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NEED THICK SKULLS
Alpine Farmer Folks Bat Each Other, Calling It Sport.

Berlin, Nov. 27. — The raw, big-toned peasants of the Bavarian Alps enjoy the reputation of possessing the thickest skulls in Christendom. That they need them is clear from a case that came the other day before the court at Haag, Upper Bavaria. A favorite after-supper game among the farm-hands is for one to sit blindfolded on a chair, while the others in succession hit him on the head with a piece of wood, with the question, "Neighbor, who hit you?" If the person on the penitent skull guesses right, the individual named takes his seat, but if a wrong name is given he has to submit to further blows, until the striker's name is guessed correctly. This innocent pastime has been going on in Farmer Hanselmeier's kitchen, to the uproarious delight of the farm-hands, male and female, because Sabina Wimmer, a robust dairymaid, has returned thirty wrong answers in succession, and in consequence had received thirty blows with a bread platter. Finally Sabina was released out of compassion, and then it was found that, notwithstanding her thick skull, she had suffered concussion of the brain, which it took two months to cure. The whole company now stood around in the kitchen, but all were acquitted, the rural jury holding that the ancient game had been played fairly, and that there had been no intention of causing bodily harm to the unfortunate girl.

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LONDON AND DISTRICT

—Mrs. J. L. Bray, of Chatham, is visiting London friends.
—Mrs. John McLelland, of St. Catharines, who has been visiting Mrs. J. Ross, at 131 Maple street, has returned home.
—Mrs. R. H. Calvert, formerly of St. Thomas, will be at home to her friends on first, second and third Fridays, at her residence, 288 Pall Mall street.
—The London and Western Trusts Company, Limited, has been appointed administrator of the estate of the late H. R. Buckley, of the city of Windsor.

—Mr. Harry Corbett, of the Columbia Graphophone Company, has been transferred to the Toronto agency of the company. During his six months' residence here Mr. Corbett has made many friends, who will regret his departure, but will be glad to learn of his promotion.
—A large audience was in attendance at the First Methodist Church last evening when a most interesting lecture, entitled, "The Human Voice," was given by Rev. James Livingston, of the Wellington Street Methodist Church. Mr. Livingston has given this lecture over 100 times.

—St. George's Church Ladies' Aid of London Junction purpose having a grand bazaar at the church tomorrow afternoon and evening and the following afternoon and evening as well. In addition to their own handwork, some of which is of exquisite design, the ladies have received donations from Chicago and England. The Pottery orchestra will be in attendance both evenings.

—Rev. J. J. Ross, of the Talbot Street Baptist Church, gave one of his most popular lectures, "The Land of the Caesars," in the First Presbyterian Church last night before a large and appreciative audience. The views that Mr. Ross shows are from cities of Italy—Pisa, Milan, Geneva, Florence, and Venice. The short description of each illustration makes the listener wish for more. As a lecturer Mr. Ross leaves nothing to be desired. Rev. W. J. Clark was chairman of the evening.

—Mr. Frank Lawson lectured Monday evening at the meeting of the First Congregational Guild on "Canadian Poets" and delighted his audience with a store of information concerning Canadian writers, and also by his excellent rendition of the "various selections" used by way of illustration. The appreciation of the audience was voiced by Rev. F. A. Steven, upon whose motion a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Lawson. "The Maple Leaf" was pleasingly rendered by Mr. Alfred Anundson, the audience joining in the chorus. The chair was

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occupied by Rev. D. S. Hamilton, pastor of the church.

—Mr. Alfred G. Dann, who has been transferred from the local branch of the Bank of British North America to the Montreal branch, left last night for Montreal. The other evening he was tendered a banquet by a number of friends, who wished him every success in his new field. Mr. Dann was a favorite in London social circles, and his transfer is regretted by many friends here.

—Rev. Father Tobin, assistant rector of St. Mary's Church, lectured in the C. M. B. A. hall, Stratford, the other night, on "France, Its Conditions Relative to the Roman Catholic Church and the State." The lecture is described by the Stratford papers as one of much interest. The hall was crowded, and at the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered Father Tobin.

BROTHERHOOD'S OFFICERS.
The Brotherhood of the Dundas Center Methodist Church held a well-attended meeting last evening in the lecture room of the church. The election of officers took place as follows: Honorary president, Rev. E. B. Laneley; president, Prof. J. H. Bowman; vice-president, C. E. Ailim; executive treasurer, D. C. McNaughton, W. H. Winnet and H. Magee. It was decided to hold a club meeting on Dec. 5 at which a debate on "Whether it is right for a man to own a million dollars" will take place.

DEATH OF OLD-TIME CONDUCTOR
William M. Breeze, who had been ill at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. B. Carlisle, Port Huron, died on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Breeze was born in Belleville, Ont., 65 years ago, where he was educated. For a number of years he was a conductor on the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada and 32 years ago went to Michigan and followed the same occupation on the Michigan Air Line. Seventeen years ago he went to Port Huron, and had since resided there. He is survived by his wife, two sons, N. N. Breeze, of Cincinnati; H. J. Breeze, of Port Huron, and one daughter, Mrs. A. B. Carlisle, of Port Huron.

FARMERS GET A SCARE.
Farmers of the vicinity of Woodstock had quite a scare recently, when it was reported that anthrax had made its appearance among cattle in the Hickson district. Dr. Rudd, V. S., of Woodstock, took up the matter, and the Government veterinary, Dr. J. H. Tennent, V. S., of this city, was called in. After a thorough investigation Dr. Tennent found the scare to be unfounded. All he located was a few cases of back quarter, a disease which is very common and is not regarded as dangerous. The cattle were infected by the disease were killed and all the calves on such farms were vaccinated to prevent the spread of the disease.

PERSIANS AND THEIR CUSTOMS.
An instructive address was given by Miss McKim, of Julia and Ipsahan, Persia, to an interested assembly of ladies in Bishop Crony Hall yesterday afternoon, under the auspices of the Women's Auxiliary. The address was divided into three sections—the first dealing with the country, and its physical characteristics; the second was a lengthy account of the hospital work, and the third, the other for women—under the control of the Church Missionary Society, and the boys' school, are situated in Ipsahan. At the close of the address Miss McKim kindly answered many questions, and displayed some beautiful work, brought from Persia, also some dolls dressed to illustrate the costumes of the country. Miss McKim, whose home is in Toronto, is the only Canadian missionary in Persia, and is working under the Canadian Church Missionary Society.

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"FORTUNE'S FOOL" PLEASED AUDIENCE

Livingstone Company Made Good at the Grand Opera House Last Night.

The Livingstone Stock Company last night opened its season at the Grand with "Fortune's Fool," a comedy drama full of sparkling dialogue and spirited action. The company made good. There were fourteen people on the stage and everyone proved capable. "Fortune's Fool" is a play of "The Glided Fool" type, and it was admirably staged. Mr. Livingstone has had his own scenic painter here for two weeks, and when the curtain went up last night the result was noticeable. Everything was fresh and new, and pleasant to the eye.

The part of "the fool" was played by Mr. Livingstone, and his work, especially in the two last acts, won the praise of the audience. He was given excellent support by Mr. Frank Readick, as the Englishman, Mr. M. Chapman, as Banister Strange; Clyde Beaton, as Matthew Ruthven; Miss Ivy Thorpe, as Sophie Ruthven; Miss Beatrice Mead, as Margaret Ruthven; Miss Millie Freeman, as the maiden aunt, and Miss Collette Powers, as Nell Ruthven.

The Livingstone company will be seen again at the Grand tonight in the same play, and also every night this week. Next week the bill will be changed, and they will continue at the Grand throughout the season. When independent attractions are brought here, the company will step aside.

In response to the requests of very many Londoners, Manager Stewart has wired the Shuberts to ascertain if it is possible to have "The Stolen Story" Company play a return date in London. Many people would have been glad to see the company, because they did not know the attraction, and now since they heard their friends speak of it, they are very anxious to see it. It looks as though Mr. Stone and his splendid company would be greeted by a packed house if he should return. It is said the chances of his coming back are very remote. London was the only city in the entire Dominion visited by the company, and the play is now somewhere in the Western States.

A HASTY CHOICE GENERALLY BRINGS REGRETS.

The lady who hurriedly selects silk for a gown, the man who takes the first pair of shoes offered him, the housewife who buys eggs carelessly, the young man who chooses his life partner hastily, are all liable to regret that they were not more careful when making the choice.

A piano should be chosen more carefully than anything else which goes into the home. It is more than a piece of furniture. It is an instrument capable of expressing in music the feelings of your innermost self. It will be a source of constant congratulations to yourself and friends—if you make sure of selecting a thoroughly high-class piano, such as the Nordheimer.

The handsome external appearance will appeal to your desires for something that will always be elegant enough to place in a room with the most expensive furniture. The superb tone quality will appeal to your artistic sensibilities. Every note so clear and pure. And when you buy a Nordheimer you do so at the lowest cash price which that instrument will be sold for. The one-price system at Nordheimer's guarantees a fair square deal to every person, whether capitalist or laborer.

A DELIGHTFUL CONCERT

Splendid Talent Provided It at Talbot Street Church

The concert given in the Talbot Street Baptist Church last evening was well attended by a highly-appreciative audience. Among those who took part in the programme was Miss Bertha Adams, the elocutionist, who gave several numbers, in which she showed her versatile qualities as a reader, and a proved that she is an entertainer of splendid ability.

Miss Mabel Scarlett rendered a delightful soprano solo, "Carissima," which was well received. Miss Cora M. Maguire, of Cincinnati, rendered a piano solo, "Zephyr" (Singing), in which she proved herself to be a pianist of rare talent. Her accompaniments were also a feature of the programme.

Solos, which greatly pleased the audience, were given by Masters Elliott, Webb and Parkinson. Mr. Clarence Eby favored with an organ solo.

Every lady's hair requires attention at times. Let Prof. Dorenwend point out what to do to preserve it and dress it by means of his very beautiful art special styles in transformations, pompadours, bangs, wavy fronts, switches, etc. Fashion hinges on his advice. At City Hotel, on Tuesday, Dec. 4. 96-u-x-z-w

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ARTISTIC CONCERT AT MUSIC CLUB

Programme Provided by Local Talent, Assisted by Miss Rachel Gwyn.

The Woman's Music Club held a social last evening in the Masonic Temple, at which a fashionable audience, very appreciative, although not large, was in attendance.

The concert was a success in every respect. Among the special features of the concert were the appearance of Miss Rachel Gwyn, soprano, and the introduction to the club of Mr. F. Linforth Willgoose, as a violinist. The work of Miss Stone was very fine, as was that of Miss Raymond.

Miss Gwyn made her initial appearance, and instantly created a favorable impression with the audience. She possesses a charming personality, and a fine mezzo-soprano voice, which was heard to advantage in "The Making of the Hay" (Lehman), "I Once Loved a Boy" (Needham), and "Coolan Dhu" (Leoni). Miss Gwyn has been in England studying with Sir Herbert Powers and Victor Manuel. Londoners will welcome her in their midst once more.

Mr. Willgoose, who is organist at St. James' Church, South London, appeared for his second time before an audience in this city as a violinist, and proved himself an artist. His execution was dignified, yet full of emotion, and his phrasing was excellent. He received a hearty encore at every appearance.

Miss Raymond, who officiated as accompanist for Mr. Willgoose, is deserving of great praise. She simply excelled herself. Her playing was sympathetic, and all that could be desired. Mrs. Stone also rendered splendid music.

Mr. Jordan acted as accompanist for Miss Gwyn.
The programme was as follows:
Piano Duo—Polonaise Arensky
Mrs. Stone and Miss Raymond.
Aria—"Batti, Batti" ("Don Giovanni") Mozart
Miss R. Gwyn.
Violin—Andante and Finale (from Concerto in D Minor) Wieniawski
Mr. Willgoose.

Songs—
(a) "Vergiliches Ständchen" Brahms
(b) "Folk Song of Lower Rhine" G. Peet
(c) "Chant de Venus dans la Prologue" Gevaert
(d) "Air from 'Opera de Laila' Lemaire
(e) "Vous Dansez, Marquise" Lemaire
(f) "Gavotte des Mathurins" Miss R. Gwyn.

Violin Solo—
(a) "Canzonetta" (request) D'Ambrosio
(b) "Tarantella" Bohm
Mr. Willgoose.

Songs—
(a) "The Making of the Hay" Lehmann
(b) "The Leaves and the Wind" G. Peet
(c) "The Leaves and the Wind" G. Peet
(d) "I Once Loved a Boy" Needham
(e) "Coolan Dhu" Franco Leoni
Miss R. Gwyn.

RICH IN SILVER

Erie Cobalt Silver Mining Company Causes More Than Ordinary Interest.

Even during these days of excitement on the mining exchanges the announcement of the control secured by the Erie Cobalt Silver Mining Company, Limited, in the Beaver properties was sufficient to cause more than ordinary interest, and prophecies were made that the new issue of stock would be largely oversubscribed. As a result of the arrangements which have been made, the Erie Company is now in the enviable possession of 40 acres of Lorrain Township, which are proved to be rich in silver, and 60 acres in Coleman Township, in which sufficient development work has been done to show an absolute guarantee of a shipping mine. Three hundred thousand shares of the capital stock are being issued for public subscription at par value, \$1, and many applications for the stock are being made through local brokers to the Trusts and Guarantee Company, Toronto, the transfer agents of the Erie Corporation.

FOR CONGO REFORMS

New York Ministers to Ask U. S. Government to Halt Atrocities.

New York, Nov. 26.—Resolutions condemning the alleged atrocities in the Congo Free State and an appeal to the American state department to do everything in its power "to lead the nations of the world to forbid further injustices in the Congo Free State" were passed at two big ministers' meetings here today.

At the Presbyterian Ministers' Association there was an address by Rev. Dr. Everett D. Burr, pastor of the First Baptist Church, at Newton, Mass., who has given up his regular pastorate work for a time in order to devote himself entirely to the campaign that is being pursued by the Congo Reform Association.

After the addresses a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions asking the administration at Washington to do what may be possible to put an end to the existing state of affairs in

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Fancy Filled Muslin, by the yard.....20c and 25c
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Dainty assortment of Lace Bed Sets, from \$4 to \$12
Silkolines, light and dark colors, for Comforters, at.....15c and 18c
Laminated Cottondown Comforters, equal to eider-down, light and airy, only.....\$3.50

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Our Mr. Mara has returned from Montreal where he purchased part of the Wholesale Stock of Drygoods, Fancy Goods, etc., of the

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40c, 50c and 65c, wide width Dress Goods. Yard.....25c
Ladies' Mocha Kid Gloves (guaranteed), with bracelet wrist. Pair75c
Hand Satchels, in blacks, browns and whites. Each.....50c
Ladies' Tweed Skirts, large assortment. Each.....\$1.89
Tartan Silk and Roman Stripes Girdle Belts, with buckle. Each.....50c
Dresden Silk Ribbon, 6 inches wide. Yard.....50c
Red Sashes for Blanket Coats. Each.....35c
Ladies' Comb Sets, in amber and brown.....25c
We are still selling Flannelette Ends in whites, light blues and pinks. Yard.....6½c
Boys' Ribbed Stockings, in Scotch Fingering Yarn. Pair.....25c

We will have everything ready on sale

Thursday, Nov. 29th
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the Congo region.
Similar resolutions were passed by the Baptist ministers' conference and a petition which will be sent to Secretary of State Root was signed by about 300 Baptist ministers.

AN IRISH ABYSSINIAN

Hibernian Spends Two Score Years in Menelik's Kingdoms Native.

Dublin, Nov. 27. — An "Irish Abyssinian" must strike most people as a peculiar human product. Yet a personage to whom this description applies is to visit Ireland in a week or two. He has spent 40 years in the land of Emperor Menelik and thinks it nearly time he should make the acquaintance of the land of his own fathers. His name is McKelvey, which betrays his north of Ireland origin, and his approaching visit is exciting the greatest speculation as to which branch of the McKelvey family this man with so strange and romantic a career belongs. Leaving Ireland as a cabin boy aboard a trading vessel he drifted into Abyssinia about the time of the British invasion in 1868. Cutting himself off from friends and relations he completely lost his Celtic or Anglo-Saxon identity, and, adopting the language, the costume and customs of Abyssinia.

He had almost forgotten his mother-tongue, which, of course, was English, when Sir John Harrington, an Englishman, reached the court of Emperor Menelik as British ambassador. The story of McKelvey was related to Sir John, who listened to it with some degree of incredulity. But after an interview the new ambassador saw that the Irish Abyssinian might be utilized as an interpreter, imperfect as his knowledge of English was. He is now coming to Ireland on a six months' leave and no doubt will add Gaelic to his other linguistic accomplishments before he returns to the court of King Menelik.

SPECIAL NOTICE

This store will keep open every Saturday night for the month of December.

THE
Purdom-Gillespie Hardware Co.
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The density of the earth as a whole has been estimated, with close agreement among the several scientists who have made the determination by different methods, to be about 5½ times as heavy as an equivalent sphere of water. On the other hand the average density of the materials forming the accessible portions of the earth's crust is between 2.2 and 2.8, so that the mean density of the whole globe is about twice that of its outer part. This indicates that the central part of the earth is composed of heavier materials and may even be metallic, which would accord perfectly with the nebular hypothesis.

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