

HERE AND THERE.

AN ACCOMPLISHED PARROT.—Some travellers from Socorro, New Mexico, tell us of a wonderful parrot there. It sings to the accompaniment of a piano. A party of friends were recently gathered at the residence of the young lady who owns the parrot. The bird as soon as it was brought into the room commenced to whistle a popular tune. After whistling this tune three times over, one of the company suggested that the tune be changed, whereupon the parrot stopped quickly, and, turning on the young man, cried, "Chestnuts!" The young lady then began to play on the piano; and the bird, after listening a while, ruffled up the feathers on his head and sang "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Home, Sweet Home." The voice was rather too shrill to sound pleasant, but the words could be distinctly heard.

The thriving condition of the Micmac Indians of Prince Edward Island is alluded to by a writer in the *Summerside Journal*: "Their reserve is on Lennox Island. Thirty years ago Lennox Island, with the exception of one or two cleared patches, was a wild forest. The place could boast of only two houses, and the Indians lived in camps. Now the clear field and the cultivated farm everywhere meet the eye, and every farmer has his own house and barn. There are on the island at present over thirty houses, and only one camp. Four new houses are in course of erection, and all the farms are neatly fenced. There is, too, a very neat little church, and the church grounds are enclosed by a substantial board fence." The policy of the Dominion Government in conferring the privileges of citizenship upon such industrious people has, no doubt, acted as a strong incentive to the Indians to improve their condition.

THE HOTTEST SPOT ON EARTH.—One of the hottest regions of the earth is along the Persian gulf, where little or no rain falls. At Bahrin the arid shore has no fresh water, yet a comparatively numerous population contrives to live there, thanks to copious springs which burst forth from the bottom of the sea. The fresh water is got by diving. The diver, sitting in his boat, winds a great goatskin bag round his left arm, the hand grasping its mouth; then he takes in his right hand a heavy stone, to which is attached a strong line, and thus equipped he plunges in and quickly reaches bottom. Instantly opening the bag over the strong jet of fresh water, he springs up the ascending current, at the same time closing the bag, and is helped aboard. The stone is then hauled up, and the diver, after taking breath, plunges in again. The source of these copious submarine springs is thought to be in the green hills of Osman, some five or six hundred miles distant.

A CHRISTIAN TRIBE IN AFRICA.—A letter has been received by the Paris Geographical Society from the explorer, Cailland, announcing that Count Teleki, who while ago discovered the big lake Brasso-Narok in east Central Africa, found a Christian tribe to the north of this lake. They live about 800 miles southwest of Abyssinia, in latitude 5° north. No white man or native missionary has ever been there as far as they know, and Count Teleki is the first to give any information about them. He believes that at some distant period in the past they have had relations with Christian Abyssinians. About 800 years ago a princess of the Jewish faith drove out the reigning dynasty in Northern Abyssinia, and for a century the Christians were bitterly persecuted. It is thought probable that during this era some Abyssinian families escaped to the south and founded Christian colonies, from whom sprung the Christian natives whom Teleki has found surrounded on all sides by paganism. Their religion is a very debased form of Christianity, but considerable New Testament history has been handed down to them in traditions, and they have a priesthood, the cross and other emblems of Christianity.

LEGENDS OF THE NIGHTINGALE. Among the legends of old England are some which aver that certain places are never visited by the nightingale. Among these is Havering at Bower, where it is said that Edward the Confessor, being interrupted by them in his meditations, prayed that they might never sing in that place again. In some parts of Yorkshire the idea prevails that the nightingale has never been heard, and in the forest of St. Leonard's, according to an old record, "there doth never singe nightingale, although the forests rounde about in tyme of the yeare is replenished with nightingales." Izaak Walton, the famous fisherman and author of that most delightful book, "The complete Angler," has given in the following prose poem a beautiful description of the strains of Philomela:—"The nightingale breathes such sweet loud music out of its little instrumental throat that it might make mankind to think miracles are not ceased. He that at midnight, when the very laborer sleeps securely, should hear, as I have very often, the clear airs, the sweet descants, the natural rising and falling, the doubling and redoubling of her voice, might well be lifted above earth and say, 'Lord, what music hast Thou provided for the saints in Heaven, when thou affordest bad men such music on earth?'"

THE MOST EXPENSIVE LEATHER.—"The most costly leather in the world, so far as I know," said a dealer in fine skins and leathers, "is known to the trade as piano leather. American tanners years ago discovered the secret of making Russia leather, with its peculiarly pungent and lasting odour; but the secret of tanning piano leather is known only to a

family of tanners in Thuringia, Germany. This leather has but one use, the covering of piano keys. A peculiar thing about it is that the skins from which it is tanned are procured almost entirely in America. It is a peculiar kind of buckskin. The skin of the common red or Virginia deer will not make the leather, a species of the animal known as the gray deer, and found only in the vicinity of the great northern lakes, alone furnishing the material. The German tanners have an agency in Detroit which collects the skins of this deer from the Indian and half breed hunters, who supply the market. The hunters are paid an average price of about 20 cents a pound for the green skins. When the skins are returned to this country as piano leather they cost the piano manufacturer from \$15 to \$18 a pound. The world's supply of this invaluable and necessary material is supplied by the Kretzchmar family of tanners, who have six establishments in Germany, the largest and best at Gera in Thuringia."—*New York Sun*.

FIGS AS FOOD.—One of the Persian kings caused the celebrated Attic figs to be set before him whenever he dined, for one reason, to remind him that the land where they grew was not yet his and that, instead of receiving the fruit as a tribute, he was obliged to buy it from abroad; and, for another, that it was not only the emblem of health, but the most wholesome fruit grown. The fig is now pretty well-known to be, especially at certain seasons, almost the common food of the Italian people; and for months they may be said to live entirely upon them. It is not the superfluous, the luxurious, and thus, as Dr. Nichols says, it is not only possible for a man to live upon figs, but that, sitting under his own vine and fig-tree, a man would have plenty of food and no landlord. When eaten fresh, it is a medicine as well as food; and they who eat them freely need no potions and no aperients. Full of nutrition and all those properties that make it valuable as an article of diet, we are confident that the fig will take a prominent position in the estimation of all who work for and believe in food reform. For myself, I would simply add that, again and again, without liquid of any kind, the luscious green fig, eaten with whole meal bread, has formed a dish at once simple but rich, and, like the Spaniards salad, fit for a king. The fig is not only very popular, but it is the most ancient food we cultivate. In many countries the failure of this crop also means starvation and famine. Travellers in Asia Minor and southern Europe provide themselves with figs and olives as provisions for long journeys, and not only live, but grow fat on the diet. The fig has more medicinal properties and more nutriment than any other fruit with the exception of the olive.

They say that Mrs. Humphrey Ward has been offered £8,000 for her next work of fiction.

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HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.
All even numbered sections, excepting 8 and 26, are open for homestead and pre-emption entry.

ENTRY.
Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one near the local office to make the entry for him.

DUTIES.
Under the present law homestead duties may be performed in three ways:
1. Three years' cultivation and residence, during which period the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.
2. Residence for three years within two miles of the homestead quarter section and afterwards next prior to application for patent, residing for 3 months in a habitable house erected upon it. Ten acres must be broken the first year after entry, 15 acres additional in the second, and 15 in the third year; 10 acres to be in crop the second year, and 25 acres the third year.
3. A settler may reside anywhere for the first two years, in the first year breaking 5 acres, in the second year, cropping said 5 acres and breaking additional 10 acres, also building a habitable house. The entry is forfeited if residence is not commenced at the expiration of two years from date of entry. Thereafter the settler must reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each year for three years.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT
may be made before the local agent, any homestead inspector, or the intelligence officer at Medicine Hat or Qu'Appelle Station.
Six months' notice must be given in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands by a settler of his intention prior to making application for patent.
Intelligence offices are situate at Winnipeg, Qu'Appelle Station and Medicine Hat. Newly arrived immigrants will receive, at any of these offices, information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them.

A SECOND HOMESTEAD
may be taken by any one who has received a homestead patent or a certificate of recommendation, countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, upon application for patent made by him prior to the second day of June, 1887.
All communications having reference to lands under the control of the Dominion Government, lying between the eastern boundary of Manitoba and the Pacific Coast, should be addressed to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to H. H. Smith, Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.
Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, Sept. 2, 1889.