

ing pipe. The great r the force with which the engine is played, the stronger is the stream of water which issues from it to put out the flames.

Edmund.—Fire-engines are indeed useful things, and I only wonder that we have thought so little about them.

Traveller.—In the country there is comparatively little occasion to employ them, but in large towns and cities they are frequently required. It has been said, that in the city of London, scarcely a day and a night pass during the winter, without a fire taking place in one part or other.

Edmund.—Where there are so many houses, and so close together, a fire must be a dreadful thing.

Gilbert.—Ay, I shall not forget the account of the great fire of London.

Traveller.—Human beings are always surrounded by dangers of one kind or other, and we know not how often God preserves us from them. If we did, we should more frequently than we now do rep at the beautiful language of the 103d Psalm, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies." There are many inventions connected with the preservation of human beings in different situations, which would require much time to explain. I have seen at least a dozen different kinds of fire escapes, to enable persons to get away from houses when on fire.

Gilbert.—O do describe some of them.

Traveller.—The unfortunate inhabitants of a house on fire, too frequently lose their presence of mind, and thereby greatly increase their danger. This is not to be wondered at; for as fires take place more frequently by night than by day, persons are often roused out of a sound sleep, and before they are thoroughly awake, fear takes possession of their faculties. I once saw a fire-escape, which appeared to be a very excellent one. It consisted of a light arm-chair, with two hooks to fasten it to the window frame; at the back of the chair was a strong spiral spring, to which was fastened the broad tapes which supported the chair. This machine was fastened to the upper window of a house four stories high, and first a man got into it; the chair descended at a steady pace, till the man was safe on the ground. The strong spring then drew up the chair, when a woman got through the window and seated herself in like manner, and was let down without the slightest accident. The chair once more ascended, and two children came down in it, to the great admiration of the crowd assembled in the street.

Gilbert.—Every body ought to have such a fire-escape as that.

Edmund.—But there are hundreds of people who would be afraid of getting out of a four-storied house window, and sitting in the chair. It would be of no use at all to them.

Traveller.—True, it would only help those who had presence of mind enough to help themselves. Another fire-escape is on a very different plan, it is intended to help those who are perfectly helpless. A man ties a strong rope to a lamp-post, a common post, or to anything which is strong enough to answer his purpose, opposite the house on fire, or as nearly opposite as he can tie the rope. On this rope slides a large sack, by means of a ring. The man then places a ladder against the window of the house, and ascends it, taking with him the end of the rope. He then gets through the window, makes the end of the rope quite secure to something firm, and then places a man, a woman, or two or three children in the sack, which slides gently down the rope, while he, holding another rope tied to the sack, prevents it running down too rapidly. When the sack is empty, the man again pulls it up by the cord, that another person, or that some part of the property, may be rescued from the flames.

Edmund.—That is a much surer plan than the other, only that the chair-escape might be kept ready in the house, while the other might not be at hand if wanted.

Traveller.—There is a third fire-escape, consisting of a large strong blanket, or sail cloth, or other material, with handles for persons to hold by. This spread out wide, and held by four, six, or eight persons, as circumstances will allow. When a house is on fire, persons may leap out of a high window into this fire-escape with safety.

Gilbert.—What! leap from a high window into a blanket! I could never do that; besides I should think that it would kill any one to do so.

Traveller.—No, that would not be the case, for men have

leaped into these fire-escapes, uninjured, from some high warehouses in London. I do not, however, think that this plan, would ever be available, unless in cases of extreme necessity. It would, perhaps, be a good thing if a strong knotted cord of sufficient length were kept ready in every house in case of fire. A knotted rope is a very simple fire-escape, but it oftentimes has proved a very good one. If tied fast to the bedposts, any person of resolution might come down it with safety. Having spoken of fire-escapes, let us now say a word about water-escapes.

There are numerous inventions for preserving human beings from drowning; blown bladders, and cork jackets, answer the purpose sometimes. There is an excellent life-preserver, consisting of two hollow copper globes fastened together. If this be thrown into the sea, to a sailor or a passenger who has fallen overboard, it will support him without any effort on his part, till a boat can be sent to his assistance. A capital life-raft may also be easily constructed to save sailors in case of shipwreck. Four empty casks are fastened together with any kind of timber that is at hand on board the vessel. A raft may be thus formed which will float with thirty men standing upon it.

(To be Continued.)

NEWS.

A few years ago American papers complained that it was scarcely possible to obtain the conviction of a criminal, however atrocious and notorious his crime might be, if his conviction involved the sentence of death, so averse were American jurors to that punishment; but it is now said that a great change has taken place in the minds of the people on this subject, chiefly attributable to the able and searching public discussion of the question last winter in the city of New York.

REST FOR THE LABORER.—We are glad to see a movement making in favor of this class of citizens. The laws of Nature require, and the laws of God have set apart fixed days for relaxation, so that the mind and the body, worn by care and toil, may recover their tone and vigor. In most of the nations of the earth the people enjoy these privileges. England and America, though claiming to be more enlightened than other countries, take the lead in defrauding the laborer of his days of rest. And with us, avarice will continue thus to triumph over humanity, until, after a free discussion of the question, the laboring community assert their natural rights. The present movement contemplates a desirable change upon our numerous railroads. Should this be accomplished, the reform will soon extend to our steamboats; for this work, when commenced, will be found so conducive to the general happiness that it will complete itself. Capitalists may find their profits slightly diminished, by exempting the poor from manual labour on the Sabbath, but should the cupidity of the few be suffered to encroach upon the health and happiness of the many?—*Albany Evening Journal.*

Several matters of great interest connected with slavery are continually coming before the Congress now in session, and an extraordinary change is perceptible in the feelings of members on this subject.

The American people are waking up to the importance of cheap postage, and the conviction is fast gaining ground that nothing but a uniform postage of two cents will satisfy the country.

Great efforts are making throughout the United States to abolish Sabbath travelling on canals, rail-roads, and stage routes, and there is every appearance that, secondly, as they are, by a great mass of stockholders in railroads, proprietors and masters of canal boats, &c., they will succeed.

THE COST OF WAR.—At the Revolution in 1633, the national debt was little more than half a million, and the interest not forty thousand pounds. Then began our madness and our misery. The war of William that followed the Revolution cost £31,000,000. The war of the Spanish succession, £14,000,000. The Spanish war and Austrian succession, £47,000,000. The seven years war about Nova Scotia, £107,000,000. The war with our American colonies, £151,000,000. The war of the French Revolution, £472,000,000. The war against Bonaparte, £586,000,000. To these must be added the still more terrible fact, that such wars cost England, in one way or another, from four to five million of men.

Among the 178,000,000 individuals who inhabit Europe, there are said to be 17,900,000 beggars, or persons who subsist at the expense of the community without contributing to its resources. In Denmark the proportion is five per cent., in England ten per cent., in Holland fourteen per cent.