

The German Government has determined on making a good harbor at Heligoland, if possible, by improving and enlarging the existing one, in order to provide a refuge for the German fishing smacks and Navy—a purpose for which the present harbor is inadequate. It is very probable that a breakwater will be built against the storms from the north-east, the most dangerous in those waters. Fishery officials from the North Sea and the Baltic coasts, and authorities on deep sea fishing, have gone to Heligoland to study the harbor question on the spot and draw up suggestions.

One of the most prominent attractions at the Yarmouth County Exhibition is a balloon ascension. An aeronaut from Michigan has been engaged, and the ascension will take place from the Exhibition grounds. When the balloon has reached a dizzy height in the air the aeronaut will make a parachute descent. This will be the first time this feature has been presented at an exhibition in Nova Scotia. We have heard of so many fatal conclusions to parachute descents that it seems rather an unwise thing to bring such an "attraction" to Nova Scotia. It may be a very pretty and interesting spectacle, but the element of danger in it only feeds the appetite of the public for sensation, and it ought on this account to be deprecated.

The action of a Roman Catholic missionary, established near Calgary, in forming a scheme for supplying wives to a number of young Canadians established throughout the Northwest Territories, has received considerable press criticism. In some quarters it meets with severe disapproval, and in others it is favorably regarded. At any rate it speaks volumes for the prosperity of the Northwest, that there are so many young men desirous of entering into the "holy estate," and the fact that they cannot do so because there are no women to marry, ought to stamp the man who arranges to supply the deficiency as a benefactor of his kind. To be sure on the face of it it is rather prosaic, but the young men and women, when they make each other's acquaintance, may be trusted to put in the romance for themselves. There is no reason why a certain number of young men should not be able to find wives to suit each one among a certain number of young women, and if those districts where women outnumber the men can be induced to contribute to those which are not so richly provided, a large number of happy homes may be the result. The efforts of the missionary in question ought not to be frowned upon.

The Rev. J. S. Vaughan, in an article on "The Final Destiny of the Earth," in the *Dublin Review* for July, says:—"Now the question that at once suggests itself is this: When every soul of man that has ever lived, from Adam to the final crack of doom, has claimed his body, will there be anything at all left of the pleasant little orb on which we dwell? To us it seems much more congruous and fitting that all the earth should be used up this way rather than that a portion only should, while a broken and shrunken relic is left to wander through space as an impoverished and wasted planet; and the inference is that the earth will endure until so many persons shall have lived from the beginning, that on reclaiming their bodies the substance of the earth will be utilized in meeting the demand." What has science to say on the subject? Will not there not be some queer characters at the resurrection, and if it should happen that there were just a few souls too many to get bodies, would they have to go forever without them? The perplexities brought out by this new hypothesis are many, although it would seem an unique way to finish things up, and those people who "want the earth" would have to be satisfied with getting their share of it if there was only enough to go round, and nobody would be helped twice. The chief trouble is that there would be nothing for the people to stand on when they are resurrected.

Dr. Koch, of Berlin, has been making experiments with the bacillus of tuberculosis, which possess a great interest for all who have any tendency to that dread disease, consumption. Dr. Koch claims to have discovered a method by which consumption can be cured by inoculation, the bacillus of tuberculosis in man and in chickens being very much alike, and thus he thinks that the chicken bacillus ultimately prove a protective for man by vaccination. He finds further that the direct action of solar light on the bacillus of tuberculosis destroys in a certain time, varying from a few minutes to several hours, the virulence of this microbe when placed on the edge of a window. This fact seems to point to the importance of air and sunlight to consumptives, an importance that has never been sufficiently recognized, although it seems obvious enough that if air and sunlight are necessary to healthy people, they must be even more so to those who are not well. Judicious climatic treatment is thus an important part of Dr. Koch's plan of treatment. The third branch of the great bacteriologist's researches, which are still incomplete, aims at combating the parasites by means of various substances, such as aromatic compounds, mercurial vapors, aniline dyes, and especially the cyanides and cyanates of gold. These given in exceedingly small doses check and lessen the development of the bacilli in man, and it is shown that certain drugs render guinea pigs refractory to tuberculosis, and even arrest the disease after it is in full course. Experiments have also been made in Paris by Dr. Gaucher, in the inoculation of rabbits with the bacilli of tuberculosis, which produced the diseases in all cases. The rabbits were then fed upon bran mixed with boracic acid. On killing these animals after a time no trace of tubercular disease could be found. This naturally does not quite prove that like treatment would prove equally efficacious with human subjects, but nevertheless these experiments do hold out hopes to consumptive people. It is said that Dr. Koch is about to begin experiments on human patients suffering from tuberculosis. The public will await further developments with intense interest.

The hackmen of Halifax as a body, with the exception of the matter of neat personal appearance which we have had occasion to criticise on previous occasion, compare favorably with those of other cities, but 'here are grave exceptions to the rule, and while the majority are polite and courteous in their manners, there are by far too large a number who in their zeal to obtain business are rude and boisterous in the extreme. A flagrant example of this was witnessed on the arrival of the steamer *Bridge-water* last week. A young lady landing on the wharf was assailed by over a dozen cabmen, who pulled her hither and thither, grabbed her satchel from her hand and succeeded in so terrifying her that she was forced to appeal to a gentleman for assistance. He speedily scattered her tormentors and saw her in safety to a carriage, but her nerves were so unstrung that she feared to trust herself alone in the cab, and the gentleman accompanied her to her destination. On her arrival she was found to be so prostrated that medical aid had to be summoned, and she remained for some days quite ill.

The subject of child marriage in India has been forcibly arresting public attention recently. It is undoubtedly one of the most harmful and degrading customs of that country, and even the Hindoos themselves are beginning to recognize that fact now. A small class of educated Hindoos are working with zeal to bring about a reform in the matter. They have formed associations and passed resolutions, but an association is not a Government, and a resolution is not law. A writer in the *New Review* makes a strong appeal to the British Government to put a stop to child marriage in India, and shows in vivid coloring some of the evils resulting from the custom. This writer says:—"Where is help to come from? I reply: the British Government. True it has undertaken not to interfere with the religious beliefs of the natives of India. But child marriage is not sanctioned by the ancient Hindu religion. It is a mere custom. With customs the Government has, to its credit, more than once interfered, in cases of Infanticide, Homicide and Sati. These Hindu practices were disastrous, but, excepting the first, they were self imposed and not universal. The person sacrificing himself or herself suffered premature death in this world, hoping by that action to secure eternal rest. He or she died and the matter ended. But the Government considered itself bound to step in and prohibit those inhuman practices. Now the practice of child marriage is really far worse than the above-mentioned abuses, for by that practice each and every individual is affected. It eats into the vital essence of young and old alike, without distinction. How many a man has died heart-broken and bankrupt through it, and what a number of women have to lead a life of utter misery and degradation! How many babes die before they are even conscious of their existence, simply as an inevitable result of this unnatural system! Considering all the evil this monstrous custom is doing to the nation, we may well ask whether it is right for the British Government to continue passive. There should be no delay in taking action. The measures adopted need not necessarily be harsh, but rather should be mild and persuasive. Without loss of time the Government might do a great deal in publicly showing disapproval of this custom of the Hindos by declining to hold any marriage as binding until the ages of, say, eighteen in the boy and fourteen in the girl." A recent despatch from Calcutta states that the Government is looking into the question and will probably legislate on the subject.

The British Association, which recently met at Leeds, has been enquiring into the question of "What portions of the globe remain available for European settlement?" Mr. Ravenstein's remarks on the subject have elicited much comment. He pointed out the various areas on the world's surface which were uninhabited, and said the area of the land within the limits fit for the growth of cereals was 46,350,000 square miles, namely:—Cultivable, 28,209,000 square miles; steppe, 13,901,000 square miles; and desert, 4,180,000 square miles. The population of the area in 1890 was 1,467,600,000, and the population in the year 2072, A. D., should the present increase in the population be maintained, would be 5,994,000,000. He had calculated that this population was the number the earth could feed if they were content with a reasonable increase in their present allowance, and did not develop into voracious animals. Of course, that depended upon whether the earth's surface was properly cultivated. He complained about the land in England being held in a few hands, and said that the Americans had wasted their resources in a style Europe had never seen. If this state of affairs was righted, the population could be easily maintained. In Europe, he maintained, the north men were crushing out the south, and France was being taken up by Belgians and Germans. He did not consider that tropical countries were suitable for European settlement, though their health in those countries had been greatly improved by sanitation. Population in some countries did not increase, and when they came to compare facts they found that the superior races increased at a lower rate than inferior races. He maintained that the earth, if the present state of matters went on, would be full in exactly 182 years; but he did not think they ought to make such a fuss about it, for it was certain they would not live to see the day when there was no more room on the earth. It may be that the population will go on increasing at the old rate. The fear that the world is filling too rapidly will be dispelled by the knowledge of the fact that the increase of population is diminishing all over western Europe. Even the birth rate of Britain has gone down progressively three or four in the thousand within the last ten years, and will in all probability fall lower. The population of France, as is well known, is stagnant, and Spain's is nearly so. Even if the human race were to continue to increase as formerly, we cannot but think that means would be provided for its support and the waste places of the earth be made to blossom as the rose. Meanwhile there is nothing to fear from congestion in our favored land. Our Northwest alone will accommodate thousands of settlers, and the country will be all the better for being occupied.