

adopted the badge. Unfortunately, however, the effect is said not to be very lasting in a large number of instances, and a correspondent cites a case of a household in which all four of the servants appeared one day with the new decoration, but in a week or ten days all four were taking their beer—part of the stipulated wages of most English servants—as usual. Still there can be no doubt that the movement has done real and lasting good, and the proof of this lies in the statistics of the liquor traffic, the revenues of which have considerably decreased in the last few months, a fact which of itself speaks volumes. A writer in one of the London papers suggests the introduction of lager beer as a wholesome and non-intoxicating stimulant; a sensible suggestion, with which, however, I am afraid, rabid total abstinents will hardly agree.

SPEAKING of lager beer, one is naturally led to comment on the curious mis-use of the term, as it is commonly employed here and in the States. "Lager" beer in Germany is simply, as its name implies, beer which has been bottled and laid by for a certain time, "old beer," in fact. Any and every brand of beer may become "lager" by the simple process of keeping, and one who should ask for the article in Germany would simply express his preference for old, instead of fresh ale. The term, I presume, came in the States to be applied, on account of its nationality, to beer brewed on the German principle, with, that is to say, the minimum of alcohol to the maximum of dextrine, and in its new meaning has apparently reached England on its way back to the country which gave it birth, and which will hardly recognize the bantling in its altered meaning.

PEOPLE have been talking here and in London of the tremendous effect which the visit of Moody and Sankey to Oxford has produced upon the undergraduates of that university. I was sceptical, myself, from the first, since I know somewhat of the characteristics of the class in question, but a correspondent writing from Oxford confirms me in my view. As a matter of fact, the American revivalists had already been preceded by the Salvation Army, an institution appealing to the same limited number of sensational souls, and on that account were the less successful in arousing even the curiosity of the younger members of the university. I have no fault to find with the efforts of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, but I have no hesitation in saying that a worse field for their operations could hardly be found than an English university; not, be it said, from the thoughtlessness of the students, many of whom are deeply and earnestly interested in religious matters, but because their peculiar method of evangelizing is not, as I should judge from my own experience of it, at all calculated to appeal to an audience which errs, if anything, on the side of over-refinement, and which might be apt to compare the utterances of Mr. Moody with those of Dr. Pusey, Canon Liddon, or the host of eminent preachers who Sunday by Sunday fill the pulpit of St. Mary's.

SOME excitement is breaking out respecting all the people who cannot marry in Italy. Among these are thirty thousand and more priests, and twenty thousand officers of the army and navy, who are not allowed to marry. School-mistresses may not marry either, nor telegraphists, nor any other woman who is employed by Government. This is impolitic, cruel and immoral. As for school-mistresses not being allowed to marry, this is worse than madness, for no woman can teach children better, or so well, as married women—women who have or who have had children of their own, and who thus understand children and their management better than those who have never the word "mother" whispered to them. Very young girls also make good teachers for very young children, for they have not forgotten quite what it is to be a child; but to deny these poor girls the right of marrying, under penalty of losing their bread, is worse than cruelty—it is unchristian and immoral. To save their places, girls will contract marriages unrecognized by the State, however blessed, perhaps, by the Church. Efforts are being made to change this state of things. The Italian

Government does not allow nuns to be made; yet it forbids school-mistresses, telegraphists, etc., to marry. Where is the difference between a nun and a forced unmarried school-mistress or telegraphist?"

THE NEW "PALACE OF JUSTICE."

The building in the Strand which is to serve the purposes of the Royal Courts of Justice has at length been opened by Her Majesty.

The new building for the Courts of Law is undoubtedly one of which London may justly be proud. It possesses many great architectural merits, and will certainly add to the reputation of its talented and lamented architect.

As far as historical interest is concerned, the Law Courts must certainly lose by their removal from the glorious associations of Westminster to such a site as this. "Rogues' Lane" and "Cadgers' Hall" are poor recollections, and form a sad contrast to "The Palace of Westminster," with Richard II.'s magnificent Hall, which once contained that marble throne and bench upon which our Monarchs sat and tried cases in person, thus originating and giving a name to the Court of "King's Bench," and where, some centuries later, the case was reversed, and a Monarch was brought up to be tried by his own subjects.

But unfortunately the removal of the Law Courts was absolutely necessary, and a convenient building, with all modern appliances, even upon the very unromantic site of "Rogues' Lane" and "Cadgers' Hall," is more beneficial to both the lawyers and the public at large than ill-constructed, unhealthy, and insufficient Courts on the site of the Old Palace of Westminster. In fact, the idea of removing the Courts from Westminster and connecting them in some way with those situated at and near Lincoln's Inn is no new one, for so long back as 1840, Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Barry designed a large building for the purpose, which was proposed to be erected upon the Garden of Lincoln's Inn. The plan was, however, abandoned for want of funds; and little was done in behalf of the scheme until the year 1865, when an Act of Parliament was passed empowering the Commissioners to purchase a suitable site, and to erect a building out of funds partly supplied by a million of money taken from what is called the "Suitsors' Fund," or, in other words, from "the unclaimed interest due upon stocks standing to the credit of suitsors in the Court of Chancery, and partly from certain legal taxes and charges made in other Courts." The foundation-stone of the present building was laid in 1874, Mr. E. G. Street being chosen as Architect, and the contract for building being let to Messrs. Bull Brothers.

GIRL AND BOY MARRIAGES.

It is beyond doubt the natural disposition and tendency of young men and women in this country to be married and have a home for a family to rejoice in; but it is a misfortune that boys and girls have such thoughts too. There are frequently occurring biters in the cup of domestic felicity; the married man may not be so amiable as he was in the bachelor state, and the bride may be something less than the angel she was supposed to be in the poetic imagination of the lover. It has never been defined at what age a boy thinks of having a sweetheart, nor how early a girl child has an incipient fondness for a doll. But there are infelicities which dull the brightness of the picture.

A woman, it has been cynically remarked, "can, if she be so minded, very nearly raise herself to the dignity and status of man. As a *franc sol* she can dress, and sometimes does dress, like a man; she can go to college like a man; she can practise medicine like a man; and she can engage in business and become a bankrupt like a man." The worst of the matter is a belief that women have declined in domestic and commercial value, notwithstanding the augmentation of their political consequence; it is impossible to imagine her fulfilling her natural destiny as the help-meet of man with a mind disturbed and inflated by the new notions which she hears of. A girl of sixteen married to a boy not much older cannot possibly understand the duties of domestic life. The young husband misses them. For six months they may live upon the love, or what they may call love, which has brought them together; and then they discover what a mistake they have made, though incapable of analysing it. There is indeed throughout the several classes of which Society is composed, too little thought of needful preparation for marriage; and it might be a good thing if clergymen were to be empowered to dismiss ungratified such applicants for matrimony as were found incapable of explaining its responsibilities. It is quite true that there are girls of sixteen as wise and good as women of double that age, but a majority only imagine their superiority to the foolish of their sex, and blindly rush into marriage; the consequence being disappointment and misery.

There would be less poverty, less suffering, less family discord, and less infidelity if more thoughtful supervision was exercised, and more kindly information given to girls and boys just thinking of "keeping company" than is indicated in the early marriages referred to. It is not among the working classes alone such instruction is wanting. In all classes there are girls growing up to womanhood who will never possess a sufficiency of common sense for the fulfilment of womanly duties and content to be

women. What we want is more sensible and less flighty women. A great deal of the responsibility of the present defective system of female education rests with parents. Girls are mere playthings, and boys too, for the matter of that, when they are small, amusing, and pretty. Petted and spoiled, over-dressed and over-caressed, they grow up in a world of dreams, so to speak, in wealthy homes, a kind of artificial paradise. Surprise should not be expressed when they are treated merely as playthings. Animated dolls fall fatally in estimation as soon as the extent of their capabilities is discovered.

Our girls are not taught to do anything thoroughly. They play a little, they sing a little, more often than not very badly; they paint, perhaps, a little, and speak a little French, German, or Italian, but should a reverse of fortune occur they cannot teach one of their accomplishments, they cannot even cut out a gown or mend a shirt. What they like best is to angle for husbands. When the object is caught they don't know what to do with him.

Early marriages produce early neglects. The girl-wife and the boy-husband grow tired of each other. They had not acquired a knowledge of the delights of constancy. They had lively companions while they were free, and now sigh for a return of the old companionship; then they step over the threshold and create the envy of unmarried girls by a display of bold independence; but the glory of that soon passes away and misfortunes of a neglected home appear. The bride of a summer makes no provision for winter. The young husband also has companions, and there being no care for the comforts of home he seeks it in the old haunts, divides his thoughts until it possesses them entirely. There is dullness at home, but he is at no loss in finding "merry, merry boys" elsewhere. Then as family cares increase, the money at command is not enough for supplying necessities for the family. Here the tale of misery begins. The premature woman before she is out of her teens becomes acquainted with the worst griefs of human life. It is a common thing for seniors to talk of "boy and girl love," scornfully or jocosely; but it is too serious for scorn or laughter. Left by themselves to walk into matrimony, it is no wonder so many fall.

TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES IN MEXICO

The difficulties attending the transportation of heavy freight in the mountain districts of Mexico are but inadequately appreciated by the general public. In many cases, these difficulties are so great that nothing but indomitable pluck and patience can overcome them, and even the resources and skill of the most courageous are sometimes taxed to the utmost in the struggle with obstacles which nature has reared in the path of enterprise. A vivid idea of these difficulties is presented by our illustrations, which show the methods by which a mining company transported machinery to its works in the bottom of a deep barranca, or ravine, in the canton of Jalacingo, State of Vera Cruz. The machinery having been carried by mule tramway from Vera Cruz to Jalapa, a distance of sixty-five miles, it was transported into the mountains, a distance of forty miles, where an altitude of 9,000 feet was reached—the mountains still rising above the road to an elevation of 16,000 feet. Thence the freighting was continued. This was by far the most difficult part of the undertaking, as it had to be accomplished on the heads of the Peones (natives) over roads but three to four feet wide, with heavy grades, where no animal can pass. These roads wind around the rugged and precipitous sides of the barrancas which themselves (in the rainy season) are filled almost continually with mists and clouds, making the roads slippery and dangerous to travel empty-handed, not to speak of being burdened by heavy loads of machinery. In carrying, the burden is first tied to poles; to these are then fastened straps, which pass over the forehead of the bearer. Our third picture represents a piece of machinery too heavy to be carried; this is mounted on a forked tree and then dragged along by the natives. Sometimes when rises occurred in the road one hundred natives and eight yoke of oxen were used on one piece of machinery.

The machinery having finally been carried to an elevation of 12,500 feet, it was lowered into the ravine where the works are located, and which are otherwise inaccessible for freight.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

Paris, Dec. 16.

BOTTO, the composer of *Mephistofele*, is at Brussels, superintending the production of his opera, entitled *Nerone*.

In the forest of St. Germain the other day there was a duel fought with pistols; the combatants fired, and both fell. The seconds hurried up and picked up the bodies—neither was wounded.

In January there will be an assemblage at Monaco of all the best pistol shots of the world. Valuable prizes will be given, and some betting done, to make the matter more generally interesting.

The great shooting party of the year at Fer-

rières, the seat of the Baron de Rothschild, has been more than usually brilliant. Lord Grey was duly proclaimed "King of the Field," having made a bag of 302 pheasants.

THE Princess Dolgorouki is at the Hotel Bristol, living in complete retirement. Her chief pre-occupation, after her children, is found in a troop of dogs, which her Highness takes everywhere with her, looking after them herself.

SOME one of a very imaginative and inventive turn has proposed in a French paper that when the French have bored the Channel tunnel through to within three miles of our shores, and dare not attempt any further approach, they should construct a fort there and a landing place for steamers, so that the sea-sick people may have only three miles of trouble.

A VERY curious circumstance has just occurred in the Department of Puy de Dôme. An entire commune in that department, headed by the mayor and the municipal council, have become suddenly converted to the Protestant faith. This conversion arose from the refusal of the Bishop of Clermont, in whose diocese Châtel-Guyon is situated, to remove the curate of the district. In consequence of this refusal the inhabitants of Châtel-Guyon resolved to quit Catholicism *en masse*.

A COLLECTION of "Old Boots" is shortly to be shown at the Musée de Cluny. The statement is decidedly vague, but it probably means a collection of boots of former times to illustrate the history of boot-making. This will decidedly be an interesting exhibition, and if the makers of the present day can pick up a wrinkle or two, which they very much need, from their predecessors, an important gain will be the result. Boots, like hats, are not perfection at the present time, and anything that can show the way to an improvement in either would be very welcome. It would not be a bad idea for the directors of the musée, while they are about it, to add to their collection of "Old Boots" a general assemblage of "Old Hats." They would not be difficult to find.

THE restoration of the southern front of the Palais de Justice at Paris has necessitated the disappearance of a street, the Rue de Jérusalem, which has left its mark on the city's annals. It was a short thoroughfare, about eighty yards in length, with only seven houses on one side, and gave access to the Prefecture of Police. Midway it was joined by the Rue de Nazareth, these names originating in the fact that the numerous pilgrims who mustered in Paris from the French provinces on their way to Judea were in the habit of lodging in quarters in the neighborhood of the Cité. The house numbered five in the Rue de Jérusalem has been removed with so much care that its stones can be put together in another locality. It was in this house that Jacques Gillot, Canon of the Sainte-Chapelle, the erudite political writer, born about the middle of the 16th century, lived and died; and it was from this place that he edited the satire, "Ménippée," held to be a chef-d'œuvre of genius and *esprit Gaulois*.

THE old fête of the "Beuf-Gras" is, it is reported, to be revived next year, and Paris will see a fat bullock decked with garlands of flowers drawn on a wagon decorated with flags through her streets escorted by bands of *déguisés* and accompanied by music. When the procession was suppressed a few years ago the last remnant of the carnival died with it, for the few eccentric men and women who dress themselves up and parade the streets of the capital on Shrove Tuesday are only sufficient to prove that the old festival no longer survives. There used to be much fun and humor among the maskers, but the affair was said to interfere too much with business, which probably it did, and so fell into disrepute. Should the fête be revived, it is stated the bullock will be offered as the chief prize in a lottery to be drawn the same evening. As there is a rage for lotteries just now, the tickets no doubt will sell well, but will there be an assured purchaser for the animal whoever will win it? It might fall all right, but Paterfamilias would be awkwardly situated if he had to lead his prize home to his family fireside.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Suez Canal tariff has been reduced.

THE Czar's coronation will probably take place in April.

THE Malagasy envoys leave England for Washington next week.

A UNITED STATES war vessel has been ordered to proceed to Madagascar.

NEGOTIATIONS between France and England on the Egyptian question have come to an end.

THE River Seine is rising, and many houses in the vicinity of Paris have been washed away.

THE inundations in Europe still continue, and, in Germany, are taking the shape of a great public catastrophe.

THE Secretary of State has advised Her Majesty not to disallow the Act legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister, passed by the Dominion Parliament. The Act is consequently now in force in the Dominion.