

ed to bits. A few hours later a laborer who was walking through the forest, encountered what he thought was a "baldy black man" skipping along some distance away. The animal turned in his direction and he fled, shrieking with terror, whereupon the gorilla disappeared. It was seen afterwards by several people. On one occasion the gorilla was apparently in a wild rage and was slashing the ground with a heavy piece of timber. At night its howls can be heard by the cottagers. In consequence the forest of Berville is deserted, and the authorities have been appealed to by the terror-stricken residents for protection. Gendarmes armed with rifles have been sent into the forest to kill the gorilla.

A clever fraud by an Englishwoman upon the proprietors of Swiss schools for girls has recently been exposed. Two school proprietors (ladies) at Lancy have been the latest victims, and they state that the English woman, who is a fashionably-dressed middle-aged lady, called upon them and arranged to place her two girls at the schools for two years, offering to pay the fees in advance. She wished to see her girls settled, she said, because she was leaving for Calcutta to join her husband, an officer in the British Army. She then left for Paris to fetch her daughters, and the schoolmistress shortly after received a telegram asking her to receive three boxes belonging to her daughters which were being sent out from London by a certain firm. Next day the schoolmistress received a letter from her pupils, asking that it be forwarded to them without being paid in advance for the transport, and requesting that the sum of £2 be sent at once to the London office. The schoolmistress sent the money, but they heard no more from the lady or the firm, though they have written several letters.

Elisa Copiato, aged sixteen, disappeared about three months ago from her house in Porto San Giorgio, Italy. Her family made exhaustive inquiries, and one morning on the shore near Ancona the girl's clothes were found and she was thought that she had committed suicide. A few days ago, however, a young man offered his services to M. Servadio, of Ancona, as coachman, and was engaged. One of the household servants fell in love with the fine-looking coachman, and they were betrothed. One morning a gentleman from Porto San Giorgio went to Ancona, and on coming out of the carriage was waiting. He glanced at the coachman, and then quickly walked up to him and called out "Elisa." The "coachman" wheeled up his horses and tried to escape, but was stopped and taken to the police station, where it was found that "he" was the missing girl. Her hair had been cut and she was cleverly disguised. The girl explains her strange behaviour by saying that she was in love with a young man of whom her parents did not approve.

The Chinese Government are about to introduce laws abolishing the pigtail and prohibiting the mutilating of women's feet. The Government intend to take the first step in the direction of reform by issuing a decree ordering all soldiers and policemen in China to cut off their pigtails before the autumn manoeuvres begin. A gradual abolition of both reforms throughout the country will subsequently ensue. Although the authorities at Peking are determined to carry out these innovations, they are hesitating to take the plunge for fear of the consequences, as it is quite possible that a rebellion may be stirred up. Many Chinese are still willing to fight in defense of the pigtail and mutilated feet, and risk their lives to uphold these relics of bygone times.

The British Government has performed a signal act of international good feeling in favor of the city of Florence, Italy. Mr. Stibbert, who died in the city last April, and was an assiduous collector of art objects and books, left the whole of his valuable collection to the British Government, and, in case they should not accept, to the people of Florence. Mr. Labouchere interested himself on behalf of the city and largely through his efforts the British Government has consented to forego its claim.

Libon is suffering from an epidemic of hydrophobia. In consequence of the terrible heat and the scarcity of water, a great number of the cats and dogs of the city have gone mad. During the past few days 125 mad dogs and cats have been killed in the streets. Officials from the municipal health bureau, armed with revolvers, can be seen hunting the animals through the streets, and many persons remain within doors for fear they will be killed on sight.

The lady superior of a convent in Bulgaria, who has been a nun for twenty-five years, has just married a stone mason, twenty-five years of age. While the mason was engaged in repairing the convent last year the lady superior fell desperately in love with him and she never recovered from her passion. The authorities removed her from her position and condemned her to six months' confinement in her cell. As soon as her liberty was restored she left the convent to marry the workman.

A child six years old committed suicide at Issy les Moulineaux, on the outskirts of Paris, recently, by throwing himself from a second-floor window into the street. The boy had always manifested suicidal tendencies in a marked degree, and was carefully watched during an illness of several months, but at last he managed to elude the vigilance of his nurse.

STATISTICS OF MURDERS.

From the Toronto News.

Hundreds of people saw Harry Thaw shoot Stanford White. The crime was brutal, cold blooded and fiendish enough to be the work of a mad man, yet noted alienists declare that Thaw is sane. In Canada, or in Great Britain, the man would surely go to the gallows; yet it may be regarded as a certainty that he will escape execution. Judge Thomas, of Montgomery, Ala., recently compiled some striking and interesting statistics relating to homicide in the United States. Among these tables was one dealing with the New York cases alone. During the past ten years there were 2,307 persons tried in New York for homicide. Of that number only 32 were executed. The average number of homicides per annum in the United States is 9,820, or about 120 million of population. The average per million in Britain is just over 10; in France 14; in Germany nearly 5; and in Canada 3. In other words, there are 43 times as many murder cases in the United States as in Britain. The people are similar, and the main reason to be given for this surprising state of things is that our criminal code on the subject of murder is absolutely unenforced. Long and needless delays over appeals and cross appeals and new trials are unknown. If malice aforethought is proved, extenuating circumstances cannot affect the jury. Either the prisoner is guilty or innocent. If guilty the judge must sentence him to execution. What clemency he may receive thereafter must be in the discretion of the crown.

Westminster Abbey

New York Sun.

For many years the condition of the fabric of Westminster Abbey has given rise to anxiety. This is natural, considering the extreme beauty of the building, "the most lovely and lovable thing in Christendom," coupled with its matchless historical associations, being as it is practically the centre of the English speaking races. Any disaster to Westminster Abbey would be a disaster of world-wide bearing.

It is not surprising that the building in the process of time should display ominous signs of decay. The Abbey is an extremely ancient erection. True, there only remain a certain number of fragments of the work of King Edward the Confessor, above ground, but a large part of the building was erected in the reign of King Henry III, the choir and transepts having been opened for service on October 13, 1269, in a well-nigh six and a half centuries ago.

The remainder of the building, of course, is of later date, but there is nothing save the two western towers, erected after the great fire, which is older than the rest of the building. In the reign of George II, which hall from a later date than the reign of King Henry VII. Thus if we regard the building simply as a purely chronological point of view the signs of decay are fully to be accounted for. There are, however, other reasons for the decay. The most curious signs of the exterior of the Abbey will show that it is full of detail. On its surface there are to be seen an immense number of elaborate mouldings. Unlike the famous Eastminster, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, where the surface is smooth and comparatively free from detail, the Abbey displays a face which is extremely vulnerable to time's degrading hands. When you add to this fact the deleterious effect of the general atmosphere of London, for which a variety of causes are assigned, it is scarcely surprising to learn that there are persons living today who can remember when the exterior of the Chapel of King Henry VII. at the eastern end of the main building, was entirely red, and yet careful inspection of the surface of the stonework here reveals the fact only too clearly that a large quantity of it is at this moment in an alarmingly-perishable condition.

Many attempts have been made from time to time to grapple with the decay, and the restoration has been conducted upon an extensive scale. A great deal was done in this way by Sir Christopher Wren in an extremely perilous condition, and his work was carried on by his pupil, Hawksmoor. All this was good, but in the century and a half which intervened between that time and the advent of the late dean, the Very Rev. Dr. Bradley, to Westminster Abbey, an immense amount of mischief took place, so much so that the dean said over and over again that when he arrived he found parts of the great building in so unsatisfactory a condition, notably the choir and north transept, that he could think of no better comparison than to say that the Abbey presented to his eye all the appearance of a quarry.

Something it was clear would have to be done, and that speedily; but the dean and chapter found themselves confronted with a new and most serious situation. Many people were, and indeed still are, under the impression that Westminster Abbey and its clergy are possessed of enormous wealth. Such was the case during bygone years, but those days have long since vanished. Between the years 1850 and 1870 the dean and chapter of Westminster were compelled to hand over all their valuable estates to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, receiving in return lands which were estimated to produce an income of something like £20,000 a year. It must be said in passing that the dean and chapter had the option of deciding whether they would actually consent to accept an income of this figure, paid over to them by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, or whether they would accept as already indicated, landed property calculated to produce that particular amount.

They adopted the latter course with disastrous results, as the history of the next years showed. They were placed in an extremely trying position. A great deal of the land which they surrendered to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was property in London, in the city of Westminster itself, and in the well-to-do suburb of Hampstead, and as such in the course of the nineteenth century it came to possess a most lucrative value for building purposes. The lands or part of the lands which the dean and chapter then received as the equivalent of £20,000 a year, were, comparatively speaking, of small value, and with the increase of agricultural depression, which had affected the rural portions of England so terribly during the nineteenth century, they began to feel the pinch.

The income, continued steadily to shrink, and in the year 1882, when the late Dr. Bradley first took the reins of authority in the Abbey church, he found that the landed property in the possession of the dean and chapter, so far from producing an annual revenue of £20,000, had already sunk to £18,000, while there was every probability of the descent continuing.

This was the emergency which the dean and chapter of Westminster Abbey were called upon to face in the '80s of the last century; a situation which has been tersely summed up in the words "a bankrupt chapter and a ruined fabric." First and foremost the fabric of their great church had to be placed as far as possible in a condition of security. Two bills were passed through Parliament, in 1886 and 1889 respectively. Under these bills the whole financial position of the Abbey was entirely reorganized, and up to a certain point it must be admitted, a considerable improvement was effected, though many of the changes that then took place can scarcely be described as wholly beneficial to the welfare of England's greatest and most famous church.

In the first place, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners undertook to take over the entire landed property belonging to the dean and chapter, at that time, as already pointed out, waning in value, promising to pay in perpetuity the clear sum of £20,000 to the dean and chapter. In the second place the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed to make a loan to the dean and chapter of £25,000, but the latter had to

pay a heavy price for this concession. They were compelled to suspend one of their canons, the income from which, amounting to £1,000 and the rent of the residential house attached to that stall, was employed to pay off the debt.

Thus ever since the late Bishop Westcott vacated his stall at Westminster Abbey, in the year 1890, to succeed his great predecessor, Bishop Lightfoot, in the see of Durham, the Abbey has been manned by five instead of the proper number of six canons, and such a state of things appears likely to go on for a good many years to come unless the unexpected happens.

A great deal was done promptly under the auspices of those two famous English architects, the late Sir Gilbert Scott and Mr. Pearson, to place the fabric in a more secured position. A large number of the flying buttresses were underpinned, and more important still, the entire front of the famous north transept, one of the most prominent features in the entire Abbey, was most carefully restored. Thus for the time being the more serious traces of decay were stopped, and since that date the work of renovation has consistently been maintained.

Unfortunately, however, the resources at the disposal of the dean and chapter of Westminster throughout the whole of the last twenty years or more have been insufficient for the purpose. Hard as they might work, the progress of the decay has been more than proportionately rapid. And now Westminster Abbey would seem to be once more on the verge of a serious crisis. The gifted surveyor of the fabric, W. Michewale, has estimated the amount required to place the Abbey in a thoroughly secure position, including the task of restoring the cloisters, at a sum not very far short of £100,000. Quite recently a new source of anxiety, however, has made its appearance. A large fragment of stone work, part of a pedestal, in fact, in the upper part of the north transept, which supported one of the many statues in that part of the building, fell the other day.

The reason assigned is that there was a flaw in the stone, but it is pointed out that the advent of the motor bus may have been to some extent responsible. A large number of these vehicles are constantly passing past Westminster Abbey at all hours of the day, and it is assumed in certain quarters that the vibration thus set up may have had something to do with this collapse. It might also be added in this connection that the new engines on the underground railway, running as they do at a much higher rate of speed than their predecessors, and consequently producing a greater amount of vibration, also may have had something to do with producing this result.

Thus Westminster Abbey seems to be in a bad way, both structurally and financially. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have been appealed to and they have voted to the dean and chapter under certain conditions a sum of £2,000 a year for the next five years. This will be something toward saving the situation, but it stands to reason that a great deal more than this is required, and it is much to be hoped that this may be forthcoming from some quarter.

ONE DAY IN SEVEN.

A bill providing for one compulsory day of rest in every week was lately passed by the French Chamber of Deputies. It is not intended as a "Sunday law," and is not based on religious ideas, but is a recognition of the scientific and economic fact that continuous employment leads to the physical and mental deterioration of the worker, and consequently affects the industrial output.

In France and other countries of continental Europe Sunday is not devoted to religious observance, but is regarded rather as a day of recreation for the multitude. Where many of their pleasures, however, many more must necessarily be employed in providing for those who seek enjoyment. All means of transport are in operation more actively on that day than any other; hotels and restaurants have their best custom then, and places of amusement their greatest patronage. All these industries and enterprises are therefore in operation seven days in the week, and the tendency is to keep the same workmen constantly employed without any day of rest. Often it is their preference, because in that way they earn more money.

It is not proposed by the new French law to check Sunday business, but to provide that on some one day of the seven each worker shall be free. Presumably the labor element is back of the measure, though this is not stated, but in any case, it is a reform of importance. Men work better and more willingly when they have a day in the week to themselves for rest and wholesome recreation. Unless employers are compelled to grant it to them they will not always get the benefit of the measure of the French house of deputies; therefore, a practical reform.

In this country the weekly rest day is provided for to a considerable extent by labor organizations. Custom also favors it, yet there are many classes of workmen who from one cause and another are unable to control their time sufficiently to secure this leisure. The growing tendency to make Sunday a day of recreation has something to do with this, many occupations necessary for the public comfort being carried on that day as on the other six. The so-called Puritan Sunday will never be restored, but wherever work goes on continuously over the seven days it should be a recognized rule that each worker shall have one of those days for his own, whether the first or the last of the week. It is well for the individual and the community when this rule is enforced.—Indianapolis Star.

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Great West

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It will doubtless be conceded on sides that the most wonderful progress in the world's history has been made in science and in inventions of various kinds during the nineteenth century, none of them being of great value to mankind than steamboats, railroads, telegraphy and printing, which have revolutionized the travel, and knowledge of the earth.

Previous to these inventions being in operation, a very large majority of the people in Europe and America travelled by stagecoach, and it is well known that little, many of them, were going beyond the smoke of their chimneys. But now it is easy to travel from one place or country to another by rail, or by steamship, with speed as well as comfort; and people are not satisfied to remain at home for year to year, or a life time, as the fathers and grandfathers were, but are constantly moving from one place to another over the earth, through their explorations together with their observations published to the world, the knowledge of the earth has been greatly increased. People living in overcrowded European lands have heard of many countries whose soils and climates are quite equal, if not superior to their own, which to make home, and are leaving their native land by thousands every year to settle in some favorable portion of the world. Among these countries are the emigrants to make a home in a country, doubtless one of the greatest, a good healthy climate where the summers are pleasant and warm, the winters short and mild, and without storms, blizzards and floods together with other disagreeable drawbacks such as they have to contend against in the Rocky mountains are not known. Such a place is British Columbia, a Paradise of the Dominion with its genial climate, its good land for farming or stock raising, its gold, silver and other minerals, its fish of many kinds swimming along its coast, its forests, and rivers, waiting for the enterprising to gather in its great wealth. Its forests filled with the valuable timber suitable for building every kind of structure, and its scene of various kinds, without any doubt second to none on earth.

The early navigators, and the pioneers explorers together with the hardy settlers who have resided on the Pacific coast for the last forty or fifty years, all testify to the temperate climate of British Columbia in comparison with the Atlantic coast in the same latitude.

We now quote from prize essays and pamphlets written on British Columbia giving opinions of the climate. Charles Forbes, Esq., M. R. C. S., Surgeon Royal Navy, in his prize essay on Vancouver Island published in 1862, alludes to the climate as follows:

"A belief in the salubrity of the climate of Vancouver Island was long ago expressed, and the last few years when an increase in the population has given better means of judging, has abundantly confirmed the impressions of the sections of those who first became acquainted with the region."

The Rev. R. C. Lundy Brown, M. A., in his essay on British Columbia published in 1863, speaking of the climate says: "West of the Rocky mountains it is much more moderate than on the eastern side, and with the exception of the Cariboo country, regarded as one of the finest in the world."

E. Graham Alston, Esq., B. A., in his hand book on British Columbia published in 1870, states "that he has resided for more than ten years on Vancouver Island and unhesitatingly declares the climate to be unsurpassed by any with which he is acquainted."

The orientation prize Essay on British Columbia by Alexander Caulfield Anderson published in 1872, in speaking of the climate states "as regards salubrity of climate, there is probably no part of the world that offers greater advantages. We are aware of no endemic diseases that manifest itself in

A Living Fro

An Example of Intensive Farming. Fruit from a Fence. Three Crops a Year. Written for the Sunday

In such a country as British Columbia where the cost of clearing land makes it expensive it is always interesting to note an example of intensive farming whether it be in the line of poultry, fruit growing, or mixed farming. In the neighborhood of a coal mining town one naturally looks for examples of this sort of work, because the miners have a certain amount of spare time on their hands which they can easily apply to a hobby. A visit to the one-acre lots west of Nanaimo was rather a disappointment in this respect. Certainly there were a few of the lots cultivated, or partly so, and there were a number of fine chicken ranches, but the majority of the lots were found going to waste almost. Considering the fact that work has been none too regular in the mines, one would have expected the miners to have put in their spare time in the field for their own profit. This they had not done in the majority of cases. In passing, one ranch was particularly conspicuous because the owner, Mr. Mottishaw, and his large family, were living from the cultivation of five wholesale, and that, by hawking it from the Nanaimo district that such a thing can be done there. A few more such observations would be a great advantage for it would show the miners what possibilities are from land highly cultivated, whereas the neglected orchards give the place a black eye. Industry is its own reward and one industrious person is worth more to a community than fifty loafers.

It was a stranger to Mr. Mottishaw and came without an introduction, but he very courteously showed me over his place and told me all I wanted to know. What attracted me most of all was about an acre of strawberries with a fine crop of onions growing between the rows. It was the first year for the berries, so they had not been allowed to bear, but in order to get a crop from the land the onions were sown and the