

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

MISS MAUD HOWE, in a letter to the Boston Transcript, asks why it is that the first instinct of every woman on arriving at a strange place is to go and buy something. An immense reward awaits the genius who can furnish an answer to this conundrum and a corrective for the habit.

A LESSON taught by the Charleston earthquake is, that when a shock comes the best thing to do is to stand still just where you are. There is no running away from it; there is no dodging it. In a falling house you have a chance, but in the streets you have little. Nineteen-tenths of the killed in Charleston were killed in front of buildings, out of which the people rushed in the wild panic.

A COMPANY has been formed in London, Eng., to carry out a new process by which the tin is stripped from the iron in a perfectly pure form, while the foundation plate is unattacked. The scrap is placed in a series of baths, through which a current from a dynamo is sent, and while there the white metal is dissolved, and is afterwards recovered in metallic state. A large profit is realized.

It appears from informal investigation that of the 408 Senators and Representatives from States and Delegates from Territories, 125 do not belong to any church, or have severed their church associations, while of the remainder 72 are Methodists, 63 Baptists, 41 Episcopalians, 37 Presbyterians, 30 Catholics, 12 Unitarians, 8 Lutherans, 10 Christians not otherwise designated, and 2 Quakers.

THE Bulgarians are a Turanian people of Ugric descent, and assumed the Arian Slavonic language together with Christianity. Thus their creed and language favor Russia, their descent Turkey, and their disposition independence. They have the characteristics of mountain people, are healthy and robust, and not effeminated by the luxury of the lowlands nor by the harem institutions of the Turks.

THE alarm is raised by a London medical journal on the question of the length at which the human hair should be worn. The uncomfortable suggestion is made, that, as the hair is a conductor of electricity to the brain, it is absolutely necessary—if a general softening of that organ on the part of the rising generation is to be avoided—that the practice of indulging in a "close crop" be discontinued.

PROFESSIONAL electricians are coming to the support of the telegraph companies in their opposition to the substitution of underground conduits for poles for their wires. The companies declare that the close proximity of a large number of wires in the same conduit will cause defects in transmission, and impairs a service which, as now conducted on overhead wires, is almost perfect; and the electricians express the same opinion.

A PENNSYLVANIA sheriff thoughtlessly left the jail door open the other day and one of the prisoners walked out. The officer then dispatched another prisoner in pursuit of the one who escaped, promising him five dollars reward in case of a capture. The most astonishing part of the whole thing was that the pursuer, unsuccessful in his search, returned to the jail to serve the remaining eight days of his sentence, preferring this to the fatigue of flight.

Now that the fall fashions are about being introduced, let the ladies of the United States show their good taste and womanly instincts by refusing to buy hats and bonnets upon which the plumage of birds in any way used for trimming or decoration. Other forms of ornamentation quite as pretty and more appropriate can be devised; and by taking a firm stand in the way indicated the fair sex can do an incalculable amount of good in the preservation of the singing and insectivorous birds of the country.

THE cause of earthquakes is largely a matter of conjecture by scientists. The most that can ever be accomplished of practical value will be to exactly locate the area of disturbance and, as is being partially done in the case of cyclones, force their coming. If the areas of earthquake can be mapped out, then will communities build with reference to the probabilities of danger. It is quite within human ability to construct buildings which can not be disturbed by movements of the earth unless they are of most extraordinary violence.

Haze is the leading feature of the much-mentioned treaty of Berlin: The independence of Serbia, Roumania and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, though tributary to Turkey, to be under Austrian rule. Bulgaria, north of the Balkan Mountains, while under the sovereignty of Turkey, was granted practically self-government. The prince to be elected by the people, the sultan to have the right of confirming him, and his election to be assented to by the Powers. No member of any of the reigning dynasties are eligible.

A TERRA COTTA lumber has recently been added to the list of mineral building materials. A kaolinite of good quality is mined with sandstone, worked by machinery into slabs, and is then burned, saved and dressed. It is in this condition ready for market, and is said to be indestructible by fire, water or gas. It is a poor conductor, and sufficient to prevent conduction or contraction by changes of temperature. Its weight is set down at one half that of brick. It can be worked with edge tools, bored, drilled, and holds nails readily.

ROMANCE OF THE WAR.

The End of Which is Arrest for Embezzlement. Boston Transcript. Boston, Sept. 10.—A man named George Adams, who was arrested for embezzlement, is now in jail. He was charged with the theft of \$10,000 from the Boston Transcript. Adams was a well-known man in Boston, and was known to many of the city's leading citizens. He was arrested on September 10th, and is now in the city jail, awaiting trial.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Sept. 10.—Dr. George J. Adams, of Massachusetts, was arrested here today charged with embezzlement by a number of persons whom he defrauded out of money to search for a hidden treasure. Adams claims to have been a practicing physician in Massachusetts when the war broke out. He shouldered a musket and joined Company A, Seventeenth Massachusetts Volunteers. A portion of the command came with Butler to New Orleans. In a foraging expedition three miles from the city, Adams discovered a cache of \$30,000 in gold and silver—\$1,800 of it in silver half dollars, \$1,000 in dollars, and the remainder in gold. Being afraid to take the money, Adams hid it in a peccan grove about half a mile from the locks at the canal opposite Greenville. He selected a tree, and hid the money in its hollowed-out trunk. Adams was arrested on September 10th, and is now in the city jail, awaiting trial.

Alexander Turns His Back to Sofia. OSOVA, Sept. 9.—When Prince Alexander's yacht entered Sofia last year he was greeted by the otherwise generally quiet populace with ovations and acclamations. The prince was then in the city on his departure from Sofia, the loud shouts of triumph were changed into utterances of sorrow. As the Prince continued his journey through the small villages he was everywhere received by the inhabitants with signs of deep sympathy and universal regret.

AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN.

Hiring Men to Assassinate a Man Who Perseveringly Admired Her. PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 10.—A man named George Elms yesterday made affidavit before a magistrate that he had been offered \$50 by Mrs. Beatrix Pressman, a widow, to murder a man named Frank Glassmire, and that William Conrad and William Gardner had tried to persuade him to commit the deed. Mrs. Pressman and Conrad were arrested, and are now in the city jail. Elms was placed under \$1,000 bail for his own protection.

MYSTERIOUS POISONING.

DECATUR, Ill., Sept. 10.—About fifty people were mysteriously poisoned at a country wedding about five miles west of here Wednesday night, and yesterday all the available physicians were hard at work attending the afflicted persons, who are retching and vomiting violently. Thomas W. Adams, a doctor, and a woman named Mrs. Adams, who were married at the house of the bride's father. Supper was served, and included chicken, boiled chickens, chicken, and all ate heartily. An hour later the bride and groom were taken sick, manifesting symptoms of having been poisoned. The bride had, it is thought, eaten a piece of chicken, and the bridegroom had eaten a piece of chicken. The bride and groom were taken sick, doubling up and vomiting. It has been learned that the chicken was cooked in a large kettle, and that the salt caused the metal to corrode and mix with the chicken. The people are all quite sick, and the doctors are doing all they can to relieve the suffering.

IS IT CHOLERA?

TAUNTON, Mass., Sept. 10.—A singular case is puzzling the doctors here. Miss Minnie Clark was taken suddenly ill on Tuesday night and died Wednesday night. She was a young woman, and was married to a man named Mr. Clark. She was taken ill about midnight, and died about five o'clock on Wednesday. The doctors are doing all they can to find out the cause of her death, but they are unable to do so. It is thought that she may have been poisoned, but there is no evidence to support this theory.

FOOL, REVOLVER AND FUNERAL.

READING, Pa., Sept. 10.—Today John Bachman, aged sixteen, playfully pointed a revolver at his brother Francis, aged eighteen, and fired. The bullet struck Francis just below the eye, and inflicted a mortal wound. He did not know it was loaded.

A Boy's Awful Fate.

BUTTE, Mont., Sept. 10.—John Hober, aged sixteen years, a tool packer, attempted to jump from a train in the Alice mine yesterday. He struck his head on a crossbar and fell down the shaft a distance of 81 feet. The body was horribly mutilated and the head smashed flat.

CHRISTIANS MURDERED.

PARIS, Sept. 10.—The *Univers* publishes a telegram from the Bishop of Tonquin saying that seven hundred Christians have been killed in the Province of Manbo, and that nine hundred Christians are perishing of hunger.

A Drunken Man Kills His Own Son.

LOWELL, Mass., Sept. 10.—John Shay, in a drunken quarrel with another man, struck a brick at him, but hit his own son, four years old in the head, crushing the skull. He was arrested.

Accidentally Shot.

UTICA, N. Y., Sept. 10.—Newton Stevens, the eighteen-year-old son of Postmaster Stevens, was accidentally shot by his father while hunting in the Deerfield ravine, the bullet striking his chest and instantly killing him by the accidental discharge of his rifle.

The somewhat harsh provision of English law which gives almost every thing to the eldest son is curiously illustrated in the case of the Earl of Durham, who is now in this country, and his brother. The two are twins, but one was born two minutes earlier than the other. The one is called the eldest son, and inherits a princely income. His twin-brother has an income about one-tenth as large.

—Prince Bismarck put in a word for himself when the boys of the Ratzburg Gymnasium recently visited him at his Lauenberg estate. "Not every one of you," he said to them, "can become a Chancellor of the empire. But you should some day be elected Deputies to the Reichstag, try not to worry the Chancellor then in power too much, for let me tell you, it is always easier to criticize than to govern."

CONFESSION OF ARSON.

Attempts of a Party of Boys to Burn the St. Louis Stock-Yards. ST. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 8.—During the past two months repeated attempts have been made to burn down the National Stock-Yards in East St. Louis, and two of the fires started by the incendiaries caused considerable damage to the pens and sheds, but were extinguished before the flames had communicated to any of the large pack-houses. The perpetrators of these outrages remained unknown until last Tuesday night, when John Colly, the night watchman at Whitaker's pork-packing house, discovered several boys attempting to set the house on fire. The incendiaries fled at his approach, but he pursued and caught one of them, who proved to be his own son, John, fourteen years of age. Yesterday his father took Colly, the night watchman at Whitaker's pork-packing house, discovered several boys attempting to set the house on fire. 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