

## MATRIMONIAL GUESSES.

**Speculations on the Popularity of the Month of June Among Brides.**

June, the month of roses, is also the great matrimonial month in New York. The board of health statistics for the past year show this, for the number of marriages effected in June is larger than the record of any other month. November pushes it hard for first place, but June carries off the prize and is therefore entitled to add orange blossoms to its beautiful robes of roses. The fewest marriages take place in August, says the Sun.

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## WANTED TOO MUCH.

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"Well?" said the reader.

"It's not well, at all," responded the one looking for work. "That man, whoever he is, is advertising for a wife, I should say from the advertisement, and I'm not looking for that kind of a job. Just plain hired girl's place is good enough for me."

## STORES UP LIGHT.

Certain Queer Substances Which Act on Sensitive Plates in the Dark.

Dr. W. J. Russell, a prominent scientific man, has discovered that certain substances placed in juxtaposition to a highly sensitive photographic plate in complete darkness will become pictured upon the plate. Dr. Russell found that a polished piece of zinc, after four or five hours' contact with a sensitized plate, has, as he paradoxically puts it, photographed itself without the aid of light, showing lines scratched on the zinc, flaws, etc. Several other metals, wood, silk, straw, and other substances, also photograph themselves in darkness in the same manner. Actual contact with the plate is not necessary, says the London News.

In some instances in the course of the experiments screens were interposed between the substances to be photographed and the plates, but this had no effect on the results. One series of experiments produced a curious result. Dr. Russell found pieces of the Westminster Gazette and the Standard faithfully reproduced on the plates, while when the Daily News was used, no photograph was obtained.

## HIS REASING.

A Slave's Clever Ruse to Escape Punishment at the Hands of His Master.

A famous southern clergymen recently told a good story illustrating the whimsical ingenuity of the Ethiopian mind, says the New York Mail and Express. A southern planter who was puzzled by the disappearance of a great deal of rice, found out that it had been purloined by a favorite slave. He sent for the latter and said: "Sam, I am very sorry to discover that you are a thief and have been taking my rice." The slave smiled and answered: "I took your rice, master; but I'm no thief."

"How do you make that out?" came the query.

"Well, master, does I belong to you, or does I not?"

"Yes, you belong to me."

"An' don't that rice belong to you?"

"Certainly."

"Well, then, if I take that rice and eat that ride it belongs to you still? It hasn't gone away from you, and no other man's got it, and so I couldn't have stolen it, could I?"

## Daughter of "Varmints."

Ten sheepmen of Drew's valley, Lake county, Oregon, each agreed to pay a neighbor 25 cents for every wild cat, cougar, or coyote he killed in the vicinity of Drew's gap; and within three months he made nearly \$200 for himself, besides making the surrounding country safer for sheep, and then he doubled his earnings by means of the public bounties.

## A MOUNTAIN OF COAL.

**Output of the United States for 1897**

Was 198,250,000 Tons.

**Pennsylvania Easily Leads All Other States with 106,000,000 Tons—Illinois Remains in Second Place.**

From a preliminary statement compiled by E. W. Parker, statistician of the United States geological survey, it is shown that the total output of coal in the United States in 1897 amounted approximately to 198,250,000 short tons, with an aggregate value of \$196,100,000, a fraction less than one dollar per ton. Compared with 1896 this shows an increase in tonnage of 6,270,000 tons, or about 3.3 per cent. The increase in the value of the product was only \$1,700,000, a little less than nine-tenths of one per cent. The amount of coal produced in 1897 was the largest on record. The average value per ton was the lowest ever known, continuing the declining tendency which has been shown, without any reaction, for the past six years. The increase in production and the decline in value was confined to the output of bituminous coal. The anthracite production in Pennsylvania decreased nearly 2,250,000 tons, from 54,361,081 short tons of 2,000 pounds, to 52,122,408 short tons in 1897, while the average price received at the mines per short ton was \$1.65 per short ton (\$1.85 per long ton) in both years. The output of anthracite coal in Pennsylvania during 1897 was 42,637,863 long tons, against 41,188,460 long tons in 1896.

The fact that the bituminous production should have shown an increase of 8,500,000 tons in spite of the prolonged strike in the fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois (four of the largest coal-producing states, aggregating nearly 100,000,000 tons, or more than two-thirds of the entire output) may be taken as an evidence of the wonderful capacity of our developed bituminous mines. Of the 29 bituminous coal-producing states there were only six in which the production in 1897 was less than in the preceding year. These six were Georgia, Indiana territory, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio and Oregon.

Considering the industry by states, Pennsylvania holds her usual position. The combined product of anthracite and bituminous coals from the Keystone state amounted to 106,000,000 short tons, nearly five per cent. of the total output. Pennsylvania's percentage of the total bituminous output was 37, her output of soft coal being 54,000,000. Illinois remains in second place.

Illinois remains in second place with a total of over 20,000,000 short tons. West Virginia comes third, having increased her output nearly 700,000 tons over 1896 and leading Ohio, which comes fourth, by nearly 1,250,000 tons. Alabama reached her maximum output of 5,893,770 tons and stands fifth. Iowa, sixth, lacked only 65,000 tons of reaching 5,000,000 tons. Maryland produced 4,422,000 tons, and Indiana a little over 4,000,000 tons.

## PUNISHMENT OF SOLDIERS.

**Secretary Alger Issues an Order Fixing the Limits of Punishment of Enlisted Men.**

By direction of the president, Secretary Alger has published an order amending that of March 20, 1895, establishing the limits of punishment for enlisted men of the army who may be convicted of offenses contrary to good order and prejudicial to the interests of the military branch of the government. A number of changes are made in the original order of March, 1895, but they are not of great importance. Of particular interest at this time, however, are those features relating to desertion and the persuading of soldiers to desert. The order provides that the punishment for the former offense when joined in by two or more soldiers in the execution of a conspiracy, or for desertion in the presence of any outbreak of Indians or of any unlawful assemblage which the troops may be opposing, shall not exceed dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement at hard labor for five years. For persuading soldiers to desert, the punishment is forfeiture of all pay and allowances and one year's confinement at hard labor. For disobedience of orders the punishment is six months' confinement at hard labor and forfeiture of ten dollars per month for the same period.

## Goods and Garments.

The Chinese were weavers nearly 5,000 years ago. Joseph's famous coat was made of camel's hair. Under the old Mosaic law the Hebrews were not allowed to wear garments of mixed linen or wool. It is said the American Indians made cotton garments before the coming of Europeans. Calico came originally from Calicut, India. Broadcloth originally got its name from its width. There are more than 32,000 varieties of woolen goods known. Persons with incomes less than \$100 a year were forbidden to wear furs in England in the fourteenth century. An American society organized for the encouragement of wool production in 1765 forbade the eating of mutton or lamb. The Saracens introduced cotton cloth into Europe in A. D. 800.

## Change Their Nationality.

Seven troupes of mandolin and guitar players, called Spanish students, and really Spaniards, were traveling in this country when the war began. They have all transformed themselves for professional purposes into Italians and Mexicans.

## Australia's Population.

The aggregate population of Australasia is estimated at 4,410,121, against 3,809,895 in 1891.

## WRAPPED IN THE FLAG.

**Dramatic Burial in Maine of the Last Survivor of the Old Frigate Constitution.**

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## England's Indian Soldiers Fine Shots.

Lord Roberts declares that the shooting standard attained by the Indian troops is unequalled by any troops in the world.

## Coins of Iron and Porcelain.

In Japan coins are generally of iron, and in Siam they are chiefly of porcelain.

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