

DEATH IN A NEW GUISE.

Scheme That Landed a Hungarian Judge in Town Jail.

In a little village on the Hungarian frontier, not far from Pressburg, a peasant woman recently received 400 kronen (£17) from her husband in America.

She promptly deposited it in the local branch of the Post Office Savings Bank, and then the next day went to withdraw the whole amount.

The bank official was somewhat surprised, and asked for an explanation, when she said that Death had appeared to her during the night and threatened to take her away with him unless she had the 400 kronen ready for him the next night.

The gendarmes were communicated with, and when "Death" made his promised appearance he was found to be very much alive, in the person of the local judge.

The woman's money, adds a Vienna correspondent who sends the story, is still in the bank, and the judge is in jail.

How London Was Hoaxed. In 1880 one of the most successful and perhaps the least harmful of all fools' hoaxes was perpetrated.

ADMIT the Bearer TO VIEW the WASHINGTON WHITE LIONS On the 1st APRIL, at Twelve precisely.

At the Marriage Fair. An annual marriage fair at Ecaussinnes, Belgium, resulted in twenty-seven matrimonial engagements, and it is probable that about a dozen more bachelors will shortly make up their minds to enter the state of wedlock.

Explaining the Motive. The motive of these people," said Bishop Doane, discussing married people who quarrel "is like the motive of a Scot who was found weeping one day.

Work of Sand Dunes. It is stated that along the Lincolnshire Coast the sand dunes which fringe the shore are moving steadily inland.

Hibernation of Bats. Nearly all bats have the faculty of hibernation. Their hibernation, however, is not perfect—that is to say, that when the warm days occur in the middle of winter they wake up together with the insects which are their food.

Conditions in Bulgaria. From the latest published statistics Bulgaria does not seem to be a workman's paradise.

First Mint Julep. Common mint is in Greece and Italy so old that Ovid derived its name from Mentha, a young Greek woman who, by the enmity of a harum-scarum goddess, was converted into the plant whose oil is now an essential part of the stock of the druggist, the candy-maker and the cafe impresario.

Hold the Tobacco Record. Germany once held the record for the consumption of tobacco per head, but it is now held by the Belgian who consumes 431 pounds yearly.

USE OF THE METAL CAP.

Important Part Played by Soft Tip of Projectile.

The function of the soft metal cap on armor-piercing projectiles has been heretofore ascribed to the melting of the soft metal at the instant of impact, thus lubricating the way for the passage of the harder metal.

Judicial Flogging in India. Let me draw the attention of the public to a shocking state of affairs which exist under the criminal law in India, says a writer in Reynolds' Newspaper.

Production of Petroleum. Although the production of crude petroleum in America is making enormous strides every year, the bulk of which comes from new territories which yield heavy oils containing little or no spirit.

A Water Clock. One of the most curious clocks in the world is said to be that which tells the time to the inhabitants of a little American backwoods town.

Haunt of "The Insomnia Club." Guadalajara has probably one of the most unique social organizations in the new world.

Prison Record of Greece. Consul General George Horton of Athens states that on March 1, 1907, there were confined in the various prisons of Greece 5,672 persons.

Baron Rosen a Musician. Baron Rosen, the Russian Ambassador to Washington, is one of the finest piano players in Washington.

For a McKinley Monument. Citizens of New Berlin, Ohio, are devising ways and means to raise money to erect in that village a monument to the memory of the late President McKinley.

Automatic Extinguishers. A new invention has been introduced in Newcastle, England, by which it is feared the lamp-lighters of the city will lose their vacation.

Uncle Sam's Twigs. The biggest job of gardening undertaken by the Government is the planting and growing of little trees, five and a half millions of which are now being produced every year for setting out in the various forest reserves.

RINGER IN THE DERBY

Old Time Turf Scandal That Resulted in a Lawsuit.

The history of the turf contains many stories of fraud, but none more audacious and impudent than that associated with the Derby of 1844, which has been described as the most sensational race on record—at least in its developments.

Col. Peel's contention was that the winner of the Derby was none other than Macarabius, a four-year-old horse bred by Sir Charles Ibbetson, and thus disqualified by age for the Derby.

Father of Steam Engine. The steam-engine goes back to Hero, of Alexandria, in the third century B. C.

Egypt Made First Pens. Pens were first made in Egypt and were made of a kind of reed.

Snake Furnished First Saw. Talus, the Greek, is said to have invented the saw from having once found the jawbone of a snake.

Ignore What "They Say." What "they say" is beneath your notice. What's the use of lying awake of nights with the unkind remark of some false friend running through your brain like forked lightning?

WOMEN AS LABORERS

IN BELGIUM OLD WOMEN DO THE WORK OF FARM HANDS.

The little country, of whose existence she is the corner stone, is one of the most densely populated in the world, and every square mile of territory must support 485 persons.

The population of the country, some seven millions, is divided into the proportion of three rural dwellers to one who lives in the city, and probably the same proportion, three to one, would show the number of women and children as against men who toil in the fields.

Centuries of habit have made men regard the Belgian women as a natural wage-earner. If he is industrial he works in the factory, while she goes out and raises the farm produce that is eaten on his table.

Young women and old think nothing of working a 12 hour day in the fields, where wheat, barley, rye, oats, hemp, fax hops, dye plants and cotton are prepared for the markets.

But it is not alone at farming that the women of Leopold's realm toil for their keep.

Incredible as it may seem, they are actually miners, and no small part of the valuable mineral output of the country results from their efforts.

In this country, the miners, subject of so much solicitude, are men, but in Belgium the same dangers, privations and exhausting work are the portion of women.

In all the Belgian mines women work at the surface, handle coal, breakers boys accomplish in the United States. In some of the mines they are not permitted to go below the surface, but in others they actually compete with the male miners.

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At the great seats of the linen industry, Courtray and Bruges, in West Flanders, Ghent in East Flanders, Brussels in Brabant, Mechlin or Malines in Antwerp, Tourney in Hainault, women are employed in great numbers and are more skilled than men. But no account of their ability is taken in the wages paid them, which are for the most part pitifully small.

When Dowle, as part of his dream of a modern Zion in the United States, brought a number of lace workers from Belgium, with the idea of making a fortune from their work he made them no extravagant offers of salary, yet their income was as much in one day as it had been in a month in their native land.

But the lot of these linen workers and lace makers is a dream of luxury compared to what some other Belgian women must endure.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Secretary. Miss Isabelle Hagner, who acts as social secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt, is carried on the white house payroll as a clerk at \$1,400 a year.

TRACING AN ERRING LETTER

French Postal Officials Require Time For Such an Undertaking.

A young English woman visiting in Paris received a note from a friend saying that tickets had been sent by an earlier post for a concert to take place that afternoon, but by error a wrong street number was written on the envelope.

Arriving at the post office of our quarter I made known my errand to three gentlemen in succession. The last young gentleman took out a long paper and demanded peremptorily my name, age, address and birthplace.

"Well, misdirected, as I have already explained to three persons here." "But it is not here where one brings the letters which find themselves badly directed. Those letters are under in another department of the great post. This document here," he pointed to my biography, "the chief of my department will dispatch to the great post. One will make a communication to you as soon as traces of the letter are discovered."

"I hoped that since my letter is here—actually here in this department—that one could place the hand on it. In the course of two hours, in England," I continued, "we have such a perfect organized system that I should have the letter I required in ten minutes."

"Remind yourself that England is, after all, but an island. Here we are in France"—he threw back his head proudly—"and here things march not so quickly. It will, perhaps be fifteen days before your case comes up. Each must proceed in turn."

Then it is useless to go into the matter," I answered, and in deep depression turned away.

Many qualities which would be regarded as censurable if possessed by ordinary men and women are often regarded with a respect that is tinged with admiration when they are possessed by persons of genius.

There is scarcely an author or musician of note who has not been distinguished by some foible that has excited the amusement of his friends. In many instances these foibles afford an index to the character of their victims. Some are natural, while others would seem to be the result of some inexplicable affection.

Keats liked red pepper on his toast. Sardou imagines he has a perpetual cold. Dickens was fond of wearing flashy jewelry. Joaquin Miller nailed all his chairs to the wall.

Ernest Renan wore his finger nails abnormally long. Walter Savage Landor threw the dishes around to relieve his mind. Edgar Allen Poe slept with his cat. He was inordinately proud of his feet.

Daudet wore his eye-glasses when asleep. He did his best work when hungry. Victor Hugo spoke little; his remarks usually were made in the form of questions. Thackeray used to lift his hat whenever he passed the house in which he wrote Vanity Fair.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson possesses a singular power over wild birds, and can easily tame them. Alexander Dumas, the younger, bought a new painting every time he had a new book published. Edmund Clarence Stedman has his favorite cat sit in a high chair at the table every day at dinner.

Robert Louis Stevenson's favorite recreation was playing the flute, in order, as he said, to tune up his ideas. Robert Browning could not sit still. With the constant shuffling of his feet holes were worn in the carpet. Longfellow enjoyed walking only at sunrise or sunset, and he said his sublimest moods came upon him at these times.

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