

MAY 1, 1889.

DOMAIN OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE

A Remarkable Meteor.

At Oswego, N. Y., one night recently, a large and brilliant meteor was seen. It appeared in the southern sky about 10 minutes past nine, 25 degrees above the horizon. It seemed about the brilliancy of Venus. It moved horizontally from west to east with the apparent speed of a rocket. It grew in size as it moved, and in the southwest broke into three balls, each larger than the whole when first seen. Just before breaking it showed a red tinge, and after separation each part showed vivid green like the characteristic flame of copper.

An Astry Flight.

According to a correspondent of the Electrical Review Mr. Edison believes that the time will come when transportation through the air will be the order of things in that line. The idea that the air ship must go up a mile or more is erroneous. If it were no higher than an ordinary building it would suffice. "When the time comes for it to be put in operation," he said, there will be one drawback to it, and that is the ease with which it will afford criminals to make their escape from whatever point their crime was committed. There will be no danger of their being intercepted by wire, as is the case now. It may be that the science which will give us this sort of navigation, will provide something else by which criminals who make their escape through the air will be overtaken. But this will take time. In my opinion, when we shall have aerial navigation we shall see more crime.

Some Theories About Natural Gas.

Some of the theories that are gravely propounded in respect to this new fuel are mentioned by Prof. Joseph F. James in the Popular Science Monthly for April. One writer asks whether it is safe to bore the earth too much. He assumes the earth to be a hollow sphere filled with a gaseous substance called by us natural gas, and he thinks that tapping these reservoirs will cause disastrous explosions, resulting from the lighted gas coming in contact with that which is escaping. Earthquakes, he says, are probably caused by the outflowing gas. He compares the earth to a balloon inflated and kept distended by the gas in the interior, which if exhausted will cause the crust to collapse, effect the motion of the earth in its orbit cause it to lose its place among the heavenly bodies, and fall in pieces. Another writer thinks that boring should be prohibited by stringent laws. He, too, thinks there is a possibility of an explosion, though from another cause. Should such a disaster occur, "the country along the gas belt from Toledo through Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky will be ripped up to the depth of twelve or fifteen hundred feet, and flopped over like a pancake leaving a chasm through which the waters of Lake Erie will come howling down, filling the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and blotting them out forever." Still another theorist has investigated the gas wells with delicate thermometers, and he announces startling discoveries. He distinguishes kinds like mill and half or no beneath the surface of the earth is 3,500 degrees. The scientist says an immense cavity exists under Findlay, and that beneath the gas is stored; that a mile below the bottom of the cavity is a mass of roaring, seething flame, which is gradually eating into the rock floor of the cavern and thinning it. Eventually the flames will reach the gas, a terrific explosion will ensue, and Findlay and its neighborhood will be blown skyward in an instant.

Tobacco as a Disinfectant.

The habit of smoking is not one that commands itself to every person. With those who abstain from it we find no fault; but for that great number in the community who indulge in the weed it may be interesting to know, as the result of scientific inquiry, that tobacco is not quite as black as it is frequently painted. Tobacco may not rank as a public benefactor, but from what has recently been disclosed, it may lay claim to be somewhat of the nature of a general sanitizer. There is a popular notion, especially among the smoking portion of the community, that tobacco smoke acts as a disinfectant; this claim, however, as we believe, not generally supported by medical men. But it has now been shown, from the investigations and experiments of an Italian Professor, Dr. Vincenzo Tassinari, assistant at the Hygiene Institute of the University of Pisa, that tobacco smoke is to a certain extent an annihilator of disease by its action upon the growth of bacilli. Dr. Tassinari has taken great pains to demonstrate its utility in that direction, and constructed special apparatus for the purpose. In order to imitate as closely as possible the process going on in the human mouth during the inhalation of smoke, Dr. Tassinari passed tobacco smoke through a horizontal tube into a chamber kept moist by a bunch of wet cotton wool suspended in it and containing, besides, a "culture" or growth of bacilli, which he submitted to the action of tobacco smoke. He used in his experiments the various qualities of manufactured tobacco most generally smoked in Italy—that is to say, the large Virginia cigar, the large Cavendish cigar, the small Cavendish cigar, and the best cigarette tobacco. The action of these was tried severally upon seven kinds of bacteria—namely, the so-called cholera bacillus, the cattle distemper bacillus, pus coccus, Finkler-Prior bacillus, the bacillus of typhus and pleuro-pneumonia; and finally the bacillus of bile pus. We say advisedly, the "so-called cholera bacillus," because its existence is not yet positively proved. The results obtained by Dr. Tassinari were most remarkable, and amply repaid him for his trouble, the experiments showing unmistakably that tobacco smoke considerably retards the development of some varieties of bacteria, while it effectually prevents the development of others. Dr. Tassinari carried his investigation further, actually fixing the length of time during which the development of bacteria is prevented. By comparing experimentally the growth of the same micro organisms when not exposed to the retarding action of tobacco smoke with their development when so exposed, it was found that the smoke of a large Cavendish cigar, for instance, delayed the development of the pus bacillus for 73 hours, and of cattle distemper bacillus for 100 hours, and that the same smoke prevented the formation of cholera and typhus bacilli entirely—in fact, acted as a germicide. Similar results were obtained in the experiments with other descriptions of manufacturing tobacco. Dr. Tassinari attributes this annihilating effect of tobacco smoke upon bacteria to the action of the chemical elements contained in it. He proposes to carry on further experiments with regard, especially to the action of tobacco smoke upon the bacillus of tuberculosis, and if these should prove as conclusive as those he has made with the micro organisms named, consumptive patients may be benefited from a hygienic point of view. At any rate, the highly important results of the cautious observations of Dr. Tassinari, while they are of great interest to

laymen, both smokers and non smokers, deserve that careful attention of the medical profession which they will no doubt receive. —Chamber's Journal.

EVERY INCH A KING.

A European Potentate With a Good Moral Character.

Alphonso-Leon-Ferdinand-Marie-Jacques-Ludovico-Pascal-Antoine, King of Spain, whose third birthday is soon to be celebrated at Madrid, is one of the most deservedly popular monarchs in Europe. It may be said of King Alphonso, as of no other living ruler, that not an official act of his has ever been received by even one of his subjects with the slightest degree of disapprobation. When we consider, too, that his entire career has been unstained by any moral lapses, that his integrity is above reproach, that not the faintest breath of suspicion has ever been cast upon the purity of his life and conduct, we feel justified in calling him a remarkable king. The cares of state sit lightly upon Alphonso; and though during his reign he has succeeded in calming the bitter spirit of Spanish faction without estranging one of his courtiers, he never alludes to the subject with any degree of vanity. Taken altogether, Alphonso's character is remarkably one. He seems almost by a spirit of abandonment when the most serious of public questions and the most important measures of sovereign policy are uppermost in the thoughts of courtiers and statesmen, remind one of Charles II. It is reported that only a few weeks ago when the Lord High Monk-Monk, Keeper of the Breakfast Rolls and Custodian of the Bath, entered the royal presence attired in purple and gold, and bearing the Imperial truncheon, His Majesty broke into a fit of laughter; and when the gorgeous courtier knelt before him, kicked the truncheon from his grasp and made a desperate effort to pull off one of his gold buttons. There is one trait of Alphonso's character that will endear him to the Female Suffragists, and is a good omen for the Spanish branch of that organization. The King has the most implicit confidence in his mother and the other ladies of his court, including even his wet nurse, Raymonda. He hides none of his secrets from them, and confides to them all his secret trials and sorrows. In his mother's judgment he has the most reliable and when Ministers of State enter his presence he leaves to Queen Christina the task of reading and singing them, while the laughs and gurgles in the highest glee. King Alphonso maintains a civil and military household. The civil establishment consists of the governors, the doctors, whose duties are exclusively to relieve the ills the royal flesh is heir to; three major-domos, a lady of honor, several pages and footmen, and a score of servants; while the military household is composed of the generals and aide-de-camps of the staff of his late father. The King treats all of these subjects without regard to their rank, indicating only a preference for those officers who wear the most gold braid and the brightest buttons, thus encouraging soldierly qualities. The daily life of the King of Spain is a model to the profligate monarchs of other countries. He rises at an early hour, and, after his bath and breakfast, goes out in the park with his mother; afterwards being present at her morning audiences with Ministers and members of the royal family. After his dinner he soon lies asleep for two or three hours, and then, if the weather is fine, he drives out accompanied by his guard. He retires promptly at 7 o'clock at night. In recording the virtues of this remarkable King it should not be forgotten that he never partakes of any alcoholic stimulant, nor of any liquids stronger than milk. He has not smoked tobacco for three years, and has never used the vile weed internally. —Life.

THE SEVENTH SENSE.

It is the Magnetic Sense, and it Explains Some Curious Things.

Dr. William M. McLaury read a paper on the "Seventh, or Magnetic Sense," before the meeting of the Academy of Anthropology at New York. Dr. McLaury prefaced his remarks by saying that he followed the classification of Sir William Thompson in describing the sixth sense as the "Sense of Temperature," a sense that enables men and animals to detect the approach of storms even before they are indicated by the barometer. Prof. Carpenter places the sense of temperature next to that of touch and cites a case in which a man, devoid of the sense of temperature, though having the sense of touch intact, while sleeping over a lime kiln had one of his legs burned off and was not aware of it till in the morning. The seventh, or magnetic sense, is suggested as an explanation of the peculiar faculty which enables birds and animals to find their homes from long distances. It is also exemplified in the phenomena of sleep. All the appetites, the lecturer went on, may be regulated to the magnetic sense. Hunger has no more to do with touch than with sight or hearing. The sensations produced by appetites are the most intense that mankind is capable of receiving, and they produce an indelible impression upon the mind and character of the individual. The magnetic sense is the one in direct relation and contact with the intellectual and reasoning faculties. The lecturer referred to this sense as the phenomena known under the head of sympathy. If one sees a person injured, one feels by sympathy a sense of injury in the same part of one's body. As an illustration, the lecturer cited the case of an aged couple who manifested all symptoms of drowning without being near the water. A short time afterward the body of their son was brought to them. He had been drowned at the time of their suffering. Dr. McLaury then took up the subject of dreams. Many of the phenomena of sleep, he said, are closely allied to the magnetic sense. Somnambulists walk, talk, eat and write without any conscious use of the five senses. In the state known as trance, the only sense active is the magnetic sense. It is well known that in the deprivation of one sense the loss is partly made up by the other senses becoming more acute. So when all the physical senses are dormant, as in sleep, the magnetic sense is so intensely acute that ideas and thoughts exist which cannot be reached in waking moments. The lecturer cited many cases of intellectual achievement in sleep that had baffled the utmost waking efforts. Dr. McLaury declared that all the various phenomena of clairvoyance, mind reading, mind cure, faith cure, prayer cure, Spiritualism, &c., will be scientifically studied and rationally accounted for by the thorough and persistent investigation of the latent magnetic sense. This sense is no special gift to a few, but is latent in every individual, and is capable of being cultivated. There is nothing supernatural in it, for there is a sufficient cause in nature for every event that ever occurred. Science, said the speaker, is faith without superstition—a faith knows what to receive and what to reject. The lecturer ended his paper with the

statement that if all the appetites, passions, and powers not referable to any of the five or six senses may scientifically as well as traditionally, be classed as belonging to a seventh, or magnetic sense, then we may study it with reference to our intellectual and intellectual capacities, and by the mere recognition of such a sense, may greatly increase mental development and add materially to the knowledge and science of to-day.

Voice Training and Breathing.

Sound is the action of vibrating air upon the ear. The peculiar timbre or quality, as harsh, sweet, rich, thin, nasal, etc., of a musical tone is determined by the shape of the vibrating wave. The shape of the wave is governed by the shape and action of the medium that originates the vibration. Every one knows that the shape of a liquid stream from a syringe or a spout is governed more or less by the shape of the mouth from which it issues. The peculiar tone of a voice is in this way influenced by the shape of the mouth of a singer. It is because the shape of the mouth can be brought under the control of the will that voice quality can be materially modified and improved. The real beginning of the vibrating waves rests with the vocal cords, which are the ligaments in the larynx capable of many curious adjustments, the details of which cannot be explained here. Later on, what are called the registers of the voice will be dealt with as fully as the aim of the lesson will permit. The vocal cords are set in motion by the expiration of air from the lungs. During inspiration the vocal cords are incapable of causing any musical sound. The foregoing explanations are given not because they are interesting, but simply because a fair understanding of the facts of voice production will enable a student to see the "why and the wherefore" of the exercises to be suggested, and to observe, intelligently, his own powers and deficiencies. The knowledge that voice quality is not altogether fixed beyond modification, as is the shape of the nose or the color of the eyes, is an encouragement to the student to earnestly strive to improve and beautify the present quality of his voice. —Cassell's Popular Educator.

Select Sightings.

There are 8,960,000 eggs in an eel. "Jumbo," the giant elephant, weighed ten tons. They have discovered a chalk mountain in Montana. An eagle sailing half a mile above the earth can see a field mouse. The entire front of one of the banks at Riverside, Cal., is constructed of onyx. A "tootometer" has been invented which will make a noise that will be heard ten miles. A talking piano, operated by numerous keys and producing words of all kinds, is one of the curiosities of a New York Museum. The Russian Minister of Railways has issued an order that in future all passengers who play cards will be "judicially punished." A hornet flew in to the mouth of Harrison Sands, near Syracuse, N. Y., the other day and gave him a sting that resulted in his death. In Leominster, England, there are growing together an oak and an ash which appear to have only one common trunk for four feet and then divide. As late as 1820 there were as many as 3,000 persons confined for debt in prisons of Massachusetts, 10,000 in New York, 7,000 in Pennsylvania, 3,000 in Maryland and a like proportion in other States.

DEATH OF GEN. F. F. MILLEN.

A dispatch from New York, under date of April 10, says, "Gen. Francis Frederik Millen, a well-known soldier and journalist, died to-day at his residence, No. 437 West Fifty-Seventh street, in his 53rd year. He was born in Ireland and served through the Crimean war in the British army, then came to America, and later went to Mexico, entering the Mexican army as a lieutenant of artillery. During the war he rose to be colonel of artillery. In 1865 he resigned his Mexican commission and went to Ireland to take command of the army that James Stephens promised to put in the field to overthrow the British Government. Upon the failure of the scheme he returned to Mexico, re-entering the army, and fought against Maximilian. Next he came to New York and became the executive officer of the American branch of the Fenian Brotherhood. In 1872 he joined the New York Herald staff, and was in the service of that paper at the time of his death." This has ended a most stormy and adventurous life. Millen was an old "war eagle," bold to rashness and ever eager for the fray. Although pre-eminently a soldier of fortune, there can be no doubt of his sincerity as an Irish patriot. If he could not fight for Ireland, he was willing to fight for any other country that needed help. He never spared himself. Millen was a picturesque character. He had received a good education, and was intensely familiar with military history, biography and poetry having on deeds of arms. Meeting Gen. Sam Spear, once secretary of war under Gen. O'Neill's administration of the Fenian Brotherhood, on Broadway one fine afternoon in the late 'Sixties, he said to him: "Sam, you look played out. You remind me of that passage in Rokeby, regarding an old soldier. 'Deemed like the steel of rusted lance, Useless and dangerous at once; Each son of coward Peace keeps far From the neglected son of War.'" "Sam" fixed his gray eyes on Millen for an instant and replied: "You can't read poetry worth a cent. Hang me, Millen, but you remind me of a wailing noncomer out of job!" It is, perhaps unnecessary to say that this passage at arms resulted in a social drinking of glasses over the bar of a neighboring hotel. In the death of Millen, New York has lost one of her few remaining characters. He was known to and by every one worth knowing in political, social and journalistic circles. He was a peculiar product of the Irish soil—a man formed and fitted by nature for startling deeds, if his opportunities had been greater. At all events, he proved himself a faithful friend of liberty, in Ireland and elsewhere, and, as such, he deserves to be honored not alone by his own countrymen, but by the people of every oppressed nation. Holloway's Pills.—Sudden changes, frequent fogs, and prevailing dampness sorely impede the vital functions, and conduce to ill-health. The remedy for such disorders, lies in some purifying medicine, like these Pills, which is competent to grapple successfully with the mischief at its source, and stamp it out, without fretting the nerves, or weakening the system. Holloway's Pills: extract from the blood all noxious matter, regulate the action of every disordered organ, stimulate the liver and kidneys, and relax the bowels. In curing chest complaints these Pills are remarkably effective, especially when aided by a free local application of the Ointment. They will ensure a certain, steady and beneficent progress, and sound health will soon be re-established.

A HORRIBLE TALE.

Debauching French-Canadian Children—Scandalous Stories.

A Methuen (Mass.) dispatch gives particulars of the debauching of French-Canadian children there. It appears that a number of prominent citizens are systematically ruining young girls, who only too readily yield themselves to the temptations of a little money. One well-known merchant has been arrested, and warrants are out for the arrest of others. The arrests were a signal for a number of well-known men to suddenly leave town, while good ground for suspicion rests against them. There is no use to mention names, and the police refuse to say who warrants are out for because this knowledge had allowed Bernard Fostian, a Canadian, the principal one sought after, to escape. This scamp was over 71 years old, still, strange to say, he is charged with outrage and seduction of no less than six girls, all under fifteen years of age. The warrant for him was issued along with Johnson's, but he got wind of it and fled to Canada, where he is now, being in hiding somewhere near Montreal. His companion, Nathan A. Smith, a coal and wood dealer, aged 45, was captured and was baled out in \$5,000. He has a large family and is a deacon in the Congregational Church. He is charged with being intimate with three different children, but denies it. The excitement the affair has occasioned can easily be imagined. The ignorant parents of the children take no further interest in the affair further than not wanting their children punished, so that the service of a successful missionary is needed. In this behalf the clergy are self-occupied. The case is a difficult one to treat, as the charge of seduction, usually, or outrage, cannot be held under the confession and actions of the children themselves. The most sad features are that a number of happy homes are threatened with wreck when all the revolting details come out in the approaching trials, which take place next month.

PATRIOTIC ACTION

Of the Clergy of the Diocese of Kingston.

In a general assembly of the Clergy of the Diocese of Kingston, in Canada, held in the Bishop's Palace, on the 19th day of April, 1889, the Most Rev. James Vincent Cleary, Lord Bishop of Kingston, in the chair, the following resolution, proposed by the Very Rev. Dean Gauthier, pastor of Brookville, and seconded by the Rev. Charles B. Murray, pastor of Cornwall, was passed with acclamation: "That we, the Bishop and priests of the Diocese of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, as free citizens of this Dominion, enjoying the social and political advantages of Home Rule and the Constitution guaranteed to us by Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, with the consent of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, deplore the prolonged servitude of the Irish people, bereft of their native Legislature and oppressed by laws enacted against them in an alien Parliament, the majority of whose members are unacquainted with Irish grievances and the just methods of remedying them. That we regard the Coercion Act, now operating so disastrously in Ireland as an enactment needlessly hurtful to personal liberty of speech and action, and framed by a political party, who happen to be the majority in the British Parliament, not for the advancement of any righteous public cause, but for the purpose of weakening the political influence of the party in opposition, and for the maintenance of a despotic and universally condemned system of landlord extortion in Ireland, without regard to the vested rights of the tillers of the soil and their indefeasible title to the restitution of their expended capital and the fruits of their industry. That the passage of said Coercion Act through the British Legislature, for application to Ireland alone, was in variance with the principles of constitutional government, inasmuch as it was carried by a majority of aliens in Parliament, made known to Parliament through the protests of nearly five sixths of her legitimately elected representatives. That the provisions of that unhappy Coercion Act are manifestly repugnant to the spirit and letter of the Constitution in denying to the despoiled agriculturists of Ireland the right to express in public meeting their sense of the injustice cruelly inflicted on them, or to take counsel with their Parliamentary representatives respecting the means to be employed for their legal redress. That the seizure and imprisonment of Ireland's legitimate representatives because of their having exercised their legitimate right under the Constitution to meet their constituents and consult with them upon their political requirements, is a crime against a fundamental law of national existence, superior to London-made law, and is a direct incentive to the people of Ireland to regard Parliamentary methods of their having exercised their legitimate rights, and consequently, have recourse to methods of violence, through the agency of secret associations or otherwise, for their self protection. That we have read with disgust and abhorrence the journalistic accounts of the brutal ill-treatment of Ireland's elected representatives in the prison-cells of Tullamore and Clonmel under the cover of the Coercion Act, and how they have been stripped naked, shorn of their hair and compelled to lie upon the plank bed, forcibly clothed in the felon's garb, and in divers other ways shamefully outraged; and we have no hesitation in condemning such abuse of power by the present Prime Minister of England and his nephews, as a tyranny inconsistent with the first principles of justice, and we will maintain and sustain upon the entrenchment of England, tending to reduce her from her former place of honor amongst the nations as the persistent guardian and champion of parliamentary legislation and of the popular liberties identified with its historical development; and we protest against any such abuse of our people, of whose sentiments we are thoroughly informed, respectfully tender to the struggling Irish people and to the Irish parliamentary party, wisely guided by Mr. Parnell, and especially to the imprisoned and insulted representatives of Ireland, our heartfelt sympathy with them and their most righteous cause, our hopes for their speedy success, and our admiration of the noble spirit of self-sacrifice and dauntless fortitude with which the terrors of despotism and the horrors of the dungeon are faced and foiled by Irish patriots of purest honor and unblemished virtue. + JAMES VINCENT O'LEARY, S.T.D., Bishop of Kingston, Chairman, Bishop's Palace, Kingston, Canada, 19th of April, 1889.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Old-time rocks—Kooking the cradle. On a schoolboy even the ropes are taut. Gait woman—A pedestrian's winnings. Pressing business—Running an older-mill. The successful miner is a hole-solid fellow. Words of walt—Bring that bill next week. A cheap way to lay in coal—Sleep in the coal bin. When we have the flood tide, how does it get loose? Even a small barber may be called a strap-ping fellow. A patch on a boy's trousers is something new under the sun. Weak men are never over-bold, but they are often bowled over. Motto for a young man starting a monstache—"Down in front." Teacher—"What are the capitals of Rhode Island?" Pupil—"R. I." "Man's inhumanity to man" gives the police force employment. Weak commerce is expected to be strengthened by bolts of railroads. It is Venice, the city of canals, that has the largest floating population. When a little man is hopelessly in love it greatly increases his sighs. It seems correct to speak of a spotted gentleman as a four-colored man. "Though a man may be hopelessly blind, he is sure to go to sea when he crosses the ocean."

men, a whole company of landlords and agents, and 18 professional informers were put on the witness stand. It was strictly true for Sir Charles Russell to say that the utter and absolute collapse of the forged letters had taken the pith and marrow out of the inquiry.

Gladstone Wants a General Election.

Mr. Gladstone employs his mornings taking long street walks. He is to be met here, there and everywhere—now in the Strand, next in Tottenham Court road, anon marching vigorously upon the road to Hammersmith, regardless of wind or rain, and violating the injunctions of physicians. There is now only one thing needed to complete his happiness, and that is a general election. And "he won't be happy till he gets it"—at least, not perfectly happy. Mr. Gladstone was at the Speaker's levee the other night, and was the gayest of the gay; he made not the least effort to restrain his transports. To a friend who was present he said that opposition had its compensations, but these in turn had their inconveniences—"for," he added with a smile, "they produce an unattainable desire for work, which becomes itself a malady." In further conversation—and as if to illustrate his meaning—Mr. Gladstone said that if he could have obeyed his impulse, he would himself have become a candidate for the Central Division of Birmingham. It may be mentioned that in the lobby on the day of Mr. Bright's death it was gravely suggested that Mr. Gladstone should test the depth of the enthusiasm aroused by his visit to the headquarters of dissenting Liberalism by fighting the vacancy.

A Tory Libeller Nailed.

The libel action instituted by Lord Mayor Sexton against the Leeds Daily News, a Conservative paper, has been settled on the conditions laid down by the Lord Mayor. The libel consisted of a statement published on the day on which the Lord Mayor was announced to speak at Leeds, in which he was referred to as "the man who had assisted a red-handed assassin to escape from the gallows." These two false charges—that Thomas Brannan was a "red-handed assassin," and that the Lord Mayor "assisted him to escape from the gallows"—professed to be founded on the evidence of Le Caron. Mr. George Lewis, acting under instructions from the Lord Mayor, at once instituted proceedings, whereupon the paper apologized. That apology has now been republished in a more ample and adequate form, and the Conservative paper declares— "We desire to say that we deeply regret that the statement was allowed to appear in our columns, and we are satisfied that there is no foundation for the reflection made by us upon Mr. Sexton. We freely apologise to him for the publication of the paragraph in question, and unreservedly withdraw it."

Supplementary Estimate.

The supplementary estimates for the fiscal year, which begins on July 1st, 1889, and ends on June 30th, 1890, were presented to the Commons Tuesday night, amounting to \$1,313,757, of which \$131,554 is chargeable to capital. The total expenditure so far arranged for next year is \$45,949,644, and there will be further supplementary estimates next session. This is very nearly \$10 for every man, woman and child in the Dominion, or an average of \$50 per family. When one considers that the poor fishermen of the east, the Indians of the west, and the habitants of rural Quebec—no say nothing of the paupers, lunatics and criminals scattered through the whole Dominion—contribute very little to the revenue, an approximate estimate of the actual burden upon the average producer of wealth may be made. It is really too much to take from a man's earnings. Under a system of direct taxation such extravagance would not be permitted. It is time to put men with more economical ideas to manage Canada's affairs.

The Gladstones.

The estates of the late Sir Thomas Gladstone, consisting of 40,000 acres in Kinross-shire, pass in fee simple to his son, Sir John Gladstone. The estate is a magnificent wooded country and is overlooked by Baskie House, one of the finest castellated mansions in Scotland. Sir John Gladstone, who is in delicate health, like his late father, is an uncompromising Tory, held sway, and represented Kinross-shire in the House of Commons for a long term of years. Indeed, from 1832 to 1866 no Liberal ever sat for the county. With the extension of the voting power, however, the sentiments of the people at large were made known, and for the last 23 years only a Liberal of an advanced type need apply in Kinross-shire. As years roll on, the Liberal majority increases by leaps and bounds. In 1880, the Liberals had a majority of 500 in a poll of 1,537. In 1885 that majority was nearly quadrupled, having increased to 1,893. And in the general election of 1886 the Tories gave up in despair, and permitted the venerable Sir George Balfour, who has represented the county for nearly 20 years, to go in without opposition. Sir George, by the way, is married to a daughter of a man who was at one time a newsmonger in politics in eastern Scotland—the late Joseph Hume.

THE PASSION FLOWER.

Its Emblems Typical of the Sorrows of Holy Week.

A correspondent at Martinez writes to the Monitor San Francisco as follows: "While paying a visit on Palm Sunday to the beautiful Grotto of Our Lord of Lourdes, on the grounds of the Brothers of the Christian School a Villa De La Salle, I saw blooming, for the first time in my life, a Passion Flower. The zealous Director of the Novitiate, Rev. Brother Pirman described it for me, and being so struck with its beauty and significance, especially as we are now in Holy Week, I could not resist in making a note of it. The flower itself is a most remarkable one—I have never seen anything like it in nature. First, at the base there are three leaves of a brown color, which represents the Blessed Trinity; over these, in a perfect circle, are ten white leaves, representing the Ten Commandments; next come seventy-two little shoots, mixed blue, white and purple, which represent the number of thorns in Our Lord's crown; in the centre of the top are a great number of little purple stems, which terminate in a point on the top. In the pericarp of a lance, and represents that instrument which pierced Our Lord's side; it also represents the pillar at which He was scourged. "Close to the top of the stem are five little springs of a light green color, each of them exactly like a hammer, which represents the Five Wounds. Lastly, shooting from the very summit of the stem, at right angles to it, are three sprigs, about half an inch long, and of a black brown color, representing the nails which pierced the Sacred hands and feet. The light purple color, which runs in a circle to the centre of the flower, is said to exactly the color of the seamless garment which Our Lord wore. It only blossoms for three days, indicating the three days which Christ remained in the sepulchre. Of the many striking and wonderful things to be studied in nature, perhaps there is none more remarkable than the Passion Flower. It would seem as if Providence intended that even inanimate creation should receive the impress of, and bear testimony to, the sublime mystery of man's redemption. I do not know whether this interesting flower blooms in every country—at least it has not been the writer's good fortune to seeing it before."

THE BODY AND ITS HEALTH.

Headache. Dr. S. F. Landry says, in Popular Science News, that the headache of indigestion, accompanied by acotonia, or scintillations and dazings of light before the eyes, is always due to acidity and evolution of gases in the stomach. When not accompanied by aphasia or by a want of co-ordination, it is easily cured by common saleratus or supercarbonate of soda. Let the patient take one fourth of a teaspoonful in much water—say four to six teaspoonfuls or more—wait a few minutes, and if not relieved, repeat the dose. The glimmering soon ceases, and the pain forgets to follow. Hot water can be used if the stomach is very weak, and Boudant's popain will sometimes relieve it without the soda. Scarlet Fever Poison. The Medical Era relates the case of a girl aged eight, living at Fortnes Monroe, Va., who was some months ago attacked by scarlet fever, the disease running a typical course. For a long time no possible source of contagion could be discovered. The child had not been absent from home, had been with no one lately exposed, and no other case was known to exist in the vicinity. Subsequently Dr. Brooke learned that one of the house servants had nursed a case of scarlet fever in a distant city, just about a year before. After the case terminated she packed some of her things, including some clothing then worn, in a trunk, and sent the place. A year later she had the trunk sent to her, opened it, and took out the contents, the little girl being present and handling the things. Very soon after, the latter was attacked as stated. Fruit Skins Indigestible. That the rind or "skin" of all fruit is more or less indigestible is a fact that should not be forgotten. We say all fruit, and the statement must be understood to include the pellicle or kernels and nuts of all kinds. The edible part of fruit is peculiarly delicate and liable to rapid decomposition if exposed to the atmosphere. It is, therefore, a wise provision of nature to place a strong and impervious coating over it as a protection against accident and to prevent insect enemies from destroying the seed within. The skin of plums is wonderfully strong compared with its thickness and resists the action of water and many solvents in a remarkable manner. If not thoroughly masticated before taken into the stomach this skin is rarely, if ever, dissolved by the gastric juice. In some cases pieces of it adhere to the coats of the stomach, as wet paper does to bodies, causing more or less disturbance or inconvenience. Raisins and dried currants are particularly troublesome in this way, and if not chopped up before cooking should be thoroughly chewed before swallowing. If a dry currant passes into the stomach whole, it is never digested at all.—Popular Science News. Disinfectants. Burning is the only reliable disinfectant of the discharges from the lungs and throat in phthisis, diphtheria and scarlet fever. Boiling destroys all known disease germs, and completely disinfects clothing and bedding. Chloride of lime, four ounces to the gallon of water, effectually disinfects the discharges from cholera, typhoid and dysentery, whether from the mouth or bowels. Bichloride of mercury and permanganate of potash, in draughts of each to the gallon of water, are equally efficient and are odorless, but are poisonous, and require longer time to act. Superheated steam is also equally potent, but is also inapplicable except in public institutions. Sulphur is reliable for disinfecting rooms; three pounds for every thousand cubic feet of air should be burned in an iron vessel, closing all apertures in the room from excess of air. The vessel should be placed in a tub of water; let it remain for 24 hours. Afterward wash walls, etc., with the chloride solution. Sulphate of iron retards decomposition in privy vaults, etc., but it is no true disinfectant.