

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER ON THE THEATRICAL PROFESSION.

In February the Bishop of Manchester addressed the members of the theatrical profession from the stages of the Theatre Royal and the Princess Theatre. On both occasions the actors, members of the ballet, and subordinates were present in large numbers, and the Bishop was accompanied on the stages by the managers and directors. The Bishop adverted to St. Paul being advised not to adventure himself into a theatre, and said he (the Bishop of Manchester) was the first bishop of the Church of England, if not the first bishop of the Christian Church, who had ever addressed a congregation in a theatre. The circumstances in connection with the theatres to-day were different to what they were in St. Paul's day. He thought that Christianity ought to penetrate into theatres, but it would be an idle dream to think that they might be made directly spiritual. He should be quite satisfied if purity and modesty in word, ruling principles of the theatres. He did not think any one could see a well-groomed actor in such plays as "Othello" or "Hamlet" without being benefited by it. He thought a player should not be ashamed to refuse to take a part in any play that would compromise his proper dignity as a man or her proper modesty as a woman, if they could realize that the stage would be purified. There were those who thought that it would be better for society if the theatres were swept away altogether. That had been once tried in the times of Puritans, and it had brought about a terrible reaction, and the plays of Congreve, Farquhar, and Vanbrugh, which no actor would now study and no manager dare put upon the boards. He quoted an extract from the Theatre on stage decorum, in which the writer after speaking of the gross indecency of the stage in the first years of King Charles II., went on to say: "Are we better now? How about those costumes and dresses which make the drama more than ordinary conspicuous? The ladies who so much delight in abbreviating their Christian names talk innocently enough, and if their tongues wander in direction the tendency is towards a certain slang which has found its way even into society, towards indecency never. But how by dint of what they put off and what they put on do they contrive to look?"

Are we not justified in guessing that the ribalds of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries who were so highly gratified to hear ugly words dropped from pretty lips, might have regarded some of the extravaganzas as now prominent among theatrical entertainments with virtual abhorrence? He did not want to abolish the theatre, but to purify it, and to make it a great instrument for providing healthful and harmless recreation for those who sought it. He believed public taste was much to blame. In the year 1858, when he was on a Government Commission, he went to Sherbourne, in Dorsetshire, where he found living the great actor, Macready, occupying himself in good works. He had come in contact with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean in Canada, and he had since met Helen Faucit, a most accomplished lady, at Lord Egerton's. With such names before him, he did not think that the stage should be necessarily degraded; but, on the contrary, he thought it might be pervaded by high and worthy motives. He did not think he had ever been more than half a dozen times in a London theatre in his life, but he remembered being in Drury Lane and seeing Macready and Helen Faucit play in "Othello," and he was very much the better man for it. It might be said by some of the actresses that they did not like to pose themselves before wanton and glistening men, who looked upon them with their lustful and lascivious eyes, and that they did not want to pose in an attitude which, as Christian maidens, degraded them in their eyes. They might say, what were they to do? If they remonstrated they might be told to go somewhere else; and he did not know how they were to get out of the difficulty unless there was some consideration shown on all sides. Modesty and purity ought never to be compromised in a theatre. He did not believe anyone would think it Paritanaical if one wished the skirts of the ballet dancers were a little longer, and he did not think anyone would say it was over-righteous if he wished that no woman was ever called upon to pose herself in a ballet or pantomime in any way that would compromise her maidenly and womanly modesty and purity, and in the presence of men who went to these theatres—they were as often old men as young men—who sat in the pit with opera-glasses, and who gazed upon the poor girls. It was not the poor women who were the offenders, but the men who degraded the theatre. They would bear witness that he had not said he considered it was a painful thing to go to a theatre, or that the theatrical profession was a sinful thing. If we were to have theatres at all they might as well be attractive, and let them be cheerful, for there was no sin that he knew of in cheerfulness. They remembered the lady of the play to whom it was said—"Thou hast a merry heart," and they knew the reply, "Yes, thank God, I keep it on the windy side of care." He hoped they would do nothing, and would not be called upon to do anything, that would

fresh ground. Some dress the drabs by means of leaping poles which have a small wooden disc at one end to keep them from sinking in the black ooze; others wait for the plank-bearers with their narrow flying bridges; but the majority are obliged to trust to their own agility. Every considerable ditch claims victims from among the weaker-limbed, and these crawl out again, mud-bedraggled, amid jeers and laughter. The field stewards and their assistants having called a halt at some water-course, the crowd ranges up as before on the opposite bank, and those who have gone on too far return to its serried line, like good-humoured law-abiding Britons. Bad weather does not seem to affect their fondness for the sport, for thousands will trudge across wet meadows, leap brimming ditches, and stand for hours in a drizzle, when dogs and hare are often little more than dim figures in the mist. The prevalence of betting begins to threaten the best interest of coursing, and we may one day have to regret that, in this as in another national pastime, the love of sport has been overshadowed and chilled by the lust of gain or superseded by the excitement of gambling. There is a buzz in the crowd as the favorite trots past with her keeper to be placed in the slips. In her course she reaches the hare first, but her companion, a dog of no great repute, makes point for point with her, and great is the excitement when at last he kills. Presently carrier pigeons flatter up from the crowd, wheel overhead, and dart away with the news of the favorite's defeat—news which will spread ever to the antipodes before it is a few hours old. The thirty-two winners in the first trials are matched against each other according to the order in which they ran before; and the thirty-two losers in the first trials and the sixteen losers in the second trials run in like manner next day for less important prizes. But the interest of the meeting culminates on the third day, when the list has been reduced to a select few. The remaining courses are decided one by one, until the two greyhounds that have vanquished all competitors are placed together in the slips. The slipper is nervously careful, but at last they are off. The hum of excitement at the beginning of the course deepens into a roar at its close, and for the next twelve months the winner's neck is proudly encircled with the silver collar of championship.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

SOUTHERN HOMES.

INTELLIGENCE, BENEVOLENCE AND INDUSTRY OF SOUTHERN WOMEN—HOMES IN THE SOUTH UNPRETENTIOUS BUT PRETTY.

In reply to a very hard criticism upon Southern homes and women, a correspondent writes in the New York Times.

One of the dwellers in a Southern home would like to say a few words to her Northern neighbors in reply to the strictures of your correspondent on "Southern Homes." She must begin by stating that circumstances and opportunity have enabled her to see a good deal of the world—of social life at home, North and South, and abroad, of social life in its highest conditions, as well as in its healthier, happier middle state. With Northern homes she is intimately acquainted, and has for many years enjoyed the greater privilege of intimacy in English homes: in France, Switzerland and Holland she had like privileges, to a less extent, to study the habits of the people, particularly of the women. Perhaps these opportunities may justify a dweller in a Southern home in expressing her opinion of these homes and the women who make them, the class with which the *Times*' correspondent seems so well acquainted.

Planters in ante-bellum times (it is useless to speak of plantation homes since the war, because they have virtually ceased to exist), had almost always two homes, a necessity as well as a luxury, on account of the general unhealthiness in summer of that part of the country best adapted for the growth of rice and cotton. The plantation houses, as a rule, in Georgia, were large and rambling, without modern improvements, and with no pretensions to architectural beauty, and without fine furniture; there was, however, good, often elegant, table appointments, and a great deal of old-fashioned plate. A large portion was seen in the North soon after the war; the remainder has been sold piece by piece as necessity compelled. There was plenty of stable room, and every facility for a large-hearted hospitality; for in those days people visited their friends with children, servants and horses; this was the habit of the country. The summer home were always more or less pretty, without pretension, and never without flowers, which all Southern women love well enough to cultivate with their own hands, and who understand it thoroughly, many

sorrow; this lady is exceptional, not in her tastes, but in the means left her to indulge them. In short, the dweller in a Southern home for the greater part of her life, can testify by knowledge, by comparison, to the intelligence, active benevolence, and industry of Southern women. Reduced by a sudden overwhelming blow from affluence to poverty, they perform the menial offices necessary to the comfort of their families with a cheerful fortitude which should command the respect and admiration of all generous minds. This is the testimony of one without prejudice and without favor, who also feels impelled to lift up her voice against the ignorance which stigmatizes Southern women as "ignorant, lazy and selfish," living in homes of "squalor, untidiness and poverty." To the last charge, in many, very many instances, they plead guilty.

CATS FOR CARRIER PIGEONS.

The Belgians have formed a society for the improvement of cats. Their first work was to train cats to do the work of carrier pigeons. The most astute and accomplished scientific person would have his ideas wholly confused, if tied up in a bag and carried twenty miles from home, and let out in a strange neighborhood in the middle of the night. This experiment has, however, been frequently tried on cats of an average ability, and the invariable result was that the departed cat reappeared at its native kitchen door the next morning, calmly ignoring the whole affair. This wonderful skill in travelling through an unknown region without compass or guide-book, suggested the possibility of employing cats as special messengers.

Recently thirty-seven cats, *habitués* in the city of Liege, were taken a long distance in bags into the country, and liberated at two o'clock in the afternoon; at forty-eight minutes past six the same afternoon one of them reached home. His feline companion arrived in Liege somewhat later, but it is understood that within twenty-four hours every one had reached its home. It is proposed to establish, at an early day, a regular system of cat communication between Liege and the neighboring villages and towns. This may prove an important utilization of these familiar quadrupeds of the household. They might be used in the country for carrying of return messages in neighborhoods. Suppose it be tried here, while experimenting is in progress in Europe. Farmers are generally conversant with this trait of the feline family. Idle cats are deemed pests, ay, nuisances. Utilize them if possible.

A SIMPLE-MINDED ALLIGATOR.

Considerable commotion has just been caused at the Brighton Aquarium by a singular escapee by a young alligator, which had been placed with three or four older specimens in a pond in the new tropical room. Some time since the little pachyderm, which is about two years old and about 18 inches in length, was missed from its favorite corner. The attention of the curator, Mr. Lawler, was directed to the matter, and noticing something unusual about the jaws of one of the larger alligators, he had the reptile's mouth gently prised open, upon which the missing little one was found to be inside. The "baby" was at once withdrawn tail foremost, and appeared to be none the worse for its adventure, saving a somewhat severe abrasion just above its left hind leg. The two alligators both came from South America, and have shared the pond in peace for about six weeks, and from the generally pacific disposition of the larger reptile (which measures over five feet), it is conjectured that the little one had, of its own accord, unsuspectingly crawled into its open jaws. The authorities, considering the confidence to be rather misplaced, have prevented a repetition of the feat by giving the innocent infant separate accommodation in another part of the building.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ATTACHMENT.

Some two years since a gentleman residing in the upper section of this city, while walking upon the railroad near the upper depot, discovered a small red squirrel in a maimed and helpless condition. He picked up the little sufferer, took it to his place of business, and faithfully and skillfully nursing it, his patience was rewarded in a short time by seeing the little waif in a healthy and sprightly condition. Suffice it to say that for the last two years this small squirrel has been the daily companion for its benefactor.

Wrestling.

M'LAUGHLIN DEFEATS CAVANAUGH WITH EASE IN TWO BOUTS.

About fifteen hundred persons witnessed the wrestling match for \$500 a side, between Colonel J. H. McLaughlin, of Detroit, champion of America and England, and John Cavanaugh, of Vermont, in the Utica Opera House, on the evening of the 20th ult. D. E. Smith, of Little Falls, was chosen referee; A. D. Bentley, of Oriskany Falls, officiated as umpire for McLaughlin, and Frank K. Baxter, of Utica, for Cavanaugh. Both men were in magnificent condition, McLaughlin weighing about 222 and Cavanaugh 228 pounds. Work was begun at 8:20 p.m. The first round lasted six minutes and was won by McLaughlin, by what is known as the "left drop." In the second round there was one "dog fall," both men going down evenly upon their breasts. The second round lasted eighteen minutes, McLaughlin winning this and the match by an inside cross or back throw, Cavanaugh going to the floor like a feather. McLaughlin says Cavanaugh is a very good man, but lacks in training. Cavanaugh says McLaughlin is invincible.

M. Bauer, the French Græco-Roman wrestler, of New York, challenges McLaughlin to a match in any style, for \$500, in any place within a week. McLaughlin will accept this, or he will match for one Græco-Roman fall, one collar and elbow, and the third to be of a style different from either.

MILLER DEFEATS THE GERMAN ATHLETE TREHER BY THREE FALLS IN FOUR.

A match between W. Miller and Earnest Treher, a German athlete of some reputation, came off last week, at the Metropolitan Riding Academy, Third Avenue and 63rd street, N.Y., before something like a thousand witnesses. The conditions of the match were: Best three in five falls; no restrictions as to grip; fifteen minutes' rest between falls. According to the rules of Græco-Roman wrestling neither tripping nor taking hold below the belt is allowed. Mr. Fred Englehardt was referee. Miller won the first, second and fourth falls, and was consequently declared the victor.

BALKING HORSES.

As in the matter of "balking," no general direction can be given, or rule established. If the education of the colt has been conducted in accordance with sound principles he will not balk. Balking on the part of colts is, for the most part, the result of the trainer's ignorance or passion. Yelling and whipping on the part of the trainer or driver, overloading, sore shoulders, or ill-fitting collars—these are the causes that make horses balk. But if you have a horse or colt that balks, while I cannot without a personal knowledge of the subject, tell you what to do, I can tell you what not to do—never whip. If he won't go, let him stand still and think it over. He will very often think better of it, and after a few moments' reflection, and a few tosses of his head, go on of his own accord. Or, if this does not answer, get out of the wagon and pat him, and talk to him kindly.

A horse is very susceptible to kindness; and I have known more than one quite vicious horse gentled into good behavior by a few pats from a lady's gloved hand on the moist neck and veined muzzle. Sometimes it is well to loosen a strap and start a buckle. I have known the mere act of unchecking and rechecking the animal answer the purpose and stop a determination to resist. For this same reason an apple, or a bunch of grass from the roadside, or a handful of oats, or a few kernels of corn, will often accomplish what an hour of beating could never effect.

The truth is, a man must govern himself before he can hope to govern lower animals. A man flushed with passion, his brain charged with heated blood, and eyes blazing with rage, is not in a condition to think clearly; and it is just thus thinking clearly that is, above all else, needed in directing and controlling horses. Hence it is, that contact with horses, and an actual experience in teaching them, is one of the finest disciplines a man can have. He grows to love the colt he is teaching; and no nature is utterly depraved in which is going on the exercise of affection. The matter how and

Miscellaneous.

An Ernestown farmer has sold a steer weighing 2,500 lbs.—the largest at. I have ever fed in Lennox.

THE BARNBURN.—The bones of this extinct animal, which were discovered at Dunnville and were since exhibited here and other places, have been sold by their proprietor, Mr. Warnock, of Salem, to Mr. O'Brien, of Port Hope, for a large figure.

A Lockport saloon keeper named his resort "Nowhere," so that when his married customers went home late, and their wives wanted to know where they had been, they could safely tell them the truth.

A boat containing a human foot was picked up on the beach of Scarborough, Me., on Saturday, and the citizens of the town consider the man who left the boat without taking his foot along, the most remarkable case of absent-mindedness on record.

By the de la Bastie process you may drive a nail with a glass lamp chimney. It is a great relief, since that confounded hammer is always mislaid when wanted, that we may thus utilize the lamp chimneys.

Here lies the body of Mary Ann Lowder, who burst while drinking a seductive powder called from this world to her heavenly rest. She should have waited till it overreached.

BIO TREK.—Mr. Wm. Ghent, of lot 26, 12th con., township of Burford, claims to have cut on his premises the largest hard maple tree that has been known in his vicinity or any other. It measures 15 feet 8 inches in circumference at the top of the stump, 11 feet in circumference, 68 feet from the root, was 118 feet in length, and made about 27 cords of stove wood.

Some ten months ago the Maharajah of Nepal offered to take £100,000 for 100,000 that within three years he did not kill, to his own gun, on his own estate, in a single day, 1,000 brace of partridges. The offer was freely taken, though the Maharajah is one of the best shots in England. This season the Maharajah has begun well. He averages for nine days partridge shooting: 100 brace per diem to his own gun. On one day he killed 800 brace. It is only fair, however, to say in extenuation of what any genuine sportsman would call unsportsmanlike butchery, that the Maharajah's large estate is crisscrossed with hand-reared birds. You can hardly walk two steps on his estate without flushing a covey.

The New England Farmer says: "The cows of Pittsfield and other Western Massachusetts towns are offering some curious problems to milkmen. One of John E. Kernal's Alderneys recently gave birth to a calf, but after the calf was taken away a drop of milk would the cow yield. It was found the cow was found lying down and three suckling pigs drawing all the nourishment they could hold, and the evident cause of both, since which time the cow has milked well enough. Abijah Parks, of Dalton, in undertaking to wean a calf, put it in a field with a yearling heifer and brought her to milk, so that she was milked for a year before having a calf. Orrin Hewlet, of Lee, also has a heifer which gave milk eighteen months before having a calf.

The Haverfordwest Eng. Telegraph records a remarkable instance of canine sagacity. For many months the sheep of the neighborhood had been seriously worried, and one night the mutilated carcass of a ewe was found on the highway. The culprit was captured not long after covered with mud, but as he was well known, he was set at liberty, and the owner committed him to a dog. This gentleman agreed that the dog were found covered in mud it would be evidence against him, but on going to a certain barn the animal shook its head, and a sleeping place as clean as a sheet was found. Thereupon, it was agreed that his stomach should be tested by a local butcher, and very speedily the wretched dog signed his own condemnation, by vomiting several pieces of sheep flesh. Upon this evidence his master consented to pay a fine of ten shillings.

WILD CAT.—A very large wild cat was killed by Mr. Hugh B. Cate on the 10th ult. in Mr. Philip Folie's orchard on the bank of Lake Erie, in the township of Lewis. It was about 25 inches in length. It was a very fine specimen, and induced the animal to venture as far as the forest. It and an eagle were seen jointly a feast on carrion lying on the bank of the lake in the vicinity of the forest.