

CHAIR HIS COFFIN.

Odd Arrangements for Burial Made by a Massachusetts Man.

Has a Dread of Being Buried in the Ground and So Has Had a Large Tomb Built for His Use.

Reuben J. Smith, 70 years old and eccentric, has built for himself in the town cemetery at Amesbury, Mass., a tomb, as he always has had a dread of being buried in the ground. The foundation of the tomb is brick. On this is an arched house-like brick tomb, laid in cement, the walls of which are a foot thick. The brick structure is incased in marble three inches thick. The marble panels are inlaid into corner pilasters. There are several five-inch pilasters at each side, set into the brick, so that it is impossible to pull the marble from the brickwork without taking the brickwork with it. The joints are laid in plaster of paris and cement. At the front swings an inch thick steel door. The sarcophagus is ten feet long, six feet wide and seven feet high to pitch of roof.

The most novel feature of all this is the way in which Mr. Smith will have himself buried. Instead of the usual coffin a reclining chair will be used, and the body of Smith will be taken to the cemetery after death in this chair, and chair and body will be placed in the tomb. The entrance will be sealed up with a foot wall of brick. The steel door will be locked and the key destroyed.

Mr. Smith has always been an enigma to the townspeople. He came here in 1867, and says he was born in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1828. It is impossible to get him to say anything about his early life. He has not done any active work for several years, yet he seems to be well supplied with money and pays all his bills regularly. When he first came to Amesbury he worked at a house painting for a time, and later drove the hack to the railroad station. He is a constant attendant on the sessions of court, and has been named "Judge Smith." He is an inveterate checker player, and spends his whole days playing the game, and it is said that there are few in the state who can best him at the game. Mr. Smith does not think he has a single relative living. He had a sister, but she died two years ago. The old gentleman laughs and jokes with those who inquire about his strange burial place. He says he has not been feeling well lately, and that he was afraid he would not live to see his tomb completed. The completion of the tomb has greatly relieved his mind, and now he says he is prepared for the end.

CRANK PAINTS CHURCHES RED.

Monomaniac in South St. Louis Smears Many Corner Stones at Night.

The pastors of various churches in South St. Louis have asked the police to arrest a religious monomaniac who has been systematically defacing their property for the last week. The crank operates only at night. The other night he janitor at the Holy Cross church detected him smearing the corner-stone with paint. The miscreant fled when detected. His mania is to create a universal church, and he imagines that by covering up the signs on the different edifices he will accomplish this result. The Methodists, Baptists and Lutherans have been the chief sufferers. "It is my purpose to establish one great church," wrote the crank, "and I am ordained to wipe out the differences in creed with paint of blood color. Then all churches will look alike."

A MAMMOTH TELESCOPE.

Philadelphia Astronomer Proposes to Build One 600 Times More Powerful Than Now Exist.

If there are indeed cities on Mars, as Schiaparelli supposed possible, Rudolph M. Hunter, of Philadelphia, proposes to let us see them. He has conceived the idea of a telescope 600 times more powerful than any now known. The expense of building it would be so great that there is no likelihood of its being built unless as a government enterprise. The chief feature of Mr. Hunter's invention is an inclined spiral truck upon which runs an enormous truck supporting a focusing apparatus, which is simply an enormous concave mirror. Midway of the spiral truck is a tall tower, which can be raised or lowered by electric power, the upper part telescoping into the lower. An ordinary refracting telescope has a 49-inch lens, and the difficulty of building larger sizes is immensely increased by the impossibility of obtaining flawless glass of large pieces. The Hunter telescope would have a field of 509,184 square inches, against 1,360 inches, the greatest field now known.

Vast Wealth in Jewels.

The glorious pearl necklace which the emperor of Austria presented to the late empress on the christening of the miserable Crown Prince Rudolph has been left to the young Archduchess Elizabeth, together with many other jewels, by her grandmother's will. The empress' own jewels, independent of those belonging to the crown, were not long since valued at \$7,000,000.

Switzerland's Census of Horses.

There are only 108,969 horses in Switzerland.

BUDDE'S ATTACK ON BIBLE.

German Theologian Causes Trouble at New Haven by Denying the Scriptures.

The chief topic of interest in university circles at New Haven, Conn., is the course of lectures which Prof. Karl Budde, a learned theologian and scholar from the University of Strassburg, Germany, has been giving in Osborn hall. The matter has gone so far that several professors in the divinity school have warned their classes against the dangerous doctrines put forward by Prof. Budde and have openly expressed their dissatisfaction at that gentleman's appearance at Yale. Prof. Budde has been denounced from a prominent New Haven pulpit as a "rank infidel," and the university called to account for permitting him to promulgate his doctrines under its protection. Finally, to add a picturesque element to the episode, Prof. Budde has been drawn into a lively newspaper controversy with Charles A. L. Totten.

"Who is this Totten, anyway?" exclaimed the wrathful German, after reading several newspaper articles; and the ex-professor returned the compliment by declaring Dr. Budde's teaching as the "new Buddeism."

BET SUGAR OUTLOOK.

Estimated That More Will Be Produced in California During the Coming Year Than Ever Before.

There will be more beet sugar produced in California during the coming year than ever before in a twelve-month. The Union Sugar company will have its new plant at Santa Maria running with a capacity of 1,600 tons of beets a day. The Huemene factory will use 1,000 tons of beets a day. Spreckels' factory at Salinas, the largest in the world, has a capacity of 3,000 tons a day. Los Alamitos factory near Los Angeles, owned by Clarke, the millionaire mining man of Montana, it is said, has doubled its capacity and will handle about 700 tons a day. The Oxnard's factory at Chino will take care of 800 tons a day and the Crockett factory, owned by Rittel & Co., about 500 tons a day.

MADE CHARTS OF THE COASTS.

Dewey Has Valuable Maps of the Philippine Islands Carefully Prepared.

Private advices from officers and men on the warships Boston and Petrel, at Manila, indicate that the United States is preparing to anticipate any foreign interference in its proposed future occupation of the islands. An officer of the Petrel, in a letter to his father at San Francisco, stated that the two above-named vessels had just completed a surveying tour, the results of which will place in the hands of the administration at Washington information which will be of great value to the latter in case the United States should, in the near future, find it necessary to defend its new possessions in the far east against encroachments on the part of foreign powers.

CANADIAN POSTAGE.

After the 25th of Next Month There Will Be Three Rates Charged for Letters.

In his annual report, just presented to the state department, Consul General Dittinger, at Montreal, says that Canada is about to make an important change in her postage rates. On the 25th of next month there will be three rates of postage on letters, viz.: Two cents for Great Britain and her colonies, three cents for Canada and the United States, and five cents for foreign countries. If the experiment proves satisfactory, the postmaster general, it is understood, will then reduce letter postage for Canada and the United States to two cents. After January 1 next the newspaper rate will be a quarter of a cent a pound, but after July 1 this will be increased to a half cent a pound.

X-Rays to Examine Meat.

Members of the Mexican board of health have just imported from Europe an X-ray apparatus. It is to be used for inspecting cans of preserved meats and fruits. "To determine if they are fit for consumption."

Electric Wagons the Cheapest.

Experiments made in Paris show that an electric wagon costs 47 per cent less to run than a horse wagon and 32 per cent less than a petroleum motor.

STUDY THE EARTH.

Work of the International Geodetic Association.

Prime Object of Conference at Stuttgart Was Measurement of Earth - Peculiarity of New Alloy of Nickel and Steel.

The work of the International Geodetic association at its Stuttgart conference, which is expected to bear fruit of far-reaching importance to the scientific world is announced by Mr. E. D. Preston, of the United States coast and geodetic survey, who represented this government there and who has just returned to Washington. Little publicity was given the proceedings of the conference, but an interesting report now is about to be made by Mr. Preston. The prime object of the conference was the measurement of the earth, and action was taken for the measurement of an arc at the equator. This taken in conjunction with the measurement of an arc near the pole now under way by the Swedes, and Russians, will throw new light on the flattening of the earth. The comparison of the two measures will make it possible to determine how much shorter the polar diameter is than the equatorial, a knowledge of which is important both in the making of maps of great extent and in the solution of many astronomical problems.

An account of a new alloy of nickel and steel was laid before the conference. The international bureau of weights and measures at Paris has found that when a bar consists of 36 per cent nickel and 64 per cent steel the expansion from heat is only 1.50 of what we should expect from the individual components. This discovery has great importance in the construction of astronomical clocks or in fact of any clocks since the effect will be to practically eliminate the temperature question which has thus far been the great difficulty in obtaining a uniform rate in timepieces. Nineteen countries belong to the association, of which 15 were represented at the Stuttgart meeting.

Seventy years ago some learned men in Germany formed an association to give impulse to the awakening interest in the size and shape of the earth. From this beginning the society has steadily grown in importance. After having been a national in the land of its birth in 1838 it was merged into an international convention in which the principal nations of the globe were represented and now stands as the world's authority on the ways and means of determining the earth's figure. The next meeting will be in Paris in 1900.

PLEASED WITH THE HOLLAND.

Naval Officers Witness a Test of the New Submarine Boat in Bay at New York.

With United States naval officers on board directing and controlling its movements, the submarine boat Holland was put to an official test in the lower bay at New York the other day before the naval board of inspectors and survey from Washington, with a view to the purchase of the boat by the government. For the first time the boat was directed by government officers, and the inspection was the first made by all the members of the board, among whom was Capt. Evans, commander of the battle ship Iowa.

"Fighting 'Bob' examined the strange maneuvers of the wonderful little craft with a critical eye, and seemed pleased when the inspection was ended, for the test was the most successful that has yet been made with the Holland. She first discharged a 11-foot torpedo in the harbor, then went to sea and went through a remarkable programme—diving, plunging under and out of water like a porpoise, running at full speed under the surface, and reversing speed while submerged. Lieut. W. J. Sears, inspector of ordnance in the navy, who arranged the torpedo test, said the official trial of the boat had been very successful.

PRIVATE MAIL CARDS.

Beautiful Lithographed Advertisements Can Now Be Sent to Foreign Countries for Two Cents.

Instructions have been issued by the postmaster general to the second assistant postmaster general through the superintendent of foreign mail, relative to the private mailing cards admitted to the international mails by the recent order of the postmaster general. Beautiful cards, lithographed in colors, illustrating and advertising various objects of interest and conforming in size and consistency of paper to the official postal card, may now be sent to any foreign country by affixing a two-cent stamp, and to Canada and Mexico by affixing a one-cent stamp.

A Self-Folding Plov.

The German electric roads have a most ingenious device in the shape of the self-folding plov, which can, if occasion arises, be forced up and out through the slot, narrow as it is, or lowered again into it, so that through service can be given the same cars on lines with overhead and underground conductors. The narrow contact plates, which thus fold up, of course give a much smaller area of contact on the conductor rails than do the substantial flat cast-iron shoes used in this country, but it is probable that they give a contact of sufficiently low resistance for all practical purposes in street traction.

Electric Wagons the Cheapest.

Experiments made in Paris show that an electric wagon costs 47 per cent less to run than a horse wagon and 32 per cent less than a petroleum motor.

Bulletin Financier.

Mercredi, 21 décembre 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with financial data including gold, silver, and various currencies.

MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE.

Table with financial data including gold, silver, and various currencies.

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Table with financial data including various stocks and bonds.

ACTIONS ET MONS.

Table with financial data including various stocks and bonds.

PLEASÉ WITH THE HOLLAND.

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PRIVATE MAIL CARDS.

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CANADIAN POSTAGE.

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X-RAYS TO EXAMINE MEAT.

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ELECTRIC WAGONS THE CHEAPEST.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mercredi, 21 décembre 1898.

Le Bourse de Commerce de la Nouvelle-Orléans.

Table with financial data including various commodities and currencies.

MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS.

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