

The sapient Prof. Puppe of Berlin has discovered a new germ—a flea, perhaps.

Carnegie says the offspring of the rich lack a great deal. So do the offspring of the poor.

A New Jersey factory has gone into the business of making steel dolls. That's a mean trick.

What a saving of human life it would result in if football games could be played by telegraph.

If the sultan of Turkey had anything to fear it was from an enemy within. He has cancer of the stomach.

Refreshing to read that a European princess is to be married according to social rules and regulations.

A national anti-mosquito association is the latest. "Biz-z-z" is the password and "swat" the countersign.

The lawyers intrusted with the settlement of the Fair estate find that where there's a will there's a way.

Anger is useful sometimes in that it gives a man something to be sorry for and thus reduces danger of swelled head.

If one must die of overdrinking how pleasant it must be to have the coroner's physician call it "refined alcoholism."

A woman always has great confidence in the doctor who says he relies on her intelligent care more than on medicines.

Some of the critics insist that Patti can't sing as she used to, but none of them has at yet accused her of having a double chin.

There is no doubt that the woman who loves you forgives you too much, while the woman whom you love forgives you too little.

Tennessee negroes have organized a political party against the use of cocaine. It is to be hoped nobody will stuff the ballot box.

Will that scientific organization which is going to fight New Jersey mosquitoes use magazine rifles or just ordinary shotguns?

A Clyde Fitch play is to be abandoned on account of poor business. This leaves only eighty-seven Clyde Fitch plays on the boards.

Senator Clark has had an operation performed on his ear. If it does not prove satisfactory the senator is unable to buy a new one.

Reading that thirteen brides of army officers have sailed for Manila on the transport Logan, who can believe that thirteen is an unlucky number?

It is generally admitted among the humorists that President Wos Y Gil of San Domingo was a gilly to resign, and thus to take his unique name out of print.

In the beauty contest at New York women are to judge of the physical charms of the male contestants. Let us hope that hissing of the judges may be barred.

There is many a man who never heard of the late Herbert Spencer, whose whole life is the fruit of the philosophy with which Spencer seeded down the world.

Gold is said to have been discovered in Greenland. It is rather a pity that these discoveries cannot be made in some place which is comfortable for residence purposes.

The stenographer watches the expert typewriter repairer with unspoken wonder at the deftness with which he puts the machine in order without using a hairpin once.

When Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, heard that his daughter had eloped with a coachman, he sent out letters announcing her death. This shows that the Don can pretend in various ways.

The Duke of Roxburgh declares that he will never come back to New York. The clown in the old-time circus used to invariably announce, "We've got your money, and that's what we came here for."

As soon as Uncle Bob Fitzsimmons has had time to mend his broken knuckles he will be ready to give short boxing lessons to any other ambitious youngster for the usual percentage of the gate receipts.

It may comfort the consumers of meat and butter and eggs and coal to learn that a German scientist claims to have discovered a process by which the price of radium may be reduced several thousand dollars an ounce.

A cable says the English Winston Churchill will come to this country frankly seeking a rich American wife. He can offer no coronet—only a name which he has made by actual accomplishment. It will be interesting to watch the progress of a hunter so handicapped.

Unanimous Opinion Given by the Supreme Court

AS A WHOLE LAW IS GOOD

No Objections to Law of Such Import as to Require Declaration of Whole or Part of Act Unconstitutional

Without stopping to pass on any particular section of the new revenue law, the Nebraska supreme court has given an opinion holding that the act as a whole is a constitutional expression of the will of the legislature.

Chief Justice Sullivan's name is attached to the opinion of the court which is concurred in by Judge Holcomb and Judge Sedgwick, making it the unanimous decision of the court.

Case of Typhoid Epidemic

Dr. George A. Soper, of New York, a sanitary expert, engaged by the Engineering News to investigate the typhoid epidemic at Butler, Pa., and its causes, will report that the epidemic has by no means attained its culmination.

Louisiana White-Cappers Will Pay

The Louisiana supreme court has given damages in the sum of \$5,000 each to Peter Warner, Reuben Brown, and Edward Warner, against thirty citizens of Dodson, Winn parish, who had whitecapped them.

Successful Poultry Show at Beatrice

The Southeastern Nebraska Poultry show in session at Beatrice and the entries are quite large.

The Japs May Fight

In consequence of Russia's reply a special conference of the elder statesmen of Japan, including the Marquis Ito, and the cabinet ministers, is presiding.

Governor Savage Disproved Expending the Money for Blankets

Gen. L. W. Colby, formerly adjutant general of the Nebraska national guard, whose accounts have been investigated by the federal grand jury at Omaha, in accordance with the direction of Governor Mickey, has turned over to his successor in office \$2,282.

It is believed that the turning over of the money to the state by General Colby will have some effect on the action of the grand jury and may possibly end the investigation.

St. Joseph Gets Convention

The general committee of the young people's Christian union of the United States met at Braddock, Pa., and spent the time in mapping out work for the union during the coming year.

The Omaha Trading Stamp War

The trading stamp fight in Omaha has become a fast one, and every merchant has lined himself up on one side or the other.

Hunting for a Sneak Thief

Officers in Lincoln, Omaha and Council Bluffs are desirous of catching a man who in Lincoln called himself Clark, but whose real name is not known.

Turkey Will Have to Bend the Knee

Acting Secretary of State Adee has taken a firm stand in the matter of the assault upon United States Consul Davis by Turkish officials and police at Alexandria.

Robbed on the Big Four

D. A. Ross, a railway contractor living at Excelsior Springs, Mo., discovered that he had been robbed of \$5,106 in cash somewhere on the Big Four road between Washington, D. C., and St. Louis, Mo.

Killed by the Cars

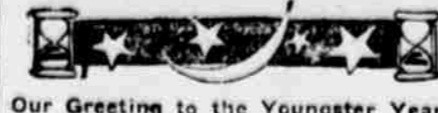
Mrs. Alex. Wilson was killed near Aurora by Burlington train No. 42, going toward Lincoln.

Will be No Packing House Strike

Peace between the Chicago packing houses and their employes practically assured when all but one of the grievances of the striking coopers were adjusted.

The Azof Sea Drying Up

The sea of Azof is disappearing and remarkable scenes are in course of enactment. At Taganrog the waters have receded to such an extent during the last five days that the bed of the sea is visible for a distance of thousands of feet.



Our Greeting to the Youngster Year. As does the child come into life—So cometh the bright New Year, 'Tis born a simple untold birth With joy, good will, and cheer.



SHUCKIN' DE CON. CHRISTMAS was never celebrated to any great extent in the south back in the good old days 'before de wah'.

When a "co'n shuckin'" was decided upon notices were sent out to the slaves of all adjoining plantations stating that on a certain night Judge S. or Squire B. would give a corn shuckin' of so many thousand bushels.

Supper was always provided on a large scale, and generally consisted of two or three roasted pigs, turkeys, chickens, with side dishes of vegetables in equal proportion.

About twilight the darkies began to arrive from all over the country. The "boys" clad in their suits of jeans, with that pride of the darky's heart, his "long-tailed, claw-hammer blue."

The female portion of the gathering was coquetishly dressed in linsey woolsey frocks, with their heads tied in flaming red bandanna handkerchiefs—the redder the better—and with a white handkerchief crossed upon their breasts.

They came in groups, and each party of huskers from a neighboring plantation was announced long before it arrived by the well-known tunes prevalent in those days floating down the road and over the fields as the happy boys and women hastened to the gathering.



WON'T MARRY FOR TEN YEARS. Down in dat co'n field, Heah dat mo'nful soun'; Dem darkies am a-weepin', 'Fo' massa's in de co' co' groun'.

The Day for Resolutions. The first day of the new year. What an hour for resolutions; what a moment for prayer!

As soon as the darkies were all assembled the oldest slave present went to "ole massa" and begged a piece of silver money.

Taking this piece of silver, the ancient darky returned to the field and there performed a ceremony, the exact meaning of which has not come down to us.

After the preliminary prayer the "12 wise men" were chosen, and their first duty was to select two of the brainliest negroes in the company, who, when called out, with much pride at their distinction, indulged in a good humored contest of strength, which was known as "rassin' fo' de Capt'n."

Then the corn shucking proper began. Stacks of fuel had been placed at intervals of a few yards near the corn, and after they had been lighted, under the supervision of the "12 wise men," the fun began.

When our day's am done, Don't we darkies hab a time; When our day's am done, Don't we darkies cut a shine? Back to our cabin we will go, Back in de early morn'; But we'll be here in de ebbin', To do de shuckin' of de co'n.



red ear she had the option of choosing a sweetheart from any of the darkies around the corn pile. When 12 o'clock struck all hands dropped their work and hurried to the grove which always surrounded the old plantation home.

After supper a chaplain was selected, who solemnly pronounced a parting benediction upon "ole massa and missus."

The Dandelion. Little dandelion, Stated in one day Grinnin' at de autumn Jes' like it was May.



The Day for Resolutions. Made de day seem bright, Thought de frost w'ud ketch him Long befo' de night.

Custom of Marking Business Houses Goes Back to Ancient Greece.

The custom of marking a business house by means of a sign is of very ancient origin, says December St. Nicholas. In the great cities of the East and among the ancient Egyptians such a practice must have been unnecessary, as all trades were classified and confined to certain sections of the city, and then all wares were exposed to full view, as they were displayed in open booths.

The history of Grecian sign boards is meager, yet the allusion of Aristophanes and Lucian to sign boards warrants our belief in their use by the Greeks.

The Children's Christmas.

If we are to keep Christmas day fit for the children it must be full of simple enjoyment. It is not the elaborate celebration that counts. Better a stocking with pop-corn, nuts, raising and apples, and a rollicking good time over it, than a conventional party of a gorgeous tree and a cross family.

After all, nothing in the world has the same mysterious charm that invests the knobby, unwieldy stocking. You feel it, and pinch it gingerly as it lies on the bed, and imagine what the various lumps are.

A stocking does have this advantage over a public tree that it does not force on the youthful mind the sharp lines drawn by the possession of worldly goods.

Appropriate to the Day.

To the Christmas dinner let us bring every good and wholesome thought, kind hearts and the spirit of happiness. Let us call to us at that hallowed hour the memory of loved ones not with us now, whether they be dead or living; let us give a thought to the wayward, to the prisoner, about whose very cell the broad charity of to-day twines a piece of holy; to the sick who lie on hospital beds at this hour; to the men in khaki who bear the flag in our far-off tropic isles, and who may only dream, to-night of the snow and home cheer; they cannot share; to those on the sea in peril among the winter storms of fate and ocean; to the babes just breathing the first breath of life, Christmas gifts indeed for pale, happy mothers; to the aged who realize that Christmas and death are coming very close together about them; to the men who labor in our great forests where the snow banks up high among God's own Christmas trees; to all men and women and little children, shut out in any way from the cheerful glow of the home fire, or who, having homes, may have but little fire to burn.

Naval Officer Buys Pew.

Commander F. A. Miller, U. S. N., has purchased pew No. 118 in the historic St. John's church, Washington, from a Philadelphian, paying him \$1,000 for it.

Pensions Increase.

The pension issue last year was the largest in ten years; the issue for the first quarter of the present year exceeds the same period last year by 25 per cent.