

MADE OF LEATHER.

A Massachusetts Man's Invention Designed to Take the Place of the Wooden Slesper.

The invention of a leather crosstie, designed to take the place of sleepers made of wood, is attracting a great deal of attention in railroad circles.

The three great essentials in a crosstie are apparently found in this leather sleeper, for it is guaranteed to hold a spike, the fishplate will not splinter it and it will not rot.

Mr. Dunnell proposes to turn out 5,000 ties a day for the present.

There is quite a long list of birds known as snipe, but the one most commonly regarded as the snipe is the Wilson's snipe.

There is only one American bird called woodcock; this (Ptilinopus) is entirely distinct from the various snipe, yet is of similar appearance.

All these birds have somewhat similar appearance and habits. They frequent lowlands or ploughed lands, such as cornfields, where the soil is soft, so that they can use their long bills in probing for worms or insects.

Dr. A. K. Fisher says of the woodcock: "This much-sought game-bird is in danger of extermination from the barbarous custom of hunting it in spring and summer just before and during the breeding season."

Two New Yorkers were inspecting the subway in the vicinity of the City Hall, when one of them said: "This is not the first tunnel to be constructed in New York."

Between India and Africa lies the hottest place on earth. The Aval Islands cover a fairly extensive area of the Persian Gulf, lying off the southwest coast of Persia.

M. Mounet-Sully, the famous tragedian of the Comedie Francaise, is applying for admission to the Academy of Fine Arts.

Miniature grandfather's clocks are the latest inventions in small timepieces. One about six inches high is of mahogany and shows the brass weights and pendulum through the lead door.

WHAT HE LEARNED.

A Polish Boy's Conception of an Historical Event.

Recent immigrants from Poland and other European countries usually have faint and curious ideas about American history.

It was the first time he had ever taken a book from the library, and in some way he got the idea that he must read the book through, and report on it the same evening.

"You don't have to read it all to-night," answered the librarian. "Take a week to it. But just how far have you gone to-night?"

"I got just to that place where Abraham Lincoln wanted to free all the slaves on the south side," he answered.

The famous American clipper service has been apotheosized so often that when its revival is suggested, the sentiment attached to the old clipper fleet invariably becomes more absorbing than a discussion of the practical side of a present day application.

There undoubtedly is a class of people who prefer crossing the ocean leisurely to the prevailing rapid transit, but as yet that class is not sufficiently numerous to make such service pay.

When the seven-masted schooner T. W. Lawson was launched at Quincy it was suggested to him that a clipper ship, costing from \$75,000 to \$125,000, in a Boston to Liverpool line might pay.

Such vessels will be fitted and furnished in the same elegant and luxurious manner and have a service and table as good as the most modern liner.

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The recruiting sergeant of today does not find his best recruits at the country fair, but in the great towns, where the street urchin, after a little training, develops devil-may-care bravery that has stood the country in good stead upon many critical occasions.

Rhode Island's Small County. Bristol county, Rhode Island, is the smallest county in the United States, containing only 25 square miles.

Dangerous Ornamentation. The stuffed tiger head finds its victims all over the world. Prince Hans of Denmark, Queen Alexandra's uncle, fell over one in the King of Denmark's palace and hurt himself badly.

Hardy Rubbing Post. Rubbing posts for cattle, made of whale's jaws, are to be seen in the village of Hamster, in England, and represent the whale trade formerly carried on at that place.

Devotes Herself to Charity. Miss Waneta Toskatomka, a full blooded Choctaw maiden with a good education and \$100,000 in her own right, announces that she would rather devote herself to charity than matrimony.

THE LUNAR ATMOSPHERE.

Photography Throws Light on an Astronomical Problem.

An official of the Naval Observatory at Washington describes one of the methods of testing the question of the existence of a perceptible atmosphere on the moon.

Three boys in a house were told to go and take the exact time by a clock in the town.

Preference of Mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are found to prefer negroes to whites, a black dog to a white one, and a dark-colored resting place.

London's Noisy Street. Of the noises of London streets, caused by the hackney coach, Taylor, the old water poet, wrote: "It makes such a hideous humming in the streets by many churches doors that people's ears are stopped with the noise, whereby they are debarred of their edifying which makes faith so fruitless, good works so barren, and charity as sold at midsummer, a lie if it were a great fraud."

Origin of Sparkling Wine. Sparkling wine originated in the champagne district in France. It was invented by a French monk, Dom Perignon, at the end of the seventeenth century.

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Super Decline in West Indies. One Hundred years ago the West Indies supplied about one-half of the world's sugar, but the industry is on the decline.

ODD WAYS OF MAKING A LIVING.

Queer Avocations Disclosed by Sign Boards in the Streets of New York.

In East Thirty-fourth street a sign in the window of a house informs the public that "Birds are boarded there by the day, week or month."

Beauty pads for thin ladies may be obtained on the Bowery, near Houston street, and not far away, ladies deficient in wardrobe are fashionably dressed on easy, monthly installments.

In Chatham street the wayfarer is told: "Dine here and you will never dine anywhere else," and in Mulberry street an undertaker makes a bid for business with a sign in his window which reads "Why walk about in misery when I can bury you decently for \$15?"

A Theory of New York's "RS." If what the English speak is English, what is it we speak? Is a question which seems perennially to ask for an answer and to get a great many, all of which are interesting, but not one conclusive.

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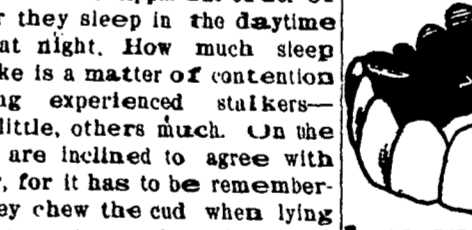
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