

END OF THE OTHER SIDE.

Private Secretary Makes Two Mistakes, One of Which Was Laughable.

An official of one of the departments at Washington says that whenever he encounters an unknown person he is reminded of an amusing experience of the private secretary of a late secretary of war, relates the New York Times.

It appears that this private secretary before he got well acquainted paid little attention to persons he did not know to be of importance.

The next day one of the first persons to enter the private secretary's room was a distinguished-looking old man with a long, patriarchal beard.

SEASON OF EXAMINATIONS.

When the Teachers Are Treated to Some Bare Examples of Brackets.

In this examination season school-teachers talk much of the examination papers that, from sunset until the small hours, they sit and mark.

Some teachers the other day were hunched together, relating an exchange.

"A little boy," one said, "handed me a paper on physiology yesterday. In this paper, describing shoemaking as an occupation injurious to the health, the boy wrote: 'This trade is injurious because the shoemakers press the shoes against the thorax, and therefore, it presses the thorax in, and it touches the heart, and if they do not die they are crippled for life.'"

BARBAROUS PUNISHMENT.

Russian General Gives an Exhibition of the Brutality of the Czar's Minions.

Gen. Dragomiroff, the aged adviser of the czar, rose from the ranks, and always dressed according to the army regulations for the common soldier.

The general surveyed the soldier sternly for a few moments, then, twining his fingers in the latter's locks, he literally wiped up the street with him, the victim not daring to resist.

Wonder Worker.

James Bruce, the eighteenth-century traveler and explorer, owed his discovery of the source of the Blue Nile to his ability to amaze the Abyssinians.

Collies in the Tropics.

Several trained Scotch collies have been used by the Germans in their southwest African campaign, but, according to reports received in Berlin, the dogs have proved an utter failure.

Royal Artisans.

King Edward has played many parts in his time, one of them being brick-maker and builder.

LESSON OF EARTHQUAKE.

Test of Structural Materials Furnished by San Francisco Disaster.

If argument were needed to show the advisability of an investigation of structural materials it is more than supplied by the recent earthquake in California.

What buildings best stood the shock is a question of very great practical interest. Why they endured when others fell is food for thought to builders all over the country.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the Appraisers building in San Francisco, where the United States geological survey maintains a local office, is one of the few business structures in that city which was uninjured either by shock or by flame.

COURT'S DUTY DEFINED.

Judge Is Told by Lawyer, Who Lacked Respect, What He Was There For.

A. G. Jewett, lawyer, politician and man of sarcastic wit, was once trying a case in the supreme court in Belfast, Me., his home city.

MEANING OF NOON IN LAW.

As to Whether or Not Standard Time Is Signified, Decisions Confict.

The courts of several states have dealt with an odd question, none of them agreeing upon a similar answer. When is it legally noon? Fire insurance policies expire at noon, and the word is admitted to mean exactly 12 o'clock, midday.

RURAL NORWAY IS HONEST.

Incidents Which Are Illustrative of One of Its Marked Characteristics.

Norwegian peasants are said to be the most honest people in the world. Several years ago an English tourist, in going from Trondhem to Christiania, lost 15 or 20 sovereigns on the road.

Getting His Money's Worth.

"Does it make any difference which door we go in at?" asked his wife as the street car stopped at the crosswalk.

Cool One.

Stranger (in Yaphank)—That show to be given here next week ought to be suppressed. Would you be willing to start a crusade against it?

Local Minister.

Who are you, may I ask?

Chicago Tribune.

"On the advance sheet"—Pity

THE SELF-RELIANT MAN.

Is the One Most in Demand in This Busy Day and Generation.

Haven't you depended upon clothes, upon appearances, upon introductions, upon recommendations about long enough? Haven't you leaned about long enough on other things? Isn't it about time for you to call a halt, to tear off all masks, to discard everything you have been leaning on outside of yourself, and depend upon your own worth? writes O. S. Marden, in Success Magazine.

WAS ALTOGETHER TOO TAME.

Sighting, Soulful Swain Who Deserved Dose Described in "Note Below."

After he had fallen upon his knees and kissed her hands, relates the Lowell Mail, she said:

"Before I answer you or no there are some things I'd like to ask you. Do you ever gamble or drink?"

"No," he eagerly replied. "I do not know what the taste of liquor is. I have never uttered a profane word in all my life. I have never played cards where a prize was at stake."

"She looked at him thoughtfully for a moment, drew a long sigh, and then asked: 'Have you ever broken a woman's heart?'"

"Ah, how can you ask me that?" he almost reproachfully answered. "If I had ever spoken words of love to another I would not deem myself worthy to touch the hem of your garment. I have never cared for anyone but you; I have never kissed any woman except my mother (see note below). I have never given any girl cause to utter a consequential-sigh—yours is the first tear, soft hand that I have ever held in my own (see note below); never before to-night have I looked into any girl's eyes as I am looking into your deep, soulful eyes, never—"

"Oh, dear," she impatiently interrupted, drawing her hand away from him. "It's after eight o'clock, and you shouldn't be so far away from home at this time of night. Let's go home and I'll get my brother Tom to go home with you. Your mamma must be terribly worried." "Note—At each of these remarks the writer wished he had had a soft, hot squash pie handy, and he would have handed it to him good."

Country Rich in Metals.

Silver, Copper and Coal as Well as Gold Proliferous in Alaska.

Alaska, the golden-also-is-rich-in-considerable quantities of silver, copper and coal, and promises to do something with tin and petroleum, which recently have been discovered. The annual gold production represents a value of some \$2,000,000. The mining of placer gold is carried on in June, July, August and September.

Mining operations are rendered difficult not only by the short available season, but also by the lack of fall in the streams, the poor supply of water and timber, the half-frozen condition of the gravel, and the high cost of labor and transport.

Despite these obstacles the wide and uniform distribution of alluvial gold, the healthy climate, and the proximity of the phenomically rich gold fields of the British Yukon region justify prospecting and mining over large areas.

Stream tin, discovered in the Onikovik river in 1900, has been found over an area of 450 square miles. Promising surface indications of petroleum have been found in the Controller bay, Cook inlet, and Cold bay fields.

Though only a few wells have been bored there seems to be ample justification for further prospecting and for believing that the Pacific coast region of Alaska may prove an important source of illuminating oil.

Coal, mostly of a lignitic character, also widely is distributed in south-western Alaska, whilst the cradle of the Cape Lisburne region are of two distinct classes, low grade bituminous coal of the mesozoic age and high grade bituminous coal of paleozoic age.

American Money in Cuba.

Cuba is being bound to the United States with a chain of gold that cannot easily be broken. American capital and the representatives of the men who possess it are pouring into the island.

During the last two years fully \$150,000,000 of American money has been invested in Cuba, outside of Havana. In that city, also, American capital is being laid out freely on new projects.

American colonies can be found in many parts of the island. Some of the cities are beginning to take on an American appearance in architecture and industry. Most of the railroad development of the island is in the hands of Americans. Trolley lines, such as are common in this country, are reaching out in every direction.

Widow Wanted.

The Northampton (Eng.) Guardians of the Poor have received a letter from a farm laborer, who writes: "I hear that you have one or two widows on the books. If so, I am in want of one for a wife. One that is an outdoor relief would just suit me."

Foxy Groom.

A man in Paris who had an ugly wife bribed his groom to run away with her, so that he could get a divorce. The groom did so, but took with him all the woman's jewels and several thousand dollars of the husband's money.

Both Barbarous.

Rodrick—There is something about the Indians that reminds me of college students.

Van Albert—What is it?

"Why, you can't tell their songs from their whoops."—Chicago Daily News.

His Capacity.

Brown I should think you'd show a little more strength of mind, James. Now, I can take two drinks and stop.

Judge—Thank nuthin', Brownsy. I (hic) kin take 20 'n' stop.—Judge

CHESS OLDEST PASTIME.

Of Asiatic Origin and Dates Back to the Misty Medieval Times.

The oldest game known to man is chess. The origin of this game, or mimic battle, as Goldsmith called it in his translation of Vida, dates back to 3000 B. C. It is rich in legendary anecdotes, and its venerable nomenclature has been transmitted through all changes in language from the earliest tongues of the Indo-European to the latest.

A peculiar thing about chess, with its combination of idle amusement and extreme mental toll, is that it is the only game sanctioned by priests of all beliefs. The principal piece in the game derives its name, king, from the Persian shah, or ruler.

Many men whose names have gone down to posterity, such as Charlemagne, Frederic, Frederick the Great, Charles XII., Voltaire, Rousseau and Ben Franklin, have been devotees and students of the game.

Chess is Asiatic in origin, and originally drew attention was paid to it by Asiatic students and philosophers than by men of western countries. Of late years, however, its popularity has greatly increased among western nations, and national chess tournaments are now held by experts from nearly all countries.

The history of chess may be divided into three periods. The age of the primeval Indian game, extending from its origin down to the sixth century A. D.; the age of the medieval chess, from the sixth century to the sixteenth century; and the age of the modern chess, from the last of the sixteenth century to the present day.

Of course many changes in the method of play took place in the course of development of the game, and as it is played now it is different from the game the ancients knew.

Chess has been played in nearly every country. Chess-boards have been found among the ruins of Pompeii and in the Roman Forum one may still see the outline of a checker-board roughly scratched on the stone wall by some senatorial page of Cæsar's time. In the orient both names have been played from time immemorial.

PLANTS OF ARID REGIONS.

Tender Growth That Survive Long Periods of Severe Drought.

Even the deserts have their bonny, as the British botanists call them, at Tucson, Arizona, is witness. The water relations of the plants of arid regions are delicately adjusted that a slight variation in the available supply or in the relative humidity of the air produces a quick and notable effect.

A shrub called the ocotillo had been without leaves for several weeks, owing to a long period of drought. One day three gallons of water were poured slowly in the ground at the base of the plant.

The plant next day had taken on its normal appearance, which by the afternoon of the next day had become an inch long, and four days afterward were full grown. The period of activity of plants dependent on the period during which they retain their leaves. In the case of desert plants growing under adverse conditions to the large amount of moisture present in the air, which retards transpiration and thus assists the plant in retaining to some extent the amount of water at its disposal, it is considered probable that the leaves absorb atmospheric moisture in sufficient quantity to be of biological importance. It has been proved that stems of succulent moisture, both water and atmospheric moisture, it also has been shown that a branch of ocotillo without leaves can absorb a sufficient amount of water to induce the formation of leaves.

PICTURES SENT BY WIRE.

Apparatus by Which Photographs or Sketches Are Transmitted.

Picture telegrams have been wired from Nuremberg to Munich, 100 miles away, and apparently could have been sent ten times that distance with equal ease. In Prof. Korn's apparatus the sketch or photograph must be translucent, and is attached to a cylinder of glass mounted on an axle by which it is slowly rotated, moving at the same time from right to left—in fact, moving much as the wax cylinder in the phonograph does. A beam of light is directed on the cylinder and passing through it, modified by the image on that particular cell within the cylinder. This cell forms part of an electric circuit. The resistance of a selenium cell varies according to the light falling upon it, and in this way the current flowing in the circuit of which the line forms a part is modified. The receiving apparatus consists of a similar cylinder revolving synchronously with the first with photographic paper fastened outside it, and with a Nernst electric lamp occupying the place of the selenium cell. The light of the lamp fluctuates in unison with the light falling on the selenium, and so affects the paper and reproduces on it the image on the first cylinder.

Island Mystery.

"Treasure island" is still a mystery. The steam yacht Rose Marie, which left England in October, 1904, to search for the treasure which tradition says private concealed on Cooco Island, in the Pacific, has returned to Southampton. Capt. Mathews, the skipper, is silent as to the results of the voyage, and only says that his belief in the project has been strengthened. The work of searching the island is very silent.

Hollow Lead Soldiers.

A new method a London firm is able to make hollow lead soldiers. This greatly reduces the cost of production, and the trade in these toys, which once belonged almost exclusively to Germany, is now rapidly increasing in England. The weight of the hollow soldier is one-third of the solid.

MATCHES NOT REQUIRED.

How an Oregon Forest Fire Was Started by the Wrath of a Hunter.

"How did this terrible forest fire get started?" inquired the tenderfoot from Indiana, according to the Portland Oregonian.

"Well, you see," said the obliging Oregon man, "last week me an' Si Hanks wuz up in the mountains on a huntin' trip and Si wuz 'bout seven miles from camp an' wanted to light his pipe."

"Oh, I see—and he threw down the lighted match and set the woods afire."

"No, you don't see. Jest lemme tell my story. Si wanted to light his pipe. He had put a bunch of matches in his pocket the night before in the dark. Si kep' a-congratulating himself on havin' a plenty of matches, an' he waited till he could see down an' smoke an' drink in the inspirin' scenery. Si wuz jest as eager for that smoke as a tomcat is for his dinner when he sees a bowl of cream with the kiver on."

"Finally Si seen a big rock—the finest rock for a seat in the hill state of Oregon, and the finest place of scenery from Puget sound to Mexico. Si set down, pulled out his old pipe, an' filled it full of the best tobacco that grows. Then he reached in his pocket for a match and fetched out a wooden toothpick. He dove in again an' fetched out another. Then he pulled out the half bunch of matches an' found they wuz none! but toothpicks—an' seven miles to camp. An' then Si Hanks set the forest afire."

"I don't see how he could do that if he had no matches," said the dubious tenderfoot.

"Ye don't hah?"

"I certainly don't."

"Well, Si Hanks jest naturally set them woods afire with the lightin' of his wrath."

IT WAS THE WRONG BABY.

Bibulous Husband Tries in Vain to Steal a March on Watch.

The clerk was smiling broadly and a caller asked him the cause of his peculiarity, relates the Baltimore Herald.

"Why, it's a story a Missourian who is staying here just told me about a friend of his who is a well-known contractor here in Baltimore."

"Shall we have the story?" asked the caller.

"Sure," returned the other, "only we'll have to eliminate names. This contractor to some times gives to brief sessions of libations, and while returning from one of these a short time ago he made up his mind that he would not disturb his wife. On reaching home he was successful in finding the keyhole, and after careful effort he successfully navigated his way upstairs. Here he saw or thought he saw in the dim light which the electric lamp outside shed through the window the five-month-old baby sitting up in his cot, while his wife was comfortably sleeping in the bed beyond. Slightly reeling over to the rocker he took the baby in his arms and began to rock her to sleep, when his wife awoke and said:

"John, she said, 'what are you doing there?'"

"She in'dear, whispered John, 'I'm rockin' baby to sleep.'"

"Baby's been asleep for over an hour," said the patient wife reproachfully. John, put down that doll and come to bed. I fear that you need a little sleep."

Effort to Save Elephants.

Travelers from Africa are urging the governments of Europe to take steps to preserve the elephants in their respective colonies and spheres of influence. In India the government controls the forests and the laws are strict. When elephants are dangerous permits are issued for hunting the "vagabonds" or bad elephants, and when they are killed all permits are revoked. In Siam all elephants belong to the crown, and are never killed. Every five years there is a government inspection of them, all white elephants are sent to the prince royal, and the domestic stock is increased by careful selection from the general herd. In Africa thousands are killed every year for their ivory, which is white, harder and more esteemed than that of the Asiatic elephant.

Woman's Progress in China.

Chinese women are being emancipated. Schools for the daughters of mandarins have been opened, and some Chinese girls are even attending courses at the University of Tokio. Periodicals for women are issued in some of the larger cities, and a book has been published which is devoted entirely to a plea that girls should be allowed to select their own husbands. The empress encourages this movement. She has endowed a school for the families of high officials, and has given orders that the practice of foot-binding must be given up.

Germany's Patent Office.

The German patent office comes in for much censure. One would suppose such an institution to exact no more of inventors than is needed to pay current expenses, but in reality the charges are so high that the state pockets half the income as profit. It is pointed out that for poor inventors matters are almost as bad as they were when Gutenberg, after inventing the art of printing, lived in poverty, and finally had to pawn his apparatus.