

THE CROP PROSPECTS.

Home and Abroad Appearances at the Present Time—Decidedly Above the Average in Canada.

An Ottawa despatch says: Crop reports from sixty district correspondents in Ontario show reason for gratification at the prospects. All speak of the excess of rain doing much damage on the lowlands, but in spite of this the crops are, on the whole, nearly everywhere pronounced decidedly above the average.

SWORN BY A ROOSTER'S BLOOD.

The Strange Oath Taken by a Chinese Witness in Philadelphia.

A Philadelphia despatch says: A strange scene was presented in Judge Bregy's Court when the most solemn of Chinese oaths was administered to Lee Bang, a celestial witness. A rooster was brought into court and set down beside the witness-stand, where a square of muslin had been placed.

Notes From the Northwest.

It is reported here that nothing will be done this year on the proposed extension of the Galt Railway into Montana. An inquest was held on the body of William McDermott, who hanged himself at Elkhorn. The evidence of his widow, his daughter, aged 8 years, and some neighbors was heard.

Latest Scottish News.

A blue-it has built its nest in the letter-box of Mrs. Peebles, Nether-Gask. When dropped in it took the letters out and scattered them about. As an evidence of returning prosperity to farmers, it may be noted that all the hiring fairs have recently the wages have been from 10 to 20 per cent. higher than for the past few years.

How One Burglar Was Caught.

The Irish (heaven bless 'em) have a little invention which has been used in Ireland with great success. It would be a good attachment for the balloons in this country. An enterprising burglar entered a gentleman's house at Waterford, Ireland, one night a couple of weeks ago, and after purloining everything he could find, he prepared to remove a large photographic camera that was standing on a table.

Reliable.

Young man—You are older than I am, and I want to ask you a question. Does a woman always mean what she says? Old man—Always—that is, if she's married.

After hearing arguments in favor of and in opposition to Kemmler, the Buffalo moderator, Judge Day held that testimony would have to be taken as to the effect of the electric current on the human body, and appointed Tracy C. Becke, a lawyer, of Buffalo, to take testimony and report to the court on July 30th next.

A 3-year-old child named Coe, residing on St. Daquillon street, Quebec, fell into a pan of boiling water yesterday and is so severely scalded that it is not expected to recover.

MORE SCOTCH ASCENDENCY.

The Earl of Eife to Marry the Prince of Wales' Eldest Daughter.

A London cable says: There was but one topic of discussion in the clubs last evening. It was the betrothal of Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar of Wales, the eldest daughter of the Prince and Princess of Wales, to Earl Eife. Rumor for a long time past has been busy in dabbling with the possibility of such a match, and what gave particular strength to the possibilities of such an alliance lay in the fact that the report was most credited by those about the Prince.

A Remarkable Case of Somnambulism.

A policeman early this morning found a woman, attired only in her nightclothes, wandering aimlessly along by the side of St. Mary's Hospital. When the officer spoke to the woman he found that she was sound asleep, and when awakened she went into a nervous condition and was taken into the hospital. She gave the name of Mrs. Annie Davis, and said she lived at No. 384 Park avenue. The police of the 13th Precinct were notified to investigate the case.

Mistakes.

It is not disgraceful to make a mistake. Those who never make mistakes never do anything worth mentioning. The attitude of men with reference to their mistakes is sometimes disgraceful. One who cannot see his own errors even when they are pointed out will not make much improvements. Until we discover and deplore our defects we will not take pains to remedy them.

Rare Forethought.

"Harry," exclaimed the blushing Laura, "this declaration is so sudden that I—that I hardly know what to say. I was unprepared for it. It unnerves me."

About New Books.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie admits that he is at work upon his memoirs, but adds that they will never be published while he is alive. Mrs. Rives-Chandler's early stories do not please the London Athenaeum. The "Brother to Dragons," and its two companions, in imitation of old English were not, it says, worth reprinting.

He Would Follow Suit.

Waiter (returning after a brief absence)—Lamb chops all out, sir. Guest (rising, with a polite smile)—All right. Beautiful day to be out! I think I will go too.

SHORT BUT SWIFT.

Rev. H. E. Burns Gets Justice Tempered With Mercy.

A last (Wednesday) night's Kingston despatch says: This morning Rev. H. T. Burns, Deputy Postmaster, was brought before Judge Price. He tottered like a child when asked to stand up. The Judge told him he had been charged with appropriating money belonging to Mrs. Love, and asked, "Are you willing to be tried before me or a jury?" Mr. Burns said, "You, Mr. Justice, O. C., read a lengthy charge, then he asked if Mr. Burns was ready for trial. The reply being "yes," Mr. Burns was asked to plead, and said, "I am guilty."

Fashion's Fancies.

Cochman's capes made of white velvet or cloth, trimmed with gold braid, have been ordered by Newport belles. Very broad black borders on cards and note paper as an indication of the extent of mourning is the very worst taste. Dress skirts of a fashionable length trail on the ground. It is to be hoped that the mode will not be generally adopted.

The Steamer Blanket Used by the Ladies.

This year is in the shape of a long circular cloak, which covers them from head to foot. The tea gown is no longer worn as a reception dress, but has taken its position in the wardrobe as a refined sort of wrapper.

Good News for Housekeepers.

Advices from the Pacific coast are very flattering regarding the prospects for the grain crop. The vines are doing well, and competent authorities have placed their estimate upon a one million box yield. The growers there are greatly encouraged by the outlook, and anticipate a liberal return for their labors.

The Sailor Boy.

Wibble—Do you believe all this nonsense you read in the novels about the sailor falling in love with his ship and all that sort of thing? Wabble—Oh, yes. At least when a vessel goes on a cruise the sailor is gone on her until she gets back, isn't he?

Occular Demonstration.

She—You were not so dissipated before we were married. He—Indeed I was, my dear; but when anybody told you so then you wouldn't believe it.

Nevada had a "Dead Horse" post-office.

It was ordered to take a new name, and it took that of "Live Horse." The Department wouldn't have it, but changed it to Rosedale.

During the heavy thunderstorm which passed over Belleville yesterday forenoon lightning struck the house of Mrs. Gallagher, on Wharf street.

The bolt struck the chimney, which it demolished, and passed down the stovepipes into the kitchen, wrecking the stove, tearing up the door and the heavy hardwood sleepers, and then passing through the window. Mrs. Gallagher was knocked down, stunned and had her face blackened, but was not seriously injured. Several others received severe shocks in various parts of the city.

A Newark burglar jumped through a window, taking ash and all, and fell 25 feet to the ground, where a dog caught and held him. They could not find one single cat or scratch from his daring dash.

SAND SPOUT IN THE DESERT.

Graphic Description of a Striking Scene in Africa—Moving Columns.

Under the fairest skies the desert is an awesome solitude, but when a storm comes it is terrible and appalling. I shall never forget a scene I witnessed some forty miles beyond the great pyramids, says a writer in the New York Mail and Express. I had gained an isolated hillock, some two hundred feet above the level of the surrounding desert. Away to the west, about two miles distant, I descried six or seven lofty pillars of sand moving swiftly over the undulating plain. The centre one of these was vertical, and those surrounding it, at a distance of two or three hundred yards, leaned slightly toward it. The sand at the base of the column was lashed by the furious whirlwind into a surging sea.

The Manchester Ship Canal.

Some interesting statistics were lately given by Ald. Bailey, one of the directors, with reference to the progress of this work. He stated that 15 1/2 million tons of earth and rock had been excavated, and that 28,000,000 tons more remained to be removed. It was anticipated that the work would be finished in two years from 1st of January next. There were on the works 188 pumping engines, 32 steam navvies, 5,000 wagons, 158 locomotives and 116 steam cranes, and in a few months 15,000 men would be employed.

Dusting on Dew.

It is common to make the useful recommendation, in applying any powder to repel insects on plants, to perform the dusting in the morning while the dew is on the plants. The only objection to this recommendation is that plants are not moistened with dew every morning, or it is evaporated before the owner has time to do the work, or it may be too hot and dry for the work. The work is therefore put off till the insects may have done their mischief.

Thumping the Bible.

In the country village of R— there lived a Free Church minister who was greatly addicted to "thumping the book." One Sunday he was preaching from the text, "Ye are a stiff-necked people." In the middle of his discourse he repeated his text several times, and to make it more impressive, brought down his fist with a thud on the edge of the hymnbook, which toppled off the cushion, and in its descent came into violent contact with the back of the preacher's head. The leader of praise, thus suddenly roused from the borders of a pleasant nap, rubbed the back of his head, and looking up, quietly remarked—"Losh, minister, the Israelites are unco near han' the day; I'm doubtin' ye've made me stiff-necked as well as them wi' yer cantrips."

Wm. Roberts, M.D., Physician to the Manchester, Eng. Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital.

Professor of Medicine in Owen's College, says: "In a great majority of cases Bright's Disease begins slowly and imperceptibly. This is sufficient warning, and justifies you in using Warner's Safe Cure before your kidney trouble becomes chronic or pronounced Bright's Disease."

Very often the "May 1st" of courtship is answered by the "You must" of matrimony.

GETTING INFORMATION.

A Reporter's Experience with the Patrons of a Philanthropic Institution.

It was the evening of the graduating exercises in a philanthropic institution. Said a New York Sun reporter to the lady in charge rustling around in the dignity of a new black silk: "How many graduates have you?" "Oh, dear me, are you a reporter. I just dread to see one come in. They never get anything right. I never knew one to. I think they do it on purpose. It is too mean for anything. I hate—"

"Who are the patrons of the institution?"

"Oh, nice people. Every body ought to be interested in it. They would be, too, if the papers took it up in the right way, but they won't. They never get anything right, the reporters—oh, I can't tell how they twist things."

"How many instructors do you employ?"

"Oh, we have the loveliest teachers. I'll go and ask Miss B— to come and tell you about them personally—all the little family history, you know. But of course we don't want you to publish that. Papers are just filled with every one's private affairs now. It is just horrid, but I suppose the reporters don't care what they say if they just get their pay. Excuse me, I'll go and speak to Miss Smith," and she rustled away. The reporter waited while they conferred together, and, approaching, heard: "Oh, I think she's lovely in that dress. You know I advised her to put those revers on—so much more becoming than a plain waist. Oh, there's that dreadful reporter. I'm tired to death telling him about things. You tell him, and put those violets up a little nearer your chin."

"I? Why, I don't know anything about it, and I'm busy; I'm on the flower committee."

"Well, we might as well let it go. I've told him about it, but he'll get it all wrong anyway. It is perfectly awful the way those reporters misconstrue things and never get anything right."

Grit versus Fluck.

A burro and a bull-dog had a fight recently in Fresno, Cal. Burro is California for dog. The burro was browsing on cackle bars by the roadside when the bull-dog trotted along, stopped, and without a growl, seized the donkey by the shank bone of the off hind leg. The burro kicked and kicked, and then he tried to reach the dog with his mouth, but unavailingly. Then the burro laid down on its back and brought its hind legs forward towards its head. He shut his jaws on the dog's back and slowly straightened out. The dog, without flinching, kept his grip on the shank bone. But the donkey had just as much grit, and kept on straightening itself out, though the strain was causing the flesh and muscles to be terribly lacerated. The dog let go first. The burro kept its hold on the dog's back, and in a second was on its feet, with the dog dangling from its mouth. The burro's leg was terribly lacerated, but it did not seem to mind. He limped across the road, and, deliberately pausing several times to rest, rubbed the dog back and forth over the barbed-wire fence until it was killed. The dog did not howl from the beginning to the end.—Chicago Journal.

Victoria's Interest in Funerals.

I hear that the Queen has recently been concerning herself with the arrangement of royal funerals, and that Her Majesty has caused a long memorandum on the subject to be drawn up, with a variety of new orders, which extend to the most minute detail. In future the body of a defunct male member of the royal family is to be placed in the coffin in an attire of quite different material to that worn by a deceased female, and married people are not to be treated the same as the unmarried. The Queen's solicitude extends even to the making of the coffins, and there are options directions concerning them. Embalming is positively prohibited. One would suppose that the Queen was anticipating a large mortality among her kindred. It is no doubt expedient to be mindful of the uncertainty of human life, but there is surely no occasion to carry this forethought to such extravagant lengths.—London Truth.

How They Catch Fish in Georgia.

Last Monday morning it was our pleasure to go fishing with a party on Alabama, near Grover, and see how fish are caught the "new way." From four to six men go into the water with a log in front of them, and a sheet with one edge on the log and the other edge held up by the men so that the fish can't jump over, but fall on the sheet. The log is pushed along to the land, and when near it the fish begin to try to make their escape back to the deep water by jumping. If they fail to make a good leap they lodge on the cloth, thereby becoming victims of their own destruction. It is amusing to see how they jump. It is supposed that about three hundred pounds were caught.—Aberdeen (S.C.) Times.

The Shah of Persia has adopted some of the peculiarities of civilization, but is rather behindhand in others.

He wears patent leather boots, but seems to regard a pocket handkerchief as a superfluity. The wave of prohibition is undoubtedly receding. The defeat of a prohibitory amendment in Massachusetts will almost certainly be followed by the defeat of a similar amendment in Pennsylvania next month. This does not mean a relaxation of the people's resolve to regulate the liquor traffic and abate its worst evils. It means simply that the popular mind throughout the country is becoming fixed in the conviction that high license and local option are the most efficient methods of attaining the objects aimed at.—St. Louis Republican.

A CANE... How He S... In th... A large... tion ab... street, sa... Philadelphia... noticed th... were surro... and every... lavish with... more app... favorite ch... "Come... dog" said... "Give me... Romeo, sa... town had... you are a... people dea... The dog... far was cli... because of... and dignit... understood... taking the... matters of... to expect... meant. Romeo be... Washington... the flood-ga... broke loose... her sister... street, taki... there the a... awing dow... so that all... compelled... were seven... good eight... But soon... debris rai... ing. Sudden... the roof. M... off her pla... along with... being attemp... any effort... surging flood... yond all bu... lady's dog, i... had appear... coming. The water... above the... jumped after... appeared ab... grasped it... heavy burden... make a don... in his mouth... her forward... frame house... waves. Rom... cessful, and... was able to... to the frame... parative sil... But alas!... Even before... escape the d... tight hair, r... This time th... With a ter... seemed to... the woman... of the flood... The noble... daunted. A... very closely... from a wa... life depend... swimming b... upon the d... drawing h... bashed with... His noble... rewarded. I... vailed. Mrs... Mrs. Kress w... As she res... overcame b... Romeo, who... dead, barke... frantic man... pacified him... tently lay d... This was... people surro... called to se... she verified e...