

The following is from a recent number of the Leisure Hour:—The metropolis of the British Empire, the largest city the world ever saw, covers, within fifteen miles radius of Charring Cross, nearly 700 square miles, and numbers within these boundaries 4,000,000 of inhabitants. It comprises 100,000 foreigners from every region of the globe. It contains more Jews than the whole of Palestine, more Roman Catholics than Rome itself, more Irish than Dublin, more Scotchmen than Edinburgh. The port of London has every day on its waters 1,000 ships and 9,000 sailers. Up of 120 persons are added to the population daily, or 40,000 yearly, a birth taking place every five minutes and a death every eight minutes. On an average, twenty-eight miles of streets are opened and 9,000 new houses built every year. In its postal districts there is a yearly delivery of 238 millions of letters. On the police register there are the names of 120,000 habitual criminals, increasing by many thousands every year. More than one-third of all the crime of the country is committed in London, or at least brought to light there. There are as many beadshops and zinc palaces as would, if their fronts were placed side by side, reach from Charing Cross to Portsmouth, a distance of seventy-three miles, and 88,000 drunks are annually brought before its magistrates. The shops open on Sundays would form streets sixty miles long. It is estimated that there are above a million of the people who are practically heathen, wholly neglecting the ordinances of religion. At least 900 additional churches and chapels would be required for the wants of the people.

An Englishman has just accomplished the ascent of Mount Blanc at a time of the year when no tourist had ever ventured on the attempt. Mr. Kennedy, member of the English Alpine Club, set out from Chamonix on May 16th, accompanied by two guides, and reached the Grands Mulets at four in the afternoon. The following day the party started at three in the morning for the summit, and after contending with the difficulties of the snow giving way under their feet, and of a burning sun, they arrived at the Grand Plateau. From that point the surface was firmer, so that they were enabled to attain the highest point toward noon, and there the travellers planted an alpenstock, and drank a bottle of champagne, "in honor of the tourist world, past, present, and to come." Owing to the intense heat the descent was difficult, but it was safely effected at eight in the evening.

The Baroness Burdett Coutts, writes to the Spectator, urging the importance of the movement initiated by the Highland Agricultural Society, and by the Greenock School Board, to impress humanity on the children of primary schools during their school life. Her ladyship says:—"It is to such efforts that we must look for relief from the stigma of cruelty which at present rests on our civilization, and threatens our social life with such deep wounds. Let us teach the next generation better, and unitedly in our varying degrees bring a wholesome sound public opinion to bear on these subjects. And let us begin with the young, and teach them humanity, by consideration and kindness to animals, the first exercises over which they exercise early control."

The Chinese Government has for some time past been making arrangements in Europe with a view to the defence of the coast and principal rivers of the Empire. Engineering works on an extensive scale, and supplied with formidable artillery, are about to be constructed at various strategic points, and the general system of defence has been confided to Major-General Ripley, formerly of the United States Army, but who went over to the Confederates at the outbreak of the civil war. Gen. Ripley was in command at Charleston when hostilities commenced. He is now in England, but will sail for China in a few days, preceded by other artillery officers whose services the Government of China has secured.

Make thy recreation servant to thy business, lest thou become slave to thy recreation.—Quarles.

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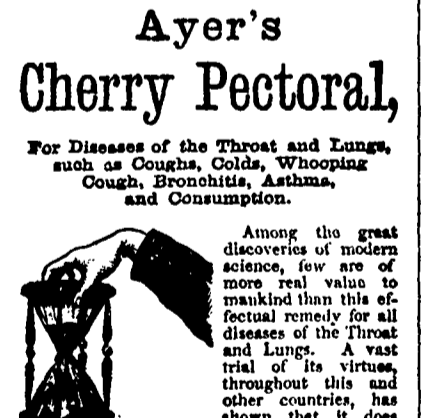
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