

in sailing, drenched, and whirled, and balanced, and dropped, as he is in the strong life current which plays as it will with him, and gives him no rest. We know him as he hangs about the bar, and louches against the hoardings which edge one side of that obstructive church beyond it, westward. He knows by heart the features of the gigantic woman with the marvellous head of hair, and can reproduce her portrait with his eyes shut. He is interested in the opinion of the *Telegraph*, or *Daily News*, or *Standard*, on the play he has never seen, and learned by rote the criticism so plentifully billed about the walls. He has wandered round Trafalgar-square, and has been hustled and pushed by anxious and busy people on his way thither. He has wandered about the National Gallery with his appreciation of art somewhat hindered by the cravings of a hungry innary. He dwells in a seedy hotel of one of the main streets, and feeds, when he can, at second rate coffee house on cold ham, hard-fried rooks, and chocolate. He writes to his friends, and receives no answer. He studies the advertisements, and spends many ill-spaced pence in postage stamps. He hangs about the bar in his seedy abiding place at the times of postal delivery, and anxiously enquires of the thin-nosed, dirty barmaid for letters. Receiving none, he strolls out again, and louches with vague speculations about the wealth of this and that shopwindow. At night unwilling to go to bed he joins the loungers at the bar, and rubs shoulders with the queer people among whom his impudency has thrown him. Work-week compositors from the printing office hard by; men, like himself, in desperate straits, and anxiously hopeful, like himself, and disposed to be friendly and communicative; men who once were like himself, but who have tripped and fallen down life's ladder, and now stand more or less contented at the bottom. Shabby and reduced gentility from half a score of the professions and the higher-class callings of life. Sensitive men who, when the hour draws near at which the bar is closed, let fall maudlin tears into their "gob" of gin as they tell you they have been better days. Devil may care people, who have fallen under a cloud, but who have high spirits still. It is worth while, for the sake of a night in such a place, to pay for your bed, and obtain admission after hours to watch the concourse. When the signal is given for the dispersion of the assembly, you will probably have had enough of it, and may please yourself as to whether you take advantage of the sleeping accommodation paid for! If you are a visitor to London, and wish to see one phase of life which is peculiar to the great city, seek out such a place as is here mentioned. If you are a moralist, you may find food enough for contemplation; if a philanthropist, sorrow enough to relieve; if a journalist, some matter for an article, humorous or pathetic, or both, as your fancy dictates. Let us hope that in our poor lad's present case the wished for letter may come and that as he walks, in a mixture of hope and despondency, into the dingy bar some morning to deliver up his key, ere he begins once more the dreary round from Strand to Bank and back, he may hear the sharp-nosed barmaid's voice recalling him with "Letters for you, sir," and that he may find in the mischievous welcome news of employment. Sad to think how many there are here in London, now waiting for the mere chance to earn a meal or so, who came here with such high hope and youthful confidence; who have travelled through all the grades; who are now settled at the bottom of the ladder, and have shaken hands with hope in mournful adieu, whole years ago.

INCREASE OF LUNACY.—In Dr. Littleton Winslow's book, lately reviewed in this Journal, are some statistics about the increase of insanity which have been reproduced in various newspapers. Thus we find the *Globe* last week asserting that many will dispute—viz., that "we cannot avoid a conclusion that the human species is becoming more subject to the loss of reason as civilisation progresses." The census of 1861 in England showed 1 insane person in 824. Ten years later the proportion had increased to 1 in 403, taking into consideration the relative increase of population, makes the number of the insane very nearly double. France shows a still larger increase, the numbers for 1856 being 1 in 1,123, and ten years after 1 in 418. Comparing the statistics of the several great European States at the time of the last census but one—i.e., about twelve years ago—Mr. Winslow gives some very interesting results in a tabulated form. According to these Denmark stands highest, with a percentage of 1 in 507, and Austria lowest with an immense difference between her and the other States, containing only 1 insane person in every 4,043 of the population. Italy stands next, with 1 in 2,562, and Piedmont is the only other State which has over 2,000 inhabitants for every lunatic. The United States has a tolerably low percentage, as have most of the German States. Hanover, however, comes below England and Ireland and Scotland, and Oldenburg reaches the extraordinary high standard of 1 in every 301. New South Wales has a very high percentage also, while California stands on very near the level of the United States, containing 1 lunatic in every 1,454. The statistics of Asiatic and African countries are not given, and probably could not in most cases have been obtained by any means. But it is to be regretted, says the *Globe*, "that the condition of India, one of the strongholds of lunacy, has not been ascertained, or, if ascertained, has not been included in Mr. Winslow's tables."—*Medical Press.*

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The reasons which caused the Government to decide upon the dissolution of Parliament have not been made public, and speculation in regard thereto continues. Some persons declare that it was brought about by dissensions in the Cabinet, while others allege that Mr. Gladstone has been summoned before the Court of Queen's Bench for not standing for re-election to Parliament after again accepting office in March last, and that this was what occasioned dissolution. The utmost interest is manifested throughout the Kingdom over the election. Much activity is displayed in preparation. The newspapers are filled with appeals for election. The county elections—both contested and uncontested—will occupy the first two weeks in February, and those in the boroughs the time between the 30th instant and 7th prox., all owing to delays in receipts of writs of election in distant parts of Scotland and Ireland. It is believed the general election will be completed by the 16th of February. Both parties are confident of success. Betting is now in favor of Liberals.

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF DR. LIVINGSTONE'S DEATH.—Herr Brenner, the German explorer of Africa, in a letter to Dr. Helmborn, of Gotha, dated Zanibar, says Livingstone died on the 16th of August. This date differs from that of a previous despatch; but all doubts have been set at rest by an official despatch received by the Government to-day from Zanibar, which states circumstantially that Dr. Livingstone died in Lobosia, after crossing marshes with the water at one time for three hours consecutively above the waist. The sufferings of his whole party were terrible, and ten of them died in consequence. The members of Cameron's expedition were suffering from fever and ophthalmia, but would await the arrival of the doctor's remains and bring them to Ujiji. From the latter place they would be carried to Zanibar, where it is expected they will arrive next month.

An eminent shipbuilder, writing from the Clyde, says—"There are at present 124 iron steamers laid up here for sale, and very few purchasers, while scarcely a wooden ship is offered in the market."—The rage for iron ships some years ago has gradually but surely subsided, and the many advantages claimed for them by their advocates have failed to put in an appearance. Sailors are disposed to look

upon them as "floating coffins," and in high latitudes, or among ice, they are undoubtedly more hazardous than wooden vessels. It is rather significant that at Lloyd's, where at first iron ships ranked at for nearly three times as long as well built wooden vessels, the time has been reduced to nearly the same period.

AURICULAR CONFESSION.—The following letters have been received by the Very Rev. the Dean of Bristol (Dr. Gilbert Elliott), from Messrs. Morley and Hodgson, the members for Bristol, in reply to a communication from the Dean, forwarding a copy of resolutions adopted at a meeting recently held in that city on the subject of auricular confession.—"Hall-place, Tonbridge, Dec. 16. Dear Mr. Dean, I owe you many apologies for my delay in acknowledging your note, conveying a copy of resolutions in reference to Auricular Confession. I assure you I did not need to receive any resolutions in explanation of the course you would be likely to take on that subject, and I rejoice to think there is a very large number in the Established Church who have no sympathy whatever with the stealthy progress which is evidently being made towards the Church of Rome. I confess I am an alarmist and wish I could see what I, a Nonconformist, can consistently do to check practices and to counteract teaching in deadly opposition to the principles established in the Reformation. Let us be thankful that there is liberty to write and to speak. I am, &c. (signed), S. MORLEY. To the Very Reverend the Dean of Bristol, Bishopsgate-street, Within, London, E.C., Dec. 31, 1873.—My Dear Mr. Dean, I have to thank you for the report of the meeting on the subject of the extension of Auricular Confession in the Church of England. I have long thought that great danger to the Church would arise from this question, and I am glad that the opinion of the country should be openly and unmistakably expressed.—With all good wishes for the New Year, believe me (signed), K. D. HODGSON."

The condition of the English agricultural labourer has much improved within recent years—more so than is shown by the weekly rate of wages; for that in most parts of the country is considerably increased by what is sared by piece work. It does not now compare unfavourably with the condition of other classes of labourers in towns and cities, probably give him as great a command of the necessities of life as those of the skilled workman or the lowest grade of public employes, who have to pay out of their salaries 8s. or 10s. a week for the humblest accommodation for themselves and their families. The country labourer in many counties in the South has his cottage and garden allotment for 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a week, from which, in addition to lodgings, he provides himself with vegetables and potatoes, articles which must be paid for at retail price by the workmen in town. I have before me the exact earnings during the past year of 15 married labourers on a corn and sheep farm in Hampshire, where the wages are nominally 13s. a week, but where piece work is encouraged and as much as possible practised. The average actually earned by each of these men under this mixed system of day and piece work was a little over 16s. 6d. a week, or 2s. per cent. more than the nominal wages. None of them earned alike, the difference arising from greater industry, capacity, or opportunity being very considerable, some averaging more than 20s. and some not exceeding 13s. 6d. These men have good cottages and garden allotments, for which they pay from 18. 6d. to 1s. 6d. a week. Their wives and a boy or girl at certain seasons contribute something to the common store. In this case they added on the average 4s. 3d. to the weekly earnings of each household, making the total 20s. 6d.; and this is no uncommon example at the present day, but is quite capable of being realized by industrious men where the system of piece work is adopted—a plan at once advantageous to the labourer and economical and effective in its results to the employer. A middle-aged man with a family, and with no money to convey and settle them in a new country, will in such circumstances find himself safest at home. The active and intelligent young men, the more they are educated, will naturally seek the new fields of labour which emigration offers. Brought up to fieldwork and the care of the tillage of the backwoods or prairies. Many will, no doubt, take advantage of such outlets, and those who remain will the better retain the command of the home market for labour. The only method by which wages can be increased is by diminishing the supply of labour. Agitation for an increase of wages while the labour market is overstocked can have no other effect than to encourage the use of labour-saving machines, and so increase the labourer's difficulty. It is only by migration to the mining or manufacturing districts at home, or emigration beyond the sea, that wages in the country districts can be affected beyond the influence of local demand or the industry of the individual.—*Times Curr.*

THE COMMUNIST REFUGES IN LONDON.—We have before us a long manifesto of a "group of Revolutionists of the 28th of March, 1871," appealing to the French people on the subject of the prolongation of the powers of Marshal MacMahon. The manifesto, addressed to the "Freres et amis," recalls in violent and bloodthirsty terms the events of the last two years; and in its savage language emulates the worst passages of the *Paris Marseilles* of the Commune. Nothing can exceed the ferocity of the passionate jargon which is levelled at the head of the government in France. The marshal is called the "faux blessé de Sedan," the "smoker of Arabs," the "shooter of women"; while the prime minister is treated as a "thief who guides him with leading strings, who owes to the country of his ancestors his double genius of Harlequin and Borgin—half clown, half Jesuit—who ought to call himself Croisade de Loyola, and who signs Albert de Broglie." If abuse alone formed the staple of the manifesto it would not much signify; but a summons to insurrection is issued to a country which ought surely to rest for a space; and the perturbed spirits, who are only too ready to display a dangerous activity after such trials as France has recently passed through, are eager on to crime of the most abominable type. They are told that there now remain to them "the dagger of Brutus, the pistol of Borozowski, and the bombshells of Orsini." "Freres et amis," the proclamation concludes, "the hour is come to remember that the lives of tyrants and traitors belong to whomsoever chooses to take them." Such are the sentiments and intentions of the dangerous men who through the neighborhood of Leicester Square.—*Morning Post.*

Mr. J. Bamber, whose death we recorded last week, the father of several priests of that name, was born at Manchester in 1794. It is remarkable what a change he lived to witness in the religious aspect of his native town. When he entered into life there was only one poor chapel in Manchester, on the first floor of a building, hidden in a small back street; now there are twenty churches and chapels, many of them very large and beautiful edifices. One solitary priest—old Father Broomhead—sufficed to supply the spiritual wants, not only of the town, but of the neighborhood for many miles round; now there are fifty in Manchester and Salford, and within the circumference of twelve miles there are no fewer than ninety priests actively employed in the work of the Mission. The Bammers, of Lancashire, are an ancient family, who were settled at "The Moor," near Poulton, in the Fylde, at the period of the Reformation. They adhered greatly to the Catholic faith, to which they steadfastly adhered; and one of the family, the Rev. Edward Bamber, had the honour of giving his life for the cause of religion in the reign of Charles I. He was hanged

drawn, and quartered at Lancaster Castle, in 1646, for being a Catholic priest who had taken orders beyond the seas.—*Univers.*

A CORRUPTION.—It has been announced, with some flourish of trumpets, that the lost Dodo has been discovered in the Samoan islands, and a writer in the *Daily Telegraph* "genially" chaffs Mr. Bright and all the phrasemongers for their haste in using that respectable species as a simile for all that is extinct and absurdly obsolete. But the complacency of Mr. Manley Hopkins and the satisfaction of the "genial" writer must have been somewhat dashed by Professor Owen's letter in the *Times* of Thursday. The creature is not the Dodo after all, but only the Dotted; the Didoneus, not the Didus. A specimen of the Dotted was living in the Zoological Gardens about ten years ago, and the extinct Dodo—whose last home was the island of Mauritius, and whose portrait, taken from the life by Dutch artists in the time of the Stadtholder Maurice, is still to be seen—was about six times bulkier than the Dotted. So that we may say, "as dead as the Dodo" after all.—*Tablet.*

A correspondent of the *Daily News* at the Cape Coast furnishes some specimens of the correspondence carried on by the African potentates with Sir Garnet Wolsley, which are worthy to receive a prominent place in the literature of diplomacy. One of the most important friends of Great Britain on the Coast is King Bley, who, from the tone of his letters, seems to be an affable but somewhat avaricious monarch. One of his notes runs as follows:—"Dear Commander, I hope your health good. My spy tells me enemy still in bush. I have had tooth ache so please send me piece of pork and bottle of rum, particular rum as my tooth ache very bad. Your humble servant King Bley." Upon receiving the rum alone his Majesty writes:—"Dear and umble Commander your Majesty—I am sorry you no send me the pork as my tooth ache much worse this day. You think pork bad for tooth ache, please send me more bottle rum. Your servant King Bley." King Bley seems to be as remarkable for his prudice as for his taste for pork and rum, and up to the time the letters were despatched neither bribes nor cajolery had succeeded in inducing him to leave his stockade to fight the Ashantes.

WET COAL.—People who prefer wetting the winter's store of coal to the dust on putting it in their cellars do not, we believe, generally know that they are laying up for themselves a store of sore throats and other evils consequent on the practice. But so it is said to be. Even the fire damp which escapes from coal mines arises from the slow decomposition of coal at temperatures a little above that of the atmosphere, but under augmented pressure. By wetting a mass of freshly broken coal and putting it into a warm cellar, the mass is heated to such a degree that carburetted and sulphuretted hydrogen are given off for long periods of time, and pervade the whole house. The liability of wet coal to mischievous results under such circumstances may be appreciated from the circumstance that there are several instances on record of the spontaneous combustion of wet coal when stowed in the bunkers or holds of vessels. And from this cause, doubtless, many missing coal vessels have perished.—*London Medical Record.*

A few days ago a memorial was addressed to Mr. Gladstone by the Secretaries of the committees formed in Manchester, Belfast, Edinburgh, Leeds, and other large towns, to agitate the question of women's rights, requesting that they might be favoured with an opportunity of explaining orally the intolerable grievances the gentler sex labour under in being excluded from the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. The Premier is known to have a weakness for receiving deputations, but the prospect of a bevy of female orators descending probably all at once upon their grievances was too much for his courage, and he has instructed his secretary to reply that he will be happy to give his attention to any written communication from the National Society for Women's Suffrage, but that he is unable to undertake to receive a deputation for the oral discussion of the subject.

Dr. Pusey has made public a document setting forth the views which he and his consociates entertain on the subject of confession and absolution. They believe and confess that "Christ has instituted a special means for the remission of sins after baptism, and for the relief of consciences; which special means, the Church of England retains and demonstrates as part of her Catholic heritage. The signatory means is defined to be 'absolution.' The signatory means are almost exclusively those of the most pronounced members of the high Anglican party.

GLASGOW, Jan. 27.—An accident attended with the most lamentable results occurred on a railway between this city and Edinburgh this morning, when an express passenger train from Edinburgh for Glasgow came in collision with another express train.—Sixteen persons were instantly killed, and a number received serious injuries. Several coaches were demolished.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS AND THE FRANCHISE.—LONDON, Jan. 27.—A deputation of workingmen, headed by Mr. Joseph Arch, to-day waited upon Mr. Gladstone, and urged the propriety of extending the elective franchise to agricultural laborers. Mr. Gladstone expressed himself favorably to their object, but advised them to be patient, pointing out the magnitude and weightiness of the measure, and the brief duration of Parliament.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* declares it has good reason to believe that the report that Mr. Gladstone has been summoned before the Court of Queen's Bench, is unfounded. The *Times* says, the simple truth is that the Ministry was unable to withstand the annoyances caused by its repeated defaults since the beginning of the recess, and is determined to win the country by a bold dash and promises of reduced taxation.

Mr. Butt, M.P., Mr. Martin, M.P., and several Catholic clergymen addressed a great meeting at Manchester on Monday in advocacy of Home Rule for Ireland. Meetings in furtherance of the same object have also been held at Sheffield and Bolton.

There is great excitement in England concerning the general elections, which it is believed will be completed about the 16th of February. Both parties are confident of success.

The Duke of Cambridge was assaulted as he was entering the War-office by a man who struck him with his stick. The Duke declined to prefer a charge, believing the man to be deranged.

A CENTENARIAN.—The *Galloway Gazette* records the death of another centenarian—Mrs. Donnahie. She died at Shermanton, parish of Penninghame, last week, aged 101.

Nolan, Secretary of the Irish Amnesty Association, announces his intention of contesting the election of Gladstone in Greenwick.

the number having died of violence in the year 1871 it follows that out of every ten thousand persons living, from seven to eight met their deaths from this cause. And as the proportions have not varied materially of late years, this may be taken as representing the average chance persons in that country stand of coming by such deaths. In India, with its population of 230,000,000, the chance is that only one person out of every 10,000 living should die of serpent bite, or from injuries inflicted by wild animals; so that an Englishman runs from seven to eight times a greater risk of a violent death than an East Indian does from the particular causes just mentioned. The chances of a like fatality in this country is something in the ratio of 17,000 to 40,000,000, or thereabouts, which would make a rate of 4 to 5 in each ten thousand.

The English returns show a terrible uniformity in the class of deaths in question. Thus in 1870 the total number was 16,993; in 1869 it was 16,497; it was 16,958 in 1868; 16,866 in 1867; 16,915 in 1866; 17,374 in 1865; 17,018 in 1864. Taking the twenty years from 1859 to 1869, it appears that out of every million English people living during that period, 764 have every year come to an untimely end from one or other form of violence. The average was highest in the year 1865, when the proportion was 835 out of every million. It was lowest in 1857, when the proportion per million living fell to 725. Old age, the only cause of death that can be considered the natural one, is less than twice as fatal as violence. Out of a million of deaths among Englishmen, decay of nature after a fullspan life accounts for no more than 56,527 as against 32,465 referable to violent causes. Only 1,467 out of every million Englishmen die in the course of a year from old age, while within the same period the terrible certainty of a violent death awaits 764 of the million. In our census returns. In the census year 1871, they aggregated 3,449. From these figures, it would appear between seventeen and eighteen thousand persons now in health will die by violence during the present year in this land. In 1870, there were 1,051 suicides—a small fractional proportion only of these deaths. The fatal cases by violence average in this country about 48 per day, or two an hour. If the year's slain, lying in their collars, were laid lengthwise along the road, they would stretch, in one unbroken line, a distance of some sixteen miles.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

We find in the *Wellsville Free Press* of recent date the particulars of a suicide which occurred in that village, in which the self-destroyer was a boy but 11 years of age. The story is such an extraordinary one that we republish it this morning entire.—"The name of the boy is Eugene, and that of his father is William Johnston. It would appear that the boy and his sister, aged 11 years, have always been objects of aversion to both their parents, and that from infancy they have been subject to the most inhuman and brutal treatment. Kicks and blows have been administered for every little childish offence, and that these have only been varied by cruel and unmerciful whippings whenever the anger of the unnatural father has been more than usually aroused. It is said that the boy, falling at times to find the cows when he has been sent for them, has remained in the woods for nights and days together, rather than to return to his home and undergo the excessive punishment which he knew would be inflicted. For weeks past he and his sister have been compelled to cut from two and one-half to three cords of wood per day with a cross-cut saw, under penalty of a severe beating. Last Sunday the parents went to a neighbor's to supper, leaving their children at home; but, before going, Johnston told the boy to water the horses. Returning to his house in the afternoon on some errand from the neighbor whom he was visiting, he ascertained that his instructions in regard to the horses had not been complied with, and at once commenced beating and abusing the boy in the most outrageous manner. When he became weary of torturing the child, he went back to the neighbour's to finish his visit. Shortly after he left, the poor boy, according to his sister's statement, gathered up his playthings and put them away in a little box, and then went to the barn. Being gone a long time, the girl followed him to the barn, where she found him dead and hanging by the neck to a beam. Terribly grieved and frightened, the girl remained with her brother until her parents returned, when her frantic screams attracted their attention, and their father soon arrived at the scene of the tragedy. Was he shocked? Did he cut down the lad, and manifest as much sorrow for his death as a tigress would for the loss of her young? Not by any means. He was not the kind of man to indulge in any such nonsense. Telling the girl to go home, he did up his chores, left the boy as he had found him, closed the barn door, returned to his house, went to bed, and slept the refreshing sleep of innocence till morning. He then leisurely informed his neighbors of the occurrence, and they, eighteen hours after the suicide, cut down the cold and rigid body, prepared it for the grave, and in due time, buried it. If the statements made to us in regard to this case are true—and we have every cause to believe they are—Johnston and his wife ought to spend the balance of their days in State Prison."—*Buffalo Express, Jan. 10th.*

PRICES OF CATTLE, DOGS AND MEN.—As human life becomes cheapened the price of animals are going up. Men, women and children are falling by the hand of violence; railroad officials are slaughtering travellers by tens and scores; hundreds are sunk in the depths of the sea through sheer carelessness or the want of suitable protection on the part of shipowners and shipmasters; and when those who are responsible for this wholesale slaughter are brought into our courts the utmost that can be recovered for the destruction of a human life is \$5,000. This is a small sum compared with what a fast horse will bring in the market, or what may be recovered when he is killed through the negligence of a railroad conductor or switchman; or with the price of a first-rate cow. Horses, cattle and dogs are marketable commodities and men are not, at the present day, but verily it is not a favorable commentary upon our modern civilization that the life of man, who was made in the image of God, should be held so cheap, that those who are guilty in taking it away should so seldom be brought to account, when the beasts that perish are rated at such high figures. If there were any compensation in the value that is set upon the human soul, the comparison would not be so humiliating, but there is none. Neither those who commit wilful murder nor those who do it by careless neglect of duty seem to have any adequate sense of the nature of the lives that they take away, or of the souls that they are sending into the eternal world. And this indifference is running throughout society. Without speaking too harshly of the maudlin sentiment that holds a dog as worth \$10,000, we cannot speak too severely of that recklessness of human life which is becoming a characteristic of the age. There have been times, perhaps, when it was greater, but our boasted civilization must be at fault when it holds the life of man as of so little account compared with that of a brute.—*New York Observer.*

LEPROSY.—A recent letter from Charles Nordhoff to the *New York Tribune*, from the isolated spot on Molokai, Sandwich Islands, inhabited by leprosy outcasts, thus describes this loathsome disease:—"The leprosy of the islands is a disease of the blood, and not a skin disease. It can be caught only, I am assured, by contact of an abraded surface with the matter of the leprosy sore; and doubtless the habit of the people, of many smoking the same pipe, has done much to disseminate it. Its first noticeable signs are a slight puffiness under the eyes, and a swelling of the lobes of the ears. Next follow symp-

oms, which vary greatly in different individuals; but a marked sign is the retraction of the fingers, so that the hand comes to resemble a bird's foot. In some cases the face swells in ridges, having furrows between; and these ridges are sliding and without feeling, so that a pin may be stuck into them without giving pain to the person. The fingers are thus horribly deformed in some cases; some two or three boys of 12 who looked like old men of 60. At a later stage of the disease these swellings break open into festering sores, the lids and even the eyes are blinded out, and the breath becomes putrid. In other cases the extremities are most severely attacked. The fingers, after being drawn in like claws, begin to fester. They do not seem to drop off, but rather to be absorbed, the nails following the stumps down; and I actually saw finger-nails on a hand that had no fingers. The nails were on the knuckles; the fingers had all rotted away. The same process of decay goes on with the toes; in some cases the whole feet were healed over, the fingers and toes having dropped out. But the healing of the sores is but temporary; the disease presently breaks out again. Emaciation does not seem to follow. I saw very few wasted forms, and those only in the hospitals and among the worst cases. There appears to be an astonishing tenacity of life, and I was told they mostly choke to death or fall into a fever caused by swallowing the poison of their sores when these attack the nose and throat. To a certain extent it is hereditary, and long experience seems to prove that it is contagious, though only upon the most persistent intermingling and actual contact with leprosy persons.

The *New York Evening Post* remarks as follows concerning divorce lawyers, apropos to a Bill recently introduced into the Illinois Legislature:—"A Bill has been introduced in the Illinois Legislature providing heavy penalties against professional divorce lawyers. Doubtless many half-blooded and unprincipled legal gentlemen in Chicago have found a very lucrative business in the divorce line. A little knowledge of court practice, familiarity with the local statutes and a few precedents are all the qualifications necessary to be added to a great amount of audacity in such a character. Chicago has gained a somewhat unenviable notoriety in years past from this class, and all good citizens would like to see such a law as this succeed. We think we know another pretty good field of operations for it. Every day advertisements appear in certain newspapers of this city to the effect that certain 'attorneys' will procure divorces without publicity. If there is no case, they can make one by the use of regular spies, misalled detectives; they can easily draw men of weak intellect, where naturally they would never be found, and under such circumstances that the whole truth being known, they are not culpable. Then the professional witnesses, who only escape the consequences of perjury because the persons against whom they appear would not stoop to impeach them, are brought in to finish the 'overwhelming' testimony against the defendant. If there is any way to get rid of these professional mischief-makers it ought to be tried."

BELGIUM A LA MODE.—Fashion has always had a good deal to do with the religion of people of fashion, or at least with the outward observances of their religion. The laws which regulate their acts of worship and of prayer may belong to an unwritten code, but they are no less arbitrary and inexorable than the laws which govern the fashion of their garments and the style of their upholstery. But fashionable Christianity in London is fast availing itself of the example set by mere worldlylings to establish little rules of etiquette for the proper performance of its church duties, and people are now requested to attend prayer meetings in precisely the same way that they are invited to social gatherings. Here is a transcript of the cards that are issued:—"Mr. and Mrs. Black propose (D. V.) to hold a Bible reading on Tuesday evening at half-past seven o'clock, when the company of friends is requested. Subject: 'Revelations II.' Reading from half-past seven to half-past eight. Morning dress." Other cards are also issued which would be taken by the ordinary sinners for invitations to whist or dancing parties, although he would doubtless be puzzled to understand what is meant by the letters "D." and "V." in one corner. A writer in the *Broad Churchman* says the mystic initials stand for "Text and Prayers," and that he himself attended one of these gatherings, but remained only long enough to see servants pass bills round on a tray, when he retired.—*Boston Advertiser.*

THE NEW PENIT. The United States.—The absence of work and the great number of unemployed who are roaming about the country has created a general alarm among our citizens, who reside in suburban towns. A gang of masked men are scouring the country, visiting farm houses and isolated dwellings, gagging and blinding people by day and shooting them by night, winding up by going through the houses and often setting fire to the premises. Sundays are especially days of terror. The absence of men from their homes—nobody being left but a few servants, mostly women—entices these desperadoes to daring deeds. Staten Island is especially a favorite resort. A mile away from the landing, on a high ridge, are placed many sumptuous dwellings. For miles the neighborhood is as desolate as the centre of a desert. Robbers and burglars come in boats and hide away in the nooks and bays that surround the island. Here they do their desperate work and depart. The police are powerless, owing to the fewness of their numbers, to guard our citizens. Families are leaving their homes, and filling up the hotels on Broadway, considering it unsafe for women and children to live out of the city.

WARM WINTERS.—It is customary to forget each winter's weather before the next comes, and to consider every season remarkable. An old number of the *Hartford Courant* contains some records transcribed from the journal of the Rev. Thomas Smith of Portland, Maine, kept between the years 1730 and 1795, which are rendered especially interesting by the present mildness. In 1735 January was pleasant and moderate and February was a "summer month"; in 1738 January came in like April; in 1740 there were but two snow storms; February was a summer month again, and March the same; in 1751, January 15, the frost was entirely out of the ground, February was like spring, and "the winter ends a wonder through the whole." In 1756, in January the fish, as they are reported to have done this year, "struck in" from the sea, the weather being so warm. February was delightful, and March blustering, but soft as May. In 1773 Mr. Smith records a summer day on January 27; "wonderful moderate" the next day, and February 9 "no snow since December 29, wonderful weather. We saw two robins." In the year 1775, February 27, the *New York Gazette and Post Boy* reports that "last Wednesday the weather was so uncommon warm that many young lads went into the river to swim."

The *Presbyterian* tells the following incident of the "superiority" of Americans over foreigners: Extravagance does not pay. A piece of lace, fine as film and costly as diamonds, was offered for sale lately in Europe. Queens declined to purchase at the enormous price. The wives of great bankers passed by on the other side. An American lady heard of it and sent a check for the amount. This was a year or so ago. Last week the estate of the husband of this American lady passed into the hands of trustees, and some savings banks, with moneys of the poor and the industrious in their possession, were closed up.

Paper made of banana skins is the last. Can't something be done with peanut shells?