







By MAT D. BLOSSER.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1892.

There are nearly 200,000 miles of railway in the United States. And yet the time is easily within the memory of middle-aged men when the total railway mileage of the country was less than 10,000 miles.

England can take a census of its population in a single night while in the United States we devote a year to it. But in the United States we can dispose of a national election in one day, while England spends it over the best part of a month.

Another man has been acquitted of the charge of stealing electricity by tapping the wire of an electric light company in St. Louis and getting his illumination free. The judge would not concede that the offense was petty larceny, and the grand jury would not allow that it was fraud. It looks as if the progress the world has been making in electricity demanded a special legal code.

The peculiar conditions of British political affairs point to rapid progress of democracy and the closing years of the century may have in store for the aristocracy reforms which will at first seem grievous. Even the crown will lose much of its stability unless there shall be severe check given to English democracy. The divine right of one cannot stand against the recognition of the equal rights of all.

The time is almost here when the idea of a public school system without its kindergartens will seem as absurd as the idea of a postal system in which none of the mail carriers should be able to read. Our educational fabric has been built in large part from the top downward; and some of the broadest and most necessary foundation stones are now being placed in position beneath it. In the general adoption of kindergartens and manual training work. That this is not in response to any theory, but in harmony with the views of broad-minded and public-spirited people everywhere is shown by the general interest.

The system of spending years to learn a trade was brought into disrepute at first by the greed and indifference of the masters who often kept the apprentice for the first half of his term at menial employments, making him a servant to the more advanced workman, until a younger apprentice came to take his place, when he might be taught some of the rudiments of the business, but at the end, unless unusually smart and attentive to the lessons given others he too often ended his term but little wiser than he began, and had his business to learn by experience after he entered into business for himself or became a journeyman for some other employer.

The suggestion comes from Garden and Forest that there should be a public forest reservation near the boundary of North Carolina and Tennessee, and it names Roan mountain as the most suitable tract for the purpose. It has a great variety of the finest hard wood and coniferous trees and interesting shrubs. There is no time to lose, however, for twenty saw-mills are at work on the flank of the mountain, and the large trees especially are marked for destruction. The American of the future will not know what these forests looked like unless a block of them is preserved. Roan mountain is eighty miles northwest of Asheville, and from its summit, 6,800 feet high, eight states can be seen.

The cable for which the world must forever thank Cyrus W. Field, has so transformed news that foreign becomes almost local, has made today's news from Europe, from Asia, from South America, from Australia, as important to the daily paper in its regular routine announcements as the docket from the police courts or the daily quotations of the price of butter and eggs. This instantaneous communication has brought the elections of Great Britain so close to us that they have almost assumed local interest. We talk of Liberalism, Conservatism and Parnellism as familiarly as we discuss the politics of the next ward. We are kept as thoroughly posted on the influence of yesterday's rain on the crops of Russia as those of Dakota or Central Ohio.

In the period of the greatest Grouman glory there was no profession more honorable, none more inviting, than the profession of teaching. To enter it men made the most careful preparation and greatest sacrifices. It has nothing might divert their attention from the work to which they devoted their lives it was no uncommon thing for the teacher, before formally entering upon his profession, to give up all his property. This was in striking contrast to the modern vocation of training young ideas. Indeed teaching is now scarcely recognized as among the professions. It is apt to be more of a make-shift calling, a convenient stepping stone to something better. Is a young man fitting himself for a college course and obliged to depend upon his own efforts for the necessary funds? With a possible ability to repeat the multiplication table and tell that grammar is not a description of the earth's surface, he hires himself out as a teacher.

A WINTER SONG.

When Daphne's skates I strap upon My lovely Daphne's feet, My heart in mad combustion Excessively doth beat, And when I place upon her head Her soft brown saskin cap, And note her cheeks suffusing red, I care not what may happen.

THE SPECTRE WEDDING.

Mr. Martin Dupont was a justice of the peace in the little town of Marlburg. He had been elected to the office at the close of the war of 1812, and had acted in his present capacity for nearly nine years. Men of Mr. Dupont's type were very common in those days, and even now one does not have to search far to find one of these self-complacent pompous gentlemen, who delight in winning admiration from their associates who always have at their tongue's end a great many stories in which they nevertheless, very superstitious as so much so indeed, that a glimpse of the moon over the left shoulder, or a howling dog, has power to make them melancholy for a week.

Having failed to secure for himself as large a share of this world's goods as he had wished, Mr. Dupont was fully resolved that his two children, Henry and Margaret, should not be lacking in wealth. As for his son, he very wisely concluded that a good education added to his natural abilities would secure for him a place in the world; and already Henry was showing the wisdom of the plan, and by his rapid advancement in business was more than fulfilling his father's expectations. It had always been Mr. Dupont's desire that his daughter should marry some rich man, but Margaret had fallen in love very foolishly, according to her father's idea, with the principal of the Marlburg high school.

Charles Foster had several times duped his suit in vain before Mr. Dupont. There was no fault in the young man, Mr. Dupont gradually admitted, except that all he had depended upon was his salary, but still no man should presume to become his son-in-law who had not money enough to support his daughter in better style than that in which she was then living. He liked the school teacher very well as a friend, but as a son-in-law, that was quite another matter.

Nevertheless Charles and Margaret did not despair of their cause, although Mr. Dupont was seemingly immovable. The thought of an engagement was banished by them both as being dishonorable, and no other plan seemed practicable, they very wisely resolved to wait until some kind of a miracle came to their aid. This was the condition of affairs when our story begins.

Mr. Dupont's duties as justice of the peace did not confine his law practice to Marlburg; but very frequently he was called away to attend various lawsuits in neighboring towns and hamlets, and it so happened that at this particular time he was engaged in a case of some considerable importance in an adjoining town. On account of the nearness of the place, it was Mr. Dupont's custom to drive his own horse back and forth and to spend his nights at home.

One night, on account of an unusual press of business he was obliged to remain beyond his ordinary time of leaving, and after the work was completed he yielded to the urgent invitation of his client to chat for a few moments. As they pulled away at the choice Havana, they began to talk of other of various exciting adventures and wonderful experiences. Time slipped away so rapidly that it was after 10 o'clock before Mr. Dupont suddenly remembered that a seven-mile drive lay between him and his home. Hastily bidding his friend good-by, he started for the hotel stable to get his horse.

The weather had changed while the two gentlemen had been chatting, and now the ominous stillness and the cloudy sky admonished Mr. Dupont that if he wished to get home before the rain began to fall he must hasten. Hastily throwing a quarter to the sleepy hostler, he sprang into his buggy and set out on his homeward way. The road home was a lonely one; houses were few and far between, and a few miles out of Marlburg some lonely woods lined the road on either side, and joining the woods was a graveyard. As Mr. Dupont drove into the darkness he began to be somewhat nervous, the wild stories that he had just been hearing kept flashing through his mind a great many wrong deeds of his life came before him, magnified by darkness and solitude, and among other things he began to wonder if he was doing just right in refusing his consent to his daughter's marriage. In this frame of mind he approached the woods; involuntarily he tried to quicken his horse's pace but the darkness and the low murmurings of thunder seemed to have affected the horse, too, and the sagacious brute tried constantly to slacken his pace. How lonely it seemed there, no houses, no living being—nothing but the dead in the graveyard beyond. Suddenly the horse stopped and snorted. Mr. Dupont saw two white figures suddenly dart into the road; one stood beside his horse, and the other beckoned him to descend from his wagon. His hair rose and his tongue seemed glued to the roof of his mouth. The silence was terrible. If those white beings would only speak; but no sound came from them. At last in desperation he stammered out:

"Who are you, and what do you mean by stopping me here in this way?" "We are spirits of the departed dead," a sepulchral voice replied, "and we have need of your services; descend from your vehicle, do as we bid you, and on the word of a ghost you shall not be harmed." The terrified lawyer descended and stood by the speaker's side, while the other ghost tided his horse to a tree and then joined them. "Yield yourself entirely to us and you shall be safe," said the spokesman. "You must needs walk far and must allow us to blindfold your eyes,

PECULIAR WEAPONS.

How Their Color Shields Anticipate From Many Dangers. One of the most interesting things that the naturalist finds to study is the effect of various colors and forms in rendering animals invisible or inconspicuous. This means of concealment is useful mainly in enabling the animal possessing it to remain hidden from the searching eyes of its enemies. Some of the animals given by travelers and naturalists of the eclipsing effect of certain color combinations seem hardly credible. Among the most gorgeous of the inhabitants of the air are the sunbirds of Africa, and yet Mrs. Barker, the traveller, assures the Youth's Companion that even the keen eyes of a hawk will fail to detect these birds when they are fitting in a field of flowers.

Most species of the East India sloth, which feeds upon trees, have an orange-colored spot on their backs, which renders them very conspicuous when they are seen out of their ordinary environment, but when they are clinging to the trees the color of their hair resembles withered moss, while the orange spot on their backs so closely imitates the scar made by the breaking off of a branch that even hunters are deceived by it.

The color and stripes of the tiger sometimes renders it invisible in bright sunshine amid the dried yellow grass of a jungle. Major Wilford, an English hunter says: "Once while following up a wounded tiger I failed for at least a minute to see him under a tree in the grass at a distance of about twenty yards—jungle open—but the natives saw him and I eventually made him out well enough to shoot him; but even then I could not see at what part of him I was aiming."

But perhaps the most wonderful effect of color and contrast in concealing large animals is in the case of the zebra and giraffe. Alfred Russel Wallace says of the giraffe that the large blotch-like spots on the skin, and the strange shape of the head and horns like broken branches, so tend to its concealment that even the keen-eyed natives have been known to mistake trees for giraffes or giraffes for trees.

As to zebras Prof. Henry Drummond says in his book on "Tropical America" after describing how the black and white stripes take away the sense of a solid body altogether, the two colors blending into an inconspicuous gray while at close quarters the effect is as of bars of light seen through the branches of shrubs: "I have found myself in the forest going at what I supposed to be a solitary zebra, its presence betrayed by some motion due to my approach, and suddenly realized that I was surrounded by an entire herd, which were all invisible until they moved."

A recent writer in Nature, after quoting this passage from Drummond, together with a statement of Francis Galton that in clear moonlight a zebra may be invisible although so near that its breathing can be heard, carries the idea of protection furnished by the zebra's stripes a step further by suggesting that they conceal it from the eyes of its enemies while it sleeps.

CHINESE FEAST DAYS.

Various Peculiarities About the Oriental Holidays. The first day of the Chinese New Year's feasts is called "Bird's Day" (Yat-Yat) and is supposed to bring to mind the utility of the feathered tribes as food. On this day all orthodox Chinese abstain from eating flesh and they sometimes observe it as a day of fasting. The second day is "Dog's Day" (Kua-Yat). This day is especially held sacred to the canine hosts of the Flowery Kingdom. The "chings" notwithstanding the fact that they eat the meat of the dog and esteem it a great delicacy, their dogs more highly and take better care of them than any other race of people. In every large Chinese city there is a workman whose sole trade is that of making collars for departed canines.

The third day, Hog's day (Chen-Yat) is celebrated in honor of a hog that once drew a valuable manuscript out of a bonfire of trash. The fourth day, Sheep's day (Yaung-Yat) is honored in memory of Pung-Koon-Veng, a shepherd who clothed himself in leaves, grass and bark of trees, refusing to make use of any part of the sheep, either for food or clothing. The fifth day is Cow's day (New-Yat). This day is consecrated to the cow, which is considered to be the most valuable animal in the world, and the cowards became rich and built the celebrated "Temple of Cows." The sixth day is Ma-Yat or Horse day, and is set apart to call to mind the usefulness of that noble animal.

In a recent volume of memoirs it is told that on the first council day, after Lord Derby's elevation to the premiership, Greville showed his disapproval by not appearing in his place as clerk; Mrs. Greville asked Lord Derby whether he had noticed Greville's absence and Lord Derby replied, with a face of benevolent apology: "No, really? You know, I am the most inattentive fellow in the world about these things. I never notice when I ring the bell, whether John or Thomas answers it."

Origin of German. Here is the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's account of the origin of German. "Do you know," asked he of a friend one day, "how the German language originated?" "No," was the reply. "Well," said the preacher, "I do. There were two women at the Tower of Babel, one standing above the other. The uppermost one accidentally threw some mortar from his trowel into the mouth of the lower one and he began to sputter with the mortar in his mouth. The sound is now known as German."

In a Pickwickian Sense. "Ah! I've been looking for you! What did you mean, sir, by telling a friend of mine the other day that I was a hard citizen?" "I meant that you were a regular brick."

Misinformed. "Ah, Blank, is it you? I hear you're running a house of your own now." "No," responded Blank sadly, "only married." Kate: Field's Washington.

CHEERFUL CHATTER.

"I never see the poems you write for the magazines." "No; I just write them." "That's an A1 dog of yours," said a bystander. "I thought he was a K9," said the owner.

"Ho—'Will you be mine?' She—'Yes, until we are married. Then you'll be mine.'"

Briggs—"What did Plankerton do for divorce for?" Griggs—"His cook threatened to leave!"

Summer Boarder—"Gracious! what ails that cow? Farmer—'Nothing much, ma'am, but she's so blamed foolish that she's trying to fix it so as to be able to lie down in her own shadow."

"Oh, by the way, Mrs. Sleenby called to-day," exclaimed Mrs. Cate, "and, do you know, her story about her stomach were quite entertaining; it was so long since I heard of them, you know."

Country Bookseller (to miser who has previously invested in a dictionary)—"Oh, you must look among the S's for scissors, not the Z's. Miner—'Well, who's O! to know? Wot's t'ood of a dictionary without a hindex?"

Doctor—"What you need, dear madame, is just a little change; you are nervous." Mrs. Offguse—"Now, when you tell my husband, pray make him understand that the most of the change can be in tens and twenties."

"I tell you," said the new policeman, "I'd like to arrest somebody. I haven't had a show yet." "Well," replied the veteran, "you just tackle 'most any man you see carrying an umbrella. The chances are that you will make a case."

The boy had been sitting for three hours watching the bob on his fish-line when the man came along. "What are you doing there?" said the man. "Fishing," said the boy. "Got anything?" said the man. "Yep," said the boy. "What?" said the man. "Patience," said the boy, and the man offered him \$4 a week to come down to the railroad ticket office and answer questions.

IEWS AND VARIETIES.

The number of dwellings in the United States in 1891 was 8,958,912. A complete buggy in sections was not long ago shipped from this country to Mexico by the parcel post.

The Chinese value a pair of old boots which have been worn by an upright magistrate, and the custom of wishing a friend a "happy foot" is still observed all through Europe.

In the mythology of Europe horses were regarded as luck-bringers and superstition once supposed that a horse's hoof placed under the bed would cure certain complaints.

After an experiment continuing for fifteen years, the Pennsylvania railroad has decided to abandon iron ties and return to wood. It is found that in no respect are the metal ties equal to wooden ones.

A house near Latak, Ore., owned by an Indian, was struck by lightning the other day, which tore a large hole in the roof, passing into the house it struck a squaw on the forehead. Going down her body it passed into the ground, making two small holes in the floor, one under each foot. Both moccasins were torn from the woman's feet, but otherwise her clothing was uninjured.

Eighty million dollars is the annual amount paid to school teachers in the United States. California and Idaho are the only two states in the union whose marriage laws are identical.

The fashion in bridemaids' bouquets lately has been the horseshoe, with the nails worked out in contrasting blossoms. A piece of ground was recently sold in Chicago at a price which in silver would cover the entire lot with three layers of dollars.

Grasshoppers attain their greatest size in South America where they grow to a length of five inches and their wings spread out ten inches. The natives of Vera Cruz do a large trade in fireflies, which they catch by waving a blazing coal at the end of a stick. The insects fly toward the light and are captured in nets.

A Georgia farmer, while on his way to Augusta with a load of chickens and eggs, had his wagon turned over and broke 225 dozen eggs and killed thirty-seven chickens. All the hens' eggs were broken, but none of the guinea eggs.

Calico printing was first executed by the Dutch in 1679; first made in England in 1771. The only one ever printed—Can You Find the Word. There is a 3-inch display advertisement in this paper this week which has no two words alike except one word. The same is true of each new appearing each week, from the Dr. Harter-Medicine Co. This house places a "Greenstick" on everything they make and publish. Look for it, and them the name of the word, and they will return you BOOK, BEAUTIFUL LITHOGRAPHIC OR SAMPLES FREE.

The most bitter opponents of monopolies are those who didn't buy stock when it was for sale.

SOMETHING

who loves music and art OUGHT TO KNOW

A chance to obtain a complete education in singing, instrumental music, painting and drawing, with all expenses of board and tuition paid. For full particulars address

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY Philadelphia, Pa.

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

W. L. DOUGLAS'S \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

How to Obtain

Dry and Fancy Goods at the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

At the lowest prices

High Living

If you keep at it, it is apt to tell upon the liver. The things to prevent this are Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

Take one of these Little Pellets for a cathartic. They're the most easiest to take, pleasant and most natural in the way they act.

They do permanent good. Constipation, Indigestion, Bilious Attacks, Sick or Bilious Headache, and all derangements of the liver, stomach, and bowels are prevented, relieved, and cured.

They're guaranteed to give satisfaction in every case, or your money is returned.

The worst cases of Chronic Catarrh in the Head, yield to Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. So certain is it that its makers offer \$500 reward for an incurable case.

SICK HEADACHE CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CARTER MEDICINE CO., NEW YORK. Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

TOWER'S FISH BRAND WATERPROOF COAT

EDUCATIONAL. ALMA

PATENTS TEXAS WHEAT REGION

FLAGS KIDNER'S PASTILLES

LADIES! GUNS

ORANGE - BLOSSOM

WOMEN SAVED

YOU WANT IT! MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT

MINARD'S LINIMENT