

A CLEVER RUSE.

Surprising Request to an On-boarder... Not Fought Over a Scalper's Ticket.

Talking about scalpers' tickets, said an old conductor, relates the New Orleans Times-Democrat...

"He made no answer, and began carefully studying his ticket. When we got to the station I was by his side..."

"Six months later I happened to be in the general offices when, to my great surprise, I saw him coming out of the manager's private room..."

DETECTING ADULTERANTS.

Method Used by Government Chemists for Testing Foods and Drinks.

One of the most striking features of the exhibit of the department of agriculture at Buffalo...

If you get some blackberry juice, say, on your clothing, and apply ammonia to the stain...

One piece of silk is a brilliant red from a substance called "rosaline," used for coloring meats...

All three colors had been put into the wig by the manufacturer, and it was possible for him, by varying the proportions...

An Avenue of Knowledge. Poet—Why don't you let me read my poems to you?

Magazine Editor—Well, to be honest about it, poets who read their own poems always make them sound better than they are...

TREASURE OF ROYALTY.

Vast Stores of Jewels Are Secretly Hoarded by Kings, Queens and Princes.

I hear from Copenhagen, of all places, that the quantity of jewelry in the private treasury of the late queen beggars imagination...

In France all temptation for hoarding was removed. The king could not have private property...

THE GIRLS OF HOLLAND.

Are Educated with the Boys. Go into Business, and Have Much Freedom.

In Holland, the mass of every class go to public schools and all mix together. Education begins at six years of age...

Probably owing to the system of education in force, the women folk are inclined to grow up somewhat independent...

Girls in Holland have a great deal of liberty. They pay calls, shop and go to parties at the houses of friends...

In Zurich a very novel watch has just been made. It forms the cup or heart of a jeweled flower...

Nearpass—What sort of a person is he?

Bonnet—Oh! He's that sort of a person who reminds you, during a hot spell, that you'll suffer just as much from the cold when it comes.

GATHER LADY BUGS.

For Shipment to South Africa to Be Used as Crop Savers.

Twenty Thousand of the Insects Being Hunted For by Children of West Stockbridge, Mass., for This Purpose.

What will happen to the crops of New England if 20,000 lady bugs are taken from the Berkshires and shipped to South Africa?

Prof. Lounsbury, the official entomologist of South Africa, has ordered a supply to kill a certain injurious insect which abounds near Cape Town...

It is a whole life is a warfare against other insects that destroy the farmer's substance.

French children long ago named it bete a bon Dieu (the insect of the good God), and in English we have the gentle and affectionate rhyme:

"Lady bug, lady bug, fly away home." The lady bug is found in every country on the globe...

It has a round body only about one-eighth of an inch in diameter, and is unobtrusive both in looks and manner. Its long suit is its appetite.

Curiously enough, the lady bug itself has few enemies. Its only means of defense is a pungent liquid which is not poisonous...

In California a few years ago a particularly large lady bug was introduced from Australia. It was found to be the only agent which could cope with the aphid...

A Combination Tree. There is a curious combination tree in West Stockbridge, Mass. It is primarily a maple...

Odd Coronation Perquisite. One of the most curious perquisites in connection with King Edward's coronation is the right of one of the peers to claim the bed and bedding used by the heir apparent...

It's said icebergs and glaciers live for centuries. Another reason for keeping cool—Philadelphia Times.

A VISIT TO CHATEAU D'IF.

Account of James O'Neil, the Noted American Actor, Who Plays Count of Monte Cristo.

"Most of the action of both Dumas' story and Fechter's version of 'Monte Cristo' takes place in Marseilles and its vicinity...

"One day at noon I boarded a little steamer which took me to the Chateau d'If. The boat steamed slowly out of Marseilles' old and famous harbor...

"Dead ahead of us is a black, steep, rocky isle, a colossus of granite, supporting another colossus, a massive hundred-year-old fortification...

"This is Chateau d'If. The steamer makes fast close to the rock and we are ashore. A guide leads us through a hollow cut in the rock...

"While the guide is lighting a torch he tells us, in the usually monotonous tone that the castle was built by Francois I, who laid the corner stone with his own hands on December 20, 1524...

"Here it was that Abbe Faria and Edmond Dantes were imprisoned—the two men whose lives inspired Alexander Dumas to write his celebrated story...

"The Man With the Iron Mask" and de Cin-Mars, governor of the Bastille, were here before they were taken to the Isle of Saint Marguerite...

"This passage was dug by Abbe Faria by the aid of a fish bone," he explained—"Dumas talks about it in his story of Monte Cristo."

"Indeed," replied the author, "Alexander Dumas must be familiar with all the surroundings here. Perhaps you know him?"

"And you are one of his," replied the impulsive scribe, letting two Louis d'ors drop into the hand of the astonished guide.

"This same guide was also something of a ventriloquist. One day, while showing a lot of ladies around, he started to talk to an old prisoner, whom he alleged to be confined and forgotten behind a closed door...

It's said icebergs and glaciers live for centuries. Another reason for keeping cool—Philadelphia Times.

UNITED STATES LIBRARIES.

Rapid Growth and Unexcelled Methods of Popular Education Shown by Statistics.

The latest report on the subject of public libraries, just issued by the United States bureau of education, bears testimony to the fact that the libraries of this country, comparatively young as it is...

If the report of the United States bureau of education were brought down to date it would show still more astonishing figures than those above quoted. It would show that in money contributions and in gifts of books and pamphlets a money value of more than \$16,000,000 was added to the library fund of the country...

FIGHT INFLUX OF CHINESE.

United States Border Officials and Employees Seek to Battle a Mexican Scheme.

To crush the wholesale importation of the Chinese through Port Nogales, on the United States-Mexican international line, is the plan of the United States authorities. The government agents and line riders along the southern boundary of this country have found themselves unable to cope with the Chinese smuggling situation...

The slaves arrive from China either by way of Guaymas, Mexico, or from San Francisco, traveling in bond through this country to Mexico. The heathens are drilled and disguised in Mexican costume in the oriental colony established just across the line...

"Indeed," replied the author, "Alexander Dumas must be familiar with all the surroundings here. Perhaps you know him?"

When you engage a servant or make a bargain in China, it is not considered binding until "the fastening penny" has been paid. Although his bad faith is notorious in some matters, yet, to do him justice, when once this coin has been paid by you the Chinaman, coolie or shopman, will generally stick to his bargain...

Important to Know. She—the fortune teller says I shall marry money. He—Good! Did she say how I was to make it?—Smart Set.

TRACING THE TIDES.

Interesting Experiments Conducted by Government Officials.

Valuable Facts Revealed by the Use of Floating Bottles Set Adrift in the Ocean—Resume of the Work.

There are several thousand common beer bottles floating about in the northern Atlantic and Pacific oceans, drifting with the currents, in the interest of science. The purpose is to determine the drift of bodies coming under the influence of the currents of the ocean...

Each bottle contains a written direction as to what shall be done by the skipper who finds it. He is supposed to note the latitude and longitude where it was found, where it was thrown into the sea, and the probable distance traveled since it was originally thrown overboard.

Recent reports present some remarkable drifts of bottles, several having gone as far as the distance across the ocean and one double that distance. They vary from only a few miles to over 35 a day, which is almost the average of the usual drift...

The most remarkable drift of all, however, was that of a bottle that went 70 miles in two days, or at the rate of 35 miles a day. Another traveled 200 miles in eight days, at the rate of 25 miles a day...

Long-distance drifting in the Pacific is especially noticeable in the report received here, March 24, 1897, a bottle was tossed into the sea from the ship Rockhurst, and, after drifting for 742 days, was picked up, having covered in a direct line 8,100 miles, or the entire distance from San Francisco to China...

The main features indicated in the drifts are that bottles thrown into the sea near the equatorial and trade wind region tend to the westward and usually bring up in the West Indies, or on the Mexican coast...

Between these two main drifts, and occupying a stretch of ocean extending in latitude from 25 degrees north to 40 degrees north, and in longitude from 20 degrees west to 60 degrees west, lies a debatable region crossed by numerous steamship and sailing routes, and within which many bottles are cast to determine the drift of the waters...

As We Landed. "Breathes there a man with soul so dead," I cry, in my joy at being home again, "who never to himself has said?"

The Obtrusive Personality in Uniform laughs quietly, bursts open our trunks and strews my wife's clothing over the deck.

I endeavor to be calm. My country! May she be always right! But right or wrong...

Important to Know. She—the fortune teller says I shall marry money. He—Good! Did she say how I was to make it?—Smart Set.