The Life of Song.

Is there anything on earth,
Where the strongest are not strong,
Half so feeble in its birth,
Or so sure of death, as Song?
Fraller blossom never grew,
Pelted by the summer rain;
Lighter insect never flew—
Scarcely come ere gone again!
Children, who chase butterflies,
May pursue it, to and fro,
Little maids who sigh, "Heigh-ho!"
May deplore it, when it dies;
Loftier deeds to men belong—
Larger Life than Song!

There is nothing on the earth,
Where so many things are strong,
Half so mighty in its birth,
And so sure of life, as Song.
Never pine on mountain height
So the thunder-bolt defies;
Scare with such undaunted eyes,
Conquerors pull empires down.
Think they will not be forgot;
But if song pursue them not,
Time destroys their dark renown:
Nothing is remembered long
But the Life of Song!

THE WHITE BEAR.

A Tale of Russia and the Russians.

A rich Russian lord living on his estate grew weary; however, like the generality of country land-owners he preferred to be bored at home rather than to amuse himself elsewhere. Above all things did he love to listen to stories. He was so fond of them that he made people tell him every anecdote in the world. He knew Russian ones, of course, and then Finnish, Turkish, Chinese, American and Hindoo ones. I do not mention French anecdotes, which are the most numerous and often the best.

One Christmas eve he said to himself that, according to all probability, he would pass that day alone, that is so merry for every one, but so sad for a solitary man, when, just at nightfall, whom should appear at his house but his nephew. This nephew was a young man of promising future, a budding diplomat, but a bud that began to grow too fast. The young man, who never went to see his uncle except when he was short of money, showed himself wonderfully attentive that day.

"What have you come to ask of me?" said his uncle, when tea had been served, and they were lighting their papiros.

"Oh, uncle!" exclaimed the nephew, in a vexed tone.

"There is nothing about which to get angry in that," replied the uncle. "I am always delighted to receive visits; you distrust me, so I secretly bless the ill-luck that has brought you here."

"Well, my dear uncle," said the diplomat, taking as we say, the bull by the horns, "here is a fine occasion for thanking Providence."

"Ah!" said the uncle, pricking up his ears, "if it is too fine I will bless nothing at all. How much is it?

"Five thousand roubles, my dear uncle, you who are the best of uncles!"

"I bless nothing," said his uncle, with a cold manner. "The time before the last it was five thousand roubles, the last time a thousand; I find the increase far too rapid. You may leave; I prefer to be bored."

"My adored uncle, I will come gratis the next time, and I will stay a whole week!"

His nephew, in saying these words, put on such a droll expression that he could not help laughing. Seeing that he gained ground by this, the young man was encouraged.

"Give me five thousand roubles, my dear uncle, and I will tell you a perfectly new story."

"Five thousand roubles, my unhappy boy! and what would you do with them?"

"I have lost them at play! A friend lent them to me so that I could pay my debt within twenty-four hours, but he will have need of them in two weeks' time."

"Stupid fellow! You might have amused yourself in making the acquaintance of two or three charming women, who would have spent it for you very pleasantly and almost as quickly."

"Oh! uncle," said the nephew, modestly, "when one is in diplomacy!"

"Hum! I believe you are making fun of me. Come, let us hear your story. But if it is not good you will receive nothing!"

"That is agreed, uncle, so you can pay in advance."

His uncle went to his secretary, took out a package of bank bills, and laid them on the table near him.

"There they are!" said he giving a tap with his teaspoon on his nephew's fingers that were stretching out too hastily. "If your story is good you shall have them; if it is bad I shall keep them. Go on!"

The nephew heaved a sigh of resignation, buried himself in his arm-chair and began as follows:

"There was once upon a time an excellent uncle, but who was avaricious like yourself."

"What!" said his uncle.

"Who had a charming nephew, like myself, but who was a little rogue."

"As you are," said the uncle. "Your story pleases me. Continue."

"This uncle was very rich, but so mean that his poor nephew had never even seen the sight of a present; the most he had ever received was a silver cup and a knife and fork on the day he made his appearance in this vale of tears. That was very little in the whole of twenty-five years, and our nephew dreamed of means whereby he might obtain more. He sent game, cigars the Revue des Deux Mondes—the uncle eat the first, smoked the second and cut the third, thanked him and gave nothing. The nephew ceased his attentions, hoping an explanation would be asked him. It was lost trouble. The uncle appeared not to have noticed anything. For the rest he was an admirable, jovial uncle, who lived well, and who would, at need, have offered the nephew shelter all the year round, but without ever giving him a red cent."

"He was right," the first uncle interrupted; "in that way his nephew would have amused him all the year for nothing. I will try that system. Continue."

"But the uncle had one fault, which is the greatest of all. He was—how can one express this about an uncle without being wanting in respect? He was a little—he was perfectly stupid."

"You don't go with a loose rein when you describe uncles!"

"It is because, you see, dear uncle, that uncle was not an ordinary one, because he was extraordinarily stupid. His stupidity was known fifty versts around, and there was not a landowner in the neighborhood who had not played him some trick. But our friend was very good, so that he got angry at nothing, and then he was so simple that perhaps he saw no maliciousness in any of it."

"That is the kind of uncle you ought to have had, is it not?"

"I would have lost too much in the exchange!" the nephew replied, in the most amiable way.

His uncle smiled.

"From having made so many useless presents to his uncle our unfortunate fellow found himself so poor that he determined to make up in one blow all the capital he had spent, together with a little interest on it; that was only fair, since the time he had."

"No, it was not fair," the listening uncle interrupted; "do not introduce diplomatic maxims in an honest house!"

"Fair or not," continued the young rogue, "our nephew resolved to strike a great blow. He mounted his only horse, took a small valise, and went off to the city. He went at first to a jeweller, then to an herb seller, then to a merchant who sold earthenwares; having finished his purchases, he packed them carefully in his valise, and went toward his uncle's home. It was on a Christmas eve, like to-day, and our friend, who felt his desire for pleasure was enormous, and but little in accordance with the slimness of his purse, swore to himself that he would leave his uncle's house richer than he entered it. The uncle was in good humor, a copious breakfast and an excellent cigar had made him disposed to make all manner of concessions that would not be simple gifts.

"'What have you brought there?' said he, seeing his nephew carefully unpack a lot of odorous herbs and a quantity of little papers covered with Latin names—it was apothecaries Latin, which, you know, is nothing more than kitchen Latin.

"'You will soon learn, uncle, what I have brought here,' the young man answered, with a solemn air. 'I must really love you very much to confide a secret of such importance to you. But you have always shown so much affection to me since the day when you made me a present of a silver cup and a knife and fork and spoon.'

"'Mon Dieu! how small you were!' interrupted the uncle, overcome by these souvenirs.

"'Yes, I have grown, and my feelings have grown with me. I have lately learned a secret of such importance that it will change the face of the whole world, and I have come to tell it to you.'

"'Ah! bah!' said the uncle, very much surprised.

"'Does this astonish you on my part? Ah! you are ungrateful, uncle! Since I attained the age of reason have I ever failed to remember your holiday, and have I not always sent you some tea, or coffee, or books; the little, in a word, which my small resources permitted?'

"'It is true you are a good fellow,' murmured his uncle, very much touched.

"'Well, what I bring you to day is worth more than all the rest; it is absolute power, it is the domination of the entire world, it is fortune without any limit save your own caprice. You may henceforth buy the diamond mines of India, the Islands of the Pacific, Africa, or even America.'

"'Do you want a glass of water?' said the uncle with affright, fearing his nephew was in the delirium of a high fever.

"'No, thanks, uncle. In a word, I have the philosopher's stone!'

"The uncle looked at his nephew, with his mouth wide open. Then he gravely shut it, said began to think. After half a second's reflection:

"'They have made fun of you, my poor boy,' said he, full of pity for him.

"'Uncle,' murmured the nephew, who seized our friend by the wrist with a mysterious air, 'I have made—I have made gold!'

"'I should much like to see it,' said his uncle, in a scoffing tone.

"For all, he was so extraordinarily stupid, that announcement was not at once believed.

"'Nothing is easier. You have a cellar?'

"'Yes, for what?'

"'Why, for the gold; it is always made in a cellar. Since Hermes Trismegistus gold has never been made except in a cellar.'

"'Well, I have one.'

"'Order a furnace to be carried down there; I have a crucible and the necessary ingredients, and Christmas eve, you know, has always been propitious for incantations. One must always make gold for the first time on Christmas eve; on that day bad spirits lose their power, and the good alone can exert their influence; so, my dear uncle, if you let this mysterious date pass by you will have to wait a whole year before you can profit by my generosity. Come, let us go to the cellar.

"'But,' said the uncle, half overcome, 'we will catch cold there.'

"'Oh! if you are going to allow yourself to be stopped by puerile considerations—' the nephew said in an offended tone.

"'No, no! wait a minute. I will go and put on my cloak and my galoshes. I advise you to do the same.'

"Five minutes after three servants, each one more astonished than the other, carried down into the cellar the nephew's apparatus, and a little brick furnace, that was not in the least commodious, and which was sometimes used for making preserves.

"'Leave!' said the nephew, with a theatrical air.

"As soon as the three servants had gone, he closed the door and opened the vent-hole to give some air. The cellar, in truth, was only a sort of basement, that was not a very disagreeable place, only it smelt damp.

"To the uncle's great astonishment, the young man mixed the herbs and his small packages together, added a little water, put the whole thing on the fire, and, while stirring the mixture with a punch-ladle, read in a low voice an abracadra formula that he had copied out of I know not what book. The mixture exhaled an abominable odor. The uncle held his nose and stood near the vent-hole, watching eagerly all the while the fantastic cooking and the alchemist.

"'It is made, uncle,' said the latter, handing him the punch-ladle. 'Look for the precious metal yourself.'"

"The uncle plunged his fingers in the bad-smelling mixture, not without burning himself, and after feeling about it for a little while he found two or three pieces of gold—real gold, it could not be doubted.

"'Gold!' exclaimed he. 'Go and bring me my test, which is in the closet in my study.'

"The nephew disappeared and returned in a moment; the gold being tried by the test produced the most perfect result. There was, however, a little alloy in it, but the nephew explained to his uncle that he had been obliged, on account of his small means, to purchase materials of second quality. But with better things pure gold would be obtained.

"'It is strange, very strange,' the uncle murmured with an absorbed air. 'And—does it cost much?'

"'No, in comparison to the results obtained it is a simple bagatelle.'

"'Ah! And where did you obtain your secret? If there is any influence of the evil spirit in it—I would not like—for things that are, after all, perishable.'

"'Reassure yourself, my dear uncle. It was an old monk from Kief who confided this secret to me. He was making a pilgrimage and stopped to rest himself at my house. He took a fancy to me, and revealed this marvellous secret to me. One must prepare one's self for it by fasting and prayer.'

"'Yes, but I was fasting and it was I who did the operation.'

"'That is true.'

"'And now, uncle, if you would be kind enough to have me a little collation served.'

"'Willingly, my friend; let us go upstairs.'

"Our two alchemists locked the door of their laboratory and the young man soon found himself before a splendidly served supper.

"'Then you wish to tell me your secret?' said the uncle in the most carressing voice.

"'Yes, my dear uncle; you well deserve it for your kindness toward your orphaned nephew.'

"'I have always loved you very tenderly,' the miser said, with great feeling. 'Well, give me your recipe.'

"'Most heartily, my dear uncle. But there is a small condition attached to it.'

"'What is it?'

"'You must count me out twenty thousand silver roubles.'

"'Twenty thousand roubles!'

"The uncle jumped nearly up to the ceiling.

"'Yes, my dear uncle.'

"'What do you want to do with my money, since you possess the means of making as much gold as you please?'

"'Yes; but the materials? I must have something with which to buy them.'

"'But with twenty thousand roubles you would have enough to make a mountain of gold, since you say it costs so little!'

"'Doubtless! But I must do something else besides making gold for six months. It takes time. And then one must be fasting, you know. Are you not ashamed to bargain about the possession of a secret that will make you my only rival?'

"The question of finances was debated for a long while, and ended in a compromise. The nephew contented himself with 10,000 roubles in ready money, and promised to make the experiment again the next morning. The second trial was no less satisfactory than the first; the pieces of gold were even finer and heavier than the former ones, and the treaty was concluded. The nephew dined with his uncle, pocketed his money and took his leave.

"'What, are you going away?' asked his bewildered uncle. 'I thought you were going to stay and help me?'

"'You have no need of me. You saw what I did; I have left you the materials, and besides, you have the list of them; and their proportions, and the formula. I have forgotten nothing. You must be fasting, remember.'

"'Yes, yes; don't worry about that.'

"'Well, I am sure that is everything. I have forgotten nothing. So, then, adieu, my dear uncle, and good luck attend you.'

"He had his horse brought, mounted it and rode away.

"The uncle, left alone, stretched himself out in an arm-chair and began to think. What a horizon was henceforth opened before him. He would make gold until he had all his cellars, all his coffers full, and what a pleasure it would be to possess so much. He would build a new house; the furniture should all come from Paris by express trains; the custom house duties would be enormous, but what would that matter to one whose wealth would be inexhaustible? After having furnished the rez-de-chaussée of his imaginary house, he passed on to the arrangement of the first storey, when he heard the hoofs of a horse ridden at full speed resound on the ground, that was hardened by frost.

"'What the devil is that?' said he to himself.

"Before he had time to leave his chair his nephew entered, pale, haggard, and with his hair all disordered by the wind.

"'Uncle!' exclaimed he, 'you have not yet begun? Tell me you have not begun yet!'

"'Why, no. You knew very well that we have just dined, and that one must be fasting.'

"'May the Lord be praised! I arrived in time! Ah! what would have been my remorse, uncle! If you only knew!'

"'What then?'

"'I had forgotten to tell you—but since there is still time there is nothing lost. In the name of heaven, uncle, when you are making gold never think of the white bear, or else the operation cannot succeed!'

"'The white bear?'

"'Yes; the white bear has an opposing influence to that of the planets, and the simple evocation of its image would suffice to spoil the manipulation of the metals in the crucible. So, then, never think of that fatal bear!'

"'The devil take you and your white bear!' grumbled the miser. 'I never thought of it any more than of hanging myself. You have given me a nice fright. Why did you limagine should think of the white bear?'

"'One never knows; the chance of it is so great! Well, at least, you are forewarned. Now I will leave.'

"He went away without any hindrance, and it was five years before he appeared in the neighborhood again.

"Five years after, thinking he had nothing more to fear, he risked returning to his Penates. At a neighboring landowner's he met his uncle, and prepared himself to listen to the most cruel reproaches. There was none at all."

"'Here you are,' said his uncle to him, with a sad air.

"'Yes; I have been around the world.'

"'Do you know I have had no luck.'

"'Why, how so, uncle?'

"'I never could succeed in the operation! I tried it, however, more than two hundred times. But it was your fault as well as mine. What need had you to speak to me about the white bear? In all my life I had never thought of it, and now it never goes out of my head!'"

The young diplomat's story was ended. His uncle, without saying a word, passed over the roll of bank notes to him.

"Only," said he to him, after a silence, "thank Christmas eve and my solitude, which have made me indulgent. Your story is worth nothing at all, but on Christmas eve one must not be unkind."

MORMONISM.

Polygamy Declared a Crime.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—The *Herald's* Washington special says a member of the Cabinet states that the object of the letter to our diplomatic representatives was to properly set forth charges against Mormonism, so that a public discussion in the foreign press would follow and make the charges known to all classes. This object appears to have been already attained. The right of every nation to police its own territory has never been denied. Polygamy has now been declared a crime, and the Administration has now a right to refuse permission to land to steamships laden with Utah recruits.

About three o'clock on the 11th of June I picked up a female butterfly, the head of which had recently been plucked off by a bird, and was lying near the body. Thinking it was dead, I carried it home to examine the wing scales. On clipping off a bit of wing about four hours afterward, the legs moved, and in a short time an egg was laid. Others followed, till five-and-twenty had been expelled. The laying then ceased, and the headless mother seemed dead. Next morning, on touching her, the laying was resumed. On close examination a heaving of the wings and rings of the abdomen could be observed, with about the frequency of human breathing. At the end of twenty-nine-and-a-half hours from the time of finding the laying ceased; seventy-eight eggs were laid by the butterfly with her head off. —*Correspondence of Nature.*

The pay of Bismarck from all sources, both as Prussian Minister and as Chancellor of the Empire, is only $13,500. The highest salary of a Prussian Cabinet Minister is $9,000. Pensions are on the same moderate scale, the pension amounting to as many eighteths of the salary which was being received at the time of retirement as these have been years spent in the service of the State. Ten years are added to the record of service in all cases where misconduct has not called for censure. But where the salary exceeds $3,000 only the half of such excess is taken into account.

President Eliot, of Harvard, is represented by the Rev. Lyman Abbott as saying in a letter: "No one is a gentleman or a lady who has not a refined and accurate use of the mother tongue. That attainment I find essential to my conception of a gentleman or a lady. A gentleman or a lady will have other mental acquisitions; but these will not be essential as that is." There will be some criticism of President Eliot's opinion.

For sometime past it has been proposed to introduce some distinctive dress to be worn by judges in Germany while administering justice, but opinion has been divided as to whether that dress should be a semi-military uniform or a black gown. The Government has just decided the question in favor of the latter. The official dress of judges is henceforth to consist of a black gown and black cap.

AMERICAN CUTLERY IN SHEFFIELD.—A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Birmingham, England, says that recently a leading manufacturer in Sheffield showed his workmen an assortment of American made goods, and, taking up a pair of tailor's shears, offered to give the Union £50 if any one of his men, in a month, would produce one pair of shears as good as the American sample.

HARD TIMES AND POLITICS.—What a row there would have been about the hard times if four banks had collapsed within a few weeks during the term of office of a Liberal Ministry. There is nothing of this now and we are glad of it. We do not desire to see clap trap become the motive of political action. Still we cannot but perceive that the universal cure-all has not worked according to promise.—*Montreal Herald.*

The most elegant parasols of this season are of white silk, with white lace on the edges.

A BLIND MAN'S DUEL.

A Romantic Scene on the Deck of Mississippi Steamer.

It is doubtful if any theatre ever offered such volumes of romantic indictations as the deck of the old time Mississippi steamer. In the old days before the railroads traversed the Continent in every direction, and the West was a wilderness, and the fleet, wave-borne palaces of the inland sea carried thousands of pleasure seekers to the South. It was then that life was a carousal, and men and woman gave themselves up to the most lavish enjoyments. Men were as prone to brawls as the sparks to fly upwards. Conspicuous among the fierce and rollicking habitues of the steamers was Captain West, a noted duelist. One day he engaged in a controversy with a gentleman with whom he met on deck, whom he accused of staring at him impertinently.

"Why do you stare at me so intently?" demanded the Captain.

"I am not looking at you," calmly replied the stranger, his eyes meanwhile fixed in a stony glare upon the duelist's face.

"But you are, sir!"

"I am not."

The Captain turned away, but a short time afterwards he felt those stony eyes were upon him, and following all his movements with pitiless ferocity. It became inexpressibly annoying and the Captain at last determined to make an end of it. Stepping up to the stranger he enquired, with suppressed passion:

"Can you fight as well as look?"

"Perhaps so. I never tried it. Place me, however, in position, and I will do my best."

The singular conduct of the stranger had by this time attracted universal attention, and whispered conferences regarding his remarkable appearance agitated the little groups of persons all over the boat. In a short time, however, the boat rounded to a landing for wood, and then the parties to the impromptu duel went ashore. The passenger was led off by a negro servant, who seemingly picked his way. Indeed, from the intense interest he was manifesting in the encounter, the servant was apparently more interested in the encounter than his master. But the time allowed for preliminaries was brief, and the men were speedily put in position and pistols placed in their hands.

The word was given, and two ringing reports flashed out on the air. Captain West fell pierced to the heart. The stranger stood erect, calm and dignified. His second rushed up to him:

"Are you hurt, sir?"

"No; how is it with my antagonist?"

"Can't you see? You have killed him!"

"No; I am unable to see."

"You can't see?"

"No; I am blind."

And he was. The tragedy was a nine days' wonder, and all sorts of rumors were rife as to the indentity of the fatal stranger. But who he was and whither he went was a mystery never solved. The circumstances went to make up an incident in the dark and bloody memories which made famous the olden time.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Personal.

The report that Lord Dufferin will be transferred to Constantinople is not confirmed.

Hon. John O'Connor and family have returned to Ottawa from the Lower Provinces.

Councillor Campbell, of Petersville, has resigned to take the position of tax collector.

Senator Brown is in New York inspecting the newspaper offices and visiting the press clubs.

The Crown Prince of Sweden, who is on a visit to Edinburgh, was taken suddenly ill yesterday.

Speaker Blanchet is to visit Paris and several places on the continent before returning to Canada.

Later advices from Mr. Metcalf, M. P. P., who is at present in England, state that he continues quite ill.

The attending physicians have given up all hopes of saving the life of Miss Julia Holman, the actress.

Mr. Francis Parkman, the historian, has sent a contribution towards the erection of a monument to the hero of Chateauguay.

Hon. Mr. Langevin returned to the capital yesterday afternoon, having left Quebec disgusted at the non-success of his mission.

It is said that Mr. Cimon has been named Engineer for Public Works below Quebec by the Federal Government.

Capt. Kirwin, late editor of the Montreal *Evening Post*, is said to have accepted a similar appointment on the Montreal *Star*.

The London (Eng.) *Pictorial World*, of Aug. 2nd, contains five woodcuts of Wimbledon celebrities, led by Lieut.-Col. Gibson

The young Duke De Morny, son of the Master of the Household of the late Napoleon Third, is in Montreal. He is a handsome young man, about twenty-four years of age.

Mr. Thomas Carlyle has been very ill. His condition is now said to be so much improved as to relieve the anxiety of his friends. At the same time the doctor still visits him daily, and by medical advice Mr. Carlyle drives out as frequently as possible.

Mr. Thos. Greenway, of Centralia, ex-M. P. for South Huron, has announced himself as a candidate for the constituency of Mountain, Province of Manitoba. It is stated that he will be opposed by Mr. Fred. Aylmer and Mr. Robert Reesor.

Bishop Bompas, of Athabasca, knows how to hold service in seven native dialects. He has learned to endure hardship like a good soldier of the Cross. He eats rat-stew—reported to be a dainty dish; he likes deer's meat, or tongue, or moose-nose, squirrel-stew, and roasted lynx or beaver, and he speaks with approval of a new dainty with which he made acquaintance among the Tonsbess Indians. It consists of cakes made of seaweed, poplar bark, herring-spawn, bitter berries, a sauce made of seal-oil and the grease of the likun fish.

A marriage has been arranged between the eldest son of the Right Hon. Lord Justice Brett and Eleanor, youngest daughter of the late M. Sylvian van de Weyer, for many years Belgian Minister at the Court of St. James', and grand daughter of the late Mr. Joshua Bates, of "Barings'."

The Earl of Loudon, whose mother, a sister of Lady Flora Hastings, ordered in her will that her right hand should be buried under a white pillar on her estate, in full view of the trains which take the Queen yearly to Balmoral, the pillar being inscribed with the fierce device, "I bide my time," is to marry Miss Alice Howard, a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, whose duchess is Lord Loudon's sister and sister-in law of the Marquis of Bute.

At length there seems to be some prospect that an end will be put to duelling in the German universities. The authorities at Leipzig have made a formal prohibition o these encounters, and provided for fining innkeepers who permit them on their premises. It has been the custom of students who have exchanged the conventional provocations of "stupid youth" or "pig dog," to meet with their seconds in a private room of some suburban hostelry, and there score one another's cheeks and noses. Their bodies and arms swathed in bandages, and their eyes protected by thick glass goggles, the are set foot to foot, and left to hew away at each other's countenances until one of them is disfigured to such an extent as may be required by the exigencies of their particular quarrel. A Bavarian magistrate lately condemned thirteen students of the Munich Hochschule to from three to six months' imprisonment for acting as principals and seconds in college duels.

The English jockey cap is taking the place of the stovepipe riding hat for lady equestrians.

The Visit of the English Team.

The Nottingham *Daily Guardian* has the following anent the visit of Daft's American Cricket Team—"We are in a position to announce authoritatively that definite arrangements have been made for the visit to America, during the ensuing autumn, of a team of English cricketers, under the management and leadership of Richard Daft. For many years past there has been a desire on the part of our Transatlantic friends, who take an interest in the noble game of cricket, to witness the play of the most finished and graceful of English batsmen, as also of several others who have never taken part in any foreign expedition. This wish will now be gratified, and the Canadian and American public will have an opportunity of seeing the performances of the pick of professional talent, as the eleven taken out is as unquestionably as strong in all departments as could possibly be. The Eleven (or rather twelve) will consist of the following; R. Daft, A. Shaw, G. Ulyett, W. Oscroft, A. W. Bales, J. Selby, F. Morley, E. Lockwood, W. Barnes, T. Emmett, A. Shewsbury, and G. Pinder. Nine or ten of these men have been selected this year by the Marylebone Club to play in the Gentlemen vs. Players' match at Lord's, and the people of Canada and America may rest assured that no better exponents of the art could be well put in the field. Saloon passengers' berths for the team have been secured in the Sardinian, of the Allan Line of steamboats, to leave Liverpool for Quebec, on the 28th of August. The first match will be played at Toronto on Sept. 10th, under the patronage of the Marquis of Lorne, the Governor-General of Canada, who, we may add, is expected to play against the Eleven. About twelve matches will be played, and among the places to be visited are Ottawa, Montreal, Detroit, Hamilton, New York and Philadelphia. The tour is expected to last about six weeks, and we have not the least doubt it will be a thorough success. The presence of Richard Daft as captain of the team may be taken on the other side of the water as a sure guarantee that the visit will be conducted in the most satisfactory and honorable manner."

How Many Eggs Can a Hen Lay?

There has been so much loose talk about the total number of eggs a hen is capable of laying, and her yearly yield under fairly good treatment, that it is a satisfaction to come across something beyond guesswork or mere inference on the matter. The foundation of science is accurate observation, and when a scientist publishes a statement, it is presumable that it is based on this foundation. Its accuracy, too, is confirmed, if it is quoted with approval by other men with wide experience and knowledge on the subject involved in it. Now, Geyelin says, and Prof. Miles, in his excellent work on stock breeding, quotes him with approval: "It has been ascertained that the ovarium of a fowl is composed of 600 ovales or eggs; therefore a hen, during the whole of her life, cannot possibly lay more than 600, which, in a natural course, are distributed over nine years in the following proportion:

1st year after birth	15	to 20
2nd " "	100	" 120
3rd " "	120	" 135
4th " "	100	" 115
5th " "	50	" 60
6th " "	50	" 60
7th " "	35	" 40
8th " "	15	" 20
9th " "	1	" 10

Inasmuch as experience demonstrates that some breeds of hens are vastly more prolific than others, this statement, of course, can be applicable only to the average of poultry.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Josh Billing's Philosophy.

(Glen House Record.)

Mi dear Youth, if your ambishun iz simply to make people laff, be sure and get yure pay for it as yu go along, for they will deny the det to-morrow.

I hev seen people so full ov malice and pizon, that i dont believe the hight ov a mad dog would affekt them, but i am not prepared to say what might happen to the dog.

If yu want to git at the aktual value of a peakok, buy a Bob tailed one, and then estimate on him.

It aint so much what a man kan lift, as what he kan hang onto, that shows his aktual strength.

If a man undertakes to travel on the line between truth and dishonesty, he iz sure to stumble, and we all kno on which side of the line he will fall.

After examining closely the various pretenshuns ov the world, i am more than half inclined to envy the happiness ov a Helthy Phool.

A Bridgeport man has invented a very simple but ingenious machine for ironing shirts. It consists of an iron framework about five feet long, three feet wide and two and a half feet high. On the top of this framework is attached the iron, which is a hollow iron cylinder or roller, sixteen inches long and eight inches in diameter. The cylinder is constructed with arms at each end, and being attached to a crank, when in motion rides back and forth on the framework. The cylinder is heated by gas and is kept hot all the time. An attachment called the bosom-board is connected at the end of the frame by hinges. The operator stands at the end of the frame and operates the machine. The operation is simple. The shirt is placed over the board the same as when ironed by hand, being drawn tight and smooth. The board is then thrown down in its place with the bosom upward. The heated cylinder then passes over and finishes the bosom. This machine is capable of ironing from 500 to 600 per day.

Here is an incident of railroad travel in Hungary. A mail train came to a sudden stop in a tract of open country. The passengers thrust their heads out at the windows to see what had happened. A pig had leaped from a van and was skurrying away. The train employees joined in a pursuit and the fugitive was hotly chased for twenty minutes. They all returned to the waiting train except the official who had charge of the baggage vouchers, and the delay was prolonged, but in vain, for him to come back. At the end of the journey the passengers could not get their trunks until next day, when the voucher man arrived.

Notwithstanding the exposure in the courts of the frauds of the Marpingen miracle, the belief of the faithful in the apparition of the Virgin remains unshaken, and large pilgrimages are being made to the thorn bush and shrine. A report that the Virgin had been seen in a poplar tree near Gostyn, sometime ago, brought together 2,000 or more fanatics, some of whom climbed the tree to kiss the spot, and carried away pieces of bark as relics. They would not listen to the parish priest.

The Rev. R. Fisk accused himself of grave offences, and resigned as pastor of the Grand Rapids Universalist church, two years ago. He now says that he confessed more than the truth, calm thought on the subject having convinced him that he painted himself too black, and asks to be reinstated.

Mrs. Western is a most uncommon religious convert. After announcing her change of heart in a Baptist meeting, at Worth, Ga., she began to exhort with great volubility, and has kept it up ever since, stopping hardly enough to eat and sleep. The superstitious neighbors regard her as an inspired speaker. She will pay no attention to anybody, but talks on from morning until night. Thousands of persons have been to see and hear her.

Daylesford, the famous seat in Worcestershire, England, the possession of which was the dream of Warren Hastings life, now belongs to a Mr. Byass, whose father made $2,000,000 by exporting bottled beer It is said that the elder Byass gained greatly by his name being so like that of the famous Bass. Daylesford passed after Hastings death to Sir Charles Imhoff, his wife's son, and changed hands again before it reached Mr. Byass.

Mr. B. Sulte, of Ottawa, is writing a history of steam navigation.

THE CHURCH.

There is a growing feeling in England and Wales in favor of shutting up public houses on Sundays. Petitions in support of the Bill to accomplish this object have been extensively circulated and numerously signed.

The French Sunday School Society represents nearly 1,100 Sunday schools; and these institutions have been established in all but five or six departments of the Republic. The committee has begun the publication of *Bible Lessons.*

Dr. Robert Moffat, than whom no one is better informed on whatever concerns that part of the world, says that "mission-work all over South Africa has been thrown back fifty years by the present war with the Zulus."

Our most venerable churches seem quite youthful as compared with such a church as that of St. Peter-upon-Cornhill, London, which was to celebrate its seventeenth centennial August 3. The tradition is that it was founded in the year 179.

The sacred mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople, which has for centuries been guarded against the intrusion of unbelievers, is to be open every Tuesday and Friday for believers of all faiths to attend a lesson for the reconciling the differences of religions.

At the annual general meeting of the Ottawa Ladies' College, the Board of Managers were instructed to apply to the Parliament of Ontario for the necessary Act to give effect to the proposed connection with the Presbyterian Church.

Since Rome became the capital of united Italy, twelve Protestant Churches have been built in that city, of which three are Episcopal and two are Methodist. The Baptists and Presbyterians have one each. Bibles are now openly sold in the streets of the principal cities of Italy.

The Belgian Government has adopted a peculiar policy on the burial question. It will not permit separate burial grounds to each denomination, but requires them to use the communal cemeteries allowing the separate consecration of each grave by the denominational rites.

The Orphan and Convalescent Homes founded by the exertions of the late wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, have a permanent endowment fund of $35,000. Eighty girls are accommodated in the orphan home, and thirty women recovering from serious illness in the convalescent home.

The Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Canada decided at their meeting in Ottawa to remain in their present position in regard to the General Council, under the presidency of their present Bishop, W. R. Nicholson, D.D., and deprecated any separation from the Reformed Episcopal Church as it was originally organized by the late Bishop Cummins.

Of Talmage the Glasgow *Mail* says: "Compared with Moody he wants earnestness, with Spurgeon originality, and with Gough the knowledge of platform effect. Generally speaking had we not known that it was the celebrated American orator who was lecturing, we might have mistaken him for an ordinary Presbyterian minister making a humorous address at a first-class soiree."

How would it do for England to learn a lesson from Belgium? The Government of the last named country has decided on permitting no other than communal burial grounds, and these are to be open to all. Any service may be held in them, according to the wishes of those concerned. The question of burials would be well settled is such a system as this were adopted in the mother land.

The English *Inquirer*, a Unitarian paper, says that the efforts of Unitarianism among the working classes in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and many other large centres are little short of failure. Correspondents of American Unitarian journals also state that Unitarianism in Britain is very feeble and has been losing *prestige*. The reason assigned is, that in other religious bodies many of the views for which Unitarianism has been wont to contend are now prevalent.

Commander Matthews, U. S. N., informs the *Spirit of Missions* that in a locality within the recent famine district in China, a community has presented a large and magnificent heathen temple to what they call "The Jesus Church," and Dr. Nelson, in a letter published in the same paper, speaks of the baptism, in the same district, of 300 persons at one time by two of the London Society's missionaries, who have, besides, 1,000 candidates.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of America closed its session at Columbus, Ohio, on the 22nd of July. It was decided to publish a new quarterly magazine, to form State synods, and to establish a general Theological Seminary. The Lutherans in the States have about 3,150 ministers, 5,600 congregations, and 725,000 communicants. They are increasing rapidly from the large German and Scandinavian immigration.

The Rev. Fergus Ferguson, who was arraigned before the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland last year and admonished, in a recent sermon thus stated his belief on one of the doctrines in question, viz, everlasting punishment: "The punishment of unforgiven sin is everlasting in the sense of entailing upon the sinner an irreparable loss of the highest kind—namely, the loss of that life in God into which those only are admitted who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ now." He stands squarely with the Rev. David Macrae, who was recently deposed, on this doctrine.

The *English Church Union* publishes a statement showing the progress of Ritualism in the Anglican Church. Out of 2,000 churches from which returns have been received, candles in 541 cases stand unlighted upon the altar, and in 487 other instances are lighted "during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist"; "vestments," "colored vestments," and "linen vestments" are returned as being worn respectively in 24 cases, in 141, and 168; and the eastward position is assumed at celebration in 1,364 churches.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has addressed an appeal to the public for continued and extended aid to the work of Bible women instituted by the late Mrs. Ranyard. He asserts his belief that her work "has done more to alleviate misery among the poorest classes and bring them to a love of 'The Book,' and of our blessed Lord, than many or indeed all of the efforts of preceding generations."

The chief Rabbis and Presidents of the two principal congregations at Jerusalem have issued an appeal for aid, in consequence of the scarcity of food, due to the adverse harvests in Palestine for the last three years. They state that the condition of poor Jews in Jerusalem is most appalling, as they have neither food nor the means of procuring any. They do not ask for money, but for wheat, barley, flour and other articles of food.

The London *Tablet* regrets that whatever propriety there was in former times in designating France, Austria, Spain, Italy, Bavaria, Belgium and Portugal as Catholic States "has almost entirely disappeared." In Spain alone is the Government influenced by the Church, and even in Spain "the Catholicism of the State is superficial and formal, and nothing like a warm support of Catholic interest at home or abroad is to be looked for from those in power."

Mr. Spurgeon, says the London *News*, has been gifted by nature with a voice distinctly audible at the edge of a crowd of 10,000 persons in the open air, and his perfect mastery of his own language is never marred and spoiled, as the far inferior style of many highly-educated people is apt now a days to be, by the unseasonable intrusion of foreign idioms. But beyond and above these advantages he has the indefinable power of so saying what he wishes to say as to make it both immediately intelligible and permanently impressive to all who hear him.

It may be a matter of surprise to many that there is a Christian church in the City of Cabul, Afghanistan. But in the Bella Hissar (or walled fort) and not far from the Ameer's palace, there has been a little Armenian church ever since the days of Nadir Shah, and his little band of Armenian Christians have been allowed to worship their God and Saviour undisturbed in that church all through the many political disturbances and administrative changes that have taken place in that city. At one time there was a considerable number of Armenian Christians in Cabul, but now there are not more than twelve souls. Most of these have received baptism from clergymen of the Church of England.

Fifty years ago the Fiji Islanders were savages and cannibals. Now they are civilized and Christians. Eighty-five per cent. of the entire population attend upon divine worship in the Wesleyan Churches, and most of the others attend upon God's worship in other churches. This is having "the abundance of the sea converted" unto Jesus. Their zeal and constancy put to shame the lack of interest shown by the American people to the claims of the Gospel. It should be remembered that besides liberally supporting and largely attending upon the Gospel, the Fiji Islanders contribute some $15,000, or more, each year to send the Gospel to the perishing heathen beyond themselves.

The Established Church of Scotland does not flourish in the Highlands, if the returns from many of the parishes may be trusted. In one parish in Inverness-shire, with a population of 1,005, the number of communicants is eight. In a certain Presbytery, out of a total population of 10,403, there are only 236 members of the State Church. In the Parish of Croick there are six communicants, in that of Knock four, in that of Eddrachillis five. In the Parish of Lochearron the minister has an income of $300 a year for each member of his church and his entire income is $600. A parish in Skye has a population of 1,068 and furnishes three members of the State Church.

The Council of the Evangelical Alliance have invited attention to recent marked manifestations of religious bigotry in Austria. The adherents of a sect near Prague have been forbidden to admit to their family worship any person who is not strictly a member of their family. The Attorney-General at Prague holds that it is not lawful for them even to say grace at meals while a stranger is present. The adherents of the "New Church" at Vienna, after ten years of uninterrupted services, were forbidden last fall to hold any meetings at all. Meetings of the American Board Mission were prohibited at Prague, and at Graz, in Styria. The Free Church Presbyterians and the Baptists have been forbidden