

# THE SAN JUAN TIMES.

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO.

The real champion of the world in such affairs seems to be Gov. Culbertson of Texas.

Chinese warriors have put in operation a convenient and economical method of disposing of prisoners captured in combat. They eat them.

Europe and not England is the mother country of America. Before the Venezuela trouble is over with all Englishmen will be thoroughly convinced on this point.

The postmaster at Dunedin, Fla., has taken all of the government funds and gone to Cuba to help the patriots. The only way to get him is to annex the island.

When we read that a street car was held up by highwaymen in Chicago we must remember that quite possibly there was not a house within five miles of the scene of the outrage.

It is ominous that the very day that Uncle Sam told John Bull he could not grab any more Venezuelan territory, the American pugilist, Charles McKeever, defeated Arthur Valentine, the English lightweight champion.

Myrtle Donovan, a Kentucky girl, it is said, has two fully developed and totally different faces, although she has but one pair of ears, and teeth in only one mouth. She is regarded as a great freak, but the Kentuckians evidently never saw a Chicago politician. He not only has two faces, but he had double features all around, including tongue and ears. He has before and after election features also, and faces both ways.

A Poughkeepsie, N. Y., prohibition paper was the victim of a printer's malice or stupidity last week. In an announcement of a meeting of the "W. W. Smith Campaign Club," in flaring letters the line appeared the "W. W. Smith Champagne Club." The blunder was discovered before the papers were distributed and the entire edition burned. This proceeding hasn't thrown any cold water on Mr. Smith's campaign.

The Belcher-Gross feud has broken out in earnest near Harlan Courthouse, Ky. Sampson Brock was shot from ambush and killed on Straight creek, Saturday by some of the Belchers. In the last three months nine or ten men of either side have met death in like manner. If Kentucky could only belch all the gross matter out of her anatomy that causes these cowardly feuds she would feel a great deal better and get rid of a lot of rubbish at the same time.

Experiments have been made in Austria to test the likelihood of a war balloon being hit when fired at. A captive balloon at an altitude of about 4,265 feet was fired at from a distance of 4,400 yards, and was struck nine times without being brought down. In a second trial a captive balloon, at a height of about 2,625 feet, was fired at from 5,500 yards distance. A violent wind, causing the balloon to plunge a good deal, rendered the aim very difficult, and the balloon was not brought down until the fifty-sixth round.

The report of the British consul-general at Frankfurt on the trade of Germany states that the German mercantile marine has now far outdistanced its French rival, notwithstanding the special encouragements given to the latter. It appears that the German fleet of steamers, which in 1888 was still behind the French now reaches a total of 860,000 tons, the French being only 466,000 tons, and the North American 464,000 tons. The English commercial fleet registered 9,585,000 tons and the German commercial fleet 1,485,000 tons in July, 1894, so that Germany, although second to England, is still far behind her. The consul-general adds that the German shipbuilding trade is making considerable progress, though not to the same extent as the English.

The Trans-Baikal section of the Siberian Railway is now completed. The original plans for this railway were abandoned owing to the fact that they would have necessitated the carrying of the line to an elevation of 3,000 feet above the sea through arid districts where but few settlers could make a livelihood. A more southern route has now been adopted, which, though considerably longer, will run by four of the principal rivers, through regions rich in salt, soda, silver, copper, iron, lead and gold, and in which many mines have been opened out. Some 750 miles of the Siberian railway are open for traffic, viz., Chelabinsk to Omsk, in the west, 500 miles, and Vladivostok to Graskaja, in the east, 250 miles. Thus Omsk is placed in direct communication with Moscow and St. Petersburg. Of the total length of 6,000 miles from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, about 3,700 miles have still to be completed.

## VANDALISM

Savagery of Some People Who Call Themselves Civilized.

The savagery of savages is as nothing to the savagery of some creatures who are brought up in civilized communities and call themselves civilized also. We have few records of Indians or Zulus wantonly destroying pictures or books or statuary unless they thought them "bad medicine" and held devils. Yet, how far could one of our city thugs and loafers be trusted in the presence of a work of art or a thing of beauty? It seems to be a sort of instinct with him to throw a stone whenever he sees flowers or ornaments, or to pull out a knife and hack at them, or to upset or scratch or injure them. In a certain blind and brute way perhaps his conduct gives him a flattering sense of power. He cannot make anything useful or beautiful himself, but he can destroy it. The only way to cure these vandals appears to be either to educate them early or drown them. Drowning is the least expensive, but there is a public prejudice against it, so for a few centuries we must expect to see our public buildings defaced, our metal work bent and scratched, our plate glass broken, our street lights shattered, our pictures jabbed with canes and umbrellas, our mirrors marked with initials carved by diamond rings, our rugs and carpets and wood work spat upon, our walls scribbled with names, our streets made depositories of filth and our books torn and dog-eared; for it takes a long time to cure a vandal of his vandalism. One needs to begin with his father. There is so close a relation between the wantonness of the destroyer and the darker deeds of the criminal that perhaps we are justified in keeping a suspicious watch on any man, woman or child who will destroy plants, books and pictures or throw stones at helpless animals. The excessive aggression that mutilates and makes ugly will trespass on others' enjoyments, rights and properties with but little more development. This is seen particularly in the case of burglars. These fellows, not content with stripping a house of all they can get, not infrequently destroy what they cannot carry away. They burn papers, tear paintings from their frames, smash furniture, break glass and otherwise act like incarnate fiends. It might not be a bad idea in case of the capture of these men to impose sentences graded to accord with the amount of damage they had worked. It would make others of their tribe a little more considerate—perhaps. On general principles these wanton destroyers should go to prison, anyway.—Ex.

## THE BOY OF SEVENTEEN.

He Needs the Aid of a Firm and Guiding Hand.

The boy of 17 has reached a dangerous age. Not merely because he has left the sheltering innocence of childhood, and must meet the temptations that every youth must sometimes face. The trouble is that he too often knows so much that his elders can teach him little. He feels prepared to settle all the questions of ethics or statesmanship off hand. I recall the anecdote of that young law student, to whom the Judge before whom he was being examined for admission to the bar stated a legal case, and asked him how it should be decided.

Without a moment's hesitation the young man disposed of it then and there. "There can be only one decision to it," he added pompously. "No man who is posted in common law could hesitate for a moment."

"Perhaps not," said the old judge thoughtfully. "Only it caused a disagreement among the judges of the United States Supreme Court when it came up before them. I am glad, however, to find that it is so easily disposed of."

At 17 the young man has courage beyond knowledge, and in his enthusiasm is ready to undertake adventures from which he would shrink in his later years. He is usually a loveable creature, withal, and even in these days of gray hairs I can never meet him in his joyous enthusiasm and cheerful view of things without an impulse to slap him on the back and give him God-speed in his happy jaunt toward the unknown future.

I am not of those who would deny to youth the natural pleasures that belong to his time of life. But when he forgets the duties that have been entrusted to him, or belittles their demands upon him, because he is set upon having "a good time," he stands in great danger of his future and needs the aid of a firm and guiding hand.

Economy is half the battle of life; it is not so hard to earn money as to spend it well.—Spurgeon.

## Insprig Consumptives.

Cincinnati, Oct. 21.—(Special.)—Reports say that a leading life insurance company is accepting risks to the amount of \$300,000 on lives of consumptives taking the Amick Chemical Treatment for lung disease. The Amick Chemical company, of Cincinnati, is actually paying the premiums on this insurance and presenting policies to their patients. This company claims to have the most complete statistics on consumption in the world, and that these risks are good, providing the patients take a course of the Amick treatment.

## UNUSUAL THINGS.

Freaks of Various Kinds Not to Be Seen in the Museums.

There is a man in Missouri whose feet are so large that he has to put his trousers on over his head.

A Kentucky shoemaker, for the sake of economy, has his sign painted thus:

BROWN'S SHO—  
E  
P

A West Virginia man is so peculiarly affected by riding on a train that he has to chain himself to a seat to prevent his jumping out of the car window.

People in Madison county, Ky., who have paid their taxes are entitled to be married free by the sheriff.

An Illinois farmer owns a hen which lays twin eggs every day.

Geigersville, Ky., is the birthplace of a boy who was an inveterate tobacco chewer before he was a year old.

An Alabama father has taught all his children to read with their books upside down.

A Mississippi woman, who chews tobacco and drinks whisky, thinks that women have all the "rights" they need.

A Minnesota girl of 15 can distinguish no color, everything being white to her, and she is compelled to wear dark glasses to protect her eyes from the glare.

Young Darling killed a man in Washington county, Ky., the other day, and Love Divine stole a wagon load of tools in Fayette county.

The servants in a school for girls in Connecticut, while cleaning up the rooms after the school closed, discovered 3,678 wads of chewing gum stuck about in various places.

A Florida negro is growing fat on snake steaks.

One county in Pennsylvania has contributed two members to congress, two to the state senate and two convicts to the penitentiary.

A Mississippi river steamboat roustabout drinks a half gallon of whisky every day.

A South Carolina widow became her own mother-in-law recently. That is to say, she is now the wife of her husband's father.

A New Hampshire girl of 23 never tasted hot bread until three weeks ago, when she stopped with friends at a Boston hotel.

A dude in Philadelphia was turned out of the club to which he belonged because he paid his tailor's bill two days after he got his clothes.

An Idaho school teacher enforces obedience with a revolver.

A Baptist preacher in Georgia refuses to baptize except in running water.

An Arkansas hunter has a hound that will catch his tail in his teeth and roll down a hill faster than any other hound in the pack can run.

A Maine mother has an old slipper, still in use, which has spanked six generations of her family.

Michigan has a man who is so fat that he can't fall down hard enough to hurt himself. He is known as the human spheroid.

A Delaware peach grower has found an apple with fuzz on it growing on a peach tree.

An Indiana calf, now two months old, has hoofs like a horse.

A Chicago man paid his first visit to St. Louis in July, and he liked it so well that he has gone there to live.

A Texas preacher threw a Bible at a deacon who started to run away with the collection, and knocked him down the front steps of the church, breaking his leg in two places.

## Ducks That Won't Swim.

Boston Journal.—Many things are said to be as natural as that ducks take to water. But a writer in a French magazine tells of ducks that actually hated water. There were three of them, and they had lived some years in Paris, where they had a small basin and their daily bath. Their owner finally took them to the country to live beside a fine lake, thinking it the ideal place for the amphibious. What was his surprise, on putting them into the lake, to see them instantly scramble ashore and waddle Indian file to a neighboring stable, whence they never came out save to feed. Never could they be induced to remain in the water save by force or fear, and when there they always drew close together, so as to occupy no more space than their bath basin in Paris. They were thoroughly afraid of the lake, and they never became used to it. In Picardy, it seems, young ducks are often kept from the water in order to protect them from water rats and prevent them from eating things that might injure their flavor when they appear upon the table. Ducks thus brought up until their full growth of feathers is acquired refuse to enter the water, and, if forced in, sometimes drown. After all, what does instinct amount to?

## On a Roof Garden.

She (dreamily): "Meyerbeer always brings such sweet recollections to me." He (from Cincinnati): "I never feel any effects from it, but if I take Rhine wine it goes to my head."

## The Color-Bearer.

Whene'er this man was angry He patriotic grew; His face got red, he then turned white, And made the air look blue.

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