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Selections.

How Paper Car-Wheels are Made.

The Paper World, in describing the method of manufacturing paper car wheels, says: "The paper is straw board of rather fine texture. It is received in the ordinary board sheets, differing in no particular from those used for straw-board boxes or other similar work. These sheets are cut to a circular pattern. This is rapidly done on a large table with a knife that is guided by a radial arm that swings freely over the surface of the table from a pivot at the center. A small disk is also cut from the center of the sheet to allow for the iron hub. Being thus reduced to the required shape and dimensions, the paper must now be converted from a mass of loose sheets into a compact, dense body, capable of withstanding the tremendous crushing force to which it will be subjected in the wheels. This is accomplished in the following manner: Ten sheets are pasted together, one upon another, making a disk of about one-eighth of an inch thick. When enough of these disks have been prepared to fill a powerful hydraulic press, they are subjected to a pressure of 1800 pounds to the square inch. When removed, the disks are hung on poles in a steam-heated loft and left six days to dry. Thicker disks are then made, each formed by pasting together two or three of those already finished. These are pressed and dried as before, and the process is repeated until a block is built four inches thick and of about the specific gravity of lignum vitae. After each pasting and pressing six days are allowed for drying, and when the block is complete it is left in a drying room until thoroughly seasoned. The next operation is that of turning the paper blocks to fit the steel tires and iron hubs. This is done in lathes with as much accuracy and in exactly the same manner as if the material worked on was iron or wood. The circumference is turned to a perfect circle of the precise diameter required, a bed or recess is worked out for the web of the tire to rest in and the surfaces are left hard and smooth and the edges sharp defined. The block is then painted and is ready for its place in the wheel.

Meaning of Words.

The word "watch" was originally used as a term of endearment, similar to "darling." The word "wench" formerly was not used in the low and vulgar acceptance that it now is. "Damsel" was the appellation of young ladies of quality, and "Dame" a title of distinction. "Knaves" once signified a servant. "Varlet" was formerly used in the same sense as valet. On the other hand, the word "companion," instead of being the honorable synonym of associate meant the same as "fellow." "Villain" was a bondman, "Pedant," a school-master. Many words have deteriorated, and gained a sinister meaning at first foreign to them. The word "cunning," for example, formerly meant nothing sinister or underhand. "Denure" is another of this class. It was used by earlier writers without the insinuation which is now almost latent in it, that the external shows of modesty and sobriety rest on no corresponding realities. "Explode" formerly meant to drive off the stage with loud clapping of the hands, but gradually became exaggerated to its present signification. "Facetious," too, originally meant urbane, but now has so degenerated as to have acquired the sense of buffoonery. "Indolence" originally signified freedom from passion or pain, but now implies a condition of languid non-exertion. "Insolent" was only "unusual." "Gossip" was a sponsor at baptisms. A poet is a person who writes poetry; and, according to the good old custom, a prose-writer was a person who wrote prose, and simply the antithesis of poet. The word has now a sadly different signification.

Chances in the City.

To sum up what the city man really feels in regard to the coming of his country acquaintances to the city, it would not be far from this—viz: 1st. The chances for wealth are as great, practically in the country as in the city, and the expenses of living and risks of disasters much less. 2d. The competition of city life and the struggles to get hold of business and salary work are fearful. No man should come to the city unless he knows what he is going to do, or has money enough in his hands to take care of himself until he gets a living position or becomes satisfied that he cannot get one. Even to-day with the evidences of renewed prosperity all around us, there are probably ten applications on file for every desirable place, and no man living here can help a friend to a place unless he could create one. 3d. That the social privileges of the city may be greater, while the opportunities for social distinction and the probabilities of social consideration are much less than they are in the country. 4th. That in many respects there is nothing in the city that can compensate for the pure pleasures of country scenery and country life and neighborhood associations. 5th. That a city man's dream of the future is always of the country and the soil. He longs to leave the noise and fight all behind him, and go back to the country home to enjoy the money he has won.

The Engaged in Italy.

The betrothed in Italy are never left alone for one moment. They must not even sit side by side in company and a third party must always take part in their conversation. When out for a walk they must not go arm in arm. As for a kiss, not even the tips of the nails can be touched until after the church and state have firmly bound the poor lovers. This severity is no compliment to Italy. On the contrary it is mistrust carried to the extreme, and the young people rebel against it. Still, when they become fathers and mothers they perpetuate the custom. It may be that this extreme reserve before marriage engenders that after-marriage liberty which in its turn becomes a matter of wonder to more prosaic nations.

The Silver Conference.

The following able and comprehensive editorial from the Post and Tribune should be read by every reader of the JOURNAL. It is the clearest presentation of facts we have yet seen on this important question: The international monetary conference will assemble at Paris on April 19. The American members of the conference have already been appointed. The Italian and French government will also be represented. But there are no present indications that either England or Germany will attend. The French proposition is that the contracting governments will constitute themselves a "Bi-metallic union." That each government shall permit unlimited and free coinage of gold and silver at the rate of 15 1/2 of silver to 1 of gold, with gold and silver to be a legal tender in the country coining them. It may be assumed in advance that neither England nor Germany will assent to any bi-metallic union on this basis, and it is quite improbable that they will be represented in the conference unless the terms of invitation are modified. Even if the conferees should assent to this basis of bi-metallic union, it is not easy to understand how it can be of any practical value without the assent of these two potential European powers, and even if they should agree it is not certain that Americans would. The existing ratio of silver to gold in the coinage of this country is 16 to 1, which elevates silver considerably beyond its actual market value. Accepting the price at which silver bullion sells as being its actual value, it requires over 18 1/2 ounces of silver to purchase 1 ounce of gold, and no declaration by a portion of the governments of the world can alter that fact, or make 15 1/2 ounces of silver do the work and have the purchasing value of 18 1/2 ounces. It is true that this may be forced, but it can only be done by the concurrence of all the commercial nations, and then only by making the coinage of each state a legal tender at the rate of 15 1/2 to 1 in every other state of a universal monetary league. It is not quite clear that the French proposition includes this extreme. Though the published wording of what purports to be the proposal, looks in that direction. One clause reads thus: "Any person shall have the right of exchange of coin for bullion at a deduction not exceeding two per thousand." The ambiguity of this clause may be the result of bad translation. But it would seem that the meaning of it is this: Any person, foreign or native, may deposit silver bullion in the mint of any of the agreeing states, and immediately receive the silver coin of that state in return for it, at the rate of one dollar in silver for each 399.9 grains of silver bullion deposited, and for two coins out of 1,000 received. If this is the meaning of the proposal, its adoption would greatly enhance the value of American silver mining properties and add immensely to the profits of silver mine owners. They now sell their bullion at the rate of 477.3 grains for \$1, but under this proposition they would receive \$1 for each 399.9 grains. By the method of coinage pursued in this country at present, the government buys silver at the rate of 477.3 grains for \$1; and into this \$1 coined out of this bullion it only puts 412.5 grains, making a profit of 64.8 grains of silver on every dollar's worth purchased. And the people are not yet prepared to turn over this profit from the government and themselves to the mine owners. This is precisely what it means. It would be just as sensible to declare that the paper mills shall receive \$1 or \$10 or \$20 for each little strip of paper on which the government afterward stamps those figures, as to declare that the silver mine owners shall receive \$1 for 399.9 grains of silver when that quantity is only worth 84 cents, or when it requires 477.3 grains to be worth \$1. And if the American mind revolts at this legislation of value into individual property, it cannot be expected that intelligent Europeans, who have no national interest in silver mines, will receive it with more complacency. They will understand that the effect of such an agreement will be to bring bullion to their mints from the silver-producing states, have it melted at the expense of their government, and then, being a legal tender, it can be transferred into gold and the gold shipped to the country from which the silver bullion came. The person must be short-sighted indeed who does not see that the effect of this would be to drain all their gold into silver-producing countries and load them with a debased metal which, on the termination of the life of the league, if not before, would depreciate in value and bring ruin upon their industries. In view of this the prospects of bi-metallic union, as a result of the conference, are not brilliant.

News and Notes.

P. T. Barnum has gone to Florida. The recovery of Rev. Charles Spurgeon is doubtful. A "Cyclopedia of humor is to be compiled by Mark Twain. Ex-Gov. Seymour will visit the Pacific coast the coming summer. Sam Ward, the lobbyist and diner, has made \$800,000 in recent Wall street days. President Garfield greets callers cordially, but is very demonstrative to his friends. Michael Boyton, the notorious land leaser, is a brother of Paul Boyton, the swimmer. Frozen mutton is an article exported in large quantities from this country to England. Secretary Lincoln receives more complimentary calls than any other of the cabinet. After all, John Hay is to remain an assistant secretary of state; at least for the present. President Garfield's mother and children are to spend the summer at their Mentor home. Application of a hair bleaching compound killed a young lady in Wabash, Ind., the other day. The boer war is the most unpopular "little war" England has waged since the opium war with China. Jenkins, who was at the White House reception Saturday, says Mrs. Hayes is agreeable, but not gushing. Many prominent Republicans who have not visited the White House for four years, have called on Garfield. The railroads killed 30 persons during February and injured 182,—the blackest statement for any month on record. It rains alike on the just and unjust—on the just mainly because the unjust have borrowed their umbrellas.—[New Bedford Mercury. In Texas, the supreme court Judge, Woods, declares the law forbidding the intermarriage of black and white unconstitutional. If Adam could have had a telephone in the Garden of Eden, it would have been "Hallo! Eve," the most of the time —[Buffalo Express. It is too bad if the world is about to come to an end just as wife whippers were likely to get their dues.—[Richmond Independent. "A Babe," says a writer, "is a mother's anchor." We have often heard the first thing they do is to weigh it.—[Philadelphia News. Negotiations between the United States and Denmark for the transfer to the former of the islands St. Thomas and St. John are on the tapis. Murderers are so numerous now in St. Louis that the newsboys cry out on the streets the hours at which they are committed. In this way the reader keeps read up. Edmund Yates, in his prospectus to the Cuckoo, the new London Evening paper, says: "The age of the leading article is passed, and the age of the paragraph has begun." Florida will probably market about 50,000,000 oranges this year in spite of the frost; but that is less than a tenth of the number of foreign oranges yearly imported into this country. A fashion item says: "Mountain bunting" is serviceable for traveling dresses. It is presumed that "mountain bunting" is made of the hair of the mountain goat.—[Norristown Herald. A Sandusky paper reports that an English sparrow was caught in that city on the 8th inst., which had tied to its neck a bit of paper inscribed: "I hail from Detroit. This bird was caught by Mike Ryan, March 1, 1881." The owner of the ground on which the Andersonville stockade stood is about to plow it up for a cotton field, and an appeal is made through the Chicago Tribune for its purchase and preservation. The Boston Traveller says it is true that the daughter of Robert E. Lee would have been married years ago if her affianced had not been hung as a spy by Gen. Garfield during the Tennessee campaign. Under the old regime the planters of the south made drudges of their slaves, and farmers of the north made drudges of their wives. These have been changed in the south.—[Boston Traveller. There is a hog in Ohio which is 50 years old. This must be ancient Greece.—[Pack. There is a bottle of spirits in Kentucky that is 174 years old. This must be ancient Rum.—[American Queen. A recent writer has said that many people regard religion very much as they regard the small-pox. They desire to have it as light as possible, and are very careful that it does not mark them.—[New York Express. A lunatic in the Danvers asylum is laboring under the hallucination that he is president of the United States. During the past four years a number of newspaper lunatics have been laboring under the hallucination that a man named Tilden was President of the United States. It is a most singular thing.—[Norristown Herald.

An interesting book might be written on The Indestructibility of Lies,

particularly those developed during political campaigns. Take, for instance, the lie that was neatly labeled "The Treaty of Mentor."—[New York Mail. A newspaper with a paragraph on Bjornstene Bjornson was accidentally dropped from the deck of an ocean steamer, and in five minutes a dead whale rose to the surface. The miserable monster had perished from lock-jaw. Consistency is a jewel, the value of which has been greatly overestimated. The man who makes his boast that he has never changed any of his opinions might also add that he has never corrected any of his mistakes.—[New York Herald. It requires two hours to cremate a body. The ashes of the deceased are placed in a tin box, sealed, and can be carried away by the friends. They weigh from five to seven pounds. The cost of a cremation is \$45, which includes all expenses. A countryman from New Hampshire who had never heard of a bicycle, went to Boston, and when he beheld a youth whirling along upon one of these vehicles, he broke out thus: "Golly, ain't that queer! Who'd ever 'spect to see a man ridin' a hoop skirt?" The Galveston darkey rushed into a doctor's office and breathlessly exclaimed: "Come on, doctor, right off. Dar is somebody in my house who is in an awful fix—laid up in bed agromin' and agromin'." Who is it? "It's me. You see, boss, I didn't hab nobody to send, so I come myself." Mr. Talmage says that if he finds, when he gets to heaven, that at least 100,000 souls have not been saved through his instrumentality, he will ask to be excused, and hastily retire. But what will this modest man do if he finds that heaven can't get along without him.—[Elmira Free Press. Michigan Matters. Berrien Springs claims to be the only county seat in the state without a saloon. Oceana county has procured 43,000 more speckled trout at the state hatchery to stock her streams. Battle Creek has succeeded in getting its crazy man sent to Kalamazoo, and the town now breathes easier. A meeting of the Jackson and Ingham county bars, Thursday, favored Eugene Pringle for Judge of that circuit. Some men near Moscow found a pebble in the heart of an ash tree, 22 feet from the ground, where the tree was 30 inches through. Walkup, Fisher & Co., of Chicago, have purchased 4,000 acres of choice pine lands on the Marquette river, the consideration being about \$120,000. J. Killeen, grocer, of Grand Rapids, left his safe door unlocked, and in the morning he found \$23 in old coins gone; also a box of cigars from a shelf. The friends of D. P. Fargo, deputy warden of the state house of correction Ionia, presented him with a gold-headed cane and his wife with a gold watch and chain. Brian Walker, of Freeport, is the happy possessor of a healthy five-legged lamb. Should this style of mutton become fashionable, what are we to do for lambs' quarters? Mrs. Blood, a deaf mute of Grand Rapids, complained to the police that Marrella Brooks, another deaf mute, had been using insulting, indecent, immoral language toward her. The latest from Geo. C. Bates, formerly of Michigan, now stricken with paralysis at Leadville, says his recovery is doubtful. He had a brother buried at Monroe some ten days ago. Joseph Janatt of Muskegon, having a slight scratch on his arm, foolishly took some old granny's advice to dip it in the brine of an old pork barrel, which so poisoned the wound that his life is in great danger. Workmen in Grand Rapids, Wednesday, cut down a large tree so that it fell on the house of the late J. W. Pierce, occupied by Mrs Taylor, smashing the dining room from roof to floor. On the 14th at Friant & Carpenter's mill, five miles northeast of Cedar Springs, a fatal accident occurred. Robert Jordan slipped and fell while rolling a large log into the mill, it rolled back over him and crushed him to death. Michael Mater, an old man who lives alone in a little shanty in Alcona county, was severely injured by a falling tree, and lay four days in his shanty without relief. When found he was insensible but it was thought he would recover. A large quantity of clover seed which was in the Toledo flood has been sent over to Monroe and revamped so as to look almost as good as new. It was all sold to Chicago parties for \$3.60 a bushel, and, as some of it was badly sprouted, it is thought the farmers will have a nice time making it grow. The democrats have nominated J. W. Flanders, of Sturgis, for judge of the fifth circuit, composed of Branch and St. Joseph counties. The republicans met at Coldwater Thursday, but stood evenly divided between N. L. Lovernidge of Branch, and R. R. Peeler of St. Joseph. The convention adjourned till Friday.

