

RANDOM NOTES.

Quinine, morphine, and bromide are said to be the three great popular "drugs of civilization."

Mr. Stanley judges, from what he has seen of the density of the population of Central Africa, that the Congo River basin must have 49,000,000 residents.

In the 4,440,822 letters and papers sent to the U. S., Dead Letter Office last year, over 34,000 contained checks and money to the amount of \$1,030,000.

It is interesting at the present time to remember that the Soudan, upon which the eyes of the civilized world are fixed, is precisely the area known as the Ethiopia of the Bible.

Governor Cleveland, of New York, has signed the bill in the interest of temperance, providing that in public schools instruction shall be given us to the bad effects of drinking alcohol.

Wm. H. Vanderbilt, it is said, will build on the site of the old family homestead on Staten Island, now used as a beer-garden, a large charitable institution as a memorial to his father.

A plain gold ring in New York has "officiated" at one hundred and eighty-five weddings in two years. It is kept at Castle Garden, and loaned for use by immigrants who want to marry there.

A Russian lady named Kowalewki occupies the Chair of Mathematics at the High School in Stockholm, an institution which is said to promise to become a rival of the Universities of Upsala and Lund.

Twelve thousand names are on the books of the Overseers of the Poor as receiving alms in the city of Newark, N. J. The average family is four, so that the number of persons assisted is forty-eight thousand.

The Scotch troops figured prominently in recent British wars. They are always put in the advance with their bagpipes, possibly to save ammunition. Those of the enemy who can stand the music get shot, as they deserve.

The exact number killed and wounded last year in the Isle of Ischia calamity have now been obtained. On the island the total killed and wounded (not counting those who were badly bruised) amount to 3,075, of whom 2,312 were killed and 762 were maimed—the most of the latter for life.

Francis Murphy, the originator of the Blue Ribbon movement, has inaugurated a new pledge, the badge of which is a blue ribbon with a white line running up the center, signifying in addition to the ordinary pledge, abstinence from or, in case of females opposition to, the use of tobacco and all other narcotics.

New Brunswick has fourteen counties and three cities, of which nine counties and one city have adopted the Scott Act. Nova Scotia has eighteen counties and one city, of which twelve counties have adopted the Act. Prince Edward Island has three counties and one city, all of which have adopted the Act.

Mrs. Spurgeon last year distributed 11,351 volumes of Christian books. The amount expended was £1757. The books were given to ministers. It is a good thing to scatter good books; they speak eloquently where our voices would not be heard, and they continue to speak after we are dead and gone.

The Lodging-House for Boys, in Boston, established last Fall, is proving a decided success. The boys are charged but six cents a meal and ten cents for lodging, and pay if they can, or such fraction as they can. Ten of the boys, besides paying their way, have made deposits of surplus earning with the management amounting to \$14.

The list of murders in the United States for the past year is given at 2,326. Ohio claims the largest number—169 of these: Illinois next, 157; Wyoming Territory, none. Commenting on these figures, a contemporary says: "It is not singular that one of the frontier territories should have the sole credit of not spilling human blood? Here, however, woman has a voice in shaping its law and policy. Is there any argument in this exhibit in favor of equal rights to all?"

GIVING.—A Christian should never be troubled because he is asked to give. If he cannot give, he may well be sorry, but if he does not wish to give, he ought to be more than sorry—he should be alarmed. Lack of money is by no means as sad as the lack of a disposition to contribute of what one has. A man often shuts the door in the face of his best friend when he shuts off an appeal to his benevolence.

CURRENT EVENTS.

DOMESTIC.

The Orange Bill for incorporation was brought to a vote in the House of Parliament and rejected.

The temperance people of Souris, P. E. I., are not satisfied with the appointment of a man not a total abstainer to Chief Inspectorship of Licenses under Dominion Act.

Over 300 English immigrants passed through Moncton yesterday (March 31st) on route to the North-West. There were also 98 orphan children for homes in Ontario.

David Galland, of Shediac, in default of payment of a fine of \$50 for violation of Scott Act, was on Saturday taken to Dorchester jail. S. Nickerson was a few days ago fined \$50 for like offence. The committee are going on with the cases as fast as the police magistrate can handle them.

The steamers Princess of Wales and St. Lawrence, of the P. E. I. S. N. Co., have, during the winter, been put in first-class condition. They have received new boilers, and have been otherwise refitted so as to put them in a class equal to new boats. The Company are finishing the work of repairs on these boats rapidly, and by the opening of navigation it is expected they will be in a thorough condition for the summer's work.—*Patriot*.

A terrible accident happened on the northern division April 1st. The train going north, in charge of Conductor Koan and Driver Ryan, and one coming south, in charge of Conductor Audet and Driver Oakleaf, rushed into each other near St. Flavie. Fireman John Harney, of Shediac, was killed, and Engineer Ryan scalded. The accident was caused by the first named train running by St. Flavie station contrary to orders.

A despatch of the 31st ult., from Flagg's Cove, Grand Manan, to the *Globe*, contains the following information:

Fire broke out a few minutes past midnight, last night, at the residence of A. J. Clarke, Pettis Cove. A strong gale from the north was prevailing at the time, and the fire laid the building waste very quickly. The inmates, being asleep, barely escaped with their lives. The children suffered terribly from suffocation and became frantic, arousing their parents in time to save them. Strong and willing hands soon arrived and did what service could be done towards saving household effects. Very little, however, was saved, the fire having too much the start. The property was insured in the British American for \$800.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, fourth and youngest son of Queen Victoria, died suddenly at Cannes, France, March 28. The Prince died in a fit as he was starting for Darmstadt to attend the wedding of his niece, Princess Victoria, of Hesse. The Duchess of Albany is at Claremont.

A despatch from Cannes states that the Duke of Albany's death was due to the effects of a fall which he received last evening.

The body of the Duke of Albany was placed in a coffin and sent to England. The coffin is enveloped in black velvet and is furnished with silver handles. The cover is glass, through which the body is visible, arrayed with a violet colored robe and wearing some of the many decorations which the Duke had received. The face has a peaceful look, the lips slightly extended. The sculptor Paoli has taken a cast of the face. The Duke will be interred in the mausoleum at Frogmore.

The Dublin bankruptcy court has annulled the deeds by which James Carey, the Irish informer, sought to transfer his property to his relatives and defraud his creditors.

FOREIGN.

It is reported that on the 16th, Gen. Gordon made a sortie from Khartoum with 4,000 men, two guns and a squadron of Bashi-Bazouk cavalry. On nearing the rebels, Gen. Gordon drew up his troops in the form of a square, which they kept until attacked by the enemy, when the Egyptians turned and fled. Two hundred of them were slaughtered, and three guns were lost. There are enough provisions at Khartoum to enable the town to hold out until winter. Gen. Gordon says Khartoum is safe.

Figaro's correspondent at Cairo says: Gen. Gordon, before the sortie of the 16th inst., sent the following proclamation to the rebel sheikhs: "Come to me without fear, as I have come to you in all confidence. I came not to fight, but alone, with the help of God, and God is with me." The sheikhs replied: "We have read your letter; you say you are with God; if you are with God you are with us, because God is with us. If you are not with us then God is against thee, and we shall do with thee as we have done with Hicks Pasha."

It is reported at Cairo that two black Pashas, whose treachery caused the defeat of Gen. Gordon's troops have been court martialled and shot.

Gen. Gordon has finally decided to abandon the policy of conciliating the natives, having become convinced that it is utterly useless. His new policy will be more vigorous.

All British troops are embarking for home (Mar. 31) except the Sixtieth Rifles, who remain to garrison Suakim until relieved by Egyptian troops from Cairo.

April 1st was the 69th birthday of Prince Bismarck, and the Chancellor received hundreds of despatches congratulating him.

UNITED STATES.

Despatches from Cincinnati, March 28th, give the following account of the riots: The outrageous miscarriage of justice in this city, so severely commented on for years, but which has recently been growing almost intolerable to the better disposed portion of the community, culminated to-day, when Wm. Burner, a self-convicted murderer, whose crime was a most brutal one, by the verdict of a jury escaped the capital punishment he so richly deserved, and was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. When the sentence became generally known, public indignation knew no bounds. Ten thousand persons gathered at Music Hall in response to the call by reputable citizens to take action on the verdict. Many could not get inside the building. Strong resolutions were adopted condemning the verdict, and a committee on legislation was appointed. On adjournment, the vast crowd moved directly to the jail where they began an attack on the front door. The police, however, gained control of the jail and dispersed the mob. On Saturday night the riot was again resumed and the court house burned. The State militia was called out, and fired upon the mob from the jail windows, killing and wounding many. On Sunday the rioting was again resumed, but the troops were too much for the mob, and quiet is now restored.

The number killed outright or dying at the hospital up to midnight, April 1, is 41. The number wounded is 120 and probably half as many more wounded not reported. Burner, who caused the riot and bloodshed escaped during the riot, but he was recaptured and lodged in the penitentiary at Columbus.

In Saundersville, a thriving town of 1,500 inhabitants in Washington county, East Central Georgia, there was a fearful uprising of negroes on Saturday night and an attempt on their part to massacre all the white people in the town and county. The trouble was due to the arrival of a communistic emissary who convoked in the woods, outside of the town, a negro mass meeting of about five hundred. The negroes were told that they were poorly paid and little better than serfs, and that the only way to right their wrongs was to murder every white person in the County and take possession of all the property of their victims, which, he said, rightfully belonged to them, and not to the whites. The negroes were supplied with money which they freely spent for whiskey, and were thus made more than ordinarily excitable. After the meeting the negroes paraded the streets, boasting of their contemplated massacre. The local military company was called to arms, and quietness again restored.