

IN HER MOUNTAIN HOME ALONE.

A Woman Who Leads the Life of a Hermit in the Alleghenies. On a barren ridge of the Alleghenies, in the northern part of Clinton county, a party of hunters a few days ago discovered a cabin nestled among the rocks on a hillside. The spot was ten miles from a human habitation, and the curiosity of the hunters was aroused as to who the occupant could be. Going up to the hut, one of the party hammered at the door. It was speedily opened by a woman of about 50 years, who demanded their business. The boldest member of the party asked for a drink of water. In reply the woman pointed to a spring which bubbled up among the rocks, and then closed and barred the door. The hunters carried their story to a farmhouse in the valley, where they learned that the woman leads the life of a hermit, having no companionship but that of a great St. Bernard dog, which she has trained to carry messages and bring provisions from the valley. Nothing is known of her history before her arrival on the mountain. The country folk say that she made her first appearance ten years ago. During the summer she constructed the hut unaided, and none but a few children had been allowed to enter it. The youthful scouts report that the hut is carpeted with the skins of bear and deer, which she evidently shot with her own hand. A repeating rifle and smaller arms hang on the walls. No one has any solution to offer to the question as to what drove this woman to live in the wilds alone. She shrinks from contact with grown people, though the children, who call her Aunt Maggie, are always welcome summer visitors to her cabin.

DECIL RHODES' BURIAL PLACE.

In the Matopos Hills of South Africa and Commands a "World's View." While some of the newspapers have been busy of late in killing Mr. Rhodes, we find from the Cape papers that Mr. Rhodes himself has selected his burial place, reports the London News. It is in the Matopos hills, in the neighborhood of his farm, that Mr. Rhodes desired "in the fullness of time" to be buried in the solid rock. A special correspondent, who calls the spot "World's View," thus describes the scenery: At length we came to a halt and were led through the bushes up enormous slopes of solid granite on to the roof of a rocky eminence. Here the world's view lay unfolded like a panorama before our gladdened eyes. There were many traveled members in our party, but not one of them could say that he had ever seen anything like it. Here, had we been gazing down upon one of nature's battle fields, the disordered scene of some tremendous convulsion, in which Titanic forces had lifted the biggest bowlders the mind can conceive and tossed them to and fro like pebbles. As far as the eye could reach stretched an ocean of granite mountains, extending range beyond range to the horizon. Few people realize the immensity of the Matopos or the beauty of the hillsides and valleys, where euphorbia, mahogany and mopana trees and all sorts of tropical bushes flourish in glorious confusion, and certainly no one can have any conception of the awe-inspiring grandeur or the scenic splendor of this wondrous natural panorama.

SNAKES PICKED THE HOPS.

Why an Indiana Farmer No Longer Pays Hired Men. The most remarkable story which has recently found its way into print comes from Versailles, Ind., says the Atlanta Constitution. In 1896 the hop growers of that neighborhood, according to the story which is now going the rounds, had some difficulty over the question of what amount of hire should be paid to laborers for picking hops. As a general proposition the matter is still unsettled except by one hop grower, Mr. Jacob Pressley, who resides in a district known as Deer Tick Bottom. He did not hire any pickers at all this year, and yet his hops are all picked and cured. To explain this mystery, it seems that Mr. Pressley during the year previous had noticed two yellow snakes. His first impulse was to kill them, but their actions were so odd that he stopped to watch them. The snakes would climb the hop poles and pick every blossom, throwing them upon the ground. Then they would extract a certain amount of hop from the stalk and pass on to the next one. This set Mr. Pressley thinking if the snakes could not be utilized instead of men and women. In the spring of 1896 he found a nest of 13 yellow snakes down by the creek, and capturing them alive, he took them home. In the fall he tried them on the hop fields while the men were absent, and with such success that he determined to use them this year. Accordingly he hired no hands, to the great surprise of his neighbors. Instead he turned the snakes loose, putting 150 baskets on the ground to catch the hops as they fell. The experiment was a great success, but Mr. Pressley has incurred the deadly enmity of the hop pickers union, the president of which, "Bob" Habernut, promises to put a boycott on Pressley's snake picked hops this winter. Of course it is barely possible that the author of this story may have been under the influence of hops at the time of writing it.

WOMEN BUYERS.

They Draw Large Salaries for Purchasing Goods for Leading Stores. According to the Cincinnati Enquirer a prominent woman drummer says: "There are at least 50 per cent. more women buyers in the trade now than there were six years ago." It is now estimated that there are 900 women buyers in the United States. From the time that women first entered the stores at all, even as saleswomen, their taste and intuition for style, their ability to select, were noticed. The only thing that held them back from the highest position and that holds them back now is not so much the fear that they could not be relied on to make judicious investments. A woman buyer who purchases a fine line of goods, for example, ladies' tailor-made suits or misses' jackets, receives a salary of from \$8,000 to \$80,000 a year. If she thoroughly understands her business she turns her stock money over two or three times within a year. She buys from \$300,000 to \$500,000 worth of goods per annum. Such a buyer will have been in the business certainly ten years or more and have familiarized herself with every detail. If a woman is uncommonly bright she may learn the business of a "buyer" in three years. But she has to understand her line of custom from A to Z, and know exactly how much she can afford to pay apiece for such goods in order to sell them at a reasonable profit. She must know the wholesale prices for the velvet, silk or fur that trims the garment; also, the price of the making, and the profit to allow the manufacturer.

BOOTBLACKING IN LONDON.

Improvements to Be Made in Deferring to American Visitors. The force of American demand is being once more exemplified in London by the placing at all important railway stations of chairs in connection with the bootblack brigade. This work, says the London News, is undertaken by the Central Shoeback society. There is already such accommodation provided at the viaduct station. It appears that the American gentlemen visiting London express surprise that they are expected to stand while they have their boots blacked, as they are accustomed to sit during the operation when at home. The new chair stands will shortly be seen at Ludgate and Charing Cross stations, and at the stock exchange. The society has 60 boys, who are lodged, taught and partially boarded on the premises of the institution, and there is an ingenious allotment of their earnings into three parts after an allowance for food required out of doors, one-third being their own, another third the society's, and the remaining third going to their banking account, on which they can draw for special purposes. The Shah's Sword. The shah of Persia never drew a sword in his hand, and probably never will, but he is having a magnificent imperial blade manufactured for him, and at Sheffield, too, for English craft in steel leads any Asiatic kind of this degenerate day, except only that of Japan. The blade of the shah's sword is scimitar-shaped, double edged, inlaid with gold; its scabbard will be of royal scabbard Persian leather, with mountings in gold filigree, and an ivory hilt, inlaid with gold arabesques and inscriptions, while its cross-bar is studded with precious stones. The Prolific Banana. The banana is the most prolific of fruits. The produce of one acre planted with bananas will support 25 times as many people as the produce of an acre planted with wheat. Paper Teeth Being Made. Paper teeth are made by a dentist in Lubec, Germany. One of his patrons has a set which has been in use for 13 years, and gives complete satisfaction.

EX-QUEEN OF NAPLES.

Her Chief Amusement in the Days of Her Youth. Everyone who has read Daudet's "Rois en Exile" will be interested in hearing that the ex-queen of Naples, who figures in that celebrated novel as the model of all wifely and queenly virtues, is about to marry a Hungarian nobleman, famous for his love of horse-flesh and skill in riding, says the Boston Herald. This ideal queen-in-exile's late husband, who was a great fool, according to M. Daudet, used to be very much afraid of her. She was the "better horse," and of a dashing, valiant temper, as her conduct in the siege of Gaeta bore witness, and she regarded the ex-king as a silly, not to be considered save on state occasions. He, poor man, would go to the Madeleine to pray for his handsome spouse when she went to learn bareback riding at the hippodrome. It is a matter of history that her majesty, with her sister, the empress of Austria, often hired the hippodrome for their sole use, and would ride in the ring like two circus girls. Finally the king gave up praying and joined the ladies in the arena, where he and Chadwick, the English clown, would toss balls for the queen to catch as she rode standing on the horse's back. But those famous princesses of Bavaria ride no more. The widowed ex-queen of Naples still loves fine horseflesh, but her hat-ecole days are over.

HAWKS FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

Two of these Birds Engaged in a Bitter Combat in a Field. A fierce combat between a large gray hawk and a smaller red one occurred a few days ago on the farm of George Williams, in Bristol township, reports the Philadelphia Record. Mr. Williams was standing in his corn field, when he heard a series of fierce squawks in the air above him. Two hawks circling about each other and dropping rapidly to the earth next attracted his attention. The birds fell almost at his feet and continued to fight with great ferocity. It was evident from the very start that the battle was an unequal one, the gray one being much too heavy for his opponent. The farmer, seizing a stick, sailed in to take a hand in the fight. He made several vigorous swipes at the rapidly revolving bunch of claws and feathers, but somehow or other he always failed to land. Then he foxily decided to stand off and wait until one bird had been killed, whereupon he would jump in and dispatch the victor. The red hawk was growing weaker every moment, and finally fell over on his back, and the gray victor drove his beak deep into the breast of the vanquished. With a squawk of triumph the gray fellow suddenly raised himself upon his broad wings and sailed away before Williams realized what he was about. The red hawk lay dead upon the field literally clawed to ribbons.

THE CRETAN FLAG.

Big Black Cross on a White and Little White Cross on a Blue Ground. The number of countries having national flags, their number is now more than 100—is to be added Crete, the patriotic Cretans believing that the selection of a flag should precede rather than follow autonomy. The formal acceptance of the Cretan flag was made at the monastery of Arakdi, on the scene of the stand made by the patriotic Cretans against the Turkish soldiery in the revolt of 1866. The Cretan flag is to show a black cross upon a white ground, symbolic of the mourning of Crete for the continued postponement of her national aspirations. White and black on a flag is not an approved combination, except among pirates, and for that reason the Cretan flag, at some sacrifice of symmetry, has been further embellished by a second and smaller cross in the left-hand upper corner, a white cross on a blue ground, the Greek colors. The portion of the flag occupied by the Greek colors is symbolic of the hope of ultimate consolidation of Crete with Greece. Japanese Fuel. The dust of charcoal is gathered up and mixed with the chaff from wheat, barley and other grains, and with chopped straw in Japan. It is then moistened into a paste, rolled into balls about as big as a billiard ball, and makes excellent fuel.

Japanese Fuel.

The dust of charcoal is gathered up and mixed with the chaff from wheat, barley and other grains, and with chopped straw in Japan. It is then moistened into a paste, rolled into balls about as big as a billiard ball, and makes excellent fuel.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Human Legs and Feet.

With the exception of birds, men's legs are longer in proportion to their bodies than those of any other animal. The human foot is broader and stronger than the foot of any other animal, so that man alone can stand on one foot.

Table with multiple columns containing market data, prices, and exchange rates. Includes sections for 'Bulletin Commercial', 'Bulletin Financier', and various commodity prices.

L'ABELLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc un commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00