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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1889.

Contents.

(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

Table listing various articles such as Alaska, glaciers, mountains, etc., with corresponding page numbers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT No. 693.

For the Week Ending April 13, 1889.

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Table listing detailed contents of the supplement, including sections like BIOGRAPHY, CIVIL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICITY, GEOLOGY, METALLURGY, MISCELLANEOUS, PHARMACY, PHYSICS, PHYSIOLOGY, and TECHNOLOGY.

A NEW ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

The President has appointed Mr. Robert J. Fisher to be Assistant Commissioner of Patents. Mr. Fisher at the time of his promotion was a member of the Board of Appeals in the Patent Office, to which position he had risen from subordinate grades of official duties, all well performed.

LAGER BEER.

Lager beer, from its name, implies a beer that has been kept for a certain period. A year or six months, at least, is the time given by authorities as that which should elapse before such beer is tapped.

"Brewers are using materials other than malted barley, such as corn and oats, etc., mixed with barley and hops, by which they accelerate its manufacture, making a sweetish, pleasing, heady beverage, but alcoholic, and people using this kind of beer in large daily quantities, with the idea that it is innocuous, has brought on a marked increase of renal complaints."

If it can be shown the beer is injurious to health, the makers can be held and punished.

The Explorer Stanley and His Expedition for the Discovery and Relief of Emin Bey.

A long letter has been received from the heart of Africa, written by Henry M. Stanley, and serving, in its remote date and the unaccomplished crisis of affairs at which it was written, to rather excite than allay the feelings of anxiety felt for the great explorer.

The account, brief as it is, is thrilling. The explorer's men began to desert, and he found that minor punishments were unavailing and resorted to extreme measures, hanging two of the offenders. A vast forest, a veritable inland sea of trees with definitely located margin, with indentations and the other irregularities of shore outline, was encountered.

Stanley proposed returning to Wadelai. Meanwhile Stevens is in Africa searching for Stanley, having by a bicycle journey around the world proved his fitness for such employ.

Emin Pasha's capture, and as a reverse the news of a victory of the Pasha over the Madhi's forces. What has really happened is quite unknown, and the dark continent is silent as to the fate of her daring explorers.

Arbor Day.

The State of Nebraska was the first, in 1874, to inaugurate a movement to designate one day in a year in which every one was urged to plant a tree, or do something to encourage a general tree planting, and to that end a holiday was established, styled Arbor Day.

The Forest Commission of New York State, in 1886, recommended the establishment of such a day as an additional holiday, to be especially a school holiday, to be devoted to tree planting, tree culture, and education in forestry.

It is earnestly to be hoped that this subject will hereafter receive more practical attention than has hitherto been given to it. Nothing is more certain than that, as the years roll on, our children and our children's children will look upon our wastefulness in the matter of tree destruction and our improvidence in providing for new growths to take the place of trees destroyed as among the reckless and wanton follies of the present generation.

Trade Mark.

The question was raised before the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice (England), in the recent case of Burgoyne vs. Pownall, whether the word "Oomoo" could be registered as a trade mark in respect of wine and spirits.

Fall of Black Snow.

At Aitken, Minn., on April 2, at 4:45 o'clock, it became so dark that lights were necessary in business houses, and the air was filled with snow that was as black and dirty as though it had been trampled into the earth.