

The farmer who reads is the farmer who is ready for emergencies.

Unlike a watch, when a beneficiary association is wound up, it doesn't go any more.

It is now Montana's turn to make great gold discoveries. Let the auriferous work go on.

Meeting trouble half way has not the same polite principle to justify it as bowing to necessity.

A minor eleven is called a scrub team perhaps from the principal players using it in practice to wipe up the earth.

In this selfish fight for territory in Africa none of the nations engaged should properly get more than its deserts.

The Emperor of China would probably be thankful if somebody would establish a "Monroe doctrine" in the east coast of Asia.

Others selecting the best man for a public place is entirely different from political bosses trying to get the best of their fellow citizens.

Dawson City is starving. They've plenty of money there, and it's believed a first-class Food Show would be the biggest kind of a success.

The Prince of Wales is said to be a patron of department stores. The Prince doubtless knows a good thing at a bargain counter when he sees it, just like other folks.

A Georgia editor wants to run for the National Legislature on a platform advocating lynching. Such a man might be credulous enough to expect to win in a rope-walk.

But for the recommendation of Secretary Alger that a suitable statue to Gen. Grant be erected in Washington few people would have dreamed that the capital did not possess one.

Average office-seekers can't understand how a sculptor can be with the President for an hour at a time making a bust of him, and not ask for anything but a little more elevation to the chin.

A husband in Pennsylvania shot off his wife's nose in order to make her unattractive to her admirers. She should reciprocate by shooting a bullet through his head to make him more sensible.

A contemporary gives to a correspondent what is alleged to be "the postage stamp flirtation language." As a matter of fact, the key to the language should begin: "Putting a stamp on an envelope anywhere excepting on the upper right hand corner means 'I am a fool.'"

Thousands of persons admire football for the athletic qualities it calls out, for the manliness connected with it, and for the many characteristics that go to make up "young America." They will rejoice if the rules can be so revised as to get rid of the present brutal features and thus save the game from being ruled out of the list of American sports.

A man once claimed that he was a Frenchman on the ground that he had an uncle who played the French horn. Some persons, claiming to be patriotic, when questioned closely, might have to confess that they are patriots because a grandfather served in the revolution, or because a cousin sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" effectively. Patriotism is an individual thing. Patriots by proxy do not count.

In the United States court at Pawnee the other day four Pawnee chiefs were granted divorces from their wives on the ground of gross neglect. Pipe Chief testified that his wife wanted to spend all his money on fine dresses and that she sought to ignore all of the Indian customs. The final straw was laid when she refused to attend the sun dances on the ground that she wouldn't associate with squaws who were dirty.

Just as soon as New Orleans had a "scare" over yellow fever and began to thoroughly clean up and enforce the sanitary laws, the general health of the city improved until even the yellow fever failed to make an abnormal death rate. It is a pity that reform work of this kind oftentimes must await the approach of a plague before either the authorities or the citizens are aroused to the necessity for specific action.

On the heels of the statement by a California physician that disease germs are not only harmless but positively beneficial to mankind comes the announcement of a doctor in Springfield, O., that he has discovered a compound called zynoticene, which is sure death to microbes of every kind, color, and degree. Thus there is no longer any excuse for illness. If you believe germs cause disease you can take a few doses of the new discovery. If you believe they are healthful you can fill your system with them and be well. It is all a matter of taste.

We are accustomed to congratulate ourselves on the observance of law and order, yet we are about the only country in which violence takes the place of law. Lynching is American; even Mexico will not tolerate it. It is confined to no section. It may break out to-

right in seemingly Massachusetts and make that excellent people cease to vaunt themselves, as the outbreak in Indiana a few months ago. Some of the atrocities practiced in lynching can be studied with profit by the frenzied Turk who may desire new methods of cruelty.

Mark Twain's response to the story that he had made \$82,000 in the past two years, and paid all his debts, is brief and to the point, as follows: "Lie. Wrote no such letter. Still deeply in debt." The debts by which Mr. Clemens considers himself morally (though not legally) bound, and which he declares he will repay dollar for dollar, are the residue of those of the publishing firm of C. K. Webster & Co., in whose disastrous fortunes the humorist was involved. Twain's case is in short, like Sir Walter Scott's, and he is taking the same honorable course in the matter.

When "labor" is spoken of it generally means the union of skilled workmen in the cities and large towns. But a "farmhand," Mr. Keans, of Topeka, Kan., calls attention in the Arena to the fact that 5,000,000 of wage earners, nearly one-half the total, are pariahs among the laboring classes; their existence ignored, their name a byword. "In most localities," he says, "they work harder, get less pay and have fewer of the blessings of civilization than any other workmen. They work so hard that they have no time for recreation or reading." Evidently the labor question concerns much more than the wages and conditions of skilled city workmen or of miners and roustabouts.

When the Scotch missionaries followed their great countryman's footsteps into what is now known as British Central Africa, they called their station "Blantyre," the name of the town in which Dr. Livingstone was born. The place now contains about six thousand natives and more than a hundred whites. Of the natives a recent Parliamentary report says that, "if the natives do not love taxation, they are at least beginning fully to understand the value of a tax receipt, the possession of which frees them from the oppression of their chiefs. They appreciate also having a silver currency, because it enables them to accumulate their earnings,—an impossibility in the old calico currency days,—and now many of the workers in the Blantyre district have stores of money hidden away or deposited in the bank. The more intelligent and enterprising natives have even begun to buy blocks of government land of about one hundred acres each, for coffee cultivation."

One of the most hopeful signs of the times in governmental affairs in America is the growing appreciation of postal facilities as shown in the continued and continual expansion of the system even more rapidly than business conditions alone warrant. The representatives of the people are alert to see that the best possible postal facilities are given to their constituents and with the establishment of the postoffice comes closer connection and communion with the outside world by letters and newspapers and telegraph, and consequently a more enlightened citizenship. The next step in the development of the postal system will undoubtedly be in this country, as it already has been in England and some others, the establishment of postal telegraphs in connection with the postal organization of the government. Under our present system the telegraph, unlike the postoffice, is limited in its extension by purely practical business considerations of profit and loss in management. It is estimated that if the same system were to prevail as regards postoffices, two-thirds of the mail routes operated in the United States to-day would have to be discontinued as only about one-third of them pay a profit.

Germany's industrial progress has been so much in evidence during the last twenty-five years that its characteristic mark, "Made in Germany," is no longer a thorn in the flesh of John Bull only. There are other peoples besides the English that are ready to allow that the "mother of nations" is, after all, still a vigorous old woman. Her goods are found in all the markets of the world and her ships on all the seas, and now she has even the fastest and largest ocean liner on the Atlantic. But it is not only in great enterprises she is succeeding; she does not neglect small things, as thread and needle for instance. Within the past few years the needle industry in Germany has taken a remarkable development. Great Britain formerly supplied Germany with needles, but the fatherland at present is fully able to compete with Great Britain not only in foreign markets, but in the British colonies also, and even in Great Britain herself. Of the chief centers of the industry—Aix la Chapelle, Burscheid, Iserlohn, Schwabach, Altona and Nuremberg—the Aix la Chapelle factories alone produce upward of fifty million needles a week. Of the enormous exportations about 60 per cent. go to China, where German needles control the market; next in importance are France and British India. It looks now as though before a great while German sewing thread will successfully compete with Coats, Clarke and Brown in the China market.

Two Grand Divisions. Teacher—How many divisions of mankind are there?

Bobby—My paw says it is divided into the people who earn a living without getting it, and those who get a living without earning it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Some people are just the same as idiots, because of ignorance.

AUSTRIA'S THRONE TOTTERING.

Nothing but Emperor Francis Joseph's Popularity Prevents Dissolution. It seems as though the dual empire of Austria-Hungary is on the eve of dissolution. The scenes that have occurred in the Reichstag in Vienna and Prague, the capital of Bohemia, point to no other end. In the parliamentary body men were insulted and assaulted and forced to draw knives in self-defense. The ministry was kicked out of power and the premier, Badeni, forced to flee from the capital. Through back streets and in a closed cab he was driven to the depot, where he took a train for his native Galicia, narrowly escaping from the crowd that had assembled to murder him.



In Prague rioting was carried on and stores and private houses looted. Men by the score were killed and hundreds wounded by the soldiery who were called out to quell the disturbances. Occurrences such as these can have no place in a well-ordered empire and no empire can endure long with one

part of its citizens making war upon the other. Hence the conclusion, that the dual empire seems on the eve of dissolution. The question of language lies at the bottom of the whole difficulty. There are some 40,000,000 people in the empire and they speak twenty different languages. Theoretically, the official language is German, but each race speaks its own tongue and refuses to learn the language of any other. Between these different peoples there is nothing in common. There is no national feeling, no patriotism, no belief in the empire. Each race struggles for the preservation of its own tongue and a bitter feeling against the Germans and Germanizing influences exists everywhere in the empire. The Germans are a minority in Austria-Hungary, but they have had parliamentary control for years and their aim has been to still further Germanize the empire.



EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH, OF AUSTRIA.

Some time since the premier, Badeni, issued an order permitting the use of the vernacular tongue in the different parts of the empire. The Germans resented this and in the Reichstag they adopted the most barbarous tactics to bring about the fall of the premier. Personal assaults were made on members, and free fights were daily indulged in. Finally Badeni had to go. The methods adopted by the Germans made the Slavonian and anti-German influences flame into fury. The Czechs of Bohemia, who for hundreds of years have struggled to maintain their language and their racial characteristics, almost revolted. In Prague they attacked Germans and Jews—whenever, indeed, could not speak Czech—sacked homes and openly faced the troops sent against them. Although peace—military peace—now reigns in Prague the anti-German feeling is as bitter as ever and the same spirit of resistance to German aggression exists throughout the empire. Nothing, indeed, save the personal popularity of the Emperor Francis Joseph prevents an open revolt. It may not prevent it long. Bohemia, which has suffered under Germanizing influence until much that was distinctively Bohemian is now destroyed desires the breaking up of the empire. She wants to make a triple empire, holding a co-ordinate place with Austria and Hungary.

Meantime the latter kingdom is shrewdly watching the developments. Within a year her compact with Austria will expire and she will find herself in a position of almost complete independence, for the only connection will be the fact that the Emperor of Austria will be the King of Hungary, the latter country paying 30 per cent. of the cost of the army and court expenses. How deep rooted is racial animosity

in Austria-Hungary may be inferred from the fact that the German element, sooner than submit to the domination of any other race, would rather unite their destiny with Germany. In their meetings, called to protest against the order of Badeni, resolutions to this effect were passed.

A BABY PREACHER.

Three-Year-Old Boy Who is Conversant with the Bible. Atlanta, Ga., boasts of a prodigy who is not yet 4 years old, but who has the reputation of being more conversant with the Bible than any one else in Georgia. The name of this youngster is Larney Lawrence Dennis and many are inclined to believe that he is gifted with supernatural powers. He says he has been sent to this world to preach the true gospel.

The child lives with his parents and every day his home is visited by persons to whom he preaches earnestly and calls upon them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. He is a light mulatto, but his appearance is more like a white than a colored boy. His hair is dark and flowing, while his eyes are blue. He does not play with toys like other children of his age nor has he any playmates. Notwithstanding the fact that he has



A BABY PREACHER.

yet to learn his A B C's the youngster can engage in an interesting conversation, but it is his knowledge of the Bible that is the most marvelous of his accomplishments. He appears to be equally well posted in the old and new Testaments. The crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ, Christ's last visit on earth, the careers of the apostles and their different types of char-



A BABY PREACHER.

acter, he can explain in a remarkably simple and direct manner, while other incidents of the Scripture which are not so well known to the average person seem to be thoroughly familiar to him.

Cork Works Automatically. A cork which is always in its place in the neck of the bottle, except when the bottle is in the very act of being decanted, is shown herewith. It is a French invention, and is designed to keep the bottle always covered and its



BALANCED CORK.

contents always protected from the air. The cork, it will be seen, is balanced and when the bottle is standing upright it drops into its place in the neck, but when the bottle is tilted the cork is lifted away to permit of the free flow of the contents.

GOOD NAME AND A FORTUNE

Came to Mrs. Gregory Through Will Contest in Chicago.

A bitterly contested will contest which was recently decided in Chicago formed the concluding chapter of a romance in real life. Fifty years ago Allen Gregory was an ambitious, poor man in the West. He married and his wife made existence a trial. He left her and went to Chicago. There he engaged in the buying and selling of cattle, prospered and finally laid the foundation of Chicago's great stock yards. His wealth increased rapidly and he was worth over a million when he died a few months ago.

Among the early cattle traders with whom Gregory came in contact when he located in Chicago was Archibald Clybourne. Gregory frequently visited at Clybourne's house and met his daughter, Martha, a beautiful girl of 16. Gregory told her that he loved her



MRS. ALLEN GREGORY.

and she laughed at him. Her father sent her to a boarding school and when she came back Gregory importuned her to marry him. He frankly admitted that he had another wife living and Martha told him that unless he secured a legal separation she could not marry him.

Then Gregory undertook to get a divorce and for forty years kept one suit after another in the courts, but could not secure a separation from the woman who had made life bitter for him. She had taken up her residence in Cayuga County, New York, but, not on the ground of desertion or otherwise, could he obtain a divorce. Meanwhile Miss Clybourne waited, patiently and faithfully rejecting a score of suitors. The passing years changed her hair to silvery gray, but never altered her devotion to the man to whom she had years ago made her promise.

In 1892 came news of the death of Mrs. Gregory. Gregory asked Miss Clybourne to come and live with him. She was penniless and alone in the world. She obeyed the dictates of love and went, though there was no marriage ceremony. For five years they lived together. This summer Gregory died, leaving no will and nothing to show that Martha Clybourne was his wife. But, conscious of her right, this woman instituted proceedings to prove that she was the widow of Gregory. His relatives fought her and for several weeks the case was in court. Finally Miss Lillie Gregory, a niece of the dead millionaire, testified that she herself had last March performed the ceremony which made Martha Clybourne the wife of Allen Gregory. This ceremony was recognized as legal by Judge Kohlsaat and his decision awarded to Martha Clybourne the estate of \$1,000,000 left by Gregory.

A MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

It Was Invented to Make the Chilkoot Passable.

The most remarkable railway in the world is the one designed by Mr. Nesom, an electrician, for use in the Chilkoot Pass and mountainous districts generally. By its means the loftiest precipices can be skirted, the steepest mountains scaled, and avalanches and snowdrifts rendered powerless to impede locomotion.

The track, instead of being carried over bridges or through tunnels, is protected by stout girders from the very



THE RAILWAY OVER A PRECIPICE.

face of the mountains and from the car is suspended in midair. The wheels on which the car runs and the motor which impels it are inside the track. The rails are shaped like the letter D, the vertical line being downwards, and there is a groove with edges holding the motor in position and effectively shielding it from ice and snow. The "power-houses," from which the electricity is supplied, are at intervals of forty miles. The cars, which are controlled by compound levers and hand ropes, are narrowed at each end in order to lessen resistance to the air.

The track, if made of iron, will cost only \$3,500 a mile, or half that amount if constructed of wood, and the cost of carrying each passenger will be only one-twenty-fourth of a penny per mile, or one-eighth of the cost of conveying an ordinary railway passenger. The cars are intended to carry from

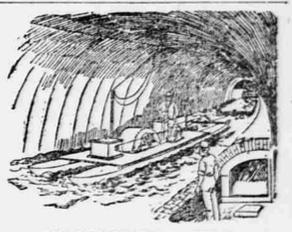
fifteen to twenty passengers each, and a speed of 100 miles can easily be attained. A great future is anticipated for this ingenious method of traversing a mountainous country and of obviating inconvenient stoppages through the blocking of the track by falls of snow and ice.

NAVIGATION IN A SEWER.

Supplies Carried to Workmen by Electrically Propelled Boats.

Electric power has become quite as important a factor in building operations as the stationary steam engine. It owes its popularity to the versatility of its applications and the convenience of conveying power short distances, particularly in inaccessible places. An instance of this is found in the building of a sewer at Worcester, Mass., where electrically driven scows deliver the materials to the workmen, electric lights supply the necessary illumination, electric ventilating fans make work possible and electric pumps aid largely in rapid construction. That city has a large sewer eighteen feet wide and thirteen feet high, in which both storm water and sewage are carried away, but as it is desirable to separate the two a smaller sewer six feet wide is being built inside the larger one, utilizing the bottom and one side of it for the walls. A cofferdam is constructed to enable the other wall to be built, and in order to deliver the materials to the workmen electric scows were rigged up, which work to perfection. About midway between the ends of the new sewer a small wharf has been constructed, and the materials are delivered to it by an incline through a hole made in the top of one wall. The incline and sewers are lighted by incandescent lamps, all the power being supplied by a near-by electric lighting station. A double trolley system is used, the wires being hung from insulated brackets in the arch in such a way that a trolley can be run on each, two wires being necessary, one for the return circuit.

The improvised towboat is a catamaran twenty-seven feet long and five feet wide, each of the small hulls being eighteen inches wide. In the middle of the deck is a small paddle-wheel, boxed into prevent splashing, and driven through the intermediary of sprock-



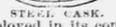
NAVIGATION IN A SEWER.

et-wheels and a chain by an electric motor. At the stern are a rudder and a controller of ordinary form, so that one man can manipulate both. There are six of these boats, and they have readily handled 12,000 bricks, fifty barrels of cement and 100 barrels of sand daily.

STEEL CASKS USED NOW.

Are Stronger, Cleaner, More Durable, and in the End Cheaper than Wood.

A steel cask is being extensively advertised in England, as a substitute for ordinary wooden barrels for shipping petroleum, medicinal extracts, essential oils and chemicals. It is said that the Standard Oil Company's German branch has extensively adopted this novel cask. Plain tar-coated steel sheets are employed in its construction, these being first passed through a corrugating machine, which forms parallel corrugations from end to end and considerably stiffen and strengthen the cask when completed. In order to obtain the necessary curvature to the cask it is passed through a second machine, which forms the bilge by taking the corrugations of different dimensions; in other words, it opens out the corrugations in the middle and presses those at the top and bottom together. A number of hydraulic presses are used to cut out the circular ends and to form in them at the same time a raised section, which assists in stiffening the ends. The parts are then put together, the side seam being closed by means of a specially made machine that produces a perfectly secure joint, but solder is employed to render all portions quite tight. The advantages claimed for this cask are great durability, strength and exceptionally small repairs.



STEEL CASK.

James Nasmyth, of Edinburgh, the inventor of the steam-hammer, was a man of extraordinary energy and genius; and being ambidextrous, he was able to draw or sketch or handle a hammer or chisel with either hand. The laboratory or workshop in his own home he called "Fireside." Even though sitting in church, when a new idea came across his brain he rose and walked off to his workshop, and made a drawing, or, in order to preserve it in form, he would either forge it in iron or make a wooden pattern.

Is a Shattered Idol. Dr. Howsyr can never prescribe for me again. I used to think he knew something, but my confidence in him has been completely destroyed. Apsley—What's happened to change your opinion of him? Barnes—He has been giving expert testimony in a murder trial.—Cleveland Leader.

Here is another thing against whisky, those who drink it are always looking for a better quality.