

Message boy could not find the wireless telegraph office. It would be saved by a new series of leap years.

The trade of the United States with Africa is exceeded only by that with the United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Mexico, Japan and Australia.

Passengers are requested not to put their feet on the cushions or seats of the carriages. It is found in several second-class cars on English railroads. In one of them a wive wrote on the inscription, "or they will dirty their boots."

Nearly seventeen million American children are attending school. This is almost one-fourth of the population of the Republic. There is a connection between this fact and the other so generally acknowledged, that this is an enlightened and progressive Nation.

A bargain-counter rush at Charleston, S. C., resulted in severe injuries to a number of women participating in the race for marked-down commodities. This indicates that feminine pastimes have the same element of danger that pertains to masculine sports.

There is in Liverpool, England, what is known as the police-aided association for clothing the destitute children of that city, and it has worked well for five or six years past. The object of the association is the clothing of all insufficiently clothed children who come under the notice of the police.

A curious fact is made known in a report of the Industrial Commission on the distribution of agricultural products. Few people, perhaps, would think that the old-fashioned wagon road is not only holding its own against the modern railroads, but maintaining a position of greater importance. The report referred to above, says that the farmers are moving their products to the local market or to the nearest shipping station is greater than the operating expenses of all the railroads of the United States.

A German professor, probably a lineal descendant of the crucifix-grammarian who upon his death-bed expressed his profound regret that he had not devoted his entire life to the study of the native case, is said to have determined the exact duration of an average wink. He declares that it takes four-tenths of a second. Of course the learned scientist made use of special apparatus constructed by himself and devoted much time to arduous experiments. That is the way of the conscientious and patient German professor. But after all, does the world care much to know whether a wink occupies four-tenths of a second, or only three and three-quarters? queries the New York Tribune.

The unveiling of a monument at Valley Forge is the text of the following paragraph from the Baltimore Herald: "Many brave deeds have been commemorated in bronze, granite and marble by a grateful posterity since the days when the American troops suffered the rigors of winter and the pangs of hunger in this camp-ground, but the heroism there displayed has been overlooked in the dotting of field, meadow, park and square with emblems of daring deeds. Valley Forge has not been forgotten, although it has, until recently, been neglected. Every schoolboy and schoolgirl is early taught that the patient suffering of the soldiers there marked the lowest ebb of the revolutionary movement which made a signal change in the world's history, and that the almost superhuman inspiration of Washington held together the remnants of a band of heroes and infused in them a spirit of endurance that was wonderful and unaccountable."

In several Iowa cities weeds are officially pronounced noxious and a nuisance, and ordinances provide for their cutting by the city, the expense to be taxed against the owners of the abutting property. If the owner neglects to abate the nuisance, these ordinances have been pronounced valid by a Judge of the District Court, who holds that the municipality is not required to limit its attention to noxious weeds, but that it has the power to declare a nuisance and to abate it. Assessed citizens of Des Moines, who instituted the legal proceedings, must now pay, or prove that the alleged weeds are not their premises were neither noxious nor a nuisance. This can be done in many cases, it is reported, the greedy contractors who did the cutting not being particular what they cut, but being anxious to make the cleared area as large as possible, as they were paid by measurement.

In some cases, the judgment citizens' claim, the weed-cutters moved down flowers and shrubs, and in others cleared wide fields of good grass suitable for pasturage. Even laws, beautified by gardeners, were included in the tract measured by the contractors, and for which they were paid.

THE PUMPKINS EAT A CHRISTMAS STORY

FARMER BROWN. Mrs. Brown, and five little Browns were at dinner. It was a few days before Christmas and the question which was disturbing their minds was what to have for dinner on Christmas Day.

A great deal of the talking was done by the five little Browns, as they were called. They chattered and laughed, and quarreled, too. I fear. Sometimes their father and mother got a word in edgewise.

"Of course, we must have a turkey," said Mrs. Brown.

"And one with lots of wish bones," cried Browne No. 2, "so we can all wish."

"Alit' we going to have any pie?" chimed in the youngest.

"Well, I'll go get a knife," said Jim, "and you hunt up a pole to put it on." "Yes, I'll get a knife," said Jim, "and you hunt up a pole to put it on." "Yes, I'll get a knife," said Jim, "and you hunt up a pole to put it on."

On October 12 the ship was struck by a typhoon and driven upon a reef, where she pounded to pieces. The reef was calculated to be situated about 600 miles southwest of Manila and about 150 miles from the coast of China.

All night long the doomed ship pounded on the reef. In the morning attempts were made to leave the ship in two long boats, but these were in turn battered to splinters against the side of the wreck and several men were drowned. At 5 o'clock that day the ship began to break up on the starboard side until the 21st, when it was decided to leave the ship on a rudely constructed raft fashioned from the wrecked part of the port bulwarks.

With Campbell on the raft were Hajiman Johnson, a Norwegian, and Miguel Martineiro, a Spaniard, the only survivors. Relating the thrilling experience of his and his shipmate's adventures, Johnson said:

"Ten days adrift, and one of us, a French sailor, became insane, and picking up an ax which we had used to chop our raft free from the ship, threatened to slit my hand. While trying to strike the man, the ax struck me and I was wrenched myself free and left open the skull of the first mate, Campbell."

"I shall never forget that awful scene. The frenzied Frenchman leaped upon the body of our murdered mate and seized an arm of the dead man in his teeth. We were weak and unable to attempt to interfere. One of our men scrawped at the Frenchman."

"The manie rushed upon the sailor and again raised the ax. Then the second mate, being insane, and grabbing the ax, dispatched the Frenchman on the spot. The next day we shaved the body of the first mate and reburied it."

"During that day two of the sailors went crazy and jumped into the sea, leaving Martineiro and myself alone on the raft with the body of the French sailor."

"I don't now remember much after that, but I do know that I ate some fish which Martineiro gave me."

Suspicion For the Colonel.
Colonel Andrew Comstock, an early settler and one of the militia of Sullivan County, New York, was a dashing, impulsive man. Gay with dress and face and feathers and mounted on a steel made frantic by his rider's merciless spurs, says the historian of the County, the Colonel presented a truly martial appearance at the head of his regiment. On one occasion he led his regiment to a bear which had killed some of his sheep.

The trap and log were missing with in a day or so, and a company of neighbors, led by the Colonel, went in pursuit of the animal which had dragged them off. They soon came upon Bruin, who had paused in his flight to devour the log, and the trap was fastened but became entangled between two stumps. The bear was a huge fellow, and now, finding further flight impossible, he faced the hunters bravely.

ADVENTURE

Adrift on a Raft.
DRIFT for thirty-eight days on a raft without food or water, and in the company of an entire shipwrecked crew live to tell a frightful story of murder and cannibalism. Through the investigation of the ship, and headed by Justice Holmes, who at once forwarded it to Earl (then Lord) Roberts. The Commander-in-Chief answered by telegraph that the Raft had been released and was on a way home. It is such graphic incidents as these that tend, to some extent, the horrors of war.

How She Made a Panther Run.
News has been received from the Judge Hanna farm, near Meadows, a few miles east of Grant's Pass, Oregon, of a chase of two zibds. Anna Catoon and Myrtle Love, from an attack by a monster panther recently.

The girls were engaged in washing clothes on the creek, when one of them happened to see a large panther crouched in the brush within four yards of them. The big beast was crouched close to the ground, waving its tail to and fro, his glaring eyes fixed upon the two girls, ready to pounce upon the first opportunity.

At this same place, about a year ago, two hunters, the House Chestnut, an old widow lady in that town had a favorite cat. In her will she left her cat an annuity of \$50 a year and \$20 a year for medicines to a veterinary surgeon who undertook to keep it. The cat's name is Cadelet Bousled. The will was just published at Amiens, and Cadelet Bousled was greatly envied by many persons. However, while it was yet time, the House Chestnut, was so ill that she was unable to carry out the bequest, on the plea that, as a cat had no civil rights, it could not benefit by a bequest. The court gave judgment in that sense, and the cat \$20 a year for drugs. On appeal the judgment has been set aside on the ground of its being dependent on the legacy of \$50 to be paid to the veterinary surgeon for board and lodging.

Man and Eagle in Battle.
D. W. Bateman, a Great Falls, Montana, merchant, had a thrilling experience with a wounded eagle and a man. He was hunting along an irrigation ditch on his ranch near Bowdoin, prepared for mauling snakes, holding an eagle by the feet at a distance of about ten feet from him. The eagle had nearly dismounded him with its claws, and had it not been for the thick hunting clothes he wore, his injuries would probably have been mortal.

As it is, he will have to remain a week or ten days in a hospital. Several stitches were required to close the wound in his abdomen. Bateman managed to secure a zip on the eagle's neck and finally caught it to death. It measured nearly seven feet from tip to tip.

Drowned in Cave.
After being imprisoned for two days and three nights in a well-trimmed trap, a man named C. C. Conway, of Cornish, Iowa, has been rescued alive. No limbs were broken, but the victim was nearly paralyzed from being cramped in narrow quarters, and the mental strain and exposure have made him a physical wreck.

The ending of the well gave way in such a manner as to protect the imprisoned man from being crushed. An opening for air was made by the prisoner, and he was able to crawl out. A second well was sunk nearby, and an effort was made to tunnel through to him, but the earth caved in in such a manner as to compel the abandonment of this plan.

A rope with a mass at the end was finally dropped through the opening above. Conway let himself down by his arms and was forced up through the earth and hoards that constituted his prison.

Doctor's Directions.
After the pharmacist has straggled with the physician's prescription and you have paid for the careful counting of the contents, it becomes necessary to interpret the exact meaning of the directions written upon the bottle, box or powder. In the case of a baby, the mother is often puzzled. One took one or two nearly went into spasms for half a day. The doctor said, "Did you take the medicine?" "Yes, doctor." "And the pain was gone?" "Yes, doctor." "Then your directions were to take one." Which he had the doctor.

Principle Growing.
Principle growing in the United States has a bright future ahead of it, according to Government experts. The State of Florida doubtless contains the largest tract of principle land in one body, but Southern California also has some land that can produce principle profitably. The Philippine Islands are particularly adapted for the raising of this popular fruit. Coming, as it does, just at the height of the strawberry season and before the shipping season for peaches, it has a unique advantage of coming in during a fruit-bearing market. The American supply comes from Porto Rico, the Bahama Islands, Jamaica, San Salvador and Trinidad and Florida.

A New Idea in Book Binding.
One of the Philadelphia department stores has inaugurated a new plan for providing convenient reading to book lovers at a very low cost. It has established a library of all the popular copyrighted books, on which the rental price is but five cents a week. The books are returned by mail, and the store price is as a deposit, and when the book is returned the sum is refunded, less five cents per week for the use of the book.

Why the Raft Was Set Free.
In the Raft at Lindley, the Dublin Hunt section of the Imperial Yeomanry suffered severely. Trooper William Holmes was found on the left side severely injured. But for the kindness of a Boer who sat by him all night and convulsed him into a calm morning to Lindley, he would probably have died. As it was, his condition was serious, and a leg had to be cut off. In the course of time this very Boer was captured and transported beyond the seas. From his new quarters he wrote to the trooper in the hope that he might be able to set him out back on parole. The letter reached the soldier's home in Dublin before the invalid man had returned there, but it was written by him, and was forwarded to Earl (then Lord) Roberts. The Commander-in-Chief answered by telegraph that the Raft had been released and was on a way home. It is such graphic incidents as these that tend, to some extent, the horrors of war.

A Weakness of Lord Roberts.
The best of men have their little weaknesses, says London Truth, and in the case of the South African War, Lord Roberts showed, according to all reports, an amazing weakness for all reds more or less connected with "so-called" and his personal staff was especially composed of them.

Between the years 1700 and 1770, 10,000,000 pounds of silk were exported from Georgia to England.

Half-Hour with the Children

Working Together.
A million little subcaps can make a pleasant day.
A million little rain-drops can frighten them away.
Now if all the little children should sit down and cry together, what a scene! It would be so in such a spell of weather! The sun might blaze in bluest skies, but soon he would be a sorry smile. Until we saw a happy smile—On every little chin.

Effects of a Balloon on Animals.
The effect of a balloon upon animals and birds was narrated by the Rev. J. M. B. in the course of a lecture last night. "A dog," he said, "always showed great distress; a horse carried in dismay all over the field in front of a close coat of two girls. Anna Catoon and Myrtle Love, from an attack by a monster panther recently."

A Cat Story.
A curious cat story has been told before the civil tribunal of Amiens. An old widow lady in that town had a favorite cat. In her will she left her cat an annuity of \$50 a year and \$20 a year for medicines to a veterinary surgeon who undertook to keep it. The cat's name is Cadelet Bousled. The will was just published at Amiens, and Cadelet Bousled was greatly envied by many persons.

A Chestnut.
Many trees are both ornamental and useful, but the House Chestnut, familiar to everyone, is only a professional beauty. Its wood is too soft to be of much value, and its nuts are as poisonous as the nuts of the Spanish Chestnut tree. Bees and other animals will eat them, and they are, at times, mashed up with other foods and given to sheep, cattle and fowls. They have also been used in the making of starch, and boys love to collect them for "Compozors." This is a poor tale of worth for so tall and stately a tree. But it is worth a mention when covered with bunches of white waxen flowers, it would be hard to write too strongly. The trees in the avenues in Buzancy and other parts of the west of France are very conspicuously decorated with lovely candles. And in autumn, when the leaves change to yellow, which quite flashes in the sunshine, they seem to light up the whole forest or park.

It Has Got To Be Done.
"Oh, oh, oh!" screamed the Carpentier, who was sitting on the bench, "Leave off, leave off! You make my sides ache so."

"It will be for your good, afterwards," said the doctor, "You know when I see you, you will look as good as new. It has got to be done."

"All will you never have done?" "I will see to it," said the Doctor, "I will see to it, you know more!"

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WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY.

When Grandpa was a boy—Oh, Gee!—say, what his folks would have said if they never did a thing but just exactly as they should. They never worried Bridget and they never sassed their ma; they never used to tease and beg for stories from their pa; they never kicked the table leg, nor asked two times for pie.

They never whined for have ice cream, and they never used to cry when they'd good deal rather bring in wood than play with any toy. And don't chores was their delight, when Grandpa was a boy.

When Grandpa was a boy they had no holidays at all. And school kept going right along through summer time till fall; and all the folks loved it and they used to tease for so. And if they stayed for home a day it broke their hearts, yet know. They never thought of "hokin' jack," and never ones was so. And don't ever mind a word, when Grandpa was a boy.

When Grandpa was a boy he loved to wear his Sunday clothes. And don't ever mind a word, when Grandpa was a boy. And don't ever mind a word, when Grandpa was a boy.

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