

NO SLIGHT SHOWN.

Diplomats at Washington Courteous to Mexico's Representative.

Story That He Has Been Given the Cold Shoulder Because He Added in Prosecuting Emperor Maximilian Is Denied.

Diplomats at Washington say there is no foundation for the stories that Senor Aspiroz, the new ambassador from Mexico, has been given the cold shoulder because he was public prosecutor of Mexico when the unfortunate Maximilian was condemned to death.

He has been invited to the French and British embassies, and the German ambassador showed him marked attention at the dinner given to the Mexican ambassador by ex-Senator Henderson.

There is the highest possible authority for the statement that Senor Aspiroz himself is perfectly contented with his reception at Washington.

Of course the Austrians are not cordial. That fact is not at all personal to Senor Aspiroz, however. Emperor Franz Josef has never forgiven the Mexicans for killing his brother, and Austria has never been friendly to the City of Mexico since Maximilian's death.

There are no diplomatic relations between the two countries at all, so of course Baron Hengelmuller and Senor Aspiroz meet in Washington only as private citizens, and neither can recognize the other officially.

The other countries are represented at the City of Mexico, and of course receive the Mexican ambassador in Washington exactly as other diplomats. To do otherwise would be a serious diplomatic offense.

MRS. BAUDLER'S ODD DREAM.

It Located Her Recreant Husband in a Place She Had Never Seen.

If the story told by Mrs. George Baudler, formerly of Quincy, Ill., is correct, her services as a dream-seer will be in great demand among deserted wives who are seeking their recreant lords.

The comptroller holds the proviso became operative and went into effect on the approval of the act, March 3, 1899; that if an officer travels under orders without troops, when authorized by law, from an inland point in the United States to an inland point in our island possessions, or vice versa, he is not entitled to mileage for any part of his journey either on land or water, but in lieu of mileage is entitled, when so traveling, to actual expenses only from the place where he starts to the end of his journey.

Mrs. Baudler, who is 35, and has been married before, was deserted last September. She turned detective on her own account and found that her husband was somewhere in Chicago. Her search and that of the police were all in vain, however, but on Wednesday night she dreamed that she saw her husband working in a big bicycle factory.

NOMENCLATURE FOR ARMY.

Kansas People Want a Regiment Named After State—Proud of Their Soldiers.

William H. Sears, of Lawrence, Kan., secretary to United States Senator Harris, of Kansas, says the people of Kansas take great pride in the gallant record made in the Philippines by the Twentieth Kansas regiment, commanded by Col. Fred Funston.

Catching Turtles in the West Indies. A curious mode of catching turtle is practiced in the West Indies. It consists in attaching a ring and a line to the tail of a species of sucker fish, which is then thrown overboard and immediately makes for the first turtle he can spy, to which he attaches himself very firmly by means of a sucking apparatus arranged on the top of his head.

Setting of Birds. Along the Adriatic sea swallows and other migratory birds are caught every year by the hundreds of thousands and eaten by the Italians, who spread nets in which as many as 300 to 500 of the birds are caught at once.

HISTORICAL DESK.

Was Made from British Ship Which Went in Search of Franklin's Arctic Expedition in 1852.

In signing the protocol allowing the exchange of the peace ratifications an historical desk was used. This piece of furniture is made of the timbers from H. M. S. Resolute, which formed a part of the expedition sent in search of Sir John Franklin in the Arctic regions in 1852.

"H. M. S. Resolute, forming part of the expedition sent in search of Sir John Franklin; was abandoned in latitude 71 degrees 41 minutes north, longitude 101 degrees 22 minutes, on May 15, 1854. It was discovered and extricated in 1855 in latitude 67 degrees north by Capt. Buddington, of the United States whaler George Henry.

President Hayes was the first executive to use the desk, which has been used by every president since, and will be remembered by all who have had occasion to visit the executive office at the white house.

MILEAGE OF ARMY MEN.

By an Interpretation of the New Law This Considerable Item Is Lopped Off.

Transfers of officers of the army to foreign stations has presented the question of transportation and the item of mileage, which has become a great expense to the country. The new law provides that officers traveling under orders to the island possessions shall be paid actual expenses only.

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A REFORMER WITHOUT HONOR.

Chinaman a Fugitive from the Homeland Because of Wise Reform He Advocated.

Kang Yu Wei, the fugitive Chinese statesman, has arrived at Vancouver, B. C., from Victoria, accompanied by a retinue of Chinese and Japanese sympathizers. From there Kang will proceed to London, which place he expects to make his home until at least a part of the reforms advocated by himself have been brought to pass in China.

"It is only a matter of time before China will have to put into operation those reforms which I say she needs, or else internal dissensions or possibly foreign aggression will result in the dismemberment of the empire."

The reforms which Kang is anxious to establish for his native country are: representative party government, a system of national banks, state ownership of mines and railroads, free education, both elementary and advanced, and including the establishment of technical schools and government seminaries for military and naval training. He also thinks that the silver basis of the Chinese monetary system has been the means of impoverishing the empire to the advantage of countries that trade there, selling for gold and buying for silver.

Mystery That Hedges Acknowledges.

One of the most amusing features of the "dramatic breakfasts" given at the Astoria in New York was the childlike curiosity of "society women" concerning the actresses who came to witness their husbands' performances. The fact that they were quite as well bred in looks and appearance as themselves, and talk and move like ordinary beings when off the stage, seems to interest them most.

Gets Many More Books. The main library of Johns Hopkins university will soon be increased by about 3,000 volumes, given by the late John W. McCoy.

Towns and Country. Australia is said to be the one place in the world where the town is more beautiful than the country.

"OLD BRICK ROW."

Famous and Historic Dormitories on Yale's Campus to Be Razed.

Buildings Which Are a Century Old Condemned by the Fire Department of New Haven as Unsafe.

Yale's historic dormitories and recreation rooms and lyceum, the remaining structures of what is known as the "Old Brick Row," have been officially condemned by the New Haven (Conn.) fire department as death traps and their demolition recommended.

This will be welcome news to everybody except Yale alumni, who from sentimental recollections of their college course wished at least two of the buildings preserved as relics of days of "Old Yale democracy," as they term it. President Dwight has twice in his annual report declared that the buildings should be razed, as they were an eyesore to the campus and their room was needed for modern structures.

The Yale Daily News a few days ago printed a startling editorial declaring that, in case of a fire in these buildings, the Yale undergraduates would be penned in like rats in a trap, without escape. This led to an investigation by the fire department. Superintendent Fancher, of the fire department, visited all the Yale dormitories. He found all safely protected against fire except the old brick row. Every building of the old brick row is at least a century old.

PASTOR TRIES A NEW SCHEME.

Instead of Sermons He Proposes a Free Discussion of Moral Questions.

Rev. C. M. Winchester, pastor of the Free Christian church of Middletown, N. Y., has inaugurated a new scheme in connection with his services. He proposes to devote the time usually occupied in delivering the sermon to a consideration of moral and economic questions.

"What I want to do is to secularize the church," said Rev. Winchester. "Let every fellow believe as he sees fit, but try to do something is our motto. We want to arrange to have this church open seven days in the week. Free reading will be provided; games, such as checkers, dominos, etc., may be indulged in, and there will be frequent social gatherings, not to make money for the support of the church, but for the good and pleasure of all who enter our free and open doors. It is a waste of money to have thousands of dollars invested in brick and mortar, free of taxation, and open once or twice a week to promulgate a creed that neither the preacher nor the congregation believes in."

Mr. Winchester has recently returned from North Adams, Mass., where he has been receiving treatment in a sanitarium. In the future he proposes to have a discussion of the proposition to pension all the citizens of Middletown who have resided there for a certain number of years and reached the age of 60 or more. He has been pastor for his present church for over 21 years, and is an ardent prohibitionist, the church being an outgrowth of the temperance reform.

FINDS SPANISH TREASURE.

Texas Justice of the Peace Made Rich by Discovery on His Ranch.

C. P. Kleindust, a justice of the peace, the other morning found a buried Spanish treasure on his ranch near Devine, a small village some 20 miles from San Antonio, Tex. Mr. Kleindust was led to believe some weeks ago that there was buried gold on his property, and after much digging and hard labor, extending over many days, he struck an oak box and three kegs. The oak box was bound together with brass staves. When opened it was found to be full of gold Spanish doubloons and jewelry containing valuable settings. There were 1,000 doubloons in the box, the money alone being worth \$15,000. The kegs have not yet been opened, and what they contain is only a matter of conjecture, but it must be a large fortune. The money is old, some of it being dated back as far as 1700. The box also contained a packet of papers, which is written in Spanish and covered with official looking seals. These have not yet been deciphered, and when they are considerable light will undoubtedly be thrown on the finding of the treasure. Among the jewels was an ebony cross five inches long, with rare settings.

TRADE WITH CHINA-GROWING.

Increase of 18 Per Cent. Shown at the Port of Shanghai—Report of Consul General.

The state department has received a report from Consul-General John Goodnow at Shanghai relating to the American imports during the past four years. Cotton goods aggregated for 1898 3,876,629 pieces; of kerosene, 42,339,020 gallons were imported. This is a gain of nearly 15 per cent. over the preceding year, and almost double the imports of any single year previous to 1897. As the customs returns give only value of the flour imported, the quantity cannot be definitely stated. The consul estimates that our flour was imported into China in 1898 to the amount of 50,000,000 pounds. The total value of the flour was \$1,231,650.

Servants Are Plenty in Manila. In Manila furnished apartments, with or without servants, are advertised for rent.

SPAIN'S DECLINE.

From One of the Most Important Countries Diplomatically she Sinks to a Third-Rate Mission.

"Spain has now sunk to the caste of a third-rate mission," said an old diplomat the other day. "Hitherto it has been the most important post in Europe so far as the United States were internationally concerned. Its possession of the great island of Cuba, just off our coast, naturally embroiled us constantly. The positions of minister to Madrid and consul general to Havana were no sinecures, owing to the freebooting methods of Spanish officials in the West Indies. Since the beginning of the Ten Years' war Cuba has been a hotbed of revolutions, filibustering, anarchy and oppression. Our diplomatic representatives have had their hands full, and the records of the state department in the last 25 years show more delicate negotiations with Spain than all the rest of Europe put together."

"When President McKinley was elected he was warned by the old heads that the Spanish mission should be treated as purely diplomatic and not political for the reasons named. Now all will be changed. Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines are lost to Spain. The inciting causes for shrewd diplomatic work on both sides have been wiped out. Therefore, after a century of vast importance, the mission to Madrid now drops to the rank of Greece and Belgium, whereas in the past it has outranked in diplomatic importance to this country most of the other posts in Europe. Our commerce with Spain direct has always been small, and the recent war will not tend to increase it. The United States' relation at any of the Central American republics will have vastly more real diplomatic business than the minister to Spain is likely to see in many a long year."

INCREASE OF EXPORTS.

Remarkable Growth of Trade with the Islands of Cuba, Porto Rico and Philippines.

Already American exports into Cuba and Porto Rico are showing a large increase. Cotton cloths sent to those islands for the eight months of the fiscal year 1898, as compared with the corresponding period of this year were: Cuba, 111,442 to 2,841,096 yards; Porto Rico, 20,393 to 545,593 yards; the West Indies and Bermuda, from 8,662,465 yards to 12,640,529; while the exports of cotton cloth to China increased from 64,354,802 yards to 136,604,310 yards. The sales to the United Kingdom increased from 6,450,998 yards to 7,513,833; British North America, from 8,662,465 yards to 11,616,234; the Central American states, 5,124,967 to 8,034,360 yards; and Mexico, 4,010,022 to 5,185,783 yards.

The trade of the United States with the Philippines, it is said, begins to show the natural growth due to the direction of the attention of American exporters to the archipelago. While the exports from our ports to the Philippine islands for February of last year only amounted to \$1,907, for the same month this year they are more than nine times as much, being \$19,529. For the eight months ended with February 28, 1899, they were only \$69,255, while for the fiscal year they show a gain of nearly 70 per cent., reaching \$1,172,021. Our direct importations from Manila for February were \$277,003, a gain of nearly 50 per cent. over the same month last year. Notwithstanding the decline of imports into the United States from the Philippines during the months of active warfare, the imports for the eight months preceding March reached \$2,641,175, as compared with \$2,102,869 for a similar period the year before.

TWO RARE BOOKS.

Added to the New York City Library—One is an Old Edition of John Wesley's Hymnal.

Two rare books have been presented to the New York public library by Trustee Alexander Maitland. The more important is John Wesley's first hymnal, an octavo volume of 74 pages, printed at Charleston, S. C., by Lewis Timothy, in 1737.

Prior to the discovery of this little book the supposedly earliest Wesley collection was an edition—also rare—published in London in 1738, a year later than the Charleston production. Mr. Maitland acquired the book recently by private purchase. He would not tell how much he gave for it.

The other is a volume of "The Laws, statutes, ordinances and constitution, ordained, made and established by the Mayor, the Recorder, Aldermen and assistants of the City of New York, convened in Common Council for the good rule and government of the inhabitants of the said city." This book was published in 1749.

QUEER CAUSE OF FIRE.

Electric Light Bulb Focuses the Sun's Rays and Sets a Lace Curtain Ablaze.

The focusing of the sun's rays by an electric light bulb set fire to a curtain in the home of John M. Sager at New York city the other day. His three-year-old daughter Lily was burned. Her mother saved her and put out the fire as well. An investigation showed that the incandescent electric light bulb had caused the fire. Mr. Sager had decorated it with ribbons and crochet work and had hung it in the window.

British Magazines. Great Britain has no fewer than 2,290 magazines, 250 of those being of a religious character.

Mohammedan View of Silk. Silk is considered unclean by the Mohammedans, because it is the product of a worm.

CHILDREN OF OLD MEN.

Seventy Years No Bar to the Acquisition of Interesting Families.

Cases of children being born to men verging on the three score years and ten, which are declared by the Palmist to constitute the span of human life, are by no means so rare as might be imagined, says the New York World.

The present earl of Leicester, one of the only peers of the realm who witnessed Queen Victoria's coronation, was 71 years of age at the time of the birth of his youngest daughter, whose eldest sister, aged 49, is already a grandmother. The famous French Field Marshal Peltaler, duke of Malakoff, was 68 when he married, and his only daughter, recently divorced from the Polish Count Zambiska, was born a year later. His fellow field marshals, Canrobert and Baratin, likewise married when they were in the neighborhood of 70, and each left several children.

The father of Queen Isabella of Spain, old King Ferdinand, was 68 at the time of her birth, and 69 when her sister, the late Duchess de Montpensier, made her appearance in the world. Ancient history furnishes many more such instances, among the most notable being, perhaps, those of Cato, King David, and last, but not least, Father Abraham.

CHARACTER IN HATS.

Amateur Divinations by Very Strange Means Now the Fad in Chicago.

Character reading is the very latest fashionable diversion of social Chicago. Not professional character reading, but amateur divination by society people themselves. The old style palmistry is now supplemented by character reading by means of a study of a person's handwriting, of his facial lines and expressions, of his walk, of even the clothes he wears, says the Chicago Chronicle.

"I can tell more about a woman's personality by examining her shoes and hat than by watching her face," remarked a clever man the other day. "I always look first at her shoes, then at her skirt and finally at her hat. The waist or coat I never remark at all. Sometimes I am mistaken in the shoes, because the pair may be new and stiff and have not had a chance to become part of the individual."

"But the hat is never debatable territory. Its shape, its trimming, its size and the way it is placed on the head all tell something of the owner's personality. A hat is to me the typical straw that denotes the outlines of the wearer's character."

GOLF AND SCOTCH WHISKY.

The Growing Favor of the Game Over Here Increases the Sales of the Liquor.

"The game of golf is responsible for an increase of almost 200 per cent. in the sale of Scotch whisky in this country," said a liquor dealer. "Scotch whisky is as essential to a golf player as beer to a man at a clam bake, and the growing interest in golf is increasing the sale of this commodity every year."

"In Scotland, where the game of golf is said to have first been played, the standard drink is Scotch whisky. Of course, the American golfers have to follow the Scotch fashions, and Scotch whisky and soda—a really delicious and refreshing beverage—is the favorite drink in the golf clubs in this country. In a liquor trade paper, I saw, some time ago, some figures on this subject. Before the game of golf became so popular in this country, the annual sale of Scotch whisky here was less than 30,000 gallons. It is now said to be something like 90,000 gallons a year. There is a well-grounded suspicion that a good deal of this whisky is distilled right in this country and put into bottles bearing the labels of a Scotch firm, but I think it would be impossible to prove this."

FRENCHMEN DON'T TRAVEL.

Because They Have an Innate Horror of Anything Like "Roughing It."

M. Bonvalto, the distinguished explorer, is constantly exhorting his fellow-countrymen to travel, and his appeals are once more leading to a review of the reasons which render the average Gaul so averse to adventure beyond his own frontier, says the London Telegraph. How does it happen, it is asked, that so few, even of the younger generation of Frenchmen, display any inclination to see the world, although at their age, many Anglo-Saxons have already been round it?

Two main explanations for these stay-at-home propensities are volunteered. One is that people in France rarely trouble themselves to learn foreign languages, so that they are like fish out of water when they go abroad. Another is that they are absolutely ignorant of the practical side of travel and have little idea of the articles that they require or of the best mode of fitting themselves out for a long journey. In short, they are not handy or enterprising and have a horror of anything in the shape of "roughing it," as the saying goes.

Do Song-Birds Predict Storms?

A writer in the Monthly Weather Review avers that for a considerable time in advance of a great storm song birds cease their music, and that this may be taken as an indication of the storm's approach. For 48 hours before the beginning of a series of severe storms in northern Illinois last summer not a sound was heard from the throats of the thousands of birds which inhabit that part of the country, and whose music, in fair weather, is one of the charms of the district.

TUBULAR CHIMES.

The Famous Westminster Harmonica Are Hung in the Keney Tower in Hartford.

The clock in the Keney Memorial tower at Tunnel square has begun to toll the hours, and the tubular chimes which are connected with the clock mark the quarter hours by repeating in measures of four notes the famous "Westminster Chimes."

The set in the Keney Tower, says the Hartford Courant, is made up of five tubes which hang in a frame suspended by Manila tarred rope, and are struck by hammers operated by clock work. The largest of the five tubes is 2 feet 8 inches in length and 5 inches in diameter, weighs 250 pounds, and is keyed to a natural. This tube is simply for the striking of the hour, and has nothing to do with the production of the chime music. The next smaller of the tubes is four inches shorter and weighs 220 pounds. The heaviest of it is B natural, and the other three tubes are: E natural, 7 feet 8 inches, 180 pounds; F sharp, 7 feet, 160 pounds, and G sharp, 6 feet 5 inches, 140 pounds.

The tubes are of soft brass and are drawn in the usual manner by hydraulic pressure, the tone being governed by the length, the diameter and thickness of the metal forming the tube. The tone is soft and melodious, and has a radius of about one mile under favorable conditions. The vibrations last for two minutes, whereas the vibrations of the largest bell last for only one minute.

CIGAROLGY.

Some Indications of Character in the Manner of Handling the Weed.

When you see a man grip a cigar between his teeth and hold it fast, careless of whether it burns or not, you can set him down as an aggressive, calculating and exacting, not to say canny, individual.

If a man smokes a cigar deliberately, just enough to keep it lighted, and delights in taking it from his mouth and watch the blue smoke from it curl upward, he is likely to be an easy-going man, good-natured and honest, says an exchange.

There is another fellow who smokes intermittently, takes a puff and then rests, and fumbles his cigar about. He is apt to have little decision of character, and to be easily affected by circumstances. A man may be nervous and fumble his cigar a good bit, and in this event he is a would-be swell, vain and frivolous.

He invariably tilts his cigar upward, while a sensible, level-headed fellow will hold it straight out from his mouth. When you see a man chewing up an unlighted cigar, and twisting it about, he is nervous, but of great tenacity.

A man who cannot keep his cigar alight has a whole-souled disposition. He has a lively nature, is a half-fellow-well-met, glib of tongue, and usually a good story teller.

THIS CROWNED HEAD IS IRISH.

King O'Keefe I, Though Born in Ireland, is an American Citizen—His Kingdom.

David B. O'Keefe, king of the small islands Yap, Olla and St. David, which are about 300 miles from Pelew, has had an adventurous career, says the London Leader. He is by birth an Irishman, by naturalization an American, and is 69 years of age. When he settled at Yap he married a native princess, who is a shrewd woman and rules when he is away.

The islands over which he rules are his by right of discovery and the acquiescence of the native rulers, and may become the cause of complications. He holds them against the rival claims of Spain and Holland. Over his islands he floats the stars and stripes, and on his single trading schooner he flies the union jack.

O'Keefe is known in Hong-Kong as the copra king. He has accumulated an immense fortune in the copra trade, and is a millionaire aside from his claim to the islands. He wishes to sell his territory either to the United States or England.

O'Keefe has complete control over his chiefs, and has suppressed the slave traffic which used to be carried on.

CALIFORNIA TIMBER.

It Is Surprisingly Large as Compared with That Cut on the Gotha River in Sweden.

The writer, on first visiting timber yards in northern Europe, could not get rid of the impression that the round timber was all culls or waste, says Engineering Magazine. A raft of logs in the Gotha river in Sweden was thought to consist of telegraph poles. It happened to be a collection of small timber even for there, and a visit to the Pacific coast of North America, soon after, still further emphasized the enormous difference in the timber resources of the two countries. Soon after arriving in San Francisco there was encountered in the street a squared beam of fir more than 100 feet in length, being hauled to a factory in course of erection. Following this beam to its destination—a woolen factory then being built—it was a matter of astonishment to find all the longitudinal beams, or "stringers," of the same length. This astonishment was increased when the contractor said: "We never bother about dimensions, and just order what we want." A section eight feet in diameter, cut from a redwood tree, completed a new impression of American forest timber.

Experiments on Dead Men.

Experiments to reproduce dead men's features from their skulls are being made in Germany.