THE BERKAN

Pouth's Corner.

" THE ELEPHANT, IS LOOSE." "The elephant is loose! The elephant Such was the cry that we heard from the boys in the street one day last week. Every body seemed to be under excitement. parents were hurrying home to see if their Ninth, we found a great crowd of people, in the midst of whom was the Mayor accompanied by fifty musketeers with their pieces loaded, whilst at the front and rear entrances of the building were stationed two six pounders; londed with grape shot.

It appeared from what we heard, that the great Elephant Columbus had attacked his keeper; he so severely injured him that he has since died of his injuries. For a long while the keepers of the wild beasts were unable to subdue the raving animal, and there was consequently great danger of his getting out into the streets and doing inconceivable damage to life and property. Therefore the Mayor was sent for, and the cannons were loaded and placed before the door-this was a wise and humane precaution.

But how many clephants are loose every day? How many roam about the streets destroying the souls as well as the lives of people; and before how many stores in our city ought well-loaded cannons to be placed to protect the lives of our citizens from worse than death? There ought to be a cannon before that dramshop, for there is an elephant there, and his wounded victims may be seen at times all about our streets.

There ought to be a cannon before that bookstore, for they sell books and prints that defile and ruin souls. And even a wild elephant in a crowd will not do the harm that one bad book will do.

There ought to be a cannon before those theatres and that circus, for out of them comes an evil influence ten times worse than a whole lent, in colour as well as strength, and being of menagerie of wild beasts set loose.

There ought to be a cannon before that billiard-room, for there is an elephant there that such a price, which Icaves a clear profit of 20 destroys hundreds every year.

Boys look out, the Elephant is loose ! And let the Mayor stir about and have his cannons loaded, for he will need them .- Episcopal Re-

The Phil. Ledger gives the following account of curred while the keeper was cleaning and preparing the animal for the afternoon exhibition, in the recess, in which he is kept, when the chain. with which ho is usually fastened to a stake in the ground, being loose, he walked toward the ring.

The keeper called him, and as he did not stop when spoken to, used his goad, and so irritated the animal that he turned and made two passes at the unfortunate man, tossing him for some distance. He fell in front of a cage, containing a hyena and wolf, and this, as well as a stove in front of it, were overturned by the enraged animal, while making a third pass.

The cage fell upon Kelly, fracturing both of his legs; the right one being so severely crushed that ampulation was subsequenty found to be neces-

After this the elephant returned toward the ring, but was driven back to his recess by the powerful dogs belonging to the establishment; but this increased the rago of the animal, and he vented it in breaking up the cage before mentioned as having been overturned, and the animals it contained were set at liberty.

him into the small gangway, near the Western door on Walnut street, where his power for mischief, was prevented, by fastening his tusks by n chain to his fore-feet, and the effectual use of the harpoon accomplished his submission.

The celebrated Herr Driesbach then took the

matter in hand, and, at his command, the animal proceeded to the ring and gave proof of his good humour being restored by the most implicit obedience to all his requirements.

The fear that the enraged animal would demolish the cage of the lion or tigers, thad previously induced the proprietors to have the means at hand overpower him should not succeed.

A cannon was therefore procured, charged with canister, and stationed in front of the building, on Walnut street, to be ready for any emer- and therefore they generally received him gency, but fortunately his submission rendered among "the knowing" at the time of his such a recourse unnecessary, and this valuable coronation at Aix-la-Chapelle. animal took his customary part in the performances last evening.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

one or more of those who attend without feel-inode of proceeding adopted in conducting ing any real pleasure, or any wish to learn. A them. This tribunal arrogated to itself cognipoor excuse is gladly embraced for remaining zance of cases of Heresy, Sorcery, Theft, at home a Sunday or two. The natural disin- Highway-Robbery, and Murder. One of the clination for school is now increased. The child judging by past experience thinks, "the first thing I shall get when I go to school again will be a scolding for having stayed away." However, she is persuaded to go; but her conecture is right. The Teacher (meaning well by secretly affixing the summons to the door of perhaps,) begins with reproving the delinquent his dwelling, or in its vicinity. The accuser before the whole class. The child's proud remained unknown. If upon the third sumheart directly argues, "I thought how it would bo: but if I had known it for certain, I would not have come at all." Instead of good resulting, the least evil probably is a sullenness during the whole lesson, and the Teacher is unable to gain either her obedience or attention.

have correction, and her proud looks are not to ! be feared; but could not the faithful, judicious, and tender Teacher, give the reproof at the child's home-keeping in mind the Scripture rule, (Matt. xviii. 15.) Her return to school is a mark of amendment, and should there be received with a smile of encouragement.

Now then for our motto: "The children children were out in the streets, and if so, to of this world are in their generation wiser than hunt them up and send them home; or if in the children of light." Sinners catice, and the house to keep them there. Upon repair. Thus succeed. Let the children of light adopt ing to the menagerie, in Walnut street by their plan to obtain a very opposite end, doing so with pure motives, having the Lord for their strength.

Those who practically remember the enmity of the carnal mind, will endeavour to lead on wayward children gently, with Christian forbearance and love. We are not only to be harmless as doves, but wise as serpents.

A grand point with a Teacher should be, with every addition to her class, to gain first the affection of the new comers—convince them of her good-will, by any little personal kindness, interest with their friends at home, &c., and there are few who, with this persuasion, will not yield something of self will, and may, indeed, be ruled by the law of love, and seek to please their instructress, whom they find also to be a true and kind friend.

This, attended with a blessing from on high, for it is not by might, or power, but by the Holy Spirit,) may lead to their hearing and receiving the truth as it is in Jesus; and the bread thus east upon the waters, will be found as to lead to combination for putting it down after many days.

"He that winneth souls is wise." Teacher's Visitor.

BEET ROOT SUGAR IN GERMANY .- A letter received from Madgeburg, and dated the 30th ultimo, contains an account of the progress of the production of beet root sugar in Germany :- The price of beet root sugar, which kind has entirely superseded cane sugar in our district, slightly declines from week to week. Good strong loaves manufactured from cane sugar by the refiners at Stettin and Berlin, cost RIS per cwt.; a quality in every respect equivaa pure taste, made here from beet root, sells at \$17. or from 5 to 6 per cent less; and with per cent., our establishments here are found to answer exceedingly well. The progress made in this branch of industry is astounding. The produce of two beet root sugar houses in this neighbourhood, is of such a superior quality that in none of the refineries within the boundthe occurrence with the elephant.-The affair oc- aries of the customs union where cane sugar is used, is an article made which could successfully compete with it. A number of new establishments are being creeted every year in this neighbourhood (within a circuit of from 6 to 8 German miles) on the left banks of the Elbe and in this season the quantity of beet root sugar produced here will exceed 200.000 cwt.

THE VEHM-GERICHT OR SECRET TRIBU-

During the middle ages, when the administration of the laws in Germany, especially in criminal cases, had become scandalously inefficient, the Vehm-Gericht by secret proceedngs assumed functions which it was the public duty of the courts of law to have exercised It took its rise and had its principal seat, in Westphalia; and though the time of its origin is not clearly made out, it is found to have exerted its most frightful power in the four- wood. At the same moment the other prisoteenth and fifteenth conturies. Its judges and familiars were so strictly sworn to secrecy, that who, from the unexpected nature of the assault, neither on its constitution nor its mode of were driven from their posts wounded and un- lines; then starting off leisurely they skim along, proceeding can much be said with certainty, armed. Lieutenant Mansfield, laying hold of stopping capriciously to kiss the coquetting flow-He then re-entered the ring, where he caused a nobleman of the rank of a Count or Prince. some damage to the railing. By dropping a He had the supreme direction of the whole noosed rope into the ring, from the dome of the tribunal, which was divided into several building, his fore-feet became entangled in it, and thus crippled, the keepers succeeded in driving number of Free-Judges had the right to vote upon causes which were submitted to the court; and they also were the persons by whom sentences were carried into effect. Of such Judges, there were some in every province and city of Germany; their number has been stated as high as a hundred thousand. They knew each other by certain signs and pass-words which were not known to the un-initiated hence they were also called "the knowing." They took an awful oath, in which they bound themselves "to help observing the sacred Vehm, keeping it hidden from wife and child, from father and mother, from sister and brofor his destruction, in case that their efforts to ther, from fire and wind, from whatever the sun shines upon or the rain makes wet, from all that there is between heaven and earth. They acknowledged the Emperor as their head.

The meetings of the Vehm-Gericht were either open or secret. The former were held by day, in the open air, the latter by night in woods or clse in unknown places under The children of this world are in their generation ground. There was a difference between the wiser than the children of light. Luke xvi. 8. two also as regards the causes taken cogni-There is generally in a Sunday school class zance of by the one and the other, and the Free-Judges preferred the accusation!: he produced no proofs; he simply deposed upon oath that the crime had been committed by the person accused. Upon this the accused was three times summoned before the Secret Tribunal, mons the accused did not make his appearance at the place appointed, at which some of the Free-Judges were waiting to blindfold and lend him to the secret spot where the court was assembled, a meeting of more fearful solemnity

upon him, that is, he was given over to the Free Judges for execution. The very first of valescent as to justify sanguing hopes of his them that met the condemned, hanged him on complete restoration. Yesterday, the Brazia tree, not on a gallows—to signify that the deed was an execution by the Free-Judge. If resistance was made, the condemned was stabbed at once with a knife which was in that case deposited by the side of the corpse, so as to indicate that the deceased had not been murdered, but executed by virtue of a sentence of the Secret Tribunal. If any Free-Judge was found to have aided the escape of one

condemned, he himself was punished with

death.

It is easy to conclude that this institution led to judicial murders, caused by revenge, covetousness, or malice, and how easily a timid person, who really was neither accused nor condemned, might be driven into voluntary exile in those days, to suit the purpose of interested persons, by working upon his fears. A more detestable monster of tribunal never existed among any civilized people. Judges who never declared the grounds upon which they pronounced sentence—who held themselves responsible to no one for the exercise of their authority-who caused their sentence to be executed by assassination without having heard the accused in his defence :- no wonder that, after their power had been long upheld by interested persons in high places, for purposes of their own, the abuse of it became so crying altogether. This was effected chiefly by strengthening the authority of the regular open courts of justice, and ensuring the execution of just decrees passed by them. In the year 1461, a league was formed by a number of German Princes and Free Cities, joined by the Swiss Confederation, for the purpose of putting down the Velimgericht; its terrors then began to wane; yet it was not till the year 1568 that its last sitting was held, and this took place near the city of Celle in Westphalia. Its power had become odious, and the need of its

exercise was no longer felt. The present state of things in Ireland has called up recollections of the German Vehm-Gericht. The above account, drawn from German sources, may enable the reader to discover those points in which the coincidence holds as well as the measures which may be most likely to correct the evil.

HORRORS ARISING FROM THE SLAVE TRADE. From a letter dated Sierra Leone, Oct. 6, 1847.

On the 22nd of July last her Majesty's ship Waterwitch with her Majesty's ship Rapid in company, captured the Brazilian brigantine Romeo Primero, which was subsequently given in charge to Lieut. W. Mansfield, R. N. and four seamen, to be conveyed to St. Helena for adjudication. Owing to adverse winds, and the unmanageable qualities of the prize, the officer in command found it necessary to alter his destination, and to bear up for this place. On the 11th of August, about midway, two of the crew being engaged aloft and the others in the bunks, where the arms were stowed, the lieutenant, being at the moment pulling a rope which had been recently spliced, was murderously assailed from behind by one of the prisoners (who were four in number, and during the day time allowed the liberty of the vessel) with an axe used for chopping fire ners furiously attacked the sailors in the bunks, The Chairman, or Free-Graf, was commonly a piece of firewood, gallantly, but unequally, erets. contended with a Brazilian armed with a cutlass; in the course of a desperate struggle the throats all crected and blazing, and altogether officer received no fewer than nine wounds, more or less severe, in the hand, arms, and abdomen; a great-coat which he wore being, under Providence, the means of saving him from instant death. The two who had been occupied in the shrouds having reached the deck, of course unarmed, the lieutenant, nearly exhausted by profuse homorrhage, made a vi olent struggle to join them, in which he fortunately proved successful, though in his progress one of the prisoners discharged at him a marine's musket, the contents of which took effect, inflicting a most dangerous wound on his head, and bringing him for an instant to the ground. Having succeeded in recovering his feet, and gaining his men, he encouraged them to rush aft upon their armed antagonists, a piece of service which three of their number performed in the most daring manner; the fourth (since dead) being hors de combat by his wounds, and the lieutenant himself fainting from the loss of blood. The intrepidity of three British tars rendered them more than a match for their armed antagonists, whom they speedily overpowered, one of the prisoners leaping overboard, and perishing in the waves. Believing the officer to be killed, the seamen. in the excitement of the moment, were about to hurl the surviving prisoners over the gangway, when Lieutenant Mansfield, partially reviving, ordered them to be imprisoned, that their wounds should be washed, and that they should be reserved to be dealt with by the au-

thorities here. On the 1st of September, the Romeo Primero, the scene of this bloody encounter, entered our port. Lieutenant Mansfield, who since the day of conflict had scarcely been able to stir. hand or foot, was promptly conveyed to sick quarters, and for many days his life was entirely despaired of by his medical attendants. The gallant little crew, all wounded, were also looked after in the best manner, which skill and sympathy could suggest; but, alas! two of them were soon removed beyond the reach of human succour, one dying of the direct consequences of his wounds, and the second of fever le to gain either her obedience or attention. was held, called the Secret Ban, to summon induced by them. After a fortnight of extreme The offender evidently needs and should him for the last time, and if then he did not danger on shore, Lieutenant Mansfield's pow-

surrender himself, the ban was pronounced erful constitution showed symptoms of triumphing over his injuries, and he is now so far conlian prisoners were brought to trial before the Chief Justice, his Honour Justice Pine, and assistant judges, Heddle and Lennon, on charges of piracy, and attempt to murder Lieut. W. G. Mansfield, R. N., and others. On the indictment being read several preliminary objections were taken on the part of the Spanish Consul, as the only representative of a foreign country in the colony. The Court, after some consultation, declared the following objection fatal to the proceedings : -- That the crime had been committed in the attempt to recapture their own vessel, then under the Brazilian flag, and not amenable to British jurisdiction, the sentence of a Court of Admiralty not having been then pronounced.' His Honour, in an-nouncing the decision of the Court, said, the case being thus shut out from an investigation on its merits, he felt called upon to state that, having read attentively all the depositions connected with it, he considered the conduct of the prize officer to have been marked throughout the trying circumstances by most praiseworthy courage and forbearance. The prisoners were then discharged. The brigantine has been condemned by the Admiralty Court as a

> CONFIDENCE IN A PRIEST'S ABSOLUTION. A Correspondent sends us the following story :-- Some thirty years since there lay a regiment in Malta, formed chiefly of Irish. Repeated cases of assassination had occurred: at last there was one in which the culprit was taken with "red hands." He was put under arrest, with positive orders that no person should be allowed to visit him. He was tried, convicted, and condemned. The priests went and were excluded under the general order. They urged their office, but were still refused, and the affair looked very serious. They reported it to the bishop; the bishop went to the governor; he said simply, that his orders were definitive. The day of execution arrived; the man was led out. The governor, was on the ground. The priests again urged their suit that they might administer the rites of religion. The man threw himself on his knees and besought that he might not be sent out of the world without absolution. The governor said, "You sent your comrade so, and you go too." The man was executed, and from that day the regiment lost its murderous character .- London Morn. ing Paper.

HUMMING BIRDS IN BRAZIL .- Wherever a creeping vine opens its fragrant clusters, or wherever a tree-flower blooms, may these little things be seen. In the garden or in the woods, over the water, everywhere they are darting about; of all sizes, from one that might easily be mistaken for a different variety of bird, to the tiny Hermit, Trochilus rufigaster, whose body is not half the size of the bees buzzing about the same sweets. The blossoms of the inga-tree, as before remarked, bring them in great numbers about the rosinhas of the city, and the collector may shoot as fast as he can load, the day long. Sometimes they are seen chasing each other in sport with a rapidity of flight, and intricacy of path the eye is puzzled to follow. Again, cirling round and round, they rise high in mid air, then dart off like light to some distant attraction. Perched upon a little limb, they smooth their plumes, and seem to delight in their dazzling lines; then starting off leisurely they skim along, Often two meet in mid air and furiously fight, their crests and the feathers upon their pictures of the most violent rage. Several times we have seen them battling with large black bees, who frequent the same flowers, and may be supposed often to interfere provokingly. Like lightning our little heroes would come down, but the coat of shining mail would ward their furious strokes. Again and again would they renew the attack, until their anger had expended itself by its own fury, or until the apathetic bee, once roused, had put forth powers that drove the invader from the field. A boy in the city several times brought us humming birds alive in a glass cage. He had brought them down while, standing motionless in the air, they rifled the flowers, by balls of clay, blown from a hollowed tube.-Voyage up the River Amazon.

SUGGESTION OF AN IRISH NATIONAL ANTHEM, BY THE LATE REV. SYDNEY SMITH. - What trash to be bawling in the streets about the Green Isle, the Isle of the Ocean! the bold anthem Erin go bragh! A far better anthem would be Erin go bread and cheese, Erin go cabins that will keep out the rain, Erin go pantaloous without holes in them !

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