AN ENGLISH SENSATION.

The Very Hard Case of Thomas Moran.

[Boston Herald.]

It is not often that a pauper-convict has the honor of drawing the notice of the British house of commons all to himself, and on two occasions. Yet assuredly the case of Thomas Moran merited the exceptional attention which it received. We do not remember to have come upon a more cruel and pitiable instance of the oppression of poverty by the law. On the 23d ult. Thomas Moran, a laborer, with a lunatic wife and six young children, was summoned before the magistrates of the police court in Chester, the county town of Cheshire, and the center of English squirachy. The prosecuting officer of the Chester union charged this hapless workman with having willfully neglected to contribute toward the support of four of his children, who were living in the workhouse at the expense of the ratepayers. All six of the children were taken into the institution on Sept. 11. Two came out after a short stay, and since then have been maintained in whole or in part, by the father. The others remained at the poor-house, and Moran engaged to pay the authorities $2.50 per week toward their sustenance. But up to the date of the summons, though often asked and always promising, he had only handed in $3.50 all told. The prosecutor haled him before the magistrates for punishment under the provisions of the vagrancy act. The official story ran straight enough, as beseemed a page from the short and simple annals of the poorhouse.

The defendant's plea, however, put a very different face upon the delinquency. Moran proved his inability to pay by the records of the court that was trying him. He showed that on Sept. 18, just one week after the admission of his children to the Union, the police found him lying in the market square of Chester bleeding from a ruptured blood vessel, and carried him to the hospital on a stretcher. After his discharge from the infirmary he was for some time so weak that he could not obtain employment. Then a hard frost set in, and threw him out of all chance of work for three months. Thus, of the eight months since September, he had passed nearly six in compulsory idleness. Naturally he had fallen in debt for his own subsistence and the partial support of the two children who were living with him. He owed $20 for food and clothing. He could earn no more than $5 per week, even when employed every day, and, on the average, his earnings did not exceed $4 or $4.50 per week. The police describe him as a steady man, always ready to turn his hand to any work that presented itself. Moran closed his pathetic defense by an impressive declaration: "I asked the guardians for a few weeks, that I might get a cottage and a few sticks together and take my children home. But they said I must come into the workhouse myself. As the time was just coming on when I could get work, I did not want to do that. I'll pay regularly in the future any sum which the magistrates think I can afford." The reader will probable conclude that the worthy magistrates wiped their eyes and drew out their portemonnaies. Well, not exactly. They put their heads together, and, after that momentary formation of a pavement, the Mayor of Chester announced their decision and sentenced Thomas Moron to imprisonment for one month, with hard labor. The wretched laborer burst into tears, and cried out: "For God's sake gentlemen, give me a chance. I was never in prison in my life. If you send me there, I shall lose my work. Give me time, and I'll pay it all!" The second appeal, like the first, fell upon deat ears, and he was removed below, still pleading for mercy.

But the reporters of the press were neither deaf nor unmoved. The Chester *Chronicle* published a full account of the trial. The correspondents of the London journals informed the metropolitan press of the disgraceful decision of the Cheshire magistrates. Public opinion took fire at a flash. In Chester a subscription list was opened under the auspices of the reverend precenter of the cathedral, and a considerable sum was pledged for the relief of the imprisoned man. In London the magisterial outrage was brought up in parliament by Dr. Kenealy, on the 25th ult., the member for Stoke, and Col. Beresford, the member for Southwark; and on the 28th ult. Mr. Cross, the secretary of state for the home department, although he refused to admit that the decision of the police court was indefensible, stated that he "had thought it right that the man should not undergo the full sentence of inprisonment passed upon him." Thus, through the agony of the press, Thomas Moran, ere this, has received both release and relief. As for the magistrates, we are glad to say that at the last advices they were feeling very uncomfortable over the expressions of indignation which poured in upon them from all quarters.

THE REFUNDING CERTIFICATES.

Children are Crying for Them, and the Printing Presses Can't Move Fast Enough to Supply the Demand.

[Washington Special.]

Hardly five minutes during business hours pass that the treasurer does not receive a telegram from some depository asking for a further shipment of 4 per cent. certificates. There are now between five hundred and six hundred designated depositories. This list is being added to at the rate of twenty-five or thirty a day. It is impossible to keep them all supplied. The deliveries of certificates to the treasurer from the bureau of engraving and printing to-day were $1,040,000, the largest yet. This would have done very well ten days ago, when there were not so many depositories, but it will go round in very small quantities. It might be said that the country, especially the banks are crying for certificates. The total amount that will be sold is $40,000,000. Already $14,000,000 have been taken. If the bureau of engraving and printing delivers $40,000,000 by the 1st of June, as it expects to, the associated banks, who are to have all left after the 17th of June, will not get a dollar's worth. No plan can be pursued by which the bankers, brokers and speculators can be kept at a distance. They continue to buy the certificates in large quantities wherever they are sold. They keep up their plan of hiring men to buy for them. There are three known instances where the operatives have come to grief. One is in Baltimore, and two in this city. In Baltimore, yesterday, a broker who had hired a colored man to buy certificates for him saw his employe get the $100 and vanish. Yesterday, at the treasury, a speculator had four men at work. They went the rounds two or three times. Then two or three decamped with $100 each. The speculator was watching the two others who did not decamp. At the postoffice, yesterday, a colored man left suddenly with $100 belonging to a Colorado broker who has entered into the business of buying certificates here. The allotment for sale at the treasury was $50,000. It was all disposed of before 12 o'clock. There was a perfect jam and crush during the three hours that the sale was progressing, the line of buyers extending half way out to the avenue. It is suspected that some of the banks are going farther than merely hiring men to buy for them. A number of cross-road postmasters have bonded for large amounts of certificates. They are in all localities where they would not be likely to sell $1,000 of them in six months. It is thought banks or other speculators have induced them to become depositories for the purpose of buying them out as fast as they can receive shipments.

GOING TO GIVE THE WEST A SHOW

Dick Thompson About to Send a Naval Vessel to Cruise Along the Mississippi.

[Washington Special to St. Louis Republican.]

This afternoon your correspondent had a conversation with the secretary of the navy to the following effect:

Correspondent—"Is it true that you are to send a naval ship to St. Louis?"

"Secretary—"Yes, but I was trying to keep the fact a secret. I wanted to run a vessel up the Mississippi river before any one knew what was the matter, just to astonish the natives."

Here the secretary enjoyed one of his hearty laughs.

"Yes," he continued, "about the first of next week the Wachusett will leave the Charlestown, Mass., navy-yard. I have been thinking for some time of a way to give our Western boys a chance to get in the navy. They are too poor to come East, and I am going to send a ship after them. The Wachusett is of that size and make of vessels that are called third class. She is about 190 feet long, with a displacement of 1,650 feet, and has a tonnage of 695. She is an old vessel rebuilt, and this will be her first cruise since rebuilding. She is a screw propeller, three-masted, square-rigged ship, and is the same one with which Collins cut out the Florida during the war. She was designed for six guns, but her broadsides will be taken off to give her room; but she will carry two eleven-pound guns, which I think will be sufficient for all war purposes on this trip."

Here the secretary again recurred to the novelty of the expedition. He said that he could not well get a man-of-war around to his home at Terre Haute, so he was going to do the next best thing, and send one to St. Louis.

"Those Democrats out there in Missouri," he continued, "will swear I am using the navy for election purposes. We will have them fire a gun or two to let them know we mean business. No, but in dead earnest now, our Western boys ought to have a show and I think this is the best thing I have done since I have been in the cabinet. I wrote to John Simpson, of the Vandalia road, asking him to get for me some facts as to the navigation from some boatmen. The Wachusett draws sixteen feet. A gentleman who was twenty-five years on the river says I can get the ship up to St. Louis at this time of the year very easily. She will go there and when the river lowers she will be taken down to Cairo, where she can run all the year round. This vessel is not adapted for a regular training ship. She will serve as a recruiting ship, and when we get her full of boys she will run down the river and unload on to a regular training ship. The officers are now being selected for her."

The secretary believes in making the navy popular in the West, whence it gets nearly half its officers, a fact not generally known. It is not unlikely some of these Western officers will be placed in command of the Wachusett. It takes about 110 men to man her, but on this trip she will hardly have over 90 men, besides the servants, so as to make more room for the boys to be picked up along the river. Under the law, boys must be between the ages of 16 and 18 to enter the navy. They are put through a regular course of training calculated to adapt them for not only the ordinary duty of a sailor, but the higher duties of seamanship. The Plymouth, a larger vessel, a year ago made the trip to Vicksburg and Natchez. This is the furthest up the river that a three-masted ship has ever been able to go.

A CALL ON TALMAGE.

Probability that He Will Join the Congregational Church.

A correspondent called upon the Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage in his home at No. 1 South Oxford street, Brooklyn, to inquire relative to his alleged determination to leave the Presbyterian denomination on account of the pursuit of him by some of the leading ministers of the Brooklyn Presbytery.

Talmage came in roaring with laughter. He had received from all hands the expression that his speech just before he broke loose from the Presbytery after his acquital was one of the best things he had delivered, although it had made his antagonistic brethren almost wilt with rage. "The Lord's field is big enough for us all to work in without striking hoe-handles," he said, "and if I am cultivating my field and tending to it in my own way, I don't see why anybody should leave the work in his field and come over to interfere with me just because I don't work as he does. Three or four ships might as well quarrel at sea because there is not water enough. The church only touches the rim of the great mass of people who need help."

"Have you concluded to leave the Presbyterian denomination?" asked the correspondent.

"There has been nothing settled about that yet. My ties to that denomination were never very strong, and they are weaker now than ever before, but it seems to me that the one-man power which has so long controlled the Brooklyn Presbytery has been broken. I had to meet a solid body against me when I went to that ecclesiastical court. The Lord has led me through. I was raised up so that I am not much of a sectarian. I can't tell what church I will choose. The largest part of my congregation are of New England rearing, and are inclined to the Congregational form of government. When the smoke of the conflict clears away we will talk the matter over. Of course, it will not be pleasant for us to remain in the Brooklyn presbytery."

The venerable Dr. Spear, who was Talmage's counsel in the trial, and is one of the editors of the *Independent*, has fallen quite in love with Talmage, although when he did not know him so well he confesses that he called him a buffoon, and spoke strongly against him. Dr. Spear went to hear him preach on Sunday, and said that if it was necessary to testify his respect and admiration for Dr. Talmage any further, he would change his church relations and become a member of the Tabernacle.

Not in the Bible.

[Detroit Free Press.]

A resident on Brush street who had a horse to sell was directed to a citizen of Ninth avenue who wanted to buy, and after a little talk the two made a trade. The Ninth avenue man gave an old horse and $28 in cash for the other, and everything seemed perfectly satisfactory. In a day or two, however, the Brush street man returned and said:

"You and I made a trade the other day?"

"Yes," replied the other.

"You are a member of the church, I understand?"

"I am."

"Well, that horse you traded with me has a spavin, and you never said a word about it. What sort of trickery is this for a Christian man to engage in?"

The other entered the house without a word, but after a minute reappeared with the family bible, and said:

"Mr. Blank, here is my guide and consolation. I have read this book through and through, and if you will take it and find where a Christian man is required to point out spavins in a horse trade, I'll buy you a better horse than you ever owned."

The Brush street man went home with new thoughts in his head, and he has said no more about the exchange.

A New "Excelsior."

It was about half-past 7 o'clock in the evening when a youth created something of a sensation by passing through an Alpine village, in a driving snow-storm, carrying a banner, upon which was inscribed the strange device, "Excelsior." His brow was sad, but his eye (according to all accounts he had but one eye) flashed like a falchion from its sheath, while he pushed on, looking neither to the right nor the left, but not forgetting to call loudly, "Excelsior!" At first the villagers thought he had been drinking, and a policeman was started on his track; but, finding there was nothing disorderly in the boy's conduct, he was permitted to go his way unmolested. In happy homes the young fellow saw the light of household fires gleam warm and cheery, although coal was away up out of all reason, as it always is in cold weather; above, the spectral glaciers shone, and from his lips escaped a sigh that was heard all over town, to this effect, "Excelsior!"

"Try not the pass," the old man said; "I've lived here for ninety years; I'm the oldest inhabitant, an' I never saw the signs more favorable for a big storm. Besides, the roarin' torrent is wide and deep, an' if you get across you can't get back for a week, unless you go around by Rabbit-hash an' cross on the bridge. Take my advice, young feller, an' stop over night; you'll find the Washington right over the way, the cheapest house in town. Shall I take your baggage?" The boy turned up another street, indicating that he intended to climb the hill on the west side of the town.

"Oh, stay," the maiden said, "and rest your weary head upon this breast." And right here the conduct of the young man became inexplicable. He did not accept the maiden's invitation, although she was comely, about 16 years of age, and evidently belonged to the best society. He simply said that he was in a hurry, and would probably stop the next time he was in town. The maiden passed into the house, slammed the door, and remarked to her mother that if she ever offered to assist a man in distress again she hoped she might be blessed. The young lady was quite indignant, indeed.

"Beware the pine-tree's withered branch! beware the —"

"Oh, give us a rest!" screamed the boy, who was getting out of patience, and the well-meaning peasant retired without completing the warning, which was no doubt something about "the awful avalanche."

At break of day, as heavenward the pious monks of St. Bernard uttered the oft-repeated prayer, they were startled, nay, shocked, to hear a young man shouting "Excelsior," and cursing the country black and blue for being the roughest, coldest and most-forbidding of any he had seen since he left New Jersey. "How far is it to the next village?" he asked; "for I have something here that will knock the socks off of anything in this country." With that he passed on, still grasping in his hand of ice that banner with the strange device, while in the other he carried a little tin box labeled "Excelsior Corn and Bunion Eradicator."—*Oil City Derrick.*

How He Eluded the Highwaymen.

At a small Edinburgh theater where the tastes of the patrons were kept gratified by the production of specimens of the rip-roaring, blood-and-thunder drama, a play was one night brought out with some considerable scenic effect. A certain scene represented the flight of a nobleman from a band of robbers. According to the story, his Lordship concealed himself in a hollow log. At the appointed time the nobleman rushed from the wings into the forest and crawled into the log. The stage was very small, and the fugitive very tall. He could not accommodate his proportions to the log, and the result was his feet protruded nearly to the footlights. Amid a great deal of banging and shouting the highwaymen came running on, the leader stumbling over the exposed feet and falling to the ground. Rising instantly, not at all disconcerted, and duly oblivious as to the actual cause of his fall, at which the audience was in a roar, he exclaimed, in his most tragic style, with his eyes rolling and pistol in air: "By 'evings, 'e as heluded hus!" A storm of applause greeted the line.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Curious Things.

A pair of ladies' shoes that aren't "a mile too big."

A newspaper communication that was not "struck off in a hurry."

A clown's joke less than forty years old.

A country residence for sale that isn't "within five minutes' walk of the railroad station."

A newspaper that isn't "the best advertising medium in the county."

An impartial base-ball umpire.

An infant that isn't "just the sweetest baby in the world."

Anything advertised three weeks before Christmas that isn't "suitable for holiday presents."

A paragraphist that never made a pun on Turkey, in connection with Thanksgiving day.

A didn't-know-it-was-loaded gun that never killed anybody.

A political stump-speaker who never abused the opposition candidates.

A young lady who can pass a plate-glass window on the Sabbath without turning her head.—*Norristown Herald.*

THE surgeon-in-chief sent for one of his junior assistants, who, hastening to his superior's assistance, found him just sitting down to a superb roast fowl and a delicious *pate*. "Ah, Smith," cries the chief, "have you breakfasted yet?" "No, doctor," replies the assistant, radiantly. "Then go and get your breakfast, and come back; you will have lots of time."

POPULAR SCIENCE.

A SMALL quantity of salicylic acid is found to stop germination altogether. Phenic acid only suspends it.

DR. HALLEY says that the total evaporation caused by the rays of the sun on the surface of the Mediterranean sea amounts to 58,800,000,000 tons of water in one summer day.

FROM the debris of the coal mines France makes annually 700,000 tons of excellent fuel, and Belgium 500,000 tons. In England, where there is not so much waste in coal mining, and where coal is much cheaper, the manufacture of artificial fuel is only about 200,000 tons a year. Germany makes fuel, for the most part, from peat and similar earths.

PORK differs from beef and mutton, not in flavor only, but in the larger proportion of fat to lean flesh. This is due both to the nature of the animal, in its tendency to store up fat, and to the habit of so feeding and treating it that this tendency may be fully developed. The pig stores up in its body three times more of its food than the ox, and by so much is it more cheaply and quickly grown and fattened.

M. GOPPERT says that no matter how carefully writing has been obliterated, enough traces of the iron oxide of the ink will remain to appear in a photograph of the paper written upon. The light reflected from virgin paper acts differently on photographic materials from that reflected from parts which have formerly been covered with ink, even though the eye may not be able to detect any difference. M. Goppert thinks that the genuineness of a document may always be tested by photography.

VEGETABLE physiologists used to think that leaves absorbed dew and rain until a Frenchman named Duchartre, in 1857, reversed this view, and his opinion was adopted by botanists. Practical gardeners, however, have never been converted, and they freely syringe their plants under certain conditions. And now the Rev. Mr. Denslow, in England, has, after many experiments, concluded that dew is not absorbed at night, but that absorption takes place at sunrise, when transpiration is begun, and the water on the leaves is sucked in.

IN his "True Law of Population," Doubleday points out that "Populations are universally found thin in pastoral countries where the food is chiefly animal; denser where it is mixed; still denser where vegetable but plenteous; densest of all where it is vegetable and scarce." The natural inference is that in the plethoric state productiveness is arrested, while in the deplethoric it is reinvigorated. In the poorest times Irish families subsisting on potatoes and meal averaged seven, against five in England and three in France. In rice-eating countries the population is dense.

A PARIS physician has discovered a soporific which he declares to be innocuous, and which has the virtue of being limitable in the duration of its effects at one's pleasure. The time during which a given dose will operate can be calculated to within ten minutes of the actual figure. Thus, a traveler with two hours and a half's journey before him might feel perfectly safe in taking a two hours' dose, or even a two hours and twenty minutes', though the last might be a little dangerous. The inventor, who, throughout his experiments, had railway traveling in his mind, arranges the doses in "miles," or rather kilometres. Of course, its composition is a secret. It has already been tried by a number of the physician's patients, who allowed themselves to be experimented on. They pronounce it agreeable to the taste, having something of the flavor of chartreuse.

The Gallant Militia.

The Militia Convention has completed its work at New York, and voted to hold the next meeting at St. Louis, Sept. 30. It adopted a resolution that the militia should be divided into two classes, the active to constitute a national or State guard and the inactive an enrolled reserve; that every able-bodied male citizen in the various States between 18 and 45, except as exempted by law, should compose such militia; that the first class should be first called out when necessary, but that the second class should not go into service except during war, riot or insurrection; that each State should be entitled to receive aid for 700 uniformed commissioned officers and men for each Congressional representative. This draft of a law was also adopted: "That the President of the United States shall appoint a board of 7 officers—2 of the United States army and 5 from the active militia of the Eastern, Middle, Southern and Pacific States—for the purpose of selecting a suitable pattern of campaign dress and equipment for the active militia. The Chairman of the delegates reported the number of uniformed troops in the respective States, as follows: New York, 19,300; Pennsylvania, 10,000; Ohio, 8,600; Iowa, 5,500; Massachusetts, 4,400; South Carolina, 4,000; New Jersey, 3,300; North Carolina, 2,750; Connecticut, 2,500; Missouri, 2,300; Louisiana, 2,400; Michigan, 2,000; Rhode Island, 2,000; California, 2,000; Virginia, 1,260; Vermont, 750.

Murdered in 1878.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* thus summarizes the murders and homicides in the United States in 1878:

Persons poisoned	25
Women killed by abortion	12
Persons killed by thieves	57
Killed in political quarrels	13
Fathers kill sons	18
Insane murderers	13
Prostitutes killed	17
Mothers kill their children	37
Bagnio fatal quarrels	10
Men killed in common quarrels	258
Bar-room and drunken quarrels	74
Wives killed	68
Child murders	9
Accidental killing	69
Justifiable	28
Killings on account of dogs	4
Killings on account of wives	64
Card and gambling quarrels	15
Feuds	56
Parricides	8
Fatal quarrels about property	55
Mobs kill	29
Wives kill husbands	11
Officers kill persons	53
Officers killed	36
Prostitutes kill men	2
Fraternal fatal quarrels	11
Seduced women kill seducers	6
Thieves shot	27
Negroes killed	112
Negroes kill	102
Raped and killed	10
Persons killed on account of language or opprobrious epithets used	

THE HOME DOCTOR.

FOR BOILS.—The skin of a boiled egg is the most efficacious remedy that can be applied to a boil. Peel it carefully, wet and apply it to the part affected. It will draw off the matter and relieve the soreness in a few hours. Simple but efficacious.

ONIONS.—An exchange says it is not generally known that raw onions sliced and set about in saucers or plates absorb contagion in the air, and to eat plentifully of them before breathing infected air is a safeguard against it. They are powerful but harmless in their antiseptic properties. So simple a remedy being within everybody's reach, it would be well if it could become generally known.

COVERING FOR THE SICK.—The *Housekeeper's Companion* advises never to use anything but light blankets as bed-covering for the sick. The heavy-cotton impervious counterpane is bad, for the very reason that it keeps in the emanations from the sick person, while the blanket allows them to pass through. Weak patients are invariably distressed by a great weight of bed-clothes, which often prevents their getting any sound sleep whatever.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Chicago *Journal* says the following cure for a felon has been tested by wide experience among his friends, and is worthy of circulation: Roast or bake thoroughly a large onion; mix the soft inner pulp with two heaping table-spoonfuls of table salt, and apply the mixture to the affected part as a poultice, keeping the parts well covered. Make fresh applications at least twice a day, morning and evening, and a cure will follow in at least a week.

SULPHUR FOR DIPHTHERIA.—Mr. John S. Wiles, a surgeon of Thorncombe, Dorset, writes to the London *Times* that, after two cases of malignant diphtheria out of some nine or ten he had been called to attend had proved fatal, the mother of a sick child showed him an extract from an American paper concerning a practitioner who used sulphur to cure the disease. Accordingly he used milk of sulphur for infants and flowers of sulphur for older children and adults, brought to a creamy consistence with glycerine; dose, a teaspoonful or more, according to age, three or four times a day, swallowed slowly, and application of the same to the nostrils with a sponge. Result, he did not lose a case there or elsewhere, and he succeeded in saving life when the affection had almost blocked the throat.

BULLETS MEETING IN MID-AIR.

The Story of a Large Bullet and a Small One, as Told by an Old Soldier.

[From an English paper.]

It appears, however, from *Forest and Stream*, that the New York shot manufacturers, Messrs. Tatham Bros., occasionally found bullets wedded together in the scrap-lead brought from the battle fields of the American civil war, and Lieut. Col. John A. McLaughlin recently forwarded two bullets to the *Scientific American* so impacted in each other, which were also picked up on the same fields. He says that at the time of the retreat of the Federal Gen. N. P. Banks, after his defeat in attempting to capture Shreveport, La., in the summer of 1864, he (Lieut. Col. McLaughlin) was in command of one of the retreating regiments. A portion of his regiment was thrown forward on the flank of the main body, in skirmishing order. These two bullets, he says, were impacted in the air between his skirmishers and the skirmishers of the enemy and fell like a spent ball near the head of the column of the main body. A Drum Major, seeing the missile fall near him, picked it up, thinking it to be a spent bullet, but found the two bullets welded together. He afterward presented it to Lieut. Col. McLaughlin. One of the bullets belonged to a larger-bore rifle than the other, and the larger one is stated to have belonged to the Confederates, as it was of a caliber then known to be much used by them, and somewhat larger in bore than the rifles used by the Northerners. It is supposed that the larger bullet had traveled a shorter distance than the smaller at the instant of impact, and possibly had been propelled by a superior quality or quantity of powder. This, together with its weight, is thought to have had the effect of driving the smaller bullet back beyond the line from which it was fired.

What It Costs to Die.

When a corpse becomes a corpse, the first thing to do is to notify the undertaker. He comes at once, and takes complete control of the whole matter, and does not surrender his full charge until he receipts the bill. Of course, he furnishes everything, and the bill of an undertaker for a first-class funeral will read about as follows:

Coffin	$300	Carriages (20)	$100
Shroud	40	Grave	20
Crape	5	Incidentals	10
Gloves	2		
Flowers	50	Total	$537
Hearse	10		

A cheaper funeral than this, of course, is procurable, and the majority of funerals are cheaper than this. A very respectable pageant may be gotten up for from $50 to $75, and a poor man can have the satisfaction, on that amount of outlay, to go to his grave followed by three or four carriages, in addition to those of his friends which may be in attendance.

These are only medium funerals, and if we should put the figures at the high notch it would not be less than $1,000 more, or about $1,500 to die stylishly, and about $600 to fade away in an ordinarily respectable, quiet manner. This is in painful contrast with the burial of the friendless poor, who have a grave in Potter's field—a plain wood box and a horse and wagon to convey them to the shore of the dark river.—*Cincinnati Times.*

One Advantage.

There is one good thing about this electric light. When a man's collar-button gets away from him and starts off on an exploring expedition across the room, he can look under the bureau for it without resorting to the dangerous and unsatisfactory expedient of laying a glass kerosene lamp down on its side on the floor. That is, if the impression we have received is correct, that the electric light makes all light and no shadow.—*Exchange.*

How to Act in Case of Fire.

First, do not be alarmed on account of smoke. Frequently there is a great deal of smoke before the fire has made much progress. Remember that one can pass through smoke by keeping his head near the floor, or by enveloping it in a wet woolen cloth. On entering a room to fight down a fire single-handed, keep the door closed behind if possible. A pail of water and a tin dipper, in the hands of a resolute person, can be made to work a miracle at the beginning. If the fire has progressed too far to admit of this course, and it is necessary to depend on outside help, then see to it that every door and window is closed. By so doing where there is a fire-engine in the neighborhood, it will often be possible to confine the fire to one room. Every person who stops at a hotel should take special pains before retiring to note the location of the stairways, so that in case of an alarm he can find his way out, even though the halls are filled with smoke. Never leave a room where there is an alarm of fire without first securing a wet towel, or, if possible, a wet sponge or piece of woollen cloth, through which to breathe. If escape by the stairs is cut off, seek an outside window and stay there till help comes.

Ambidextrous.

There is something more significant than most persons think in the "left" hand. We give all our nice work to one hand, and thus train it to strength, celerity and skill, and leave the other to feebleness and awkwardness. Indeed, children are generally trained to one-handedness almost from infancy. If both hands were trained alike, they would be alike. Even the toes can be trained to the dexterity of the fingers. In musical education both hands are equally trained for the keys of the piano and organ.

Now in many employments much would be gained by being able to use either hand with equal facility, and often both at the same time. Brown-Sequard, one of the most eminent of modern writers on physiology, urges that children be educated on both sides of the body equally; and Agassiz advised his pupils to train both sides alike, notwithstanding they had been brought up to the special use of one side. Most adults would find it difficult to change the old habit, but with the young it would only be a matter of care and attention for a comparatively short time.

Russia as an Oil-Producing Country.

Russia promises to become a formidable rival to the United States in the European oil market. Oil wells near the Caspian sea are reported to equal in their yield the greatest wells in Pennsylvania. In the oil-producing region in Russia, a large number of wells have been sunk, and a great many more are under way. Reports from there say that there is as much excitement over the discoveries as existed in Pennsylvania when the oil fever was at its height. The wells are drilled and pumped in the most primitive manner, and a large amount of oil is wasted through the want of proper means of saving it. At present the only way of getting the oil to market is by way of the Volga and the Russian canals to St. Petersburg. If a railroad should be constructed from the Caspian to the Black sea, a distance of 400 miles, Russia, it is thought, could supply the European market at such rates as to drive out the American trade.—*San Francisco Commercial.*

The Hax Hof Hengland.

In 1840 an English gentleman visited this country and brought back an American ax and helve, which, from the peculiar curve of the handle and shape of the head, proved infinitely superior—the expert, Mr. Gladstone, gave similar testimony not long ago—to any thing of English manufacture. His son still has the ax, which is serviceable, though, of course, the handle has been renewed several times, always on the model of the old one. When it was first used, carpenters and woodmen came from a distance of ten miles to inspect it, and many times the owner was offered ten times its price for it—indeed, one enthusiast tried to steal it. Nevertheless, so tenacious is habit, to this day that venerable ax is the only one of its kind in the neighborhood.

TELL us not in mournful number that this life is but a dream, when as girl that weighs 100 gets outside a quart of cream—and then wants more.—*Elmira Gazette.* Life is real, life is earnest, and the girls know what they need, but on cream they are the durndest set to show their grit and greed. No encore.—*New York News.* Let us, then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; but never let us go a wooing girls that want a second plate. How's that?—*Newsboy.* Lives of such girls all remind us, as we float adown the stream, that the boys who come behind us will have to pay for lots of cream. N-e-x-t.—*Yonkers Gazette.* Be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in the strife; never with her mother battle; save the ice-cream for your wife. Proceed!

BATTLEFORD, where the mercury indicated the polar temperature of 60 deg. below zero, is the capital of the British northwest territory, and is located not far from the confluence of the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan river. Many immigrants have been settling in the region around Battleford who may possibly be somewhat discouraged by the arctic weather.

A HARD-MONEY enthusiast says he never met a woman in his life that seemed to know anything about coins. He never numismatics.

TYPHOID fever is very prevalent among swine in England, and the malady has just been declared by an order in council to be a disease within the meaning of the Contagious Diseases act. It is commonly known among farmers as the soldiers' disease, or the red disease.

IN Siberia you can buy beef for 2 cents a pound, a goose for 12 cents, a chicken for 4 cents, a horse for $5, and 361 pounds of corn for 6 cents.