

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Yale College is to have a \$100,000 gymnasium.

Onions from Egypt are being sold in the streets of Boston.

An asylum is being built in France for aged opera-singers. M^{me}. Rossini left over \$2,500,000 for this purpose.

There is a river in Algeria which the chemistry of nature has turned into ink. The stream is formed by the union of two others, one of which is strongly impregnated with iron, while the other contains gallic acid. The natives use this compound for writing letters and other documents.

Rabbits in Australia are to be subjected to a novel experiment looking to their extermination. All other attempts to thin out their numbers having failed, an Adelaide University professor went to Europe and got a couple of dozen rabbits affected with a peculiar infectious malady. They died on the voyage back, and a fresh lot has been ordered, the expectations being that when they are let loose in Australia they will soon spread the fatal infection among the native rabbits.

The Munich correspondent of the Paris *Figaro* gives a detailed list of articles in one of the eight palaces of the late crazy King Ludwig of Bavaria, showing how his Majesty dissipated the royal revenues. In his cabinet de toilette, for instance, all the articles were of Saxon porcelain, and cost the trifle of 2,000,000 marks. A gigantic chandelier, made in the Royal manufactory of Meissen, and which it required four years' work to finish, cost 700,000 marks; a bed cost considerably over a million marks, and a quilt on the same bed, a marvel of Chinese embroidery, represented a value of several hundred thousand marks.

The Vienna *Allgemeine Zeitung* reports that a few days ago a fresco was discovered by workmen engaged in the process of repairing and restoring the Cathedral of Graz, the chief town of Styria. It was simply walled up by a monument erected to a bishop who died in 1570. The fresco is in excellent preservation. It represents the crowning with thorns. The colors are almost fresh, and the figures admirably drawn. The date is assigned to about 1460. Competent judges declared that cleaning is all that will be required to allow the fresco to appear in its original beauty.

A MACHINE FOR SHEARING SHEEP.—Such a machine is said to be in successful operation in Victoria. It is made of brass, in the shape of a small trowel. The motion is actuated by a small turbine-wheel, about 3 inches in diameter, geared into another wheel, on which is fixed a cutter. In front is a comb, serving as a guard against cutting the skin. The steam is conveyed from the boiler by an India-rubber tube, which is double, having one inside the other. The inner one is the injection, and the space between the two the ejection. The machine is used in the same fashion as the shears, but cuts, it is stated, much quicker and far cleaner, without the least danger of injuring the fleece or the sheep.

There has been a standing rivalry in the matter of population between the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria for a long time. Lately each has been anxious to attain the dignity of having 1,000,000 inhabitants before the other. New South Wales has reached within a few thousands of those figures, as the estimated population on the 31st of March last was 555,705 males, and 437,170 females, or a total of 992,875. The actual increase for the quarter was 12,302. But Victoria has won the race, for the Victorian Government Statist's quarterly abstracts show that the estimated population of Victoria on the 31st of March was 1,001,756.

GLASS BEDSTEAD.—An East Indian nabob has recently ordered a glass bedstead from a firm in England. The legs and pillars which carry the canopy, the head rail and foot rail, are all of solid glass, of faultless brilliancy, most richly cut, and ingeniously fitted together without the aid of any metal supporters, which insures the brilliancy of the pure crystal being shown to the best advantage. The canopy is surrounded with ruby colored velvet hangings, ornamented with crosses and bosses in silver glass, and surmounted by stars and crescents placed alternately, the four corners being finished off with terminals of ruby and cut glass. Of course no bed is complete without mattress and pillows, which in this case are made of silk ruby-colored velvet.

The danger of the custom of throwing rice at weddings has just been exemplified. The Vicar of St. James the Less, Bethnalgreen, has for many years solemnized the ceremony of marriage free to any who choose to avail themselves of his kindness. It is usual for the friends to wait outside and give the couples a reception with a shower of rice, and to such an extent has the practice grown that the neighboring grocers keep parcels ready packed for the occasion. The brides are generally protected by their veils; the bridegrooms are less fortunate, and the other day one of them received several grains in his eyes. When he raised his arm to shield himself a fresh fusillade was opened upon him, and it was only when he staggered back in pain that it dawned upon his friends that they had given him a reception with more vigor than discretion. After a vain attempt to clear his eyes, he was led to a surgery adjacent, and he will now have to pass in the ward of a hospital what would have been his honeymoon. It appears that this is not by any means the first serious accident caused in this way.

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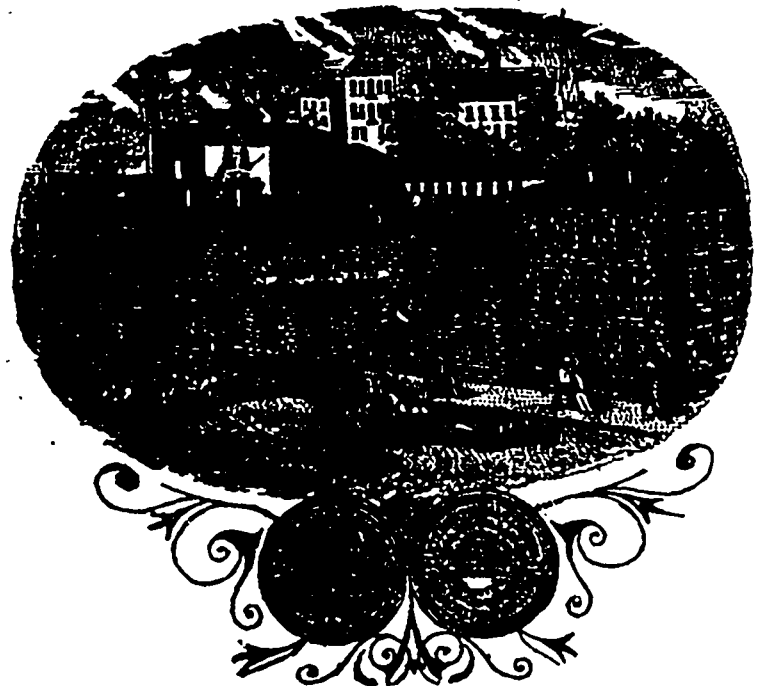
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