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*More or Less Odd*

If you are one of the Holy Ghosters you believe that baptism in the ocean on a cold day, or any day, will wipe away all the sins of your past. The Holy Ghosters is the name of a cult that has been originated in Brooklyn by Rev. W. F. Sandford. Plenty of people have been found who take stock in his theories. He escorts them down to the rolling surf, some of them white-headed, and with the assistance of several of his votaries they are plunged beneath the wave. All are clad in old clothes and out they wade into the water. With the swinging in of the next big breaker under they go and the poor, chattering folk then hasten as fast as their legs will take them to a large fire that has been set going on the bank and there try to thaw themselves out, thanking their stars and fortunes that they live in an age when they may be purged of their sins by the simple process of briny immersion, under the guidance of the called preacher and without the aid of prayers. "When I baptise you," says the preacher, "it is the same as if God were doing it."

Among the mountains of Utah reposes the model city of the west, if not of the United States. First of all it

does not depend on taxation, and the city officers, all except the city marshal, serve without pay. Politics cuts no figure at all. The officers are chosen for their business ability and regard it a great honor to be elected, a tribute to their business ability. Vernal is the name of the place. It is located in Uintah county and has a population of between three and four thousand. Last year over a mile of asphalt pavement was laid and it is predicted that before long the whole city will be blessed with this class of pavement. State taxes are collected of course but the city depends on licenses, fines and the granting of public privileges. Everything of this character is charged vigorously, not to kill, but to get good reasonable returns for the rights to city advantages. So successful have been these methods that the people are proud of their city and work mutually for its best interests, so that its streets are the cleanest and its buildings and all are so orderly that it is called the most nearly Utopian of all the cities in Western America.

Hot house lamb is selling in New York for \$1 a pound. The delicious stuff comes from Kentucky where the breeders have adopted the novel scheme of culturing the little animals in hothouses. Born there during the colder months they do not suffer. South window exposures furnish plenty of sunlight. The houses are large and allow the little beasts plenty of room in which to run about. A supplemental scheme is that of damming a stream until it overflows its banks and spreads out into a grazing tract. After it remains there a day or two it is run off and shortly rich green grass begins to sprout. It is not so cold that the water freezes over the ground if in the right locality, and it does not take much to encourage the grass to come out. When it has grown high enough to cut it is cropped and fed to the ewes. This makes their milk richer and more rapidly develops the lamb. When it is three months old away it goes to market to satisfy the palate of some na-

bob who is able to cough up \$1 a pound.

Perhaps chief among the evils charged to the Paris exposition is that lamented by the undertakers in Paris who are bemoaning the decrease of costly funerals. Alas, they say, the deaths in Paris last year were 2,500 less than usual, and one large firm of undertakers, for instance, did \$35,000 less business than common. Other shops make proportionate complaints. The responsibility is laid upon the exposition on the ground that it induced the people to raise prices to extortionate limits, discouraging the natural growth of the city and driving out many of the less able persons who had already made it their home. The cheapest burial possible in Paris is at a cost of \$1.50.

A man in Rochester, New York recently paid \$185 for thirty pounds of honey. In his parlor he discovered, day after day, bees oozing from a crack under the sliding doors. The little fellows one after another paid their lives for their intrusion and it was not until some time had elapsed that the man discovered that the swarm was under his parlor floor. Meanwhile several members of the household had been stung in their combats to exterminate the bees. Doing this they ruined several valuable pieces of furniture. Carpenters were summoned after hot water had been used ineffectually and they tore up the floor and ejected the swarm. Thirty pounds of honey were left but the cost of getting the bees out and putting the house to rights again was \$185.

Irrigation by sunshine is the method adopted by a farmer in Kansas who is imbued with a spirit of enterprise and economy. He is E. B. Cowgill, and his place is near Great Bend. A solar motor is his apparatus for furnishing his land with water. In shape it is a huge inverted umbrella on a tower, opening itself to the sun. It is thirty-three feet in diameter at the outer

edge and sixteen at the inner. The inside is lined with mirrors which focus on a boiler securely stationed in the air at a point where the umbrella handle should commence. So intense is the heat that wood set there bursts into flames in a few seconds. The great reflector is kept facing the sun by clockwork. In the morning it is turned to the rising sun by hand levers and that is all of this character of attention is needs during the day. It is a ten horse engine and 150 pounds of steam are generated in an hour without fuel. The boiler is kept full of water automatically during the day and one hundred acres can easily be irrigated by it. The boiler is black when not in the glare of the mirrors but with all them focused on it silver becomes its color, and it is so bright as to hurt the eyes. The machine is built for hard service and it has no delicate parts to get out of order easily. It is calculated by mechanics to last twenty years.

Afraid of the American girl! There's a compliment from the kaiser of Germany. He has heard some wonderful things of the maid of America and when he came to consider the sending of an emissary to the United States on a complimentary visit to President Roosevelt he bethought himself that it might not be safe to dispatch his eldest son, the crown prince. Consequently Prince Henry makes the trip instead. The caution of the kaiser has its foundation on some observations he made last year on the Rhine, as well as on the stories he has been told of American beauty. The crown prince met some American girls on the Rhine a year ago and lo, they made an impression on him strange and wonderful to behold. No more of that! said the kaiser, who is of the opinion that his eldest son is actuated by all the finest sentimental temperament in Germany. Moreover the crown prince is also deeply engaged in his studies and it would be hard to ask him to give them up. This decision of the kaiser was taken with surprise in the old country. But Prince Henry is all right as a substitute, says the kaiser, for he has been his standby, sailor as he is, on all ceremonial occasions.

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