

THE GLEANER.

ENGLAND and Wales have two hundred Y. M. C. A.'s.

Belgium sells annually \$4,000,000 worth of Valenciennes lace.

A scheme for establishing a German colony in Abyssinia has failed.

GENERAL PEMBERTON, who defended Vicksburg for the Confederates, is to build iron-works at Perth Amboy for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

A Yankee has submitted to the French Government a decapitating machine intended to supersede the guillotine. It is on the pneumatic tube system and automatic in action, thus doing away with an executioner.

A change is said by the newspaper *La France* to be probable in the policy of the Right Centre, due to the wishes of the Orleans princes, who are said to be about to renounce all claims to the throne and adhere to the Republic without reserve.

THERE died recently in London a retired policeman named George Waddington, who was known to thieves as "Old Boots," from the fact that he always wore jack-boots. He was seventy-eight years old when he died, and had been retired from the service twenty years on a pension. Dickens is said to have had him in his mind when he conceived the character of the jailer Grummer in "Oliver Twist."

THE number of marriages celebrated in Paris during the last five years shows a marked increase for 1872, 1873, and 1874. In 1870 and 1871 the war naturally caused a diminution. In the former year the number during the twelve months was 12,298. In 1872, however, despite the fact that the war and the Commune had reduced the population by 250,000 inhabitants, the marriage total rose to 21,873, in 1873, 19,520 unions occurred, and last year 18,827.

IN charters granted to street railroad companies it is usually stipulated that the tracks shall not be guarded against the ordinary travel of the thoroughfares through which they run, but that all kinds of vehicles may freely pass over them. Of course a rival line of cars could not use the same tracks without obtaining a charter, but there seems to be no legal obstacle to a number of persons buying a car and running it for their own use. So think some people in a St. Louis suburb, and they are really going to try the experiment.

AMONG remarkable deaths reported in Paris is that of a man whom the French think may have been the involuntary cause of their defeat at Waterloo. Pierre Cockx, a naturalised Belgian, was arrested by the army of Blucher, tied to a horse's tail, and made to serve as a guide during the terrible days of June 15 and 16, 1815. At least, so the French obituary says. Pierre has just died at Nogent, at the age of 75. The papers state that he never forgot the horse's tail, and dreamt nightly of the pistols that were held over him while in that uncomfortable position.

WHILE the inhabitants of the sandy plains of Brandenburg have to struggle with a plague which in former years was confined to the southern regions, the swarms of locusts, the south of Germany is assailed by the bark beetle, which was almost entirely unknown there, and seemed to be confined to the northern provinces of Prussia. This disagreeable insect is already doing great damage in the beautiful parks and woods which surround the lake of Starnberg, near Munich, and which belong to the King, the Duke Max (father of the Empress of Austria), and the ex-King of Naples.

A singular cricketing incident happened the other day at Barrow. The wicket was hit by a ball bowled, and of the balls, though lifted from the wicket and removed from its place, oddly enough returned to its groove, leaving the wicket perfect as at first. The umpire gave the batsman not out, but it gave rise to some discussion. There can have been no doubt whatever but that the judgment of the umpire was in perfect accord with the M.C.C. rules. Rule twelve says, "The striker is out if either of the balls be bowled off." We should like to see this done again.

A life which formed a curious link between this century and the last just been ended. La Mère Mars, the *doymne poissonnière*, or fishwoman of the Halles, died recently in Paris at the age of 97, in a lodging near the Rue St. Denis, which she occupied time out of mind. Her speciality was fresh water fish. She was daughter of the Marquis de Juxta-Nantz, executed in the Reign of Terror, and of Madame de la Motte Valois, the artificer of the diamond necklace intrigue. A Fury of the Revolution took pity on the little girl, whom she saw blowing a kiss to the Marquis on his way to the scaffold, and adopted her. She left her a fishstall at the Halles. This descendant of the Kings of France—for Antoine de Bourbon was an undoubted ancestor of Madame de la Motte—had no other ambition than to get through life honestly. She was supposed to have made a good deal of money with her trout and crawfish. La Mère Mars was a fine-looking, robust old woman, and generally superior to the *poissonnière* sisterhood. She could not have resembled her mother, who was of little form and a delicate oval face. The fishwoman who has just died remembered Cagliostro, Cardinal de Rohan, and Marie Antoinette, whom she saw going to be executed. Her early years were spent in the mansion of the Marquis Juxta-Nantz, in the Rue Turenne.

HEARTH AND HOME.

A wife should dress herself becomingly whenever she expects to meet her husband's eye. The man should not grow slovenly, even at home.

Neither must be jealous, nor give the other cause for jealousy. Neither must encourage sentimental friendships with the opposite sex. Perfect confidence in each other, and reticence concerning their mutual affairs, even to members of their own families, is a first necessity.

Fault-finding, long arguments, or scoldings end the happiness that begins in kisses and love making. Sisters and brothers may quarrel and "make it up." Lovers are lovers no longer after such disturbances occur, and married people who are not lovers are bound by red-hot chains. If a man admires his wife most in striped calico, she is silly not to wear it.

A HAPPY COUPLE.—A man should always be a little bigger than his wife, and a little older, a little braver, and a little stronger, a little wiser, and a little more in love with her than she is with him. A woman should always be a little younger and a little prettier, and a little more considerate than her husband. He should bestow upon her all his worldly goods, and she should take good care and tenderness that affection may prompt, but pecuniary indebtedness to her will become a burthen. Better live on a crust that he earns than on a fortune that she has brought him.

AT NIGHT.—Here is one of Thackeray's pleasant touches:—"It is night now, and here is home. Gathered under the quiet roof, elders and children lie alike at rest. In the midst of a great calm the stars look out from the heavens. The silence is peopled with the past—sorrowful remorse for sins and short-comings, memories of passionate joys and griefs rise out of their graves, both now alike calm and sad. Eyes, as I shut mine, look at me, that long since ceased to shine. The town and the fair landscape sleep under the starlight, wreathed under the autumn mists. Twinkling among the houses, a light keeps watch here and there in what may be a sick member or two. The clock tolls sweetly in the silent air. Here is night and rest. An awful sense of thanks makes the heart swell and the head bow, as I pass to my room through the sleeping house, and feel as though a hushed blessing were upon it."

THE AWKWARD AGE.—A wise and sweet woman suggests, as a sovereign remedy for the uncomfortableness of what we are wont to call the awkward age in boys and girls—that time when they are too large to feel like children, and not quite sure enough of themselves to feel like adults—that we should always treat even the smallest children with the courtesy and consideration that we show to grown-up people, and then they will never feel at a loss as to their reception, thus quite escaping the uncertain and uncomfortable "awkward age." There are few things more important in the right development of a human creature than self-respect. But how is a child to learn to respect itself, if it sees that it is alone in the sentiment—that by no one else it is respected? More harm is perhaps done children by snubbing than even by weak indulgence. We have all seen homes where the slightest expression of a child's idea on any point under discussion was greeted with—"Who asked you what you thought?" or with some sarcasm such as "Ah, now we shall have the matter settled—Miss experience is freeing her mind." It is so difficult to hit the right mean. We do not want our children troublesome to visitors—grown-up people do not care to pause in their talk to listen to the unconsidered opinions of thirteen—but what if we tried the experiment of respectful attention for a while? Would not the young folk stop talking until they had something to say, quite as surely if they saw that their words were listened to with attention, as if they felt that their voices were but beating the air?

THE MOTHER'S FAVOURITE.—One of the most touching stories ever set in circulation is that of the little girl who, on account of lack of beauty, was slighted by a vain mother who lavished all her love and pride on the poor child's lovely sister. One day, when mamma lay on a lounge in her own room, languidly reading a novel, a knock sounded on her door. "Is that you, darling?" asked the lady. "No—it is only me, mamma," timidly answered the poor neglected one. "Only me!" What a story of slighted love and meek humility those two words expressed! The mother's heart was touched, and from that time she strove to divide her love more equally between her children. There should be no favourite in the family; such an arrangement is a blot and a curse upon its perfect happiness. In the first place, the favoured child is harmed by favouritism. If a boy, the chances are that he turns out very badly; if a girl, she is spoiled in her temper, and if she does not become a vixen, develops into a young woman as soft and impressionable as a bit of wax, and without some severe after training, too likely some stinging chastisement, quite unfitted to be a wife and mother. Then the mischief done to the other children is incalculable. In our own experience we have seen many families shipwrecked on the fatal rock of favouritism, and in most cases the chief offender was the mother. So that a mother with a family of daughters should strive to her utmost to be a mother to all of them, bestowing the same warm kiss and hug upon the plain-faceted Kate as upon the outwardly more attractive Ethel, her supreme thought being that the mind and future of the one are as precious in the sight of duty—motherly Christian duty—as

of the other. A mother having a favourite child, and showing her partiality, unconscious though it may be, sows the seed of envy, jealousy, rage, and mortified vanity in the minds of the rest of her offspring; and so, in after days, when self-reproach is mere idle snivelling over the delinquency, brings on them and herself the blackest of clouds. A mother should spread her love as evenly as she spreads butter on bread, not squander its whole wealth on one, and that, too, a daughter among daughters; for slighted sons can rub off the impression in contact with the work-a-day world, but in daughters it is ineffaceable. The memory of kisses and presents in which they did not share clings to them through life, and must, to a lesser or greater extent, weaken the texture of their moral nature.

FOOT NOTES.

THE Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen are excellent actors.

THE Kentucky Legislature will be urged to prohibit lotteries.

COTTON planting is to be attempted in Turkistan and the Caucasus.

MARSHAL BAZAINE is seeking a position in the Russian army.

A machine has been invented in England for making hay by artificial heat, at a cost of 8s per ton.

THE Bessemer steamship is, it is said, an acknowledged failure and she is to be sold and the company wound up. The *Castalia* is a success.

It is a notable fact that while not one ex-President of the United States is living, the wives of five of them survive—Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Fillmore, Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Lincoln, and Mrs. Johnson.

THE Gregorian Calendar has been adopted by the Russian postal authorities throughout the empire. It is to be hoped that this is only the prelude to a general adoption of the Calendar in Russia.

THE Workmen's Peace Conference at Paris has unanimously passed the principal resolution before it, which solemnly protests against armaments of the European powers as an intolerable burden on the people.

Queen Victoria has given her name and patronage to the Church of England Temperance Society, and advised the Society that she did so expressly and only because it is a temperance and not a total abstinence society.

AGNES BECKWITH, daughter of the well-known Professor Beckwith, of Lambeth Baths, a young girl aged fourteen years, swam from London Bridge to Greenwich, a distance of five miles, in an hour and five minutes.

ROCHEFORT, the Communist, has recently had a narrow escape from drowning at Geneva. He went out with his daughter on Lake Lemman. A squall suddenly arose and upset the boat. Fortunately assistance was soon at hand, or both would have perished.

CHAINES Jeanne d'Arc and Jeanne d'Arc belts are the latest fancy additions to the feminine toilet. They encircle the neck or waist at pleasure, or suspend the vinaigrette, fan, Swiss watch, chatelaine, or any other article that a lady may need when shopping or visiting.

HERE is a story of Madame de Staël's large feet. She went to a fancy ball as Minerva. "How shall you know your goddess?" said one of her admirers to another. "Par le pied-de-Staël," was the response. Had she gone otherwise than as a goddess she would not have needed a pedestal.

MR. CAIRD, in an elaborate review of the harvest prospects, estimates the total gain to the British consumer from the fine harvest of 1874 at twenty millions. The total consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom he estimates at 100 million cwt., of which a fraction over one-half is home grown.

A new vine disease has excited much uneasiness in Rheintal, Frickthal and Thurgau in Germany. Vines which are apparently flourishing in the morning wither in the course of the day, without, however, turning yellow, and in a short time die. The symptoms have no resemblance to those of phylloxera.

The fashionable people of Louisville, Ky., habitually go to the theatre on Friday nights. So fixed has this usage become that on this evening of every week the house will not hold all who come, and on others it is nearly empty. That is not a profitable custom for the manager, and during the coming season he will endeavor to break it up by calling the favored occasions "popular nights for the people," and reducing the prices of admission.

A singular and melancholy mortuary relic was lately exhibited at a private *soirée* in Paris. It is the handkerchief which the Emperor Maximilian of Mexico held in his hand at the moment of his execution. It had evidently belonged to the Empress Carlotta, as it is a woman's handkerchief of small size, of the finest cambric bordered with Mechlin lace, and bearing the arms of the empress embroidered in one corner. At the moment that he fell his fingers closed convulsively upon the blood that flowed from a wound in the wrist. This mournful token of conjugal affection and misguided and betrayed ambition belongs to Don Andres de Valdejo-Arjona, a wealthy Mexican gentleman.

ARTISTIC.

THE Prussian Chambers have voted the sum of \$30,000 to defray the cost of rebuilding the Academy of Art at Dusseldorf.

MR. SIDNEY P. HALL has been commissioned by the Prince of Wales to attend him on his tour in India for the purpose of illustrating it with sketches.

SIR JAMES ALEXANDER is persevering with his scheme for the removal of Cleopatra's Pillar from the neighbourhood of Alexandria to London, but as yet he has met with no encouragement in official quarters.

M. CHALES BIGOT, of the *Sicéle*, contends in a recent number of the *Revue Politique et Littéraire* that the modern school of sculpture in France has this year produced works more remarkable than any produced in the sister art of painting.

GEROME is studying Turkish architecture in Broussa and Constantinople. It is said that he is going to try his hand at painting marine views—a complete change of style, and one that we should hardly fancy would prove beneficial.

THE statue of Prince Eugène de Beauharnais, which formerly stood on the Boulevard du Prince Eugène, and was pulled down by the Republicans on the 4th of September, 1872, is about to be restored and will be placed in the courtyard of the Invalides.

THE Vendôme Column is finished and will be opened to the public next month. Of course, according to French accounts, fabulous sums are offered by the English for the first ascent. Where are these English so free with their money and careless of their own credit for common sense? They must be all in Paris, for we know they are not in England.

WILLIAM GILMORE SIMS, the distinguished Southern novelist, who is buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, S. C., is to have a monument. The committee having the matter in charge has decided to adopt the suggestion of a bronze bust on a granite pedestal, similar to that erected in the Central Park to Humboldt. When completed it will cost about \$2,500.

THE Pope having commemorated the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception by a monument, has long contemplated the erection of a similar memorial in connection with the dogma of Infallibility. A site, it is said, has been chosen, and as the ornaments in marble and bronze are now completed, the monument will shortly be erected.

THE Greek Government, mindful of the services of Lord Byron to Greece, and desirous of seeing them commemorated, has offered to supply whatever quantity of Pentelic marble the Byron memorial committee may require for the monument free of all cost, and that the expenses of its transit will be paid out of the Greek Exchequer. A site on the Thames embankment will be offered to the committee.

THE mania in France for wood carvings has lately broken out again. Baron Adolphe de Rothschild pays no less than \$8,000 for the carvings of the Hôtel Bretony lilies and antique palace of the Ile Saint Louis. His kinsman, Baron Gustave, even outdoes this extravagance. For the adornment of his new residence, between the Avenue d'Auvin and the Rue du Cirque, he buys the wainscoting and cornices of the Hôtel du Sacré Cœur, Rue de Valenciennes, at \$7,000. This famous mansion was once occupied by the Biron-Lauzans. It had three grand apartments lined with oak and other woods, superbly carved. The lining of the principal room fetched \$2,800.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

MENG-SEN, a Chinese tenor, is to sing in the Paris Grand Opera.

THE *Journal de St. Petersburg* announces the death of Signor Ronconi, the celebrated Italian singer.

MISS HARRIET HOSMER, the sculptor, has written a clever little play for amateur players, which is now in print.

THEODORE WACHTEL, the great tenor of Germany, will commence his opera season at the New York Academy on the eighteenth of October.

WE are told that M. Gounod is setting the story of *Lady Jane Grey* for the new National Opera House (Thames Embankment).

ONE of the greatest events of the present dramatic season in London will be a performance of "Macbeth," with Rossi as *Macbeth*, Salvini as *Macduff* and Madame Ristori as *Lady Macbeth*.

A NEW edition of Sir John Hawkins' "History of Music" is about to be issued. The work will not only be printed on better and larger paper, but will be considerably reduced in price.

THE music publisher Trebbi, of Bologna, has just opened two large rooms in which, for fifty cents per hour by day, and one franc at night, he provides pianos and music for any one disposed to practise.

THE engagement of Signor Ross at the Lyceum Theatre, N. Y., begins on October 25, as *Hamlet*, a personation which will be followed in succession by *Romeo, Othello, Macbeth, King Lear, Damon, Louis XI., and Keane and Cetege and Verone*. On leaving New York, Signor Rossi will begin at Boston a tour which will terminate at Galveston. Mr. Grau has eight years past been endeavoring to induce the distinguished Italian actor to visit this country.

It is said that Adelina Patti's facility for study has so greatly increased that she finds it possible to learn in a few weeks a rôle which others blunder over for months. She already knows thirty-four operas from beginning to end. When she is studying, her habit is not to sing aloud the rôle which she wishes to learn. She either reads, or hums it. Even her accompanist often cannot hear her voice on these occasions. It is the same at rehearsals. Only at the last grand general rehearsal does she condescend to sing with her full voice. She goes to bed late and is up early; at table follows no special diet, but eats heartily three times daily, and drinks Bordeaux and champagne freely without any effect upon her voice being perceptible, notwithstanding a popular impression that singers should not use them. Her supper is usually served about midnight. The days when she sings in opera she dines several hours before she appears on the stage, and generally looks over her rôle for half an hour before going upon the stage.

SCHNEIDER is making an ado again among authors and managers, after her usual irrepressible fashion. She was engaged to create *La Boulangerie à des Ecus* at the Variétés, as we stated a few weeks ago, but she refused to sign any contract, and the other day, after exacting from the managers and MM. Meilhac and Halévy, and M. Offenbach, all sorts of impossible changes and alterations, she coolly walked out of the theatre, declaring, like a spoiled child, "if you don't do as I ask you, I won't play." Tired out with her whims, M. Bertrand, the director of the Variétés, took the troublesome lady at her word, and engaged Mademoiselle Aimée to fill her place. Now, be it known that there is no rival in the profession more disliked and dreaded by the bumptious *Grande-Duchesse* than is pretty, winning Aimée; so she forthwith came back to the theatre, and declared that she would play. "You shan't," quoth the manager. "I will!" vowed the lady. Thereupon she appealed to the law, and lovers of theatrical gossip are on the *qui vive* respecting the case of Schneider vs. Bertrand, which is shortly to come before the tribunals.