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## MEETINGS.

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Meets in the Ville-Marie Hall, 1623 Notre Dame street, the first and third Thursdays of the month. Communications to be addressed to Jos. RENAUD, Corresponding Secretary, P. O. Box 414

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## A GREAT ANIMAL TRAINER.

A Man Who Preferred to Teach Five Geese Rather Than One Boy.

Signor Domino, biographer of clowns, bareback riders and circus people generally, has written a curious lot of reminiscences of the Russian Duroff, the most famous trainer of trick animals in the present generation. Duroff was originally an instructor in Latin and modern languages in a Russian high school. He practiced then his powers over domestic animals—first of all his dog—and decided that the docility of dogs, cats and geese was far greater than the docility of school children. He has never altered his judgment in this respect. He quit teaching boys therefore, and joined an itinerant circus, to the scandalizing of his former colleagues.

Domino met him one morning in the empty ring of the Circus Schumann. After talking a few minutes, Duroff said:

"And now you must excuse me for an hour, as I have a class to instruct at this time."

"But surely you haven't gone back to teaching?" exclaimed Domino.

"No, no; you don't understand. I have just begun teaching, in fact. The recitation in question is by my rats and mice."

Domino got permission to listen to the recitation. Duroff fetched a lead chest and set it down in the middle of the ring, lifted the cover a little, and then began chirping, thrilling, and whistling on a little lead flute. A mouse stuck its head through the crack under the cover, tumbled out, and trotted gayly over to Duroff's feet. Another mouse followed, and then a big rat plunged out into the ring. It marched gravely up to Duroff and scrambled around the bottom of his trousers. More rats and mice followed, till some thirty were scratching and squealing at Duroff's feet.

The clown stepped a few yards backward and his little flock followed. He fed them cake and retreated again. They followed and he rewarded them as before. Thus he led them around the ring several times. When two or three of them fell behind the procession to play or fight he attracted their attention by tossing sand at them. Finally he invited them to come up, and in an instant they were on his shoulders, in his coat pockets, and racing up and down the back of his head. He caught three rats by the tail, swung them around and then let them shoot off into space. The instant they struck they were up again. They ran back to Duroff, climbed to his shoulders and got the same treatment again. After an hour of this the flute was laid aside and the rats and mice were packed away for the day.

Duroff was the first man to train a pig to grunt accompaniments to songs, dance around a ring and jump and waltz to orders. He had then also taught a rooster to crow at command and had instructed successfully a goose in the business of fetching and carrying. Domino, after discussing these triumphs of training, asked Duroff whether or not he ever tired of his new occupation and wished to return to instructing boys, as he had once done in the Russian high school. Duroff did not catch Domino's exact words and answered:

"Instruct children? Instruct animals? These are two processes which can hardly be compared. The difficulties vary so—there is no comparison."

"You misunderstand me," explained Domino. "I acknowledge that your work now is much more difficult."

"More difficult? More difficult?" shouted Duroff. "You must be crazy. Why, it is easier, indescribably easier. I would rather teach ten pigs than a single child. I would rather teach five geese than a boy. A pig or a goose never forgets, is never impudent, is never noisy. But a child! With it you never know where or how to begin, and when you stop—bumps!—all forgotten."—New York Sun.

## Remarkable Ghostly Actions.

One of the most remarkable modern instances of supposed ghostly disturbance occurred in the home of Rev. Dr. Phelps, of Stamford, Conn. Upon returning from church one day he found that all the doors of his house, which he had carefully looked on his departure, were wide open and the contents of the rooms on the first floor in the wildest confusion. Nothing had been stolen. In a room in the upper story, however, eight forms were found, each one with an open Bible held close to its face. On examination these were found to be

bundles of clothes, cunningly and very skillfully arranged to represent living beings. Everything was cleared away and the room locked, but within five minutes the same scene was repeated, although the clothing had been carefully put away.

For seven months the house was disturbed by extraordinary phenomena. The most unearthly noises were heard day and night. Furniture and kitchen utensils were mysteriously moved. Glassware and window panes were broken by unseen hands before the startled inmates, and once the eleven-year-old son of the doctor was lifted bodily and carried some distance. The most diligent research discovered nothing, and not until he applied to some spiritualists in Boston did the disturbance cease.

## Babies of the Japanese.

It is an odd thing that by no people on earth are children—both girls and boys—treated with more affection and indulgence than by the island neighbors of the Chinese—the Japanese, namely; and no children have a greater abundance of toys and amusements. It must, however, be said that the fondness and patience of Japanese parents are reciprocated by the love and obedience of their children. Both father and mother are equally devoted to their offspring. The mother commonly carries her baby slung in front of her, and when she is tired the father cheerfully accepts the burden; but fathers and mothers and elder sisters and brothers may often be seen in the gay, sunny streets of Tokio or Yokohama giving pick-a-backs to delighted, crowing babies.

The Japanese baby, moreover, in not only indulged, he is also treated with the greatest care and intelligence. He is judiciously fed; he is regularly bathed either at home or in the public bath-houses, and his skin is stimulated and his health hardened by his being frequently plunged into a cold stream or even in the snow. A Japanese baby would appear to us a very droll creature. If you would know how he looks you have only to examine a well made Japanese doll. He has his head shaved, with the exception of four tufts of hair—one in front, one behind and one over either ear. He wears bright and gaudy clothes (or did wear; for children, like their parents, sad to say, are gradually being arrayed in European fashion), and his loose jacket has very long and very wide sleeves. Very poor children go barefoot; others wear stockings and clogs, the stockings having a separate pocket for the big toe.—Strand Magazine.

## Suicide on the Battlefield.

A group of old soldiers gathered in the rotunda of the Kimball House were telling stories of field and camp during the war, when one of the number gave the following graphic account of the suicide of a Federal officer on the field at Gettysburg:

"It was there," said he, "I saw a Federal officer, chagrined because nothing would stay the retreat of his men, raise his pistol to his head and blow out his brains. It happened on the second day's fight. Gen. Longstreet had just come up with part of his corps from Chambersburg, Pa., and vigorously assailed Sickles's corps, which he was driving back in great disorder. Sickles halted and formed his men in line to receive Longstreet's onslaught.

"It was one of the few times I ever saw corps commanders at the front line, Sickles, with his staff, was riding among his men encouraging them to withstand the Confederate assault, while Longstreet with his staff, and Colonel Freemantle, an English officer and correspondent of the London Times, were cheering our boys to the charge.

"We advanced and gave the Federals a terrific volley at close range. They staggered under the galling fire, when Longstreet ordered us to give them the bayonets. As the men wavered and broke to run an officer stepped to the front and, with his sword, signaled them to come back. Again and again he waved to his men, but by this time they were in full run and the officer, in his angry mortification, raised a pistol to his head and fired. When General Longstreet and Colonel Freemantle rode up they looked down at the brave Union officer, but the tide of battle swept us on."—Atlanta Constitution.

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## THE VALUE OF UNION.

What Effect it Had on the Views of the Ironmasters.

Thanks chiefly to the strength of their organization, and in the face of a large decrease in the production of iron, the iron workers were able to prevent a reduction in the schedule of wages, which was signed on the 1st inst. Had the bosses perceived the least weakness in the ranks of the men they would unquestionably have availed themselves of the conditions of the market to insist upon concessions, although they knew that those conditions would soon improve, as a strong revival of iron production must necessarily follow the abundant crops of the present year and the large purchases of food products that Central and Western Europe shall have to make in America. We may readily admit that the workers are somewhat indebted also to this prospect for the successful maintenance of their position. An enormous and probably unprecedented movement of cereals and other food products to the seaboard is confidently expected, which will require improvements and additions to the tracks, machinery and rolling stock of the railroads; while the profits of transportation and the money received in payment of exports will induce the construction of new roads and the opening of new country. The iron masters are fully aware of this and thoroughly posted, besides, on the number of new industries that are contemplated, especially in the Southern States. Hence their readiness to submit to the demands of Organized Labor when they saw that the dullness then prevailing in the iron trade could not be used for purposes of intimidation—a circumstance that would have been used for all it was worth if the men, strong in union, had not shown a bold front.—The People.

## SCIENTIFIC.

The depth at which some of the Belgian coal mines are worked is something prodigious. In a pit at Fiem the work is now done at 3,700 feet; in a pit at Fremerin at 2,800 feet, and in the St. Andre pit at Montigny-sur-Sambre at 3,000 feet.

The wearing away of the cliffs on the shores of England has of late attracted considerable attention, and the problem is being attentively studied with the view of preventing the erosive action of the waves as well as the streams that trickle down.

Divers in the clear waters of the tropical seas find that fish of different colors when frightened do not all dart in the same direction, but that each different kind takes shelter in that portion of the submarine growth nearest in color to that of the fish.

During the past winter the earth of the village of Kirnujarvi, near Paja, Lapland, became suddenly very hot, the ice and snow melting immediately, and the application of one's hand to the earth was liable to result in an uncomfortably warm sensation.

The great Lick telescope reveals about 100,000,000 of stars, and every one of them is a sun, theoretically, and by analogy giving light and heat to his planets; this telescope reveals stars so small that it would require 30,000 of them to be visible to the naked eye.

One of the recent inventions for life saving apparatus is the Irvine pneumatic gun for throwing a line to ships in distress or to persons in a burning house. The air is admitted from a reservoir to the chamber behind the projectile at a pressure of 2,400 pounds on the square inch.

M. Mascart, one of the most eminent French electricians of the time, says that the use of the magnetic needle in tracing the underground geology, or, in other words, the past geography of a country, is one of those triumphs of science which are almost tantamount to divination.

## Liquor Drinking in Great Britain.

"When I first went to England," says an old traveler, "the amount of liquor that was drunk by all classes simply amazed me. I was invited to a country house where all the old customs were maintained. At nine o'clock all the servants came in, every one got down on their knees, and family prayers were said and a chapter from the Bible read. It was very patriarchal, and after it was over I expected to get a candle and go to bed, but what was my surprise, after the servants filed out, to hear the hostess ask all the guests into an adjoining room, where a heavy supper was spread. I had a choice of a dozen different kinds of liquor, and in a letter home I

described this domestic function as follows: 'We had family prayers and then proceeded to get comfortably full of good liquor.' In Scotland the amount of whiskey that is consumed makes an American's hair curl. Some strict Presbyterians in Glasgow, to whom I had a letter of introduction, called in turn to see me at my hotel. After some talk I asked them if they would take some refreshments. Yes, they would have whiskey. So the waiter brought some strong Scotch whiskey and big glasses that would hold a half pint. Each man poured out about what would make an ordinary glass of beer in this country, tossed in a little water, and took it down without a wink."—New York Tribune.

## THE RISKS OF LABOR.

The Notre Dame Hospital ambulance was called to St. Matthew street for Arthur Duolos, aged 15, of 150 Panet street, who had received a severe cut on the head by a block of wood falling from a building in course of erection. The injury is serious, but not fatal.

Patrick Mullen, 22 years of age, of Mul-len & Co.'s boot and shoe factory, 32 College street, on Wednesday morning met with a very serious accident. Some machinery he was working with broke and his right eye was injured so much that he will lose it. He was taken to the General Hospital.

On Tuesday afternoon while Mr. Wm. Wright, an employee of the Edwardsburg Starch Co., was engaged in piling lumber in the company's yard at Cardinal, Ont. He fell from a pile twenty-five feet high, breaking his neck and causing death instantly.

While an engine was shunting on the Grand Trunk track on the wharf on Saturday evening, Charles Lemay, who was coupling the cars, fell under the wheels. He was pulled out from under the car by Constable King, and it was found that his left leg and hand were terribly mangled. The Notre Dame hospital ambulance was called, and the unfortunate man was taken to that institution, where he died.

Adolphe Fontaine, roofer, while working on Thursday afternoon on a building situated at the corner of Cherier and St. Hubert streets, fell to the ground, a distance of 40 feet. He was picked up in an unconscious state and taken to the Notre Dame hospital. There it was found that the man had sustained no injury, and he was able to walk home.

## Thirteen a Lucky Number.

The old superstition that the number 13 is unlucky is supposed to have its origin far back as the last supper, when Judas betrayed his Lord and afterward hung himself. There are, however, instances when 13 has been a lucky number, as in a baker's dozen, where one loaf is added to the dozen for luck.

There is also an account of a British soldier in the reign of William and Mary who was court-martialed for having fallen asleep at midnight when on sentry guard upon the terrace at Windsor. He modestly declared that he was innocent of the offense, and to prove it swore that he heard the clock Tom of Westminster strike 13 when it should have struck 12.

The court refused to believe that he could hear the clock at that great distance, and sentenced him to death, but when a number of people came forward and made affidavit that the clock did actually strike 13 on the same night he was pardoned.—Detroit Free Press.

## ANOTHER VIEW OF THIRTEEN.

The funeral of William Hanlon, who was killed recently in Clinton, Iowa, by falling from a trapeze, took place the other afternoon from 208 East Thirteenth street, where his wife had been living during his travels on the road. Only the members of the family and a few intimate friends were present at the funeral. The interment was in Calvary cemetery, but the body will be taken to England for final burial next fall.

On March 13 Hanlon was at a dinner, number of guests at which was thirty. He was the thirteenth man to arrive, everyone said jokingly that he would be within the year. The host tried to see to the fourteenth man, but failed. On July at the age of 31, Hanlon was killed. A funeral took place from Thirteenth street and the number of the lot in which he was buried was 13.

Italy has concluded a loan of two millions pounds with a Berlin syndicate.