

GENTLER SEX ALONE ATTENDS

The Wife and Sister of Turkish Minister at a Washington Function.

Countess Marguerite Cassini, the chateleine of the Russian embassy, gave a luncheon the other day complimentary to the wife and sister of the Turkish minister.

The company, of course, was composed entirely of the gentler sex. The Russian ambassador and his staff spent the afternoon at the club.

Mme. and Miss Feroch were accompanied by the Russian embassy by the Turkish minister. He stopped for a moment to salute the hostess and then took his departure.

The Turkish women entered heavily veiled, according to the regulation of their faith. Their outer wraps were large, loose cloaks of gray wool with a hood and a heavy veil reaching almost to their waists.

In honor of the guests the decorations were the Turkish colors and the menu was according to Mohammedan customs.

TO STUDY FARM MACHINERY

German Government to Send Specialist to This Country in Interests of Agriculture.

Baron Hermann, agricultural expert of the German embassy, has received word from the German government that a specialist, designated by the agricultural societies, will leave Berlin soon for the United States to make a careful inquiry into the use of American agricultural machinery.

Baron Hermann has been urging on the German authorities the marked advantages of American agricultural machinery. He looks upon the move as one likely to prove beneficial both to German agriculture and to American manufacturers.

The agricultural sections of Germany are being depopulated while the manufacturing centers are becoming overcrowded, and it is felt by the German government to be desirable to give every modern facility to the agricultural class to increase the productive capacity of the farms to their full limit.

OUR TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

The United States Has Outdistanced Germany in the Markets of Country of the Czar.

United States Consul Winter, at Annaberg, Germany, has transmitted to the state department a translation of an article which recently appeared in a German publication bearing upon Russian-American trade.

The increase in the trade of the United States with Russia is noticeable. This is due to the cordial relations which exist between these two countries, and to the less friendly attitude of Russian merchants towards the manufacturers of other countries.

DESTROY A HISTORIC PUMP.

Miscreants Commit Unpardonable Vandalism at Harvard College.

An unpardonable act of vandalism was discovered by Harvard men the other morning. In the night some malicious person had destroyed that time-honored and venerable institution, the college pump.

The first attempt to destroy it was made last spring, when a dynamite cartridge was found in an unexploded state with burning fuse by the yard policeman at midnight.

The old pump has been in place since 1832 and the well had given up its drink of pure water to the long line of distinguished graduates for two generations.

Ice Flows at Newfoundland. Ice flows from the Arctic threaten to completely blockade Newfoundland, and may cause trouble to trans-Atlantic steamers.

BIBLE STORY TRUE.

Researches of Rev. Dr. Wright Substantiate Account of Deluge.

Travels 12,000 Miles in Asia and Finds Indisputable Evidence of an Extensive Submergence of the Land.

Letters have just been received at New York city from Rev. Dr. George Frederick Wright, the authority on the glacial period and Biblical geology.

Dr. Wright secured a leave of absence from Oberlin (O.) university and sailed for Japan early last year. He went at once to Siberia and began his work. His son accompanied him as an assistant.

"The Bible history stands on its own merits and has independent value. The main question of geological interest is: Are there insuperable objections to the account? The answer to this question turns upon the geological theories concerning the possible or probable rate at which changes of land levels may proceed.

"Catastrophes comparable to the flood are not strange things in geology. The glacial period was connected with a series of catastrophes. I have traveled 12,000 miles in Asia to find evidences of the glacial period and have found none.

"But I have found indisputable evidence of an extensive submergence of the land extending to the base of Mount Ararat, and that this submergence took place subsequent to the appearance of man on the earth.

"The one point of certainty is that since man's appearance there has been a period of instability in the earth's crust in northern and central Asia, which shows that the Biblical account of the flood is an entirely credible story."

TO OPEN SCHOOL OF PRAYER.

Lebanon Minister Will Establish a Novel Educational Institution.

A Lebanon (Ill.) minister has originated and is to establish what will be in all probability the most novel educational institution in America or perhaps in the world. It is to be a school of prayer, and its originator is Rev. H. L. Derr, until recently pastor of the local Baptist church.

Derr's school is to be a department of Ewing college, a Baptist institution located at Ewing in Franklin county, and will be located at that place. He proposes to give a two-years' course in the nature, purposes, and conditions of effectiveness of prayer, treating it from a historical and scientific point in order to enable Christian workers and others to better understand its true nature and scope.

An endowment of \$10,000 for the establishment and support of the school is required, which Rev. Dr. Derr is now working to secure. A part of it has already been subscribed, a site for the school has been selected, and it is proposed to open the institution, if the necessary funds can be secured, at the beginning of the next scholastic year.

POSTAL CARDS BURNED UP.

Post Office Department Disposes of 54,000 Which Belonged to Republic of Hawaii.

According to a New York Tribune special from Washington, the post office department has just destroyed about 54,000 postal cards which belonged to the republic of Hawaii.

Two weeks ago all of the Hawaiian un-called postage stamps obtainable were burned. Their face value was about \$38,000, but if the department had had the power to sell them, at least \$100,000 would have been given for them by enterprising collectors.

Great Decrease in Value.

In 1878 an iron and nail plant was put in at Bellefonte, Pa., at a cost of \$185,000. A few days ago the whole outfit was sold to a Philadelphia junk dealer for \$8,375.

Collection of Knives.

An Austrian named Anton Petermandel, who recently died at Steyer, had made a collection of about 3,000 knives of all times.

The Bank of England Notes. The Bank of England has usually about \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 of its notes in circulation.

EDISON'S LATEST INVENTION.

The Wizard Has Succeeded in Producing a Storage Battery of Superior Qualities.

The announcement that Thomas A. Edison had once more solved a deep problem in electrical science and would in the near future know the details of his newest achievement caused much comment in electrical circles. The full details of the "wizard's" latest invention are as yet unknown, but that Mr. Edison has been engaged in the development of a new storage battery system has been known in the trade for several months.

"The invention," said a prominent electrical expert, "while not being such a revolutionary agent as at first stated, will in a measure do away with the existing objections to the use of the storage system as the propelling force in traction and automobile vehicles.

"It will first of all do away with the great weight because of a new material in construction. The Edison system will afford more than twice the capacity at a given weight in battery.

"In a paper read by George F. Seaver, chief demonstrator at Columbia college, it was shown that the cost of maintaining a delivery system of auto-wagons was far cheaper than that in which the horse was the motive power.

"Storage batteries as constructed at present do not develop more than 25 per cent. of the indicated power. The invention of Edison has solved the problem, and in a short time we may see all the cross-town lines being economically and successfully operated under the storage system."

Nikola Tesla was asked his opinion of the matter, and he said: "The storage battery of to-day is nearly perfect. The substitution of a lighter material than lead will alone improve it, and Thomas A. Edison is the man who will solve the problem."

AERIAL BRIDGE AT DULUTH.

Swinging Ferry to Be Erected Across Ship Canal at Harbor Entrance.

Duluth, Minn., will build a bridge the like of which does not exist in America. Bids have been advertised, and the contract will probably be let in two or three weeks. The bridge will cross the ship canal at the entrance to Duluth harbor.

The conditions are peculiar. About 100 cargo ships pass through the canal daily, besides innumerable tugs, etc. A swing bridge would not be permitted by the government, and the Lake Carriers' association would bring pressure to bear against any kind that would hinder navigation.

The design is the invention of a French engineer, and a bridge similar in general plan is in use in Rouen. The one at Duluth will cost about \$100,000, and while it will be erected and owned by private capital the city is to reserve the right to buy, and will operate it as a part of the municipal street system from the first.

NEW WATER-COLOR PROCESS.

Harvey Young, the Artist, Discovers a Method to Preserve Paintings.

Harvey Young, the artist of Rocky mountain fame, has discovered a new process for the preservation of water-color paintings. Mr. Young's process appears to be as simple as it is wonderful, and he claims that he is the sole possessor of the new system, says the Chicago Record.

When treated by the process the paintings have every appearance of oil paintings. This effect is produced by the use of ordinary pigment or colors mixed with water instead of oil, put on very thick and then varnished over several times with an alcohol varnish.

The moisture of the pigment is entirely evaporated before the varnish is put on and then the ground work cannot be reached or affected by contact with the elements. Water-color paper is used instead of canvas, and it is pasted on thick pulp board. The pictures, it is said, can be washed at any time without injury.

A Lenten Vow.

The members of a young woman's club at Binghamton, N. Y., have vowed not to speak during Lent. Evidently, remarks the Chicago Times-Herald, they have concluded that none of the young men of Binghamton will be likely to want to talk business during the 40 days and 40 nights preceding Easter.

An Additional Hold-Up.

A sleeping car combine is talked of. This looks like an unnecessary bit of enterprise, says the Minneapolis Tribune, as the public now has about as few rights in a sleeping car, between the porter and the upper berth, as it can get along with and use the institution at all.

Japanese Drum.

The Japanese taiko, or drum, is placed upon a permanent support and rests upon pivots.

BY SHORTEST TRACK.

Tesla Explains How He Will Send His Messages.

Will Travel Through the Earth, Not the Air, from One Powerful Oscillator to the Other.

Nikola Tesla said the other day that the statements of James Galbraith, one of his employees, who allowed himself to be interviewed in London, were premature and unofficial.

Mr. Galbraith, who was going to Lisbon with a quantity of electrical apparatus, explained that he was going to establish a receiving station somewhere on the fortieth parallel. He said that Mr. Tesla would erect a sending station on the same parallel on the American coast.

There is one point about this system on which Mr. Tesla is willing to enlighten the people.

He says he is not going to send his messages through the air, but through the earth. He says that people have got so used to seeing wires strung on poles that when wireless telegraphy is spoken of they seem to take it for granted that only the wires will be dispensed with, and that the electrical currents will still continue to take the old beaten tracks through the air.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Tesla says, wireless telegraphy through the air is impracticable because high buildings and other obstructions would interfere with the currents.

The intention of Mr. Tesla is to erect at some point in this country a very powerful "oscillator," which is an electrical contrivance of his own construction. At some point in Europe similar instruments will be erected.

A Tesla "oscillator" produces a current of many millions of volts. Powerful as the machine is, it takes up very little room, and Mr. Tesla says that all the instruments he needs, either for a receiving or a sending station, can be contained in a medium-sized room.

When the current of the "oscillator" is turned on the enormous voltage will take the shortest track to the instrument made to receive it. For long distances this "shortest track" will necessarily be through the earth, not over it.

USE VANDERBILT'S INVENTION

Union Pacific and Baltimore & Ohio Roads Adopt the Improved Fire Box.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., the inventor of a coal saving, power economizing fire box and boiler for locomotives, has just received word that it has been adopted by the Union Pacific and Baltimore & Ohio roads. Thus the Vanderbilt fire box is recognized, not only on the lines which the grandfather, father and uncle of the inventor built into one great system, but is praised and accepted by other companies, one at least of which is a rival and parallel line.

The invention consists of several improvements, the last of which is the locomotive boiler, for which he has received letter patent No. 637,186. The preamble of the patent sets forth that the inventor has produced a locomotive boiler of increased strength, resisting strain due to expansion and having a larger heating surface for the generation of steam.

The fire box is of cylindrical form, which increases the strength of the boiler and renders a rupture of the sheets less likely by removing unequal strains.

The Vanderbilt boiler is of corrugated iron. It is 64 inches in diameter and 11 feet 2 1/2 inches in length. It is placed eccentrically in the back of the boiler shell, which measures 35 1/2 inches at the furnace.

"The locomotive boiler has developed less since it was invented than any other big invention," says Mr. Vanderbilt. "The attention of the engineer has been focussed on the engine, the track and everything but the boiler."

HONORS FOR AMERICAN GIRL.

Miss Caroline T. Stewart, Aged 26, Gains Distinction at Berlin University.

Caroline T. Stewart is the first American girl to receive the title of doctor of philosophy from the Berlin university. Her degree thesis is a dissertation on the language of the glossaries of the Paulish commentators of St. Luke's Gospel, which, she maintained, were written, not in the ninth, but in the eighth century.

Miss Stewart's distinction has greatly excited the university. At the close of the reading of her thesis she received an ovation, led by the eminent Dr. Frenenius, dean of the philosophical faculty. Her opponents in this abstruse debate were two other Americans—Mrs. Dr. Herter and Miss Jane Scherzer—and a Scotch girl, Mary Montgomery. Miss Stewart is only 26.

New York to Have a Fine Library.

Sixteen out of the 129 largest cities have a greater sum invested in public libraries—that is, owned by the city—than New York. During the next two years, however, there will be erected in New York city the finest library building, excepting the congressional library at Washington, in the United States.

Capture of Hilted Distillers.

Official reports show that 673 hilted distilleries have been captured in Georgia in the last year.

A JEWELLED SWORD.

Presented to Capt. Evans by an Iowa Delegation.

Services of the Brave Commander of Battleship Iowa During War Fittingly Remembered—Declares the Honor is Due His Men.

Capt. Robley D. Evans, who commanded the battleship Iowa during the battle of Santiago, was the other night presented with a magnificent gold jeweled sword at Washington.

It was the gift of the chamber of commerce of Des Moines, Ia., which requested the Iowa congressional delegation to make the presentation. Speaker Henderson made a happy speech of presentation, in which he made allusions to Capt. Evans' deeds of valor in the Spanish-American war as well as during the civil war, when he won his sobriquet of "Fighting Bob." Capt. Evans, in responding, said:

"Gentlemen of the Iowa Delegation: Making speeches, as you all probably know, is not my trade. I wish it were, for this occasion at least, that I might tell you in fitting words how grateful I am for the honor you have done me, and how entirely I appreciate the sentiment of those who have sent this sword.

"The battleship named after your great commonwealth, and which, through the courtesy of the secretary of the navy, I had the honor to command during the Spanish war, was manned by 600 officers and men. They were as brave a band as ever fought for the dear old flag, and it was what they did that brings me this token of good will of your people.

"As commander of the gallant crew of the Iowa, I accept this beautiful sword. You could not give a token to each of them, therefore this to me. They are scattered over the waters of the earth, but the heart of each will warm with pride and gratitude when he learns that one of their number has been so honored. I hope that some day the national congress will suitably recognize the gallant conduct of each of my comrades, and that the day may not be far distant. I beg you to convey to your people the expression of my heartfelt thanks and gratitude."

FILLS ELEVEN VOLUMES.

Report of the Recent Belgian Expedition Toward North Pole Being Published by the Government.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the arctic explorer, has just returned to New York from a visit to Belgium. In Brussels he attended a meeting of more than a hundred scientists interested in the recent Belgian expedition toward the north pole. All of them contributed something for the report of the venture being published by the Belgian government.

"This report," said the explorer, "is the official record of the expedition, the story of which has already been published. There will be 11 volumes. One of them, contributed by me, contains a vocabulary of 30,000 words of the Yaghan language, the tongue of the inhabitants of Terra del Fuego.

"Three antarctic expeditions are now being fitted out on the other side. The one from England, will start in August, going south of Australia, and the German explorers are to start at about the same time. The Swedish expedition will leave that country later."

Dr. Cook is not going with any of them. He has been exploring for years and now means to rest. Dr. Cook said that the Belgian government would present 30 sets of the report to various institutions in this country, among them Harvard and Yale.

NOVEL METHOD TO STOP FIRE.

Locomotive Used to Make a Gap in the Path of the Flames.

By the quick wit of an Omaha fireman Merrill, Wis., was the other day saved from destruction by fire. Flames started in a big hotel building, and as a high wind was blowing little could be done to stop their progress. Dynamite was used in an endeavor to check the fire but the light debris only helped the blaze along.

When it seemed as if the whole town would go the fireman of an Omaha freight train came to the rescue. Backing the engine on to a sidetrack, so as to get nearer to the burning buildings, he directed that heavy chains be attached to several of the wooden stores and then to his engine. Then he opened the throttle. Inside of ten minutes a big gap was left in the row, and the progress of the flames was stopped.

ST. PETERSBURG PROGRESSIVE

That City Has Already Assumed Control of Three of Its Car Lines with Entire Success.

According to a report just received at the state department from Consul General Salloway, the municipality of St. Petersburg has already assumed control of three of its present street car lines, and expects to take possession of the remaining lines before March 1, 1901, when the authorities intend to advertise in the leading newspapers of the world for proposals to convert the same to the electrical system. The underground system will be used in the center of the city and the overhead in the suburbs. The present lines are single tracks. The fare is five and six kopecks (2.37 and 3.09 cents) for inside seats and one kopeck (5 cents) less for outside or top seats.

DRAWS SOCIAL LINE.

Admiral Sampson's Letter Considered Most Unfortunate.

Gives High Indorsement of Brave Gunner, But Declares His Social Position a Barrier to His Advancement.

There have been few things which have upset naval officers so much as the unfortunately frank indorsement of Admiral Sampson. It contains a complete recommendation of the gunner who applied for promotion on professional grounds, but unfortunately draws the social line sharply, for the admiral says: "It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that the secretary of the navy will not find it necessary to take advantage of the authority which I understand is to be granted him to appoint a certain number of warrant officers to the grade of ensigns. While it is true that these men are selected from a large class of men of unusual ability, which distinguishes them as perhaps the professional equals of their officers so far as their technical education stands, it is also true that they are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages that are a requisite for a commissioned officer."

"It is submitted that in time of peace the navy's function consists, to a certain extent, of representing the country abroad, and it is important that the navy's representatives should be men of at least refinement. While there are perhaps a certain few among the warrant officers who could fulfill this requirement, I am of the opinion that the vast majority of them could not.

"Once they are commissioned they will have the same social standing as other officers, and no distinction properly could be made in extending general invitations. The consequence that would arise from their acceptance might not redound to the credit of the navy or the country which the navy represents.

"I do not mean to detract from the sterling worth of the warrant officers of the navy; I merely mean to suggest to the department that, unfortunately for them, they have been deprived of certain natural advantages, and in consequence their proper place is that of leading men among the crew, and not as representatives of the country in the wardroom and stateroom."

"EASES HER CONSCIENCE. Young Woman Confesses to Sin of Beating Railroad Out of Fare Years Ago.

After two years the conscience of a young woman now living in Maine drove her to write a letter to Station Agent Laing, of the Chicago & North-western railroad in Evanston, Ill., confessing that she had ridden on the line twice without paying her fare, and tendering five two-cent stamps in payment of it. Mr. Laing refused to make public the name of the young woman. It is the first experience of the kind he has had since being connected with the railroad.

The letter which accompanied the stamps is unique. The writer informs Mr. Laing that she is now in a Bible school, and that her Christian experience led her to reimburse the railroad. She quotes the Scripture to prove that she has done the right thing. A part of the letter is as follows: "I write to confess my guilt of having twice ridden on your line without paying my fare. Over two years ago, while living in Evanston, I came from Chicago on a ticket to South Evanston, but wishing to go to Evanston I remained on the train without paying any more fare. At another time the conductor failed to collect my fare, and I let it go, he not passing through the car again until I got off. I at once felt that I had done wrong, and repented, and know that God forgave me. But at that time I did not feel the necessity of making it right with the railroad. I now ask your forgiveness, and send ten cents in stamps, which I believe will pay the fare in these two instances. I am now in a Bible school, and one of the commandments taught us is: 'Owe no man anything.' I want to be as exact in that as in anything else."

MESSAGE IN A PHONOGRAPH.

Method a Son Adopts to Communicate with Parents 6,000 Miles Away.

By means of a phonograph James Demosthenes, of Ansonia, Conn., intends to talk to his parents in Mitylene, on the coast of Turkey, 6,000 miles away. Demosthenes' business partner, I. G. Anderson, who is also a native of Mitylene, sails for home next week, and will be entrusted with a phonograph as a gift from Demosthenes to his parents. Among the records will be two, into which the son will have spoken a message to each.

Two blank records are also to be sent, which will record the answers of the parents, and which Anderson will bring back with him. This opens a hitherto unthought-of field of usefulness for the phonograph.

A Costly Parliament.

The most costly parliament in Europe is that of France. The senate and chamber of deputies cost annually \$1,500,000.

Tacoma Heavily in Debt.

Tacoma, Wash., has the largest per capita net debt in the country—\$113.74.