

CURRENT NOTES.

The recent visit of the German Emperor and Queen to the Triple Alliance, which expires next year. The trip is supposed to have had for its object the renewal of the Triple Alliance, which expires next year.

There will be hope that it may be so, but it cannot be forgotten that during the term of the Alliance now drawing to a close, Europe has not been free from fear of war, and that the cause of that fear the unstable character of the German empire will remain so long as the league exists.

OLD-TIME DRINKING.

Present Generation in England Far More Temperate Than Their Ancestors. It is temperance in England on the increase? Teetotal writers and speakers always assume that it is, but their contention is the opinion of the London Standard is without a basis of fact.

A BRAVE DEFENDER.

The author of a book on early Canadian life says that a young girl was one afternoon on her way to the spring for a pail of water, when she heard her pet lamb bleat, and saw what she supposed was a large dog worrying it.

MAKING A CHOICE.

Which is your umbrella, said asked the doorkeeper of the club as Tenspot was about to leave. The best one you have left, replied Tenspot.

MR. KILLEEN'S REVENGE.

CHAPTER XXIII.—(Continued.) "You are silent," cried he, coming closer to her—so close that his very breath lifted the soft hair on her forehead. "You are silent; you do not condemn my presence; you do not censure my persistent determination to find and speak with you at all hazards—even at the chance of rousing your displeasure. You are still silent! Is there no hope to be garnered from that?"

Constancia had moved backward, away from him, into the shadow of an ivied wall, and from that safe shelter she spoke. "Why should you be without hope?" she asked, faintly. "Why should you be without hope?" she asked, faintly.

"By your, perhaps—yet that I can hardly believe—but not by me," said this man, whose countenance was as bright as the sun. "I am not at your feet night and day? Pardon me, if at mad moments I fancied—" He hesitated. "Yes," he whispered very gently, "you fancied."

"How kind!" she spoke now. "How kind!" he cried, impatiently. "Yet how cruel you can be! I fancied foolishly—without reason, if you will—that sometimes those beautiful eyes of yours gave me encouragement. Was that so? Or am I now to be told that love like mine has come to late—that for the sake of some conventionalism it must be thrust aside—that it is forbidden?"

Constancia made a step forward, and held out her hand to him. He was in a state of some confusion, and she meant to say, "How did it hurt him?" "Why should your love be forbidden?" she murmured, softly, "and she not ready to accept and treasure it? Her heart beat violently, her voice was shrill, and she had a look of one who was hardly prepared for the change that came over him; for the sudden change of his face, which brightened and his eyes and raised his figure to its fullest height."

"Do not deny it. I will have no evasion from your lips now. That sweet message, see! It lies upon my heart. With a rather theatrical gravity upon his dignified figure, he half drew a crumpled note from the folds of his coat, and he laid it before her. "That one little word about the black cross upon your shoulder, that was to me, it gave me hope; it even suggested to me (forgive me, sweet) that I might be your cousin."

"He still held the little scented billet between his fingers, and a wild longing to possess, to read it, seized on Constancia. It would be so simple, so easy, so pleasant to believe that she was not Constancia, and by putting forth a hand she could gain it. Her most instinctive impulse was to act, with a heart bruised, and bleeding, and insulted, she still remembered the words she had said. "I sent you no message," she said, controlling herself bravely.

HOUSEHOLD.

IF WE COULD KNOW. If we could know when spot replies, And smiling lips, and tranquil eyes, And hearts that tremble thro' and thro' As silently they grieve and break, Beneath the smile of graceful lips, We might not deem ourselves so wise To measure grief by tears and sighs; Some sunny judgments might not make, But spare, for hidden sorrow's sake, Our friend behind the gay disguise.

HELPFUL HINTS. In repairing or altering cotton clothing it is vexatious to find the machine stitching has shrunk, drawing the seams and hems, etc., into puckers. This trouble can be remedied by soaking the spot of thread standing where it will dry, when it is ready for use. Colored thread should be oiled with machine oil; it makes it strong and it works easier.

A few drops of oil of lavender scattered through a book-case will save the books from mould in damp weather. Libraries in closed rooms are liable to be injured by dampness, whether the weather be damp or not. Such a simple and cheap remedy should be known. A meat safe will pay for itself, soon in the saving of odds and ends, and can be made at home. Make with three shelves, either mounted on three legs or hanging, and inclose with wire gauze. The front may be made of a window screen, with a button to keep it closed. If it can be kept in a dry place it will be excellent for preserving many things much longer than if kept in an ordinary place, and also secure from ants and flies.

HE STOLE CARMEN'S MOTHER. Now Jose is in Penitentiary and Carmen is Retrospect to His rival. Jose Maria Martinez is a young Spanish peasant, whose tiny farm is near Sabas, Galicia. He loved Carmen, the daughter of a widow who owned the largest shop in Sabas. Carmen was willing, but the widow thought such a handsome girl ought to marry money, so she withheld her consent to break off the match.

INTERESTING CASE. In which I have been concerned in this way happened not long ago. A well-dressed gentleman brought me three bulky volumes, and wanted me to purchase them. He said they were of a class of books, the value of which varies considerably, according to the date of publication. I was very busy at the time, I asked him to leave them, that I might examine them, and he consented to do so, and went away. When I looked at them, I found they were a large volume of bank notes. They were evidently quite new, and there was something about them which made me suspicious of their authenticity. I compared them with notes of my own, but could not discover the faintest dissimilarity. However, to make sure of the matter, I sent them to be paid into my bank. Naturally, when my messengers came back, having passed the notes without the slightest difficulty, I concluded they were all right.

SPOTS AND STAINS. Questions concerning the various means of removing spots from cotton, linen and other materials are so frequent that a list of some of the best methods of dealing with these blemishes will be of service to every housekeeper. Most stains can be easily removed, so long as the material is unshrunken. With colored goods, whether wool, cotton or silk, it is different. Here success will depend upon the fabric. Therefore in doubtful cases, especially where the material is costly, it is always best to send to a professional cleaner, before doing still further mischief by unskillful trials. The dyes can be tested on pieces of the material at the cleaning establishment before the chemicals are used on the garment.

HAD FAITH IN THE PHYSICIAN. One of the most remarkable cases of faith I have ever seen, said a well-known physician, occurred when I was a student. I had a patient, an Irishman, who was suffering from a very bad case of rheumatism. The bandage was removed and a light one put in its place. I noticed that one of the joints was getting better, and I thought I could not understand it. A week afterward, in removing the bandage, I found the patient was fast, and I was forced to remove it with forceps. What was my astonishment, on making the examination, to find that the pin had been run through the skin twice, instead of through the cloth. Why, Pat, said I, didn't you know that the pin was sticking in you? "Don't worry," he replied, "but I thought you knew your business, and so held me tongue."

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE. Neighboring Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Thrill Gathered from His Daily Record. It is said that "Bill" Nye left an estate worth from \$50,000 to \$60,000. The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway and Private car, that of General Manager Waino. A few days ago Little Black Bear, a Nez Perce Indian chief in Oregon, traded thirty heads of horses for a bicycle.

Recent statistics show that the increase of divorce exceeds in percentage the increase of population in nearly all of the United States. The thirteen locomotive works in the United States in 1895 turned out 1,100 locomotives, against 695 in 1894, and last year 31,868 freight cars were built, against 17,029 in 1894. Joseph Whisenand, of Burke, N. C., has nine sons, the eldest 30 years old and the youngest to secure the aggregate weight of whom is 1,806 pounds.

FOUND IN BOOKS. A London Second-Hand Dealer Discovered a Valuable Will. In reply to a query from a correspondent of Cassell's Saturday Journal, a London second-hand bookseller writes: "I frequently make a search of books I buy. It is extraordinary the number of things that are allipped between the pages of books for a moment, and afterwards entirely forgotten. Letters without number I have found, and flowers, locks of hair, unmounted photographs, bank notes, cheques, and many other things, too. I bought a volume of a well-known work from a lady some years ago, and after she had gone, turning over the leaves, came across a will which disposed of some thousands of pounds of property. I put the will carefully away, and the following day the lady returned in a frightful state of excitement, and said she had lost the book back at my own price. I guessed what she really wanted, but thought it strange she should ask to buy the book instead of merely asking to be allowed to examine it, which would have been just as effective. However, I told her that I had found the will, and she looked confused, but confessed it was, so I handed it to her, and she went up to this time that will had not been filed, so I have learned, and have not the slightest doubt that it has been suppressed for the purpose of depriving some one of the property which it disposed of. But the most interesting case in which I have been concerned in this way happened not long ago. A well-dressed gentleman brought me three bulky volumes, and wanted me to purchase them. He said they were of a class of books, the value of which varies considerably, according to the date of publication. I was very busy at the time, I asked him to leave them, that I might examine them, and he consented to do so, and went away. When I looked at them, I found they were a large volume of bank notes. They were evidently quite new, and there was something about them which made me suspicious of their authenticity. I compared them with notes of my own, but could not discover the faintest dissimilarity. However, to make sure of the matter, I sent them to be paid into my bank. Naturally, when my messengers came back, having passed the notes without the slightest difficulty, I concluded they were all right.

HEIRS TO BRITAIN'S THRONE. The nearest heirs to the British throne, at present, are the Prince of Wales, Duke of York; the infant Prince Edward, Duchess of Fife, the daughter of the Duchess of Fife (Lady Alexandra Duff) Princess Victoria and Maud of Wales. "I'd like to be a man," she said, reproachfully. "I like you better as you are," he replied, and her smile made it evident that, after all, she was thoroughly satisfied with affairs as they stood.

NO TIME TO BE PRUDISH. Fair Patient—Is there no way of telling exactly what is the matter with me, doctor? Doctor—Only a post-mortem examination can reveal that. She—Then for heaven's sake make one. I don't see why I should be at all squeamish at such a time as this. "But why do you refuse Prof. Bredon's Miss Melrose is such an able and noted mathematician." "That's just the reason! He would always be mathematician, demonstrating the errors of my milliner's bill."

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