

SUPPOSED DEAD MAN ALIVE.

Believed Greeted at Depot by Soldier Whom They Expected to Find a Corpse.

Consternation reigned among the mourners who assembled at the Illinois central railroad depot at Springfield, Ill., to meet the remains of Charles Conner, when the supposed corpse alighted from the train on which his remains were looked for, and although in the last stages of consumption greeted his parents and relatives who were there to mourn his death and pay tribute to his memory.

The funeral arrangements were complete, but instead of a casket the soldier boy, sick unto death, was taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. Thomas Howard, 806 East Adams street, where the remains were to have been viewed by Springfield friends. Instead of holding a funeral service, Dr. L. C. Taylor was hurriedly summoned, and the patient was quickly placed in bed. He is in a critical state and his death is believed to be a matter of only a few hours.

THE WHITE HOUSE PARROT.

Henry Bird Kept in the Conservatory Objects Strangeness to the Albatrosses Just Begun.

When workmen began operations on the large white house conservatory preparatory to removing the roof and making over the glasshouse, Polly, the pet parrot of the president's children, was beside herself with rage. She stormed at the men who removed the plants and vociferously jewed the workmen who broke out the glass.

Now Polly sits attached to the end of a rather short rope, no longer the monarch of the conservatory, as she has been since her advent at the white house with the president's children. Her chief delight has been to boss the wabers and any one within reach of her buoy tongue, until "ahut up" was almost the only language heard in that part of the house.

There was no place for her at Oyster bay, and it was thought she would be happier at the white house. However, if she does not mend her ways, she will be transferred to Sagamore Hill with the departure of the president.

The companion of Polly's woe, who also presents this intrusion into the sacred precincts of her present abode, is Mr. Phister, the German gardener, who has been the care-taker of the beautiful conservatories for more than 30 years. His treasures have been hustled into cramped quarters or set about under trees on the white house lawn until he is as dejected as the parrot.

WIN STRATEGIC BASE.

French Purchase Point Overlooking Hong-Kong Harbor Ostensibly for a Hospital.

Telegrams received at Yokohama announce that the French have purchased the promontory of Katal, near Macao, a Portuguese settlement, in the vicinity of Hong-Kong. The point was secured for \$120,000 for the ostensible purpose of establishing a naval hospital for the use of the French fleet in oriental waters.

The English at Hong-Kong are much disturbed, and have protested to the Peking government that the sale should not have been made. It is feared that France will fortify Katal, as the French have lost no opportunity during the past three years of strengthening their position in southern China.

Was Nurse to the Pope. Anna Moroni, who was the pope's nurse and who is a centenarian, has visited his holiness at the vatican. The aged woman was able to remind the venerable pontiff that at Sellitri she had the proud privilege of carrying him in her arms when he was about four years of age.

William's Tribute to His Wife. Emperor William says that when a German can look into the eyes of the empress he ought to have inspiration enough to last him a lifetime. How nice it must be, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, for her if the emperor talks like that when company is not present.

Another Fish Story. It remained for a Cleveland (O.) preacher, says the New York World, to declare St. Peter a victim to the fisherman's traditional vice of overstatement.

SHINES IN PORTO RICO.

Popularity of a New Industry That Was Introduced There by an American Bootblack.

The American occupation of Porto Rico has resulted in the introduction of one Anglo-Saxon institution among the Latin peoples of the West Indies, that has already become fast and permanent," said Dr. J. W. Fawkes, of the bureau of ethnology, who, reports the Washington Post, returned lately from an archaeological tour of that island, in the course of which he was afforded unusual opportunities for viewing the life and customs of the islanders tempered by American influences. Continuing, he said:

"The first American troops that landed on the island, were accompanied by a colored bootblack; a boy about 13 or 14 years of age, from New York, who drove a thriving business shining the shoes of the officers. The Porto Ricans were strangers to such an institution, but being of an imitative turn, were not long in adopting what to them seemed worth copying. Following on the heels of the army came other Americans, so that the little bootblack from New York soon had more business than he could attend to. But this, however, did not last very long, and in less than two months after his arrival, he experienced very lively competition from the youngsters of San Juan, who, watching his movements, straightway provided themselves with boxes, brushes, and blacking, and learning the word 'shine,' were ready to black shoes after the most approved American fashion.

"To-day every city and town in Porto Rico is full of little bootblacks; for the natives having noticed that property polished shoes constituted part of the make-up of well-dressed Americans, and anxious not to be outdone in the matter of style, adopted the custom of keeping their shoes shined.

"The American occupation and influence is being felt in other ways throughout the island, and is more especially noticeable in the schools. The people are anxious to learn, and education is looking up all over the island. During my sojourn among these people I visited a country school one day where the teacher, a bright young Porto Rican, called one of his pupils, a little boy ten years of age, to the blackboard and directed him to draw a map of the state of Pennsylvania. The little fellow executed the map as well, if not better, than I could have done myself, putting in the rivers and cities, the names of which he wrote out in Spanish. Another little fellow drew a map of Connecticut, and I am free to confess that I never in my life saw a brighter class in geography.

"Another thing I noticed is that everybody on the island is anxious to learn English, which is coming into use more and more every day. It is now being taught in all the schools, and the generation now growing up will be able to speak and read the language as well as their native Spanish.

THEY LIKE ERUPTIONS.

Hawaiians Welcome the Activity of Kilauea as a Great Attraction to Visitors.

"In Hawaii we pray for Mount Kilauea to become active, and the more eruptions there are the better we like it," said Philip Peck, a banker of Hilo, recently, according to the Washington Times. "An eruption does no harm," he added, naively.

"Doesn't do any harm? Well, it appears that Mount Pelee did plenty of harm."

"That was a different kind of activity from Kilauea. In Hawaii where Mount Kilauea has not been disturbed for two years, the eruption is of slight consequence. But it is a great sight to see the great lake of lava boil over the sides of the crater and pushed its way down into the bowl-like valley which has been formed by eruptions more violent in the ages past.

"The eight is such an unusual one that it causes a great influx of visitors each year, and that naturally is a good thing for the island financially. That's why we like the volcano to be active. Kilauea's crater is the largest in the world. People used to go and sit by its edges and watch for an overflow of the lava. The guides could tell almost to the minute when these overflows would occur.

"In 1882 there threatened a great eruption, and the natives were afraid that the town of Hilo would be injured. The Princess Ruth, of the royal family of Kamahameha, went to the mountain down which the lava had begun to run. With her she carried several chickens and one or two other animals. Standing by the edge of the crater she threw up her head—she was one of those imperial looking women and weighed about 400 pounds. She called out addressing the Hawaiian god:

"Pelee, you promised never to hurt Hilo; now I have come to remind you of your promise."

"With this she threw the chickens into the lava. The next day the disturbance somewhat subsided, and the natives attributed to the princess the credit of it."

SOME THUMB-RING LORE.

Points of Interest Concerning Famous Specimens and Wearers in Ancient History.

The custom of rings upon the thumb prevailed in England until the close of the eighteenth century, and is of very ancient origin. There is a mummy case in the British museum which represents an Egyptian lady wearing rings upon the thumbs of both her hands. The Romans were greatly addicted to this practice, and as many of their thumb rings were most cumbersome and inconvenient, the patriarians varied their rings with the seasons, terming them "summer" or "winter" rings, as the case might be, says London Lady.

During his visit to Rome, Addison saw some of these old rings, and comments thus upon them: "So very thick about, and with such large stones in them, that 'tis no wonder a fop should reckon them a little cumbersome in the summer season of so hot a climate. The Emperor Trajan possessed a 'winter thumb ring' which measured some 3/4 inches in width and bore a bust in high relief of his consort, Plotina. English thumb rings do not appear to have been less massive. During the latter part of the middle ages they formed a part of the necessary adornment of the bishop when he was arrayed in full pontifical.

Thomas a' Becket possessed a thumb ring set with a valuable ruby, which was about the size of a hen's egg. This ring was a gift from Louis VII. of France. At the reformation, Bluff King Hal seized the archbishop's ring from his despoiled shrine and took it for his own personal adornment, thus bringing thumb rings back into fashion for awhile. They had long been abandoned by the upper classes and had gradually come to be considered indicative of the burgesse class. Thumb rings were often set with the tooth of some animal as an amulet. A wolf's tooth was supposed to act as a charm against assault, while a badger's tooth brought wealth and general good luck.

The crampstone, or toadstone, was also used in this way, as it was supposed to possess various mystic virtues, one of which being the power of warning its wearer of the presence of poison in his food or drink by changing its color. The mystic word "Anamypatus" was often engraved upon a thumb ring as a charm against epilepsy or cramp. This was in accordance with an old superstition, which gives this work as a cure "for the falling sickness."

Another favorite preventive of epilepsy was a silver thumb ring engraved in Gothic characters with the names of Jasper, Mechor and Balthezar, the three Wise Men from the East. In "The Squire's Tale" Chaucer mentions a magical thumb ring worn by Conces, the daughter of "Cambusca Bold," which gave her a complete knowledge of the medicinal value of herbs and enabled her to converse with birds in their own language. Wedding rings were formerly worn upon the thumb, but did not always stay there. In the ancient ritual of marriage the bridegroom was directed to place the ring upon the thumb with the words: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow," moving it to the other fingers in succession.

FALSE TAILS FOR HORSES.

The Cost of One of High-Grade Is Equal to That of an Ordinary Horse.

"False tails for horses," said a dealer in horse equipments, according to the New York Sun, "are provided for animals that have become what is called rattailed. It would be in the case of a fine horse only that such a deficiency would be supplied, for false tails are somewhat expensive.

"The least expensive of them would cost \$27.50 and they would run from that up to as high as \$50.

"What? Why, certainly. You could buy a whole horse of some sort for what such a tail would cost, but the cost of these tails is not disproportionate to the value of the horses upon which they are used. These animals are fine, handsome and valuable carriage horses, lacking only in this feature, useless in their work without it.

"The false tail is attached to the crupper of the harness and is further secured in place by fastenings made fast around the actual tail; it is put on and taken off with the harness. It is worn without the slightest discomfort to the horse, it can't come off, and it is absolutely undistinguishable from a natural tail.

"False tails for horses are made in England, and while in some cases it might be possible to supply demands from tails in stock here, they are commonly made to order, for the individual horses for which they are required. It takes about two months from their receipt to fill orders for false tails.

"The demand for them varies with the fashions in which horses' tails are worn. When horses' tails are worn short there is naturally less demand for false tails than there is when long tails are in fashion.

Evicted by Bees. An English writer says: "Some of the smaller birds are deliberately turned out of their nests at times by bees. I remember watching for the completion of a hedge sparrow's nest a few years ago, but before the birds had laid any eggs the nest was usurped by a small species of bumble bee and the rightful owners deserted. A friend of mine had two wrens' nests in his garden taken possession of by bees in a similar manner, and I once knew of a tawny owl being turned out of her nesting hole in a hollow tree by a swarm of honey bees which took possession."—Chicago Daily News.

OIL IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Islands Are Claimed to Be in the Oil Belt That Is Supposed to Circle the Globe.

There are many undeveloped resources in these islands which have been the basis for much speculation during the past few years, but what may turn out to be the most important of all has hitherto been entirely overlooked. It seems that the Spanish regime failed to take it into consideration and as a result there are no exclusive franchises on this particular field. Reference is made to oil deposits. It now appears that these islands are to be thoroughly tested for this remunerative liquid, and the drillings will commence in the very near future. Prospecting has been carried on for some time past, and every move in that direction has been carefully concealed, but the parties who have been on the field and looking after the interests of the oil companies have now decided that they can afford to go ahead and drill openly; and they are confident that they will be rewarded with success, states the Manila Times.

These islands are claimed to be in the oil belt that is supposed to girdle the globe, and the indications are said to be as good, if not better, than in most of the countries where oil has heretofore been found in large quantities. Upon the bay, and in the immediate vicinity of Cavite, it is claimed that not only appearances of petroleum are to be found, but that at many points the oil is seen to bubble up from the water. It is claimed by experts that this is a sure sign that the oil sand is not far below the bed of the bay, and they have decided to test it. They will drill a number of wells in these islands, beginning their operations in the vicinity of Cavite, which is at present believed to be the most favorable locality.

VOLCANO KILLS ALL FISH.

The Sea Near Hawaii Is So Disturbed That the Waters Are Debarred of Sea Food.

The volcano at Kilauea is still moderately active, though the expected eruption has not as yet materialized, says a recent Honolulu report. The volcanic action upon Hawaii has had a curious effect upon the fish about the islands. The members of the United States fish commission now exploring on the Albatross in these waters have been having considerable difficulty in discovering fish of any kind off Oahu and Hawaii, though the fishing is good off Kauai. Many new specimens were discovered off that island, but nearer the volcano the nets and dredges have brought up hardly a fish. Hawaiian fishermen account for this fact by the present volcanic disturbances, which are said to be of greater force beneath the waters than above the sea.

One of the old natives says that ever since he has known the craters of Mauna Loa to show activity the waters of the sea have had a curious up and down and backward and forward motion. Fishermen are so tossed about that it is almost impossible to retain any fish in their nets, and the waters are so constantly in motion by the unusual disturbances that fishing with hook and line is well-nigh impossible.

The eruption of Kilauea is shown also by the irregular action of the surf at Waikiki, which is now pounding irregularly on the coral reefs near here, though hundreds of miles away from the scene of volcanic activity. Around Hilo, which is in the immediate vicinity of the volcano, the water is becoming warmer.

FILIPINO FATALISM.

Cruelty and Indifference to Suffering the Result of Poor Religious Teaching.

There is cruelty and indifference to suffering, often to a shocking degree, among the Filipinos, says James LeRoy in Atlantic. This is due to an error-prone fatalism, which the little real religious teaching the people has received has built upon rather than sought to eliminate, and to the absolute lack of an appeal to, or of an attempt to educate, higher feelings. If it is to be assumed at the outset that these people are forever incapable of such higher feelings, then it ought also to have been assumed that they were incapable of Christianity. Water torture, which has in some cases been resorted to on our side, is one of the forms of torture to which these people are accustomed. The list of victims buried alive by order of guerrilla chiefs, the maiming, mutilations and secret assassinations certainly make up an appalling and shocking chapter. War stirs up the darkest passions among the most advanced people, however, and it was in a degree to be expected that a people untrained in modern international usages, and never in the past treated as though they belonged to the brotherhood of man, or were responsible to humanity for humane treatment, would exhibit an entirely refined code of slaying. The ethics of warfare—after all, that is a rather paradoxical phrase, is it not?

The Direct Road to Heaven. "Out in my district," says Representative Biedler, of Ohio, "there is a very clever preacher. One day a man who does not think much of religion thought he would stump the preacher. 'Parson,' he said, 'what is the best way to heaven?'

"Turn to the right and then keep straight ahead," replied the preacher without an instant's hesitation.—Washington Post.

GIRLS ARE OVEREDUCATED.

Complaints from Many Parts That Women Know Everything But What They Ought To.

In the advanced American view woman's education is diametrically opposed to the view held by European educators. A German woman of extreme culture is almost unknown. The high-bred French woman is born to what her sisters on either continent can by no training aspire, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

"Without casting reflections," said a French woman of American blood on the mother's side, "on the splendid educational work done and being by such institutions as Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley and Wells, or Girton in England, I must say that I fail to find in my second visit here since my marriage an added tone to that attractive feature of American womanhood which a generation ago individualized her.

"I call it a case of too much education. I mean by that education to a knowledge of useless or for her comparatively unimportant subjects. Show me the girl of 18 in the junior class of any of these colleges who, unless entered for a special course in biological study, knows those things which a girl of her age in any near by village knows, and has come to know by gradual absorption, without shock and without horror."

A professor in Columbia college, New York, said recently: "Yes, it is possible that a boy or girl may be over rather than under educated. I mean by that an education of inherent traits at the wrong time and at the hands of ignorant educators. Education means really what its Latin root means—that is, to educate, to bring out and make to sprout and so bear fruit.

"It isn't the facts you imprint in a boy's brains that makes him a useful citizen. Some of the best generals graduated from West Point have been very poor in mathematics, the test of ability there.

"To educate really—that is, to bring to the surface the potential ability of any one person, man, woman or child—you must know the individual, the individual's power or lack of it. Fancy cultivating a love for the classics in a youth who is congenitally inclined to the making of soap? What the boy really needs is a course in bookkeeping."

ANALYSIS OF VOLCANIC DUST.

That from Mount Pelee Found to Be Wholly Lacking in Fertilizing Properties.

It has been a matter of curious speculation since the terrible volcanic eruptions covering the islands adjacent to Martinique with millions of tons of dust as to what effect this enormous deposit would have upon the fertility of the soil. There is a tradition that the similar dispersion of volcanic dust in the eruption of 1812 was wonderfully beneficial as a fertilizer, says the Philadelphia Record.

A correspondent incloses the result of an analysis made at the government laboratory in Barbados, showing the complete material contained in 100 parts of dust, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Substance and Percentage. Includes Moisture, Loss in ignition, Alumina, Titanium oxide, Iron oxide, Lime, Magnesia, Soda, Potash, Phosphoric anhydride, Sulphuric anhydride, Silica (by difference).

By comparison with a sample of the dust ejected in 1812 obtained from the Barbados laboratory museum it was shown that a striking difference existed. The dust of 1913 was much finer, and composed almost wholly of volcanic glass. The finding of larger particles of mineral matter at Barbados, 90 miles from Martinique, is significant of the violence of the latter explosion and of the prodigious height to which the ejected material must have been lifted.

It is evident from the composition of the dust that it is nearly entirely deficient in fertilizing value.

TRIES SUICIDE ONCE A YEAR.

In Sharenton, France, lives a woman who on April 30, 1894, was left a widow. Her grief for her dear departed was so strong and it has continued unabated to such an extent that every year, when the anniversary of her husband's death comes round, she attempts to commit suicide. Seven times had she done so and seven times had she been prevented from carrying out her object. This year she lit her chafing dish for the eighth time, and again the neighbors rushed into the room in time to prevent the rash act. When restored to consciousness the woman exclaimed: "My darling, you won't lose anything by waiting. Wait until next year."—London Mail.

AN IDIOTIC PRACTICE.

The tipping habit oversteps the limit when a man grows all through a meal at the inattention of the waiter, and then "turns to" and fees him as a reward for his abominable service. The tipping system should at least have the extenuating excuse of being reformatory, by making a fee dependent upon good service.—From "Vest Pocket Confidences," in Four-Track News.

EASY DIAGNOSIS.

Mrs. Fondma—Sorry to disturb you at this hour, doctor, but we can't imagine what ails the child. Doctor—Cold, perhaps. Did you have him out to-day? Mrs. Fondma—Yes, but only to his grandmother's. Doctor—Ah! Overfed, that's all.—Philadelphia Press.

WOMEN AND MACHINERY.

More Than a Few Females Think in This Country Have a Bent for Mechanics.

Looking at a small engine in a window of a downtown machinery establishment was a woman, and seemingly she was regarding the engine not with a merely idle curiosity, but with an intelligent interest, relates the New York Sun.

It seemed odd to see a woman thus looking over a piece of machinery; but a man who ought to know whether women are interested in mechanical things or not said in response to an inquiry on the subject that undoubtedly they were.

Mechanics, he said, were born, not made, and there were some women, who had a mechanical bent or inclination, and took to mechanics readily and naturally, and easily learned to run them.

He had known, for instance, of a woman who could run an automobile with ease and skill and bring it in always in perfect condition, while her husband could never run the same machine without getting something out of kilter about it. Evidently here the woman was the better mechanic of the two.

He had known likewise the wife of a man owning a power launch to be able to handle the boat better than her husband. In America, at least, there were plenty of women of more or less mechanical talent.

In this country, whatever mechanical instinct women might have been fostered by the presence in almost every household of labor-saving mechanical contrivances of some sort or other, perhaps of many sorts. There is the sewing machine, for one thing, to be found in every home; and there are washing machines.

Women best eggs in these days with machines and so on; so that in this country, at least, women have long been familiar with machinery in some form, and they are by no means so ignorant of it, or so helpless in the face of it as might be imagined, and they might even come to have a handiness with tools. This man knew of no reason why they could not be trained in that way.

So far, indeed, he said, as the household kit of tools was concerned, it might be that the implements in it would be brought to use by the women of the household as often as by the man. It would be she who would take up the slack of the sewing machine belt, for instance, or do whatever minor tinkering needed to be done about the machine.

And she would keep the carpet sweeper in order; and there are many households in which the woman looks after the clocks, and keeps them going. And he would venture to say that there was at least one household which would instantly suggest itself to the mind in which it was the mother and not the father who always got the nails out of the children's shoes; an operation easy, as it might seem till tried, involving no mean skill in the use of tools.

But leaving out of view these simpler, narrower, domestic channels, in which however, she might nevertheless get more or less training, there were other and wider fields in which the woman of mechanical bent could exercise her talent or skill; as in these days in the operating of power-driven vehicles or boats. And to come back to the woman looking at that engine in the window, it might be that that was a motor engine of some sort, of a kind with which she was familiar; this one showing some novel feature or some improvement that had fixed her attention.

But whatever there was about it that had caught her eye, it was altogether probable that she was looking this engine over precisely as she seemed to be, not with a mere idle curiosity, but with the eyes of one having an intelligent interest in such things.

ODD WEDDING CUSTOMS.

Giving wedding presents is an odd custom, but it differs in various countries. Scotland's penny wedding were peculiar. They were called penny affairs, but the invited guests contributed a shilling and occasionally a half crown, and out of this sum thus collected the expenses of the wedding feast were paid. Germany has a penny wedding at which the bride receives her guests with a basin before her, in which each person entering deposits a jewel, a silver spoon or a piece of money. In some parts of Germany the rule is that the expenses of the marriage feast shall be met by each guest paying for what he eats or drinks. The prices paid for viands and drinks are high, and the young couple often make a handsome profit out of their wedding, often realizing a sum quite sufficient to start them nicely in life. Often as many as 300 guests are present at such a wedding.—Chicago Record-Herald.

ONLY THING HE HAD RED.

An unlettered immigrant applied to the Philadelphia court of naturalization the other day, when he was asked: "Have you read the declaration of independence?" "No, sir," was the reply. "Have you read the constitution of the United States?" "No, sir." "Have you read the history of the United States?" "No, sir," he repeated. "No," exclaimed the judge, in disgust; "well, what have you read?" "Red hair on my head, your honor," was the innocent reply.—Stray Stories.

A QUESTION OF TIME.

A man never gets so old that he does not think if he had just had a little more time he could have got well off.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.