## MANY CURIOUS NOTES.

INTERESTING THINGS WHICH ARE WELL WORTH KNOWING.

Great Things of the World-Witches and Plants-Lord's Prayer in Thirty-Two Languages-And Other Matters of Considerable Interest.

The largest nugget of gold ever found was taken out of the Byer & Haltman mine at Hill End, New South Wales, on May 10, 1872. It weighed an ounce or two over 640 pounds. It was slab-shaped, 4 feet 9 inches long and about 3 feet 2 inches in thickness. The finder sold it for \$148,-

The largest advertisement in the world is in the shape of immense flower beds on the side of a hill near Ardenlee, Scotland. The beds are each gigantic letters, 40 feet in length, the whole forming the words "Glasgow News." The total length of the line is 123 feet; area covered by the letters, 14,845 feet. The letters can be distinctly seen from a distance of four and one-half

The organ in the old Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City is one of the largest, if not the very largest, ever constructed in this country. It has 2,704 pipes, each 32 feet long and large enough to admit the body of a man of ordinary size. It also has two towers at either side which rise to a height

The largest painting ever produced (not including panoramic views) is now in the Grand Salon of the Doges at Venice. It is by the renowned Jacopa Robusti, and is 84 feet long and 34 feet wide. A panoramic view, called the "Frost King," now in Westminster, London, covers 20,000 square feet of canvas.

The largest hammer and anvil in the world are in use at the Krupp Gun Works, Essen, Germany. The hammer, which was made in 1886, weighs 150 tons, and the anvil and block 191 1-2 tons.

In 1889, before being reduced to its present proportions, Custer County, Montana, was the largest county in the United States. Its area at that time was 36,000 square miles, being greater than the combined areas of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

The three tallest trees in the world are believed to be a sequoia near Stockton, Cal., (325 feet) and two eucalypti in Australia, estimated at 435 and 450 feet, re-

### Witches and Plants.

In all countries in which the witchcraft delusion now exists, or in which it prevailed in former times, we find folk lore stories connecting those mysterious bogies with the plants of those particular regions. Even the great Shakespeare causes his witches to discourse learnedly on the diabolical properties of "hemlock digg'd i" dark" and of "slips of yew silvered in the moon's eclipse." They are supposed to have had their favorite flowers as well as plants, and in England at the present time foxglove is spoken of as "witch bells" and herebells a "witches' thimbles." The common ragwort is well known as the "witches' horse," the tradition being that they mounted rank growths of that species of weed and "rode the skies," just as the dame with the painted hat rides the broom in the familiar picture. In Germany and throughout Northern Europe it is the belief that witches float from place to place on beds of hay, composed largely of witches' blossoms and "devil spikes," this last being a species of dwarfed slough grass. St. John's wort, which is now so popular for shoulder and button-hole bouquets on St. John's Eve, was formerly worn for the express purpose of averting the crafts and subtleties of the witches, bogies, ghosts and spirits, which the European peasantry believed walked abroad on "that night of witching mysteries."

Lord's Prayer in 32 Languages.

The Russians now have possession of the Mount of Olives, the spot where the Lord's Prayer was first uttered. The apex of the mount is nearly 200 feet above the hill upon which Jerusalem is built, 2,700 feet above the level of the Mediterranean and about 3,900 feet above the sluggish waters of the Dead Sea. On this elevation, upon the exact spot which tradition says the Prayer was first spoken, the Carmelite Sisters have, through the kindness of Mme. de la Tour d'Auvergne, who furnished the necessary funds, built a large convent. The exact, or what is claimed to be the exact, spot pressed by our Saviour's feet on that celebrated occasion, is marked by a pure white polished marbel cross, and the walls of the convent have the Prayer inscribed upon them in 32 different languages. In some instances, the letters forming the prayer are engraved in marble panels; in others, they are letters of wood, glued to backgrounds suitable to their colors. The Russian portion of this wonderful collection of inscriptions is said to be in letters of pure gold, each capital stem being six and a fourth inches long and four-fifths of an inch in width. Among the languages which one would hardly expect to find represented are the Hebrew, the Chinese, the Coptic, the Tartarian, and the Japanese. The Arabian, as it had been a task to relinquish Mohammedism, ends with "Great is Christ."

A Bridge 636 Feet High. The highest bridge of any kind in the world is the Loe River viaduct, on the Antofagasta Railway, in Bolivia, South America. The place where this highest railway structure has been erected is over the Melo rapids in the Upper Andes, and between the two sides of a canon, which is situated 10,000 feet above the level of the Pacific. Counting from the surface of the stream to the level of the rails, this celebrated bridge is exactly 536 1-2 feet in height. The length of the principal span is 80 feet, and the distance between abutments (total length of bridge) is 802 feet. The largest column is 314 feet 2 inches long, and the batter of the pier, what is known to bridge-builders as "one in three." The gauge of the road is 2 feet 6 inches. and trains cross the bridge at a speed of 30 miles an hour.

Sporting Spurts. Why do most Rugby foot-ball players wear long hair? and how is it that barbers are disgusted when the Rugby season opens, while surgeons are delighted? The answer to the last question is obvious, but I have never heard the first satisfactorily

"I want to give brother Tom some little gift before he leaves for college. What would you get?" "Florence-"I saw some lovely hair brushes with silver monogram, and-" "You silly girl; don't you know he belongs to a football team?"

The first sportsmen's exposition ever held in America will take place at Madison Square Garden next spring. This exposition will embrace every department of field sport and will illustrate not only present conditions but the history of sport. Canada will be well represented, 

ICE FROM NATURAL GAS-It Can Be Made at a Cost of 50 Cents Per

It is announced that an Indiana firm has constructed a refrigerator for making ice with natural gas. It is well known that when gases are compressed they part with a portion of their heat, and, as they expand again take back the same amount from bodies in contact with them. Gases thus deprived of heat can be made to take it from uncongealable fluids, which in this way accumulate cold, that may be applied to the freezing of water. Application of this principle has been made of the cold produced by the sudden expansion of compressed air to the production of ice. Powerful and expensive machinery is required to compress air and cool it. Ammonia machines require a pressure of from 120 to 180 pounds per square inch. These gentlemen hold that all that is required for making ice with natural gas, except the refrigerator and cans, is provided for by expanding it from its initial pressure to the atmospheric pressure, nature having done all the work of compression and cooling and made it ready to absorb the heat made latent and freeze the water into

An ordinary gas well, furnishing 1,-500,000 feet per day, with a suitable refrigerating apparatus, is capable of making 51 tons of ice at an expense not to exceed 50 cents per ton; and then, by conducting it to furnaces or rolling mills, glass works, brick, lime or pottery kilns, it would produce the same amount of heat as if it was delivered directly from the well.-Philadelphia

Odds and Ends,

The cat may not be expert at mathematics, but it can "foot up a column" easy enough.—Richmond Dispatch.

Tramp (to reporter)-If you will give me a quarter I promise to do something that will give you three columns to morrow.—Fliegende Blaetter.

"I have often heard that time was money," said the thoughtful man, "but I never realized the force of the proverb till I watched them putting up a Government building. - Washington

When the traveler Burckhardt visited a camp of Wahabee dervishes to attend a lecture on "The Wickedness of Swearing," he was amazed to hear the orator open his harangue with a shower of blasphemies that seemed a perfect burlesque on the proposed text till the sequel of the harangue revealed the fact that the lecturer's definition of impious language was limited to the phrase, "Arrat, ya mularakim" ("Avaunt, ye blessed ones"), an imprecation by which Arabian apostates are supposed to forfeit the assistance of their guardian

A Flooring of Plaster, The French, who have carried the art of hardening plaster to where it is utilized for flooring, either in place of wood

or tile, use six parts of good quality of plaster intimately mixed with one part of freshly slacked white lime finely sifted. This mixture is then laid down as quickly as possible, care being taken that the trowel is not used on it for too long a time. The floor, adds the National Builder, should then be allowed to become very dry, and afterward be thoroughly saturated with the sulphate of iron or zinc, the iron giving the strongest surface, the resistance to breaking being twenty times the strength of ordinary plaster. With sulphate of zinc the floor remains white, but when iron is used it becomes the color of rusted iron; but if linseed oil, boiled with litharge, be applied to the surface, it becomes of a beautiful mahogany color. Especially is this the case if a coat of copal varnish is added.

Brushes of Spun Glass. An American glass manufacturer has now begun to make glass brushes such as are used by china decorators for burnishing the gilding on china after it comes from the kiln. These brushes now come from Bohemia. They are marvels of glass spinning. They are made of glass fibres so fine that they look like spun silk. These fibres are rolled up in bundles about siz inches in length and in three sizes in diameter half-inch, three-quarters and one inch. The bundles are wound with cord to within about three-quarters of an inch of each end, each end being used as a brush. The brushes are cut square across the ends, and so extremely fine are the glass fibres that in the face of the brush the compact centre presents a velvety appearance. The brushes are flexible and silky to the touch. They wear away in use, and as they wear the cord is cut away to leave the end of suf ficient length.

"Dark Rooms in English Hotels.

Ordinary readers must occasionally be puzzled by the now frequent addition of the words "Dark Room" to the advertisements of hotels and boarding-houses. So numerous are the photographers, amateur and otherwise, who now travel about the country provided with kodak and camera that the provision of a dark room for the purpose of their pastime, or profession, as the case may be, has become a feature with many hotels. It is sometimes only a shed or outhouse, rendered absolutely light-proof, and provided with a red light for the use of the photographer, and a little water with a cistern for containing it. Some hotelkeepers have at hand for these customers some of the stock chemicals they require, the general use of the dry plate rendering such dangerous poisons as are scheduled under the sale of drugs act unnecessary for the production of the photographs.-London Daily News.

New Profession for Women.

"Window gazing" is said to be a regular profession in London. A couple of stylishly-dressed ladies pause before the window of a merchant, remain about five minutes and audibly praise the goods displayed inside. Then they pass on to another store on their long list of

LESSON IX. FOURTH QUARTER, IN-TERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 2.

Text of the Lesson, Luke vii, 24-35-Memory Verses, 27, 28-Golden Text, Luke vii, 27-Commentary by the Rev. D. M.

24. "And when the messengers of John were departed He began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?" It is possible that this lesson precedes in the order of events the lesson of last week. John, from the pris on into which Herod had put him (Mark vi, 17; Math. xi, 2), had sent messengers to Jesus to inquire if he were the Christ. Jesus wrought miracles before them and said they should tell John what they had seen and heard and add, "Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me. Then Jesus begins to talk to the people about John and asks them if he was like a reed shaken with the wind, a weak one easily blown about.

25. "But what went ye out for to see! A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold they which are gorgeously appareled and live delicately are in kings' courts." They knew that John did not indulge in fine clothes nor luxurious living, but as it is written, "The same John had his raiment of camel's hair and a leathern girdle about his loins, and his meat was locusts and wild honey" (Math. iii, 4). He sought not earthly comforts nor self indulgence, but lived to make known and point out the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. He did not seek any greatness for himself (John i, 29; Jer. xlv, 5).

26. "But what went ye out for to see! A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet." The father of John, filled with the Holy Spirit, after the birth of the child had said, "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke i, 76). A prophet was not necessarily one who predicted future events, but rather one who spoke for God. Abraham is the first one called a prophet in the Scriptures (Gen. xx, 7), but he uttered no predictions, yet he was God's representative. See Aaron, the prophet or spokesman for Moses (Ex. iv, 16; vii, 1).

27. "This is he of whom it is written, Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, which shall prepare Thy way before Thee." The Spirit, through Malachi, had said this some 400 years before (Mal. iii, 1), and about 300 years before Malachi the same Spirit had said through Isaiah that a voice would cry in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" (Isa. xl, 3). stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa.

28. "For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a Lord and shall drink neither wine nor Compound. strong drink, and he shall be filled with | This marvelous medicine is made to meet permitted by God to languish and die in rangement of the system. prison, yet he ceased not to be great in

God (Math. x, 40), but those who reject will know many of them. the message and the messenger dishonor lieve not His message (I John v, 10).

30. "But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of Him." In chapter xvi, 14, it is written that "they you of the good I have received from the derided Him, and He said unto them, Ye use of Paine's Celery Compound. For a men, but God knoweth your hearts, for heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, and none can thoroughly know it but God (Jer. xvii, 9, 10); therefore His word of children of the devil.

31. "And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? And to what are they like?" He was ever finding analogies in nature and in people. He called Himself a vine, a door, a shepherd, the light, the way, the truth, the life. He compared the present condition of affairs, called the mystery of the kingdom, to a mustard tree, heaven, etc. He said through Hosea, "I have multiplied visions and used similitudes by the ministry of the prophets" (Hos. xii, 10).

32. "They are like unto children sitting in the market place and calling one to another and saying: We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced. We have mourned to you, and ye have not wept." The children could not please their fellows, and neither John nor Jesus could please that wicked and adulterous generation. But they did not try. They sought only to please God, and they did it. The Father testified from heaven that He was well pleased with Jesus (Math. iii, 17; xvii, 5), and Jesus has just borne good testimony to John in this our lesson.

33. "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and ye say he hath a devil." The Spirit through Isaiah wrote that in his day He that departed from evil was accounted mad (Isa. lix, 15, margin), and through Hosea: "The prophet is a fool. The spiritual man is mad" (Hos. ix, 7). Since the days of Cain men of God like Abel have been accounted beside themselves and not fit to live-fit only to be cut off from the land of the living (Jer. xi, 19).

34. "The Son of man is come eating and drinking, and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man and a wine bibber, a friend of publicans and sinners." Truly "the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (Rom. viii, 7). Let us not grieve nor take it amiss if for His sake we are called unreasonable and uncalled for names. And if the things attributed to us are the very farthest from the possibility of our doing the fellowship with Jesus is all the closer. Let us never seek to please people, but ever study to show ourselves approved unto God, ambitious to be well pleasing unto Him (II Tim. ii, 15; II Cor. v, 9, R. V., margin).

85. "But wisdom is justified of all her children. Self condemnation justifies God, and God justifies those who condemn themselves. It is only when we take the place of the guilty, accepting God's testimony against us and receiving Jesus as our righteousness, that we are justified in His sight. All such honor Christ, who is the wisdom of God, and He honors all such by making them accepted in Him (I Cor. i, 24, 80, and Eph. i, 6).

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Suffering one, thou hast been misled and deceived up to the present by medicines greater prophet than John the Baptist, that had no curative virtues. Whilst thou but he that is least in the kingdom of God hast been groping in darkness for a cure, is greater than he." Gabriel said of him, thousands have been made well by the "He shall be great in the sight of the mighty curing powers of Paine's Celery

the Holy Spirit even from his mother's the wants and necessities of rich and poor, womb" (Luke i, 15). Although he was of old and young who suffer from any de-

Hast thou read any of the wonderful cures wrought by this health-giver? If 29. "And all the people that heard Him not, send at once for a book wherein are and the publicans justified God, being records of attested wonders-men and baptized with the baptism of John." All women saved even at the point of death. who honor the messenger of God by be Amongst these records will be found the lieving and obeying His word thus honor | names of some of Canada's best people; you

Strong testimony is pouring in every day God and make Him a liar because they be in favor of Paine's Celery Compound. A letter has just come from Mrs. E. Rankin, of Courtright, Lambton county, Ont., from it we give the following extracts:

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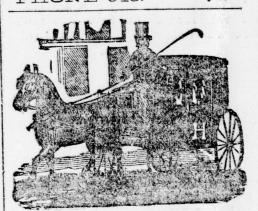
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