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The young Emperor of Germany should make a profound study of the maxim that "the world is governed too much."

The street-railway collar of the French nation has not yet become so popular as to be regarded in the light of a decoration.

INASMUCH as the New York World has promised to elect a Democratic President, a good many people are giving themselves a deal of unnecessary trouble.

The fact that the returns of the clearing-houses the week ending March 17 were 15 per cent. larger than those of the corresponding week of 1891, and 7 1/2 per cent. larger outside of New York, indicates a satisfactory volume of trade.

A PHILADELPHIA judge has decided that a saloon-keeper has no right to refuse to sell liquor to a woman who is intoxicated. Thus does the emancipation of woman go on. There are precious few things to hamper her progress these days.

HON. CHARLES FOSTER, Secretary of the Treasury, has been on a spree and got a black eye. The spree was the steamship that brought him home from England and the black eye came from being thrown against a stanchion by a lurch of the ship.

WHILE there is every indication of a great scarcity of bread in several countries in Europe, the prices of wheat do not indicate that fact, which leads one to suspect that the people in the districts of half famine have not the means with which to purchase, and that their governments are not interesting themselves in preventing their suffering. It would be different here.

The turning of a portion of Central Park, in New York city, into a race-track by the Legislature and Governor Flower has caused a protest from nearly every newspaper in the city, the Times declaring that "no Governor of New York ever showed a more cynical indifference to the opinion of decent people." All round, the season seems an unhappy one in New York.

A new bureau has been created in the War Department, to be known as the division of information, similar to the intelligence office in the navy, its purpose being to collect all the facts that will be useful to our army in the event of war with any nation. The service will be in charge of Colonel Williams, Assistant Adjutant-general, and the second officer in rank in that department.

THERE can be no doubt that should the bill before the Senate providing for the issue and sale by postmasters of fractional notes of the denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents, in sums less than \$1, and redeemable in coin by the government become a law, it would prove a great convenience to the public and could not result in loss to the holders or the notes be counterfeited to any extent if they were used much as postal notes now are. But they should be used as a convenience, and not as a currency.

A FEW weeks ago the agent of the Law and Order Society in Pittsburgh set himself to arresting newsmen, and told Sunday papers, causing them great annoyance and doing no cause any sort of good. He became so zealous in this work that he lost sight of that section of the Decalogue which declares that "thou shalt not bear false witness," and in consequence has been indicted for perjury. Yet that meddlesome person will no doubt regard himself as suffering for righteousness' sake.

A BOSTON paper which has been regarded as somewhat Anglomanic says that "everybody knows that horses are docked in this country because they are docked in London, but the Anglomanic who docks his horse in Boston does not understand that that which is no cruelty in England becomes cruelty here because of flies." This remark is made because the Massachusetts Legislature is asked to make a law requiring the

owners of docked horses to give them a covering in the streets which will protect them against flies. But the cause assigned for docking horses is one which Americans may consider with interest if not with profit.

THE WEAK SPOT IN OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

The observation and experience of every day go to prove that the special weakness of our political system is municipal management. Men in Washington talk about the burdens of the people, but those which the federal government imposes are as the weight of a feather to a pig of lead. The general policies of parties in regard to finance, tariffs, currency, etc., affect the business of the country, but the municipal government has in its grip the well-being of a community—its property, education, comfort and health. What is very important and equally deplorable is that, while the federal and in most cases state governments have been attaining a higher efficiency and a better standard in intelligence and integrity, the municipal government has made no progress whatever in a quarter of a century. In some large cities special departments are in the hands of competent men, who understand about public education, the management of correctional and charitable institutions, the preservation of healthful conditions, etc., but none of them can show that the administration of these branches of municipal affairs is conducted upon business principles. There is no large city in the country whose affairs are free from the taint of jobbery. The expenditure of the vast amounts that must be expended by cities, the great value of street and other franchises invite to participation in municipal politics men who otherwise would take no interest whatever in them. The revelations in Chicago, in St. Louis and New York show that, year by year, the standard of city councils is falling. A few days since a paper in a large city gave the portraits of a number of the Board of Aldermen. The greater part of the faces betrayed the fact that they are low-grade and vicious men—more at home in a third-rate gambling-house and a law-breaking dive than in an assemblage of men capable of directing the intricate affairs of a great city. And what is true in the larger is more or less the case in smaller cities. The council should be composed of the most intelligent and fair-minded men in a city, and, above all things, men of integrity. They should be men of sound judgment and of public spirit who will take time to inform themselves in the elements of the science of municipal government. In every city there are many honorable exceptions, but in more instances, even when they are honest, the men selected to legislate for a city are intellectually weak and ambitious little men who are put in nomination by men ambitious for a more remunerative service as rewards for their assistance in general party work. Instead of being the most intelligent and influential men in their wards, they are without intelligence and capacity. The introduction of boards of public works, of police commissioners and other boards in cities, upon the demand of the more intelligent portion of the residents, as has been done in Indianapolis, is due to the inefficiency of control directly by Mayor and Council. The low general character of boards of aldermen is largely due to the failure of intelligent and really good citizens to attend to their duties. They will not attend primaries, and good men who would be elected if they would consent refuse, and by refusing, practically compel people to vote for men of no consequence. So long as city franchises are valuable, and so long as the money cities expend for public purposes amounts to hundreds of thousands, there will be an eager element who will get office if good citizens do not sacrifice comfort and some time to defeat them.

Other countries, Germany, for instance, can give us lessons in municipal management. Those governments are strictly local, but every voter seems to know what he is voting, as he would if he were a shareholder in a corporation. The head of a German city government is selected because he has distinguished himself in subordinate positions. The man who has managed a department in one city is often called to a higher position in another, the same as the managers of one railroad in this country call a man employed on another road to a higher position in their own. The management of city affairs becomes as much a profession or a calling as is that of any specialist. The men who are chosen to the lower branch of the City Council are selected for their intelligence. They are promoted if they show conspicuous aptitude. The result is generally the best and most economical municipal management in the world. It is very strange that, while some of our literary and economic clubs discuss taxation and like questions, they do not make the most important subject—municipal government—a leading topic of inquiry.

THE MODERN HUSBAND'S HONOR.

The "honor" of the modern man, especially if the man is away up in the social four hundred, is one of those things that the ordinary plebeian must contemplate in wonder if not admiration. There, for instance, is the case of Mr. Deacon, who shot and killed Mr. Abeille because his (Deacon's) honor suddenly demanded such a vindication, although he, the aggrieved husband, had been fully aware for months of the indignities and injuries that were being heaped on him by his faithless wife and his former friend. Why his honor remained dormant all this period, even permitting him to treat the false friend as if nothing had happened, is a mystery that refuses to unfold itself to the average comprehension. There, too, is Lieutenant Hetherington, of the United States navy, who lately found it necessary to bolster up his honor by shooting a man who had been paying too much attention to Mrs. Hetherington. A fellow-officer is quoted as saying that, under the circumstances, the Lieutenant did his duty as an officer of the United States navy, from which

it is to be inferred that the naval code contains a provision relative to the treatment of civilians who make themselves too agreeable to the wives of naval officers. Another development of this aristocratic variety of honor came to light in the scandal involving a daughter of the Astor family, her husband, James Coleman Drayton, and an Englishman bearing the imposing name of Hailot Alsop Borrowe. Mr. Drayton, it appears, became jealous of Mr. Borrowe some years ago, but was persuaded by his anxious mother-in-law to abate his wrath on condition of the departure of Borrowe and of the receipt from the Astor coffers of an annual income of \$5,000. Borrowe vanished for a time, but when the Draytons went to London he appeared again and made himself offensive to the husband by being unnecessarily entertaining to the wife. Instead of going gunning for him in the usual manner, Drayton invited the enemy to his honor over to Paris for a settlement. Once there a duel was proposed and the matter was put in the hands of a committee of friends who were expected to make arrangements for the meeting. Unable to come to terms the seconds laid the affair before two experts in the matter of honor, and this board of arbitrators decided that as Mr. Drayton had received a money consideration for his injury the code would not permit him to call Mr. Borrowe out upon the field of honor. Under these circumstances Drayton turned about and engaged passage for New York, hearing of which Borrowe made haste to sail upon the same steamship in order to protect his honor by proving that he was no coward. Now very high aristocrats on both sides of the ocean are holding their breath in fearful anticipation of hearing that either the Drayton or Borrowe honor has been further established by the shooting of a bullet through the vital organs of the other fellow.

It is to be observed that in all these proceedings the wife appears to be a creature without responsibility in the eyes of her husband. The old-fashioned theory that a wife held her husband's honor in her own keeping, to some degree, at least, seems to be rejected by the high society husband. He apparently regards her as being likely to become the helpless prey of designing men, and in no way accountable for the unlawful love-making of which she is the object. Certainly he never goes about shooting her, but visits all his wrath upon the perfidians man in the case. To the commonplace mind this is not placing a proper estimate upon the intelligence and responsibility of women, but possibly the wives who move in the Astor, and Deacon, and Hetherington circles are of the peculiar grade of intellect that makes it necessary for their husbands to arm to keep off intruders. Whether this is the case or not, a new definition of the term "honor" seems necessary.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUSSIA'S FAMINE.

The discharge of the Indiana's cargo of wheat at Liban and its shipment to the famine districts of Russia seems to have been made quite a spectacular event, high officials aiding in the work amid the music of brass bands and the plaudits of the people. It cannot be denied that there is much to admire in the voluntary charity that sends such a princely donation to the starving peasants of a distant country with whom we have no closer ties than those of common humanity, and the action is calculated to excite the admiration of the world. But one cannot resist the thought that if the Russian government and people, especially the nobility and wealthy classes, would do their duty, there would be no need of foreign aid to feed the Russian famine sufferers. No matter how numerous the latter are or how great their necessities, there is wealth enough in Russia to relieve them if it were rightly distributed and applied. Russia is a country in which, if there is a great deal of poverty, there is also a great deal of wealth. Her nobility are very wealthy, as are also many of the commercial classes. They could relieve all the suffering in Russia without impoverishing themselves or very seriously impairing their fortunes. Then the people are taxed to death to support the army and navy and a lot of official leeches. If the money that is wasted in this way could be fairly distributed among the people there would be no need of foreign aid to relieve Russia's famine-sufferers. In fact, the famine itself is largely due to the system of government, which makes the peasants mere machines, without ambition or hope for the future, or intelligence to provide against disaster. The Russian famine is a disgrace to Russia, and it is additional disgrace that all necessary relief should not come from Russia alone.

CONCERNING BATHING.

An article in a recent issue of the New York Medical Record takes ground against reckless bathing, and especially against too frequent bathing. This is a dangerous position to take unless one is willing to incur the charge of advocating personal uncleanness, and yet it is doubtless true that many persons are injured by the reckless use of the bath. The most intelligent writers on hygiene agree that hot and cold baths are very effective agents for good if rightly used, and equally potent for evil if ignorantly used. Any person in ordinary health can stand an occasional bath, say once or twice a week, in tepid or lukewarm water, but it takes a strong constitution and a great deal of vitality to stand either a hot or cold plunge bath every day. No doubt some persons are benefited by such bathing, but many are injured. The mistake is in supposing that what is good for one is good for all. Bathing for hygienic purposes needs to be done on intelligent principles, and to get the best results the advice of a physician should be taken.

The article in the Medical Record above referred to makes the point that the daily bathing of infants is a bad practice, sapping the vitality and causing infants to be weak and puny. This is rather a startling suggestion and calculated to alarm the great army of

mothers and nurses who are accustomed to regard a daily bath as necessary to baby's health. Yet, upon reflection, there is some reason in it. A young infant has not much vitality and is very susceptible to disturbing influences. A warm-water bath is generally more or less enervating, even to a grown person, and why not as much, or more so, to an infant? Many a grown person has found by experience that a warm bath daily is not conducive to health in his or her own case, though it may be in some cases. What right have we then to conclude that it is beneficial for all infants? Perhaps if the latter had intelligence and could speak their minds they would often protest that it did them more harm than good. As it is, however, they are the victims of tradition and their views on the subject can never be known.

SENATOR PEPPER'S first measure to abolish poverty has been presented to the world. It is a bill to tax all estates worth over \$1,000,000 upon a rapidly increasing scale, so that those who have effects valued at over \$10,000,000 must pay 18 per cent. The tax will, as the Senator estimates, bring \$1,750,000,000 a year into the treasury, which is to be divided among the States, one-third on the ratio which each State's valuation is to the valuation of the whole, one-third on the basis of population, and the remaining third in the proportion of each State's area to the area of the whole. When the States get this money, they must devote it to paying pensions to the soldiers of the late war, and the difference between their pay as soldiers and gold, with compound interest. This done a portion of the remainder must be devoted to building canals, improving and extending the mileage of navigable rivers, and establishing a system of first-rate country roads. The remnant yet remaining is to be devoted to the support of a national guard. The Kansas Senator is said to have been acting in good faith when he presented this bill, of which there are thirty-nine sections. Such an assurance is quieting, since from the above condensation of its least absurd features one might assume that he is geyting that sedate body of statesmen.

An incident which occurred in the House a few days ago proved an eye-opener to the free-silver men. Delegate Smith, of Arizona, asked unanimously consent to bring up a bill to amend an act regarding a territorial loan so as to make the interest on the bonds payable in gold. Some of the silver men asked why not make it payable in legal money of the United States. The Delegate replied:

That is exactly the objection which has prevented me from selling these bonds at the rate of interest which we propose to provide for. In Arizona, I will state to the gentleman, it is entirely immaterial whether you provide that payment shall be in gold or legal money, for all actual transactions are in gold coin. I have tried to float this debt at a reasonable rate of interest, and I am satisfied that without that provision in the bill it could not be done, save at less than 7 to 10 per cent. With this provision I believe the bonds can be floated at 6 per cent.

Tennyson's "Foresters."

Lord Tennyson's new play, "The Foresters," had its first public presentation in New York Thursday night. It has not been played yet in England, except once in a perfunctory way, merely to secure the copyright, and the results of its first presentation in New York was awaited with great interest by the London critics, and by the author. It has excited unusual interest because of the author's world-wide fame, and from the fact that, though now eighty-two years old, this is the first drama he has ever written for the stage.

The play is founded on the story of Robin Hood, who is its hero. Some of the other characters are semi-historical, and the story is a wild sort of romance, in which Robin Hood and Friar Tuck, Francis John and Richard Cour de Lion, Maid Marian and Titania, Queen of the Fairies, and many other more or less legendary personages figure. The substance of the verdict of the New York critics, as expressed in the newspapers, is that, while the play contains many attractive features, fine touches of imagination, and scenes of picturesque beauty, it is lacking in dramatic movement and action. It is written partly in blank verse and partly in prose, and cast almost wholly in the open air, under the greenwood tree. The strictly English theme, and out-door atmosphere of the play, were well calculated to inspire some fine passages from the grand old poet, and there seem to be plenty of these; but, as an acting play, it does not seem to have been successful. It abounds with delightful bits of well-painting and poetic gems, but these do not make a successful drama. Its moderate success in New York was largely due to the admirable manner in which it was presented, and the skill with which every opportunity was availed of to produce fine stage effects. For this, however, the credit is more due to the management than to the author. It is not likely the play will add anything to the author's reputation, but, considering his age, he will be fortunate if it does not detract from the estimation. There are a number of songs scattered through the play, all of which have been set to music by Sullivan. The following, though scarcely the best, is very Tennysonian:

There is no land like England,
 What'er the light of day be,
 There are no hearts like English hearts,
 Such hearts of oak as they be.
 There is no land like England,
 What'er the light of day be,
 There are no men like English men,
 So tall and stout as they be.
 And these will strike for England,
 And man and maid be free
 To stand and fight the tyrant
 Beneath the greenwood tree.

There is no land like England,
 What'er the light of day be,
 There are no wives like English wives,
 So fair and chaste as they be.
 There is no land like England,
 What'er the light of day be,
 There are no maids like English maids,
 So beautiful as they be.
 And these shall wed with freemen,
 And all their sons be free
 To sing the songs of England,
 Beneath the greenwood tree.

While most Grand Army men regard the appeal of Representative Harter to Grand Army posts to protest against the Bland bill as an impertinence, quite a number of posts in Missouri and Nebraska, where the silver sentiment is supposed to be strong, have sent protests against the passage of the Bland bill to the Senators of those States.

If the present winter season has injured the prospect of winter wheat the reports from the "wheat-pit" in Chicago do not indicate it. It is hoped that the pit is, in this instance, a true indicator of the wheat market.

The Woman and the Mouse.
 Bridget Colgan, of Philadelphia, is in one of the hospitals of that city under treatment for a broken ankle incurred in jumping from a second-story window to escape a mouse. Miss Colgan, who is described as a "fine, strapping young daughter of Erin, who would give most men a hard muscle in a fist of strength, and whose nerves are usually as strong as her muscles," was engaged in cleaning the windows of the second-story front room. Whether Miss Colgan was cleaning windows because she had been told to, or whether she was giving play to that mysterious impulse that moves women at this time of year to wash windows, scrub floors, serve cold boiled dinners and catch colds, the Philadelphia Record, from which the above facts were taken, does not state. Anyway, Miss Colgan was cleaning a window when that subtle sixth sense which the fairer sex

possesses in such a high degree warned her of the nearness of a Presence. Of course her first glance was toward that haunt of horrors known as "under the bed." To drop into the style of the short-story artist. The enemy appeared. It eyes were black. They were glittering with ferocity. The door was full fifteen feet away. There was but one avenue of escape. She chose it.

And with a wild scream of "A mouse! a mouse!" she sprang to the stony pavement below. The mouse, as chronicled in the opening paragraph of this story.

It is likely that the masculine citizens of Philadelphia will organize a mouse-drive as soon as an experienced wolf-hunter from Illinois can be brought to conduct the ceremony.

Certain pessimistic scoffers at the womanliness of woman have sometimes assumed that the funny man's conceits concerning the purchase of a mouse for the purpose of exterminating a cigarette-smoking imagination. They will have to come down now.

The Public Library.

The recommendations made to the School Board on Friday night relative to the management of the Public Library will not commend themselves to the public, and should be promptly rejected by the board. The Journal had something to say yesterday in regard to its belief in the fitness of Mr. Evans for the position of librarian and the satisfactory manner in which he has filled it. Certainly his efficiency cannot be disputed, and these resolutions, which, if adopted, will bring all authority and responsibility for the library's management into the hands of the board, are due to the fact that the known limitations of his authority interfere with the strict discipline that would otherwise be maintained. The librarian should have entire control of the institution, his action subject only to the approval of the board. There is no special objection to the existence of an advisory committee on the purchase of books. Such a one did exist some years ago, if it does not now. It was not then, however, and should not be at any time, be entirely composed of persons connected with the schools, though representation of the school interests is desirable. The school limit is comparatively narrow, and by no means meets the requirements of the majority of the library patrons. Education does not stop with the graduation of High School pupils, and literary wants go far beyond their scope, the library committee to the contrary notwithstanding. The attempt, at this stage of the library's history, to limit its usefulness, is the greatest possible mistake. It should, on the contrary, be widened in every direction, even that of the "literary people." The School Board will do well to move slowly and with care in this matter.

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There is no land like England,
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 There are no wives like English wives,
 So fair and chaste as they be.
 There is no land like England,
 What'er the light of day be,
 There are no maids like English maids,
 So beautiful as they be.
 And these shall wed with freemen,
 And all their sons be free
 To sing the songs of England,
 Beneath the greenwood tree.

As a general rule the story-teller—not the liar, who is sometimes entertaining, but the teller of anecdotes—is a nuisance. Why? Because he usually gets his stories from the papers, where his hearers have also read them. Some weeks ago the Journal copied a little story from a Maine paper, where it may have been original or not. At all events it proved to be an accident of a small Maine girl, who, having been naughty, was told by her pious mother to ask to forgive her. After a short absence the little Miss returned, reporting that she had asked to be made good, and that God had promptly replied "Great Scott! there are a lot of other little girls a heap naughtier than you!" Since then this story has been appropriated by Sol Smith Russell, who makes his own little daughter the heroine. If it struck here all would be well, but if it struck other parents as a "cute" thing, and is related to their own children, it is becoming difficult to escape that story in social life. One man, who lives in Milwaukee, locates it there; a Chicago woman had the incident

happen in her family, and at latest accounts at least two small Indianapolis girls had had the same incident with the Lord. Such luck of originality speaks ill for the veracity of the American intellect and sense of humor, but it is manifest on every side, even in the highest intellectual circles. Not long since an Indianapolis literary club had a banquet, with a long list of after-dinner speeches. Nearly every speaker told a story, and some of them more than one. One of the persons present, who was not a member of the club, was highly entertained, and afterwards wrote out a number of the tales and brought them to the Journal for publication. The Journal recognized them, one and all, as old-timers, some of them a "century" old, and found them unavailable, but it hears of them as still floating around and in use by members of the club in question, and to the wearing of their old-timer's cap. The moral of all this is, don't tell stories. You probably cannot tell them well, even if they are original, and the chances are ten to one that they are not original with you, but borrowed from the columns of the Journal.

The New York correspondent of the Herald and Prebster is shocked by a rumor that the Mormon authorities have offered the use of their tabernacle at Salt Lake City to the commissioners on their way to the General Assembly which meets in Portland, Ore., next May. "It is impossible," says the correspondent, "that such an invitation has been given from Salt Lake City, but it is hardly probable that it would be accepted. Such a recognition of Mormon politeness would be a disgrace to the Presbyterian Church." The New York Sun says there is more than rumor in the report. It adds:

The plan to stop at Salt Lake City and hold service in the tabernacle has appeared as part of the itinerary of a special excursion, for which arrangements are now being made by the Rev. Frederick E. Stebbins, of the First Presbyterian Church of San Francisco, and a brother of Dr. George L. Shearer, of this city, formerly moderator of the New York Free Presbyterian Association. Stebbins has been distributing circulars among the New York ministers who expect to go to Portland. Steps are to be made at Denver and at Salt Lake City, and at the latter town the feature of the visit is to be a grand Free Presbyterian service held in the Mormon Tabernacle by special arrangements with the same. It is to be an event of note, for it is the first time the circular says that anything but a Mormon service has been held there.

We do not see why this would be a disgrace to the Presbyterian Church, as the correspondent above quoted declares. The tabernacle is much the largest church edifice in Salt Lake City, and if the Mormons are willing to loan it for a Presbyterian service we see no reason why the offer should not be accepted. Even if the Mormons should turn out and help fill the huge building we do not think the Presbyterian Church would be disgraced or the gospel sold.

Their advocates of spelling reform are circulating a petition to Congress, asking for an improved spelling which will drop silent letters in certain cases in the printing done for the government. The Philological Society has recommended the following changes:

1. Drop ut at the end of words like dialogue, catalogue, where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell, demagog, epilog, synagog, etc.
2. Drop final t in such words as definite, infinite, favorite, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell, opposite, prettier, hypocrit, requisite, etc.
3. Drop final t in words like quartette, coquette, cigarette, etc. Thus spell, quartet, roset, capulet, velvet, gazet, etc.
4. Drop final m in words like program. Thus spell, program, oriflam, gram, etc.
5. Change ph to f in words like phonom, telegraph, phobias, etc. Thus spell, alphabet, paragraph, phobias, etc.
6. Substitute e for the diphthongs e and o when they have the sound of e and o. Thus spell, collan, esthetic, diarrhea, subpena, esofagus, sthenium, etc.

There were an original question reason and common sense would seem to dictate that these changes should be made, but it is hard to get away from tradition and usage. Besides, if the work of spelling reform is once begun it will be hard to find a stopping place. The English language is so full of orthographical anomalies that by the time they are all corrected we should have almost a new language.

A CURIOUS story comes from Georgia relative to an ann of money which is about to be added to the colored school fund in that State. More than sixty years ago, in 1828, one Archibald McLearn, a Scotchman by birth, died in Georgia, leaving among other property, a number of slaves. Six years later his brother, James McLearn, died, and left a bequest of \$5,000 for the education of his late brother's slaves. The negroes were still slaves, and under the laws of Georgia, they could not be educated. The bequest, however, could not be diverted to any other purpose and the money was deposited in the Bank of Scotland, where it has remained ever since. A few years ago the facts came to the knowledge of the State School Commissioner of Georgia and he instituted proceedings to get possession of the money. He received the active aid of Minister Lowell and of Bret Harter, then United States consul at Glasgow, and, through their joint efforts, the managers of the Bank of Scotland were induced to recognize the claim, and the State authorities of Georgia have been notified that the money awaits their order. The original bequest of \$1,500 has increased by accumulation of interest to over \$10,000.

BREAKFAST-TABLE CHAT.

PRINCE GEORGE of Wales has an allowance of \$75,000 a year, the death of his brother having placed an extra income of \$50,000 at his disposal.

The Nicaragua government is making the most liberal offers to intending coffee-growers. It gives to a married man 340 acres and to a single man 120 acres of good coffee land.

ONE of the largest salaries received by any man in this country is drawn by Mr. C. A. Grierson, the chief of the International Navigation Company, who receives \$60,000 a year, and is compelled as an offset to reside in Philadelphia.

MR. GLADSTONE receives no end of applications for locks of his hair. To one of these requests he replied a few days ago that age has left him such a scanty amount that he would be quite bald if he were to give even a few of such locks.

The wife of W. G. Oakman, who succeeds Mr. Inman as president of the Richmond Terminal system, is a daughter of the late Roscoe Conkling. Mr. Oakman, who was only a division superintendent as the time of Mr. Inman's death, has since risen rapidly in his profession.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has been talking very frankly to the San Francisco newspaper men. He rates himself as worth from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000, and says he will spend every cent of it in more or less education. He is an agnostic, and declares he will never give a penny to a church.

LABRE GANNIER is spoken of as a kind of French Manning on a smaller scale. He has a fine appearance, resonant voice and great skill in oratory. To quote a Protestant writer, he is "the apostolic missionary of Caen." He has the cause of the poor at heart, and has been going about France for years pleading their need of Sunday rest.

MRS. HOBSON BERNETT arrived from Europe last week and went directly to Washington, and will remain there until summer. At present Mrs. Burnett is engaged in a "cute" thing, and is becoming difficult to escape that story in social life. One man, who lives in Milwaukee, locates it there; a Chicago woman had the incident

be interested somewhat, as in "Little Lord Fauntleroy," though hardly likely to be considered as bright as that fairer work by the author.

Mrs. DE BARRIOS is in the beginning of her thirties, although she is the mother of nine children. When only fourteen Mrs. De Barrios was kidnaped from her home in the Guatemala mountains and was made the wife of a French merchant. Her husband, who afterward died, leaving her a beautiful young widow with several millions of dollars in her own right.

Dr. JAMES A. SPURGEON, the revenue expert sent to the United States to inquire into the American system of inspecting port, certifies heartily that the inspection is thorough and effective. His investigations in the great pork-packing centers of the West have convinced him that it is neither possible nor advantageous for anybody to pack a single hog that has not undergone microscopic inspection.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, was walking along Irving street in Cambridge, one day, when he saw the son of Prof. Josiah Royce—a child of not over ten years old now—handling a piece of live and a stream of water. The boy, who was carrying a duck, began a remonstrance as he approached. The boy listened carefully until Mr. Lowell had finished. Then he turned the hose on the venerable poet, who took to undignified flight.

MR. JAMES A. SPURGEON, who is to carry on the ministerial duties at the London Tabernacle, is a younger brother of the late famous preacher, and has for some time been assistant pastor of the great church. He also has a church at Crofton, but for many years past most of his time has been devoted to superintending the agencies at work in connection with the tabernacle. He has the reputation, somewhat rare in a clergyman, of being a good business man.

A LITTLE church in Haleville, Cumberland county, New Jersey, composed of colored people, is going to loan to the Chicago exposition a bell that once belonged to Christopher Columbus. It was presented to Columbus by Ferdinand and Isabella, who received it as a trophy from a chapel in the Alhambra, and he in turn gave it to a company of soldiers, who carried it to Granada. These monks lost it by a band of pirates, whose vessel was in turn wrecked, the bell alone being rescued and carried to Scotland. It has since been in many years, it was given to a New Jersey sea captain, from whom it has since come into the possession of the colored church at Haleville.

The Philadelphia Ledger tells a story of Lord Lytton which, though old, hasn't been told for some time, and so, perhaps, will bear repetition: "He was seated one day at dinner next to a lady whose name was Birch, but whose family tradition says, was beautiful if not over-intelligent. Said she to his Excellency: 'Are you acquainted with any of the birds?' 'Sir,' replied the lady, 'you forget that the Birebees are relatives of mine.' 'And yet they cut me,' said the 'Excellency,' and she smiled. 'I would smile if I gave you a fellow inclined to kiss the rod than I do now.' Mrs. Birch, said to her, did not see the point, and the 'Excellency' replied: 'If her husband that his Excellency had insulted her.'

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Apotropes the Soothsayer.
 Jennie—Is there any test, by which one can ascertain the genuineness of a diamond without consulting a jeweler?
 Minnie—Cousin Bob says you can find out by shaking it, but I never thought to ask him in what.

Consequently Pessimistic.