













Items of Interest

Well diggers in Dakota hunt for gold hills. The wise insects always locate over a vein of water.

There are in North America only two species of poisonous snakes—the rattlesnake, the copperhead or moccasin and the coral.

The cabinet of London drove their empty vehicles in the funeral procession of a popular comrade two abreast to the extent of a mile and a half.

On the island of Marajo, at the mouth of the Amazon, there are four-foot logs change into wings by a process similar to that of the tadpole into the frog.

The betrothed bride of a Springfield man objects to marrying while in mourning for the death of a relative, and he has waited thirty-five years for an interval in his grief, so close together have been the bereavements.

An Alabama merchant, with many dollars and the planter, white and black, proclaims that he keeps an agent riding through the State to discover idlers, whom he will promptly discredit.

The Practical Photographer suggests that in these days of convenient photographic appliances, those who visit in the cities, especially scenes of nature, wood or riot should apply the camera before anything is disturbed, as the evidence thus gained, being incontrovertible, might possess incalculable value.

A cheese dealer states that much of the so-called English cheese is made in this country and shipped to England, whence it is returned, and sold in value by the sea voyage.

The embalming of Lincoln's and Garfield's remains failed. Some of the most successful embalmers maintain that it is impossible to preserve a body for any length of time unless the method adopted by the Egyptians is followed, which requires primarily the removal of the entire internal organism.

After a severe illness an Englishman shaved off his whiskers and otherwise disguised himself. He then went to his doctor and said he was a brother of the late Queen Victoria, who was now dead.

Barnum says that those who think the world is going to rain through rain would see their error if they could but look at the city of the denking habitation of New England. He drank freely until 1847, and was then converted to total abstinence by a speech of Chapin's; and in 1860 Willard Parker scared him so about tobacco that he has never smoked since.

In former times there was but one salt cellar upon the table, a large piggin of plate much ornamented. The ladies being long, the salt was placed about the middle and served as a boundary to the different quality of the guests.

Of the devices put in use by actors to keep from smiling, the simplest and most effective is to put a small wooden button in the mouth and bite down on it every time the impulse to laugh makes itself manifest.

Some curious details regarding the communion services in olden times are furnished by Andrew Edgar. One noticeable thing was the quantity of bread used in the service, which generally averaged two and nine gallons and at the second a puncheon and six and a half gallons.

The present class of "cheatnuts" came from an old French custom, where the watchmen in the prisons had to drop every half hour, a chestnut into a receptacle, which thus became a record of duty done or neglected.

A boy in a California school remarked that the teacher had red hair. He was whipped to make him retreat, but he insisted that he could not tell a lie and he had the utmost confidence in his judgment in color. The woman declared that she would beat him to death unless he changed the word from red to Auburn, and he abused his conscience to that extent, but afterward took the case to the trustees, who sustained him and dismissed the bright-headed punisher.

When Mme. Zelle, from the Theatre Lyrique, at Paris, was making a professional tour around the States, she gave a concert in the Boston Lyric Opera house, where she sang an air from Norma and a few other songs, and was to receive in exchange a third part of the receipts.

When counted the prima donna's share was found to consist of three pigs, twenty-three turkeys, forty-four chickens and 5,000 coupons.

Senator Thurman's Education.

Senator Thurman learned French as a boy in the little Ohio town of Chillicothe, and a pretty romance clusters around his boyhood in that place.

Thurman's father was a Baptist preacher, who, when his boy Allen was seven years old, moved from Lynchburg, Virginia, to Chillicothe, Ohio, and there taught school and started a small wooden manufactory. Shortly after this there came to the town a fine-looking old Frenchman, with a daughter about the age of young Allen, and Allen's mother took the little French maiden into her house to live on condition that her father should teach Allen French.

This Frenchman, whose name was Monsieur Gregoire, had been situated by his family for the priesthood, but had fallen in love at the time he was about to take the orders, and that with a beautiful girl whom his family considered beneath him. He had left the church and married her, and he had a fine home, had invested in an estate of thousands of acres in Virginia. In due time this daughter was born, and after a few years of grief Gregoire determined to come to his great estate in the New World. When he arrived he found his Utopia a tract of stony, mountainous land, worth nothing, and he had to go to work to keep himself alive. In doing this he drifted to Chillicothe, and his daughter was taken into the Thurman family. She did not understand a word of English, and Allen did not understand a word of French. They played together, and with his teaching from the Frenchman and his practice with the daughter, the boy soon became quite French. He kept up his studies in French, and his French was so good that when he was sent to the college at Lexington, Ohio, he was the only Frenchman in the school.

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R. R. Cable, E. St. John. R. R. CABLE, E. ST. JOHN.

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DANBURY & NORWALK R.R.

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North. Danbury & Norwalk R.R. North.

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For New York from South Norwalk. For New York from South Norwalk.

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