

MEANER THAN THE MEANEST.

How-Done Trick of Sanctimonious Sinner Who Carried a Bottle in His Pocket.

He got on the train at Van Nostrand and sat down beside me. He was long, lean and lanky. First he looked out of the car window and then at me, says a writer in the New York Herald. Seemingly deeper into his seat he suddenly remarked: "Dry day, eh?"

GASSING TREES FOR INSECTS.

New Method Employed in California Orange Orchards to Save the Trees.

The United States department of agriculture has just reported on a unique and effective method for killing the scale insects which are causing so much destruction to orange trees in California.

They Only Titter.

The Chinese laugh is not as hearty as an expressive as the European or American. It is often a titter or a genuine outbreak of merriment. There is little character or force in it. —X.

WANTED AS WIVES.

American Hearts Fired by Tale of Beautiful Hawaiian Heiresses.

Some of the Communications Received by Honolulu Representative at the Pan-American Exposition.

Miss Rose C. Davison has returned from Buffalo where she represented Hawaii as commissioner at the Pan-American fair. While she was in Chicago, a newspaper made her say that the Hawaiian girls were all beautiful and heiresses and just waiting for American youths to ask them to marry.

Southerners Seldom Have Gout.

A writer says that typical southerners very rarely have gout in their lower extremities, and he explains his statement as follows: "The moment one sits down he looks about for some object upon which to elevate his feet, usually resting them on a chair or window sill if indoors or the balustrade if on the porch or piazza. Now, the location of gout being simply a question of specific gravity, it does not descend to the feet because of this habitual elevation. If it should get there it would be obliged to climb. The smallness of the southern foot is accounted for in the same way—that is, of course, the southern man's foot. The women never elevate. Englishmen have whopping big feet, which they keep plastered right down on the ground or floor at all times, as if afraid of letting something get away from them. They have gout in their feet in consequence." —N. Y. Press.

Beans Grow Long in Kansas.

"Jack's" gigantic beanstalk would have attracted comparatively little attention in Jasper county, where the soil is so fertile that almost any old growth in vegetation may be expected. As evidence of this, even in a year of unprecedented drought, there are shown in a Carthage store windows bean pods some of which are 37 inches in length. They are the product of a local garden. —Kansas City Journal.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

First Business Man—"What did you do while you were up in the country with your wife?" Second Business Man (gloomily)—"Penance." —Somerville Journal.

CLAIMS SHE IS 120.

Interesting Old Squaw of the Turtle Clan at the Pan-American Exposition.

Nancy Johnson, a member of the Turtle clan, Seneca nation of Indians, has lived in three centuries, and daily at the Pan-American exposition her blood relatives and fellow pagan worshippers beseech the Great Spirit by dances that her life may be prolonged for many moons to come.

When Capt. Lawton began his negotiations with her last fall he went to her house one cold day late in October and found her coming down the road with a half bushel of potatoes on her back. She had carried them from the field a half mile away, but did not seem weary. While the visitor talked to her she prepared her evening meal in the open as she had done all her life.

Deaths of Royalty.

The lingering death of the late dowager empress of Germany has had few counterparts in English royal history. Twenty-five per cent. of the number that has reigned there since the Conquest met violent deaths. Two, Henry VII. and Edward VI., died of consumption. Old age, with its complication of physical troubles, helped to carry off Victoria, George III., Elizabeth, Henry VI., William VI., Edward III. and Henry III. Three died young, Edward V., at 14; Edward VI., at 16, and Henry VI., at 33. Queen Anne died comparatively young of apoplexy. Mary's death is said to have been due to sorrow over the loss of English territory in France. Henry VI.'s and George III.'s last days were clouded with dementia, and George II.'s demise was occasioned by the bursting of a blood vessel. —Philadelphia Times.

SAFE FROM THE LAW

Places in London Where Thieves Are Secure from Arrest.

The Finding of a Criminal Amidst the Teeming Millions of People is a Tremendous Task for the Sharpest Sleuths.

One of the natural harbors or refuges for the criminal classes is the city of London. Indeed, all large cities offer a measure of security to lawbreakers, but the English metropolis gives the most populous city in the world gives such characters exceptional opportunities for concealment, despite the fact that the metropolitan police force is the most efficient and successful in the world.

More than half the treaties the government holds with foreign countries for the extradition of criminals who by the country are practically dead letters. Were it not for this fact there would be only one actual refuge for fugitive lawbreakers, whereas there are dozens. The Bonin islands, in the Pacific ocean, and off the coast of Japan, constitute the sole remaining nominal refuge for the criminal classes, and this refuge is not favored by any but the lowest and most criminal.

Men who have committed crimes for which death, lifelong imprisonment, Siberia, or perhaps torture, would be due punishment, have flown to the Bonin islands from all parts of the world, and have set up a small colony of all that is most brutal in human nature, but the gentlemanly criminal, the bandit, and the city who decamps with tens of thousands, prefers a less certain safety with an element of comfort, and would probably rather be arrested than be forced to patronize the Bonin islands, particularly as there is now every hope of this refuge being covered by an extradition treaty in the near future.

Argentina is still a happy hunting ground for criminals, and Jabez Balfour's capture was an exceptionally good stroke of luck for law and justice. There are scores upon scores of criminals safely retired in the Argentine Republic.

Giant Oak of Germany.

Naturalists in Germany are much interested in a wonderful old tree which has been discovered near Homburg. It is an oak, and is notable not only on account of its great bulk, but also for the fact that at the base of the trunk it is entirely hollow. The trunk, indeed, is not more than eight or nine feet high, but it is more than 20 feet in circumference. Some idea of the size of its interior may be gathered from the fact that four persons recently found ample room in it. In winter the old oak looks very bare and gaunt, but, according to peasants in the neighborhood, who have known it for many years, it regularly puts forth new twigs and foliage every spring, so that, ancient and decayed though its trunk may be, it is nevertheless crowned and surrounded with masses of green leaves, just as it was in the days of its youth. The people of Homburg are very proud of this natural curiosity, and it is safe to say that many tourists will have a look at it during the coming summer. —Chicago Record-Herald.

Rich Woman Peddles Milk.

New Jersey among its other freaks has a freak woman—a woman who, though wealthy, takes pleasure in peddling milk. She is Mrs. Anna Silliman, wife of C. P. Silliman, of Vineland, a woman of good social standing, education, refinement and beauty. Some time ago, wearying of society and the luxurious living of the wealthy, Mrs. Silliman decided to adopt the life of a milkmaid purely as a diversion. Every morning at four o'clock this society belle can be seen starting from her elegant country home in an outfit that is a veritable house on wheels. Unattended she drives from house to house and leaves the pint or quart of lactical fluid as daintily as she receives her callers in evening dress. The townspeople, at first astonished, became so charmed with the innovation that her trade is increasing daily. Mr. and Mrs. Silliman are financially able to live in any style they may see fit and this makes the pretty milkmaid all the more conspicuous in her endeavor to outdo faddism. —N. Y. Sun.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

An English clergyman named Bacon is making balloon ascents in and around London with a view to ascertaining the sources of London fog.

In the coldest parts of Siberia a rainbow may sometimes be seen all day long in a cloudless sky. It is supposed to be due to fine particles of snow in the air.

The Marconi station installed on the Nantucket lightship has proved to be very successful and several trans-Atlantic steamers have been able to communicate successfully with the shore by its aid.

It is ascertained that the number of compound locomotives in use in this country (as compared with simple engines) averages 75 per cent. of the whole number in use in freight and passenger traffic.

The danger of living in a house that harbors consumptives is illustrated by the fact that of 6,273 patients officially examined by the German imperial board of health 2,177, or 34.7 per cent., belonged to families that included other victims of tuberculosis.

An English steamship company has issued a circular letter offering free passages to delegates from labor unions who wish to visit this country to ascertain the exact conditions of labor and wages here, and also what advantages, if any, we have in the way of labor-saving tools.

Recent experiments made to determine the loss ensuing by exposing coal to the weather, unprotected in any way, show, contrary to general belief, that it is very small. There was a gain in the amount of oxygen, but a loss of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen; the loss of calorific power was slight.

CITIES SPEND HUGE SUMS.

Municipalities the World Over Engage in Enormous Public Improvements.

In no previous period of the world's history have so many cities been busy at the same time with extensive and costly public enterprises. The daily reader of the news of all countries cannot fail to have noticed that the closing years of the nineteenth century and the opening year of the twentieth have been marked by the beginning or the continuance of municipal undertakings the total cost of which will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, says the New York Tribune.

Rapid transit is a watchword and a rallying cry both in the eastern and western hemispheres, and armies of wage-earners are toiling in subways, on elevated roads and on the street levels in dozens and scores of well-known places here and abroad. But the principal cities of the globe are concerned with other great works than those which will effect the swift distribution of hosts of passengers. Schemes for the construction of new docks and piers on the most ambitious scale, for the deepening and broadening of harbor channels and for the opening of wider avenues of commerce and trade in the best-known ports of various countries are more numerous and are planned on more generous lines than in any former era. And the provision of more abundant supplies of water for cities which consume huge quantities is drawing millions upon millions of dollars from municipal treasuries in the United States and in other countries.

TERRIFIC AUTOBILING.

Fourier's Speed in the Recent Great Race Over Seventy Miles an Hour at Times.

The most wonderful long distance speed automobile performance yet credited to anyone was made by Henry Fournier, winner of the 1901 Paris-Bordeaux race, held May 29. The 348 miles were made in eight hours 42 seconds, or equal to a rate of speed which would take the winner from New York to Buffalo in a trifle over ten hours. Had Fournier not been forced to limit his speed to 12 kilometers an hour in passing through Versailles, Chartres, Chateaudun, Vendome, Tours, Chateauroux, Poitiers, Ruffe, Angouleme and Libourne, he would have made an average speed which would have taken him from New York to Buffalo in seven hours, or at a rate of speed considerably faster than the world-famed empire state express travels. There is no question, says the Automobile Magazine, that at some parts of the journey Fournier went somewhat over 70 miles per hour. His 330 miles outside of towns were made at an average rate of 53 miles per hour, and the average of the whole distance, including the slowing up through towns, was over 40 miles per hour.

The previous record for this race was held by Charron, his time being 11 hours 4 minutes and 20 seconds. It will be seen that Fournier reduced these figures by nearly three hours. The second arrival was Farnham, in a Panhard-Levassor, in nine hours and 40 minutes, while the third man, Voigt, who also operated a Panhard-Levassor, was third in nine hours 43 minutes and 11 seconds, both beating Charron's record.

BEEES TO KILL MICE.

Agricultural Department Finds Ally in the Philippines.

Sting of the Insect Said to Be Poisonous to the Small Animals—Will Be Introduced into This Country.

The agricultural department at Washington is to make a determined attack upon the American field mouse. His extermination in certain localities has been resolved upon and the Philippine bumblebee is to be brought into service as the executioner.

This was the statement made by Prof. C. H. Riley, of the department, who passed through Chicago last week en route to San Francisco and the Philippines. Prof. Riley, of the division of entomology, will devote a year in the Philippines to the study of bugs and insects of the archipelago. The "humming bird" bumblebee of the Philippines will be one of the main objects of his inquiry. It is planned to import the big bee of the Philippines into the United States that he may make war upon the American field mouse, a rodent which has caused the farmers of the country a loss of thousands of dollars.

"It is an old saying among farmers," said Prof. Riley, reports a Chicago paper, "that when there is plenty of clover there are lots of bumblebees. What the farmer really means is that when there are lots of bumblebees there is plenty of clover. He might carry his logic further by saying that when field mice are scarce there are plenty of bumblebees, and that when there are plenty of cats there are few field mice.

"In order to save the clover crops of the country the agricultural department has the choice of two things, to increase the number of cats in the country, which will destroy the field mouse, or to take away from the rodent his supply of winter food. Either method if successful would result in a gain of thousands of dollars to the farmer. The field mouse is very fond of bumblebee honey and never loses an opportunity to deprive the insect of the rewards of his work. The honey taken away from the bumblebee causes him to perish in the winter time. Hence a short clover crop for the bumblebee is a carrier of pollen from one clover plant to another. Thus when there are lots of bumblebees clover comes to perfection. If the field mouse has destroyed the bumblebee there is no insect that can do its work in the summer time and the farmers lose accordingly. This is not only true of clover, but many other plants.

"We hold that the bumblebee is a valuable member of insect society and that the field mouse is a worthless scamp who likes a good dinner but does not want to work for it.

"The Philippine bumblebee is an entirely different insect from his American cousin. He is fully an inch and a half long and looks like a small bird. He is full of business and has no fear of such a small animal as the field mouse. He is a harmless fellow when let alone, but his sting is deadly to smaller forms of animal life. He will fight for his own with the tenacity of a pugilist and any unscrupulous field mouse invading his domain will have to fight for everything he gets.

"A field mouse after receiving the sting of a Philippine bumblebee would much resemble the wrecked appearance of some of our college boys after the Thanksgiving football game. He would have to lay up for repairs.

"It is the intention of the agricultural department to introduce this bee into the United States if climatic conditions will permit. He will be sent to the warmer parts of the country at first, where he may gradually become hardened to the more severe climate. It is then hoped he will grow and spread until he covers the entire country. The department has its eye upon other insects in the Philippines which may prove of value to agricultural interests. There are several varieties of honey bees which will be given a trial. A species of tree toad, which has a deadly antipathy for certain kinds of citrus insects, will be introduced into southern California with the hope that it may be useful in the extermination of the black or armored scale, which has caused so great a loss to fruit growing interests of late years.

Wolfe's Monument.

"It is sad," writes a Quebec correspondent of the London Post, "to see the state of Wolfe's monument to-day. Rank grass grows high inside the rusty and worn iron railings. The column is cracked, and if nothing be done must soon perish. The monument, a simple column with a helmet and sword on the top, and its inscription: 'Wolfe died here, victorious, 13 Sept., 1759,' is sublime in its simplicity."

The Parson Wandered.

A country clergyman whose custom it was to read his sermons, one Sunday morning forgot his manuscript. He determined to take his congregation into his confidence, and he accordingly announced: "My friends, this morning I have come without my sermon. So you must take what the Lord gives me. But to-night I will come better prepared."

Beaver in Colorado.

Beaver have become so numerous in Colorado that the ranchmen want them killed off to save their property.