

President Kruger is serving his term and seems to be doing a pretty good job, too.

Perhaps Russia will be the next nation to drop an ultimatum in the slot and make the lion roar.

A tramp was found drowned in a bath tub the other day in Denver. The police are now trying to trace the murderer.

Is anything serious troubling Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany? No arrests for lese-majeste have been reported for a period of fully a week.

If the tramps have anything to say in the proceedings of the anti-tramp convention they will doubtless advocate the adoption of a resolution supporting the good roads movement.

A Russian dispatch says that "the czar has engaged a typewriter and reduced his body guard." If the czarina understands her business the reduction of the body guard probably will not be continued long.

Pennsylvania reports that the value of farms in that State has doubled since 1850. American agriculturists ought to be satisfied, for the value of farms in England has declined nearly one-half in the same period.

It is said that in case of great emergency the United States could put 9,500,000 disciplined men in the field within three months. Uncle Sam can afford to be patient with the medieval relics in Spain who have been stoning our consulates.

Herbert Spencer declares that society is advancing to higher forms through the decline of militancy. The philosopher does not explain why the decline is attended by such tremendous preparations for fighting, but this may be one of the favorable symptoms.

In view of the fact that the consumption of the nameless little abominations that are smoked in lieu of pipes and cigars is several billions annually it is hardly a surprise to learn from Kentucky that the largest tobacco planter in the world has failed.

A correspondent who has been looking through the pine regions of Minnesota asked a timberman what his orders were. "Our orders," said the foreman, "are to strip things clean." The old world is indebted to similar instructions in the past for many of its waste and desert places.

The latest estimate of illiterates over 6,324,702, or 13.3 per cent. of the United States population. This is a large number, but as the proportion in 1890 was 17 per cent., the public schools of the country may be complimented on their solid growth in usefulness.

Greater New York will have an area of 859 square miles, making it the largest American city and nearly three times the size of Philadelphia. But London spreads over 688 square miles. The consolidation will advance New York to the position of the world's second city, and as its rate of growth is nearly double that of London it should be the first before the end of the coming century.

A London critic calls attention to the fact that "the Englishman has to depend for dictionaries of his own native speech mainly on the labors of American scholars." Several home-made dictionaries have a certain vogue in England, but they are circumscribed and unsatisfactory, and hence the leading American works of that kind, being more comprehensive and including the established speech of the masses as well as the classes, are widely used and relied upon over there.

This country gained its independence by revolution. Students of history are aware that during the trouble Lord Cornwallis came over here and gave notice to the "rebels" that if they did not lay down their arms in eight days he would put them to fire and sword. Cornwallis is dead. He has been dead a long time, and he will be dead a time longer. His threat seems to have been resurrected by Gen. Weyler, the Spanish officer, lately arrived in Cuba. It seems likely that the Cuban patriots will make him sick of the saying before he makes them all kick the bucket.

The militia of the country eligible for service, according to the most recent tabulation, are less than one-seventh of the population. This is quite a reduction in the proportion from colonial times. In his memorable address before the Virginia House of Burgesses Patrick Henry said: "We are three millions of people, one-fifth fighting men." But perhaps Patrick Henry was a better orator than statistician, and he may have reckoned some as fighting men who would not have been so classified under the rules now governing eligibility for service. However, we have sufficient fighting material for all practical purposes. What this country needs now is more peacemakers.

"The difficulty of removing fish bones and similar obstructions impacted at the lower end of the oesophagus is well known. One of the most simple, effectual remedies is to administer a pint of milk, and, forty minutes afterward, an

emetic of sulphate of zinc. The fluid easily passes the obstruction, and, of course, rapidly coagulated in the stomach into a more or less solid mass, which, on being ejected, forces the obstruction before it, and so effects its removal." This is, doubtless, an excellent recipe in some respects; but it is not a pleasant picture, that of a man with a fish bone in his throat, sitting around for three-quarters of an hour waiting to be sick.

A leading American ornithologist says that some of our most desirable birds are threatened with extermination. The common quail and ruffed grouse are becoming very scarce. Wrens and bluebirds are driven from their old haunts by sparrows. Terns are slaughtered by thousands for the millinery business, and Florida is similarly despoiled of its herons, ibis, pelicans and smaller birds. The wild pigeon has disappeared. Fashion at present is the greatest enemy of bird life, but collectors of eggs are also responsible for great destruction. Protection of birds must come through the education of the people, especially the rising generation, and by protective legislation sustained by game wardens. Thus far no State Legislature has given the subject the attention it deserves, and must soon demand if the present ravages continue.

The misfortune of David J. Tucker, of Ottawa County, Kas., is a warning to mankind. It has a significant bearing upon the sociological and political problems of the day which it would be folly to ignore. We know little of David himself except that he is the husband of Lucinda. Whether he staid home and attended to the baby properly and washed the dishes without breaking them, it is impossible to say. But David is heard of at last, in an unenviable light, as a transgressor of the family laws and a victim of condign punishment. He went to town with \$32 in his pocket and a list of things to buy at the store. David, however, in a moment of forgetfulness bought red, white and blue chips with the \$32, instead of spending it for thread and groceries. The same chips quickly became the property of other sinful men, and David went home without money, thread or groceries. This next chapter is more terrible than the tears and reproaches familiar in other stories of this character. Lucinda failed to weep. She seized David and bound him to a post in the barn. Then she cowed him and left him to think over his sins. Kansas women were known to be ambitious for power, but a glimpse now has been given of the extent of their aspirations which is appalling. It may be all a mistake to suppose they wanted merely to vote and hold the offices. Or, having suffered reverses in this direction, is it possible Mrs. Tucker is the evangelist of a new anti-masculine crusade? If so, where will it end? Soon we may hear Kansas men are refused the right of going to the lodge without a chaplain, and perhaps they will be placed on an allowance of 10 cents per day for spending money. Bicycles and typewriters will be prohibited under penalty of being tied to a post in the barn and cowed. Better a thousand times let the women have the offices than to drive them in desperation to such reprisals. Let the men of Kansas take heed that in fleeing from one evil they do not fall afoul of a worse fate.

A Telltale Aureole. A Boston newspaper—the Post—reports some interesting revelations made not long ago at a meeting of persons interested in psychical questions, so called. A woman, announced as possessed of mysterious powers—spiritual or other—had consented to be present, and something quite unusual was anticipated. One member of the company, who believed in the old doctrine of "trying the spirits," went prepared to make some investigations on his own account. He carried with him some bits of phosphorescent paper, which in the dark would shine with a light like the firefly's. In due time the "medium," or whatever she was called, presented herself, and after the usual preliminaries, requested that the lights should be turned out. This was done, and at the same moment the investigator managed to drop upon her head several pieces of his phosphorescent paper. These were visible, of course, to every one except the performer herself. Pretty soon the "manifestations" began. A tambourine sounded in one corner of the room, and strange to say, the medium's shining head had moved over to that identical place. The sounds moved about the room—and the spots of light moved with them. The spectators began to titter, the "medium" discovered that something was amiss, and the seance came to an abrupt conclusion. To some people it seems a very interesting psychical phenomenon that any one should suspect visitors from the spirit world of drumming on tambourines.

Engine of Death. Eugene Paul Brand has just submitted a fearful weapon to the German Minister of War. It puts all inventions in the sphere of death-dealing instruments in the shade. The Brand contrivance is a gun, which is not loaded with powder, but with compressed gas. A single charge will suffice for 2,500 shots, and volleys of fifty shots each can be fired in rapid succession. This Brand-new invention is one of the numerous and improved methods of killing people that advanced civilization is now demanding. His activity in destroying lives will doubtless win for him a monument.

Thomas told the mass meeting that he was a self-made man. "Very noble of him to take the whole blame on himself, wasn't it?"—St. Louis Mirror.

WERE KINGS OF THE BORDER.

Thrilling Episodes in the Lives of the James Boys.

Frank James, the surviving brother of that brace of bandits known on the border as the James boys, is a door-keeper in a St. Louis theater. He is a free man. After his dramatic surrender to Governor Crittenden of Missouri Frank James never committed another crime. Those that were charged to him were not prosecuted too far. Some people know why. Not a court in Missouri before which he appeared ever passed sentence upon him, although he was so accused that not a single virtue was credited as an offset to his charged crimes and accusations. He was never captured, although there were prices upon his head in more States than one

ever entrusted himself thus to the Fords has been a mystery to his friends. For years Jesse James had never failed to wear his pistol where it was handy. One day, however, he laid it aside in his cottage and stood upon a chair to brush the dust from a picture on the wall. This trivial and womanly act in the life of a man who had helped to spread desolation, and who had shot, plundered and killed, cost him his life. The Fords had been watching for their chance. The big reward quickened their courage. One of them shot and killed the bandit.

The Fords went to the telegraph office and sent a message to Governor Crittenden claiming the reward for killing Jesse James. The news of the assassination of a President could not have caused more excitement in Missouri, although the feeling was of a different character. The Fords were arrested and released. They got their reward. One of them was killed in a dancehouse in Colorado later, and the other died of



THE RIDE FOR LIFE.

and by corporations that never could be swayed by appeal or influence. This bandit only gave himself up when he was assured that his own terms would be accepted. And then he rode to the boundary of the State capital of Missouri, tied his horse to a fence, and in the company of one man, who had the authority of the Governor, he walked down the main street of the town to the mansion of the executive, up the steps and into the office, and there took off his belt and pistols and cartridges and spurs and sententiously said that he was tired. That event is so recent that the newspaper readers of to-day do not think it necessary to retell the date.

Frank and Jesse James stayed in Missouri and Kansas "and round about," settling old scores, and becoming terrors to travelers. They went into New York's City Hall.

Plans for a New Building Adopted Despite the Lack of Funds. The eleventh annual exhibition of the Architectural League of New York closed the other evening with an exhibition of the prize plans, made three years ago, for the new city hall. In 1893 the Legislature passed an act creating a board for the approval of designs for a new city hall on the site of the present one and appropriating \$17,000 to be distributed among the architects competing. Seven thousand dollars was to be given to each of five others submitting what the committee believed to be the next best plans. A year after the passage of the act appropriating the money the Legislature decided that New York did not need a new municipal building in City Hall Park and the project was abandoned. The agreement with the architects had to be kept, however, and six weeks ago the award for the prize plans was made. The prize plan provides for a five-story edifice with mansard roof and resembles in general appearance any one of a dozen buildings throughout the country. The structure would occupy all the space covered by the present city hall and make a horseshoe, inside of which the present county courthouse would be hidden except from the Chambers street side.—New York Journal.



MRS. SAMUELS, MOTHER OF THE JAMES BOYS.

braska and robbed a bank. They were chased out and rode across the State by night. Frank had been wounded in the fight, and was sick nearly unto death. He could not sit on his horse. Besides, two horses in a flight are sometimes unhandy. Jesse placed Frank in front, his body hanging equally poised over the pommel of the saddle. Thus they rode by night, hiding in the thickets or the grass by the day, until they reached Missouri.

The price put upon the heads of the James "boys" by the State and by express companies, and the tactics of the Pinkertons to capture them, are still fresh history on the "border."

The Governor of Missouri, T. T. Crittenden, law partner of Senator Cockrell, and now consul general to



FIRST PRIZE DESIGN FOR THE NEW YORK CITY HALL.

Mexico, offered a reward for the James boys, dead or alive, and the railroads offered \$10,000. There had traveled with the James boys two men known as the Ford brothers. Their hands were as red as those of the Jameses, but there was a feud between them about the division of booty. The Fords went to live with Jesse James, who, under an assumed name, had rented a cottage in St. Joseph, Mo. Why Jesse James

consumption. The chase was over. Frank James, as explained in the beginning of this article, was surrendered to the Governor of Missouri, and when the Governor quit office and resumed the practice of law, Frank James was his messenger.

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She Reads to Save. I study advertisements, and I know where and when and how to purchase the household supplies. My husband used to laugh at me for reading advertisements so carefully, and he has long since learned that I save many dollars every month, says a writer in Woman-kind. I know of no better way to practice economy, and do you know it is a wonder how soon you learn to detect the real from the false, intuitively, almost? I do not think I have ever been "taken in" by an advertisement; there is always something about the false ones that repels me. You hear a good deal nowadays about the "practical pages" of magazines and newspapers, but for me the practical pages are those containing the business announcements of reputable houses. The housekeeper who takes advantage of these practical hints in those pages shows a great deal

Flour of Bananas. A great deal of attention has been drawn of late to the use of the banana as a source of flour or meal, and though such an application is by no means new, or the discovery modern, it seems not at all unlikely that banana flour is an article that has a prospect of great development in the near future, says the Philadelphia Record. Wherever the banana or plantain thrives, the fruits, when dry, are converted into meal and used for making cakes, puddings, and for various other uses in cookery. An effort is being made to establish a factory for the manufacture of banana meal. As to the use of banana flour for brewing purposes, Mr. Kahike, one of the best known manufacturers of yeast in Germany, writes in this connection: Banana flour, without doubt, from its richness in starch and its good flavor, is partially suitable for the manufacture of yeast. This flour is easily rendered saccharine. The yeast obtained by adding banana flour to the other ingredients has a good color, all the requisite properties of an excellent class of yeast, and moreover keeps well. The alcohol obtained from it leaves nothing to be desired, so that this flour may be introduced as an article of commerce and employed without any special preparation. Satisfactory experiments have also been made in some breweries, where 20 per cent. of malt has been replaced by the flakes and flour of bananas. The flavor of beer was not altered, and the quantity of liquid was increased, and the malt was replaced by a less expensive substance. Experiments are being made in which the proportion of banana flour is increased.

Gath's Pullman Pass. It takes a clever man, with extraordinary resources at command, to obtain a complimentary pass from a big

corporation nowadays without making a direct and influential request for it. George Alfred Townsend, widely known as "Gath," the newspaper correspondent, seems to have been able to accomplish this feat, however, almost as easily as he would invent an epigram or interview a talkative politician.

The story of how he did it is told by a young man who was formerly a stenographer in the offices of the Pullman Company.

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Saved by a Life Chain. There is a newly made hero down in the little post village of Sandy Hook, Conn. He is Stephen Keane, a bright lad of 15 years old. Stephen has been a valorous boy all his life, but it was not until last Monday that he became a real hero.

He and a party of his classmates from St. Michael's parochial school, at Sandy Hook, on that day went skating on Niantic mill pond. In the party was Michael Keating, a boy of 12 years. Michael, venturing where the ice was thin, broke through and fell into the water. Stephen Keane cried: "Form a 'life chain,' boys, and we'll save 'little Mike easy!'"

Lying flat, face downward, on the ice, he directed one of the boys to lie down as he had and hold tightly onto his ankles. The ankles of this one were in turn grasped by another lad, and so on until a "life chain" of six brave boys was formed.

Keane wriggled his way carefully out on the thin ice. Before him was poor Keating struggling for life. Once he went down, and still the first link of the "life chain" was crawling slowly on the ice far away. Down he went a second time.

"Hold tight, boys!" cried Keane. Just as the drowning boy was disappearing for the last time Keane, seized his coat.

Crack! went the ice and the first two links of the "life chain" were also in the icy water.

Finally all the boys were dragged out, the worse only for a wetting.

When a crowd gathered about young Keane and showered praises on him for his forethought and pluck, he only said: "I read in a newspaper how to do that trick and I thought I'd try it."—New York World.

Still Room for Research. "What is this new substance that I hear so much about?" asked the eminent scientist's wife. "What new substance, my dear?" "The element in the air that has just been detected." "Oh, that, my dear!" he answered, beaming over his spectacles with the good nature of superior wisdom, "is known as argon."

"Oh!" "Yes, its discovery is one of the most remarkable triumphs of the age. It has revolutionized some of the old theories; or, at least, it will revolutionize them before it gets through."

VARIOUS FACTS ABOUT CUBA.

The State in Cuba does not support a single public library.

In 1894 Spain exacted from Cuba taxes amounting to \$26,000,000.

Real estate in Havana has fallen to one-half and one-third of its value ten years ago.

In the last twenty-eight years Spain has built only 139 kilometres of high-roads in Cuba.

In 1891 350 Spanish officials were indicted in Cuba for fraud, but not one was punished.

Before the rebellion editors were banished from Cuba without the formality of a trial.

Cuba has the right to dispose of 2.75 per cent. of its revenues. Spain attends to the other 97.25 per cent.

In times of peace armed police have preyed at will upon the Cubans, who have had absolutely no redress.

Cuba has fifty-four ports, many of them in a labyrinth of keys and sand bars, but only nineteen lighthouses.

The sum of \$96,800 a year is assigned yearly from the treasury of Cuba to the minister of the colonies in Madrid.

In the Spanish parliament, consisting of 430 deputies, Cuba never has had more than six and usually only three members.

To become an electrician or an industrial, mechanical, railroad or mining engineer the Cuban must go to a foreign country.

On 100 meters of cassimere imported into Cuba there is a duty, if the cloth is a Spanish product, of \$15.47; if foreign, \$300.

Spain pays bounties for sugar produced in its own land, but levies a duty of \$6.20 on each 100 kilograms of Cuban sugar sent across the sea.

Before the present revolution Spain restricted the right of suffrage to 53,000 native Cubans out of a total population of 1,900,000, a proportion of 3 per cent.

Although millions are wasted in supporting a civil and military bureaucracy in Cuba, the appropriation for the administration of justice never has reached \$500,000.

It is common scandal that every Spanish official who goes to Cuba has an influential patron in the court of Madrid for whose protection he pays systematically.

Spain allows Cuba only \$182,000 a year for public instruction and makes the University of Havana a source of profit to the state. Even Hayti spends more than Cuba for the education of its people.

There is a Spanish tax in Cuba on the introduction of machinery used in the production of sugar, a heavy tax on the railroads for transporting it, a third tax called industrial duty and a fourth on exportation.

Interest on Cuba's debt to Spain, saddled on the island without its knowledge, imposes a burden of \$9.79 on each inhabitant. Not a cent of this debt of \$100,000,000 has been spent in Cuba to advance the work of improvement and civilization.

In the municipal district of Guines, two years ago, with a population of 13,000, only 500 of whom were Spaniards and Canary Islanders, the electoral list contained the names of thirty-two native Cubans and 400 Spaniards—625 per cent. of the Cuban to 80 per cent. of the Spanish population.

These are salaries paid by Cuba to some of its Spanish officials: Governor General, \$50,000, in addition to a palace, a country house, servants, coach and a fund for secret expenses; Director General of the Treasury, \$18,500; Archbishop of Santiago and Bishop of Havana, \$18,000 each; commander general of the naval station, \$16,392; General Legundo Cabo and President of the audience, \$15,000 each; Governor of Havana and Secretary of the general government, \$8,000 each. All these officers also receive free lodgings and servants.

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