

CURSE FOLLOWS A FAMILY.

A Singular Malediction Which Has Been Fulfilled in Historic English House.

The Erskine family, the youthful head of which, the twelfth earl of Mar, has just attained his thirty-eighth year, provides one of the strangest and most terrible curses on record.

CONSUMPTION CURED BY KNIFE

Physician Pierce Cures a Patient in a Most Remarkable Operation.

Miss Lizzie Grennell, of Hampton, N. H., has had her right lung opened by the surgeons at Stamford hospital, Stamford, Conn., in an endeavor to save her life.

TEST FOR CAVALRY MEN.

Soldier Measures West Point Thirty-Six Days After Leaving Oklahoma—Whole Trip on Horseback.

A young man, who has come 2,000 miles on horseback, has arrived at Newburgh, N. Y. He is William Davis, member of the Eighth United States cavalry, and has been traveling across the country on a test ride.

Davis is lighter than the others who made the trip, and when he started out he went with a rush. The result was that he led all the way, and at each place he had his pick of the horses, so this helped him.

WORSHIP IN MOVABLE CHURCH

Presbytery of New York Erects Portable Structure for Mission Work—Will Seat About 200 Persons.

The presbytery of New York has just had a novelty in church construction in the house of worship just completed in the borough of Bronx.

One More Lesson. A professor in a far western university, advanced the theory that the peculiar curves of girls are due to clothes and that if the boys and girls were dressed alike all would be equally girlish and refined.

One by a Quaker House. A Stock City, Okla., man, by his means, got out of the bank, compelling to close the operation of the bank of trade.

WILHELMINA IS HAPPY.

Subjects of the Queen of Holland Declare That Her Husband Is Going to Her.

Visitors to Holland have one thing impressed upon them while they are in that tight little country, and that is that the queen and her German husband live happily together.

They are also shown many beautiful paintings by the best Dutch artists, and in a little morning room there is a stained glass window and a portrait of the queen's mother and the music box which was one of little Wilhelmina's playthings before her ascension to the throne.

They have quaint customs in Holland. One of these is in playing the laundry at the top of the house. The clothes are sent away to be washed and bleached, and when they are returned they are drawn up to the laundry by means of a pulley, and dangle for a time right in the drawing room windows, to the infinite delectation of the guests.

HOPES TO AVERT CONSUMPTION

Prof. von Behring Thinks He Can Stop the Human Army Marching from Dread Disease.

Prof. von Behring, of Berlin, the famous inventor of the diphtheria serum, believes he has discovered a means of making human lives immune from consumption by inoculating them with a harmless tuberculosis serum which can be obtained from cattle.

The professor refers to this matter at present with the greatest caution, as he does not wish to excite over sanguine hopes, and refuses to answer any inquiries before his investigations have been completed.

Prof. von Behring has been investigating consumption in its various forms. He contends that tuberculosis infection is in no wise identical with tuberculosis consumption.

CLAIRVOYANTS IN TRUST.

Seers of New York Combine to Induce Sale of Certain Securities and Stocks.

The clairvoyants of New York have just formed a trust, or what serves the purposes of such an organization, even if it does not deserve to be called by that name.

Daily reports are made by the president to the members as to what the nature of their advice should be. Of course, this combination does not work only for the benefit of the companies.

NEARLY WEDS BRIDESMAID.

Minister Had Reached Fatal Part When Bride, Realizing Situation, Calls a Halt.

But for a sudden protest by the bride the bridegroom at a wedding in St. Mary's church, New Britain, Conn., would have been married to the bridesmaid the other day.

FAMOUS OLD CLOCK STOPS.

Thousands of Parisians who are in the habit of daily setting their watches by the famous clock on the bourse were filled with dismay the other week when the famous timepiece was seen to lose several hours in the course of a day and then stop altogether.

Lynchburg Gets a Reputation. Lynchburg, Tenn., has won fame as the first southern town to admit a white man for lynching a negro.

New Speed Record. A speed of 100 miles an hour has been developed on a German electric rail-road. Here is a new man for the automobile world to aim at.

STRANGE MARINE MONSTER.

California Fisherman Catches Curious Fish Weighing 125 Pounds with Red and Real.

Edward Llewellyn, a cornet soloist of the Catalina Island band, is a most enthusiastic and picturesque angler.

And then it whizzed. By consummate skill Llewellyn prevented the fish from getting away in the first grand rush, and then he began on the aggressive.

It was a remarkable-looking creature that was brought along the beach and there was debate after it was gaffed, as to whether it would be a welcome addition to the crew.

Its sword is not so long as that of the genuine sword-fish of this length; the lower jaw is unduly elongated; it has on its back a collapsible fin, which, when extended, stands up 15 inches above the fish, but folds down into a groove, until it is unnoticeable.

MOVE MILLIONS AS RAGS.

Embodied Government Clerk Carries Money from Washington to New York in a Suit Case.

Col. Edwards, chief of the division of insular affairs, recently told the story of a bureau clerk's remarkable trip a few days ago with \$3,000,000 of government cash.

Under the direction of the insular department the mints and the bureau of printing and engraving have been making money for use in the Philippines. To Mr. Beall was assigned the duty of overseeing the shipment of the money to the island possessions.

The money was put in a suit case and Beall, although not even unafraid, carried it from this city to New York, whence it was shipped.

PRACTICE FUNERAL REFORMS.

Stanford University Professor Who Called English Burials Barbarous is Given Simple Burial.

Increased in a plain, unpainted pine box that did not cost more than \$2.50, Prof. Max Wright, recently instructor in modern languages in Leland Stanford Jr. university and son of wealthy parents, was buried at Grand Rapids, Mich., the other day.

There was no minister and no religious service. The father performed the duties of the undertaker and bade the body to the grave in a plain wagon.

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MONK HAS ODD DUTY.

Franciscan Friar Teaches War to Youth of Britain.

Gives Instructions to Students from Gunmaker's Shop Who Are Preparing to Follow a Military Career.

A curious mingling of the medieval with the modern exists at Erith, England, where excited pupils of Messrs. Vickers, Sons and Maxims are coached by a Franciscan friar.

According to the manager of Messrs. Vickers, Sons and Maxims works, some difficulty has been experienced in finding anyone to read with engineering students for the examinations which the firm held—examinations of the same standard as those passed by engineer students in the royal navy.

So Father Edwin—such is the Franciscan's name—teaches mathematics, natural science, and applied mechanics to apprentices of the machine-gun firm.

The father, a tall, robust, elderly man, has a beard worthy of his calling, and wears the brown serge gown and hood of his branch of the order—the Capuchins.

The friar gives five hours a day to teaching his pupils in the parlor of the monastery. Most of them are from the works and go in the evening.

SERVE LUNCH IN CHURCH.

Evangelist, Ill., House of Worship Starts an Innovation Which Proves a Success.

Free lunch as an inducement to attend church has proved a successful experiment at the First Presbyterian church of Evanston. On a recent Sunday night there was coffee and sandwiches, and a pleasant social chat, and after that there were religious services, for which everybody remained.

The "spread" was laid out on tables in the church parlors, where half an hour later the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor held its weekly meeting. As a result of the Sunday evening luncheon the Christian Endeavor society added more than a score of names to its roster and held an unusually enthusiastic meeting.

"This is no prayer meeting," announced President Robert Canine, of the Christian Endeavor society. "That will come later. Now, just listen in and help yourselves."

"Please pass the lady fingers," dramatically murmured a blushing neophyte, which helped to break an ominous silence.

"There I've gone and forgotten my Scripture text," declared another neophyte to dismay, as she poised an olive between her fingers. "What shall I do?"

"Ah, but I have provided for that," said Secretary Jeanette Lee. "There is a Bible at every place."

So, between the sandwiches and the lecture texts were gleaned and lessons learned. It was a happy combination—the luncheon and the spiritual food.

WEEKS IN THE AIR.

Prof. Langley will look over the models in the patent office he will observe that he is far from being the only man who has had flying machine disappointments.

DEVELOPMENT OF IRELAND.

Industrial Outlook of the Country is Brighter at Present Than for Years.

European papers are commenting favorably on the industrial outlook in Ireland. The Handel's Museum says the improved prospects brought about by the land bill recently laid before parliament by the present government is increasing the desire of capitalists to invest in Irish industrial enterprises.

Another industry ultimately connected with the breaking up of the great Irish estates is the production of spirits and starch from potatoes.

Several distinguished persons are participating in this industry, and the company commands many millions of dollars.

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LONDON DREADS FIRE.

People Fear Repetition of Chicago Horror—Price Offered for Safety Lamp.

London people are getting afraid of the lamp that Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over. Interest has been revived at the grocery exhibition in Agricultural hall.

The prize first offered was £50. This year it is increased to £125. Eighty-four lamps have been sent in for competition, but most of them are utterly unsuited for the purpose.

Some had fine wire scaffolding constructed over the old-holder, thin beams of which were to collapse when the burner was at an angle and extinguish the flame.

Another was simply steel consisting of two enamel breakfast cups, one to hold liquid, the other the work, in some way best known to the inventor.

With three lives still to his credit, Thomas J., the large black tomcat, owned the property of Frank O'Neill, of Kenil, N. J., is still interested in things mundane.

The last and most remarkable of his exploits was on a recent Wednesday night, when the furrier works at Kenil were destroyed by an explosion which shook the country for miles around.

He was recognized by the furrier which the employees of the furrier works put on him three weeks ago, when he left his former master, Frank O'Neill, and came to make his home at the mill.

Thomas J. was howling feebly and pitifully when found, and now has a warm berth beside the hearthstone of Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Siegle, who discovered him and rescued him from the trap.

King Edward, Collection Agent. Several London dressmakers have discovered that they can collect their bills from fashionable clients by having them from attendants at court while in debt.

Also Had Dead. Prof. Langley's statement that his air ship is modeled after the extinct pterodactyl is not lacking in verisimilitude. Nobody ever saw a pterodactyl fly.

CYCLING STATISTICS.

Decline of the Use of Vehicle in the Cities.

Is More Than Balanced by Rural Gain and Their Use is Greater Than Ever—Figures from France.

Although it is generally known that the use of the bicycle by farmers boys and in small towns, where a few years ago they were seldom seen, has greatly increased, it is hard for those who notice local conditions and note how much bicycle riding in the city streets has fallen off to believe it possible that as many bicycles are on the whole, in use as formerly.

In this country there is no way of obtaining actual statistics as to the number in use, but in France every cyclist has to pay a special tax, and there an official record is kept.

The figures for each year since 1895, showing the steady but fluctuating gains, are interesting. They are as follows:

The fact that the gain is mainly in the agricultural districts in France as well as here is made plain in an analysis made by Le Monde Sportif of Paris, which prints the statistics by departments. The average increase is one of 12 per cent, but in the department of the Seine, which in Paris the increase is only 3 per cent.

DONS TROUSERS AND PAINTS.

New Jersey Woman Discovers Her Husband's Work Deserves Their Home Hereditarily.

"If you don't like the way I paint, do it yourself." Mrs. Lizzie Marchant's husband made this remark to her after she had painted the living room in an apartment house recently built by him in Jersey City Heights, N. J.

Back to the ladder she went and continued work until the entire rear of the house had been changed to a light green. Then she quit. Her fear occasioned great comment about the neighborhood.

WANT PASTOR WITH BIG FEET.

Calico Advertisement in a Church Paper Describing Man Required for Great Work.

The Methodist Recorder, the organ of the Methodist Protestant church, contained an advertisement the other day, written by President Hadley as follows:

This conference needs at least three or four more pastors for circuit work, and anyone who can fill the following conditions will be welcomed to visit. Must have small family, if any, and be able to furnish a horse and come to these unassisted, no doubts as to call to ministry, not afraid of hard work, no hobbies, no place hunter, sound doctrine of holiness as held by the Methodist Protestant church at large.

Will Help a Friend. An expert accountant has discovered that New York street railway corporations owe the city \$12,183,805.34 in back taxes. It is thought, remarks the Philadelphia North American, that the 31 cents may be collected.

May Not Take Place of Lead. Experiments are being made by which radium may be used at about one-fourth of the original cost. There is hope for the world yet if the real truth does not corner the new metal.