

PLAN A SKY-SCRAPER.

New Yorkers to Erect a Building Double Height of Any on Earth.

Monstrous Structure Will Be Five Stories Below Ground and Forty Above and Will Cost in Neighborhood of \$10,000,000.

Contracts will soon be let for the erection on lower Broadway, in New York city, of the tallest building on earth. With five stories below the street level, 40 stories high from the sidewalk entrance to the top floor and surmounted by a 60-foot tower, the gigantic new building, which will be known as the Broadway-Cortlandt, will have a total height of 615 feet, making it over twice as high as the Flatiron building and almost as tall again as the Park Row building, which now holds the record.

The building is estimated to cost when ready for occupancy about \$4,500,000, while the site will have cost about \$5,000,000. The plots on which the Broadway-Cortlandt will be built are now occupied by low, old-fashioned brick and wooden structures, erected years ago. As the new structure is to be completed early in November, 1904, the work of razing these buildings preparatory to excavating will soon be begun.

Instead of sinking caissons for the support of the heavy foundations on which the immense building proper will rest, those in charge of the work will excavate to the stratum of bed-rock which underlies the lower part of Manhattan island at a depth of almost 80 feet. The massive masonry foundations, which will be further underground than the various rapid transit tunnels, will be 20 feet in depth, and this will permit of five stories below the curb.

The lowest of these floors will be occupied solely by the heating, lighting and elevator boilers and machinery for the whole structure. The next two floors will serve as storage rooms for trunks, while the fourth floor in part will be an underground station, the promoters having received assurances from the rapid transit commission that a subway depot will be erected there.

The double tunnel to Jersey City and the Brooklyn branch of the subway will meet in the arcade of the new skyscraper. This arcade will be occupied by almost 50 stores. The fifth underground floor has been leased exclusively for safety deposit purposes.

The first five floors above the street level will be occupied wholly by bankers, trust companies, corporations, offices and a few stores. There will be a large restaurant and cafe on the first floor and others on various upper floors. Provision will also be made for club and assembly rooms on all upper floors, which will be rented as offices. In the matter of decoration the tallest office building will be one of the handsomest structures in the city. White marble will compose the outer walls from the street to the fifteenth floor and the remainder of the building on all sides will be faced with white porcelain brick.

WAR "VICTIM" COMES TO LIFE.

Supposed to Have Been Dead Nearly Forty Years He Reappears as Defendant in Divorce Suit.

A supposed victim of the civil war, whose wife has been married to another man for 20 years, is the defendant in a divorce proceeding in Cass county, Ill. It having been learned that he is still alive, the complainant is Mrs. Andrew Morgan, who lives with her second husband on a farm five miles north of Virginia. Her first husband, against whom her bill for divorce is directed, is Burdett Pickle.

Pickle and the woman who is now Mrs. Morgan were married in Cass county in 1861, and soon after the husband enlisted in the federal army and went south. Morgan also enlisted in the army and served during the war. He returned at the close of the struggle, but Pickle never came back, and it was reported that he had been killed.

Mrs. Morgan owns a considerable body of land, and recently she deeded a portion of it to her three children. In investigating the title the question concerning the first husband came up and an investigation revealed the fact that Pickles was not dead, although he had permitted the family to think he was all these years.

Mrs. Morgan asks for divorce on the ground of desertion.

Fatal Figure Two.

While the figures 2 and 13 are found conspicuous in the lives of some men and to some superstitious persons have a remarkable bearing, Deputy Warden Dowell, of the Southern Illinois penitentiary adds the figure 2 to the list in the following unusual story concerning W. E. McClain, who was sent to the penitentiary from Shelbyville. McClain was sentenced for a term of two years. At the time of his arrest he was 22 years old. He was born in the second month of the year, and also arrested in the second month and on the twenty-second day. When he was given the number 2 it was found to be 222 and the cell to which he was assigned was 222. Several other minor incidents also occurred in which the figure prominently appeared.

An Old Game.

The passengers in a Chicago street car refused to pay fare to a conductor not wearing the union button. Business in Chicago says the Washington Times, seems to be a game of "Who's got the button?"

AN ANALYSIS OF THE HOUSE.

From a Patronymic Point of View, as Made by Representative Burgess, of Texas.

Representative Burgess, of Texas, is of an analytic turn of mind. He has analyzed the house membership from a patronymic point of view, and the following is the result:

"The congressional camp is peculiarly equipped this session," said Mr. Burgess. "It has one Field, one Littlefield with a liege, but no crops; two Moons, but no sky; some Mudd, but no rain; one Byrd, but no tree, though some Underwood; two Hills, but though it takes a Wade, neither river nor spring; one young Minor, but no child; one Sheppard, but no sheep, though one Lamb; one Cannon, but no ball; some Hay, but no grass; one Hogg, but no bacon; one Fowler, but no gun; one Miller, but neither mill nor wheat; eight Smiths, but neither shop nor tools; three Coopers, but neither hoop nor barrel; two Kiltbina, but no meals; one Woodyard, but no wood; one Tawney Mann, two Browns, but none white or black; one Badger, but no dog; two Butlers, but no drink; two Gardners, but no work; one Bishop, but no church; two Gaines, but no loss; one Graff, but no graft; no ship, but one Hull; Hitt by only one Payne, the camp takes a Knapp, snores Loud and wakes all Wright."

SMALL BOY CALLED A TRAMP.

Eleven-Year-Old Philadelphia Lad, Arrested for Vagrancy, Youngest Prisoner on Record.

"Only 11 years old and a vagrant," mused Magistrate Cunningham, of Philadelphia, the other day, after he had heard testimony against Andrew McMahon, a light-haired, rosy-cheeked boy, who had been arrested. It was the second time the boy had been before the magistrate in a week, and on the same charge.

He was arrested while sleeping beside a radiator at a railway station. He was slumbering in the same place a few days ago, but was released on that occasion upon promising to remain away from the depot. This time he did not have any explanation to make for not fulfilling the promise he had made to the magistrate.

"I see you have imposed on my kindness," said the latter, "and, although I don't like to hold a boy of your age for vagrancy, I find that I am compelled to do so."

The boy was remanded in default of bail for trial in the juvenile court. He is the youngest person ever arrested on a vagrancy charge in that city. The boy said he was an orphan, and that he was abandoned a short time ago by a relative with whom he formerly lived.

SPEECH WILL BECOME USELESS.

Weird Theory Held by a Boston Cult Which Makes Transcendentalists Look Like Amateurs.

The Boston colony of Mahatma chasers and lovers of the etheric diapodies of the far east is now enthusiastically booming the virtues of a new mental "movement," which is guaranteed to jock the universe up to the gait at which it should go.

This is a cult led by Mme. Sarah Farmer, of the Greenacre summer school, which meets up in Maine and has for its "fundamental principles" the doctrine that "eventually" speech will become a useless exercise, for by studying the laws of what the cult is pleased to term "vibrations" one is expected to learn "that spirit can communicate across any void with another spirit and a thinker can think himself in communication with another thinker."

Its followers at present are largely the descendants of Margaret Fuller's much-discussed "Transcendentalists," but the ordinary Boston public concedes that the new cult puts the Brook Farm crowd in the shade.

AIDS WORK OF DISPATCHER.

Automatic Apparatus Which Will Reduce Labors Being Installed in Illinois Central Stations.

The Illinois Central railroad is installing a set of apparatus at numerous stations along its system which is calculated to ease the life of the dispatchers. The principal one is a clock which is connected with the dispatcher's wire in such a way that in case the telegraph key is left open, thus breaking the circuit, the clock will commence to ring a bell automatically, not ceasing until stopped by the operator.

In addition, if the operator should be out of the office when wanted and fail to respond to a call the dispatcher, in conjunction with the operators at each side of the station wanted, can work the apparatus so that it will ring the bell, thus saving the time of the dispatcher. Instead of calling the operator, as customarily, he can save his strength and devote the time to other business, knowing that the bell is doing the calling. The invention will reduce the volume of the operators' work many fold.

Paid Well for the Turkey. John Kriber, a farmer near Lebanon, Pa., discovered that his flock of eight turkeys had been stolen one night recently. Farmer Kriber, however, is not mourning, for the robber dropped a wallet containing ten \$20 bills. It is supposed the thief obtained the money while ransacking some residence in the neighborhood.

Ought to Make It Three.

Down in Ohio they are talking about passing a law to prevent a man or woman marrying after the second divorce, says the Chicago Record-Herald. Pahaw! Why depart from the time-honored "three and out?"

IN RAILWAY SHOPS.

Progress of Different Factories in Making Cars During Year.

Official Returns Place Number of Cars Turned Out at 154,808—Over 5,000 New Locomotives Built—Canada Makes a Good Showing.

Official returns from all but two car-building plants in the United States show that 154,808 cars have been built during the year 1903. As the two firms not heard from turn out a total of less than 2,000 cars, the Railroad Gazette has estimated the output from their own record of their work and added the sum obtained to the above total. This figure includes all freight and passenger cars built for elevated and steam railroads, exclusive of those built by the railroads at their own shops, and exclusive of those built for street and other electric service. Careful estimates have been made by all the large car plants of their output during the month of December, so the total given above is very nearly correct.

Of this total figure, approximately, 152,801 are freight cars and 2,007 are passenger coaches; 153,195 for domestic use and 1,613 for export.

Last year the total number of cars built was 164,547, which is about 9,750 in excess of this year. The decrease has occurred in the last two months, as up to that time the output for 1903 was equal to the output for the first ten months of 1902.

During the year 5,152 locomotives were built at the various locomotive works in the country, as against 4,979 last year. This figure is officially correct, as complete returns have been received from every locomotive plant in the United States. The number includes 5,841 electric locomotives. The increase over 1902 is the largest that has ever been made in one year, and is possibly due to the fact that the locomotive works of the country had such a volume of orders placed during 1902 that they were unable to make immediate deliveries and many of the orders were held over until 1903.

Returns from Canada show that 55 locomotives have been built by two firms, one of which has only recently begun operations.

In analyzing the report it is interesting to note what this total of 5,152 really means, by calculating the expenditure involved. At an average cost per locomotive of \$12,000, the total amount spent by the railroads for motive power would approximate \$62,000,000. This figure of course does not include the locomotives which are built yearly by railroad companies at their own shops.

ELEMENTS TRANSMUTABLE.

Theory of the Elements of Science as Now Understood.

The scientific world seems almost dumfounded at Prof. Sir Whitlam Ramsay's discovery that the elements are, after all, transmutable. It is felt that what has been regarded as one of the foundations of science has been destroyed. Prof. Sir Oliver Lodge now launches the following stupendous theory:

"There are those who have surmised that matter is, after all, the only weapon and vehicle of mind. The way it interprets itself to our consciousness through the sense of the organs gives no clue to its nature. Its fundamental and underlying reality is unknown to us, but some of it certainly constitutes our bodies."

"A motion and alteration of the configuration of the molecules of our brain is believed to accompany every act of thought. It will be at any rate a suggestive analogy if a material process of an essentially similar sort is found to be occurring throughout what we know as the inorganic world—the world of dead matter—and we should begin to ask: 'Does all this motion correspond to some universal thought or mental activity likewise?'"

GETS FANS FROM VATICAN.

Valuable Emblems Used in All Papal Processions Will Be Presented to American People.

Mrs. Joseph Drexel, widow of the former partner of J. Pierpont Morgan, has received the famous eight-foot fans of the vatican. They are to be presented to the American people, and will be exhibited in the museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Visitors to the vatican remember these emblems. No papal procession is ever held without them. When the pope is carried into the audience chamber or takes part in any of the festivities of the church two fans of this type are always in evidence, either carried aloft or allowed to rest against the papal throne.

Years ago Mrs. Drexel saw these fans and coveted them. The fans are formed of the rarest of ostrich plumes tipped with peacock feathers. On the sticks are the papal arms magnificently worked in heavy gold. The crown is studded with rubies and emeralds. The fans will be exhibited by the side of the fan made for Mrs. Drexel by the queen of Italy.

His Ultimate End.

It is well that the young man employed at \$9 a week who was stealing \$200 a day was discovered, says the Chicago Daily News, as we have all the captains of industry we need in this country.

Probably Died Happy.

A Pennsylvania man who ran to catch a train the other day died as a result of his overexertion. But he caught the train.

SHY ONES IN DEBATE.

Miss Eliza D'Este's Pupils Decide That the Attention Is Not a Form of Conceit.

In pursuit of their desire to conquer shyness, quite a number of shy ladies assembled recently at Miss Eliza D'Este's debating class, at Mrs. Jopling's school of art.

Acting under the energetic promptings of Miss D'Este, who herself seems all shyness, Miss Marjorie Brand, a nominally shy young lady, presided over the discussion on "Is Shyness a Form of Conceit?"

Miss Boucher, who was sternly commanded by Miss D'Este to "speak up," maintained that shyness was really only a form of conceit. To Miss Brand, the chairwoman's sister, took strong exception. Miss Marjorie Brand then declared the debate open.

It took a long time and considerable persuasion to induce any of the shy ladies to get up. At length, however, one more courageous than the rest broke the ice and spoke up shyly on behalf of the shy ones. After this few of the ladies had any hesitation in rising, and there followed a succession of speakers who were quite sure that shyness was not conceit. But then, of course, they were all shy.

One lady rose, and, having got so far as to say that shyness was a question of nerves, illustrated her point in a practical way by becoming overwhelmed by shyness and collapsing.

The champions of shyness applauded, and voted without exception against the horrid suggestion implied by the resolution.

MESSAGES AT HIGH SPEED.

Inventor of Multiplex System Devises Instrument Sixty Times as Rapid as Ordinary Telegraphy.

Telegraph messages can be sent and received at a rate of from 1,000 to 3,000 words a minute. A newspaper representative recently saw and heard a message transmitted and delivered at these speeds. In the transmission of messages press wires can, by the use of the multiplex system, with the most expert operators, carry only an average of 2,500 words an hour. The record is 2,500 words a minute.

The inventor, P. H. Delaney, who devised the multiplex system, has been working on his device for ten years in South Orange. Stripped of all technicality, the new automatic telegraph system may be described as follows:

A typewriter keyboard, when manipulated, causes two rows of perforations to be made upon a narrow tape of paper which unwinds itself automatically over the type faces and re-winds after being perforated.

This contains the message in a Morse cipher, the dots being read when two holes are at a close angle or nearly in perpendicular alignment, and the dashes when the angle is greater. This tape, reeled as it is finished, is put upon the transmitter, which sends the same dashes and dots to the receiving office.

The perforator is an adjunct of the keyboard and is controlled by a powerful and very rapid electric motor.

OLD COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER.

Death of J. L. Lovell, Who for Fifty Year Made Pictures of Students and College Grounds.

Memories of various attempts of a more or less satisfactory nature to "look pleasant, please," before the camera have been revived for thousands of college men in the recently announced death of the venerable photographer, J. L. Lovell, at Newport, N. H. For 50 years Lovell was the college artist for the colleges of Amherst, Williams, Dartmouth and Smith. His studio was at Amherst, but on account of failing health he had ceased active work several years ago.

College class work and college views in general were his specialty. The old photographer had a vein of humor. Or was it accident which led him to take a large photograph of a greenhouse when a certain student on a bit of a lark was showing some girls about? And it was, of course, only a desire to get some "life" in the picture when he made a slight noise, at which the individuals who were back to him looked around to see what was up—and were all taken together, a good face view. It was a little expose of a certain student's frolicsome tendencies, and the picture was in great demand, much to his chagrin. It is said the usually stolid artist smiled slightly as he snapped his camera on the interesting scene.

PROPHECY OF A BABY.

Infant Causes Terror in Wales by Uttering a Prediction That Next Year Will Be One of Disaster.

An extraordinary story comes from Penrhyn, in Wales. The wife of a quarryman was bathing her three-month-old babe, when she was thunderstruck to hear the child say plainly in Welsh: "Next year will be a terrible year, mother."

The mother rushed in terror to the next door and told what she had heard to a neighbor, who ran immediately back, picked up the infant, and, as she soothed and caressed it, coaxingly asked if it had told its mother that next year would be a terrible year. To her astonishment, the child looked at her, said "Yes," and fell back dead.

The story has been discussed far and wide, and the two women have been cross-questioned without shaking their story. At Penrhyn, where the people are rather primitive and religious, there is much foreboding.

Not Specific Enough.

A Harvard professor says some slang words are beautiful and poetic. He doesn't give a list of them, though.

EXECUTED MEN LIVE.

Grossome Tale of Garroting Execution in the Philippines.

Three Men Pay for Crime of Murder with Their Lives According to Records Although Two of Them May Still Live for Years.

A recent issue of the Manila Times tells a grossome tale of a garroting execution which failed to kill some of its victims. The paper says: "Nicholas Ancheta, Daniel Verson, Aniceto Javlar and Eustasio Paschal, murderers, were garroted at Amulung, Cagayan province, October 31."

"Mr. Gubridge, a Bilhild official, superintended the execution, as the provincial authorities were unable to find an official to do it. Gubridge practiced with the grossome machine, which was a strangulation garrote, and not one that dislocates the spinal column. On the day set he had about perfected himself in its use."

"There was some question as to the time that the victims should be in the machine. The Spanish tradition was that it took eight minutes to cause death, but that the bodies should be left in the machine four hours. It was the Spanish boast that neither in Spain nor in the Philippines had the garroter ever bungled his horrible task. After some hesitation it was decided that eight minutes was all that was necessary to complete the work of death and that the four hours was the length of time the bodies should be exposed afterward."

When taken from the machine the limp bodies, still bound, were laid upon the floor of the church of Amulung that the relatives might claim them and take them away. Dr. Licea, the provincial surgeon, certified to their death and the judge gave the seal of judicial approval.

About three hours later two constabulary officers, Capt. Long, senior inspector of the province, and Lieut. Colitas, visited the church to see if the bodies had been claimed. They were horrified to see upon the floor three bodies, still in their winding cords, but squirting and contorting in half-conscious endeavors to release themselves. Groans that sounded unearthly in the dim church came from their throats. Two of them seemed about returning to full consciousness and the constabulary officers bending over them asked them in Spanish if there was anything they wanted.

"The reply was in a husky, harsh whisper: 'Si, senior agia.'"

"Water and restoratives were applied freely, the men unbound, and shortly they were able to be removed by their friends. The fourth had already been removed and was really dead."

"One of the three has since died from the shock and exhaustion. The remaining two at last reports were convalescing and may live for years to come. But it is written on the court records of their native province that they are dead, having paid with their lives for the crime of murder."

"The law can neither punish them again nor can it recognize their continued existence."

BLIND, BUT RUNS EXCHANGE.

Iowa Woman Successfully Operates Switchboard, Distinguishing Bells by Their Tones.

Mrs. Emma Margon Post, of North English, Ia., is totally blind, yet she successfully manages the telephone exchange for the town and the surrounding country and has over 300 subscribers on the lines she operates. A striking feature of this remarkable exchange is its system of bell signals. Each line is provided with a special bell of a special tone and those bells are all mounted in a cabinet a few feet from the switchboard.

There are large bells, small bells, wire clock bells, sisk bells and high-keyed bicycle bells. A fine bit of steel wire four inches long is soldered to each bell hammer. A sheet of square paper attached to this wire bears the line, name or number forming a visual signal for the assistant operator, who can see. The bell cabinet is so situated that the paper aquires may be plainly seen from the operator's seat.

Mrs. Post is able to distinguish not only each one of the 45 bells by its peculiar tone, but also the voices of hundreds of men, women and children whom she serves. She is a graduate of Iowa college for the blind, and was noted at that institution for quick and retentive memory.

BUILDS A CHINESE TOWER.

King of the Belgians Causes Sensation Among His People by His Latest Fancy.

"The king of the Belgians is having a famous Chinese tower re-erected in his park at Laeken. The exterior is very picturesque with its monumental entrance, its numerous stairways and statue of Achinez divinity above them. The general staircase leads to a suite of parlors ornamented with lacquer panels and cedar wood carvings. The glass of the windows is of a bluish hue, giving a mysterious shadow to the interior. Quantities of rare woods were used in the construction of the building. The tower is lighted by 300 electric lamps and warmed by the latest appliances in heating."

The question is generally asked, for what reason was this oriental tower constructed? No one has answered it, but a Japanese restaurant is going to be installed there, to which the public will have access by paying."

Japanese Nets for Alaska.

Orders have recently been executed in Japan for a supply of fishing nets for Alaska valued at \$30,000.

IOWA HOLDS BANK RECORD.

Report of Comptroller of the Currency Shows the Hawkeye State Leads in This Line.

Iowa has more banks than any other state in the union, and the banking business is the most profitable in the state. This is the conclusion from the reports of the comptroller of the currency, the state banking department, the bankers' directories and the testimony of bankers and business men.

For several years Iowa has had more banks than any other state. They are largely small institutions in country towns, but they all make money. Their great number, according to the census reports, demonstrates the remarkably equitable distribution of wealth. Farmers are the largest owners of stock, and the largest depositors. There are 238 state banks in Iowa, with \$10,270,000 capital, and \$16,841,000 deposits; 218 savings banks, with \$11,034,000 capital, and \$86,502,000 deposits; 248 national banks, with \$1,045,000 capital and \$7,073,000 deposits, and 409 private banks, with (estimated) \$12,000,000 capital and \$50,000,000 deposits. The figures are official, except for private banks, which make no reports in Iowa. The totals show 1,231 banks, with \$48,259,000 capital and \$239,520,000 deposits. This gives a bank to every 2,000 inhabitants and shows bank deposits of just about \$100 per capita."

Bank profits vary from 6 to 100 per cent on the capital. A number of small institutions with heavy deposits have earned the latter figure in recent years. Bankers say the average dividend on banking capital is more than 17 per cent after paying all salaries.

ARMY WITHOUT A PRIVATE.

Only One Man with Rank as Low as Captain in Forces of "Pope of Tabayas" in Philippines.

Advice received from Manila say that Ruperio Rios, known as "Pope of Tabayas," who professed to have divine power, was killed at Antuninan, Philippines, in November. He was convicted of one of his many murders. Rios organized the "exterior municipal government." His forces had not a private. He had a lieutenant general, 25 major generals, 50 brigadiers and colonels without number. There was only one follower of as low rank as captain.

Rios assumed the title of generalissimo, viceroy, and the son of God. Under the first designation he was head of the army and navy, under the second he tried to correspond with Russia, France, Germany and Japan, under the third he dispensed "antiquarian" to the faithful, which were guaranteed to hold them safe from bullets.

He was also guardian of the "Independence," a box said to contain a sacred relic, but which, when broken open by the American soldiers, held only an old Spanish amulet. Rios had made his people believe that this was a sort of "pandora box," and that when they had become sufficiently rich, he would open it, and riches would pour forth for the faithful.

After being totally blind for 22 years, Noah Reily, probably the oldest living man in this country, having passed the one hundred and thirty-first milestone in his career last April, is regaining his sight. For the past 25 years Reily has been an inmate of the Piscataway, N. J. old gentleman started George Hummer, superintendent of the institution, recently by proclaiming that he would see once again. The authorities thought it was simply one of the old man's whims, but the other day Noah was sitting by a window in his room overlooking the meadows in which a number of cows were feeding. The old man began talking about the cows, and to prove that he could see counted 27 of them to the satisfaction of Superintendent Hummer and the inmates of the room.

STORES MUSIC IN VACUUM TUBE.

New York Experimenter Makes a Strange and Mysterious Scientific Discovery.

Following the announcement in London a few days ago that an English experimenter found that his vacuum tube emitted light for days after it had been disconnected from his battery, W. J. Hammer, an electrical engineering expert of New York city, declares that he has obtained sounds from a vacuum tube in much the same way. In his laboratory, in the presence of several personal friends, Mr. Hammer set his automatic music box to work. For five minutes at a time he low murmuring sound like A in the musical scale came from a big vacuum tube that had been disconnected from the induction coil and laid on a pasteboard box filled with excelsior. If one of the auditors spoke the sound ran up into the tube, but soon sank to its regular rhythm. The cause is a mystery.

The Average Critic.

It is estimated that the crop of books for this year amounts to 250,000 volumes. While no one could possibly read all of them the average literary critic would try to make you think he had.

All That Is Necessary.

If Japan thrashes Russia it will then be a world power, says the Chicago News, without having to pass a civil-service examination.