

The ROMANCE of K. 374.

Francis Maria Joseph, from Oberdorfer, was the most jolly and light-hearted of all cavaliers, but to-day he was in the most abominable humor. Inside his head something was beating a drum, and there was a noise as if the whole brass band was practicing—reminiscences of the night before.



May I offer you my check for 40,000 marks.

"The American turned quite red in the face with happiness, kissed her hand, shook my hand, and then said, very embarrassed: 'I have something to ask you, and I sincerely hope that you will not refuse. Will you sell the car to me? It is a wonderful machine.'"

WHEN TO WIND A WATCH.

With the disappearance of the old-time watch-key and the introduction of the stem-winder the methodical care of the pocket-clock has become almost a lost art.

ANIMALS AND RATS.

Lions, tigers and all the cat tribe dread rain," said a zoo keeper. "On a rainy day they gnaw nervously up and down their cages, growling and trembling. We usually give them an extra ration of hot milk. That puts them to sleep."

WORLD'S ONE MOUNTAIN.

The world contains at least four mountains composed of almost solid iron ore. One is in Mexico, one in the United States, another in India and a fourth in Africa.

DEPRECIATION OF KINGS.

To be rich as a king was once upon a time, the parallel to being as beautiful as an angel and as happy as a god. But whereas the angels still retain their traditional primacy, and the felicity of the gods is still a common figure of speech with our minor poets, the wealth of kings has come to be dwarfed by that of many of their subjects.

THE ROOSTER MUZZLE.

They were like fairy helmets—little wire helmets no bigger than a walnut. "They are rooster muzzles," said the city farmer, as he led the way past the pea beds on the window sill, the potato field on the back porch, and the flourishing mushroom crop under the outhouse.

WOODEN PILES PREDOMINATE.

Holland has a potential necessity for wooden piles. In Rotterdam harbor works of all kind demand them and the drainage of the Zuider Zee as it steadily proceeds throws out its wooden ramparts in all directions.

CRIMINATION.

Crimination in this country is almost wholly confined to persons of some intellectual distinction. The average citizen is still held in the fetters of custom, in which sentiment has taken root so deeply as to make it hard to eradicate.

CHINESE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The measures and weights which were in vogue in the reign of King Hsi, early in the present dynasty, are again to be put in force in China with slight modifications.

MULES AS GUN CARRIAGES.

Unlocked for Result of an Experiment With a Jackass Battery.

CAT'S POPULAR FEED.

There is a cat in a grocery store in Columbus avenue whose fed is his fido dog. This cat, medium-sized, male, striped and wise looking, ambles himself behind a barrel or box, watching for a dog.

SLANGY SAUNDERS.

Ballons cast away on uninhabited islands in temperate regions have managed to subsist for long periods. Thus, the crew of the Caroline, wrecked on Desha Island, in the South Pacific in July, 1823, lived there quite comfortably until taken off in May, 1825; while the survivors of the whaler Essex were three years and four months on the neighboring Henderson Island before being rescued.

THE DESTROYING RIVER.

The Gila River enters the Colorado just west of Yuma, and we crossed its angry waters through a maze of sandbars and whirlpools through which immense quantities of driftwood were whirling in mad race, says a writer in Harper's Magazine.

FROM THE OPTIMIST CLUB.

If the waiter, the street car conductor, or the clerk in the store, from whom you declined so much and in such an arrogant manner, had your brains and opportunities, you might be where they are. Be thoughtful and kind.

THE OPTIMIST CLUB.

Professor Schuster asserts that animals lack moral feeling entirely, none of their acts being immoral or moral, in the broad sense, and they have no trace of a sense of shame or of honor. Their courage, he declares, is "a mere impulse of nature."

CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA.

There are 32,933,156 Christian communicants in the United States, of whom a little more than one-third belong to some branch of the Catholic Church.

CORN GALORE.

Fronting the coast of North Australia is the Great Barrier Reef, the largest coral reef in the world, over 1,000 miles long and 10 miles wide.

ODD USE FOR BREAD.

Perhaps the most novel use to which bread is put may be seen in the great factories of the Elgin National Watch Company at Elgin, Ill., where more than forty loaves of fresh bread are required each day.

GRASSY HOLLOW TREE.

Alexander Huston and his Irishman while going to work on the Hudson farm, near Allegany county line, saw a large black snake on an oak tree.

THE GREAT RIVER.

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