

A home for young girls of all nationalities has recently been opened in Paris. It is intended to receive, temporarily, young girls who come to Paris to study or to seek employment, and the charge is very moderate indeed, only one and a half francs per day.

Cremation appears to have met with a very favorable reception in the Argentine Republic. Since 1886 the total number of cremations carried out there has been 6,789; in 1890 alone they amounted to 2,085. A law exists in Argentina to the effect that the bodies of all persons dying of infectious diseases and the fragments that remain of corpses that have been dissected must be burned—a regulation which should be adopted in this country.

"Bald-headed emigrants" had better give a wide berth to the Transvaal. Under the provisions of the Masks and Disguises Bill, which has been sent up by the Second Chamber for the consideration of the First Chamber of the Transvaal Volksraad, a person who wears a wig will be liable to a \$50 fine or fourteen days' imprisonment. Another clause expressly declares that a wig once adopted can neither be discarded nor changed without bringing the individual under more pains and penalties.

The crops all over the Province are said to be very promising. Oats are looking splendidly, and the hay crop has been harvested under the most favorable circumstances. Through the Annapolis Valley very little rain has fallen during July, and the hay-makers had about as little anxiety as could possibly be. Apples do not yet make much of a showing, but the small fruit is hard to distinguish, and it is thought the crop will be fair. It is well for the agricultural interests that the heavy rains of the latter part of June ceased before hay-making season arrived. Fine weather makes good hay, and good hay makes good cattle, and good cattle when killed and eaten are good food for all sorts and conditions of men, editors included. A fat agricultural year usually results in making the people generally wear a happy, contented, well-fed and well-conditioned appearance—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Interference with the domestic concerns of an individual is becoming far too common, and legislators should be exceedingly careful how they deal with such matters. The line which separates the State from the family should ever be religiously respected, for it is the palladium of individual freedom. Recently it has been proposed to break up such families as are naturally inclined to be vicious and criminal, in order to stamp out hereditary crime. This would be altogether unfair. Although a number of men may be prone to evil, yet we have no moral right to interfere with them until they have individually committed some misdemeanor, and then only to deal with them in the light of the crime which each has committed. Such members of a family as may disturb the peace can be punished in proportion to their offence with perfect right; but we should never enter the family—which is sacred, no matter how debased—and scatter its members as proposed. We cannot deal with latent crime, and yet the proposal seems to savor very much of such a course.

The India Government has issued an order respecting the publication of newspapers and other printed works in places administered by the Governor-General-in-Council, but not forming part of British India. This order, which comes not a day too soon, directs that after the 1st of August no newspaper shall be published in any such territory without the written consent of the political agent, which consent may be withdrawn at any time. If anyone disobeys the order, the political agent may require him to leave the locality, prohibit his return, and forcibly expel him, if necessary. The preamble states that the regulation is issued to remove misapprehensions as to the rule already existing. For some years past there has been a steady increase in some native States of low and scurrilous journals of the worst type, and recently several cases have directed attention to this growing evil; but the evil is not confined to native States. The tone of many papers published in British India is becoming more and more marked by seditious, and their references to Manipur and other matters are such that no Government but the British would tolerate.

Dr. W. Richardson says he was once enabled to preach an effectual temperance lecture by means of a scientific experiment. An acquaintance was singing the praises of wine, and declared that he could not get through the day without it. "Will you be good enough to feel my pulse as I stand here?" asked Dr. Richardson. The man did so. "Count it carefully. What does it say?" "Seventy-four." The physician then went and lay down on a sofa, and asked the gentleman to count his pulse again. "It has gone down to sixty-four," he said in astonishment. "What an extraordinary thing!" "When you lie down at night," said the physician, "that is the way nature takes to give your heart rest. You may know nothing about it, but the organ is resting to that extent; and if you reckon the rate, it involves a good deal of rest, because in lying down the heart is doing ten strokes less a minute. Multiply that by sixty and it is six hundred; multiply it by eight hours, and within a fraction, there is a difference of five thousand strokes, and as the heart is throwing six ounces of blood at every stroke, it makes a difference of thirty thousand ounces of life during the night. When I lie down at night without any alcohol that is the rest my heart gets. But when I take wine or grog I do not allow that rest, for the influence of alcohol is to increase the number of strokes. Instead of getting repose, the man who uses alcohol puts on something like fifteen thousand extra strokes, and he rises unfit for the next day's work."

According to the *Scientific American* an electro power hammer has been devised, in which the cylinder is composed of a series of coils through which an electric current can be passed separately. It is virtually an immense electro magnet, of which the coil is the cylinder and the piston the core. The passage of a current through the upper part of the coiled cylinder raises the piston into the magnetic field thus created. By cutting off the current, and transferring it to the lower coils the piston is released, and its descent accelerated by the attraction of the lower coil. The current is controlled as easily as that of steam in the steam-hammer, and save in the absence of a steam pipe it can scarcely be distinguished therefrom.

News has been received from Smyrna that M. Bayhor, a leading French merchant at Beyrout, has obtained from the Sultan a firman for the construction of a railway from Beyrout to Damascus. This line is to compete with the line from Caiffa to Damascus, the concession of which has been given to an English company. The new laid line will probably be constructed by the French company which has made the carriage road from Beyrout to Damascus, and has already constructed a short railway line from Damascus towards the interior. A Belgian company has received a concession for a steam-tramway line from Damascus to Nauran, the centre of a rich and fertile Province, and an English company has applied for a charter for a railway line from Alexandria to Aleppo, to be continued hereafter to Bagdad and Bussorah.

On all waste ground outside most southern cities—Nice, Cannes, Florence, Rome, Algiers, Granada, Athens, Palermo, Tunis, etc.—the soil is thickly covered by dark trailing vines, which bear on their branches a queer hairy green fruit, much like a common cucumber at that early stage of its existence when we know it best in the commercial form of pickled gherkins. As long as you don't interfere with them, these hairy fruits do nothing out of the common. Like the model young lady of the book on etiquette, they don't speak unless they're spoken to. But if you chance to brush up against the plant accidentally, or you irritate it of set purpose with your foot or cane, then, as Mr. Rider Haggard would say, "a strange thing happens;" off jumps the little green fruit with a startling bounce, and scatters its juice and pulp and seeds explosively through a hole in the end, where the stem joined on to it. The entire central part of the cucumber, in short (answering to the seeds and pulp of a ripe melon), squirt out elastically through the breach in the outer wall, leaving the hollow shell behind as a mere empty windbag. The juice of the squirting cucumber is bitter and nauseous, and if it gets into the eyes or nostrils of man or beast it impresses itself on the memory by stinging like red pepper.

Alaska must be a pleasant place to travel in. A party of Californian explorers has returned from this Beulah with the loss of two of their number from mosquito bites and starvation. On the homeward trip their provisions gave out, and they could not pull their boat and had to abandon it. They were harassed by clouds of mosquitos and noxious fleas. With bleeding faces and bodies full of sores, the party dragged their way on. They grew so weak that they could not beat off the mosquitos. Their eyes became so inflamed that partial blindness followed. Hunger-stricken, one of the party, James Ingram, brought his companions to shoot him, but soon he sank on the ground and died. Another named F. C. Young died of starvation on the following day. The rest continued to push further on. They had not eaten food for a week when a quantity of dried salmon was found. They fell to eating it like smished wolves. Their first thought was to rescue their comrades. Ingram's body was found covered with mosquitos. The survivors covered him with branches of hemlock, and placed a rough stone at the head of the rude grave. The body of Young could not be found, but the distant growls of wolves indicated its fate. More dead than alive, the survivors reached Chilcat. One of the party bears a lasting memento of the sufferings he endured. His hair, once brown, is now white as snow. What a country for Mark Tapley!

When speaking to an American gentleman a few days ago, we had again impressed upon us the necessity of making the advantages of Nova Scotia as a summer resort more generally known in the United States. This gentleman told us that many people there have an idea that this is a land of rocks surrounded by raging surf somewhere near the North Pole! Of course this is not exactly drawing it mild, and we know a favorite pastime among our Yankee friends is "swapping lies," but still there is more truth than poetry in the statement. They would only have to consult their atlases to become informed of the position and extent of Nova Scotia, and any geography worthy the name should give our climate a good character, but the majority of people now a days want to have information given to them through the medium of the daily and weekly press, and if they do not see Nova Scotia well advertised they will not take the trouble to investigate for themselves. Our American friend told us at the same time that from his experience of the people here, he feared that until some well known hotel man from across the border comes and builds a big hotel and brings the people with him every summer, we shall not have the thousands of visitors we might have if we would. The advent of such a man, hotel and visitors, would of course be a benefit to all farmers in the vicinity of its location, as it would give a convenient market for all kinds of produce, but from our point of view we cannot help regretting that some true bluenose is not prepared to reap this harvest. Perhaps with the help of a good deal of prodding some latent genius in the hotel line may be induced to come forward and form a company that will do what is needed.

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