

ENGLISH HISTORY.

BY CLEM AUDDON.

Eight round centuries have rolled away since the coronation of William the Conqueror. During the years which have intervened since then, thirty-five "crown-heads" have sat upon the throne of England, making an average duration of about twenty-three. There were eight Henrys, six Edwards, four Georges, four Williams, three Richards, two Jameses, two Charleses, one Stephen, one John, one Mary, one Elizabeth, one Anne, one Victoria. Of this number, fourteen repose beneath the spires of Westminster and the remainder lie buried in thirteen different places. The longest reign was that of George III., who ruled fifty-nine years three months and five days; the shortest was that of Edward V., two months and thirteen days. George III. reached the advanced age of 82; Edward V. was murdered in his 13th year. Ten reached the age of 60. The Georges were a long-lived family; George I. lived to be 67; George II., 77; George III., 82.

While it has with reason been maintained that "the desire for gain is the strongest impulse of the human heart," it is at the same time true that the love of money is fostered only for the power which it brings to its possessor. So, it may be argued that "the love of fame is the universal passion of mankind;" and the gratification of this desire, when uncontrolled by reason and conscience, will lead to the braving of any danger or the commission of any crime.

How like a mountain devil in the heart! Rules the unbridled ambition! Let it once But play the monarch, and its haughty brow Glows with a beauty that bewilders thought And maddens peace forever.

No more striking illustration of this fact is shown than in the history of England's monarchs. Whatever there may be to illuminate the past, England can point with anything but pride to the character and conduct of her sovereigns.

King John, who murdered Prince Arthur in order that his title might be the more secure, led so wicked and licentious a life that historians have seen fit to mention the fact: "He left two legitimate sons, Henry and Richard." Says one writer: "It is hard to say whether his conduct to his father, his brother, his nephew or his subjects was most culpable. Cowardice, levity, licentiousness, ingratitude, treachery, tyranny and cruelty characterize his reign."

The pretended usurpation of the crown by Henry VI. inaugurated that fatal quarrel between the "House of York" and the "House of Lancaster," which lasted for thirty years, and which is computed to have cost the lives of eighty Princes of the blood and almost entirely annihilated the ancient nobility of England.

Richard III., in order to pave his way to the throne, assisted in the assassination of King Henry VI. and his only son, became accessory to the murder of his own brother, Duke of Clarence, and, after having been intrusted with the regency of the kingdom, secretly destroyed his two young nephews, Edward, Prince of Wales, and Richard, Duke of York.

Being proclaimed King, he married Anne, widow of the murdered Prince, and afterward, finding her an obstacle to his ambition, he is accredited with having "carried her off by poison."

The reign of Henry VIII., which began under the most favorable auspices and bid fair to be one of wisdom and justice, degenerated into the blackest tyranny.

Mourning the throne at the age of 15, with a reputation for talents and learning rare in one so young, he squandered the immense treasures of his predecessor, and turned his attention from the pursuits of literature to the aggrandizement of his own glory and the exercise of an arbitrary and unjust power. Having become enamored of Anne Boleyn, maid of honor to the Queen, he discarded his wife, Catherine of Aragon, and secretly married Anne. But the unfortunate Anne, having accepted the offers of royalty upon such terms, was at the mercy of a man who had no scruples regarding either her welfare or his own honor. Her life was in his hands, and she was secure only so long as his fickle mind was not tempted by new conquests. His affections, or rather passions, were soon transferred to Jane Seymour, daughter of Sir John Seymour; and, in order that he might gratify his new flame, Henry had Anne Boleyn beheaded, and the day after celebrated his nuptials with Jane. Jane Seymour lived but a short time, and immediately after her death the King formed an alliance with Anne of Cleves, daughter of the Duke of Cleves. This was brought about through the instrumentality of one Cromwell, and proving distasteful to Henry he divorced Anne, and upon the most trivial pretext brought Cromwell to the block for having involved him in so much trouble.

Having evinced a new passion for Catherine Howard, niece to the Duke of Norfolk, and finding no obstacle in his way, he raised Catherine to his throne. But the turbulent stream was only quiet for the passing moment. Subsequent developments brought to light the fact that the Queen was false to her marriage vow, and, as the price of faithfulness, she was required to expiate her guilt upon the block.

A few years later Henry married Catherine Parr, widow of Lord Latimer, "a woman of virtue, and somewhat inclined to the reformed doctrines." Being in secret sympathy with "the new religion," and having at one time incurred the King's displeasure, it was by the merest accident, combined with a woman's artifice, that she managed to escape the scaffold for having presumed

to entertain religious views contrary to those of her husband; and, though the Queen herself escaped, yet Anne Asene, "a young lady of merit, as well as beauty," through whose secrecy and fidelity the Queen's life was preserved, in company with three others, were burned at the stake.

He at one time suppressed 376 monasteries, and confiscated their entire revenue, amounting to £32,000 (\$160,000) a year.

Cardinal Wolsey, Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Sir Thomas Moore, Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Surrey, and Cromwell, are a few of the number who rendered Henry the greatest of service, and were afterward beheaded at his instigation. He, at another time, through intrigue, induced the monks and abbots to resign their houses, and the revenue of these establishments, amounting to £161,000 (\$805,000), became the plunder of the King. One historian says of him: "A catalogue of this Prince's vices would comprise many of the worst qualities incidental to human nature." Which is, to say the least, "drawing it mildly."

The character of Henry VIII. is the more detestable from the fact that his atrocities were, in many instances, both inhuman and unnecessary. Assuming the reins of government at a time when there was a popular clamor for a change in the administration, his accession to the throne met with universal satisfaction. Inheriting an undisputed title, he was not, like John or Richard III., compelled to rule with an iron hand in order to maintain an authority which no one questioned.

Queen Mary, coming immediately after her father was well calculated to conduct a reign of terror, which had been inaugurated by Henry VIII. She removed the mask from her real character by the villainous execution of Lady Jane Gray and her husband Lord Guildford Dudley, for having been persuaded to accept the offer of a throne that was willed to her by a legal heir.

Thus perished at the early age of 18 one of the most talented and amiable martyrs that ever became the victim of political intrigue or treachery. "In the space of three years it is computed that 277 persons were brought to the stake. Among those who suffered by fire were five Bishops, twenty-one clergymen, eight lay-gentlemen, eighty-four tradesmen, 100 husbandmen, servants and laborers, fifty-five women, and four children."

It is difficult to discern any redeeming qualities in the character of Mary, while her treachery and cruelty were only equalled by her unbounded devotion to the principles of papacy.

—Chicago Ledger.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

CRULLENS.—Two cupfuls sugar, one cupful butter, three eggs, three cupfuls flour, one cupful sweet milk, a small teaspoonful cream of tartar in the flour, a small half-teaspoonful cinnamon and nutmeg; mix smoothly, roll and cut in any design, and boil in hot lard.

VANILLA SAUCE FOR BOILED PUDDING.—Scald one-half pint of rich milk or cream; then add the yolks of two well-beaten eggs and one-half pint of sugar; stir until it is as thick as boiled custard. When cool flavor with vanilla. Just before serving add the whites of the eggs, beaten stiff, and gently stir in the sauce.

NEW ENGLAND MUFFINS.—Beat two eggs well with a table-spoonful of butter; add a pint of milk. Take three teacups of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and half a teaspoonful of salt; sift into the milk and eggs, beat quickly, and drop into muffin-rings or gem-pans, leaving room for them to rise; bake immediately in a quick oven.

CUP CAKE.—Sift three cups of flour with three small teaspoonfuls of baking powder in a large dish; break three eggs into a pan—beat well; then add one and a half cups of granulated sugar, half a cup of soft butter; stir all till light and creamy; then add one cupful of milk; stir a few times; now gradually add the flour; beat well; flavor with lemon or almond; this will make two cakes; throw a cupful of stoned raisins into one.

PINEAPPLE TART.—Take one pineapple, pare and carefully remove all specks; measure and take the same quantity in sugar and half the quantity in butter, one cup of cream, five eggs; stir butter and sugar to a cream and add it to the pineapple, previously grated; then add the eggs, well beaten, and the cream. Line your pie-plates with a good crust, and bake to a light brown in a moderate oven.

CURRENT JELLY.—Pick and wash your currants; mash them with a wooden spoon in the preserving-kettle, and let them simmer for ten minutes after they have come to a boil; then strain through a flannel bag, and add to every pint of juice a pound of lump sugar; boil rapidly for ten or fifteen minutes, skimming the sirup; put in glasses while hot, but do not close them till the jelly is perfectly cold.

BROWN BREAD.—Three and a half cups of graham flour; two cups of Indian meal; two-thirds of a cup of sirup; one pint of milk; one pint of water, or, if you have not plenty of milk, use all water; one teaspoonful of saleratus and one teaspoonful of salt. Steam four hours. It is excellent. I always make it to eat with baked beans. My husband thinks it is better than the famous Boston brown bread.—Mrs. P. C. C., in Rural New Yorker.

"BARNUM passes poets into his show at half price," says an exchange. Barnum is a humanitarian. They never come out again, and Barnum has the credit of owning the fattest lions in the business.

CURRENT ITEMS.

God delights in true, earnest thinkers. — Dwight. The total number of postoffices in the United States is 42,677.

The population of Scotland is considerably behind that of the London postal district.

Let he who regrets the loss of time make proper use of that which is to come in the future.

Why does rain diminish the size of the statue in the park? Because it becomes a statuette (statue wet).

A LOCOMOTIVE "went wild" and dashed through the depot, at Nashville, at the rate of fifty miles an hour.

Two little Illinois girls raised chickens and sold eggs enough to purchase a monument for their grandmother's grave.

WHAT is the difference between a good soldier and a fashionable lady? One faces the powder, and the other powders the face.

It is not pleasant to see everyone around you a bigger person than yourself. Yet this is a slight that many do see who are not dwarfs in stature.

The Massachusetts Historical Society has given \$100 toward the erection of a monument in London over the unmarked grave of Sir Walter Raleigh.

The register of Malham Tarn Church, England, lately restored, contains the record of a marriage solemnized by Oliver Cromwell as a magistrate.

Our European sovereigns Victoria is the only widow; Alexander, of Russia, the only widower; William, of Germany, the oldest; and Alfonso, of Spain, the youngest.

The census enumerators have ascertained that for the last ten years the mortality in New Orleans has been twelve in 1,000 per annum, an exceedingly low death-rate.

The New York Star says that, in view of some recent fatalities, physicians when vaccinating children should instruct the parents or nurses how best to prevent irritation of the punctured limb, and thus guard against a possible development of erysipelas.

PATRICK KEARNEY, the Oregon pioneer, who in 1862 threw into the sea a bag of gold, the hard earnings of many years, to rescue a little girl from drowning, is now at the Skagit mines, still hard at work. He says that he does not regret the loss of the gold.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, of Lafayette, Ind., is 130 years of age. He says he took the first boat through the Lockport (N. Y.) locks; that he went to sea at 30 years of age, and followed that vocation fifty years, and for forty-three years ran on the Erie canal. He never wore spectacles, never carried a cane, and never was sick.

PAUL KUNKEL, who died a natural death at York, Pa., a few days ago, came dangerously near being hanged in 1854. A stranger begged a lodging at his house, and departed in the morning, leaving behind an umbrella and a pair of slippers. These were identified as belonging to a woman who had been robbed and murdered. Kunkel was indicted as the murderer, and his guilt was a foregone conclusion with most persons, nobody believing his story of the lodger. But in the nick of time the real criminal was discovered.

SIAMSE twins have been born in a small fishing village in North Devon, England. The wife of a thatcher named Gaydon recently gave birth to two children incorporated or grown together from the breasts down to the abdomen. They are perfect in every other respect, having a head each, and two hands, two legs, and it is believed, a separate existence.

The census shows that several Massachusetts cities beside Boston have made rapid gains in population. Lowell, which in 1870 had 41,000, now has about 60,000. Lawrence has advanced in ten years from 29,921 to 38,500, and Lynn from 28,233 to nearly 40,000. Boston shows an increase of 130,000. The increase in the cities and manufacturing towns has not been made at the expense of the country towns and villages, which seem to hold their own.

The following list gives the names and ages of the Presidents at the time of their entering office:

Table listing Presidents and their ages at the time of entering office. Includes Washington (57), Adams (61), Jefferson (58), Madison (55), Monroe (58), J. Q. Adams (59), Jackson (62), Van Buren (56), Harrison (68), Polk (49), Taylor (65), Pierce (49), Buchanan (65), Lincoln (52), Grant (47), Hayes (54).

This list does not include John Tyler, Millard Fillmore and Andrew Johnson, the three "accidencies," and the only three Vice Presidents who have become President since the formation of the Government.

The Boston and New York boats have long had a war of cutting fares. From Boston to New York is \$1, while from Boston to Newport—not half way—the fare is \$1.60. Once upon a time Mr. Ward McAllister, a Harvard law student, had occasion to go to Newport. Now, strange as it may appear, this particular law student had not a superfluous cent of money, although it is a well-known fact that law students generally are very fishy. So Mr. McAllister bought a ticket to New York, intending quietly and unobtrusively to get off at Newport. But here the mighty arm of the railroad company was stretched out and the McAllister was not allowed to get off until he had paid 60 cents extra. This was why he sued. The court has just decided that a man must pay for riding on the cars, but that he is not obliged to pay for getting off where he pleases. So the economical McAllister not only got his ride to Newport for \$1, but he has been awarded \$75 and costs for doing so. The costs amount to \$125.

WHAT CAN IT BE?

He never spoke of love, but oft his eyes With quiet, earnest meanings rest on me, With a chance meeting seems a glad surprise— O! if it be not love, what can it be? Sometimes he silent sits, when, if I speak, The quick response comes low and thrillingly; He reads my thought instinctive on my cheek— O! if it be not love, what can it be? Searching my soul, he claims it joy to find Tastes, feelings, hopes, all with his own agree, And asks what more heart unto heart can bind— O! if it be not love, what can it be? Last eve when Maud swept by with queenly air, The jewels flashing on her forehead free, "Sweetest," he said, "the wild rose in your hair— O! if it be not love, what can it be? As by a shining gale, at twilight dim, I sit and wait until he turns the key; When will he open? If 'tis not love with him, O! my sick heart, 'tis life or death with me!"

BIOGRAPHY.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The subject of this sketch was the most distinguished poet of her sex that England has produced. She was the daughter of Mr. Barrett, an English country gentleman. From a very early age, almost before the years of childhood had passed, she exhibited a remarkable preference for the arts and especially that of the poetic. Before she was 15 years of age she had written poems upon which were very visible the stamp of true genius, and were eminently worthy of preservation. Whatever she wrote was sacred to all eyes, save those of her father, whom she is pleased to call, "My public and my critic," in the first collected edition of her poems.

Her physical constitution was naturally frail and delicate, and yet nature seemed to have supplemented her deficiency in this respect by bestowing upon her an unusually sensitive mental and spiritual organization. One who knew her intimately, Miss Mitford, has described her as a "slight, delicate, figure, with a shower of dark curls falling on each side of a most expressive face; large, tender eyes, fringed with dark eye-lashes, and a smile like a sun-beam."

All descriptions of Miss Barrett concur in this, that she possessed a grace and a delicacy which defied a representation by the artist.

Her studies were early directed by the poets of antiquity, and under the guidance of her blind tutor, Boyd, whose name she always warmly cherished, she mastered the rich treasures of Aeschylus. The sublime Grecian possessed for her a charm which was only equalled by the fascination held over her wondering spirit by Shakespeare.

Her knowledge of Greek literature was most profound, and it was said that she was intimately familiar with all the Attic writers in tragedy and comedy.

Yet her correspondence with eminent contemporaries of both sexes proves her to have been thoroughly acquainted with English literature in its progress from Chaucer downward.

The circumstances of her life and her delicate health conspired to make her seek even more than she might have done the communion of the great departed in arts and letters. It was her misfortune, in 1857, to further have her existence endangered by the bursting of a blood-vessel in the lungs. It was by the exercise of extreme care her life was for the time preserved, but the incident was succeeded by a long period of weakness and suffering.

Some two years after this severe shock to her system, and ere she had recovered entirely from its effects, she was again called to experience the keenest anguish on witnessing the death of her favorite brother, who was most unfortunately drowned at Torquay. As might have been expected from one of her clinging and affectionate disposition, a long period of danger followed this great catastrophe, and when, at length, she was able to be removed to her father's house, it was only to become an invalid, with a prospect of a life-long illness.

This period of seclusion lasted for seven long years, and this time was employed by Miss Barrett in most eagerly devouring all the books which could be brought within her reach. At this time she was sedulously cultivating the art that was afterward to insure for her immortality. In 1846, when she was in her 37th year, she married Mr. Browning, and it was said the union was singularly felicitous.

Mr. Browning went with his wife to Italy, and for some years the sunny skies of the South were instrumental in giving to Mrs. Browning that health which had so long forsaken her in her native land. The villa of the Brownings, in Florence, was the resort of many noble spirits, eminent either for patriotism or in the arts.

A peculiar tenderness breathes through her writings, whether of the humblest or the most ambitious description. Almost her first work bore upon it the traces of her Greek studies, being an excellent translation of "Prometheus." Another very early production, "The Drama of Exile," is unquestionably marked by great sublimity of thought, though the conception may lack the mighty outlines of the majestic Milton. Eloquent and sustained, the poem made manifest a pure and original writer. The spirituality of her "Vision of Poets" is said to be a very noticeable quality, and the strain somewhat loftier than that of "The Two Voices," though they are apparently cast in the same mold.

Wandering among the minor poems of Mrs. Browning, such as "The Roman of Margret," "Isabel's Child," "Bertha in the Lane," and the "Swan's Nest Among the Reeds," is like standing in the forest alone, with the wailing wind and the flying rain as the only assurance of an existence sublimer than our own. Her poetry bears the impress of tender and profound sympathy with human suffering in every form, and she

has thereby reached the profoundest depths of the human heart.

She was born in London in the year 1809, and died at Florence in the year 1861. It may be said of her, she still lives in the works she has left with us, a shining light. N. W.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

MEMPHIS puts in a census return of 34,000, and Nashville 43,500.

SENATOR EDMUNDS and JOAQUIN MILLER are members of a fishing party that recently invaded Canada.

THE value of the diamonds exported from the Cape last year amounted to over £3,500,000 sterling.

Adhesiveness is a great element of success. Genius has glue on his feet, and will take hold of a marble slab.—S. J. Wilson, D. D.

UNDER the provisions of the new California constitution the assessment roll of San Francisco for this year is increased \$50,000,000.

SOME men were born for great things, Some men were born for small; Some—it is not recorded Why they were born at all; And some (the worst of the lot) Should have been born, but they were not.

It is suspected that the 3-cent piece was invented to deceive the deacons. It can be slipped into the contribution box as ostentatiously as a dime.—Boston Transcript.

THE cry comes from Florida that the census enumerators have been guilty of false enumeration and other glaring frauds. The charge is not confined to either party.

ATTEMPTS to introduce the district-telegraph system in London have not yet met with success; probably in about twenty years they will, just as the street railroads did.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL scholar to the teacher—"Did you say that the hairs of my head were all numbered?" Teacher—"Yes, my dear." Sunday-school scholar—"Well, then (pulling out a hair and presenting it), what's the number of that one?"

A GERMAN citizen of Hoboken was informed that a lady had called to see him in his absence. "A lady," he mused aloud, "a lady." Upon an accurate description he suddenly brightened up and added: "Oh, dot vas no lady; dot vas my wife."

PAPA (to Mabel, who has been to a juvenile party)—"Did any one pay you any attentions, Mab?" Mabel—"I don't know." PAPA—"I mean did any one talk with you, or dance with you?" Mabel—"Well, there was a little boy who made faces at me."

The saddest, the most pathetic utterances, are the utterances of men who with the farthest and subtlest reach of thought grasp only negatives. A man can no more live on negatives than he can live on stones; a negative creed is the creed of death.—Prof. Brown.

THE Brassey family in England must, next to Mr. Vanderbilt, be almost the largest holders of securities, other than real estate, in the world. Their father left them over \$30,000,000 in personal property, and they do not own more than \$75,000 a year real estate. This looks as though they foresaw the depreciation that is possibly impending.

MESSRS. CASSELL, PETER, GALFAN & Co., the proprietors of The Magazine of Art, have arranged for an essay on the subject of "Queen Victoria and Art," to appear in the June issue. The value of the number will be enhanced by copies of sketches by both the Queen and the late Prince Consort, permission having been given for their reproduction.

A MEETING of prominent citizens of Camden, S. C., was held recently to organize an anti-dueling association. After several speeches had been made officers were elected, and resolutions denouncing the barbarous code, and agreeing to prosecute all persons who send, carry or accept challenges, were adopted. The movement thus inaugurated gives evidence of a change in public sentiment in that section which is to be commended.

THE influx of sea-water to London has begun. The Great Eastern railway brought on the first day thirteen tanks at sixpence the three gallons. When traffic is at full flow, as it is pretty sure to be about this time, there is expected to be daily imported a considerable portion of the silver sea in which Britain is set. This novel merchandise is considered safe to develop an enormous trade. A vast salt-water bath is to be erected in the center of London.

A STRANGE story of second sight is told at Salvia, Ky. The Rev. Mr. Vaughn, Judge Durham, and several respectable Colonels vouch for its truth. It is to the effect that Mrs. Foeter was ill and part of the time delirious. When out of her head, one night, she said two negroes were setting fire to a certain building; that she plainly saw them pouring coal oil on some buildings, and preparing to light it. No heed was paid to her ravings. A few minutes afterward the watchers in the room heard an alarm of fire. The flames had been discovered at the very time and place of which Mrs. Foeter had spoken.

STEPHEN ALLEN was so ill at Jacksonport, Miss., that he could hardly stir in bed, when he was told that Henry Melville was on his way there to kill him. Melville was known to be desperate and vindictive, and there was good reason to fear that he would carry out his threat. Allen told his young son to stand at the door and endeavor to dissuade Melville from his purpose. The boy begged the assassin not to murder a defenseless invalid, but he forced his way in, drew a knife, seized the sick man by the throat, and raised his weapon to strike. Just then Allen feebly protruded a pistol from under the bed-clothes and shot his assailant dead.

LORD BRACONFIELD has learned an important lesson. Probably he is too old to profit by it, but others may. He refused to allow an official reporter to take down his Bridgewater House speech, and, as he spoke extemporaneously, incorrect versions of it have found their way into the press, and he is powerless in his desire to correct them.

TREASON of Sitting Bull was recently induced to sit for his photograph at Fort Buford. The young buck was very suspicious that the camera was some kind of an infernal machine, but finally consented on condition that he might sit with his revolver in his hand, and at the first sign of danger shoot the artist. The artist decided to take the chances, and a fine cabinet picture was the result.

TURKISH officers do not enjoy the consideration at home enjoyed by their profession elsewhere in Europe. A Turkish Captain is regarded by his senior officers with but little more respect than a private, and is sometimes struck by Colonel or General in a moment of anger. Even a Major is barely secure from such treatment. The pay of an officer under the rank of General is very inadequate and irregularly received. The families of officers in garrisoned towns are generally with them, and the latter are often sorely pushed to feed their charges. They may be seen daily with baskets, returning from market, seedy and partially buttonless.

TREZZE was a wild scene at a Jersey church the other Sunday. A sensational preacher had given out that he would talk on "The Lessons of the Narragansett slaughter." There was a large congregation, whom the preacher did his best to delight with horrors. He got along swimmingly until he cried "There was never a greater set of cowards than the officers and crew of the Narragansett proved themselves to be on that terrible occasion." This sentiment was too much for one of the audience, who rose in his seat and roared: "That is a lie, and you are a liar." It was the Captain of the Narragansett who thus spoke, and for that freedom of speech he was carried off to a police station, while the reckless person prayed for him.

MAJ. STROTHER and Capt. Brown, of Richmond, Va., had a quarrel over a business matter. The "Majah" sent the Captain a challenge, which was accepted. On arriving at the dueling ground, Strother's courage seemed to have failed him, for he then claimed that he had no pistol. His second went after a gun, and finally objected to an exchange of shots, for the reason that Brown's weapon was larger than Strother's. Brown charged Strother with a back-down. Words resulted in blows, and after a time principals and seconds were engaged in a rough-and-tumble fight. During the mill a revolver dropped from Strother's pocket, and the very natural opinion in the Old Dominion now is that he is a coward.

MORE emigrants will land in this country during the current year than in any former year in our history, and the management of the business has been reduced almost to a science. The railroad and steamship lines have now so systematized emigration that a German wishing to come to America can, before leaving home, buy his land and be delivered at the nearest railroad station to it without delay or hazard, the deeds for the land and the passenger certificates being alike issued by special agents of the roads owning Government land grants. In the case of the Northern Pacific road, the body of wheat lands, in Dakota alone, granted to the road exceeds in area the whole of Great Britain and Ireland now cultivated. And these fertile wheat lands of the far West are now the destination of German, Swede, Norwegian, Dane, Scotch and English. A very large population is moving on to the wheat lands of Northern Minnesota and the Canadian Province of Manitoba. This is the famous valley of the Red river of the North. It is easily reached by rail from St. Paul or Duluth. But the lands here are largely held by speculators; great tracts of 50,000 to 70,000 acres having been bought up at less than 60 cents an acre. The Government lands, adjacent to railroad lands, and subject to entry, are held at \$2.50 an acre, or twice the price of ordinary Government land. But this is cheap compared with land anywhere else under the sun. A single crop will pay the cost of land, labor, and all other expenses. What can an emigrant ask more? When the absolute ownership of his home here only costs the emigrant a sum equal to a single year's rent in Europe, is it any wonder steamships are overcrowded?

MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR. Of the late Bishop Ames the following anecdote is related: While presiding over a certain conference in the West, a member began a tirade against the universities and education, thanking God that he had never been corrupted by a contact with a college. After proceeding thus for a few minutes, the Bishop interrupted with the question, "Do I understand that the brother thanks God for his ignorance?" "Well, yes," was the answer, "you can put it that way if you want to." "Well, all I have to say," said the Bishop in his sweet, musical tones, "all I have to say is that the brother has a great deal to thank God for!"

NEAR-SIGHTED. "Are you near-sighted, Mary?" asked Brother Tom, without apparent provocation. "What in the world do you ask that for, Tom?" "O, nothing," said Tom, as he got out of the reach of her parrot tip; "only I see you've got on your specks." The poor girl! The March winds and April sun had done their work.

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

The Berlin Congress of 1878, under the influence of Beaconsfield, it was said, almost ignored the claims of Greece and left open the whole frontier question. The supplementary Conference of Berlin, called at the instance of England, has extended the Greek frontier on a line suggested as a compromise by the representative of France. This gives to Greece nearly all of Thessaly and the greater part of Epirus, or all that part south of Janina and the line of the Kalamis river. The ceded territory includes Janina, the capital of Epirus, a city of about 40,000 inhabitants.

The decision as to the Greek boundary question was unanimous, and will doubtless be approved by the great powers. The question is an old one, and has been before Europe ever since 1854. In 1853 the Greeks, under the encouragement of Russia, made an attempt to occupy Thessaly and Epirus, but were forced out by England and France. When the Turco-Russian war broke out Greece made preparations to occupy the coveted provinces, but was restrained by England, with the promise that she would gain more by maintaining a peaceful attitude. Under this promise Greece looked for definite action on the part of England at the Berlin Congress, but was disappointed, as were the Liberals in England. Greece continued the agitation, however, until England called the supplementary conference, which has decided in her favor.

Turkey protests, and it is said, will oppose the cession of territory, but as against united Europe this opposition will serve only to open up new questions to be decided against her.

OLD FOLK. SALLIE GRAY, a colored woman of Meridian, Miss., is 117. MARY HAY, a colored woman of Hampton, S. C., 100 years old, was burned to death the other day. LONDON, Ontario, has two centenarians—Mrs. Christy McLean, aged 108, and Mrs. Diana Calvers, aged 101. Mrs. MARY SIMMS lived in Quebec when the city was besieged by the American troops, and was born there 107 years ago. NEAR RUTLAND, Vt., lives Mrs. Moses LESLER, who does all her own household work, although she has lived a hundred years. ALTHOUGH Mrs. Sally Wilder, of Pittsfield, Ohio, is in her 101st year, she attended a Sunday-school strawberry festival recently. READING, Pa., boasts of its centenarian in the person of Mrs. Merritt, who is now 107 years of age. She has been a widow for fifty years. Mrs. JOHN WELLSTRAED, of Far Rockaway, is still active, in good health, and attends to her domestic duties daily, although she is 101 years of age. "AUNT DOLLY" is a Shakeress who is living in the United Society of Believers at Lebanon, N. Y., and has attained the remarkable age of 114 years. Mrs. CATHERINE ROBERTS, of North Alfred, Me., aged 91, is a brilliant member of society, and enjoys excellent health.

Why Quacks Succeed. Any explanation of the success of quackery would be insufficient if it did not include the fact expressed in the following lines:

You'll never convince a fool, himself is so; His taste is shallow, and his nose is close, And still the only pleasure's the deceit.

An invalid, whose disease had been pronounced incurable, trusted his case to a quack. It was his last resort. The quack promised that if he would submit to his treatment for six months he would make a well man of him; but no change must be looked for until the expiration of that period. A friend, seeing that the invalid was paying out money and receiving no benefit, expostulated.

"For mercy's sake!" exclaimed the invalid, "destroy not the hopes which that man holds out to me; upon whom I live, without them I die."

The man's statement was the quack's assurance, half suspected though they were. A medical writer tells this story of a celebrated English quack.

He was once visited by an old acquaintance from the country, who addressed him as "Zam."

"I'm glad to see thee'st got on so nicely, Zam," said the rustic, "but how is't, man? Thee know'st thee never had no more brains nor a pumpkin."

"Taking him to a window, the quack bade him count the passers-by. 'How many have passed?' asked the quack, after a few minutes.

"Ninty, or mayhap a hundred." "And how many wise men do you suppose were among this number?" "Mayhap one."

"Well, all the rest are mine."

Not Much of a Loss. Young men should, when conversing with young ladies, use expressions free from ambiguity, else the experience of a Cleveland clerk may be theirs.

A young lady went to a drug-store and had a prescription made up. "How much?" inquired the lady. "Fifty cents," said the clerk.

"But I have only 45 cents with me," replied the customer. "Can't you let me have it for that?"

"No, ma'am," said the clerk; "but you can pay me the 5 cents when you come in again."

"But suppose I were to die?" said the lady, jocularly.