

The people of the United States spend \$25,000,000 annually for baking powder. Verily, we are a rising nation.

The Washington Memorial Arch Fund of New York was increased by upwards of thirty cents this week. Our generous millionaires have doubtless been contributing.

After the Johnstown and other disasters by flood, the ruin wrought by high winds and the tremendous loss of property by storms on the Atlantic coast, the east should be in a humble and contrite mood and the cry of "Westward, ho!" will doubtless receive more respectful attention.

There is a strong sentiment in Mexico in favor of a reciprocity treaty with this country, but the feeling is that the initiative should be taken by the United States. This view, under the circumstances, is a natural one to take, as Mexico went farther in this direction in the past than we did.

George W. Childs, of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, and Anthony J. Drexel, the head of the great banking house of Drexel & Co., are said to be the warmest of friends. They are millionaires, and neither is afraid of the other trying to borrow money of him. That little habit is very trying between friends.

Oliver Wendell Holmes has spent the better part of a long life in writing poetry that men and women can read without a blush, can understand without a pickaxe or microscope, and are happier, better and nobler for perusing. His laughter never jeers, sarcasm never poisons, his tears are never weak or sickly.

The innocent and guileless people who live in cities are no match for their country cousins. A writer in the Boston Post says that certain towns in New Hampshire and Vermont have been stocked with bogus antique furniture, which is sold at exorbitant prices to city visitors, who think they are getting old family heirlooms.

Some scientific people have figured that the rock of Niagara is being worn away by the waters at such rate that in a few thousand years the cataract will work up to Lake Erie. The Canadians are determined to delay this progress, so far as in them lies, and will punish American sports who may rub down the rock by going over the falls in the fulfillment of wagers.

Agriculture being still the leading interest in the country, the crops are prime factors in determining the business situation. For this reason the country may confidently look for increased railway earnings and an expansion in the clearances of the banks in the chief cities. In both of those lines of activity there may have been gains throughout the year, as compared with 1888.

The records kept by Mexico show that the exportations of merchandise from the United States to that country are many millions of dollars in value greater than our official documents reveal. This omission on our side, of course, is well known to our authorities and to Congress. There is no law providing for the collection of statistics of exports from this country to foreign territory by rail.

A young man down in Indiana has set an example which the young women will do well to discountenance right away. He was engaged to marry a young lady, but on the day set for the wedding fled to Canada. So long as Canada only entices our recreant bank cashier we can as a nation stand it, but when she enters the lists as a refuge for recalcitrant bridegrooms there is bound to be a heap of trouble.

That Queen Victoria is a woman of more than ordinary force of character is clearly shown by the fact that during her recent visit to Wales she on several occasions flattered the natives by addressing them in their own language. Moreover, she is able to both read and write Hindostanee with considerable fluency. There are but few ladies who at the age of seventy would have the perseverance and the courage to acquire proficiency in two such execrably difficult languages as Hindostanee and Welsh.

The relations of employer and employe have vastly changed within the last century. The modern system, involving vast corporations and combinations of capital, is a comparatively new creation. The development has been without parallel in the history of the world, and it is but natural that the masses should be unable to grasp the great problem of the ultimate effect of it, and in consequence have been placed at a great disadvantage in conducting their defense against the aggressions made upon them.

A good many towns in New England have celebrated their 250th birthdays recently, and the fact that they pass for very old communities shows what a very young country we are, after all. In the Old World they would be regarded as the toddling infants among towns. If Damascus were to set out to celebrate, it would puzzle the wisest of its wise men to number the anniversary. Damascus is said to have been an old established city nineteen hundred years before Christ. On the other hand, the American community has the advantage that its oldest inhabitant remembers the oldest inhabitant of his boyhood, who remembered the site of the town before there was any town.

A FEMALE CYCLIST.

How the Willy Machine Ran Away With an Estimable Lady.

She Took an Afternoon Outing in Central Park and Added Materially to the Attractions of that Interesting Resort.

Among the many interesting things to be seen in Central Park, the past week, was my wife's mother on a bicycle. It was not her intention originally to enter into competition with the menagerie, but it's a frozen fact that the two hippopotami were nothing to her after she got fairly started.



TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN.

I may add that the difficulty was right there—getting started. With the aid of two men and a step ladder my wife's mother can climb upon a good, square-rigged horse with a stout leg under each foot, and do it so nicely that the beast will smile through his tears; but with a bicycle it is different. A bicycle has only two legs and neither of them can be depended upon to hold still in an emergency. She enjoys equestrianism very much because she thinks that it requires more weight, but as the matter of fact, it is much more likely to have that effect upon the horse. As a friend of dumb animals I have advised my wife's mother to transfer her affections to the bicycle. I told her that it was becoming very fashionable—so much so that the newspapers had begun to libel celebrated actresses and others—Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Potter among the others by saying that they were experts with the wheel.

I also told my wife's mother that I knew of a girl who reduced her weight twenty pounds by bicycle riding. This news probably broke her spirit in three places and isn't out of the hospital yet. I did not mention the latter part of it to my wife's mother, because I wouldn't be so mean as to spoil her sport with needless anxiety, as, after all, she might live through this as she had through many other things that I had confidently depended upon.

My representations decided her and she prepared for a great success on wheels. She did not care to appear in the park without preparatory practice, so she hired a bicycle and had it brought to the house. With this she experimented in the hall outside the door of our flat, during the daytime, when the men were down town. She did not learn to ride up and down stairs, though she went part of the way down once very successfully, but she acquired a pose which was somewhat queer and a little dignified than if the bicycle had been a brush fence, though not much.

Then she decided that it was safe to try the park. There is a place close by where women can hire bicycles, and there my wife's mother asked for and obtained one with a rugged constitution and a gentle disposition. She led the docile machine to a secluded spot, where she thought to get a good start before sailing out before the admiring gaze of the multitude. Then she tried to mount, but it wasn't so easy there as in the hall with the banisters to hang on to. She tried it till the machine got tired and then it lay down and she fell over it. At the next attempt she put her foot through one wheel and sat down on the other one. At this moment park policeman No. 13 hove in sight.

"Can I help ye thin wid that haythin machine, I dunno?" he inquired politely. "I can ride real well on my own bicycle," said my wife's mother with true feminine mendacity, "but this ugly thing lies down every time I look at it." "It looks dayint and doctle," said No. 13, "but the dayil is in them things. I see a power of 'em every day, and the tricks they is up to, an' why half the women in this town an't walkin' round this minute with broken necks is beyant me entirely."



THEY ALL WANTED TO HOLD IT.

By this time No. 13 had lifted up the machine and was holding it on one side while my wife's mother mounted on the other. Several spectators had strolled up meanwhile. My wife's mother made a bold hasty step, and the bicycle took a tilt toward No. 13. He dug his toes into the sand and tried to brace up under the load, but it was a little too much for him. Things began to look serious. My wife's mother let go her grip on the steering apparatus and flung her arms around No. 13's neck. He took a new grip on the handlebars and crossed his arms. Several of the spectators offered advice, though there was really nothing to do but trust in providence. No. 13's feet slipped slowly out from under him; my wife's mother attempted to fly, and succeeded so well that when she and the bicycle, after a short aerial performance, descended together they found No. 13's prostrate body waiting for them. He was removed from under the wreck much broader, but not nearly so thick as he had been before.

Nevertheless the spectators of whom there were now a large number, regarded the affair as a great joke, and fifty or a hundred of them offered to hold the machine for nothing if my wife's mother would try it again. Probably they thought that they could bluff her out. This mistake arose from not having had her in the family. She

was in a condition of mind to ride that bicycle if nothing had remained of it but one wheel. Singularly enough, however, it was found to be substantially uninjured. About a dozen men then grabbed the machine while the female cyclist of our family proceeded to mount. They were assisted by one small boy who took hold of the rear wheel with the avowed intention of "steadying de bloomin' bike till de old lady hollerered go." He didn't wait for the signal, however, but as soon as my wife's mother got her seat, he gave the machine a violent push which caused the slender man in front to sit down very suddenly. The cyclist, having by this time got a grip on the treadles, took a flying start and passing over the slender man lengthwise, proceeded on her way down hill. It isn't very hard to run a bicycle down hill if you're in a hurry and don't care how fast you go, and don't get your feet mixed up with the treadles or run over a dog or meet anything coming up. Some of these possibilities occurred to my wife's mother as she was taking the machine down hill, and she was so terrified that she got away from her, and they destroyed her peace of mind. But nothing serious happened. She ran down the long hill beautifully, and her headway took her about forty feet up a short, steep incline that faced the other slope. She tried to continue her progress up this slope but it wouldn't work. Instead, she began to gather speed in the opposite direction; so she gracefully alighted on her back, and picked up the machine which had run into a tree.

She led the bicycle up the hill, and endeavored to look as if nothing had happened. She was not wholly successful for her fame spread and there seemed to be people all over the place who wanted to hold the machine, and then she fell afterwards. Among them was a large, fat patriarch who said that he was an expert. He really did understand the subject very well, for he put my wife's mother on it without much trouble, and suggested that she should ride round and round on the level space at the top of the hill and not try to go down. She tried this plan and succeeded fairly well. Meanwhile the expert strolled down the hill, and as he knew that my wife's mother would get down there eventually, he got there sooner than he expected. For riding a bicycle a woman wears a round, full skirt, much like an ordinary riding habit but not so long. Now there happened to be a good breeze on the eminence, and so my wife's mother was aware of it before her skirt had blown out like a great balloon and was sailing off with her before the wind, and the wind blew straight down the hill. Forty miles an hour was nothing to her speed at the moment when the obliging expert turned and saw her bearing down upon him. He was too completely taken by surprise to dodge, so he fled. A half dozen other pedestrians and several dogs joined in the stampede. They made good time but it was no use; they couldn't beat the air ship on wheels. The flying machine passed over the fat patriarch and ground his nose into the sand.



MY WIFE'S MOTHER UNDER FULL SAIL.

The bicycle was deflected from its course by this collision, and made a jump for a shady nook where one of the park gardeners was eating his lunch sitting on a board over two barrels. The bicycle went under the board, and my wife's mother went over it. She took the gardener with her. He did not mean to elope but he couldn't help it. He had no time to reflect. They both landed in a large tank which the gardener had been filling as a sort of reservoir. Undoubtedly if I had seen this event with all its breakneck possibilities I should have thought myself in luck. But I wasn't. My wife's mother escaped entirely uninjured, but the bicycle was a wreck that it took a day to get broken up into its component parts. It has permanently lost its popularity in our family.

If daisies fair and youthful But meant the things they say, Ah! then, what joy to listen When eyes of azure glisten And tender words and truthful words are all that come to pass; If daisies fair and youthful But meant the things they say, If maidens never flirted And men never never false; If matrons never deceived, If wall flowers ne'er deserted, One's cares might be divided Slightly between two, and if maidens never flirted And men never never false, If bores were never present, And bores were never seen; If girls in their tenth season, Would only listen to reason, Would render much more pleasant Society, when they were seen, If bores were never present, And bores were never seen.—America.

A Gambler's Request. Frederick Brown, a well known sporting man of Washington, who died in Saratoga recently, made a will leaving his mother \$80,000. This amount he has won from the bookmakers in the last year. At the last meeting of the Jockey Club in Saratoga, he was riding a horse named "Diamond Ring," which he pawned for \$40. Borrowing \$10 he started with this capital and won \$6,000 during the spring meeting. He followed the horses to Monmouth, Sheepshead and Saratoga, and won right along. He deposited \$17,000 of his winnings in a Saratoga bank.

Hereditary Heredity. An honest Indian, who had been among the white men long enough to learn how to shave his fellow men, within the pale of the law, opened a barber shop in Cheyenne. Some body, probably not a clergyman, hung a sign over his door, the first night, which read, "Superfluous hair removed while you wait." And next day the patient barber wondered why nobody came near his shop except a bald headed man who loitered behind a tree box over the way.—Burdette.

A VALLEY OF WONDERS.

Marvelous Signs Along the Course of the Colorado River.

On the Colorado river, a distance of 100 miles, are mountains of salt extending miles. The salt is so pure that a newspaper can be read through blocks of six and eight inches. A single blast of giant powder will blow out tons upon tons of it. This salt does not dazzle your eyes, as you might expect, while riding along on the river steamer or clambering over it. It has a layer of sandstone from two to eight feet thick over it. When this is torn away the salt lies in full sight like a great snowdrift. How deep it is nobody knows. This salt is destined to be the source of great wealth. Hamilton Diston, the big saw manufacturer, and Baldwin, of the Baldwin locomotive works, are the only men who have secured any of these salt mountains. When the Utah Southern railroad is pushed on from Panguitch, it will tap these salt mountains. The rocks up toward the salt mountains are painted and cut into hieroglyphics which none of the Mojave, Yuma, Piute or other Indians know the meaning of. There are valleys along the great but as yet unknown Colorado, singly as much as 120 miles long and twenty wide. That will be the real orange country of the globe. They are as rich as the valley of the Nile. Irrigation will redeem them. Water will be brought on them as sure as destiny.

El Dorado canyon is grander than the Grand canyon of the Colorado. The tops of the windows of the steamer Gila do not project more than six inches, yet I may put my head out and look as high as I can and I can't see half way up the mighty walls of the canyon. The river is 350 feet wide there, too. The only way you can see the Grand canyon is to get right out on the bank and look straight up. The walls are so high that there is perpetual shade there. Neither the sun nor the moon can shine in. It takes ten hours going up to go through the canyon and two hours coming down. By the Colorado river and the Virgin you can run clear to the Pacific coast in ten days if the people have laughed at me for saying I was going up into mountainous Nevada by boat, but that's just what I have been doing right along. Strange as it may seem, and little as it is, the Colorado has more navigable water than any other river on the Pacific coast. It has 700 miles, while the Columbia has but 350. The Colorado is the only real field for explorers on the North American continent outside of the frigid North. The wonders that could be unearthed there will yet attract the attention of the greatest scientists of the world.—Colorado Letter.

A Man of the World.

I suppose I am one of those persons who come under the street phraseology of "a man of the world." I also suppose that phrase, in its best sense, means a man not wholly good or bad—a person known and distinguished from those whose pretensions lead them into a pretentiousness who pretentiously consider themselves specially ushered into the world for a purpose. With this self-satisfying definition of my place in the social, economic, political and business world, I have closely observed the men of my class as contrasted with those of my own. Few men who have braved the storms of every day life, who are deep within the shadow to-day and smiling in the sunshine to-morrow, fail to develop a hearty and all-pervading sympathy and benevolence. Now, it is with no intention to cast odious reflections upon a pretentiousness who pretentiously consider themselves specially ushered into the world for a purpose. 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