

CURRENT TOPICS.

Mrs. MATILDA SKELLY, of Millersburg, Pa., applied for a pension some years ago but the case hung fire so long that she sought other means of support, and some two or three weeks ago remarried. Just eight days after her marriage she received a letter granting the pension, with \$5,375 arrears. Owing to her marriage the valuable paper had to be returned to Washington.

This is a large world and there is room enough for all, remarks the New York Herald, while discussing speculations as to the future of the race. Thinking does no harm if only it is really thinking. It is not the Day of Judgment of no judgment, but the day of no judgment, don't need to be afraid, but the days of no judgment. Stick to your common sense, don't go up in a balloon, avoid being a crank, and within those limits entertain what opinions you please.

The Compulsory Education Law passed by the Illinois Legislature compels children between the ages of 7 and 14 to attend school at least sixteen weeks each year. Parents are liable to fine for not seeing that the law is obeyed. Attendance is allowed upon private schools teaching reading, writing, arithmetic and United States history, if approved by the Board of Education. The appointment of truant officer is provided for.

It will be remembered that Lord Dudley and other noblemen were recently arrested for gambling at the Field Club in London. They were discharged by the Police Magistrate who laid down the *obiter dictum* that "it would be absurd to fine gentlemen of wealth and position, such a sum as six shillings and eightpence." Since that two boys caught playing "pitch and toss" have been fined each seven shillings and sixpence with seven days' imprisonment as hard labor.

A PHILADELPHIA soap man, who himself made a fortune on clear advertising, once told the writer of this paragraph that it would pay him a dozen papers of big circulation to take up any paper from the street, establish him in any business under the sun, it didn't matter what, and give him a column of advertising free every day for a year. Then, he said, those papers would show by a practical object lesson to advertisers the tremendous effect of advertising, because the paper they took off the streets would by that time be a millionaire.

The Shah of Persia will reach Buckingham Palace from Brussels on July 1st. He will cross the channel on one of the Royal English yachts. He will be met at Charing Cross by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and other big guns. During his stay in Great Britain he will visit Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle and York. He will be entertained at Invercauld by Sir Algernon Borthwick some time in July, and will examine Scotch life and scenery under the direction of his host, Sir Drummond Wolf.

The English clergy seem to have a leaning toward large families and small incomes. Among the cases of distress lately reported to the Clergy Corporation are these: "A curate with eight children under eight years of age, and a stipend of £126 a year; a vicar with five young children, and an annual income of £100; a vicar with six children under 15 years of age, and an annual income of £134 and a house; a vicar with eight children under 18 years of age, and £117 annual income; a curate with six young children, and a stipend of £120; a vicar with eleven children under 15 years of age, and an annual income of £189."

Mr. Edison is reported, in a conversation with a reporter who solicited his ideas on the subject of the projected world's fair in New York city, as saying that he would take an acre of space in such a fair and completely cover it with his inventions, of which he has no less than seventy now under way. "One of the most peculiar, and now promising good results," said Mr. Edison, "is what I may call a far-sight machine." By means of this extraordinary invention, the Electrical Review says, he hopes to be able to increase the range of vision by hundreds of miles, so that, for instance, "a man in New York could see the features of his friends in Boston with as much ease as he could see a performance on the stage." That, he added, "would be an invention worthy a prominent place in the world's fair, and I hope to have it perfected long before 1892."

Professor Bryce, who has been writing so brilliantly on American institutions, is regius professor of civil law at Oxford, fellow and member of the governing body of Oriel College, a barrister-at-law, now, at least up till recently, one of the lecturers at the Inns of Court, and M. P. for South Aberdeen. His multifarious duties and appointments have necessitated the appointment by the university of a reader in Roman law to lecture on the subject he is supposed to teach. The professor does, of course, deliver the substantial number of lectures in Oxford, the hour he selects being late on Saturday afternoons and early on Monday morning. It is needless to add that he is an advanced Reformer, but it is necessary to remind people that the Aberdeen member, the London barrister and the Oxford professor are one and the same person. He is a native of the granite city.

An electric motor adapted to propelling vehicles upon streets is said to have been successfully invented at Indianapolis. It has long been the belief of many who have given the subject consideration that some method would soon be in use for propelling pleasure carriages along the streets and boulevards by mechanical means in lieu of horses, and numerous efforts have been made in that direction. We published some time ago an illustration of a carriage moved by steam generated by a small supply of naphtha or similar liquid carried under the seat, but this device, which appears to be used with some success in Germany, is evidently open, in some degree at least, to the objections of danger and noise. A cart propelled by electricity has been operated in London, but it does not seem to have been a success owing both to the insufficiency of the battery power and the liability of derangement. The Indianapolis inventor claims that he can furnish a vehicle with electric motive power sufficient to run twenty-four hours without recharging, and so arranged that the speed can be graduated as desired. Electricity has accomplished such wonders of late that it is easy to believe that it will be harnessed up for the service of man so as to safely and noiselessly propel his pleasure vehicles along the streets and highways.

ENTERTAINING the Shah means something, as with him are to be entertained his doctor, seven generals (sides de camp), seven chamberlains and three members of his Cabinet, not to speak of fourteen domestic servants, cooks, bearers, etc., all of whom must be looked after as the royal Persian's suite.

Mrs. D'ORLEAN, a Russian princess, died in Philadelphia last week, and, at her request, her entire wardrobe was packed in large trunks and sent to Johnstown. There were finely-woven silk hose, French-heeled slippers, silk underwear, silk, satin and plush costumes, and fine women's wear of all descriptions. This noble young woman's heart was undoubtedly in the right place, but the articles will not be handed out by the distributing committee for some time yet.

The statistical person of the New York Sun says that the number of qualified voters in the city of New York now exceeds 300,000, which is more than the total vote cast at the last Presidential election in either Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont or West Virginia.

A PROCESS for electric deposition on glass or porcelain is ascribed to M. Hansen, and the medium used is a solution of chloride of gold, or of platinum in sulphuric ether, which has received a sufficient quantity of sulphur dissolved in heavy oil, to bring the whole, after being gently boiled, to a consistency which permits it to be painted on the glass, etc., with a brush. The plate is then slowly heated in a furnace until the sulphur and chlorine are driven off, leaving the gold or platinum adhering to the surface.

A WEEK'S work in the cotton mills of England is 56 hours; in the mills of Massachusetts, 60 hours; in France, 72 hours; in Germany, from 66 to 72 hours; in the woolen mills in Germany, 76 hours; in France, 72 hours; in Massachusetts, 80; in Great Britain, 56; in Huddersfield and Donnington, 54. The productive capacity of one operative in the United States, Great Britain and Germany, taking 100 as the unit, is: In the United States, 100 in cotton, wool and silk; in Great Britain, 67 in cotton, 77 in wool, 81 in silk; in Germany, 27 in cotton, 60 in wool, 68 in silk.

An ingenious contrivance is about to be brought out by Captain Woolward, of the Royal mail steamer Don, by which it is proposed to do away with oars as a means of propelling ships' lifeboats. It consists of a hand-power screw propeller, which enables the boat to be driven by any one in it, though unacquainted with rowing. This, Captain Woolward points out, will obviate the chance of passengers who may get away from a stranded ship finding themselves in a boat without oars or having them without any one skilled in their use. The machinery takes up little room, and seems to be both efficient and simple.

It is said that the largest and costliest private mansion in the world is that belonging to Lord Bute, called "Montstuart" and situated near Rothesay, Scotland. It covers nearly two acres, and is built in the gothic style; the walls, turrets and balconies are built of stone. The immense tower in the centre of the building is 120 feet high, with a balcony around the top. The halls are constructed entirely of marble and slabster; all the rooms are finished in mahogany, rosewood and walnut; the fireplaces are all carved marble of antique design. The exact cost of this fairy palace is not known, but it has never been estimated at less than \$9,000,000. The immense mansion is one of the sights to be witnessed by those who enter the Clyde on the Glasgow steamers by daylight.

In a most interesting medical libel suit of Dr. Tibbets against Messrs. Macmillan, the publishers, tried before Mr. Justice Denman recently, Dr. Lauder Brunton showed how ill-founded are some popular notions about the functions of our organs. From time immemorial the spleen has been considered as the source of bad temper; and the learned Dr. Johnson, in his dictionary, gives the weight of his authority to this view, for he defines the spleen as the seat of anger and melancholy. Dr. Lauder Brunton stated that he had observed that animals which had been deprived of their spleens for purposes of experimentation were apparently well, and thought that therefore the spleen was, contrary to the general received ideas, the seat not of bad but of good temper.

The Popular Science News recently offered a reward for the most correct answers to certain stated scientific problems. Among others was the old "conundrum," "Which weighs the most, a pound of feathers or a pound of lead? Of course, a pound is a pound, no matter of what substance, and when the simple or thoughtless person answers that a pound of lead is the heaviest, everybody laughs. Mr. Charles Pitt, in answering this question, claims that the pound of lead would weigh the heaviest because the feathers would be buoyed up by a weight equal to that of the amount of air they displace—just as a cork is buoyed up in the water. In future, therefore, we must refrain from laughing at the fool's answer, as practically it is correct. Of course, if weighed in a vacuum a pound of any two substances would weigh alike.

TWENTY English literary women dined recently in London, and appeared to have had a very cheerful time, enjoying themselves and asserting the right of the weaker sex to have small apices of its own. The only men present were the waiters, who were kept very busy. The menu was substantial, and cigarettes followed coffee, just like a regular man's debauch. Mrs. Maud Caird was in the chair, and talked, of course, about marriage, taking the ground that that institution is not a contract in the legal sense of the word, but, on the contrary, a sort of go-as-you-please journey through life, liable to sudden interruption when one or the other feels inclined to leave the track. Dinner was late, and one bell, which indicated that a waiter was wanted from outside, was going industriously until after 11 o'clock, and, in all respects, this first attempt of the sort in London was a success. Dresses were remarkably plain, most of the women running to simple blouses. Champagne was the only wine drunk.

MANY New York ladies are lending their aid in the formation of working women's clubs. A woman of leisure or wealth, or both, gathers about her a number of working girls to talk over the organization of a club. If the girls favor the idea they and the leader each invite friends to join with them, and a club is formed. One evening in the week is a social evening; the others are divided, as the members decide, into classes for cooking—always one of the most popular classes—dress-making, plain sewing, reading, writing, arithmetic and physical culture. The programme varies according to the decision and finance of the club. The club devotes one evening to practical talks. On this evening health, management of money, duties of women, dress and the thousand other subjects that grow out of living in a world where conditions are constantly changing are discussed. All take part in the talks that follow the little lecture, and the subjects are usually chosen or suggested by the working members.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Mr. A. D. Mackenzie read an epitome of a paper prepared by him on the "Risk of Fire from Steam and Hot-water Pipes." The result of experiments made by him was that, under ordinary circumstances, wood, wool, cotton, paper and such like substances would not fire under or over at the boiling point of mercury (680 deg.); and very probably the temperature at which they would ignite readily was nearer 900 deg. than 700 deg. The highest temperature he was able to get on a high-pressure hot-water pipe was 500 deg., and he got that only by very hard firing, and by loading the safety valve. The usual high pressure apparatus seldom reached 400 deg., and, therefore, he concluded that under ordinary circumstances those pipes could not originate a fire. Mr. Proctor said that mice, attracted by the warmth, often made their nests in close proximity to the pipes, and such collected quantities of highly combustible material from which fires might originate.

A Glib-Talking Fakir. A contemporary describes the lingo of a fakir the writer came across the other day following in the wake of Forepaugh's circus. The same fellow will be found at our country fairs next fall. His talk was as constant as the flow from Niagara: "No period, colon, semicolon or comma: 'Yesterday I sold this almost priceless object for the ridiculous sum of ten cents or a dime, and you are getting it for three dollars, and you are getting it for the paltry sum of ten cents it is recommended by all the most celebrated lawyers, doctors, ministers and scientific men as the most wonderful invention of the age and the gentleman here takes one why it is worth one dollar alone to examine a drop of water before you drink it and you will plainly see the seven kinds of insects in each drop and grasshoppers, crickets, bees, flies, beetles and centipedes look at them and then drink your water and you'll thank me before the day is over and the little boy takes one ten cents or a dime worth more than that to see the skin on your hand than you air,' etc.

A Suspicious Addition. Daughter—When I marry, mamma, it will be for love—

Mother—Do not talk like a simpleton, dear.

Daughter—As I was about to observe when you interrupted me, when I marry it shall be for love of position, ease and display. Business before sentiment, mamma?

Mother—Spoken like a heroine! (sotto voce) I must keep an eye on that girl or she'll run away with the first beggar that looks cross-eyed at her.

How He Made His Fortune. Uncle Clearwater (noted temperance apostle, on a visit to his nephew, looking out of window)—What a fine building that is across the way!

Nephew—Yes; but the owner built it out of the blood, the aches and groans of his fellow-men, out of the grief of crying children and the woe of waiting women.

Uncle C.—Ah! A rascal, of course! Yes, yes!

Nephew—Oh, no; he's a dentist.—Toronto Grip.

Prof. W. H. Thompson, M. D., University of New York, New York city, says: "More adults are carried off in this country by chronic kidney disease than by any other one malady except consumption." "This shows that Dr. Thompson considers kidney disease a frightful malady. He also says, 'Bright disease has no symptoms of its own, but has the symptoms of every other disease.' The reason why Warner's Safe Cure cures so many different diseases is that by curing symptoms, which are called diseases, it strikes at the roots of disease itself."

There is said to be a stream near Tucson, Ari., which petrifies every soft substance put into it. A biscuit dropped into the crystal water is alleged to have been turned to stone within a few minutes.

A gimmer of "B" Battery, Quebec, has just deserted from his regiment on the eve of his intended marriage, leaving a young and blooming prospective bride in tears. It seems the wedding day had been fixed, the church calls all duly made, rooms taken and furnished, and the wedding guests invited, when this gallant son of Mars weakened, turned traitor and fled.

The Story of a Will.

Having seen a letter in your paper from Mr. John Cooper, of this town, reminding me of an incident which occurred about three years ago. A friend of mine, Mr. A. Seymour, was staying at Vermillion Bay, on the C.E.R., west of here. A legacy was left to him by an uncle in London, England. Mr. Seymour was in such bad health at the time that he thought he would not be alive when the legacy would reach here. He therefore wrote to me asking me to have his will prepared and sent to him for signature, etc., appointing me as the legatee in trust. The will was prepared by John M. Munn, Esq., barrister, in this town, and was sent to Mr. Seymour. It was returned to me duly executed, and is still in my possession.

In the same letter was a request to send him a dozen bottles of Warner's Safe Cure, and some pills. I sent them. I received a letter some time after asking me to send some more, as he was feeling much better. I did so, and the next I knew Mr. Seymour himself came to town and told me (and looked it) that he was a well man. He got his money through the Ontario Bank here, and is now in British Columbia, and was in good health when I last heard from him.

I may say that I know both Mr. and Mrs. Cooper well, and the facts in Mrs. Cooper's case are as stated in Mr. Cooper's letter. You can publish this or not, as you think fit, as it is nothing to me either way.

Yours, etc., W. C. DORR, J. P. Port Arthur, Ont., May 23. [The foregoing letter is bona fide, and not an advertisement.—ERRON MAIL.]

How to Serve Strawberries. The strawberries that are coming in now are getting better and better every day. It has been suggested more than once that the proper way to serve the luscious red berry is to smother it with cream. This is a very good scheme, but a far better plan is to place the berries in a dish, at the bottom of which has been strewn some freshly-cut lemon peel. Put some more lemon peel on top of the berries. Cover the dish and let it stand in an ice box for ten or fifteen minutes. Put on some sugar at the end of that time, and then put on enough red wine to saturate the berries about three-fourths of the way up. Let the dish stand in an ice box sufficiently long to get the wine thoroughly cold. Then serve. The taste is something which cannot be described, but it is far superior to the taste of berries and cream. It is not necessary to use an expensive claret. One of the rich, fruity wines of California, Ohio or Jersey will answer. In fact, there is a flavor about any one of these vineyards which mingles with the strawberry admirably. The other evening, in a little restaurant well known to some men who like good things amid odd surroundings, a young man had a dish prepared according to this way, which far surpassed dishes supposed to be prepared in a similar manner at some of the showy up-town eating places. He bought the box of berries at a grocery on the corner. They cost ten cents. One of the servants in the kitchen prepared the berries and the house furnished the lemon peel and sugar for nothing. The wine used about any one of these vineyards which mingles with the strawberry admirably. The other evening, in a little restaurant well known to some men who like good things amid odd surroundings, a young man had a dish prepared according to this way, which far surpasses dishes supposed to be prepared in a similar manner at some of the showy up-town eating places. He bought the box of berries at a grocery on the corner. They cost ten cents. One of the servants in the kitchen prepared the berries and the house furnished the lemon peel and sugar for nothing. The wine used about any one of these vineyards which mingles with the strawberry admirably.

The Old Crank. Twelve men on one side of street car. Seven females on the other. Eighth female bounces in and stands in centre of car in expectant attitude. Expects at least four men to bob up, of course. Seven women criticize her from head to heel, especially the set of her bustle. Conductor looks in and is amazed that the twelve men don't come piling out to ride the rear track. This is the 19th century. "You women hitch along there!" says the old crank, pointing across the car. "There's room over there for four more like her." They glare at him and thirst for his life. "Then sit down on top of some of 'em!" he continues as he settles back. Then there is a flutter—a hitch, and a space of five clear feet is made in the centre, and the eighth female sits down in the centre of it in a gingerly way and with a look of pain. Not one of these seven will ever, ever take an introduction to her on the face of this earth, so help them Davy Jones!

A New Word. We are indebted to the Baptist Courier for the new word, "anthorodox." It was probably a misprint, but it is a good word, nevertheless. When a man sets forth his own vagaries he is the author of the views presented, and so they are "anthorodox," though they be far from orthodox. "Anthorodox," yes, it is a good word, and will come in well to describe many books, essays, articles and speeches.—Louisville Western Recorder.

Confectionery and ice cream man—"We'll lose ten of our best customers next week." Assistant—"We'll? Are they going to Oklahoma?" "No; they are going to get married."

About fifty Papal Zouaves, in full uniform, will leave Montreal for Quebec on the 22nd inst. to attend the unveiling of the Jacques Cartier monument in that city.—There was a hailstorm at Lachine, Que., on Thursday night, and the stones are said to have been of an extraordinary size. One is said to have measured in diameter two inches and a quarter and one inch and a half.

Philanthropic persons in Kingston are about to organize a crèche and kindergarten for poor children. There are 72 poor mothers who would willingly have their children cared for daily. The School Board has been asked to aid the scheme.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company have put on a service between Montreal and Halifax which lessens the time by nine hours.

The Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Toronto at the last session of its meeting yesterday passed a resolution against Romish aggression in Canada.

STARVING THE TEETH.

Teeth are just as easily starved to death as the stomach. In one way it is a blessing to have been born of poor parents. What food the poor give their children is of the variety that goes to make strong the cranium, and phosphate of lime and traces of other earthy salts which nourish the bony tissue and build the frame up. If we do not furnish to the teeth of the young that pabulum they require, they can not possibly be built up. It is the outside of corn, oats, wheat, barley, and the like, or the bran so-called, that we sift away and feed to the swine, that the teeth actually require for their proper nourishment. The wisdom of man has proven his folly, shown in every succeeding generation of teeth, which become more fragile and weak. These flouring mills are working destruction upon the teeth of every man, woman and child who partakes of their fine, bolted flour. They sift out the carbonates and the phosphates of lime in order that they may provide that fine flour which is proving a whitened sulphure to teeth. Oatmeal is one of the best foods for supplying the teeth with nourishment. It makes the dentine, cementum and enamel strong, nit-like and able to resist all forms of decay. If you have children never allow any white bread upon your table. Bread made of whole wheat ground, not bolted, so that the bran which contains the minute quantities of lime present, is best. To make a good, wholesome, nourishing bread, take two bowls of wheat meal and one bowl of white or bolted flour, and make by the usual process. Nothing is superior to brown bread for bone and tooth building. This is made out of rye meal and corn meal. Baked beans, too, have a considerable supply of these lime salts and should be on the table, hot or cold, three times a week. In brushing the teeth always brush up and down from the gums instead of across. Brush away from the gum and on the grinding surface of the teeth.—American Analyst.

A Woman's Charms. soon leave her, when she becomes a victim to any one of the various disorders and peculiar "weaknesses" that are peculiar to the fair sex. The condition of tens of thousands of women to-day is pitiable in the extreme; they are weak, bloodless creatures, a prey to mental anguish and bodily pain; in a word "broken-down," from any one of numerous causes. To this unhappy multitude we strongly urge the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, an infallible, world-famed remedy for all "female" irregularities and "weaknesses," and which restores the worst sufferer to vigorous health, and reinvests her with all the charms of figure, face and complexion that receive such willing homage from man.

A Bush for Progress. Applicant—"I see you are advertising for a porter. I would like to get a start somewhere. I am a graduate of the Commercial College, and—"

Business Man—"Very sorry, sir, but I have just taken the place to a graduate of the College of Journalism."

Declined with Thanks. Yes, Oscar, it is true many of the famous poets have suffered from dyspepsia, but it is an error to infer that dyspepsia is an infallible sign of genius. It is only an evidence of imperfect digestion and a disordered liver. Your poem, entitled "The First Dandelion of Spring" is merely one of the symptoms of a bilious attack. The next time your system is out of order take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. They will cleanse the liver to its normal state, and promptly cleanse the system without any disagreeable after effects. The "Pellets" are entirely harmless—which is more than can be said of your poem, Oscar.

A Buffalo despatch says the family of Alex. Sullivan, who figures in the Cronin murder case at Chicago, reside in Amherstburg, Ont., in comfortable circumstances and highly respected.

5500 Reward is offered by the manufacturers of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy for a case of catarrh which they cannot cure. This remedy cures by its mild, soothing, cleansing and healing properties. Only 50 cents by druggists.

Mr. Youngusband—Darling! you have been weeping. What is it, my sweetest love? Mrs. Youngusband—Horse-radish. Chinamen are beginning to part their names in the middle. The inscription "John Sing" can be seen of the window of a Bedford avenue, Brooklyn laundry.

Fighting has occurred between French and Italian navies in the Department of Haute Marne, France. Troops have been sent to quell the disturbance.

The thirteenth annual session of the Montreal Synod will open in Montreal on Tuesday. Girls, be very shy about marrying a man who can suppress a full-grown sneeze in prayer meeting, it indicates a bull-headed amount of will power which will interfere with your happiness some day.—Burlington Free Press.

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DUNN'S BAKING POWDER THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

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