

A GENTLEMAN TRAMP.

He Was So Thoroughly Cultivated He Had No Trouble in Getting What He Wanted. "John, there was a tramp here to-day. "That's nothing new, Maria."

THE JAMESON RAID.

According to This Account It Was Promptly Condemned by the British. On December 26, 1895, a manifesto was issued by the Transvaal National union in which the demands of the outlanders were stated.

THE SUPPLY OF GINGER.

Ranka Second Among Spices According to the Import Tables—Main Sources.

Ginger is the root of a kind of reed, grown both in the East and West Indies and China, also largely in Malabar, and to a certain extent in nearly all tropical countries; it is also to be found, though of poor quality, in most of our guil states.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Russians never eat rabbits, as they say they nest with rats, nor will they touch snails or turtles, which are found in great numbers all over the country.

Japanese consider salted whale a delicacy. The whales are caught off the coast of Corea, the fish and blubber cut up and sent to Japan for sale as food.

The western part of Persia is inhabited by a species of camel which is the pigmy of its kind. It is snow white, and is on that account almost worshipped by the people.

Cremation is popular in Japan. In 1898, it is estimated, about 43 per cent. of the bodies of those who died in Tokio were burned. There are now seven crematoriums in that city, each of which has 22 furnaces.

It is one of the traditions connected with the American embassy in England that the ambassador shall deliver a speech on English literature whenever one is wanted. Mr. Russell Lowell, Mr. Phelps, (Col. John Hay and others in their time kept up this kindly custom.

More than 25,000 persons were killed by wild animals and snakes in India last year. Nearly a thousand deaths are ascribed to tigers and a large number to man-eating wolves.

French scientists have discovered a method of making false eyebrows. With a needle threaded with hair the doctor will now sew on anybody's bald eyelids the most beautiful long and languorous lashes, which in time take root and grow to have the appearance of the real article.

DRESSING PARISHAN DOGS.

One Hardly Knows Whether to Feel Pity or Disgust at the Silly Custom.

There seem to be some 5,000 or 6,000 persons in Paris who are determined to make the canine race go to the dogs as speedily as unreasoning pampering can send them there.

"For the most part our clients belong to the higher classes of society—people who can afford to pay high prices and who pay ready cash. The business is, therefore, a very profitable one, because the materials used do not cost very much and we sell them at a large profit.

One does not quite know whether pity for the dogs thus tortured or contempt for the owners who bend their minds to such doings is the predominant feeling aroused at these facts.

The waterproof for rainy days, the dust cloak for journeys, the mantle for cold weather and the gray linen suit for seaside wear are all articles with which a French society dog has long become familiar.

An extraordinary phenomenon has been noticed with regard to the chestnut trees in the Avenue Louise, Brussels, since the installation of the electrical trams.

The yakamiki, a bird of the crane family, is used by the natives of Venezuela in place of a shepherd dog for guarding and herding their flocks.

The smooth roads of life are often the most slippery.—Chicago Dispatch.

THE ERA OF BIG THINGS.

In These Progressive Times Size is an Important Factor in Achieving Success.

The multitudinous changes of far-reaching importance which are now occurring in the industrial and commercial worlds demonstrate that we are entering on an era of "big things."

In the last week of October for example, there were recorded the largest orders for steel rails, locomotives and cars ever known in a similar period.

A few weeks ago the largest steamship in the world arrived in New York after a successful maiden voyage, and it is now stated that the Great Northern railway has already contracted in England for two steel steamships which will be 16 feet longer than the new Oceanic of the White Star line.

"That was a remarkable demonstration of what a mogul can do which occurred on the New York Central the other day, when engine No. 948, one of the new moguls, hauled out train No. 11, the Southwestern limited, made up of two mail cars, five passenger coaches and nine Wagner cars, 16 in all.

Whether we consider the actual accomplishments of the present day or those under contemplation for the near future, we cannot fail to be impressed by the fact that "bigness" is the keynote of every important undertaking.

The special genius for organization is coming to be regarded as an American trait, to which much of the success of modern industry is indebted.

The electric line makes trees bloom. An extraordinary phenomenon has been noticed with regard to the chestnut trees in the Avenue Louise, Brussels, since the installation of the electrical trams.

In China, 12 1/2 miles from the village of Liou-Chek, there is a mountain of alum, which in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country.

Lithographic stone is in France giving way to the lighter and cheaper aluminum, which is also supplanting zinc in color printing, for which it is superior because free from oxidation.

SEEING THE OCEAN.

A Spectacle That is Eagerly Sought by People Born and Raised Inland.

Some people go to Coney Island for beer and frankfurters, some go there for general recreation and some for sea bathing. Some go to view the ocean in its grandeur and among these last are sure to be people from the interior, who, it may be, have never seen the ocean before, and who do not fail to come to its shores, when they get anywhere near to it, as, for instance, here in this city.

A man who has lived all his life within easy reach of Coney Island beach said he had known men who had been there from the interior to grease their boots and then walk about in them in the sand on the beach, so that the sand would stick to them, to be carried inland thus, as visible proof of their walking on the seashore.

One man was going to empty the bottle that he had filled into the giant river, Mississippi; but doubtless the greater number who fill bottles thus take them to keep, it may be at a home on some boundless prairie, as a memento of their visit to the borders of the boundless deep.

The man from the interior who is inclined to dwell upon the wonders of nature is mightily impressed by the ocean, but so, it might be said, is the man who lives upon its shores, when he stops to give it thought.—N. Y. Sun.

FRANCE'S SAVING SYSTEM.

It is That Which Tends to Form Habits of Thrift in the People.

The government report on the operations of the savings banks of France in 1897 shows that the thrift habits of the French people in the matter of small savings are well maintained.

In the number of depositors and in the amount of savings France is, however, in proportion to population, far behind those states in this country in which the savings bank system is established.

Comparisons based on these figures, however, would be unfair, as the limit of the individual deposit is much higher in this country. In France the savings bank is strictly what the name implies—not a bank of deposit for capital, but a convenience for the accumulation of petty savings too small to be taken care of in any other way.

It is the care of these savings and of those of the wage-workers which is the special function of the French savings bank system. The system tends to form the habit of prudence and thrift in the young—an excellent thing too much neglected in this land of the free and the happy-go-lucky.—N. Y. World.

A Mountain of Alum.

In China, 12 1/2 miles from the village of Liou-Chek, there is a mountain of alum, which in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country, who dig from it yearly tons of alum.

Lithographic stone is in France giving way to the lighter and cheaper aluminum, which is also supplanting zinc in color printing, for which it is superior because free from oxidation.

SILENT CONVERSATION.

An Incident in a Street Car That Caused a Nervous Man Embarrassment.

"Seated opposite me in a St. Charles avenue street car the other day," said a gentleman who lives in the neighborhood of Tulane university to a Times-Democrat man, "was a middle-aged woman and a chubby-faced man of perhaps 27 or 28. They were neatly but rather poorly dressed and were holding several large bundles.

FIRESIDE IN ALASKA.

The Home Circle in the Evening Presents a Picture of Domestic Enjoyment.

An Alaskan but is not the interior place in the world—far from it, its interior consists of a square floor of earth flanked on all sides by two wide ledges rising one above the other like a terrace.

After the day's work is done and the stomachs of both people and dogs are full, the family gather around the fire. Facing the door sits the father, next to him the mother, and on either side of the third and fourth generation it may be. Beyond these are the servants or slaves. Each has his place, and takes it as a matter of course. Without in the darkness, the dogs cluster about the door and howl.

When the family sits in strange, alien yet rhythmic masses, the dogs howl louder than before, and the women sway their squat bodies back and forth unceasingly, keeping their hands occupied meanwhile at their tasks of weaving or braiding.

The oldest among them chants some old folksong and the father rises. It is the signal for good night. The benches are spread over the fire, and by the light of a few fishes' tails, dried for the lighting, the family goes to bed, forgetful of crashing bergs, of the mysterious aurora, of the mountains where the snow lies forever and away. So is home made anywhere, where the spirit of home exists.—Self-Culture.

How Missourians Were Made.

Tennessee mountaineers to an advantage of the more level lands of Missouri to fill that state in an incredibly short space of time after the treaty with the Osages, and in the state's rich and abundant soil and water they might have made one of the largest and wealthiest of the American commonwealths nearly half a century ago had not the vicinity been so tempting to the confederacy and so important to the north.

Dress Reform in Kansas.

"That's right. One of them eastern women critters in what they call a rainy day costume went a-cavorting by our place yesterday, and you never see such a outlandish rig."