Political Status of Spitzbergen Fixed by a Conference of the Powers

Interested.

Spitzbergen has always been "No "Man's Land" Its political status has at length been fixed in the most general terms, for hereafter it is to be the land of every nation that is sumciently interested to contribute a small assessment for the maintenance of some semblance of law and order

This is the outcome of the series of monferences between Russia, Sweden and Norway that has dragged along for several years. The three nations based their claims to the archipelago upon the exploratory work they had done. Nothing came of all their talk, Having fully agreed to disagree, they have met again at Christiania and evolved a remarkable compromise. They have signed a convention under which Spitzbergen is to be neutral territory open to all nations, with a government administered by a joint board composed of one representative of each of the contracting powers. The board will levy such taxes as are per-

mitted by the interested governments. Nobody seemed to want these islands until 1905, when it began to look as though the British flag would fly above the glaciers. Fifty Britons landed, began to mine coal, and have kept the industry thriving ever since. Then Russia and Scandinavia began to feel paternal and delved in their archives for the records of their own pioneer explorers.

ART IS WORTH CULTIVATION

-Quality of Being Agreeable Carrier a Man Far on His Troublous Journey Through Life.

The true art of being agreeable is to appear well pleased with all the company and rather to seem well enstertained with them than to give enstertainment to them. A man thus disposed perhaps may not have much Bearning, nor any wit, but if he have common sense and something friendly In his behavior it conciliates men's minds more than the brightest talents without this disposition, and when a man of such a turn comes to old age, he is almost sure to be treated with respect.

It is true, indeed, that we should not dissemble or flatter in company, but man may be very agreeable, strictly consistent with truth and sincerity, by a prudent silence where he cannot concur, and a pleasant assent when he can. Now and then you meet with a person so exactly formed to please that he will gain upon everyone that hears or beholds him; this disposition is not merely the gift of nature, but frequently the eff edge of the world and a commanover passions.

Substitute Silver.

When the silver was rounded up at the end of the day's work the master of the pantry sorted out eleven spoons engraved with the names of other res taurants and hotels.

"And that is getting off pretty well," said he. "These were left by customers who swiped some of our own silver. Waiters have become so expert at counting at just one glance the pieces of silver they remove from a table that the average pilferer is ashamed to secrete a fork or spoon unless he has something to replace it with. Eyes sharp enough to take in the number of pieces cannot read names and monograms at arm's length, so the substitute is pretty sure to prevent detection. Souvenir fiends who go to big restaurants with the instention of carting off a part of the silver have got smart enough to leave other spoons that they have got tired of in its place to fool the waiter."

In the Same Boat.

"We get some sad cases," said the attendant at the Balmy Lunatic asylum to the interested visitor, and opened the door of the first cell. Inside was a man sitting on a three legged stool, gazing vacantly at the wall.

" His is an unhappy story," said the attendant. "He was in love with a girl, but she married another man, and he lost his reason from grief." They stole out softly, closing the

soor behind them, and proceeded to the next inmate. This cell was thickly padded, and

the man within was stark, staring mad. "Who is this?" inquired the visitor.

"This?" repeated the attendant "This is the other man!"

Appeal for Alme at Wedding. There are many customs associated with the French wedding which American brides might copy. One concerns the duties of the maids of houor. An American who attended a fashionable wedding in the Madeleina In Paris recently was impressed with the following little ceremony:

The maids passed through the as membly of guests making a silent appeal for alms for the poor. At a wedding where no money had been spend and untold extravagance exhibited no one could begrudge the coffering of silver expected to be * Thropped into the dainty "aumoriere," for receptacle of filmy lace, ribbon and Mowers, which, when not in use, was faung on the arms in lieu of a bouquet

> "Do you get all kinds of money from grour rich old uncle?" "No; I get only one kind." "What kind's that?"

"Acrimony."

DID BUSINESS IN MILLIONS

But at Close of the Day's Proceedings Bankers Couldn't Produce \$40 in Currency.

One discovers more different sorts of odd things in New York than anywhere else in the world. For example, writes the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star, there is a banking house downtown which occupies almost an entire floor in one of the most exclusive business structures. This banking house handles nothing but "big" business. Nothing less than a \$1,000,000 transaction can secure the attention of the senior partners. They rather fancy taking complete charge of a great bond issue, which gives their letter writers almost free rein in tying ciphers to numerals. About the time the market closes a fleet of honking motor cars fills the street beneath, waiting for the various partners to "home, John." The other day a man came in with a \$40 due and payable, addressed to one of the juniors.

"And I wish you'd let me have the currency," said he. "I'm off for the seashore and need a little change."

The junior partner said, "Certainly." And went through his pockets. He had less than \$4. He walked into the glass partitioned room inhabited by the next junior with a request for cash. The next junior had \$11 and was on his way uptown. The junior partner tried the seniors. None was in. Then he called the head clerk and asked him to cash a check for the sum.

"Sorry, sir," said the head clerk. "but there isn't \$40 in the vaults. So that a boy was sent to a bank on the street level and the money obtained. The explanation is, of course, that such an establishment has no need for actual cash in the transaction of its business. But it is rather queer that a banking house of such magnitude should be stumped for \$40.

MOST HANDSOME OF ANIMALS

Body Stripes of the Zebra Might Have Been Designed by a Draughtsman.

The zebra is, perhaps, of all quadru peds the best made and most beautiful clad by the hand of Nature. To the figure and graces of the horse, it adds the elegance of the stag; and the black and white bands with which its body is ornamented are arranged with such wonderful symmetry that we might almost be disposed to imagine that rule and compass had been employed in their formation. These alternate bands are narrow, parallel and exactly separated. They extend not only over the body, but the head, thigh and legs and even over the ears and tail. They folow so exactly the contour of the different forms that they exhibit the entire figure in the most advantageous point of view. In the female these bands are alternately black and white. In the male they are black and yellow, but always of a lively and brilliant tint They also rest upon a ground of short, fine and copious hairs, whose luster considerably augments the general beauty of the colors.

Republic Founded by Charlemagne. At Trier or Treves, France, the other day there was held one of the most picturesque of international congreece. It was the Marian congress. which interests itself in the teaching of the Roman Catholic church about the Virgin Mary. The most interesting personality of them all, perhaps, presided over the Spanish section. This was Bishop Don Juan Beniloch y Vivo, sovereign prince of the republic of Andorra. The little state lies high in the Pyrenees, and is under the suserainty of the president of the French republic and the bishop of Urgel in Spain. The nation, which last year numbered 5,321, has to pay 960 francs a year to France and 460 francs to the prince bishop. The French president and the bishop each nominate a magistrate and they take it in turns to choose a judge of appeal. The republic is one of the most ancient states in Europe, and the bishops of Urgel enjoy their sovereignty over it by virtue of a decree o Charlemagne.

Oldest Hospital in Europe.

Perhaps the oldest hospital in Enrope is the Hotel Dieu in Paris, which is said to have been founded in 660. True to its device, medicus et hospes, not only the, sick, but also pilgrims and mendicants, regardless of age. sex, condition, creed or nationality, were admitted at all hours of the day and night; no regulations controlled their admission or departure. It was the most important of the 48 hospitals which existed in Paris in 1788 and in which during that year (according to the report of the commission consisting of Bally, Tenor and Lavoisier) 35,000 sick and poor were cared for.-Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.

Alpine Road Opened.

The daytime crossing of the fine Alpine road which goes from Brigue in the Rhone valley to Dome. d'Ossola in Italy has been authorized by the authorities of the Swiss canton of Valais. It will not be permitted to run at a speed exceeding 11 1-5 miles an hour, and the crossing of the pass at night is strictly forbidden. It is certain that this decision will be welcome in the tourist world and will bring to the highly attractive canton of Value hosts of motor cars which so far were allowed only in the monotonous Rhone valley, with the impossibility of entering the lateral vallevs.

HAS BIGGEST "FAMILY BATH"

Inland Capital of Austria Made Great Bathing Resort for Its Citizens.

The Viennese, although living almost in the center of Europe, hundreds of miles away from any seaside bathing resort, are yet, owing to the enterprise of the municipality of Vienna, able to indulge in bathing on much more extensive scale than the people of any European seaside resort, with the possible exception of Ostend in the height of the summer season, says the Wide World.

Some four or five years ago the authorities of Vienna realized the great benefit that bathing on wholesale lines, so to to speak, would be to the inhabitants of the city during the summer months. With this end in view they acquired a picturesque tree clad island bordered with fine stretches of sand in what is known as the "Old Danube." Here, in the course of a few months, arrangements were made for providing not only a plendid bathing place for hosts of Viennese of all classes who were unable, through lack of time or means. to take the long journey necessary to reach the nearest continental place. but also a very interesting experiment in municipal trading, which up to the present has more than satisfied its originators.

Year by year, since its first institution some four years ago, the "Strandbad," to give this unique institution its proper name, has increased in popularity, and now, on every reasonably fine afternoon throughout the summer months from June until late in September one sees crowds of people wending their way to the floating bridge ferry by which the long, sandy island on which the Strand-bad is sit uated is reached.

BUSINESS HAD TO GO ON

Sam Thought He Had Combination, but Relief for Mandy Was Not in Sight.

A lazy darky who let his wife take in washing without demur had a dream one night, and a policy dream at that. He borrowed money from her to play the combination, and before he left home he stated his conviction. "Mandy," he said, "Ah's goin' up town to play dis combine, what am sho' to come out. When you see me comin' home in a hack yo' break up yo' washtubs." The "combine" didn't come out, and Sam, in great dejection. acquired a lot of gin. Then he was messed up a bit by a dray, and some other darkies hired a back to take him home. Sam was nearly out, and was breathing heavily when the back turned a familiar corner, and his wife was standing in the door. With his last ounce of energy he stuck his head out of the window and yelled "Mandy, spare dem tubs!"

Strategy of a Wasp. A mud wasp was seen to alight within an inch or two of a spider's nest on the side opposite the opening, says an exchange. Creeping around toward the entrance to the nest, the wasp stopped a little short of it and for a moment remained perfectly quiet. Then, reaching out one of its antennae, he wriggled it before the opening. A moment later he withdrew the "feeler." This overture had the desired effect, inasmuch as the head of the household, a big

spider, came out to see what was wrong and to set it to rights. No sooner had the spider emerged to that point at which it was at the worst disadvantage than the wasp. with a quick movement, thrust its sting into the body of its foe, killing

it easily and almost instantly. The experiment was repeated by the wasp, and when there was no response from the inside he evidently became satisfied that he held the fort. At all events, he proceeded to enter the nest and slaughter the young spiders, which were lugged of one at a time.

Wilkes Land Now Defined. The existence of Wilkes land has always been an open question and in many of the geographical works reference to it has been omitted or at least questioned. One of the results of the Mawson expedition to the south polar regions has been to settle this matter beyond all doubt. Two parties were landed on this questioned land, one about 1,200 miles north from the other. These parties. and a third one, which was landed on Macquerie's island, will be relieved during the next southern summer. and upon their arrival there will be some valuable and authentic information about the land which has been, the subject of discussion for 7 years.

Bweet Perquisite.

Candy is a perquisite of theater usb ers seldom taken into account. Afte a Saturday matinee the enterprising usher can secure enough bombons and chocolates to last a week. The more absorbing the play the larger the supply. At an interesting climax the emotional matinee girl forgets her candy box and lets it slide to the floor with several pieces sticking in the corners. Immediately after the performance all enterprising ushers search the house for discarded sweets.

A Mark of Devotion, "The Grimebys are devoted to their

family interests, aren't they?" "Yes, indeed. Why, when they so cured a prize cook, the eldest son married her to keep her in the family."

WISE PROVISION OF NATURE

Sensitive Whiskers of the Feline Tribe Serve as Eyes for Guidance of Their Owners.

We are apt to think that the cat's ability to see in the dark is due entirely to its eyes, but competent authority assures us that the feline's power in this respect is due almost as much to its "whiskers." These delicate hairs that project from the muzzle of the cat family are wonderful mechanisms. Each one grows from a follicle or gland, nerved to the utmost sensibility. Its slightest contact with any obstacle is instantly felt by the animal, though the hair itself may be tough and insensible. The exaggerated whiskers on the muzzle often project to such a distance that from point to point they indicate the exact width of the body of the beast. Consider the lion stealing through the jungle at night in search of prey, when the least stir of a twig gives alarm. The lion's whiskers indicate through the nicest nerves, any object that may be in his path. A touch stops him short before pushing through some close thicket, where the rustling leaves and boughs would betray his his presence. Wherever his head may be thrust without a warning from the vibrissae there his body may pass noiselessly. It is the aid given him by his whiskers, in connection with the soft cushions of his feet, that enables him to proceed as silently as the snake.--Harper's Weekly.

BETTER THAN DOCTORS' BILLS

French Actress Lets the World Into # Little Secret That Is of Some Interest.

For keeping slender and supple a simple home treatment—costing nothing-is gladly presented herewith. It comes straight from a French actress who, though no longer in her first youth, is noted for her lithe and lovely figure.

On waking, the lady makes it a practice to drink a cup of chocolate and read the morning paper in bed. Directly she has absorbed the contents of both she tears the newspaper into tiny bits and scatters them over the floor. Then, before dressing, she trips lightly about the room picking up the pieces one at a time, bending and recovering herself for each scrap. The gymnastic is perfect for "lines." Humming a cheerful tune the while beguiles the time and opens the lungs.

Just before going to bed at night she successively edifies and beautifies herself after the same manner with the evening paper. This simple procedure imparts sprightliness and charm-to mind as well as shape.

About Books

I prefer always to learn from the author himself how he did think than to hear from another how he ought to have thought.

How often the cursory reading of a book, which irresistibly carries one with it, exercised the greatest influence on a man's whole life, and produced at once a decisive effect which neither a second perusal nor earnest reflection can either strengthen or modify.

I turn back toward the beloved an cients who still constantly, like distant blue mountains, distinct in their outlines and masses, but indiscernible in their parts and internal relations bound the horison of my intellectual

Always fortunate is that epoch in a literature when the great works of the past again rise up as if thawed. and come into notice, because they then produce a perfectly fresh effect

Swatting the Fly in Corea. Flies are the staple produce of all parts of Cho-sen and make life simply miserable for the Japanese residing there. Flies are also well known to be mediums for the spread of epidemics. Last year the authorities of Chol-la-do offered to buy flies, and encouraged by their success they will repeat the experiment this year. Last year the police was asked to take the trouble of buying files with money supplied by philanthropic contributors, and 4.68 koku (1 koku is equal to 5.13 bushels) of flies were bought from May 26 to December 1 for 212.97 yen. This year 5.68 koku have already been bought for 268 yen at 2 to 4 sen a go. Local taxes were appropriated for a portion of the expense required.

The flies are burned on being pur chased. Rats are valued at 3 sen s head on the mainland, but flies have never been known to exist in such immense masses before as to acquire monetary value.—Japan Weekly Mail

Real Malled Fist A steel arm which had belonged to the Sire of Mittelhausen has just been acquired by the Rohan museum at

Strassburg. The gallant warrior lost an arm in battle, and a clever mechanic devised another for him, which had truly wonderful functions. It could be folded to an angle of 90 degrees and be extended again by pressing a button at the

wrist. The fingers of the hand were each movable, the thumb being independent of the others.-Pall Mall Gazette.

Current Styles. "Why doesn't that young man ever scome into the parior?" "Oh, I don't know."

"Isn't he a candidate for your hand?

"Yes; but he seems to prefer a front · porch campaign."

GOING BACK INTO THE PAST

Men of Science Seeking to Discover Facts of Life of Five Million Years Back.

Out in the Nevada desert the professors have been prying into the seerets of 5,000,000 years ago.

The discoveries are said to be most important by those who are interested in prehistoric relics. The learned men put the discoveries at the miocene period, which is some 5,000,000 years ago.

Among the discoveries is an antediluvian fish that is eighteen feet long. What a whopper of a fish liar the prehistoric man must have been when he went back to the cave and told the family about the big one that got away!

And the horse race of that day must have been a peculiar spectacle, for the equine specimen unearthed has three toes on its feet and is about the size of a large dog.

Five million years is too big a flight of time to ask even our fancy to cover. Trips to Mars and visits to the man in the moon are within our range, but when one is asked to go back to the real back-actionary period of the world, we have to draw the line, especially when we learn that we have to deal with three toed horses and eighteen feet long minnows.

And yet we have to wonder at what manner of a world it was then; we have perforce to try to people it with human beings and with animals of the earth, the sea and the air; we have to wonder whether they, too, were bothered with presidential candidates, whether the women demanded the right to vote and whether peek-a-boo stockings were just coming into style.

And, by the way, the professors found a dinosaur there, too. We never saw a dinosaur and never hope to see one, but one was found, so let it be recorded.

Well, after all, 5,000,000 years agr is some time! .

PANAMA HAT OF COMMERCE

Prized Headgear Made From Palm Leaves Grown in Central and South America.

Panama hats are made from a palm of the "chandelier-tree" family, which grows wild in enormous quantities in the northern parts of South America and in Central America. The greater number of highest grade Panamas are made in Ecuador, with Peru a good second. The best of these sell for \$150 each.

The young, tender leaves of the plant are gathered before they unfold; all the ribs and coarse veins are removed, and the rest is reduced to shreds without being separated from the stem. The shredded leaves are placed in large earthenware jars filled with water and the fuice of lemons and left to soak for from six to ten days. After this they are spread out to dry and bleach in the

sun. The fibers are woven upon a block held upon the knees. The coarse hats are finished in two or three days; the finest take as many months. The best times for weaving are in the early morning and in the rainy season, when the air is moist. In the middle of the day and in the dry season the fiber is apt to break.

Where He Got Them.

Mickey and Pat had been at school together, but had drifted apart in after life. They met one day, and the conversation turned on athletics. "Did you ever meet my brother Dennis?" asked Pat. "He has just won a gold medal in a Marathon race." "That's fine" said Mike... "But did I ever tell you about my uncle at Ballythomas?" Pat agreed that he could not call him to mind. "Well," continued Mike, "he's got a gold medal for five miles and one for ten miles, a silver medal for swimming, two cups for wrestling, and a lot of badges for boxing and cycling" "He must be a great athlete, indade," said Pat. "You're wrong," cried Mike. "He keeps a pawnshop!"

Rope Horseshoes.

Horseshoes of rope are largely made use of in Germany and some other foreign countries, and it is said that there should be some demand in this country, on account of the character of the paving which largely prevails in this country and which is hard on the feet of the animals. The rope is sometimes reinforced with wire and sometimes it is tarred and after being cut and shaped is secured to an iron shoe which is secured to the animal's hoof. While its appearance is not as neat and elegant as a shoe of metal, the soft cushion of rope is very grateful on the animal's feet, and from a humane standpoint it should be more generously made use of.

Device to Protect Sheep. A device to protect sheep from the inroads of wolves, coyotes and other animals has been invented by E. C. Winchester of Thermopolis, Wyo. The machine consists of an automatic un which will shoot a blank cartridge every thirty, forty or sixty minutes, as arranged, while a bull's eye lantern is so adjusted as to revolve and flash ts light in every direction. It makes more than one revolution a minute, operating by means of a coiled spring and cog wheels, a sort of clockwork, n fact. The mechanism is enclosed la a storm and dust proof metal case and mounted on four adjustable legs. It has a weight of twenty-five pounds, so that it can be carried with the sheepman's outfit with no difficulty.

FEW SNAKES TO BE DREADED

North America Fortunate in That 10 Has Not Many Reptiles That Are Poisonous.

North America, says Allen' Samuel Williams in Boys' Life, the Boy Scouts' Magazine, has two kinds of poisonous snakes, one of them the elapine or coral snake -- related to the cobras of the old world found only In the Gulf states and Mexico. They are small and uncommon. The really dangerous serpents are the rattlesnakes of a dozen important species. the copperhead of the eastern United States and the water moccasin of the states south of the Ohio and the Potomac rivers. These three are of the crotalus or pit viper family. As a large proportion of America's camping out is done in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and New England and easern Canada, it may be reassuring to know that east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomao rivers there are but two spascreents capable of inflicting injury upon or possibly killing a human being-the copperhead snake and the

QUEBEC A CITY OF THE PAST

banded or timber rattlesnake, unless

account be taken of the dwarf

prairie rattlesnake of the middle west,

now pearly extinct. Mere mention

may here be made of the only lizard

to some extent poisonous—the beaded

lizard or gila monster of our south

western deserts.

Development of Canadian Dominion Goes Forward, but She Has Little Part in It.

Quebec herself rather endures being quaint than enjoys it, for in this day of Canadian development she has dreamed of the future after the fashion of those insistent towns further to the west. "It has not been pleasant for her," says Edward Hungerford in Harper's Weekly, "to drop from second place in Canadian commercial importance to fourth or fifth. She has had to sit back and see such cities as Winnipeg, for instance, increase from an Indian trading-place to a metropolitan center two or three times her size, while her own wharves rot It is a matter of keen humiliation to the town every time a big ocean liner goes sailing up the river to Montreal-ber river, if you are to give ear to the protests of her citizens whom you meet along the Terrace of a late afternoon-without halting at her wharves, perhaps without even a respectful salute to the town, which has been known these many years as the Gibraltar of North Amer

Dig or Die!

No matter what industrial, commercial or social problem is to be solved, it always takes us back to agriculture. Human life begins with an immediate demand for food and clothing and these in their primary state take us to the farmer. Every article of food, with the single exception of the fishes in the waters, is the product of the soil, as are the various substances from which our clothes are made. Thus human life is directly dependent on the products of the soil, and no considerable population could exist for a day without the daily necessaries of life derived from the cultivation of the land. As food and clothing must come from the farm, it is plain that the American people have got to go back to the land or starve. If they will not themselves plow and dig, they will have to employ foreign labor to do it.-New Orlean Picayune.

How Rain Bores Holes.

"When rain falls it does not actually soak into the earth, but bores its way in, forming tiny tubes," says an interesting article in Harper's Weekly. "These tubes are so small that it would be impossible to insert a hair in one of them without bursting its walls. Sometimes the tubes are bored down to a depth of four or five feet. When the surface dries, the water evaporates from the tubes, just as it would from a pipe. If the tube is twisted it takes longer for the water to evaporate. If one takes a rake and stirs the ground after each rain, he breaks the tops of the tubes, and the water will stand in them for months. In this way the farmers of the west, on the semi-arid lands, store the rainfall one year, and raise a crop of wheat, every other year-there being sufficient water in two years, but no enough in one, to raise a crop."

She Could Not Distinguish. "Who are those people over at the fittle table?" asked old Mrs. Knowall, who was having her first meal at a large suburban boarding house. Mr. and Mrs. Brown and their chil-

dren," she was inform "But there are two ladies there, one standing up and waiting on the children and one sitting down," remarked Mrs. Knowall.

'Oh, one is the children's nurse." "Which one is the nurse?" she inquired eagerly, "the one sitting down or the one standing up?"

Massenet a Twenty-first Child. If the seventh child of a family is credited, as it not uncommonly is, with certain mystical gifts, it would seem to follow that a twenty-first child should be possessed of some extraordinary talent. However that may be, Massenet, who had twenty brothers and sisters to precede him, very early developed pronounced musical tastes, and at the age of nine he played a Beethoven sonata for an exazzination, through which he came suc-

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS