

## QUEER BRIDGE IN FRANCE.

Monster Structure Which Will Swing People Across the Seine.

French engineers are constructing a peculiar bridge over the Seine at Rouen. On each bank of the river miniature Eiffel towers 175 feet high have been erected. From these heavy steel cables will support a track bed which is to be suspended 160 feet above the surface of the water. Moving platforms on wheels are to be run back and forth over this track bed on rails, and from them will hang huge chains to which will be attached monster swinging carriages. With electricity as motive power, the platforms on the upper track bed will move to and fro across the river, taking with them the carriages, which will swing with a sort of pendulumistic roll a few feet above the level of the river.

Each of the swinging carriages will be constructed to hold 800 people, and have space for carriages and tram cars. There are to be four of these carriages swinging from the bridge, and when all are in use 3,200 people and a big lot of vehicles and street cars can be carried at once. In order to guard against possible disaster in the event of cables breaking the carriages are being made of steel, and shaped like the hull of a boat, so as to float readily if they should happen to drop into the river.

It is the oddest bridge ever planned, and what is still more queer is the fact that the designer refuses to have his name disclosed until the structure is put in successful operation. He is furnishing \$1,000,000 with which to do the work, and expects to have it ready for the use of the public early in 1898. Over 23 artisans are now employed in preliminary construction, and the number will be increased when the superstructure is ready to go up. When completed it will be a bridge capable of giving an army safe passage across the Seine, but no human being except the workmen will ever set foot on the bridge-way if the wishes of the inventor are complied with. Those who would cross the river at Rouen by means of the new structure must be swung over in the swaying carriages.

Experts who have examined the plans and are in the confidence of the strange genius who conceived the project say the structure is based on sound engineering ideas and is entirely practicable. France has given to the world some notable things in the line of freak mechanism, but the work now in hand is confidently expected to eclipse all previous efforts.

## MARE ADOPTS A MASTIFF.

Unusual Friendship Develops Between Kentucky Animals.

Kit Chin, who is the eldest of Col. Jack Chin's stalwart sons, and who is known in the racing world to be almost as expert a starter as his father, the colonel, has on his breeding farm near Harrodsburg, Ky., a huge Russian Mastiff named Royal. The mastiff weighs fully 200 pounds. Royal has been the constant companion of Mr. Chin's thoroughbreds, and a strong friendship has grown up between dog and horses, but Mr. Chin opened his eyes in astonishment when he discovered to what an abnormal length the friendship had been carried.

A servant had notified him that one of his mares had foaled a fine colt, and on strolling out to the paddock to see it, he was greatly mystified that at a distance the mare appeared to have two colts. On drawing nearer, however, he found that the report of the servant was correct, and what he had mistaken for second colt was Royal, the Russian mastiff, who had been fully adopted by the mare. Therebefore him stood the mare with her colt on one side and Royal on the other, both placidly taking their supper.

Believing the adoption of the dog would be detrimental to the development of the colt by depriving it of its full supply of milk, Mr. Chin gave orders that Royal should be kept away from the mare. The mastiff was accordingly locked up, but the separation caused both mare and colt great disquietude that it was thought best to release the dog, who straightway returned to his foster mother, and both by her and by his foster brother was received with manifestations of lively delight.

## HARDEN LEAD BULLETS.

Springfield Men Invent New Missile for Krag-Jorgenson Rifle.

Charles W. Bates, a chemist, and Edward Jerry, a surveyor of Springfield, Ill., claim to have discovered a process by which they coat leaden bullets and render them superior to the steel-jacketed bullets used in the Krag-Jorgenson rifle. Lead has been found to clog the barrel of the rifle, and the steel bullets eventually tear the barrel. These bullets do neither. Messrs. Bates and Jerry procured some of the smokeless powder used by the government, and a Krag-Jorgenson rifle, and have made numerous experiments. At a distance of 30 yards they shot a hole through an ax blade, and also through a flat iron. They will now offer to sell the government their process. The coated leaden bullets would cost the government 90 cents per pound less than the steel bullets now in use.

## A HIGH BRIDGE.

Germany's highest bridge is over the Wupperthal at Mungenst, near Remscheid, back of Elberfeld. It is 360 feet high and 1,630 feet long, the central arch having a span of 530 feet. The only higher bridge in Europe is the Garabit viaduct, 405 feet high, in southern France.

## Average Duration of Life.

The average duration of life in England is 26 years; in Scotland the same; in Ireland, 27.5. The average for the civilized world is 27.5.

## West India Humming Birds.

The smallest bird is the West India humming bird. Its body is less than an inch long and weighs only 20 grains.

## SEARCH FOR FOSSILS.

## Expedition of Scientists to Wyoming Meeting with Success.

Unearth Specimens of Extinct Reptiles That Will Enrich the Collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

An expedition on May last to Wyoming by the American Museum of Natural History at New York to search for fossils of extinct reptiles has unearthed specimens which will enrich the scientific treasury of that institution.

Dr. J. L. Wortman and Barnum Brown are in charge of the expedition. The work of excavation has been near Larimer City. It has been more successful than was expected.

The principal work of the members of the expedition has been to unearth fossil dinosaurs, extinct lizards, which existed in the mesozoic age.

Dr. Wortman and Mr. Brown have found two gigantic dinosaurs, each about 50 feet long. One fossil has been exposed and will be ready soon for shipment. The other is being exposed. It is expected that a carload of the specimens will arrive soon in New York city.

The present work of the company is the exhumation of a lizard, whose proportions are 75 feet in length and 25 feet in height, five men being daily employed. The big antediluvian died, so say the scientists, 25,000,000 years ago. The American Museum of Natural History has not had any dinosaur. The finds of the expedition are therefore of considerable satisfaction to the museum authorities. The only other collections of dinosaurs in the country which amount to anything are those of Prof. Marsh, of Yale university, and the late Prof. E. D. Cope, of the University of Pennsylvania.

The museum has also two expeditions working in Kansas and Nebraska. In the former state the scientists are securing fossils of pterosaurs or pterodactyls.

In Nebraska there is an expedition for fossils of camels and elephants. According to the reports which have reached New York city, these two expeditions have also been successful.

## BATTLE WITH A CATAMOUNT.

Florida Man Has a Fierce Encounter with a Desperate Wild Beast.

A gentleman from Tarpon Springs on the west coast of Florida gives the details of a hot fight that Ed Jenkins had with a big catamount the other day. Jenkins was driving along with his wife and two children when he saw two young baby catamounts by the roadside. He picked them up and they began yowling terribly. A few moments afterward the mother catamount came running up behind and sprang on the buggy, seizing hold of his wife's dress. Jenkins struck it with a small club he had and then lashed the horse. The cat again caught up and leaped, this time securing a firm hold on his arm. He had his knife out by this time and a furious fight began, the horse dashing madly along, the panther dragging along back of the seat. His wife took a hand in the fight, and with the club began striking the beast over the head. It released its hold on him, and, upon looking around, located her in a window seat industriously poking sugar into the cavity of the extracted tooth. Her mother demanded the cause of this strange proceeding.

"Why," she said, "I'm pokin' sugar in the old thing just to see it ache!"

## A TRUE HELPMATE.

## Congressman's Wife's Scheme to Gain Popularity.

Great successes often depend upon small considerations, and the wife of a member of congress, a statesman to whom his constituents are wont to point as a man of the people whom flattery cannot divert from his old custom and associations, fully realizes this fact, says the Washington Star. A school friend who had not seen her since girlhood surprised and delighted her with a visit not long since.

"How industrious you are!" exclaimed the visitor.

"In what way?"

"I don't know. I suppose it is fancy work. I know that you used to have a great aversion to plain sewing. But you must be very diligent indeed to have your work basket in this room."

"Would you like to know what I am at work on?"

"Certainly."

"You shall see for yourself. Here it is." And she held up to view a half-knit sock of old-fashioned blue yarn.

"You—you don't mean to say that your husband wears things like that?"

"Oh, no. He wouldn't think of wearing them. I have a whole lot that I will give away to anybody who will use them."

"Do you do this for pleasure?"

"No. It isn't at all for pleasure. It's business and I never occupy myself in that way except when it is absolutely necessary. But I always keep the work handy, and whenever one of the old-fashioned, rural voters of my husband's district comes to make him a call—and you have no idea how many honor us with that attention!—I get it out and knit away for dear life. It is a good deal of bother, but it's worth it, for you really can't imagine how it pleases them!"

## GETTING REVENGE.

## A Little Girl's Ressentiment Toward an Aching Molar.

It is claimed that this story originated in Cleveland, a claim which may very well be true, because Cleveland—and especially the east end—has more precocious children to the acre than Boston could boast of in her palmy days, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. This particular precocious infant lives on a pretty cross street in that favored locality. Not long ago she was troubled with an annoying and persistent toothache. Finally her mamma took her to a dentist and the dentist interviewed the troublesome tooth. After examining it he told her that the best thing to do under the circumstances was to have the tooth extracted, as it contained a very large cavity and this was the seat of the trouble. Bracing herself firmly in the chair she bade him go ahead and remove the acher. After the operation was over she carefully wrapped the tooth in paper and declared she would take it home.

Next day her mamma noticed that she was an unusually good girl, and, upon looking around, located her in a window seat industriously poking sugar into the cavity of the extracted tooth. Her mother demanded the cause of this strange proceeding.

"Why," she said, "I'm pokin' sugar in the old thing just to see it ache!"

## FOLDING FURNITURE.

## Furnishings of a Bedroom That May Be Packed in a Box.

The old saying about living in a bandbox may come to be a reality before another decade, for now the complete furnishings of a sleeping or sitting-room may be packed in a box six feet long by two and one-half wide and a little more than two feet in depth. A clever Englishman is the creator of this folding furniture. With it persons traveling will not be obliged to lament the absence of their own beds and bedding, but may carry such things with them as personal baggage.

One of these boxes contains a wash-

stand with tiled back and shelves underneath, a dressing bureau with a swinging mirror, a cane-seated chair and one rug upholstered chair, together with bed, bedding, draperies, a toilet set, and a wardrobe of comfortable size. This furniture is made of well-seasoned hard wood. Each part fits into its place and fastens without the aid of nails or screws. In the dressing bureau drawers, for example, the bottom is drawn out and the sides fold together. What a boon this furniture will be for frequent movers who are never satisfied with one place for long of time, while the camper out may carry his home with him.

## NO WORSE THAN NICE.

The attacks upon the morality of Monte Carlo are made by its rivals for popular favor, if we may believe Henry Labouchere. The English radical says: "Every year the number of visitors to Monte Carlo increases and every year more desperate efforts are made by its rivals along the Riviera to prejudice the place with the British public. That Monte Carlo is paradise in a moral sense I am not going to suggest. Every man of the world knows that, like other places entirely devoted to luxury and pleasure, society there is not exactly an assembly of saints. But that Monte Carlo is any worse than other pleasure resorts of a similar character I emphatically deny. As to the results of Monte Carlo are made by its rivals for popular favor, if we may believe Henry Labouchere. The English radical says: "Every year the number of visitors to Monte Carlo increases and every year more desperate efforts are made by its rivals along the Riviera to prejudice the place with the British public. 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