

HERE AND THERE.

It is estimated that one out of every 180 inhabitants of the United States owns or rides a bicycle.

The highest death-rates per thousand inhabitants are found in Dublin, New Orleans, Rheims and New York City.

It is estimated that a quarter of a million canary birds are raised in Germany every year, almost half of which are sold in America.

NEW YORK and Massachusetts have each been represented in the Cabinet twenty-eight times. Pennsylvania follows with twenty-five representatives.

The culture of the rubber tree is to be tried in the Florida Everglades. It is believed that plantations of these trees will prove enormously successful and profitable.

COLORADO population of the United States in 1890, according to race—percentage of African descent, 7,470,040; Chinese, 107,475; Japanese, 2,039; civilized Indians, 28,806; total, 7,638,360.

"THE BOWERY" takes its name from the fact that it follows the course of a country road which ran from the city out to the farms or boweries on the northern outskirts of New York City.

LIGHT passes from the sun to the earth in about eight minutes, distance 50,000,000 miles. A locomotive traveling at the rate of a mile a minute would require upward of 180 years to accomplish the same journey.

MR. PRESIDENT HARRISON says: "A want of understanding and system has resulted in a nearly useless expenditure of enough labor and money to have furnished the selected portions of our country with good, substantial roads."

It is said that the richest of civilized nations is the English, with \$1,226 per capita. In France the average is said to be \$1,102, in the United States \$1,293, while by the sale of their lands to the United States Government some of the Indian tribes are worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per capita, man, woman and child.

It is said of Mr. Gladstone's private library that it is particularly rich in the classical and theological departments; that there is probably not a single theological work missing which has seen the light since the day that circulated at Oxford in 1828. Most of these books were presented to him by their authors.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

OSTENTATION is the signal flag of hypocrisy.

THE acts of this life are the destiny of the next.

A DOUBTER is always dodging and hiding from the truth.

THE darker it is all around us, the more our light is needed.

CHERRY LIPS is health; its opposite, melancholy is disease.

NO ONE can be truly brave who is not trying to be truly good.

MAKE life a ministry of love and it will always be worth living.

HE who reforms himself has done much toward reforming others.

SIMPLICITY of character is the natural result of profound thought.

JOYS are the flowers dropped into our path by the hands of Providence.

LIVING entirely for self is about the smallest business any one can engage in.

THE man who tries to be religious will steal when he gets a good chance.

ONE of the most wretched men in the world is the one who cannot respect himself.

THE man who never makes any mistakes never does any work that will outlive him.

NUMEROUS troubles spring from illness, and manifold grievous toils from needless ease. Many without labor would live by their wits, but they break for want of stock.

FRIENDSHIP is more like a tree than a structure. Full of vitality, slow of growth, sturdy in its nature, it comforts man by the refreshment of its shade, and nourishes him by the sustenance of its fruits.

It is a tenth part of the felicities that are enjoyed in the region of imagination could be imported into regions terrestrial, what a delightful thing it would be to awake each morning to see such a world once more!

POPULAR SCIENCE.

FISH balance themselves in water by the muscular contraction of the air bladder. At death the muscles relax and the air bladder expands, with the result that the fish is thrown on one side and rises to the surface.

THE first book made of ground-wood paper has been placed in the Berlin testing office for examination recently. It is said to be in good condition. As it was printed in 1852, very nearly half a century ago, the argument that wood paper has no durable qualities appears to be seriously shaken.

It is a mistake to suppose that lightning cools the air. At the time of a thunder-storm a sharper contrast between the temperatures of the upper and lower strata than is usual exists; and the cold which sometimes follows such storms is due to the onset of cooled atmospheric masses already in the neighborhood.

ACCORDING to the State Board of Health of Michigan, the statistics of sickness in that region of imagination could be imported into regions terrestrial, what a delightful thing it would be to awake each morning to see such a world once more!

THE Mail in Mexico. "A visitor from the United States finds many things which surprise him in the City of Mexico," remarked a traveler.

"When the mail arrives at the post-office the names of people to whom letters are addressed are written on a slip of paper and posted on a bulletin board. Merchants go every morning to examine their announcements, and if they find their names on the list hand their cards to the delivery clerk, who hands them their mail."

Fires Two Bullets at Once. A retired French naval officer has invented a rifle which is capable of firing two kinds of explosive bullets at once.

SCALPED THEIR CAPTORS.

Thrilling Escape of White Prisoners from the Indians.

Many thrilling tales are told of the capture of early colonists by the Indians and of their occasional recapture or escape. One of the most famous of all escapes in the East was that of Hannah Duston, Mary Neff and a boy, Samuel, Leeson. These three were carried off with many others, in 1697, in the attack on Haverhill, Mass. When the captors had separated, the party to whom the two women and the boy were assigned encamped on an island in the Merrimac River. At midnight, the captives secured hats and killed ten Indians—two men, two women and six children—one favorite boy, whom they meant to spare, and one badly wounded woman, escaping. After they had left the camp, the fugitives remembered that nobody in the settlements would believe, without evidence, that they had performed so redoubtable an action, they therefore returned and scalped the Indians, after which they scuttled all the canoes on the island but one, and in this escaped made the actors immediately famous in that bloody time. The Massachusetts General Court gave Mrs. Duston \$25, and granted half that amount to each of her companions. The story of their daring deed was carried far to the southward, and Gov. Nicholson, of Maryland, sent a valuable present to the escaped prisoners.

A SCENE OF SLAUGHTER.

Frightful Ravages by a Slave-Raiding Tribe in Western Africa.

By a British victory recently gained at Bagbema, on the West African coast, one of the most cruel and blood-thirsty of the slave-raiding tribes of the Dark Continent has been practically destroyed. Extending over several months a band of Sofas, 600 strong, have committed fearful ravages in parts of Sierra Leone.

It was while the British were operating against them that the collision occurred between the former and the French on the coast at Waima. Then the British troops advanced upon Ka-Yima, one of the Sofa strongholds, but they found the post deserted. The scene, however, was horrible. Between the first and second camps was a row of headless bodies of men, whom the Sofas had taken prisoners, but whom they were obliged to kill, as they were owing to the British pursuit. At other camps numerous dead bodies strewed the ground. But it was at the fifth camp that the scene of carnage was most terrible. Near the gate was a pile of the bodies of women and children nine feet high and containing 100 corpses. Most of the bodies were headless. The spectacle inflamed the British troops and the pursuit of the Sofas was notly continued. Next day the Sofas were encountered at Bagbema and were practically exterminated.

FORCING THE ROYAL TRAIN TO STOP.

Sir Robert Burnett of Leys, who died last week, had lived in seclusion since his health broke down about three years ago, just when he was about to be married to the eldest daughter of Lord Sempill. Sir Robert, who passed many years of his life in America, had inherited the family estate (which extends to about 13,000 acres) in 1876, on the death of his father, Sir James Burnett, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire. He took a very prominent part in county business and was elected sheriff, and presented a public park to the town of Banochry, which adjoins his estate.

Sir Robert came into notice about ten years ago by his litigation with the Deeside Home, respecting the special "messenger" train which runs daily when the Queen is residing at Balmoral, and he succeeded in obtaining an order from the Court of Session that all such trains were to stop when required at Crathes Station, which is near his place. It has been the practice to run these specials between Aberdeen and Ballater without stopping, and Sir Robert Burnett's triumph was regarded in Deeside as a direct snub to the court.—London Truth.

INDEBTED TO JOSEPH.

Buffon rose always with the sun and he used often to tell by what means he had accustomed himself to get out of bed so early. "In my youth," said he, "I was fond of sleep, it robbed me of a great deal of my time, but my poor Joseph (his domestic) was of great service in enabling me to overcome it. I promised to give Joseph a crown every time that he could make me get up at 6.

"The next morning he did not fail to awake and torment me; but he received only abuse. The day after he did the same, with no better success, and I was obliged at noon to confess that I had lost my time. I told him that he did not know how to manage his business; that he ought to think of exercise, and not to mind my threats. The day following he employed force and I begged for indulgence. I bid him begone; I stormed; but Joseph persisted, and was therefore obliged to comply, and has rewarded every day for the abuse which he suffered at the moment when I awoke by thanks, accompanied with a crown, which he received about an hour after. Yes, I am indebted to poor Joseph for ten or a dozen of the volumes of my work."

STRANGE TALE OF A VIRGINIA SWAMP.

Three and a half miles west of Aldie, Loudoun County, Va., is the locally famous black swamp, and a strange story has been current thereabouts for the better part of this century. McVeigh lived long ago in an old stone house on the edge of the swamp, and there came to him once a stranger asking shelter. The stranger was taken in and he lived there for five years. He never went beyond the pond for exercise, and he took elaborate precautions at night to guard against surprise. When he died a stranger from a neighboring village came and claimed the body, professing to recognize the dead man as an acquaintance. The stranger who claimed the body was the dead man's son, and he afterward became Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The father, a wealthy and well educated Marylander, but a man of ungovernable temper, had slain a guest at his own table by breaking his skull with a decanter. The homicide's place of hiding was hardly more than fifty miles from the scene of his crime.

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Examinations. Candidates for teachers' certificates will be examined on the following branches in the order given: Friday, beginning at 8.30 A. M.—1. Orthography. 2. Mental Arithmetic, Geometry, Grammar, History and Orthography. On Saturday forenoon, Physiology, Pedagogy, Reading and Penmanship. For the first grade, in addition to the foregoing, Botany, Zoology and Philosophy are given. The required average for a second grade is 80 per cent, with a minimum of 70; for a first grade, average 90 per cent, with a minimum of 75. Persons not personally known to the Superintendent must furnish references as to moral character. According to the provisions of the law, an institute fee of \$1 will be collected from each applicant. The required age is 18 for males and 16 for females. The following are the dates for 1904: January 19 and 20; February 16 and 17; March 16 and 17; April 20 and 21; May 18 and 19; June 15 and 16; None in July; August 17 and 18; September 21 and 22; October 19 and 20; November 16 and 17; December 21 and 22. H. A. FOSTER, County Superintendent.

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