

DAMAGED BY VIOLIN-PLAYING.

An Architect Says the Vibration is Injurious to the Walls of Buildings.

"What force least expected does the greatest damage to buildings?" is a question which a representative of the Indianapolis News asked a well-known architect.

"It is difficult to tell," replied the architect, "but I will venture to say that you would never expect violin-playing to injure the walls of a building. Yet it certainly does. There have been instances when the walls of stone and brick structures have been seriously damaged by the vibrations from a violin.

"The vibrations of a violin are really serious in their unseemly, unbounded force, and when they come with regularity they exercise an influence upon structures of brick, stone or iron. Of course it takes continuous playing for many years to loosen masonry or to make iron brittle, but it will do it in time.

"I have often thought of what the result might be if a man would stand at the bottom of the 19-story light well, on the first floor of the great Masonic temple, in Chicago, and play there continuously. The result could be more easily seen there than almost anywhere else, because the vibration gathers force as it sweeps upward.

"A man can feel the vibrations of a violin on an ironclad ocean vessel, and at the same time be unable to hear the music. Like the constant dripping of water which wears away a stone, the incessant vibration of the violin makes its way to the walls, and attacks their solidity."

AN AERONAUT WHO KNITS.

M. Santos-Dumont Gets Much-Needed Relaxation in the Feminine Occupation.

Next to the flying through space in his flying machine M. Santos-Dumont enjoys knitting, making embroidery, and tapestry, reports the New York World.

M. Santos, as he prefers to be called, says it is a relaxation, and adds that he likes it. There are many things of his making in his elegant apartments at the Elysee palace hotel in Paris—chair seats worked in cross stitch, embroidered tray cloths, tea coverings and cushions, and ever so many other articles. They show that he possesses a high degree of skill and delicate appreciation of the artistic in design and color effects.

But when M. Santos really wants to enjoy himself in his home he knits. When he is studying a knotty problem in connection with his airship he knits, clicking the flying needles in true German fashion and scarcely ever glancing at them.

His apartments are in keeping with his home occupations. The drawing room is paneled in white and gold. No one would dream of using the delicate chairs with their dainty brocade coverings, and it is difficult to escape the many tables laden with bric-a-brac.

In the bedroom the walls are covered with pale blue silk, over which white dotted net is draped. The curtains of the window and of the canopied bed are held back with huge bows of blue satin ribbon.

AN ACT OF PROVIDENCE.

The Remarkable Problem That Has Come Before Congress for Settlement.

A claim has been put in congress and referred to a senate committee which has already been the subject of some very interesting decisions in regard to the true nature of an "act of Providence," reports the Washington Star. The claim is for the loss or damage of two trunks belonging to an army surgeon on the occasion of the great storm at Galveston, Tex., September 8, 1900. The chief quartermaster at San Antonio refused to order a board of survey on the case, as he said the storm was an act of Providence, for which the carrier could not be held responsible. The claimant took exception to this statement.

"It is an article of faith," he said, "with all good Christians, that the ways of Providence are inscrutable and past finding out."

"This last proposition being accepted as a fact by all Christians, I have the honor to maintain that if the storm of September 8, 1900, had been an act of Providence it could not have been forestalled by man, whereas, as a matter of fact, it was predicted by the United States weather bureau, and the people of Galveston were warned of the approach and its expected violence."

In order to more firmly establish his claim that the storm at Galveston was not an act of Providence, the claimant has submitted the full report of the weather bureau descriptive of the catastrophe.

Was Weak in Mathematics. The Atlanta Constitution the other day received the following letter: "Sir, a friend—Do the Carnegie library lend books to him? I want Obit Books on Mathematics, as I am all right on spellin and am a pretty good Grammarian, if I do say it myself. I kin spell an Grammarize, but Mathematics is one too much for me."

Speed of Earthquake Shocks. Careful scientific investigations show that the average speed of the transmission of earthquake shocks is nearly 16,000 feet a second.

FEW MEN DYE THEIR HAIR.

Unless It Is Gray and They Are Looking for Employment, Says a Communicative Barber.

Hair dye among men has almost passed out of use, says the New York Sun. One barber, who has for years been employed in the best of the city barber shops, told a Sun reporter the other day that he had not been called upon to dye the hair or beard of a customer for 20 years.

"I remember," he said, "that the last time I had to do it was toward the end of the winter of 1882. Since that time there have been so few applications to have anything of the kind done that we do not now even make any preparations for the job, and I don't believe that there is a bottle of any kind of hair dye in the place.

"I can remember, however, when the situation was very different. In the old days men dyed their mustaches and even their hair on the slightest provocation. Red-headed men used to dye their hair as a matter of course, and as soon as the gray hairs began to appear the customary resort was to the dye. But that is all changed now.

"There are, of course, many men who still dye their hair and beards, but they are not the kind that patronize the expensive barber shops. I think it would be found that most of them did it for business purposes. 'As it is hard for them to get certain kinds of work when they are gray haired, they are compelled to resort to dye. But men have, as a rule, quite given up the use of it."

DEMAND FOR POSTAL CARDS.

The Government Printer Turns Out 2,000,000 a Day and That Is Not Enough.

One of the most noticeable developments in the post office department is the increasing use of postal cards. The number circulated through the mails is increasing every month and to supply the demand the United States postal printing office up in Rumford Falls, Me., is being run night and day, reports the New York Sun.

It is now turning out 3,000,000 postal cards daily and still the demand increases. New York, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cincinnati, Baltimore and Troy use more postal cards than other cities.

One of the newest and increasing uses for postal cards is to secure opinions on all sorts of subjects. Whenever a business concern, a social organization or a political body wishes to test the state of feeling on any point now it circulates postal cards.

They are printed so that all the citizen whose opinion is sought needs to do, is to write "yes" or "no" or to affix a mark to a question, sign his name and drop the card in the mail box.

It is a simple and effective means of feeling the public pulse and it is helping Uncle Sam's trade in postal cards wonderfully.

FATAL TEMPERATURES.

Degrees of Heat and Cold at Which Life Cannot Be Long Sustained.

"At what point does life begin? So far as regards space or time, the question is unanswerable, states the London Telegraph. Only a few years ago it would have been said that in regard to that seemingly essential condition of life temperature we did know pretty nearly a superior and inferior limit. Little of life is there below the freezing point of water, and far above or below these critical points we should expect even germ-life to be destroyed. When our greatest physicist, in 1871, suggested that seeds of plants might have been borne to this world in a far-distant age, the hypothesis seemed incredible, because the temperature of space, being at least as low as minus 140 degrees Centigrade, would be fatal to life in any form. This is not so. Recently at the Jenner institute bacteria have been frozen in liquid air and even in liquid hydrogen, and on the application of heat and placed in proper media have germinated. The processes of life were arrested, but the nascent life-energy was not destroyed at 200 degrees Fahrenheit of frost. Experiments are now being made to find whether long continuance for months or years in such cold takes away the vitalism of these lowest forms of life.

INDEPENDENT CHINESE COOKS

Queer Phase of the Otherwise Very Acquiescent Nature of the Mongolian Servant.

The following examples of the independence of Chinese cooks are given by a San Francisco writer: "I knew one who, being asked by the mistress of the house to make a cup of coffee for a tramp, considered this to be beneath his dignity and preferred to dismiss the fellow with a gratuity out of his own pocket. The same man, being presented by the master of the house with a handful of cigars, did not accept them without politely intimating that he had plenty to give away to his friends. Nor must I fail to record that this individual, who was notorious for the economical methods he followed out in kitchen management, gratefully refused an offer of increased wages on the grounds both that he had no need of the money and that the expenses of his department were, conceived (in his delightful pigeon-English), already sufficiently heavy."

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

The manufacture of sugar in Italy now suffices for two-thirds of the national consumption.

In the poorest quarters and tenements of London there is nearly always a flower-pot in the windows.

The amerer has forbidden all cock and quail fighting in Afghanistan, and the order has displeased his subjects.

An old woman admitted into the Madrid hospital suffering from a broken leg produced a birth certificate, which stated that she was born on October 12, 1781.

Thirty years ago the trade coming to the ports of Peru, Chili and Bolivia was monopolized by the British and a few American houses. Today the Germans have a monopoly in many branches.

Various Arctic explorers have pointed out their complete immunity from colds and other troubles until they returned to the habitations of men. Acting on this hint Dr. Bunge, of St. Petersburg, has suggested the erection of sanatoria for consumptives in Spitzbergen.

The city of St. Petersburg is putting out a 4 1/2 per cent loan of 30,000,000 rubles, to be spent in various city improvements, including two bridges and a dam across the Neva, a reconstruction of the telephone service, the building of a hospital for children, rapid transit, fire brigades, canals, schools and municipal abattoirs.

The seas around the coast of the British Isles are mostly narrow. The greatest width of the English channel is between Portland Bill and St. Malo—140 miles. It narrows to 20 1/2 miles at one point in the Straits of Dover. The distance between Great Britain and Ireland is even less. Tor Head is only 12 miles from the nearest point of the Mull of Cantire. Between Carnore point and St. David's head, in Wales, 47 miles is the least breadth of water.

A MEXICAN OF NERVE.

Tale of a Teamster Who Held His Hand in the Fire Until It Was Burned Off.

"They may say what they please about 'greasers' being a cowardly lot," said a Southern Pacific railroad man with headquarters at Fresno, who relates the Detroit story. "I know of one who showed the kind of grit I have never learned of since the day I studied Roman history and learned about that chap who told old man Porcenna to go to thunder with his tortures and stuck his hand in the fire till it was burned off to show him he wasn't afraid. This 'greaser,' or Mexican, if you like the name better, was a teamster away back in the seventies. '76, I think, and he was piloting a mule team northward from Comstock along with a train of wagons. His name was Jose, something or other, just as all Mexicans are mostly, but he was called Hossey, I suppose because he drove mules. But names don't count. This chap was never suspected of being any better than the rest of his kind, and perhaps he wasn't in a general way, but when the time came he showed the nerve. "About this time the Apaches were raising Cain on the Pecos, and when the train reached Howland's Well canyon, about 40 miles above where our road crosses the river, they swooped down on it like the Assyrians came down on the hosts of Pharaoh, or whoever it was the poet tells about, and before the teamsters had time to say 'Whoa, there,' all that were not killed were tied to the wagon wheels for future reference. This consisted of a decision by the redskins to burn the wagons without cutting the prisoners loose from the wheels. While the wagons and the prisoners were burning, the Indians were dancing around and diverting themselves by kicking the bodies of the dead into the fire, or as near to it as might happen. Our hero had been shot through the breast, but he was not dead, and in the kicking process he was placed so close to the burning train that his hand and arm went into the fire. He had been imitating a dead man in the hope that he would escape, but this was something he had not counted on. However, he knew if he jerked his hand out of the fire, that the dead racket he was giving them would not count for anything, so he shut his jaws down hard and let the fire burn. He stood it, too, till the Indians had departed, and when he finally rolled away from the red-hot embers, there wasn't anything left of his hand and arm but a shriveled stump. It was hard lines for the 'greaser,' but he braced up the best he could, and crawled ten miles back on the trail to a station, where he reported the killing of the men and the destruction of the train. Then he got well, but to his final dying day he couldn't be Christian enough to love his enemies and pray for them that had despoiled him for it, either."

Explosions at Home and Abroad.

In 1900 there was about one boiler explosion daily on the average in the United States and there were 788 victims of explosions during the year. In Great Britain during the same year there were only 24 persons killed by boiler explosions and only 65 wounded—60 victims.—Chicago Chronicle.

A Great War.

Old Sears—What did Tarantula Jim shoot Polecat Pete's left ear off for? Alkali Ike—Aw, just for a joke, I reckon.—Judge.

IN DAMP WEATHER.

Curious Effect That Has Been Noticed on the Goddess of Liberty on the Capitol Dome.

"Have you ever noticed the goddess of liberty on the dome of the capitol building on a damp day?" an employe of the District government asked a group of friends. None of the party remembered whether they had noticed the figure or not, says the Washington Star. "Well," he said, "every time I look at the figure on a damp day it reminds me of a miller I rescued from a possible watery grave on the outskirts of a Pennsylvania village about 30 years ago. I was driving a team near a mill dam at the time, when my attention was attracted to the miller, who was a man of more than middle age. He was raking out the accumulation of brush from the rack, when he suddenly lost his balance and fell overboard.

"Well, to make matters short, I fished him out, and we sat chatting for over an hour, and when I prepared to make my departure his clothes had dried and I noticed that the meal made a white streak around and on both shoulders, and if you cast your eyes up at the figure on the capitol dome on a damp day you will notice the same effect on the shoulders of the goddess, and it makes me think of the old miller every time I notice her. I have often wondered why congress has not provided an appropriation to be used for the purpose of gilding the figure."

THE HORSE IN SCOUTING.

Must Possess Certain Qualities to Fit It for the Laborious Service.

The horse, like the man, in scouting, must be exceptional. The first essential is "bottom." A scout's horse must have endurance, as his work is continuous and laborious, so it is the duty of the man to husband the strength of the animal as much as possible, as his safety may depend upon it. He should be of a neutral color to avoid detection. Dyeing him khaki would be an improvement. The gray horses of the Austrian batteries were dyed during the recent maneuvers, and the color lasted a month. The experiment was considered a success, says the United Service.

The horse should be trained to stand quietly and to lie down and stay down. The Boers have a way of tying a horse's head to his foreleg in such a manner that he can gaze in comfort, but cannot stand with head erect without raising his foreleg, and finds running away very inconvenient. He should be perfectly trained, and his rider should be able to place every confidence in him. A horse that continually needs watching or urging is a source of distraction to his rider, and so renders him unfit for scouting work. Neighing and fretful horses are worse than useless. Every opportunity should be taken advantage of to allow the horse to graze; a few mouthfuls of grass eaten at every little halt saves a horse tremendously.

FRANCE PAID THE FIDDLER.

Germany Was Fully Reimbursed for the Cost of the War of 1871.

Up to March 31 last Great Britain had spent \$1,145,000,000 in conducting the war in South Africa. This sum is largely in excess of the cost to Germany of the Franco-Prussian war of 1871, for which, however, the nation was fully reimbursed by the vanquished nation. France paid as war indemnity about \$90,000,000 less than the British expenditure in the Boer conflict. Strictly speaking, that indemnity only amounted to 5,000,000,000 francs, or \$1,000,000,000, but Germany received about \$115,000,000 more from her vanquished foes in the form of a special contribution from the city of Paris, special taxes in France, and interest on the chief indemnity. Out of this all the expenses of the war were repaid. Some \$140,000,000 went to establish a pension fund for old soldiers, \$90,000,000 was spent on army reorganization, about \$90,000,000 on fortresses, \$42,500,000 on strategic railways, while \$30,000,000 were stored in gold as an imperial war chest in case of emergencies, and this immense treasure is still lying dead in the vaults of the Julius tower in the fortress of Spandau. But the interesting thing is that the Boer war has cost Great Britain far more than the final war of unification cost the Germans.

Akophone Makes Deaf Hear.

There are many smiling faces at the New York institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb just now, owing to successful experiments with a new apparatus which enables the deaf to hear. It is called the akophone. The machine employs electric sound valves, which penetrate the deafest ear and have a reviving effect on the diseased parts of the ear. The machine does not increase the volume of sound, but makes it more penetrating. It is on the same principle as the Roentgen light rays, which do not produce a greater degree of light, but a kind of light which penetrates bodies hitherto impervious to it. The instrument is of no benefit to the small percentage of the deaf, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch. With the partially deaf it does away with the eager straining to catch the sound of the human voice, and an ordinary conversation can be used.

The Name of "Prize."

"Prize" was the name which the Hawaiians in their pagan days gave to the goddess who, according to their belief, inhabited one of their largest volcanoes.

BORN TO THE PURPLE.

Bulgarian Children of the Blood Royal, Their Training and Relations with the People.

There is scarcely a throne in Europe whose occupant is not directly or indirectly related to the four little children who race in and out of the big white stucco palace in Sofia, Bulgaria, or, accompanied by the royal guards in scarlet liveries and mounted on coal black horses, ride clattering up and down the wide, paved streets of the Bulgarian capital, says the New York Tribune.

The boys—Boris, prince of Tirnova and heir to the throne, and his younger brother, Kiril, prince of Preslav—are beginning to ride horseback themselves, but the little maids, dainty Princess Eudoxia and tiny Princess Nadezhda, who was born only on the day preceding her mother's death, occupy the royal coach with their German nurse. While it is said the Bulgarian peasant folks do not like Prince Ferdinand, whom they still count an aristocratic alien and responsible for the deficit in their treasury, they are devoted to these children, born among them and inheriting the sweet face and gentle, kindly ways that endeared their mother to them. She was always lovingly called "the Yellow Rose of Parma," and at her death the entire nation mourned.

As the children take their daily ride through the paradoxical city, where old Turkish houses, with roofs tiled or covered with flattened out Russian kerosene cans, are in sharp contrast to the fine new parliament house, the national theater, whose name is "Fears and Laughter," and other new state buildings, they bow right and left to all the peasant children, who return the salutation with broad grins of delight and clumsy curtsies.

The native Bulgarian children are neither pretty nor graceful, but they are good, solid, comfortable-looking little mortals. Their high cheekbones and rather oblique eyes bespeak their Finnish origin, and their propensity to quarrel with each other when flying their brown paper kites or playing ball tells of the wild Illyrian blood of some of their ancestors. Even their language is harsh and unmusical. The feminine name Grace, in the Bulgarian tongue, turns to Bluggerdot.

The peasant girls are always bareheaded, their black hair plaited in tight pigtails, while the boys have their hair cut square in the neck, and wear clumsy black caps of astrakan or sheepskin. Their stockings are of homespun wool, knitted in gay stripes and never fastened up tight and trim. Most of them wear the leathern sandals tied about their ankles, although some have adopted a heavy sort of brogan. All the clothing for the children is woven by their mothers on the native looms, and does not easily wear out. The boys have coarse trousers coming nearly to their ankles, and shapless jackets of the same material, while the girls have homespun dresses of blue and aprons that look like strips of gay rag carpet.

The contrast between these children of the people and the little princesses in their pretty European dresses is most noticeable to outsiders, but the children themselves never seem to think of it. The princess, Boris and Kiril, are now wearing the regular uniform of Bulgarian officers, for Prince Boris and Kiril are now wearing the regiment of Foot, the Fourth regiment of cavalry and the Third regiment of artillery.

THREE ERAS OF WOMEN.

Periods of Science and Letters in the Reigns of That Many English Queens.

It is worthy of observation that the three greatest periods of English literature and remarkable military conquest occurred under three women—Elizabeth, Anne and Victoria, says the Boston Transcript. The reign of Queen Elizabeth, which lasted 45 years (1558-1603), received an unflattering luster from Shakespeare, Sidney, Spenser and Ben Jonson, and is forever associated with the defeat of the Spanish armada. Unlike her predecessor, Queen Anne was an indolent woman of ordinary capacity. But in her short reign of 12 years (1702-1714) we had Addison, Congreve, Defoe, Pope, Prior, Swift and other authors; Newton and Berkeley, with their valuable discoveries in science, then truly in its infancy; the great Duke of Marlborough winning his brilliant victories, and the union of England and Scotland.

But it was in the reign of Queen Victoria—the longest in the British annals—that the greatest advances were made in all departments of human knowledge. This reign of nearly 64 years witnessed great literary achievements, great contributions to art and music, tremendous progress in medical science, the prolongation of human life and the alleviation of human suffering, the abolition of ancient abuses and extraordinary strides in education and philanthropy. Though the distance traveled since the Victorian era is but a fraction of historical time, yet it is already plain that we are in another atmosphere and that the most humane, intellectual and progressive reign in the world's history is behind us.

Rivers Flow Over Ice.

Some of the rivers of Siberia flow over ice many years old, and as solid as rock. A tributary of the Lena has, underneath the soil which forms the bed of the river, a bed of pure ice over nine feet thick.—Boston Globe.

MAGNETISM OF MISERY.

The Promises of People to Return to Scenes That Revive Painful Memories.

Every storm, earthquake or disaster of any kind brings out a curious phase of human nature, says the Philadelphia Ledger. Many of those who have seen their houses destroyed or their nearest relatives killed return as soon as possible to the scene of devastation. In some instances this is explained by the fact that there are more opportunities of earning a livelihood among old neighbors than among new surroundings. In numerous cases, however, no such business reason operates as an inducement. The magnet is sentiment, not money. As some mourners devote every holiday to visiting graves, so a large fraction of the homeless and bereaved go back to spend the remainder of their days in the scenes that recall calamity and agony.

It was so after the great London fire, it was so after the Lisbon earthquake, it was so after the yellow fever swept Philadelphia; and in more recent years the Chicago fire, the Mississippi floods, Charleston Johnston and other catastrophes confirm the old experience. Apparently the desire to gain new pleasures is not more keen than the wish to revive the memory of old pain. Our late storm has destroyed much property and a number of lives; but we will see people choosing homes in sight of the telegraph pole from which the fatal live wire dangled, or the flooded stream in which the only son was drowned.

MOSQUITOES AND COLORS.

The Insects Are Attracted by Some and Repelled by Other Hues.

The anopheles mosquito, says the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette, is attracted by some colors and repelled by others. Experiments have been conducted in a gauze tent, one end of which was formed by large windows. Into these the sunlight poured on bright days. Large stone basins were placed on the floor for the mosquitoes to breed in.

It was immediately noticed that when a person entered the tent clad in dark gray clothes, the mosquitoes settled on the clothes. When the person entered, dressed in white flannel, they did not approach him.

A number of boxes lined with cloth of various colors were placed on the floor, and it was noticed that great numbers of mosquitoes entered the box lined with dark blue. Fewer of the insects sought the boxes lined with other colors, the number diminishing in this order: dark red, brown, scarlet, black, slate-gray, olive-green, violet, leaf-green, blue, pearl-gray, pale green, light blue, ochre, white and orange. No mosquitoes whatever were found in the box lined with yellow.

The number of insects congregating in houses might, therefore, easily be lessened by the choice of suitable colors applied to the walls. A trap lined with something dark would attract so many insects that they could be slain in large numbers. Mosquito-bars or screens should be of yellow; for blue or black attracts them and coaxes them into finding admission.

A HYPHENATED MESSAGE.

Amusing Experience of an American Who Went to Reside in Mexico.

"When you take up a residence in the City of Mexico," said an American, who had lived there for several years, "you are waited upon by the police, who ask you how many beggars may call at your house every morning and receive a dole.

"Your answer is recorded, and only the number of beggars mentioned dare show up."

"I had my brother with me at the house, and our answers to the police differed somewhat. Two weeks after their call a messenger came on an errand and inquired for Jones.

"Which Jones?" I asked.

"Snoor," he replied. "I know that there are two of you—the Jones you can send along about eight o'clock and the Jones-I-won't-feed-a-cursed-one-of-em-and-the-Jones-I-want-is-not-the-first."

"Then, as I'm the one who said eight beggars might come around, you don't want me."

"It cannot be. It is the I-won't-feed-a-cursed-one-of-em-Jones I want."

"But he is not in just now. Can you leave your message with me?"

"Si, senior. Tell you him when he arrives that if he don't want to feed a cursed-one-of-em he can go to blazes and be hanged-to-him."

Esote Blang.

The worst use of slang is not when it is fresh and piquant, but when it becomes stale and passes into the regular vocabulary of the people, to the exclusion of good English, says the Toronto (Ont.) Globe. Such expressions as "I can see his finish" when they are first uttered, are often used with considerable humorous effect. But the language is impoverished and vulgarized by the habitual use of "turn down" for reject, "roll down" for a mild rebuke, "roast" for a severe one, etc. After these expressions have been used for a certain time they ought to be taken out of circulation, along with the ragged bankrupts.

Great Invention for the Blind.

A cinematograph for the blind has been invented by Dr. Dussand, a French physician. The successive stages of the pictures are embossed on sheets of tin and made to revolve rapidly between the fingers of the blind person.