

'MY RIVERSIDE ADVENTUR.'

(A True Fact as appened at Great Marlow on Bank Olliday.)

I was setting
one day in the
shade,
In the butifull
month of
August,
When I saw a
most butifull
Maid
A packing of
eggs in sum
sawdust.



The tears filled her butifull eyes,
And run down her butifull nose,
And I thort it was not werry wise
To let them thus spile her nice close.

So I said to her, lowly and gently,
"Shall I elp you, O fair lovely gal?"
And she ansered, "O dear Mr. BENTLEY,
If you thinks as you can, why you shall."

And her butifull eyes shone like dimans,
As briteley each gleamed thro a tear,
And her emile it was jest like a dry man's
When he's quenching his thirst with sum beer.

Why she called me at wunce Mr. BENTLEY,
I fort quite in wain to discover;
Or weather 'twas dun accidentally,
Or if she took me for some other.

I then set to work most discreetly,
And packed all the eggswith grate care;
And I did it so nicely and neatly,
That I saw that my skill made her stare.

So wen all my tarsk was quite ended,
She held out her two lily hands,
And shook mine, and thank'd me, and wended
Her way from the River's brite sands.

And from that day to this tho I've stayed,
I've entirely failed to diskever
The name of that brite Dairy-Maid
As broke thirteen eggs by the River.
ROBERT.—Punch.

WHAT AN ANTHEM IS.

Speaking of anthems reminds me of a story of two old British sailors who were talking over their shore experience. One had been to a cathedral and had heard some very fine music, and was decanting particularly upon an anthem which gave him much pleasure. His shipmate listened for a while and then said: "I say, Bill, what's a hanthem?" "What," replied Bill, "do you mean to say you don't know what a hanthem is?" "Not me," "Well, then, I'll tell yer. If I was to tell yer, "Ere, Bill, give me that 'andspike, that wouldn't be a hanthem; but was I to say Bill, Bill, Bill, giv, giv, giv me, giv me that, Bill, giv me, giv me that hand, give me that hand, handspike, spike, spike, sp. ke. Bill giv, giv me that, that, hand, handspike, hand, handspike, spike, spike, spike, ah-hem, ah-hem. Bill, givemethathandspike, spike, ah-hem!" Why, that would be a hanthem.—*Nautical Gazette.*

An all-round wag has placed the following placard over his coal bin. "Not to be used except in case of fire." The cook's relatives are in consternation.—*Burlington Free Press.*

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ITALY.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT POMPEII.

Some interesting discoveries have recently been made in the excavations at Pompeii. Many silver vessels, and three books were found in the Regio VIII., isola 2a, casa, 23, under conditions which lead to the conclusion that the owner of those valuables, a lady named Decidia Margeris, had packed them at the moment of the catastrophe in a cloth, in order to save something more than mere naked life, but that she perished in the attempt. Her name we learn from the books, important documents, and title-deeds which she would not leave behind. These are the usual wood tablets, 8in. by 5in., coated with wax, and several of them are fastened together in book form. For the first few days after their discovery they were perfectly legible, except in a few places where damp had destroyed the wood; after that time, probably because the wood began to dry, the layers of wax peeled partly off, splitting up into small portions. The contracts are all between the owner mentioned and a Poppæa Note, a liberated slave of Præsus, and from the names of the Consuls referred to in two of them the year (61 A. D.) may be fixed. In one of them Decidia buys of Poppæa two young slaves, Simplicius and Petrinus; another also has reference to a sale of slaves; the third contract mentions a sum of 1,450 sesterces, which Poppæa Note undertakes to pay to Decidia Margeris in case the slaves should not turn out profitable. The silver plate of Decidia formed a set for four persons; but, as it was gathered up in haste, it is incomplete. It comprises four goblets with four trays, four cups with handles, four smaller cups, four others, four cups with feet, a cup without a handle, a filter, a small bottle with perforated bottom, a spoon, and a small scoop. The total weight of the articles is 3943.70 grammes (not quite 127oz. Troy). There was also found a silver statuette of Jupiter on a bronze pedestal, as well as a large bronze dish with raised edge and inlaid with a finely-chiselled silver plate, and, finally, three pair of ear pendants. The excavations at Pompeii have yielded abundance recently also in other ways. Numerous surgical instruments (mostly of bronze) have been found, which appear to have been kept in a wooden box; also a small pair of apothecary's scales and a set of weights, equivalent to 14, 17.5, 21, 24.9, and 35.8 grammes respectively. Among various domestic utensils found may be mentioned as noteworthy a beautiful stew-pan of bronze, the silver inlay of which represents a head in raised work, and a bronze lamp, still containing the wick, finally various glass vessels, terra cottas, gold rings, and ear pendants. Among the finds of coin are a sesterce of Vespasian with Fortuna on the reverse, and the inscription, "Fortunæ reduci," and a dupondium of Nero with the temple of Janus and the inscription, "Pace per ubiq. parta Janum clusit."—*News of the World.*

INVASION OF PERSIA BY ALEXANDER THE GREAT.—The period is among the most interesting in the history of the ancient world, because of the results which followed. The great expedition of Xerxes was about to be reversed. On that earlier occasion, the enormous numerical forces of an Asiatic despotism were poured upon the shores of Europe, with every accompaniment of barbaric splendor which boundless ostentation could prompt, and boundless wealth supply. Had the Persian invader been successful, the great ideas of Grecian polity and culture—ideas essentially European, and immeasurably superior to the ferocious despotisms of the East—might have been destroyed in their adolescence, beyond all hope of renovation in that part of the world. The invasion of Persia by Alexander was the returning wave of Greek civilisation, breaking upon the enormous, but decaying, bulk of Persian sovereignty. The force thus directed by the Macedonian monarch was singularly small for such an enterprise. It had neither the multitudinous vastness nor the external pomp which distinguished the hosts of Xerxes; but it was handled by consummate genius, and regulated by a scientific organisation which had been advancing to perfection during many years. The expedition from Asia into Europe was the operation of matter upon mind; and it failed. The expedition from Europe into Asia was a manifestation of intellectual force, fresh, concentrated, and active, against the dull mass of Oriental immobility and tradition. It succeeded, because active forces are necessarily more potent than passive; because the Persian Empire had reached the stage of decrepitude; because the power of Macedon was youthful, energetic, and self-confident; and because the time had arrived when a new order of things was to be prepared in the most important regions of the globe. However much we may dislike the character or the personal aims of Alexander, we may say that, in a certain sense, he was a providential agent for effecting much which the world was the better for obtaining. His armies, and the kingdoms which arose out of his transitory empire, spread Greek civilisation, Greek thought, and the resources of the Greek tongue over the whole of Western Asia; and the subsequent history of the Western world has been widely and deeply influenced by the campaigns of Alexander. It is amazing that a man of the intellectual power of Demosthenes should not have seen that, as the day of republican Greece, with all its virtues and all its faults, had manifestly passed, it was better that a Hellenised Macedon should prevail over Persia, than that the designs of Alexander should be thwarted by an alliance between the commonwealths of Greece and the improgressive despotism of Asia.—*From "Cassell's Illustrated Universal History."*

JEWS AND THE AUSTRIAN COURT.—Baron and Baroness Albert Rothschild, of Vienna, have been declared *hoffähig*—that is to say, they will for the future be admitted to Court balls. This is the first time such a privilege has been conceded in Austria to persons of the Jewish religion, and the event is causing a sensation in society. A great many quartrings of nobility are the usual requisites of *Hoffähigkeit*, and it was not till last year that the wives of Cabinet Ministers not being of noble family were admitted to Court by right of their husbands' offices.

THE OLDEST TOMBSTONE IN THE GERMAN EMPIRE is one at Worms, which bears the date A. D. 900.