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A SWINDLER CAUGHT NAPPING.

[From the Chicago Mail.]

I was at the Grand Pacific Hotel the evening that the victims of the Minnesota railroad disaster were quartered there by the company. The rotunda looked something like the offices of some Southern hotels which I saw during the war, when, after an engagement, wounded officers were sent in from the field. Tourists and travellers lounged about Mr. Drake's hotel with bandaged arms and heads. Of course they got the best there was in the house. Such were the instructions of the company. Some of the bruised ones were not so badly mangled as to prevent them dropping in at the exchange and there, as elsewhere, they got the best, and the mixers were instructed to take nothing for what they set up. This was kept up for a part of the day and resulted in a funny incident. About 3 o'clock a man presented himself with a bandage over one of his eyes and one arm in a sling. He called for an English invalid's delight—brandy and soda—and got it.

"How are you feeling?" asked the man who had served him.

The man replied feebly that he was slowly on the mend.

"That was a bad accident," continued the mixer.

The bandaged man said it was.

"The C. B. and Q. are noted for accidents," said the mixer.

"Yes," said the bandaged man. "I don't think I will ever go over that road again."

"I don't think you ever will, myself," said the mixer, and in a minute he had leaped over the counter like a cat, and had the bandaged man by the back of the neck. As he kicked his man out of the LaSalle street opening he called out to him: You get on the right road the next time, young man. There's a mighty sight of difference between the Minneapolis and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, when it comes to ringing in a drink."

France—You'd better not tread on my tail!
Germany—Why, I am treading on it.
France—Ah! I mean with both feet.—*Tid Bits.*

PEOPLES THE NEW WORLD.—The total immigration to the United States in 1887 was not as large as was predicted early last summer, when it was thought it might reach 800,000. The total for the 11 months ending November 30 is 486,660, against 363,453 for the same period of 1886. This indicates a grand total for the year of little more than half a million. There has been a large increase in those coming from Great Britain. The total for the 11 months is over 141,000, against about 120,000 for the same period last year. England and Wales have sent 79,000. The number from Ireland is 71,000, and Scotland over 20,000. The total for Great Britain is larger than that of any other country. Germany comes next, with over 106,000; Norway, Sweden and Denmark next with over 76,000, and Italy next with over 42,000. From all these countries, has been a marked increase over last year. The arrivals from Russia are almost precisely the same as last year, being a few more than 24,000.

A COLOURED PREACHER ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD.—At a meeting the other day at a home for aged and infirm coloured persons in Philadelphia, the Rev. John Gibson, a coloured man, who is 117 years of age, opened the proceedings. Mr. Gibson was born in Virginia, in February, 1771. He has been totally blind for a number of years, but his hearing is good. His long hair is perfectly white. He wears no beard, with the exception of a snowy tuft on each side of his face; and his skin, which is almost coal-black, is a mass of wrinkles. He says he feels as well as he did 30 years ago, and that he expects, barring accidents, to live to be at least 125 years old. In his younger days, Gibson was a slave in Virginia. He was married three times, his third wife dying in 1882. His mother lived to be 112 years old, and was the mother of 29 children—six boys and 23 girls. His father, Jas. Gibson, lived 60 years. Gibson has a son living who is 77 years of age.

WINNOWNED FROM CHAFF.

Golden Grains Garnered in the Harvest Field of the Wits.

Passenger (in crowded car)—Is this seat engaged? Occupant—Don't yer see it is? Passenger (forcibly removing bundles, placing them on the floor and sitting down)—Pretty comfortable kind of a sty, aint it?—*Puck.*

"He may not be much of a literary man, but he got into the *Century Magazine*."

"You don't say so? Why, I did not expect it of him."

"No, and neither did the people in our village."

"What was his subject?"

"His what?"

"What subject did he write on?"

"None particularly."

"But you said he got into the *Century*?"

"He did. He came to our village soliciting subscriptions and got into the *Century* for about \$20, I believe."—*Arkansas Traveler.*

It is leap year, and it has just been 1,000 years since there were as many 8's in the year as we have just now. It is a good time for old bachelors to cogit-8, the girls to reciproc-8, and not hesit-8.—*Binghamton Leader.*

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THE SITE OF THE TEMPLE OF ÆSCULAPIUS.—The *Berliner Philologische Wochenschrift*, (Dec. 10) reports the accidental discovery, in the Island of Cos, of some sculptured remains, which point plainly to the site of the once famous temple of Æsculapius. An altar has been found, and a marble snake, the sacred attribute of the medicine god. It will be remembered that Strabo gives an account of this temple well calculated to excite archaeological curiosity. It was, indeed, as we know from many sources, only third in importance to those of Epidaurus and Athens. Strabo says:—"In the suburb (of Cos) is the celebrated Æsclepieion full of votive offerings, among which is the painting of Antigonos, by Apelles. It used also to contain the 'aphroditae' rising from the sea' (Anadyomene), but this is now removed to Rome." He goes on to say that Hippocrates learned much of his medical lore by studying the inscriptions engraved in the temple recording cures wrought there. It is true the two chief works of art mentioned by Strabo are pictures, which must in any case long ago have perished; but then, who knows how many of the "votive offerings," and the medical inscriptions are yet below ground? The excavation of Æsclepieion at Athens, recently yielded a rich harvest, but there is much as to the details of the cult and ritual of Æsculapius still to learn. It is not reported yet whether the site is to be systematically excavated.—*Builder.*

IMPORTANT SALE OF COINS.—Messrs. Sothely, Wilkinson, and Hodge have concluded the sale of several private collections of coins, medals, and tokens. Some remarkable prices were realized. Five rare Anglo-Saxon pennies fetched £4 16s. Eight silver pieces of James I. and Charles I., mostly six-pences, sold for £7 12s 6d, while a Charles I. Briot's crown went for £7 2s 6d. A Charles II. pattern farthing, another of Anne, and a pattern sixpence of George IV., as Lord High Steward of Scotland, realised £5; and £4 was paid for a Commonwealth 10s piece and a James I. of Scotland Lion. The current bronze penny of 1868, the halfpenny, and the farthing struck in nickel sold for £12 6s, or £4 2s each. Only one other set of these nickel coins is known. A Manx proof halfpenny and penny struck in silver in 1733 cost a collector £7, and a William III. pattern farthing, another of Mary II., a Manx 5s token (1811), and a farthing pattern of Charles II., fetched £8. A proof set of the coinage of Victoria, dated 1839, with a 1847 pattern Gothic crown, and a maunday set, 15 pieces in all, fetched £32. Of the gold pieces, William III. five guinea piece (1701), sold for £10 2s 6d; George IV. pattern five-pound piece, by Wyon (1826), £14 15s; and Henry VII. sovereign, pierced and bent, £12 12s. The Hong Kong pattern dollar (1864), of Queen Victoria, very rare, fetched £20, a considerable increase on £1, the price paid for each of the last two specimens in the market. Of the medals the most interesting were the following:—William and Mary (coronation), £10 17s 6d; Anne (peace of Utrecht) £5 17s 6d; defeat of the French off Cape Finisterre (1747), head of Anson crowned by Victory, £21; Wm. Browne, President of the College of Physicians, £11 10s; and Queen Charlotte coronation medal, by Natter, 14 guineas.—*London Times.*