

CURRENT TOPICS.

Kaid MacLean, otherwise known as Sir Harry MacLean, the British subject who is commander of the body-guard of the Sultan, Abdul Aziz, has recovered his liberty after a detention of seven months in the mountains of Morocco. The conditions of ransom dictated by the Sultan to the British Government having been complied with, the prisoner was personally conducted by his captor to the British Legation at Tangier and is now in safety. The incident recalls the Middle Ages, when kidnapping was an honorable calling and holding to ransom was a profitable business.

This is not the first time that Raisuli has made money by reverting to medieval ways. Some four years ago he captured the correspondent of the London Times on the outskirts of Tangier and did not give him up till he secured in exchange the release, from prison of some of his adherents. Not long afterward he seized an American and a British subject, and this time not only got from the Sultan Abdul Aziz a ransom of some fifty thousand dollars but also an appointment to be Governor of a district where his interests were being suppressed. Having been dismissed from this post about a year ago, he forthwith reverted to brigandage, and all attempts to coerce him failed, although one of the towns controlled by him was occupied and a number of his followers and some women of his harem were captured.

In June of last year, believing that more could be accomplished by diplomacy than by force, the Sultan sent Sir Harry MacLean to negotiate with the bandit, but after one interview the envoy ventured to go to another without adequate safeguards and on July 1 he was made prisoner. The efforts to secure his release were long futile, owing to the preposterous terms imposed by the brigand. Raisuli ultimately declined to treat with the Sultan Abdul Aziz and insisted upon entering into direct negotiations with the British Government. Even after an agreement had been reached with Sir Gerard Lowther, the British Minister at Tangier, a hitch occurred, because the authority of Abdul Aziz had become so weakened at Fez that it was impossible to secure the Moorish prisoners detained there who were to be exchanged for Sir Harry MacLean. After Muti Hafid, however, had been proclaimed at Fez, the prisoners were given up and reached Tangier late in January.

Thus the last obstacle to the execution of the agreement for ransom disappeared, and on February 6 Raisuli himself brought Kaid MacLean to the British Legation. The terms upon which the release was procured were cabled at the time. Not only did the bandit receive from the British Government \$100,000 and the release of fifty-six Moorish prisoners, together with the slave women who were taken after the destruction of a house of his, but he became himself, together with twenty-eight of his relatives, a British-protected subject. Of the money \$25,000 was paid in hand, but as a guarantee of good behavior the remainder was to be deposited for three years in the State Bank, though by way of interest \$250 was to be paid to him monthly.

What heightens the medieval flavor of the story is the fact, attested by all who have come in contact with him, that Raisuli is as courteous and engaging a person as ever robbed on the highway or cut a throat. The correspondent of the London Times who had been his captive four years before visited him on the evening of February 7 and testifies not only that his manners were as usual polite and friendly, but that his spirits were high and he showed himself capable of considerable humor. He is proud, he says, of being a British-protected subject and protests that he has always had the kindest feelings for Englishmen. Such sympathy, he said, was entirely compatible with the undeniable fact that circumstances had compelled him to make Englishmen his prey. Really, he said, the capturing of persons of means and holding them to ransom was the only profession that a gentleman could follow in Morocco.

NOT IN THEIR CLASS. "I suppose your family is in the social swim?" "I should say so," answered M. Cumocx. "We're getting so exclusive that I feel flattered if mother and the girls let me come to one of their parties!"

PRETTY NEAR IT. "Now," said the teacher, who had been giving an elementary talk upon architecture, "can any little boy tell me what a 'butress' is?" "I know," shouted Tommy Smart. "A nanny goat."

Bad weather is responsible for a lot of bad humor.

ON THE FARM

RAISING DAIRY HEIFERS. Every true dairyman knows that in order to raise strong, vigorous and high producing dairy cows it is not necessary to keep them fat during their growing period. In fact it is better not to fatten the young dairy calves or heifers, but simply keep them in thrifty condition. Dairy calves and the young stock should be liberally fed, but not given feeds that will fatten them. It is held by our best breeders that a bulky ration is better for growing dairy animals than a ration containing a large percentage of concentrates. There is a reason for this theory and practice. The good dairy cow must be capable of taking a large amount of food and converting it into milk. If an animal cannot do this she is not profitable to keep for dairy purposes. So in training young dairy stock to carry out their work they are given bulky feeds which tend to exercise their digestive organs more than the concentrated feeds. Perhaps it is not so much a question of exercise, but the digestive tract is distended more by coarse fodder and hay than by meals and consequently the capacity for handling large amounts of feed is developed. Through use the muscles of the animal are developed; by disuse they atrophy. To train a horse to trot, he is put on the track and trotted, there by developing the muscles which are necessary to produce speed. The dairy cow not being kept for speed purposes, is not trained on the track, but by being liberally fed, her growth is retarded. She should have a ration that will tend to develop her digestive capacity, thus developing her to perform better her function as a dairy cow.

WARMING THE WATER FOR COWS. Warming the water for milch cows results in more of it being consumed. When our first tank heater was introduced several years ago it did not take long to convince us that we got more milk than we had been getting when the cows drank it unwarmed, even though from a well-protected source. We do not hear or read so much these days on this subject, because nearly everybody understands that ice water is not conducive to a large milk flow. Not all barns are equipped with inside watering devices, and many herds still go to the outside tank for drink. Since 85 per cent. of all milk consists of water, it pays to encourage a free consumption on the part of the cow. One of the most successful dairymen I ever knew kept but a few cows, but he took excellent care of those few. In winter, since he had no better way, he carried a kettle of boiling water from the house every morning and took the milk off before the animals were allowed to drink from the half-barrel placed just inside the barnyard fence and near the well, from which it was filled by means of a wooden trough. His cows did not stay out of doors on cold days and at night water was carried to them in their stalls. This meant lots of work, but he found that it paid to do it. Warm stalls, plenty of good food and water will make cows do well even in the coldest weather. Salt is not food, but it is essential to health, and should be regularly supplied to stock of all kinds.

FARM NOTES. Improved methods of culture are spread broadcast over the land by means of books and papers. For this reason farmers are more intelligent than the same class in any other country. Few farmers now scoff at agricultural information. Eighty-seven per cent. of milk is water, which shows the necessity of providing in abundance for the cows, and it should always be pure and wholesome. Water from a stagnant pool, or a well which gets its soakage from decayed filth, may have in it a poison that finds its victim in the human family. Herein lies the advantage of nitrate of soda: The nitrogen being at once available is promptly taken up by the plant roots, which force a vigorous growth during the forepart of the season; then the action ceases, no nitrogen being left in the soil, and the fruit matures. Fertilizers applied to an apple orchard at this time would not produce much effect the same season, but would appear in the crop of the following year. The results of a number of careful examinations by eminent scientific men show that the total amount of ammonia brought down in a whole year in the rain, dew and snow is about eight pounds to an acre of surface, varying somewhat with seasons and localities; while in a crop of 25 bushels of wheat there are 45 pounds of nitrogen; in 25 tons of meadow hay there are 50 pounds, and in 2½ tons of clover hay there are 108 pounds. The greatest benefit we have derived from the presence of snow on our fields, has been in facilitating the spreading of manure in winter, by drawing it over a frozen and snow-covered surface, instead of in mud early in spring.

NOT THE KIND HE WANTED. "Little Willie ran away to hunt redskins." "Yes?" "But he didn't find any until his father had finished with him."

The wise old doctor was impressing upon his little patient the essentiality of mastication. "My lad," he advised, "no matter what you eat, always chew each mouthful thirty times." But Jimmy shook his head significantly. "That wouldn't do at our house, doctor," "And why not, my son?" "Because I'd always be hungry. The rest of the kids would clear the table off before I got through with that one mouthful."

ESCAPES FROM SIBERIA

SWISS PROFESSOR MAKES BOLD DASH FOR LIBERTY.

He Preferred the Risk of Being Killed by Guards to a Living Tomb. An exciting and remarkable story of escape from Siberia is related by M. Maurice Gehri, the Swiss professor who unexpectedly returned to the home of his parents at Morges, in the canton of Vaud, Switzerland, a few days ago, after a series of thrilling experiences. M. Gehri was born at Morges on April 11, 1885, and after a brilliant career in sympathy with the cause of French at the Gymnase de Glogu, in the government of Volhyni, Russia. He took up his duties in the Spring of 1905, and began to study the political problems of Russia with enthusiasm. His sympathy he felt with those who were trying their utmost to bring about reforms of the laws and to alleviate the conditions under which the vast majority of the people lived soon attracted the attention of the authorities to the young Swiss master. He was in sympathy with the efforts of the Reformers; and as the son of a free country, in which it is no crime to speak openly, he did not hesitate to express his opinions. His clearly-defined views aroused the suspicion of the police. He was closely watched, and on Aug. 28, 1906 (or 1907, he was arrested as a Revolutionary.

SENT OFF TO SIBERIA. Political offenders in Russia have little chance of obtaining a hearing—much less in obtaining justice—and on April 4, 1907, after a trial which was a mere mockery, he was sentenced to transportation for life. On Aug. 3 he set out for Siberia with a band of other prisoners. The prisoners were carried by train as far as Krasnoyarsk, in the basin of the Yenisei, where they were detained in order to complete the journey by road on foot. Day after day they tramped on, weary and foot-sore, but as they advanced further and further from civilization, the guards, seldom and obedient as they were, became more and more careless in their supervision. Gehri's attention was attracted by a fellow-escapee who was impossible—and indeed the majority of the prisoners, despondent and in despair, had no heart to make an attempt.

But while most of the others were resigned to their fate, M. Gehri was restless to every opportunity. He saw that the guards made an attempt to escape possible, and he resolved to watch for and to seize the first favorable opportunity. Success meant life and liberty, instead of a living tomb; failure would not mean his position, but the certainty of being killed while making his attempt. The opportunity came on Sept. 17, when they were about half-way between Krasnoyarsk and their destination, the penal settlement, and M. Gehri and two others, to whom he had confided his intention, seized it with both hands. While the guards were drinking, the three men crept out into the darkness, determined to make a bold dash for liberty, although they had very little, if any, idea of the direction they should take. And in order to make pursuit more difficult, they separated almost at once.

FINALLY REACHES JAPAN. After many adventures, M. Gehri reached Vladivostok, and finally Japan, whence he telegraphed for money to pay his passage home to Switzerland. He set sail on Nov. 16, on board the Messageries Maritimes liner Tonkin, and arrived home a few days ago safe and sound, and not much upset by his terrible experiences he had had. His return was quite unexpected, and when he reached home his parents were wondering when, if ever, they would see him again.

MR. SLOWINGTON'S BANK ACCOUNT. Surprised to Discover That He Has One and is Going to Build It Up. "How time flies for one thing," said Mr. Slowington, "and for another, this isn't being a proverb or a saying or anything of that sort but just a statement of fact. I've been here for a long time without knowing anything about it." "Close on to twenty years ago I put \$5 in a savings bank and then forgot all about it—maybe because at that time I didn't have any more money to put in; but day before yesterday I came across that old bank book in the bottom of a trunk, and it was sure enough a pleasant surprise. I'd got money in the bank." "And then I thought I'd take the book down and get it written up, get the interest put down and have the additional fun of looking at that—see how much it had come to and all that sort of thing, you know; so yesterday I goes down to the bank and hands in the book, and the clerk takes it and looks at it and says: "You're just in time; this account would have stopped drawing interest in about three months more. You know, accounts on which no deposits are made stop drawing interest after twenty years." "And then he goes over to a desk and puts the interest down, this taking him only about a minute, for you see they keep all the accounts written up on books of the bank, and then he brings it back to me and says pleasantly: "Now you better put in another dollar before the time's up, and then the account will be good for another twenty years." "And I put in the dollar right on the spot; but I'm not going to let it run so for another twenty years; this time I'm going to keep that book in sight, and I'm going to feed the account a little occasionally and see it grow. I'll like the looks of that interest."

HEALTH

LEFT-HANDEDNESS.

The cause of left-handedness has long puzzled thinkers and the curious who are not satisfied with accepting things as they are, but must know why they are. Why should ninety-seven out of every hundred use the right hand by preference for grasping objects, writing and all the more delicate and intricate of movements, while the remaining three find the left hand to be the "handy" hand? Why, indeed, should there be any preference in the matter, anyway? Why not use one hand or the other able to appreciate the advantage of this arrangement? Sometimes, when one sees those who are ambidextrous, so-called. This name, meaning right-handed on both sides, is incorrect, for in most cases they are really left-handed on both sides. They are awkward and often vexed with what one might call manual indecision, hesitating as to which hand to use, and then not infrequently using the wrong one, after all, or perhaps stretching out both together. If such a person has an object in each hand, one to be kept, and the other to be put down, he will be as likely to lay down the one that should have been kept and retain the other as to make the proper disposition of the objects.

This is an argument against forcing a naturally left-handed child to use the right hand, like other persons. If allowed to follow out his natural impulses, his left hand will become skilful, and he will get along as well as his right-handed brother, except that he will be bawled more or less through life by the fact that souls and machinery are made for right-handed people.

This is not so much a handicap as it might seem, for the left-handed person can train his right hand to subordinate acts, just as most of us train the left hand to carry food to the mouth with a fork, and do other things requiring more or less dexterity. Recently Doctor Gold, an oculist of Philadelphia, has shown that one is right-handed because his right eye is the better eye, and that the child therefore uses the right hand by preference because he sees it better and can guide its movements. If by chance he is born with a superior left eye, then just as naturally he uses the left hand. By the use of the left hand the brain center on the other side, which guides its movements, becomes better developed than that governing the right hand, and any attempt on the part of parents or teachers to force the dominion of the right hand will only produce confusion in the brain—a confusion which will never be wholly overcome. Instead of being skilful and easy with the left hand, the child will be awkward with both—YOUTH'S COMPANION.

OPEN YOUR WINDOWS. "When men lived in houses of reeds they had constitutions of oak; when they lived in houses of oak they had constitutions of reeds," says an old writer to illustrate the necessity of ventilation.

The modern tendency in many instances is to live in houses so closely confined that fresh air, as well as draughts, cannot get further, and windows are frequently curtained so heavily that sunlight, which is almost as important as fresh air, cannot enter. But it is not at all necessary to have the modern house unhealthy, and, by using intelligence and thoughtfulness, a well-built house can be kept as fresh and breezy as was ever the most primitive wicker hut.

Fresh air and sunlight—two of the most necessary aids to health—are free gifts to all, and they should not be shut out even for the faintest of reasons. His office was a cavern near the old town of Estefia. Here he came to live in early youth, after his employment, a farmer, had dismissed him, and after he had burned down the farmer's house in revenge. Worshipped by the brigand was quick to seize any political opportunities. Municipal and parliamentary candidates whom he favored were certain of success. Candidates and local party leaders, therefore, sought audience of him in his house. He soon controlled municipal politics, and was consequently free from embarrassing attentions on the part of the local police.

His wife, her two beautiful daughters and three sons lived in a splendid house at Cordova, enjoying all the luxuries of wealth, including a carriage and pair, and rubbing high as musician and art connoisseur. A fine picture gallery and library were included in their house. Letters and money arrived for the brigand's wife once a month by mounted messenger. Among El Vivillo's greatest successes were the raiding of the town of Michalla, which was set ablaze at midnight by his men, while he directed operations from a hilltop. This brought a punitive expedition against him. He was captured and imprisoned, but vanished mysteriously from his cell. Another feat was the robbing of a party of ten merchants to a total sum of \$40,000. More than five hours after the theft police visited the cavern, forty miles from the scene of the robbery, and found Vivillo in a drunken sleep. With relays of horses he had covered forty miles in four hours, and established what was thought to be an impregnable alibi.

FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

About £1,000 of damage was done by fire in the shop of Mr. Macpherson, draper, Mauchline.

Mr. Francis George, town clerk of Banff, and county clerk of Banffshire, died recently.

The present distilling season promises to be the most disastrous experienced for many years.

About £300 of damage was done by fire at Midreelie Pit, Buchhaven. Thos. Berry was fatally suffocated.

Mr. James B. Wood, accountant of the Union Bank of Scotland, has retired after 50 years' service.

By a tramcar collision in Glasgow last month two men were killed and several seriously injured.

Over 10,000 people are seeking for work at Glasgow, states the local unemployed workers' committee.

This session 3,278 students (including 500 women matriculated in the University of Edinburgh.

The building trade is in a stagnant condition in Elgin, and a number of masons and carpenters are idle.

The approximate value of building work of Edinburgh in 1907 is £446,815, as against £735,290 in 1906.

The free mill-day meal scheme to necessitate school children has been set on foot by Leith School Board.

The arbler has fixed £123 as the price to be paid by Dunfermline Burgh for the old property in New Row.

Avonshire charitable institutions have been benefited by donations from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Allan Lang, caulker, Leven Shipyard, Dumbarnton, fell 45 feet the other day and escaped with slight injuries.

Under the auspices of the Scottish Coast Mission, reading rooms have been erected for fishermen at St. Andrews.

About £3,000 of damage was done by fire in the engineering works of Gow, Harvey & Co., Sussex street, Kinning Park.

Dundee Gymnasium was burgled on the 5th inst., and a big amount of mischief done. The only thing carried off was a gold medal.

During last year the Alisa Shipbuilding Company, Troon and Ayr, launched 25 vessels of 10,778 tons, with engines of 8,000 horse-power.

Important schemes of cross-river communication, increase of quays, and widening of the river has been submitted to the Clyde Trust.

The report of Airdrie Savings Bank shows that the amount deposited during the year was £183,178, and the amount withdrawn £159,483.

There died at Duchalga terrace, Cressle, Duncan Kinnon, late of D. W. Wall, aged 90 years. His father was one of the famous Breadalbane Fencibles.

Miss Bessy Stewart, for 25 years headmistress of Roseneath, Dumbarnton, died with a purse of sovereigns.

Dumbarnton Castle is being pointed out as a new headquarters for the Territorial Army in the shire. The ancient fortress is in a tumble-down and forsaken condition.

The annual returns of the Scotch ironmasters show that last year the production of iron in Scotland was 1,430,000 tons, or 47,621 tons less than in the previous year.

On Owen O'Hara entering an empty house in Douglas street, Cambridge, for shelter, he lit a match, and a gas explosion took place, which badly burned and the house wrecked.

The Seaford Sanatorium, which has been built by Colonel and Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie, for the free treatment of consumptives in Ross and Cromarty, and which the founders have endowed to the extent of \$100,000, was opened recently. The King sent a telegram wishing the institution success.

YOUNG FOLKS

THE WINTER PICNIC.

"What is a winter picnic," Aunt Edith? asked Laura. "In this book it tells about some children having a winter picnic, but it doesn't tell what they do." "Well," answered Aunt Edith, "tomorrow is my birthday, and I will celebrate it by taking you and Doris to a picnic on a winter picnic; then you will know just what it is."

"Goody!" exclaimed Laura. "And may I go and ask Doris now?" "Why," said Aunt Edith, thoughtfully, "I think an invitation to a birthday party ought to be written, don't you?" "Perhaps it had," agreed Laura.

"And you can run out to the woodshed and find me a nice smooth piece of birch bark to write it on," said Aunt Edith.

It was not long before Laura was back with the smooth piece of birch bark; and on it Aunt Edith carefully printed, "Miss Doris Alden is invited to a winter picnic at eleven o'clock tomorrow."

"That is lovely!" exclaimed Laura. "But you don't say where?" "You can tell her that we will call for her," said Aunt Edith.

At exactly eleven the next morning Aunt Edith and Laura found Doris waiting for them at her front door. They were all warmly dressed, for it was a cold day in early December. Aunt Edith was drawing a sled, and on the sled were several packages covered by a large shawl.

They went down the road by the schoolhouse and turned into a wood road which led in among big spruce and fir trees. The sun flickered down through the branches, and made little dancing lights across the snow. The trees kept off the cold wind, and both Doris and Laura said it did not seem a bit like winter.

"This is the very place for a winter picnic," declared Aunt Edith, as they came to a little clearing, where the great ledges rose out of the snow. Aunt Edith took the shawl from the packages on the sled and spread it over a smooth place near a large tree, and then put the sled on the shawl. "That is our dining-room," she explained. "Now you find me some dry twigs and small branches of wood, and I will cook dinner right beside this big rock."

It did not take long to start a fire, and as soon as they were cooked, they sat down on the sled, with their feet on the warm shawl, and ate the potatoes and the little sandwiches which Aunt Edith had brought. There were some nice mince turnovers and big red apples.

Aunt Edith put the fire out very carefully, and Doris and Laura fastened an apple to a branch of a tree. "Some winter-loving bird may be glad to find it," Aunt Edith said.

"Now I know just what a winter picnic is," said Laura, happily, as they trudged toward home—YOUTH'S COMPANION.

HOME CURES.

For Sore Throat.—At bedtime take off your stockings and put it around your neck, laying the foot part directly on the sore part, and keep the same on until morning. This is an excellent remedy for sore throat.

For Warts.—In a teaspoon put a little pure white lard; add twice the amount of sulphur, which will make a salve when mixed. Put on wart, tie cloth around it to keep well in place. If not disappeared in morning it might be renewed and left on during day. The wart will vanish without a scar in front one to three days.

Onions and Pneumonia.—The following is said to be a sure cure for pneumonia: Take six to ten onions, according to size, and chop fine; put into a large spider over a hot fire, then add the same quantity of rye meal and vinegar enough to form a thick paste. In the meantime stir it thoroughly, letting it simmer five or ten minutes, then put in a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply to the chest as hot as the patient can bear. In ten minutes apply another and continue by reheating the poultices, a few hours the patient will be out of danger.

MONEY IN THAT.

The lawyer likes to take a rest like most of us, and still The average lawyer's happiest When working with a will.

Rapid changes of temperature are hard on the toughest constitution. The conductor passing from the heated inside of a trolley car to the icy temperature of the platform—the canvasser spending an hour or so in a heated building and then walking against a biting wind—know the difficulty of avoiding cold. Scott's Emulsion strengthens the body so that it can better withstand the danger of cold from changes of temperature. It will help you to avoid taking cold. ALL DRUGGISTS; 50c. AND \$1.00.