

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighborhood Interest in His Doings.—Matters of Moment and Worth Gathered from His Daily Record.

Concord, N.H., has a cotton mill owned by negroes.

New York's Chinatown elects a mayor yearly. His salary is \$1,000.

This year's output of flour by Minneapolis mills is beyond all records.

Five new Presbyterian churches were erected in the Adirondacks last year. The Chicago council has forbidden the use of the rod in the House of Correction.

Sixty-five Denver hunters recently brought in for 4,328 rabbits for the poor of that city.

In three years Rudyard Kipling has received a dozen offers for his Vermont residence.

The 1,316 clerks in the Chicago post office are to be uniformed, probably in dark navy blue.

Capt. Thomas Nicholson, Bucksport, Me., cleared \$20,000 out of his fishing fleet this season.

Half a million dollars worth of opium reached San Francisco from China the other day.

Hope Cody, chairman of Chicago's Board of Election Commissioners, is only 28 years of age.

At a rough estimate there are 15,000,000 pairs of gloves imported into this country each year.

It is estimated that the next census of the United States will show the population to be 90,000,000.

There are 45 colleges and 17 State Christian Associations among the colored men of North Carolina.

The United States is now producing more pig iron than at any time during the history of the country.

A resident of Swainsboro, Ga., celebrated his 85th birthday recently by hearing his pastor preach his funeral sermon.

By the will of James L. Bugh, of Philadelphia, the Masonic Home of Pennsylvania will receive between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

The sum involved in the deal by which the street car lines of Baltimore have been combined is in the neighborhood of \$28,000,000.

C. Vanderbilt, Jr., pays the highest house rent in New York \$2,000 a month, and a man named Hennessey the lowest, 83 cents per month.

When Paul Newman, ex-Attorney-General of Hawaii, was the other day admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, he registered from "the territory of Hawaii."

New York papers are delivered at the Grand Central depot, three miles from the office of publication, ten minutes after having been printed. The use of the pneumatic mail tubes is the cause of the rapid delivery.

David M. Wilson, who died in Philadelphia recently, followed the curious fad of shaking hands with every Mayor of the city on the day of his inauguration, a practice which he indulged for almost seventy years without break.

Gen. Merritt, it is said, was tendered the position of the first Governor-General of Cuba, but declined it on the ground that the first six months' occupation was sure to result in little except trouble for the commanding officer.

The day President and Mrs. McKinley were in Atlanta, Ga., an old colored lady placed a hot brick in the Presidential carriage for Mrs. McKinley's comfort, as the day was cold. The old lady has the refusal of a position at the White House now.

An absolute monarch came to New York very quietly one day last week. His name is George Clunies-Ross, and he is king of the Keeling-Cocos Islands, a small group near the island of Java. He is a Scotchman and claims sovereignty on the grounds of his grandfather's discovery of the islands.

The Carnegie Steel Company have purchased 35 acres of land on the banks of the Monongahela river, west of Homestead, on which large shops will be built to make steel cars, with a capacity of forty each day. An axle-forging shop will also be erected. The plant will employ about 2,000 workmen.

Miss Florence Caldwell, a daughter of United States Judge Caldwell, of Cleveland, was graduated as a civil engineer last June from the Colorado State School of Mines at Golden. She will not practice her profession, however, as she is about to marry another civil engineer, whom she met in Colorado.

Edward J. Breck is the man who acted as spy for the United States in Spain during the war. Representing himself as a German scientist, he secured letters from General Weyler that gave him access to the fortifications at Barcelona, Cadiz and Ferrol, and secured him entertainment as the guest of Admiral Cervera on board his flagship.

In the \$5,000 accident damage suit brought by Mrs. Marie Rouillon against R. T. Wilson, father-in-law of young Cornelius Vanderbilt, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for \$5,000 and costs. She said her business of dressmaking was almost ruined on account of being laid up by injuries received by slipping on the roof of a house owned by Mr. Wilson.

Frank Gould, saw George Killian, of 330 East Eighteenth street, New York, giving his two rough-coated St. Bernard dogs an airing on Fifth avenue. Presto, the male, carried a whip in his mouth, Laura Jean, his companion, trotted after him. The dogs struck Gould's fancy. He wanted them and did not long dicker about the price. He paid \$5,000 for the animals.

Thomas H. Watson of San Francisco, and his wife, who was Emma Spreckels, daughter of the sugar king, are completing arrangements for an extended tour of the world. While their trip will be one of pleasure and business combined, the chief object Mr. Watson has in view is the acquisition of property valued at \$9,000,000. He has in his possession papers which he claims show him to be entitled to about one-half of the town of Carlisle, England.

THE ROSSLAND OUTPUT.

Last Year's Work Shows a Big Increase Over 1897.

The value of ore produced by the Rossland mines during the year 1898, says a Rossland despatch, reached the enormous aggregate total of \$2,804,758.12. The shipments were 116,697 tons; for the year ending December 31, 1897, the shipments were 68,000 tons and the value of the ore mined was \$2,100,000. In a single year the shipments from the mines were almost doubled, while the value of the output increased \$700,000 or 33 per cent.

The year has been remarkable for the immense influx of foreign capital, which absorbed some of the better Rossland properties. First in size comes the British American Corporation, with investments of nearly \$5,000,000 in the north belt. Close after it came the purchase of Gooderham-Blackstock syndicate of the Centre Star, for \$2,000,000 cash.

Ore shipments from the mines of the Rossland camp, for the year ending December 31, 1898, were as follows: Le Roi, 66,000; War Eagle, 42,799; Iron Mask, 3500; Centre Star, 2907; Poorman, 453; Monto Christo, 416; Velvet, 350; Cliff, 140; Giant, 114; Sunset, No. 2, 32; Deer Park, 6; total, 116,697.

Conservative brokers estimate that the volume of business for the year in Rossland stocks reached the enormous sum of ten million dollars. The greatest stimulus was given the market during the time the British American Corporation was acquiring its twenty odd mining properties in this camp, and the activity thus started has never been stopped to any great extent. The standard stocks are to-day selling for higher figures than ever before. It is reported that a Montreal syndicate has purchased the British Columbia mine in Summit Camp, near Greenwood, and close to the Great Oro Denoro Copper Mine, at a price of between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

SPARE THE ROD.

It is no mere sickly sentimentality that would banish corporal punishment from the class-room. Under more humane management the standards of the school have risen and the humanizing influences have become greater. We do not need to turn to the historic past to know that harshness begets harshness, hardness and cruelty. The world reflects the spirit in which we meet it; and this is nowhere more evident than in the class-room. A harsh word, a sneering remark, the cynicism of the teacher, are reflected by sensitive children; while undue severity and corporal punishment make impossible a spirit of harmony and interest and the feeling of mutual co-operation, which should be called forth in the ideal relations of pupil and teacher. On the contrary, a firm, consistent and generous treatment of a young child, as of an older person, has an appealing and controlling force. This is preeminently true of the normal child, of a child in which the sense-impressions have been on the whole favorable to happy social relations; where the "sense-means of cultivating virtue" have been present in early childhood in the home, where the child has gained from the action of those by whom he is surrounded and in the satisfaction of his physical needs, an impulse which awakened love and gratitude to those who satisfied these needs, and trust in those who protected him in danger; where those who have directed him have been as flexible as nature toward his irregular desires; where he has been accustomed to yield his wishes to circumstances, to a consideration of others, or to the direction of parents.

With such environment, patience, obedience, gratitude, trust, and love have begun to unfold before the child enters the school. He has already recognized that all that exists in the world is not for his own sake only; and he has begun to respond in self-development and self-control. In the companionship of those who love him, of those who in the daily relations of home show him that justice, mercy, purity, love, generosity, firmness, courage, are controlling elements in social life, he has already obtained a preparatory discipline, which makes him amenable to the discipline of the school.

THOSE GIRLS.

Kitty says she cried for help when he kissed her. She didn't do any such thing; she cried for joy.

Young Folks.

GIFT FOR A GIRL FRIEND.

A dainty device, for a girl's room, which should be made in a color that matches or harmonizes with the hue of its hangings and furniture coverings, has been recently invented, and can be used either for autographs or monograms—if one is an inveterate collector of the latter, and has wearied of using them to decorate fans. Take a square of white card-board or heavy water-color paper three and a half inches long and three inches wide, cut it into the shape of a heart, and leaving a border an inch in width outline lightly with a pencil a second heart, which must be cut out with a very sharp pair of small scissors. Paint on the heart tiny pink rosebuds and leaves, sprays of forget-me-nots, buttercups, maiden-hair ferns, or violets; cut three pieces of satin ribbon three-quarters of an inch or an inch and a half wide—pink, blue, yellow or violet, according to the flowers painted, and half a yard long. Fringe or point one end of each, fasten with photographer's paste on the back of the heart, one at the bottom and one on each end. Cut pieces of card-board one inch long and two and a half inches wide—the easiest way, if one intends to make several, is to cut up blank cards—and fasten them with the paste across the strips of ribbon, slanting them a little that the effect may not be too stiff. The heart can be suspended by a loop finished with bow and ends of baby-ribbon matching the color of the flowers, or it may be hung, by means of its open centre, or two small tacks.

NAN'S SOUVENIR.

Nan was going to have a birthday party out at grandma's house. Ten little girls were coming to spend the afternoon and stay to supper.

There was only one thing that troubled Nan, and she went out into the kitchen where grandma was frosting cakes the afternoon before the party, to talk about it. The cakes looked so good that Nan never could have stood it if grandma had not baked her tastiest, in patty pans, of every single kind of cake.

"Everything is too good for anything!" said Nan, leaning her elbows on the table. "Except I wish I did have silverware for the party."

"Goodness, me!" said grandma.

"What's that?"

"Things for them to take away to 'member my party with, for always," answered Nan. "Silverware is the best part of a party, I think, grandma."

"Oh, yes, souvenirs—yes, I see. Well, we must see about them, then. Didn't you tell me there were twelve kittens down at the barn?"

"Yessum," said Nan. "And, O grandma, you said they'd have to go, some of them, anyway, 'cause the farm was getting overrun with cats. But grandma, you wouldn't say so if you could see them once; they are the sweetest, cunningest, dearest—"

"Yes," said grandma, calmly; "they always are. But why not give them to the party for souvenirs?"

You always think of the perfectest things! Of course, there'll be one apiece and two for me; and you don't mind the two for me, do you, grandma?"

And, of course, grandma said she didn't mind.

So the next day, when the ten little guests went away, after having the most charming time, they each took with them a kitten in a box with slats fixed so that it could breathe. And, after they were all gone, Nan went down to the barn. When she came back, she looked very sober.

"I wouldn't have thought," she remarked, "that I could have felt so lonely without those ten kittens. I hope I'm not getting selfish."

And grandma smiled.

The next day grandma was upstairs when she heard Nan calling. And then, running up the stairs, accompanied by a chorus of meowing, she burst into the room, her cheeks very red and her eyes very bright, with ten boxes piled up in her arms.

"O grandma," she cried, "the party all came back and brought their silverware! They said their mamas said they were just as much obliged, but they had so many kittens now they do not really need any more; and say—O grandma, don't you think we can keep them now?"

And, of course, grandma, when she got through laughing said, "Yes."

GIRLS AND SENTIMENTALITY.

It is man, according to George Meredith, who has made woman sentimental, and given her that "over-fatted heart" which proves so cumbersome an organ to possess in the great battle of life. It is good, therefore, to find one of the foremost of our women thinkers and writers, a writer like Flora Annie Steel, doing battle with the "Giant of Sentimentality," which still falsifies our wholesome human life, and teaching our girls that there is something nobler than mawkish romance, and a higher ideal than to espouse their possibly foolish fancy of the moment.

THE STRAIGHT-HAIRED GIRL.

Some one of the oracles whose mission is to advise young women how to select a husband, and to warn young men against feminine wiles, has recently set up a new guide post to masculine wayfarers on the road to matrimony.

"Marry a girl with straight hair," says the oracle. "The chances are that her ways are as straight as her locks, while the heart of the curly-headed girl is as full of twists and quirks as her hair."

The theory is expounded at some length. If all men will but be guided by this sibylline voice, the day of the straight-haired girl is close at hand. She needs compensation. For years she has fought an unequal fight against her sister of the curly locks, and her temper has been worn threadbare, all on account of her hair. What chance has a straight-haired girl on a windy day. Her hair is straggling in frantic wisps over her collar and her ears. She looks untidy, disreputable; and all the time the curly-haired girl is becoming more and more bewitching. Her stray locks crisp and curl and flutter fluffily round her face, and she smiles in serene consciousness that the wind is quite powerless against her. When rainy days come the straight-haired girl sighs dolefully, and looks limp and dejected, in spite of swell clothes. Hot days have the same depressing effect upon her hair and spirits. Sea bathing has no charms for her. Even golf can't be to her what it is to the champion with curly hair. But, if straight hair is to be a certificate of eligibility for matrimony, there will be balm for all these wounds.

FREAKS OF FASHION.

The Romans depict the Britons as almost naked, but modern opinion inclines to the belief that they were at times clad in skins.

The conquest at Hastings meant also a victory of the long coats and short coats and long cloaks of the English. The Norman dandy curled his hair with irons, parted it in the middle, and bound it with ribbons. The Normans were also responsible for the introduction of the barbarous custom of tight-lacing, a small waist being much admired.

Great attention seems to have been given to sleeves which fell over the hands. Ladies' sleeves grew to such an extravagant length that they hung down from the wrists to the ground and had to be tied in knots to keep them out of the way when walking.

A peculiar feature in Plantagenet times were the Crackowes, boots with toes so long that gallants of the day fastened the points of their toes to their knees with gold and silver chains. During the thirteenth century the head-dress of the ladies began to be assertive, and at length developed into the horned head-dress. This was a frame with two unsightly protuberances, called rams' horns, all of which was covered with some fine material. It was thundered at from the pulpit, but feminine vanity was proof against the most formidable opposition. The climax was reached by the arrival of the "steeples" in the fifteenth century. This atrocious, as its name implies, was a very formidable structure. The modern matinee hat pales into insignificance in comparison. The "steeples" were made of rolls upon rolls of linen, and rose to a point, two feet above the head.

In the reign of Edward III. an act was passed against the adoption of garments unsuited to the degree or purse of the wearer. The dress of the dead was not even exempt from legal interference. As an incentive to the woollen industry, it was enacted that no corpse should be swathed in anything but wool.

Elizabeth's reign was marked by the advent of the farthingale—the progenitor of the crinolines. It consisted of a circular petticoat made of cloth stiffened with whalebone. Its dimensions were enormous.

James I. forbade the farthingale at the masques at Whitehall, from the fact that four or five ladies got wedged in a passage on one occasion.

The great feature of the eighteenth century was the wig, which underwent many changes. Dandies combed their wigs in theatres and such places before an admiring crowd. Ladies were proud of the hoop, which enjoyed a popularity as great as its size, which is saying a great deal. Muffs at this time were always carried by men of fashion.

The crinoline abomination began its reign of terror in England in 1854.

Mrs. Ann Bloomer rendered herself immortal in 1859 by introducing the Bloomer costume into America, and the costume was adopted by some strong-minded ladies in the west of London as early as 1851.

PARADISE FOR ACTORS.

The Japanese Infatuated With the Theatre—Large Salaries Received.

Danjuro, the Japanese Irving, is the idol of Tokio theatre-goers. He gets prices that even European actors might envy, and which, in a country of low wages like Japan, are absolutely enormous. Thus, for a run of 40 days in Osaka, he stipulated for 50,000 yen, £5,000, or rather more. Just lately he asked 12,000 yen, over \$1,200, for one act of a play—a Japanese play takes all day—put on the stage of a Tokio theatre. It is interesting to note that the salaries of the Cabinet Ministers are less than £1,000, that judges occupying a position equivalent to that of county clerk judges at home get 100 to 150 yen a month, that the highest officials in the Japan Railway Company receive £300 per annum, that the average Government school teacher's salary is 10 yen, £1, a month, and that some of the latter earn as little as 3 yen, 30¢, a month.

HEALTH.

DON'T COUGH.

A physician who is connected with an institution in which there are many children says: "There is nothing more irritable to a cough than coughing. For some time I have been so fully assured of this that I determined for one minute at least to lessen the number of coughs heard in a certain ward of a hospital of the institution. By the promise of rewards and punishments I succeeded in inducing them simply to hold their breaths when tempted to cough, and in a little while I was myself surprised to see how some of the children entirely recovered from the disease."

"Constant coughing is precisely like scratching a wound on the outside of the body; so long as it is done the wound will not heal. Let a person when tempted to cough draw a long breath and hold it until it warms and soothes every air cell, and some benefit will be derived from this process. The nitrogen which is thus refined acts as an anodyne to the mucous membrane—allaying the desire to cough, and giving the throat and lungs a chance to heal. At the same time a suitable medicine will aid nature in her effort to recuperate."

BUTTERMILK AS A MEDICINE.

Long experience has demonstrated buttermilk to be an agent of superior digestibility. It is indeed, a true milk peptone; that is, milk already partially digested, the coagulation of the coagulable portion being loose and flaky, and not of that firm, indigestible nature which is the result of the action of the gastric juice upon sweet cow's milk. It is a decided laxative, a fact which must be borne in mind in the treatment of typhoid fever, and which may be turned to advantage in the treatment of habitual constipation. It is a diuretic, and may be used to advantage in some kidney troubles. It resembles koumiss in its nature, and, with the exception of that article, it is the most grateful, refreshing and digestible of the products of milk. It is invaluable in the treatment of diabetes either exclusively or alternating with skim milk. In some cases of gastric ulcer and cancer of the stomach, it is the only food that can be retained. —Elgin Dairy Report.

REMEDY FOR CROUP.

What a dread disease this is, coming as it does upon one unawares in the night, and many a home has been left desolate by its ravages.

But with onions in the house one is well fortified against this trouble. Peel the onions and roast them in the oven; then press out the juice which the child must be made to drink.

The pulp while hot is bound on the soles of the feet, palms of the hands and on the chest. This always gives relief and recovery is prompt.

THE CARE OF THE HANDS.

In frosty weather, particularly if dark clothes are worn, the hands very soon become soiled, and require frequent washing. They should be washed in warm water, not hot water, and, if possible in soft water. After washing they should be dried very thoroughly in bran or oatmeal, and great care taken that the nails are most thoroughly dry; in the drying the cuticle can be pushed back sufficiently to show the half-moon at the base of the nail. Nail-scissors, not used for any other purpose, should be used to cut off any hangnails; but it is better to use a file to keep the nails short, and for this purpose there should be three or four files of varying sizes. To give the lustrous desired there is a new kind of wash that makes the nails pink, not deep red, and also gives a gloss and finish. After this is put on the hands should be washed, but sufficient of the polish will remain.

After the hands are washed the second time to remove the polish the nails should be rubbed riskily, either with a piece of chamois, a nail-polisher, or by rubbing them again with the palm of the hand. This last method is perhaps the best of all, for it polishes just enough without giving too exaggerated a finish in appearance.

Rings are so much the fashion that the hands must of necessity be well kept, but it is a mistake to wear too many rings, particularly with a plain gown; it is to be hoped that it will soon go out of fashion to wear them with anything but evening dress.

A GREAT MINE.

The Rand has at last reached and surpassed the marvelous output of 400,000 ounces of gold as the production for a single month of 28 working days. Every 24 hours, then, witness the recovery of 14,250 ounces of gold, worth rather over £50,000, \$243,325. The Rand total comprises only the output of mines along a stretch of some 30 miles of country. With this statement for the month of October the gold winnings of the whole republic for the 10 months of 1898 amount to 3,700,908 ounces. The value of the October 423,000 ounces is 1,500,000, \$7,299,750, which may be compared with £11,653,725, 56,162,743; the value for all in 1897, and £12,208,411, \$59,412,232, the value of the gold production of the United States in the same year.