## Gold Field Incident.

It was in the early days of the gold excitement in the Black Hills that a party of us started overland from Canada, bent upon making our everlasting fortunes. We never reached the *Pah Sappa* (as the Indians called our intended destination) and, as the story is interesting, I will tell you the reason.

We came into camp one night at the headwaters of the Cheyenne River and, as was our custom, we had two or three hours of story-telling before we wrapped up in our blankets and went to sleep.

On this particular night we had taken turns at yarn-spinning until old Tom Roberts came next in order. He stood up, his face lighted with a kind of halo by the flickering camp fire.

"Boys," said Tom, "I'm not goin' to give ye any wonderful stories of what I might or might not have done. No; I'm goin' to tell ye 'bout a dream I had last night.

"You remember where our last camp was? It was near a big marsh. The night was jest as calm an' beautiful as this night is, an' the crickets an' frogs sounded so sleepy-like, an' the air was so wet with dew an' smelled so fresh that, somehow, I was 'minded of my boyhood home 'way back in New England.

"I went to sleep thinkin' 'bout old friends an' the happy times when I didn't know so much of the world as I do now. I don't know how long I slept but, all of a sudden, I heard a tinklin' of bells an' I seen some sparklin' little stars floatin' towards me through the slough-grass. As they come nearer, I could make 'em out to be little fays like my Aunt 'Mandy used to tell about.

"They flew all 'round me, an' one of 'em says, steppin' out in front of all the rest, says she:

"'Be you Tom Roberts?'

"'Yes, ma'am,' says I.

"'Well, Tom, I've been watchin' you for some time,' she says, 'an' I think you're a good deservin' feller.'

"'I try to do what's right,' says I, 'but I miss it sometimes.'

"'No human is perfect,' says she, 'but I'm goin' to reward ye. I'll grant you the dearest wish of your life, whatever that may be. Do you want a magnificent fortune?' says she.

"'No, thank'ee,' says I, 'I want to earn all the money I git.'

"Then how about power? Would you like to be a ruler? A king or something like that?'

"'No,' says I; 'what would a feller like me, with no eddication, do with a kingdom? I'd be like a fish out of water,' says I—which I would, mates.

"Then she says, 'Supposin' I make you as wise as Solomon?'

"'Twont do,' says I, 'my head ain't big enough to hold all that.'

"'Would you like to be the happiest man alive?' says she.

"'I can't be no happier than I am this minit,' says I.

"'Well, what can I give ye?" says she, discouraged like.

"'I'll tell ye, says I; 'If ye want to do me a real favor—somethin' I'd like above everythin' else—why, jest gimme a glimpse of my old mother as has been dead these forty years.'

Tom Roberts paused a moment and there was a silence—a kind of speaking silence—came over the boys. At last Bob Smith said:

"Did ye see yer mother, Tom?"

"No," said Tom, in a sad voice. "It was like all dreams, mates. They never hold out. That fairy says, "All right, Tom jest wait a little,' an' then she an' the rest o' the faye disappeared right in the dark, quick as a wink. I'd have given my life, boys, to have her grant that favor."

That was all of Tom's story and we went to bed directly afterwards, wrought up and a little sad. And I dreamed, too, that night, of old times.

But I was wakened, suddenly, by a terrific yell. I jumped to my feet and beheld an awful sight. Our camp had been surprised by Indians, and Tom Roberts was the first man to fall by a tomahawk in the hands of a painted brave.

Taking in my peril at a glance, I rolled off into the long grass by the river. Then, dropping noiselessly into the water, I swam off under shadow of the banks.

I was the only man that escaped and I remember how, as I swam off down the river, I looked up and saw the bright stars. Quick as a flash, I thought of Tom's dream and I muttered, "It's the hand of God; Tom has met his mother."

Strange things have happened and are happening in this world, all the time, but this story of the lost camp and Tom Roberts' dream is the strangest I ever came across in all my sixty years.

## Reserved Vision.

A very peculiar case of perverted vision has been presented to Dr. E. W. Brickley, an oculist of this city, writes a York correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*. A little girl of ten years, the daughter of one of this city's most respected citizens, was discovered by her school teacher to be unable to read her reading-exercise unless the book was held upside down. The teacher, Miss Busser, immediately communicated the fact to her parents, and they became very much worried.

The oculist was called in and an examination made of the child's eyes. They were found to be entirely normal. The only conclusion arrived at was that the strange freak of vision was the result of a habit of trying to read with the book pages in an unnatural position, a habit contracted some years ago when the child was first sent to school. At this time the child in writing numbers upon a slate always made them upside down, and as it was never observed or corrected she gradually drifted into the habit of reading the same way.

The only means of cure possible is to teach the child everything over again, as though she never knew anything before. This will be carefully done, and a cure of this really phenomenal case is anxiously looked for in the near future.

## Use for Old Papers.

Newspapers are invaluable for packing away the winter clothing, the printing-ink acting as a defiance to the stoutest moth as successfully as camphor or tar-paper. For this reason newspapers are useful under the carpet, laid over the regular carpet-paper. The most valuable quality of newspapers in the kitchen, however, is their ability to keep out the air. It is said that ice completely enveloped in newspapers, so that all air is shut out, will keep a longer time than under other conditions, and that a pitcher of ice-water laid in a newspaper with the ends of the paper twisted together to exclude the air, will remain all night in any summer room with scarcely any perceptible melting of the ice. These facts, if such, should be utilized oftener than they are in the care of the sick at night. In freezing ice-cream, when the ice is scarce, pack the freezer only three-quarters full of ice and salt, and finish with newspapers, and the difference in the time of freezing and quality of the cream is not perceptible from the result when the freezer is packed full of ice. After removing the dasher it is better to cork up the cream and cover it tightly with a package of newspapers than to use more ice. The newspaper retains the cold already in the ice better than a packing of cracked ice and salt, which must have crevices to admit the air.

Twenty of the members of the Salvation Army, who lately caused a disturbance at Eastbourne, have been sent to jail for a month.

An article in the *Hobart Mercury* gives some very interesting and curious facts concerning the development of a new sort of nail in the rabbits of Australia in consequence of the animals' endeavour to climb over the wire netting used to impede their progress in travelling. The farmers have discovered that the rabbits can burrow under the netting unless it is buried six or eight inches under the soil. Moreover, they can climb, or evidently intend to do so after a little training, and to this end they are developing a nail which will enable them to hold on while progress is made upwards. This nail development has been noticed before in Queensland when the bark just out of reach was desirable of attainment, but to effect hand-over-hand nautical climbing shows the rabbit in the act of elevating himself in the scale.

The Baroness von Pappenheim, daughter of the Commander of the 1st Lancers, who attended the parade at Potsdam in the Emperor's suite was knocked off her horse, and so fearfully bruised about the arms, legs, and body, that it is considered very doubtful whether she can survive her injuries. When the 1st Lancers were coming into line, says Dalziel's Berlin correspondent, they were suddenly ordered to gallop. The movement seems to have startled the young lady's horse, and she was thrown, and before anyone could intervene to save her twelve or thirteen troopers had ridden over her, as it was impossible for them to stop their horses. The horror of the incident was increased by the fact that the young Baroness's father led the advance of the Lancers, and was a witness of the accident without being able to render any aid.

## Gunboats Built at Sea.

When Great Britain had trouble with Portugal a while ago she thought it necessary to police the Zambesi River in order to protect the British traders and missionaries, who were threatened by the Portuguese forces. She therefore had two shallow-draft gunboats built. They are more novel affairs than would be supposed from the picture. Each of them is ninety feet in length, and is made to be put together at sea. In other words, those two boats were made in floatable sections. Experiments were carried out to see how rapidly one of the boats could be put together. In a comparatively still sea the floating sections were dropped over the side of the vessel one by one and fastened together. It was found that the whole operation, from the time of commencing work to the moment when the little vessels was running under steam, occupied a little less than twenty-four hours. The long process of riveting the sections and launching the boats are obviated in these steamers.

The purpose of putting them together at sea, is so that they may be already for offensive operations, should they enter the mouth of a river in the neighborhood of hostile forces. Of course, it would be impossible on the Zambesi and on many other rivers for a European steamer to cross the bar, and therefore, it is essential that the gunboat be put together before it enters the river.

These little boats carry nine machine guns, which is quite a formidable armament on the inland waters of Africa. It has been found that stern wheel steamers are best adapted for shallow river navigation, and almost all the boats which ply on the inland waters of Africa are of this type. These war vessels draw only about 18 inches of water, which is quite essential on the Zambesi, for although it is one of the greatest rivers in Africa, it is for long distances exceedingly wide and very shallow. Fortunately it has not been necessary to use the boats in offensive operations since they were taken to the Zambesi. It is quite evident that they have done good service in preserving the peace as well as being a safeguard and a protection in the event of war.

## At the Bench Show.

A clergyman in the Chicago Advance says—"I have lately visited a bench show. I enjoyed my visit. I like dogs. As I went up and down the benches I saw various ecclesiastic smiles. I think that we Congregationalists are well typed by the Newfoundland dog; large, vigorous, dignified, with common sense; good for land or good for water; good for heat or good for cold; true and tried. The Presbyterians, I think, find their type in the mastiff; heavy, hardy, strong, massive, close knit, looking a little severe, ready to bite if too much petted, but with a pretty good dog. The Episcopalian, I think, should find a representation in the St. Bernard. He is the soul of dignity; he has an expression upon his countenance that seems almost indifference to the rest of the world, yet with this is an expression of confidence in himself and readiness to do his duty when the occasion comes.

"I have been in doubt to some degree as to what breed should represent the Methodist and Baptist. Probably the setter would stand best for the Methodist—most useful of dogs, amiable in the chase, not good for a pet, no good to be kept about the house doing nothing, but good when the hunter wishes to get game. Mrs. Farmton says that the terrior would well represent the Methodist, for they keep up such a barking! I am sorry to say that is very unjust in Mrs. Farmton, yet she has some excuse, for she once was almost frightened out of her wits by a Methodist preacher trying to talk with her when she was but eleven years of age, about her soul's interests. He meant well. The Baptists—it would not be quite fair to say that they are represented by a wiser spaniel. I am quite sure that in many respects, and important ones, the Newfoundland would represent the Baptist quite as well as he does the Congregational Church."

There are now nearly 700 lady clerks employed at the general postoffice in receipt of salaries ranging from £65 to £150 or £170 per annum. Of course by far the larger proportion is to be found in the second class, where there are over 550 at a salary beginning at £65 and rising by annual increments of £3 to £80. In the first class division there are about eighty-seven clerks, the maximum salary being £110, while principal clerks, of whom there are about twenty, can rise to £170 a year.

Peach-colored velvet and jet is a favorite combination in millinery.

## Quickness of an Electric Current.

Philadelphia scientists are preparing to find out how fast an electric current travels. An experiment will be made, probably from the Franklin Institute, by connections over the Atlantic cable to Liverpool and return.

A recent test appeared to show that an electric current is a slow coach as compared to light, being only able to get over to Europe and back in something like a second, or at the rate of only some four hundred thousand miles a minute, while light ambles along at a million-mile-a-minutes gait. The Philadelphie scientists who are proposing to make further investigation are not satisfied to give up the record to sunlight, and hope to prove that the electrical current if not handicapped, is the swifter element.

The most recent experiment was tried at McGill College, Montreal. The current was transmitted in Montreal, was transferred to the cable at the Newfoundland cable station by means of Thomson's mirror galvanometer, sent across to the station at Liverpool, and returned to Montreal by the same method. The distance traversed, partly by overhead wire and partly by cable, was 8,000 miles. From the time the current left the key in Montreal until it returned to the receiver in the same office just 1 second and 1-20th of a second had elapsed; but the conditions were not as good as they might have been, hence the further experiment to be made in Philadelphia.

The rapidity with which the current travels over short wires with no delay indicated unlimited possibilities in the direction of practical tests. Prof. Marks of the Edison Electric Light Company is authority for the assertion that if the globe was encircled with a continuous cable a current would travel the entire distance in a trifle over three seconds. At this rate a current would travel to the sun, covering the entire distance of 96,000,000 miles, in three and a half minutes.

"In this age of science," said one of the gentlemen who will participate in the experiments," people have an idea that we know so much now there is nothing more to be discovered. Why, we are yet in our infancy as far as electricity goes. New discoveries will yet be made, and we will live to see them put into practical use, which will revolutionize the entire world. The experiment with which we are about to make in telegraphy is only a feeler which will lead to other and more startling experiments. The establishment of telephone communications between the hemispheres is already being seriously discussed."

## Compressed Tea.

Tablet tea is manufactured at Hankow in factories belonging to Russian firms there. It is made of the finest tea dust procurable. The selection of the dust is the work of skilled experts; the cost of the dust varies from 10d. a pound upward. This dust is manufactured into tablets by steam machinery. About two ounces and a half of dust are poured into a steel mould on a steel cylinder. The dust is poured in dry without steaming, and the pressure brought to bear is two tons per tablet. Great care is required in the manufacture and packing of tablet tea, and the cost is comparatively high. The tablets are wrapped first in tinfoil, then in expensive and attractive paper wrappers, and finally packed in tin-lined cases for export to Russia. The tea, it is stated, losses none of its flavor by being pressed into tablets, and, as tablet tea is only one-sixth of the bulk of leaf tea, it is most convenient for travelers, and also for importing into the remoter regions of Russia. The increase in the export of tea dust from Hankow to 726,729 lb. in 1890, from 140,933 lb. in 1889, is due to the fact that while Indian and Ceylon teas are ousting China tea from the British market, many consumers, being accustomed to the flavor of China tea, wish for it. To meet this demand grocers use China tea dust to flavor the Indian tea. All the tea dust exported goes to Great Britain. Lately a new commodity has come on the Hankow market, to which the customs give the name of log tea. It is an inferior tea with stalks packed in the shape of logs, which weigh from 8 lb. to 80 lb. each log. The tea is wrapped in the leaves of the *Bambusa latilolia*, and then reduced in bulk by binding round the log with lengths of split bamboo.

Heavy floods and much distress are reported from Melbourne, Australia.

Society is like the echoing hills; it gives back to the speaker his words—groan for groan, song for song. Wouldst thou have thy social scenes to resound with music? Then speak ever in the melodious strains of truth and love. "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."