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HIS PURPOSE HIS PLEASURE.

The Perfect Happiness Achieved by a Famous Benefactor.

"It is only a poor kind of happiness that can come from thinking only about our own pleasure."

It was one of the most thoughtful of the English women of our day who said this, and it is one of her truest utterances, but very few people practically believe the saying. Yet occasionally we read of lives whose whole existence shows that the idea of their own personal happiness entered very little into their thoughts.

In 1808 a young man of seventeen came to New York to make his way in the world. He was honest and industrious, and very soon was able to support himself, and to lay up something from his earnings. He felt the need of a better education, which his poverty had denied him. "If God gives me wealth," he thought, "other young men in future years shall not feel the need of the means of culture as I do now." The thought became his purpose, and his purpose and the fulfilment of it were his enjoyment. He became a glue manufacturer, and his glue was the best and the cheapest that could be obtained. Later, he built rolling mills, blast furnaces and steel works in various parts of the United States and in course of time became a millionaire. The years in which he was accumulating this fortune were years of hard work, with little of what young people would call pleasure in them. But in all that time no business transaction was ever entered into by him which was not thoroughly upright, while his name became synonymous with simple, direct honesty, and he found the highest pleasure in that. But in these years his purpose strengthened—a plan by which his great fortune was to be of use to the people of New York. His own wants and those of his family were simple in character, and he cared little for the amusements which many rich men estimate so highly. He had gained a great fortune, and for a purpose. When he was past sixty years old he put into actual form the dream he had from his youth. The Cooper Institute is the result of all those years of gathering and planning, and the thousands of men and women who have been trained there for lives of honor and usefulness are the witnesses to the success of his schemes for the uplifting of humanity.

Probably no private citizen of this century has won the love of so many people as did Peter Cooper. Rich and poor spoke his name with reverence, and whenever his kind face with its fringe of hair was seen, people who would not have moved aside for a Prince made room for him.

Years came and went, and the Cooper Institute, under the direction of its beneficent founder, was constantly extending the sphere of its influence. Not only his own city, which was so dear to him, but the whole country felt the impulse which Peter Cooper, through the Institute and through his other charities, imparted to it.

At last the busy, kindling life ended, and all New York was in mourning. It was a long life, lasting ninety-two years, none of which were spent in service of self, but all in that of humanity, and thus fragrant with good deeds.

Peter Cooper had placed his own happiness as last to be attained. Yet no man ever experienced purer happiness than he to who it came unsought.

On that April day in 1883 when his body rested in All Souls Church, three thousand pupils of the Cooper Institute came reverently to lay their roses upon the coffin of their benefactor, and in the heart of each one must have been impressed the belief that the happiness which lasts is *not* that which aims only at securing one's own pleasure.

His purpose of life was his enjoyment.—*Youth's Companion.*

KEY WEST.

The Products and Industries of This Beautiful Tropical Island.

At the time of our first visit here the keys were not inhabited, save that on which the town of Key West is situated, and Indian Key, the resort then of wreckers, Indian Key being midway between Key West and Cape Florida, affording the wreckers a convenient rendezvous. The wrecking vessels were much like our Northern pilot-boats and were stationed within signaling distance from each other along the reef. Should a vessel be observed in the toils of the dangerous reef, the fleet would be seen making all speed for the prize. In ante-bellum times the prizes were sufficiently great to excite the most unremitting vigilance. Certain changes in the commerce have destroyed wrecking as a business of any moment. Another industry has sprung up, which gives occupation to many who have been accustomed to the lonely life along the reef. On the occasion of our traversing Plantation Key in 1874, we encountered on landing a small boy who carried a rusty sabre "at a shoulder." By his permission, our party, consisting of five able-bodied men armed with shot guns, landed. The guard becoming satisfied that our "intents were charitable," we were graciously shown a tract of several acres of recently cleared ground on which were growing rows of pineapple tops. Here was the first experiment in the culture of pineapples in Florida. The success of this venture was so decided that since then, we are told, many of the keys are quite devoted to this enterprise. The pines grown here prove to be of superior flavor. The sponge business is yet one of the chief sources of income to the population of Key West. The several forms of commercial sponges grow in the shallow lagoons and creeks along the inner waters of the reef. In most instances the sponge is secured by hooks, appearing, when taken, as the most repulsive of black masses, heavy with water and the jelly-like flesh which constitutes its living organism. These are thrown ashore and left to be washed by the waves, or are frequently rinsed by dashing water over them. In a few days, during the warm weather of the latitude, the soft parts decompose and the lighter, more attractive skeletons remain, which constitute the sponges of commerce.

What a delight is the first visit to a tropical town—the first sensations of a balmy atmosphere born of a continued trade-wind, the characteristic "trade" that moves so quietly during the winter season in this semi-tropical region, and is so tempered as nimbly and sweetly to recommend itself unto our gentle senses. We vividly remember the delights and indescribable sensations of our first visit with the rigors of a New England winter air but just shaken off. A full moon was just visible over the feathery tops of innumerable cocoa-palms as we landed, and the mellow light sparkled exquisitely on their leaflets; their sharp outlines, too, against the sky, with the pervading odor of lime, lemon, and jessamine, told a radical change of scene. Still more, at the entrance to our friend's grounds were these wondrously new sensations and objects increased; enhanced by more characteristic odors and forms of foliage. The air was redolent with jessamine, and, above all, the verandas revealed the delicate lawns and linens of summer costumes, and a peculiar and captivating hospitality heightened the enjoyment of this our first experience of the tropics. To the present visitor, the then inevitable Venus in parti-colored turban, passing the delicate, refreshing cocoanut water and curacoa, and the grateful services of Cato, with fan in hand, are things of the past.

The cocoanut, before its white meat has become solid, is jelly-like, and this in all stages from the nearly liquid form is esteemed a luxury, and served at luncheon or to evening callers during the warmer season. The cocoanuts will be observed to be in all stages upon the tree, from the beautiful corn-colored flowering group, resembling large tassels of corn, to the perfect nuts, which require constant care to prevent their dropping on the heads of stranger sojourners. Those "native here and to the manner born" instinctively cast an eye above when passing. The glory of Key West is the abundant distribution of the cocoa palm. The young and grandly flowing fronds and leaflets, as well as the tall trunks, with their graceful umbrella tops, contribute to an unaccustomed eye a scene of marvelous beauty. There is a curious sound, simulating falling rain, produced by the gentle movements of the leaflets over each other; this when but little air is stirring. Could the beauties of these semi-tropical towns be cumulative, a wondrous aspect would be the result; but the recurrence at certain periods of heavy gales, amounting to hurricanes, strips nearly everything of vegetable form.

Besides many plants and trees indigenous to semi-tropical regions, others of more pronounced tropical culture have been introduced. The Geiger tree is perhaps the most attractive, on account of its large showy red flowers, that look more appropriate to a low plant than a tree, and its large showy leaves. Captain Geiger, an old citizen of Key West, in the earlier times, and a noted wrecker, brought this tree to Key West from Cuba; and, no one being sufficiently acquainted with botany to name it, it was called as above. It is the Cordia sebestina Linn. In the Jesup collection of the trees of America there is a good example of this tree, and a fine painting of its leaves and flowers. At the period of our first visit in 1858, several trees had recently been introduced, notably the royal palm. The visitor in Havana will enjoy the grand examples of this tree on the plaza of the Captain-General's palace. The stately and architectural trunks and the rich green of the leaflets or fronds render these trees exceptionally attractive. The date palm is another, of nearly equal interest. It requires about seven years for the tree to reach the period of bearing fruit. We chanced to remain in the reef region just long enough to see the fruit come to perfection. Several gardens of the old residents of Key West are embellished by the date palms, whose thoroughly tropical aspect, varied by the cocoa palms, first breaks upon the view of the visitor as he approaches the island.—*Cor. N. Y. Evening Post.*

AN INTERESTING DECISION.

The Government Not Responsible for Packages Placed on Tops of Mail-Boxes.

A very peculiar case came up before United States Commissioner E. L. Gregory yesterday afternoon. About three o'clock a young man named Lawrence, having a package to mail, laid it on the top of the mail-box at the corner of Cherry and Union streets. Shortly afterward he was standing near and saw a negro man whose name was subsequently learned to be Turner, take the package and start off. He at once followed and stopped him, and Detectives Hanlin and Price appearing about that time, the negro was arrested, and at four o'clock arraigned before the Commissioner on the charge of interfering with the United States mail.

Captain Withers, Superintendent of the free delivery department of the Post-office, was summoned to give testimony in regard to the law, and upon this testimony Turner was discharged.

According to the law and all rulings upon the subject, the package had not been mailed, and in consequence Turner was not amenable to the United States law, but the value of this package being small, it only containing a rubber stamp, the prosecution did not care to push the matter.

A word in regard to this practice of placing packages and papers on the top of mail boxes will not be amiss, and probably prove of service to the general public not posted in the matter. Letter-carriers are positively instructed not to take such papers or packages when it interferes with the delivery of first-class mail, and as they are nearly loaded with as much mail as they can well carry, packages thus left often remain there until the following day. Their taking or leaving them is discretionary. Letters, papers or packages are not mailed and under the protection of the United States postal laws unless they are placed within the mail-box or in the Post-office. People often leave valuable packages in this manner, laboring under the impression that the Government is responsible for them. Such, however, is not the case, and if stolen, the person is only liable under the State laws.—*Nashville Union.*

A Singular Reptile.

A snake of a very rare kind is now at the Smithsonian Institute. It was captured near the famous Buck Horn Wall, on the line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, near Deer Park, Md. The peculiarity of the snake is that it can, and does whistle and sing like a young mocking bird. In general appearance it is like the ordinary snake, except its head is shaped somewhat like a pug dog. In length it is four feet long, and the largest part of its body is four and a quarter inches in circumference. When it whistles or sings it makes a series of jumps like a frog. The head snake professor of the Smithsonian institution is now at Wood's Hole, Mass., and it will probably be sent there for his examination and classification. It is in shape and color altogether different from any of the African singing snakes, and besides issues a louder and more harmonic sound or whistle than is recorded of any of the classes of snakes that are found in the East Indies. A similar character of a snake is said in the books to be frequently seen on the island of Sumatra. So far this is the first singing or whistling snake that has been found in this country. The man who caught it supposed he was chasing a young mocking bird.—*Washington Cor. N. Y. Herald.*

—A paper-making firm in New Jersey is turning out counterpanes and pillows of paper. No. 1 manilla paper is used, two large sheets being held together by a slender twine at intervals of three or four inches. The twine is gummed, so as to hold the sheets firmly together where it lies. A hem is placed on the counterpane to keep it from tearing. The safety edge is composed of twine. Ornamental designs are stamped on the outer surfaces of the covers and cases, giving them a neat, attractive appearance. When these counterpanes and pillows become wrinkled from use they can easily be smoothed out with a hot flatiron. The new paper bedclothing is seventy-five cents per set, and will probably become popular.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

WILL STICK TO HIS LAST.

The Speculation Which Taught Mr. Willow to Confine His Energies and Brains to Calico and Muslin.

Sam Willow was a prosperous dry-goods merchant. His store on Fourteenth avenue was the center of fashion in that part of the city. However dull his neighbors might be his store was crowded from morning until evening, and the cries of "Cash!" followed each other so closely and continuously that it sounded from the street like a public school on examination day. So long as Mr. Willow devoted his entire attention to the dry-goods business he prospered. Owing to his excellent judgment in the line of calicoes, muslins and hosiery he was always able to dispose of his purchases at a handsome profit. But Mr. Willow had one unfortunate habit. He was restless and ambitious. He never learned to let well enough alone. He was continually investing his surplus wealth in outside speculations, which were without exception disastrously unprofitable.

"So you think of mortgaging the house to raise fifty thousand dollars, do you, Samson?" observed Mrs. Willow to him one morning recently.

"Yes, my dear," responded Mr. Willow, with ardor. "I have a sure thing."

"Sure thing?" returned Mrs. Willow, incredulously. "Do you recollect the sure thing you had last year? It was in wheat, I believe. You got your pointer from a man who was getting up a corner.

"Yes, my dear," answered Mr. Willow, "but this is not a speculation at all. It is as sure as taxes."

"Is it in the dry-goods line?"

"No, not exactly, but it will pay better than any dry-goods store since Stewart died."

"What is it?" inquired Mrs. Willow, with more curiosity than she had yet exhibited.

"That's right," replied Mr. Willow, illogically but enthusiastically. "I knew you would agree with me. It is a gold mine."

"A gold mine, Samson Willow?"

"Yes, my dear, a veritable golconda, a bonanza. We will be princes, both of us. Sure thing. Secret. No one knows of it but myself and one other man. 'Fraid he'll go to Jay Gould or Vanderbilt with it if I don't give him my answer to-day."

"Let me hear more about it," said Mrs. Willow, excitedly.

"This man arrived here last night from Montreal. He came that way because he was afraid it would excite suspicion if he came direct from Arizona."

"Arizona?"

"Yes, my dear. That's where the mine is. He discovered it while he was prospecting for lead. No one knows there is any gold there. He picked up a boulder of solid gold, worth fifteen thousand dollars if it's worth a penny. He says there is lots more of it there. I took it in my hands. It is heavy and solid. He wants me to go into partnership with him. If I give him fifty thousand dollars he will give me a half interest and the nugget. We will use the money to buy machinery and develop the mine."

"Let me see the gold, and if it is true I will sign the mortgage," exclaimed the old lady with decision.

"You shall see it this very day," returned Mr. Willow.

And so she did. The next day the mortgage was recorded. The gold was promptly transferred and the lucky miner went to Boston to buy the machinery. Mr. Willow was in an ecstacy of joy. He could hardly wait to sell out his store and visit his wonderful purchase.

Last week he bought back his store at a loss of twenty thousand dollars and rented his former house. He will never leave the dry goods business again. The cause of his change of mind is explained in the following item which appeared in a local paper a few days after the sale:

"The large nugget labeled 'Australian Gold,' valued at fifteen thousand dollars, stolen from the Geological Museum in Montreal by burglars, turns out to be merely a plated lead fac-simile of a celebrated nugget found some years ago."—*N. Y. Graphic.*

A DIETARY BLUNDER.

Sir Henry Thompson so Denominates the Use of Concrete Substances in Water.

Sir Henry Thompson writes: "Most people might naturally be aware that the primary object of drink is to satisfy the thirst, which means a craving for the supply of water to the tissues—the only fluid they demand and utilize when the sensation in question is felt. Water is a solvent of solids, and is more powerful to this end when employed free from admixture with any other solid material. It may be flavored, as in tea and otherwise, without impairing its solvent power, but when mixed with any concrete matter, as in chocolate, thick cocoa, or even with milk, its capacity for dissolving—the very quality for which it was demanded—is in greater part lost. So plentiful is nutriment in solid food that the very last place where we should seek that quality is the drink which accompanies the ordinary meal. Here at least we might hope to be free from an exhortation to nourish ourselves, when desirous only to allay thirst or moisten our solid morsels with a draught of fluid. Not so: there are even some persons who must wash down their ample slices of roast beef with draughts of new milk—an unwisely devised combination even for those of active habit, but for men and women whose lives are little occupied by exercise, it is one of the greatest dietary blunders which can be perpetrated. One would think it was generally known that milk is a peculiarly nutritive fluid, adapted for the fast growing and fattening young mammal—admirable for such, for our small children; also serviceable to those whose muscular exertion is great, and when it agrees with the stomach to those who can not take meat. For us who have long ago achieved our full growth and can thrive on solid fare, it is altogether superfluous and mostly mischievous as a drink."—*The Lancet.*

—The picture of Washington crossing the Delaware has popularized a scene that recurs every spring. Except for the absence of the figures of the commander and his compatriots, it has lost none of its picturesque features. When the winter snows are melting and the spring rains fall the swollen current of the river sweeps along with its burden of jagged ice-cakes as resistlessly as when it imperiled the lives of the rugged little army who dared the passage that Christmas night one hundred years ago. At the point where Washington crossed the Delaware it is comparatively tame to what it is along the upper courses of the river.—*Boston Globe.*

—William H. Robertson, who recently retired from the position of Collector of Customs at New York, was the second occupant of the office who since the organization of the Government served the full term of four years. Of his predecessors one died in office, a few resigned, and many were removed.—*Troy Press.*

—Curled maple is only an accidental form of sugar maple, in which the grain is beautifully contorted. This form is highly prized by cabinet makers, and one thousand dollars has been given for a single tree.—*Chicago Herald.*

ALL VERY TRUE.

Bob Burdette's Advice to a Grumbling and Dissatisfied Youth.

Yes, my son, I know, these expensive funerals and expensive monuments and costly tablets and such things cost a great deal of money that might otherwise go to the poor. I know that the churches in the United States cost many thousands of dollars which also might be given to the poor. I know, my son, that our modern Christianity is much given to worldly show and grandeur, and has departed from the simple ways of the fathers. I appreciate your grief over all this. You are not alone in your sorrow. You are not the first man, my son, that lifted up his voice and wailed: "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence and given to the poor?" Come, my son, let us reform things. Let us sell all the churches and give all the money to the poor. Let us bury our dead in unmarked ditches by the roadside and send the cost of a Christian burial to the heathen. Let us paint our legs, let our hair grow long and go naked, so that we may send the money we now waste in fashionable adornment to the perishing millions of India. Let us do all this. Then, you see, the poor heathen will have everything and we will have nothing; they will wear clothes and live in houses, and we will wear rings in our noses and live in caves; they will be civilized Christian men and women and we will be wild barbarians, perishing in benighted ignorance, lifting up our appealing voices for the price of the box of ointment. Then we will know how it is ourselves. Is that your idea, my son? Stop your paper and pew rent, then, and peel off your clothes. I will sell them for you and buy you a spear, a bear skin and a string of beads, and if I have anything left after deducting my commission I will send it to the heathen. My boy, when you are tempted to howl because a body of Christians builds a church that costs fifty thousand dollars, you sit down and hold your noise and wait until you see in how many years that church sends out one hundred thousand dollars to the poor and the sick and the heathen, at home and abroad. I tell you, my son, when a man invests one thousand dollars of his money in a church building he manages to pay the interest on that amount for church purposes. And then—but before going on with this sermon you protest so vigorously against expensive churches, what are you doing with the pew rent you save? How many poor do you pension with the money you hold back from the preacher? Ah, yes; I thought that was your car when I saw it coming. Ta-ta.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

A COLONY OF EXILES.

Sandy Point, the Chilian Penal Station—Its Location, Surroundings and Resources.

Sandy Point is a Chilian penal station, and a large portion of the inhabitants are exiles. When we were there the war was still going on between Chili and Peru, and among the prisoners were two Americans, who had been captured in an attempt to blow up the Huascar with torpedoes. They came very near being executed, but were finally exiled. The Governor himself was in a state of semi-exile, and found life much more agreeable in Sandy Point than he would have done in Valparaiso. Gold was discovered several years ago in the mountains about two miles from the village, and a quantity taken out by panning, but at that time there was no excitement about it. I saw considerable in the form of grains and small nuggets, the largest of which was about the size of an English walnut, and had been made into a watch charm. It was thought that some of the mines would prove to be very productive, if properly worked, but no one there seemed to have the money or energy to develop them. There is also a vein of good coal about three miles from the village. It had been worked some a few years previously, and a railroad had been built from the mine to the wharf but after war broke out with Peru it was neglected, the wharf went to ruin and the railroad was destroyed. The only coal to be had there was brought from England and a good price was charged for it. We coaled ship and were obliged to pay nineteen dollars and fifty cents per ton and deliver it ourselves. The timber on the mountains does not grow to a great height, but is of fine quality, and the trunks are of large diameter.

During the summer months it does not rain at all, but every winter a large quantity of snow and rain falls, so that there are no dry years. The plains furnish excellent grazing, and the soil will yield good crops. There is every reason to believe that it will become a good grain-producing country. I had read much about the great size of the Patagonian Indians, and thought the reports must be greatly exaggerated, but I found that they were true. None of the bucks that I saw were under six feet in height, and they were broad in proportion to their height. The squaws are about five feet six or seven inches, and are heavy, but not fleshy. Like all other Indians, they are very fond of the white man's fire-water.—*Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.*

Premises.

This word is from the Latin "*premissus*," sent in advance. In law the literal meaning of the word "premises" is "statements previously made," but the word is now commonly used as signifying a house and its surroundings. In this sense it had a singular origin. In a legal deed of conveyance it was customary at the commencement of the document to give a formal description, at great length, of the property to which the deed related. Where in the same deed it was necessary again to refer to the property, the words "the premises," in the sense of "that which has already been described," saved useless repetition and were well understood. By some extraordinary change, the phrase "the premises" came to signify, not the description of the property, but the property itself, and in this sense the word has now become incorporated with the English language, and has been used in legislative acts relating to or describing lands. The dictionaries have no reference to this misuse of the word.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

—A traveler pictures the guano coast of South America as the most desolate region on earth. On one side is the Pacific Ocean, with its great swells sweeping almost around the globe, as regular and constant as the throbbings of the human pulse. On the other side the impenetrable Andes rise in a range whose altitude averages fifteen thousand feet, and whose peaks tower twenty thousand and twenty-two thousand feet above the sea. Between the ocean and the mountains for one thousand miles, with a varying width from twenty to fifty miles, lies a strip of drifting sand which no river waters and where rain never falls. There is not a well or a spring along the coast, and drinking water is an article of merchandise, like ice or flour, costing about seven cents a gallon to the consumer.

—The London journals have not yet decided whether it is Suakin, Suakim, Souakin or Souakim; but when General Graham gets home he will be able to settle it. He has had considerable of a spell at that place.—*N. Y. World.*

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—There are 87,000 paupers in London.

—In 1120 the first striking clock was invented by a Cistercian monk.

—Many of the plants in the Tuileries Gardens are two and three hundred years old.

—The lance has disappeared from the list of weapons used in the Austrian army. The lancers will be converted into light cavalrymen.

—A Paris judge refused to hear a case against a wife who had thrown her husband out of a window and broken his leg, but advised her to open a gymnasium at which other wives could train.

—It is officially reported that 2,800,000 acres of grazing lands in the kingdom of the Netherlands supports 1,500,000 cattle 275,000 horses, 850,000 sheep and 350,000 hogs. This is less than one acre to the animal.

—During a recent speech in favor of cremation, Sir Spencer Wells mentioned that an epidemic of scarlet fever broke out in a country town on the opening of some graves of persons who had died with that disease thirty years previously.

—In Normandy bird dealers arrange singing contests between favorite chaffinches which are sometimes compelled to sing alternately as many as eight hundred times. Occasionally the cruel practice of depriving them of sight is indulged in, as blind birds are often the best singers.

—The French [illegible] who on the march at Vi[illegible] a private to a mule's saddle [illegible] cashered for a year, and the government journals quote this punishment as evidence that torture is not tolerated in the French army, although the opposition prints affirm that it is frequently inflicted.

—There are now established on the coast of Great Britain 284 lifeboat stations. In the current year there were 5,654 casualties to shipping around the British Isles; 633 lives and eighteen vessels were saved, in addition to 189 lives by shore boats and other means, where rewards were given, being a total of 792 lives saved through the agency of the society. During the year lifeboats were launched 252 times, and not one man of their crews was lost.

—The New South Wales regiment, which took part in the Soudan campaign, has arrived home in Sydney. They were given a tremendous reception. The day was made a public holiday. Delegates came from all the colonies in Australia and all the available troops were drawn up to welcome the returning soldiers. The Governor delivered an address to the contingent, thanking them in the name of the Queen and the colonies for the great services they had rendered.

—Japan is made up of a chain of volcanic mountains, and the arable land of the empire is officially put at 11,215,000 acres, less than one-half the area of the State of New York, and this is so fertile and thoroughly cultivated that it feeds a population of 37,000,000, about that of France. Rice is one of the principal crops, and of this some 200,000,000 bushels are raised annually. Hand labor is generally used, and two or three crops a year are raised on the same land. Artificial irrigation is generally being necessary over one-half of the cultivated land, and frequently the water is taken from streams from twenty to thirty miles distant. The total number of horned cattle is 1,115,000, and of horses 1,605,000. Wood of all kinds is cheap and abundant.

AFRICA.

Low Wages the Rule on the Dark Continent—Interesting Facts.

The following is a picture of life in Africa as portrayed by Consul Peter Strickland, of Senegal: Drunkenness to a greater or lesser extent seems to be the general condition of the vast majority of the traders and other people of Senegal who are not Mohammedans. It is my deliberate conviction that it costs the native trades-people in Senegamb a more for rum than it does for food, and what makes it very annoying for their employers is the fact that their services can not be depended on so long as they have the means in hand to buy rum. House servants are as bad as the rest, and unless European families are lucky enough to secure Mohammedans for their cooks, they can never know when a fast will be intruded upon them. The women in the matter of drinking are, if anything, worse than the men, and if employed for waiters are sure to smash all the crockery within their reach in an incredibly short space of time. It is a custom among them also to form themselves into drinking clubs of a dozen or so each, and whenever their accumulated means are sufficient to purchase three or four gallons of liquor, they will, after excusing themselves from work on some frivolous pretext, meet at a house selected for the purpose and indulge in orgies too terrible to be described. It is sometimes a week before they recover from these debauches, and the interests of those who are obliged to employ them suffer accordingly.

"Added to the annoyance from their drinking habits, is also the fact that most of these intemperate women are of such easy virtue that their husbands seldom trust them, but leave them for others on the slightest pretext. The women also change partners as often as chance follows occasion, so that society, as we recognize the term, scarcely has an existence. It is one of the most common of things among the so-called Christian natives of Senegambia, to see children, brothers and sisters, through their mother, but all having different fathers, thus completely reversing the Mormon custom, where children are often brothers and sisters through their father but not through their mothers. Scores of children also die through neglect, exposure, and diseases, for which the drunken habits of their mothers are directly responsible. It does seem as though our Government must be culpable in granting drawbacks on rum and alcohol, which are exported by the ship-load, to debauch and destroy the unreflecting inhabitants of uncivilized countries. It is my deliberate opinion that rum in Africa is at present doing as much mischief as the slave trade ever did, and that it is a shame for a civilized country like the United States to aid any of its merchants in exterminating these northern Zulus of Africa."—*Consular Report.*

The Peruvian Army.

The Peruvian army is made up mostly of Indians and Cholos (as the mixed races are called), and are brought in from the mountains tied with ropes. "A train-load of these 'volunteers' came in from the country," says a Lima letter, "all of them with their hands tied behind them, and were driven into a corral, like so many cattle, where they were given forms and guns and put through a course of sprouts. It is of little interest to the Indian on which side he fights, for he knows nothing about the political troubles of the country, and serves any commander who happens to capture him, like a mule or a horse, until he is shot or runs away. They are obedient, tractable and enduring, and although those who know enough will cut off hands and feet to avoid service in the army, their mutinies always originate with the officers, who are Spanish."

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—Brooklyn claims a population to 700,000, or about half that of New York.

—The only way to tell a good cigar is to smoke it. Color has nothing to do with it.—*Chicago Herald.*

—As a rule not more than one letter out of twenty written to the President reaches its destination.—*Washington Post.*

—About one acre in a hundred of the arable land in the country is occupied by zigzag fences.—*Nashville American.*

—The Vermont State Prison contains six persons serving life sentences for murder and three serving ten, twelve, and eighteen year sentences for manslaughter.

—People of violent temper, says a barber, have close, growing hair. Coarse hair denotes obstinacy, while fine hair indicates refinement, and people whose hair is harsh have amiable but cold natures.—*Philadelphia Press.*

—It having been brought to the notice of a tramp who was mentally enfeebled that there were authenticated instances of weakness of the mind having been cured by work, he smiled idiotically and inquired: "Who wants to be cured?"—*N. Y. Mail.*

—A plant called by the Mexicans gonagra, indigenous to the deserts and uplands of Arizona, has been found to possess superior tanning qualities and is coming into extensive use for that purpose. It is an annual growth and has a root resembling a beet.

—Many a mistaken marriage and many a needless and wrongful divorce would be prevented, even among people who have no real respect for religion, if the ministers of every denomination would not only teach but act upon the scriptural doctrine.—*Altoona (Pa.) Tribune.*

—A twelve cent table d'hote dinner supplied by a New York caterer consists of soup, fish, one kind of meat to be selected by the diner, with salad, chow-chow, coffee, dessert, and plenty of bread and butter. And the caterer prospers with an average profit of forty dollars per week.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—A patriotic Philadelphian sent to the New York *World's* pedestal fund the other day the handsome sum of one hundred dollars, and with a modesty equaled only by his munificence declined to give his own name as the donor, but desired that the contribution should be credited to General Grant.—*Philadelphia Times.*

—Whale shooting is a growing business on the Maine coast. Several steamers are engaged in the business, another trying factory is to be built, and the success which has attended the operations thus far warrants the belief that whale hunting will eventually become one of the important industries of the State.—*Boston Herald.*

—Delimit and delimitation are new words to American readers. Webster doesn't have them, and in the first part of Worcester both words are marked as "rare," Stormonth's English Dictionary defines delimitation: "The boundary-line of a country; the fixing the boundaries of a country, or countries, especially when a rearrangement of territory is to be effected.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

—A man talks to an assessor one way and to a mercantile agency another. With the latter he wants to put his possessions at a value as high as possible to get commercial standing, with the former he values them as low as possible to escape taxation. He does not think that the mercantile agencies verify his reports to them by the amount he returns for taxation.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

—A writer has been estimating what it costs each individual for necessary food of sufficient variety per day and year; and also the value of the total amount of food upon which the people of the United States subsist for that time. He makes it $4,340,000,000 annually for the whole people, and for each individual $86.81 per year; and only twenty-five cents and eight mills per day for each person.—*Detroit Post.*

—A recent visitor at Sanborn, D. T., was surprised to find that a cowboy there was a bright young miss of thirteen years. All last season she herded alone over fifty cattle, riding a pet Indian pony. At eight o'clock every morning she jumps astride of the bareback animal, drives the herd to the prairie and watches them all day. She takes her books and spends her leisure hours in reading and study.—*Chicago Times.*

—A South Carolinian tells a strange story in natural history. While out hunting he killed the mother of some young squirrels and secured four of the little ones unhurt. He carried them home and gave them to a cat that had lost her kittens. She took charge of them, and became exceedingly fond of them, and now they are frisky little fellows running everywhere and growing finely. They seem to like their step-mother.

—It is a pity some of the poor people on either side of the Atlantic can not have the vast quantities of meat annually thrown overboard from ocean vessels. From a report just issued by the British Agricultural Department, it appears that during 1884, of live animals imported from Canada, 658 cattle, 1,770 sheep and one pig were thrown overboard, and 81 cattle and 324 sheep landed dead. Of those imported from the United States, 1,570 cattle and 857 sheep were thrown overboard, and 85 cattle and 92 sheep landed dead, or a total loss of 4,856 animals.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—A recent writer on heating of green-houses and conservatories says that the secret of successful heating is to raising the temperature of the water in a short space of time so as to cause it to flow through the radiating pipes with such velocity that it may return to the boiler before losing all its heat. This is achieved by bringing the water under the influence of the fire in small continuous bodies, and if this is carried out the radiating pipes can be reduced in size with advantage and economy. The time for putting all such things in order is during the warm season.—*Chicago Journal.*

—The New England Meteorological Society proposes to find out this summer all it can about thunder storms, and to that end invites observers in every town in New England to unite in marking the leading features of such storms as come within their ken, and report to headquarters. The simplest data are such as can be gathered by anyone—the time rain begins to fall, the direction of the wind, duration of rain, etc.; while more difficult and delicate observations, such as the height of the storm clouds, character of lightning flashes, and velocity of wind, are to be undertaken by specialists.—*Boston Journal.*

—In the *Clinical Record* Dr. Holland relates that one of his lady patients once called on a "psychometric healer," who greatly impressed her with his prescience in telling her that she suffered from occasional headache and pain in the side due to the fact that her liver was bound back to her diaphragm. The lady thought that only a man of diabolical insight could have discovered her symptoms without an examination, and she hastened nervously to her physician. There she was informed that almost every woman patient a doctor has is a sufferer from headache and sideache, and that she would be in a bad way indeed if her liver were not anchored in the manner stated by the charlatan.

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