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Dinners in the White House.

I here referred to the charge that Hayes saved a great deal of money while he was in the White House and that he watched every penny. Steward Crump denied that this was true, and said: "I believe that President Hayes spent as much in the White House as any president has ever done. Some of his state dinners cost him $17 per plate. I was instructed to get the best I could in the market without regard to price, and Hayes never criticised my accounts. I never found any niggardliness about him, and I don't believe he saved a cent of his salary. He always had lots of people to dinner, and during the last part of his term there was an average of thirty-seven every day to dinner, and we always had a houseful of guests. He did not use any wine, it is true, but he made up for it in other ways.

"He was a much nicer man to work for than Arthur, and he kept decent hours. Arthur never had his dinner before 8 o'clock, and his friends often sat at the table as late as 12 or 1. This would run the dish washing away on into the night, and I found I could not stand the pressure. Garfield always had wine at his meals. He never ate anything but a cracker and a cup of coffee for breakfast, and he took this often as late as 10 o'clock in the morning."—Frank G. Carpenter's Letter.

He Paid Double Toll.

With an air of inquiry a few days since an old man limped into the Delaware and Hudson baggage room and looked about him. When somebody asked him what he wanted he rubbed his stubbled chin as if in a quandary and drawled, "Is it all right?"

"What do you mean?" asked the listeners.

"Wall, ye see, I wanter know if it's all kerrect. A man's never too old to learn. I've found out that, and I'm lookin' fer information.

"I started to go across the bridge to see a friend of mine in Greenbush. When I cum to the draw it was open, and a couple of ladies what I knew told me that my friend had moved over east. I kem back and I sez to the man in the offus, 'You owe me two cents.' 'What for?' sez he. Wall, sez I, 'I only went half way cross the bridge.' That don't make a rap of difference,' sez he; 'you owe me two cents.' 'What for?' sez I. 'For gittin' off the bridge again,' sez he.

"'Nd I had to pay two cents more to git off; now is that all right?' 'Well, guess 'tis,' replied the baggagemen jury.

"Wall, ez I sed before, a man never too old to learn," mused the old man as he spat upon the floor and shambled out. "Guess it's all right, after all."—Albany Argus.

Profits of Slot Machines.

"How much money do you get out of these mechanical toys?" I asked a man who was emptying the cash receiver of the model of a steamship engine, with music box attachment, in the Hoffman house.

"Well, it depends," was the answer, "on the hotel in which the machine is placed. This one is the best in the city. The first month we placed these toys on exhibition they returned over $100 each. From that time the receipts have dwindled until each one does not earn a quarter of that amount now. Still each one of the engines, all of which have paid for themselves over and over again, yet earns a good profit.

"They are all owned by a company of stockholders, organized for the purpose, and they have all made fat dividends on their investment. The steamboats, fire engines and locomotives cost about $100 each all told, including the case. The grip testers, lung testers and weighing machines cost, at the outside, $25. We have little trouble in placing them.

"They are ornamental, and few hotels object to having one. Saloon keepers often ask to have them placed in their saloons. Sometimes we are asked to pay rent for them, and if it is a very large hotel we generally do so."—New York Telegram.

Deep Holes in the Earth.

We have some very deep colliery workings in this country, but the deepest of them is far excelled in venturesomeness into the bowels of the earth by several of the shafts on the continent. Ashton Moor colliery, in Lancashire, has a depth of 2,850 feet below the surface, and the celebrated Monkwearmouth pit in Durham has a depth of 1,800 feet. In Bohemia there are two shafts which, measured from the surface, have a depth of 3,546 feet and 3,509 feet respectively, but the commencement of the sinking is 1,760 feet above the sea level. In Prussian Saxony there is a boring which has been carried down to the prodigious depth of 5,736 feet. In Belgium a shaft has been sunk below sea level 3,084 feet, and this is supposed to be the deepest penetration of the earth's crust yet affected. At these depths the workmen are always perspiring. They have a uniform temperature a trifle too high for comfort.—London Star.

LIGHTNING ANALYZED.

Misconception of the General Idea Proved by Photographs.

As to the term "forked lightning" the representations given of it by artists, which resemble the so called thunderbolts placed in the hand of Jupiter, are quite absurd. The flash, when photographed exhibits itself as a line which is continually changing its course, and is described as "decidedly crooked" by a very careful observer. It never proceeds for a time in a straight line, and then turning at a sharp angle going on further in an equally straight line, as is represented in pictures. The forking of it is very marked, and this occurs by side flashes passing off from the main track, and eventually losing themselves, like the ramifications of tree roots. Occasionally the lightning appears to start from a point from which several flashes diverge in different directions.

Whenever a flash passes from cloud to cloud or from cloud to earth the light produced by it illuminates the sky in the neighborhood, and the more intense the flash the more brilliant and extensive the illumination. At times sheet lightning has been proven to emanate from an ordinary storm distant more than a hundred miles from the point of observation. It is, however, maintained, and apparently with good reason, that occasionally lightning of the "sheet" type, such as what is called "summer light night," takes place without any thunder; so that, in such cases, no actual thunder storm is in progress.

Globular lightning is a rare phenomenon, and one that no one has yet been able to produce in the laboratory, whereas the phenomena of the two previous types are easily produced. The general description of the occurrence is that a luminous ball is seen moving very slowly, not touching any object, and eventually breaking up with a violent explosion and the appearance of flashes of ordinary lightning. It is reported that persons have gone out from a house into a street to follow such a ball and watch its movements, so that the occurrence must have lasted at least a number of seconds.

Ordinary lightning, as is well known, is practically instantaneous. The size of the ball on different occasions has varied from that of an orange to that of a large glass lamp globe or even larger. Many physicists refuse to believe any accounts of this manifestation of the electrical discharge, but the reports of it are too numerous and circumstantial for us to consider them to be entirely baseless.—Longman's Magazine.

Learn to Swim.

There is no need to descant upon the manifold attractions and uses of swimming. All proper precautions for safety should be taken, but your boy should learn to swim. Never let him go into the water unless he is well; neither let him go alone nor with flighty boys only, even when he has mastered the art of natation—cramps and accidents of all sorts are too common for that. Keep him away from rapids and whirlpools, and impress upon him at every opportunity by anecdote, precept and example the necessity of exercising prudence in the matter. Especially see that he is familiar with remedies for cramps and with the modes of reviving the drowned. Many a life has been lost because a boy's companions did not understand how to use proper restoratives when his body was first recovered from the water.—Harper's Bazar.

Japanese Salutations.

While waiting for a train at Yokohama station not many years ago, a tourist observed a Japanese gentleman, faultlessly attired in European dress, approach a Japanese lady (also dressed after the manner of civilized nations) and lift his hat with a pretty bow made in the orthodox western style. Thereupon Mme. Chrysantheme, looking a trifle embarrassed, essayed to return the compliment by lifting her bonnet. Finding, however, that this troublesome headpiece declined to yield, the poor little lady tugged at it hard with both hands, but as all her exertions were unavailing she ultimately slid her hands down the front of her dress and inclined her body after the manner of uncivilized Japanese when they meet each other in the street naturally clothed.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Two Remarkable Accidents.

Jefferson Miller, of Jeffersonville, Ind., has good reasons for his strong dislike of both rats and threshing machines. In 1872 he was feeding a threshing machine in the barn when a rat ran across the floor. Turning to watch it his left hand was pulled off by the machine. Again in 1887, while feeding the same machine in the identical barn above mentioned, a rat ran between his feet. He kicked at it, slipped and had his only remaining hand ground to a pulp in the greedy machine.—St. Louis Republic.

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