

THAT LOTTERY TICKET

One day a tramp who was plainly on his last legs staggered into the village of Scottsville and dropped down in the street in front of the tavern. He was carried into the hostelry and a doctor sent for, and in two days he was dead. The verdict at the inquest was that he had died from sickness and exposure.

MAN AND THE WORLD.

A Very Small Graveyard Would Hold the Whole Human Family. How little mankind signifies in the scheme of nature is shown by a rather accurate calculation of the Italian Professor Zuccarini, who has figured out, among other things, that estimating the world's population as 1,500,000,000 the whole human race at present living could stand comfortably shoulder to shoulder in an area of 800 square miles.

When Eben Foster asked Squire Lanza to lead him \$300 to invest in the dry goods business the squire dryly inquired what Mr. Foster had to offer him in the way of security. "Security," said Eben, with an air of injured dignity, "Well, squire, I'll tell you what I have to offer—three solid silver teaspoons, a handsome brass warming pan, a pair of Decoloco many razors, large size, and the material for as much as three feather beds, if not four, right on the backs of my sock o' geese, an' five Plymouth Rock hens."

The American Indian. The old question of the origin of the red man of America is still an open one, the last word by no means having been said. The most probable theory is that which links the Indian with the Mongoloids of East Africa, whose physical characteristics are strikingly similar to those of the American aborigine. Between the Indian and the Japanese there are many pronounced resemblances, and some excellent authorities are of the opinion that it was from that eastern race that the Indian originally sprung. If, as some think, the Eskimos are the best representatives of the Indian as he was upon his arrival here, the theory of the Japanese origin is immensely strengthened, since the likeness between the Eskimo and the Japanese is striking indeed.—New York American.

Legs of the Lard. A specimen of rustic reasoning which is too good to lose is recorded in Mr. E. L. Gale's "Studies in Archaic." "A barber," he says, "was talking me with great gusto how he had refused an atheist. I inquired what arguments he based his ideas upon. "What did he say to that? "Never a word." "The atheist had been crushing and final."

Net Her Kind. "Have you heard," asked Mrs. Oldcastle, "that Grace Moneylove has married an octogenarian?" "Mercy, mercy!" exclaimed Mrs. Justice. "Is that so? Well, he may be all right, but I want to tell you I've never seen a man who wouldn't eat meat that I'd live with."—Judge.

PREPARED FOR DEFEAT.

Precautions General Taylor Took Before Meeting Santa Anna. Santa Anna was the greatest military leader the Mexicans have ever known. Santa Anna, with 25,000 veterans, went into the battle of Buena Vista with the avowed purpose of exterminating the entire army of the United States, and there was no doubt in the mind of Santa Anna that this great feat could be accomplished with comparative ease. General Taylor, with his 5,000 men, prepared for the unequal contest, and not only defended himself successfully, but won a substantial victory from his aggressive antagonists and drove them from the battlefield of Buena Vista.

MEASURING THE EARTH.

Eratosthenes Made the First Attempt and Did Fairly Well. The earliest attempt to measure the circumference of the earth was made by a Greek, Eratosthenes, who was born 276 B. C. He found that at Syene the gnomon, or upright pillar, used by the Greeks to measure the height of the sun in the sky, showed the sun to be exactly overhead at midday at the time of the summer solstice, while at Alexandria the gnomon cast a shadow upon the same date, showing that the latter point was one-fiftieth of the earth's circumference north of Syene.

Mexico's Way With Women. Woman's place in Mexican life is the inevitable mingling of the Moorish ideas of the Spanish conquerors and the savage ideas of the natives. The Milwaukee Sentinel says: The Castilian hides his wife and daughters behind stone walls and the picturesque lattices of romance, and he is their lord and master. On the other hand, the Indian tribes are, of course, still bound by the spirit of the ancient savage customs. Historians tell of one of the baptismal ceremonies of the Mexican tribes who fought their way to supremacy long before the Spanish arrived on the scene. To each boy baby the priests chanted this command: "Thy profession and faculty is war, thy obligation to give the sun to drink blood of the enemies and the earth corpses of the foe." To the girl baby they said with far less ceremonial: "You are to stay within the house, as the heart does within the body. Our Lord enshines you in that place, and your office is to fetch and to grind maize in the mortar."

Plants Without Roots. The "lover of the air" is a curious plant found in China and Japan. It is so called because it appears to have no root and is never fixed to the earth. It twines around a dry tree or sterile rock. Each shoot produces two or three flowers like a lily—white, transparent and odoriferous. It is capable of being transported 800 or 700 miles, and it grows as it travels, suspended as a twig.

A Fidgety Aga. Repose of manner was considered at one time essential to the well bred woman, but this is an ideal long consigned to the past. Every one fidgets in these restless days, no one has time to sit still nor to listen for more than a minute at a time without being bored and showing it.—London Queen.

Generally. Fizez (sententiously)—To him that hath shall be given, you know, Fogg. —Yes, the man who has a head gets ahead, I've noticed.—Boston Transcript.

RACHEL'S GUITAR.

It Was Tuned to Play a Coolly Air For Banker Fould. Rachel, the famous actress, did not neglect any means of turning a more or less honest penny. In his new life of her Francis Gribble tells the following story of a guitar: Rachel first saw and admired it in an artist's studio. "Give it to me," she said. "I want to pretend that it is the guitar on which I earned my living as a street singer." The just seemed a pleasant one, and the artist handed over the instrument. Rachel embellished it with ribbons and hung it in her own apartment, where it duly attracted the attention of Achille Fould, the banker. Hearing his story, he expressed the wish to possess it. "Very well," said Rachel, "you can have it for a thousand louis."

TESTING AN EGG.

Many Ways to Detect Staleness Besides Smell and Taste. It does not require a very discriminating palate to detect an old egg from a new one, says a correspondent of the New York Sun. The former has a musty flavor that the latter lacks, and the mustiness may range from a slight taint to a very pronounced one. It is always noticeable in storage eggs. If any one wishes to verify the judgment of his palate, the following tests may be used: 1.—It is almost impossible to peel the shell from a fresh hard boiled egg without having some of the white come away with it.

That Yankee Dodge. The description of the first operation under ether in Europe as given by Dr. F. William Cook in the University College Hospital Magazine is reproduced in the London Lancet, and the scene is referred to as the "most dramatic ever enacted in which medical men grouped the stage." The operation was performed by Robert Liston on Dec. 21, 1846. "At 2:15 Liston entered, that magnificent figure of a man six feet two inches in height, and says: 'We are going to try a Yankee dodge today, gentlemen, for making men insensible.' So Liston introduced ether to a London hospital. The subject was a man, thirty-six years old, whose thigh was amputated. The operation was successful, and Liston uttered the epilogue, 'This Yankee dodge, gentlemen, beats mesmerism hollow.'

Setting Her Right. The pretty and pensive wife of a congressman stood for a moment before the window of the receiving teller in a Washington bank, then tapped the window with her parasol, exclaiming: "Why don't you pay attention to me?" "We pay nothing here, madam," was the reply. "Please go to the next window."—Denver Republican.

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QUAIL SHOOTING.

Some of the Difficulties That Confront the Man With the Gun. "One of the difficulties of quail shooting lies in the very fact that would apparently make his killing a simple proposition, his firing near the gun," says Charles Akin in Outing. "Let me illustrate: If a quail were within ten feet of the gun and continued sailing around the shooter's head at a mile a minute the chances are that he couldn't be killed in ten shots, both the bird and the gun changing angle with a rapidity beyond the ability of the mind to calculate. In the same way a close springing bird may change his angle with regard to the gun so rapidly as to entail a long and accurate swing before he can be covered.

HOUSEHOLD SNAKES.

Gibolas Are Used as Domestic Rat Catchers in Brazil. In certain parts of Brazil, where the climate is intensely hot and where rats are a great nuisance, the common cat does not thrive, but is replaced by a domestic rat catcher whose presence causes a decidedly unpleasant sensation to visitors from the north when first they come in contact with the creature. Gibolas are a species of small boa constrictor employed very generally in Brazil for the purpose above mentioned. They are not at all venomous. They sleep in the house, generally taking up their position at the foot of the stairs. When nightfall approaches they begin to wake up, and during the night they slide swiftly about the premises, looking for rats.

Pride of Race. Many stories are told of the pride of these long descended country squires. They have held their own even with peers of ancient creation. A great friend of the Duke of Norfolk who died in 1818—Jockey of Norfolk—was an old squire who always maintained that his name Heddington was a corruption of the Baron Athelstan and consequently much more ancient than that of Howard. Like the duke, he was a great toper and at dinner one day rolled off his chair to the floor. The duke ordered a member of his family to raise him up. "Never," he cried the old man—"never, shall it be said that the head of the house of Heddington was ever on the floor."

Marvels of India. What a wonderful country is India! There is only one India. Its marvels are its own. There is the plague, the black death, India invented it. The car of Judgment was also India's invention. So was the suttee, and with in the time of men still living 800 widows willingly and, in fact, joyfully burned themselves to death on the bodies of their dead husbands in a single year. And 800 would do it this year if the British government would let them. Famine belongs especially to India. India has 2,000,000 gods and worships them all. On top of all this she is the mother and home of that wonder of wonders, cards, and also that mystery of mysteries, the Mahank Brotherhood of the Thugs—Churchman.

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THEIR AWFUL SECRET.

It Caused the Real Estate Agent to Change His Mind. When the family who admitted that they were moving because the tenants at the old address made their lives miserable confided to the renting agent that they had one peculiarity which they wished him not to mention to their neighbors in his building the agent got uneasy and executed a mental quickstep trying to devise some way to break the lease. But aloud he said very courteously: "I shall be glad to oblige you if I can. What is it you wish me to keep a secret?" "The fact that we pay our rent promptly on the last of every month," said the head of the family. "That was something that nobody else in the other house did, and the agent as an incentive to quick action on their part published the news of our promptness. The only action it stirred them into was persecution of us, and they carried that to such extremes that we had to move. If you will kindly refrain from using us as a club to whack your delinquents into obedience we will appreciate it."

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