

CAKE WALK AT BILTMORE.

Millionaires Amuse the House Party with Negro Melodies and a Breakdown.

The Sunday school of All Souls church, Biltmore, had its Christmas celebration the other evening.

Mrs. Vanderbilt was deeply interested in the idea of arranging a surprise for Mr. Vanderbilt for Christmas eve.

Consequently, on Saturday night a company of colored people appeared at Biltmore house and delighted Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt and their guests by giving an exhibition consisting of a regular oldtime cake walk, figure dancing, quartet singing, and a lively old Virginia breakdown.

WAR NOT A FACTOR.

New York Physician Seeks at the Reason Given for an Increase in Number of Males.

Speaking of the strange increase in the number of males and the decrease of females born in New York city during the last two months, Dr. George F. Shryad said:

"It is no nonsense to attribute the changed proportions of sexes to the war just ended. Nothing within human control, war, famine or pestilence, can determine the question of sex.

JAPANESE DENIED GRAVES.

Say They Are Refused Interment in Christian Cemeteries at San Francisco.

The Japanese of San Francisco find themselves in the peculiar position of having no place to bury their dead. Their plot in the old city cemetery has been closed by order of the board of supervisors, and no provision has been made for them in the new cemetery.

CHEMISTS SEE LIQUID AIR.

Interesting Experiments at Temperature 200 Degrees Below Zero.

Various wonders of the air when it is liquefied were shown to the visiting members of the American Chemical society the other day at the College of the City of New York by Charles E. Tripler.

SIAMESE WOMEN WEAR FOMPHADORN.

The wives of Siamese noblemen cut their hair so that it sticks straight up from their heads. The average length of it is about 1 1/2 inches.

TO DRAIN RICH MINES

Great Fleet of Pumping Will Be Done at Comstock Lode.

Tom Million Gallons of Water to Be Raised Daily—Owners Expect to Find Immensely Rich Ore.

Many people on the Pacific coast are awaiting with interest the result of the pumping out of the water from the deepest levels of the great Comstock lode at Virginia City, Nev.

The deepest levels on the Comstock are down 3,200 feet, about 800 feet below the famous Sutro tunnel, which was constructed to drain the mines on the Comstock lode at a time when it was not dreamed that the levels could ever be operated more than 2,500 feet below the surface of the earth.

The entertainment was kept up until Christmas morning.

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TALKS THROUGH NEWSPAPERS

Society Uses Advertising Columns to Make Announcements of Social Events.

The custom of using the advertising columns of the daily papers for the purpose of making announcements relative to the affairs of society is becoming more general and is being adopted by persons who once regarded this means of conveying personal information to their friends as rather too public.

An interesting example of this growing custom is furnished by the announcement made by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hoffman, of New York, among the marriage notices that they regretted the illness of Dr. William K. Draper obliged them to recall the invitations for the wedding of their daughter, Helen Fidella, at the Church of the Heavenly Rest, and that the wedding would take place in private at the residence of Dr. William K. Draper.

What would have been one of the brilliant weddings of the season was therefore a private ceremony. Soon after the invitations were issued Dr. William Kinnicut Draper, the bridegroom, succumbed to the grip, which developed into pneumonia. His condition improved, but it was evident that he would not be able to venture out to the church on the wedding day.

DEWEY BROOKS NO INSULT.

Has a Native Captain Thrown Overboard for Impertinent Conduct.

Frank Lombard, a San Francisco man who has just returned from Manila, tells a good story concerning Admiral Dewey. He says:

"In Cavite there are no dockage facilities. Vessels lie at anchor and native freight boats called caecoes carry things to and from the shore. One of the native officials contracted with Dewey to carry stuff to the flagship.

"The freight captain protested that the admiral was wrong and that he had agreed to the terms. Dewey politely replied that he would pay the original bill, nothing more. Mistaking the quiet, gentlemanly manner of the admiral as an admission that the admiral might be wrong, the freighter began insulting in his manner and insisted on payment. With a slight movement of the hand the admiral remarked to the watch: "Drop that man overboard!"

LIQUEFIED AIR MOTOR.

Prof. Tripler, of Brooklyn, Declares That He Has Solved Problem of Harnessing This Power.

Prof. Charles E. Tripler, of Brooklyn, who has been experimenting for some time with liquefied air with remarkable results, believes he now has perfected a means of handling it to make it of practical use. He says:

"I am happy to announce that, after years of experiment, my process for manufacturing liquid air, cheaply and in large quantities, is not only successful, but I have solved the problem of harnessing this great power to machinery. My engine for this purpose works, and it requires only the perfection of a few mechanical details to realize its enormous utility as a motor for all kinds of machinery—for railroad trains, steamships, factories, in short, wherever great force is required, from propelling navies to firing their guns and blowing up cities and forts.

CABLE SHIP NEEDED.

War Department Preparing to Lay Cables to Connect the Islands of the Philippines.

Col. Kimball, of the quartermasters' department, in the Army building at New York city, has received orders from the war department to secure at once an iron ship of from 1,000 to 1,200 tons for use as a cable ship to lay cables to connect the islands of the Philippines. The department has already ordered for this purpose 106 miles of marine cable, weighing 625 tons. The cable will take about 6,000 cubic feet for coiling. The cable is to be coiled in skeleton tanks in different holds on the vessel. The cable ship must accommodate on the forward deck the "giving out" machinery, which will weigh from 15 to 20 tons, and the accessories, weighing from five to ten tons. In the after hold will be fitted out the quarters for the crew of 20 men. This space will be used for coal on the way out. The ship will be kept on station as a cable ship, or, if necessary, be used as a transport. She is to be secured at once.

PROFUSE INVITATIONS IN CHINA.

When a Chinaman gives a grand party he sends three invitations to each guest—one two days before the event, another on the day itself, and the third just before the hour has struck, to signify how impatient he is for his visitor's arrival.

Bulletin Financier.

Mercurel, 15 février 1899.

COMPTOIR FRANÇAIS (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Marché de la Nouvelle-Orléans.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mercurel, 15 février 1899.

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AV BOARD OF TRADE.

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