

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Kansas City Journal supposes that when the new order of things is fully established the circus will contain a den of mice, into which a daring woman will go without fear.

A curious law exists in Michigan. If one be afraid that a bank is going to fail, he may not draw out his deposits in it, and if he does, the bank may recover them.

Many members of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, including four attaches of the Chinese Legation, ride bicycles. The fashion was started by the Russian Minister, Prince Cantacuzens, who astonished the capital when he began to take out his daughter on a wheel. The miles of asphalt pavement in Washington make that city an attractive place for wheeling.

Professor Henicke, of Washington University, St. Louis, is about applying for a process by which he claims, \$10,000 worth of gold can be obtained from sea-water at a cost of \$1, every ton of water yielding from two to four cents' worth of gold. He insists that no nation will hereafter suffer from a scarcity of gold; that gold will come from "the vast deep" whenever called for, though spirits refuse to come.

Who, not fresh from his books, can tell, off-hand, when the battle of Waterloo occurred? It seems about as remote as Marathon or Hastings, and yet, day before yesterday, an actual spectator of the battle told the students of Mount Union College, Ohio, what he had actually seen on that eventful day. Mr. Green, the narrator, is 97 years old, and the 18th of June was the eightieth anniversary of the battle of Waterloo.

Statistics have been accumulated which reveal that in respect to color blindness there is a remarkable difference between the two sexes. About three and one-half per cent of men are color-blind to a marked extent, while not more than four-tenths of one per cent of women are thus afflicted. This difference in color perception will strike most husbands who have been sent by their wives upon shopping expeditions to match ribbons as understated, if anything.

Miss Alice J. Hands and Miss Mary N. Gannon, two young women of New York, are said to have solved the problem of sanitary townsmen's houses. To study the subject thoroughly they assumed the duties of health inspectors, took up their residence for a while in a very poor tenement district, investigated the effects and learned the remedies. They are about to build a "woman's hotel," with model plumbing and ventilation, and also a studio building. They have been elected members of the Woman's Health Protective Association of New York.

One of the amazing literary successes of the century is Spurgeon's sermons. The Westminster Gazette says that 2,896 of these sermons have been printed and sold, and that the sum total of the sales reaches nearly 100,000,000, an average of about 85,000 copies per sermon. Of each of certain discourses more than 250,000 have been sold. They are kept in sheet form in a large cellar in Paternoster square, in long lines of cupboards, so that a supply of any particular discourse can be got at once. Four-fifths of the supply have been sold in the United Kingdom; the remainder have gone to this country and to Australia.

Notwithstanding heavy expenditure incurred in the destruction of rabbits in New South Wales, they are this year in such numbers as to make everybody despair of fighting them. "On one small section which I visited," says a correspondent, "and which is inclosed by wire netting, and which is managed very energetically, and upon which the rabbits have been more than once reduced to such low limits that only two or three would be seen in a day's ride, they are now so numerous that 19,900 were caught last month in pit traps alone. Rabbits, too, are now appearing in the suburbs of Sydney, and are being killed in such numbers that their dead bodies are proving a danger to the public health."

The establishment of a new chair in Columbia College, to be known as the "Seth Low Professorship of American History," Frank Leslie's thinks an incident worthy of special mention. The study of American history and of the development of the principles of constitutional liberty which have here had their fullest exemplification has not had the commanding place to which it is entitled in the curriculum of many of our higher institutions of learning. In our public schools, too, until recent years, the subject has been made secondary to others of less importance. It ought to be a primary purpose in all our educational institutions to equip the student with a thorough knowledge of the history of his own country, the sources of its life, the meaning and responsibilities of citizenship, and the relation of the national authority to the individual.

Aside from English the Bible has had the largest circulation in the German language. Through the agency of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Bible in the German language has had a circulation of upward of 17,000,000 copies. The same society secured a circulation of 12,000,000 copies of the Bible in French; over 5,000,000 copies in Chinese; over 3,000,000 in Russian; over 3,500,000 in Italian; nearly 3,000,000 in Danish; and over 2,000,000 in the Dutch language. Nearly 400,000 copies have been issued in Arabic over 1,500,000 have come forth in Bengali, over 750,000 in Czech, about 1,250,000 in Hebrew, over 1,000,000 in Magyar, over 800,000 in Lettish, over 500,000 in Malgasi, over 616,000 in Malayalam, 600,000 in Marathi, and over 1,000,000 in Telugu. At the beginning of this century the Bible was only accessible to one-fifth of the world's population, while now it may be read by nine-tenths of the people of the globe. There are now more than 300,000,000 copies of the Bible in circulation, in 380 different languages.

DR. JULES PREVOST, who has had large experience in Alaska, thinks that the Alaska Indians are the most susceptible of civilized influences of all the aborigines of America. Says he: "The Chinese are commonly spoken of as the most skillful imitators on earth, but, as a matter of fact, they are not to be compared with the Indians of Alaska. An Indian of average intelligence will give the best Chinaman on earth cards and spades and beat him on anything from a dog-yoke to a clock. Just give them the tools and they will duplicate anything they see. For native ingenuity I have never seen their equals among any other people. They are not alone imitators in the mechanic arts, but show marvelous adaptability in the acquisition of knowledge pertaining to customs and morals. For generations they have lived in underground huts. Not a few of them, but thousands, at once recognized the advantages of a house of wood aboveground. They acquired English with great facility and learn to read and write in about half the time required for these accomplishments among the Sioux or Apaches. We often have visitors from settlements six or seven hundred miles away. They look with awe and wonder upon those of their kind who enjoy improved conditions of living at or near the mission. They see cabins in course of construction where banks and blankets were used instead of a skin and the floor. The lesson is not lost upon them. They return to their settlements and at once practical results of their newly acquired ideas are to be seen.

A CANOE PARADE. Charming Festival Given by Summer Visitors at Bar Harbor. Turning from Lenox and its environs to the far northeasterly end of our Atlantic coast line we find on the rocky shores of Mount Desert and elaborate examples of the rural festival. Long years ago, before that rare and charming isle had been formally adopted as the chosen resort of summer pilgrims from all parts of the continent, athletic contests, foot races and canoe races among the Passamaquoddy Indians were known to Bar Harbor. By the descendants of these Indians was aroused the interest in canoeing shown by visitors of recent times, which resulted in the formation of the Canoe Club, now numbering hundreds of members.

The first public parade of the club was arranged in honor of an expected visit from Matthew Arnold, who, in discussing his anticipated expedition to that Eden of the Sea, had expressed a hope that he might there find some spectacle possessing the local color which he had failed to discover elsewhere in America. Marshaled in line, with bows toward the south, upon a fortunately glassy stretch of Frenchman's Bay, near the westerly point of Bar Island, gathered a number of flower-wreathed canoes to perform a series of maneuvers as dexterous in execution as ingenious in the planning. The canoe parade, repeated the following year, was followed in another season by an illuminated fete. To this midsummer night's dream Nature lent herself in all graciousness. The sun had set upon a sea of opal. As the moon rose, and the tide flooded the bar, people living along the shore on each side of the Eden road sat in their verandas to wait for the coming of the boats, in an atmosphere as soft and caressing as that of a June night in Venice. From the starting place at the chief landing of the village, out of darkness streaked with columns of light from the electric arcs above the town, and from the lamps of a flotilla of yachts and other boats at anchor in the harbor, came silently stealing a long train of mysterious black craft tossing leashes of fire-bubbles into the air, or wreathed from stem to stern with multicolored lanterns. Their destination was a dwelling situated upon the shore at some distance up the bay, where the performers in these mysteries of the expedition were expected ultimately to congregate at supper. For an hour the meanderings of the fire-laden boats gave delight to many watchers ashore. At last, answering the signal of dance-music from the house, the cortege fell again into line, and proceeded to disembark upon a floating wharf lighted by Bengal fires and strung with colored lanterns. The boats, deserted by their crews, were then strung together by boatmen, and towed back to the starting point, the revelers electing to return by the highways.

CITY NOISES.

What We Hear When We Most Want Quiet. It's pretty hard to write in the city these wide-open-window days. The dust you can see on it, but the sounds from the street vendors strike your ear with a sickening thud. "Strawberries!" "Here's your fine sparrowgrass, only ten a bunch!" "Grass cut, lady?" "Scissors to grind?" "Anyol' clothes?" Then the man with the cart full of crockery appears, rattling two plates together like tambourines, until I am ready to shriek. He finds mine an attractive block, for he stays around for an hour or more. Then the hand organ appears. It is on wheels, is propelled by a man and woman, and shoots off melody like a park of musical artillery. When they have gone two ruffians with fog-horn voices terrify us with fierce assertions regarding an "extror!" Some of my neighbors buy it, but I have been caught by such before. They fade away at last, and then the man next door starts in on his flute practice.

There is an altercation in the basement between the butcher's boy and the servant, and a man begins to beat a carpet two houses away. Then a chap with a homicidal face ushers along a bony horse and a cart full of potted plants and flowers. "Flowers, lady? These are fine, these are!" I am wondering what chance a full hatrack would have if he were alone with it, when my servant emerges and noses the postman with an anxious look. She buys three, and comes upstairs with her arms full and a face filled with delight. She wants them for her room, she says, and she is so happy at having them that I share in the general joy. But they are messy, wretched looking things! Forced for sale, and will be dead in a couple of days. He has given her a bad ten-cent piece, too, but as he is out of sight and her time is valuable, I take the dime off her hands and she goes off with her floral prizes. It's all very trying when one is striving to write, but I have got an item out of it, anyway.—New York Recorder.

Slipshod Coleridge. Coleridge never recognized his own faultiness of character. He inveighed against himself with a sort of ecstasy of disgust at one moment, and uttered the most lofty aspirations the next, in a mood of almost transcendental rapture. He is always in that facial state which Tennyson has so well expressed in delineating the bohemianism of his earlier life. In one of Coleridge's letters during the cavalry episode, he says: "I rode a horse as young and undisciplined as myself. After tumult and agitation of any kind the mind and all its affections seem to doze for a while, and we sit shivering with chilly feverishness, wrapt up in the ragged and threadbare cloak of mere animal enjoyment." That might be taken as the motto of his whole shiftless career. Coleridge began early that undisciplined career by slipping off even the academic restraints which were the most useful, and might have been the most effectual, for him. Then he returned and "dozed for a while" in the university without turning his studies to any advantage. Then he embarked in various friendships, from which he slipped away at least as often as he returned to them. His mind was full of gentle and tender dispositions; but he never had enough of will to be to others the friend that those others were to him. Even as a man of literature, no one could trust him. He was as much accustomed to slip out of his engagements as to slip into them. He did not even know what he himself had done, as distinguished from what he had only intended to do. He was slipshod in work, slipshod as a husband and father, slipshod as a friend, slipshod as a poet—and with all his great genius left a name "to point a moral and adorn a tale."—The Spectator.

Harvard's Gilded Iron Cross. The iron cross, burnished with gold, which is over one of the entrances to the Harvard College Library (Gore Hall) was at the time of the 1745 siege of Louisburg taken from a Catholic chapel there, and brought to Massachusetts as one of the spoils of the victory. In 1877, Justin Winsor, the librarian of Harvard College Library, found it in the cellar of the library, and had it gilded and placed in the position which it now occupies. The fact that an entrance to one of the main buildings of the oldest and most distinguished college in once Puritan Massachusetts should be thus adorned with a religious symbol which is usually to be found only on Roman Catholic buildings or on Anglican churches of an extreme type argues a religious liberality in these days which would make some of the anti-Catholic crusaders who took part in the Louisburg expedition lift their voices in stern rebuke of the degeneracy of their countrymen. But the world outgrows such baneful religious and partisan zeal.—Boston Transcript.

They Get There First. Dick Drillplate—No, bank burglary ain't the profitable business it used to be." The Rev. Mr. Slumleigh—Indeed! But tell me, my good man, what has rendered it less lucrative? Dick Drillplate—The cashiers. Resigned. Farmer Ontenke (in hotel)—D'ye call this 'ore rope a fire-scope? Bell Boy—Yassir. Farmer Ontenke (resignedly)—Waal, I 'spose hangin' is an easier death than burnin'!—Harper's Bazar. A Book that Helped Him. "Books that have helped me?" said an eminent citizen; "well, Webster's dictionary ought to be mentioned first, for when I was a little chap I used to sit on it at the dinner-table."—Indianapolis Journal.

Part of the Plot. Helen French—The trouble with your book is that you leave the villain in good shape, while the hero disappears. Alsoin English—That's all right; I'm going to write a sequel.—New York World.

GOOD-BY TO STEAM.

Electricity Taking Its Place in Moving Passenger and Freight Trains. The steady whirl of the world's largest electric locomotive is singing the death song to steam on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and electric motors a trifle smaller are joining in the song on a branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad at Nantasket Beach. And thus a new era in railroading is being organized and that which but a few years ago was but the dream of inventors and electricians is now a reality; and so used to wonders has the world become that this latest gigantic stride in the science of rapid transit will cause not the least surprise.

As far as actual operation is concerned the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad has the lead, although the line upon which the new electric locomotives have just been put in operation is only seven miles long and of an experimental nature. On the other hand the Baltimore and Ohio, which will be but a few days behind its predecessor in point of operation, will give its three 90-ton electric locomotives such practical work to do that the test will be a perfect one. The three giant motors which the Baltimore and Ohio will use to propel both freight and passenger trains through its new tunnel under the city of Baltimore are the largest in the world. The tests which have been made with the one locomotive which is already completed have shown that its power is in excess of that of a steam engine of the same weight. These locomotives are the triumph of the age, for they demonstrate beyond a doubt that electric traction for railroads now run by steam is practicable.

The trolley system is employed for conveying the current to the motors, but the arrangement of the trolley shoe is different than has ever been made before. The locomotive itself is built in the form of a double cab of symmetrical form and constructed with the object of running either way. On one end of the locomotive is a bell and on the other a compressed air whistle operated from the same reservoir which supplies the air brakes. This reservoir is kept filled with air at the proper pressure by a separate motor which works automatically, stopping when the proper pressure is attained and starting again when it diminishes. There are four motors, one to each axle. They are the largest railway motors in the world. They are rated at 300-horse-power each, and require normally 600 amperes of current to operate them. They are pyramidal in shape and have six poles and six brushes, and are gearless. They rest upon cross bars, hung upon springs upon the side frames of the truck. The armature of the motor is not mounted upon the axle itself, but upon a sleeve through which the axle passes. When the current is turned into the motor the armature revolves and communicates its motion to the wheel by a novel method. Shrink on to the ends of the sleeve is a cast steel star, each arm of which carries two cushions of rubber. In each wheel are receptacles into which these arms are pressed. As the armature rotates, the arms of the star revolve and the wheels on the axles are propelled forward. This method of suspension allows the armature to revolve freely and adjust itself to any unevenness of the track.

A New Man. A 77-year-old citizen of Great Falls, Wash., is undergoing a peculiar process of physical regeneration. About a year ago he contracted pneumonia and his life was for some time despaired of, the doctors saying his right lung was hopelessly wasted. He recovered, however, but when just able to hobble around he fell and broke his thigh bone, and was confined to the hospital again for six months. Since leaving, however, his physical condition has improved remarkably. His lungs began to open up until they became almost as well as ever; his skin shed off and a new skin grew; his hair and beard, which were a snow white, are coming out a jet black. His limbs and muscles have limbered up, and he started a week or so since to take a herd of young horses across a long trail to market. He says if he continues to grow young he will get married again and grow up with the country.

Hainiest Spot in Scotland. Glencoe, in Scotland, where, according to local legends, when it is not raining it is snowing, the annual rainfall is 127 inches, or nearly as much as Sitka, in Alaska.

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