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MISCELLANEOUS.

The business of the preacher is not to defend the gospel, but to preach it.

Fight shy of the man who claims to be a Christian, but never pays his debts.

Whoever is making the religion of Christ attractive is helping to save the world.

"Yes," said the lovely woman, "it was very lonely living in the West. No neighbors to speak of." "That is to say," ventured the Mean Thing, "no neighbors to talk about?"

The capital "A" occurs 3,791 times in the New Testament and 14,020 times in the Old Testament. The capital letter "Q" will be found but twice in the Old Testament and three times in the New.

Brazil is the largest of the southern republics. It is said to have more navigable rivers than any other country in the world. Rio de Janeiro is the principal city and it has nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants.

Brazil's commerce is mainly with France, Great Britain and the United States. The principal articles exported are coffee, hides, tobacco, gold coin and bullion, sugar, diamonds, rosewood, cocoa and rubber.

A German statistician makes the startling assertion that there are in Bulgaria 3,883 centenarians, or one to every 1,000 inhabitants. If these figures are correct Bulgaria holds the record for long-lived citizens.

It is generally agreed among naturalists that the tortoise is the longest lived of all animals. There are many instances of them attaining the extraordinary age of 250 years, while one is actually mentioned as reaching the unparalleled age of 405 years. Notwithstanding these examples, which, of course, are exceptionally rare, the ordinary tortoise only lives, on an average, from 100 to 150 years.

A writer in the *Volunteer Gazette* describes a true soldier of Christ as follows: "He is a successful volunteer who is successful in saving souls. If he fails in this—no matter in what else he may succeed—he fails in the one important thing. He stands before God in the same light that the general who drills, and feeds, and manoeuvres his men, but who never wins a battle, stands before the people. He fails in that which is essential."

One of the most recently opened mountain railways in Switzerland is the Stanserhorn road, which is one of particular interest. The road is constructed in three parts, each at an angle with each other, the gradients being in some instances as high as 60 degrees. Each decline is operated by cables, driven by independent electric hoisting engines. The current to operate the electric hoists is generated by dynamos located some five miles distant, and driven by turbines actuated by the mountain torrent. The plant also supplies light to the hotels and the search lights on the mountain top.

A CHANCE FOR US ALL.

The possibilities of winter comfort seem now to be limited by the extent of the spruce trees in the land. So long as a "wooden cloth"—and this is practically what Fibre Chemois is—can be had for a trifling expense to line our outer garments with, no one need ever suffer from the sharpest winds or frostiest air of winter. An absolute nonconductor of heat and cold, Fibre Chemois is also durable, light and pliable so that the presence of a layer of it through a coat is never felt save by the protection it gives from a roaring gale or icy temperature. As its thorough worth has long since been proved there is no possible chance of disappointment in preparing to enjoy the healthful warmth it also provides.

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"My husband," said a physician's wife not long ago, "chanced to see one day some molds of jelly set to cool outside the window. They were uncovered, as they were out of reach of anything." He asked me, "Is it your custom to cool your jelly uncovered?" I was obliged to say it was. Then he said, "Do you know when we medical men want to secure minute organisms for investigations we expose gelatin to the air or where germs are, and it quickly attracts, and holds them? Cool your jelly if you will, but cover it with a piece of muslin."

A young lady once called on one of Louisville's most prominent homoeopathic physicians, and after discoursing on all the topics of interest of the day, settled down to tell him her ailments. Among other things, she said that she was greatly annoyed with a sinking feeling. The physician prepared a little bottle of pills and gave them to her, with minute directions as to how they should be taken. The woman again began to talk, and after many vain efforts to get her out, she started for the door. She had just opened it, when she turned and said: "Oh doctor, what shall I do if these pills do not cure me?" "Take the cork," he retorted; "they tell me that's good for a sinking feeling."

One candidate for the Presidency has started on his campaign in a manner that does honor to God and does credit to his piety. In responding to the committee's notification of his nomination, Mr. McKinley explicitly acknowledged his trust and dependence in Almighty God, without whose constant aid and counsel his best efforts would be vain and ineffectual. That is manly and Christian, and the great campaigner has our thanks and praise that at the outset of his struggle for the greatest honor within the gift of man, he relies primarily, not upon the tariff, nor finance, nor his friends, nor any other power or presence than that of Jehovah. It is our hope that this example of reverence may be followed in the case of every candidate who this year may submit to the suffrage of Christian America.

In Hungary a man may marry at the age of eighteen, the girl at sixteen; In Spain, Portugal, and Greece, the respective ages are only fourteen for the man (?) and twelve for the prospective bride. In France he must be eighteen and she fifteen. In Russia the laws vary between eighteen and twenty for the men and fifteen and sixteen for the women. In Switzerland the various cantons have different laws, and the minimum ages for marrying are eighteen and twenty years for men and from thirteen to seventeen for girls. In Austria and Germany men seldom marry under twenty-one, although the law allows at eighteen. Girls may wed at sixteen in these countries. In Egypt boys of thirteen are often married, and brides of ten and twelve are not scarce by any means. But India carries off the palm. Here marriages are closed in infancy, and a girl of two is sometimes married to a groom of four or five years.

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