SWEDEN AND SWEDES.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM A "RECORD-UNION" CORRESPONDENT.

Description of the Country—Its Productions—Religion—Schools—Lax Morals of the People—Industries—Etc.

GOTHENBURG (Sweden), July 21, 1883.

Sweden has of late years been attracting some attention on the part of those Americans who visit Europe for health or pleasure. Even some prominent Californians, among whom I might mention Charles Crocker and J. W. Mackay, have deemed it fit to deviate from the beaten track of European tourists, and spend a few weeks in this northern land. There are some well-known Californians here even at the present time, as for instance Horace J. Smith, of Santa Barbara, and Charles A. Sumner, M. C., of San Francisco. As this country is seldom mentioned in the American newspapers, and rarely ever in any of the Associated Press dispatches, it might not be amiss to give a few sketches which would tend to make your readers more familiar with a people from among whose ranks our own in America are being so strongly augmented. Sweden forms the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula, and is divided from Norway through that rugged mountain chain known as Kolen (the keel). It extends from 55° 20′ to the very considerable northern latitude of 69° 4′, and contains an area of 168,042 square miles. Fully one-tenth of this area is taken up by

BEAUTIFUL SHEETS OF WATER,

Among which Lakes Venern, Vettern, Malaren and Hjelmaren are the largest. The character of the country is generally that of a low plateau, as only one-third of its area reaches an altitude of 300 feet, while less than one-twelfth attains a hight of 2,000 feet. The principal formation consists of metamorphic or stratified primary rocks, and Nature has supplied her mountains with immense quantities of iron and copper ores. Silver, lead, sulphur and zinc is also found, but the mining industries are almost exclusively confined to the first-named metals. Although the tillable area of the country is comparatively small, it would be a mistake to suppose that agriculture is neglected, or that Sweden is a sort of a wilderness where but few productions of the vegetable kingdom thrive and exist. Such is not the case, for even in those sections where the metamorphic bed-rock is generally exposed may be found evidences of no inconsiderable vegetation, and such parts of the country which rest on later geological formations are capable of comparison with many of the most fertile countries of Europe. This is especially true as regards the extensive plains of Skane and the islands of Gotland and Oland, where the underlying formation dates back to the silurian period. Even

THE HIGHER MOUNTAINS

Are, as in California, covered with a thin layer of sand or sandy loam, which supports extensive forests. The trees are not large when compared to our sequoias and the redwoods along Russian river, but suffice to fill that emptiness which in their absence would arise. It must also be admitted that the climate of Sweden, although cold and severe in winter, is not only healthy, but at the same time more tempered than at the same high latitude in any other country. A Swedish landscape, clad in its midsummer dress and encircled with its tree-covered mountains and variegated meadows, forms a picture which even a stranger from more favored regions cannot cease to admire. The principal characteristic in all these lovely sceneries is formed by the innumerable mirrors reflecting placid lakes, rapid streams, and here and there a majestic cataract, for Sweden is decidedly a country of inland waters, although it is Finland that has been given the poetic title of "the land of a thousand lakes." Nearly all the principal rivers empty into the Gulf of Bothnia, while some take their course to the already mentioned inland seas. Gota-elf, one of the widest rivers in the country, carries the waters of Lake Venern and its connecting system of minor lakes to Kattegat. It is in this river that the

FAMOUS FALLS OF TROLLHATTAN

Are situated. They are four in number, extending for a distance of one kilometer, with a total fall of over thirty-two meters. Thousands of strangers visit this place every summer, and many foreigners come to Sweden for the sole purpose of seeing Trollhattan. In the falls themselves there can be no innovation, for they are already described in the ancient sagas, which tell how Starkodder and Hergrim fought for the beautiful Ogn Alfafostre on the precipitous rocks which overhang this gigantic chasm, but the more practically inclined American of our day finds side by side of a majestic nature new evidences of what human skill and ingenuity can accomplish for the purpose of making highways for commerce. On the east side of these turbulent waters, whose combined force is estimated at 225,000 horse-powers, and blasted through solid rock, is a canal with eleven locks, by means of which vessels coming from Gothenburg are raised to the level of the inland lakes above. A vessel going as far as Stockholm has to pass through several canals with a total number of seventy-four locks, and many travelers avail themselves of this picturesque route in their rambles through the interior.

THE POPULATION OF SWEDEN

Is at present a little over 4,500,000, as against 3,500,000 in 1850, and less than 2,500,000 in 1800. And strange as it may seem in the face of the heavy emigration for which last year was noted, there was even then an actual increase in the population of 15 per cent. A very small proportion, or only 690,000 in all, live in the towns and cities, of which Stockholm, with 170,000, is the largest, while Gothenburg, with 80,000, comes second, and Malmo, with 40,000, third. The people are mainly descendants from the same race, and with the exception of about 16 000 Finns, 6,000 nomadic Laps and 1,500 Jews, there are but few permanent residents of other extractions. The established religion is the Evangelical Lutheran, but there is complete religious tolerance for all other sects except the Mormons, whose teachers find no favor with the governing authorities. In an educational point of view, Sweden occupies a pre-eminently high position, and I sincerely doubt if any country can show less ignorance, superstition and crime—which all go hand in hand—among the masses of the people. The higher branches of science and literature are taught at the celebrated Univereities of Upsala (established 1477) and Lund (1666), whence have come a number of men of more than national fame. The former, with a corps of 110 Professors and 1,500 students, has a library of over 200,000 volumes and 70,000 manuscripts.

THE FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Is as perfect as experience and a liberal expenditure can make it, but with all this the Swedish people have one blemish on their character which it seems extended educational facilities has not succeeded in diminishing. I refer to the lax morals and astonishing amount of licentiousness existing among the lower or working classes, but by no means confined to them alone. This is especially true as regards those who live in the larger towns, and Stockholm bears the unenviable distinction of being the most lustful city in Europe. Figures, it is said, speak plainer than words, and I very much regret that I did not copy the statistics which I recently saw published concerning births and deaths during 1882; but the main points in that table which attracted my attention, and coming from official sources may be accepted as facts, were that almost *one-half* the number of children born in Stockholm are illegitimate, and taking the country at large their number is reduced to about 12 per cent. From this showing the

MORAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

May be better imagined than described. A fruitful source of this national evil may, I think, well be looked for in the prevailing custom of employing girls in all kinds of restaurants, cafes and bar-rooms, where but little restraint is kept on their conduct or on that of the patrons of the places. These girls come in daily contact with "all manners of people," and make many acquaintances, but seldom marry. No restaurateur or saloon-keeper cares to employ a married woman while there is a superabundance of young girls to be had, so she not only would lose her position, but be compelled to assume responsibilities altogether at variance with her former independent life and frivolous nature. I cannot help to believe that the system of substituting girls for men and boys, particularly in public houses, has a tendency to impair their moral character, be they ever so pure.

GENERAL PURSUITS.

Agriculture undoubtedly occupies the first rank among the industries of the country, and has been receiving especial attention during late years. Fertilizers are generally employed, and a thorough system of drainage has been introduced in the lower provinces, where also improved implements and machinery have supplanted those of a more primitive date. The timber culture of the country is still extensive, in spite of the outrageous devastation of the finer forests, which an unwise law has made possible. Of the other chief industries mining must be regarded as next in importance. The Swedish iron is known the world over. I have no statistics at hand to show the amount produced annually, but if my recollection serves me right it does not quite reach one million tons. Of copper there is extracted from the mines at Falun and Atvidaberg about one thousand tons annually, while the production of silver in 1879 was only 3,188 pounds.

IN THE LINE OF MANUFACTURES

There appears to be a steadily increasing activity, and for the sake of showing to what extent it may be successfully carried in a country where labor is cheap, I need only mention the match factory at Jonkoping, which, during 1881, turned out matches to the value of 3,000,000 crowns. Considering the cheapness of that article, it must be admitted that it is manufactured on a most gigantic scale. Yet the balance of trade is largely against Sweden, and during the same year amounted to 42,000,000 crowns. As regards artificial inland communications, Sweden has a number of canals, with a combined length of 720 kilometers, Government railroads extending over a distance of 2,216 kilometers, and private railroads for nearly 4,000 kilometers. From the Government railroads completed up to 1880 there was a net income of 4,406,917 crowns, or a fraction of 2½ per cent. on the capital invested. In 1873 this income amounted to 4 83 per cent. Some of the private roads do not even pay operating expenses, and nearly all of them are open to purchase by the Government, or anyone who may see fit to invest. In my next I shall endeavor to give a brief account of the present form of government in this much-eulogized liberal monarchy.

A. L. M.

BILL MASON'S BRIDE.

Half an hour till train time, sir,
An' a fearful dark time, too;
Take a look at the switch-lights,
Fetch in a stick when you're through.
"On time?" Well, yes, I guess so—
Left the last station all right—
She'll come round the curve a-flyin';
Bill Mason comes up to-night.

You know Bill? No! He's engineer;
Been on the road all his life—
I'll never forget the morning
He married his chuck of a wife.
'Twas the summer the mill hands struck—
Just off work, every one;
They kicked up a row in the village,
And killed old Donovan's son.

Bill hadn't been married more 'n an hour,
Up comes the message from Kress,
Orderin' Bill to go up there
And bring down the night express.
He left his gal in a hurry,
And went up on Number One,
Thinking of nothing but Mary
And the train he had to run.

And Mary sat down by the window
To watch for the night express;
And, sir, if she hadn't 'a' done so,
She'd been a widow, I guess.

For it must 'a' been nigh midnight
When the mill hands left the Ridge—
They come down, the drunken devils!
Tore up a rail from the bridge.
But Mary heard 'em a-workin',
And guessed there was something wrong,
And in less than fifteen minutes,
Bill's train would be along.

She couldn't come here to tell us,
A mile—and it wouldn't 'a' done—
So she jest grabbed up a lantern
And made for the bridge alone.
Then down came the night express, sir—
And Bill was makin' her climb!
But Mary held the lantern,
A-swinging it all the time.

Well, by Jove! Bill saw the signal,
And he stopped the night express,
And he found his Mary cryin',
On the track, in her weddin' dress—
Cryin' and laughin' for joy, sir,
An' holdin' on to the light—
Hello! here's the train—good-by, sir;
Bill Mason's on time to-night.

—[Bret Hart.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

A charming way to flavor custards is to beat fruit jelly with the whites of the eggs; red raspberry jelly and quince jelly are especially nice for this.—[Chicago Journal.

Delicate white muffins are made of one cup of sweet milk, the well-beaten whites of two eggs, two and a half cups of flour, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder, a piece of butter the size of an egg. Bake in a quick oven.

A pretty lounge quilt is made of blue silesia. Tuft it with white Saxony yarn, with a thread of yellow worsted in the center. The design of the tuft is a small water lily, though it must be confessed that it doesn't look much like it.

An elegant panel for a screen is of black velvet, with peacocks' feathers embroidered on it. If tired of flowers and the ordinary applique work, this will be a particularly pleasing design, and it is handsome if done on felt for the ends of a table scarf.

To clean a brass kettle: Put it over the fire with a little water in it, and when it is quite warm, wash it out with soap and water thoroughly. Dry it, and then take sweet oil and rottenstone to polish it, and it will shine most beautifully.—[The Household.

Corn fritters, or "oysters," as some humbug-loving cooks call them, are now in season. To six ears of grated corn add one well-beaten egg, a little salt, and a tablespoonful of sweet milk, with enough flour to make a stiff batter. Drop in hot lard, and fry a delicate brown.

Since fans still continue to be popular as wall decorations, they can be made at home at small expense. For foundation get the cheap figured paper fans, paint or gild the handles, and cover the fan with silk, satin, or any other handsome material. These may be decorated with ribbon or Kensington embroidery.

One of the simplest and best ways by which light-colored kid gloves can be cleaned is this: Put the gloves on your hands, take an old and very soft linen handkerchief, wet it in sweet milk, and rub it on a piece of white soap—castile or any toilet soap will answer the purpose—then apply to the soiled parts of the glove; do this until the spots disappear; then wet the entire glove, and pull it and stretch and rub until it is dry. If you are faithful it will not dry in wrinkles. One word of caution should be added to the above: Lavender-colored kid gloves cannot be cleaned in this way, as they will fade and look spotted.

To make pressed veal, boil a beef tongue the day before it is to be used, and a like quantity of lean veal. Chop very fine. Season the tongue with pepper, powdered sweet herbs, a teaspoonful of mustard, a little nutmeg and cloves, a pinch of each; season the veal in like manner, with the addition of salt. Pack in alternate spoonfuls as irregularly as possible, in cups, bowls or jars which have been well buttered. Press very hard as you go on, smooth the top, and cover with melted butter. When this cools, close the cans, and keep in a cool, dry place. Turn out whole, or cut in slices for tea. It is a pretty and savory relish, garnished with parsley or the blanched tops of celery.

THICK food cannot be digested by infants. Mellin's Food is designed to take the place of the thick pap which sours the stomachs of so many infants. It is healthful, nourishing, and highly commended by the faculty as the most perfect substitute for mothers' milk ever made. All druggists have it.

TRAVELS IN GERMANY.

INCIDENTS AND EVENTS WHICH SHAPED THE DESTINY OF NATIONS.

City of Dresden—Its Language and Women—Places of Interest—Visit to Leipsic—Its Conservatory—Etc.

(For the RECORD-UNION by Prof. E. Kemen.)

My last letter was principally in reference to Vienna and its attractions. Before leaving Austria it will not be out of place to say that the house of Hasburg is the oldest and was once the mightiest reigning house in Europe; and the history of the Austrian empire is the most eventful and variable of European countries. Its position and composition has been the cause of its eventful destiny. Lying in the center of Europe, hemmed in between opposed and hostile races, and composed of dissimular elements, Austria has at different times encroached upon all its neighbors and been itself their stumbling-block. Successively it stretched its arms over Germany, the Netherlands and part of Italy, but was finally driven out of those countries. Of recent acquisitions it holds part of the former Kingdom of Poland and some States of Turkey. There is something interesting and significant in

THE DESTINY OF NATIONS,

And the changes and events which take place are often traceable to the personal feelings of their rulers or ruling spirits. Had Marie Antoinette, the decapitated Queen of France, not been an Austrian Princess, the bloody wars of the First Napoleon would probably never have occurred, for this was an incitement to the leading part which Austria took in the first wars against the French Republic, whose chief General Napoleon soon became. Had these wars not taken place Austria would have kept her supremacy in Germany and her influence upon the Netherlands. Prussia would not afterwards have gained ground in Germany, the coalition against France could not have existed, and there would have been neither a rise nor (a) fall of the first French Empire. Had Napoleon III. not retaliated later by assisting the little Kingdom of Piedmont (Sardinia) against Austria, the latter would have kept her possessions in Italy, the King of Naples and other Italian sovereigns

WOULD HAVE KEPT THEIR CROWNS,

And Italy would not have become an ally of Prussia in her last war with Austria, which caused the expulsion of the latter from Germany, and Prussia could not have gained the upper hand in that country, declared war against France, and, bringing all Germany against her, caused the downfall of the second empire. The part which England and Russia played in the wars of the first empire may be considered accidental in as far as it was a consequence of Napoleon I.'s ambition and a check to his thirst of conquest. Had Austria not been the primary cause of these wars they would in all probability never have taken place. Thus a chain of events may have a remote but simple cause of origin. Returning into Germany we visited

DRESDEN, THE CAPITAL OF SAXONY.

That kingdom is more noteworthy for its manufacturing industries than for agriculture or commerce. A great portion is hilly and covered with forests. The low-lands are mainly used for grezing purposes. It has a number of mines and various smelting works. As products of its industry the linen, the porcelain and damask may be cited as very fine. The people boast of two things—the purity of their language and the beauty of their women, but it is safe to consider both unqualified presumptions. Their pronunciation is not purer than that of many other districts, and as for the beauty of their women—although there is an old saying in Germany that the beautiful girls grow on the trees in Saxony—I have not been able to discover any particular charms of the sex in that country. Dresden lies on both sides of the river Elbe, and is, with regard to its surroundings, wide and clean streets and public edifices, one of the prettiest cities in Germany.

AMONG THE REMARKABLE PLACES

And buildings are the Bruhl's terrace; the Zwinger, with a monument of King Frederic August; the Marktplatz, with that of King August II.; the Bruhl's palace and picture gallery; the Japanese palace, with its library, its gallery of antiquities and collection of Chinese and Japanese porcelain; the Prince's palace, with a collection of pictures of the royal families of Saxony and Bavaria, a collection of engravings and a library; the royal residence in the Altstadt. The so-called green-vault, with the crown jewels, offers a dazzling appearance on account of its immense treasure. The principal theater is a fine structure and enjoys a good reputation for its dramatic performances. Operas are generally given. Dresden is certainly one of the most favored cities in art treasures, especially paintings, and rivals with Munich in that respect. There has always been a large colony of Americans in Dresden, probably owing to its healthy location, pleasant and cheap living and good schools.

CITY OF LEIPSIC.

Our next visiting place was Leipsic, the commercial metropolis of central Germany. On our way we stopped at Sachsen-Altenburg, a duchy about the size of Sacramento county. Its capital boasts of an old ducal palace. In this place we observed something in the way of dress of the country people worth mentioning. Some of the peasants wear what must be called a nondescript dress, for a name can hardly be given to it. Both men and women wear it with so little difference in shape or form that it is difficult to distinguish the sexes at first appearance. It is a wide garment reaching down to the knees, and which seems to be made of one piece. It partakes neither of the masculine nor feminine apparel; it is neither coat, pants nor vest, nor dress or petticoat. What name these good people give it I am unable to say. Leipsic lies in a fertile plain at the confluence of three rivers, and is

A LIVELY BUSINESS PLACE.

Some of the streets are narrow and irregularly built, while others are wide and handsome. The interior city is surrounded by fine walks which separate it from the suburbs. A number of public squares and monuments in honor of Hiller, Bach, Gellert and Hahnmann embellish the city. Its importance is not only due to its commerce, but it is also a hearth of the arts and sciences. The university, founded in 1409, occupies several fine buildings, and is richly endowed. The conservatory of music, as is well-known, enjoys a high reputation. Leipsic monopolizes the publishing trade in Germany. Several hundred book and musical publishing firms, and many printing establishments, do business there. Three annual fairs, which have been kept up for over six hundred years, attract people from all parts of the world. They are strictly business arrangements and congregations, rather than gatherings for recreation, and last from five to six weeks. During fair time it is interesting to observe

THE MANNERS AND DRESS

Of the thousands of visitors from abroad. Besides the representatives of the different German States, the Hungarian in his pictural dress, the Polish Jew, the Bohemian, the Russian, the Swede, the Italian, the Frenchman, the Englishman, the American, the Turk and the Persian jostle one another in the streets. Among them all the sons of Israel, with their clearly defined typical features, are the most conspicuous. At such times the town resembles a perfect Babel with regard to the number of languages spoken. In history Leipsic is known for the great battle against Napoleon I., which the latter lost; a monument commemorative of that event has been erected in the Marienstrasse. There are some fine hotels in Leipsic, and the prices charged remind one that he is approaching the north; for rates of living are considerably higher in the north than in the south. Speaking of hotels a few words must be said about those generally to be found in Germany.

FIRST CLASS HOTELS,

Without having that showy external appearance or the sumptuous interior arrangements of many American hotels, are, nevertheless, more comfortable in many respects. Especially is this the case with the table and the service. Perfection is sought in cooking, and to make dinner as attractive as subservient to a good digestion—and not a mere feeding, only to satisfy the needs of nature—"Table d'Hotes" are in fashion. These table d'hotes have something sociable and even festive in their nature, which certainly provokes good humor and drives away care. Punctually at a certain hour the guests assemble at a common table, family fashion, and either the host or a favorite boarder presides. This person's chief aim is to enliven and stimulate a general conversation, in which most of the guests take part, thus making time between dishes pass away pleasantly. Those accustomed to

TABLE D'HOTE LIFE

Can best appreciate the enjoyments of such dinners, where ease, polite attention and an agreeable conversation prevail instead of rapidly devouring one's food in silence and alone, merely to quiet the cravings of hunger. It requires little knowledge of hygiene to understand the different effect upon digestion the latter mode of eating must have. Dishes are brought in separately, that is, large plates, containing a dish sufficient for a number of persons, are passed round from guest to guest by the waiters. A guest partakes of a dish or refuses, and waits until a new one comes round. He may have to wait somewhat, but the animated conversation which is carried on makes him overlook this inconvenience. In Germany, and, in fact, all over Europe, the American maxim, "Time is money," is not so much adhered to, and

THERE IS NO FEVERISH HASTE

To acquire that "desirable" material at the expense of personal enjoyment. The common saying "that we eat to live" might as justly be inverted, for, after all, what is our striving after riches for? To enjoy life. It is very well to descant upon the higher aspirations and destiny of man, but the attainment of these same objects is certainly not promoted by an unsatisfied, rebellious and dyspeptic stomach. Travelers, not accustomed to continental life in Europe, generally complain of the extra charges in most hotels and consider them extortionate, which, in a manner, is true. Thus, for instance, looking over your bill you are astonished to find an item for light, another for fire and still another for services, and when, after having settled and

HEAVING A SIGH OF RELIEF,

You depart, a trail of waiters, from the head-waiter down to the porter, accompany you with many bows to the door, and each of them expects a parting donation. Should you fail to distribute any gratification you are considered an ill-mannered rustic. The serviceable spirits in Germany claim their "trinkgeld" as obstinately as their French colleagues their "pourboire." This is an old and deep-rooted custom and certainly reprehensible; but the expectation of this very trinkgeld procures to the traveler great attention during his stay. As a rule, prompt attention and politeness may be expected in most hotels on the continent, and what is said about charging for fire and light refers only to the room occupied.

FASHION NOTES.

Silver gray mohair dresses, made to fit perfectly, and trimmed simply with self-plaitings, are among the most ladylike and serviceable of traveling costumes. They are not affected by dampness, and shed the dust with a good shaking.

The latest device for ornamenting pocketbooks, fans, pouches, and all such dainty knick-knacks, is a cluster of strawberries stamped in relief upon cream-white velvet or undressed kid, and then either hand-painted or covered with silk chenille work. The effect is very charming.

Mountain dresses, says an Eastern writer, are made of light-weight flannel, with close, untrimmed jersey bodice, to which is plaited a short skirt devoid of drapery; the only attempt at adornment being a facing underneath the plaiting around the hips, which is usually of cardinal serge. Nun's gray and royal blue are the colors oftenest chosen for the dress.

Pretty Marguerite corsages for young girls are made of royal blue, laurel green, or ruby plush, pink, mauve, or pale-blue velvet, to be worn over airy skirts of tulle veiling or embroidered muslin. In front they open broadly over a dainty lace chemisette *Russe*. The very short sleeves are edged with frills of lace, and frequently the edges are cut in blocks, with lace shell plaitings set underneath.

Several French women of fashion manifest a very decided taste for simply made evening gowns of thick white colored silk, merely decorated with some good lace of white passementerie. Many of the newest Pompadour silks have white grounds. Arab, Persian and Tunisian muslins worked with corded silks and gold are in high favor to drape over white silk gowns. When color is preferred to white the tints chosen for the last entertainments of the Paris season were for the most part aurora pink.

Account is given of a toilet worn at a hospital ball by a handsome Corsican lady with dark hair and eyes. It was composed of orange-colored satin and black Spanish lace. The left shoulder was quite uncovered, save that a narrow lace scarf was laid across it. The scarf was confined on the right side of the waist by a real mandarin orange and a knot of diamonds, and the dress was looped up in all directions by orange feathers and real fruit, a small branch of mandarins decorating the bodice.

"Colimacon," or "Snail," is the euphonious title bestowed upon a new Parisian bonnet in bronze gold, supposed to bear a far-fetched resemblance to the animal of that name. Snail embroidery has for some time past been used upon dresses, and snail ornaments have decorated the crowns and brims of Paris-made bonnets, but the bonnet itself is not attractive enough to induce many to purchase a head-covering which is constantly suggesting such objectionable similitude. There are too many bonnets and hats in prettier shapes, says a New York fashion writer, and with more attractive titles, to ever give the "snail" bonnet much of a "show" in the fashionable world.

A pretty dress for early autumn is made of golden brown fancy cloth. Of the underskirt nothing shows beyond a box plaited flounce. The second skirt is cut into square blocks and embroidered in each tab. The opening between each block is filled in with a narrow fan-plaiting of brown velvet. This skirt is apron shape, draping very low on one side and looping high on the other, with a large oblong buckle of gold and bronze enamel clasping the folds. The tight fitting bodice is ornamented around the bottom exactly like the second skirt, but in somewhat smaller proportions. A large turnover collar is cut into tabs and embroidered, as are also the ends of the close coat-sleeves.

NEW TELEPHONE.—J. Munro, of West Croydon, a well-known writer upon matters electrical, says *Chambers' Journal*, has produced an efficient telephone transmitter, which, although founded upon Professor Hughes' microphone, is so different in detail and material from anything previously brought forward, that the sharpest lawyer would find it difficult to upset his title to originality. Unlike other transmitters, this one employs no tympan or diaphragm, and dispenses with that philosopher's stone of electricians, carbon. In its simplest form it consists of two little squares of iron wire-gauze, one placed vertically and the other leaning against it, the contact of the two being regulated by a spring. This simple device, in connection with a battery and telephone receiver, is quite sufficient to act as a faithful messenger between two distant speakers.

A silver miner out at Clear creek
Was so hoarse he could hardly speak,
He left his toil,
Got St. Jacobs Oil,
In a minute it cured his squeak.

"THE headache in my case was one of long standing, but Dr. Benson's Celery and Chamomile Pills conquered."—C. T. Reiner, German Minister of the Gospel, Leslie, O. 50 cents, at druggists.

FREEHAND NOTES

OF SCENES AND DOINGS AT THE BAY AND VICINITY.

Display of Beauty and Taste at Menlo Park—The Triennial Conclave—A Fine Portrait.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 15, 1883.

Among the many illustrated magazines that run a year, and then die away, hopelessly in debt because too much money is spent on them before a slow, conservative public has discovered what a good thing is being issued to them, was one in which the engravings were particularly satisfactory, partly because of fine artistic work, but more because the subjects of the plates brought before the eyes of people who, haply, might never see the originals, the existing glory and grandeur of the distant, civilized parts of the world. Among other things was a series called the "Stately Homes of England," each plate representing the castle, manor or hall which forms the principal country-seat of every distinguished English family. A brief explanatory note accompanied each, telling the extent and characteristics of the estate. Such a series might be made of the

COUNTRY HOMES IN CALIFORNIA,

Which could well afford comparison with the better-known dwellings of the older country. But recently a gentleman who has traveled much, and is not altogether beyond the charge of Anglo-mania, so far forgot himself as to say of a California house, "I have been in many palaces and have never seen such magnificence." Some of the finest as well as oldest of these homes are at Menlo Park, notably one magnificent white palace whose many columns give it an air of lightness almost as if it sprung of its own will or under the wand of a magician, and held itself poised and glittering in all its beautiful resemblance to the summer palace of the Sultan on the Bosphorus. As the outside is purely white and elaborate to suit the lawns and the sunshine, the inside is richly dark and somber. Rich woods, bronzes and hangings are everywhere, and curious tables and stands bear portfolios of well-selected engravings, quaint lamps and rare books. Two drawing-rooms only are finished in pale tints. These, designed for evening reception-rooms, are seen to best advantage by gas-light. The doors and panels are of satinwood—the upholstery almost too delicate of hue to be used. The mantel-pieces and cabinets are of onyx, one of the center-tables of Roman alabaster, and upon it a specimen of

NEARLY EVERY COSTLY WARE

The world's factories produce, among others a vase of the wonderful cameo glass, celebrated in England, but yet hardly known in this country. A white, opaque stratum of glass is molded upon a colored, translucent glass; the two are fired together, and the article comes to the hands of the cutter, white, to all appearance. The pattern of a vine, fruit or flowers is then cut in relief, by hand, when the colored glass appears in the interstices of the pattern, as the background appears in a stone cameo. The vases I saw were one red and one amber-colored, the latter being the finer. The ware is very heavy, a vase not more than eighteen inches high weighing several pounds. The view from the tower is magnificent, the bay, the semi-circle of hills on the horizon, the pinnacles on the roofs of neighboring estates, and not least, the fanciful patterns of the carpet-gardening which spreads over some of the lawns, and is only seen with the finest effect from such an elevation. On what is called the lower ranch

AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE

Is to be made; that is, the one already dimpling among the reed beds is to be enlarged and fed by artesian wells. Space would fail to tell of the firm, elastic, well-kept roads, the stables and their satin-coated, highly bred inmates, the seemingly endless avenues, the bountiful orchards and luxuriant green-houses, the miles of level lawn, the hundreds of young evergreens planted everywhere that trees are lacking, the splendid oaks, the fountains, the finely graveled paths, the choice appointments of the dwelling, that combine to make J. C. Flood's Menlo Park estate a substantial monument of wealth directed by taste.

Such are the surroundings of dignified ease in the country. In the city all is "conclavity." The strings of diminutive flags which crossed certain streets, vaguely reminiscent of the family washing, and threatened at one moment to be the only supplemental civic demonstration to the high official recognition

THE TWENTY-SECOND CONCLAVE

Has received, have been succeeded by more elaborate decorations. Several arches have been completed, and almost every large shop has hung out banners on its outward wall, with evergreen wreaths and life-size colored pasteboard figures of Knights galore. One reckless dealer in precious metals had a whole arbor of smilax before his doorway, and the candy men arrange Maltese crosses of chocolate creams on burnt almond backgrounds. It is all very pretty and gay; it is for a triumphal procession, but a peaceful one. Nobody's elation is bought at the price of other bodies' misery, and the many swords are bloodless—comfortable reflection! So many marches are for death and burial. Yesterday Grand Master Dean arrived from San Rafael with 125 Knights and 65 ladies of the Boston Commandery. His rooms at the Palace were taken possession of early in the morning by the ladies of the Triennial Union, an organization which has existed since the Chicago Conclave in 1880, its members being the wives of California Templars, for purposes of decoration. There were banks of flowers and fragrant green upon the mantels and cabinets. A large "Welcome" in red blossoms swung over the curtains of the bow-window, and elaborate flower pieces were in every available spot; the handsomest of these was a parallelogram thirty inches square, of fine flowers, the

TRIPLE PURPLE CROSS OF THE GRAND MASTER,

And the dates "1824" and "1883"—for yesterday chanced to be the birthday of Mr. Dean—and his initials, "B. D.," outlined in red, were brought out upon a white background. There was also a white and pink Japanese lily in the piece, from among whose petals a little blonde-headed bisque figurine peeped out upon the proceedings. Busiest of the busy ladies was Mrs. J. W. Burnham, whose stately figure, soft accent and gentle, helpful hands are always found where there is tasteful work to be done. She was "Chairman" of the Executive Committee of the Ladies' Triennial Union until the meeting became so largely attended that it became necessary for George Bromley to assume the position. Of the 160 ladies of the Union, 25 will be on duty as a Reception Committee every evening at the Pavilion, and a committee of 37 young ladies, called the Boutonniere Committee, composed of the daughters of California Knights, will be in attendance to bestow a button-hole bouquet upon each stranger Knight. Preparations for Thursday night's ball at the Pavilion are going busily forward.

IN THE ART GALLERY,

Where Wores' "Chinese Actor," of which I wrote you a description, is now on exhibition, Oscar Cunath has just entered a portrait of Mrs. Charlie Low, formerly of San Francisco, now of Philadelphia. It is a standing figure, life-size, and nearly full length, and has many beauties. The pose is excellent and life-like, for Mrs. Low was statuesque in all her movements and all her stillnesses, as became the manner of her beauty. The texture of the black velvet dress is no less excellent than that of the flesh. The right arm in high light, the slight hollow of the soft pink cheek, the curve of the lower lip, the waves of the auburn hair, in spite of an almost rigid precision, are all full of feeling and naturalness. The blue eyes, such eyes as the French call "*bien feudus*," are startling in their perfect technique and expression—thoughtful eyes, unsatisfied with what they see possibly, yet seeing eyes unquestionably. The portrait is very like, and yet to tell a stranger—especially a woman—that she sees before her the counterfeit presentment of the most beautiful woman that ever moved in California society might elicit the comment of incredulity, such is the subtle misunderstanding between paint and life, for Cunatt's model was really faultlessly beautiful. PHILIP SHIRLEY.

KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

Something of Ancient Masonry and Templarism.

The origin of Masonry is shrouded in the haze and twilight of antiquity. Whether it originated in the mysteries of Isis and Osiris in Egypt, or of Eleusis in Greece, or had some relation with the sun and star mythology of Persia, as many think, or originated at the building of King Solomon's Temple, as our best Masonic archæologists believe, is a matter really of very little consequence. All admit that it is the most ancient fraternal Order in the world, the trunk-principle, the mighty tree, under whose boughs all other secret Orders have sprouted and drawn their vitality and inspiration. The early Masons were a peaceful class, fond of science and occult studies. Possessing considerable knowledge of the laws of proportion, harmony, symmetry and beauty, and bound together by

MYSTIC WORDS AND SIGNS,

They went forth from some central school or Lodge to build the palaces of kings and the fanes of religion. Their symbols have been found under the obelisks at Alexandria, on the ruins of Karnac, and their cabalistic marks may still be seen on the magnificent cathedrals, the spacious arches and pilasters of mediæval Europe!

But no dark cloud of myth or tradition hangs around the origin of the Order of Knights Templars. We know its date, and the path it has come. It was the child of war, born sword in hand, and cradled on a shield. Its history begins with the crusades, those tornadoes of religious and military enthusiasm which blew at intervals across Europe for three centuries. At the breaking out of these wars, the sons of noblemen, stimulated by piety, love of glory or adventure, wild, restless spirits who loved martial sports and the bustle and excitement of camp life, offered their services, and were taken into the pay of the great barons and chieftains. The prowess, the daring and the renown of these valiant Knights have been

CELEBRATED IN ROMANCE,

Art, poetry and song. Among the numerous Orders that sprung from this form of knighthood, the Hospitalers and Templars are the best known and the most distinguised. The Hospitalers and Brothers of St. John of Jerusalem, or Knights of Malta, as they were subsequently called, were instituted in 1040 for the purpose of nursing the sick and wounded crusaders, and consoling the dying. It was the first sanitary commission that ever followed in the burnt path of war. After being driven out of the Holy Land they first occupied the Island of Rhodes, and then Malta, whence they were expelled by Napoleon Bonaparte, in 1798.

The Order of Templars was founded in 1118. Nine French gentlemen, pious and valiant knights, bound themselves under solemn vows of charity, poverty and obedience, and to employ their swords in defense of poor pilgrims on their way to the Holy Sepulcher. Their rigid austerity, their valor and enthusiasm soon attracted the attention of their King, Baldwin II., who gave them an apartment in the palace, near the supposed site of King Solomon's Temple. Hence they became known as Knights of the Temple or Templars. The rules of the Order were prepared by the Council of Troyes and ratified by the Pope. They were commanded to wear white mantles, in order to distinguish them from the Hospitalers.

THE RED CROSS

Was also prescribed by this Council as a badge of distinction, and was worn over the heart. For many years the Templars lived in great poverty, fed and clothed by charity, and giving all they could spare to the poor pilgrims who had been spoiled by the enemy. So poor were they that two often rode the same horse, and a rough, cheap dagger was all they could afford as a ransom for a captured brother. They were very pious, in accordance with the gloomy asceticism of the day, that believed the devil was in everything bright, beautiful and enjoyable, and could only be driven out of human nature by a watery diet, horrid smells and bad air. The motto upon their banners, "Not unto us, Oh Lord, not unto us, but to Thy name give the glory," was no empty declaration of self-abnegation. They ate in silence. It was unbecoming a good Knight to indulge in boasting or frivolous conversation. The Evil One was concealed in a laugh or joke, and to kiss even a mother or sister was considered as dangerous to the purity of the heart and desires as the touch of frost on flowers.

BUT THIS RIGID, MONKISH AUSTERITY

Did not last long. The Count Anjou made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and became so deeply impressed with the piety and valor of the Order that he joined it; and his example was soon followed by other pious and chivalrous princes. The Order rapidly became the most popular and powerful in Europe. The spoliation of the heathen, and the donations of kings and noblemen made it extremely rich; and the vow of poverty was forgotten. The Templar never lost his courage, but the stout arm which had flashed the sword where the battle raged the fiercest against the Saracen, in luxury and ease had lost its cunning; and when the great Saladin mustered his hosts to recover Jerusalem, he won an easy victory at the battle of Hittin. When the Crusaders were finally driven out of Palestine, the Templars were the last to yield. They threw themselves into the strong fortress of St. Jean d'Acre, and there

FOUGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE

For the possession of the Holy Sepulcher, only eight or ten escaping the terrible carnage. The shattered remains of the Order fled to Cyprus, and elected Jacques De Molay Grand Master, and for a season prosperity smiled upon them, and they again became rich and powerful. But their wealth became an object of envy to Philip IV., King of France, and he persuaded Pope Clement V., a servile minion he had elevated to the Papal See, to suppress them. They were accused of the abominable heresy of Ophic, Gnostic, and even Mohammedan practices; especially the worship of the Baphomet, a human figure carved out of stone, with two heads, male and female, and entwined with serpents and astrological devices. De Molay was enticed to Paris and treacherously seized and burned alive. A large number of his followers suffered the same fate. Fifty-four Templars were

BURNED IN PARIS

The same day. With the death of Molay, it was supposed the Order had perished, but he, in anticipation of danger, had appointed John Mark Samienius his successor, and the chain of succession of Grand Masters from him has never been broken.

The Encampment of Baldwin, established at Bristol, by Richard I., on his return from the Holy Land, preserved the ancient costumes and ceremonies; and this, in connection with one at York, and another at Bath, constitute the original Encampments, from which all the British and American Commanderies now in existence have derived their authority.

The Templars, broken up as a military order, no longer permitted to poise the lance or join the tourney, or hold public meetings, met in secret places, in caves and glens, and the somber depths of the forest, and agreed to make war upon vice in all its ugly shapes, using their ancient weapons of bloody strife as the symbols and emblems of a spiritual warfare.—[Oakland Tribune.

PRESERVING MEAT.—Signor Pavesi is credited with the discovery of a new method of preserving meat from putrefaction, which, if as efficacious as stated, will be of immense value to society at large. The meat is simply immersed in a bath of water slightly acidulated with nitro-muriatic acid. Thus treated, it will keep