

PETITIONS FOR TROUSERS.

Boy Uses Novel Method to Induce Parents to Take Him Out of Knickerbockers.

Chicago.—Municipal ownership and referendum petition advocates have their eyes on the home of N. Banks Cregier, son of a former mayor of Chicago. Ellsworth B. Cregier, the 15-year-old boy of the home, who secures the name of 50 experienced fathers and mothers to take him from knickerbockers and provide long trousers, will probably run for alderman in his ward if his unique method of carrying his point is successful.

Ellsworth is a student of the Lake View high school, where he says he is ridiculed because he still wears short trousers, although he is five feet five and one-half inches tall. He tried to induce his mother and father to secure long trousers for him, but to no avail. They said he had to wait eight months more until his sixteenth birthday.

Rather than continue to suffer in the Fauntleroy bloomers, he circulated the following petition among the tenants of the Nordica building at 736 Fullerton avenue, where the Cregier family lives:

"To Mrs. N. B. Cregier: We, the undersigned, do most earnestly advise and request the application of long pants to Ellsworth B. Cregier as a public necessity, he being in his sixteenth year (or nearly so) and five feet five and one-half inches in height by measurement, and to this end we affix our signature."

When everybody in the building had signed young Cregier went outside to other friends. He soon got 50 names. The petition was presented and the long trousers obtained.

EARTH TO RESEMBLE MARS

Flammarion Believes Martians Have Reached Stage of Development Undreamt Of.

Paris.—Camille Flammarion, the famous author and astronomer, in an interview in one of the Paris papers, draws an extremely attractive picture of life in Mars. After pointing out that no one can predict what weather Paris will have next week, while it is known to an utmost certainty what kind of weather Mars will have a fortnight in advance, Flammarion goes on to say that there are many advantages in favor of the Martians.

First of all, he says, it would be difficult for any human species to be less intelligent than ours, seeing that we do not know how to control ourselves. A second reason is that progress is an absolute law which nothing can resist, and as the inhabitants of Mars are older than we are, they may represent what we shall be in several millions of years. A third circumstance in their favor is that they are in a better position than we are to free themselves from the heatiness of matter. Martians weigh less and their years are twice as long as those on earth. Finally, climatic conditions on Mars appear to be much more agreeable.

Flammarion declares that the hypothesis that Mars is inhabited by an intellectual race, much superior to our own is growing stronger every year as astronomical observations become more and more precise.

KITE IN AIRSHIP FLIGHT.

Canadian Ascends in Safety with Prof. Bell's Invention—Calls It "Frost King."

Halifax, N. S.—Prof. Alexander Graham Bell thinks he is a step nearer the attainment of his ambition to perfect a flying machine based on the tetrahedral kite principle. He has been experimenting in this direction for several years on his estate of Beina Brough, Cape Breton.

Recently he succeeded in getting his latest designed kite, which he has named "Frost King," to lift Neill McDearmid, weighing 166 pounds, to a height of 30 feet, and support him there as steadily as if glued to the sky. This kite is named in honor of Walter Archer Frost, of Kenan, Wis., who recently was married to Miss Susan Winifred McCurdy, Mr. Bell's private secretary.

The kite, which is constructed of 1,300 tetrahedral cells having a total area of 732 square feet of silk, making a supporting surface of 440 square feet, carried aloft not only its own weight of 61 pounds, but also a load comprising flying lines, dangling ropes and a rope ladder, making 82 pounds more, together with McDearmid, a man of 185 pounds, a total altogether of 288 pounds.

Imports in 1905.

The total appraised value of merchandise handled by Appraiser Whitehead of the United States customs office at New York last year was \$705,911,497, an increase of \$73,500,000 over 1904, according to a statement. The chief lines of foreign merchandise and their appraised values were: Sugar, \$71,000,000; wool and woolen goods, \$64,000,000; coffee and cocoa, \$60,000,000; precious stones and pearls, \$37,000,000; cigars and tobacco, \$15,000,000; wines and liquors, \$11,000,000, and 1,084 automobiles, valued at \$4,000,000.

Eccentric, That's All.

Mrs. Burke-Roobe's father says he will disinherit her if she doesn't pay him more respect and live within her allowance of \$50,000 a year. He is an old man now, and the lady will probably regard his eccentricity as one of the eccentricities of advanced age.

BRIDGES ARE UNSIGHTLY.

Builders Sometimes Look More to Mechanical Perfection Than Beauty.

It is the intellectual and professional habit of the engineer, says Montgomery Schuyler, in the Architectural Record Magazine, to view his problem as purely one of mechanics and not at all as one of esthetics, to regard a bridge, as one of the leaders of the profession put it, as merely "a tool of traffic," and "to supply the tool that is least costly both in money and in trouble to its designer. This way of looking at things is really forced upon the engineer, and it would be both futile and unjust to libel him for it. His principal employer, the railroad, would think him a fool if he took more trouble about the designs of his railroad bridges than was necessary to insure their stability, and a lunatic if he proposed to them to spend more money on a bridge than the irreducible minimum of its practical requirements demanded, by way of improving its appearance.

Hence, such insults to nature and travesties upon art as the cantilever that spans the Niagara or the other cantilever that spans the Hudson. And yet the very Gradgrinds who take this view of one class of structures do not apply it with regard to any other. They require that their stations shall have a palatial aspect in large cities, and a picturesque aspect in rural regions, an aspect in either case congruous with their surroundings, and they are willing to spend their stockholders' money to this end, and expect their architects to take all the trouble that may be necessary to produce the required result, for which trouble also they are willing to pay.

Yet the other class of structures, the bridges, have, upon the average, quite as great an effect upon the aspects of the surrounding nature or art as the stations, and in some instances a great deal more. No station upon the line of the road which crossed Niagara by means of the cantilever, nor of that which spanned the Hudson by a like contrivance, was anything like so conspicuous and dominant a feature in the landscape, of none was it so important that it should be congruous and presentable, as was the case with either of these grand attentions standing stark against the sky. Evidently the application of so widely different standards to the two classes of structures has no foundation in fact or reason. The nature of things does not furnish any excuse for assigning the design of a station to a designer who is only an artist and the design of a bridge to a designer who is only a scientist.

It is true that the demand for architectural stations is comparatively recent and is by no means universally recognized even yet. Pretty much all the stations 20 or 30 years of age were designed by the engineers of the several roads with no more thought of their appearance than was then or is now given to the designing of the bridges.

CITY HAS GOOD HUSBANDS

New York Shows Fewer Divorces to Population Than Any Other Big Burg.

More divorces are applied for and more are granted in the city of New York than in any other large city of the country, but the number of divorced men residing in New York is relatively much smaller than in any other very large American city.

There were, by the last enumeration, fewer than 1,200 divorced men here, of whom 350 were in Brooklyn, while in Chicago the number was nearly 2,000, and in Indianapolis, which has less population than the borough of Queens, 600. There were only 35 in Queens.

San Francisco, which has almost exactly one-tenth of the population of New York, had by the last census 800 divorced men, equivalent in the same ratio to 80,000 in New York, where actually the number is only 1,200.

St. Louis and Washington are two other cities which have an unusually large number of divorced men in proportion to their whole population. Portland, Ore., a city of 100,000, has half as many as Philadelphia, a city of 1,250,000. Spokane has 45,000 inhabitants; Troy, N. Y., has 65,000. Spokane has 200 divorced men among its inhabitants; Troy has 15.

Newark has 30,000 fewer inhabitants than has Milwaukee, which has three times as many divorced men. Various explanations of these disparities are given, the most natural one of which is that divorced men in New York city marry; in Chicago and some other cities they don't—at least not to the same extent. New York's record as the city with the smallest number of divorced men in proportion to the whole population is nowhere challenged.

King of the Hellenes.

King George's title of king of the Hellenes is due to the fact that when he was elected to the throne he was acclaimed by the nation as king, not of Greece, but of the Greeks. The great powers admitted the title of king of the Greeks, but, out of consideration for the susceptibilities of the sultan, they adopted for official purposes the title of king of the Hellenes, as distinguished from the Greeks still under Turkish rule.

Couldn't Wait to Find Out.

Dashaway—I saw her in the conservatory with you. How is it, old chap? Did she accept you? Buffer—I don't know. Just as I asked her supper was announced.—Stray Stories.

HUSBAND AS PRIZE

STRANGE CONTESTS WITH WOMEN AS PARTICIPANTS.

Bullocks Bidden Barbacked by Beautiful Portuguese Peasant Girls—Bicycle and Foot Races, Etc.

The joint birthday of King Carlos of Portugal and his consort was celebrated at a village near Braga in a novel way. A handsome young farmer named Coelho, for whom several local beauties had long sighed in vain, determined to sacrifice his freedom by offering himself as a prize to her who should be successful in a bullock race.

Seven handsome peasant girls appeared at the starting post, riding bare-backed on bullocks with decorated horns and tails. A capital start was effected, but ere half the distance had been traversed the favorite was thrown and displayed her chagrin by seizing the tail of the second bullock in an endeavor to impede a rival's progress. This resulted in an unpopular competitor coming in first, whereat the onlookers were so disgusted that they ducked the judge in a pond.

New Brunswick was the scene four years since of a bicycle race over a course of two miles between a couple of girls who were rivals for the affections of an eligible swain. The prize himself, with a parson by his side, took his stand at the winning post, and no sooner had the winner, Miss Nellie Donnelly, passed the goal than the ceremony was performed and the newly-married couple left the ground amid the acclamations of the large concourse that had witnessed the contest.

To run to a point some hundred yards distant, there to change dresses for others laid in readiness on the ground and to return to the starting point was the trial undertaken last year at Brussels by some half-dozen women to decide which would wed a man who had offered himself as a prize to the winner. On the word being given, one at once dropped to the rear and jogged on quite unconcernedly, for she was aware that the sleeves of the dresses laid out for her rivals had been sewn up. The confusion consequent on this enabled her to win the prize, who, it is more than likely, was well aware of the ruse.

The keeper of a Havre restaurant some eight years back offered himself as a prize to be run for in an obstacle race by young women. Here, too, suspicion pointed to the result having been previously arranged, for the last difficulty to be overcome consisted of wriggling between two bars so close together that none but the slimmest could pass. Six out of seven competitors were thus put out of the race, which was won by a wisp of a girl, who negotiating the narrow space with little trouble, carried off Boniface, in accordance, probably, with that wily man's intention.

The first prize in a cookery competition held at Vienna in the early '90's was a young man, the owner of a pork butcher's establishment, in whose declared opinion good household management was an indispensable necessity in married life. Some score or more spinsters and widows displayed their culinary skill, that of a professional cook being accounted worthless of the prize. The young man, however, stultified the decision of the judges by eloping with the prettiest of the competitors.

Equally perfidious was the conduct of a young Liverpoolian who some years back offered his hand and fortune as a first prize for a sack race, over 50 yards, to be competed for by girls under 25 years of age. At the goal he stood ready to surrender himself to the winner, but when he recognized in the leader a gaunt woman of notorious temper his courage failed him and he fled. The balked woman threatened both law proceedings and personal chastisement, but was at length mollified by sufficient money to set her up in business.

Terrorized Bridegroom.

Rev. Bernard Spink, who has just been appointed vicar of St. Stephen's, East Twickenham, once had an amusing experience at a wedding ceremony. He put the usual question to the bridegroom, who, instead of the expected "yes," answered "no." Mr. Spink invited the man to follow him into the vestry, at the same time persuading the lady to remain in the church. In the vestry the man explained that he had been constrained by sheer fright to consent to the marriage, but had no desire whatever to be united to that or any other bride. Mr. Spink opened the door leading into the street, and told him that he had just three minutes in which to make good his escape. The terrorized bridegroom fled, just in time, for the lady rushed into the vestry in search of him, shouting: "Where is the scoundrel?"—London M. A. P.

Which Garfield?

The news of President Garfield's election did not reach the town of Lee, in Massachusetts, until the day after the count. It happened that in the town there was a man named Garfield who ran a mill, and he had a son named Henry. When the news arrived some one yelled to the crowd that was haggling around the general landing place: "Garfield is elected president," and immediately an old man called back to him: "Which one, Hen or the old man?"—Boston Herald.

Woman's Suffrage in Germany.

One of the leaders of the woman suffrage movement in Germany, Helene Lang, is strongly opposed to the tendency of women to leave home and seek work outside. "In many cases," she says, "this is unfortunately necessary, but to make it a duty or a virtue will never do."

CUPI IN A TRUST.

IOWA PASTORS IN PACT REGARDING MARRIAGES.

Ministers Believe Divorce Is a Necessity and Would Control Weddings and Thus Cut Rate—New Law Is Advocated.

Des Moines, Ia.—To form a trust for the purpose of controlling matrimonial ventures is the latest movement on the part of Des Moines ministers. The plans were discussed at a regular weekly meeting of the Ministerial association, and if they are carried out Des Moines will no longer be the Greena Green for lovers who have not for months calmly reflected over the logic of matrimony.

After a liberal discussion the ministers came to the final judgment that divorce is now a necessity, because of the improper matrimonial ties, and they propose to cure the social evil by guarding the entrance into the matrimonial fields by the strongest safeguards.

The agitation was started by Rev. Oran W. Fifer, pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal church, who declared that he is firm in the belief that no man should put asunder those whom God hath joined together, but he expressed the firm belief that God has little to do with many of the modern weddings. He claimed to have had an interview with Judge William H. McHenry, of the equity court here, in which he learned that fully two-thirds of the divorces were granted in cases where love probably had played a very small part in the marriage. He stated that he believed one of the greatest evils is because men and women plunge into marriage without the proper preparation.

The ministers took up the discussion in a lively manner and practically entered into an agreement that ministers will not in the future marry so indiscriminately.

The preachers believe that where a divorce is wanted there should be arranged a schedule of years according to the offense of the guilty party in which he or she must remain single. It has also been agreed that the past history of the participants, their financial condition and their past ventures, if any. It is expected that at the next meeting of the association rules will be drawn up governing the performance of marriages. The ministers will ask the cooperation of the justices of the peace.

It is possible that their present action will result in asking the legislature this winter to pass a law making more stringent requirements for securing a license.

LOVE, LIVE ON \$3 A WEEK.

Young Plumber Takes Bride—Both Are Happy on Small Income—Secret Gets Out.

Philadelphia.—If at the lowest possible estimate it cost a mother three dollars a week to board and clothe a growing boy, how can a young man nearly 20 take unto himself a wife and keep her in this sum—without keeping her in want?

This might be a difficult problem for some persons, but James Higgins, a 19-year-old plumber's apprentice, who lives on Stiles street, east of Eighth, believes a man can get married and keep a wife in comfort on this meager sum.

Higgins loved 18-year-old Ella Ragan. They recently decided that if two persons were in love, money was of no consequence; they could live on love and kisses. An elopement followed, and they were married. They decided to go to their homes and keep the marriage a secret until such a time as Higgins should blossom out as a full-fledged plumber, or until a time when his long-dreamed-of increase in wages should come true.

A friend betrayed them, and now all their friends and acquaintances are asking them "if it is true."

CUT SOLDIERS' BURIAL CASH

Bodies of Men Killed in United States Will Not Be Sent Home at Government Expense.

Washington.—The body of a soldier killed in active service cannot be sent home to his relatives at government expense for burial if he dies in the United States. Moreover, the body must be placed in the coffin issued by the quartermaster general's department. This was the decision of the comptroller of the treasury in the case of Private Albert Laute, twenty-ninth battery field artillery, who was killed at Fort Riley, Kan., last October.

His commanding officer wished to send his body to his relatives for burial and desiring a better coffin than was supplied by the quartermaster's department, which was only allowed to spend \$25 for that purpose, he offered to supply the necessary additional funds.

Scarcity of American Ships.

Out of 4,217 arrivals of all classes of vessels from foreign ports at New York last year the American flag flew over only 760 ships. According to figures given out at the cargo office recently 478 of the 760 vessels were steam powered, and there were 286 schooners among the sailing vessels. In this time there were 2,844 steamships under foreign flags entered at the customhouse, of which 1,355 were British and 521 German.

SULTAN'S GOVERNMENT.

Swayed by a Religion That Is Warring and Forbids Any Progress.

At Constantinople we made our first acquaintance with the Turk, usually called "the unspeakable." He is slow, procrastinating, and as a government disinclined to move, and all this is perfectly natural, says the Chicago Advance. His religion forbids progress. It does not recognize the rights of man as man upon which all progress rests. Besides, it is fatalistic, and things can happen in God's way regardless of hurry or railways or modern facilities. Still more, every Turkish official is surrounded by spies eager to earn their pay by reporting wrongdoing, and any new departure is easily represented as criminal.

It took us over an hour to get through the custom house. This was partly due to exceptional circumstances. A few weeks ago, when a bomb was thrown at the sultan, one of the accused was found to be an Armenian just from America. Soon after another American Armenian stabbed a merchant in the city for refusing money for a revolutionary fund. The result was that Americans were feared as men of dynamite, and our baggage was searched to the bottom. Two or three books were handed over to a special censor to read. Even my wife's journal was carefully gone through and her gummed-in pictures of William Tell and Augustus, with Cupids holding him by the legs, were severely scanned. The Turks are afraid of books as well as of bombs, for in a sense they do the same work. I was told of one book on mechanics rejected because it spoke of something making "50 revolutions in a minute," and of a chemistry cut-out because H. O. in it was regarded as "Homio II. is no good."

Knowledge and liberty go together, and the sultan is the deadly foe of liberty. He has absorbed in himself the power of the cabinet. His ministers are only his clerks and messengers. All new laws are his decrees, so it is no wonder that it takes two or three years for business to reach a decision. He lives in a palace surrounded by walls and guards, with a mosque within the grounds. He refuses to go into old Stamboul, even once a year for worship, as his predecessors did. He has a guard about him by night which is paid \$80 in gold every morning. It is said that only men in the empire who are promptly and fully paid are the officials near the throne in the capital. Since the last bomb throwing the sultan is being walked up more than before, and the public will see him no more going to his mosque on Fridays. How long Turkey can stand is a question; fall it must some time, for it is an impossible system in the twentieth century. I have been told that Macedonia is ripe for separation, and that within ten years it is expected to become part of Bulgaria, Austria and Greece, according to the people in different sections of it. A ruler that will not allow a telephone in his dominions, nor a code for telegrams; who has in his capital English, French, German and Austrian post offices, because people do not trust the government offices; whose mother was an Armenian, and yet who murders Armenians till he has made all that survive his deadly foes; who cannot allow guns to be fired announcing fires till a telegram is sent to the police to explain what the shots signify, who has his brother, heir to the throne, kept a prisoner in a palace beside his own, and who lives in terror and suspicion, opposing, like a Moslem pope, all new light and life, and breeding corruption and venality in all about him—such a ruler seems impossible.

Loss Danger at Sea.

Figures show, so far as past experience can, that life on the deep is gradually growing safer. Seamanship is improving; vessels are more stanchly constructed; safety devices are added constantly. Communication between a vessel in distress and other ships by wireless telegraphy is playing its important part in the rescue of threatened lives. The London Chronicle writer notes also the patent sounding machine, Lord Kelvin's compass, improved speed measures, better methods of determining a ship's position, better lighting and submarine signaling, "by which a ship may be warned of the proximity to land in the densest fog at a distance certainly of ten miles." The passing of the sailing vessel has also contributed greatly to the safety of crews and passengers.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Tremendous Possibility.

Among the tremendous possibilities of future wars is that there is likely to be a regiment of rough riders composed exclusively of namesakes of Col. Theodore Roosevelt.—Chicago Tribune.

Orderly Retreat.

Madge—Why do you think she was passed the age of 30? Millicent—Because she invariably says "us girls."—Puck.

SEES A FLYING AGE.

PREVENTION OF NEWARK, N. J., AERONAUT.

Man with Airship Resembling Eagle Declares That in a Year the World Will Be Using Wings as Easily as Walking.

Newark, N. J.—John P. Holland, the inventor of the submarine boat in use by the navy, is putting the finishing touches to a flying machine which he expects to have ready for an experiment in the early part of spring. He believes, so he said at his home in Newark, that the machine will be the solution to the problem of man's aerial flight. So confident is Mr. Holland of the practicability of his machine that he did not hesitate to say that within a year men would be soaring through the air with as much safety and ease as while walking.

The question of the control of his machine by the operator, the inventor said, was one which occupied most of his attention, and in planning a "flyer" which is to be propelled by human power alone, combined with the elements necessary for aerial navigation, the stumbling block of all other machines—the construction of the mechanism with ample safeguard against accident—has been obliterated. Compared to the aeroplane the only advantage Mr. Holland said that his invention had was in its motive power. The aeroplane, he admitted, would be used to more advantage in the carrying of freight or passengers, but his vehicle is to be for individual travel.

The machine which the inventor will use in his experiments will when completed weigh about 30 pounds. It will be arranged to be strapped about the back fastening firmly but easily about the waist and at the shoulders. There will be two vertical arms crossing at right angles from the axis and two pairs of wings which are to vibrate in opposite directions.

One pair will be placed at the back of the head, and the other near the waist. They will be so arranged that they may be operated by the feet or hands, or by both.

The inventor declared that he was not exaggerating when he said that a man who could walk three miles an hour could with his machine make the same distance with no other exertion than it requires in walking in little more than ten minutes.

The wings are to weigh about a pound each. They will be of Krupp steel.

"My machine will be patterned much after the actions of a bird," said Mr. Holland. "A man will be able to fly as he will, and like a bird, say, for instance, the eagle, will be able to soar. There will be absolutely no danger as with other machines, when a cog will break or something else will go wrong. You will ask what will happen if a man gets up in my machine and becomes exhausted. There will be no danger then. As soon as the propelling ceases, like a bird which stops the motion of its wings, he will soar to the earth and land so that his feet will reach the earth first.

"The speed will depend a great deal upon the course of the winds. There are many points involved which cannot be determined until after I have made my first experiment. You can say that in a year we will all be flying. We can go down to the next inauguration in Washington and get back the same night."

SIDESHOW FOR BERNHARDT

Ossified Party, Some 9,000 Years Old, Might Crowd Tent in Texas, New Yorker Argues.

New York.—To Mme. Bernhardt, the living, has come a golden offer. It concerns her tour of Texas in a circus tent. A two-headed giant, nine feet from heel to crown, wants to go with her as a sideshow. This two-headed party is ossified. He has been ossified for some 8,000 or 9,000 years, according to his manager, Charles Alpert. He has arranged to call on Mme. Bernhardt's manager so as to present the attractive features of his proposition.

The giant is up at Sing Sing just now, but not in prison. He is in cold storage, a resident of the village. This two-headed party is a native of India. Alpert says he dug him up there several years ago. Tradition in the neighborhood where he was found tells some pretty hard stories about him in his day.

One of his heads was a teetotaler, but the other one wasn't. This difference in principle kept him in trouble most of the time. In the cold, gray dawn the teetotaler had to pack himself in ice, just like a toper, and make a fuss about it. Alcoholic preservatives are said to have made the giant turn to stone after death.

Cow That Wiggles Her Horns.

Am Shadden, living northwest of McMinnville, Ore., has a cow that can "wiggle her horns." But this accomplishment of his cow is not the result of inventive genius. It appears to be natural. It was discovered last summer in flytime. As the cow would switch her tail violently her horns would flap quite perceptibly. Scientists have diagnosed her case and have come to the conclusion that there is an understanding between the nerves of the cow's spine, permitting the two extremities to act in unison and to wiggle sympathetically.

A California Idea.

A California man thinks he has found out how to make henlay whether they feel like it or not. Isn't this taking a mean advantage of poor dumb things?