

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

There is a street in Milan that is roofed with glass, topped off with a dome. Mrs. Gladstone has captured the lady presidency of the Liberal League of Great Britain. They have been amusing the children in Vienna with a cat show with felines from all parts of the world. El Shifua (The Cure) is the title of the only medical journal published in Egypt. It is printed in Arabic. Locomotives now run in Jerusalem, and the shrill steam whistle is heard in the streets once trod by King David. Dr. Peters, an eminent Paris physician, repudiates and denounces M. Pasteur's famous treatment for hydrophobia. The Comte de Paris has given a perpetual annuity of two hundred dollars to the poor of the town of Treport, France.

The tunnel recently completed at Schenitz, Hungary, is 10.27 miles long, the longest one in the world. It took one hundred years to build it. Mr. Henry Irving says his unsuccessful attempt to establish the reserved seat system in the pit of his London Lyceum Theater cost him fifteen thousand dollars. So far has the competition mania gone in England that prizes have been given for the best three epitaphs on the late Fred Archer; one of them "for raciness."

The Lord Mayor of Dublin announces the receipt of ten dollars from a New Yorker, which sum, the sender said, was to be applied "in any way that will annoy Great Britain."

The aggregate capital of the incorporated building societies of Great Britain is \$293,405,990. If to this is added the capital of the unincorporated building societies the amount will be \$450,000,000.

The sphinx's claws have been brought to light by some curious delvers in the Egyptian desert. It was regarded as a foregone conclusion that they would be found to be of stone, but, strange to tell, the claws are of brick.

The British National Lifeboat Institution in 1866, saved 601 lives by its own boats, and gave rewards for the saving of 160 lives by shore-boats, making the grand total of 32,771 lives saved since its formation.

The Borneo du Cercle Militaire (Paris) gives the following particulars of the population of Alsace-Lorraine in 1866 it was 1,507,928, in 1871 1,540,738, in 1875 1,581,801, in 1880 1,571,971, and in December, 1885, 1,564,355. The population of Strasbourg at the last census was 111,987, of Mulhouse 69,759, of Metz 54,972, and of Colmar 26,537.

CASCARONE-BREAKING.

A Custom Introduced Into California by Spanish Families From Mexico.

Those who are acquainted with the customs of old Spanish towns in California know that cascarones are, and are probably familiar with the ways of using them and the additional enjoyment they lend to all dances where they are used. To such of our readers who are not well posted in the matter we will attempt to give a few words in explanation.

The origin of the custom of cascarone-breaking is probably surrounded with as impenetrable mystery as the identity of the "Man in the Iron Mask." It was brought to California by the early Spanish families from Mexico, and up to within a few years past it was an attractive feature of every dance on during a certain portion of the year. Cascarone season begins, according to custom, at twelve o'clock, Christmas night, and lasts till Ash Wednesday, and any one of our old citizens can tell of the grand times at cascarone balls in the "flush days," when the custom was at its height. Dances were of almost nightly occurrence then, and hundreds of dozens of cascarones were broken in an evening, and many a poor family derived a handsome income from the manufacture and sale of cascarones. They sold at a dollar a dozen during the early part of the evening, and in the "wee sma' hours," when the commodity became scarce, an ounce of gold dust has been known to be given for a single dozen.

Many interesting stories could be told of the cascarone balls of the past, but only one will be mentioned as an instance of the popularity of this peculiar feature of the balls. On one occasion at a ball given at the residence of Don Jose Abrego, Peto Serrano, then a muchacho, was on hand selling cascarones. A gentleman approached and asked what he would take for his cascarones. "One dollar a dozen," was the answer. "How many have you?" was the next inquiry. "Forty dozen." "All right, I'll take them." Taking the basket he started down the hall, but had not taken a dozen steps when he was surrounded by a number of young ladies, and in a moment all hands were diving into the basket, coming out with double-hands full and crushing them on his head, while he manfully strove to return a few of the compliments he received. In five minutes not one of the forty dozen cascarones remained whole. The modus operandi of cascarone-making is very simple, and about as follows: Into an empty eggshell—whole, except for an opening in one end just large enough to remove the original contents—is placed about a teaspoonful of finely-chopped paper of various bright colors and gold tinsel; then the opening is neatly closed by pasting a piece of colored paper over it, and then the cascarone is all ready for use. In Mexico, in the good old times, cuando habia mucho oro, gold dust mixed with diamond dust was often used to fill the eggshells at the swell gatherings given by the old grandees. And it is done occasionally nowadays by some of the wealthy old dons who wish to do the thing up in style. Another way of filling the shells was to use finely powdered powder, and sometimes rare and costly perfumes were used. Very often the shells were beautifully decorated, and sometimes hand-painted. In Monterey, before the decline of the

custom, the shells were often colored in fanciful designs, like Easter eggs, and at other times tastefully decorated with different colors of paper. Chopped paper and tinsel were usually put in the shells, but on more than one occasion gold dollar pieces were used—one in each, and sometimes powder and perfume. Housewives religiously save the shells of all the eggs they use and put away until oscarone season comes around.

In cascarone-breaking it is not necessary that one should be acquainted; in fact, it is a sort of "mashing" proceeding all through. The act of breaking a cascarone on another's head is to be considered a compliment by the recipient, who is in honor bound to return it at the first opportunity. The proper way to break them is to crush the shell in the hand over the person's head, allowing its contents to fall on the head. In the excitement, however, the shell is more frequently broken on the head, regardless of locality or force used, and is oftentimes suggestive of any thing but amiable feeling on the part of the bestower. When the ice is once broken by some adventurous maiden or plucky man the contagion soon spreads, and in a very short time every body is chasing around the room breaking cascarones indiscriminately, and receiving them from all sides. These mock battles usually occur between dances. Years ago a sort of game was played, called breaking of cascarones. It was an object—like in the old game of "tag"—to break the last cascarone on another. The one breaking the last was allowed the privilege of asking the other every thing they met: "How are my chickens?" and the other would be expected to give them a present for the benefit of the chickens—candy, etc., being usually given. This was allowed to be kept up until the next cascarone dance, when the game was all passed over.—Monterey (Cal.) Argus.

PARISIAN DOLLS.

How the More Expensive Kinds Are Made and Dressed and What They Cost.

Doll worship has become a sort of creed and every year these puppets are more expensively and extravagantly dressed. There is no article of a woman's attire which is not reproduced in miniature on these aristocratic dolls. There are dolls of lace which range from three and a half inches to as many feet in height. They wear silk dresses, bustles, long trains and seaklin dolmans. Their hats take all the fantastic forms of women's and are trimmed with feathers and little tomtits. They wear silk hose and their feet are encased in dainty satin shoes. There is, indeed, nothing in the way of eccentricity of dress or fob of millinery which the doll does not wear. Dolls have their own dressmakers, their own milliners and shoe-makers. The doll fraternity may be divided into several races differing in development and in artistic execution.

There is the old-fashioned wooden doll whose shrunk shanks are sometimes covered with shredly garments. This is the poor girl's doll. Then there is another wooden doll, but more polished, whose limbs and trunk are padded into shape and covered with white leather. Sometimes this species has a porcelain head on it. There is also a dummy doll made out of India rubber whose sole virtue is that it is unbreakable. Then comes the aristocratic doll, which is made out of nothing else but paper, with a porcelain head. This is the doll which is made in Paris to-day. Hundreds of thousands of it are exported every year and it sells at any thing from half a dollar up to four hundred dollars.

It is not many years since this new race first appeared, but it has already driven its predecessors out of the market in Paris. Here is how it is made:

The paper pulp is first worked into a fine mortar. Then the dolls are moulded by his. One workman will mould nothing but arms, another the feet, and so on. When the trunks and limbs are shaped and dried, they are painted. They get five coats of whitish paint and are then varnished. After this elastic bands are inserted in the arms and legs to keep them together. The joints are made workable, and into whatever position you may put an arm or leg, it will stick there. The head is more difficult to make than the body. It is, as already observed, made out of porcelain. After being moulded the heads are put into an oven and are burned for twenty-seven hours. Then they are rubbed with pumice-stone and polished. Then they are painted, and the painting and coloring of a doll's head is a ticklish business, requiring, as the French say, the utmost delicatess. The doll's eyes are made on the same principle as artificial human eyes. Its hair is wool from wild goats in the mountains of Thibet. To turn out one of these dolls thirty different persons are required, and the cheapest is sold naked at sixty cents, and the dearest at eleven dollars.—Paris Cor. St. Louis Republic.

Some Wealthy Prussians.

The official income tax returns just published in Berlin show that the man who is rated highest in all Prussia is Herr Krupp, of Essen. His income is assessed at more than 5,000,000 marks, or 250,000 pounds sterling, on which he pays 151,200 marks, or 7,560 pounds sterling annually. Next comes Baron Rothschild, of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, with an income of 2,750,000 marks, paying a tax of 81,000 marks, 4,050 pounds sterling per annum. Then follows the British Consul-General, Baron Bleichroder, of Berlin, with an income of about 2,340,000 marks, paying an annual tax of 68,400 marks, or 3,420 pounds sterling. The two next richest men in Prussia are two Silesian ironmasters. The only other Prussians with an income of over 1,000,000 marks are Baron Hansemann and a Westphalian magistrate, each of whom pays rather more than 1,500 pounds sterling a year to the treasury.—London Times.

A man has published a book of one hundred and fifty pages to show how waste bread may be utilized in families.—Troy Times.

CATCHING A MAIL THIEF.

Story of a Girl Who Became a Criminal for the Sake of a Depraved Brother. Before the days of post-office money orders and the registry system, the amount of bank notes sent by mail was enormous. People had to send either this way or by express, and, though every sender felt that the mails were not quite safe, he would take his chances. There were many robberies, and we all know, but not one dollar was taken for \$5,000 sent. Nowadays if a registered letter is missing it can be traced pretty close to the party who took it, but in those days a Government officer had to work for days or weeks to nab the guilty party.

I remember that I was once sent to Illinois to investigate the numerous complaints which had come in regarding a certain route. This route began at Springfield and extended sixty-seven miles, taking in towns which I will call Liverpool, Abbeville, White Rock, Davisburg and Montgomery. It was all stage route, and, as the country was well settled up, the mails were always heavy. Most of the complaints had come from citizens of Springfield and Montgomery. These were the two largest places, and were at the extreme ends of the route. Money sent from Springfield would not reach Montgomery, and vice versa. That is, it would not reach the hands of the persons for whom it was intended. I set to work believing that I had a hard job before me, for all the postmasters were men who were above suspicion. I first rode over the route several times, or until perfectly satisfied that the mail carriers had nothing to do with the robberies. The nearest town to Springfield was Liverpool. I mailed a decoy letter from there to Springfield, and it was safely delivered. The nearest town to Montgomery was Davisburg. I mailed a decoy letter from there to Montgomery, and it was safely delivered. That seemed to prove that the robbery was at Abbeville or White Rock. I mailed from Abbeville one way and from White Rock the other, and, after a few days, was convinced that the trouble was in the latter post-office. White Rock was a village of seven hundred inhabitants, and the post-office was kept in the wing of a dry goods store. The wing had been built on for the office, and, besides having a door from the street, there was a second from the store and a third from the family sitting-room. This latter led into the office itself, and was used only by the postmaster and his family. The postmaster was a man nearly sixty years old, reasonably well off, and the first look I gave him satisfied me that he could know nothing of the robbery. He had two clerks in the store with him, but they had nothing to do with the mails. After a little observation I discovered that the postmaster was assisted by his wife, a woman of about his own age, and by a young woman who was related to them, but served as a hired girl. Every thing seemed to be honest and straightforward in the office, as far as I could see from the corridor, but that would have been the case in any event. I mailed a decoy letter from there to Springfield, and it passed safely. Then I mailed one from there to Montgomery, and it was lost. In the course of three weeks I got three decoy letters over the route all right, while three more were stolen, and all the evidence seemed to point to White Rock as the place.

By carefully watching the White Rock office I found that on days when the mail reached there at eleven o'clock a. m., which was its scheduled time, my decoy letters were not further. When the stage was late, which was a frequent occurrence, the letters passed safely. I soon solved this mystery. If the mail came in on time the young woman helped to sort, wrap and distribute it while the stage waited. It was late she had to be busy about the dinner, and the postmaster and his wife did the work. I was soon assured that the girl was the guilty party, and when I began to make inquiries about her I found that she had a very dissipated brother in Springfield, and that she wrote him at least once a week. Then I mailed one to look him up, and found him drinking, playing billiards and smoking cigars. Seemingly he had plenty of money. In all my decoy letters I had, of course, marked the bills, and as luck would have it, I had not shadowed the young man over half an hour when he offered one of these bills to a barkeeper, and I managed to secure it in change. Then I had him locked up, and I returned to White Rock to deal with his sister. First I took the postmaster aside and made myself known, and showed him my proofs. He was greatly agitated, but firm in his belief that the girl was innocent, and could explain matters. I held my interview with her in the kitchen. She was furiously indignant at first, and even when I explained the decoy letters and showed her the marked money she would not yield a hair's breadth. I made a search of her room and in her trunk, found at least twenty letters and envelopes, every one of which had contained money and been stolen from the mails. The sight of these broke her down, and she confessed to having abstracted in all over three hundred dollars, every dollar of which had gone to her brother, who was her nearest relative and beloved in spite of his hard character. She got off with a fine, I believe, while the brother was made accessory and got a sentence of a year or so, and the matter so worked on the mind of the old postmaster that he hanged himself in the barn a few weeks after the case was disposed of.—N. Y. Sun.

MARRIAGE PORTIONS.

Plain, Home-Spun Comments on a Subject of Perennial Interest.

There is a great deal written, and a great deal more said, about imprudent marriages on insufficient means. Perhaps it is that nearly every one has a different notion of what constitutes a sufficient income. Many insist that a girl should not marry on a less income than she had in her father's house. She has, so they say, been used to every comfort, and even luxury, at home, and would be wretched as a poor man's wife. This is not always true. There is no hard and fast rule

that a girl used to a certain income in the paternal mansion may not try life with a suitable partner on half the amount. She may keep her intellect, she may keep most of the real joys and blessings of her girlhood's home, and she may add to them many others. Parents are sometimes a little too ambitious for their children. Their sons must marry heiresses, and they require their sons-in-law to be provided with an income equal to their own, not when they started in life together, but at the acme of their worldly prosperity. If succeeding generations followed in their steps—and it is very much the style of this go-ahead nineteenth century—noting less than a Midas would be acceptable to fathers and mothers.

If a man loves a girl with all his heart, so that none other is, and he feels none other ever will be like her to him, he loves her well enough to deny himself for her sake, and to work for her sake. Nothing will seem to him too hard to bear for her sake, and the same will be the reverse of the medal. The girl herself will be ready to give up for her husband's sake, if he need be, many luxuries, many cherished pursuits, many coveted fancies; she will be ready to begin and carry on an earnest, industrious and, if necessary, even a hard life, rather than live an easy-going and more luxurious life without him.

Every thing depends on the persons. One couple may marry on what would bring another to ruin. To marry upon nothing but a mutual affection is egregiously folly; but to shrink from a married life because it involves a large amount of serious, earnest purpose, and perhaps of hard labor is as cowardly as the other is foolish. If you are young, vigorous in mind and body, firm in purpose, and above all, really attached to each other, marriage may be undertaken by you upon a much smaller income than by those who do not enjoy your blessings, who have not your good health, strength and energy, and, above all, who are not fully persuaded in their own minds that life together now is preferable upon small means to a prospective union in possibly brighter days hereafter.

Much depends—had almost said as much depends—on the will, head and heart of the man. Common sense, prudence and self-denial are the essentials and safeguards in a union on small means. With a bountiful supply of these estimable qualities, a married couple may live more comfortably, bring up their children more creditably, and leave behind them a better name than another with double their income, but half these helps to matrimony.

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It is only sometimes, and by the merest chance, that the man who has danced, boated, played tennis and flirted with these girls, discovers how sterling and true is the metal that, by custom, fashion and the mimicry of human nature, is overlaid by so much flimsy tinsel. There are very few men who by their unaided sense or instinct recognize the true value of the characters that are so disguised and hidden.—Chicago Tribune.

DUNDER'S SAYINGS.

Teutonic Philosophy, Based Upon Practical Experience. Der gravestones was a newspaper dot nobody eifer sues for libel. It neafier gife anybody away. It vhas said dot we all live too fast, but we all know some men who vhas too slow about dying.

If I vhas a tramp I should preach dot charity vhas a crowning virtue, Der more charity der less I haf to work. I lose more as one hundred friends in ten years by refusing to lend money without security. Der man who likes to beat you vhas very sensitive about his commercial honesty.

Der smell of sewer gas in a house vhas looked after a great deal closer dian der morals of der children. We doan't like to hurt our neighbors' feelings, but if we hear some gossip about 'em, we somehow manage to let 'em know it.

Der man who complains all der time dat der world won't gif him a chance takes pretty good care not to work oafar three days in der week. More men labor mit me to change my wote dan to save my soul. Der woter who vhas deatd vhas no good to political parties.

Shurch members should took notis dot der peoples shrdge of a man's religion by der vhay he trades horses and pays his debts. It vhas shust as easy as rolling off a log to say how our neighbors should do, and it vhas shust as easy to explain how we came to be perfect.

Der Golden Rule vhas all right when you read him in a book, but when you put him in practice on der shstreet you vhas run in by a policeman as a crank. If der vhas no wood-pile or buck-saws or axes in dis world den it vhas right dot der world owes somebody a living, while he sits on der fence.

Der man who makes der greatest show of obeying der law has der least cause to break it. I doan't like der man who vhas too much my friend. He finds out my badt points, and doan't like me any more.—Detroit Free Press.

The total number of logging railroads in this country is placed at 383, of 2,285 miles, having 428 locomotives and 5,182 cars.—N. Y. Post.

BAD TEMPERED MEN.

A Restaurant Dissertation on the Advantages of Being Cross and Crusty. "Have you ever noticed," asked the old citizen, "what a good time the bad-tempered people have in this world? How they get their own way about every thing, and how every one flies to do their bidding? Now, look at that man over there complacently eating his venison steak. He came in ten minutes after I did, and yet here I am still waiting for my lunch. Why did he get served first? Well, not because he's a good customer; he's not half so regular as I am; not because he tips largely, for I know he never gives a cent, while I am guilty of bribery and corruption to the extent of two or three quarters a week, but just simply because he has the worst temper in Chicago and would 'raise Cain' if he were kept waiting.

Now, I, on the contrary, have the misfortune to be mild-tempered, and consequently, I am continually imposed on, here and everywhere else. The waiters all know that the worst they have to expect from me is a little mild growling, and therefore I am frequently left, as I am to-day, to regale myself upon a pale-blue tureen, a knife and fork, and a cruet, while the bad-tempered fellows' steaks and chops flash by like lightning. I don't like it, but what can I do? I couldn't fly into a rage to save my life. I would if I could, with the greatest pleasure—I don't disapprove rages on principle at all—but I can't. It's a physical impossibility, you know. I was born without the faculty. Oh, the bad-tempered man has the best of it by a long way, and especially in the bosom of his family. Instead of being worried about frozen pipes and impertinent servants and smoking chimneys, as we unfortunate 'amiable men' are, every thing that goes wrong is carefully kept from him for fear he should 'be cross.' The children are invariably well-behaved 'when papa is home,' because they stand in wholesome awe of summary proceedings on his part; his wife never bothers him for money any more than she can possibly help, because she knows it doesn't agree with his temper; his mother-in-law carefully avoids the house, because 'poor dear Fanny's husband is so irritable, you know,' and he is spared that terrible nuisance of being obliged to listen, over and over again to every little unpleasant thing which happens; as for instance, how 'Mrs. Jones, next door, gave a dinner and asked the Smiths and didn't ask him for money any more than she can possibly help, because she knows it doesn't agree with his temper; his mother-in-law carefully avoids the house, because 'poor dear Fanny's husband is so irritable, you know,' and he is spared that terrible nuisance of being obliged to listen, over and over again to every little unpleasant thing which happens; as for instance, how 'Mrs. Jones, next door, gave a dinner and asked the Smiths and didn't ask him for money any more than she can possibly help, because she knows it doesn't agree with his temper; 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