

Weekly Retrospect.

We often hear it said, the world is wide, and it would seem, there should be plenty of room for everybody. So there is, and if it were not for the selfishness of its inmates, we would not see such things recorded in our dailies as "Starved to Death." Fancy! in the great city of New York, where several individuals are the owners of millions, that a poor human being should drop down on the street, and die from starvation. He had been a canvas man in Barnum's circus, and was waiting for the season to begin, doing odd jobs in the meantime, had eaten nothing for two days, and had just been given a ticket for a meal at the soup kitchen of one of the charitable institutions, by the mission and lodging house in the Bowery. If he was honest and industrious, imagine the tramping up and down begging a little work here and there, perhaps not believed when he said he was hungry; he may not have said it in words, but surely it was expressed in his emaciated form. How is it, we think so little of our poor fellow-creatures, we who have plenty? Such a state of things should not be so, there must surely be some remedy for it, but it is not for us in this column to dictate to governments of cities and countries what to do, but it is heart-rending to think of fellow-beings in want of the common necessities of life.

Pleasure so eagerly sought after is not always attainable in the mad rush of the age. Society makes a vain effort to cast a glamour of would be happiness, and perhaps the *debutante*, dazzled by the glare of the bright ball-room and the dreamy notes of Strauss may in her imagination think herself really happy. "Happiness is not to be bought," says Mrs. Lynn Linton in an essay on "Unpurchasable" in a recent number of the *Queen*. "Misfortune is not to be exorcised by gold; and that exquisite flower which, by the way, those find soonest who seek least, hangs high above the reach of both buyer and seller in the marketplace where so much else has its price. Can we buy? Hardly. We can buy attentions, and the flattering servility of those who gather round for crumbs and hold up glycerined glasses for the safe catch of such bits of gold leaf as may be floating about off the main pillars. The fewer things are purchasable, and the more there are which neither gold nor love can buy from the hand of honor and the safe-keeping of justice, the grander the nation and the nobler the time."

Writing books and book making seem to be the fashionable fad among the leisured class. We see that the Duchess of Buckingham and Olandos is publishing selections from letters written by her to friends, while on a tour recently in America, Australia and New Zealand. It would be rather amusing to read the first impressions a country has made on an English Duchess.

Miss Marie Correlli's new work *Barabbas* is now being translated into Hindustani. Her "Romance of Two Worlds," is now in the hands of her publishers and will appear in Lucknow this month in that language.

Now that the Lenten season has commenced we must no longer give descriptions of evening gowns, but we could not resist this one, even if it be too late for the festivities of Society. "A gown of palest sea-green brocade, the full corsage being moulded to the figure by lines of silver passementerie, forming a narrow corset; there are *houaves* and sleeves of moss green velvet, shown beneath a frill of *cru lace*." This pretty dress was worn by one of the charming young Dublin beauties, at a farewell At-Home, giving by the retiring lady-Mayores at the Mansion House in that city.

Another pretty gown seen there was a "primrose satin with tablier and bertha of pale blue satin with delicately embroidered design."

A Great Breakwater.

Progress is being rapidly made on the construction of the Point Judith breakwater, which has been termed the most difficult piece of engineering ever attempted on the New England coast. Up to the 10th of October 12,546 tons of stone had been placed in position. The stone is being taken from the Hazard quarry on the west side of Narragansett Bay, where the supply is said to be practically inexhaustible. More than one hundred men are engaged in getting the stone out after the blasts, of which there are from two to six each day. As no stone which does not exceed a certain minimum weight is accepted by the inspector for the work, care has to be exercised in the selection of the blocks. The stone is carried to the site of the work, on the breakwater—which is a mile and a half west by north of Point Judith—on scows that are towed down the bay for twelve miles by a powerful steel tug. The discharge of the blocks is attended with great difficulty on account of the ground swells which seem to prevail off the point at all seasons of the year. The particular part of the breakwater just now under construction is at the southerly end of Squid Ledge, at what are called the east and west wings, and where the structure makes a curve to the east on a line with the old buoy set to mark the reef. The present plan, adopted by both the inspector and superintendent is to finish as nearly as possible each portion of the wall of the breakwater before proceeding to another part of the work, and so well and thoroughly has this idea been carried out that the results of their labor are already apparent at low water, where in one or two places the wall of the new breakwater is distinctly visible.

"May God Forgive Your Cook."

Cardinal Manning, who was, as we all know, as thin and emaciated as "Spaight of Limerick," when in Liverpool was visiting a convent where an Irishwoman was cook. She begged and prayed for the blessing of the Cardinal. The Mother Superior presented the request to him, with which he kindly complied. The cook was brought in, knelt down before him, and received his blessing; whereupon she looked up at him and said, "May the Lord preserve your Eminence; and oh, may God forgive your cook!"

Wit and Humor.

"Have you read that article on 'How to tell a bad egg?'"
"No, I haven't, but my advice would be: If you have anything important to tell a bad egg, why, break it gently."

Some good stories are told of provincial mayors and their wives. Here is one: The Queen and Princess Beatrice had opened an exhibition, and then in the visitors' book they appended their royal names—"Victoria" and "Beatrice." Next came the turn of the mayors, who in a flowing hand wrote "Jane."

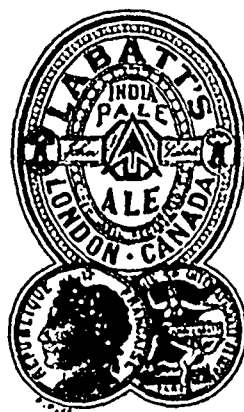
Office Boy—Mr. Gayman sent me to tell you not to keep dinner waitin' for 'im this evenin'. He's got to go to the lodge on important business.

Mrs. Gayman—To the lodge? Oh, yes. He is going to "ride the goat," I suppose.

Office Boy—No, I don't think it's a goat. I heard him tellin' Mr. Quickstep he was going out on a little lark.

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The numerous friends of the Most Rev. Dr. Gilhooly will be glad to learn that he has completely recovered from his recent severe indisposition. He celebrated Mass on Jan. 7th, as usual, and is now transacting his customary business.

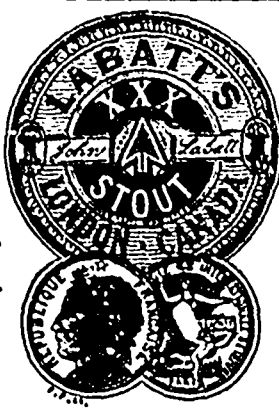


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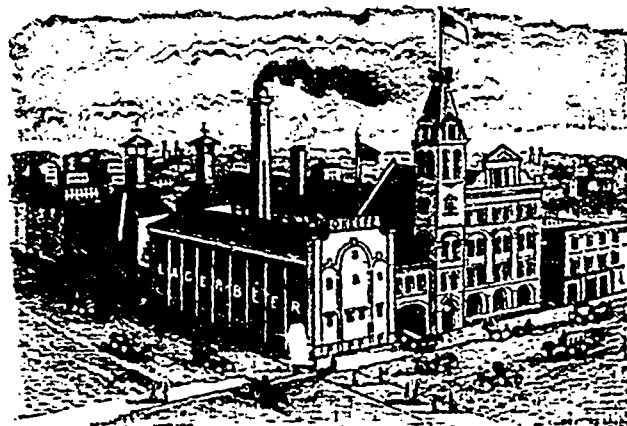
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