NEWS OF THE THEATRES.

The dull season came to an end last night and the playgoer who wishes to see every new thing in the town will be kept busy during the present week. At the Madison Square Theatre "The New South" will be produced to-morrow night, with Joseph H. Grismer and Phœbe Davis in the principal rôles. The play deals with the political and social life of the South of to-day, especially that part of it which relates to the post-bellum negro, who is a very different character from the *Uncle Tom* that the stage has preserved for us, but who has almost ceased to exist in the flesh. The system of convict labor is also touched upon. The piece was seen for a short time at the Broadway Theatre last winter. Another play of much greater interest to the theatregoer will serve as the opening attraction of the Star Theatre, which has been materially altered and beautified since it closed its doors. This piece is called "The Player" and is the work of Blanche Marsden. It will introduce as a star Lawrence Hanley, an actor whose merit has previously met general recognition. Mr. Hanley's supporting company includes Viola Bateman, Jennie Reiffarth, Edith Lemmert, Harriet Aubrey, and Percy Drayton. The Academy of Music will also reopen to-morrow evening, presenting "The Black Crook," which enjoyed such remarkable prosperity at this house last winter. It will be given by the same company that recently presented it in Chicago, and there will be a new transformation scene illustrating the Seven Ages of Man. Thomas O'Brien and Louise Montrose are new members of the cast. Another opening which will undoubtedly attract more attention than any of the others is that of the Garden Theatre on Wednesday night, when the organization known as Lole Fuller's American Celebrities will present a mixed programme of which the special features will be Lole Fuller's serpentine dance, given with novel and brilliant light effects. There are not as many American celebrities in the company as were announced a week ago, but Florence Thropp, the Gaiety dancer, and Mrs. Shaw, the whistler, may certainly be looked for, for they are both in the city. Besides the entertainments mentioned playgoers will find amusement at the Columbus Theatre, where "The Romany Rye" is the attraction; at Jacob's Theatre on Third avenue, where the "Diamond Breaker" is billed for the present week, and also in "The Phœnix" at the People's Theatre. Several music hall performers new to this country have been engaged for the opening bill of the Imperial Music Hall to-morrow night. Among them may be mentioned Letty Lind's sister, Cissy Lind, Lottie Collins's sister Marie, Kitty Clayton, an English character singer; the Tacchi Brothers, musical clowns; Mlle. Delmore, a French dancer who employs novel electrical light effects, and Sara Duhamel, a Parisian singer of baby songs and nursery rhymes.

"Captain Lettarblair" enters upon the second week of its second season at the Lyceum Theatre to-morrow night. It has but a fortnight more to remain there, when it will be succeeded by Paul M. Potter's "Sheridan, or the Maid of Bath." A good many young men of leisure have found amusement this summer in going on the stage of the American Theatre and mingling in the crowd that watches the race from the roof of the mimic drag. Seen in this way, the steeplechase is much more interesting and realistic than when viewed from in front. "Panjandrum" will remain but a short time longer at the Broadway Theatre, but it could be kept on forever if Mr. Hopper would repeat nightly his souvenir performance with half pints of champagne. Next week Grace Golden will join the organization. The German light opera season continues at Terrace Garden, where such popular works as "La Belle Helene," "Girofle-Girofla," "Prince Methusalem," and "Don Cæsar" are given by an excellent company. Pain's "Storming of Vicksburg" is an entertainment much enjoyed by the frequenters of Manhattan Beach. At Eldorado "King Solomon" still holds the stage and there is a balloon ascension every afternoon at 5, and in the evening a dive from an eighty-foot tower by Lizzie Vaidis. Tony Pastor announces a bill of more than ordinary interest this week. It includes Ward and Vokes, who are about the funniest and most original men on the vaudeville stage; Nellie l'Estrange, who seems to have made a hit on Fourteenth street, and Bessie Bonehill, who plays a short engagement here before beginning her tour in "Playmates." Wilfred Young remains the star of the entertainment at Proctor's, on whose stage may also be seen this week the Crane Brothers as "The Babes from Beanville;" Ottillie, as "Liberty Enlightening the World;" Gordon and Lick, William Cortwright, and other variety people. A new and abridged edition of Offenbach's "Orpheus" will be given this week at Koster & Bial's, where the Boxing Kangaroo, Dufour and Hartley, Lottie Collard, and the Borani Brothers may also be seen.

It rarely happens that an artist who has once tasted the delights of footlight fame and applause is content to retire to the obscurity of private life. The desire for a return to the stage or for publicity of some sort is too strong to be resisted, and so it comes to pass that a "grand farewell tour" or a batch of "reminiscences of a busy life" is the usual sequence to a long period of inactivity. Sometimes these reminiscences possess literary value, but more often they do not. Those of Mr. Jefferson proved a delightful surprise to everybody, and are worthy of the most careful study of every young writer, as an example of what may be done by a man, not a writer by profession, who has been absorbing the purest of English all his life. It would be interesting to compare the reminiscences of a man who had devoted his lifetime to playing parts written by to-day's playwrights with the work of Mr. Jefferson, who has literally been brought up on Sheridan, Goldsmith, and Shakespeare. Salvini's reminiscences are amusing because of their simple and childlike egotism, and in them one may read of the enthusiasm displayed thirty years ago by the citizens of some obscure Italian town, or of the banquets eaten and of the laurel crowns offered in Milan and Florence. Artists who have succeeded on the stage run a great risk when they try to write, and it is to be hoped that Mary Anderson, who is perhaps beginning to weary of the quiet of her English home, will turn a deaf ear to the advice of the busybodies who are urging her to give to the world a detailed narrative of her early professional trials and triumphs. For the past fifteen years Miss Anderson has occupied a unique niche in American theatricals, and to put into type at this late day the crude details of her early struggle, the box office receipts, the refusal of some managers "to share," the inebriety of low comedians and leading men, the sending of printing C. O. D., or the grotesque blunders of the Kankakee gas man, would be to rob the theatregoing public of what it holds as an attractive, and, to some, a sacred memory. If Miss Anderson must either act or write, it would be much better for her to return to her old calling, and those who know her here are of the opinion that she will be seen once more on the stage, and that, too, within a reasonably short time.

Georgie Parker, who has been singing in London music halls for the past six or eight months—and not for five years, as was erroneously stated—expressed herself the other day to a SUN representative in regard to the difference between English and American humor. "Are they slow over there in getting onto a joke?" she echoed. "Well, they are simply dead to the world. A song or an act has to be fairly hammered into their heads before it's a go, and then some people (some of the class usually described as great popular favorites) who have been doing their act for fifteen or twenty years. That sort of thing wouldn't go here, for in this country an artist must hustle and get good new stuff, or else drop out of the ranks. I saw what was put in the paper about the advantage of copyrighting and owning your own song, but let me tell you that if you are the only one to sing it, it takes a long time to make it known. The English music hall songs depend chiefly on their choruses, and when you get a song that the people can learn easily, so that they can join in and sing it, you've got a winner. But really it does take six or eight months to teach 'em a new chorus. The great song over there now is 'Marguerite'—not the 'Marguerite' that was all the go here three or four years ago, but an Italian song which started in Venice, I think, and has been done over to suit British taste. There are lots of those English people coming over here this season, but it's pretty hard to say which o'em will catch on. They all seem to think that this is going to be a great town for them in the next few years, and that bigger salaries will be paid here than in London. Well, the salaries are much bigger, but on the other side, you know, we can play three halls in a night, and it takes as many as that to bring you up even with what you get here on a roof garden. Of course, Chevalier is the head man of the whole fraternity, and I know he expects to come over here before long. He'll draw for a time because he's been so well advertised, and there are plenty who will go to see him because he's such a thorough artist. But really the characters he does won't be understood here. It's hard enough for even an American professional to understand his coster act and dialect, and when we can't understand a thing the public has a very small chance. Ada Reeves is coming here, too, and she'll succeed for two reasons. In the first place she is very pretty, and in the second place her songs and business have a sort of unexpected turn, which you know is very popular here, and which the English do not understand. Indeed, she is one of the few whose business is not obvious from beginning to end whom they really like. Loie Fuller made a tremendous hit over there. You'll never know that dance of hers when you see it again. The light effects are simply wonderful, and she has sticks sewed into her skirts, so as to give a wide, sweeping movement that couldn't be got in any other way. Bessie Bellwood is coming here, too, and I rather think she'll succeed, because she's a big rough-and-ready sort of a girl that you might call the Maggie Cline of London. By the way, she's very anxious to meet Maggie Cline, and she told me that the first thing she intended to do when she got to America was to call on Maggie and invite her to dinner. There's one thing they do in the music halls over there that I hope we'll never come to here. The artists think nothing of going into the public bar of the hall with their wigs and make-up on, standing up there and taking a drink. I must say it astonished me the first time I saw it. By the way, what's become of the old variety business we used to have here? It seems to me that all the good variety people have either gone out in farce comedy or else are playing in what they call vaudeville. But it's variety all the same."

The roof gardens still have the call these hot nights, and the Casino has secured for its visitors this week a novel attraction in the person of a real Italian nobleman who prefers, for family reasons, to be known simply as Sig. Borelli. The Count sings songs in several outlandish tongues, and is also said to be a skilful performer on the piano. In one respect at least he differs from Paderewski, for he plays upon the piano with his feet as well as with his hands, and it was probably for this offence that his high-born kinsmen disowned him and drove him from his ancestral home on the olive-clad slopes of Tuscany. At the American Roof Garden the Frantz family remain the strongest feature of the programme. The somersaults and the other acrobatic acts performed by these remarkably limber and graceful men and women are a source of continual and increasing wonder to the regular frequenters of the place. Georgie Parker is another strong card there, and will remain during the coming week. Conroy and Fox, a pair of well-known Irish fun makers, will begin an engagement at this house to-morrow night. Among the entertainers on the roof of the Madison Square Garden are Elsie Adair, who is improving her dance, "The Frolic of the Pansies," and Edwina, who is also a dancer of note.

Henry C. De Mille's play "The Danger Signal," the first of those dealing with railroad life, will be sent on a tour this season, opening in New Rochelle next Friday evening. Ramsay Morris's company, which includes Elsie De Wolf and George Giddens, begins rehearsals to-morrow night. Eunice Vance, who is now singing on the Casino roof, has been engaged for the coming season by Frank Daniels and will assume a character singing part in his new "Little Puck." John Peachey, who sang with the Bostonians in "Robin Hood" last season, has been engaged for the rôle of *Columbus* in "1492," replacing Mark Smith, who will retire from the cast in September in order to appear with Nat Goodwin in "Nathan Hale." Gus Heege will begin his "Yon Yonson" season at the Grand Opera House in Brooklyn Aug. 28, and will play in Chicago during the month of October. John L. Stoddard, the lecturer, returned to New York last Thursday after an absence of nearly a year in Japan, China, and Ceylon. He will give a series of new illustrated lectures at Daly's Theatre this winter. "Charley's Aunt" is to be given in Berlin this month and in Australia in October. It will be played in New York this fall by Mr. Frohman's people. The rush of theatrical managers for Chicago during the continuance of the World's Fair will result in a remarkable collection of strong attractions for the week beginning Oct. 2. At that time Chicago playgoers will have to decide between the Metropolitan Opera Company, Henry Irving, Coquelin and Hading, and "Lady Windermere's Fan." Helene Mora, who was the first singer to thrill us with "I'll Take Care to Wander from His Own Fireside," "That is Love," and other ballads of a high order, will star in a piece called "Comrades," which is said to be a dramatic version of the well-known song. A live ostrich will be one of the novel features of "Venice," a forthcoming Boston production. Sol Smith Russell will begin his New York engagement at Daly's Theatre Oct. 9. Maida Craigen is the financial backer of the tour in which she and Frederick Paulding will appear as joint stars. Russell's Comedians will present an entirely new version of "The City Directory" at the Bijou Theatre Sept. 4. Francis Wilson will begin an engagement at the Broadway Theatre Oct. 2, presenting "Erminie." Rosina Vokes is expected in New York Sept. 3, and will remain here for a week before starting on her Western tour. The organization known as the Old Comedy Company will begin its season on Thursday night in Kansas City, appearing in "The Rivals." In this company are Mrs. John Drew, McKee Rankin, Owen Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew, and Phyllis Rankin. They travel in a special car, bearing the name of "Mrs. Malaprop," with the motto, "You go first and we'll precede you." The Fourteenth Street Theatre will reopen for the fall and winter season Aug. 28, when "Glen-da-lough," the romantic Irish drama seen here last winter, will be presented, with J. K. Murray in the chief rôle. Kate Davis, one of the most popular entertainers on the Madison Square roof, takes a vacation this week in order to visit the World's Fair and will resume her performances a week from Monday night. All doubt in regard to the forthcoming tour of Marie Tempest has been disposed of by the lady herself, who has sailed for this port in the Fuerst Bismarck, and is due here on Friday. Her tour will begin in Philadelphia, Sept. 25.

It is related of Oscar Hammerstein that upon one occasion not long ago he attended the dress rehearsal of a new Irish play which was to be given the following week in one of his Harlem theatres. The piece was of the good old-fashioned sort, in which the villain tries to collect the rents that are due him and the heroine sympathizes with the tenants who refuse to pay. Mr. Hammerstein sat in the managerial box, a silent and interested spectator, until the villain exclaimed: "What! you still refuse to become me bride? Then I will foreclose the mortgage on the little farm to-morrow morning!" "Hold on!" screamed Mr. Hammerstein, leaping excitedly to his feet. "I've had considerable experience in such matters, and I tell you you can't do it anything like as quick as that." Thoughtful managers affirm that the establishment of Jewish theatres in the lower part of the city is likely to have its effect upon the amusement business of the town. There will be three of these theatres in operation this season, the Thalia, the Windsor, and the Roumania, all situated on the lower Bowery and close to one another. The prices charged for the best seats are $1.50, and it is said that their average receipts are much larger than in almost any other house in the city. Frank Murtha, who conducted the Windsor Theatre for over a dozen years as a combination house, now plays nothing there but Hebrew attractions, and affirms that the house makes more money than it ever did before. Most of the plays and operas given in these theatres are taken from the Old Testament. The language employed is a corruption of Hebrew, Polish, and German, and many of the actors and actresses are artists of a high order of talent. Half a dozen years ago there was not one of these houses in existence in New York, and the people who now patronize them formerly sought recreation in the cheaper theatres and concert gardens of the east side, and also in the regularly established German theatres.

A notable revival of the present week will be that of Robert Grau, who lands on his feet at the Garden Theatre as manager of the Loie Fuller Company. For many years Mr. Grau has been a well-known figure in theatrical circles and has furnished to those who know him a great deal of innocent amusement. At one time he aspired to rank as the purveyor of opera for the suburbs, and then the name of "Robert Grau's New York Opera Company" was a household term in every town or village from which New York could be reached without an expenditure of more than half a dollar for railroad fare. Paterson, Newark, and Jersey City were the strongholds of this gigantic musical organization. The record of its splendid triumphs is closely interwoven with the histories of Passaic and Bergen counties. Macaulay's New Zealander, standing beside the ancient ruins of London Bridge, reaches across the broad marshes that lie beyond Jersey City, will exclaim with reverent wonder: "It was over this road that Robert Grau led his artist legions in their last assault on Hackensack." For some time Mr. Grau has been but a fragrant memory to the strollers on the Rialto, and the news that he had bobbed up serenely, with at least three or four of the dozen celebrities advertised, was received with every manifestation of wonder and delight. It has long been Mr. Grau's ambition to place himself at the head of a company of mummers who will not refuse to go as far away as Troy and Schenectady, and there are many of his old friends who sincerely hope that he will now find the means of extending the sphere of his operations through this and the contiguous States of the Union. The amusement lovers of Eighth avenue will flock to Doris's Museum this week to have a look at Dot Sonwell, the snake charmer who was bitten so badly at Huber's a few weeks ago. Miss Sonwell comes direct from a hospital bed to the museum platform, and will be exhibited with the two rattlesnakes that bit her. She will not, however, be permitted to handle the reptiles. The principal dramatic feature of the week at Doris's will be the production of "Michael Strogoff," by T. J. Thomas's company. Worth's Museum, which has undergone extensive alterations since it last closed its doors, will soon be thrown open again to the public. The Eden Musée does not boast of much that is novel for the coming week, but there will be concerts every afternoon and evening by the excellent Hungarian Gypsy band, besides two or three new groups of wax figures.

THE WEST POINT VISITORS.

Some of Their Recommendations—A Proposed Increase in the Number of Cadets.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—A noteworthy suggestion in the recently published report of the West Point Board of Visitors is that each year two or more members of the previous Board of Visitors shall be reappointed. It has all along been evident that in the lack of such an arrangement for a comparison between two successive years, the question of improvement or deterioration cannot be very exactly judged by the official visitors. Each Board can give an opinion as to the absolute condition of the Military Academy, but it cannot very precisely mark the progress or retrograde of the twelve-month, or perhaps tell what use has been made of suggestions of the previous Board. A reappointment would also give the Board one or two members whose experience of what must be done during the period reported on could guide the others and enable them to lay out their time to the best advantage.

It would doubtless be well, as the Board recommends, that professors and instructors should have an opportunity to visit other institutions of learning, and examine their methods and appliances. Of the many other recommendations, perhaps especial note hould be made of those relating to ordnances and artillery. This department of instruction is certainly important enough to command, in such an institution, the services of a full professor, and there should also be, at no distant day, a supply at the Academy of heavy ordnance of the best modern types. The proposed furnishing of models of the latest improvements in ordnance is a suggestion in the same useful direction.

Our recommendation, which perhaps may provoke a difference of opinion, is that the number of the cadets should be increased. The ground taken is that "the Academy should be required to educate as many young men as its capacity will justify. Any policy which fails to secure to the nation the full benefit of the institution in the education or training of its young men is neither economical nor wise." There is very little doubt that an increase in the number of cadets might be made without increasing the present corps of instructors. The class rooms, it would appear, might also accommodate more pupils. But so far as the expense goes, the actual cost of instruction is a matter of less importance than the maintenance of the cadets, and of course this would be an additional expense to the full extent of the number of cadets added.

That, too, is not the only consideration. With the army organized as it now is, the June graduates of the Academy and the commissioning as Second Lieutenants of those enlisted men who pass the required examinations are quite sufficient to supply all the annual vacancies in the lowest grade of the line. At present a few vacancies exist in the infantry, because so many additional Second Lieutenants above the number required have been assigned to the other arms and to the engineers; but it remains true that the graduates of each year and the Second Lieutenants promoted from the ranks can supply the annual vacancies. Might not an increase of cadets impair the prospects of those recommended for promotion from the ranks of getting a commission unless the system of additional Second Lieutenants should be enlarged?

It would be possible, of course, with the larger classes at West Point, to discharge honorably, for entrance upon civil life, the surplus cadets of each graduating class. Indeed, the argument for larger classes is based on the theory that it is wise for the Government to educate officers who, on any sudden emergency, can be called into the service from civil life, into which they may have entered. When the civil war broke out some of the most famous of our officers were thus recalled and put in command of volunteers, after having left the army in the dull times of peace that succeeded the campaigns in Mexico. Besides, it is urged that, with the new duties put upon the military establishment, there is need of a greater number of details of company officers, and hence of more of these who begin as additional Second Lieutenants. The duty of serving as Indian Agents, created under a recent act of Congress, and the increase in the number of officers assigned as instructors of military tactics in colleges are examples of this kind.

It should be noted, however, that one very important increase in the number of cadets is assured by the new appointment of representatives in Congress, under the last census, which calls for a corresponding increase in the number of cadetships at the Academy. In addition, the new system of examinations at different points and changes in the times of appointments ought to increase the percentage of candidates and alternates appearing for admittance. Perhaps it may be well to see how these elements will hereafter affect the size of the classes. On the other hand, should the pending schemes for reorganizing the artillery and infantry be carried out in such a form as to require a permanent increase in the number of officers, Congress probably would not hesitate to enlarge the force of cadets at the Military Academy.

THE PRIDE OF VERSAILLES.

It Went Plump Into the Fire and the Boys Scattered at Daylight.

"Versailles and I," said Col. Watkins of the South and West several nights ago, "are strangers now. It is a beautiful town, right in the heart of the Kentucky blue grass, and its whiskey is as mellow as old sherry. Business took me there three or four times a year until two years ago. That was a night for you! Some of the old gang had the nerve to return to town after that night's racket. I never did; heard there was an indictment loafing around the Court House for me, and I haven't found it necessary to go back. Never knew exactly what started the gang that night, except it was in the air. There may have been as lively a crowd of young men in many other towns that I have visited, but I have never found them. Versailles was always a picnic for me.

"All the young men in town who amounted to anything were members of the fire company; there was only one such organization, and it was the proud possessor of an old-fashioned side-bar pump engine. It was a dandy, and when the foreman stood on it and urged the boys to whoop it up they made the old machine creak. But I'm getting ahead of my story. On this night the members of this engine company—any Versailles man now can tell you its name—were out for sport. I always travelled with the boys when I struck town, and we went to the biggest saloon, which was a general meeting place. The proprietor had gone to Lexington and his bartender was in charge. Say, if you've never drank good whiskey in the blue-grass region half of your life has been wasted. It seems to get right hold of you, and after a few drinks you're on stilts.

"Some one suggested that we should get the bartender drunk and run the saloon ourselves. It took patience, and when at 1 o'clock we strolled into the bartender out the boys were having an elegant time. I was initiated as bartender, and I mixed everything. Suddenly there was an alarm of fire.

"Down the street some one yelled, 'The grist mill's burning up!' Well, we didn't stay to close the saloon, we just bolted. The old engine was yanked out and we went reeling and stumbling down the road with it. The mill was in a deep valley, and when we reached the top of the steep hill that overlooked it we stopped and prepared to do business.

"I never knew what was the trouble. Probably the coupler botched his work. At any rate we began to pump. Clickety-clack! went the engine, and no water came. The crowd jeered and we pumped harder. Still no water.

"'Whatsh up?' asked the foreman.

"'Damline!' says I, getting weak in the stomach. Clickety-clack! went the old machine, but it was no use. By this time the walls of the mill had fallen in, and we were ready.

"'Uncouple zhose,' ordered the foreman. We stopped pumping and broke the hose.

"'Give her a push,' was the next order. We caught the idea. Twenty men placed their shoulders against the machine and pushed together. Down the hill she started, gathering speed way, and straight into the fire plunged the pride of Versailles. I tell you it was a sight worth seeing. We sat down and cheered and swore like madmen. The townspeople who were up didn't dare to attack us. I heard afterward that the irons of the old machine were found in the ruins.

"Daylight sobered us a bit. I drove to Lexington. Some of the other boys rode to nearby towns and caught trains. At any rate, the Grand Jury met the next day, and not a member of the engine company was in town. When some of them straggled back later they placed the blame on me. That's why I don't go to Versailles."

A Cape May Bathing Suit.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The combination was the work of a genius. The bodice was of light blue serge, with a complete waistcoat of white linen duck. The deep V cut at the neck was filled with white celluloid, and there was a collar and also cuffs to match. The tie was of loose black silk. The skirt was of the same material as the waist. To complete the picture, the stockings were white, as were the sandals. Her hair was blond and short, and was blown hither and thither by the breezes. Her venturesome spirit was embodied in the cloth. She did not tempt the bounding billows to enfold the outline in a watery embrace, but wandered about only for exhibition purposes.

SOME POEMS WORTH READING.

Over the Get-There Road.

Who will dare the road to There,
The There of glittering glory?
Rough it is as a Whitman ode,
Cruel it is as the Russian code,
Long it is as the devil's goad;
At least, so runs the story.
There's never a finger-post nor guide,
Nor beast to bear your load;
Beware of the Reckless Rapid's tide
And of Easy Swamp on the other side;
Go slow and sure, for you cannot ride
Over the Get-There Road.

What does it cost to get to There,
The There of marvellous mention?
Only a soul of smallest breed,
Only a life of grasping greed,
Only a heart which does not heed
Another's right or plight or need,
But holds its own intention.
I saw one left to a loathsome pest,
For that is the Get-There mode.
One picked the purse of his wretched guest,
One trod rough-shod on a sweetheart's breast,
Over the Get-There Road.

What's the share of those of There?
Why, every taste is suited:
Flaming fame or a ruling rod,
A sunny smile of the golden god,
Or may be, six by two of sod.
For that's a point disputed.
There's never a way to tell what's true
Of that select abode
Till you pass the wall which bars its view,
Over or under, around or through.
I don't know how it is done, do you?
Most of us don't, but some of us do,
Over the Get-There road.

Who, then, cares to get to There?
Why all, if truth be spoken.
Spite of each scornful gibe and sneer
There must offer a heartsome cheer,
And can't be worse than being here
By many a sign and token.
Then ho! for a tramp on the well-worn track,
Though rough as a Whitman ode,
Or cruel as the Russian code,
Or long as the Devil's goad.
Whatever it is, there's nothing back,
It can't be worse than a *cul de sac*,
So gird up your loins, pick up your pack,
And hey for the Get-There Road!

J. EDMUND V. COOKE.

A Chansonette.

Oh, many a merry year has life,
And many a month the year,
And many a day
The month makes gay,
And the day with golden hours is rife
And the world is full of cheer.

But the sweetest hour of the fairest day
Of the loveliest month and year,
Came that summer night,
When your eyes so bright
Were telling me aye while your lips said nay,
And your heart became mine, my dear.

PHIL JANSEN.

Book Catalogues.

Book catalogues! I here confess
Their publishers I often bless.
My modest purse may be too thin
To buy the treasures named therein;
The giant names I love not less.
Books from the era of Queen Bess,
Marlowe and Shakespeare in new dress;
Abbott or Addison may begin
Book catalogues.
Big names or little, nevertheless
I muse on what each may express;
In cloth, morocco, or calf-skin,
Ah, how I love to read within!
Knowledge is there, and cheerfulness;
Book catalogues.

EDWARD S. CREAMER.

The Deacon's Daughter.

From Browning, King & Co.'s Monthly.

Queen of the favored pew,
I cannot half reveal
The thoughts I have of you,
With unromantic steel.

The stamen of a pink,
Dipped in a drop of dew,
Would not be pen and ink
Too exquisite for you.

The music of the choir
Is pitched in one sweet key
That tells of my desire,
And that of more like me.

When roguishly you glance
At me across the pew,
Each eye-flash is a lance
That stabs me through and through.

The deacon thinks your wings
Are just about to sprout;
Well, I know other things,
But he won't find them out.

Dear little Methodist,
Say one sweet prayer for me,
And I shall in the list
Of the elected be.

S. A. WOOD.

The Old Man Sings.

From the Californian Illustrated Magazine.

There's a wabble in the jingle and a stumble in the metre,
And the accent might be clearer and the volume be complete;
And there might be much improvement in the stress and intonation,
And a polish might be added to the crude pronunciation;
But there's music such as once was played before the ancient kings,
When the old man plays the fiddle and goes feeling for the strings.

There is laughter chocked with tear drops when the old man sings.

And we form a ring around him, and we place him in the middle,
And he hugs up to his withered cheek the poor old broken fiddle,
And a smile comes on his features as he hears the strings' vibration,
And he sings the songs of long ago with faltering intonation;
And a boatloom from the distant past his distant music brings,
And trooping from their dusty graves come long-forgotten things,
When he tunes the ancient fiddle, and the old man sings.

And while the broken man is playing on the broken fiddle,
And we press around to hear him as he sits there in the middle;
The sounds of many wedding bells in all the music surges,
Then we hear their clamor smothered by the sound of funeral dirges,
'Tis the story of his lifetime that in the music rings,
And every life's a blind man's tune that's played on broken strings;
And so we sit in silence while the old man sings.

E. M. STORRY.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

The official cholera returns issued at St. Petersburg on July 29 show a considerable increase in the extent of the epidemic. In Podolia during the two weeks from July 9 to 22 there were 1,105 cholera cases and 350 deaths, as compared with 499 cases and 122 deaths in the previous week. During the week ending July 22 there were in the province of Orel 234 cases and 91 deaths, against 148 cases and 52 deaths in the preceding week; in Tula 77 cases and 19 deaths, compared with 31 cases and 8 deaths, and in Moscow 72 cases and 21 deaths. The epidemic exists in a less degree in the provinces of Viatka, Kazan, Riazan, Simbirsk, and Ufa. The clergy in all the cholera-infected governments have been instructed to read publicly, after divine services on Sundays and holidays, a compendium of preventive precautions and remedies, and to explain the measures fully to their congregations.

The seeming strange suggestion is made and strongly pressed in England that the men who man the navy should be taught how to swim. Ordinary sailors are instructed, and expected to qualify, in swimming, but the marines, firemen, and engineers are not, and it is a fact that a large portion of the latter large body of men who serve on war ships cannot swim. It is said that many more men would have been saved from the Victoria but for this fact; also that many sailors who were good swimmers were undoubtedly dragged down by the men who were not. The matter has been taken up in Parliament, and it is probable that swimming will be insisted on as a part of the training of every man serving aboard ship.

Complete accounts, just made up, of the results of the week of self-denial observed by the Salvation Army all over the world last October show that, it added a few shillings over £50,000 to the Army treasury. The largest single amount is credited to the British Isles, with £22,727. The United States comes next, with £7,291. South African Salvationists denied themselves £1,600 worth during that one week.

Every regiment of the British army in India has now been rearmed with the new magazine rifles. Forty-four batteries have received new twelve-pounder guns, and new nine-pounders are ready for issue. Twelve Maxim guns are also to be issued shortly. The native cavalry has also been rearmed with Martini-Henry carbines. A simla report says: "The army, as a whole, is now splendidly equipped for war."

Porto Rico proposes to open an exhibition next November to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the island. Space will be granted to exhibitors free of charge and exhibits admitted free of customs duties. Machinery and implements, agricultural and industrial, are especially solicited from all countries.

Three hundred Mohammedan Abkasians were converted and formally inducted into the Greek Orthodox Church by the Bishop of Sukhum Kalé about two months ago, the occasion being marked, as befitted, by an imposing ceremonial. But the whole of these proselytes have now readopted the faith of Islam.

During the month of July gold to the value of £462,111 was exported from Cape Colony; and from June 24 to July 30 gold to the value of £1,272,000 was exported from Australia.

QUESTIONS BY SUN READERS.

Will you kindly give me, in brief, the particulars of the assassination of Alexander II. of Russia, or tell me in which encyclopedia I can find the best account. The Britannica merely gives the date of the occurrence (March 13, 1881), and the name of the woman who was executed as an accomplice, viz., Sophie Perovskaia. I would like to know more or less the time of day when it occurred, the street, the destination of the Czar at the time, the name of the bomb thrower and of the accomplices who were executed as such, and something about the direct assassin. Was he young or middle aged, ignorant or educated, a leader or an obscure follower, and how came he to be chosen for the task? Were there any doubts as to his sanity, and what was the mode of execution? F. L. P.

The best account in a cyclopedia will be found in the British "Annual Register" for 1881; the American "Annual Cyclopædia" of course omits any account of the actual murder. But your best place to look is the file of THE SUN or of some other newspaper of the time. The attack on the Czar was made about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, March 13, 1881. The Emperor was in a closed carriage, returning home from the Sunday inspection and review of the guards; while passing along the Ekaterinoslav Canal, a bomb was thrown at the carriage, destroying the back of it. The Czar alighted, and was in a group of officers when a second bomb was thrown, which fell at his feet, blowing his legs to pieces, cutting open his abdomen, and blowing out his left eye. He lived until 3:25 P. M. Thirteen other persons were killed, among them being one of the assassins. The first bomb was thrown by Nicolai Russokoff; the second by a man who was killed. The trial began on Friday, April 7; and early Sunday morning, April 10, six prisoners were convicted. They were: Russakoff, Timofei Michaeloff, Hesse Helfmann, Sophie Perovskaia, Kibaltschitisch, and Jeliaboff; and on April 15 all, except Hesse Helfmann, were hanged. Jeliaboff was the most intelligent of the lot; he was an educated man and planned the whole affair. There were no doubts about the sanity of any of the prisoners, and it would have made no difference had there been doubts; across the water they don't hang crazy people who commit murder, but they convict 'em just the same, and then put them—in Great Britain, at all events—in criminal lunatic asylums, and keep 'em there, too. This is the only country where a lunatic, who is sane enough to commit murder, escapes by pleading his insanity.

1. If a person owns property along a body of water, how far into the stream does his boundary line extend? 2. Has a property owner any claim upon or control over that part of the soil below high water mark, and can he prevent a fishing party from digging bait below the high water line, or have them arrested if they fail to obey his order to leave? 3. Is there any statutory provision forbidding the digging of bait along any shore in the State of New York? 4. Does the title to the soil below high water mark pass with the title to the realty adjoining, or does it remain the property of the state? J. A. T.

1. If the stream is not navigable, his property right extends to the middle of the bed of the stream; if it is navigable, it extends only to high water mark. 2. Only as indicated above. 3. We find none set forth in the latest edition of the Revised Statutes. 4. The title to the land below high water mark does not pass, in the first instance, with the title to the realty adjoining it above high water; the Commissioners of the Land Office convey to the person owning the adjacent land above high water such rights in the land below high water as he may apply for and they may decide to grant. If they grant to him rights in perpetuity, he may sell his title to such lands along with his title to lands above water; in general words, his conveyance of lands under water of course must depend upon the terms of the original grant from the State.

1. Where can I buy a book of the latest patents and inventions? 2. In order to patent an article, will it suffice to draw the idea on paper, or must I have an article with the invention made? 3. Is there any expense attached to having an invention patented and how much? PAUL TUCKAS.

1. Various trade papers publish from time to time lists of patents affecting the trades which they represent; but the only authoritative publication is the *Official Patent Office Gazette*, published weekly by the Commissioner of Patents, at $5 a year. 2. You need not provide a model, but your description must be such that from it a model could be made. 3. The Patent Office fees are from $35 up, according as searches are made or not made; a lawyer's fees vary with the lawyer and the work that he has to do. As a rule, it is cheaper to go to a good patent lawyer than to "go it alone;" he knows what to do and how to do it, knows how to word our specifications and claims to include everything necessary and nothing else; and so he saves time, which is considered to be money.

Would you oblige me by telling or advising me how to get posted on all points of politics, especially Democracy; that is, how to get citizen papers, and how to vote, and to understand what a person is voting for? C. L.

You have the first idea of the right way of proceeding; you read THE SUN. Read it more attentively and carefully, it will teach you what democracy is, and give you points on politics. To get your "citizen papers" apply with a friend at the Naturalization Bureau, in the County Court House; you can get your "first papers" at once. Then, two years after you have received these, and five years after you first came here, take the same friend, and at the same place apply for your second papers.

A man living in a private house, which he owns, is taken sick with the small-pox; can the Health Board remove him to their hospital against his or his family's wishes, or is he entitled to remain in his home, thereby endangering the health of the community? McK.

The Health Board has the legal right to remove him to the hospital for contagious diseases. But if he is in the hands of skilled physicians, properly quarantined, the Board may permit him to remain in his own house. The power to remove patients to the hospital is given to the Health Board to protect the public, and if the public can be protected as well by leaving the patient in his house as by taking him away, the Board has just as much right to leave him there as to move him.

1. Definition and pronunciation of the terms "gaol" and "goal." 2. The origin of the expression, "One of the finest." W. WEBER.

1. Gaol is British and obsolete for jail, and is pronounced as if spelled jail. It comes from the Late Latin *gabiola*, a small cage. Goal means "aim, destination;" it is pronounced "gole," and comes from the Anglo-Saxon *wala*, and English *wale*, the mark made by a rod. 2. It is an old tradition in this city that our police force is "the finest in the world," based on this idea, some one (was it Archibald Gunter? but never mind) wrote a play for "Gus Williams" called "One of the Finest," wherein that "Dutch comedian" disported himself. This, we think, is the origin of the expression.

In a recent publication, "Rand, McNally & Co.'s New Pocket Atlas," they give the following population of some of our leading cities: New York, 1,515,301; Chicago, 1,438,010; Philadelphia, 1,046,964. As the above emanates from a Chicago house, I am in doubt as to its being correct. Can you confirm same? STATISTICIAN.

We can confirm your doubts. Messrs. Rand, McNally & Co., with Chicago enterprise, have taken the discredited and disproved figures of the Porter census of 1890 for New York, and have taken the local census of May, 1892, for Chicago. They have likewise used the Porter figures for Philadelphia.

Is there any rule as to the proportion of the United States flag? As we see them, some are short and "stumpy," others long and lean. M. C.

There is no legally authorized proportion, but the army regulations prescribe the general dimensions of the garrison flag, and from those the necessary proportions can be worked out. This flag is 36 feet fly and 20 feet hoist; the union is one-third the length of the fly, or 12 feet, and extends to cover seven of the thirteen equal stripes into which the hoist is divided. This makes the union 12 feet long by 10 feet 9 inches.

Will you inform me where I can obtain a work giving a thorough idea of the manners, habits, customs, and dress of the men and women of the Revolutionary period in the United States. H. A.

"The Familiar Letters of John Adams and his Wife, Abigail Adams, During the Revolution," will give you what you want. Baroness Riedesel's letters are valuable, too; but we do not know where they have been published recently.

Can a husband secure an absolute divorce from his wife who, after having left her home over a year and lived under another's name, meets her husband under his own roof over night and then again seeks the life of a harlot? C. A. K.

We think so. The husband has condoned the first offence, but the wife commits a second offence when she leaves him the second time, and thus gives to the husband the right to seek a divorce.

What constitutes an American? Can a Canadian properly be called an American? M. F. H.

A person born in this country, or one alien-born who, living here, is naturalized and has his chief interests here. Custom restricts the use of the adjective to citizens of the United States; but there is no geographical reason why a Canadian should not be an American, even without annexation.

Is Sunday the first day of the week? If not, why? If Sunday is the last or seventh day still, kindly let me know. SUBSCRIBER.

Sunday is the first day of the week; it never was the last day of the week. The day of the week wasn't changed by the Christians; the day which they kept holy in honor and in memory of Christ was the first day, the seventh day being left to the Jews, who did not receive Christ.

Are there two legitimate meanings of the word "quite," one meaning "entirely" and the other "partially?" W. B.

Yes; this second use of the word is said to be almost wholly colloquial or American.

Which is correct, "bran new" or "brand new?" W. C.

Brand new is the correct phrase; the meaning is that the article is as new as a brand just out of the forge. Shakespeare says "fire new" in "Love's Labor's Lost" and "Twelfth