

AGE OF NIAGARA. The Latest Estimate is That the Great Gorge Was Made 12,000 Years Ago.

Some interesting speculations concerning the age of the Niagara gorge are reported by Nature. This was the subject of a paper by Prof. G. Frederick Wright, read at the Boston meeting of the American association. The late Dr. James Hall early noted the significant fact that "the outlet of the chasm below Niagara falls is scarcely wider than elsewhere along its course."

A FRANK JAMES STORY.

Exciting Encounter of the Then "Wanted" Man with an Unwitting Policeman.

When Frank James, the famous outlaw and train robber, was in Kansas City, Mo., recently, the Star of that city, says, he told the following story to one of the judges of the circuit court. "Before my brother Jesse was killed and before I surrendered I and my wife were staying in Baltimore, living very quietly and under an assumed name, because there was a reward of \$20,000 for my capture. I was walking leisurely along the street one day when some one caught me by the arm. I turned and saw it was a policeman. The policeman said rather sharply: 'I want you; come with me.' The thought flashed into my mind at once that I was recognized and arrested. I did not intend to be taken alive under any circumstances. I remember now very distinctly that a feeling of pity for the policeman came over me, for my mind was made up instantly to kill him and try to escape. But I did not lose my presence of mind. I asked him: 'What do you want me for?'

LINCOLN WON SUCCESS.

Interesting Story of One of His Early Victories at the Bar in Springfield.

A suit was brought in the United States court in Springfield, against a citizen, for an infringement of a patent right, says Thomas Lewis' Recollections of Lincoln in Leslie's Weekly. Mr. Lincoln was employed to defend it. Mr. Lincoln went to the most skillful architect in the city, inquired how he spent his winter evenings, and received the reply: "If times are brisk I sometimes work; other times I have no special business." Mr. Lincoln said: "I have a patent-right case in court; I want you as a partner, and will divide fees. I know nothing about mechanics—never made it a study. I went you to make a list of the best works on mechanics, as I don't suppose they can be purchased here. I will furnish the money, and you can send to Chicago or New York for them. I want you to come to my house one night each week and give me instruction." In a short time he had witnesses to meet him, and they were thoroughly drilled. When the trial commenced Mr. Lincoln put his questions as the cross-examinations so scientifically that many witnesses were bothered to reply. When his witnesses were put on the stand, so skillful were his questions that the court, the jury and the bar all wondered how "Abe" Lincoln knew so much about mechanics. His witnesses could reply promptly. He gained the suit and a reputation such that Mr. Lincoln was retained in every patent-right case brought into the court up to the time he was sent to Washington. He went to Chicago, St. Louis, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan to try patent cases, and the last year of his practice did little else.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 15 mars 1899.

Table of financial data including gold and silver prices, exchange rates, and market news. Includes sections for 'MARCHÉ FINANCIER', 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS', and 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS'.

Bulletin Commercial.

Mardi, 15 mars 1899.

Table of commercial data including cotton prices, sugar prices, and other market information. Includes sections for 'COTON', 'SUGAR', and 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS'.

PROVISIONS.

AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Table of market prices for various commodities such as flour, sugar, and other provisions. Includes sections for 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS' and 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS'.

PRODUITS.

AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Table of market prices for various products including oil, sugar, and other goods. Includes sections for 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS' and 'MARCHÉ DE LA NIE-ORLEANS'.

PRETTY ARMS SCARCE.

A Sculptor Says It is Hard to Find Models with Dimpled, Tapering Limbs.

"I find great difficulty in getting a model with good arms," said a well-known sculptor recently. "It is astonishing how few women there are with arms that conform to the standard. A perfect arm, measured from the wrist joint to the armpit, should be twice the length of the hand. The upper part of the arm should be large, full, and well rounded. There should be a dimple at the elbow. The forearm must not be too flat, not nearly so flat as a man's, for instance. From a well-molded shoulder the whole arm should taper in long, graceful curves to a well-rounded wrist. It is better to have an arm that harmonizes, even if the parts do not conform to the generally accepted lines. For instance, a full, round upper arm which is joined to a thin forearm has a very bad effect. Perhaps it is only a little worse, however, than a graceful, well-molded forearm tacked on to a thin, scrawny upper arm. Correctness of form is not the only thing necessary for a good arm. The owner must possess the power of expression with her arm. American women are deficient in this as a rule. Those nation allies which show the most expression in their arms are the Spanish, French and Italian. The warm admirers of Sara Bernhardt would not claim that she had beautiful arms, yet no one can say that the divine Sara ever appears ungainly in consequence. Much more lies in the faculty of arm expression than is generally supposed."

THE SOLDIER'S CHECK.

It Speedily Finds Its Way into the Possession of the Canteen Man.

When the soldiers get their discharge from the army they receive from the local paymaster's office new, crisp checks. These checks, calling for anywhere from \$50 to \$100 for privates, grow very warm in the pockets of some of their owners and the first desire is to get rid of them. In fact, many of the boys hardly wait until the ink is dry before some friendly canteen man has it in his till. Many of the soldiers, being unacquainted in the city, have no one to identify them at the banks, and are forced to have them cashed where they trade, says the Detroit Free Press. It is no uncommon occurrence in the paymaster's office nowadays to see people coming in with checks in their hands that have been refused at the banks. This is due to a technicality, and in most cases is straightened out by the paymaster. One woman went to the office one day last week, and said she had cashed a check for \$60 for a soldier. She had sent the check, with several others, to one of the city banks, on deposit. The check had been forwarded to a Chicago bank for collection, and the Chicago bank refused to cash it, for the reason that in indorsing it, the soldier had failed to add his position, company letter and regiment number to his signature. This is the case in many instances. The checks are all sent back here and Paymaster Pickett certifies to the missing identifications in most cases.

HOW BALLOONS ARE MADE.

The Fabric of Which They Are Composed is Put Together with Great Care.

The balloons are manufactured by goldbeater's skin, which, though small, is made of a certain kind of animal membrane (30,000 of these are required for a balloon of 10,000 cubic feet capacity), which is first freed from all fatty substances and then soaked in a solution of glycerin and water. They are then applied to boards cut in the form and to the size of the gore of the balloon required; others are then superposed, until a thickness of four layers has been reached, great care being taken that no air bubbles remain between the skins. After this thin two or three more layers of membranes are applied. The whole is then allowed to dry, and a solution of boiled linseed oil is used as a varnish. The fabric is then quite indissoluble, and the membranes cannot by any possible means be separated from one another, but sometimes, to render this homogeneity the more perfect, a solution of bichromate of potash is sponged over the fabric.

FIRST HORSELESS CARRIAGE.

Vaucaesson Invented a Marvelous Motor One Hundred and Fifty Years Ago.

If further proof were needed of the dictum that "there is no new thing under the sun," it has been supplied by an article in the Revue Scientifique, which traces the invention of the motor to the ingenious mechanician, Vaucaesson, just 150 years ago. In a memorandum recently brought to light, it is recorded that Vaucaesson was honored in 1748 by a visit from Louis XV. for the purpose of inspecting a marvelous carriage that ran without the aid of a horse or any visible means of propulsion. Two persons took their seats in the vehicle, which seems to have been as gorgeous as a sheriff's carriage, and were driven round the courtyard to the satisfaction of his majesty and of Duc de Mortemart, M. de Lamoignon, M. d'Avexaz, and other members of his suite. But, though a promise was secured of royal patronage, the Academy of Sciences declared that such a conveyance could not be tolerated in the streets, and the scheme was nipped in the bud. The motive power was supplied by a huge clock spring, so that only a short journey was possible, but the gear seems to have been closely resembled that of the horseless carriages of to-day. Not Absolutely New. A missionary returning to Baal from Patagonia brought with him a collection of Patagonian skulls. The customhouse officers at Les Verrieres opened the chest, inspected the contents and informed the owner that the consignments must be classed as animal bones and taxed at so much the pound. The missionary was indignant, and eventually it appeared in the following form: "Chest of native skulls. Personal effects, already worn."

FEARED THE PRESIDENT.

The Lascivious Turn Given an Arrest Made by a Chicago Deputy Marshal.

The mode of procedure in arresting a culprit under the laws of the United States is somewhat more complicated than the ordinary issuance of a warrant by a justice of the peace for violation of the city or state laws, says the Chicago Times-Herald. The warrant issued by Uncle Sam's law dispensers begins with this formal caption: "The President of the United States of America—To the Marshal of the United States and to His Deputies, or to Any or Either of Them." The effect of these awe-inspiring words on prisoners who are confronted with a warrant for the first time is sometimes startling—and always effective. Chief Deputy Marshal Rowe, of the local office, recently served papers on a defendant and had an experience which may be taken as an illustration of the usual effect on prisoners. He found a man for whom he had been searching several days, and forthwith produced a warrant for his arrest. He started to read: "The President of the United States," when the prisoner, with a look of terror on his face, stopped him. "That's enough," he said; "if President McKinley has heard of my offense I'm up against it. Take me along." Mr. Rowe had no trouble in taking the terrified prisoner before a commissioner.

WELL PROTECTED AGAINST COLD.

The Dirtiness of the Afghan is Perennial and it is said that during the last Afghan war Gen. Roberts once ordered one to be washed. Two soldiers stripped the prisoner and scrubbed him for two hours with formidable brushes and soft soap. Then they threw down their brushes in disgust and went to their captain. "What is it, men?" he said. "Well, sir," they replied, "we have washed that Afghan chap for two hours, but it is no good. After scrubbing him, sir, for two hours, till our arms ached fit to drop off, blast if we did not come upon another suit of clothes."

A ROYAL LINGUIST.

The crown prince of Siam, who can write fluently in three European languages, is a boy author of some note. He has written several stories for children's magazines published in England.

SULTAN FEARED THE GUN.

The Turkish Monarch Was Greatly Impressed with the Maxim Arm.

Hiram Maxim, the inventor of the Maxim gun, tells an amusing story of an experience with the sultan of Turkey. The sultan had witnessed a test of the wonderful shooting of the rapid-fire arm and was duly impressed with seeing the small weapon deliver itself of 600 shots a minute without being touched by human hands save the first pull of the trigger. "Wonderful! wonderful!" he exclaimed in amazement. "I must have some of these arms." Some time later Mr. Maxim received an order for an expensive pattern of small field arm. He made two, beautifully chased in gold and of marvelous workmanship. What the sultan could want of such expensive outside trappings he did not know, but they were duly sent to Turkey, where they now rest in the royal museum. "Ah! They shoot too well," the sultan is reported to have said when asked why they were not used in the field. "They are better where they are."

SHOW HURRICANES.

The buran, or snow hurricane, of the Pamirs is a meteorological phenomenon of great interest. Even in midsummer the temperature during a snow buran frequently falls to 14 degrees Fahrenheit, while in the winter of 1892-93 it dropped to 46 degrees below zero at the end of January. The buran comes with startling suddenness, the atmosphere growing dark with whirling snowflakes where scarcely a minute before the sky was perfectly clear.

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