

PRESENTATION AT COURT.

What Happens to Any "Improper Person" - Her Sponsor's Punishment. A morning journal, much given to romancing, announces that "the precautions taken by the lord chamberlain to preclude the possibility of anyone appearing at a drawing-room whose past will not bear the closest scrutiny, are yearly becoming more rigorous. This is a farago of the purest fiction, says the London Truth. As a matter of fact, the lord chamberlain takes no "precautions" whatever, and it is difficult to conceive how this official could possibly investigate the antecedents of the hostesses of nonentities who now go to court, unless he were provided with a large staff of detectives. All the responsibility of a presentation is now thrown upon the (presumably) "unimpeachable female" who undertakes it. If an "improper person" is presented, the immediate result is the arrival of a shoal of anonymous letters at the lord chamberlain's office. The lady who has made the presentation is then communicated with, and if the ultimate result is unsatisfactory she is punished by being herself excluded from court for a year or two, or if it is a bad case she receives sentence of permanent banishment. Moreover, if a lady on the state ball concert invitation list has been indiscreet as to make an unjust presentation, her name is struck off forever. It is only in very aggravated cases that presentations are publicly canceled in the Gazette. The usual course is for the lord chamberlain to inform the offender that her presentation took place "by mistake," and that she is to consider it as canceled. Episodes of this description are of frequent occurrence, but they are kept as secret as possible, for obvious reasons.

"A POT OF THE BEST CHAW."

The Earliest Mention of Tea in the Year 1615. The earliest mention of tea by an Englishman is probably that contained in a letter from Mr. Wickham, an agent of the East India Company, written from Batavia, in Java, on the 7th of June 1615, to Mr. Eaton, another officer of the company, asking him to send "a pot of the best chaw," says Lippincott's. In Mr. Eaton's accounts of expenditure occurs this item: "Three silver porringers to drink chaw in."

It was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that the English began to use tea. The first importations were from Java and the price ranged from six to ten pounds sterling per pound. In the Mercury Politicus of September, 1658, appears the following advertisement: "That excellent and by all physicians approved China drink, called by the Chinese Tcha, by other nations tay, or tea, is sold at the Sultaness Head, a coffee-house in Sweetings Rents, by the Royal Exchange London."

Pepys enters in his diary on the 25th of September, 1660: "I did send for a cup of tea, a China drink, of which I had never drunk before." This is proof of the novelty of the drink in England at that date. In 1664 it is recorded that the East India company presented the king with two pounds and two ounces of "tea."

COLORADO FISH HAVE LEGS.

Singular Creatures That Inhabit the Streams of the Centennial State. Much consternation and still more wonder was created in the state house, the other day, says the Denver Republican, by the discovery in the office of Mrs. Mary A. Shute, secretary of the state board of horticulture, of an axolotl, or fish with legs, which had become metamorphosed into a salamander. All kinds of theories to account for its presence there were broached during the day. Of these theories the strangest appears to be the most tenable. This is that the axolotl was taken up by evaporation from a mountain lake near the City of Mexico, where its species is most abundant, to come to earth again in Denver with the afternoon's abnormally heavy rainfall. In the morning when Jauitor Smith opened the windows in order to air the office against the arrival of Mrs. Shute, he beheld an object on the sill outside which caused him to spring back in horror. Squatted on the sill was a hideous, dirty-hued green and yellow reptile, about ten inches in length, with a head like that of a bulldog, an enormous mouth, wide open, six web-footed paws and a tail that tapered to a lash and was cued at the end.

Cats Are Degenerating.

A feline entertained by many people regarding mice is that house cats will kill them. The belief is proved every day to be erroneous. A mousetrap is a more sure and less troublesome method of putting the pantry's infesters to death. House cats, as time goes by, are changing. Formerly they were active by day and vigilant by night. The tendency of improved civilization is to make them sleepy by day and rovers by night.

Strange Worship.

In London is a sect which keeps up the worship of the Greek divinities, keeping alive all the rituals with which the numerous Olympian hierarchy was of old wont to be invoked and propitiated. At the same time there is a small sect order in Paris which worships the devil, erecting shrines to the arch enemy and adoring him with his own fire. The balance sheets of both societies show that they are in a prosperous condition.

Jardin Des Plantes.

The Paris Jardin des Plantes owes its origin to a florist who, in the time of Henry IV., grew all sorts of native and imported plants, to sell flowers as models to the manufacturers of embroideries and laces.

LINCOLN'S DEED AND BOND.

Some Old Documents That Throw Light on Family History. Parsons & Taft, of Chicago, who handle farm mortgages, lately came into possession of a collection of papers that included a deed to Abraham Lincoln from his father and mother, and another deed, or a bond for a deed, from Abraham Lincoln to John D. Johnson. The land was the homestead of Thomas Lincoln, a tract of 40 acres in Coles county, Ill.

The transactions took place in 1841, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. In that year Lincoln's father, Thomas, an old man, lived on the Coles county farm, and came to his father's assistance and bought the old farm. He paid down \$200 in cash and gave the parents the use of the place. Abraham Lincoln, in the same year, made a contract to sell the farm to John D. Johnson for \$200 when the life estate of both Thomas and Sarah Lincoln should be extinguished.

Johnson did not long retain his equity in the property. Thomas Lincoln died shortly after. Mrs. Lincoln did not wish to leave the farm, and Johnson was not in a situation to take care of her, so he transferred his bond to John J. Hall, a relative of the Lincolns, who moved with his wife to the Lincoln homestead and took care of the old lady until her death. For some reason Hall seems to have called on Abraham Lincoln to execute the deed and cancel the bond. There must have been some tacit arrangement between them, for his right to the possession was never questioned. He had doubtless fulfilled his obligation to the mother of Lincoln.

QUEEN MARGUERITE'S POODLE.

King Humbert Used His Hair Dye on the Little Beast. King Humbert's gray hairs and the dye that was to cure them are the subject of an amusing little anecdote in the Berliner Tageblatt. The king, it seems, favors the iron-gray of age and sees nothing to object to in the years that lead to reverence and the silver hair. But Queen Marguerite was very zealous on the other side and wished to see what Paris and the coiffeur could do in the work of restoration. She therefore thought of an imperial hair dye, the only modern witchcraft that science allows. The king one day found on his dressing table the elixir, carefully packed, with directions for use, and guessed whence and why it came. Now, Queen Marguerite had a favorite poodle, white and fleecy, which was wont to pay her a morning visit every day, but one of his duties called shortly after the elixir arrived the faithful toutou arrived sleek and glossy as ever, but the snow-white fleece was changed for a garment of bluish black. As there was no reason why court and courtier should go into mourning, the queen was horrified at the change. "You poor creature," she cried, "how grotesque they have made you look." "And your husband?" was all the king said, and the queen asked no more questions. The poodle is said to have resented the parallel; the snow-white fleece never came round, and having once dyed he was obliged to dye till the end.

SAIL OF A FLYING MACHINE.

It Lasted for a Minute and a Half - Might Have Flown Instantly. On the 6th of May of last year I had journeyed, perhaps for the twentieth time, to the distant river station and recommenced the weary routine of another launch, with very moderate expectation indeed; and when on that, to me, memorable afternoon the signal was given and the aerodrome sprang into the air I watched it from the shore with hardly a hope that the long series of accidents had come to a close, says Prof. S. P. Langley in McClure's Magazine. And yet it had, and for the first time the aerodrome swept continuously through the air like a living thing, and as second after second passed on the face of the stop-watch, until a minute had gone by, and it still flew on, and as I heard the cheering of the few spectators I felt that something had been accomplished at last, for never in any part of the world, or in any period, had any machine of man's construction sustained itself in the air before for even half of this brief time. Still the aerodome went on in a rising curve, until, at the end of a minute and a half (for which time only it was provided with fuel and water) it had accomplished a little over half a mile, and with a head like that of a bulldog, an enormous mouth, wide open, six web-footed paws and a tail that tapered to a lash and was cued at the end.

INDIAN POLYGAMISTS.

Efforts to Be Made to Stop the Practice in the Indian Territory. The officials of Perry, O. T., together with those of the Indian territory, will, it is reported, make an earnest effort to stop polygamy among the Indians. Polygamy is practiced among nearly all of the tribes, and especially among the Cheyennes and Arapahoes. Maj. A. E. Woodson, agent for these tribes, says there are Indians among them who have from two to half a dozen wives. Maj. Woodson says the Indians refuse to give up their extra wives, and say they will not obey the territorial laws in this respect. The major says there are only about 45 cases of polygamy among his Indians. They are opposed to a change. They come to him saying that they have heard nothing about Washington about it, and are inclined to question the territorial law. They imagine everything must come from Washington. Most Indians who were living in villages six years ago are now on their allotments. The only unruly ones are 300 Cheyennes at Red Moon and Antone. They are practically as uncivilized as they were years ago, and refuse to take their allotments of land. They are hopeful that they will again be placed under civilian instead of military agents. Their refusal to adopt civilized ways is due mostly to the chiefs, who know that their power will be gone the moment the Indians are separated on their allotments.

Electric Light in the Arctic.

Electricity played an important part in the Arctic voyage of the Fram, Dr. Nansen's stanch vessel. The electric lights were daily used on board, according to the Elektroteknisk Tidsskrift of Christiania, until May, 1895, when wearing out of the gearing and the fact that portions of the apparatus were needed for making snowshoes made it necessary to dispense with the use of the dynamo, which was worked by a windmill. Though at times the accumulators froze solidly, yet the acid blended ice proved a fine electrolyte. Electricity, too, fired the mine shots which freed the Fram from the ice floes.

Teacher Without Pupils.

A peculiar state of affairs exists in one corner of Kit Carson county, Col. A school-teacher there has a fine schoolhouse, but not a single pupil, and as she is conscientious she is perplexed as to whether it is her duty to go on the principle and lesson the first creature that looks to be in need of instruction or wait in the hope of a voluntary appearance of something capable of being instructed.

Sharpening His Teeth.

A southern bishop arranged to spend three days during his annual visitation at the home of one of the faithful, whose wife was a famous housekeeper. A negro boy was brought over from the plantation to be the bishop's body servant during his stay. The morning after his arrival the bishop having failed to make his appearance Jake was sent to summon him to breakfast and found him shaving. In a few moments Jake returned, looking much alarmed. "Where is the bishop?" "He says he'll be here directly." "What was he doing?" "A-sharpenin' ob his teeth."

An Economical Emperor.

Emperor Francis Joseph is cutting down the expenses of his household and putting an end to perquisites enjoyed by court servants since the days of Maria Theresa. They had an allowance of wood, wine and coal, with two wax candles in summer and three in winter. These are put an end to. Their liveries will no longer be their own, and they will not be allowed to sell the cold victuals left from the daily meals and the state banquets.

GAVE HIMSELF UP TO DEATH.

Feelings of a Man Who Fell Into an Abandoned Shaft. P. D. Smith, an old book man, tells a most interesting story of how it feels to be buried alive, says the Los Angeles Record. For one hour he lay at the bottom of a deserted mine shaft and was only saved by a dog that whined and howled at a neighbor's house. Just after a recent storm Mr. Smith went prospecting in Deer canyon, a branch of the Big Tejuja, in the San Fernando range. He was removing some timber about the top of an old shaft, when the rotten wood gave way and carried him to the bottom of the shaft. A heavy load of timber and earth followed. Strange to say, he was uninjured and lay free from immediate danger in the dark, damp space left by the boards. Gloomy were the thoughts that filled his mind as he lay there and thoughts of his past life and the friends he would never see again, for the shaft was one which had been covered over and howled at a neighbor's house. Moreover, it was a mile and a half from the nearest house. Once or twice he shouted, but his voice sounded sepulchral as it echoed in muffled and reverberated in the overhanging walls and reverberated in his ears. For one hour he lay there in this cramped position, while gloomy thoughts passed in frightful procession through his mind. Fortunately, his little dog was with him. "Boss" is a particularly intelligent dog, and after the accident to his master went to the nearest house and acted so strangely that Mr. Walton, the owner, followed him to the shaft. There he found and rescued him.

FRUIT AS A MEDICINE.

Acids in Fruit Assist the Action of the Stomach. Why for ages have people eaten apple sauce with their noses and sucking pig? It is the mundrum asked by Popular Science Monthly, which then proceeds to elucidate as follows: Simply because the acids and pectones in the fruit assist in digesting the fat so abundant in this kind of food. For the same reason at the end of a heavy dinner we eat our cooked fruits and when we want their digestive action even more developed we take them after dinner in their natural uncooked state as dessert. In the past ages science has taught men to do this; to-day science tells them why they did it, and this same science tells us that fruit should be eaten as an aid to digestion of other foods much more than it is now. Cultivated fruits, such as apples, pears, cherries, strawberries, grapes, etc., contain on an analysis very similar proportions of the same ingredients, which are about one per cent. of malic acid, one per cent. of citric acid, and one per cent. of flesh-forming albuminoids, with over 80 per cent. of water.

Digestion depends upon the action of pepsin in the stomach. Fats are digested by these acids and the bile from the liver. Now, the acids and pectones in fruit peculiarly assist the acids of the stomach. Only lately even royalty has been taking lemon juice in tea instead of sugar, and lemon juice has been prescribed largely by physicians to help weak digestion, simply because these acids exist very abundantly in the lemon.

FOUNDER OF TOMBSTONE.

Remarkable Career of a St. Louis Boy Who Became a Miner. Edward Schefflein, who was found dead the other day in his miner's shack in Oregon, had an eventful life, says the St. Louis Republic. "I remember well," said William H. Boothe, an old-time mine promoter, to a reporter, "when he opened up the Contention mine at Tombstone and gave the place its queer name. I ought to remember it, for it was I who grubstaked Schefflein on that prospecting tour. He knocked me out of all but a few hundreds.

"The stories that have been told about Schefflein's daring in penetrating into the Apache country and particularly into the Cochise mountains, where he found the Contention lode, are not much exaggerated. It was a pretty ticklish thing to do down there. Old Cochise had been 'pacified,' it is true, but he had a lively son, Natchez, and a valiant nephew, Geronimo, and they were the active young leaders of about 'pizen' a set of Indians as ever swang a Winchester. "So when Ed Schefflein struck the Contention lode and called the place 'Tombstone,' we thought it a happy play on Ed's mind. "The Contention proved to be a great mine. It was enormously rich in silver, but it was discovered just about the time every condition arose to put down the price of that metal. However, it yielded an amount away into the millions. The Scheffleins sold half of the mine to Walter Dean, of San Francisco; Dick Gird, of Los Angeles; F. A. Tritte, then governor of the territory, and others in San Francisco for \$500,000. "Of course the Scheffleins lost most of their fortune. They couldn't help it. Ed was a restless fellow. He wasn't dissatisfied, nor did he gamble or have other expensive vices, but he was generous and a plunger on his luck. He wouldn't settle down and do business on business principles."

THIS DOG IS A SNAKE KILLER.

Animal at Rahway, N. J., Averages One Every Day. Rahway, N. J., has a snake killer by the name of Topsy, and she neither wears skirts nor stars for an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" combination. She is of the canine race, a cross between an Irish bulldog and a setter. She is three years old and belongs to John W. Brown, of Leesville avenue. The south branch of the Rahway river is infested with water ploets, ranging in length from one to five feet. They are afraid of man and swim to his approach. When cornered they will fight and bite severely, and they make a sore and painful wound. Topsy seems to have had a penchant for snakes since she started out, and seldom returns without a snake. She keeps her master busy disposing of the dead reptiles. She usually kills them by catching them by the neck from the rear. As a rule she gets them along shore when they are basking in the sun, but at times, when they take to the water, she jumps in and kills them while swimming.

SECRET OF INDIANS.

Recalled by a Lady Over a Century Old - Secret of the Precincts of the Little Village of Morgantown, O., that nestles so snugly among the rugged hills of Western Pike county, tradition for 75 years past has located a valuable and prolific lead mine. A pioneer of the village in the person of an old lady 102 years of age recalled, in the presence of a Cincinnati Enquirer correspondent the other day, that 70 years ago she, with her parents, often watched the moving lights of the Indians from their cabin door as the men moved busily about the brow of the hill intent upon the acquisition of some valuable find. She remembers also that an Indian once talked to her father and gave him to understand, vague as the secret, that somewhere on the side of the mountain was a treasure inexhaustible and wonderful. Just now interest has been revived in the tradition and the recollections of the old woman, and a company will be organized to prospect for the hidden mine of wealth. The country roundabout is fearfully rugged and precipitous, thousands of acres being covered with the primitive forest, where is yet to be found an occasional wildcat and deer.

Names of Cities.

Old Paris was formerly called by its Roman inhabitants Lutetia, meaning "Midtown." London derives its name from the old fortified hill of the Britons, standing where St. Paul's cathedral now is. Dublin means the "black pool," and Liverpool "the pool of the living creatures." Rome is said to mean "the cross roads," and Berlin is variously translated as meaning "the short lake," "the free and open place," "the river island" and "the marshy spot." Pernambuco means "the mouth of hell," Bombay "good boy," while Cairo is a corruption of "El Kahirah, the victorious." Ispahan is "the half of the world." Ashkahan "the city of the star," Bagdad "the garden of justice," and Copenhagen "the merchants' harbor."

Utility of Mosquitoes.

The utility of the mosquito has been fully demonstrated by entomologists. Born and reared in pestilential swamps, this insect does valuable work by consuming animal and vegetable matter which, if allowed to decompose, would still further poison the air.

Superior Mortals.

It is not a very great man who carries his honors as meekly as the mayor of Inverness who rebuked an admiring crowd in the words: "F'r'ens, I'm just a mortal man like yerself." Sir Wilfrid Lawson tells the following story: "A woman was once pursuing her fugitive cow down a lane, when she called out to some one in front: 'Man, turn my cow.' The man took no notice and allowed the cow to pass. When she came up she said: 'Man, why did you not turn my cow?' He replied: 'Womaa, I am not a man; I am a magistrate.'"

An Oyster's Instinct.

Oysters, after they have been brought away from the sea, know by instinct the exact hour when the tide is rising and approaching their beds, and so, of their own accord, open their shells to receive their food from the sea, as if they were still at home.

LOST FOR 1,000 YEARS.

A Great Find of the Highly Prized Thessalian Marble. The quarries from which the ancients obtained their highly prized Thessalian or verd marble have been discovered, and are again being worked by an English company, says the Philadelphia Record. The quarries, which have been lost for more than 1,000 years, are in the neighborhood of Larissa, in Thessaly, Greece. The ancient workings are very extensive, there being no fewer than ten quarries, each producing a somewhat different description of marble, proving without a doubt that every variety of this marble found in the ruined palaces and churches of Rome and Constantinople and likewise in all the mosques and museums of the world came originally from these quarries. In fact, the very quarry from which the famous monoliths of St. Sophia, Constantinople, were obtained can be identified with absolute certainty by the matrices from which they were extracted.

In modern times verd antique marble has only been obtainable by the destruction of some ancient work, and it has, naturally, commanded extraordinarily high prices. As a consequence, a number of ordinary modern greens of Greek, French, Italian and American origin have been described and sold as verd antique marble. No one, however, who is really acquainted with the distinctive character of the genuine material could be deceived by these inferior marbles. Thessalian green is easily distinguished from any other green marble by the following characteristics: It is a "breccia" of angular fragments of light and dark green, with pure statuary white, the whole being cemented together with a brighter green, while the snow-white patches usually have their edges tinted off with a delicate fibrous green, radiating to the center of the white. The cementing material is also of the same fibrous character.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE PENANCE.

Subjects Who Will Send Her Majesty Their Photographs. Some weeks ago we protented strongly against the proposal that cards of congratulation should be showered upon the queen from subjects personally unknown to her majesty during the approaching jubilee, says the London Times. We pointed out that the fatigues of this period for all members of the court will be quite trying enough without any addition to them in the shape of thousands, possibly millions, of extra letters being delivered at the royal residences and requiring attention. Since then it has been announced that all communications intended for her majesty in connection with the diamond jubilee must be forwarded through the secretary of state, but in spite of this a firm of photographers, showing more enterprise than good sense, revived the unfortunate suggestion mentioned above. They have sent a specimen of a card they are issuing, bearing the words: "With heartfelt wishes for your most gracious majesty's royal jubilee," and with a space for the sender's photograph, which, of course, is to be taken by the firm. Perhaps the surest means of dissuading any who might be inclined to make use of so unseasonable a form of felicitating her majesty on an event of which she knows all her subjects are proud is to point out that their cards are not at all likely to get any nearer the queen than the home office in Whitehall.

SUBDUED THE HORSE.

Gen. Grant as a Coder Displayed Qualities Conspicuous in Later Days. The following story was told by Col. Green, a classmate of Gen. U. S. Grant at West Point, says the American Horse Breeder: "One day when the members of Grant's class were called out for drill on horseback there were not horses enough by one to go round. Grant was one of the shortest men in his class, consequently was on the extreme left of the company, and he was the one for whom there was no horse. The officer ordered a horse brought, which was done. The animal was so unmanageable that he had been discarded. The officer in charge did not notice the horse until just as young Grant vaulted into the saddle, when, horror-stricken, he ordered him to dismount. The horse did his part to assist the rider to obey the order, but Grant drove his spurs into the sides of the infuriated, plunging, kicking, bolting brute, and guided him into an open field, where he gave such an exhibition of amateur horsemanship as no member of that class had ever before witnessed. Before the contest was ended the horse was thoroughly subdued and from that time became a useful, obedient animal, but it was always ridden by Grant."

CURIOUS NESTING PLACE.

A Letter Box That Was in Constant Use by Birds. In the year 1888 a pair of great tits built in a wooden letter box, which stood in the yard in the village of Rowfant, Sussex, into which letters, etc., were posted, and which was cleared daily, says the Pall Mall Magazine. Unfortunately, one of the birds was killed by a boy and the nest was not finished. In 1889 a pair completed it and laid seven eggs, and were sitting; but one day an unusual number of post-cards was dropped in, nearly filling the box and causing the birds to desert it, when the nest and the eggs were removed. In 188 a pair built a new nest, the hen laid seven eggs, and succeeded in rearing five young, although the letters continued to be posted daily, and when taken out were often found lying on the back of the sitting bird, which never left the nest. The birds went in and out by the slit for the letters. Connected with the robin there is a sacred tradition accounting for the color of the bird's breast, to which I need not further allude, except to hazard the guess that the little songster is piously disposed, so that one is scarcely surprised to hear that on several occasions he, or she rather, has built in a church and once affixed a nest to the Bible as it lay on the reading desk. It is gratifying to learn that the vicar would not allow her to be disturbed and provided himself with another copy of the sacred volume from which to read the lessons.

Mississippi's Capitol.

The state of Mississippi is at length to have a new capitol. It is to be built upon the site of the present dilapidated structure, which has for years been unworthy of the state. The sum appropriated for its erection is \$750,000, and a Jackson newspaper correspondent expresses the hope that the best men, men who have been fire-branded and fire-tested, men whose integrity is as pure as the first opening lily, when it spreads its clear leaves to the sweetest dawn of May, will be selected to expend it.

Old English Manners.

An old English "Manners Book" says: "A lady should dip only the tips of her fingers in the sauce bowl, and should not let food fall out of her mouth on the tablecloth."

AFECTIOMS DESTYOMAG, SANG PAUVRE ANEMIE, MANQUE DE FORCES FIEVRES ET SUTES DE FIEVRES. QUINA-JAROCHE. PARIS. SIX MEDAILLES D'OR. RECOMPENSE 1860. NEW-YORK. Fougere & Co.

PURGATIFS et DÉPURATIFS ENGAGEMENTS D'INTESTINS. PARIS. SIX MEDAILLES D'OR.

THERMOMÈTRES MÉDICAUX EXTRA-SENSIBLES DE LÉON BLOCH. Adoptés par MM. les D^s POTAIN, FAYSTEUR, PÉAN, FÉTER. PARIS. 5, PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. DÉPÔT À LA NOUVELLE-ORLÈANS: J.-L. LYON & C^o.

ASTHME & CATARRHES CIGARETTES SPIC. OPPRESSIONS - TOUX - RHUMES - NEURALGIES. PARIS. 5, PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. DÉPÔT À LA NOUVELLE-ORLÈANS: J.-L. LYON & C^o.