

TO WED FIRST LOVE.

ROMANCE IN ENGAGEMENT OF ROYAL GERMAN COUPLE.

Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt to marry Princess Eleonore of Solms - Picked Flowers Together as Children.

Berlin.—The engagement of the grand duke of Hesse-Darmstadt and Princess Eleonore of Solms-Hohensolms, which was announced recently, is the talk of all court society, for it reveals a romance that dates back to the young pair's childhood.

The grand duke is 36; Princess Eleonore is three years his junior. She is not handsome, but those who know her say she is a woman of fine presence and a most sympathetic manner. Her eyes are blue, and her hair fair, a true daughter of Germany. She lives with her brothers and sisters in the fine old family castle of Lich. Lich is a wonderful place, steeped in history and romance. Princes of Solms have owned it for 1,000 years, and their old mailed armor hangs in the halls of the castle.

Orangeness is spread out in all directions over the pleasant undulating Hessian land, and the vines and wheat fields of the good townsmen of Lich are apt evidence that the prince, their lord, is a good man and liberal seigneur. Everyone in the whole countryside knows Princess Eleonore. To many of them she has been a ministering angel, and her works of love and charity have endeared her to them all. When she was a girl of 11, she first met the grand duke, a striking lad of 14.

In boyish fashion he fell in love with her, and they used to ramble together through the forest, the little prince on the lookout for something to shoot. When he went as a student to the Hessian university of Giessen he did not forget his boyhood's sweetheart. They corresponded, and whenever he had an opportunity he ran over to Lich and danced with her.

The true story of his engagement and marriage to his young and charming cousin, of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, will probably never be known. But it was an ill-assorted match, and neither was happy. The young English girl was slight, restless and selfish—and it is also quite likely that Ernst Ludwig never forgot that gentle princess living up there in her great castle of Lich.

The catastrophe came and the grand duke and duchess were divorced. The divorce was followed in two years by the sudden death of the beautiful little princess, his only child, at the czar's hunting lodge. This happened a year ago, and now the amiable and much tried man returned to the old love, the fair-haired, blue-eyed princess in her castle at Lich, and he asks her to join hands with him.

REMEDY FOR DIVORCE EVIL

A Philadelphia Lawyer Suggests Lapse of a Year Between Hearing and Decree.

Philadelphia.—As a remedy for the divorce evil, an amendment to the law that would require the lapse of a year between the hearing of a case and the granting of a decree has been suggested by Francis A. Lewis, in commenting on the remarkable increase of divorce suits in the Philadelphia courts.

Mr. Lewis was a delegate from the Pennsylvania diocesan convention to the general convention of the Episcopal church in last October, and as a member of the committee on divorce canons drafted its report to the convention. He said:

"The Pennsylvania divorce laws are vastly better than those in a majority of the states. I suppose it is true that divorces are increasing here; they certainly are everywhere else in this country. If a law could be passed in Pennsylvania providing that no decree of divorce should be entered until one year after the case has been heard, I think it would do more than anything else to diminish the number of suits of this kind in the state. So many persons who seek divorces want to rush it through so as to lose no time in marrying somebody else, and if they knew they could not possibly do this for a year they would not be so anxious to get divorced."

WOMEN KILL FOX WITH AX.

Mother and Daughter Dash into the Woods at Night and Drag the Animal from Dogs.

Clearfield, Pa.—Miss Emma Condon, a young woman of near Shawville, Clearfield county, is a girl of grit. At night for several weeks her father, William Condon, had heard his dogs barking at some wild animal snarling in his yard. He attempted to shoot the beast, which he supposed was a bear, but it eluded him on each occasion and took to the woods. One night Mr. Condon was away from home and the dogs again made a great noise, arousing Mrs. Condon and her daughter, Emma, who went out to see what was the matter. The animal made for the woods on the approach of the women, and the dogs, being freed, pursued it. At the edge of the woods the animal was overtaken and a fierce fight followed with the dogs. Miss Condon rushed in, grabbed the animal, which proved to be a silver gray fox, and dragged it to the wood pile, where her mother, with an ax, dispatched it. The fox was a fine specimen.

Probably the Case.

A California physician has proved that the process of digestion is electrical. But perhaps the man experimented on was full of currents.

BOY HAS STRANGE MANIA.

Brooklyn Lad Can't Resist Passion for Entering Other People's Houses and Abstracting Property.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Louis Thonet, the 15-year-old son of Frederick Thonet, who, it is said, has an uncontrollable passion for getting into persons' homes on any sort of pretext and then wandering around, often carrying away small things, has been held on a technical charge of vagrancy. He has been the source of much worry to the members of his family.

The boy, who has light hair and blue eyes, which answers the description of a boy who has got into many houses in Brooklyn under false pretenses in the last year or so, was arrested at the home of Dr. William H. Seymour, the other night. The boy got into the office, saying that he wanted to wait for his father, who was coming to have an injured knee examined by the doctor. The latter went to dinner, leaving the young man in the office. Returning suddenly he caught the boy jumping back into the office. Growing suspicious, the doctor questioned him closely and taught him up. The boy had first given the name of Samuel Pickles, then said he was George Wallis. In the station he gave his right name.

Several doctors were in court to have a look at the boy. Dr. William Madden identified him as the boy who had hung around his office for two hours on the pretext that his father was coming to be treated for some complaint. He was found wandering around the house, even in the kitchen. The cook's wages disappeared the same day. It is stated that young Thonet went to Washington some time ago and was caught playing his strange game there.

FLOOD OF INDIAN RELICS.

Georgia Convicts Find Numerous Interesting Articles While Digging in Mounds.

Savannah, Ga.—Indian skulls, arrow heads, and similar relics of the days of old Tomochichi are a drug on the market in the vicinity of the convict camp at Pipemaker's creek.

In exchange for tobacco and other articles that are regarded as delicacies in a convict camp, the men in stripes are digging out sections of Indian graves, or parts of their instruments of war.

While engaged near the river bank, at Pipemaker, the convicts encountered an Indian mound about 18 feet high and 300 feet long. From this mound the relics that are being exchanged for chewing and smoking material were taken.

Among the articles unearthed was an Indian grindstone. Although it had probably been under the sod for hundreds of years, the grooves made by the knives and arrow points that were sharpened are plainly visible. The convicts were not permitted to keep this for their own use.

It was sent to the office of the county commissioners for Superintendent W. F. Chaplin, who is in charge of the county work. Mr. Chaplin showed it to a number of his friends, and the stone attracted considerable attention. It is the intention of Superintendent Chaplin to present the grindstone to the Georgian Historical society.

FOUND A NEW RELIGION.

Started by Prominent Austrian Anti-Semite and Nationalist—Will Be Exclusively for Germans.

Vienna.—Austria is to have a new religion, and its founder is the well-known anti-Semite and nationalist, Herr von Schonerer, chief of the reactionary party. Von Schonerer is an unbeliever of a pronounced type, and he and his friends, among whom are many prominent members of his party, replace the Christian duty by Wotan, the Nibelungen divinity, who, they say, is a stronger and more vigorous personality than that pictured by the Christian church.

But the peculiar part of the new religion is that it is exclusively German. Its temples are to be divided into three parts—the first filled with the portraits and busts of dead German heroes, the second to be used as a sanctuary in which there will be a throne for Wotan, surrounded by the effigies of German divinities, and the third will be a music-room, in which the works of German composers, particularly Wagner, will be played by an orchestra during the rites in the throne-room.

Von Schonerer says that he is sorry to have to deal so severe a blow to the Christian belief of his father, in which he was brought up, but that the fault is due to modern exponents of Christianity, who will not break with the Jews and hurl them out of Europe.

Made It Strong.

An Arab witness took the Moham-medan oath in a New York court before he testified. Here it is: "I swear by the beard of the prophet, by the Kaaba, by the black stone, and the virtue of my hajem, to tell the truth, all the truth and only the truth." It certainly sounds binding.

Illinois' Young Congressmen.

Five of the recently elected congressmen from Illinois are 30 years and younger. Their ages are as follows: Anthony Michalek, 26 years old; Frank L. Dickson, 26 years old; Charles S. Wharton, 29 years old; Zeno J. Rivas, 30 years old, and Charles McDevlin, the same age.

The Dangerous Switch.

The Erie subway collision in New York was due to a misplaced switch. A woman's crowning glory is her hair, but it is a good thing to keep it off the tracks and out of the butter.

URGES DEFENSE OF PORTS.

General Story, Chief of Artillery, Recommends Effective Torpedo Protection.

Washington.—Brig. Gen. Story, chief of artillery, U. S. A., in his annual report of the entire armament for the coast requires complete relief to man each and every element of defense, and adds:

"It is inconceivable that congress, after appropriating millions for national defense, would be willing to leave this defense ineffective for want of a proper organization to man and conduct it. To secure at the present time the greatest measure of national safety at the least cost the entire torpedo defense of our harbors should at once be made complete," and he adds: "It would be a fatal neglect if I did not urge, as earnestly as I can, the immediate completion of the torpedo defense of all our fortified ports. To-day this defense is lamentably deficient both in material and personnel."

Continuing, Gen. Story says: "If we were suddenly confronted by war no amount of money could procure submarine mines in time to be of service for our harbor defense."

The report further says that even with complete material for torpedo defense it is practically valueless without a trained personnel, and that to-day we are substantially without such a force. Only 400 men can be assigned for a service requiring about 5,000. It would be unwise to attempt to provide a personnel for the submarine defense from the present force of coast artillery, since there are to-day only one-half the number of officers and men required to man and serve the armament already provided.

INVEST WEALTH IN GEMS.

Great Demand for Precious Stones Among Native Princes of the Orient.

New York.—It is said that the highest-caste natives of Siam, Burmah and India are great buyers of all kinds of precious stones and ornaments. This tendency has ever increased during the last few years, on account of the prevailing belief among natives that the only safe way to invest money is to purchase jewelry and similar articles of intrinsic or sterling value. This is very much in evidence in Siam, and not much less in Burmah and India.

The agent of a leading European firm states that it is astonishing what vast sums of money have been and are being invested by Asiatic princes in diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds and pearls, and that some day, undoubtedly, the markets of the world would be flooded with these hoarded supplies. He also said that he knew of one Indian rajah who purchased all the pearls that were brought to him, and that the native fishermen would deliver to him, rather than to any foreigner. The majority of these pearls were either hoarded, or distributed among the women of his court, whose desire for jewelry is never satisfied, while a fair portion was used as presents to his fellow-princes in India and other countries.

An American cannot fully appreciate the vast amount of valuable stones and like ornaments used by the royal and princely families of these oriental nations, unless he beholds them arrayed in all their glory on state occasions. Then it seems almost a wonder that any are left for the Americans.

LATEST SWINDLING GAME.

Fake Lecturer Tells Tale of Sorrow and Victimized Audiences in Many Places.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Twelve deaths in his family in two weeks is the record held by a certain lecturer on the Japanese-Russian war, who has been doing stunts in the towns in the Monongahela and Turtle Creek valleys during the past month. At least this is the record claimed by the lecturer, who has had a relative die each day for 12 consecutive days.

The fellow was billed to lecture on the conflict now being waged in the far east in a number of towns in the Monongahela and Turtle Creek valleys. Tickets were distributed to the school children, which entitled them to attend the lecture and see the moving pictures, provided they presented a dime with each ticket. Large crowds were secured in each town, and at the time advertised for the moving picture to start the lecturer would appear and announce that one of his relatives had died a few minutes before.

The number of supposed deaths in the fellow's family was not discovered until several days after he had departed, when an investigation was started and it was found that 12 relatives of the lecturer had died in as many days. From the last accounts of the lecturer his stock of relatives had not yet run out.

Thieves Like This Place.

Stamford, Conn.—A grocery was blown open in Jerry Miller's grocery and general store in Springdale the other night and \$60 in cash was taken. This makes the twelfth time in the past two years that this store has been entered by burglars. Miller recently installed a burglar alarm to be sound-ed in his house, a short distance away. The last time the burglars cut the wires of the alarm before operating.

Does Not Conflict.

A Pennsylvania judge has decided that a chicken is not an animal. This, however, does not interfere with the decision promulgated by the treasury department to the effect that a frog is a bird.

THE STRONGEST BOY.

WYOMING LAD PRONOUNCED A MARVEL BY EXPERTS.

Only Seventeen Years of Age But Performs Wonderful Feats of Strength - Stoops But Slightly Smaller Than Those of Jeffries.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Cheyenne has the strongest boy in the world. That is the statement of Bernard Macfadden, who is considered the best known authority upon the subject.

This physical prodigy is Noah Young, Jr., the son of Noah Young, state coal inspector of Wyoming, and all who have seen his marvelous physical development and witnessed his feats of strength are astounded.

Noah Young, Jr., can raise a 75-pound dumbbell 13 times in one minute, and a 100-pound bell four times in a minute, feats which cannot be duplicated by any man in the state.

And Noah Young, Jr., is but 17 years of age.

He is a modest, unassuming young man, which accounts for the fact that his extraordinary ability is not more widely known. But his light will no longer remain under a bushel, as Bernard Macfadden has discovered the youthful marvel, and intends to bring him before the public.

Macfadden is conceded to be the strongest man in the world. He is the publisher of the magazine Physical Culture, and gave the great contest in Madison Square garden, in New York, when \$1,000 was awarded to the most perfect woman in the world and a similar amount to the most perfectly formed man. The latter was won by a Denverite.

Macfadden who has been informed of the lad's wonderful strength, stated there is no question but that he is the strongest boy in the world to-day, and with the development incident to maturity, will become the strongest man in the world within a few years, and eclipse even Macfadden.

The boy was born in Glenrock, Wyo., and is the son of Noah Young, at that time foreman of the Glenrock coal mines. The father is considered the strongest man in Wyoming, and several years ago appeared on the stage with Charles Mitchell of England. The boy, considered by his father at the time as the weakling of the family, began training six years ago and since then has taken three complete courses in physical culture. He is regular in his hours of sleep, never drinks or uses tobacco, sashes coffee and tea, and has spent six hours a day for a period of six years in perfecting his muscular development.

To-day the muscles of his arm measure just one-quarter of an inch less than those of James J. Jeffries, the champion heavyweight pugilist of the world. The boy is also an expert boxer and peerless bag puncher. He frankly admits it is his ambition to become the strongest man in the world, and to-day performs feats which can be duplicated by few athletes of the world.

FAULTS IN OUR ROADS.

The German Transportation Bureau Shows Flaws in the American System.

Berlin.—An official memorandum of the Prussian ministry of railroads showing the growth of the state-owned system since 1879 compares the rates and the management with those of private-owned lines in foreign countries. Concerning the United States lines the following generalization is made:

"In the United States rates are generally lower on through freight and bulk goods than with us. Local charges are high, unequal and fluctuating, and are so classified that shippers often are unable to determine in advance what the rate will be. Reductions and increases often follow each other in rapid succession. This is a condition which is justly condemned by industrial and shipping people. The great number of insolventcies and foreclosures of American railroads which recur yearly down to the latest date must not be forgotten in comparing the German with American railroads."

The existing rates on German lines are about two-thirds those in Great Britain.

YOUNG MUSICAL PRODIGY.

Seven-Year-Old Eastern Lad Who Is a Piano Player of Remarkable Skill.

Elizabeth, N. J.—A series of really remarkable piano performances have been given recently at the warehouses of a music house here by David Earl Moyer, a seven-year-old youngster, who stands up at the piano and dances off Bach "inventions" with the utmost unconcern. He has played here an extensive programme of more or less difficult piano music from a repertoire said to consist of 42 pieces. His technical work is astonishing, crisp, and his touch good, lacking but slightly in tone color. Those who have watched and are content to judge say that he may become a wonder, while it is just possible that he will remain in the glorious company of "musical prodigies."

The young fellow's work is being much talked about, and has attracted the attention of music teachers. Among them is Mrs. Berlin of Brooklyn, who has undertaken to give the lad an education, musical and otherwise.

Fall Among Thieves.

A very unusual thing happened in police headquarters in Brooklyn the other day. A detective there was overpowered and knocked down by over 40 thieves in full view of the force present—the rogues' gallery fell down, on him.

JAPS IN WINTER QUARTERS.

How the Soldiers of the Mikado Get Along During the Cold Season.

With November the cold weather begins in Manchuria and is increasingly intense. Around Mukden the thermometer does not usually fall below zero until the middle of December, when night after night it may sink to 5, 10 and even 30 degrees below zero and during January to 30. In the frequent north-easterly or northwesterly blizzards no human beings can live under canvas, says the Chicago Daily News. The Japanese soldiers are making use of underground dwellings, such as the natives sometimes use, and which were used by the Russians during the winter after the Boxers had destroyed their railway buildings. The soil of Manchuria except in certain places, is dry at this season, especially in the districts between Mukden and Liaoyang, where it is largely sand. The Japanese who hold the low hills with gentle slopes, are in the better position. The method is to dig a trench about 10 to 12 feet deep and varying in width, but generally about nine feet wide. A narrow stairway is cut leading down to the south end. At the base it is widened and a door frame set up with a native door turning on wooden pivots. The upper half of the door is opaque native window paper, admits light. The sun shines at midday down the steps and when the door is opened freshens and warms the room. Immediately within, on one side, is a cooking stove, camp oven or boiler.

Along the length of the trench is a platform some two and a half feet high and six feet wide, made of hammered earth and rough unhewn bricks. Beneath this are several simple flues up and down which the smoke and heat from the cooking place finds its way, issuing at the end remote from the entrance, by a small chimney cut in the solid ground. On this platform, which resembles the old style of brickwork flues and is called by the Chinese a kang many men can sleep in warmth and comfort on a rough mat or dried grass. This made of heating is not only economical but the fumes consume and carry off the earth camp or carbonic acid gas, which always generates in underground dwellings.

A large number of the native Manchurian coal mines can be reached easily by the Japanese, where a coarse dust coal is readily excavated. When mixed with a little wet earth this can be burned in the rough cooking places, in which grass, rubbish and almost anything can also be consumed as fuel. While the heat is 20 to 30 feet of the plain and low hills now occupied by the armies are dry in winter, good water can be found almost anywhere at 25 to 30 feet below the surface.

AWFUL WORK OF BIG GUNS.

The Condition of Russian Battleship Shows What Modern Ordnance Can Do.

The fearful destruction which can be wrought by modern high-power guns is well illustrated by the experience of the Russian battleship Czarevitch, which now lies dismantled in the German port of Tsingtau, says a correspondent of the New York Times. It was to this harbor that the big sea-fighter fled after the disastrous naval battle off Port Arthur. None of the czar's ships were built stronger than the Czarevitch, and yet none of those which escaped total destruction at the hands of the Japanese suffered such a terrible punishment.

The Czarevitch was the flagship of the Russian squadron which made a dash for liberty from Port Arthur on August 10, but which was caught by the Japanese feet without. In this battle the Czarevitch and a few other vessels succeeded at last in breaking through the enemy's line. In the midst of the fight, however, the battleship became a target for the concentrated fire of several Japanese warships and for four hours bore the brunt of the fighting.

The Russian ship might have fought longer had it not been for a Japanese shell which, at four o'clock, crashed through the bridge, blowing Admiral Witthoff, the commander, to pieces, and also killing four officers who were standing near. "The brains of the ship had been knocked out," as one survivor expressed it, and terror-stricken the crew wheeled the vessel about and fled.

When the Czarevitch crawled into the port of Tsingtau, on the night of August 11, she resembled a shambles more than a ship. Her rudder shaft was broken, one gun was disabled, her life-boats were lost, her masts were bent, her sides were punctured with great holes, her funnels were ridged, her bridge was torn and twisted, her decks were red with blood and on them lay long rows of bodies some mutilated beyond recognition. She had lost 210 officers and men, killed and six wounded. Those of the crew who survived were almost dead as a result of the concussion of the guns.

When the Czarevitch was launched at the Forges et Chantiers de la Mediterranee, at La Seyne, her French makers said her armor belt of steel 9.8 inches thick amidships at the upper edge and 8.6 inches at the lower edge would withstand the most powerful guns. Yet in battle with the Japanese a 12-inch shell pierced her sides as if they were paper.

Coal from China.

China promises to give the world coal. The good quality of its coal for steaming purposes has been lately demonstrated, and could the cost of transportation be reduced it would compete formidably with the highest grades of coal the Chinese must now import. The mines being in close proximity to waterways, special boats may be constructed for transportation. At the pit's mouth the best grade is purchased at \$2.40 a ton.

TELEGRAPHY IN AUSTRALIA.

Railroads and Other Improvements Are Unusually Extensive in That Country.

The circumstances of Australia, and the conditions of its settlement, have had the effect of making both its railroads and its telegraphs unusually extensive in comparison with the numbers of its population, and this is markedly the case with its mileage of telegraph lines, writes Hugh H. Lusk, in the North American Review. At present the great island is only settled on a strip of country bordering on the coast, and even that strip does not include the more northern shores either on the east or west and takes in no part of the north side at all. The consequence is that a line of telegraph which connects the settlements of Queensland on the northeast, of Australia with those of West Australia on the west coast, a distance, in a direct line, of about 2,500 miles—covers fully double that distance from the necessity of keeping in touch with the settled districts. There is, indeed, one line of telegraph which of necessity ignores this rule, and passes for nearly its whole length of about 1,700 miles from the north to the north-western corner of the island, through an unsettled country. The purpose of this line is to connect the settled Australia with the rest of the world by way of Java and India, and it passes through great districts of the interior which were first explored for the purpose of its construction.

TANGIER NIGHT FASCINATES.

Writer Declares That Nothing Is Quite So Beautiful as Moorish Evening.

Tangier is most fascinating at night, then the great moon of the south throws a veil over the city, the browns become a fabled, the shadows deepened, the shrouded women looking down from the roof tops appear as pale and lovely ghosts writes Martha Lowell, in the Four-Track News. It is at night that the Moor goes to some café, joins the circle of his brethren seated around a lighted brazier, smokes and hears the musical class sing of valor and of love. And if the musician sing well a wealthy Moor may throw some rare incense upon the brazier, and the air is then filled with a wondrous perfume, such as is found in no other country in the world. It is at night that the wedding processions march through the winding streets. A band of men singing the wild wedding song, accompanies the bride. She rides in a covered palanquin mounted on a mule. She has never seen the man whose wife she is to be. If he isn't pleased he will return her next day together with the scornful gift of two chickens.

MAKE GEMS FROM QUARTZ.

Rock Crystal, Purest Form of That Stone, Employed in Manufacture of Diamonds.

Diamond cutting up to a recent time was nearly all done abroad, Holland being the chief center of the industry for some time past, but of late a good deal of it has come over to America, where electrical machines are used in the work to great advantage in all ways. European work has always been done by hand as it still is, and the Japanese who are only just waking up to the knowledge that artificial power can be applied, are now cutting real gems, the machinery employed here cuts out great quantities of artificial ones, which now rule the markets of the world. They are so brilliantly cut and polished that only experts can distinguish them from the genuine article. Rock crystal, the purest form of quartz, is employed in making artificial diamonds, and this can only be worked to advantage with the electrical machines, hand work leaving no profit in the business, besides turning out inferior results.

NO BOUNDS TO HIS LOYALTY.

Balloon Vender Celebrates Recognition by Duchess by Throwing Wares Away.

A pretty little incident was recently witnessed in Moscow in connection with the imperial children of Russia. While driving in the fair ground with her sisters Grand Duchess Olga espied a peasant offering colored balloons for sale. Giving an order to stop the carriage she called the man to her side and selected several balloons for herself and her sisters, for which she rewarded the astonished peasant with a ten-ruble piece. The gratified moujik in vain endeavored to stammer out his thanks to the little princess and at the same time, in the characteristic Slavonic manner, he crossed himself and called on all the saints to witness his good fortune. Then, in a sudden excess of loyalty and abandonment, he cut the string which held the remaining balloons together, and allowed all his stock in trade to float away together.

Wooden Russia.

New people who have not traveled about the Russian empire can imagine how boundless is its wealth in timber. "Wooden Russia" is the name applied to the vast forest areas of Russia in Europe, which cover nearly 500,000,000 acres or 35 per cent of the entire area of the country. In Russia houses built of any other material than wood are almost unknown outside the cities, and wood constitutes the principal fuel. The forest belt called the "Taiga," in Siberia, stretches in a direct line from the Urals to the Pacific for 4,000 miles, and is in many parts 500 miles broad. All this is the property of the czar.