THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, PUBS.
BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, OCT. 23.

Higher prices for meat also show that prosperity is again on the job.

Some automobilists are setting the football players a terrible example.

Surgeons begin to sit up and take notice at the first call for football teams.

This is the time to bring on your triplets and quadruplets. The census taker is on his way.

In moving, a little burlap will cover a multitude of things that do not concern the new neighbors.

If the world will only wait about a dozen years or so, the pole will be the great American summer resort.

If reckless chauffeurs cannot be made to slow down they should be given to jail a course of first aid to the injured.

One Long Island City man, aged 87, is the father of a newborn son. It is easy to guess who is the proudest man in the United States.

There has been an extraordinary influx of American visitors into Austria and Hungary this year; but the hotelkeepers know what to do about it.

The carrying of revolvers by boys of 16 is a practice which should be sternly repressed. Nobody is safe with deadly firearms in youthful irresponsible hands.

The county fair is one of those institutions which are perennial in their hold on the popular affections and which so-called modern improvements will never displace.

It is asserted that the czar's method of dealing with Finland is illegal, but as the czar is his own supreme court, there does not seem to be anything that Finland can do about it.

The Spanish treasure swindle is still in successful operation. The swindle is an old one, but apparently hale and vigorous, and with every prospect of reaching a green and profitable old age.

A New Jersey justice has decided that a man, at least in that state, cannot legally caress his wife against her will. But, then, what prudefit and far-seeing man in any state would want to?

Trees are more a hindrance than a help to the aviators. Herliot collided with one the other day. Golfers are also known to have serious objections to trees as blots on the landscape. But still the science of forestry will go on.

Already the long-distance weather prophets are at work on the coming winter. One of them predicts that the season will be long and severely cold. But until the goosebone man is heard from the country will really know little about the matter.

It may be that the unexplored fields of the upper air will prove as fertile for scientific research as the untraversed lands of the globe. Herliot's aeroplane accident is attributed to the phenomenon of a boiling sea of air—a condition which suggests yet more strange phenomena to be revealed to the scientist who will work from an aeroplane.

Now a model reformatory in Delaware is under charges of gross cruelty to the inmates. The story is unpleasantly familiar and far too frequent. The details in this case are the same in kind and degree as usually shock the public, says the Baltimore American. The trouble appears to be everywhere the same old story of a board of directors who do not direct, and of irresponsible authority which naturally is abused.

Advices from Billings are to the effect that 5,000 homestead entries were filed in Montana during the first six months of the present year. Most of these lands are in the so-called "dry-farming" section of the state. Information concerning crop selection and cultivation which will be of incalculable value to dry farmers will be brought out at the Dry Farming congress to be held at Billings from the twenty-sixth to the twenty-eighth of October.

In the face of the unreserved good will shown by distinguished Japanese gentlemen who are visiting this country with the purpose of extending business relations here, the warm expressions of regard for our people, the honor accorded to President Taft and the evident desire to strengthen friendly feeling between the nations the quietus should be put on the apprehensions of conflict in which the United States and Japan shall be involved. The "yellow peril" exists only in yellow imagination.

A British anti-slavery society wants to enlist the aid of America in abolishing slavery in European colonies in Africa. The general rule now appears to be "When in doubt, trouble or financial stress, turn to the United States."

Another unloaded gun has claimed its victim. The average household has but little use for firearms, and, furthermore, statistics will show that such weapons have done more toward the slaughter of innocents than in repelling bugaboo burglars.

Scientists now believe that the original cave dwellers of New Mexico deserted their apartments when the water dried up. As a lack of water would put the family bathtub out of commission the ancient troglodytes showed much culture by moving.

Severe sentences for incendiarism are merely self-protection for the community. The incendiary is a man without mercy, for he deliberately exposes his fellow-creatures to the most horrible form of agony and death. He can expect no mercy in his turn.

VOYAGE of L'ABBÉ CHAPPE to CALIFORNIA to OBSERVE the TRANSIT of VENUS in 1769

By PAULY

[Editor's Note—This account of a seventeenth century scientific expedition was published in the Auburn (Ill.) Citizen, March 18, 1868, as an item of local interest, there living at that place at that time many descendants of Pauly, the engineer—the Polleys, Parkses, Fosters, and other families being represented in the list. The original manuscript in French was in the possession of John Pauley of Kansas, who was at the time of the publication visiting his Illinois kinsmen.]

This account is particularly interesting at this time, as it describes the conditions prevailing on the coast of California in 1769, an event fittingly celebrated by the Golden Gate city.

The malady described by Pauly, which decimated the ranks of the French expedition, occurred at the same time as several other writers mention very severe prevalence of scurvy in California, and was probably the same.

THE observation of the transit of Venus on the 3d of June, 1769, was an object of interest to all the learned. The Royal Academy of Sciences proposed to the king, Louis XV., to make the necessary outlay to send to California for this purpose. The late M. L'Abbe Chappe undertook this voyage with a courage worthy of his zeal for the progress of science. I was selected to accompany him and we set sail for Mexico in the month of September, 1768.

After a perilous voyage of about 3,000 leagues, we arrived in Mexico on Easter day, 1769. Time was passing, we stopped but eight days to refresh ourselves. The viceroy procured us mules and provisions, and we undertook to perform by land a part of the remainder of our travels, which was about 200 leagues. Amid lofty mountains, dreadful precipices and arid deserts, we encountered new dangers every day. We failed from fear a thousand times. We were also oppressed by the excessive heat, which left us hardly strength enough to drag ourselves. A thousand insects of every species gave us no rest by day or night, and we had constantly to be on our guard against the very ferocious beasts with which the country is covered. Moreover we lacked the necessaries of life, for the provisions that we got in Mexico had been spoiled by the heat. We were obliged to live on wild cattle and whatever fruits we could find here and there. We made our halts near some river or spring, that we might slake the burning thirst with which we were constantly consumed; to find one it was often necessary to march a whole day's journey.

Arrived in the evening in some valley, or on the side of some hill, we would endeavor to take upon the ground let a la belle etoile, the repose which our cruel fatigue rendered so necessary. When scarcely asleep we were often aroused by a storm, and then by the impetuous torrents that came down upon us from the heights of the mountains. Many a dark night we had to save ourselves and our equipage, fearful at every step of tumbling down some of the precipices.

After running a thousand risks we arrived at last at the port of San Blas, on the Pacific ocean; thence we embarked for California on a brigantine which the viceroy of Mexico had had prepared. The Pacific ocean, although very tranquil, is not the less dangerous on account of the (vigies) with which it is filled.

The great calm which prevailed at that time caused us to despair of arriving in time to accomplish the object of our voyage. After six weeks' sailing, during which we made but 150 leagues, on the greatest breadth of the sea, the shortness of the time caused us to risk a hazardous exploit.

The part of California near which we found ourselves was the port of San Jose—so dangerous that no one had ever landed there. The access to it is guarded by the incessant waves that break impetuously against the rocks.

The Spanish astronomers who were of our company wished to wait for a favorable wind to land at Cape St. Lucas, which was distant but ten leagues. The landing there is indeed less dangerous, but we did not follow their advice because we were pressed to arrive at the place of our destination; we resolved to attempt to disembark at the first land we should discover.

While these gentlemen were yet deliberating, four Indian sailors and myself let down the long boat; we took with us half of the instruments. I agreed with the Abbe Chappe that if we perished he might find other means to land elsewhere with the rest, which would be sufficient for making his observations. I embarked then in the long boat with my four sailors, steering directly for the coast, the nearer we approached it the more we were sensible of the difficulty of landing.

We were constantly thrown back by the accumulated waves, and our boat threatened all the while to ship water. When on the point of losing courage one of the sailors discovered, at a distance, the mouth of an unknown river. This discovery animated us; we reached the coast by this mouth but with great difficulty. I sent back the long boat for the Abbe Chappe and the Spanish astronomers, who arrived safely enough.

Arrived on the peninsula the twenty-first of May, 1769, 13 days before the epoch of the transit of Venus. We found no (azile a pouvoir nous mettre a labri), the inclemency of the weather.

The savages that repaired to us said that a contagion was prevailing in this country which ravaged it completely. The interpreter who translated this added that they said that in order to withdraw ourselves from the influence of this terrible malady, it was necessary to remove some hundred or more leagues farther to the north.

The means of undertaking this new journey, broken down with fatigue as we were, we had neither horses nor carriers to transport our baggage. It was impossible to march on foot, and we shrank from a journey through a desert. All these reasons decided us to occupy ourselves with no business but that which had brought us.

We labored to construct an observatory, which was ready the twenty-eighth day of May, six days before the epoch when we would have need of it.

We made our observations on the third of June, with the greatest exactness.

The contagion made new progress every day; a general sorrow reigned in all this part of California; we were not long without participating in it in a distressing manner. This dreadful malady came upon us six or seven days after the observation. We were wholly without succor; we could not be useful to one another, because we were attacked almost all at once.

The little medicine that we had brought from France was useless, from want of knowing how to apply it.

Nevertheless, the abbe, all sick as he was, continued his observations all the time. After observing an eclipse of the moon, he at last yielded to his faintness, the delirium of his disease left him but little time to examine himself; he died the first of August, 1769. We were all dying (I and the (companions of our voyage), when I had the sorrow to close his eyelids.

Our situation and our want of strength induced us in this case to bury him without much ceremony. I devoted some moments to regret for the loss I had suffered, and in the height of a disease from which I did not expect to recover, I took the precaution to collect all the papers relating to the object of the voyage. I placed them in a casket with an address to the viceroy of Mexico. I earnestly begged some Indian chiefs who were about me to make this casket safe in case we should all die, and to transmit it to the vessel which ought to arrive in the month of September to take us. My intention in this was to secure to my country this valuable depot. I remained in my condition of sickness, pain and wretchedness until the twenty-ninth of September.

At last the captain of the vessel arrived; he had landed at the island of Ovalvo, which is situated some 30 leagues from San Jose. My joy was so much the greater in seeing him that he pressed me to quit the fearful place where M. L'Abbe Chappe and all the rest had died. We were carried to Ovalvo. I forgot to say that this cruel contagion had taken from us the chaplain. And nearly all the persons that formed our little company.

Although sick and oppressed with grief, I was compelled to undertake the perilous route which I had followed in coming, sometimes upon mules, sometimes upon the backs of the Indians, when it was necessary to cross the streams. With all this trouble, I reached Mexico the twenty-third day of November, 1769.

There I was received by monsieur the marquis of Croix, the viceroy of that country, with a compassion worthy of that good patriot. He had had the kindness to send to meet me a carriage and his physician. Arrived at the capital of Mexico, and having paid my respects to the viceroy I was lodged by his orders at the expense of the city.

When I left Mexico the marquis de Croix recommended me cordially to the commander of the Spanish fleet, in which I embarked. We landed at Cadiz the twenty-first of July, 1770. The court was at the Escurial. I had myself taken thither, and presented myself to the marquis d'Ossun, then French Ambassador in Spain. He received me with marks of kindness and consideration, and gave orders to show me whatever they have to show strangers in this royal house.

He caused me to dispatch in advance of the party, the strictest orders through the minister of customs, that at no pass on my route must be searched either myself or the chests in which were the observations which I bore.

I did not arrive in Paris till the fifth of the following December. I sent to the Academy the observations that we made in California. This society expressed the greatest satisfaction with my zeal and my services. They presented me to the king, and to all his ministers. They solicited for me a recommendation of my labors. His majesty, Louis XV. granted me a small pension of 800f.

The government is too equitable to leave me in want in the flower of my age, afflicted with the evils which I have incurred for the service, and indispensably obliged to have a servant to lead me. I hope then, from his justice and from his goodness, that he will grant me an increase of the pension sufficient to enable me to accomplish with decency the rest of my public career.

HELD TO STRICT ACCOUNTING

Chinese Police Officials Are Expected to Be Urgent in Preventing and Punishing Crime.

In lemon-colored silk a Chinese diplomat on an Atlantic City pier talked about Chinese laws.

"Some of our laws, you know, are very stimulating," he said. "For example, Chi owed money to a money lender. Chi would not pay, and the money lender hanged himself on Chi's doorpost. Chi was condemned to death. You see, he was really responsible for the money lender's death.

"A son able to support his parents is imprisoned for life if he won't do so. A son unable to support them is imprisoned for three years, as we hold—and quite rightly—that there must be something wrong with a young man who can't support his parents.

"Our police are excellent, thanks to the stimulus of our law. When a crime is committed a sleuth is put upon the case and given, say 30 days, to land the criminal. If the sleuth fails, he himself pays the penalty of the crime, less two degrees. Thus, if the Sigel murder had occurred in China, a police official would now be undergoing life imprisonment. That, too, is a just and stimulating law. For if the police can neither prevent nor punish such a crime as the Sigel murder, then they should be themselves punished for their rank incapacity."

Good Gunnery at Sea.

If our navy's gunners can shoot little targets so full of holes nobody is able to see the exact score they can shoot up an enemy's big battleships so thoroughly that nobody can tell or many care to know which guns won the victory. The target practice off the Virginia capes should make every American proud of our ships and of the men in them.

PURPOSE NEVER MADE CLEAR

Probably No One Except Aaron Burr Really Knew What He Planned to Do.

There is to this day not a little element of mystery about what was known as Burr's conspiracy. Soon after his duel with Alexander Hamilton, in which the latter got his death wound, Burr was indicted for murder both in New York and New Jersey. But before the warrant could be served on him he made his escape to the then primitive west.

Burr apparently made little or no effort to conceal his identity after getting out of the reach of the authorities for the murder of Hamilton. At first he apparently was inclined to look upon himself as something of a national hero, suffering from the prejudices of politics.

In the course of his extensive westward tour Burr hatched a plot for some sort of gigantic, visionary and mysterious empire over which he was to become the ruler. His real purpose has never been definitely known, even those joining in the enterprise being kept in more or less ignorance of its scope. Some historians have the impression that his purpose was to separate the Mississippi valley from the rest of the union and thereby to found a new country. Other historians say that his real object was to raise an army and conquer Mexico, thus making himself the ruler of that country.

The headquarters of this plot finally became Blennerhassett island, in the Ohio river, the owner of the island, Harman Blennerhassett, becoming one of Burr's co-conspirators. In 1806 Burr gathered about him there a group of reckless adventurers of his own ilk and set out to march to the region of Texas, ostensibly on purposes of colonization.

President Jefferson immediately issued a proclamation warning all citizens of the country against joining the expedition, having been informed that the real object of it was not a peaceable one. Burr was finally arrested by the president's orders and sent a captive to Virginia, where he was indicted on charges of conspiring against the government. Blennerhassett also was captured, but was subsequently set free when Burr was acquitted of the charge.

Man, the New Creator.

What is Man?

There is a word of prophecy concerning him. If Niagara suggests the old gods, surely and mean to us-ward steel-making contents them, is the opinion of Eugene Wood in an article on steel-making in Success Magazine. Thor with his hammer, Jove with his thunderbolts, Hercules with the original Big Stick—they couldn't hold their job at steel-making. "Go to the office and get your time," would be what the "pusher" would tell them. The only mythic figure that the steel industry suggests is that bold and resolute, that unconquered and unconquerable spirit, whom Milton's reluctant pen was forced to make the hero of "Paradise Lost." The flame, the fervent heat, the rolling smoke reminds us of him. But most of all the mighty works that are done therein recall that prophecy of his (if Eden's serpent be the allotrope of Lucifer), "Ye shall be as gods"—and more also.

What is Man? The New Creator.

Coaling in a Modern Navy.

You know what coaling in a modern navy is: A game, a fray, like football or target practice, between ship and ship, between nation and nation. Every man-o'-war gang that handles the hoists and coal-bags knows the best loads of the channel fleet, of the Pacific fleet, just as a baseball "fan" keeps batting averages on the tip of his tongue. Making a sporting contest of coaling, with crew wagering against crew, is the only mitigation of the anniversary of the landing of the first collier, says Everybody's Magazine. All doors are locked, all airports closed, so that even the ward-room coutry stinks, and still the black dust pollutes your bunk. No watch officer can get shore leave; all don dungarees and pitch in to rig the "whips"—to weigh and tally every load; to run them to the hatches with their own hands thus boosting along the bluejackets' ambition.

Work of the Laughmakers.

The most cursory survey of the world's literature, dramatic or otherwise, will convince anyone that the profession of humorist or true comedian is one of the most exacting ever known, says the Denver News. The jokesmith may get a momentary laugh from an audience that is willing to take the will for the deed. But the man who would set his name among those who have made permanent additions to the world's fun must have a list of specifications for a permit to make a road through a Pinchot reserve. He must have insight, sympathy, knowledge of character. He must have a sense for fact that is felt beneath his airiest wisps of fancy. He must have an ear for the right word that no correspondence school can confer. It is easier to be a wit than to be a humorist; easier to laugh at people than to laugh with them, or make them laugh at themselves.

How About It?

"Having well-ventilated bedrooms is said to be the secret of health."

"That's what the fresh-air fiends declare."

"And yet the Eskimos are healthy."

"Of course they are. What are you driving at, anyhow?"

"Oh, nothing important. I've just been looking over the ground floor plan of an igloo."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

He Knew His Business.

"What are you doing here?"

"Waitin' fer the wagon."

"Well, it's in the ditch, far down the road. Better go and help pull it out."

"My friend," replied the lazy one, "my task is to wait fer the wagon—not to play hoss to it."—Atlanta Constitution.

Easily Identified.

"What sort of a looking chap is Gussy?"

"Well, if you ever see two men in a corner, and one looks bored to death, the other one is Gussy."

BACKACHE IS KIDNEYACHE.

Usually There Are Other Troubles to Prove It.

Pain in the back is pain in the kidneys, in most cases, and it points to the need of a special remedy to remove and cure the congestion or inflammation of the kidneys that is interfering with their work and causing that pain that makes you say: "Oh, my back."

Thompson Watkins, nurse, 320 N. 23rd St., Parsons, Kas., says: "For some time I was annoyed with sharp twinges across the small of my back and irregular passages of the kidney secretions. Since using Doan's Kidney Pills, I am free from these troubles."

Remember the name—Doan's. Sold by all dealers, 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

WAS IN NO HURRY TO LEAVE

Prisoner Put Coming Gastronomic Joy Ahead of a Brief Period of Liberty.

A colored man (from Georgia had lived in Washington but a few years, when he was arrested for some slight violation of the city ordinances. Upon hearing that the negro was in jail, the secretary of the colored Y. M. C. A. secured the services of a minister to go with him and sign the prisoner's bail bond. They reached the jail shortly before noon, and told the negro the object of their visit. In response to the proffered kindness he said:

"Mistah Johnsing, I sho's glad you all is 'swine to git me out, but I wants you-all to fix it so I can't git out till late dis evenin'."

Of course the two Samaritans were somewhat taken aback by this unusual request. But a moment later they lost their breath when, in answer to the secretary's question, the Georgia negro replied in a whisper:

"Well, sah, dey's a-gittin' dinnah ready, an' dey's cookin' greens; an' I sho would like to git some o' dem greens befo' I leabes dis place!"—Lippincott's.

The Best "Police Dogs."

The dog as a detector of criminals and the qualities and characteristics that make any particular breed valuable for this purpose are subjects discussed in a communication from Consul-General Frederick W. Cauldwell of Berlin, to the department of commerce and labor. The bloodhound is declared by Mr. Cauldwell to be inferior to the German shepherd dog, known to be a full-bred police dog. These dogs have intelligence, "good noses" and deliberation in following a scent, agility and strength, coupled with gentleness and an utter lack of savage traits. Trained, these dogs sell in Munich for $72 each. Untrained, they are sold at prices ranging between $18 and $24.

How She Knew.

The cartoonist's wife was talking to a friend.

"I just know Fred didn't want to work at the office last night," she said.

"Why, how do you know?" was asked.

"Because in his sleep he said: 'Well, I'll stay, but I don't want to draw.'"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Not to Be Envied.

"After all, a rich man only has three meals a day."

"And no time to eat 'em."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna acts gently yet promptly on the bowels; cleanses the system effectually; assists one in overcoming habitual constipation permanently. To get its beneficial effects, always buy the genuine.

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SICK HEADACHE

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

SMALL PILL. SMALL DOSE. SMALL PRICE.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature

Brent Good

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When You're Hoarse Use PISO'S CURE

THE BEST MEDICINE FOR COUGHS & COLDS

Gives immediate relief. The first dose relieves your aching throat and allays the irritation. Guaranteed to contain no opiates. Very palatable.

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