

AN OPEN UMBRELLA.

The Sign That Was a Prelude to a Wedding.

Westerner Goes to New York for a Wife and Arranges a Unique Signal with the Prospective Bride.

The very latest means of identification, according to Kansas methods, is an open umbrella in a railroad station. An open umbrella brought to New York city, and to Kansas must be given the credit for the innovation, for William Berton, of Medicine Lodge, Kan., was the man who produced it.

The Grand Central depot was crowded the other afternoon with persons going out of town, and few of them failed to notice a tall, spare man of about 45 years, with chin whiskers and store clothes. His boots were highly polished, and the creases of his trousers had been carefully ironed out.

His appearance was sufficient to attract attention under any circumstances, but the fact that he carried an open umbrella as he stalked about the station made everyone regard him with curiosity.

Finally Mr. Johnson, colored porter, approached him and remarked in excellent English (for Mr. Johnson is a Pullman graduate):

"What have you got your umbrella raised for, anyway? It ain't raining, and the sun can't shine through the depot roof."

He glared at the offender, who dropped his head, then answered:

"I'm waitin' for my bride." "Waiting for your bride?" said Johnson, aghast. "Well, if you ain't got anything but an umbrella to meet her with you're in a fix. You want her to see you, do you?"

"That's exactly it. I want her to see me. Come over here," said the man, in a confiding manner, "and I'll tell you about it."

"My name is William Berton, and I'm a Kansas farmer of Medicine Lodge, you see. I'm waiting for the woman I'm to marry. I never saw her, and this umbrella is to mark how she will know me. She don't know me and I don't know her. We have not even exchanged pictures. But when she gets off the train she will look for the man with an open umbrella. When she sees that she sees her future husband. If she don't see this umbrella I'll lose the woman I love."

A few minutes later a little woman, who had evidently been in the ladies' waiting-room, rushed out and went to the information bureau and asked: "Have you seen a man with an umbrella?" "Here I am!" shouted Berton, and with a bound he reached her side. Both were happy and walked away, while the porter smiled.

DINGHAM'S CURIOUS WILL.

Request to Church in Illinois Forbids Music or Festivals in the Edifice.

The will of James Dingham, who died recently at his home near Illinois, in Sangamon county, Ill., was opened the other day and proved to be a most eccentric document. He bequeaths to the Christian church of Illinois the land upon which the Long Branch church, east of Illinois, is erected, but places an exceptionally queer proviso in the document. According to the proviso, the gift is upon condition that no organ, piano or musical instrument shall ever be taken inside the edifice, and that no church festival or church fair shall ever be held upon the premises. In the event that this part of the will is violated the property reverts to Dingham's heirs.

It is not known whether the congregation of the church will accept the gift under the conditions. This provision of the will has created considerable gossip among the residents of the town.

DEER STOP COLORADO TRAINS.

Extra Large Drive Blocks a Road for Nearly Two Hours in One Instance.

Great droves of deer are crossing the tracks between Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs, Col., and at times seriously interfere with the passing trains. There are from 10,000 to 20,000 animals in one large drove, and when this was passing the road was blocked for nearly two hours. As winter approaches they collect in immense herds and start for winter pastures and salt licks several hundred miles to the south.

President. There is a Chinese proverb which says: "A bird can roost but on one branch." There is nothing, however, says the Chicago Times-Herald, to keep a Chinaman from lying in seven different ways at once.

An Eccentric Cure. It is worth mentioning, perhaps, thinks the Chicago Tribune, that the horse that was bathed in gasoline by its sagacious owner for the purpose of keeping flies away is not troubled by flies any more.

Cycling Freak. A cycling freak is to trim a piece of brown paper to fit the lens of the lamp, and in it cut eyes, nose and mouth. The effect is startling.

Peat in Canada. More than 100,000 acres of peat are said to be available in the Canadian province of Ontario.

DEMAND FOR TOMATOES.

Grows Rapidly and Now the Vegetable is a Common Dish of the English Workingman.

"English statistics show that of late there has been a large and rapidly-growing importation of tomatoes," writes Consul Hanauer, at Frankfurt, Germany, "the Canary islands furnishing the supply, which importation amounted to 16,269 tons during the first half of this year. The wholesale price of this quantity was about \$1,555,000."

Tomatoes were but a short time ago an article of luxury in Great Britain, only used for the pampered palate of the rich; but now they have become a common dish on the table of the working classes. In Germany fresh tomatoes are sold at six to fourteen cents a pound according to season; they are chiefly used to flavor meats, not stewed. Only the best hotels and the wealthy buy fresh tomatoes, which are supplied mainly by southern France. Canned tomato pulp is found at the groceries of large German cities, offered at a lower price comparatively than the fresh fruit.

"Cantaloupes are a great delicacy—even more so than the pineapple—in German cities. They sell at 50 cents to \$1.50 apiece. Some of these are brought from Spain, others are raised in German hothouses. Considering that tomatoes have been sold as low as five dollars a ton in Delaware and New Jersey and that fine cantaloupes can be bought in Philadelphia at one to three cents apiece, the question arises, why don't we export fresh vegetables to Europe?"

GIRL SAVES FIVE LIVES.

By Heroic Efforts She Stops Runaway Team of Horses at Risk of Death.

Five persons were saved from injury or death the other night by Miss Ada Mayo Railey, daughter of Col. Charles Railey, a horseman of Lexington, Ky.

A. H. Calet, of New York, secretary and treasurer of the Missouri Pacific railroad, with Mrs. Calet and their guests, Miss Alice Neale and Mrs. Winston Barrett, of Chicago, and Miss Railey, had driven in an open bus from Calet's cottage at Seabright at Pleasure Bay, L. I., and were returning. After they had gone some distance they discovered that the coachman was off the box, and that the horses were running away. Calet jumped in an effort to gain the horses' heads, but was thrown to the ground, and the team dashed on, every moment gaining speed.

Miss Railey, who is a horsewoman of remarkable skill, climbed through a window scarcely large enough to admit her slender body sidewise, to the box, and raising a footing on the whiffletree, managed to get hold of one line and threw one of the horses, bringing the vehicle to a sudden stop on the edge of a ditch near the approach to the bridge across the bay. The frightened occupants climbed out, and with the assistance of passersby, untangled the animals from the broken harness. No one was injured, except Calet, who was severely bruised by his fall.

MARRIED CHIEF'S DAUGHTER.

Shipwrecked Sailor Returns and Tells How He Found a Bride on Magasca Island.

A Robinson Crusoe story is told by a young German sailor, August Schmager, who has just reached San Francisco on the French bark Anjou. Schmager is known as "the Prince of Magasca," as he married the dusky daughter of a chief who is now principal owner of Magasca island in the Caroline group.

Schmager left San Francisco on a whaling in 1898. The vessel was wrecked off one of the Caroline islands, but all hands were saved, and the captain and his crew went home in the schooner Ruth. The young German remained on the island. Soon afterwards he reached another island in the group, and was adopted by the king of the natives. He married a pretty savage maiden, whose father was a chief. Life grew monotonous to Schmager, and the sailor's instinct to roam overcame him. He shipped for San Francisco on a whaling bark, but was left on the beach at Hakodate, and came the rest of the way on the Anjou after suffering many hardships.

FARMER DIGS UP AEROLITE.

And Now Has It on Exhibition in His Yard Near Bowling Green, O.

Isaac Ward, a farmer living several miles northeast of Bowling Green, O., has in his possession a large boulder which fell a few days ago in one of his fields. It was found by some of his men cutting corn in a back field, and was dug up and drawn to Mr. Ward's yard with a team of horses. It is about 2 1/2 feet long and two feet through and is much heavier than stone.

American Goods in Brazil. American porcelain and glassware are finding ready market in Brazil.

Bells of Peking. The bells of Peking, seven in number, weigh 120,000 pounds.

MANY BOGUS COINS.

Counterfeit Money Is Plentiful All Over the Country.

Some of the Processes by Which the Government Is Cheated Out of Gold-Clearing Work of the Operators.

An exceedingly well executed \$20 gold piece, which would have easily passed current in the channels of business, has recently been turned into the treasury, says a Washington official.

"The counterfeit in question," said Director of the Mint Roberts, "is one of the class we denominate 'dangerous,' because of its weight and extra fine finish. The public in their haste in the exchange of money should find time to scrutinize with care each coin as it is handled. Our presses at the mints are extremely heavy, weighing 13,000 pounds. Naturally a piece of gold or silver struck from their dies is as perfect as it is possible to make a coin. Yet counterfeiters, with their light presses and dies, manage to do some very clever work."

"The standard of gold made by our mints is .900 fine, or 21.19 carats. The English standard is .916 fine. The \$20 counterfeit in question is probably a composition of gold, copper and silver, the gold being of a low grade. Platinum is the metal which gives the required weight, and is extensively used in gold counterfeiting. Antimony and lead are the component parts of the most dangerous counterfeit of silver coins, the antimony furnishing the bulk of the coin.

"Counterfeits are made of genuine silver, of standard weight; in fact, some have more silver in them than the genuine coin, which is 412 3/4 grains. We confiscate these coins when we receive them. The counterfeiters rely upon the increased value of the white metal when it is changed from bullion into coins for the profit, and it is considerable.

"Gold coins of counterfeit make may be executed with such exquisite precision that they will pass muster under the eyes of bank tellers and others used to the handling of coins, though the average teller generally suspects a spurious coin at sight. But none get by our treasury experts. Coins are now and then turned into the treasury upon the supposition that they are counterfeits, because they fail to give that peculiar clearing of a genuine gold piece, though they present otherwise the appearance of being genuine. This singular incongruity is accounted for by the fact that the coin has a small blow hole in the interior of the metal, or the flaw consists of a crack or split near the edge.

"The men who make it their business to cheat the government out of gold adopt several processes. I saw a coin recently which had been 'filled' so cleverly that the fraud was apparent only upon the closest examination. The \$10 and \$20 pieces are mostly used for this operation. The coin was sawed through from the edge by a saw of minute proportions and exquisite fineness, the interior removed and the cavity filled with platinum, which brought the piece up to standard weight, though it lost three-quarters of its value. It gave forth a good ring.

"The most dangerous tampered coins are those which have been 'plugged.' I don't mean plugged as the word is ordinarily accepted, and as we see every day in the silver coins, but where the skillful counterfeiter gets out as high as one-sixth of the weight of a \$10 or \$20 piece. The coin is pierced by boring a hole in the edge and the gold is extracted from this diminutive aperture. It is then plugged with platinum, the surface of the aperture is covered with genuine metal and the seeding restored with a file. Inasmuch as the coins are genuine and the minute hole in the edge so adroitly covered, these tampered with pieces pass from hand to hand until the gold on the edge wears off and the deception becomes apparent.

"Some of the counterfeit coins are heavier than standard weight, though this will strike the average person as improbable. A \$10 piece weighs 258 grains. The counterfeit of the date of 1887 weighs seven grains in excess and has a fine appearance. These heavy coins are made of platinum. Of the \$25.00 piece look out for those dated 1862. It is within one-half grain of standard weight, composed of platinum, heavily gold plated and can be detected only by observing the edges where the gold may be worn off."

Baked Tomatoes.

To bake tomatoes, wash and dry large round ones, and remove a thin slice from the top of each. Scoop out the inside of each, leaving a good wall. Chop this pulp fine, add to it a tablespoonful of melted butter, a tablespoonful of onion juice, a teaspoonful of chopped parsley and a tablespoonful of finely rolled bread crumbs to every six tomatoes. Salt and pepper to taste. Return to the tomato shells and put on the slices that were removed from the top, place a tiny piece of butter on each, and bake about 20 minutes.—N. Y. Tribune.

He Was Unloading Instead.

A pale and disheveled Frenchman, who had not found "a life on the ocean wave," that could be expected, was sinking into his steamer chair when a passenger asked, cheerily: "Ah, good morning, monsieur; have you breakfasted?" "No, monsieur," replied the pale Frenchman, "I have not breakfasted; on the contrary,"—Chicago Chronicle.

HINT FOR LATE SLEEPERS.

A Black Silk Handkerchief Over the Eyes Will Keep Out the Morning Glare.

Here is a discovery: A thin, black India silk handkerchief, tied over the eyes, is the best remedy for the annoyance of the early morning glare to which in their bedrooms most persons are now subjected, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

This is an army trick, commonly practiced on the plains and in camp by those desiring to sleep after dawn, but never before divulged to the effete easterner. Some officers scorn this expedient, others like it, and the army woman resorts to it always. It often happens, however, that she does not possess a black silk handkerchief, in which case she pins a black stocking over her eyes instead. And frequently her husband is not above begging the other stocking. This solves the problem of shutting out the light in a most simple and effectual way.

But the army woman says there is no reason why every woman living in proximity to shops should not have a black India silk handkerchief. Blinds and awnings, in addition to window shades, are all very well to darken a room if they are on a house, but frequently they are not, more particularly in the country, where they are needed. Then, even in the event of having these luxuries, in hot weather many persons object to using them because of the amount of air these things shut out from a room.

Everyone knows in the migration from town to country how annoying the early morning light is to the city bred, particularly the women, who do not have to rise at the first crow of the cock in order to catch a train to business. Those people who are summering in hotels and boarding houses commonly occupy rooms with whitewashed or very light papered walls, and this reflects the strong light, which by four o'clock these bright mornings begins to turn the light sleeper into a wakeful, restless creature, who, if he or she have blinds, gets up and closes them, but is forced for lack of air to at least leave the shutters open, whereby too much light enters. And frequently there is so little air that to bar out any of it even by drawn blinds with open shutters is out of the question.

NOTES OF THE FASHIONS.

Handsome Fabrics That Are in Favor for the Fall Costumes.

White felt hats and toque tricorne, Sir Peter Lily and new sailor and turban shapes in richly colored French felt lead at present in the fall display of millinery, says the New York Post. Eru, cream and ivory guipure laces, with stock collar and still in marked favor as a decoration for handsome gowns of cloth or wools of lighter weave. The addition of a silk and chiffon vest and undersleeves is also a feature of the decoration, but these are adjustable this season, and can be changed for a gilet and sleeves of more durable sort. Where lace is not desirable braid or rows of velvet ribbon are more frequently substituted than trimming of any other description—silk machine stitching excepted.

"The new beautiful 'old rose' shade of the autumn is almost as pink as a carnation blossom. It is fit to be in the display of satins for evening toilets, millinery, and linings, among the lovely sheer wools for house dresses and velvets for various effective dress uses. Very handsome silks and velvets appear among the leading fabrics for smart costumes for day use during the fall, but the stylish cloth models are the ones with which to begin the season. The black cloths were never so velvety fine or so beautifully finished as they are this season, and they undoubtedly take the lead as modish gowns suitable to wear at any time of day or for any kind of demidress entertainment.

A very satisfactory feature of new English fashions is the length of the skirt of the street dress, many of them showing the absence of the trailing length of two seasons past. These models are not short to the extent of looking like a cyclist's skirt, but there is a tendency in the right direction. The best tailor styles just clear the ground all around. Dressier French models are somewhat longer at the back. Evening and "at home" toilets are all provided with the graceful trains, which are their proper prerogative.

True Hospitality.

"Personal qualities, graciousness and cordiality lift simple modes of hospitality out of the commonplace. 'I should be happy to see my friends if I had only ham-rinds to give them!' exclaimed one enthusiast. The pleasure might not be mutual, but there spoke the true spirit of hospitality. The most charming hosts are those who entertain wisely as to guests, and simply as to methods. If agreeable persons decline hospitality because they cannot return them in kind they set too high a value on material things. If the rich only entertained the rich, society would be very uninteresting. We all have much to give that money cannot buy.—Mrs. Burton Kingsland, in Ladies' Home Journal.

Silk Plush a French Product.

The silk plush out of which hats are made comes almost exclusively from France, all attempts to produce it in the United States having ended in failure. Nine-tenths of the felt hats worn in America are made from the fur of the rabbit and hare.—Chicago Chronicle.

PEARS PRESERVED IN GINGER.

A Delightful Item for Dessert When the Fruit Season Has Passed.

To preserve pears with ginger peel and core them and remove the stem and flower. Set the peellings aside and weigh the pears. Allow a pound of sugar to every pound of fruit, and a lemon and a quarter of a pound of ginger root to every four pounds. Allow also, a cupful of water to every pound of sugar. Put the water over the fire in a porcelain lined kettle, with the ginger scraped, cut in thin slices and tied in a sheer linen bag with the peellings of the pears. Boil the ginger and peellings in the water for about half an hour. Then strain the water off and throw away the peellings. Take the slices of ginger out of the bag and add them and the sugar to the water. Let the syrup thus formed come to the boiling point, and then add as many pears as the kettle will hold without crowding them. Let them boil until they may be easily pierced with a straw and are clear and transparent, but not till they break to pieces. As soon as they are cooked sufficiently put them into jars, and when all are prepared distribute the slices of ginger equally among the jars. Boil the syrup down a few moments longer. If you wish, you can cool it and clarify it, but it will not be so fine in flavor or so richly tinged with ginger, though it will look better. Pour the syrup over the pears in the jars, seal them tightly and set them away in the preserve closets as soon as they are cooled. A Flemish Beauty is a fairly good pear for preserving, although it is hardly equal to a firm Bartlett for this purpose.

Pear chips are a different preserve. For this purpose select firm, hard fruit. Peel it carefully, core it and cut into shavings. Weigh these chips and allow a pound of sugar to every pound of chips. Allow, also, the juice and half the rind of a yellow lemon cut in thin chips and an ounce of green ginger root to every pound of chips. Squeeze the lemon juice over the chips, and scatter the sugar over them as fast as they are peeled and weighed out. Let the pears, after they are peeled and cored, remain in cold water in which a little vinegar is mixed to prevent their turning dark. Cut them in shavings and weigh out a pound at a time. Let them remain in the lemon juice and sugar all night in a cold, dry place, where they can be closely covered. In the morning prepare the green ginger root and lemon peel chips by boiling them in separate water for about 20 minutes. At the end of this time allow a half pint of water to every pound of pear chips, and throw the pear chips and the sugar and lemon juice in a porcelain lined kettle with the water. As soon as a clear syrup forms and the pear chips are boiled until they are transparent skim them out. Then skim the syrup and add the lemon peel and slices of ginger. Let them cook until perfectly tender and clear; then strain this thick flavored syrup over the pear chips, which should be packed in bowls or jars. Divide the ginger and lemon peel equally between the different bowls and jars and seal the preserve.

HELPS COOK COUNTY.

Cupid's Marriages Contribute About \$25,000 Annually to the Treasury in Fees.

"Cupid is a source of great revenue to the county of Cook, and he has done better this year than ever, says the Chicago Tribune. For the nine months ending September 1, Cupid has deposited in the county treasury \$16,800, representing 11,200 licenses to marriageable couples at \$1.50 each. This portends an increase over previous years, for the total income of the county marriage bureau for the entire year of 1899 was \$24,963, when 16,642 licenses were taken out.

Chief Marriage License Clerk Salmonson is the authority for the statement that the marriages in Chicago have increased in greater proportion than the population of the city.

In 1897, 13,822 licenses were taken out for the entire year and the revenue collected was \$21,743. In 1898, 14,513 licenses were issued and \$21,769.50 collected.

The entire proceeds of the marriage license fees for the year goes to the county treasurer. It helps to build the roads, make the improvements in the county, and provides for the county poor.

So Cupid, in his willful way, is quietly compelled to assist in the welfare of the county. At the rate that the licenses have been issued in the eight months just past after considering the fact that the last three months of the year are the heaviest months for business in the marriage bureau, Mr. Salmonson says it is safe to predict that the income which the county will derive from marriage licenses will eclipse by several thousand dollars the proportionate increase of the last three years.

"It is probably the only taxation in the world against which there never is a murmur," said Mr. Salmonson. "The man who gets a license to get married, answers the questions, swears to his replies, and when directed to the cashier's window cheerfully places his money on the counter. In nearly every case the eyes of the prospective husband denote his conviction that his happiness is cheap at a dollar and a half."

Chicken Fritters.

Cut cold chicken into small pieces, put into a large dish and season with salt, pepper and lemon juice. Let stand one hour. Make a batter of two eggs, one pint of milk, a little salt and sufficient flour. It should not be too stiff. Stir the chicken into this and fry brown, dropping it by spoonfuls into boiling fat. Drain and serve hot.—Boston Budget.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

There are about 80,000 eligible voters on the island of Porto Rico.

Mustard used to be eaten whole instead of in the form of paste made from mustard flour.

A new flower attracting much attention is an aster shaped like an ostrich feather, and produced already in a large variety of colors.

There are more than 9,000 commercial florists in the United States, representing an invested capital of \$11,250,000 and an annual trade of \$27,750,000.

If eggs kept in cold storage are in the vicinity of spoiled fruit they will taste of spoiled fruit, because the shell of the egg, being porous, absorbs odors rapidly.

Kansas, in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of her admission into the union as a territory, purposes to hold in 1904, at Topeka, her capital city, an interstate exposition.

A steady diet of sulphur and molasses is said to be a perfect protection against mosquito bites. The insect is declared to be antagonistic to the atmosphere that surrounds a person who indulges in that method of driving the impurities of his blood to the surface.

Emmet Boyles, who lives near Rosendale, Mo., has found in a ratine a mine of curiosities. Among the things found are a petrified cat, a petrified oak log, musket shells, snails, etc.; also fine Indian arrow heads and fine specimens of different kinds of ore.

Orin Feightel, of Phillipsburg, Pa., is only \$300 because he talked too freely. Unknown thieves broke into his home the other evening, but failed to find anything. Next morning Orin gleefully told his friends that at the time the thieves made their raid he had \$800 hidden in a secure place. That night he called on Miss Maud Peters, whom he was about to marry. On his way home he was snatched and robbed of the \$300, and now he regrets being so chatty.

BARNUM'S OLD TURTLE.

Animal Marked by the Showman in His Boyhood Caught Recently in Connecticut.

A relic of the boyhood of P. T. Barnum, the showman, was unexpectedly discovered at Bethel, Conn. Barnum's boyhood home was the home of a snapping turtle, in the shell of which is cut the inscription:



Barnum in his reminiscences tells of Devil's Island, a swampy island near his boyhood home, where he had a fierce encounter with a nest of snakes. It was close to this island that Nathan I. Bennett, a New York diamond merchant, discovered this living relic of the showman. Mr. Bennett's summer home is near by, and being a sportsman he recently bought the swamp and with it the island. The former contains many sluggish streams where some kind of fish and snakes are plentiful. Mr. Bennett started out to look over his new possessions and ventured far into the swamp.

Coming to a boggy place he stepped upon a moss-covered boulder, as he supposed, and was instantly precipitated into the wet bog. The boulder rose up beneath him and walked away. Mr. Bennett had mistaken a monster turtle for a stone, and when he had wiped the swamp mud from his face and recovered from the start that the unexpected article of the supposed bog had given him, he went in pursuit of it. He was unable to handle the monster alone and two workmen came to his assistance. The turtle did not submit to capture without a fight. It was loaded on a stevedore and dragged to Mr. Bennett's farm. When the moss and dirt were scraped from the turtle's back the inscription cut there by the showman when he was a lad was discovered. Mr. Bennett shipped the turtle to some of his friends in New York. The reptile is estimated to be more than 100 years old. It shall be preserved as a relic of P. T. Barnum.

Baby's Head Was 'Wobbly.'

She is a very little girl, only five years old, but in the short period of her few years she has enjoyed a large experience of life with all kinds and descriptions, who in the course of their existence under her loving but not always kind ministrations, have undergone many vicissitudes. So the little five-year-old, when there came a real life baby into the house, felt herself to be somewhat of a connoisseur in children. When it was put into her arms, this real life baby, she regarded it with a critical eye.

"Isn't that a nice baby?" cried the nurse with the joyous pride which a nurse always regards as a baby, in which the fact that she is a proprietary interest.

"Yes," replied the little girl, heartily. "It's nice, but its head is loose."—N. Y. Times.

Lung Diseases of the Navy. A startling increase of lung diseases in the British navy is reported. Since 1883 cases of this character have increased 60 per cent. In spite of the fact, it is pointed out, that masts and sails have been entirely abolished and the men are less exposed than before. Possibly the increase is due to this very reason. The men are less exposed in the steel ships and maybe, as a consequence, less hardy and more liable to affections of the lungs and respiratory organs. The internal heat of a modern man-of-war is great and this, in connection with the great quantity of the men into the smallest practicable space must, of course, have a deleterious influence on the general health. The large percentage of increase makes the problem a serious one.