

wine cannot be depended on in general. This is probably owing to want of demand and lack of experience, which a diversion of the public taste would be likely to correct. Native wines have many advantages over foreign wines. Owing to importation duties and transportation charges on foreign wines, nothing but quality is necessary to establish a reputation that would enable Canadian wines to compete successfully with the ordinary foreign light wines and perhaps eventually supplant them. Any legislation, therefore, that is calculated to promote temperance, and at the same time to add to the wealth of the country, should be hailed with satisfaction; and it is to be hoped that ample time will be given to the experiments proposed.

THE *Neue Freie Presse*, of Vienna, one of the leading Liberal organs of the Continent, in a leading article on the London Riots, says:

An old and fatal error has caused Englishmen to lose their heads. The working classes have been allowed to vote, their representatives are admitted to the Crown councils, Lord Salisbury was upset in order to curry favour with the agricultural labourers, and a demand was introduced into the Address which, notwithstanding its harmless appearance, implied nothing less than trifling with those doctrines formerly advocated by the Chartists. The union of the Liberal party was sacrificed to an alliance with the pillars of the Socialist movement. Mr. Gladstone quietly allowed the proud chiefs of the powerful Whig families to leave his camp; in fact he gave up everything for the dream of conciliating the Fenians and Socialists.

THE Mussulmans of India go in thousands every year to Mecca, where, being comparatively wealthy, they are greatly liked and most outrageously fleeced. The Government of India cannot help that, but it can stop the frightful misery endured by the pilgrims in their voyage in rotten Arab dhows across the Arabian Sea, and up the Red Sea to Jeddah. They are often packed like slaves, half-fed, and frequently wrecked, and the consequent loss of life is enormous. The Indian Government has accordingly taken control of the pilgrimages, and has contracted with Messrs. Cook and Company, the well-known English contractors for tourists, to convey all pilgrims in steamers to Jeddah, feed them properly, and carry them back to India in safety. The act is a very kindly though odd thing for the Government to do; and will, no doubt, be welcomed by its Mussulman subjects.

THE Queen of Sweden has had a somewhat similar experience to that of Princess Louise, who at a ball at Ottawa was so warmly shaken by the hand by a certain luminary of the Bench. The United States Minister at the Swedish Court, when lately introduced to Her Majesty, instead of being overcome with nervousness, was, it appears, at once suffused with cordiality, and with the best intentions possible, disdained to confine himself to the customary deferential obeisance, the usual limited conversation, and backing out of the presence. With genuine warmth he seized the Queen's hand, squeezed and shook it heartily, took a seat at her side, and entered into familiar talk about the children and other topics calculated to render him agreeable and entertaining. The only unembarrassed person present was the Minister himself. Other Americans in the same apartment, better versed in the hollow ceremonies usual on such occasions, were unspeakably shocked. The Queen is said to have been amused.

THE *smallest* portions of matter that can exist are known as molecules, and they are so small that it is hopeless to think of ever being able to see them, even through the most powerful microscopes. The *thinnest* piece of matter of which we have any knowledge is the film of a soap-bubble just before it bursts. At this point the thinnest part of the film looks black, and its thickness is known with almost perfect accuracy to be the ten-millionth of a millimetre—say the three-millionth part of an inch. Some recent researches by Professor Rücker, Sir W. Thomson, and Van der Waals, attacking the subject both from a mathematical and a physical point of view, agree well in their estimate of the number of molecules of water which must lie side by side—like bricks—to make up the thickness of the film of water which constitutes a soap bubble. It seems that the number cannot be less than *four* nor more than *seven hundred and twenty*. Twenty-six is perhaps the most probable figure; in which case the diameter of each molecule would be the nine-millionth part of an inch.

THE last new thing in hats, says the *St. James's Gazette*, beats all that has gone before it, and is scarcely likely to be equalled by anything that can follow after it. Herr Luders, of Görlitz, has patented "a photographic hat"—or, as we ought rather to say, a photographing hat. The novel head-dress contains in its upper part a small photographic apparatus and a number of prepared plates. In the front of the hat there is a small circular opening, behind which the lens is fixed. By means of a string on

the outside of the hat, its wearer, whenever he finds himself enjoying a pleasant view or attended by an agreeable person, can instantaneously photograph the landscape, the lady, or the gentleman, unconsciously within range of his instrument. The hat will probably be in demand by two sorts of persons—by lovers and detectives. The former by merely pulling a string, can set the image of his beloved not only in his heart but in his hat. The gelatine-bromide plates in the specimen exhibited by Herr Luders are 38 x 38 millimetres in size; but, if one does not object to wearing a very large hat, the plates may be proportionately increased in size. The potentiality of the hat for police purposes hardly needs to be described.

HERE are two anecdotes of the late Mr. Justice Maule, the first one told by the *St. James's Gazette*, for the benefit of those strong-minded women who are in the habit of frequenting the law courts whenever any particularly sensational case is on trial; and the other offered in a subsequent issue, to the same constituency, by a correspondent of the paper. In the first, Mr. Justice Maule was trying a case involving details generally alluded to by the Press as "unfit for publication." The audience was largely composed of "ladies," to whom his lordship had given more than one broad hint that they had an excellent opportunity of retreating with honour. It cannot be said that the judicial warnings were unheeded; but they did not produce the effect they were intended to. At length there appeared a witness who had failed to emancipate himself from old-fashioned prejudice, and who looked extremely uncomfortable when pressed to recount some facts which could hardly be wrapped up in a decorous circumlocution. First he glanced at the line of bonnets, and then addressed a mute appeal to the judge, who merely said: "Out with it! the ladies don't mind, and you needn't be afraid of me." In the second case, under similar circumstances, his lordship asked the "ladies," of whom there was again a large number present, if they would be so kind as to retire for a short space. Thereupon ensued a general uprisal and a rustling of female habiliments lasting for some minutes; after which it was seen that about half—presumably the more weak-minded half—of the female element of the audience had left. "And now," said Mr. Justice Maule, "that the ladies have retired—usher, clear the court of these women!"

THE following story of the days of the last Cretan insurrection might belong with equal appropriateness to the present. The bellicose attitude of the Greek Government then meant what it did a week or two ago, when the Government was almost ready to let its navy be destroyed, in order to get a good excuse for withdrawing from the untenable position it had been forced into by popular clamour, and at the same time show to Europe that its vast preparations for war had not, as was more than suspected, been mere *blague*:—"One morning," says the *St. James's Gazette*, "amid the most pronounced manifestations of popular enthusiasm, a Greek man-of-war left the Piræus for Candian waters to definitely commit King George's Government to the insurgent cause and break the blockade of Hobart Pasha. The captain made a speech, in which he promised to blow the Anglo-Turk out of the water; and, naturally, when Admiral Hobart heard of all this he looked forward to having a lively time. A few days later he saw the Greek vessel at anchor on the sheltered side of the island. He ranged up and dropped an anchor too. He visited the Hellenic sea-dog, and the captain bold visited him. Next morning the Greek made sail and stood for home. A few months afterwards Admiral Hobart met the descendant of Attic heroes in the streets of Galata and, accosting him, inquired why he had not carried out the menace with which he had left the port of Athens. 'Oh!' replied he of the blue-and-white flag, 'that is easily accounted for. My Government was so anxious to make a show of doing something to please the mob, there being a Ministerial crisis, that I was sent away in a vast hurry, before I had time to get my powder on board!'"

THERE has been a singular mortality of late among the Principals of the Scotch universities. Little more than a year has passed since the decease of Sir Alexander Grant; Principal Shairp expired in September; Dr. Pirie, of Aberdeen, died in November last; and now news comes of the death, on the 13th February, of the other Principal of St. Andrews. Principal Tulloch had been suffering from broken health during all the early winter; but no immediate danger was apprehended till a week before his death, when dangerous symptoms set in. He was in his sixty-third year, in the full force of his fine and vigorous intellect; and his loss to his university and to Scotland, especially at the present crisis of ecclesiastical affairs in the north, is almost incalculable. His liberal and generous intelligence and great popularity gave him a power for good, the absence of which in the counsels of the Scotch Church will be greatly felt. His death