

INVITES M. LE BARGY.

Mrs. Potter Palmer Hopes That the Witty French Dandy Will Come to Chicago.

Mrs. Potter Palmer found herself seated next to M. Le Bargy at a dinner given by the duchess of La Roche-foucauld, daughter of Senator Mitchell...

"I was at first disposed to chaff him, but was soon convinced that he would have much of importance to say upon the art of dressing if he could be induced to come to America...

"The upshot of it all was that we became great friends. Mme. LeBargy, whom I had previously met, is perfectly fascinating. I have hopes of their accepting my invitation to come to America, though I doubt if M. Le Bargy would lecture."

Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer are just back after several weeks' stay at Belaggio on Lake Cobjig. There they met Mr. Labouchere, editor of the London Truth, with whom they formed an immediate friendship...

"Are you sure you can get me lionized properly?" inquired the irrefragable M. P. Mrs. Palmer assured him she could, and Mr. Labouchere promised to go next year, "loaded with enough epigrams to make a huge sensation."

JAP OFFICERS HONORED.

Many of Them Receive Marks of Distinction for Their Services in China.

Many of the chief officers connected with the Japanese expeditionary forces sent to China during the recent "boxers" rebellion have been rewarded for their services by receiving the next higher class of the orders already held by them...

Maj. Gen. Fukushima, to the surprise of foreigners generally, has been raised only one step, ascending from the third to second of the Rising Sun and from the fourth to the third of the Golden Kite...

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.

Being Gathered by the Royal Commission in Scotland and Ireland--Students Interested.

The work of the royal commission on historical manuscripts in Scotland and Ireland is making steady progress, and some reports of exceptional interest to students may shortly be looked for, says the New York Tribune's London correspondent...

American Engines in Spain. The English consul at Bilbao, commenting on the importation of American locomotives into Spain, says all the orders were at first offered to British firms...

Baggage Checked in Germany. The railway companies entering Berlin have recently adopted the American plan (with modifications) enabling passengers to check baggage to their homes before arrival of the train.

NEW RECORD FOR POETS.

That for Endurance Made by the Emperor of Japan, Who Thus Becomes Champion.

His Majesty Mutsuhito, emperor of Japan, is unquestionably the champion long-distance poet of the universe. Compared with his literary feats of endurance those of Emperor William II. of Germany or even of Oscar Hammerstein, of New York, are mere child's play...

Baron Takasaki, chief of the poets' bureau in the imperial palace, declares that his majesty's facility of writing and love of poetry increase with his years. There is scarcely an evening that he does not take a practice spin over the cipher path to immortality dashing off from 27 to 30 of the 31-syllabled couplets called Wa-Ka...

Although Takasaki has been chief of the poets' bureau since 1892 he was still alive according to the latest exchanges from Japan, and he is authority for the statement that during his incumbency the emperor has composed more than 37,000 wa-ka couplets.

The empress, too, is very skillful in the production of couplets, but her best record--two twice a week, wa-ka style, according to Baron Takasaki--must appear ridiculous when contrasted with the world-beating figures set by her lord and master.

After dipping the potatoes are rinsed in the sun and spread out to dry in the sun, and cure until perfect new potatoes, and the work is complete.

RARE STAMP OF CIVIL WAR.

Chicago Man Possesses a Valuable One That Is of Interest to All Philatelists.

While there are undoubtedly hundreds of specimens of rare stamps in the possession of Chicago philatelists, Robert Moeller, of 400 Austin avenue, thinks he has in his possession one of the rarest of all, says the Chicago Inter Ocean...

The post office facilities were not always of the best with the armies in the field at that time, as many a Chicago man and woman can very clearly recall. When letters were mailed from the front in those times it often happened that the only canceling apparatus at hand for the stamp was a pen and ink.

Mr. Moeller thinks that his stamp is very valuable, and in view of the prices that have prevailed for certain stamps in late years it probably is. Some of the English one and two cent stamps are now selling for as much as \$100 and \$200 apiece, and American stamps used by the army in Porto Rico and Cuba during the recent Spanish war are being sold at 25 cents each.

AN IDEAL TELEPHONE.

Wonderful System in Two European Cities That Does Away with Newspapers.

It would be difficult to say whether Stockholm or Budapest possesses the best telephone system, but it is quite certain that these two towns are the best served in the world. Stockholm possesses an installation of about 40,000 telephones. In other words, nearly every shop and private house possesses an instrument, and the system is so extensive that conversation is not only possible, but easy, over a radius of about 50 miles around the city.

Budapest, in addition to being regularly served with ordinary telephones, possesses a unique system, the Telefon Hirmondok, which practically performs the function of a newspaper. News is received at all hours of the day in the central office, and, after being edited and condensed, is repeated over the wires to some 7,000 subscribers, who can listen to it in their own sitting rooms at stated intervals during the day.

Number of Horses in the World. There are in the whole world about 75,000,000 horses and 11,000,000 mules and asses. They are distributed as follows: Europe, 39,400,000 horses, 3,200,000 mules, etc.; America, 22,300,000 horses, 4,700,000 mules, etc.; Asia, 9,100,000 horses, 1,300,000 mules, etc.; Africa, 1,000,000 horses, 1,000,000 mules, etc.; Australia, 2,300,000 horses. In the United States there were, January 1, 1900, 13,500,000 horses and 2,000,000 mules and asses.

Absence a Domestic Tonic. The man's holiday--apart from that of the family--should be done in his own fashion, without "incumbrances." For the time being he can feel like a boy let out of school, and enjoy his special sports or pastimes without restraint, says a London periodical. Married people, who live together 12 months in the year, would be all the better for these temporary separations--they help to sweeten domestic life.

Scientific Lumbering. In the scientific preparation of lumber, after the tree is felled the bark and outside layers of sapwood are removed, the trunk is raised from the ground and reduced to the desired form, then left to season.

MAKING OLD POTATOES NEW.

Kettles of Boiling Lye Used in the Process to Harden Them and Curl Their Skins.

Late in the season, after the crop are out of the way, the gardeners plant a crop of late and good-looking potatoes. The time has been chosen from experience, and is opportune for a yield of small potatoes before the frosts of winter come down upon the gardener's truck patch, says Popular Science.

These potatoes are dug and buried in heaps in the open field and left until spring opens and the new potato season arrives. At the proper time the heaps are opened and the potatoes sorted according to size.

In the meantime a large kettle is set in the field adjacent to the potato heaps, and made ready by filling with water and adding sufficient lye to effectually curl the skin of the potato when dipped into the boiling solution.

A crane and metal basket are rigged so that a dipping can be done expeditiously, and the way that new potatoes are turned out is astonishing.

The effect of dipping any potato, no matter how old, into this boiling lye solution is to crack and curl the skin, and at the same time it hardens or makes the potato much more firm, so that its resemblance to a new potato is so near that it will be hard to pick out the impostor, from appearance alone, from a basket of the genuine article.

After dipping the potatoes are rinsed in the sun and spread out to dry in the sun, and cure until perfect new potatoes, and the work is complete.

NATURE'S RESERVOIRS.

The Trees of California Serve as Such to the Surrounding Country.

"Why," it will be asked, "are the big tree groves always found on well-watered spots?" Simply because big trees give rise to streams, says John Muir, in Atlantic. It is a mistake to suppose that the water is the cause of the groves being there. On the contrary, the groves are the cause of the water being there.

The roots of this immense tree fill the ground, forming a sponge which boards the bounty of the clouds and sends it forth in clear perennial streams instead of allowing it to rush headlong in short-lived, destructive floods. Evaporation is also checked and the air kept still in the shady sequoia depths, while thirsty robber winds are shut out.

The value of these forests in storing and dispensing the bounty of the mountain clouds is infinitely greater than lumber or sheep. To the dwellers of the plain, dependent on irrigation, the big tree is a tree of life, a never-failing spring, sending living water to the lowlands all through the hot rainless summer.

England is rich, and happy, and well governed, and a comfortable, cozy place in which to dwell. So away with dull care and burrah for a vigorous time on heat and beach. It is a fine thing to give the cash books and the day books to the spiders for one whole work day, and let the mice play hide-and-seek in the board rooms of the tire-some company that is always holding stupid board meetings and declaring silly old dividends.

CATS IN POST OFFICES.

Rat Catchers That Are Paid by the Government for Their Services.

Several years ago a letter containing a large sum of money disappeared from the New York post office, writes Hugh Netherton, in Ladies' Home Journal, in telling of "Cats That Draw Salaries." A month after the disappearance a desk in one of the rooms was moved, and on the floor was found a nest of young rats resting on a bed of macerated greenbacks--all that was left of the missing letter.

With New York as an example, other post offices asked for cats, and to-day nearly every large office in the United States has its official mouser or rat-killer, who receives from nine to twelve dollars a year. This income is expended under the supervision of the postmasters for the purchase of food. Milk is the chief item, for the cats are supposed to provide themselves with meat.

One Way of Owning a Diamond. A young man who works in a Chestnut street store bought a diamond ring some time ago, reports the Philadelphia Times. He was to pay for it on the installment plan, \$15 a month. He made the first payment and the diamond was delivered to him. At the end of the first month the collector came around again. Finally he went to a pawnbroker, borrowed \$15 on the ring and paid the collector. In three weeks he got the ring out by paying \$16.50. Then, in another week, the collector came around again. Once more the ring was pawned. Then it became a struggle for the young man to get the ring out in time to pawn it again, but he did. It has now been four months since the diamond was purchased. The young man is paying double interest and the pawnbroker is custodian of the ring.

Drainage in Belgium. During the last century Belgium added an average of 3,000 acres a year to her area simply by careful drainage.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

The crown prince of Siam has written a book which is soon to be published in London. It deals with "The War of the Polish Succession."

Five books by the late Walter Besant will appear within a year. These include his autobiography, a novel, two volumes of essays, and a volume of short stories.

Anthony Hope has written four new "Dolly Dialogues," which will be added to the ones with which the public is already familiar, and thus make a new edition of the book.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale is at the head of a movement in Boston for the sending of modern agricultural implements to the Filipinos. Several manufacturers and wholesale dealers in seeds have cooperated in the scheme.

The day before he delivered his notable address at the Buffalo exposition President McKinley made this confession: "I am just as nervous before beginning a speech nowadays as I was before delivering my maiden address in the house of representatives years and years ago."

A preacher living near Zumbrota, Minn., was born of parents named Hog, and when he grew up asked to have his name changed. The judge to whom he applied asked what name he preferred and the applicant said anything would do for a change. The judge gave him the name of Thing, which is his for keeps. Members of his flock refer to him as "Good Thing."

The popular king of Portugal is essentially a man of pleasure, but not in the sense that conveys discredit. He is a first-class tennis player and an enthusiastic yachtsman; he has something of the prince of Monaco's appreciation for the wonders of the sea and is a collector of many interesting curiosities from its depths. He is reputed to be one of the best shots in Europe, equally deadly in his aim with rifle or shotgun and able to hit birds in flight with a rifle bullet. He is an artist of no small scope.

THE BANK HOLIDAY.

Time When All England Drops Work and Goes for an Outing.

A fig for business to-day! Mr. and Mrs. John Bull and the babies are going to enjoy themselves without the slightest reference to desks, dividends, ledgers, income tax, Boers, and all the rest of the fold-e-rot; for a bank holiday nothing is of any consequence except the noble art of being merry. If, while little Tommy stands on his head on Hampstead Heath in the fullness of his joy, Mr. Bull takes to ruminating and thinking things over in order to arrive at some conclusions as to where he is, he will realize, if he reasons properly, that there is no earthly obstacle to his joining Tommy in his acrobatics, and waving his own legs in the atmosphere from pure light-heartedness, says the London Express.

England is rich, and happy, and well governed, and a comfortable, cozy place in which to dwell. So away with dull care and burrah for a vigorous time on heat and beach. It is a fine thing to give the cash books and the day books to the spiders for one whole work day, and let the mice play hide-and-seek in the board rooms of the tire-some company that is always holding stupid board meetings and declaring silly old dividends.

It is glorious to drag the managing editor, or the banker, or the superintendent, or the workman from his place of business, scamper with him over the hills, duck him in the wavelets of the channel, or watch him gambol on the soft green sward. It is good alike for his head and for his liver. He comes back to his desk less of an old fogey, if he has been one, and more of a human being.

And, if you can get him into an omnibus with half a dozen of the children of other people overflowing on his lap and treading on his feet, so much the better for him. A comprehensive knowledge of humanity is good for all of us. The golf players will return from the links better beings. Even the perjured fishermen, with their storied of the immense creatures that just managed to escape their hook, will be improved by their holiday, even though they return with souls bruised and dented by prevarication.

Abolishing Frost.

As to other possibilities of the canon, there is that of abolishing frost. Herbs and resinous wood are often burned so as to shelter the plants under a screen of smoke, but just a few nights ago the garden was tried instead in the Beaujolais. Two of them were apportioned to a hecacre, about two and one-half acres, and they were fired horizontally about two yards over the fields. The ground was rendered damp and warm, though the surrounding soil was cold and frost-laden. But the most astounding use of this artillery has been found in Madagascar and Algeria--to fight grasshoppers. It is claimed that the shot cuts a discouraging swath in the invading swarms. And now the question is, what might it not do to a cyclone? There is serious food for reflection in that same question.--Everybody's Magazine.

Why He Wasn't Looking Well. "Your husband is not looking well to-night, Mrs. Rhymer." "He isn't, and I'm not surprised at it." "No? Has he been overworking himself?" "It isn't that so much; it's his originality. Why, that man is struck by so many original ideas that his mind must be one mass of bruises."--Pearson's Weekly.

GETTING A DONATION.

Fortunate Outcome of Parson Tom Uzzell's "Hold-Up" of Millionaire Stratton.

Winfield Scott Stratton, the mining multi-millionaire, surrounds himself by a barrier of lieutenants, the business of whose life it is to protect him from begging visitors. But Parson Tom Uzzell got by the breast-works one day. Parson Tom is a famous character in Denver. He used to be one of the boys, and hit the high places for years in the camps. But he got converted and started an independent people's church down in the slums in Denver. He wears a slouch hat, has the physiognomy of a prize fighter, uses a terse and vigorous slang, even in the pulpit, when he takes a notion, and has the reputation of caring for nothing and nobody. One of Stratton's protectors politely asked Parson Tom his business with the great man, says the New York Times.

"You just tell Mr. Stratton that Tom Uzzell wants to see him, and never mind my business," said the parson, brusquely. The man stared, but came back shortly with an invitation to enter. Once in, Tom held the millionaire up for money to build a new people's tabernacle, as his old one had grown too small to seat his congregation. Stratton listened in silence, then filled out a check for \$15,000.

"Here," he said, "take this, but don't tell anyone about it. I'll give it to you, but I'm not going to let any of those infernal preachers have it."

Tom was so tickled by the unconscious irony of his own separation from the "infernal preachers" that he couldn't keep the joke on himself.

THEATRICAL BUSINESS.

Ingenuous Devices Resorted To by Dramatic Managers to Attract the Public.

The business of the claque has been subdivided into many branches, all of which are controlled by one man or group of men, says Chambers' Journal. The applauders--even the lady in the box who faints, and the man who hisses at a good part in order to arouse the indignant enthusiasm of the audience--were all provided for so many tickets a performance, to be sold by agents to the public. So carefully were the plans of campaign thought out that the Whiteley of applause used to provide a man or woman, dressed in provincial style, to jump up and scream out: "There's the villain hiding behind that tree," or the like. We also hear of cowboys in the far west pulling on their revolvers and peppering the melodramatic villain.

On one occasion in a London theater the business instinct came out in the same way. A relative of the lessee was enacting the part of an indignant father whose son had got into the hands of the money lender. In the interview with the money lender the father severely lectured him, and then demanded his son's bill. "There, sir," he said, "is my check for a thousand pounds." The money lender was just reaching out for the check when a voice came from the pit: "Don't you take it, old chap. I've got one of his now for six pound ten, and he's asked me to hold it for a fortnight."

AN ISLAND CATHEDRAL.

One in Bermuda That Has a Stone in It from Either Shore of the Surrounding Ocean.

Four kinds of stone, from as many countries, enter into the material used in the construction of the new Episcopal cathedral at Hamilton, Bermuda. Besides the local coral rock, of which it is largely built, these include Indiana limestone from this country, sandstone from Nova Scotia, a Scotch sandstone from Caen stone from France.

The coral rock of which the body of the church is constructed is the building material in common use in the islands, but in so large a structure a stouter material was required in some places where a strain was likely to come and other material was required as well for some interior and decoration uses, so it was for these several purposes that the building stone described was imported.

This island cathedral contains within its walls not only native material but stone from lands on either shore of the ocean in the middle of which it stands.

Feat Done by Phonograph. To illustrate Queen Alexandra's kindness of heart a story told is that of an elderly lady-in-waiting to her mother, the late queen of Denmark, one of King Christian's weekly letters to his daughter, he wrote that the old lady was dying and that her one last wish was to speak again to her "dear Princess Alex." At that time it was impossible for Alexandra to leave England, but she spoke a long, tender message of love and hope and remembrance into a phonograph and sent it by special courier to Copenhagen. It arrived only a short time before the old lady's death, but it made her last hours serenely happy.

Judicial Oaths in Maryland. The Maryland constitution contains a peculiar provision as to oaths taken in court proceedings in that state. It is as follows: "That the manner of administering the oath or affirmation to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination of which he is a member generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine being."

PEARY AFTER POLE.

Explorer Will Make the Supreme Attempt Next April.

Will Leave a Point Only 500 Miles from the North Pole, and Hopes to Do That Which His Predecessors Have Failed to Do.

Herbert L. Bridgman, secretary of the Peary Arctic club, who conducted the Peary relief expedition of this year, and the young men who accompanied him have returned home. With them came Mrs. Peary and her little girl, who was born in the arctic regions eight years ago.

"Next April," said Mr. Bridgman, in Brooklyn, "Peary will start for the pole from Cape Hecla, the highest point of land he has discovered in the west, which is only 500 miles from the pole. If he should never reach it, his discoveries have been important enough to warrant the time he has spent in the north--but he will reach the pole."

Mr. Bridgman said he had the satisfaction of knowing that Peary had a supply of walrus meat large enough to carry him through his undertaking. The explorer returned with the Bridgman party as far as Cape Henschel, where his winter headquarters are. "The last relief expedition," said Mr. Bridgman, "was the eleventh sent out by the Arctic club. They have lost all elements of the dramatic. We were twice in danger, however. Once we got caught between a glacier and an ice flow, and went aground on a muddy bank. We were fast for several hours, and the danger was that the ice pack should sweep in around us and make us prisoners. The captain pounded a hole in the nose of the floe, fastened a big hawser to the floe, and in ten minutes the great body of ice, whose movement you couldn't see at all, had swung us clear of the whole thing."

"The most serious time was when we got caught between the lip of ice, under water, and the glacier. We got away all right, however."

Mr. Bridgman said that, so far as he knew, there was no truth in the report from Halifax, N. S., that Peary had discovered gold in the arctic regions. If such a discovery had been made Peary, Mr. Bridgman thinks, undoubtedly would have spoken to him about it.

CONGRESS WILL PAY BILLS.

Special Bill Will Be Passed Covering Expenses of Last and Fatal Illness of the President.

Congress will make special provision for the payment of the physicians and surgeons who attended the late President McKinley as Buffalo and for the payment of his funeral expenses. This was the course pursued after the death of President Garfield. What these expenses will amount to in the case of President McKinley cannot be stated even approximately, as none of the bills has yet been sent in. In the case of President Garfield Congress appropriated in all \$57,500. Of this amount \$45,000 was for the payment of the physicians and \$22,000 funeral expenses. The total expense in the case of President McKinley will probably be fully as great, for though the bills of the physicians will not be so large as they were in the case of President Garfield, who lingered for more than two months after he was shot, the expenses of the funeral are expected to be larger. The principal item, as in the case of the Garfield funeral, will be for railway transportation. This will include the special train which brought the funeral party from Buffalo to Washington, the special train of three sections which carried the party to Canton and the special train of five sections back to Washington.

Congress not only paid President Garfield's funeral expenses, but also made liberal provision for Mrs. Garfield. She was paid her husband's salary for the remainder of the year, was given a pension of \$5,000 per year for the remainder of her life, and was given the franking privilege, by which she can use the mails without the payment of postage. Mrs. McKinley will certainly be treated with equal liberality.

AN EXPENSIVE YACHT.

King Edward's Magnificent Boat While Declared seaworthy Still Has Need of Alteration.

His majesty's beautiful \$3,000,000 yacht, the Victoria and Albert, which tried to turn bottom upward when she was launched, which had to be almost wholly rebuilt and on which an army of workmen who were needed sorely for the construction of new British war vessels, has been kept busy for two years, officially was declared to be seaworthy when she returned from her trial trip to Gibraltar a few days ago, says the London correspondent of the press.

Unofficially, however, it was understood generally that this remarkable vessel had rolled to such an extent that no mouser would consent to go to sea in her. Even the crew had been seasick.

This report was denied at first, but it now is stated that the admiralty, whose officials are responsible, have had several experts make an examination of the yacht and of her performance on the trip to Gibraltar, and that these experts have reported that in order to make the boat sufficiently steady she will have to be rebuilt partly, once again, at heavy expense, and allowed four feet additional draught, although the lowest port holes are already only a few inches above the water line. It originally was intended that the vessel should cost \$1,750,000.