

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

The most ancient printed calendar in the world has been found at Wiesbaden. It was printed by Gutenberg in 1448.

Mark Twain has always been supposed to have identified himself with "Huckleberry Finn." He has recently taken the trouble to contradict prevailing opinion, and to tell us that his original in his book is Tom Sawyer.

Rudyard Kipling is probably the first poet to have one of his works form an item in a government's cable bill. His "Our Lady of the Snows" was, it is said, cabled at a shilling a word from London to Ottawa at the expense of the Canadian government.

When, after the siege of Jerusalem, Josephus was brought a prisoner to Rome, the Romans not only set him free again, but in appreciation of his work, "Antiquities of the Jews," erected a statue in his honor. For his "History of the Animals" Aristotle received from Alexander 800 talents, which equaled about \$800,000 of our money.

Among the books sold at Edinburgh as part of the collection of the late Craibe Angus, of Glasgow, was a volume of Sterne's works, with numerous marginalia in the handwriting of Robert Burns, to whom it belonged. Alongside a reference to Mary Stuart there are these words: "I would forgive Judas Iscariot sooner than Queen Elizabeth. He was a mercenary blackguard; she a devil, genuine, real as imported from hell." The book brought \$400.

Dr. Van Dyke's "Story of the Other Wise Man" was translated into Turkish, but the sultan's censor disapproved of its title. When asked to give the reason for his objection the censor gravely replied: "It is not true." "Why not?" asked the publisher's wondering agent. "Because there is no one wise but Mahomet," was the Turk's pious retort. So the title was changed into something which might be translated "How the Other Scientist Was Left Behind."

Individual struggle for existence is not the leading factor of evolution in France Krapotkin's view. His new work seeks to show that mutual aid has played a far more important part, and points out that most animal species live in societies, uniting in defense against all unfavorable natural conditions. The most numerous, prosperous and progressive animal species are found to be those in which individual struggle is most reduced and mutual aid most developed. Human progress in arts and intelligence has depended on mutual aid, and the periods when this influence has been most active have been those of advancement in science and industry.

TRACKS OF WILD ANIMALS.

To the Initiated in Woodcraft Each Trail Tells What Animal Made It.

A snowfall is a blank page from the notebook of nature, and upon it her children write the stories of their lives, each in his own way. When we begin to read and translate them the winter woods no longer present a cheerless appearance; they no longer seem a dreary waste of snow-covered ground and bare tree trunks. We find that they are peopled by a busy community, whose lives are as full of problems as our own, writes Ernest Harold Baynes, in Woman's Home Companion.

Here, you see, the first note we come across has been written by a mink—a uniform trail, which might be imitated by dragging a narrow board through the snow. The legs of a mink are very short, so that his body sinks in the snow, often covering up the prints of his webbed feet, and the trail is simply a gutter in the snow, with deeper spots at intervals marking the points at which the feet have sunk. The trail of an otter through deep snow is similar, but very much larger, as a full-grown otter is sometimes nearly four feet in length. In moving through the snow an otter leaps forward, and slides for a considerable distance, plowing up the snow with his chest, then leaping again, and sliding, as before. The distinctness of the footprints depends upon the depth of the snow; when there is only a thin covering they are as plain as the tracks of a hare.

How a Great Surgeon Died. While Bichat, the famous surgeon, was dying of typhoid fever, he turned to an old colleague who was sitting beside his bed and said to him: "I am exceedingly sorry," answered Bichat, "that I shall not have an opportunity to perform an autopsy on myself after death, for I know that I would make some wonderful scientific discovery." An hour later he was dead.—Detroit Free Press.

Asked and Answered. "Are large heads always a sign of genius?" asked the inquisitive youth. "Not always, my boy," replied the Sage of Cumminsville. "Sometimes they indicate a previous night's foolishness."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Something Doing. Wixem—Does your wife sit up for you when you are out late? Mixem—Not much. She lays for me.—Chicago Daily News.

Her Possessions. Ella—Do you think he is going to marry me for my money? Stella—What else have you got?—N. Y. Herald.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The Smokestack of the ocean steamer Cedric is so large that trolley cars could pass through it.

According to Sir James Crichton Browne, the air of London contains 150,000 proportional parts of dust to Paris' 210,000, while in Argyleshire, Scotland, there are only 200.

American companies, firms and individuals to the number of 1,117 have invested in Mexico capital amounting in round figures to \$500,000,000. About 70 per cent. of it is in railroads.

A lumber firm in Indiana has recently received a remarkably large white oak log. It is 86 feet long and about 4 feet in greatest diameter. There are but a few knots in its entire length.

When the Pennsylvania anthracite fields are exhausted—perhaps 75 years hence—the only large known supply of hard coal will be in China. That, however, is practically inexhaustible, covering, as it does, 40,000 square miles.

The business most in evidence in Ghent is that of the breweries. In a population less than 200,000 there are more than 100 establishments, large and small. Notwithstanding this competition American enterprise has entered the field.

The DeWitt Clinton engine, built in 1831, had a boiler pressure of 80 pounds to the square inch, locomotives at the time of the civil war were given 100 pounds pressure, and now the immense steamship boilers are made to stand a pressure of 225 pounds to the square inch.

China was the first country in which the labors of the silkworm were availed of, and Aristotle was the first Greek author who mentions it. It was not until the fifteenth century that the manufacture of silk was established in England. The raising of silkworms in the United States has been attempted with success in southern states, and especially in California. As the silkworms in Europe are affected by disease, immense quantities of eggs are sent from this country. Forty thousand eggs weigh about one ounce, and, when hatched will produce about 100 pounds of fresh cocoons.

AMERICA AND CHINA.

This Country Is Trusted Implicitly by the Slow-Going and Cautious Celestials.

John Barrett, formerly United States minister to Siam, and now commissioner general of the Louisiana Purchase exposition to Asia, Australia and the Philippines, has just completed a visit to China, in the course of which he so interested the Chinese authorities in the St. Louis fair that their country will make a finer exhibition of her products there than she has ever done before. Mr. Barrett took occasion to make observations as to the feelings of the Chinese toward the United States, and what he has learned on that point, as he describes it in an article in North American Review, entitled "American in China: Our Position and Opportunity," cannot but be gratifying to all patriotic Americans. Mr. Barrett's testimony, in a general way, is that America holds in China today a position of unprecedented strength and significance—the secret of her position being that in diplomacy America is implicitly trusted by China, because her diplomacy is that of truth, and that in commerce America is welcomed in China, because her commerce involves no territorial aggression. Mr. Barrett lays great emphasis on the importance of developing transportation facilities in China, as a preliminary to the realization of a great commerce with her.

"Looking at the opportunity for our export trade in China, our business interests must bear in mind that the vast possibilities of Asiatic trade will not be realized in the immediate present or in the near future. Its growth will be slow and in some measure disappointing. The potentialities for a great demand and supply in China are almost limitless, but their practical value depends upon the facilities for exploiting them which do not now exist. The one chief developing influence required, in addition to the reform of government, is the construction of a network of railroads throughout the interior. The dreams of the riches of Cathay will not be realized until the empire is gridironed with railroads. The railway enterprises already inaugurated and the concessions granted for others are only a small part of what are needed. Throughout China's present area of 4,000,000 square miles there are not yet 1,000 miles of railroads in active operation. There is no trackage equal to that of a single line from New York to Chicago. What this means can be best understood when we picture the United States as she was in material development before the era of railroads. These are absolutely necessary to carry the products of the foreign countries into the distant interior and bring the wealth thereof to the seaboard. Only with them can China's buying capacity be fostered. Only with them can her iron, coal, gold and silver, copper, tin, antimony and sulphur deposits be turned into money. Railway construction will do more to make China a world power than the combined diplomacy of the allied nations."

Cool in the Face of Death. Near Belleville, Kan., the other day the son of Maj. H. N. Hoyd, formerly adjutant general of Kansas, received the contents of a loaded shotgun accidentally discharged in his stomach. He sank down, but was returned to a sitting position by his companions. He then deliberately drew his watch from his pocket, carefully noted the time, returned the watch and almost instantly expired.—Chicago Chronicle.

WAITRESS WHO UNDERSTOOD.

The Smart Young Men Tried to Pass on Katie, But She Was Equal to Them All.

"The six young men who thought they were smart had arrived at the stage of their lunch when they were ready for dessert, and the pretty waitress, who didn't think she was smart, but who really was, waited for their orders, relates David H. Dodge in the New York Times.

"You're awful nice, Katie," said one of the smart young men. "Think so?" retorted Katie, who wasted none of her powers of repartee on her customers.

"Why, of course. Got a piece of pie in the place as nice as you are," went on the young man, intent on his feathery badinage.

"All our pie is nice," replied the waitress. "What kind do you want?" "Well, cut me a piece that'll make me think of you while I'm eating it," said the youthful wit.

"Sure," said Katie. She immediately turned and cut a piece of peach pie for him. "What's yours?" she asked of the next young man.

"Katie, you're all right!" the whole six exclaimed, but Katie didn't smile. She simply repeated her question.

The second young man said: "I'll take some—er—lemme see. Well, seeing we're talking in parables, and you're so bright, Katie, gimme a piece of Adam and Eve pie."

"Sure," she replied again, and handed him over a piece of apple pie. "Once more they all applauded. 'What's yours?' she asked of the third.

He had been thinking. "I'll have some Finn pie," he informed her. "Finn—Finn?" she mused. "Oh, yes, you want huckleberry pie," and she placed it before him.

The fourth young man was prepared. "Step daintily pie for me," he ordered, with a soft smile, which, being interpreted, meant that he would have to explain.

But he didn't have to. Katie brought him his mince pie without a word. "It was now getting interesting. 'What's yours?' she asked of the fifth diner. He ran his eye down the bill of fare and then said he'd take a piece of political office pie.

"Oh, that's easy," said Katie; "why don't you say plum pie when you mean it?" He got his pie.

"And now yours, sir?" to the last man, who, she noticed, hadn't been quite as noisy as the others, or, as she would have expressed it, "so fresh."

The last man said gravely that he would trouble her, if she would be so kind, for some pie made from a little play on words.

There was not an atom of hesitation in the fair Kathryn's manner as she placed before him a portion of pumpkin pie, and the whole six applauded the waitress so vehemently that the manager of the restaurant looked over in the direction of their table frowningly.

After the young men finished their lunch and left a generous tip for their waitress, they went out. Katie touched the last man on the arm. "I didn't quite catch onto yours," she smiled.

"Why," he smiled, "then I'll explain. A play on words is a pun, and a little play on words is a pun-kin. And pumpkin is pumpkin, you know, and tastes better pronounced that way. I think it's like manikin, a little man, and lambkin, a little lamb—diminutive, you know. See?"

"Sure.—That's right. I see now," said Katie. "Like napkin, too, ain't it?" she added, shaking one out.

"Well, hardly," he replied; "but you know better than that, anyhow." Suddenly he turned. "But how did you know what I wanted, if you didn't understand?" he asked.

"Oh, that was dead easy," answered Katie. "Pumpkin pie was the only kind left that hadn't been ordered."

WIT AND WISDOM.

Wise is the fool who knows enough to keep it to himself.—Chicago Daily News.

Different.—Conversations.—"Do you play ping-pong?" Actor—"No, I play 'Hamlet.'" Punch.

Necessity, the Mother of Invention, is at the same time frequently the Mother-in-law of Thrift.—Indianapolis News.

Dictates of Fashion.—Mrs. Gramercy—"Your pet dog must be quite a comfort to you, my dear." Mrs. Park—"He would be, only as soon as you become attached to one he goes out of style."

Lots Like Him.—"Is he much of a dialect writer?" "Well, hardly. He thinks when he has spelled 'u-v-h-e' has done all that's necessary to depict either an Irishman or a back-woods character."—Chicago Post.

Mrs. Snitcheb—"I wish we could go south for the winter, John." Mr. Snitcheb—"Go south for the winter? Rubbish! We have twice as much winter right here as they do in the south."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

An Alternative.—"Now, then," said the professor of logic, "give us an idea of your knowledge of the question in plain words." "Why—er—I'm afraid," stammered the student, "that I can't just, exactly—." "Perhaps, then, you may give us an idea of your ignorance of it in any old words."—N. Y. Sun.

Generous.—"If I could only get a bite to eat," he whined. "Why don't you work?" she asked. "Nothing doing in my line," he answered. "I'm a dime museum glass-caster, and they're getting too common." "Poor man!" she said, sympathetically. "Come right in and you can have the two goblets and the glass dish the girl broke this morning."—Chicago Post.

SHREWD WOMEN CROOKS.

In Criminal Walks the Weaker Sex Is Keeping Well Up with the Male Experts.

"Women are making progress along more than one line," remarked an old member of the police force, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "A recent example shows that they are quite as efficient as men in the matter of safe-blowing. Woman in the role of safe-blower is new to the police. The fact is that the operation of female offenders has heretofore been confined to offenses of the daytime or of the early part of the night. But here comes a story from Tennessee of the arrest of several women, who belong to a gang of expert crooks, and who actually took part in a safe-blowing in a small town near Nashville, where they robbed a bank and got \$1,700.

"Women have often developed into expert forgers, as for instance in the recent case of an American woman abroad who succeeded in conducting a forgery scheme for a considerable length of time, and until she had fraudulently collected a vast sum of money. They make high-class pickpockets, and, in fact, are infinitely more successful in this line of work than men.

"One curious fact in this connection, despite the frequent announcements publicly made of offenses of this kind committed by women, men are never on the lookout for the female pickpocket unless they find themselves in a questionable resort, and in bad company. For this very reason women find it much easier to pick a man's pocket. They can get close to men, too, without becoming offensive, and can lift the diamond pin out of his scarf, nip his watch and chain, or any other valuable thing he may have before he will ever dream of anything wrong.

"In that kind of pilfering, too, peculiar to kleptomania, she is more successful because in this instance of the way she dresses and woman's peculiar demeanor around the counters in dry goods stores. If a man, for instance, should go into a dry goods store and begin to pick up little things and fumble over them, apparently for the purpose of inspection, he would at once arouse the suspicion of every clerk within visual range. On the other hand, a woman may do exactly the same thing without exciting the least suspicion. It is simply looked upon as a matter of comparative ease for the kleptomaniac.

"But the woman safe blower is a new type, as far as my experience goes, and I suppose it simply means that the police of the country will soon be confronted with many new problems in dealing with the female offender."

One of the Wonders of France. Mr. E. A. Martel, the celebrated explorer of French caverns, has lately been explaining, before the academy of sciences, the remarkable variations in the flow of the great natural fountain of Vaucluse. This fountain, which has been famous for ages, and is connected with the romance of Petrarch and Laura, excites the admiration of all travelers. Arthur Young visited it during his travels in France on the eve of the great revolution, and gave a delightful sketch of it in his book. The fountain is so abundant with water that it gives rise to the Sorgue, a small river. Mr. Martel says, in fact, that the fountain is the debouchment of a river, which, in the upper part of its course, flows entirely underground; and he explains the curious irregularities in the quantity and the temperature of the water by certain assumptions as to the shape and size of the subterranean cavities that give it passage.—Youth's Companion.

Would He Be It? The Fellow—Are you looking for anyone that I can help you find? The Girl—Perhaps, I am looking for a son-in-law for my mother.—Princeton Tiger.

CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF.

A Distinction with an Important Difference to Those Who Know Good Meat.

So much attention is being directed to our beef supply at the present moment that a few words on the subject, so far as beef refrigeration is concerned, may be of more than passing interest, says Ice and Cold Storage. It is somewhat peculiar that what at first sight might appear to be the most delicate of meats should be capable of standing such low temperatures as those to which lamb carcasses are subjected; yet long years of experience have proved that these carcasses can be reduced to very low temperatures indeed, and safely held thereat for many months, without the slightest detriment. On the other hand, beef, when frozen and thawed, indicates too clearly the conditions it has been subjected to, and consequently, when once treated in this manner not only bears very palpable evidence thereof, but is so deteriorated in appearance as to be reduced considerably in value. The greater portion of the imported frozen beef is therefore dumped on the cheap markets, where price, rather than quality, regulates the demand. The difficulties experienced in connection with beef refrigeration were undoubtedly the cause of the large importations of live cattle into this country, and it is consequently no wonder that such efforts are being made to again obtain the supply of cattle from Argentina which the existing regulations have prevented for some time past.

The well-known effort of freezing beef on the one hand, and the great reduction in the arrival of live cattle on the other, drove the importers to consider the best alternative means to be adopted to bring this meat into the country, with the result that experiments were made with chilled beef which turned out so satisfactorily that large consignments have been arriving here for a long time in excellent condition. This meat is held at or about the freezing point, say between 32 degrees Fahrenheit and 33 degrees Fahrenheit, and must not be subject to any great variation—in fact, the temperatures just given should be the highest and lowest permissible. Under such conditions as these the meat came out in very good condition, and may be readily shipped in quarter sides with advantage; but there is an unfortunate drawback to this method due to the limitation of the time that this chilling effect acts as a preservative. A number of trials have been made, but up to the present it appears to be impossible to keep beef for more than three weeks in a chilled state, and so far every attempt which has been made in long-distance steamers has resulted in the necessity of freezing down after the period named if the meat was to be landed in a salable condition. It is some satisfaction, however, that so much beef can be obtained within the radius represented by this time limitation, and that the altered conditions of the trade have been a distinct boon to refrigeration machinery makers, in particular and the industry generally.

MUFFS FOR THE FEET. Good Things to Have on While Driving in Very Cold Weather—Many Varieties.

"You heard of ear muffs and wrist muffs, but never heard of foot muffs," said the dealer, according to the New York Sun. "Why, I don't know but what foot muffs are the oldest of the lot; they are one of them, certainly."

"Foot muffs, of course, are used to keep the feet warm in driving; and they may be used by my lady driving in her victoria in the city, or in long drives in the country, and they are used in automobiling.

"They were made long before the modern foot stoves for carriage use were invented, and there are people who still prefer them. They have some manifest advantages over the stove. For example, take an open carriage in which two persons are driving, and suppose the lap robe to be thrown off when one dismounts from the carriage. Then it might be that the feet of both would be uncovered. But suppose each had a foot muff. Then whatever might be done with the lap robe the feet of the person remaining would be protected.

"The foot muff is something like a great, spacious, comfortable slipper, wide enough for both feet, and coming up high on the foot; really a sort of fur bag into which two feet may be thrust. It is made in very considerable variety, ranging in price from three or four dollars each up to \$75. The lowest priced among them are made of inexpensive furs lined with sheepskin; the higher-priced ones are made of seal and other fine furs, sometimes finished with an ornamental design upon the top. Any of them makes a slightly as well as a most comfortable item of carriage equipment."

Something Lacking. "I haven't seen you in your new automobile yet, Mrs. Noorox," said Mrs. Fosdick. "No," replied Mrs. Noorox. "We haven't been out much. Mr. Noorox doesn't know how to run the machine, and he hasn't been able to hire a good chauffeur yet."—Detroit Free Press.

An Indirect Vegetarian. "You claim to be a vegetarian and yet you are eating meat." "That's all right; this meat came from an animal that ate grass."—N. Y. Times.

THE TIBER'S TREASURES.

Rare Antiquities Dredged from the River's Bed in Times Gone By.

If we may judge by the past, the forthcoming dredging of the Tiber ought to yield some remarkable "finds." A long time ago it was proposed to divert the stream of the river above Rome, so that excavations might be made in the mud and silt, and also in the solid earth that underlies the present channel. The idea was abandoned as too elaborate and expensive, but in 1877 an effort was made to give to the stream a uniform depth of nine feet, says the London Chronicle. The dredging involved in this hady penetrated more than three feet below the bottom. It did not touch the lower strata. Nevertheless an enormous number of antiquities were disinterred. Few of these dated back to classical times. Coins were discovered at the rate of 14,000 per annum, but nearly all belong to the last two centuries. Some thousands of weapons were also recovered, the witnesses to the revolutions and political outbreaks of the last few hundred years. The revolt of 1831 and the Napoleonic wars supplied the majority of them.

On only two occasions has the Tiber been pierced to a depth of over 20 feet—once in constructing the Ponte Garibaldi, and once in repairing the Ponte Sisto. The excavations made at these times were confined to a very small area, but they brought to light an enormous mass of archaeological material. The treasures comprised coins, medals, sculptures, bronzes, brass work, inscribed stones and gems, specimens of pottery, and also marbles. Among the last was a fine statue in perfect condition except for the loss of its arms. None of these objects had suffered much from their entombment, which varied from 1,500 to 1,800 years. Iron alone is rusted and finally eaten away by the action of water, its effect on marble being mainly to impart a deep reddish-brown tinge. Otherwise Father Tiber is a first-rate curator.

He deals gently with the treasures committed to his care, washing away the lighter ones, no doubt, but so it is supposed, not mousing the heavier objects, such as marbles and statuary, more than 14 or 15 yards in a century. A systematic dredging may bear out all the tales that have been told in Rome about the middle ages of the fabulous wealth that has been cast into his yellow waters.

HOW TO FIND TIME. Save All Your Spare Moments and You Will Have Leisure to Spend.

One of the commonest excuses for the lack of self-culture and attention to other duties is the lack of time, says Success. Hundreds of men, young and old, cheat themselves with the notion that they would do this or that desirable thing if they "only had time," says the Philadelphia Ledger. The truth generally is that the lazier of them could find leisure for an extra thing by utilizing odd chinks and crevices of time, and properly arranging their regular employments. Haditt observes that many men walk as much idly on Pall Mall in a few years, as would suffice to carry them around the globe. The truth is that an honest purpose, made time or makes it. It seizes on spare moments and turns larger fragments of leisure to golden account. How many men are there in the busiest classes who do not waste daily in bed, or loitering, or in idle talk, 15 or 20 minutes? Yet even this petty fraction of time, if devoted steadily to self-improvement, would make a life fruitful in good deeds. Even ten minutes a day spent in thoughtful study would be felt at the year's end. A continual dropping wears away a stone; a continual deposit of animalcules builds up a continent. The most colossal buildings are reared by laying one brick or stone at a time on others.

To ask for leisure to do any ordinary thing is simply to confess that we do not care to do it. On the other hand, who but him who has experienced it can tell the rapture with which knowledge is gathered, in those hurried but precious moments by the reader who has, instead of whole days, only snatches of time at his command? While the owner of a large library lounges a whole afternoon on his sofa, the poor fellow who hangs over a book stall, or snatches ten minutes from his work to dip into a prized volume, revels in an intellectual paradise.

William Ellery Channing observes that the affections sometimes crowd years into minutes, and that the intellect has something of the same power.

Might Do That Much. "I am afraid, Bobby," said his mother, "that when I tell your father what a naughty boy you've been he will punish you severely." "Have you got to tell him?" asked Bobby, earnestly. "O, yes; I shall tell him immediately after dinner."

"Well, mother," said he, "give him a better dinner than usual. You might do that much for me."—Stray Stories.

Queer Cattle Feed. The drought has driven Australian pastoralists to all sorts of expedients to keep their stock alive. In Queensland one squatter has chopped but-rushes into chaff, mixed them with molasses and water, and used them for food for his sheep with very satisfactory results.—N. Y. Sun.

As Explained. Giles—Many a man's thirst for liquor is due to his poverty. Miles—How's that? "If wealthy he wouldn't allow himself to have a thirst."—Chicago Daily News.