

LAST OF THE BUFFALOES.

The Only Remnants of the Once Great Herds Now in Ecological Gardens and Parks.

According to a computation which has just been made as to the number of American bison still in existence, only a little over 1,000 of them are left. These are scattered through private zoological gardens, city parks, zoological reserves and a few government preserves.

This 1,000 buffaloes are all that are left of the immense herds, numbering many millions, which roamed over the plains between the Mississippi and the Pacific in such numbers as to cause the earlier explorers, and which were found even east of the Alleghenies by the first white settlers on this continent.

CASTE OF TURKISH WOMEN.

Ottoman Fair Once Always Fear Contamination from Social Inferiors.

A Constantinople correspondent of the London Telegraph writes: "It is not generally known that there exists among Turkish ladies of high class a kind of caste feeling similar to that prevailing among the Hindus. It takes the form of a fear of contamination from the outer world, and is only observed, as far as I know, by those who cannot afford to keep servants in sufficient numbers. Before meals ladies always wash their hands at a tap from which the water runs into a marble basin. They will turn on the tap when they are just going to wash, but when they have finished they let the water run till somebody shuts it off, as to do otherwise would make them unclean. They cannot open or shut a door, as the handle would be unclean, and a slave is generally kept handy for the purpose.

"One of these fastidious ladies was talking to a small niece the other day who had just received a present of a beautiful doll from Paris. The child presently laid the doll on the lady's lap, who was horrified and ordered the child to take it away. As the little girl would not move it, and no servant was near, and the lady could be defiled by touching a doll that was brought from abroad, the only thing she could think of was to jump up and let the doll fall, which broke to pieces. The same lady will not open a letter coming by post, but a servant opens it and holds it near her for her to read. If her handkerchief falls to the ground it is immediately destroyed or given away, so that she should not use it again. This curious state of exclusiveness or fanaticism exists, I am told, in many of the large harems. Among men it is not practiced.

New Zealand's Finances. New Zealand's revenue for the last year shows a surplus equal to more than \$3,000,000 over expenditures. The public debt of the colony stands at \$22,715,000, and the financial statement proposes that parliament should authorize another \$4,000,000 loan to be expended chiefly in the extension of railways. The loan will no doubt be authorized.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

A Danish Preverb. Beauty without virtue is a rose without fragrance.

LITIGATION OVER WIND CAVE.

The Famous Black Hills Spot May Become a National Reserve.

The famous Wind Cave of the Black Hills, near Hot Springs, S. D., over which there has been so much controversy for some time, is to be examined by a special agent and geologist sent out by the government to find out as to whether or not the property is to be set apart by the government as a national reserve. In the report of the secretary of the interior a flattering mention of this wonderful cave was made.

SHOWS THE AGE OF GLOBE.

Prof. Farrington Exhibits Stalagmites of Great Antiquity.

With a chip from a stalagmite claimed to be 1,000,000 years old Prof. O. C. Farrington, of the Field Columbian museum, Chicago, illustrated a lecture on "The Age of the World" at a dinner given by the Northwestern Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The stalagmite had only recently been discovered by Prof. Farrington himself during a prolonged visit of exploration to Wyan-dotte cave, in Crawford county, Ind.

WANTS TO WED OLD MAID.

Auguste Dereume of Manitoba Makes a Request of Chicago Chief of Police.

"Good French or German old maids," if there are any such persons in Chicago, are the objects of the quest of Auguste Dereume, 44 years old and a resident of Plum Coulee, Manitoba. The woman may be poor, but she must have no "incumbrances" if she is to be asked in marriage by the Manitoba man. The letter he wrote to Acting Chief Ptacek is as follows:

BREAKS WESTERN RECORDS.

Fred L. Dindhammer Scores a Total of 4,632 Points in Test of Strength.

Fred L. Dindhammer, of Northwestern academy at Evanston, Ill., has broken all the western college records in a strength test taken at the Evanston Y. M. C. A. gymnasium under the supervision of Director Dasa. Dindhammer scored a total of 4,632 points. The best previous college record scored was 4,238, made by Alfred W. Place, of the University of Chicago, on February 16 last.

No Need of American Heirloom. It is announced that the duke of Westminster is about to marry an English lady who is a member of the nobility, and the Chicago Times-Herald thinks that his financial affairs must be O. K.

Illinois Apple Orchards. It is estimated that Illinois has 500,000 acres of apple orchards.

FRANKS OF A PRINCE.

Wilhelmina's Future Husband Was a Lively Youngster a Few Years Ago.

Perhaps Prince Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the fiance of Queen Wilhelmina, is a sober, industriously royalist now, but according to this story he was a pretty lively fellow a few years ago, says the St. Louis Republic. Once a governor of some cousins of his, scions of the ducal house of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, lived in a grand, solitary castle planted in the middle of a boundless plain of sand, like a tent in the desert. Henry Vladimir von Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who was there on a visit to his cousins, had taken a violent dislike to the free-and-easy manners with her noble pupils. One Sunday morning the children started with her in a carriage to drive to the little church a few miles away from the castle. Mme De K—, the governess, was on the front seat with the two countesses, and Duke Henry Vladimir had installed himself on the back seat. More than once she felt as if something queer was going on behind her, but when she looked around the boy was stiff and solemn, looking the other way.

WOOD LOOKS LIKE METAL.

A New Process by Which Strength and Hardness Are Given to the Fiber.

A European scientist has discovered a method by which wood may be given the appearance of metal. Outside of the added value for decorative purposes which this may give, the advantage to be derived is not clearly apparent. The wood is said to be rendered exceedingly hard and strong, although it is equally uncertain what part of the process may be assumed to confer these desirable qualities upon wood which was soft and weak before treatment, says an industrial exchange.

The process is described as follows: The wood is first soaked for three or four days in a solution of caustic alkali at a temperature of from 75 to 90 degrees centigrade, and is then transferred at once to a bath of hydrosulphate of calcium, to which a saturated solution of sulphur in caustic alkali is added after 24 hours. The wood remains in this bath, which is kept at a temperature of from 35 to 50 degrees centigrade, and finally it is soaked for about 30 to 50 hours in a solution of acetate of lead. The wood is then dried at a moderate temperature and may be polished with a burnisher of hard wood. In this case it can be made to acquire a brilliant metallic luster and if the surface is previously rubbed with a piece of lead, tin or zinc and a glass or porcelain burnisher is used the effect is increased. The wood treated in this way resembles a metallic mirror.

ANIMALS THAT WEEP.

Many Species of the Brute Creation Shed Tears When Frightened or Hurt.

"He cried like a calf," is a remark sometimes heard. It is no disgrace for a calf to cry and he sheds tears in quantities when his emotions justify them. It is even easier for him to cry than for many other animals, because his lachrymal apparatus is perfect and very productive.

A scientific writer writing in La Nature says that the ruminants are the animals which weep most readily. Hunters have long known that a deer at bay cries profusely. The tears will roll down the nose of a bear when he feels that his last hour is approaching. The big, tender eyes of the giraffe fill with tears as he looks at the hunter who has wounded him.

Dogs weep very easily. The dog has tears both in his eyes and voice when his beloved master goes away and leaves him tied up at home. Some varieties of monkeys seem to be particularly addicted to crying, and not a few aquatic mammals also find it easy to weep when the occasion requires it. Seals in particular are often seen to cry.

Elephants weep profusely when wounded or when they see that escape from their enemies is impossible. The animals here mentioned are the chief ones that are known to weep, but there is no doubt that many others also display similar emotion.

What Typsetting Means.

In setting and distributing type a compositor's hand travels on an average 11 miles a day. Leaving Sundays and holidays out of account, this means about 3,000 miles a year. More than half the deaths among compositors are due to lung diseases. In the course of his lifetime an average man gets through about 2,500 miles of reading matter.

Paper from Rye Straw. Experts who have examined rye straw are of the opinion that a very high grade of paper, not only adapted to newspapers, but suitable for books as well, can be made from that material, of which Louisiana produces thousands of tons that are now got rid of as a waste product.

No Chinese in Potter's Field. Among the thousands of bodies buried in the potter's field of New York there is not one of a Chinaman.

NATIONS HAVE WAR CHESTS.

Not Same in European Treasuries Laid Up for Times of Strife.

A source of amazement to continental politicians is the facility with which Great Britain obtains the money to carry on the South African campaign. Even our severest critics acknowledge that in no other country could the many millions already voted have been obtained so readily. This is all the more wonderful to them when they remember that in the sense they understand it England has no war chest to fall back upon. The explanation is simple enough. England, being the richest country in the world, her credit stands high, and she is able to raise vast sums at a moment's notice, says the London Daily News.

CROWDING INTO THE CITIES.

Rural Districts in England Are Rapidly Being Foregone by the People.

The depopulation of the rural districts of England is beginning to cause serious concern to the government. From statistics recently collated it is learned that in 1801 36 per cent. of the population lived in towns of 1,000 inhabitants and upward, whereas in 1891 64 per cent. of the population inhabited towns exceeding 4,000 in population. The rural population in 1891 on 31,577,000 acres was only 5,534,000 persons out of a total population of 39,007,523. It will be seen from these latter figures, says a London exchange, that less than one-fifth of the whole people live in the country and are engaged in rural occupations. Lord Avebury, in commenting upon these figures, ascribed the decrease of rural population to the failure of the country schools to foster interest in country life and objects. There have been other causes at work, however. The great development in the pleasures and recreations of town life, the increased interest in politics, agricultural depression, miserable labor wages and last, but perhaps not least, the local tyranny of squire and parson, have contributed to this result. It is perhaps yet to be seen whether the development of local government will have the desirable effect of making country life more interesting and tolerable.

HAY IN ROUND BALES.

Packed in This Shape It Occupies Less Space and There Are Other Advantages.

Hay as well as cotton is put up nowadays in cylindrical bales, a standard round hay bale being 18 inches in diameter and 36 inches in length. Such a bale packed at the pressure under which it would be put up for domestic use would weigh about 200 pounds; as packed for export such a bale would contain about 275 pounds. There is put up for army use a bale of the same diameter, but only 18 inches in length, which contains approximately 140 pounds of hay.

In the cylindrical bale a given quantity of hay is got into less than half the space that it would occupy in a square bale; and there are asserted for it other advantages, including freedom from mold, preservation of the sweetness of the hay and greatly reduced combustibility. Thousands of tons of hay in cylindrical bales have been shipped to the American army in the Philippines, and large quantities of it have been used by the British army in South Africa.

LETTERS FROM PEARY.

Were Written in March Last and Were Addressed to His Wife and Mother.

Letters from Peary, the arctic explorer, for his wife and mother, who died recently, were received the other day. They were accompanied by other letters from Dr. Dedrick, his surgeon, for Mrs. Dedrick, and from Samuel Wagnath, the members of the Stein party, who is remaining for a second year at Cape Sabine, for his wife in Russian Poland. None of the letters contains any news. The one from Peary is dated March 2, 1900, and is from Cape Uruvig, Grinnell Land. It says that divisions of his party had started for Fort Conger. The latest word from Peary, dated March 31, which has already been published, reported that the divisions had all arrived at Fort Conger. According to letters received the divisions intended to push northward from Fort Conger.

Dentistry for Sheep. A shepherd of New South Wales has tried dentistry for sheep with great success. He had a valuable ram which found great difficulty in masticating its food owing to the loss of teeth. Artificial teeth were inserted which enabled the animal to masticate its fodder.

Giving Aid to Swiss Poor. In some Swiss vineyards nearly the whole harvest was left last month to the poor of the neighborhood.

MISTAKEN FOR "JOHN L."

An Amazing Anecdote Regarding the Late Sir Arthur Sullivan.

"Among the many anecdotes of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan which have been traveling through two hemispheres since the death of the eminent composer, the following, as told in Sir Arthur's own words, is by no means the worst, says the Brooklyn Eagle: "I was traveling on a stage in a rather wild part of California, and arrived at a mining camp, where we had to get down for refreshments. As we drove up the driver said: 'They are expecting you, Mr. Sullivan.' I was much pleased, and when I reached the place I found a knot of prominent citizens at the whisky store. The foremost of them came up to a big burly man by my side and said: 'Are you Mr. Sullivan?' The man said 'No,' and pointed to me. The citizen looked at me rather contemptuously, and after awhile said: 'Why, how much do you weigh?' "I thought this was a curious method of testing the power of a composer, but I at once answered: 'About 162 pounds.' 'Well,' said the man, 'that's odd to me, anyhow. Do you mean to say that you gave fits to John S. Blackmore down in Kansas City?' I said: 'No; I did not give him fits.' He then said: 'Well, who are you?' I replied: 'My name is Sullivan.' 'Ain't you John L. Sullivan, the slugger?' I disclaimed all title to that, and told him I was Arthur Sullivan. 'Oh, Arthur Sullivan?' he said. 'Are you the man as put 'Pin afore' together?'—rather a gratifying way of describing my composition. I said: 'Yes.' 'Well,' returned the citizen, 'I am sorry you ain't John Sullivan; but still I'm glad to see you anyway—let's have a drink.'"

VERY OLD CHECK CASHED.

It Was Drawn Over Twenty Years Ago, But Was Good for the Money.

In the year 1879 C. W. Merchant of this city, was engaged in buying cattle all over this part of Texas, says the Galveston (Tex.) News. In those days Fort Worth was the headquarters for banking business, and Mr. Merchant, in common with all cowmen, had his money on deposit in one of the banks there. While in Haskell county that year he purchased five head of beef cattle for a Mr. Mobley and gave his check for \$100. On account of the distance from Fort Worth and the inconvenient facilities for transacting such matters, Mr. Mobley did not present the check for payment until six months after its date. When presented the cashier informed the gentleman that Mr. Merchant had long since closed his account with the bank. Nothing further was ever done to collect the check, until recently both gentlemen met in the town of Haskell, just 21 years later, and began talking of "old times."

Mr. Mobley suggested to Mr. Merchant that he held an unpaid check signed by him and dated 1879, and wanted to know if it was still worth 100 cents on the dollar. He was informed that it was, and on inquiry as to how it came into his possession explanations followed and Mr. Mobley got his \$100.

In speaking of the incident to the News correspondent, Mr. Merchant said that in 1879 he purchased something like \$60,000 worth of cattle, and most of them in small herds, and that, with a "saddle horn" for a memorandum book, it was very easy to lose run of a \$100 check.

WHEN LIFE IS DEPARTING.

Phenomena Which Electricity Has Disclosed in Animate Nature.

A. D. Waller, of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has devised an electrical means of distinguishing between living and dead matter. His statement of the method is somewhat as follows: Living matter responds to an electrical stimulus by yielding an after current in the same direction. The same matter after it has been killed by heating or other method does not respond to excitation unless it does so by causing a reversed current, due to polarization. This phenomenon is characteristic of all living matter, animal or vegetable. The similar induced current is the last sign of life and its amount may even be used to measure the amount of vitality remaining. In order to make this test the body is first connected to a delicate galvanometer and if there is any deflection caused this is corrected; an electrical stimulus is administered to the body and then the galvanometer again connected to it. If there is now a deflection of the latter the body is living; no deflection shows that it is indubitably dead.

Sin of Using Tobacco.

In early colonial days the use of tobacco was considered far more sinful and degrading than indulgence in intoxicating liquors. Old-time legislation reveals some curious attempts to check the spread of the "creature called tobacco." Landlords were fined if they permitted it to be brought into their taverns. No one could take tobacco publicly nor in his own house or anywhere else before strangers. Two men were forbidden to smoke together and no one could smoke within two miles of the meeting houses on the Sabbath day. In Connecticut in early days a great industry was permitted to travelers—they were allowed to smoke once during a journey of ten miles.

Respect Their Idols.

While repairing a temple, the Chinese cover up the eyes of the idols, in order that the deities may not be offended at the sight of the disorder.

ILL LUCK IN APPLE BLOSSOMS.

Tree That Blossomed Late Brought Misfortune to a Pennsylvania Woman.

"I saw in the Star not long ago copies from a New York paper," said a lady living near Greeley, Pike county, Pa., relating the Washington Star, "a story about an apple tree blossoming in October, and the fatal result of it. The story was told as coming from a man, and he said that an apple tree at his home had blossomed ten years before in October and shortly afterward his wife had died. It had not blossomed again in October for several years, and then within a month his mother had died. Then there was another lapse, and when he told the story, which was about the 1st of October, the tree was again in blossom, and he was greatly disturbed as to what was going to happen next. "Well, that story was mine, and the reporter put it in the name of a man, because I didn't want to appear in it. Two weeks after I had told the story, to a party of friends in which the reporter was I went back home, and within a week the house took fire and burned to the ground. It was so sudden that we barely managed to get out with our lives, and our chief articles of apparel were bath-ropes and blankets. It was a country place and we had no means of putting out the fire, so everything was lost. The only consolation we have is that the fatal apple tree stood so close to the house that it was burned to a crisp, and if, at least, will never again be the messenger of bad luck, however much other trees may bring with their October blossoms. One thing I am sure of, I was never superstitious before, but I confess to a little of it now, and I never want to see another apple tree blossoming in October if it belongs to me."

WAS A BORN FIGHTER.

Prince Christian Victor Did Not Pressure on His Being of Royal Blood.

The grandson of Queen Victoria, Prince Christian Victor, who died of fever in South Africa a few weeks ago, was a soldier born, who owed nothing to rank, but obtained his advance in recognition of his military ability. He knew everything about Tommy Atkins, from the enlisting fees down to the canteen extortions, which he labored to abolish. In his room at Winchester might be found nearly double the number of books on tactics and drill usually found in an officer's quarters, and the majority were well thumbed. But he was no prig. He enjoyed every hour of his life, except that he was much hampered by insufficient private means, and his brother officers and his men simply idolized him, says a London paper.

He once told Lord Wolsley that the only advantage he ever derived from his royal rank was that it always got him accepted when he volunteered for active service. In the last ten years he served in six campaigns—a rare record—and he constantly obtained deserved recognition for valor. Somehow, commanding officers never felt hampered when they had him under their command, as was too often the case when a royal prince insisted on seeing a bit of fighting. Prince Christian Victor was simply the smartest officer in the king's royal rifles and a rattling staff officer. As son, as brother, as officer, as sportsman, as an Englishman he was honorable and honored.

QUEER SIAMESE MUSIC.

An Octave Which Differs from Our Own and Has Seven Equal Intervals.

Prof. Stump and Neesen, of the Berlin university, have concluded some interesting experiments regarding the peculiarities of Siamese music, says the Scientific American. The Siamese musical octave differs from our own in the fact that it comprises seven equal intervals. The sounds, though perfectly harmonious, are somewhat curious. While the Siamese court troupe was at the zoological gardens in Berlin these two professors decided to record these musical tones in their natural sound to such exactitude that the faintest variations might be clearly defined. In the earlier experiments the ordinary phonograph was employed, but was proved to be unsatisfactory, owing to the unpleasant constant rumbling reproductions which always accompany phonographic reproductions and which in this case destroyed the distinctness of the sounds and the results were all that could be desired. By means of this apparatus the sounds are so clear and the gradations so faithfully recorded that it is a difficult matter to distinguish between the actual recital by the troupe and its telephonographic reproduction.

Searchlights on the Ranch.

Even the western cowboy has come under the spell of the electric power, and a ranch in Lower California and Mexico is to utilize a local water power for the generation of electricity, for lighting, harvesting, pumping, etc. The chief innovation will be the use of searchlights on the mountain overlooking the ranch to prevent cattle raids. The operator of each light will be suitably armed with long-range weapons and provided with a signal code by which he can flash information to the other watchers. A telephone system, embracing all portions of the 16,000 acres, will be another convenient method of raising an alarm.

A Queer Congress.

Among the many congresses that met at the Paris exposition, one of the most interesting was the international assembly of the Apollinists, composed of mountain climbers.