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AN ENORMOUS VINE.
 Greater Than That at Hampton Court—
 It Bears 2,000 Bunches of Grapes.

While in the public mind the great vine at Hampton Court Palace is esteemed the most remarkable, even that is excelled in dimensions by the still greater vine at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Park. Not only these giants but probably all other vines in the kingdom, have to give place for extent and productivity to that most remarkable vine which is just at the present moment carrying the enormous quantity of 852 bunches and a total weight materially exceeding half a ton.

This is growing at Manresa House, Roehampton, in a viney 224 feet long by 11 feet wide. The vine was planted by the present gardener, Mr. Davis, as a cutting, onto a wall outside more than 80 years ago. But finding that in the natural soil such capital growth was made, the present house was especially built for its accommodation, so that now the vine and its main stems stand partly across the house, just two-thirds up its length. There are seven main roads or branches, running horizontally each way. These are allowed to carry laterals, or fruiting shoots, on the upper sides only, so that the grapes, now fast becoming black (for the variety is the black Hamburg), hang the entire length of the roof in straight, even lines, instead of up the roof, as is commonly the case. Over 2,000 bunches were cut out after they had set. The value of the crop, estimated at 2 shillings per pound—which is, as good grapes go, perhaps not a high figure—would be £112. Probably no other tree of any kind in the kingdom could produce such a sum in fruit annually.—London Daily News.

No Use for Jerusalem.
 The Jew does not wish to return to Jerusalem. You could not hire, persuade, or force him back to the land of his forefathers. The Jew is too fond of the comforts which appertain to residence in civilized countries to exchange them for the narrow, dirty, pest-infected streets of Jerusalem, which may be rich in story, but are desperately poor in grand opera and electric light. We will not return there. When the Bible was written the earth was very small, and Jerusalem was its most important place. To return to Jerusalem meant to inherit the earth. Since then steam, electricity, and all the modern sciences and discoveries have made our earth large beyond the fancy of the writers of the Bible, and we, who interpret properly the meaning of the wise men, know that what then would have been a blessing would be a curse to-day. Fancy the merchant princes of every large city in the world closing their accounts, selling their property, and going to a place which offers nothing more than poor houses and lots of chills and fever. There are ignorant Jews who believe that the Jews are destined to return to Jerusalem; but if you would test their sincerity offer them free transportation, and you will find they will refuse. The Jerusalem which Israel will inherit will be the whole earth.

Columbian Stamps.
 The extent to which the Columbian stamps have been bought up by collectors and dealers is shown in the increased value now set on this issue. "The investment in the safe one can imagine," says a Chicago speculator. "You buy the stamps and put them in a safety deposit vault until you are ready to sell them at a good profit. If you need money at any time the banks will loan on them nearly to their full value, or you can go to the post office and trade them for stamps of lower denominations." This man, foreseeing that the Columbian stamps would command high prices from collectors in a few years, began last December to buy all the one-dollar and fifty-cent stamps that he could find for sale. After buying hundreds of dollars' worth at the Chicago postoffice he employed agents in other cities to secure stamps for him. Finally he sent out 1,000 postal cards to postmasters inquiring whether they had any Columbian stamps left. In most cases the answer was, "We have none of the stamps on hand." The lowest quoted rate in Chicago for the one-dollar stamp is five dollars, and some dealers hold them as high as twelve dollars. The stamp collecting firms here and abroad have gone into the business extensively, and there is now talk of a combination between the largest three firms to create a corner and send prices very much higher.—New York Post.

Hungary's Thousandth Year.
 The Hungarians are making preparations on a grand scale for a millennial exhibition, and the government addressed a prayer to the emperor that he might lead them all the historic relics in his possession which have any connection with Hungarian history. The emperor, our Vienna correspondent says, granted the request, and a number of Hungarian historians and antiquarians have come to Vienna to study the imperial collections, and make a list of the objects in question.

They have selected a great number, which represent a value 2,000,000 of florins—if the value of unique historical relics can be expressed in figures. Among these objects are copies of the portraits in relief of King Matthias, Corvinus, and Queen Beatrix, a bronze bust of Mary Queen of Hungary; bronze reliefs of Adrien Fries, illustrating the Hungarian wars; the remnants of the crown of King Andreas and the imperial globe, dating from the fourteenth century; the double cross that belonged to Lewis the Great, with relics of Christ's cross; a map of Hungary engraved on a metal plate; a nautilus-shaped cup with the arms of the Bathyards.

It is easy to imagine what efforts will be made in Hungary to prevent these objects from returning to Vienna when once they have been in the Hungarian capital; and if they are left there, surely Prague would ask for all that referred to Bohemia in the imperial collections, and Cracow for all that referred to Poland.—London Daily News.

His Pet Story.
 "You don't seem to think that was a very good story I just told you," he said in a disappointed tone.
 "Oh, yes, indeed I do," replied the Boston girl reassuringly. "But I was just trying to think when that was probably translated from the Greek."—Detroit Tribune.

SHOULD WOMEN SMOKE?
 A Silly Season Question With Some Silly Season Answers.
 The Nineteenth Century makes this good old subject its "silly seasoner." Mrs. Frederic Harrison treats in the form of a conversation. The arguments which she puts forward, for and against, may thus be summarized. But first, do women smoke? Yes; for "the five daughters of our clergymen here 'all smoke,' and 'as you may see in the papers, a wedding cannot be said to be really 'smart' unless the presents include at least three cigar-cases for the bride." And now, ought women to smoke?

YES.
 Because: If a harmless smoke soothes and comforts men, who are we that we should deny it to women, because, forsooth, it does not fit in with our ideas of what becomes a woman?

NO.
 Because: "Here are two men and two women, and the two men may hide their defects and shortcomings in conversation with smoke, while we poor women have to insert our best remarks between the puffs—why should not we smoke?"

Because Restlessness is the fashion of our age, and smoke is good for restlessness. George Sand advised all women to take to needlework as a sedative; but she herself took to smoking. The new woman has followed her example instead of her precept.

Because: "Spanish and Russian women smoke, and why not English women?"

NO.
 Because a higher morality is to be expected from women than from men. Smoking, as a mere self-indulgence, is opposed to the higher morality.

Because: "Who can suppose nicotine to be a useful preparation for the young life to be launched into the world? And for the nursing mother with a cigarette, what can we say? We would have to bury all our pictures of the Madonna fathoms deep that they might not behold so unlovely a sight."

Because the reserve force of the race must be stored up by women, and smoking uses up that force.

Because woman is bound to so many artificial wants already that she ought not to cultivate another.

A Flight of Flies.
 The Paisley Advocate says: A flight of flies similar to the one noticed in these columns last week was witnessed on Sunday evening. In passing over the village they seemed to fly higher than in the open, making it much harder to estimate their extent, but the same evening a resident of Greenock, crossed the line of march of the pests, and states that for an entire mile and a quarter he drove through myriads of flies so dense that to the superficial observer they appeared to be clouds of smoke. They kept crossing his pathway for the entire distance, and when he finally passed their trail they were still coming as numerous as ever. They appeared to be moving in loose columns, and extended from a point about as high as a house from the ground until they faded in space.

To Hang Out.
 This phrase certainly occurs in the Pickwick Papers. Bob Sawyer says to Mr. Pickwick: "Where do you hang out?" and that gentleman replied "that he was at present suspended at the George and Vulture, Cornhill." An earlier instance of its use I do not remember, but 40 years ago it was a common enough question at Oxford. "Where do you hang out?" that is, live or reside.

At Cambridge the question put was, "Where do you keep?" and the use of one expression or other used to be regarded as showing the Oxford and Cambridge man. In East Anglia, the dining room is often called the "keeping room." Both universities yet retain, I suppose, some peculiar words in their vocabulary.

The following is an early instance of "to hang out," with John Cleveland's "Miscellaneous Poems." He is describing a knight, one Sir Thomas Martin, as on exhibition:

Hang out a flag, and gather hence a place
 (Which Africa never bred, nor swelling Greece
 With ories temporary, a least so rare,
 No lecturer's wrought cup, nor Bartholomew's
 Fair
 Can match him; nature's whimsey, that out-
 Tradesant and his ark of novelties,
 This shows that hanging out a flag was an advertisement of any show.—Notes and Queries.

Royal Apartments.
 It is said by a visitor lately distinguished by a "command" from the Queen at Osborne that the Indian room in the palace is the most splendid apartment in the world. Heretofore the Salon des Glaces at Versailles and the famous salons in the castle of the late King of Bavaria have been unapproachable models in royal interiors—but the gallery at Versailles is now public, and no longer modern, and the apartments of the unhappy Louis are closed to all save servants' eyes. The Indian room is built and decorated in commemoration of the Indian Empire, and it is used solely for great banquets and those State occasions demanding social grandeur. No photographs, if they were allowed to be printed, would do justice to the magnificent scheme of decoration, which was the work of native artists during two years. In this regal room the Emperor William and all the royalties lately gathered at the Cowes regatta were assembled, and the spectacle is described as having been grand beyond words. It would seem as if the great little Queen desired to impress on her rather bumptious grandson the importance of England's sovereignty beneath that splendid roof-tree, and if so it was a success, as the German courtiers cannot say enough in praise of their surroundings on that occasion. Osborne House is the palace least known to the Queen's subjects. It is in all senses a private residence, a seaside home, not to be invaded by sightseers, as Windsor castle, or even Buckingham palace, is when the court is absent.—Boston Herald.

The Impediment.
 "Can you look at the divorce court and wonder why young men and women do not marry?"
 "Yes, justice ought to be less expensive than it is."—Detroit Tribune.

FROM ALL SOURCES.
 Ship caulking is now done by an automatic machine, which makes 10,000 strokes per minute.

In 1881 the world's tobacco crop was 768,000 tons raised on 2,230,000 acres.

The Western Union Telegraph Company had at the end of last year 21,978 offices, which received 66,531,858 messages, which were sent out over 769,201 miles of wire.

Florida raised 3,000,000 boxes of oranges last year and California 253,000. Orange imports were 847,227.

Homicide represents nearly nine per cent. of the crimes committed in this country.

In Italy 30 persons out of 10,000 die by the assassin's knife.

A man five feet and a half tall should weigh 144 pounds.

It costs \$2.68 per word to send a message from New York to Demerara.

The King James edition of the Bible contains 31,173 verses, 773,746 words and 3,566,480 letters.

The middle verse of the Bible is the eighth of the 118th Psalm.

Great Britain's wheat area is decreasing.

Inmates of the Kansas State penitentiary eat and publish a paper.

Shipbuilding on the Clyde is increasing after a few years of depression.

The California countries contain 50,000 beehives.

Religion is dispensed in Africa from 4246 Sunday Schools.

The world's army of Sunday school scholars numbers 20,269,983 exclusive of 2,289,728 teachers.

The Salvation Army of the world numbers 4364 corps.

Buddhism has 147,900,000 followers.

There are 128,173 Sunday schools in the United States with 9,718,432 scholars.

A Chinese soldier is paid one dollar per month and finds his own rations.

The United States wheat crop leads the world with 60,000,000 bushels.

Russia's rye crop is 539,000,000 bushels.

The Edison Company supplies current to over 1,200 electric fans in New York city.

The daily average of passengers over the Tower Bridge is 80,000.

Notice boards have been put up in some European railroad stations on which telegrams to passengers or to persons waiting to meet passengers are posted.

An electrical appliance has been invented for detecting the presence of oil and gas in the ground.

France holds the exclusive fishing privilege on 800 miles of Newfoundland's 2,000 mile coast.

The cost of soda water is not over two cents per gallon and the product sells for ten cents.

The equine population of Venice consists of four or five bronze horses.

A Chinaman refers to his wife as the "thorn in my ribs."

By modern methods no soda is used in making soda water.

From twelve to seventeen tons of ice can now be produced per ton of coal by some of the ammonia and other chemical refrigerating systems.

The interior of Newfoundland is a wilderness of rock, lakes and scrub timber.

Newfoundland covers 40,000 square miles, but only 6,000,000 acres are fit for agriculture.

The coconut supplies food, light and household utensils for the Jamaica islanders.

An empty flour sack makes a real swell costume for the Jamaica negro.

In 1805 Jamaica exported 150,000 hogsheads of sugar and 59,000 puncheons of rum, but now the island produces only 16,000 hogsheads and 14,000 puncheons.

Much Canadian mutton is consumed in New York.

Cypress never decays under water.

The average yearly death rate in New York city from 1883 to 1892 was 88,996.

The Hungarian government is about to adopt a policy of colonizing the nomadic gypsies, of whom there are 270,000 in Hungary.

Either drinkers find that drug produces the same effects as alcohol in one-third the time.

New York has a Chinese daily paper.

Crabs can see and smell, but can't hear.

Charcoal is said to produce the most intense heat.

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CONDENSED MILK,
QUININE TABLETS,
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ROBINSON'S HEADACHE POWDERS,
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