

AN AWFUL MOMENT.

The Switchman's Story. More than a dozen people spoke to me yesterday about three chapters of accidents I related in this column on Friday afternoon.

where now they could only see the necessities of life. One Saturday night after payday they went to the city, and among other things bought his little girl a pair of pretty red shoes.

Aray the father went to the yard work, whistling and happy as only a poor man can be. The mother made preparations for the washing, and little 5-year skipped about merrily watching the glint of the sunshine upon her new red shoes.

Instantly she looked out over the expanse of tracks, and for a moment there was a lull in the throbbing pain that filled her soul with anguish. Nothing could she see of the child. The relief was but momentary only, for the next look revealed a moving object away out on the main tracks and partly screened by a target.

"Oh, mamma, don't you hurt me," cried the little one, and just then came that shrieking whistle like the voice of a fiend in delight. Not a word could that mother say; her throat was burning and her heart was bursting; hastily she grasped the foot, covered with the red shoe and tugged with all her might. It would not come.

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to him, which he fully understood, but in response he made her a signal. He stood over the rail and reached as if to grasp something, and then he pulled it over forcibly, and apparently held it down firmly on the outside of the rail. Quick as a flash the mother caught what he meant and her first impulse was to sacrifice herself in front of the coming train.

He (impatiently): "What a foolish idea! What put that silly notion into your head?" She (angrily): "Silly, is it, when the horse you buy for me cost only one shilling a pair—and you kick at that—and here you have just spent two pounds for horse for your garden."

in her arms and pulled her away over as far as she could on the outside of the rail, and

with all her strength held her down to the ground and threw herself across the little one's head. One glance only she caught of the little red shoe. The huge monster was on them. A black film came over her eyes and she was unconscious.

A Dishonest Government. The United States is the most boastful country in the world. True, it has some cause to boast. It has made marvelous progress in the hundred years of its existence as a nation, and may justly feel a pride in her achievements in science, art, and literature.

There are about sixteen canneries on the Fraser, six on the Skeena, three on the Bulkley, and three scattered in other waters. River Inlet, Alert Bay. The total canning in 1880 was 414,294 cases, each of one-pound tins. The fish are sold to Europe, Australia, and eastern Canada.

The domestic government has founded a salmon hatchery on the Fraser, above New Westminster. It is under the supervision of Thomas Mowat, Inspector of Fisheries, and millions of small fry are now annually turned into the great river.

A Persian Prince in Exile. The Head of a Religion Sect he Lives in Style at Bombay. A Persian prince lives in Bombay of whom very little is heard, though he is a power in the oriental world. He wields more authorities than many oriental potentates.

Why She Was Jealous of the Garden. She (weepingly): "I believe that you love your old garden better than you do me." He (impatiently): "What a foolish idea! What put that silly notion into your head?" She (angrily): "Silly, is it, when the horse you buy for me cost only one shilling a pair—and you kick at that—and here you have just spent two pounds for horse for your garden."

Time never wrote lines of beauty on a face that carried behind it a double impulse of action, one for the world and one for private life. The face tells the story of the double life and the lines contradict each other. The wayfarer is never tempted to stop them for aid and comfort on his journey.

FISHING IN THE WATERS OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

A Remarkable Industry. Already the value of the fish caught in the British Columbian waters is estimated at five million dollars a year, and yet the industry is rather at its birth than in its infancy. All the waters in and near the province fairly swarm with fish.

The main salmon rivers are the Fraser, Skeena, and Nasse rivers, but the fish also swarm in the inlets into which the smaller streams empty. The Ninkiah, on Vancouver Island, is also a salmon stream. Setting aside the stories of water so thick with salmon that a man might walk upon their backs, as well as that tale of the stage-coach which was upset by salmon banking themselves against it.

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The colchian, or candle-fish, is a valuable product of these waters, chiefly of the Fraser and Nasse rivers. They are said to be delicious when fresh, smoked, or salted, and I have it on the authority of the little pamphlet "British Columbia" handed me by a government official, that their oil is considered superior to cod-liver oil, or any other fish oil known.

That Boy. The young actor (in evident embarrassment): "My dear Miss Clara, I'm—trying to leave his chair—I believe I have formed an attachment—and I—Miss Clara blushing furiously—"Oh, Arthur—I mean Mr. Green—this is so unexpected. I must"—The young actor (frantically): "Beg pardon, Miss Clara, but I was about to say I have formed an attachment for this chair due to the presence of a bit of cobble in my eye which by that unregenerate brother of yours." [Intense delight of the small boy in ambush.]

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THE USE OF OIL AT SEA.

How Vessels can Safely be Taken Through Stormy Seas. The recent terrible gales on the English coast, during which a large number of vessels and many lives were lost, and the approaching season of heavy weather off our coast and upon the North Atlantic ocean, bring forcibly to mind the strenuous efforts that are constantly being made by the hydrographic office to induce all vessels to provide themselves with appliances for ejecting oil.

The belief in the efficiency of this method of calming the waves has so firmly established itself in many cases that a number of vessels are now especially provided with oil disturbing apparatus, and seldom a storm passes without one or more reports being submitted on the subject. The general conclusion being that had the precaution not been resorted to, fatal results would have followed.

When scudding before a gale the rules say that the oil should be distributed from the bow by means of oil-bags, or through waste pipes. It will thus spread aft as the ship continues on her course, and give protection from both quartering and following seas. The effect is almost miraculous, the foaming seas as they come tearing along, looking for all the world as though they would swallow up the vessels, masts and all, stop when they reach the "slick" over which their combers can not pass, and expend their energies in futile efforts to reach the oil.

Towing another vessel in heavy sea is frequently a very dangerous operation, and again and again has the attempt been given up until wind and sea were abated, where as in many instances it could readily have been accomplished had the oil-bags been at hand, or, rather, had they been in service. They are very easy to make, as they consist of nothing but a conical canvas bag stuffed with oakum, on which oil is plentifully poured, and having large sail needles thrust through the top, the canvas so that the oil can have a chance to ooze out.

One by one the old saws and proverbs which have been venerated by the world are being destroyed and destroyed, and proof is supposed to express has in reality not been truth at all. How many times has the proverb, "competition is the life of trade," been quoted, and always with the belief that it could not be gained. A writer in the December Forum, however, declares that the death of trade rather than the life of the competition which the larger and more wealthy concerns in all branches of trades exercise is so destructive to the smaller concerns that they are compelled to cease business and thus capital is lost, competition is reduced, and individual suffering.

Keep what "his folks say" out of the domestic counsels. Isn't it strange how a little bile in the husband will keep the whole family in hot water? Perhaps some people feel a little alarmed about the year 1892 because it begins on Friday. Warm affections and then cold criticism turned out to the child alternately are apt to crack its temper.

Some State laws give the wife two-thirds of the husband's estate, but all of them give the whole estate to the lawyers. The influenza is playing a return engagement. There is, however, a realism about its performances that few people appreciate. Adjectives are words used to qualify nouns, babies and beaux. They are superlative, superlative and superlatively silly. Time flies so fast that little girl babies are no sooner put out of long dresses than they are young women and are put into them again. One of the greatest mistakes a man can make is to sit down at a desk and worry himself sick over business and then call it a day's work. It isn't the girl who can earn her own living, but the one who can earn two livings, who is being anxiously looked for by some young men. So much attention and praise is given the worthless man when he dies that it is very discouraging to the hard-working fellow who is doing his best. There is hardly a man on earth who has so poor an opinion of himself that he doesn't think that he can make fine weather by taking his umbrella along, and by leaving it at home can bring down a deluge. As an illustration that there is often more pleasure in the pursuit of a thing than in its acquisition, the Boston Transcript remarks that you couldn't make a boy more unhappy than by presenting him with a nice bag of nuts just as he is joyfully starting out for a day's nutting.

AN AFRICAN MYSTERY.

What Emin Pasha Has Done Since He Was "Rescued" by Stanley. The late African mystery is Emin Pasha. Ever since the time when he so energetically protested against being found and rescued, he had been invested with romance and shrouded in uncertainty. When Mr. Stanley brought him out to Zanzibar the world was at a loss whether to reckon him a peevish ingrate or an ill-used hero, and its doubts regarding him having only been intensified by the course of subsequent events.

It was April 25, 1890, that having been landed at Iragamoyo by Mr. Stanley, Emin Pasha set out on his present expedition. With him were Lieut. Baugheldt, Mr. Stuhlmann, Father Schyza, 100 soldiers (negroes) and 400 porters. Aug. 4 following he occupied Tabora, the headquarters of the Arabs in Central Africa and raised the German flag. Sept. 27th found him at Bukumbi, the southern shore of Victoria Lake.

Since that date we have had no definite news of his doings. There was a report that he was going to Ruanda, which seemed reasonable, and another that he was going to march across the continent to the Cameroons, which seemed absurd. Then we were told that he had reached Wadelai and reoccupied all his old province, and, though a denial came next day, it was far weaker than the report, and the impression remained that the news was probably true. Now it is repeated with renewed assurance of its truth. Why not? The whole province was garrisoned by only 250 mahdists, whose fortress and capital was the old Borden steamer, now for many years stranded in the river; while Selim Bey and 500 of Emin's former followers were at Kavalli, on Albert lake, only waiting for Emin's return to redeem the province. With them Emin could easily have re-established his government, especially since the mass of the people remained loyal to him. There has also come a vague report that he is preparing to march on Khartoum. This too seems not unlikely. It is not a far cry thither from Wadelai. And matters have been going very badly with the mahdists. The once powerful city is now a defenseless ruin, inhabited by a mere handful of people. Most of the mahdist army has been called elsewhere, to support Osman Digna at Tokar, or to oppose the Senousi in the west. Those who remained have been decimated by disease, and now a few hundred scattered soldiers could scatter them to the sands of the desert. That Emin will do this is not of course certain. But it is neither impossible nor improbable. And for Gordon's fall to be avenged by Gordon's friend and lieutenant would only be the most fitting conclusion possible to the dark drama of Khartoum. Lowered that may be, when the mystery that now envelops Emin's doings are all swept away we shall doubtless see that he has written by his deeds, from first to last, one of the most heroic and altogether admirable chapters of the whole history of the dark continent.

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RUSSIAN OFFICIAL BRUTALITY.

Cruelties Perpetrated by Government Officers on Peasants and Exiles. Reports of the cruelties which government officers practice on the common people since the ukase was issued permitting them to "inflict chastisement on the fractious" are coming in from all parts of the Russian empire, says the New York Sun. Some of those administrators of law and order seem to have waited for that ukase to manifest the levity which had been pent up in their souls since, by the benign legislation of Alexander II., the common people had been granted "the rights of men." Here are two examples of the kind. Polish, the starshina or forman of the district of Oboyanak, government of Koorsk, made it a practice to extort government taxes from the peasants by torture. A peasant who was behind with his taxes was tied half naked to the wall of the village office with his boots hanging on his neck by a rope as a mark of disgrace. In order that he should stand erect nails were put in the wall behind him so that his nude body was severely pricked whenever he got tired and attempted to lean on the wall. A peasant submitted an aged peasant named Tarassov to this torture, and kept him standing there fully eight hours. That embittered the villagers, and they complained before the starshina that he should not do it again but did not inflict any punishment on him for what he had done.

Here is another instance, reported in *Vostoknoye Obozrenie*. The assistant of the starshina of a populous town in Ekotok is a sworn enemy to liberty, and his oxen, which are at Siberia to choose their own dwelling place in Siberia. According to his own statement he has no appetite for dinner on any day that he does not inflict the rod on two or three settlers. When he orders such chastisement he is invariably present at the execution, and gloats over the pain and humiliation of his victims. One morning as he sat at his writing desk a man wrapped in a heavy cloak came in. He looked at him furtively and mistook him for the deacon of the church. "Sit down, father deacon, I shall be at your service in a minute," he said politely. "I have the honor to be the father deacon; I am the settler M. your honor," the man said nervously. The assistant jumped up in a fury and exclaimed: "Who in the devil's name admitted this dog here? Guard, take him out and give him thirty-five hot ones! Mind you, hot ones of the best kind!" The poor fellow, who had come on business, received the unexpected and unmerited chastisement and left the place more dead than alive, without having an opportunity even to tell what his business was.

RAILWAY DOINGS.

Berlin's railroad depot will cost \$4,000,000. London has ten main railroad lines. Railway traveling in India is the cheapest in the world. A locomotive's strength equals 900 horses. China has forty miles of railroad. The Southern Pacific is compelling telegraph to take oath that they are not union men. The Pennsylvania Railroad has sent a train of three cars and an engine from Jersey City to Washington, 228 miles, in four hours' actual running time. The fastest regular train in the world is running between Hamburg and Berlin, Germany, making fifty-two and one-third miles per hour, including stops. The longest and heaviest train ever carried over any railroad in this country consisted of 225 loaded four-wheel coal cars on the Lehigh Valley railroad. A good many locomotive engines are being compounded, and all railroad managers expect to have to use the compounded engine. The Reading Company has ordered twenty-one. If all the locomotives in the United States were coupled together they would make a train 200 miles long. Add the passenger cars and we would have a train 7,900 miles long, carrying 1,500,000 passengers. The Interstate Commerce Commissioners report that during the year 5,320 persons were killed and 29,034 were injured on the railroads of the United States. Of the killed 2,451 were employees. An Italian engineer has originated a system by which he proposes to utilize the power of trains running down grade; that is, he has devised a machine for compressing air as the train goes down, which can be used to actuate a motor at the will of the engineer, and to assist the locomotive up grade. Compressed air is used in the Union Pacific Company's shed at Portland for removing dust from passenger cars. It is delivered from a flexible hose with a small nozzle at a pressure of fifty pounds to the square inch. It is very effective in cleaning plush cushions.

More Enterprise.

A Jewish tailor was charged with removing a goblet from the hands of a statue which adorned a drinking fountain, and with substituting a placard advertising his shop. His defence, delivered with a sweet, ingratiating smile, was—"Well, shudge, of course I want to get along in peesness. That was why I put up the placard about the new stock of patent shoes and hair oil, and that was why I put a hat and a collar on the statue." "What!" exclaimed the judge; "did you dare to dress up the statue in a collar and hat? I hadn't heard of that." "Vell, but those black hats is sheep at four shillings, shudge," pleaded the defendant. "Moses Levy charges five and a half for dem same kind. I beats dose fellers efery dime. But hitch into me, aff you please, shudge. Speak loud, so dose noo-paper vellars can hear you," and he smiled benignantly upon the reporter. "Great Heavens!" thundered the Court, as a frightful idea struck him. "Is it possible you have the audacity to use the machinery of this court as an advertising dodge?" "Dot's it, shudge," exclaimed the Cheap John, rubbing his hands, exultingly. "I took out der shummons myself!"

Editorial Resignation.

If all goes well, Old King Christian IX. of Denmark and his amiable consort will celebrate their golden wedding in May next. Their subjects will celebrate and heartily rejoice with them, for the royal couple are very popular, except, it may be in Iceland, where the King's opposition to the demands of the people has led to some emigration and much disrespectful language. On the whole, the lives of King Christian and Queen Louise have been peaceful and happy, and their family circle has had the distinction of supplying a Czarina to Russia, a Princess of Wales to England, and a King to Greece.