PARLIAMENT OPENED.

Picturesque Scenes Attend the Formal Ceremonies.

BIG CROWDS WITNESS THE EVENT.

"Beef Eaters," Attired in Quaint Costumes with Elizabethan Collars, Go Through the Formality of Searching for Gunpowder Mines in the Vaults of the House—Commons Summoned Amid Clanging of Bells to Hear the Queen's Speech.

London, Jan. 20.—[Copyrighted, 1897, by the Associated Press.]—The third session of the Fourteenth parliament was formally opened by royal commission at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The function was observed with all due and customary ceremony. Early in the morning a strong detachment of police moved down White hall and stationed themselves at various entrances leading to the houses of parliament. Early as was the hour a large crowd had already assembled. The people filled the space between Westminster bridge and the abbey, hung in groups about the stone railing surrounding both houses and seriously impeded street traffic. Shortly after 9 o'clock a body of yeomen of the guard, commonly known as "beef eaters," attired in their quaint costume of bonnet, leather breeches and Elizabethan collar, carrying short swords and halberts, arrived at the door of the house. They were accompanied by a police inspector and went through the formality observed ever since 1605 of searching for a gunpowder mine in the vaults of the house.

Greetings to the Speaker.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock the house itself, the lobbies and the corridors were filled with groups of members and their constituents and the scene presented was one of great animation. Most of the Irish members took places on the cross-benches. John Dillon took his usual seat on the third bench below the gangway. Shortly before 2 o'clock the speaker came in and was cordially greeted by numerous friends. Prayers were then read before the now crowded house and at their termination Mr. Gully took the chair and many members filed past the table to shake hands with him. W. Johnstone, member for South Belfast, was the first to secure his seat. At 2 o'clock there was a mighty clanging of electric bells and simultaneously another batch of policemen appeared and formed the crowd in the lobbies so that a passageway twenty feet wide was left clear between the two houses. Then all eyes shifted toward the door of the house of lords, whence the black rod was coming to summon the commons to the reading of the queen's speech. First came a stalwart inspector of police, who as he approached the entrance of the lobby commanded "Hats off!" in a peremptory voice. The inspector was followed by a doorkeeper in evening dress, who bore the rod of black ebony tipped with gold.

Knocked Thrice at the Door.

Closely following the latter was General Sir Michael Biddulph, who last year was appointed guardian of the wand. He was arrayed in full general's uniform. He knocked thrice at the door of the commons and when it was opened the speaker rose to receive him. Then commenced the return procession to the house of lords. There was the usual scene in the house of lords, the benches on either side being filled up with ladies, among whom the peers appeared almost lost. On a bench behind the woolsack and in front of the steps of the throne, within the brass rail, the lords' commissioners were sitting in their robes of scarlet, gold and ermine. It is the custom to select the youngest peers, at each session, to move and second the address in the house of lords. This gives them usually the opportunity of making their maiden speech. Tuesday the Marquis of Bath and Lord Kenyon were selected for the honor. As Lord Weymouth, the Marquis of Bath has before served in parliament, having represented the Frome division in the house of commons in two previous sessions. The queen's speech was then read to the house of lords.

The Mine Trouble at Leadville.

Leadville, Col., Jan. 20.—The proposition of the managers of the mines here was refused by the representatives of the miners, and they then withdrew all offers and left. The governor, after further conference with the managers, sent for President Boyce and E. V. Debs and for two hours the executive committee of the managers and the governor discussed the situation with them, this being the first since the governor's arrival that representatives of the opposing organizations have been brought together.

France Wants Arbitration, Too.

London, Jan. 20.—The Standard's Vienna correspondent says: An inspired Paris correspondent of The Politische Correspondenz learns that France is meditating the negotiation of a treaty of arbitration with the United States similar to the Anglo-American treaty. Such a treaty would be very welcome in France and the prospects for its conclusion are in no way unfavorable.

Hammond Died Anything but Rich.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—Letters of administration upon the estate of Vice President Hammond of the National Bank of Illinois, who committed suicide after the bank's failure, were granted Monday to the widow, Ida L. Hammond. The schedule of the estate shows it to be worth but $10,200, consisting of $10,000 personal property and a cemetery lot, valued at $200.

John Dillon Re-Elected.

London, Jan. 20.—The Irish parliamentary party at its sessional meeting held Tuesday re-elected John Dillon as chairman. Timothy M. Healy protested against the re-election of Mr. Dillon by unanimous vote and insisted that a detailed vote be taken. This was done and the result was the defeat of the Healyites.

Ferryboat Carries Seven to Death.

London, Jan. 20.—A ferryboat laden with workmen sank while crossing the Usk at Newport and seven of the fifteen persons on board were drowned.

Wolcott's Home Coming Fixed.

London, Jan. 20.—The Chronicle reports that United States Senator Wolcott will return to America about the end of January.

Stories of Prentice.

George D. Prentice was a remarkably candid man, illustration of which is given in the anecdotes which follow; but these are only a few of the hundreds to be told:

Once when coming out of a public building in Louisville he was about to pass through a double door which opened both ways. Like the sensible man he was he started to push at the door half on his right. A young man coming from the opposite direction was pushing at the same door, being his own left. Prentice lost patience, and throwing himself with all his might against the door it flew open and the young man went sprawling on the mosaic floor. Assisting the youth to arise, Prentice remarked: "Take my advice, my son. Keep to the right in your way through life, and you'll never run against anybody but a blamed fool, and you needn't apologize to him."

Will S. Hays, the famous Kentucky song writer, was in the latter days of the old Journal river reporter for The Democrat. Hays was a very sudden young man, good hearted, jolly, witty, but lacking somewhat in reverence, and he had a habit of calling persons, even old enough to be his grandfather, by their given names. Visiting Prentice one day as a fellow poet, after some desultory talk, Hays said:

"I suppose, George, you have seen my last song."

Prentice looked up at Hays, who was seated cross legged on Prentice's table, and with a twinkle in his expressive eyes quietly replied:

"I hope so, Bill."

Bill looked around for a second or two, as if something had tapped him, and then slid down the baluster rail to the front door.—Chicago Times-Herald.

First Movements During a Revolution.

I know the men of the people in Paris too well not to know that their first movements in times of revolution are usually generous, and that they are best pleased to spend the days immediately following their triumph in boasting of their victory, laying down the law and playing at being great men. During that time it generally happens that some government or other is set up, the police returns to its post and the judge to his bench, and when at last our great men consent to step down to the better known and more vulgar ground of petty and malicious human passions they are no longer able to do so and are reduced to live simply like honest men. Besides, we have spent so many years in insurrections that there have arisen among us a kind of morality peculiar to times of disorder and a special code for days of rebellion. According to these exceptional laws, murder is tolerated and havoc permitted, but theft is strenuously forbidden, although this, whatever one may say, does not prevent a good deal of robbery from occurring upon those days for the simple reason that society in a state of rebellion cannot be different from that at any other time, and it will always contain a number of rascals who, as far as they are concerned, scorn the morality of the main body and despise its point of honor when they are unobserved.—"Recollections" of De Tocqueville.

How Bees Gather Honey.

Bees gather honey by the aid of their "trunk," "lower lip" or "tongue," which is used as an instrument for extracting the nectar from flowers. The "tongue" of a bee is not, as was once thought to be the case, a tube through which the juice is sucked, but is built more after the fashion of a fine broom. With this broom the bee brushes or laps the honey or honey material from the flowers, leaves, etc., and passes it down a groove in the upper surface of the tongue to the mouth proper. From that point the juice is conveyed through a minute orifice into the "first stomach," vulgarly called the "honey bag." The "honey bag" is a real chemical laboratory, where, by some mysterious process which has not yet been explained by science, the juices are converted into pure honey. When the chemical process of transforming their nectar into viscid honey has been completed, the bee disgorges it into one of the cells made for the purpose of a receptacle.

For years the microscopists and the entomologists have been studying the bee's laboratory, but its workings are at present among the unexplained mysteries.—St. Louis Republic.

Cities Buried by Sand Storms.

Sven Hedin, the Norwegian traveler, has discovered on the north side of the Kuen Lun mountains, and in the edge of the great desert of Gobi, the ruins of towns which he thinks were buried by sand storms about 1,000 years ago. The largest town was nearly 2½ miles long, and a canal connected it and the surrounding country with the Kerija river. The houses had walls of plaited reeds, covered with mud and then coated with white plaster, and on these plaster walls were well executed paintings of men, animals and flowers. Poplars, apricots and plum trees had evidently flourished there before the invasion of the sand.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Climbing.

Selfish ambition may help us to climb to the point where we may be seen, but it never aids us in climbing to where we can see. The higher a man gets in the world in pursuit of selfish aims the narrower his field of vision becomes. The higher he gets in the pursuit of unselfish aims the farther he can see around him. It matters little whether we climb in life if we do not climb toward a higher point of vision.—Sunday School Times.

Heliotrope.

The name of the heliotrope comes from two Greek words signifying "twining toward the sun." It has long been a belief that the flower of the heliotrope turns, with the advancing day, so as to face the sun. In some species of this plant this curious practice is noticed.

ON CABINET MAKING.

THE DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED TO A PRESIDENT ELECT.

Why Most Men Prefer the Senate to a Position In the Cabinet—Parts of the Country to Be Considered—Observations on Some Cabinets In the Past.

It is ever to be regretted that the founders of the republic did not in some way arrange that cabinet places should be more attractive to the class of men who can best fill them. Every cabinet officer is in one sense one-eighth of the presidency of the United States. The executive duties and responsibilities with which the chief magistrate is charged are divided into eight parts, and for practical purposes the head of a department is president of the United States concerning that eighth of the country's interests. The president's approval and consent is more or less perfunctory, depending largely upon the degree of confidence he comes to have in his various official advisers. In this light it is strange that a set of offices so important and with the presidential succession falling to them should go a-begging to the extent that is usual with cabinet places. Few men nowadays will leave the senate to enter a cabinet. Senator Allison has at least twice before been offered a portfolio and declined it. Secretary Proctor left the cabinet of Harrison to become a senator from Vermont. Nathan Goff of West Virginia is said to desire a cabinet position now, that he may get into line for the senate to take the place of Mr. Faulkner, whose term will expire in two years.

Illustrations might be multiplied indefinitely to show that a place in the senate is more coveted than one in the cabinet. A senator, in going into a cabinet, must bury the individuality of his political ambition. As long as the president is a candidate for re-election his cabinet confidants must stand by him and with him, while no such responsibility is entailed upon his supporters at the other end of the avenue. If an administration prove a failure, it carries down with it the reputation substantially of all who have been a part of it. Again, the duties of a cabinet officer are arduous and continuous. Instead of an average six months in a year, he must reside here constructively the whole 12 and have constantly in mind the work of a great business establishment. Half of his first year is consumed in picking out his chief subordinates and in explaining to the 99 disappointed applicants for each position how it happened that their names were passed over. He must, moreover, maintain a social establishment of considerable dignity and consequently of considerable expense.

The relative undesirability of cabinet positions is only one, however, of the difficulties of a president elect in making suitable selections for them. He must, of course, choose eight men who are not only congenial to him, but congenial to each other. They must be capable administrators as well as students of the affairs of their several departments. Geographical considerations, too, always constitute a troublesome factor. When Major McKinley started out on the task of cabinet building, he probably realized that one of the eight places must go to New England, another to New York, one to the new tier of Republican states on the southern border, one to the northwest and two to the Ohio valley and middle west region, and that perhaps the Pacific coast should be remembered, the middle Atlantic states and also the extreme south. New England almost always has a cabinet position. In the two Cleveland administrations Mr. Endicott and Mr. Olney, both of Massachusetts, have been the New England representatives. Senator Proctor of Vermont was Harrison's man, and William E. Chandler of New Hampshire President Arthur's. The Garfield cabinet, which was in existence so short a time, had no New England member. Mr. Hayes selected General Devens of Massachusetts. In the Grant cabinets, where changes were pretty frequent, New England was represented by Boutwell and Richardson of Massachusetts and Morrill of Maine in the treasury. Marshall Jewell of Connecticut was postmaster general, and E. R. Hoar of Massachusetts served as attorney general.

New York, which has not far from one-eighth of the population of the Union and a proportion larger than that in the matter of distinguished men, gets a place in every cabinet with a like regularity. Mr. Cleveland, in the construction of each of his cabinets, has selected two New Yorkers, Manning and Whitney sitting in the first one and Lamont and Bissell in the second. On the death of Mr. Manning, Mr. Fairchild, also of New York, succeeded. Secretary Tracy was President Harrison's New York appointment to the navy portfolio. Judge Folger was President Arthur's secretary of the treasury, and Thomas L. James was postmaster general under President Garfield. William M. Evarts was secretary of state under Hayes. Under Grant, Hamilton Fish held the same office, and Edwards Pierrepont was for a time attorney general.

If Major McKinley's experience is like that of other presidents, he will find the task of cabinet making so great that the real make up is likely to be squeezed into the last few weeks before inauguration. Four years ago the first selection made was that of Mr. Carlisle for the treasury portfolio. This was practically decided as soon as Mr. Cleveland was elected. During his first administration Mr. Carlisle had been speaker of the house, and his relations with the president had been most cordial and helpful. When Mr. Cleveland was about to enter upon the duties of the presidency a second time, Mr. Carlisle was in the senate from Kentucky. The legislature of that state was Democratic, and everything seemed ripe for his appointment to the cabinet.

No sooner had Mr. Carlisle's own part been selected and agreed upon than he joined Mr. Cleveland in studying the general cabinet situation as it applied to the seven other places. From the first it was known that Mr. Cleveland would require the services of Mr. Lamont, his former private secretary, in some post near to him, and consideration of the question did not go far before the secretaryship of war was decided upon as the right one.

For Mr. Bissell, Mr. Cleveland's former law partner in Buffalo, there was at first some doubt as between a cabinet place and one of the first class foreign missions. Hoke Smith was selected rather early in the list as a representative of the new south. The remaining four appointments were made pretty near the time of inauguration. The state portfolio had been offered to several eminent Democrats before Mr. Cleveland settled upon Judge Gresham, and John E. Russell of Massachusetts had been strongly urged to take a seat in the council room before Mr. Herbert or Mr. Olney had been invited. Mr. Olney, when determined upon as the New England member, was offered either the attorney generalship or the navy portfolio, and his selection of the former left the secretaryship of the navy to Mr. Herbert, who throughout had been strongly urged for the position on account of his long service on the naval affairs committee and his consistent advocacy of sound money. Mr. Morton, as secretary of agriculture, was among the latest selections. Mr. Cleveland had never regarded the post as of much consequence and had no idea how important the personal traits of the new incumbent would make it.

It is doubtful whether in recent history there has been a cabinet comparable, all things considered, with that of President Hayes. Coming to the presidency after months of agitation over the result of the election and with his title clouded by the questionable constitutionality of the means adopted to settle it, Mr. Hayes invited to his council board a body of men who stamped his administration with strength and dignity from the start. When Garfield was running for president in 1880, the greatest contribution to his success as the Republican candidate were the members of the cabinet of his predecessor and what they had done to quiet the tumult resulting from the disputed election of 1876.

The peculiarity of Mr. Cleveland's cabinets has been the drafting in of men almost wholly from private life. In the present cabinet, as originally formed, Carlisle and Herbert were the only members who had been honored with any considerable elective office. Mr. Gresham had received judicial appointments and had held two cabinet positions, but had never been elected to any office of prominence. The remaining five members were comparatively untried men in a public way, although all were men of very successful experience in business or professional life. While Mr. Cleveland has generally been fortunate in his selections, it may be set down as a rule that legislative experience is worth something, and that a president who selects a large body of his counselors from those who have had none of this experience runs risks of considerable magnitude. — New York Evening Post.

AN INDIAN VILLAGE.

Found In New Jersey—Supposed to Have Been Deserted For a Century.

An Indian village has been discovered by Constable George W. Sneft of Egg Harbor City, N. J. This was midway between Pomona and McKee City.

Sneft was fox hunting with a party of friends and passed through the dense forests, when suddenly one of their number spied an opening in the thickest of the brush. They investigated it and found that it was an old Indian hut, still in good condition, as it was made of hickory wood.

A further search revealed four other huts, and around them were found many arrowheads, darts, tomahawks and a quantity of flint. One of the tomahawks had a covering of some animal skin and a sharp arrowhead fastened to an end. This spot covered but an area of about 200 feet and is so thickly surrounded by brush that it is safe to say it was not trod upon for nearly a century, although it is only 200 yards from a well traveled road.

A Parlor Ornament.

Something which demonstrated that the human hair grows after death was discovered recently in Colesville, N. Y. There lives in that town a family named Howe, well to do farmers. They had a daughter, Jessie, 19 years old. She had beautiful golden hair. When she was stricken with a fever, it was necessary to cut off her locks. Finally she died and was buried. After two years the parents decided to remove the remains to another spot. The grave was opened. It was found that her hair had grown to reach nearly to her feet. It was as bright and glossy as though its wearer was in the best of health. The tresses were cut off. They measured over five feet. They were put into a glass case in Mrs. Howe's home, where they are now shown to visitors.—New York Press.

An Immense Organ.

The new organ of the Church of St. Ignatius, San Francisco, weighs more than 100,000 pounds and has more than 5,000 pipes.

The Scapegoat.

When the weather is not to his liking
And he's taken a terrible cold
Through imprudence audacious and striking,
He feels that he's licensed to scold.
In manners as fierce as a Viking
He forgets how the mischief was done,
And his rage will rescund
In remarks most profound
On the way that the government's run.

If too freely the sun sheds caloric,
Or if frostward the climate should stray;
If the jests seem too flatly historic
When he's seeking for mirth at the play;
If he's purchased a book sophomoric
Or encountered a harrowing pun,
His wrath he'll display
In the things that he'll say
On the way that the government's run.
—Washington Star.

ONE OF NELSON'S CAPTAINS.

A New Yorker Commanded a British Ship In the Battle of the Nile.

The fifth ship was the Theseus, Captain Ralph Willett Miller. This gentleman, whom after his premature death Nelson styled "the only truly virtuous man I ever knew," was by birth a New Yorker, whose family had been loyalists during the American Revolution. A letter from him to his wife gives an account of the fight which is at once among the most vivid and from the professional standpoint the most satisfactory of those which have been transmitted to us. Of the Theseus' entrance into the battle he says:

"In running along the enemy's line in the wake of the Zealous and Goliath, I observed their shot sweep just over us. And knowing well that at such a moment Frenchmen would not have coolness enough to change their elevation, I closed them suddenly, and, running under the arch of their shot, reserved my fire, every gun being loaded with two and some with three round shot, until I had the Guerrier's masts in a line and her jibboom about six feet clear of our rigging. We then opened with such effect that a second breath could not be drawn before her main and mizzen masts were also gone. This was precisely at sunset, or 44 minutes past 6. Then passing between her and the Zealous and as close as possible round the off side of the Goliath, we anchored by the stern exactly in a line with her and abreast the Spartiate. We had not been many minutes in action with the Spartiate when we observed one of our ships (and soon after knew her to be the Vanguard, place herself so directly opposite to us on the outside of her that I desisted firing on her, that I might not do mischief to our friends, and directed every gun before the mainmast on the Aquilon (fourth French) and all abaft it on the Conquerant, giving up my proper bird to the admiral."—"Nelson In the Battle of the Nile," by Captain Mahan, in Century.

THE CRANE DANCE.

Where the Soubrettes Got Their Idea For a Specialty.

There is a dance called the crane dance, which is popular at the vaudeville houses. At Lincoln park there is a real crane which does a crane dance, and those who have seen its saltatorial feats say the bird does it much better than do the featherless, two legged animals.

No purely imitative dancing could fail to gain by being an exact copy of the performance of the long necked, spindle legged sand hill crane. Its steps are not only grotesque, but they are of a kind to make the gravest onlooker lose his dignity and laugh like a delighted boy at the circus. This Lincoln park bird at the outset of his dance is the personification of dignity. When in the days of his freedom he tripped it on his native sand hills for the sole benefit of his mate, he did so only in the springtime, but now, in his lowly captive state, he dances in and out of season if the keeper who feeds him will but wave his arms and take an awkward step or two to give him encouragement.

The crane begins its dance by shoving one long leg, with its claw attachment, straight out in front of his body. Then he lowers it and draws it back slowly until it is within an inch or two of the ground. Then there is a lightninglike double shuffle, and the other leg is pointed to the front. Then the dance begins in earnest. The wings are stretched and beat the air in perfect time to the movement of the feet, be they going fast or slow. There is the semblance of a clog; then the sinuous foot and body movement of the nautch girl, and in a moment the whirl of the dancing dervish, to be succeeded as a finale by a sort of wild "all hands round," in which every feather of the bird is alive, as it enters into the joy of the dance with an utter abandon. The act of stopping is like the "halt" of the German soldier—sudden, stiff and instant. Then the crane marches away to a corner with a still stately tread, but with an eye which appears to reveal embarrassment.—Chicago Times-Herald.

English Administration of Jamaica.

The English administration of Jamaica is a thing to be thankful for. There are law and order, excellent roads, comfortable houses, adequate police, lawn tennis and cricket, plenty of manly, companionable English army and navy officers and a governor who is strong, able and genial. At the same time it would be folly to maintain that the island is producing a tenth part of the wealth that is latent in soil and atmosphere, or that most of the wealth that is beginning to make its appearance is due to anything so much as to the American enterprise and capital which are opening up railways and cultivating fruits. Another serious fact, though not necessarily an unwelcome one, is that the island's 4,000 square miles contain a population of 600,000 persons, 25,000 of whom are white.—Julian Hawthorne in Century.

Youthful Interrogator.

"Mother," said a thoughtful Boston child to his maternal relative.

"What is it, Waldo?"

"Is Philadelphia older than Boston, mother?"

"Of course not, my son. The first settlement was made in Charlestown in 1630, while William Penn did not arrive on the site of Philadelphia until 53 years later."

"That was always my impression, mother, but how is it that Philadelphia is mentioned in the Bible, while Boston is not?" — Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

The red carnation is regarded in Spain as an emblem of despair. There is a tradition in Andalusia that the flower sprang from the blood of the Virgin Mary.

The distance between Cape Town, South Africa, and Washington is 6,684 miles.

Big Alligators.

At the end of a chapter on alligators in his book, "Hunting and Fishing in Florida," Mr. Charles B. Cory, curator of the department of ornithology in the Field Columbian museum, Chicago, gives an entry which he once saw in the register of the Brock House.

In the old days, when transportation was more difficult than it is at present, the Brock House was about the end of civilization and was a 24 hours' trip by boat from Jacksonville. It was at that time a great resort for sportsmen, who were attracted there by the fishing and shooting to be had in the vicinity.

The old register, which extended back a great many years, contained some queer records, some of them of doubtful veracity. Among others, some one had written:

"March 19, 1872, killed a large alligator, the largest seen here this year. The stomach contained a boot, a piece of pine wood, a fisherman's float and some small fish."

Immediately beneath this record was another, evidently added by some wag: "March 24, killed a much bigger alligator than the one mentioned above. The stomach contained a gold watch, $10,000 in government bonds and a cord of wood."

On the next page, written in a neat, unobtrusive style, was inscribed the following: "Shot the biggest alligator ever known in Florida. The stomach contained the remains of a steam launch, a lot of old railway iron and a quantity of melted ice, proving that it existed during the glacial epoch."

Outside Decoration of French Houses.

Ferdinand Mazas, in The Architectural Record, explains sculpture as applied to Paris houses. "Twenty years ago," Mr. Mazas says, "the external ornamentation of French houses was, in general of a very sober character." Today decoration is very much in fashion and perhaps not always discreet.

M. Paul Heneux, having been intrusted with the erection of the new town hall at Les Lilas, a charming little place near Paris, conceived the idea of treating all the sculpture of the building with lilacs. The capitals, the balcony, the friezes and the flower work placed above the dormer windows represent nothing but sprays, bunches, leaves and petals of lilac. The brackets of the windows are also formed of flowers of the same spring shrub. As to the baluster of the grand staircase, it represents a trellis with branches of lilac climbing over it. Yet the architect has avoided monotony and has produced the most graceful variations upon this single theme adopted by him. We will also mention a house designed by M. Paul Heneux. In this case all the sculpture has been inspired by the profession of the owner, who is a druggist. The frontals of the dormer windows of this house are ornamented with garlands of mallows and poppies. The frieze is composed of renaissance motives, in the ornamentation of which other medicinal plants figure. Finally, on the first story there is an escutcheon that recalls the origin of the fortune of the owner, who is the disseminator of some kind of ointment or elixir.

A Welsh Rip.

Every nation has a Rip Van Winkle of its own, but the Welsh story of Rip is unique. He is known as Taffy ap Sion. One morning Taffy heard a bird singing on a tree close by his path. Allured by the melody, he sat down until the music ceased. When he arose, what was his surprise at observing that the tree under which he had taken seat had now become dead and withered. In the doorway of his home, which, to his amazement, had also suddenly grown older, he asked of a strange old man for his parents, whom he had left there, as he said, a few minutes before. Upon learning his name the old man said: "Alas, Taffy, I have often heard my grandfather, your father, speak of you, and it was said you were under the power of the fairies and would not be released until the last sap of that sycamore had dried up. Embrace me, my dear uncle—for you are my uncle—embrace your nephew." Welshmen do not always perceive the humor of this somewhat novel situation of a youth—for Taffy was still merely a boy—being hailed as uncle by a gentleman perhaps 40 years his senior.—Lippincott's.

A Physician's Pigeons.

The carrier pigeon has been put to a new use by a doctor in Scotland who has a large and scattered practice. Says the London Globe:

When he goes on long rounds, he carries a number of pigeons with him. If he finds that some of his patients require medicine at once, he writes out prescriptions, and by means of the pigeons forwards them to his surgery. Here an assistant gets the messages, prepares the prescriptions and dispatches the medicine.

If, after visiting a patient, the doctor thinks he will be required later in the day, he simply leaves a pigeon, which is employed to summon him if necessary. To this enterprising physician the keeping of carrier pigeons means a saving of time, expense and labor.

Skeletons With Tails.

A discovery of wonderful interest to the followers of the Darwinian theory of evolution was made not long since near the little village of Sinaloa, Mexico, while workmen were preparing the ground of a new coffee plantation. This wonderful ethnological find consisted of hundreds of skeletons of what some believed to be a prehistoric people of a very low order of intelligence. Each of the skeletons is provided with the bones of a long, thick caudal appendage, which in life turned up, like a squirrel's tail.—St. Louis Republic.

There are many families of the mosquito, one entomologist saying that there are 52 kinds in the United States.

Ten days are required to make the voyage between New York and Amsterdam.