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CONTENTS OF APRIL NUMBER:

Hon. G. W. Howlan, Frontispiece. Our Entertainments, Our Entertainers. Dunk Speaks, A Poem, by Professor Caven. Two Departures, by Hon. Senator Ferguson. De Roberval by W. L. Cotton. (Illustrated with Portrait of the Author of De Roberval.) A Dream Face, A Poem, by May Carroll. Inula Felix, II, by M. L. W. F. (Illustrated). The Bastille of Charlottetown, by A. Irwin. Side Talk with "Sports," by "Jimso". The Skerry Vore Lighthouse. Illustrated with Portraits of the Islanders wrecked on the Labrador. The Autobiography of an Umbrella. Notes and Queries, Correspondence, etc.

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ENGLISH MEALS IN OLDEN TIMES.

In olden times the English had three meals a day, of which the chief meal was taken when the work of the day was finished. The first meal was at nine, the dinner was about three o'clock, and supper was taken just before bedtime. The Normans dined at the old English breakfast time, or a little later, and supped at 7 p. m. In Tudor times the higher classes dined at eleven and supped at five, but the merchants seldom took their meals before twelve and six o'clock. The chief meals, dinner and supper, were taken in the hall both by the old English and the Normans, for the parlour did not come into use until the reign of Elizabeth. Breakfast did not become a regular meal until quite lately, and Dr. Murray, in the Oxford Dictionary, gave 1473 as the date of the earliest quotation in which the word occurred. The meal did not become recognized until late in the Seventeenth Century, for Pepys habitually took his draught of half a pint of Rhenish wine or a drachm of strong waters in the place of a morning meal. Dinner was always the great meal of the day, and from the accession of Henry IV. to the death of Elizabeth, the dinners were as sumptuous and extravagant as any of those now served. Carving was then a fine art. Each guest brought his own knife and spoon, for the small fork was not introduced into England until Thomas Corvate, of Odcombe, published his *Crochets* in 1611. Pepys took his spoon and fork with him to the Lord Mayor's feast in 1663. The absence of forks led to much stress being laid upon the act of washing the hands both before and after meals, and to the rule that the left hand alone should be dipped into the common dish, the right hand being occupied with the knife. The perfect dinner at the best time of English cookery consisted of three courses, each complete in itself, and terminated by a subtlety of device, the whole being rounded off with *Ypocras*, after which the guests retired into another room, where pastry, sweet meats and fruit were served with the choicest wines. The English were essentially meat eaters, and it was not until the time of the Commonwealth that pudding attained its extraordinary popularity; indeed, the first mention of pudding in the menus of the "Buckfeast" at St. Bartholomew's Hospital did not occur until 1710, and in 1712 there is an item of five shillings for ice.

STARVATION IN PORTO RICO

Desperate State of the People May Lead to an Insurrection.

New York, April 8.—The Herald says: Brigadier General Roy Stone will go to Washington tomorrow where he will call the attention of the President to the starvation and distress in Porto Rico. He thinks that the desperate state of the people may lead to insurrection if relief is not forthcoming. He has just returned from a journey of ten days through the interior of the island. The general was attacked to the department of agriculture before the war and during hostilities he was in Porto Rico as a member of General Miles' staff.

The last trip was made with a party of capitalists and railroad men. He was also invited by Major General Henry to give advice upon the construction of roads through the island.

"Persons are dying from starvation all through the interior," said General Stone last evening. "In the district of Aguas Bajas there were many deaths. The judge of the district of Comercio showed me a book in which he had recorded the names of many who had died from lack of food."

"General Grant reported 39 deaths from starvation in one district. I saw hundreds of natives emaciated and weak. When I left Porto Rico there were one hundred thousand persons there who had neither bread nor meat for two weeks."

"This state of affairs is largely due to the short crop and the ruinous competition of Brazil. Porto Rico coffee is selling at from seven to eight cents at the seaports, and the transportation takes nearly all out of this sum. There is no profit for owners of the plantations. Indeed, I saw many plantations overgrown with weeds."

"The natives cannot get money to buy the necessaries of life. Major General Henry is issuing rations and is doing

CHRISTIANS IN CHINA

Important Edict by the Empress Dowager.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8.—United States Minister Conger, at Peking, has supplied the State Department with a copy of a proclamation posted at Tien Tsin, relative to the treatment of missionaries in China. In the edict issued on the 27th of the Tenth Moon, the Empress Dowager recites that anti-Christian movements had taken place in many provinces and declares that they have all been based on a false sentiment. She wishes the people to understand that the teaching of Christianity is permitted in China, and that the preachers are to be treated as good citizens. The Empress declares that a good man, whether Christian or not, will obey the principles of being honest and true to others, wherever she desires the people to treat foreigners as their own countrymen, and avoid all misunderstanding with them. She commands the viceroys and officials in the provinces to emphasize her sincerity by exerting themselves to suppress all agitation among the people where any anti-Christian prejudices are displayed.

THE GREAT FIRE AT THE WINDSOR, N. Y.

Was an awful calamity, but cannot be remedied. Now, Catarrhoxone can remedy and is a positive cure for catarrh and kindred dreaded diseases. This statement is backed up by bushels of testimonials, which we have and can produce. Snuffs, ointments, washes, etc., have been proved useless in giving relief or curing catarrh, bronchitis, irritable throat, nasal and ear passages, but Catarrhoxones, the ozonated air cure, does not only give immediate relief, but effects a permanent cure. Why delay? Send at once for sample bottle and inhaler, 10 cents. Outfit, \$1.00.

STARVATION IN PORTO RICO

A Colossal Meteor.

LONDON, April 8.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from St. Petersburg says that on March 12 a colossal meteor fell in the sea close to the shore at the village of Bjazel, twenty-six miles from Helsingfors, penetrating a bed of clay for a distance of 25 feet. It will shortly be raised. Savants have estimated that the iron and other elements composing the meteorite have a value of some millions of roubles.

THE EXPANSION POLICY

Mr. Bryan's Opinion About the Taking of the Philippines.

CHICAGO, April 8.—The Hon. William J. Bryan is to publish a book entitled "Republic or Empire—the Philippine question," in which he discusses the territorial expansion from every standpoint, his argument being supplemented by chapters dealing with the various phases of the subject by Andrew Carnegie, George F. Hoar, John W. Daniels, Henry M. Teller and other statesmen and scholars.

As to imperialism, Mr. Bryan says: "Imperialism finds its inspiration in dollars, not in duty. It is not our duty to burden our people with increased taxes in order to give a few speculators an opportunity for exploitations, and it is not our duty to sacrifice the best blood of our nation in tropical jungles in an attempt to stifle the very sentiments which have given vitality to American institutions; it is not our duty to deny to the people of the Philippines the rights for which our forefathers fought from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. Imperialism has been described as the white man's burden, but since it crushes the wealth producer beneath an increasing weight of taxes, it might with more propriety be called 'the poor man's load.'"

"If the peace commissioners had demanded a harbor and coaling station in the Philippines and had required Spain to surrender the rest of the land to the Filipino, as she surrendered Cuba to the Cubans, we would not now be considering how to let go of the islands. If the sum of twenty millions had been necessary to secure Spain's release, the payment of the amount by the Filipinos might have been guaranteed by the United States."

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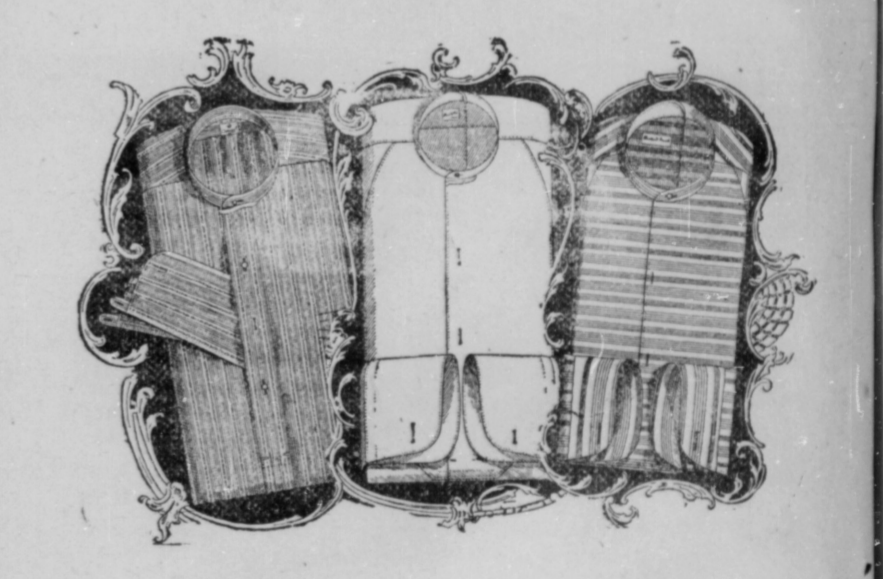
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