

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

In 1899 the tobacco monopoly yielded France an income of 329,000,000 francs.

About one-fourth of all the agriculturists in Wurtemberg, Germany, are cultivators of vineyards.

About ten persons are every year robbed and murdered in Russian railroads, and the murderers are seldom caught.

It is estimated that the population of Berlin will complete the 2,000,000 figure by the end of 1902. The present population is about 1,843,000.

Rabbit heads with small horns are exhibited in some Swiss taverns for the mystification of tourists.

The British postmaster general has issued an order to post office clerks that "Eag" shall be used in future in addressing all male correspondents unless they are evidently laborers, personal servants or tradesmen.

At London and Bremen the longest day has 16 hours; at Stockholm and Dantzig the longest day has 17 hours; at Tobolsk and St. Petersburg the longest day has 19 hours and the shortest five hours; at Termez (Finland) the longest day is 2 1/2 hours and the shortest 2 1/2 hours; at Ward-says (Norway) the day lasts from May 21 to July 25 without interruption.

SCENT ITS WORST QUALITY.

Were it Not for the Element Small the Ocean Would Be High-ly Polluted.

It is interesting to make inquiry into the cause of this unfortunate quality of the ocean. It is simply due to the presence in some quantity of another mineral matter in the sulphur.

Now, sulphur, when united to hydrogen, one of the gases of water, forms sulphuretted hydrogen and this becomes a foul-smelling, well-known field, compound.

This brings us to a most curious fact in nature, that most strangely, yet most certainly constructs all vegetable volatile oils in exactly the same way—composes them all, whether they are aromatic essences of cloves, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, thyme, rose, verbena, turpentine or onion, of exactly the same proportions.

COME BY DEVIOUS ROUTE.

New Telegrams from China Reach the United States Government.

Let us follow a dispatch from Tientsin, says the Washington Star. Suppose it should read: "Long, Washington: It is imperative that a brigade of troops and a powerful fleet of war vessels be sent at once. Our forces repulsed with heavy loss. Act quickly."

The dispatch has consequently been transcribed no less than 15 times at the various relay stations. If he sent overland from Marseilles, France, one or two of the relay stations I have named would be cut out.

FAILED AS A MATCHMAKER.

The King of Denmark Tried His Hand at It, But Met with Mis-terious.

The king of Denmark takes an active interest in the welfare of even the humblest of his subjects. The man who is now the "home farmer" to his majesty had been known by him from his early boyhood and was the son of one of the king's wealthiest farmers.

MAN NEVER WITHOUT BEER.

Nineteen Centuries Before Christ the Process of Making Beer Was Taught.

When the Romans first invaded Germany they found that the beverage of the people was a beer produced from barley. But that was at a time comparatively modern. From the earliest times and in every clime, says an authority, man has had resort to some stimulating and exhilarating beverages prepared by fermenting the juices or extracts from fruits, grain or plants.

Every kind of glass at a sufficiently high temperature must eventually show complete solubility in water. Under the pressure glass dissolves in water heated to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

At a recent school examination for girls this composition was handed in by a girl of 13, says a Missouri paper: "The boy is not an animal, yet he can be heard quite a distance. When a boy hollers he opens his big mouth like frogs, but girls hold their tongue until they are spoken to, and then they answer respectfully and tell just how it was."

At the opera in Dublin a gentleman sarcastically asked a man standing in front of him if he was aware he was opaque. The other said he was nothing of the kind; he was O'Brien.

A curious criminal law exists in Greece. A man who is there sentenced to death awaits two years before the execution of the sentence.

FREAK OF DAN CUPID.

Girl Who Can't Speak German Weds a Man Who Knows No English.

There are descendants of Germans in Berks county, Pa., who do not understand a word of English, although they have lived in this country all their lives. One of these is Jacob Weinsheimer, who owns what he calls the Castle of Lobenstein, on the eastern slope of Mount Penn, says an eastern exchange.

HEALTHY BECAUSE CLEAN.

Mountain Air is of the Same Chemical Composition as Low Air, But is Purer.

The only reason why mountain air is healthier than low air is that mountain air is cleaner than low air. The chemical composition of the atmosphere differs but little, if at all, wherever the sample is taken.

In the air of Chicago and other crowded places, says the Chronicle, not only does the microbe impurity increase, but other impurities, such as the products of combustion of coal, become also. Several investigators have found traces of hydrogen and certain hydrocarbons in the air, and especially in the air of pine, oak and birch forests.

NEW STYLE OF LINE MAPS.

Some for Railroads Are Molded of Various Kinds of Clay and Baked Like Brick.

It is learned that the Northwestern Railway company, of England, is introducing in several of the stations of the line maps of the tile for accommodation of patrons of the road. The maps measure about six feet square and are made of tiles six inches square.

The mails in central Africa are still conveyed for the most part upon the heads and backs of native postmen. The men are recruited chiefly from the Yao and Atonga tribes, and wear a uniform. Fully 300 bags of mail are made up each month at the different post offices in the protectorate for conveyance by those men.

According to ancient Chinese writers, the chronology of that country goes back 2,267,000 years.

WEAPONS COST A FORTUNE.

A Great Deal of the Expense of Modern War is Due to Expensive Guns.

It is said that in the bombardment of Alexandria, between 7 a. m. and 4:30 p. m., the British fleet in a somewhat vigorous fashion deposited 3,165 shells upon Egyptian soil and about 500 Egyptians were killed.

In the Crimean war the total number of combatants was 1,400,500, and they fired 89,000,000 shots, with the result that 51,945 soldiers were killed in battle and 66,397 died from their wounds; therefore, to all intents and purposes, 118,342 bullets found a billet and 89,981,658 were wasted.

In 1898 the royal laboratory made, among many other things, 88,979,006 of these cartridges, which, if placed end to end, would extend from Woolwich half way to the Cape, in addition to 1,049,712 other cordite cartridges intended for the Webley pistol and costing nearly \$12 a thousand to manufacture.

Cordite, by the way, which comes in handy as an explosive in so many ways, costs from 33 cents a pound—not much, perhaps, by the pound, but the price mounts up when 845,560 pounds are manufactured in the year, as at Waltham abbey.

One quality, of which little is manufactured at Waltham, costs nearly \$2 a hundred pounds, while picric is quoted at about \$95 a hundred pounds; but powder at 15 cents a pound is generally used. Gun cotton in two and one-half pound slabs, measuring 14 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 1 1/2, costs 30 cents a pound, and when by its aid "long toms" are disabled it is cheap at the price.

With regard to other weapons, 309-inch Maxims are quoted at about \$425, without extras, by the royal small arms factory at Enfield, while a handy Gardner-Gauling chamber gun runs to about \$322 when taking a quantity. The 6.712 Lee-Enfield rifles turned out at the same factory cost \$13.60 each; 68,853 sword bayonets, \$1.70 each; Lances cost \$5 each, without their flags, which run to 17 cents each, and cavalry swords entailed an expenditure of over \$4.

The Nation's Mustard. Lompoc, in Santa Barbara county, Cal., grows mustard for the whole nation. In that region 2,000 acres are cultivated to the seed, the industry employing about 200 farmers.

Armen's Postmen. The mails in central Africa are still conveyed for the most part upon the heads and backs of native postmen. The men are recruited chiefly from the Yao and Atonga tribes, and wear a uniform.

Chinese Chronology. According to ancient Chinese writers, the chronology of that country goes back 2,267,000 years.

PLUCKY KIMPU.

How the Talented New Woman is Coming to the Front in Japan.

In the schools of Japan drawing and painting are included in the curriculum for all the scholars, whether boys or girls. Every Japanese learns to use the brush as he learns to read and all have a natural deftness in that direction.

Under these circumstances it is the more remarkable to find a woman artist in the Japanese capital who is not only making of her talent for painting a lucrative profession, but who has a number of pupils of the opposite sex. This little woman is named Kimpu, and she has had a hard struggle for many years she lived with her husband in the country near Kioto, where art was judged according to the standards of certain old schools which flourished in that vicinity.

Her talent was at last unexpectedly remembered by a wood engraver for whom she had done work some years before. He found himself in a position of responsibility in Tokio, where the work of a number of progressive artists was necessary, and he sent for her.

Like the old masters of the Renaissance, every notable Japanese artist has a following in the shape of pupils, and Kimpu, though a woman, has achieved the supreme triumph of her art in this man's land, for it has overcome custom and prejudice to such an extent that a number of men are among her pupils, receiving instruction from her and making duplicates or finishing her work.

WOMEN WITS OF NOTE.

Members of the Feminist Class of London and New York Compared in This Regard.

London differs from New York in the possession of a group of women who have made a reputation for themselves as conversationalists and independent of what their other chances may be are famed in this respect, says the Chicago Chronicle. Their presence at a dinner is said to be largely sought by hostesses more interested in the success of their entertainments than in the impression they may make personally.

It is improbable that a woman in New York society would ever become famous because she told anecdotes at dinner, and invitations in her case would probably grow less frequent instead of more numerous, as they have in the case of Lady Dorothy Neville. But London standards are entirely different, as the reputation of Miss Helen Henniker, sister of Lord Henniker, considered one of the most brilliant women talkers, will show.

Some robes are made of wood, wardrobe, for example.—Chicago Daily News.

THEIR FRIENDSHIP IS OVER.

Strangement of Two Stenographers Who Wanted Their Vacation at the Same Time.

Both of these young women stenographers, employed in the same division in one of the departments, wanted to go on their 30-day vacation on the same date, July 15, to-wit: Both of them put in their application on July 10. Neither knew that the other had put in application for leave beginning July 15. They have been very great office pals, indeed, and have tripped up and down the corridors with their arms affectionately wrapped about each other's waists and talked solemnly over their lunches about what a dis-rupted and common-looking bunch the men in the division were, etc., relates the Washington Post.

When the chief of the division received their application for simultaneous leave of absence he summoned them both, and thus addressed them: "It will be necessary for you young ladies to arrange with each other which is to go on leave on the 15th. It will be quite out of the question, of course, for you both to go at once, as that would leave the division without a stenographer and typewriter, and the division is much too busy just now to permit of that."

"My physician impressed upon me only this morning my absolute need for a rest at once," said the other, returning the haughty gaze, "and said that he would not be answerable for the consequences if I delayed my departure longer than July 15."

"The chief twisted around in his chair and looked as if several weeks of complete solitude would hit him about right," said he, finally, "you will have to settle it among yourselves. Why not draw lots? That's the way some of the men do who want to get away on their annual leaves on the same date."

The young women stenographers tossed their heads and withdrew. Ten minutes later one of them called upon the chief and talked over with him. He told her that they were to arrange it between themselves. The young woman dabbed at the corner of her eyes with a wad of handkerchief, but it was no go. The chief said it was up to the pair of them to fix it. Three minutes after she withdrew the other young woman called upon the chief. Same result. She also wiped away little dewy formations from the corners of her eyes, but she didn't get away with it either. The chief told her that she would have to arrange terms with the other young woman.

And that's the status quo at the present day and date of writing. They haven't fixed it up themselves. Neither of them has gone on leave. They don't speak to each other. They glare ferociously at each other when they come face to face, in fact. They don't tread the cool corridors with their arms around each other's waists any more. They eat their lunches in opposite corners of the office. Each of them brings a nice little bunch of flowers and deposits it on the chief's desk every morning before he arrives, but the chief is an old-timer and consequently "wise" to little plays of that sort. Meanwhile the mercury is rising in the bulb and the nice summer togs that the two young women had prepared for their vacations are still unworn, and soon the autumn winds will begin to sigh drearily and the russet leaves will be playing tag in the gutters.

Peach Marmalade. Bruised or inferior peaches, and those too soft for preserving or canning, are best made into marmalade. Free them from down but do not pare them, halve them, and remove the stones. Weigh and allow half a pound of fruit. Add the kernels of half the stones to a pint of water, and let simmer for half an hour; strain this water, add the peaches to it, and boil until soft. Mash them to a pulp in the kettle, add the sugar, stirring it until dissolved, then let boil for half an hour, stirring it constantly to keep from burning. Put in small jars or tumblers, and when cold, seal—Ladies' World.

Pineapple Chips. Pineapple chips are not only a toothsome dainty, but as helpful a finish for a rich dinner as candied ginger root. Pare and cut the fruit into very thin slices, allow one pound of powdered sugar for every pound of fruit. Stir a layer of sugar over earthenware plates, then a layer of sliced and more sugar and stand the plates in the hot sun or in drying closet. Turn the fruit morning and evening until dry; then put it in a hot oven ten minutes and when cold pack it in tin boxes with paraffin paper between each two layers.—Chicago Evening News.

Gold Catsup. One dozen large tomatoes, chopped fine. Sprinkle over them one-third of a teaspoonful of salt; drain off; add half a dozen sweet peppers, three heads of celery, chopped fine, a cupful of sugar, a pint of vinegar, a tablespoonful each of cinnamon, allspice, a teaspoonful of cloves. Mix well, put in glass jars and seal tight.—House-keeper.