

CONNECTICUT LIGHTNING.

Complicated Damage Done by a Bolt in Naugatuck Valley.

It was in Goshen, at the upper end of the Naugatuck valley, that the frisky Connecticut lightning recently made its playground. The first flash that came in the storm just tried its marksmanship. Darius Thompson had been setting bean poles in his garden that morning, and one of them was particularly straight and handsome, somewhat taller than the others. The bolt singled out that particular bean pole, struck it on the tip end, and split it down to the other end, a foot or more under ground.

Having satisfied itself of its aim and having got the range, it took another shot. This time it aimed at the lightning rod on Fred Williams' house. Eighteen inches of the top of the rod, including the copper point, was cut off as though it had been a axle, and struck into the roof several yards away. Then another section of the rod was clipped off, about 8 feet of it, torn from its fastenings and riddled ten inches into the ground, where it stood upright when Mr. Williams started to look for it. Having had its fun with the rod, the bolt followed down to within about two feet of the ground, where it parted, one section going into the ground with such force as to throw mud on the clapboards as high as the roof while the other section tore out a piece of siding large enough to put a hand in, and began a trip of investigation.

The first room it came to was Miss Williams' bedroom. She had been lying on the bed a few minutes before, but had been called downstairs by her sister. The lightning tore off a section of lath and plaster, jumped down to the bed and tore every slat on it to kindling wood, ripping the headboard and footboard to pieces, and leaving not enough to make over into a bunk. Then the bolt bored its way into the parlor, where another bedstead had been put up for an emergency. It also struck this bed, tore off the woodwork, and went through the mattress, quilt and sheets. The family's dog was shut in a closet in this room, but the playful electricity sought him out and killed him. Then, having had fun enough, it broke two panes of glass in the lower window sash and went out.

This finished its work on the Williams farm, but it struck several trees in that section of the town and split them apart, tearing off the bark to the ground.—N. Y. Sun.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Is Youth Gladstone Wanted to Be an Actor, But Changed His Plans.

Few are aware that, not only has Mr. Gladstone figured as a playwright, but that, also, he was to such an extent stage struck in his youth that he actually consulted the famous actor, Macready, respecting his chances of success in the theatrical profession, says a writer in the Philadelphia Press. The tragedian is reported to have accorded a favorable opinion, but, subsequently, Mr. Gladstone was induced to abandon his intentions in that direction by the advice of his friend, Lord Stanley, afterward fourteenth earl of Derby, so celebrated as prime minister, and as the most successful translator of the works of Homer.

Of course, the entreaties of Mr. Gladstone's own relatives likewise weighed in the balance in persuading him to change his plans, and thus the British stage was deprived of a star that would certainly have proved its most brilliant ornament. There certainly is no man on the English-speaking stage to-day, or, indeed, who has been during the present century, who has been possessed of so exquisitely melodious voice or of such perfect diction. The course of English history during the last 50 years might have been different had Mr. Gladstone become an actor.

With regard to his career as a playwright, it is just 60 years ago that he wrote a play, making its theme the retreat of the famous "ten thousand" under Xenophon, the leading part in which was intended either for Keane or for Young. The drama, however, was rejected by every London and provincial manager of the day. It is doubtful whether a play written by the Grand Old Man nowadays would meet with so particularly sorry a fate.

A Thousand Gallons of Physic.

The following is from the report of a recent meeting of the Mitford board of guardians: Miss Parnell is an elderly maiden lady who has been in receipt of medical relief from the board for some years past. When her case came up for consideration, the doctor announced that he had reckoned up the quantity of medicine she had consumed, and found that it came to just over 1,900 gallons. The relieving officer added that he had seen no alteration in her all the time. But if it had done her so apparent good, there is the consideration, on the other side, that she is still alive to tell of it, and can boast of being the greatest medicine taker in the world.

SUBMARINE NAVIGATION.

The Idea Not a New One—Fulton's Torpedo Boat.

The earliest well-authenticated mention of a subaqueous vessel as is meant by a submarine boat is that constructed by Cornelius Drebbel of Holland for James I. This boat was propelled by 12 rowers, and is said to have been tried on the Thames, but very little seems to have been recorded about it, and it can scarcely have been a success.

Boyle had some knowledge of it, and mentions that it was supplied with a secret composition which restored the "vital parts" to the air and rendered it fit for respiration for a considerable time. There is a record that in 1774 an inventor named Day lost his life in an experiment made in Plymouth sound with a vessel of 50 tons burden which failed to rise after submersion. Bushnell, of Connecticut, in 1775, made a vessel which was intended to be used for submarine warfare, but it was not until the time of Fulton that we have any very definite information on the subject.

He invented a sort of self-moving torpedo in 1796, and later, in 1801, designed a plunging or submarine boat, in which he descended with three companions to a depth of 25 feet in the harbor of Brest and remained under water for an hour in darkness. Candles vitiated the air, so in further trials bull's-eyes were inserted in the top of the boat. Subsequently Fulton took down with him reserves of compressed air, and with two men working the engine, the vessel was propelled under water about 500 yards in seven minutes.

Although Fulton demonstrated with the Nautilus, as she was called, the possibility of constructing and working a submarine boat, she never did any effective service, nor did Fulton meet with any better success or patronage when he went over to England, but he blew up some old vessels with his torpedoes. He published his work on the subject in New York in 1810, and afterward turned his attention to submarine guns, an idea which has been worked out and abandoned.

Delaney, of Chicago, took a submarine boat abroad in 1859, but it does not appear to have been taken up for use by the authorities. M. Denayrouse, whose subaqueous helmet and respirator have often been used in mines flooded with water or filled with irrespirable gases, also invented a submarine boat, and contrivances of the kind are, it is said, used in the pearl fisheries, but they are scarcely suitable for navigating the sea beneath the surface. Of late years electrical devices and compressed air have provided the inventor with appliances of much value in working submarine boats, and the probability is that before long some one will succeed in constructing a thoroughly efficient vessel.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Wood That Will Not Burn.

A demonstration of the fire resisting qualities of timber prepared in accordance with a process recently patented, has been given on a large scale. Two small houses, each identical in shape and dimensions, and equipped with wooden chimneys, but constructed, the one of treated timber and the other of ordinary timber, were exposed to the flames of a large bonfire piled to the windward side of the building. According to the Railway and Engineering Review, the wooden house caught fire almost immediately and collapsed in the course of half an hour, while the other stood the ordeal almost unharmed. A fire was then built inside the building, but even then the house did not burst into flames, and was merely charred in the end. The treatment consists in drying the lumber in a vacuum and then impregnating it with certain salts, the nature of which is not disclosed. The appearance of the timber is not altered and it is capable of taking as high a finish as before treatment.

A Sleep of Six Days.

A curious case of a prolonged sleep has occurred at Steenwerck. It appears that a farmer named Dumont, living in the village, allowed a man to pass the night on a load of hay. The next morning, as the farmer did not see his guest, he concluded that he had left early. Six days later Dumont was standing near the load of hay, when to his amazement the man emerged from it, still half asleep, and scarcely able to hold himself upright. For six days and six nights the man had slept, and of course had during that time nothing to eat. The good-natured farmer gave him a hearty meal, and the man having thanked the farmer for his kindness, proceeded to his destination.

—The largest mass of pure rock salt in the world lies under the province of Galicia, Hungary. It is known to be 550 miles long, 20 broad and 250 feet in thickness.

—Several species of moths never eat after attaining a perfect state. They have no mouths and live but a few hours.

A FLEMISH PASSION PLAY.

The Furnes Procession—Was Instituted in the Year 1100.

Furnes, a quaint Belgian city some 12 miles distant from Dunkirk, is one of the rapidly vanishing communities where the old traditions of the Roman Catholic religion, with its love of outward show and its open-air ceremonial displays, still retain their fervid exponents. The yearly procession, which is held on the last Sunday in July, is in reality a passion play, whose actors express in naively quaint dialogue the various phases of the Lord's sacrifice. This religious function attracts hundreds of pilgrims from the remotest parts of Belgium, and thousands of sightseers. The old-fashioned little town, with its interesting Spanish houses, becomes for a single day the rendezvous of a crowd, where cyclists, pilgrims, friars, peasants and gayly-dressed pleasure seekers from Dunkirk, Ostend and Blankenberg assemble.

When the procession emerges from the old church of Sainte Walburge the bells toll the knell for the dead. The murmur of the spectators is hushed, and all becomes still as the actors in the play leave the portals of the sanctuary. There are no fewer than 30 groups in the procession, which is headed by trumpeters. The most remarkable are "John the Baptist," the "Stable of Bethlehem," the "Shepherds," the "Wise Men of the East," the "Flight into Egypt," the "Court of Herod," the "Saviour and the Doctors," the "Entry of the Saviour into Jerusalem," "Pilate and the Judges," the "Saviour Bearing His Cross," the "Crucifixion," and the "Resurrection." The actors are mostly costumed with a certain regard for accuracy, and with the clergy, in their rich canonicals, bringing up the rear, the procession is quite a remarkable sight. The defile includes a number of "penitents," attired in coarse serge gowns, their features being concealed by a cowl, and their feet being bare. These are believers who, in atonement of their sins, undergo this yearly penance. It is said that the better classes provide many adepts for this peculiar method of seeking the remission of shortcomings.

The Furnes procession was instituted in the year 1100 by Count Robert, of Jerusalem, who on his return from the Holy Land experienced a violent tempest as he was reaching port. He vowed to offer to the first church whose steeple might be seen a piece of the true cross of which he was the bearer. It is said that the sea at once became calm, and that the spire of Sainte Walburge was sighted. The count landed and handed the precious relic with due solemnity to the clergy of Furnes. The procession was instituted to commemorate this event, and has been maintained almost without interruption up to this date.—London Standard.

THE FASTEST BOAT.

The English Turbinia is a Novelty and a Wonder.

In the first place, the Turbinia must be pronounced a novelty. The excess of speed which she has developed over anything previously achieved introduces a substantially new factor in evolutions. Moreover, the Turbinia in esse is no more than an experiment, a first step. She is to the ship of the future what the Monitor was to the turreted battleships. At the naval review the Turbinia was run up to nearly full power, and maintained the unprecedented speed of 35 knots, or over 40 miles per hour, for the length of the line of battleships, or about five miles. During this run there was an absence of strain, and from this fact it seems that the limit of speed in this little vessel has not yet been reached, and that after further improvements, at present in progress, she will be capable of not only maintaining her position as much the fastest vessel afloat, but will be able to give many knots to any competitor engaged with reciprocal engines. What has really been proved by the Turbinia is that, without stress or vibration, compound turbine engines of unprecedentedly small weight are capable of the most direct and economical conversion of the power of steam into effective horsepower. But there is nothing that confines the application of the principle to small ships. Hence there is nothing exaggerated in looking to an augmentation of speed that can be fairly described as a novelty or new element in naval warfare.—Detroit Free Press.

Unhealthy Gold Fields.

The unhealthiness of the New Guinea goldfields is so great that the miners who go there literally carry their lives in their hands. The captain of a passenger schooner reports, that he recently left Woodlark island with 40 passengers, most of whom, crawled to the vessel stricken with fever and dysentery. No fewer than seven of these men died within a fortnight.

—Irons should never be allowed to remain over the fire longer than is necessary, but should be put at once, in a cool place free from dust and smoke.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

Colorado Peaks That No Man Has Succeeded in Scaling.

The terrible Jungfrau of Switzerland is but 14,000 feet high, yet travelers from all over the world journey to Interlaken to climb it, or to say that they have sat in the hotel and wished that they might climb it. Mount Blanc, in the same delightful little European republic, is forever quilted with snow, and for this reason it is one of the most seductive features of travel to the neighborhood of Geneva. The Chor health resort, on the east side of the Swiss republic, is visited by thousands of invalids, because it is one of the loftiest and noblest of European sanitariums. Then why should not every American who has money to spare and the desire to make a journey get out to Colorado, strap a pair of mountain boots on to his legs, put a spike on an ash staff, and attempt to climb Mount Blanca, in the southern part of this state? Mount Blanca is over 14,400 feet high. Or if he does not care to take the risks of this perilous ascent, why should he not come up into the northern part of the state, place his field glasses in his hands and gaze on the glacier and the perpetual banks of snow that cover Mount Hallett? Or if tourists be possessed with reverence or of piety, why may not they locate in central Colorado and fix their eyes upon the great white cross that indents the Mount of the Holy Cross at an elevation of 14,176 feet?

If it is the duplicate of Chor that tourists seek, Manitou, in this state, rests at the foot of 14,000-foot Pike's peak for them, and is itself 6,300 feet above the sea, while being endowed with health-giving waters the equal of Carlsbad.

There are 110 mountains in Colorado whose peaks are over 12,000 feet above the ocean level. Forty of these are higher than 14,000 feet, and more than half of that number are so remote and rugged that no one has dared to attempt to climb them. They are as unique as those of Switzerland, and as fearful as the Alps in the warning they offer to the men or women who are so hardy as to defy them by starting upon their ascent. Some of them are massed with snow, others have glaciers over their approaches, and others are merely masses of jagged rocks.

Not even the Coloradoans have sought as yet to surmount them, and the profession of "guide" is still open to whoever may care to enter it. Railroads reach to within close enough range to provide hotel facilities, but otherwise the mountain climbing of Colorado is yet awaiting its pioneers. Did the Coloradoans or the people of other states fully realize the intoxication as well as the health-giving powers of mountain climbing, Rocky mountain climbing would be one of the most popular recreations of America. Only one mountain-climbing club is known to exist in Colorado. There is room for a dozen more. The evidence such clubs might offer of their thrilling experiences and of their unexampled pastimes and adventures might be widely advertised, and Colorado thus be pushed forward to the place it must eventually occupy as the American substitute for Switzerland.

Sound Blindness.

We have all heard often enough of color blindness. Many people, although they may possess perfect eyesight for reading or seeing long distances, yet can't for the life of them distinguish between green and red, and many other pairs of colors. Lately it has been found that some suffer from an exactly similar affection of the hearing powers—that is, an inability to distinguish particular shades of sound arising from some obscure affection of the ear, yet quite distinct from deafness. One boy, in doing dictation, always spelt "very" "vought." He could not distinguish at all between the sounds of "very," "perry," and "polly," and yet he could hear at as great a distance as anybody. Another youngster would spell "different" "drifent." He said that was how it sounded. And several others ran the letters "r," "n" and "l" together in a hopeless way.

Woman in Finland.

In Finland the women are making marked progress. For more than 25 years the gymnasiums have admitted both sexes, and in the University of Helsinki there are now 200 women students. There are two flourishing clubs of women. About 1,000 are now employed in post offices, railroad and telegraph bureaus and other departments of the public service; more than 900 are engaged as teachers in schools of various grades, and it is not uncommon to see among their pupils young men of 18 who are preparing for an academic or commercial career. At least 3,000 women are in business. Fifty-two of the 80 poorhouses have women superintendents, and all the dairies are managed by women.

—Over 600,000 pounds of tea are consumed in England daily.

ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY.

William A. Eddy Hopes to Telegraph Long Distances Without Wires.

William A. Eddy, of New York city, says that experiments in atmospheric electricity for the purpose of telegraphing without wires were begun by him in July last at Bayonne, N. J., with two lines of kites supporting two lines of copper wire separated by a distance of several hundred feet. Marconi, of Italy, has announced that the power to telegraph without wire depends upon the perpendicular projection of the wires at each station, and that with separated wires projecting to a height of 100 feet he succeeded in telegraphing without wire connection to a distance of 12 miles. Mr. Eddy believes that with kite supported wires, messages can be sent from New York to Chicago by means of three or four intermediate kite stations, each kite station having its wire projected to a height of 1,500 or 2,000 feet. He says he has been defeated by light winds, but the experiment of telegraphing without wires will be carried out as soon as possible. He made repeated attempts on Saturday last to carry upward a duplicate line of wire with the two lines of kites, but the wind declined to a calm before the second line could be established in the air. Marconi has heretofore used kites, but has supported his perpendicular wings by other means. Mr. Eddy's object is to vastly increase the distance telegraphed by extending Marconi's perpendicular wire to a great height and substituting atmospheric electricity of tremendous tension for the artificial electricity of a coil or oscillator.

WON'T RIDE WITH HIS WIFE.

Light Weight Husband Objects to Being Made Ridiculous.

Discord, unhappiness and marital misery have ridden into Frederick Ackerson's family on a wheel. Mr. Ackerson, a painter, lives in Paterson, N. J. He weighs 100 pounds, one-third of Mrs. Ackerson's weight. Mrs. Ackerson is very much in love with wheeling. Her husband cares nothing for it. He thinks he would look ridiculous on a tandem with his wife. Mrs. Ackerson offers to do all the pedaling, but, having a keen sense of the absurd, her husband refuses to ride. This difference of opinion may lead to the divorce court. Their quarrel about wheeling was very bitter the other day.

"Let the four children take care of themselves," said Mrs. Ackerson, "and come out and ride with me; I will soon teach you."

"Ride with you!" exclaimed Ackerson. "I will not ride with you. People will stand and stare at us and say: 'There go the mosquito and the cow!'"

His wife in a rage flounced from his presence and put on her bicycle suit.

When she returned her husband sneeringly remarked:

"You're a pretty sight in that rig. To see you on a wheel reminds me of a load of hay on a fence rail."

"I'm going to get a divorce," she threatened when she returned from her ride. Mr. Ackerson consulted a lawyer and found that she hasn't sufficient cause for a divorce.

VALUE OF GILSONITE.

Special Government Agent to Examine the Deposits in Utah.

George H. Eldridge, of the United States geological survey, is on his way to Utah to examine the gilsonite deposits. Uncle Sam has a greater interest in these beds than most people imagine, for the government looks to the Utah deposits to preserve its great and growing fleet of war vessels now plowing every sea under the sun.

Submarine animals that attack the bottoms of these vessels have caused the expenditure of millions of dollars by the nations of the world, and if it can be demonstrated that there is sufficient mineral in Utah Uncle Sam can coat the bottoms of his vessels with the substance and his ships can keep the seas for years and thus become the most menacing power on the oceans.

Mr. Eldridge is to make a most thorough examination of the ground in behalf of Secretary Bliss. His great stress on the protection of the gilsonite will afford the nation's floating fortresses of steel, for with the bottoms of the ships coated with this stuff he claims that it is utterly impossible for any life in the ocean to bore into them or for it to become foul.

Diamonds Found Under Sand.

An explorer in the mountain of Witzies Hoek, Natal, is said to have discovered a layer of sand inclosing small diamonds at the edge of a lake that occupies the crater of an extinct volcano. It is not known whether these diamonds were there as the result of washing operations carried on by the natives or whether the discovery corresponds to an actual diamond mine. The hills of Witzies Hoek are not situated in regions known to be diamond bearing. The presence of the gems in the crater of a volcano may throw some light on their formation in nature.

Hiring of Dogs.

One can hire a gun or a violin, a house or a dresscoat, almost anything, in fact, including dogs. Setters and pointers are hired for hunting purposes, and they can be hired by the day or the week or the month. Newfoundland and St. Bernards are hired for watch-dogs, usually for the summer. Watch-dogs are hired by caretakers of buildings in the city, but often to take to country houses, where, after being tied up for a day or two, they become well enough acquainted with their keeper to follow him about.

Post Office at Spitzbergen.

The most northern post office in the world has recently been established by the Norwegian government on the island of Spitzbergen, off the north coast of Norway. There are practically no inhabitants in the vicinity, but the office is established for the convenience of excursionists who go there during the summer months.

AN EMPHATIC PROTEST.

Faculty Resent Treatment of President Andrews.

Address an Open Letter to the Trustees of Brown University in Behalf of Freedom of Speech—Evils of Repression.

A majority of the faculty of Brown university addressed an open letter to the trustees and lay members resenting the treatment of President E. Benjamin Andrews by the corporation and requesting reconsideration in the interest of the university and of freedom of speech.

The address refers to the details of the corporation meeting at which President Andrews was requested to forbear in the future from the promulgation of his free coinage of silver views.

"Private and individual remonstrance is one thing," the faculty declare, "but action of the sort described by the body which appoints presidents is, we submit, a very different thing. It is open to the gravest objections and rests upon a theory which, if extensively acted upon, would eat the heart out of our educational institutions—the theory that material growth of a university is of more importance than independence of thought and expression on the part of its president and professors, and that boards of trustees have, as such, the right to suggest limitations upon such independence.

"Recognizing that the corporation has not been alone in thinking and saying that Dr. Andrews' freedom of speech ought to be restrained, we beg to combat the proposition wherever and by whomsoever maintained, that official acting leading to restrain his expressions on public affairs is justified. It cannot be justified on the lower ground of pecuniary necessity and advantage; and secondly it lacks all justification when considered from that higher point of view from which the educational institutions of a great country ought always to be regarded.

"If income be a fit criterion, then Dr. Andrews is entitled to be regarded as, in a pecuniary sense, the greatest benefactor Brown university ever had. More than half its income is beyond doubt due to him and his labors.

"On the one hand we have the problematical or imaginary addition of a certain number of dollars, on the other hand we have throughout the whole intellectual life of the university the deadening influence of known or suspected repression. Our students well know or suspect that on certain subjects the silence of their president has been purchased or imposed.

"If the resignation of Dr. Andrews is accepted the burden and the stigma fall on his successor. It would stamp the institution in the eyes of the country as one in which freedom of thought is not permitted, when it runs counter to the views of the community or those from whom the college expects financial support."

TOURIST FINED FOR VANDALISM.

First Arrest Under the New Arizona Law for Protection of Aztec Ruins.

The first step in the direction of punishing persons under the new law against vandalism, so as to preserve the noble monuments of Aztec civilization, has been taken at Flagstaff, Ariz. John O'Toole, an eastern tourist, was arrested upon a warrant charging him with the wanton destruction of Aztec ruins near Walnut canyon. He had been camping out in the canyon for a week or more, and was caught in the act of demolishing some of the ancient cave dwellings there. District Attorney E. S. Clark issued the warrant, and it was served by Deputy Sheriff Fairchild.

When examined before Justice Wilcox the prisoner was found to have in his possession a valuable collection found in the cave dwellings which he had destroyed. The entire collection was confiscated by the court and will be turned over to the United States government. Under the law passed by the legislature O'Toole might have been severely punished, but as this was the first case tried under the law and the prisoner's first offense he received a severe reprimand and was discharged from custody. Future offenders will not be dealt with so lightly, for the authorities are determined to do all they can to preserve the few fine ruins still remaining. Twenty years ago there were hundreds of these ruins, untouched by man, where now there are scarcely a score of them in a good state of preservation.

WEDS HIS SISTER BY MISTAKE.

Double Tragedy in Life and Death of a London Tailor.

Henry Lee, a tailor, aged 55 years, committed suicide the other day in London upon learning that he had inadvertently married his sister.

Lee's sister was sold by her parents in her infancy to the Golden Lee tribe of gypsies, and was subsequently transferred from tribe to tribe until her identity was practically lost.

In the meantime, according to Lee's confession before his death, he had, when 15 years old, stabbed a woman to death by his father's command, and afterward learned that the woman whom he had killed was his own mother. The murder was committed on Epsom Downs.

Lee met his sister, who was a widow, in October last, and married her in November. The identity of his wife was revealed to Lee a fortnight ago by gypsies, who furnished proof of their revelations.

Deer in the City.

Franklin, N. H., is a city, yet deer have haunted its outskirts in unusual numbers during the present season.

Kansas Eggs.

J. E. Brewer, of Abilene, Kan., shipped more than 7,000,000 eggs in 1896.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS,

Seul Journal français quotidien au Sud, fondé le 1er Septembre 1827

Nouvelles du jour, locales et étrangères

Services spéciaux et par fils des dernières nouvelles du monde entier.