

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Russia has 22 ironclads and monitors building.

A French electrician has gotten up a device by which he can send 150 type written words per minute over a single wire.

Bounties were paid for 61 bears, 30 wolves, 29 lynxes, 6,016 foxes, 739 eagles and 4,339 hawks in Norway last year. The supply is not exhausted.

A Parisian electrician has succeeded in forcing violets by the aid of his battery, and recently sent a bunch of these fledglings only four hours old to the Empress Eugenie.

And now cottonwood comes to the front as a sugar factor. A Southern grower says its saccharine qualities are fifteen times greater than sugar cane and twenty times stronger than beets.

The oldest mule in the United States is a venerable object of interest in Ray county, Mo. Its name is Julia and is 36 years of age. And, by the way, its voice is in a perfect state of preservation.

A spring that gushes forth soda water and in reality forms a huge natural soda water fountain has been discovered in Oregon. The water is sparkling and effervescent and when flavored and bottled cannot be distinguished from the artificial beverage.

All Esquimax are superstitious about death, and although they hold festivals in memory of departed friends they will usually carry a dying person to some abandoned hut, there to drag out his remaining days without food, medicine, water or attendance. After the death of a husband or wife the survivor cuts the front hair shorts and fasts for 25 days.

The biggest blast in the history of Connecticut was touched off at a quarry in Meriden a few days ago. The blasters drilled many holes into one side of the quarry, implanted 500 pounds of dynamite therein and fired it. A mass of rock estimated to have weighed 3,000 tons was sent rolling down the mountain side, and the detonation was heard many miles.

The Princess Ludwig, of Bavaria, gave birth a few days ago to her thirteenth child. Twelve of her children are living. The princess is the daughter of Duke Ferdinand, of Modena, and the Archduchess of Austria. She was born in 1749 and was married in 1868. No other royal princess in Europe is the mother of so many children as this popular Bavarian lady.

Prof. Kohlbranch, who has been making some curious experiments with lightning, finds that the amount of electricity in an ordinary flash is so small that it would require 37 flashes to keep a common incandescent lamp burning one hour.

Prediction and Affirmation.

[Chicago Inter Ocean.]

The difference between prediction and affirmation was proven, to the sorrow of Governor Campbell at Findlay, Ohio. The campaign of 1890 was one of democratic prediction, and as the farmers were suffering from low prices, the merchants selling little to the farmers, and trade in general a trifle depressed in consequence thereof there was an undue and unnatural disposition to believe the worst of the future. When the democrat said: "The infamous McKinley bill will make our present evil condition worse," all that the republicans could say in reply was, "Oh, no, it won't." But the listener was in a humor to believe the democrat rather than the republican. You cannot absolutely refute a prediction until the time for its fulfillment has come. The time for the fulfillment of predictions concerning the McKinley tariff has come. And it is a day of wrath for the false prophets of evil, but of joy to them that prophesied good things; for the good things are here. Little now is to be said of what the new tariff will do. The talk must be of what it has done and of what it is doing. Affirmation must take the place of prophecy and it is much more dangerous to assert an untruth than to prophesy one during a political campaign. Governor Campbell was rash enough to affirm that the glass manufacture of Ohio was a failure; that it employed few Americans; that it gave work mainly to Belgians who would not teach an American boy their trade. This Governor Campbell said at Ada, in the State of Ohio. The conduct of his campaign shortly took him to Findlay. There are glass works at Findlay, and a delegation of manufacturers and workers took him to task for his Ada speech.

They told him that out of 500 glass workers in that town no more than fifty were of Belgian birth, and that each one of these was a naturalized American citizen, or a person who had taken out his first papers of naturalization. They told him also that a glass-blower in Ohio earned \$160 per month, and a glass flattener \$75; the wages for like work being \$60 and \$35 in Belgium. They told him also that there was not a foreign-born boy learning the glass trade in Findlay, but that scores of American boys were learning it. This was an episode not provided for by Governor Campbell's system of proving the tariff a failure by double-entry bookkeeping. As many of the glass workers are democrats, Governor Campbell's humiliation is deep, and as many of them will not vote for him his sorrow is profound. When this campaign is over the democratic party of Ohio, or so much of it as survives, will have learned the difference between prediction and affirmation.

M. Flammarion, the French astronomer, has suggested that in Mars they are a great deal more advanced, intellectually speaking, than we are ourselves, and that they there have optical instruments which excel ours as much as the Lick telescope surpasses a piece of colored glass. Mars is, according to the same authority, an old planet, very cold now, but one which has passed through all its hot periods.

An old lady of Salina, Kan., began her prayer by saying: "O, Lord, Thou hast probably read in the morning newspapers how Thy day was desecrated yesterday."

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