

and things: He is called a farmer, yet he is not a farmer. He scratches the ground a little, and raises a few ears of corn, and perhaps a little of something else. He does not take the trouble to clear up the land, fence it care for it, and improve it with a view to making a permanent home. He moves quite often, going back into the country as fast as intelligent and enterprising settlers take up land in his vicinity. He either does not like their "new-fangled" notions and ways, or he has no disposition nor energy to compete with them, therefore he moves. He smokes and chews tobacco, if he can get it, if not, then some sort of bark is used instead.

He is also credited with being a clay-eater; and to this habit some have attributed his peculiar appearance. At least once a week the cracker must visit the nearest town or village. He generally owns a mule or a steer and a cart. Sometimes he may have something to take to market—a little game he has caught, a bunch of bananas, or something of that sort. But whether there is anything to take or not, he must go all the same. The mule and the cart are put together. If there is anything to take it is put into the cart; sometimes the wife—"the old 'oman," as she is called—and the children are also stowed in. The cracker himself mounts the mule; this he does when the cart is empty as well as when it is full. It is probable that if he had a first-class buggy he would still ride astride the mule and draw the empty buggy. If the mule happens to be small—and there are many very small ones in Florida—and the cracker's feet come too near the ground he draws them up and rests them on the shafts. Thus mounted—his knees high up in the air, somewhere in the vicinity of his chin—he jogs along any number of miles to the nearest town or village. Arrived there he is likely—if he has anything to sell—to drive under the shade of a convenient tree and, still sitting on the mule, his knees cocked up in the air, wait any length of time till some purchaser chances along. The day spent in town, he goes home happy, sure to put in an appearance again within a week. The cracker woman is very like her husband in every respect except that she wears skirts and rides in the cart. The juvenile crackers have a prematurely old appearance. It is said that they look old from their birth. While I cannot vouch for this statement, I do know that the boys and girls have a very old and wretched look. Yet, perhaps they are as happy as many who look happier. The cracker is credited with considerable shrewdness, or rather cunning. He is not immoral in the worst sense. He is hospitable to the extent of his ability. But he dislikes progress, and so runs away from his enterprising fellow-citizens. Probably the class will, in a few years, become extinct, or so reduced as to be scarcely recognizable. It is not very many years since there were in New Brunswick classes of people in many respects very like the crackers, but they are nearly extinct now. So it will be with the Floridian cracker.—*Religious Intelligencer*.

TOO MUCH CANDOUR.

Can there be too much candour? Undoubtedly, there is too much of it in the family. Do you ever think, my plain-spoken friend, what an armour of defence for people who meet in every-day society is found in politeness? It is possible to associate agreeably for years with men and women who are in many points our opposites, perhaps our inferiors, simply because we do not blurt out, in a blunt way, our inner thoughts about everything concerning them. It is only in our own houses that some of us do not take the trouble to utter thanks, as we ought, for little services kindly rendered, that we remark on pale and sallow complexions and unbecoming dresses with amazing frankness, and that, in short, we make ourselves disagreeable when, with ease, we could be charming.

Many a good man, following the Lord in singleness of heart, does anything but commend religion at home, because he is bitter when he ought to be sweet, snappish when he should instead be patient, or satirical when a soothing word from his lips would smooth household frictions away. Many a saintly woman is fretful and unreasonable, and though often in her closet, does not come from it with a shining face. If religion is genuine it should help us to triumph over little troubles, and in most lives little troubles, too petty to be spoken of, far outweigh the great losses and calamities.

One of the petty home faults, from which springs a brood of perplexities and heart-burnings, is a brusque and pitiless candour, which hurts the sensitive and jars upon the irritable. Be truthful, honest and open, but do not plume yourself on the possession of these qualities, because with rude and needless criticisms you go on your way, giving thrusts instead of caresses, and setting matches to home explosives, when instead your speech should distill as the dew.

HEALTH AND DIRT.

If, from inattention to cleanliness or from other cause, the pores of the skin become obstructed or filled up, those impurities of the blood which nature intended they should throw off are again taken into the system, and the body suffers from either general or local disease. Perspiration, then, is not only necessary to the health of the body by clearing it of impurities, but is required to equalize the temperature of the surface, and to keep the function of feeling always in a perfect and active state. The exhalation from the skin, whether it be in the form of sensible or insensible perspiration, consists of water, carbonic acid, nitrogen, ammonia, lactic, or acetic acid, osmazone, and several salts—in fact, all the refuse or surplus material which the system finds it necessary to throw off in order to give healthy exercise to its functions. The quantity of carbonic acid and nitrogen given off daily varies greatly, the first sometimes predominating, sometimes the latter; so also of the other constituents. As a rule, however, nitrogen is in excess after animal food, and carbonic acid after a vegetable diet. During the twenty-four hours a healthy man would pass off, in this way, about two pounds weight of refuse matter. The amount is always increased by muscular exertion and a dry warm atmosphere, and is greatly lessened

by repose and a cold, moist atmosphere. But there is one fact which cannot be too forcibly impressed on our minds; viz., that if these organs of respiration and inspiration are, by a want of cleanliness, by carelessness or neglect, clogged up and prevented from performing their natural office, the whole of the complicated machinery of man is necessarily deranged and debilitated, and an interminable series of painful and tedious maladies engendered. But the evil does not rest here: the mental faculties are deteriorated, dwarfed, and demoralized, as bodily cleanliness is neglected. The poet of Nature, Thomson, says:

"E'en from the body's purity, the mind
Receives a secret sympathetic aid."

Those of us who have resided for any length of time in large towns or cities can cordially re-echo the truth that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness;" for hundreds of thousands of valuable and useful lives might be annually saved to the community, and rescued from the ravages of cholera, typhoid, small-pox, scrofula, and skin diseases of all kinds, if soap and water were but freely used. Want of cleanliness has caused more misery, desolated homes, originated more crime and dissipation, and peopled more churchyards than all the wars that have ever been fought since the creation of the world. Health and dirt can no more co-exist than oil and water can combine; and while sanitary and hygienic laws are ignored, and even common decency defied in matters of personal and household cleanliness, disease and death must of necessity pervade the land.

LES SOUVENIRS.

It may be only a rosebud
That grew in a favourite nook,
It may be only a ribbon
That marked the place in a book,
Or a hastily-pencilled letter;
Any trifle is dear,
When happy days have departed,
To keep as a souvenir.

Not that on rose or ribbon
Thoughts of the past depend,
Not that we need the letter
Lest we forget the friend;
Faithful and true together,
True and faithful apart,
Absence but makes the brighter
The kindled glow in the heart.

Only 'tis sometimes pleasant,
When we the past recall,
To look on these dear mementoes,
Pleasant, though sad, withal.
Never would we unclasp them,
They are the firm, the fast,
The beautiful links that bind us
Close, so close to the past.

That we almost see the faces,
Bright and kind as of yore;
That we almost hear the footsteps
Coming in at the door.
Yes, though the old days ever
Will be to our hearts most dear,
More vivid the fond remembrance
Because of a souvenir.

Perhaps—if we only knew it—
Someone now far away
May keep a book, or a flower,
Because it was ours one day.
Pleasant the passing fancy,
But would that the friend most dear
Might really, for our sake only,
Cherish some souvenir.

—*Ethelwyn.*

FAMILY DISCIPLINE AMONG THE MONKEYS.

From the moment that a young monkey is weaned he has to steal, for Dr. Brehm's observation applies strictly and literally to every species of quadrumania; the mother monkey robs from her own child and forces it to eat its food by stealth. The proprietor of the "Zoological Coffee-Garden" in Savannah, Georgia, has been very successful in rearing young monkeys, and the visitors of his happy-family department can witness the same scene thrice a day—a number of half grown capuchin babies fleeing from the wrath of their own parents. As soon as the dinner-bucket is brought in the youngsters hide in the corner and watch their opportunity, for while their seniors are feeding there is no hope of a crumb or a drop of milk; but sooner or later the old ones are sure to fall out, and during a general scrimmage for a tidbit sometimes get a chance at the bucket and take care to make the best of it. But woe unto them if their progenitors catch them *in flagranti*. Sires, mothers, and aunts combine to avenge the sacrilege, and the noise of the punishment often sets the whole menagerie agog. I have seen a she-macaque jamming her bantling up against the wall and extracting from its cheek pouches the gifts of a charitable visitor, together with all the crumbs and scraps the little one had gleaned from the floor and then adding outrage to injury by cuffing the victims ears.—*Dr. Orvald in Popular Science Monthly*.

A REPRESENTATIVE of the King of Kalakua, of Hawaiian, was present at the coronation of the Czar.

We cannot lecture men into the love of Christ: we can but win them to it by showing Christ's love to them; and not the least important element in that process is the exhibition of our own love. We have a Gospel to speak of which the very heart is that the Son of God stooped to become one with the lowliest and most sinful and how can that Gospel be spoken with power, unless we, too, stoop like Him.—*Alexander MacLaren*.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

IN twenty-nine months the population of Berlin has increased 80,000.

THE day population of Cornhill, London, is estimated at 3,907; the night at 248.

A MINISTER's widow has been appointed registrar of births and deaths at Woolwich.

THE London missionary society reports an income during the past year of £127,628.

THE jewellery presented to the Duchess of Genoa on her recent marriage is valued at \$50,000.

IT is calculated that fifty Atlantic liners will be able to lie broadside on the quay now being made at Antwerp.

THE Earl of Aberdeen is Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland.

THE Jews have a working-men's club in London, to which the women are freely admitted. It is conducted on temperance principles.

THE mortality of Berlin for 1882 was 25.9, a remarkably small rate as compared with former years; from 1875 to 1881 it varied from 32.9 to 27.2.

THE faithful of Cologne met on April 22 to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Archbishop Melcher's episcopate. Bismark still keeps him in exile.

DR. CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, author of "The Life and Words of Christ," "Hours with the Bible," etc., has accepted the living of St. Mary's, Barnstable.

THE population of Ulster is divided as follows: Catholics, 831,784; Protestant Episcopalians, 377,936; Presbyterians and Methodists, 500,601; all others, including Jews, 28,554.

DR. W. B. ROBERTSON of Irvine, Scotland, has been preaching for two Sundays to great crowds at Cambridge. The extent to which he is appreciated there will be more easily conceived when it is mentioned that each service lasted two hours.

THE Earl of Dunraven on the 8th May proposed a motion in the British Upper House in favour of opening national museums and galleries on Sunday; but it was rejected by a majority of 91 to 67.

A REPORT of the Belgian Consul at Shanghai shows that the commercial treaties concluded with China by Germany, the United States, and Russia during 1880-81 have led to an enormous increase of business.

THE three leading evangelical noblemen of England, Earl Cairns, the Earl of Chichester, and the Earl of Shaftesbury, differ widely in politics. The first is a Conservative, the second a Liberal, and the third has never been identified with either party.

LORD BRACONFIELD's fancy for primroses is said to be due to the circumstance that old Mrs. Williams of Torquay, who left him £200,000, always had bunches put in his room, and he made a point of coming down to dinner with one of them in his buttonhole.

CLAPP & DAVIES, wholesale jewellers of Chicago, put a detective on the tracks of their twenty-five clerks, and found that the peculator to a large extent was the most trusted of the lot. He was on the eve of marriage to a beautiful girl of good position.

AN arrangement has been come to between the Friendly Society, which lost so heavily through Donald Peddie's defalcation, and Dr. Peddie's family. The society is to receive £4,250 from their late treasurer's estate, and £2,000 from his father's representatives.

THE Nonconformist colleges of England are forming an association with a representative governing body to conduct examinations and to confer degrees. A Royal charter will be asked giving power, and there is every reason to believe that the request will be granted.

THE Right Rev. Daniel Fox Sandford, D.D., late of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, who has just been consecrated Bishop of the diocese of Tasmania, is the third son of the late Sir Daniel Keyt Sandford, D.C.L., sometime M.P. for Paisley, and Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow.

M. POMPIEU, in France, has made two ascents with his elongated balloon, carrying four people. Both were successful. In his second he obtained a movement of the balloon in the required direction by the action of his rudder independent of the wind, which appears to be the first time any aeronaut has done so.

THE Church Association in England has resolved to continue the prosecution of ritualistic offenders, and also to make a thorough examination of the existing powers and responsibilities of the executive officers of the Church. In one of the Wolverhampton parishes the people are up in arms against a new ritualistic vicar.

SOUTH BERNERA, where stands the famous light house of the Hebrides, is visited twice a year only by the supply ship, and once a year by a clergyman. The lighthouse stands 700 feet above the sea on a crag. It is very difficult for even a lifeboat to land. There are about twenty people on the island, mainly subsisting on fish, wild fowl, and eggs.

A CHICAGO glove merchant employs girls for clerks. They average well in good looks, but have remarkably big hands. "I won't employ them," said he, "if they can wear less than No. 8 gloves. I mean that their hands shall always be larger than those of the customers, who are flattered by the contrast, and thereby put into a good humour for making purchases."

THE agitation against the Salvation Army in Neuchâtel is assuming formidable dimensions, and the peace of the town is seriously threatened. The Salvationists are stoned as they pass through the streets, and a few nights ago the windows of a house in which they had assembled were broken. At a public meeting held, resolutions were passed denouncing the army as a nuisance, and calling on the authorities to expel foreign Salvationists from the canton.