PAYING POSTAL REFORMS.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Increase in the Number of New Offices Since Confederation-Registration Fee 6. Too High-The Carriage of Parcels in

The operations of the Dominion post-Though the revenue has steadily increased, rom \$1,024,710 in 1868, to \$3,696,062 in 1893, the expenditure has also steadily increased in a still greater ratio, writes a creased in a still greater ratio, writes a Applying the content of the payee may be inserted by the sender, but it appears that this is often left blank, and thus they pass from hand to hand as remittances, like small bank notes. They are found to be exceedingly useful, not only in making small remittances that this is often left blank, and thus they pass from hand to hand as remittances, like small bank notes. They are found to be exceedingly useful, not only in making small remittances that this is often left blank, and thus they pass from hand to hand as remittances, like small bank notes. They are found to be exceedingly useful, not only in making small remittances they are small bank in the popular notion of Finices.

The popular notion of Finices is season of 1878. A year or two later it because the fashion to decorate one's visiting card with one's portrait. Since 1886 fash ionable children have, with us, visiting card without words, as a popular notion of Finices. that while the revenue has only increased from thirty to seventy-four cents per head,

Then, in the money.

quiry whether anything can be done to telegram for twelve cents. since confederation has been very large, two ounces. Of course the population i viz., from 3,638 to 8,477, while the number of letters has increased in a much greater possible way, ratio, say from eighteen to 106 millions, convincing proof of

THE PROGRESS OF A NATION than the number of letters and post-cards

passing through its post-office. Canadian post-office is larger per head the company, the latter will deliver it to than in France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Russia, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Italy Spain and Portugal, it is yet less than 1893 4 made a clear profit of over eighteen one half the number, per head, carried in million dollars, (£5,749,000 sterling). From Great Britain, the United States and the whole, of about three and a half millie most of the Australian colonies, and less dollars (£723,000) paid to the mail steamthan in Sweden and Switzerland, Ontario ships as subsidies. In 1841, the first year however, ranking far above Quebec. No of Rowland Hill's penny postage, the procomplaint can be made on the score of letter postage, considering the enormous dis- is ample room for improvement in the tances travelled, and the sparse population; Canadian postal system, and it may be but the registration fee of five cents is too hoped that the government will do its

as in Great Britain. In some other respects, however, the Domin- it was in England. If members of Parliaion post-office is behind the age, and far be- ment must be indulged, let them be paid a hind the Imperial post-office. In the matter fixed sum for postage in addition to their of parcels this is especially the case. To great mileage, and then insist on distributing centres like Montreel and Toronto this is a matter of the greatest importance. Large houses that might be mentioned must send many thousands of parcels to country districts in the course of a year, and though the express companies will deliver parcels at moderate rates in towns and villages where there is a railway station, there is a vast number of villages where there is a post-office but no railway station, or only one which is several miles from the village. It is in these latter especially that the post-office regulations as to parcels are found to be so oppressive.

IN THE BRITISH POST-OFFICE the carriage of parcels has assumed enorbut for a similar parcel for a distance of lion dollars a year ! only fifty-seven miles, our post-office charges twenty-four cents! It is true that such a parcel, if "open to inspection only charged sixteen cents, but people will not send valuables by post "open to inspection," nor should the post-office encourage such a system, for it needlessly

tempts their employees.

This is not all. In cities and large towns the British post-office will send a van, free of charge, to collect parcels from any store fifty in a week, and will deliver them at your own der; should the consignee reside at a distance from a post-office they will deliver them by a special messenger at only 6 cents per mile, or by a cab it specially paid for. Then in case of loss or damage the post-office will pay up to \$10; for a fee of four cents the creased to \$25, and so on to the maximum of \$250 for a fee of twenty-two cents. No wonder that with all those attrac-

has become so popular. In Canada it is very different; for a parcel for which the office charges forty-eight or seventytwo cents, the express companies charge only twenty-five cents and thus they get known, make large profits out of it. The result is that whereas in 1887 the Canadian post-office carried 820,000 parcels, in 1893 it carried only 343,000, a diminution of fifty. eight percent, and, of course, a propor tionate loss of revenue. Its parcel postage Indeed seems to be a relic of the past, when the mails were carried by stage, or on horseback, or by hand, and weight was a matter of importance. Now the post-office pays over two million dollars a year for the parriage of mails, chiefly to the great railway companies, and they should carry any number of parcels without inconvenience or extra charge. If the obnoxious condition requiring parcels to be open to inspec-tion were abolished, and the present rate of one cent per pound levied on small parcels with a maximum charge of ten up to one pound and five cents for every extra yound, and the rate " well advertised," there shors than to buy new ones. little doubt that the post-office parcel business would soon run up to the millions, especially if the \$10 compensation, and the lf special delivery were added; and that the able

revenue in a short time would be increased ROYAL VISITING CARDS. by at least \$50,000 a year. But parcels must be delivered as promptly as letters and not detained twenty-four hours as they HOW TO SWELL THE REVENUE OF often are now. The department must run the POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. parcels by dishonorable persons, as the British office does.

Then the British post-office has in recent

years in augurated another great convenience. THE POSTAL ORDER.

the British Post-Office-The British Such orders are issued at any post-office in Postal Order is a Great Convenience- the Kingdom, payable at any other postsued for one shilling (25 cents), at a charge of one cent; up to ten shillings and sixpence office for 1893 resulted in a dead loss of at a charge of two cents, and up to twenty \$647,696. In 1868, the first year of Confederation, it only amounted to \$28,859. The payer may be inserted by the cally, any odd sum can be remitted: The royalty generally. Increase of both to population, we find presented for payment within three months very best sources—royalty's copper-plate The visiting card without words, so Why should not the system

Then, in the money order department the expenditure has increased from thirty-one to eighty-eight cents per head. To the lished. "Telegraph money orders," are loss must be added a portion, at least, o issued between all head and branch offices, loss must be added a portion, at least, o authorized to transact money order business. They are limited to ten pounds (50), and aristocratic personages accompanying this Nymphs and amorettes signify that information to the country house, is to take This is a heavy drain upon the resources and in addition, a charge of ninepence (18) article, all except the Kaiser's are the work all dancing, in the country house, is to take of a young country, and suggests the en-its repetition. The sender may also send a

augment the revenue, for there is little hope A concession, too, 18 made in the charge two cents; under two ounces, however, it is paper used. for new offices, and more frequent mails only three cents; under four ounces, four The increase in the number of new office | cents; and so on, one cent increase for every short, but the great aim is to meet in every

THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC. and post-cards from four millions, in 1876 In the city of London, that is, the eastern to twenty-two millions in 1893. This is central district, or heart, of London, there very satisfactory, for nothing affords a more are twelve free deliveries daily; in other districts within three miles of the postoffice, eleven deliveries, and in the suburbs six deliveries; and in all other cities and towns, from two to four. For an extra fee of four cents, paid to a railway company, a letter may be sent by any train, and by While the number passing through the an arrangement between the post-office and the person to whom it is addressed, at their station, or post it at the nearest letter-box. The result is that the British post-office in this, however, must be deducted part or fit was only two and a half million dollars

(£500,789). It will thus be seen that there utmost to afford the public every convenihigh; a lower charge would probably pro- ence, in doing which it will surely add to duce more revenue, especially if a small the revenue. compensation in case of loss were allowed, The franking system, too, may well be abolished. It is said to be much abused;

EVERYTHING BEING STAMPED.

Post-office officials, however, are not 8 in such When Rowland Hill first proposed "penny postage," the then Postmaster-General ord Lichfield, said of it in the House of Lords :- "Of all the wild, visionary schemes which I have ever heard of this is the most extravagant." By other officials it was denounced "ruinous." and even in 1843, when it had been in operation three years, Colonel Moberley, the Chief Secretary, told a Parliamentary committee :- "This plan we know, will fail . . . it must fail," and Mr Goulburn, the Chancellor of th Exchequer. thought so too. The experience of Great mous dimensions. In 1887 the number Britain shows that high rates and slow de-carried was a little over thirty-two mill-liveries result in a low revenue; but that lons; in 1890 it had increased to over forty- cheap uniform rates, and rapid delivery two millions, and in 1894 to fifty-four millions! will produce large revenue. Since 1839 without any appellation as to rank—plain nearly two hundred years. The early You can send a closed parcel weighing one the inland letter rate has been reduced 'Napoleon', neither more nor less.'' pound from any post-office in the United from a maximum of forty cents to a uni-Kingdom to any other, a maximum form rate of two cents, and the colonial distance of about six hundred miles and foreign letter rate, from a maximum for six cents; a two pound parcel for rate of eighty-four cents to a uniform rate royalist in Paris showed a correspondent a The party issuing the invitation wrote nine cents; or a three pound parcel of five cents; with the very great advanfor twelve cents; but in Canada the tage of enclosures up to one ounce in the crown. charge is twenty-four cents, forty-eight former, and half an ounce in the latter, cents, and seventy-two cents respectively. without extra charge, and with the result father's body was cold. The candidate for lord by handing the footman the card of You can send a one pound parcel from that the net revenue has increased from England to China for twenty cents; two and a half to tourteen and a half mil-

> Uncomfortable Resemblance. An active member of the London detective force narrates an amusing adventure, which shows that the cleverest of men are

outwit them.

supplying not less than ten at a time, or with whose appearance I felt myself to be has two sorts of cards, one reading "Albert perfectly familiar, and I kept a keen look. Edward," the other "Le Prince de Galles," out for my customer. The very next day the French term being more often used in I "spotted" him on an omnibus in the the universal language of royalty, all mon-Strand, pursued the vehicle, and having archs have their visiting cards for general satisfied myself by a closer look, took him use inscribed in the Gallic tongue. away to the station, he all the while pro- Princes use cards which give their name testing that I had made a mistake.

I had. He turned out to be a respecta- most cases that is done for a purpose. ble gentleman, with a most peculiar and unfortunate likeness to the "wanted" man. I was much disappointed; not only had I missed the party I wanted, but I had bungled the job. I was yet in my detective novitiate, and I got pretty

severely snubbed by my chief. The very next day, while walking down a street, -in Islington this time, -I stopped cream of the business, and, as is well and rubbed my eyes. Here was my man coming, dressed totally unlike the stranger of yesterday. I tapped him on the arm.

another work passing between us. To my amazement and disgust, he again turned out to be the wrong man, the one I had arrested the day before "Why did you not explain?" I asked,

somewhat excitedly. "Sir !" he thundered, "from my ex perience of you yesterday, I came to the nclusion you were no gentleman;" and darting a withering glance at me, he dis-

Evidently Mistaken. Father-Nowadays it costs more to men i

Daughter-You must be mistaken. Why do you think so? If it did, patched shoes would be fashion

GREAT QUANTITIES OF THEM USED FOR SOCIAL ATTENTIONS.

60,000,000,000 Made Every Year-How the Whim of Napoleon III, Established a Custom for the Entire Civilized World.

Visiting cards to the number of 60,000,-000,000 are annually put into circulation So is the Telegraph Money Order office at a very small charge, but limited to tweaty shillings (\$5) each. They are isstatement of a statistician. He also says

Paris has had the monopoly of supplying the monarchs of the world with visiting

A GREAT PARIS HOUSE.

that the expenditure can be seriously di- for letter rates, when they exceed one ounce production, done by litography, and about cards to picnics are decorated with an minished, owing to the incessant demand in weight. Under one ounce, the charge is fifty years behind the times in all but the

> 'was first employed in the making of visit- fashionable thing to carry sheet-iron cards very dense, and the distances comparatively ing cards when, after the coup d'etat, Na. so thin that forty of them, placed one upon polean ordered pasteboards that contained height. The letters were stamped in and his Christian name only. Things were all enamelled. Aluminum cards have also in a rush then, and his newly baked Majesty been thought of. refused to wait for the slow engraving The visiting card of the Emperor of Austria reads: "François Joseph I. process. When it leaked out that the Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Hongrie. head of the state, the most talked of man | This is in the very worst of taste, accordin Europe, used lithographed cards, the ing to English notions, which strictly pro things became in vogue. Thus an enormous | hibit the use of the Christian name in industry was due to a clever man's intent- | connection with one's title. British society

retains up to this day its white and glossy coat, which was due to a reckless tincture THE LOTTERY OF LUCK. of arsenic. These arsenic-impregnated cards, it was thought at the time, caused a good deal of sickness.

Lithography gave way to copper plate engraving with the arrival of the Empress Eugenie. While many people of quality used cards printed from copper plate long before the blonde beauty was ever thought of as fashion's dictator, the custom was not generally adopted. Some persons preferred to write their own cards or have then nscribed by a noted caligraphist.

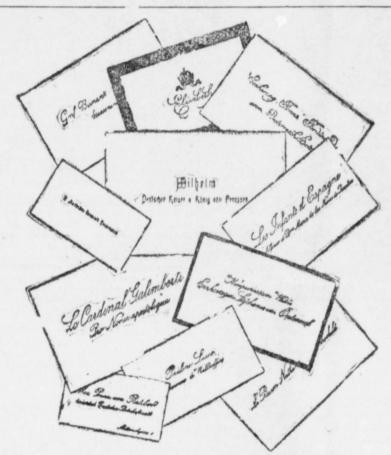
Engraved cards on other than glossy poards were first used in Paris at th beginning of the seventies, and soon afterthat the pro rata consumption by individu- wards the job printers began to turn our als is greatest among crowned heads and for clerks, students and factory girls. Bristol cardboard, which admits of the use The popular notion of Princes is that of pen or pencil, was an achievement of the their customers and predicting the percentpircumstantiality as to prelude the necessi- came the fashion to decorate one's visiting ionable children have, with us, visiting

> much in use in all circles of Parisian society, is really

A CARD OF IN VITATION.

cards ever since they became a social It contains the name of the host and the necessity under the Second Empire. Of date for which the invitation is issued, and place. A group of trees with Chinese lanterns fastened to the branches foreshadows a garden festival, while a four-horse mail-Wilhelm's unwieldy pasteboard is a Berlin | coach announces an excursion. Invitation empty dinner basket.

Attempts to find a suitable substitute for cardboard have been unsucessful, Some "Lithography," said a leading stationer, time ago in Paris it was pronounced the



THE VISITING CARDS OF THE LEADING EUROPEAN ROYAL PERSONAGES.

The use of the Christian name only is a great statesmen and peers as a means prerogative which kings and emperors notifying the people of less quality that share with servants. The other day a their visit would be acceptable. the throne intended to appeal to his sup-porters, or those whom he would like to mailing them his visiting card.

The Emperors of Germany and Austria on their visiting cards follo 7 a German custom and print part of their title. cording to fashion's dictum their visiting cards should either read "Wilhelm" and "Franz Joseph," respectively, or "Deutscher liable to err when nature sets herself to Kaiser" and "Kaiser von Oeterreich."

THE PRINCE OF WALES,

I was instructed to arrest a certain man, almost most correct in matters of etiquette, and title in the native language, but in

"The" in front of a royal or princely title denotes that the person is a sovereign, or at least the head of his family. England it is employed in addressing a peer, for instance, "The Right Honorable." Only one Englishman of non-royal rank makes bold use to the prefix. "The" on his visiting card, and this reads "The Duke of Argyll." His son's and his daughter-inaw's cards, on the other hand, read: "Marquis of Torne" and "The Princess

Louise. of yesterday. I tapped him of You, is He turned round and exclaimed, "You, is ing cards by royalty is occasioned by its it?" and I informed him of my business. kinship to hundreds and thousands of persons, many of whom their big brothers and sisters would not know even by name, save for the Almanach de Gotha. Asit is, their majesties' and highnesses' secretaries are busy year in and year out mailing cards all over the civilized world, denoting "regrets," congratulations " or "leave-taking. The adjutants and ladies-in-waiting respec tively a'so use a large stock of cards weekly. 'repaying visits" by distinguished for eigners to their masters and mistresses. They drive up to the hotel of the party to be honored, jump out, deposit the paste-

> NAPOLEON'S VISITING CARD still has a sample, which he intends to and to have eaten forty pounds of meat a present to the National Museum. It day said to him that you was hard to amuse, merly needed is now required toward the formation of the good officer.

ness to see himself in print, royal style has used some sort of visiting card for

visiting card inscribed "Philippe" under a his name on the top of a card and that of Ten thousand of that sort were the party he desired to see at the bottom. ordered by the Duke of Orleans before his The caller "sent in his name" to the great invitation he had received. Card writing continued in England until the coup d'etat win over to the cause of the lily banner, by in Paris brought about a revolution in the matter of visiting cards generally.

> The earliest means of notifying a person of an unsuccessful visit paid to him was to

WRITE ONE'S NAME WITH CHALK on the door. In the houses of the great lords a visitors' book was kept, where callers registered their names if the host was "not in." but as in those good old times chirography was not a gentleman's cessary accomplishment the thing had its disadvantages. Finally some smart old squire conceived the idea of having his name inscribed on small sheets of paper by his clerk and leaving them at the door of patrons who were unable or unwilling to receive him. The custom was at once followed and spread all over Europe.

The Chinese claim they used visiting ards as far back as the time of Confucius In Corea visiting cards are a foot square The savages of Dahomey announce their rank can serve his country by the use of after another rose in their places to tell what visits to each other by a wooden board or the branch of a tree artistically carved. saber." After his return from America swerving loyalty to duty, splendid courage. This is sent ahead, and the visitoron taking the allies kept him as much as possible at rare scholarship, and philosophic insight, leave pockets his card, which probably serves him many years. The natives of den he found out that Napoleon, too, the time there stood a slender woman, who Sumatra also have a visiting card consisting knew the value of a telescope. Seeing a had been during his life nearest to him of of a piece of wood about a foot long and de corated with a bunch of straw and a knife.

How Big Was Adam?

There are hardly any truthful records of the purpose of the programme by hitting the giants of the past, though literature is hip and then breaking his left leg, after full of wondrous tales about them. A passing completely through his I rench Academician, M. Henrion, once esti- which completed the mischief by falling on mated the height of Adam to be 123 feet, top of its cripled rider. Napoleon afterand a skeleton seventy feet long.

CAPRICES OF FORTUNE IN PEACE AND WAR

The Elbe Disaster Recalls Stories of Good and Ill Fortune by Land and Sea-Freaks of Chance Decide the Question Over Danger.

The details of the recent ocean horror strikingly illustrate the truth that in ques- ship, or if that Britisher with the crosses tions of life and death the calculus of prob- (amulets for all he knew) really bore a ability can not be applied to the fate of individuals. Our life insurance companies the French army," who seemed destined have pretty reliable methods of classifying to be hit in almost every battle, though age of survivals in a given number of soldiers, sailors and firemen, but their statis- he had been wonded not less than eight times, tics deal only with averages, and, in special and was almost killed at Eylau, though he cases, the result is apt to belie the forecast kept in the saddle for fear of disheartening of the most accomplished experts. In marine disasters, as a rule, women and children and the passengers of compertment thick that the special aim of the hostile vessels have a superior chance of escape, marksmen could be no longer doubted. but there are cases of shipwrecked sailors Adjutant, "get down, quick, or you are having performed long voyages in open done for!" Two musket balls whizzing boats without a single accident, while more close by his ears indorsed the advice in than one model steamer has gone down with | manner not easy to resist, and when a third all on board. When the mutineers of the Marshal did dismount, but had no sconer Rounty set adrift their captain and his touchedth groundwhena cannon ball broke sympathizers in the middle of the Pacific both his legs just below the knee. This they evidently only wanted to palliate the Adjutant caught him in his arms the next odium of outright murder, but never ex- from worse wounds, but in the confusion of pected that one of the thirteen occupants of that murderous battle it took nearly an tions. the rickety launch could possibly live to be. hour before a surgeon could be found to tray their crime. Yet that launch reached apply the proper bandages, and by that Singapore after a trip of 4,800 miles, though her row-locks were so close to the water's edge that she could only be kept affoat by the most careful management, and in rough

weather only by a constant use of pails. The steamer Eibe, on the other hand, had been built after a plan of compartment structure which was supposed to make the total loss of a vessel almost impossible, and Junot), however, assures us that the parin the worst case guarantee its buoyancy for a period sufficient to save the crew, together with the most valuable part of the cargo. Yet a minute after the collision with the Crathie the big steamer became unmanageable and went under before more than five of the twenty-four lifeboats could be

THE FREAKS OF CHANCE.

went down half as quick, and in spite of lost his wife and boy, fiercely denounces boats, and insinuates that the engineer who pulled the boy out of his father's arms the other hand, states that the engineer | kill the favorite of fortune. acted in pursuance of the strict orders by which the captain hoped to save the women and children in the best boats-a plan in which the officers persisted at the risk of heir own lives, and which would undoubt edly have resulted in the saving of every youngster on board if the steamer had not tilted in the critical moment and lifted which hang around the neck of the statue fifteen boats half a hundred feet above the draw prizes in a lottery with a fearful misfortune to the royal house of Spain preponderance of blanks, or, as an agent of the German Lloyd expressed it, "had to from Moscow. At the crossing of the Beresina, a detachment of those helpless fugitives was given precedence, and an evethat most of those who got safely across the young King presented it to his grand-were doomed to succumb to subsequent mother, Queen Christina, who died shortly hardships, while many of their despairing afterward. mantle. LUCK IN WAR.

The only survivors of the massacre of

Prevesa were two boys and one heroic old

swashbuckler, who backed against a rock and defied the victors to come on, and whose life a chivalrous Lieutenant of Ali Pasha ordered his men to spare at all hazards. The survival luck of war is, indeed, not always in favor of the strongest or the boldness of his aggresive tactics, had a ward. wholesome dislike of personal encounters and when the Margrave of the devastated Palatinate challenged him to single combat he replied that "his instructions limited On the Almudena, where it has since remained, him to wholesale transactions." day of battle he followed the plan of Marlborough to keep his person out of bullet range, but before the end of the campaign against Montecuculi, that long-headed nmander was killed by a cannon ball, while reconnoitering the hostile position from a distance of a mile and a half. A similar fate closed the checkered career of present to bear testimony to the life and Gen. Moreau who held that "an officer of influence of a departed colleague. his telescope more than by the use of his | they owed to his genius, his high spirit, unheadquarters, but after the battle of Dres- The testimony was done. At the door, all group of officers on top of a treeiess hill, whom they spoke. he watched them for a while through his forget her face-the passion of it and the fieldglass, and then bade the officer in pathos of it-nor the power, tender but charge of a crack battery to "try and treat | reproachful, with which she spoke when at those gentlemen up there to a dozen balls length we were still: 'Oh, if you loved at one discharge. Part of the volley went. Edward so, why didn't you tell him of it a little too high, but one ball asswered while he lived ?

NELSON AND MARSHAL LANNES.

The fate of Lord Nelson turned on a imilar trifle. The sharpshooters in the rigging of the Bucertaur had been ordered to come down, because her commander saw the hopelessness of further resistance, but one of them, just before beginning his descent, decided to have one more shot at an English officer, glittering with decorations, and whom he had in vain tried to hit twice of Life and Death-Triumph of Vanity | before. He had no idea that his target was the formidable Admiral in person, but merely felt a hankering to ascertain whether his misses were due to the swaying of the charmed life. Still rougher luck was that

his tough constitution enabled him to recover with the promptitude of a Zulu Kaffir. In the course of the three Italian campaigns his men in the crisis of the final charge. At Aspern, too, he rode at the head of his grenadiers till the bullets began to fly so They have recognized you," cried his bullet ploughed through his hat, the stout ne the hero of Montecello had bled away his strength of recovery.

MURAT'S ESCAPES.

Murat, his rival in reckless courage, had the opposite kind of luck, and survived so many desperate charges that his troopers actually began to think him invulnerable, hough some of them suspected that he must wear a hidden coat of mail. The Duchess of Abrantes (the wife of his friend venu King's love of fripperies would have left no room for that additional burden. The Parisian wits called him Le Roi Franconi-"King Forepaugh," as we might translate it, on account of his dress suit of double and triple circus jackets and fantastic head gear. In that panoply he rode into battle, too, and always kept in the front rank to give the enemy a chance to admire his embroidered velvet and 10,000-fran ostrich plumes-in short, made himself highly conspicuous target to hostile sharp-At Trafalgar, half a century before the shooters; but, somehow, or other, always invention of the compartment system, not got off without a scratch. In Russia he one of the cannon-smitten French frigates got frost bitten and so disgusted with the ill-luck of his kinsman that he retired to conflicting accounts it seems now wholly his Italian domains; but he returned in certain that the surviving twenty-two of the time for the great battle of Leipsig, and 350 Elbe victims were selected by the freaks | again escaped unscathed, though at one of pure accident. Squire Hoffman, who time his horse ran away and obliged him to run the gaunt let of the Austrian battle-front. | is Prof. Huxley. the inhumanity of the crew who did all they | During the Hundred Days he broke loose could to keep the passengers out of the again, and would not keep quiet, even after the battle of Waterloo, till his Italian successor at last had to get him shot merely wanted to make room for his own corporal's squad, a proof, as one of his bundle of valuables. Lieut, Stollberg, on countrymen said, that it took six bullets to

ALFONSO'S FATAL GEM.

A Royal Opal Which Brings Death to the

One of the strangest of the many jewels water's edge. The truth seems to be that of Our Lady of Almudena, at Madrid, is a the ladies and children simply failed to ring which is believed to have brought

take their chance of luck with the rest"- It is a magnificent opal, surrounded by like the minors and non-combatants who large diamonds. The late King Alfonso followed the retreat of the French army XII, gave it to his cousin Mercedes when he was betrothed to her, and she wore 1 during the whole of her married life, which witness of the fatal day records the fact lasted only a few months. On her death

friends on the other side of the river were saved by falling into the hands of Com. Infanta del Pilar. No sooner had she begun mander Tschitschakoff, an unpronounceable to wear this fatal gem than she sickened, Muscovite, with a very pronounced sub. and in a few days her body was borne to stratum of good nature under his shaggy the grave. Alfonso next sent the ring to his sister-in-law, Christina, the youngest of Wales was solo recently at Wolferton, daughter of the Duc de Montpensier, but in three months it reverted to the King by

His Majesty, for the first time realizing the horrible succession of events attaching to the ownership of the opal, determined to keep it himself, fearful that if he again bestowed it upon one of his fair relatives she would not long survive the gift. He

himself therefore fell a victim to its mymost cautious. Marshall Turenne, with all sterious malignancy, dying shortly after-The present Queen was anxious to be rid forever of the ring, so she gave instructions that it should be suspended around the neck of the statue of the Holy Virgin of

Pra se That Came Too Late. A sermon in itself was preached lately in a story told by a well-known Bishop. It seems that a number of clergymen were

Seamanship Past and Present. In the past, seamanship was the chief thing. In the present, seamanship, in the and that of Eve, 118, proportions that must ward learned that a fraction of a change in old and strict sense of the word, holds a have appeared most formidable & the ser- the aim of his artilerists would probably very subsidiary place. When the winds pent, and made the proposition for apples have ended the wrole war, as well as the and the waves and the tides could not be seem a somewhat trivial thing. The same campaigns of tan. Moreau, for the two authority brings Abraham down to twenty- horsemen on the left and right of his eight feet, and makes Moses only thirteen, former rival were the Emperor Alexander of dealing with these elements was a wor Soliath's recorded height is, however, only of Russia and Prince Schwartzenberg, the thy study for a whole life. But to day we nine feet nine inches, which is within the Commander in chief of the allied armies. | force the winds, the waves, and the tides, bounds of possibility. Pliny speaks of seeing | One of the gunners clutched his head with | and humor them very little. The seaman a giantess ten feet two inches in height, a groan when he heard of those facts, is in process of becoming the engineer; "Sacre ciel! I did want to depress my every year he becomes more and more the was two and a third inches long and a half are weird stories of the Emperor Maximilas broad. The ex-printer to the Tuileries ian, who was reputed to be nine feet high, Sergeant told me to stand back, because briefer experience of the sea than was forsaid to him that you was hard to amuse,

British and Foreign.

Marshal Canrobert's death revives the fact that it was he who commented on the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava by saying: "C'est magnifique; mais ce

n'est pas la guerre." France has compulsory elementary education, yet out of 348,000 young men called out for military service 20,000 could neither read nor write and 55,000 more could only

sign their names. Alluvial and reef gold has been discovered in Madagascar at Antinahaka, north of Antananarivo. A thousand ounces were of poor Marshal Lannes, the "Roland of taken by native workers from a strip of

ground twenty feet by three. Slatin Bey, who was Governor of Darfour when Gordon was killed, and ever since has been a captive among the Mahdists, is reported to have escaped and almost to have reached the Italians at Kassala.

A Vienna specialist was recently sumnoned to Temesvar to decide whether the Bishop's leg should be amputated or not. The train was stalled in the snow, but he consulted with the Temesvar doctors by telephone, and the leg came off.

A miniature Gospel of St. John has been issued to the Japanese troops measuring 24 by 1g inches. It was specially prepared on very thin paper by the three Bible societies at work in Japan—the British and Foreign, the American, and the Scottish.

Herr Treitl, a Vienna hardware merchant, who died recently at 91, left 800,000 florins of his fortune to the Vienna Academy of Sciences for the promotion of instant, and strong men have recovered scientific research. He left a quarter of a million florins beside to charitable institu-

At the yachting exhibition in London is shown a "combined ship's buoy." It is carried on deck, and when the ship sinks it floats and records at once the hour and minute of the disaster. It then automatilly fires rockets, burns blue lights, shows a amp, and rings a bell.

In Asolo, northwest of Treviso, opposite the house where Robert Browning wrote Asolando," Mr. Barrett Browning has established, in memory of his father, a lace school, where young girls are taught to weave the old patterns of Venetian lace. He has also revived the older industry of the place of weaving linen by hand looms.

It is said that the weaving of threads of aluminium in textile fabrics results it. a practically non-oxidizable, inexpensive material that is free from chemical action. and can be washed without fear of injury. It can be applied to the finest and heaviest fabrics, as the thread can be drawn to any degree of thinness, and may be made round flat, or in any shape convenient for wearing.

London University, after limiting itself for nearly sixty years to conferring degrees upon examination, now proposes to take up instruction. The University Convocation has adopted the report of the Gresham Commission to that effect, and Lord Rose, very has expressed himself in favor of the scheme. One of the leaders in the movement

Gen. Barattieri, the Italian commander in Abyssinia, who recently took Kassala and routed Ras Mangascia, comes from the Trentino, which is part of the Italia irredenta, still in Aurstrian hands. He is 54 years old, and when a boy of 19 was one of Garibaldi's Thousand in the march through Sicily, after which he joined the regular army as a Captain. He has been a Deprey in Parliament, and was for several years editor of the Rivista Militare.

Jacobites still exist in England. On the 30th of January, the anniversary of the execution of King Charles I., they held a memorial service and decorated his statue at Charing Cross with flowers. On a card was the inscription: "Remember, O King and Martyr, we have not forgotten. God save Queen Mary." "Queen Mary" is the niece of the last Duke of Modena, who is the oldest lineal descendant of King Charles

At the recent sale of the library of Edmund Yates the writing desk used by Charles Dickens when he died, and presented to Yates by the family, was sold for \$525. The original letters of Dickens to Yates brought \$430, and Yates' collection of autographs \$325. The books which first editions of Dickens and Then it passed to the King's sister, the of Thackeray, brought only fair prices, though a presentation copy of first edition of "A Tale of Two Cities" was

sold for \$57. A lot of shire i "ses bred by the Prince and this is how it was done. A big tent was set up, in which free lunch was served, over 1,000 people coming to it by special trains from London. The himself presided, and proposed the health of the Queen; with him were his two daughters, the Duke and Duchess of York, Prince Christian, and sprinkling of the nobility. After luucheon the bidding began, and fifty horses were sold for \$27,500.

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, an ingenious hot-air bath is now in use for the treatment of sprains, inflamed joints due to gout or rheumatism, and similar affections. It consists of a copper cylinder about three feet long and eighteen inches in diameter, which will hold an arm up to the shoulder or a leg up to the middle of the thigh; it stands on an iron frame, and is heated by gas burners placed underneath, so that the temperature can be raised to 300 or 400 degrees Fahrenheit, The patient is placed in a arm chair at one end of the cylinder, the limb is introduced, and the joint made air tight by a rub-ber band. No discomfort is felt up to 250 degrees, until perspiration sets in, when the noisture has a scalding effect, which is relieved by opening the further end of the cylinder and letting the moisture evaporate. A sitting usually lasts forty minutes. The immediate effect is a greatly increased circulation in the part treated, profuse local perspiration, and relief from

A Cultivated Convict.

Prison Missionary-My friend, are you not repentant for your past misdeeds ! Convict-Repent nawthin ! You better go back to school an' finish y'r edication. My friend, I am thoroughly familiar

with the Bible. Aw, come off! Just you study up th' science o' sociology, an' you'll find I am simply a product of environment—that's the sort of a hairpin I am.

Little Brother's Guess.

Little Brother-You told Mr. Nicefello you sang only for your own amusement, Big Sister-I presume so, I tell every-

body that. But why?
Little Brother-Oh, nothing, only I

WIFE ARGE ON

DICKS IS A Most of the An Interesti ost-moriem atch from 7 s, husband (o was found avenue after

ing last, has wilful mu the circums had a some nd the large by the dea it, the deci he man under tedly, and was tain developm strengthene n that foul pla ocaust which last Saturday nned and all

SEARCHIN ective Verne on of the hou t furniture h ial removal an ,and the place e up, and the hbors general as safe to go. er put in ar ded up, so as in possession he detective bugh the hou ar where the

fire started its

avation a foot

destruction.

top is about t the rafters sup re above. Fro hot air pipe oss the cellar ne near enough ngerous. The ly pipe that c e feet below fters, and runs on which there A START While examin store, enterin r just three f n with t iced a blacker ween the top nd on pulling it oil can. Th

e pipe, and rec se it from i out the side ere it had laid egrees, the tor ards the furns e top to the t and the handle as if the burnin ver it as it esc f the wooden The diameter nd the space h pipe at the poin inches. At the

sixteen inches,

been inserted a

PUSI

until it jammed e only other have been thro the appearance inasmuch as co been used to st as it was when indentation in the force used quarters may that the distan to the floor at a quarter inch can, as has inches. The except for a straw, which it from the flo

THE Upstairs, th which was occ was burned r behind, between the little roon night. It we furniture was or three artic floor. These woman's skir back part of Half way dov remains of a h ly been broke

at the inques

had a night missing, how mentioned, b tho store was appeared to l Another of unexplained had supper o'clock, but until 41 hor post-morten deceased's s slightly dige experts to s eaten death Exactly w will be has probable an until the c investigatio

> The Caller (it m.)-Is Mr. Clerk-Y Caller-Clerk-Y Caller-A preakiast re