

THE LATE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

Marie Alexandrovna, Czarina of all the Russias, departed this life on Thursday, the 3rd inst., after having been for many years a confirmed invalid. She was a Princess of Hesse, with whom the then Czarwitich fell in love when he was in search of a wife at another German Court. She was married in 1841, and was mother of a large family. Domestic difficulties, probably, were the means of shortening her days, and a great deal of gossip has circulated on this score of late. The Empress returned to Russia from Cannes, where she had wintered for her health, in a measure reconciled, on the occasion of the Czar's last anniversary, but then, as it had been for a long time, her case was hopeless, and she went home to die. She was a lady of varied accomplishments and will leave a gap in the courtly circles of Europe.

PARISIAN BRIC-A-BRAC.

ARMAND is on the point of death, and without a cent in the world. "I never smoked in my life," exclaimed he fervently; "and yet, where is the money that I saved in cigars?"

AFTER hearing "Les Huguenots." "Isn't it queer! Protestants and Catholics killing each other, and a Jew (Meyerbeer) furnishing the music."

A NEW description of life. Life is a railway; the years are its stations; death is its terminus, and the doctors—its stokers.

BEGINNING of a story. Once upon a time there was a child so prodigal that all the calves fled at his approach.

TALK of party spirit. You must go to France for it.

The Municipal Council of Paris has at length turned its attention to the Jardin des Plantes (Zoological Gardens), and passed a resolution expelling all the eagles, as suspected of Bonapartism. As to the great Bengal tiger, he shall no longer be called "Royal." He shall be designated in future as the "Republican" tiger.

The opinion of Manzoni, the celebrated author of *I Promessi Sposi*, on lawyers:

"You must always state your case frankly and clearly to your lawyer. It is his business to mix it up afterward."

AN awkward visitor said to a sensible lady of a certain age:

"I wouldn't give you fifty years."  
"Sir, I should be too proud to accept them."

AN eloquent word worth a volume of compliments.

Some one inquired for the address of a lady whom he wished to visit.  
"She lives in Avenue ——" was the reply.  
"I don't exactly remember the number, but ask the first person you meet and he will tell you."

A DOCTOR had discovered an infallible remedy against the cancer. He lately undertook a splendid case, treated it splendidly and buried it ditto. Yesterday, while lecturing to his anatomical class, he said:

"Gentlemen, I am going to demonstrate to you, by the examination of the proper organs, that my patient died cured."

BETWEEN a clergyman and his dying parishioner:

"My dear friend, have you reflected on the state of your conscience, before going to render the final account?"

"Oh! it must be in a good state, as I never used it."

THE Abbé Venoisin was a courtly diplomatist. He once called upon the Prince de Conti, who, being in bad humour, turned his back on him.

"Ah, Monseigneur," murmured the Abbé, "I had been told that you were ill-disposed toward me, but am delighted to know the contrary."

"Contrary! How so?"

"Because your Highness never turns his back upon an enemy."

SOME men are born financiers.

A youngster, studying his sacred history, came to the story of Joseph and his brethren.

"Were the brothers greatly to blame?" asked the father.

"Yes, sir, they were greatly to blame."

"Why so?"

"They sold Joseph too cheap."

AN ancient magistrate, having become mayor of his commune, gave the civil blessing enjoined by law to a young couple. After having asked the sacramental question:

"Mademoiselle —, do you consent to take for your husband Mr. —, here present?"

"Yes, sir."

The ancient magistrate turned to the young man, and, mindful of his former functions, said, with great gravity:

"Prisoner, what have you to say why sentence should not be pronounced on you?" LACLEDE.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, May 31.—Bismarck proposes to transfer the German customs frontier from Hamburg to Cuxhaven, seventy miles nearer the sea, at the mouth of the Elbe.—Precautionary measures have been taken in British Burma to prevent the insurgents crossing the frontier, it being feared that they intend to enter Aracan.—Abdul Rahman's reply to the British Government has been received, but nothing definite has yet been settled; it is feared Russian influence is being brought to bear on him.—A vessel recently arrived at Queenstown, from Demerara, reports having passed a raft about 300 miles south-west of the Bermudas, which, from its construction, appeared to be made on board a man-of-war.

TUESDAY, June 1.—The Canada Club in London gave a banquet last night to Sir Alex. Galt.—The French Tariff Commission recommend increased duties on imported cattle.—Renewed appeals are made for the famine-stricken districts of Kurdistan, Armenia and Western Persia.—A London cable says the captain of the Canadian cricket team has been arrested as a deserter from the Royal Horse Guards some years ago.

WEDNESDAY, June 2.—The Canadian Wimbledon team will be commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Williams, M.P., of Port Hope, with Major Macpherson, of the Foot Guards, Ottawa, as second officer.—It is expected that the Prince of Wales Rifes, Montreal, will visit Ottawa on Dominion Day. They will be entertained by the Governor-General's Foot Guards during their stay.—The Hon. Geo. F. Hoar has been elected temporary Chairman of the Republican National Convention at Chicago. He is regarded as friendly to Senator Edmunds.—The jury in the case of Charles Demont, ex-Treasurer of the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, charged with the embezzlement of \$50,000, has disagreed. This was the second trial and will probably be the last.—The American Union Telegraph Company has completed contracts with the Pennsylvania Company and the Pittsburg, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway Company for telegraphic privileges along the lines of the two Companies, the same as the Western Union enjoys.

THURSDAY, June 3.—The King of Greece is in London.—The French man-of-war *Clorinde* has arrived at Halifax.—The Empress of Russia died yesterday after a long and painful illness.—Nothing of importance occurred in the Argentine election trial yesterday.—The preliminary working of the tunnel connecting England and France has been satisfactory.—The Republican Convention at Chicago has not yet reached a ballot.

FRIDAY, June 4.—It is reported that the Russians have been repulsed by the Chinese.—The Parnell Land Bill has been introduced into the British House of Commons.—Henri Rochefort, wounded in a duel on Thursday, is in a precarious condition.—H. R. H. Prince Leopold occupied a seat on the platform at the Republican convention in Chicago yesterday.—The articles of agreement for the Hawaiian-Trickett match have been signed. The race will take place on the Thames, on the 15th of November.—The lacrosse convention met in Toronto yesterday; the name was changed to "The National Amateur Lacrosse Association of Canada." Major Stevenson, of Montreal, was elected President.

SATURDAY, June 5.—Henri Rochefort is much worse.—"Robert the Devil" won the Grand Prix de Paris yesterday.—The hostility to Mr. Geschen in Constantinople is said to be increasing, and intrigues are reported.—Her Majesty is expected to be present at the volunteer review in Hyde Park, in which 50,000 troops will participate.—The Sultan of Turkey has promised to assist the English Government in accomplishing the desired reforms in Turkey.—A great land meeting was held at Clonen, Tipperary County, Ireland, yesterday. The Government reporters were ejected from the platform.

VARIETIES.

VISIT OF PRINCE LEOPOLD.—His Royal Highness Prince Leopold is making good use of his time in his visit to Canada. He has wisely relieved himself of the delays which would be occasioned by the presentation of addresses, and other ceremonial observances, and is, therefore, more at liberty to travel freely and quickly. After spending a few days in Quebec, witnessing the principal sights of that ancient citadel, he passed on to Montreal, where he was courteously received, and with which he was particularly charmed. From Montreal he proceeded to Ottawa, and there he inspected the Government Buildings, and other attractions of the capital, and had pleasant intercourse with Sir Edward Selby Smyth and several members of the Dominion Cabinet. On Friday night he left Ottawa for Toronto, and at the Prescott Junction was joined by the Princess Louise. The party arrived in Toronto on Saturday morning, and were met at the station by a number of official persons. During the day they visited the General Hospital, and several other prominent places and buildings. On Sunday morning they attended divine service in St. James Cathedral, and received a few visits during the day. From Toronto they went on Tuesday to Niagara Falls; and thence they went to Chicago and Milwaukee, but no further, the trip to San Francisco having been abandoned. With what he has seen the Prince expresses himself as particularly pleased.

FEMALE FIDDLERS.—A remarkable revolution in public sentiment is strikingly indicated by the fact that, in one of the May magazines, we find a titled writer, Lady Lindsay of Balcarres, giving instructions to the ladies how to play the violin. It is not very long since the fiddle was deemed an "unladylike" instrument—ungraceful, and, indeed, altogether impossible for women. Lady Lindsay says she has known girls of whom it was darkly hinted that they played the violin, as it might be said that they smoked cigars, or enjoyed the sport of rat-catching. But now—at least in England—all this has changed. There is scarcely a family of girls in the upper strata of London society where there is not at least one who plays the fiddle; and Lady Lindsay says she knows a household in which there are six daughters, all of whom are violinists. Female fiddlers play in the orchestra of the Royal Academy, and in that of the National Training School of Music; and it is no uncommon sight in the London streets to see a

girl carrying her fiddle in its black case. For this change Lady Lindsay thinks we are chiefly indebted to Madame Norman Neuda. Uniting with the firmness and vigour of a man's playing, the purity of style and intonation of a great artist, as well as her own perfect grace and delicate manipulation, she has proved what a woman can do in this field. In former days there have been distinguished female fiddlers; but it has been reserved for this lady to head the great revolution, and to enlist an enormous train of followers.

NEW BRUNSWICK AS A SUMMER RESORT.—The St. John *Telegraph* takes advantage of the prevailing desire for summer visitation to pour-tray the advantages of New Brunswick as a summer resort, especially for invalids and sportsmen. It is represented as easy of access, and as abounding with fish and game, &c. Where, says the *Telegraph*, shall the visitor find a more excellent place for sea-bathing than the sandy beaches near St. John in July and August? Or where shall we find more picturesque scenery than in the drives and walks in the vicinity of the city? For tourists who are fond of fishing, New Brunswick offers, we need hardly say, unrivalled attractions. The Restigouche, the Nepisiquit, and the South West Miramichi, probably the three finest salmon rivers in the world, are all in New Brunswick. If there is any finer trout river on this hemisphere than the Tabusintac, another New Brunswick river, we have not yet had the happiness to learn its name. But quite independently of these famous streams there are numberless other streams and brooks where the angler can find the best of sport, and feel always certain of a well-filled basket, to say nothing of lakes which are numerous and generally well-stocked with fish. The tourist in search of the picturesque need not go far in New Brunswick to have his desire gratified. In the rugged grandeur of the rocky gorge through which the St. John makes its way to the ocean, the noble stretches of the Long Reach, and the pleasant pastoral scenery along the river St. John below Fredericton, he will find much to delight his eye. The river between Fredericton and Andover, is rich in beauty of another sort, and in the Grand Falls may be found a cataract not unworthy to be compared with Niagara itself, not indeed in volume of water or height, but in its suggestions of resistless power. Or he may wander farther, and in the lovely scenery around St. Basil and Edmunston drink in the richness of the landscape. Or his steps may take him farther north to the shores of the Bay Chaleur, the park-like scenery of the Restigouche valley, or the lofty hills which look over the waves at the Province of Quebec. Already the splendid game to be found in New Brunswick has been made known to readers on both sides of the Atlantic by the writings of Lord Dunsraven and other popular authors, and we hope soon to see the splendid sanitary qualities of the country as well known. These are certainly strong recommendations, and should induce many summer travellers to find their way to such a paradise.

STATUE TO LORD BYRON.—The long-talked of statue to Lord Byron, has become an accomplished fact. It has been erected and unveiled in Hamilton Place Gardens, London, and is the object of much admiration. The production of a colossal figure in bronze is necessarily a work of time, and it is, therefore, no reproach to Mr. R. C. Belt, the sculptor of the Byron Memorial, that it is now nearly five years since the first committee meeting was held at Willis' Rooms under the presidency of Lord Beaconsfield. The colossal sitting figure of Lord Byron, which if erect would measure about eleven feet in height, looks towards Hyde Park almost in the direction of the Achilles, to which it will supply a marked contrast. Opposed to the swift action of the warrior is the contemplative attitude of the poet. According to one of Byron's journals it was a custom of his, after bathing in some secluded place, to sit upon the summit of a rock by the side of the sea for hours and hours, contemplating the grandeur of the sea and waves.

When lone,  
Admiring Future's universal throne.

Such a moment has been happily seized by Mr. Belt, who with a sculptor's natural seeking for a reposeful attitude, has placed the poet as if on "Sunium's marble steep,"

Watching at eye upon the giant height,  
Which looks o'er waves as blue, skies so serene.

The poet, whose head is slightly inclined towards the left, is seated on a rock. His chin rests upon the outstretched fingers of the right hand. He has the manuscript of "Childe Harold" on his knee. The difficult matter of raiment, the stumbling block of the modern sculptor, has been solved without recourse to the stagy device of putting Byron into the Albanian costume in which he was painted. He wears the natural and appropriate dress of a yachtsman. By his side crouches his favourite dog Boatswain, looking trustfully and lovingly up into his master's face. In modelling the poet's head the sculptor has been guided by Philip's portrait and David's medallion, and has also been assisted by the constant study of the well-known portrait by Westall, lent for the purpose by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. The pose of the figure is simple and natural, and is not marred by any attempt to depict the fine frenzy so difficult, if not impossible, to render adequately in bronze. The unstudied attitude and quiet, thoughtful look, together with the yachting costume and the presence of the dog, convey admirably that truth-

fulness and realism of interpretation in seeking which the sculptors of to-day have risen in rebellion against the sham classicity which once bade fair to make their art ridiculous.

HEARTH AND HOME.

THE bane of life is discontent. Who has not found it so? We say we will work so long, and then we will enjoy ourselves. But we find it just as Thackeray has expressed it. "When I was a boy," he said, "I wanted some toffy—it was a shilling—I hadn't one. When I was a man I had a shilling; but I didn't want any toffy."

RICHES AND ECONOMY.—It is no man's duty to deny himself every amusement, every luxury, every recreation, every comfort, that he may get rich. It is no man's duty to make an iceberg of himself, to shut his eyes and ears to the suff-rings of his fellows, and deny himself the enjoyment that results from generous actions, merely that he may hoard wealth for his heirs to quarrel about. But there is an economy which is consistent with happiness, and which must be practised if the poor man would secure independence.

THANKFULNESS.—There is a great difference between doing anything for the sake of the thanks, or appreciation, or gratitude it ought to bring, and merely looking forward to them as a natural result which we may justly expect. A wise and loving parent gives years of effort, sacrifice, and toil for his child's welfare. He does not do it for the sake of filial gratitude, yet he may well feel grieved and disappointed if his child should fail to evince it. So it is impossible for any of us to feel quite happy and satisfied without the need of sympathy and thankfulness to which we are justly entitled.

A REMEDY FOR FORGERIES.—The forgeries by erasing small sums in cheques and inserting larger ones are so serious that many remedies are proposed. Sir Henry Bessemer gives the most practical—namely, to take any pale vegetable colour—say, blue—which should be as sensitive to acid reaction as lithium, and with this colour print over the whole surface of the cheque or other paper a fine engine-turned pattern, thus giving to its surface somewhat the effect of a pale tint extending all over the paper. If any attempt should be made by means of chemicals to take out any portion of the writing on such prepared paper, all the surrounding parts touched by the acid solution will at once lose the whole of the blue printed pattern, which is more sensitive and much more easily discharged than the common writing-ink. Sir Henry says the paper could be produced very cheaply.

CUT AND CUT.—A jealousy of the lower classes aping the dress of their superiors runs through all the ancient sumptuary laws. Camden tells a story of a Sir Philip Calthorpe, who in the time of Henry VIII. "purged a shoemaker of Norwich of the proud honour our common people have to be of the gentleman's cut." Hearing from his tailor that John Drakes, a local shoemaker, had ordered himself a winter cloak "of the exact like cut he should make for Sir Philip," the knight instructed the tailor to make his garment "as full of slits as the shears could cut." The cloak and the copy were thus duly made, and the disgusted shoemaker, on receiving his ragged purchase, "swore never to follow gentlemen's fashions again."

HOW NEEDLEWORK AND KNITTING ARE TAUGHT IN THE PRIMARY CLASSES OF GERMAN SCHOOLS.—In German elementary schools six hours are given to needlework and knitting. Knitting only is taught in the two lower, but even that is done by rule. In the fourth, from March to end of August, plain knitting backward and forward. At the beginning of September a stocking is to be begun. In the third only stocking knitting. Sometimes the children knit quietly by themselves, but they most frequently do it together, stitch by stitch, while the teacher very slowly counts or beats time. Painfully monotonous it must be for a child who has well mastered the work. At one the needle is put in; two, the cotton goes over; three, the stitch is made, and at four taken off the needle. In the second class, ages nine to ten, needlework is begun. The children are provided with squares of canvas and red cotton, and the teacher has a large frame on a stand, on which coarse netting is stretched that represents the canvas. With a thick needle and thread in her hand, she says, "I take up two threads and pass over two," and so on, suiting the action each time to the words, until she has fully made the girls understand and copy her. That is a lesson in running. In due time hemming, stitching, cross-stitch and others are taken in the same way, and the canvas is filled. Then the girls have each a piece of coarse calico given them, on which they work, on the same principle of counting the stitches. So well has all been arranged that the calico piece is exactly finished at the end of the year. By paying for the materials a girl is entitled to whatever she makes in the school. In the first class each one has to make a calico chemise the size of an average girl in her eleventh year. All girls in the class are in their eleventh year. As nature is not very accommodating, and will make her children of very different sizes, the chemises cannot be an equally good fit for all the fifty girls, but that is a secondary consideration, and the girls have the option of taking or leaving the work as it suits them.