

groves where the trees tower up as straight as ships' masts, and where the dates will soon hang in huge clusters from the feathery crowns. There are vast tracts of orange gardens, where you may for a few pence wander among fragrant groves, plucking and eating the luscious golden fruit as it hangs above your head. There is but little or no tide at Tripoli, and the bright strip of golden shore is like a moving panorama of pictures, such as we never see in our northern clime. Camels are here by the hundred, lying down, rearing, and chewing the cud, or walking along with stately pace, head high in the air; ragged, ill-favored camels; camels with rich, thick, brown fur or hair; light-colored, dark, old and young. The Arabs, swathed from head to foot in blankets, ride or walk alongside, with long fowl-pieces over their shoulders.

Negroes there are in plenty, and of the blackest hue, from the far Soudan, jolly-looking and merry, and, perchance, clothed in many-colored rags. The esparto grass forms one of the chief articles of trade between Tripoli and England. It is found in the desert a few days' journey from Tripoli. Long strings of camels may be constantly seen on the shore making for the various esparto yards, each camel carrying about three hundredweight of grass. The negroes are good steady workers; they pick the grass, throwing out the bad. It is packed into close bales by hydraulic pressure, bound round with iron bands, and is shipped off in steamers to England, where it is converted into paper. The negroes live in colonies among the palm trees, and a visit to their quarters reminds one of books of travel by African explorers. The huts are like beehives in shape, and are entered in the same way by a low, half-round doorway. Each hut owns a small plot of ground which is surrounded by palisading à la Robinson Crusoe, and many of the owners jealously close the door on the appearance of a stranger. The women of the family sit about on the ground making colored baskets, while their charming black babies roll about on the sandy ground enjoying life to the full.

A walk of two or three miles across the breadth of Tripoli brings you to the edge of the Great Desert, the most wonderful sight of the many Tripoli can furnish. Here you may stand among the palm-trees, gazing over a waste of sand, with its distant mountain ridge, a great arid plain, extending away "for six months." Such a vast extent of utter loneliness is awe-inspiring, and it may be revisited again and again without losing its fascinating charm. As you stand gazing over this limitless, uneven plain of sand, a few dark specks appear on the horizon; gradually they draw nearer, winding along like a great black snake; and soon you distinguish the forms of many camels loaded with esparto grass, their Arab owners walking alongside through the hot sand and under a scorching sun. They enter the fringe of palm-trees, and another hour will bring them to their journey's end. The sun is setting, and the scene grows in solemnity; not a bird nor an animal to break the silence; only the burning waste of sand stretching away "for six months." Twilight falls; a crimson flush spreads over the horizon, extending over the sky, and gradually blending through an infinite variety of colors with the deep blue overhead. So we turn away from the edge of the Great Desert of Sahara to wander back to Tripoli through the darkening lanes, under the shadows of the tall, ghostly palm-trees.—*Graphic*.

PUBLIC OPINION.

London Advertiser: The Baptist Young People of Canada and the United States have held a most successful convention in Toronto, in which several thousands of delegates have participated. The representatives are a fine type of people, as was to be expected in a Church of the standing and influence of the Baptist Church on this continent. This denomination has always occupied advanced ground in Ontario and in the Dominion.

St. John Telegraph: The tariff contest between the United States House of Representatives and the Senate is now fairly on, and the result will be awaited with interest. The Democratic party, which is pledged to tariff reform, has been "held up" by a set of thieves and brigands in the Senate, who, although Democrats in name, are in league with the trusts and combines, and have been using their positions to fill their pockets, and protect monopolists in their own state. As their crime against political honesty is one unknown to the law they would seem to be very proper candidates for the rude system of justice which prevails in the west and south, under the jurisdiction of Judge Lynch.

Canadian C. G. and Critic: It is important to note that the revenue derived from our system of canals is increasing. This country is so absolutely dependent upon canals to move her agricultural produce cheaply to the ocean, that the traffic returns should be closely watched by the people. According to statistics last issued by the Government for the fiscal year the net canal revenue was \$375,089, as against \$324,475 for the previous year, an increase of \$50,614. The number of tons of freight moved on the Welland canal was 955,554, of which 528,569 tons were agricultural products. On the St. Lawrence canals the quantity moved was 966,775 tons, of which 464,572 were agricultural products. On Ottawa canals the total quantity of tons moved was 647,811, and so on. The railways are not in this by any means.

Manitoba Free Press: The question as to the class of schools that should be established by the Government is one distinct from the matter recently in contention at Ottawa. The division of opinion is between purely secular schools (or godless schools as some call them) and schools in which the Deity is recognized. There is a good deal of backing and filling to get round this point, but it is better to come directly to it. If the schools are to be conducted without any semblance of religious teaching, the youth of the country will grow up without knowledge or care for any controlling influence beyond mundane regulations. The plea that the schools should only teach reading, writing and arithmetic, etc., and that religious education is a home duty is an evasion of the question. In a large proportion of the homes there is neither time nor opportunity for imparting religious instruction. If the children are not taught the existence of responsibility to a supernatural power, a great many of them will not learn it at all, or will learn the name of that power only to use it in giving force, or what they imagine to be force, to expressions of disapproval.

The gratification of wealth is not found in mere possession nor in lavish expenditure; but in its wise application.—*Cervantes*.

THE VERY THING FOR CHILDREN



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IN JAPAN.

"Come, little pigeon, all weary with play,
Come and thy pinions furl."
That's what a Japanese mother would say
To her dear little Japanese girl.
"Cease to flutter thy white, white wings,
Now that the day is dead.
Listen and dream while the mother-bird sings
That means, "It's time for bed."

"Stay, little sunbeam, and cherish me here:
My heart is so cold when you roam."
That is the Japanese—"No, my dear:
I'd rather you played at home."
"Roses and lilies shall strew thy way:
The Sun-goddess now has smiled."
That's what a Japanese mother would say
To a good little Japanese child.

—*Juliet Wilbur Tompkins, in St. Nicholas*.

FLIGHT OF THE FRIGATE BIRD.

Mr. J. Lancaster, who has spent five years upon the west coast of Florida in the study of the habits of aquatic birds, of which he has made a specialty, asserts that he has seen frigate birds fly for seven consecutive days, night and day, without ever resting. According to his observations the fatigue of these birds is not excessive, even in such long continuances in the air. In fact the frigate bird can easily, and almost without a flap of the wings, not only maintain itself, but also fly with a speed of nearly a hundred miles an hour. The spread of the wings extended varies between eleven and thirteen feet. It feeds, gathers materials for its nest here and there, and even sleeps on the wing. This well proves that in this bird the motion of the wings is, in a manner, independent of the will. The albatross, which also has been the subject of Mr. Lancaster's observations, is larger than the frigate bird, its wing-spread reaching at least sixteen feet; but if it follows ships at sea for a long time, it is always obliged to take a rest upon a rock or upon the ship itself at the end of about four or five days.—*London Public Opinion*.

At Nerano there is a break in the cliffs, and the overhanging hills slope more gently down to the water's edge. Above, in the shoulder of the mountain, below the sharp-peaked Santo Constanzo, lies a little village called Termini. The fishermen say and believe that Christ, when He had walked over the whole earth with His disciples, reached this point, and declared that it was the end of the world; hence the name.—*Coasting by Sorrento and Amalfi, by Marion Crawford, in the Century*.