unto thee on the water." Or waters. Not "let me," but "give me the word of command,"—"command," or "order me to come unto thee upon the waters."—J. F. and B.

"And he said, 'Come.'" Make a trial of your faith. Jesus knew that by permitting him to make the trial, Peter would learn some very important lessons he needed much. "He walked on the water." Not necessarily very far; and yet so long as he thus walked, it was through supernatural aid from Christ, which could operate upon him only so long as he had faith. "And he caught the twelve, and said unto them, 'Get up, for the wind ceaseth.'" "But when he saw the wind bolsterous," i. e., the high waves, impelled by the wind rushing against him, "He cried, saying, 'Lord, save me.'" Peter had sense enough and faith enough to do the one sensible thing.

"And immediately." Mark the immediately. Jesus did not delay. "Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him." He answers to Peter's faith in him, although that faith was small. "O thou of little faith." Real faith, but too little of it. "Wherefore didst thou doubt?" Why could not you, who have witnessed my power so many times, hold to a little longer, and against seeming difficulties? Peter had courage and faith, but both were imperfect. Compare his actions a year later, when he was confident that he would die with Jesus before he would deny him, followed so soon by his three denials, and his repentance. Perhaps this scene among the waves was a preparation for that more terrible trial and experience.

Most Fragrant Flowers.

It is an interesting thing to know that 4,200 species of plants are gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe. Of these, 420 have a perfume that is pleasing and enter largely into the manufacture of soaps and perfumes. There are more species of white flowers gathered than of any other color—1,124 in all. Of these, 187 have an agreeable scent, an extraordinarily large proportion. Next in order come yellow blossoms, with 951, seventy-seven of them being perfumed. Red flowers are of 594 varieties, thirty-four of which are perfumed, and the violet blossoms are pleasantly odiferous.—Tid-Bits.

Consideration of Others.

Many a man who would be ashamed to strike a brute beast with a bludgeon, has no shame in making a bludgeon of his tongue, to strike human beings—the tenderest places of their being—their social sensibilities and their self-esteem. Cruelty, in its gross and outward forms, we have in good measure suppressed; but the refined cruelty of the abusive harangue are not yet extinct. Let us be as careful of men's inner skins as of our outer.—S. S. Times.