

NAMING THE BABY.

Belongs to the Father or Mother. The question as to whether the name of the baby belongs, as a matter of right, to the father or to the mother is raised in a queer law...

THE AMERICAN MACHINIST.

His Work Estimated the World Over Wherever Machines Are Used. The fame of the American machinist extends everywhere; his ingenuity in planning and his skill in execution are known wherever man uses machines...

A SPRY MAINE GIRL

Works Her Father's Dairy Farm, and When Grown Will Be a Doctor. All the way from East Orrington to Bangor the people are talking about and praising Sarah Curran, the 16-year-old daughter of Nick Curran, a dairy farmer...

LOADING BY ELECTRICITY.

Newly Discovered Power Much Used in Handling Cargoes. A few years ago the idea of loading a ship with 2,500 tons of flour in 24 hours by means of two small motors would have been looked upon as absurd...

NOVEL HOSPITALITY.

How a Wealthy Irishman Added to the Sum of Human Enjoyment. A man with an unusual idea of hospitality was Mr. Mathew, of Thomaston, Ireland, who lived in the earlier years of the last century...

PRACTICAL MEN TO THE FRONT.

Mechanics Have Attained to Distinguished Positions in Recent Years. The master men of Victoria's reign have been, says the Review of Religions, not the politicians and statesmen, the soldiers and sailors, the poets and artists...

IN LAMPOST LETTER BOXES.

Not Many Things of Value Found. Dead Mice Dropped In. "By finding things in the boxes" was the usual phrase of the collector who was to bring the letters from a lamppost letter box...

ART AND DOLLARS.

One Painter Who is True to His Ideal. I have a friend whom I shall venture to call a "poor artist" for I know that he is poor, and gets his living, such as it is, by painting, says a writer in Scribner's...

CURIOS CURRENCY.

Vegetables Used as a Circulating Medium in Montana. Boys in the east sometimes think money a scarce enough article, but they really know very little about it compared with what some of their cousins from the far west could tell them...

HOW FRENCH DEPUTIES VOTE.

Need Not Be Present and Can Vote for Each Other. Absenteeism in the chamber of deputies is becoming a more and more serious evil, and it is hard to say whether the French system of voting by proxy does not rather increase it than minimize it...

TWO VALLEYS OF DEATH.

One in Java and Another in the Valley of California. The Valley of Death, or Poison valley, as it is sometimes called, is an oval-shaped hollow near the summit of a mountain on the Island of Java...

THE HAPPY DAYS OF AGE.

Old Idea of Youth's Carelessness Has No Foundation. Youth takes itself with the same seriousness which belonged to age in a time of less knowledge; and one of the greatest proofs of a more complete mastery by the world of the art of living is the wish and ability to be careless, says Scribner's...

SCAN SEW UP HEART WOUNDS.

They Are Not the Kind Made by a Maiden's Glimpse. The prompt surgical aid save the life of a man stabbed through the heart? It has always been held that any attempt to operate directly upon the heart was worse than foolish, and that to sew up a lesion in the heart proper without killing the patient would be an absolute impossibility...

A LEARNED HERMIT.

Wise Country Folk Are Much Interested in Him. In the edge of Wise county, Va., not far from Pound Gap, lives one of the most scholarly men in the south. He is a hermit, living in a mountain cabin, with no companion save his dogs, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat...

GAY MUSIC AT A FUNERAL.

Custom in Vincennes That Destroys Much That is Good and Grave. People in Vincennes have been witnessing what is called a "gay funeral," according to a paradoxical phrase, reports the London Telegraph. Mr. Ferret, a resident in that suburban borough for many long years, died recently at the age of 80...

HIS SACRIFICE.

But Selfish Motives May Have Been at the Bottom. "Darling," he said, looking down tenderly into the eyes of his bride, according to the New York World, "I have often heard you say that there is no true love without self-sacrifice. You have taught me this great truth, and now I am going to prove my love by giving up something that has been very dear to me for years. You know how fond I am of smoking. Well, dearest, I am going to abandon the practice, even though it be like tearing out my eye..."

WAR CAUSED BY A SINGLE WORD.

Six Years of Strife the Result of a Trifling Verbal Omission. In 1654 a Polish nobleman became obnoxious to the laws of his country by reason of a crime. He fled to Sweden, says London Answers, whereupon Johan Cassimir, king of Poland, wrote to Charles Gustavus, king of Sweden, demanding the extradition of the criminal. The king of Sweden, on reading the dispatch, noticed that his own name and titles were followed by two et ceteras, while the name of the king of Poland was followed by three. The missing et cetera so enraged the king of Sweden that he at once declared war against Poland. This war was carried on with great bitterness until 1660, when a peace was signed at Oliva, near Danzig. A contemporary writer, Kochowski, poured out his lamentations on the war in these terms: "How dear has this et cetera been to us! With how many lives have these two potentes paid for these missing eight letters! With what streams of blood has the failure of a few drops of ink been avenged!" In article three of the treaty it was explicitly laid down that the custom of shortening titles by "et cetera," should still hold good, but for the future each of the two parties should give the other three et ceteras.

THE DOOR SPRING.

Its Later Development and Its Widely Extended Use. "In no one single thing," said the middle-aged man, according to the New York Sun, "has there been a greater advance since I was a boy than in the introduction of the door spring into comparatively common use. I suppose there must be now hundreds of patents on door springs. Some of the springs are well-nigh perfect. It is difficult to see in what respect they could be improved. But the main fact is the door spring itself and its common use in buildings of a more or less public character, and many others as well. "We don't shut doors now nearly as much as we used to; we don't stop to shut them. We are spared that trouble and we save time. We open the door and push on through and leave the door take care of itself. In the time that it would have taken us to close it we are six, eight or ten feet off; but the door is not neglected; it shuts itself, calmly, quietly and with certainty, as the man marches away. There is less slamming of doors now than ever, and fewer doors are left open; and the saving of time effected by the use of the self-closing door is in the aggregate tremendous. "Truly in no minor feature is the progress of civilization more apparent than in the present common use of the door spring."

A NEW WESTERN IDEA.

Little Who Give Gold Models of Their Little Girls to Their Betrothed. The girls here give gold models of their little fingers to their fiancés? And the western girl of the Gothamite, reports the New York Sun. "Heavens, no!" answered the Gothamite. "It seems to me that that is rather a greswome souvenir. "Not at all," answered the western girl; "it is decidedly dainty, and I'm a little surprised that New York is so far behind the times. The fad started in this way. When the daughter of one of our big western politicians was six months old he had a model of her little finger cast in gold. Around the little fingered digit is a ring of turquoise, which is her birth stone, and it makes a lovely charm for her betrothed's watch chain. He valued it so much that it got to other men to thinking, and the result is that as soon as a girl wraps up these things around her own little finger sufficiently for a proposal to follow he immediately insists upon a gold model of the flesh and blood original. It is a pretty conceit, and is being followed by every westerner who is in subjection to somebody's little finger."

Origin of Polo.

Polo is one of the oldest games known to civilization, says an exchange. It was played by the young swells of L'Hassa on the tableland of Thibet, between the Himalayas and Kwenlung mountains, many centuries ago. Traveling westward, it reached the Byzantine emperor, Manuel Comnenus I., about the middle of the twelfth century. He played it with great effect. It was called "pulu," which is Thibetan for ball. In 1871 it was introduced into England by some cavalry officers who had learned it in India. Being in England, it had to come here. Our "shinney" and "hockey" and the lacross of the Indians are modifications of polo. We not only play the game on horseback, but in water and on roller skates.

Reversing the Order.

Naming horses for public characters is common enough, but giving to a child the name of a Derby winner is a unique reversal of the ordinary method in such cases, says the Boston Herald. But this deceased speculator and accredited millionaire called his baby boy Ladas Primrose, in honor of Lord Rosebery's famous horse and the former prime minister of England. His little daughter also bears the name of Primrose, joined to that of Leah, thus making a Hebrew combination as flattering to the parent as to the infant's namesake.

Human Perspiration Poisonous.

A human perspiration, if injected into dogs or rabbits, acts like a deadly poison, according to Mr. Arloing's experiments. Perspiration secreted during hard muscular work has more toxic power than the ordinary kind, while that obtained from subjects who are very poisonous.

Sailing Vessels Coming in Again.

A Baltimore paper comments on the fact that the use of sailing vessels is increasing. They are coming into vogue again, especially for heavy mailers which may as well be a month as a week on the ocean. For a time steam displaced sails, but the demand for cheaper freights is supplanting steam in turn.

Russian Press Rules.

The Russian minister of the interior, acting under instructions from the czar, has alleviated the severity of the press laws in all the larger towns and cities of the empire, in fact wherever the population is over 100,000, by exempting the newspapers from the obligation of submitting all articles on political subjects to the censor before publication. Hitherto only a few of the principal papers at St. Petersburg, Moscow, Warsaw and Odessa have enjoyed the immunity.



DE LA Nouvelle-Orléans

JOURNAL QUOTIDIEN,

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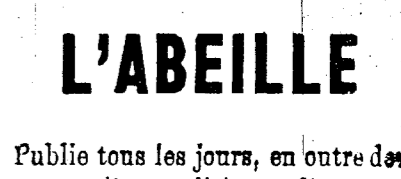
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