

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is likely to be but a short time before a large part of the great Desert of Sahara which is now uninhabited by man, will be open to civilization, if the project lately conceived by the French Government for traversing the desert with automobiles is successful.

Deserts have no terrors for the automobile. It requires little fuel, is unaffected by scorching temperature, and carries a bigger load than the strongest camel.

The annual report of the Labor Department of the British Board of Trade represents the year 1900 as the high-water mark of the working classes as regards increase in wages and reduction of hours.

As in the two previous years, by far the larger amount of the increase is accounted for by the rise of miners' wages, which rose on the average nearly 4 shillings 5 pence (rather more than a dollar) per week in the course of the year, and accounted for £168,000, or 80 per cent. of the total weekly increase of wages.

Writing, however, in July last, he has to record that the first half of the present year has accorded with the signs which were not wanting toward the end of 1900 that the period of rising wages was drawing to a close.

A COMBINATION.

If a business man has business judgment there is not much difficulty in the question of advertising. It is better to be a steady going business man than to be one of those bright fellows who turn a joke to an advertising advantage.

YOUR UNLUCKY MONTH.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE CERTAIN PERIODS OF MISFORTUNE.

There are people to whom certain months are particularly unlucky and the approach of these periods is always looked forward to by them with great apprehension, not unmingled with superstitious awe.

Another man had gloomy forebodings when the summer holidays were at hand. Misfortune, great or small, generally overtook him either before he set out for his holidays, or while he was actually enjoying them.

COME OFF THE TRAIN.

Another time he was having a bath near to where some boys were amusing themselves by throwing stones into the water, when either by accident or design, he was struck by one above the eye, and had to persevere to spend three days out of his precious fortnight's holidays in the house doctoring his injured forehead.

WAGES IN BRITAIN.

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At another time his wife, while house-hunting, contracted diphtheria and had to be removed to the hospital. As none of his wife's, or his own relations were able to come to his assistance by keeping house for him, he was obliged to

ENGAGE A HOUSEKEEPER.

and, in addition, he had all the trouble of the removal himself. Once, too, he stumbled while carrying up a large fern case, and got it shivered to atoms. The worst of the business was that he had insisted on carrying up the case himself to insure its safety. Truly, he is a veritable Jonah at a removal.

There is another man again, who stands in awe of the summer holiday time. He tells you with a shudder, about the first accident that befell him then. He was standing at a pier head fishing, when a huge Newfoundland brushed past him, and

Another time, shortly after he had left his rooms, his alleged brother called to see him and was courteous, and wait his return.

A SUITABLE ROOM.

The very first day he was out bathing there he dropped a five dollar bill from his pockets either when taking off, or putting on his clothes. Of course, when he missed it, he went back to where he had lost it; but whoever recovered a five dollar bill lying where it had been

EGYPT'S KHEDIVAH.

Noted as a Beauty in the Land of Beauties.

One of the most beautiful of Egyptian women is the Dowager Khodivah and those among the palace never seem weary of singing her praises. She is one of the most devoted of wives. The khedive is one of the few eastern rulers who has lived in a genuine love story with the heroine of his life.

COURAGE OF DARK RACES.

In India there are races like the Bengalees and some of the tribes of Madras, who cannot by any provocation be induced to fight, or be trained as soldiers, and they live side by side with others like the Ghoorkas—

SOME ARE BRAVE AND OTHERS CANNOT BE INDUCED TO FIGHT.

In giving James French a day's holiday, the manager of the Littlestone tin-mine thought that he was signing the man's death-warrant. The young fellow, delighted at the prospect of a trip to Fowey, hurried to the bottom of the shaft, and scrambled into the cage. It was eight hundred feet to the opening above.

THE SILENT TRAGEDIAN.

In the world of medicine greatness is frequently accompanied by non-talkative habits. Witness the case of the famous Dr. Abernethy, who rarely spoke more than half-a-dozen words during an interview with a patient, whilst on occasions he would come and go without uttering a single syllable.

OBJECTS TO AFGHANS.

The immigration of Afghans into Australia is increasing rapidly, steamers bringing in large numbers weekly, writes a Melbourne correspondent in response to representations urging him to prevent their incoming.

BUILD A SECOND WALL.

Spending money on an artesian well is always a risky business, for no one can say with any certainty how deep the water lies beneath, or whether, indeed, there is any water at all.

HIS GREAT WORK.

You speak of your friend Tomkins as a great man, said Spikes, but what has he ever done for humanity? He invented a new drink, replied Spikes, after a moment's thought.

GAINING DISTINCTION.

Cholly does put away a lot of lemonade and soda water. Yes; he's a hard drinker of soft drinks.

DISASTER FROM BENEFIT

WHEN THE SMILES OF FORTUNE WENT AGLEY.

An exploding pistol cost William Arnison the sight of one eye twenty-two years ago. The other became afflicted in sympathy, and after a long struggle with increasing blindness he became totally blind seven years after the accident.

IN THE SHADED ROOM.

The linen wrappings were taken off, and for the first time in fifteen years, the man saw the faces of his wife and children. He gazed round, and then, without a word, fell back fainting. A blood-vessel on the brain had burst, and he was dead in a few moments.

APT OF 'BIRNAM'S' STERN.

The kindly assistance of a neighbor cost William Patterson his life in January last. Patterson's house caught fire in the middle of the night and Patterson's next door neighbor, by name Curtis, heard the alarm, and rushed over to proffer his help. Curtis had lately invested in one of those patent chemical fire extinguishers, and this he brought with him.

MOST MUTE OF GREAT MEN.

Authors are rarely great talkers, but few writing men have carried the art of reticence to such a height as Honore de Balzac, the great French novelist. Unless he changed to be in congenial society he would not utter a single word beyond the ordinary phrases demanded by etiquette, and whilst engaged in thinking out a new work he would pass several days talking to no one but himself.

THE CORNER STONE.

There are men in business who are not taking advantage of their opportunities. There are men who are successful because they have just accidentally fallen into the great whirl of prosperity. They succeed and can't tell why. There are other men who fail even after a conscientious, determined effort. It seems strange to some—especially to the one who fails. The man who stumbles into prosperity is fortunate. He would probably never have gotten here any other way.

AN OPPORTUNITY.

Supposing I give you your supper, said the tire-rook woman. What will you do to earn it, Madam, said Meandering Mike, I'll give you de opportunity of seeing a man go 'tween a whole meal wit'out findin' fault wit' a single t'ing.

SOME SILENT GREAT MEN.

Count Von Moltke Did Very Little Talking.—Lord Palmerston Was a Silent Man.

A tendency towards extreme taciturnity would appear to be a distinguishing feature of the majority of the world's greatest men. Since the period of Julius Cæsar, who was reputed to be the most silent man of his time, genius has nearly always been accompanied by briefness of speech, as witness the following notable examples of taciturn celebrities.

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FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND.

NEWS BY MAIL FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

Many Things Happen to Interest the Minds of Old Scotia's Sons.

Mr. Carnegie has given £100 for an organ for the East Free Church, Kilbirnie.

Mr. Nathaniel Dunlop has been elected deputy-chairman of the Clyde Trust by 14 votes to 9.

Sheriff Principal Lees has appointed ex-Provost Cockburn, Falkirk, as Honorary Sheriff-Substitute.

It was so foggy at Glasgow recently that the electric cars had to run all day with their lights turned on.

Mr. J. W. Bailey has been elected as representative of the Sixth Ward, Greenock, in room of the late Bailie Cook.

The Council of Ayr has decided that no electric street cars shall be run until a plebiscite has been taken to ascertain the popular will.

The Rev. William Robertson, formerly of Philiphaugh Congregational Church, Selkirk, has accepted the pastorate of the church of Poila, Shetland.

The Earl of Galloway has consented to run for the position of provost of Newton Stewart, in succession to Provost Kelly, who has resigned.

A new Established Church is to be erected at Annbank, Ayr, the cost of which will be £2400. A considerable portion of the cost has already been subscribed.

The fishing season at Stronness is almost at a close. The total catch is 40,000 crabs, representing earnings to the fishermen of nearly as many pounds sterling.

Contracts are being called for with a view to the construction of an electric railway at Kirkcaldy, and it is proposed to enlarge the scheme so as to take in Dysart.

The death is announced of Mr. Gordon Pirie, of Waterton, father of Mr. D. Vernon Pirie, M.P., for North Aberdeen, and of the Chateau de Valrennes, Marne et Loire, France.

A well known musician of Edinburgh died recently in the person of Mr. J. C. Diddin. Mr. Diddin was a grandson of the famous Charles Diddin, the writer of so many of England's song songs.

The inauguration of a handsome organ, Mr. Andrew Carnegie's gift to the town of Kirkcaldy, in the Adam Smith Hall, was celebrated by a recital given by Mr. J. W. Perkins, organist to the Corporation of Birmingham. Provost Hutchison presided. The proceeds of the recital were devoted to the Provost's war fund.

The new Gifford and Garvald Railway, which opens up a considerable portion of East Lothian to traffic, has been inspected for the Board of Trade by Major Pringle, R.E. The line, which has been in course of construction for fully two years, will probably be open next month.

At present the terminus is at Gifford, but it is hoped it may prove successful enough to encourage extension to Garvald.

Provost Keith, Hamilton, has received a letter from Mr. Andrew Carnegie intimating his intention of presenting a free library to Hamilton on condition that the burgh adopts the Free Libraries Act and provides a site. It is hoped that in connection with the library a technical institute may be erected. Mr. Hew Morrison, curator of the Edinburgh free library, who is Mr. Carnegie's adviser in such matters, was accompanied by Provost Keith and a number of suitable sites for the library pointed out.

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Advertisement for Pills, ton's BETS, Graniteware which consistent with first, Allen, BAKING POWDER, because the price is amount. A trial, S FAIR, Snowflake Bakery, our snowflake Bread? If you will have no other. Kinds are Specialities with us. H. STRACHAN. BEST BREAD, BEST CAKES, BEST BUNS, the BEST STOCK, BAKER, TALBOT'S Cakes a Specialty. A first-class Organ call on W. C. TALBOT.