SOME QUEER GODS, VERY QUEER IDOLS.

Grotesque Images Carved With Wild Barbaric Ingenuity and Skill.

IN WOOD, IN WAX AND STRAW.

William L. Gunning's Collection of Images Brought From Heathen Lands to the City of Chicago. What He Acquired During a Search of Seventeen Years. What the Children of Ham Worshiped.

GRINNING masks almost devoid of semblance to the human face; strange figures of wax, wood and straw; grotesque images carved with wild barbaric ingenuity and skill; gorgeous deities robed in gold—lacquered garments with dazzling aureoles of gold encircling their heads—of such is the weird collection of strange gods brought from heathen lands by William L. Gunning of this city, says the Chicago Herald. From the flowery lands of China, and from lotus-rearing Japan the efforts of their bland and slant-eyed sons to materialize their conceptions of a creator of all things have been brought by Mr. Gunning

A Central American God.

more from motives of curiosity than from any desire to elucidate the mysteries that surround the religious worship of the heathens. Many of the symbols of modern belief have been so ostensibly derived from wild and barbaric ideas of the worship of a god that the study of a comparative mythology has become an interesting and fascinating pursuit. Thousands of years before the Christian era the rude notions of a divine being found expression in the worship of the elements. As language progressed the desire to have some outward form of the prevailing notions of a creator found an outlet in the making of images representing the controlling deity of the sun, fire, storm, the sky, night and day.

In Africa the children of Ham crawled on their stomachs in the dust before a wooden idol to pray that the scorching rays of the sun might not injure their crops or drink the water from the streams. In India the worship of deities was more advanced than in the Dark Continent. Huge idols, protectors of the various industries of the Hindoos, clustered around a central image of Buddha, the dictator of all. In the American continent, in the South Sea Islands, there was a continual struggle toward light. The beginning, its when and its how, had disturbed the savage intellect as soon as

A Select Quartet.

physical wants were satisfied and the mind began to assert its power. The mystery of life and the controlling influences that brought good or ill upon them were evidences of some hidden power. It was to express their ideas of this esoteric being, who could destroy crops at his will and who held death in his hands, that these savages carved rude images. The next step was to appease the wrath or implore favors of this god by bringing offerings and falling down in adoration and worship.

These idols, gathered together during seventeen years of labor by Mr. Gunning, are mostly expressions of heathen worship since the Christian era. Not many years ago the attempt to procure their sacred gods from their temples would have been visited with horrible tortures, ending in death upon the sacrilegious stranger who invaded the precincts of a house of worship in savagedom. Now, Christian habits and manners have obtained such a foothold in savage countries that gifts of money or "fire water" will devastate the altars of a joss-house or Buddhist temple as surely as the wrath of the gods would sweep a whole village into eternity by the exercise of the powers over tempests. Where once a stranger dare not place his foot the doors are now thrown wide open. Among the 400 images and objects of worship, brought by Mr. Gunning from all quarters of the globe, the most striking is

An Alaskan Specimen.

the great altar from the Buddhist temple at Migoto, Japan. This altar is about four feet long and three feet high, and is surmounted by images of Japanese gods, subsidiary to the great idol in the center representing Buddha, the lord of all. The altar table is lacquered in deep black. On the raised edges elaborate carvings in brass are fastened in thin strips, and on the inside thick gold lacquer of the most artistic finish appears. Its polished red and yellow surface is reflected in the deep shade of the lacquer on the slab. The Japanese have always indulged a taste for executing in brass beautiful allegorical designs, representing their poetical ideas concerning life, death and immortality. The panels are covered with carvings of the chrysanthemum and the lotus in bud, leaf and flower. Strange figures that require the aid of a Japanese dervish to elucidate, signs of the seasons, the sacred crab, the beetle—the emblem of immortality—appear in studied confusion on these panels. Above the altar appears a figure of Fo, the Japanese Buddha. The figure is about three feet high and discloses the god in an attitude diffusing the divine light. He is standing on a flowery lotus—the emblem of life—and is clothed in a voluminous robe of dazzling gold lacquer. His countenance is tranquil and exhibits but little expression, the fault, perhaps, of the artist. But the Japanese fancy for symbolism is exhibited in his attitude, the position of his hands and the various artistic surroundings tending to produce greater religious fervor. The right arm is bent at the elbow and the thumb and forefinger meet, while three fingers point upward. This is symbolic of a belief among the Japanese concerning the creators of the world. Above the head of the god is the sacred halo from which irradiates golden rays of light. In the paintings of the early masters the nimbus or crown of glory frequently adorned the heads of the Savior, the blessed virgins and the canonized martyrs of the Christian church. A survival of a pagan idea, the nimbus signified to the early Christians and

A Burmah Divinity.

even at a much later date the divine light of the Holy Ghost encircling the heads of those who had given their lives as a token of the love for him who died on Calvary.

On each side of the altar are images representing the divine attributes of the great Buddha. They also stand on blooming lotus flowers and are clothed in gorgeous golden robes. Round and about the altar are grouped many smaller idols from Hiogo, Japan. Homosubi, the god of wind and rain, Dharma and the sacred Trinity stand on one edge of the altar slab; the gods of agriculture, necromancy and medicine are apart from the rest, but their elaborately carved draperies vie in elegance with the more imposing figures on the altar. Along the sides of the room are the lesser gods of the Chinese and Japanese, all bearing marks of the artistic skill and poetical thought of the religious sculptors who carved them in wood and wax and molded and beat them from strong fibrous paper. India, the home of Buddhism and the land of religious enthusiasts, is represented by three beautiful images of Visinu, Surya Arha Pati, the sun god, and Lakshmi, the wife of Vishnu. Chiseled from white marble, the color of the stone is hidden by a thick layer of gilt and paint. Vishnu is the embodiment of solar energy and is represented as a young man draped with a simple covering about the loins. By his side is his wife, the mistress of worlds, about whose birth is told the poetical legend that she sprang from the foam of the sea that tumbled around the then uninhabited world, bearing a lotus in her hand. Surya, the sun god, is seated upon a chariot drawn by the famous seven chargers. In one of his hands, for he possesses four arms, as do all Hindoo gods, he bears the lotus, in another the rosary, while the third holds the Buddhist vase.

Two hundred years ago, when buccaneers swept the Spanish main, the cupidity of

South Sea Islands.

these pirates was aroused by the finding of curious idols jotted with jewels that were discovered during the sacking and looting of the Spanish seaport towns. Strange stories were told them of the treasures of the Aztecs in the wilds of Mexico and Central America, and many attempts were made to penetrate to the homes of these little gods that had been carried away by pillaging Spaniards. Henry Morgan, the prince of the buccaneers, headed a great expedition to capture the religious treasures of the Aztecs, but the hardships and trials endured during the journey frustrated his plans, and the project had to be abandoned. Many gods and goddesses of Aztec worship have since been rescued from the ruthless hand of time, but the treasures still remain hidden from mortal eyes.

A group of musty idols is to be seen among the brighter images from Japan, China and India in Mr. Gunning's collection. A faint odor of the tomb hovers around them still and they carry marks of their burial. The principal figure among them is Tezcatlipoca, the soul of the world. Like most of the images from Mexico and Central America, this idol is of brown stone, and has suffered severely in its contact with the "whips and scorns of fortune." Tezcatlipoca was also the "Shining Mirror," and he bears on his

The Japanese Buddha.

stony breast a glittering green stone. Guatemala furnishes an idol in Zimucane, the moon goddess, whose indistinct features can be traced indifferently on the stone slab where she reposes for the adoration of moonstruck worshipers. The most remarkable figure is the god of Hades, who glories in the name of Mictlantecutli. Half human, half beast, the Medusean head of the god is bent forward, the eyes peering through the portals of Hades.

From Arizona Mr. Gunning has brought the sacred turtle rattle of the Zuni Indians. California furnishes a little brown goddess of the sky, a medicine bag and fetishes of the Sioux. Curious objects of worship from the South Sea Islands and South America end the collection. Mr. Gunning has laid before the World's Fair Commissioners the project of exhibiting these idols in 1893, and he is willing to expend $20,000 more in the purchase of objects of heathen worship.

Pretty Way to Arrange Pictures.

A pretty way to arrange photographic and other views, which are reminders of one's summer vacation, is described by a visitor to Lady Brassey's home, and is very easily imitated. Procure long strips of gray or any neutral or delicate tint of cartridge paper of a pretty width to form a frieze or border and carefully cut out openings of various sizes at irregular intervals. Tack the strips to the wall in the hallway or library of your own room, and underneath each opening place a photograph sketch or collection of cards or wild flowers collected during the season. They should not be placed higher than the eyes of an ordinary-sized person, and they will form a very agreeable reminder of vacation days. Lady Brassey so arranged hundreds of sketches of her extensive travels, and they are greatly enjoyed by guests at her old home.—N. Y. Ledger.

Frederick Tennyson, the elder brother of the poet laureate, has published a second book of poems.

RUHAMAH'S LETTER.

The City of Washington Is Fast Taking on Its Winter Air.

There Will Not Be Any Long Holidays for Congress This Year—The Alaska Survey. Mr. Burdett-Coutts of London.

Special to THE SUNDAY CALL.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 1890.—The city is fast taking on its winter air, and people are drifting back from the North and West, where winter has really begun, to enjoy this perfect Indian summer. Besides the Senators, so many of whom have houses here and are in a measure residents of Washington, by reason of their long fixed stays here, the Congressmen are coming to town. There is much work to be done in the committee-rooms, in order to begin with the very opening of the short session. Speaker Reed's remarkable course in announcing his committees straightway after his election last year, was a suggestion of the way in which he wanted affairs managed, and his lieutenants are arranging for the same vigorous attack upon the winter's work for this session. It is even said that Congress will more nearly resemble a business meeting of full-grown men this year, and that there will be no adjournment or long holiday, as in boys' boarding-schools, to allow the statesmen to go clear to their homes to celebrate Christmas and New Year day. The Capitol building will not be deserted for a whole fortnight, and Speaker Reed will only favor adjournment for the two legal holidays, Thursday, December 25th, and Thursday, January 1st. This insures much more activity to Washington during the first month of the session, and only the Senators with re-elections on their hands will be expected to lag in their coming.

A special train took a distinguished company over to Brooklyn on Tuesday to witness the launching of the cruiser Maine at the navy-yard there. During the last few years, while all the new ships have been building, launches and trial trips have become very common pieces of news and the navy has been altogether to the front.

THE ARMY.

The army is enjoying a spurt in popular interest just now by reason of the Sioux scare in Dakota, and the Indian news from Mandan and Bismarck quite overshadows the news of the bitter Senatorial fight now being waged in that same section. As General Miles moves eastward his influence is more felt here and his plea for fortifications and coast defenses will be repeated with increasing earnestness until Congress really takes hold of the work. General Miles has always favored and urged Alaskan exploration and while he was at Fort Vancouver several expeditions went out from that post. The Abercrombie expedition went to the mouth of Copper River, camped for a while, in 1883, and came back with poor results. The second expedition, under command of Lieutenant Allen, went to Copper River in 1885, ascended to its source, crossed the divide to the Tenauah River, went down to its junction with the Yukon, and down that great river to its mouth. Lieutenant Schwatka followed the prospectors' wake over the Chilkat Pass in 1883, and went down the Yukon to its mouth. In 1884 Dr. Everette, U. S. A., worked in the region between the Chilkat Pass and Copper River, the same country to which the extedition sent out this summer by the Frank Leslie Illustrated Weekly has been devoting itself. For the past six years (since these expeditions sent out by General Miles) there has been no Government work or exploration going on in Alaska, save that of the Coast Survey and the reconnoissance of the Yukon made last year by Mr. I. C. Russell of the Geological Survey, who was prospecting the field for future work. At this moment there is a decided Alaskan boom in progress. Secretary Proctor favors sending a large and well-equipped military expedition to the Yukon region as soon as Congress can appropriate the $100,000 he asks for. The plan is to go up the Yukon from its mouth and establish one or more permanent posts on its banks as bases of supplies and places of winter refuge. A light-draught river steamer and small boats would be taken up there and the corps would ascend the tributary streams to their sources and map the water-shed of the Yukon country. Several young army officers now stationed here are zealously working for this Alaska survey and will surely be detailed to accompany it if Congress, between its business and quarrels, will take time to consider Secretary Proctor's request.

MOUNT ST. ELIAS.

Major Powell of the Geological Survey will send one or more field parties to Alaska this coming year, and Mount St. Elias will no doubt be climbed and measured again, as the Coast Survey authorities are much dismayed at the slicing that august summit received at the hands of the Russell expedition. The latter expedition was sent out this season by the National Geographic Society of Washington, under command of Mr. I. C. Russell, who was temporarily detailed by Major Powell, and permitted to conduct the survey. The Geographic Society raised a Exploration Fund which it entrusted to Mr. Russell, who chose his assistants and started in May last. He returned a few weeks since, and next week will give an account of his work at a special meeting of the Geographic Society, to be held at Lincoln Hall. The Russell expedition reports Mount St. Elias to be not more than 13,000 or 14,000 feet in height, while Coast Survey authorities have heretofore claimed 17,000 and 19,000 as its height, and the Russians assured the United States, at the time of the Alaska purchase, that we were getting the highest mountain in all North America thrown in with the rest of the great bargain. Taking opportunity at this time of much talk about an est in Alaska, Keith, your San Francisco artist, has sent East for exhibition his large painting of an Alaskan glacier. To those not familiar with this feature of Alaskan scenery the painting causes amazement, and creates quite a sensation with its wonderful azure ice-cliffs rising from a foreground of berg-strewn, gray green glacier water. The painting has been for a few days at Fisher's art-store, but goes to the Cosmos Club-house for a few weeks to enjoy the post of honor in the large exhibition-room. Fisher's little gallery has had many visitors, artists, geologists and northern explorers expressing a keen interest in the unique landscape. "And it is not by Pyatt?" ask the amazed diplomates, who know only that Munich artist, who accompanied the Austrian Polar expedition and brought back so many wonderful ice pictures. "Who else can paint ice and have had the opportunity?" they ask, and "ce Monsieur Keith of California" is being discussed in many foreign tongues. Mrs. Harrison, General Greely and Chief Engineer Melville were among the admiring visitors to the picture in one afternoon.

THE CONDIT-SMITH-WOODS WEDDING.

Justice Field's home was the scene of a merry wedding party this week, when Mrs. Field's niece, Miss Louise Condit-Smith, was married to Dr. Woods of the navy. There was a great gathering of the family friends and of the Pacific Coast colony in Washington, and there was the traditionally merry time, the bride-cake, the shower of rice and the driving away with an old slipper on the carriage-top. Dr. Woods is stationed in California and they go to the Coast in a few weeks. Mrs. Peter Donahue and Mrs. E. Martin of San Francisco, who spent the summer in Europe with Justice and Mrs. Field, came from New York to be present at the wedding and will spend a little time here at the Shoreham.

Mr. Burdett-Coutts of London was one of the celebrities in town this week. He was taken to call upon President and Mrs. Harrison by Secretary Blaine, and he left them a photograph of Baroness Burdett-Coutts in exchange for those which he carries back to London for the philanthropic little woman whose name he bears. Another London visitor has been Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, who came over to Washington, which was her old home, while the visiting Irish statesman only came as far as Baltimore. Later in the winter the whole party will be here. Mrs. O'Connor was a social favorite and beauty here some twenty years ago, when her father, Judge Pascha, came from Texas to fill a place in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. She first married Frank Gassaway, then a cashier in one of the leading banks of Washington. A divorce ensued; Mr. Gassaway went West and became the Derrick Dodd, whom the whole Pacific Coast knows; and after her father's death pretty Bessie Paschal took a clerkship in one of the departments to support herself and child.

A CHARMING WOMAN.

She was one of the most charming and fascinating women of her day, and traditions survive as measures of the success of the beauties of to-day. Don Cameron and a score of eligible men were her suitors, but she surprised them all by suddenly marrying Captain Wright of the army, and lying away to his post, near Philadelphia. In a year or so Captain Wright committed suicide, and the young and beautiful woman was again thrown upon her own resources. Government employment and journalism were tried, and in the course of her newspaper work she went to London and met the fiery and enthusiastic young Irish leader, who fell desperately in love with her at the first sight of her lovely eyes, and never rested until his suit was successful. Mrs. O'Connor has been an immense help to her husband in his Parliamentary life, and her tact, diplomacy and social genius have done much for his cause. In addition, she was one of the hardest-working members of his staff when Mr. O'Connor started his paper—the Star—in London. Recently she has been a grievous sufferer from rheumatism, and has spent much time undergoing treatment at German baths.

Mrs. Miller is receiving many congratulations upon the arrival of her first grandchild, the daughter of Mrs. Richardson Clover, and quantities of flowers and the most beautiful presents have been sent to Mrs. Clover and the infant. RUHAMAH.

HE PUT ON THE GLOVES.

How a Muscular Monkey Became a Sullivan of the Wilds.

—Judge.

A Dead Certainty.

Miss Summit (coldly)—Mr. Dashaway, I think it would be a friendly act in you to call your friend Mr. Cleverton's attention to his watch chain. It is so extremely brassy.

Dashaway—But, my dear Miss Summit, I'm sure that it's gold. I would swear to it.

Miss Summit (cynically)—Why are you so sure?"

Dashaway—I know for a fact that he got $18 on it recently.—Clothier and Furnisher.

Constitutional Catarrh.

No single disease has entailed more suffering or hastened the breaking up of the constitution than Catarrh. The sense of smell, of taste, of sight, of hearing, the human voice, the mind—one or more and sometimes all yield to its destructive influence. The poison it distributes throughout the system attacks every vital force and breaks up the most robust of constitutions. Ignored, because but little understood, by most physicians, impotently assailed by quacks and charlatans, those suffering from it have little hope to be relieved of it this side of the grave. It is time, then, that the popular treatment of this terrible disease by remedies within the reach of all passed into hands at once competent and trustworthy. The new and hitherto untried method adopted by Dr. Sanford in the preparation of his RADICAL CURE has won the hearty approval of thousands. It is instantaneous in affording relief in all head colds, sneezing, snuffing and obstructed breathing, and rapidly removes the most oppressive symptoms, clearing the head, sweetening the breath, restoring the senses of smell, taste and hearing, and neutralizing the constitutional tendency of the disease toward the lungs, liver and kidneys.

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SCOTCH SOCIETIES IN AMERICA.

One That Was Organized More Than Two Centuries Ago.

The Sons of Scotia Forming Societies That Combine Social and Beneficial Features. Helping the Weak.

Written for THE SUNDAY CALL.

THE oldest Scotch society in America is the Scots' Charitable Society of Boston, Mass. More than 230 years have elapsed since its organization. When Boston was the great seaport of New England, to which emigrants of Great Britain were directed, among the classes of British subjects came numbers of our countrymen, seeking homes in the New World. It was then as now, the poor came as well as the rich, and many of the farmers were poor, indeed. Some of these had to sell their labor for a specified sum in advance, in order to pay their passage money, thereby contracting for themselves a measure of slavery, justifiable in itself, but ever irksome and unpleasant even under the most favorable conditions. To those already resident in Boston who had overcome the first trials of the emigrant condition in a new country, this modified and limited tinge of slavery was repulsive, and so the Scots' Charitable Society of Boston was instituted on the 6th of January, 1657, with the view of relieving the unfortunate poor from the grasp of the individual creditor and placing him under the protection of the society, extending to him all the time necessary to repay his obligations from the money he earned in freedom. Provision also was made for "relieving the distress and mitigating the hardship of many a worthy Scot when friendless and a stranger in a foreign land." Of course emigration then was numbered by tens and not by tens of thousands as now, so the society at its organization was limited to a membership of 100. The initiation subscription was twelve pence and the quarterly dues six pence. These very moderate figures show, too, what great changes have taken place in the people's minds financially as well as otherwise. That humble reunion of Scotchmen 230 years ago in the straggling village or township of Boston Harbor did its work in its day and passed through the inevitable changes of reorganization as required by growth and development of population, doing good all the time, till it has attained to an eminence benevolently, socially and financially, that marks it a great success. Taking the State of Massachusetts as an example, we find that only one Scotchman has ever been buried by the State, and as soon as this became known the Scots' Charitable Society of Boston promptly refunded the cost of burial to the State. Doubtless the reason why so many of our countrymen have been prevented from seeking public aid has been due to the heroic endeavors of the different societies, such as the one just named, who devote time and money freely to relieve their less fortunate countrymen.

HELPING FELLOW-MEMBERS.

Many other Scotch societies and clubs have been organized and are doing their share to help their fellow-countrymen. Notable is the Philadelphia Scots' Thistle Society, formed on Noven ber 30, 1796; also the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia, started in 1749. Caledonian and Thistle clubs could be mentioned, but I will not encroach, but promise to give a brief history of these societies in the future through your valuable paper, which has done much to advance the interests of the Scotch people of San Francisco. Now let me say something about the latest Scotch society formed in these United States. It is destined to do the most good for the widows and orphans or a dearly beloved mother or sister. I refer to the Order of Scottish Clans. This order is engaged in the noblest work that animates the human heart—that of providing for the weak and helpless, so as to leave them a sufficient sum so that they will be independent of the cold pitiless charity that is so often doled out to those who have often been left to face the world by the death of an improvident husband who was not a member of this or some other of the sister societies of a like nature. And what a man may leave to his family cannot be called charity in any sense of the word, for the treasury of each clan is held as joint stock for the mutual benefit of all members, and what his heirs may receive at his death is what he has provided for them by contributing his mite for the heirs of brother clansmen under like circumstances. Now, while athletics may be regarded as the basis of Caledonian and Thistle clubs in this city, insurance is undoubtedly the foundation of the Order of Scottish Clans, and for the information of many Scotch people, who may be desirous of forming a Scotch Clan on the Pacific Coast, it will not be out of place to mention the names of several clans, each representing its own tartan. They are: Abercrombie, Buchanan, Cameron, Campbell, Chisholm, Colquhoun, Cumyn, Davidson, Douglass, Dalziel, Drummond, Fraser, Forbes, Farquharson, Ferguson, Gordon, Graham, Grant, Gunn, Hay, Lamont, Logan, Leslie, Lindsay, MacAllister, McAulay, MacDonald, MacDougall, MacDuff, MacFarlane, MacGillivary, MacGregor, MacIntosh, MacKenzie, MacKay, MacKinnon, MacLaughlin, MacLean, MacLeod, MacNab, MacNaughton, MacNeil, MacPherson, MacQuarrie, MacLennan, McUhirr, MacAlpine, MacRae, MacLaurin, McIntyre, MacInness, Menzies, Munroe, Murray, Matheson, Ogilvie, Robertson, Ross, Rose, Sinclair, Stuart, Sutherland, Scotland Urquhart. This order of Scottish Clans has passed through the trials of infancy and youth and is now in robust manhood, and claims to take its place as one of the most useful Scottish societies in America. It was organized in St. Louis some twelve years ago. For a time its schemes were confined to that city, but after a year or two it was taken up by a number of Boston Scots, and a "boom" was started on its behalf which still continues as vigorous as ever. As the advantages offered by the order became known clans commenced to spring up all over the country, until at present there are eighty of these, and several in course of formation. Eight or ten clans are located in Canada, but across the border the order has not progressed as was at one time expected.

A GRAND FEDERATION.

When the order was started the idea was to institute a grand federation of Scotsmen in America, which, by united effort and a display of the truest fraternal spirit, was to combine sentiment and patriotism with more practical matters. The members were to unite in insuring their lives, sick benefits were to be provided, and a helping hand extended to any overtaken by misfortune. The fraternity was to be a secret one, that is, it was to meet with closed doors and have signs and passwords, after the fashion of the Odd Fellows or Masons. It was to have all the social features which distinguish the Caledonian or Thistle clubs, and, if need be, it would give public exhibitions of old Scottish games. It was to be a complete organization, offering to fill all the requirements of Scottish Americans, only that its benefits were to be confined to its own members, possibly on the theory that all Scotchmen should be on its rolls or be regarded as unworthy of the name. The ideas of the new organization, while well enough for a local organization, the members of which were known to each other, were too crude to be successfully worked in a large fraternity, the members of which were scattered throughout the country. The insurance scheme, that of each surviving member paying a dollar on the death of one of their number, seemed the very essence of simplicity, but experience had demonstrated in other societies that the plan was not as effective nor as equitable as it appeared on the surface, and after a few years of the existence of the order doubts were entertained by many of its warmest adherents. This, however, might have been expected. In insurance matters no society was ever organized at once on a perfect basis. Experience is the great requirement of them all; and until that experience has been gained, mistakes are certain to be made. Such societies require to be watchful; to put into practice one year what they learned during the year before; to make changes after consideration—and practice shows the necessity for change—and to be constantly strengthening the organization at every point, no matter how trivial. This policy has evidently characterized the officers of the order during the past few years. They have proved themselves thoughtful, progressive and capable, and the fraternity has advanced under their direction in a surprising manner. They have had to encounter opposition, sneering, grumbling and fault-finding, but they have kept on doing their appointed work, and the last assessment netted close on two thousand dollars to a Scottish widow, who would otherwise have been left with almost nothing. Fault-finding does not amount to very much, but $2000 is a happy, tangible fact.

A DEGREE OF PREJUDICE.

There is undoubtedly a degree of prejudice in this country against assessment life insurance schemes. They have been repeatedly tried and the number of failures is appalling. These have been due, however, in a great measure to other causes than any defect in the general or leading principles. The work of organizing such schemes has been too generally undertaken by men who have not had the slightest experience in that class of work, and the result was, sooner or later, a partial breakdown or a complete failure. Then dishonest men have sometimes managed to get to the head of affairs, and their doings, when made public, have disgusted people almost with life insurance of any kind, and sometimes stupidity, bordering on dishonesty, has proved a stumbling block. But there really seems no reason why assessment insurance should not be a success, if managed with honesty, brains and perseverance.

In fact, that is demonstrated by the success of those which have been in operation for several years. Among these may be mentioned an aid association of Chicago, which has been in existence about sixteen years, and has paid nearly $5,000,000 to its beneficiaries. It has also about 50,000 members scattered all over the country and has met every obligation promptly. There is no reason why a similar degree of success should not be the lot of the Order of Scottish Clans. The great necessity for the welfare of all such institutions is the want of Government or State supervision. If the law compelled assessment insurance companies to apply for permission to trade, if their promoters were made to give bonds to the State for the honorable carrying out of their agreements, if the policies were issued with the sanction of the law-advisors of the State, and the business books were liable to be examined by some competent officer at irregular intervals, we might regard assessment insurance as being as safe as any other. Fewer companies would then be organized, but those which fulfilled all the requirements would possess stability. We are certain that the officers of the Royal Clan would welcome such a law and would cheerfully comply with all its requirements. The management of the order has been clean; it has paid every debt as it has arisen; it has had no scandals; its officers, except the Secretary, receive no emoluments, and its membership is selected with care both as regards character and physical strength. The mode of assessment is by grading. The insurance feature of the order might be that of any society, but in the subordinate clans the Scotch element comes to the front.

SCOTSMEN ONLY.

The membership is confined to Scotsmen and their immediate descendants, and the moral character of each applicant is carefully inquired into. The ritual which is used in the initiation of candidates is founded on Scottish history, and when intelligently rendered is, we are told, both impressive and instructive. The sick allowance in most of the clans is $5 a week, with free medical attendance, and these benefits, as well as the working expenses of the clan, are provided by the monthly dues of the members. Nearly all the clans, too, have a funeral benefit of $50, which is paid at once, on intimation of death. The meetings are generally well attended, and are managed with both order and decorum. Open social meetings, at which relatives and friends of members are invited, are frequently given, and the public balls, concerts and anniversary festivals which some of the clans have given have generally been successful. But this feature, although one of the objects laid down in the constitution, has not been attended to as it should have been. Each clan has its regalia, in which its own particular tartan predominates, and the appearance of the members of the order on public occasions dressed in the costume is one of the most gratifying spectacles which a Scotchman in America can see. Any fifteen Scotsmen or descendants of Scotsmen meeting together can organize a clan.

The Royal Secretary is Peter Kerr, 26 Boylston Building, Boston, Mass. As soon as the charter is issued the members of the new society are in direct affiliation with the whole order. They share in all the benefits and have all the stability which comes from years of experience. In the short space of six weeks two clans have been formed, Clan Fraser, No. 78, of this city, the pioneer of this Coast, and Clan Macdonald, No. 79, of Oakland, and now Clan Cameron of San Jose is getting into line. H. F.

ACORNS.

Original contributions and solutions are requested from all the readers. Communications must be written in ink, on one side of the paper and the name and address must accompany them as a guarantee of good faith. Address Puzzle Editor DAILY MORNING CALL, 509 Clay street, San Francisco, Cal.

Answers.

No. 14—MAGELLAN. No. 16—M-AID.

No. 15—
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  C        H
 NAP      PET
PARAS    COLES
NATURAL  POLEMIC
CARUCATES BELESPRIT
PARAPET  TEMPEST
 SATED    SIRSA
  LET      CIT
   S        T
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No. 17—

Solvers.

H. Y. Frost, Harvie O. Babcock, Hettie Burke, Annie Sullivan, Merry Mack, Olivet, Alice Brennan, Aloha, Zuleika, Oakdale, Moses and J. Hatfield.

Blossoms.

No. 28. SQUARE.

1—A large serpent in the marshes of South America; 2—A cotton cloth from Bengal; 3—Oxygen in a condensed form; 4—Madness; 5—Near (rate). MADGE.
San Francisco.

No. 29. SQUARE.

1—Latin proper name (Webster); 2—Penetrates; 3—Pays no penalty; 4—State of holding certain cards; 5—Elevates; 6—To levy a tax upon. ASPIRO.
Dubois, Ill.

No. 30. INVERTED PYRAMID.

ACROSS: 1—Cathedrals; 2—An ancient Roman biographer and historian, 55? after 117? 4—To steal (obs.); 5—A letter.

DOWN: 1—A letter; 2—Near by; 3—In English law, the privilege enjoyed by the lord of the manor, of holding courts, to try causes and impose fines; 4—An image (obs.); 5—Discolored, as flesh by contusion; 6—A separate article; 7—A gash; 8—Similar; 9—A letter. ATLAS.
Oakland, Cal.

No. 31. SQUARE.

1—Accompanied; 2—Vacuity (rare); 3—My lady; 4—Growing out (obs.); 5—A territorial division of Attica, corresponding to a township.
San Francisco. HARVIE O. BABCOCK.

No. 32. SQUARE.

1—Exterior covering of seeds; 2—Portion; 3—To be ignorant of; 4—Greek or Latin proper name (Web.); 5—Vagrant (obs.); 6—In being.
Berkeley, Cal. LYDIA.

No. 33. PYRAMID.

ACROSS: 1—A letter; 2—To turn to the offside; 3—Social assemblies for the purpose of dancing; 4—A sort of spear about five and a half feet long; 5—Fine paper (sup.)

DOWN: 1—A letter; 2—A sweetheart (Scot.); 3—A heavy stick; 4—Entranced; 5—Group of islands near Australia; 6—A girl's name signifying light; 7—To drink; 8—Not (obs.); 9—A letter. L. M. STANFORD.
San Francisco.

Answers and solvers in three weeks.

Stray Leaves.

The members of Kwiz Klub are reminded that the next meeting of the kl b will take place on Monday evening, December 8th, at the residence of one of the members, 2523 Sutter street, this city.

We publish the last of Atlas' puzzles to-day and invite him to call again. Capt. N. Frank, J. C. M., H. Y. Frost, Grace Hibbard and all our other correspondents are also invited, and we hope to receive an early call.

The puzzles published this week are all forms and not very difficult of solution, so we trust that all will send in many complete lists. Yet, should they not succeed in solving all of them, one answer will be as welcomed as solutions to all. The interest taken in a department of this character is shown by the number of persons solving and not the number of answers sent to the editor. Let the solvers bear this in mind.

Some of our correspondents feel dissatisfied over the result of the 21 puzzle. All we have to say, and all we will say, is that any six of the numbers must be added, and whole or improper fractions are not allowed. When fractions are used to obtain an integer this is using more numbers than the rules of the puzzle permit and none know it better than those who understand the common rules of addition.

A new numerical puzzle has come into vogue and we offer it to the friends of this department for solution. It is as follows: Add all of the following numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and obtain the sum of 100.

When we were permitted to edit this department we did not imagine that it would ever be known beyond the precincts of its many friends, but judge of our surprise when we read the following items, one from the Golden State Catholic of this city, as follows: A new puzzle department has been opened in the Sunday edition of THE DAILY MORNING CALL under the supervision of Kernel. The first number presents some fair puzzles and is not devoid of chat. The editor must be an old-timer, judging from the arrangement of the puzzles and the appearance of the department. We wish it success.

And the other from the Portland Oregonian: A new department has appeared in THE SUNDAY CALL of San Francisco edited by one Kernel. It is a new nom de plume, but apparently an old puzzler, and his department has already achieved much success. KERNEL.

The Girl and the Speaking Tubes.

"There never was anything like that girl's terror of the bell and tube arrangement in our flat. The first time a caller came she rushed in to me with eyes like soup plates and gasped out: 'Marm! Marm! There's somebody a-whistling somewhere, and, if you please, I don't know where!' I explained and encouraged her to put her ear to the tube and get the message. She never did it without first crossing herself. I know she was convinced the whole process was operated from a place considerably south of our lower hall. I urged her the next time she heard the call to go to the tube and call 'Yes?' The whistle came, and, my dear, the roar she sent down that tube would have raised the scalp of a Pawnee Indian. I fled downstairs in terror to see what effect it had had, and Mrs. de Nerfs—you know what a shattered condition she is in, just recovering from nervous prostration!—was sitting on the lower step, quite limp and faint, clasping her vinaigrette. 'Martha,' she said, 'even if you didn't want to see me, why need you fire a gun down the tube?'"—Boston Commonwealth.

There are now four widows of Supreme Court Justices living in Washington—Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Stanley Matthews and Mrs. Miller.

THE LAST OF A WAYWARD KING.

Traits Inherited by William III From Emperor Paul of Russia.

The Last of the Male Descendants of the House of Orange—The Riotous Life of "Citron," Prince of Orange.

Special to THE SUNDAY CALL.

THAT terrible modern disease, mental paresis, found a fresh victim in the person of William III, King of the Netherlands, but many who knew him well wondered that this inevitable ending to a career of reckless dissipation had not set in much earlier, for the King attained the age of 73 years.

That William III should have combined so many peculiar traits, prompting every species of vagary, is principally due to his ancestry on the maternal side. His mother was a daughter of the Emperor Paul of Russia, one of the most dissolute monarchs in Europe. The Dutch King's waywardness antedates his accession to the throne in 1849, for it is current talk among the Dutch that when the Prime Minister, after William II's death, went in search of the new sovereign, then absent abroad, he found him after much difficulty traveling incognito with a French singer among the highlands of Scotland. His mar-

William III.

ried life, at least that portion of it which he passed with his first wife, a daughter of the King of Wurtemberg, was not a happy one to either husband or wife. The latter was an amiable and gifted woman, but too much of a blue-stocking to suit her pleasure-loving lord. She gave up trying to reform him and sought consolation in the society of artists and men and women of letters. Her friendship for John Lothrop Motley, American Minister at The Hague, and author of the "Rise and Fall of the Dutch Republic," was one of the rays of sunshine in the life of that great writer.

Of the two sons born of the royal union the elder proved himself possessed of his father's traits by making Paris his home and leading the riotous existence of the gilded youth of that city. The nightly orgies of himself and his companions alternated between "Peters," in the Passage des Princes, and the renowned Bignon's. It was on one of these occasions, I believe, that the Duc de Grammont-Caderousse, in arising to toast the Prince of Orange, by which title the Dutch heir apparent was known, solemnly filled his glass and drank to the health of—Citron (lemon). Hereafter this nickname clung tenaciously to the Prince, so much so that one of his numerous creditors in presenting his bill inadvertently addressed it to the "Prince of Lemons," for which involuntary blunder he was promptly thrown out by the attendants. Poor Citron's constitution was not that of his father, and so he succumbed at the age of