Its Queer Old Governor and the Ressen of His Being There—A Happy and Contested People Who Knew Nothing of the Outside World.

Did you ever hear of a place where money was useless? Well, there is such a place. It is the island of Tristan d'Acunha, in the E nuth Atlantic, about midway between the Cape of Good Hope and the South American coast. But you mustn't jump to the conclusion that money has no value there because the island is uninbibited. It has a population of sixty-four, and is the tiniest of Great Britain's many small colonies.

Once a year the British government sends off a ship to the island. Just why this should be done is not quite clear. A yearly mail service is quite four inhabitants are British subjects they never receive any mail. They lead a solitary existence, knowing nothing of the great world beyond their shores and caring less.

Some time ago, for some reason or other, the King of Italy sent a donation of two hundred dollars for distribution among the inhabitants. A gentleman named Gane, who had visited the island, commenting on this fact, wrote a



PETER WILLIAM GREEN. letter to the London Graphic, which throws an additional light upon these strange islanders. He said in part: -"It may not be generally known, but it is none the less a fact, that money is of no value to these people. When I was there, in 1884, I offered money in exchange for their curiosities, but it was politely but firmly declined. They had no use for it, they said. On the other hand, articles of clothing such as woollen undervests and socks, suited to the rigor of the climate, were received

with the utmost appreciation." The island of Tristan d'Acunha, which has been described as the lonli- beasts of burden, and promises to be Celeste was Benjamin Briggs, and he est British possession on the face of the globe, well bears out its reputation. stay at in the world, although, of It is a mountainous place, the highest | course, infidel dogs are not allowed to peak rising to an altitude of 8,236 feet approach it. Its vast size has drawn above the sea level. The "head man" of the island, known as the Governor. is a picturesque old fellow named Peter | in Vienna, where there is an apart-William Green. He was shipwrecked over sixty years ago, and when his shipmates were finally taken off, the building has thirty-two staircases, thirkindness which he had experienced at the hands of the islanders led him to on the street. remain behind and cast his lot with

He was afterward married to one of the women of the island. So great became his popularity that upon the death of the then Governor, the islanders unanimously elected Peter to fill his place. and this office he has occupied ever since. He is known to be over eighty years old, but is hale and vigorous. His administration of primitive justice has won him the respect and esteem of his followers.

The Cigarette in Europe. The cigarette was first introduced into this country at the close of the Crimean War by British officers, who had found themselves under compulsion to adopt Turkish fashions of consuming tobacco, seeing that there was not a decent cigar to be obtained for love or money throughout the length and breadth of the Ottoman Empire. Pipe smoking was strongly discouraged at regimental messes forty odd years ago; indeed, it is scarcely tolerated at the present day in some of the "tonegiving" military and "noble" clubs in Germany.

Pace of Camels.

Seven miles an hour is the camel's best pace, nor can it maintain this rate over two hours. Its usual speed is about five miles an hour-a slow. lounging pace, beyond which it is dangerous, with nine camels out of ten, to urge them, or else, as Asiatics say, they "break their hearts," and literally die on the spot.

Killed the Chief Priest.

It used to be the custom when the chief priest of one of the Congo tribes showed symptoms of illness to kill him forthwith, either by strangulation or by the aid of a club, the natives believing that if he were allowed to die by disease all the rest of the world would perish.

Glove Silver,

Glove silver was the strange name given to a custom which prevailed in England during the Middle Agesnamely, the granting of a certain sum of money to servants to buy gloves with on Lammas Day, or, as it is called now, Bank Holiday.

Cards Infested With Germs. A distinguished French specialist says that cards frequently played with are absolutely impregnated with germs. On a square centimeter of one card he found no fewer than 6.160 bacteria.

Tell on Suce Causi. The toll on an ordinary ship passing through the Suez canal averages about \$4,000. The distance is 92 miles.

MOST REMARKABLE LAKE.

A Strange Black Fluid That Bears No Recombinate to Water.

The most remarkable body of water in the world lies in the vicinity of the Colorado river, in Southern California. In this region of ugly volcanoes, desolate wastes and slimy swamps, the strangest phenomenon of all is what the naturalists call a "lake of ink." No other description fits so well.

The strange, black fluid that forms the lake bears no resemblance to wa-

The pool of ink is situated about half a mile from a volcano. It is about an acre in area. The surface is coated with gray ashes from the volcanoes to raft with the stump of a distress sigthe thickness of about six inches, thus concealing its real nature.

Experiment has proved that the black fluid of the take is not poisonous. It acts as a dye, and cotton goods soaked in it keep their color for months, even when exposed to the sun. They unnecessary, for although the sixty- also acquire a stiffness similar to that produced by weak starch. The fluid has been analyzed, but its component parts picked up by more fortunate craft and have not been made known. .) the are brought to port to be mysteries no source of the supply of the la. noth-longer. But there are mysteries of the ing definite has been ascertained. It is undoubtedly of volcanic origin, but lifeboat and the dead sailor. Man has nothing more definite is known.

This is a bad land that has never been traversed. Human beings have tried it, but they never return to tell tains and valleys echo their secrets. of their experience of their discoveries. but the cruel old ocean never does.

Need of Covering During Sleen. The reason that it is never ry to be well covered while sleeping is that when the body lies down it is the intention of nature that it should rest, and the heart especially should be relieved of its regular work temporarily. So that organ makes ten strokes a minute less than when the body is in an upright posture. This means 600 stokes in sixty minutes. Therefore, in the eight hours that a man usually spends in taking his night's rest, the out giving the least trace of those who heart is saved nearly five thousand had been in charge of her. strokes. As it pumps six ounces of blood with each stroke, it lifts 30,000 ounces less of blood in this night's session than it would during the day, when a man is usually in an upright position. Now, the body is dependent for its warmth on the vigor of the circulation, and as the blood flows so much more slowly through the veins when one is lying down, the warmth lost in the reduced circulation must be supplied by extra coverings .- "Evening Wisconsin."

Largest Hotel in the World. The sultan is said to have nearly completed the largest botel in the world at Mecca. This establishment is to lodge 6,000 pilgrims at once, with, presumably, their camels and other one of the most pictures que places to attention to monster residences. The largest dwelling house in existence is ment-house with 1.500 rooms in it, occupied by more than 3,000 people. This teen interior courts and 850 windows

The Manila Cab System.

The natives of Manila has a unique cab system. Not elaborate two and four wheels with coachmen and grooms in live:y, high-stepping horses and high seats-these are superfluities, they consider. Only a single wheel, clumsy



and shaky, with the other parts on the lines of an American wheel-barrow, constitutes the cab of Manila, on the top of which the passenger crouches. They are propelled by attendants who are strong, polite and speedy.

Accuracy of Range Finder.

So accurate is the range finder used on American ships that in a recent test with two shots the projectiles fell within 30 yards of each other at a disaided eye could reach.

Very Thick Sking. Kongo negroes are remarkable for their thick skins. A case is mention-

ed of a black clashed with a razor in a brad awl. Corean Sints.

The ordinary outdoor hat in Corea is a curious looking thing, having a brim a foot and a half wide, and being made of a kind of stiff gossamer, of silk or tising on the hagpipes. The pipes were horsehair, dexterously worked in with finely split bamboos.

Elephant's Best Age,

In India elephants over twelve and up to forty-five years of age are deemed the best to purchase, and will generally work until they are eighty years

Thick House Walls. The outside walls of many of the houses in Mexico are from three to six feet thick to withstand earthquake shocks.

OCEAN MYSTERIES.

SECRETS WELL GUARDED BY OLD FATHER NEPTUNE.

Vessels Which Have Spiled and Never Been Heard of-The Marie Celeste-An American Brig That Was Towed Into Port But

Her People Had All Disappeared. When a well-found ship leaves port and is never afterwards heard from, it is put down as a mystery of the sea. When a dead body encased in an unidentified life-jacket is lifted up by the sleepless surf and cast on the waveworn beach, that, too, is recorded as a mystery of the deep. The waterlogged nal spar pointing mutely skyward; the battered lifeboat with the oars dragging from the gunwales, and the acre of boxes and barrels and beams and planks floating silently on the white crests, and in the dark hollows of the surging sea, these are likewise called ocean mysteries. Sometimes these marks of shipwreck and death are sea deeper than the plank, the crushed tried to fanthom them, hopelessly attempted to put two and two together that he might get at the truth. Moun-

There are greater secrets in Old Neptune's care than those of the missing ship. The Naronic went away and never came back. So did the City of Boston, City of Glasgow, Erin, Alvo, City of London, City of Limerick, President. Pacific and a score of others. Yet the disappearance of these craft are ordinary mysteries of the sea. A greater mystery still is when a crew abandons its ship and is never again heard from, while the abandoned craft is subsequently towed into port with-

Such a case was that of the Marie Celeste, and it is as weird and uncanny a tale as even the "Ancient Mariner" or the "Flying Dutchman" aspired to

be. The remarkable disappearance of the Celeste's crew was made the subject of an extensive investigation by the State Department in Washington, and it is from these records that the particulars herein given were obtained. The Marie Celeste was an American brig of over 400 tons, and early in the seventies left this port for Villefranche, in the Mediterranean. Several months after her departure she was towed into port as sound as a new coin, but her people, numbering thirteen, including the wife and child of the skipper. have not been heard of from that day to this. The name of the captain of the Marie hailed from New England. In addition to the little six-year-old daughter who shared the fate of the crew, whatever

it was, the captain had a boy ten years old. It had been his habit to take this boy to sea with him, but on the eventful trip in which he disappeared from the face of the globe, he left his son behind. The latter has spent a small fortune in trying to ascertain what happened to his parents and the other people of the brig after that vessel was deserted: he knows as much now of the mystery as he did twenty years ago.

Hobby of a Scotch Printer. Some men have queer hobbies, and a remarkable one is that of a Glasgow man who has spent the leisure of four years in rewriting the Scriptures. He is a compositor, with a wonderful gift of turning out beautiful writing, and in the time mentioned he has managed to reach the middle of the Psalms. In two years he anticipates that the concluding verses will have been written. A feature of this remarkable Bible will be its illustrations. Each chapter has trative of the context. The writer is a native of Dumfries, and in his boyhood he carried the local morning paper.

New Stamping Machine.

Stamps can be quickly affixed to letters by a new machine in which the stamps are wound on a roller in a handle frame, to be forced across a moistened pad and deposited on the envelope, the action being obtained by a depending lever which touches the envelope before the under side of the machine reaches its lowest point.

To Purity Air.

An Australian has designed a receptacle for deodorizing and aromatizing the air of rooms, the vessel having a large bulb at the lower end and an tance of 12 miles. Both would have hit elongated neck with a cap at the end the hull of a ship farther than the un- to close the openings. The disinfectant used is composed of ammonia, acetic ether and oil of lavender or other per-

Tastes of Cats.

Cats have curious and varying tastes. scuffie. The hospital surgeon broke In a family of five kittens one may two needles in trying to put in the be ravenous for beetroot, another for stitches and at last was driven to use a cucumber, another for tomatoes, one will touch nothing but fish, and another wants nothing but bread and milk.

Amgele Played Bagpipes. In Gothic sculpture and tracery angels are sometimes portrayed pracoccasionally used in churches before the introduction of the organ, early in

the fifteenth century. Millionaires of the World. To be classed as a millionaire in the United States a man must be worth at least \$1,000,000; in England he must have five times as much, or \$5,000,000: in Germany, 1,000,000 marks, or \$250,-

Majra Split. The thickness of hair varies from the two-hundred-and-officials to the sixhundredth part of an inch.

BEAUTIFUL DEADLY ORGHIDS

A Forest of Beautiful Flowers That No One Can Approach.

M. Serge Belaguine, a Russian explorer of Brazil, states in an interview cently published in The Gaulois that a few degrees below the equator be discovered a forest of flowers that prevented him from approaching them. With every deference to Mr. Belaguine, that forest seems to have been discovered before, says-Collier's Weekly, Two years ago there appeared in a San Francisco paper an account provided by a bulb hunter returning from the same region, who declared that after noticing in a forest an odor, vague and sweet at first, but which increased as he advanced, ultimately he reached a clearing, and there, straight shead, was a wilderness of orchids. Trees. were loaded with them, underbrush was covered with them, they trailed on the ground, mounted in beckoning contortions, dangled from branches, fell in sheets, and elongated and expanded as far as the eye could reach. A breeze passed and they swayed with it, moving with a life of their own, dancing in the glare of the equatorial sun, and as they danced exhaling an odor that protected them more sheerly than a wall. In vain did that hunter endeavor to approach. There was a veil of perfumed chloroform through which he could see, but through which, try as he might, he could not pass. It held him back more effectually than bayonets, and it was torture to him to see those flowers and to feel that lefere he could reach them he must die, suffocated by the very splendors of which he was in search, poisoned by floral jewels such as no one perhaps had seen, before. At the time the place was known as the village of demon flowers.

Porto Rican Filters.

Water is filtered in Porto Rico in a manner which affords an opening for American exterprise. In the courtyard of nearly every house stands one or two of the native filters. They are made in two main parts. The upper is a



ponderous porous stone, hollowed out to the shape of a wash basin. By a slatwork of saprights it is supported directly over a stone receptacle on the ground. A gallon or two of water in poured into the upper, and falls drop: by drop into the lower. The water is made clear as crystal, and, while the method is slow, it is sure. An inspection of the moss-covered lower half of the upper stone detracts a little from the esteem which the water wins at a first glance.

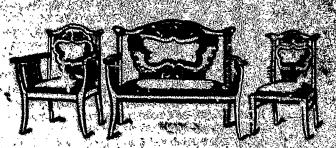
Egg Plants Hard to Grovy, into the summer market the most diffcult to raise is the egg plant, and for this reason few truckers care to take the trouble with them. Few people in the city really know how an egg plant its artistically designed initial letter, grows. The general impression is that and each book a pictorial heading illus- it grows egg upward on a stock like the cauliflower and there are some who be-Heve it grows in the ground like a furdays ran errands for Carlyle, to whom | nip. In fact, it grows on a bush with a large leaf, and is never so large asa tomato-vine. The plants must be raised in a hotbed and set out in May and require more than ordinary care. A slight rain will sometimes cause all the eggs to rot and occasionally they rot without any rain. One egg in half a dozen fit for the market is a good

Italy's Poor.

Marvelous economy- is practised by the poor of Italy in looking after the wants of the linner man. Coffee grounds from the wealthy man's kitchen are dried and resold to the poor. In a sim 80 Platt St., near Allen. Ecophone 9 ilar way oil is twice, and sometimes three times used, the drippings after each successive frying being gathered from the pan and sold to the poor.

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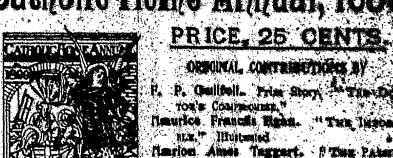
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