

## ELIZABETH THOMPSON.

Washing of the Only Woman Ever  
Granted Freedom of Floor  
in Congress.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, whose death at Littleton, N. H., was announced recently, was born in Vermont in 1821, being the daughter of a poor farmer. She began life as a maid of all work, but in 1843 she attracted the attention of Thomas Thompson, a Boston millionaire, to whom she was married in 1844. He was a man of markedly philanthropic character, and when his estate came into her hands at his death in 1869 she followed his example in contributing freely to all worthy charities, says the Boston Transcript.

She spent large sums in the cause of temperance and expended a fortune in helping heads of families who had met with misfortune. She devoted \$10,000 to the investigation of yellow fever. She spent nearly \$100,000 in providing openings in business for men with families. She founded the town of Long Mont, at the foot of the Rocky mountains, giving 648 acres of land and \$300 to each colonist in Saline county, Kan., and contributed largely to the purchase of the Vassar college telescope.

Later she presented Francis B. Carpenter's painting of the "Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln" to congress, for which she was granted the freedom of the floor, a right which no other woman possessed. She contributed large sums to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was made its first patron. She was a strong advocate of the idea of an international republic. She was attacked by a stroke of paralysis several years ago and had been in delicate health since that time.

## TRICK OF STREET ARABS.

They Imitate the Fighters of the Stage to Fool the Passing Sports.

On a recent Saturday afternoon when State street was crowded with promenaders two gamins reaped a silver harvest from the "cheap sports," as they termed the victims of their ruse, says the Chicago Tribune.

From the low comedians at the vaudeville show they had learned the knack of striking and receiving the stage blow. As the initiated are aware, the report is produced by clapping the hands, and the hand of the victim hastily applied to the eye gives the appearance of the "black eye" thrust.

As soon as the boys spied some well-dressed and pompous "Saturday afternoon sports" approaching they fell to and labored each other in the genuine vaudeville stage manner. Blow after blow resounded, and each in turn rushed up and separated the youngsters, who burst into laughter and exposed their trick. Then they demanded a contribution from the "sold," and generally they received it. When the victims had passed on and peace reigned again the urethins laid in wait for another "soft mark" and repeated the performance.

## FIRST FLOWER MISSION.

The Sweet Charity Was Instituted in Boston Thirty Years Ago by Helen Tinkham.

To the inspiration of Miss Helen W. Tinkham, of Boston, the missions for the distribution of flowers among the poor, the sick and the aged in our cities owe their origin. Thirty years ago the first flower mission was formed, with Miss Tinkham at its head, and she has ever since been identified with the work, says Ladies' Home Journal.

In the spring of 1869 Miss Tinkham spent a few days in the country, rejoicing in the flowers that burst into fragrant bloom under the magical breath of April. Upon returning to Boston she observed with what wistful eyes the children playing about the railroad station viewed the flowers she brought with her, and how eagerly they accepted those she offered them. This incident led her to urge the church-going people to cooperate in collecting and distributing flowers. A meeting was held and the work soon started. Boston is, therefore, the birthplace of the flower missions, a form of charity which has extended to every section of this country, and crossed the Atlantic.

## RELIC-PILFERING MINISTERS.

They Chip Pieces Off the Washington Monument and Pay Well for Them.

Col. Bingham, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, who has charge of the Washington monument, says one of the greatest troubles the watchmen at the monument have to contend with is the chipping of these memorial stones by relic hunters. "One of the strangest things in regard to these relic hunters," said Col. Bingham, "is the fact that more than one-half of the men arrested for chipping off relics are clergymen. When the police arrest these despoilers and start with them to the station house, says the New York Mail and Express, the man will begin to ask what is the penalty and try to beg off. He is told that the fine is a heavy one, but that \$15 security can be put up for appearance in the police court. Then the prisoner explains that he is a minister of the Gospel and meant no harm, and that he could not stand the disgrace of appearing in a police court. He ends up by giving up the unilateral, after generally trying to cut it down to ten dollars, saying he has only that amount with him."

**Malay Language.**  
The Malay language is spoken by more than 30,000,000 persons. It is said to be easy to learn, as it has almost no grammar.

## THE ICEMAN'S LOSS.

According to a Calculating Barber It  
Figures Out to Be Considerable.

"How'd you like to be the iceman?" Snyder, the calculating barber, was artistically executing a quickstep on the razor strop when the above little ditty floated in from the busy thoroughfare, causing a smile of contempt to flit across his features, says the Philadelphia Record. "That simply makes me weary," he remarked, as with a flourish he daubed the patron's face. "You hear that latest acquisition in the way of slang phrases repeated by men of every station, just as if the iceman's lot was an earthly paradise. As a matter of fact, the individual who embarks on a career which involves the marketing of congealed moisture doesn't have to run around searching for his troubles. How many people, do you suppose, ever think of the amount of money that drips right out of the iceman's hands when the sun beats down on his heavily loaded wagon? Don't amount to much, eh? Well, you'll change your opinion when I bring up a few figures for your consideration. Starting out with a ton of ice, I estimate that melting alone causes a dead loss of about 100 pounds to the dealer. This doesn't seem much, but when you calculate that about 1,000 wagons a day right here in town lose that amount the figures are amazing. One hundred thousand pounds, at say, ten cents per hundred, runs up the tidy sum of \$100. Three hundred and sixty-five times \$100 gives us the annual loss locally as \$36,500. Takes a little nerve, doesn't it, to be an iceman? Then, if during the summer these drippings could be collected, I figure that they'd supply all the hospitals in town with ice water baths for sunstruck patients. Frozen into a solid lump, if the entire of these drippings could be collected, I figure as a ten-story building. Then again, the waste when the cakes are cut is enormous, to say nothing of what vanishes into the air when the ice is whisked clean with a brush broom. But without going into further details, I think you'll agree that the man who peddles ice has enough trouble to worry him into an early grave. Tonic?"

## A FRESH CROP OF HAIR.

Terror at the Danger of His Sex  
Causes a Man's Hair to  
Change Color.

Everyone has heard stories of men and women becoming gray-haired in a night as the result of grief or terror. Many of these tales are doubtless the mere imaginings of the writers of sketches, but that such phenomena are of occasional occurrence has been fully demonstrated. A Chicago physician relates this instance in a medical journal and vouches for its truth: The subject was a laboring man in the stockyards district, aged 38, who was not of a nervous temperament beyond being slightly emotional. His hair was abundant and of a dark chestnut color. One evening as he was returning home preceded by his horse, on which was mounted his son, aged eight, the animal slipped and the child was thrown off and trampled on several times. He was only severely bruised, but the father thought he was killed, and in trying to save him was terror-stricken. He trembled and had palpitations and a feeling of cold and tension in the face and head.

Next day the hairs of the head, beard and eyebrows began to fall in quantities, so that after eight days he was absolutely bald. At the same time the skin of the head and face became paler. Without delay the hairs began to grow again in the form of a colorless down. Soon all the affected regions were covered with finer, more silky and a little more thinly sown, completely white hair.

## LIQUID OR SOLID?

Upon This Question Regarding Asphalt a Trial in a Trinidad Court Hinged.

Down in Trinidad, where most of the asphalt used in paving the streets of Chicago is produced, opinion is divided as to whether the substance may be classed as a liquid or a solid. Upon this issue, says the Chicago Chronicle, a recent trial in Trinidad turned. The stratum of pitch in that island is usually from four to seven feet below the surface, and, when cut through, the pitch melts and oozes out. So, if a man dug down near his neighbor's lot, he would be able to collect pitch coming from under his neighbor's land. The plan was described by one of the witnesses as "the plan adopted when you want to dig your neighbor's pitch." It "bulges out," he explained, "and you shave it off each morning." But suit was brought by one outraged neighbor whose pitch had thus been shaved off in adjoining land. The defense was that an underground stratum of pitch was like so much water, no man's property until appropriated. But the court held that pitch was a mineral, and that you had no more right to abstract it from a neighbor by the oozing process than you would have to tap his deposit of iron or silver.

**Had Been Shaking Long Enough.**  
At a recent duel the parties discharged their pistols without effect, whereupon one of the seconds interposed and proposed that the combatants should shake hands. To this the other second objected as unnecessary. "Their hands," said he, "have been shaking for half an hour."

**A Queer Expedition.**  
An expedition consisting entirely of women has been formed in Australia to explore the Solomon islands, the home of the fercest cannibals known. Hitherto white men have been able to penetrate only a few miles inland.

## A WORLD OF TROUBLE.

What Gave the Economical Apartment House Manager a Case of the Blues.

The manager of the apartment house, a well-fed, well-dressed, well-dressed man, was standing in the main doorway of his establishment, which, by the way, is owned by an out-of-town capitalist, who is not the most generous provider in the world and insists upon the most economical lines. The manager was not happy, however fair he may have appeared to the eye, and he heaved a long-drawn sigh as a friend approached and greeted him, says the Chicago Chronicle.

"What's wrong?" inquired the newcomer.  
"Oh, we've all got our troubles," was the vague and lugubrious reply.  
"You oughtn't to have any."  
"But I have, just the same."  
"What, for instance?"  
"Well, I'm worried sick because I haven't got an elevator boy."  
"There shouldn't be any difficulty in removing that trouble, I should say."  
"There is. I've tried 40 and can't get one to suit."

"You must be very hard to please."  
"It isn't that," sighed the manager. "I'm all right, but it's this way. The old man insists on having the elevator boy wear a uniform and be furnished. Uniforms cost money, and when the last boy retired he left a brand-new uniform, and the old man won't get another. That's the rub. I can find plenty of boys of sufficient intelligence, ample experience, industrious habits, good moral character and fine address, but I'll be darned if I can get one that the uniform will fit, and there you have it. Now what the dickens am I to do? Ain't that enough trouble for any one man?"

## BIRTH OF A FASHION PLATE.

Modern Art a Libel on Women's Taste Which All True Men Must Respect.

Ah! for the good old times when artists, real artists, could be persuaded to design a costume. One of the principal items of expense to a lady of old Italy used to be the "retainer" she paid to a Da Vinci, a Bramante, or some other artist of note, to furnish her with a design for her court and other dresses of ceremony, says Self-Culture.

Today some one who can draw is given an idea by a costumer—that is, by some one who has made or cut dresses under some other costumer's tutelage. Neither one has studied or cares aught for art, proportion, harmony, or the other superlatives; they are costumers; what have they to do with such details? A wonderful assemblage of ideas is the result, a confection in silks, satins, chiffons and laces. These ideas and materials are beautifully and painfully drawn upon paper and draped upon an alleged female figure at least seven feet tall, with head slightly turned, auburn hair, sylphlike waist, a stage smile and a background of palms and ferns.

This drawing being reproduced upon thousands and thousands of sheets, lo! a fashion plate is born, with the name of the great designer in the left-hand corner, the password, the hall mark! Every woman, or rather, nearly every woman, studies it, admires it, and, she lean or fat, tall or short, her next dress must be like that. Pecheance her dressmaker has not signed her soul away entirely and protests feebly that that special style is not adapted to her patron's particular figure; but for her effrontery she may lose a customer. That dress has to be made in that way and in none other.

## A MORAL TRIBE.

Among the Caribs of Central America All Sins Are Punished by Starvation.

In the whole wide world there is not a class of people to be found who inflict severer punishment upon themselves than the Caribs of Central America. Their religion, which is one of the most peculiar kind, demands self-punishment for sins intentionally or unintentionally committed, says Pearson's Weekly.

The punishment takes the form of starvation and close confinement.

If the sin be in the form of a lie, no matter whether it is calculated to injure another or not, the sinner goes without either food or drink for three days, at the end of which it is believed that the offender has paid the penalty for his or her sin.

Blaspheming and using bad language is punishable by absolute starvation for two days. Assault, drunkenness and other serious sins call for four days' starvation for one week, three days' starvation for the second week, and two days' starvation for the third week, and one day's starvation in the fourth week.

All sins are punished with starvation. For that reason crime is very low among the Caribs, who are among the best behaved and most truthful people in the world.

**Orientalism in New Mexico.**  
"In New Mexico," says the secretary of the Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian church, "one finds real orientalisms, it being possible to trace back many customs of the people to the Moors in Spain. Even the plazas, with the women on the housetops, their black shawls covering part of their faces, remind one of some of the Mahometan cities of Syria. In the Taos valley there are about 1,300 people, among whom the missionaries are laboring."

**Elephants' Tasks.**  
In the African elephant both sexes have ivory tusks, while in the Asiatic they are generally restricted to the male.

## TRY TO HOLD TRADE.

Consul Roberts of the Opinion That Spain Will Struggle to Keep Her Export Business.

Consul Roberts expresses the opinion that Spanish manufacturers and dealers will not give up the markets of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines without a struggle. He also intimates that other nationalities have in the past participated in the so-called Spanish trade with these islands by locating in Spain, and thus getting the advantage of low tariff rates into the islands which were originally given to commerce originating in Spain. On this subject he says:

"In the year 1892 the Spanish customs tariff on manufactured goods was considerably increased with the view of virtually giving a monopoly to goods manufactured in Barcelona for exportation to the colonies. This, of course, gave an enormous impetus to manufacturing in Catalonia province. Factories increased largely in number, and the Catalan manufacturers grew rapidly rich. The only way in which foreigners who had good clients in the colonies could meet this competition and retain their markets was by starting factories in the country, the goods thus being manufactured in the peninsula entering the Spanish colonies on the same terms as those of the Spanish manufacturers, whereas, if shipped from England or elsewhere, the prohibitive duty rendered competition impossible; or by having a resident agent in Barcelona who, purchasing from the Catalan manufacturers, exported the merchandise from Barcelona free of duty."

## INCREASED PRODUCTION.

Largely Increased Amount of Iron Ore Mined in the United States Last Year.

During 1898 the production of iron ore in this country amounted to 19,278,368 tons, as against 17,518,046 in 1897, or an increase of 1,760,322 tons for last year. This is a larger amount than has been mined by any other country in one year, being more than 1,250,000 above that produced by Great Britain in 1890, when 18,026,049 were mined. Ores of the British isles average lower percentages of metals than those produced in this country, and therefore represented a smaller pig metal product. About 53 per cent. of the iron ore produced was red hematite, 10 per cent. brown hematite and 7 per cent. was magnetite and carbonate ores.

The total output of the states was: Michigan, 7,246,346; Minnesota, 5,963,599; Wisconsin, 2,745; Colorado, 318,480; Missouri, 50,000; Ohio, 43,868; Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming combined, 53,999; Alabama, 2,401,740; Pennsylvania, 178,892; Tennessee, 393,227; Virginia, 557,713; New Jersey, 273,233; New York, 179,954; Georgia and North Carolina, 160,483; Kentucky, 12,912; Connecticut and Massachusetts, 20,351; Texas, 5,703; and Maryland, 5,941.

## TAKE GLASS BALL FROM HEAD.

Surgical Operation at Wichita Which Restored Reason Lost Thirty Years Ago.

Mrs. Lena Crawford, an insane patient at Tiel's private hospital at Wichita, Kan., has just had an operation performed by Drs. McLeese and Hoskins to remove a glass ball from her head. The ball is small and is supposed to have been inserted near the brain for some remedial agent. It was placed there 30 years ago. Soon afterwards dull pains passed through the woman's head and six months later she went insane. Ever since then she has been a maniac and no one ever remembered the glass ball having been put there. She was brought to Wichita, and the hospital physicians made an examination, later removing the ball. It was covered with a thick coat of membrane. Just as soon as she recovered from the operation she also recovered her proper senses and now talks quite freely of the incident 30 years ago. She says the weight of the ball caused her to lose her mind. Mrs. Crawford is 75 years old. The physicians say that a similar operation was never before performed.

## SCIENTISTS ARE SUCCESSFUL.

Party Which Has Gone to Alaska Discovers a New Bay—Grand Pacific Glacier Reaching.

The party of scientists who went to Alaska a month ago as guests of E. H. Harriman, of New York, are meeting with unequalled success. They made several important discoveries. Among these is an immense bay extending inland over 20 miles. At the upper end of the bay they have discovered a great glacier, inferior only to Muir glacier in size. This bay was named Unknown bay. Four other new glaciers which have never before been seen by white men were found at the head of Disenchantment bay. In Ice bay, opposite Carroll's glacier, an immense glacier three-quarters of a mile in width was discovered and named Harriman's glacier. In the bay where the Grand Pacific glacier is located observations were taken which show that its ice wall has receded three miles since Muir and Reed visited the locality and established their survey 20 years ago.

These details were brought by local members of the party who left the steamer Elder at Kodiak.

**Undermined by Rats.**  
A very extraordinary occurrence happened the other day in Brussels. A milkwoman, with her cart drawn by two dogs, was passing through a street in the center of the city when of a sudden the roadway opened and the cart and dogs disappeared. Investigation showed that the roadway had been undermined by rats which swarm in the neighborhood.

## IS AN UNFAIR CLAIM.

Dr. Mendenhall's Opinion of Canada's Boundary Line Dispute.

Made Survey of Alaska Which Is Now Used by United States to Determine the Limits of Its Territory.

Dr. Thomas C. Mendenhall, president of the Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic institute, made the survey of Alaska on which the boundary line, now a subject of dispute between the United States and the Canadian government, was fixed by this nation. Speaking of the controversy, Dr. Mendenhall said:

"The actual value of the land of which Great Britain, through the Canadian government, desires to possess itself is insignificant compared with the importance of the seaport privileges that country would secure if its claims were granted."

"The greatest benefit which Great Britain expects to derive from a settlement of the boundary question in her favor is to acquire an open sea coast for her great northwest territories and to weaken us by breaking our exclusive jurisdiction north of 54 degrees."

"With one or more sea ports leading out to the Pacific ocean Great Britain would come actively into competition with American shipping interests, to the great disadvantage of the latter, which are now pre-eminent in the territory in question. Over the waterways and the passes embraced in the disputed territory an immense amount of emigration and supplies for the Canadian northwest territory now goes through American hands."

"The right of complete jurisdiction over this coast, exercised so long by Russia without protest from Great Britain, became ours by purchase in 1867, and for many years after that Great Britain acquiesced in our exercise of authority over the territory as Russia exercised it."

"It was not until 1878 that the Canadian government issued an official map showing that it claimed its boundary line from the outer edge of the islands, instead of running parallel to the coast line reckoned from the coast of the mainland."

"To accede to Canada's claim would be to give her all the value that the United States purchased from Russia in southeastern Alaska."

## FIGURES SHAMROCK WINNER.

London Yachting World Thinks Her Chances of Defeating the Columbia Are Excellent.

The London Yachting World contains a long article on the Shamrock's chances in the contests for the America's cup. Starting upon the assumption that the Vigilant and Britannia were equal, the writer argues that the Shamrock showed herself to be capable of beating the Britannia in a moderate breeze 25 to 26 minutes over a 30-mile course. With time allowance the Shamrock's net superiority would be 15 to 20 minutes. As the Defender's superiority over the Vigilant in sailing the same course is estimated at six minutes and the Columbia's superiority over the Defender is assumed to be three minutes, it is estimated that the Columbia's superiority over the Vigilant is nine minutes. Therefore, according to the Yachting World's article, there are excellent grounds for the belief that in the present condition of both yachts the Shamrock will win.

## MAN'S QUEER ILLUSION.

Well-to-Do Farmer of Indiana Disputes the Death and Burial of His Wife.

Jacob Lass, a well-to-do German living seven miles south of Richmond, Ind., called on the police superintendent with an odd story. He reported that he was in search of his wife, whose remains were supposed to have been buried in a country graveyard near his home in April last. He asserts that his wife is among the living and that she is either in Richmond or else with relatives at Indianapolis. Last April his wife committed suicide by shooting herself through the head and her remains were buried two days later. Lass now insists that this death was not real, and that a scheme to separate himself and his wife was successfully carried out. The superintendent reached the conclusion that Mr. Lass is demented on this point. The bereaved husband owns a farm on the Union county line and has several married children.

## THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

Has Not Been Very Popular—Not as Many Petitions Filed as Was Expected.

The bankrupt act has been in operation a year, and during that time there have been filed in New York city 1,331 petitions with the clerk of the United States district court and 720 discharges have been granted. The act has not been as popular as expected. Estimates were made when the act was passed that from 5,000 to 15,000 persons would take advantage of it the first year, as it was believed that there are at least 100,000 persons in New York city with judgments hanging over them. The clerk of the United States district court, who has charge of the petitions, says that the number of petitions filed in the past year is short about 400 in comparison with the first year of the old bankrupt act, in 1867, when over 1,700 petitions were filed.

**A Will to Be Broken.**  
A Hartford (Conn.) man left \$1,000,000 to be expended in obtaining proofs that the soul of man is not immortal. The Chicago-Times Herald thinks it ought to be easy enough for the heirs to break that will.

## JOHN BROWN'S RAIDERS.

Bodies of Seven of Them Exhumed at Harper's Ferry for Transfer to North Elba, N. Y.

Capt. E. P. Hall and Dr. Thomas R. Featherstonhaugh, both of Washington, have returned from Harper's Ferry, where they have been exhuming the bodies of seven of John Brown's raiders. The bodies have been sent to North Elba, N. Y., where they will be buried near the grave of the leader under whom they fought and died. Of the other three raiders who were killed at Harper's Ferry, the remains of one, Watson Brown, were recovered and buried near John Brown's body in 1882. Where the other two are no one can tell. They were taken from Harper's Ferry after the fight, and were used in a medical college for anatomical purposes. Watson Brown's body was taken away for the same purpose, but it was traced and recovered by Mrs. Brown many years afterward. The two whose whereabouts are unknown are Jeremiah G. Anderson and Lewis S. Leary, the latter a negro.

Ceremonies are to be held at John Brown's grave, and it is said that Rev. Joshua Young, who buried John Brown and who suffered social ostracism for it, will take part. He is now living in Groton, Mass. A monument is to be erected over the graves at North Elba. The bodies recovered are those of Oliver Brown, Stewart Taylor, W. H. Lee-man, William Thompson, Dauphin O. Thompson, John H. Kagi and Daugersfield Newby. A fragment of the bearskin overcoat, in which, according to tradition, Oliver Brown was buried, was found in one of the graves, and two lead pencils dropped from it when it was taken up.

## AMERICAN TEA GARDEN.

Results of Experiments by Dr. Charles U. Shepard—Shows It Can Be Raised Profitably.

Dr. Charles U. Shepard, who is in charge of the experimental tea garden at Summerville, S. C., has made a report to the secretary of agriculture, covering the progress made up to date. He says that there are now about 50 acres of land under tea cultivation, and that 4,000 pounds were sold last year at a profit of 25 per cent. It is estimated that when all the plants now growing arrive at maturity they will yield 10,000 pounds annually. Dr. Shepard expresses the opinion that the fact that the tea plants lived through last winter, when the most intensely cold weather in the history of the section was experienced, is a guarantee that the weather conditions will prove satisfactory. The labor problem, he says, has been solved by establishing a school for the education of negro children in tea picking.

The quality of the tea also has proved satisfactory. Of the black tea he says: "It has a distinctly characteristic flavor, and like some of the choicest oriental teas, its liquor has more strength than its color indicates."

The green tea, he says, has attracted keen interest in the trade and among consumers, and he adds that "oriental teas can hardly furnish the like in this country."

## LEFT NO WILL.

Col. Robert G. Ingersoll Did Not Believe in Them—His Faith in the Law.

A man who is closely connected with the late Col. Robert G. Ingersoll's family says that no will of Col. Ingersoll has been found, and that nobody who knew the colonel thought there was one.

"The colonel did not believe in wills," he said. All who knew him well have heard him say so frequently. His theory was that a man's estate should be settled and distributed by the machinery of the law constructed for that purpose."

"Do you know whether he ever expressed any wishes about the disposition of his estate?"  
"No; it is very improbable that he did. I don't think he ever thought much about that subject. He considered the law fair, and was willing to trust it."

As to what Col. Ingersoll left the man said he did not believe anybody knew yet. He thought it extremely unlikely that the family had made any investigations.

## BUILT OF TOO LIGHT RAILS.

A Very Serious Mistake Made in the Construction of the Great Trans-Siberian Railroad.

W. F. Dixon, manager of the Saratov Engineering company's locomotive works at Nijni Novgorod, Russia, which company employs 10,000 men, is visiting his home in Paterson, N. J.

"The industries of Russia," said Mr. Dixon, "are all thriving. The Russians are a slow-moving people, but they are steady and sure. The Trans-Siberian railroad is now completed from Moscow to Torkostok, a distance of about 1,800 miles. East of Torkostok the road is in operation in patches, as it were. That is to say, it has not yet been connected all the way through to Kladivostock. An unfortunate thing about the building of this road is that very light rails have been used, and the ties are too wide apart. When its construction was begun nobody realized the immensity of the undertaking. The traffic has been greatly in excess of all expectations and I fear that the road will not stand the wear and tear. It would cost an enormous sum to rectify the mistake at this late date."

**Long-Lived Parrot.**  
One of the longest lived birds on record died recently in London. It was a parrot named Ducky, the property of the prince of Wales, and was a century and a quarter old.

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