

been-robbed of a part of their lives and went shouting through the streets: "Give us back our eleven days."

In a word, Russia's standard of time measurement is too long and her calendar, therefore, is falling behind that of other countries whose standard is approximately accurate. The situation becomes more inconvenient as Russia's business relations with other nations, expand, and it is not surprising that several departments of the Government have at last declared in favor of adopting the Gregorian calendar. This is the direct result of the agitation that was started by the scientific societies of Russia, which, in November, 1891, agreed to keep the idea of reforming the calendar before the country, to endeavor to win for it the support of the educated classes and to popularize it. This was the opening wedge, and the long campaign against an unscientific standard of time measurements appears to be nearing a successful end.

In the discussion of the past few years educated Russians have freely admitted that their calendar is erroneous, but they have also asserted that the Gregorian calendar is not perfect. The great difficulty in the way has been the Church. It was easy for the Catholic world to adopt the new calendar, because it was ordered by the Pope. But the Greek Church in each country is practically autonomous, and it has shown little disposition to give up the Julian calendar, in accordance with which the dates for sacred days and festivals have been designated for centuries. There was little hope of winning the support of the Church authorities, but if the influential and educated people of Russia became practically agreed upon the necessity of reform it was believed that the Czar would exercise his prerogative and substitute the new for the old system. This is the end for which the scientific men of Russia have been striving, and the fact that they have won the support of the Foreign Office and the Departments of Interior and Finance shows that they have reason to hope for success.

Japan's enlarged acquaintance with other nations, due to the remarkable growth of her foreign commerce, explains the increased outflow of population to some other parts of the world. The people are learning of the ways of living and the rates of wages in other countries, and many find in them inducement sufficient to tempt them from their crowded islands. A small part of these emigrants represent the interests of Japanese manufacturers and merchants abroad, but most of them are wage-earners, who command only five to fifteen cents a day at ordinary labor at home mills, and seek something better elsewhere. For a number of years, therefore, there has been a small but steady emigration to the coast of Asia from Vladivostok to Singapore, to the sugar plantations of Hawaii, to the new colonial possession of Formosa, to the towns and mines

of British Columbia, to the pearl-shell fisheries of Queensland, and to the treaty ports and capital of Korea. Hawaii, Korea, and Formosa absorb the larger part of the emigrants, who now number about 70,000. The largest colony in America is in San Francisco and its neighborhood, where there are about 5,500 Japanese.

The Japanese have been a stay-at-home people, and there is no reason to believe that emigration will become a marked tendency of the population. Except in Formosa and Korea there is really no inducement for ordinary workmen to leave Japan. Their services are not needed, and in some regions where they have gone they are not welcome. Skilled artisans are in great demand in Japan and their wages are increasing. There are not enough of them to-day to fill the places prepared for them by Japan's remarkable development in manufacturing enterprises. About 20,000 Japanese are settled in the Korean peninsula, and there is room for many others in that rich region, where the density of population is only one-fourth that of Japan; and there are also great opportunities for the Japanese among the half-civilized Malaysians and comparatively few Chinese of the new colony of Formosa. But outside of the Asian world, whose needs she will contribute largely to supply, and where Japan's influence is growing, there is no prospect that her emigration will become very important.

THE BUDDHIST BIBLE.

It is Spread Over Seven Hundred Slabs of White Marble.

In 1857 Mindon-min, King of Burma, erected a monument near Mandalay called the Kutho-daw. There he built 700 temples, in each of which there is a slab of white marble. Upon these 700 slabs is engraved the whole of the Buddhist Bible—a vast literature in itself, equal to about six copies of the Holy Scriptures.

The marble Bible is engraved in the Pali language, thought to be that spoken by Buddha himself 500 B. C. Photographs of some of the inscriptions have reached England, and Prof. Max Mueller, perhaps the greatest linguist in all the world, has examined them. But alas! for all his human ingenuity and perseverance. If his Majesty Mindon-min thought to perpetuate the teachings of the great Buddha by causing them to be graven on the rock he nourished a vain ambition.

This is certainly the largest known copy of any portion of literature. Even the National Encyclopedia in China, in 5,000 volumes, occupies a comparatively small space. To reach the other end of the limits of the printers' art we need only remember the "Smallest Bible in the World," and the diamond edition of Catullus, Tibullus and Propertius.

To engrave the Bible of Buddha on the marble slabs in the temple of Kutho-daw must have cost many thousands of dollars, but these sermons in stone are easily out-classed by a copy of the New Testament, which, beautifully printed, can be bought for 25 cents, and if carefully cherished will last many generations.

THE NEW CLOTH.

Cloth is now being made successfully from wood, and is said to be as flexible, soft, durable and susceptible to dyes as other fabrics.

MONUMENT TO ROBERT BURNS.

Proposed to be Erected in Toronto Some Time Next Year.

Subscription books are now opened, and are being cheerfully and liberally signed by loyal and enthusiastic lovers of Burns—in Toronto and elsewhere—to raise funds for the erection of a handsome and artistic Monument in Toronto in honor of Scotland's darling poet—Robert Burns. This will be the first monument, but not the last, to Scotia's Bard in Canada. It is confidently expected that the Monument will be erected before the close of the present century—that is, next year, 1900:—

"A Monument to Burns we'll raise!"
Toronto Scots have said,—
Young Canada's first Cairn of praise,
To Scotia's honor'd dead!
Let grateful hearts and willing hands,
Pay tribute to his name,
Till soon within Toronto stands,
His Monument of fame!

One Hundred years since Burns died,
And hundreds more may roll,
Still shall he be Auld Scotia's pride,
High on her honor'd scroll;
His songs have won the human heart
Wherever shines the sun—
Great High-Priest of poetic art,
Thy work was nobly done!

They say that thou art dead—not so?
True poets never die!
But on and on their measures flow,
As boundless as the sky!
Glad songs of Hope, and Love, and Truth,
Shall never know decay—
Burns lives in an eternal youth,
While empires pass away.

His songs of Hope have cheer'd the
slave.
On many a dark domain,
Glad echoes roll from wave to wave,
And bids them break their chain!
"Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn!"
But as taught the Brotherhood of Man,
The tyrant laugh'd to scorn!

His songs of Love are sung to-day
On every foreign shore,
And shall with human hearts hold
sway,

Till time shall be no more!
Their dove-notes mild can soothe a
child,
Or play the lover's part,
In court or cottage—love beguiled—
They woo and win the heart!

His songs of Truth all creeds uphold—
"A man's a man for a' that!"
An honest man's as good as gold,
An' name can yet misca' that!
He had his faults, and so have we,
His virtues let us cherish;
His songs are sung from sea to sea—
Burns' name shall never perish!
Toronto, Can. —JOHN IMRIE.

Contributions of One Dollar and upwards may be sent to the Secretary of The Burns' Monument Committee, and which will be duly acknowledged by return mail. All cheques or Post Office Orders, should be made payable to "The Burns' Monument Fund," care of the Secretary, William Campbell, McKinnon Building, Melinda street, Toronto, Ont.

A HUSBAND'S VILLAINOUS SUGGESTION.

Here's an awful thing in this paper, said Mrs. Henpeck, about burglars out West binding and gagging a woman while her husband stood by without offering the slightest assistance. returned Henpeck; but then maybe he thought they were capable of doing it unaided.

AN ACROBATIC BURGLAR.

His Victim Never Knew Whether to Laugh or Cry.

"How do you do it?" asked the examining magistrate, curiously, as he was questioning a prisoner who had been brought to him, says the London Telegraph. The man, delighted at having a fresh opportunity to display his skill, treated the official to a little lecture by way of preface, and then, suiting the action to the word, climbed up the walls of the chamber in which they had been seated together alone, jumped down from the highest points which he could reach, bounded over chairs and tables, and was engaged in turning a magnificent somersault when the municipal guards stationed in the passage outside darted into the rescue, under the impression, derived from the noise and confusion, that the worthy judge d'instruction was being murdered outright. The police had had their work cut out for them in the capture of this queer individual, who, not satisfied with his earnings in the triple role of a clown, a "Hercule," and a professor of gymnastics — as he styled himself proudly — had utilized his athletic prowess in a series of extraordinary burglaries, over which his unlucky victims had not exactly known whether to laugh or to cry, so comical was the manner in which they were perpetrated.

Thus, on one occasion a respectable citizen and his wife, well endowed with this world's goods, were aroused from their slumbers in the small hours of the morning to behold a shadowy phantom stealing softly about their room. The ghost, however, suddenly recalled its substantial reality by seizing the lady's jewelry, which was lying about, as well as some of her husband's banknotes, which were also in convenient proximity to the trinkets, and when a move was made in its direction the window was opened, and out it jumped, sustaining no hurt as it alighted on the pavement. On another occasion a balcony had been sealed with like felonious purpose.

Sometimes this odd burglar descended from a roof or a chimney on to his prey. Sometimes, again, he called street lamps into requisition, and swung himself into open windows with their assistance. On the eventful day of the capture no less than fifteen policemen had been posted round the house which he had entered unbidden while some of their comrades proceeded in search of him, finding that he was about to be caught on the second story from the ground, the man treated his pursuers to a mocking laugh, and, jumping out of one of the windows would have escaped but for the fact that he had reckoned without his hosts, and so alighted in the midst of a group of agents of the law, who had to handcuff and bind him forthwith, as he would inevitably have slipped from their grasp.

Such is the strange individual in whose mode of operation the examining magistrate exhibited so much interest. Special measures have to be taken for retaining him in custody. Careful watch and ward are kept round his cell, in the passages, and in the street, as there is no saying what odd form his remarkable activity may not assume, and now that they have caught him the officials fully intend to hold him fast.

CHINESE MORGUE.

In the Chinese morgue, in San Francisco, one of the strange sights is a number of life-size dolls, which are burned, to accompany the corpses as their servants to the next world.