

The Australian commonwealth has a bright future. It has started on the right lines and, predicts the San Francisco Chronicle, will march forward steadily to freedom and greatness.

No past year has in one respect been a lucky one for Yale. The university has received donations aggregating more than \$1,100,000, which naturally furnished subject for a congratulatory paragraph in President Dwight's annual report.

The great university being erected by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford in memory of their son at Palo Alto, Cal., is arranged to admit men and women on an equal footing. One hundred dollars a year covers the sum of maintenance for each pupil, although everything is as complete in equipment about the institution as modern invention can design.

Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer announces from the platform that there are to-day 49,000 girls in the colleges of America. This gives color, admits the Boston Transcript, to Dr. Seelye's declaration that before the end of the present century the American women will be better educated than the men.

The inventor of the Gatling gun dreams of putting an end to wars by making battles fatal to all who take part in them. Possibly there may be some more effective way of stopping a fight than killing off the combatants, suggests the San Francisco Chronicle, but it has not occurred to any one to publish it if he thought of it.

It is now suggested that the triple alliance furnishes the reason why the English and German press seem so fond of "Sunny Italy." Germany, alleges the Washington Star, wants to retain King Humbert as an ally, and the English see their cue in following the German lead. Diplomacy and official journalism are as straight as a worm fence.

State roads would cost the farmers only about six per cent. of the total cost and the cities about ninety-four per cent. So the New York Independent quotes Senator Richardson, who introduced a bill in the Legislature providing that the State of New York shall construct roads in each county in the State to the extent of sixty miles in each county or about 4000 miles in the State. These would be the main roads, and the connecting roads would be worked as now by the farmers who live along them.

The New York Press maintains that within a radius of fifteen miles of the City Hall on Manhattan Island the people are in effect citizens of New York, as their business and social interests go, although politically they live in different cities, counties and States. Thus the commercial metropolis of the country really has a population considerably in excess of 3,000,000, or two-thirds that of London, which is similarly a congeries of municipalities. Next to London New York and its suburbs form the largest city of the globe.

The present condition of agriculture in England is indicated by the fact that the returns for 1890 show that 4,532,225 acres are occupied and farmed by the owners, that hundreds of farms are let at rents that do not pay five per cent. upon the buildings, fences, drains, etc., and that plenty of land is let for the amount of the tithe tax alone; also that thousands of acres are unlet, with owners only too willing to take any tenant. The tithe tax is the support of the National Episcopal Church Establishment, which is levied upon the land. That this church tax alone equals the rental value of a large portion of the farm land in England is a curious fact which has a double significance.

The Washington Star says: "The financial condition of Italy, due in great part to her armament as a member of the triple alliance, is very nearly as bad as it can be. The failure of a number of banks and mercantile houses and the uneasy state of business in the peninsula, together with the slowness with which the Government is able to contract the last loan, show that she is in no condition to insist upon unreasonable demands. The moderate tone of the Rudini ministry, therefore, in the negotiations with this Republic is not a matter of surprise. Italy is that great power of Europe which is most uncertain of its footing among the six. Others have age, diplomatic experience, military and naval organization that is never to be effected in a short time and that economic grip which is the mainstay of every important nation. In the present untowardness in European politics Italy will see that it behooves her to be calm and add no unnecessary complication to those in which she is already involved. There has been since the days of Cavour and the early period of Italian unity something of a decline in statesmanship, but it is safe to say that the genius of a remarkable people will enable them to avoid the breakers ahead."

THE STORY OF LIFE.

Only the same old story, told in a different strain; Sometimes a smile of gladness, and then a stab of pain; Sometimes a flash of sunlight, again the drifting rain.

Sometimes it seems to borrow from the crimson rose its hue; Sometimes black with thunder, then changed to a brilliant hue; Sometimes as false as Satan, sometimes as Heaven true.

Only the same old story! But oh, how the changes ring!

Prophet and priest and peasant, soldier and scholar and king;

Sometimes the warmest hand-clasp leaves in the palm a sting.

Sometimes in the hush of even, sometimes in the mid-day strife,

Sometimes with dove-like calmness, sometimes with passions rife,

We dream it, write it, live it, this weird, wild story of life.

—E. O. Boswell, in Boston Transcript.

A HEAD OF DEATH!

BY SIDNEY LUSKA.

This is a story that Dr. Clarke Foster told us after dinner: I had had a busy morning—some twenty patients, one on the heels of another—and now that the last had departed, and noon was long past, I began to think hungrily of my luncheon. But just as I got up to leave my consulting room a visiting card upon which was engraved the name "Mr. Alexander Carathwaite," "There can be but one Alexander Carathwaite," thought I, "and he is Alexander Carathwaite, the famous iron king and millionaire."

"Show him in," I said to my servant. The person who presently seated himself opposite me struck me as a singularly healthy-looking invalid—tall, robust, with a clear, ruddy skin and a bright gray eye. However, "What is the trouble?" I asked. "Well," he answered, "it's a queer case; but, to put it briefly, I'm afraid the trouble's here," and he tapped his forehead.

"Let me hear your symptoms." "It's a long story," said he, "and I must begin it at the beginning." Therewith he plunged his hand into an interior pocket of his coat and brought forth a small tissue paper parcel. "This," he explained, as he unwound the paper, "is rather a valuable antique. It came as a present to my wife the other day from the Earl of Salchester, whom we entertained when he was in America a year or so ago. As you see, it's a mirror. The glass is believed to be a specimen of medieval Venetian work, and the frame is unquestionably a magnificent bit of Cinquecento."

The whole affair was no bigger than a lady's hand. The glass, unusually thick and fluted round the edge, was veined and spotted and bleared over with a fine bluish mist, like the eye of an aged man. The frame was indeed magnificent. Oval in shape, and apparently of pure gold—so soft, at any rate, that you could have indented it with your finger-nail—it was sculptured with no fewer than five exquisite nude female figures, disporting themselves amid a profusion of delicately chiseled fruits and leaves. Three of these figures reclined upon tiny golden couches, in each of which was set a lustrous ruby; the other two rode upon conventionalized lions and each lion held a pearl between his teeth. At the base a pair of dolphins twisted their tails together and formed the handle. Upon a scroll at the handle end were incised the date, 1551, and the initials, E. D.

"It is a beautiful piece of work," said I, laying it aside, "and I envy you the possession of it. But what has it got to do with your visit here?" "Everything," he returned. "It's this way: He passed for a moment, then he went on: 'Last night, after dinner, I picked that little mirror up and I said jokingly to my wife, 'This, my dear, is a magical glass. If I hold it over my waistcoat, thus, and you look in you will see straight through into my heart and behold the face of the woman I love.' So Mrs. Carathwaite laughed and looked, and of course she saw her own face. Then to carry on the farce I said, 'Now let me see whether it will show me the face of the man you love.' And, always laughing, I held it over her breast and looked in."

"Yes!" I prompted, as he paused again. "Well, Doctor, instead of my own face what I saw reflected in that glass was a grinning death's head—a skull. I saw it just as plainly as I see you now. I looked at it steadily, without moving, for, I should think, three minutes. It never varied. A human skull in absolute detail—eyes, nose, teeth, even the very seams between the bones, perfectly distinct. I'm not a superstitious man, but I confess the sight gave me the goose-flesh. If I were superstitious I don't know what I might think. I'm not a drinking man either, or else I should believe it was a touch of delirium tremens. As it is, I am at an utter loss to account for it in any way except on the theory that it's the beginning of some mental disease." He spoke nervously, and looked at me anxiously when he had done. "Humph! You say you saw it steadily for two or three minutes?" I inquired.

"Yes." "Then did it disappear?" "It did not disappear till I moved. As soon as I moved the death's head disappeared, and I saw the reflection of my own face."

"Have you ever had any similar experience before? Ever fancied that you saw an object just before you that in reality had no existence?" "Never in my life."

"Is your digestive apparatus in good shape?" "In such perfect shape that I'm never conscious of possessing such a thing."

"And your general health?" "Superb." "Let me feel your pulse." His pulse was firm, regular and proper in time. "Show me your tongue." His tongue was pink and clean. "Open your eyes wide and look towards the light." His eyes were steady in their gaze, the pupils contracted readily, and the lid dropped spontaneously upon my approaching my finger.

THE COST OF A MENAGERIE.

where but in the direction he wants to go. So he is easily captured, and only brings about \$250 if he is of the red variety, or \$75 if he is a rat kangaroo. Kangaroos live for many years in captivity, and reproduce frequently. A good female will bring forth two litters of two each a year, and raise the young. The stock keeps on increasing so that we have to keep selling off continually.

"How about bears?" "Oh, bears," said Mr. Bailey, "are as good stock as can be had. They are all extremely hardy and long lived. They are easily kept and not subject to disease. The genuine original grizzly, I am sorry to say, is getting exceedingly scarce. There is probably not a single one east of California, and I only know of one in California. I tried very hard to get that fellow, but the owner simply wouldn't sell at any price. I offered him \$1000 cash down. You see any number of grizzlies in menageries and shows of course. We've got a very fine one on down stairs. Most people think they are the original North American grizzlies, but they are not. They are of the 'silver-tipped' variety, which are still plentiful enough if you know where to go for them, and are worth about \$250 each for extra fine specimens. Cinnamon bears are harder to get than silver-tipped grizzlies, and if light colored are worth \$300 each. Of course, the brown bear, though nearly extinct in the East, is common enough yet, and inexpensive. George Conklin bought three several years ago for \$5 apiece."

Mr. Bailey says that it requires a net outfit of \$15,000 a year to keep the Bar-num menagerie up to the mark. Of this loss about \$10,000 is occasioned by the death of animals and \$5000 by deterioration in the value of stock through age and sickness. The menagerie sells animals each year to the average amount of \$3000. The animals sold are the increase through propagation and those which have become shabby and spiritless through age. These worn-out animals are purchased by small traveling showmen, to whom they are sold at inconsiderable prices.

Florida is now raising young alligators for the tourist market. In Japan the most expensive form of cremation only costs \$7. England dates the American Revolution as commenced July 14, 1774. A four-winged duck was hatched a short time ago at Bar Harbor, Me. To Chinamen is attributed the saying that all the sustenance the human system requires is rice, vinegar and oil. A remarkably large polar bear, with bright pink fur, has been captured in Siberia, and will be sent as a present to the Czar. On the second day of the week the old Saxons worshipped the moon, calling it "Moonday." We drop one "o" and call it Monday. About the only farm work that cannot now successfully be done by machinery is husking corn. It is still done about the same old way. The receipts of a street railroad in New York City would fill each day in the year two bushel baskets. Most of the money is in five and ten-cent pieces. The famous house in Kensington Gore, London, in which Guizot, Cavour, Kinglake, Grote, Macaulay and Thackeray successively lived, is to be pulled down. Phenicia was at the pinnacle of power between the years 2000 and 750 B. C., and, in fact, its people were the instructors and civilizers of the whole western world. The North China News says the Chinese write most insulting remarks about foreigners on the backs of notes circulated by foreign bankers which come into their possession. A pike was recently taken from the Avon by an angler who was plumbng the water with a pocket knife. The knife had got wedged at an angle in the pike's mouth. A Leavenworth (Kan.) domestic has deposited \$200 for her funeral expenses, has her last robes already made, has purchased a site for her grave, and planned what kind of a coffin she will have. The largest dynamite factory in this country is in New Jersey. The greatest danger of explosions is in the spring, when the extreme changes of weather affect the stuff. Dynamite sells for twenty cents a pound. The Paris street extending from Neuilly to St. Denis is lined with tumble-down tenements that are said to shelter more vice and iniquity than can be found in any other spot in the world. The houses throng with criminals. The street is known as the "Route de la Revolte."

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HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Idea loaded with words are slow to go off.—Washington Star. Wise medical men do not treat somnambulism as a pillow case.—Boston Courier. A jail-bird has no wings at all, but he gets there just the same.—Drake's Magazine. Luck is a good thing to depend upon if you have no desire to succeed.—Somerville Journal. Why is a defeated candidate like the earth? Because he is flattened at the polls.—Texas Siftings. Judge—"Single or married? (Prisoner sighs deeply.) Oh, yes, I see. Married."—Flying Blade. Emin Pasha has sent word from Zanzibar that he is about to go to Ujiji, a place famous for its jays.—Philadelphia Ledger. It is a curious fact that when one is seized with a consuming passion one's appetite fails miserably.—St. Joseph News. Bismarck had a birthday and the Emperor congratulated him by telegraph on being alive.—New Orleans Picayune. There is one business industry that has some sense, and it even has had times—the whip manufacture.—Lucell Courier. If slader did not hurt its victims there would be no particular pleasure in it for the slader.—New Orleans Picayune. Two Milwaukee dentists have dissolved after a partnership of twenty-three years. They could not pull together any longer.—Statesman. First Farmer—"I suppose you heard about the cyclone over here?" Second Farmer—"Yes, we got wind of it."—Washington Post. Reporter—"What shall I head this bargain-counter story?" Editor—"Call it 'An Hour in Woman's Paradise.'"—New York Recorder. The man who "feels himself to be different from other men" shouldn't always brag about it. Dime-museum freaks are in the same fix.—Puck. If you have anything to give, give it to the "hail fellow, well met." If you have anything to lend, lend it to somebody else.—Dallas News. He's afraid he won't offend so long as he confines himself to cursing, he'll pretend to read between the lines.—Judge. Mistress—"What would you do, Bridget, if you could play the piano as well as I can?" Bridget—"Sure, I'd go on learnin' until I could play it decently."—Munsey's Weekly. "Why, Janet! What in the world is the matter with Fido?" "He's got a severe cold, dear. I think I must have left his muzzle off too suddenly, you know."—London Judy. "Do you mean by this," said he, "that you wish me to cease calling here?" "Not at all," said she. "Papa and mamma will always be glad to see you."—Harper's Bazar. Babies are so slow in learning to talk because they have to devote so much of their time and energy in trying to understand what in the world it is their mothers say.—Somerville Journal. Son Jack, when young and wild of whim, I could not put a check on him; Now, older grown, he is more meek, And begs me for a cheque a week.—Judge. "Your brother, the dentist, is very slow and torturing at pulling out teeth." "I know he is, but you see he's rich and only follows the business for the pleasure it gives him."—Flying Blade. "I'd like to know why you hired a young woman for a typewriter?" demanded Mrs. Hlow of her husband. "So I could have some one to dictate to," replied the unhappy man.—Chicago News. There is no person in the world so self-conscious as the man who has just had his moustache shaved off, unless it be the woman who found out that her dress doesn't hang even.—Boston Transcript. "Which one of us do you think the handsomer?" asked one of the two pretty girls. "It is impossible for me to compare you," said the diplomatic young man. "You are both incomparable."—Indianapolis Journal. "Mamma," said a precocious youngster at the tea table the other evening, after a long and yearning gaze toward a plate of doughnuts, "Mamma, I think I could stand another one of those fried holes."—Drake's Magazine. Mrs. de Kidd—"If you want a name at once graceful, aristocratic and unique for your baby, why don't you have it copyrighted? Authors are entitled to a full right on the titles of their own works."—Munsey's Weekly. In Court: "Have you anything to say in your defense, prisoner?" "Nothing, your Honor, except that I made a mistake in the number of the house. I did not at all intend to break into that house."—Flying Blade. "I hear that Mrs. Barlow is disputing her late husband's will." "Why, I thought he left everything to her." "So he did, but she never let the old man have his own way. It's a matter of principle with her."—New York Sun. All in the Family: "You can't do any business with me," said the new settler to the village doctor. "I intend to be my own doctor." "That's all right," returned the physician. "Let me introduce you to my brother, the undertaker."—New York Recorder. The Spanish Main. Buccaneers romances seem with references to the Spanish Main, yet how many people nowadays know what or where the Spanish Main was? Main is a contraction for mainland, and was applied to the part of the north coast of South America washed by the Caribbean Sea. The name is a relic of the time when that part of the continent belonged to Spain, and was used in opposition to the West India Islands, which also then belonged to that country.—Brooklyn Outlook.

George Bancroft's estate is now valued at \$600,000.

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THE COST OF A MENAGERIE.

where but in the direction he wants to go. So he is easily captured, and only brings about \$250 if he is of the red variety, or \$75 if he is a rat kangaroo. Kangaroos live for many years in captivity, and reproduce frequently. A good female will bring forth two litters of two each a year, and raise the young. The stock keeps on increasing so that we have to keep selling off continually.

"How about bears?" "Oh, bears," said Mr. Bailey, "are as good stock as can be had. They are all extremely hardy and long lived. They are easily kept and not subject to disease. The genuine original grizzly, I am sorry to say, is getting exceedingly scarce. There is probably not a single one east of California, and I only know of one in California. I tried very hard to get that fellow, but the owner simply wouldn't sell at any price. I offered him \$1000 cash down. You see any number of grizzlies in menageries and shows of course. We've got a very fine one on down stairs. Most people think they are the original North American grizzlies, but they are not. They are of the 'silver-tipped' variety, which are still plentiful enough if you know where to go for them, and are worth about \$250 each for extra fine specimens. Cinnamon bears are harder to get than silver-tipped grizzlies, and if light colored are worth \$300 each. Of course, the brown bear, though nearly extinct in the East, is common enough yet, and inexpensive. George Conklin bought three several years ago for \$5 apiece."

Mr. Bailey says that it requires a net outfit of \$15,000 a year to keep the Bar-num menagerie up to the mark. Of this loss about \$10,000 is occasioned by the death of animals and \$5000 by deterioration in the value of stock through age and sickness. The menagerie sells animals each year to the average amount of \$3000. The animals sold are the increase through propagation and those which have become shabby and spiritless through age. These worn-out animals are purchased by small traveling showmen, to whom they are sold at inconsiderable prices.

Florida is now raising young alligators for the tourist market. In Japan the most expensive form of cremation only costs \$7. England dates the American Revolution as commenced July 14, 1774. A four-winged duck was hatched a short time ago at Bar Harbor, Me. To Chinamen is attributed the saying that all the sustenance the human system requires is rice, vinegar and oil. A remarkably large polar bear, with bright pink fur, has been captured in Siberia, and will be sent as a present to the Czar. On the second day of the week the old Saxons worshipped the moon, calling it "Moonday." We drop one "o" and call it Monday. About the only farm work that cannot now successfully be done by machinery is husking corn. It is still done about the same old way. The receipts of a street railroad in New York City would fill each day in the year two bushel baskets. Most of the money is in five and ten-cent pieces. The famous house in Kensington Gore, London, in which Guizot, Cavour, Kinglake, Grote, Macaulay and Thackeray successively lived, is to be pulled down. Phenicia was at the pinnacle of power between the years 2000 and 750 B. C., and, in fact, its people were the instructors and civilizers of the whole western world. The North China News says the Chinese write most insulting remarks about foreigners on the backs of notes circulated by foreign bankers which come into their possession. A pike was recently taken from the Avon by an angler who was plumbng the water with a pocket knife. The knife had got wedged at an angle in the pike's mouth. A Leavenworth (Kan.) domestic has deposited \$200 for her funeral expenses, has her last robes already made, has purchased a site for her grave, and planned what kind of a coffin she will have. The largest dynamite factory in this country is in New Jersey. The greatest danger of explosions is in the spring, when the extreme changes of weather affect the stuff. Dynamite sells for twenty cents a pound. The Paris street extending from Neuilly to St. Denis is lined with tumble-down tenements that are said to shelter more vice and iniquity than can be found in any other spot in the world. The houses throng with criminals. The street is known as the "Route de la Revolte."

Lord James Douglass, of London, has been arrested for not properly filling out the census blank. Germany is contemplating restrictive immigration legislation.

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