

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ELLA Wheeler Wilcox says, in a recent poem: "Time's finger on the dial of my life points to high noon."

It is said that the largest diamond in the world was found a short time ago in the mines of Bahia de Pernagus, Brazil.

The Duke of Orleans, head of the Royalist party in France and claimant to the throne, has come to the sensible conclusion that, even if a monarchy is desirable for himself and family, he cannot down the French Republic.

According to one of the addresses before the Greenacre conference, in session in Maine, the central portion of the United States is destined to contain half its population, and this population is to amount to 700,000,000 people, all under one government.

According to the elaborate report just issued by the Labor Department of the English Government there has been a notable rise in the rate of wages during the past year.

EX-CONSUL General New reiterates the statement that there is no estate of any description amounting to as much as \$1,000,000 in England, either in the Bank of England or in the court of chancery, in which American heirs are interested.

DR. Edward Everett Hale suggests that the United States shall renew its proposition, made to Spain in 1825, to lend her Government a large sum of money on condition that she shall allow this Government to organize Cuba, on a self-governing basis, with its autonomy guaranteed jointly by Spain and the United States.

ONE of the most interesting of the men made rich recently by the Cripple Creek mines is W. S. Stratton, who owns the Independence mine outright and has an interest in other mining properties.

NO fewer than sixty-six persons in Great Britain are shown by the income tax reports just published in London to enjoy annual incomes of over \$300,000.

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passengers and move these mountains of freight required 35,000 locomotives, 82,000 passenger cars and over 1,100,000 freight cars.

A WHILE ago it was asserted that the investment in bicycles reduced that in diamonds, spreading a cold wave over the latter trade in contrast with the warm and fruitifying one which descended upon the former.

AN outbreak of smallpox that has assumed almost the proportions of a real epidemic is causing much anxiety in London. It began some months ago, and since then has been slowly spreading from one slum to another.

Hydrophobic ducks may seem a bit strange, but a writer in the Revue Scientifique tells of such. These were not mad ducks, but merely ducks that hated what people have come to consider their natural element.

NEVER could they be induced to remain in the water save by force or fear, and when they always drew close together, so as to occupy no more space than that of their bath in Paris.

THE President of the United States sends greeting. Just then the long barrel of a muzzle-loading rifle was shoved out of the kitchen door and aimed at my head.

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SMUGGLED IN SNOW.

Novel Ruse to Hoodwink the Czar's Soldiers.

Until within recent years the Russian frontier on the German boundary was guarded in a surprisingly weak manner for a nation so completely under military rule as the Czar's great empire.

For the most part these garrisons consist of young recruits from the eastern and central provinces of Russia. They are seldom expert soldiers, and the lax discipline they are under is further weakened by their excessive drinking.

Two exceedingly novel attempts were made last spring by the smuggling fraternity both of which proved successful. In one case late one night a band of men in Germany began snow balling some villagers on Russian territory, and the Russians returned the attack.

Ducks That Don't Take to Water.

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Giant Fossil Palm Leaf.

In the office of T. B. Corey, mine superintendent of the Oregon Improvement Company, in the Burke building, there are two magnificent fossils of what was once a large palm leaf.

The money has been subscribed for the proposed balloon trip of the Swedish engineer Andree to the North pole. The balloon will be made in Paris at a cost of \$3,000.

Valuable Insects.

California is having great luck in her experiments of importing insects to prey on and exterminate the various parasitic pests that have caused so much damage to vines and orchards.

The golden winged ladybird, imported from Australia a few years ago to eat up the cotton cushion scale, has completed that work in most of the southern counties of the state.

What the farmers are beginning to pray fearfully is that the little beetles may not develop voracious appetites, and they are also beginning to wonder what the constantly increasing hordes of the now beneficial insects will live on when their natural prey is exterminated.

More Hours of Recreation.

"One of the most noticeable changes that have come about in my experience," says a Maine traveller of fifty years, "is in the evening life of our towns and cities.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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I hereby agree to act from date as agent for New York Ledger.

SHOOTING A RAPID

approached the steersman in the canoe stood up to look over the

Could they leap the waves? There quick talk among our guides as we

Then the question seemed to settle as most of these woodland questions

Perfumed, "swaying an immense

went by

182 William Street, New York

PENSION

POLICEMEN BOTH EDUCATION AND MILE DEMANDED.

With the Powers of a Police Justice They Arrest or Release Prisoners.

"The Japanese police are nearly all the Samurai class. I think that force considered the most perfect police world," says Lafcadio Hearn, the well-known American writer, now a resident in Japan.

Some twenty years ago the Department of Police of Japan was modeled on the French system and the result has been resting. In the first place, the department is independent of the municipal governments of the Japanese cities; each state or province it is under the control of the governor.

Some of the qualifications that are demanded in a candidate for appointment to the force in Japan must seem extraordinary to Americans. Each applicant for appointment must write a short essay in Japanese, as well as in the modern Japanese.

The physical requirements in an applicant are much simpler. He must possess good health, be free from deformity, and stand at least five feet two inches high.

After passing satisfactory mental and physical examinations, the applicant receives a police flogging. He must not exceed six months at a "preparatory school," where he is drilled in the science of police work.

The "taijitsu" or art of "breaking muscles" as it is sometimes called, does not resemble American boxing. He said a man who weighs 130 pounds

like a fight between an elephant and the lion won. In less than an hour the big fellow was thrown to the ground, where he lay senseless until restored to the aid of the same "art of breaking muscles."

As a public contest with a heavy annual prize of six hundred dollars was given to the victor, the Japanese government decided to adopt the taijitsu, or "art of breaking muscles," as a public contest with a heavy annual prize of six hundred dollars.

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