

CHRISTMAS IN THE TROPICS.

Free Ethiopia on the Spree and Black and Tan Enjoyments of the Occasion.

The Feast of Weeks in Jamaica.

Horse Racing and Betting, Drinking and Gambling as Practised by the Natives of That Sunny Isle.

CREOLE HOSPITALITY.

KINGSTON, Jan., Dec. 26, 1873. La vida en los tropicos, at this festive season of the year, is full of interest and replete with instruction.

It is far different. The man and brother is a slave to freedom. Decade after decade of attempted mental illumination and physical amelioration has passed, but the primal conservatism of the majority of Africa's sons remains in all its naked dignity and grotesqueness.

Of course the negroes' country residences were emptied of their well-dressed occupants, while the wealthy merchant families of the city were crowded into the palatial mansions.

THE COFFEE POT AND SUGAR BOWL OF BRITAIN, the pride of Protector Cromwell and the boast of the oldest English war dogs? Even the stage coach might be a blessing; but any attempt at reviving this luxury would be as futile as the effort of Julian and Zosimus to resurrect the ghost of Paganism as a rebuke to the worshippers at the altars of Christianity.

Among the equestrian nobilities was the ex-ambassador of Hajji Mr. Edward Wood, black but kindly face, white hair and noble bearing single him out for distinction.

THE RACE FOR THE QUEEN'S PURSE. for £100, I believe, and, as there was such tremendous excitement over it, I shall briefly name the names of the victors.

THE PLEASANT SIDE. It is pleasant, however, to turn aside from so much that is disagreeable to topics having a brighter side. The gayety and nights of the past ten days would almost lead one to believe this a perfect Paradise.

MRS. AND THE MISSSES ETHIOPIA. Mrs. was a dutiful cook or chamber woman, to whom clean water and civility are alien, who never fails to expose all the graces of Africa to her mistress's coarders.

On the 16th inst. the annual races commenced, this being the first public amusement of the year, of course all who possibly could availed themselves of the pleasures of the turf during some portion of the three days.

THE PUBLIC MARKET PLACE. This market, built somewhat after the same plan as the market at Manhattan, occupies a large block at the foot of King street, reaching near to the quay of the harbor.

THE PARISH LANTERNS, as the moon is termed by the Creoles, at least last night, but you will, of course, understand that the municipal authorities have no hand in it.

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My sketches would be incomplete did I not attempt a slight description of life at home at this time. I was in the hollow of a negro coffee house, and I was eating and drinking with my friends.

With the Creole population, the most hospitable, kind and agreeable manner of life with amusement and relaxation have also proceeded from the family circles. There are no theatres, no music halls, no places of public resort, hence the merchants and their wives and daughters have all back on their own resources.

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LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

AMERICAN LLOYD'S REGISTER OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN SHIPPING, FOR 1874, published by Messrs. Hartshorn & King, is now out. The present number fully sustains the reputation of the previous issues.

J. E. LAFRANCO & Co., of Philadelphia, have a number of books in press. Among them are "The Homeowner," "A Manual of Toxicology," "Mercurial Therapeutics," "An Operative Manual," "The Homeowner," "The Villages of the Bible," "The Homeowner" is by the Count de Medina Pomar, author of "Estudios Acordes del Progreso del Expirito."

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THE WORKINGMEN'S NITE.

English Government Savings Banks.

An Admirable System That Should Be Adopted in America.

OVER 1,500,000 ACCOUNTS OPENED.

LONDON, Dec. 25, 1873. More than 12 years ago the English government, having had its attention attracted to a proposition which had been brought forward rather prominently in the press, having for its object the security of money deposited in savings banks and the encouragement of the working classes in provident habits, determined upon establishing a system of government savings banks in connection with the administration of the Post Office.

Throughout the United Kingdom every post office which is large and important enough to be a money order office is also a government savings bank. These banks are open for the receipt and repayment of deposits on every working day, in most cases from nine in the morning till six in the evening, and on Saturdays from nine till eight. In these banks deposits of one shilling, or any number of shillings, are received; but no one may deposit more than £30 (£150 in one year, or more than £150 (£750 in the whole, exclusive of interest. Interest is at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent per annum, which is at the rate of 3 1/2 in the pound for each year, or at the rate of 3 1/2 on each complete pound for each month, reckoning from the first day of the calendar month next following the day on which a complete pound has been deposited up to the last day of the calendar month preceding the day on which the money is withdrawn; it is allowed until the sum due to a depositor amounts to £200 (£1,000, when interest ceases to be allowed. The interest due on each depositor is added to the principal due to him on the 31st of December in each year.

When the depositor makes his first deposit he receives a numbered book, in which his name, address and occupation are written, and in which the date and amount of his deposit are entered. On the day on which the deposit is made the Postmaster reports to the Postmaster General that he has received the money, and in two or three days afterwards the depositor receives a printed receipt from the General Post Office in London informing him that his deposit has been duly reported. If he does not receive such a letter within ten days from the date on which the deposit is made he must write to the Postmaster General for it.

When a depositor wishes to withdraw the whole or any part of the sum due to him he makes application for the same to the Postmaster General on a printed form, called a "notice of withdrawal," which he can obtain at any post office savings bank. When he has properly filled up this form he must fold and secure it and forward it by post as if it were an ordinary letter. In return for it he will receive, probably by return of post, a warrant for the amount required by him, payable at the post office bank named by him in the notice of withdrawal.

This is one of the most admirable advantages offered by the scheme—viz., that a depositor in any post office bank may add to his deposits at that or any other post office savings bank, and may withdraw the whole or any part of them from that or any other post office savings bank without his first depositing his money at the Post Office Bank at Liverpool. He may make further deposits at, or withdraw his money from, the post office bank at Liverpool or Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Dublin, or any other place which may be convenient to him. No charge for postage is made to the depositor for any letter passing between him and the savings bank department, with regard to his deposits or their withdrawal, or for the transmission of his deposit book. All officers of the Postmaster General are strictly forbidden to disclose the name of any depositor or the amount of his deposits.

That this system has been extraordinarily successful will be readily believed when it is learned that the number of accounts now open is 1,563,266. The average amount to the credit of each account is £13 8s. 5 1/2d, or about \$65.

The balance sheet for the year 1873 is annexed. It will be observed that the "surplus of funds to meet liabilities," which really means to profits of the undertaking in 12 years, amounts to between £500,000 and £600,000.

RETURN OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FOR THE YEAR 1873, showing the balance due to depositors, the amount of deposits received, the value of securities at the cost price, less depreciation of those which are at a discount, and the amount of cash in hand and dividends accrued, but not received at the end of the year, and the surplus or deficiency of funds to meet liabilities:—

Table with columns: Balance due to depositors on the 31st of Dec. 1873, Interest accrued, Surplus of funds to meet liabilities, Total, Value of securities at the cost price, less depreciation, Cash in hand, Dividends accrued, Total amount in hands of the Commissioners, Total amount received from depositors, Total amount repaid to depositors, Deposits, Withdrawals, Number of Accounts, Number of Transactions, Total amount of deposits, Total amount of repayments, Total amount of interest, Total amount of dividends.

THE NEW EDITION OF "Appleton's American Cyclopaedia" is finished (though not issued) up to the seventh volume, out of 16. About 25 editors are constantly employed on its various departments, besides a small army of outside writers of articles.

THE LAST VOLUME OF Mr. Spedding's edition of Bacon is now at press, and its publication may be expected next spring.

MR. ERKMAN'S "FRANZ" is now writing a new serial story, which will shortly appear in Cassell's Magazine. It will be entitled "The College of Mere Rabbits," and will be based on the adventures of a young collegian during the Louis Philippe era.

A COPY OF Whitaker's "History of Richmondshire" was recently sold at a London auction at the high price of £80 sterling. Richmondshire is not a county, but a district in Yorkshire.

A NEW SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY is projected in London, of which Mr. Tennyson is one of the promoters. A CONCORDANCE TO SHAKESPEARE'S POEMS, by Mrs. Horace H. Furness, is in the press. Mrs. Furness is the wife of the accomplished editor of the variorum edition of Shakespeare, and her concordance to the poems will be a worthy companion to Mrs. Cowden Clarke's Concordance to Shakespeare's plays.

WILKIE COLLINS says that Penelope Cooper was one of the greatest novelists that ever lived. THE PRESENT AGE in literature is becoming a day of dry science. We abound in Dickens, and what we want, as Mr. Bounderby said in "Hard Times," is facts, and very dry reading of some of them are.

MR. H. VIZETELLY, correspondent of the Illustrated London News at Vienna, has had the order of the Emperor Francis Joseph conferred on him. Mr. Walter Thornbury's "Crisis-Cross Journeys" is a series of vivid pictorial sketches of Russia, Egypt and the United States. THE GREAT DRAMATIST, HENRY TITZEL, has just published his experiences as a play writer and a manager during the last half century. His recollections of Scribe and Dumas are interesting. He describes Scribe as a grave and precise, almost pedantic, little man, with sleek, gray hair, and flat cut features. Alexander Dumas seemed to him a very impressive person, with great eyes, full lips, a nose slightly retroussé, and a broad chest. THE ASHANTER WAR has caused a blossoming out of books in London upon that country, of which Sir John Dalrymple Hay's is perhaps the best. THE BOOK TRADE is slowly recovering from the paralysis of the last six months, and new publishing enterprises are once more ventured upon, though with caution.

Carl Valentine, one of the cabin passengers of the German steamer Hammonia, was arrested on Saturday evening by detectives from Police Headquarters upon the arrest of that vessel at Quarantine. It is reported that his name is Muller, and that he is a fugitive from justice at Vienna.

A MYSTERIOUS ARREST. Carl Valentine, one of the cabin passengers of the German steamer Hammonia, was arrested on Saturday evening by detectives from Police Headquarters upon the arrest of that vessel at Quarantine. It is reported that his name is Muller, and that he is a fugitive from justice at Vienna.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WORKINGMEN'S CENTRAL COUNCIL. The Workingmen's Central Council will hold a special meeting this evening, at Masonic Hall, to consider the proposed parade to-morrow morning and take prompt action in relation thereto.

CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

A Bad Woman, of National Reputation, Arrested—A Spicy Theatrical Scandal To Be Laid Bare in Court. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 11, 1874. The police of this city, after working for several days, have just succeeded in arresting the well known panel-house thief Molly Holt, who has for several years operated in New York, Washington and almost all the leading cities of the Union, and regularly evaded the authorities. Some time ago a complaint was made by a gentleman from Cincinnati, named Solomon, that he had been decoyed into a house, where he was kept for some time, and that he had been robbed of \$500. From the description the police knew the perpetrator to be Molly Holt; but she had been so cunning that, although the robbery was committed early last year, she was only arrested at four o'clock this morning. With her were arrested her male confederates, Billy Cash, an ex-politician, and Billy Spears, the parties all confessed.

Lizzie Price, formerly a member of the Arch Street Theatre Company of this city, and now one of the principal ladies of Mr. Charles Fechter's company, has some proceedings in hand against John H. Targart & Sons, publishers of the Sunday Times, of Philadelphia. The ground of the libel is the publication of an article in said paper, in which it was intimated that said Fechter had sent Mr. William Winton, the husband of Lizzie Price, to Europe, as if on business, that he had taken advantage of her absence, and had absconded with her marriage vows. The suit will be an exceedingly bitter one, and causes no little sensation.

PHILADELPHIA MAYORALTY.

Stokely To Be Renominated—Hearty Republican Endorsement—Senator McClure the Present Favorite of the Opposition. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 11, 1874. Seeing that the present Mayor of Philadelphia, Mr. William A. Stokely, has just received the endorsement of the Cameron Club of the Second, Fifth, Sixth and Twenty-seventh wards, as well as of a number of citizens called together last evening, irrespective of party