

CHINESE IDEA OF WOMAN.

Views of an Oriental Ambassador at Washington - Independence the Loadstone of Womanhood.

In a Washington dispatch the World prints an interesting interview with the Chinese minister to the United States, who says: "Independence is the loadstone of American womanhood." Such, at least, is the best judgment of Mr. Wu Ting Fung, the first Chinese minister to America who has been able to converse with Americans in their native tongue.

SOUTH AFRICAN STATES.

Their Names Are Distinctive and All Have Meaning and Fine Appropriateness.

Persons who are not familiar with the Dutch languages sometimes wonder at the singular names by which localities are known in South Africa. All, however, have a meaning and appropriateness which will be at once recognized after a little explanation.

Next to this colony is another British possession, Natal. This was first explored by Vasco da Gama, and, being Christmas day, he called it Terra do Natal, Land of the Nativity.

LIKE MOLTEN SILVER.

A Traveler from the North Says Behring Sea Phosphorescence Surpasses All Description.

"I have often heard of the wonderful phosphorescence of southern seas," remarked a traveler from the north to a Star reporter, "and I have seen some pretty fair samples of it in the Atlantic between New York and English ports, but I did not know it prevailed to any extent in northern waters until during the past summer.

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FOREIGN GOSSIP.

London has 51 inhabitants per acre; Paris, 115.

At meetings of the British cabinet no official record of any kind is kept of the proceedings.

A new type of electric railway car is being used in Brussels, the object of which is to reduce air resistance.

The oldest steam engine in the world has recently gone off duty after working more than 120 years. It was built in 1777.

The water supply of Havana is collected from springs at the base of a range of coral hills, and carried through a masonry aqueduct 33,000 feet long to a reservoir holding 21,000,000 gallons.

In the Austrian court it is contrary to custom for perishable articles to appear twice on the imperial table. The result is large perquisites for the attendants.

A German doctor has devised a plan for massaging rheumatic joints. He takes the patient's hand and puts it in a deep glass which is two-thirds full of quicksilver.

WILD DUCK AS A MOTHER.

The Most Secluded Places Selected for Nests, Which Are Watched Jealously.

The wild duck is apt to be rather quaint as a mother. She often seems to have the most singular ideas about sites appropriate for the nursery.

It is practically an essential for the well-being of her babies that the nursery should be close by the water's side, for the little ones like to take to the water as soon as hatched.

There are theories in plenty, but no certainty. And often she will make her nest or lay her eggs (for her notions of nest architecture are primitive) in a spot that seems specially selected for its absence of covert.

Eight Can Dine in This Clock. The largest suspension clock in the world is now in use in the Liverpool street station of the Great Eastern railway at London, England.

Atheism Encourages Suicide. The figures taken from the official records of three Bohemian fraternal benefit societies, for periods of from three to five years, show that in every 1,000 deaths there were in the first 100 suicides, in the second 200 and in the third 333.

No Choice. Newlywed-Yes, I'm married now. I tell you, old man, there's no place like home!

Richmond-I want to talk to you like a friend and brother. Bronxborough-If you do our friendship ceases.-N. Y. Journal.

THE BOER AND HIS RIFLE.

There Are Differences Between the Weapon Used Now and Twenty Years Ago.

In the war of 1879-84 the Boers displayed deadly accuracy with the rifle, but their weapon then was very different from the arm used recently at Dundee.

The rifle of 20 years ago was built on the lines of the British Martini. It was a hammerless arm of about nine pounds weight, with a 30-inch half-octagon barrel and a shotgun-butt stock.

"I was very much interested in the Boer riflemen and their weapons," said Archibald Forbes, who was with Sir Evelyn Wood's column in South Africa in 1879-80.

The Boer weapon that did such execution the other day is the sporting model of the Mannlicher, a German arm, perhaps the most powerful weapon of its caliber and weight in the world.

The ideal Mannlicher is a sporting rifle known as the Haenel model. It is a beautifully finished arm, weighing about eight pounds, and costing in South Africa 200 German marks.

On a recent rainy evening a man walked across Cottage Grove avenue at a rather dark corner, with a letter in his hand, intending to drop it into the mail box that is fixed there.

QUEER THEORY ABOUT TASTE.

Peasimistic Reasoners Contend That It Is Only a Trick of the Imagination.

There are some pessimists who urge that the whole question of refined taste is a great illusion. "Nothing is good or bad, but thinking makes it so," and "why think?" they say.

Distinctions of taste are truly a morbid affectation of the jaded. It is only a trick of our imagination, they argue, that causes us to differentiate between styles and to detect a difference in various brands of cigars, or to imagine that the wine of one year is superior to that of another.

True, but to smoke a cigar in the dark is the same thing as to listen to music in a vacuum.

But even if taste is an illusion, it is a pleasing one. That is to say, those who are favored with it in a reasonable degree are happier than those without it, for we shall always derive considerable satisfaction in thinking that Mozart's melodies are lovelier than those of Mascagni.

ABSENCE OF MIND.

He Was Thinking of Nothing in Particular and Made a Queer Mistake.

On a recent rainy evening a man walked across Cottage Grove avenue at a rather dark corner, with a letter in his hand, intending to drop it into the mail box that is fixed there.

The absent-minded one begged pardon once more, turned swiftly to the real mail box, posted his letter and vanished, wondering what would have become of the letter if he had really mailed it down the other man's back.

Kimberley's Drawbacks. Only those in search of wealth would willingly live at Kimberley. It is an unpicturesque region, the flat, bleak country being unrelied by foliage or any eminence taller than an ant hill.

Om Paul's Penmanship. Om Paul can handle a rifle much better than he can a pen. His signature is cramped and scarcely legible.

ABOUT LEPROSY.

The Disease Is Due to the Action of a Special Bacillus-Little Danger of Contagion.

Leprosy is a disease from which this country is in general free, although perhaps not so absolutely free as is commonly believed.

HOW STATES ARE POPULATED.

Natural Obstructions Have Been Surmounted and Great Hardships Endured.

When the Pennsylvania farmers builded a ship and floated down the Ohio river into the country which now bears that river's name they set the precedent for future westward migration.

When the gold hunters receded from the Colorado mountains, leaving only the mountaineers to fight it out with the isolation and the altitude, and to found a state 15 years subsequently.

JAPANESE LADIES.

They Have Few Domestic Duties and Are Always Very Agreeable.

Beauty, from a Japanese standpoint, consists in a long, oval face, regular features, almond-shaped eyes, sloping slightly upward, a high narrow forehead, and an abundance of smooth, black hair.

They take little or no exercise, and one wonders sometimes how the little ladies employ their time--there seems so little to be done in a Japanese house.

The honorable live fish is sold by men who carry around large water tubs from house to house and cut off as much as is required from the unfortunate fish, and replace the sadly mutilated but still wriggling remains back in the tub.

The great stand-by is tea. A Japanese lady is seldom seen in her home without the quaint little tea tray by her side, and the inevitable pipe, containing one whiff of tobacco, which is in constant requisition.-Detroit Free Press.

AN ACCEPTABLE SON-IN-LAW.

Daughter's Lover-Major Mobile. I have called to ask you for your daughter's hand.

Maj. Mobile-But are the stories true, sir, about you raising fighting cocks and dogs, playing craps and poker, and keeping 14 different brands of whiskey in your cellar?

Then, God bless you, sir! Take her and be happy, and make this house your home, sir.-Judge.