

## THE PRICE OF COTTON

Has Dropped to About One-Fourth of the Figure in 1872.

*Confidential with This, Production in This Country Has Quadrupled Since Then—Manufactured Cotton Also Cheap.*

The phenomenally low price of cotton recently reported, said to be the lowest point reached in many years, lends special interest to a series of tables just compiled by the treasury bureau of statistics, showing the remarkable increase in cotton production and coincidental falling prices. These tables show that the United States, the chief cotton producer of the world, has quadrupled her cotton production since 1872 and that the price of cotton in the same period has fallen to about one-fourth that which prevailed in that year.

In 1872 the cotton crop of the United States is shown to have been 1,384,084,000 pounds, with an average price of 22.19 cents per pound; in 1898 the crop is reported at 5,667,372,051 pounds, with an average price of 6.23 cents per pound. Thus the production of 1898 is more than four times that of 1872 and the average price but a little over one-fourth that of that year.

When it is considered that the other portions of the world that grow cotton have not at all reduced their production meantime, it is apparent that the increased cotton supply of the world in the quarter of a century under consideration has been far in advance of the increase in population or consuming power.

Twenty-five years ago the United States produced 70 per cent. of the cotton of the world; to-day she produces 86 per cent. of the world's cotton. This increase in the percentage has been, not because of a reduction of the cotton produced in other parts of the world, but simply on account of the increase in our own.

Not only has the price of cotton fallen at the same rate that the production has increased, but there has also been a corresponding falling off in the price of clothes manufactured from cotton. The reports of the bureau of statistics show that "cotton printing cloths" were quoted at 7.88 cents per yard in 1878, while reports just published show an average rate of 2.17 cents per yard in the year 1898 for the same grade of cloths, the fall in the price of the manufactured article thus having, in this case at least, nearly or quite kept pace with the fall in the price of raw cotton and the increase in production of that article.

## YOUNG WOMEN WARNED.

National Vigilance Association Issues a Booklet for Protection of the Unscrupulous.

Something of a sensation has been created in philanthropic and humanitarian circles in London by the publication of a pamphlet issued by the National Vigilance association, of which the duke of Westminster is president and which bears in addition the signatures of the German, Swiss, French, Belgian and Dutch consuls-general in London.

The booklet is intended as a warning to foreign women coming to England, is printed in four languages and contains in its preface a statement to the effect that the contents were equally applicable as a warning to English-women and others going to New York. The association claims to possess evidence of the existence of a body of men in Europe and America whose sole business is to decoy unsuspecting young women, by fraud and false pretenses, from their homes and country and then sell them into slavery, the conditions of which are appalling.

The object of the pamphlet is to warn young women of the methods of the organized band and to put them on their guard. The association has, with the permission of the authorities, placed on board all the steamers leaving for New York, and for continental ports as well, framed notices in four languages calling attention to the book, copies of which have been given to the stewardesses for free distribution.

## TO BECOME A MONTHLY.

The New York Ledger to Drop Out of the List of the Weekly Publications.

The New York Ledger, which, in its palmiest days, under the personal management of Robert Bonner, reached a circulation of 400,000, will drop out of the list of weekly publications on November 1, and thereafter make its appearance monthly.

The Ledger has existed as a weekly for 46 years, and such men as Henry Ward Beecher, Edward Everett, Horace Greeley, John G. Saxe, George D. Prentiss, N. P. Willis and Rev. Dr. John Hall contributed to its columns.

The great improvement from a literary and artistic standpoint in the Sunday newspapers within recent years has greatly injured the business of the weekly papers.

Robert Bonner's sons, who now publish the Ledger, believe that the weekly story papers has passed.

## HOME OF THE GREAT VERDI.

King Humbert has decreed that the Milan conservatory of music shall hereafter be called Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi. When Verdi applied for admission to the school he was rejected after examination on the ground of "absolute lack of musical faculty."

## PAPER INFANTS.

Over 1,000 children are born yearly in London workhouses.

## BRIDE CHANGES HER MIND.

Elopement with an Old Lover Early on the Morning of Her Expected Wedding to Another.

William Christman, of Springfield, Ill., lost a bride because he was not up as early in the morning as was his rival, H. W. Ross, of Louisville, Ky.

Christman was considered by the parents of Miss Jeannette Bennett as their prospective son-in-law, and it was expected the couple would be married.

Ross, who formerly lived at Springfield and had been the accepted lover of Miss Bennett, heard of the contemplated wedding while he was in Kentucky and wrote the young woman, urging his old love, and begged her to meet him in St. Louis.

Without waiting to hear what the result of his letter would be, Ross went to the Missouri city, and when he arrived there he found a telegram from Miss Bennett saying she could not come.

Undaunted by this setback, Ross boarded the first train for Springfield and was there early in the morning to press his suit. His eloquence won, and the couple left for Petersburg to escape the ire of the young woman's parents. It is believed they were married in the Menard county town.

Miss Bennett is a daughter of J. M. Bennett, a prominent merchant, and Ross is a photographer.

## WORKING ON NEW ASTEROID.

Astronomers May Prove That It Is Earth's Nearest Neighbor Beyond the Moon.

Prof. Edward F. Pickering and his staff at the Harvard observatory are busily engaged in making a number of exact observations relating to the newly-discovered asteroid this side of the planet Mars. This asteroid is small in size, being probably only a few miles in diameter, but is a most remarkable object. Although there are about 400 asteroids in the swarm between Mars and Jupiter, thought to be fragments of a planet which had met with some mishap in the process of formation, this is the first which has ever been discovered this side of Mars. If, as it is thought will prove to be the case upon further investigation, it approaches at any point in its orbit nearer to the earth than than the nearest point in the orbit of the planet Venus, it is our nearest neighbor in the heavens with the single exception of the moon. If the theories now entertained in regard to the asteroid prove to be correct it will be of great assistance to astronomers in measuring distances from the sun and stars.

## LAW AS A FARMER DEALS IT.

Colored Chicken Thief Near Chicago Serving a Sentence Sawing Wood in Chains.

Jim Hall (colored) was caught by John Schintz leaving his hen roost in Melrose Park, near Chicago, with a bag full of chickens and ducks early the other morning. The farmer and his sons captured Hall, and then, taking him back to the hen roost, locked him up. At daylight Schintz went to the coop to discuss the situation. In pulling the fowls from their roost Hall had killed a number of them and for this offense Schintz decided that he was entitled to some recompense. Hall was of the same opinion, but from behind the barred door of the hen roost he fearfully told the farmer that he was unable to pay. Hence an agreement that the negro should saw wood for three days.

To make the bargain hold good Schintz provided that a long dog chain must be attached to Hall's leg and he was immediately put to work at a wood pile. The white and yolk of the egg, Dr. Sprague said, were in perfect condition, the worm occupying the large end of the egg, in which the air is stored. It was a double puzzle. At the dinner hour the men went in detachments to the dining tent, where a regulation country dinner was given them.

## DRAMATIC FUNERAL.

Joaquin Miller to Be Cremated on a Pyre of His Own.

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## GARDEN OF ALASKA.

Chicago Sportsman Reaches Seattle with Glowing Accounts of an Arctic Paradise.

Among the arrivals on the schooner Nellie Thurston at Seattle, Wash., was Harry E. Lee, the sportsman of Chicago, who has spent three months hunting and exploring in the wilds of Alaska, north and west from Cook inlet. He believes he has found the paradise of Alaska, from the standpoint of gold, agriculture and scenery, and is going there next spring with an outfit and expert men to open it.

## FAILS OF ELECTION.

Jersey City Doctor Finds One That Measures Four Feet in Length.

Dr. Seth B. Sprague has on exhibition a tapeworm which he took from an egg that was served with several others for his breakfast at Jersey City, N. J., the other morning. Dr. Sprague says that the egg had cracked in boiling, and when he took it from the dish he saw what seemed to be a worm protruding from the orifice. Carefully removing the shell, he found the worm coiled up, and when it was stretched out it proved to be four feet long.

The white and yolk of the egg, Dr. Sprague said, were in perfect condition, the worm occupying the large end of the egg, in which the air is stored. It was a double puzzle.

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## LOST THE UMBRELLA ANYWAY.

A Baltimore man was so afraid some one would get his umbrella that he locked it in his safe. That night the safe was stolen.

## MEXICO'S REVENGE FROM VENEZUELA.

About 80 miles from Stockholm there is a large waterfall of 100,000-horse power. A project is on foot for using this to supply that city with electric power.

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