

A Catastrophe.

No human being
Who saw that sight
But felt a shudder
Of pale affright
He sat in a window
Three stories high,
A little baby
With no one nigh.
A stranger saw him,
And stopped to stare;
A crowd soon gathered
To watch him there.

A gleam—a flutter!
In airy flight,
Came past the window
A butterfly bright,
From field of clover
And perfumed air,
Wayfaring insect,
What brought you there?
The babe saw it,
And eagerly
Reached out to catch it,
Crowing with glee;

With fat pink fingers,
Reached out—and fell!
The awful horror,
No tongue can tell,
Fell little baby,
So sweet and bright!
Pale faces quivered
And lips grew white,
Weak women fainted,
Strong men grew weak,
Up rose one woman's
Heart-piercing shriek.

He ran for the doorway
Upon the fly
It caught the youngster
And tossed him high,
The bounce prodigious
Made baby scow!
He caught his breath, sir,
And set up a howl,
All blessed the evening
That had no law;
But a madder baby
You never saw.

One inspector, supported by the licensed dealers, can perform more efficient services than fifty inspectors under the Dunkin Act. The experience of this year is showing that more substantial food in suppressing intemperance can be accomplished by the License Acts than under the Dunkin Act. —Extract from Prov. Soc. Reports, Sept. 35.

SUNDAY OF A DOG.—One of the most singular cases of suicide which we have any knowledge occurred this morning in this city. At an early hour, a large yellow dog was slowly walking down the alley at No. 15, engine-house, leading from main street to the river. Paying no attention to those who were watching his movements, he went directly to the river, carefully stepped in and deliberately plunged his head under the water and held it there a sufficient length of time to drown. There was no struggle, no splashing around, but a cool and determined purpose of self-destruction. From the time the dog put his head under the water, it was not raised, but the other part of his body was exposed to view. In a few moments his life was extinct, and the dog floated down the river. This remarkable case of suicide was witnessed with astonishment by several of our prominent citizens. This rare and interesting circumstance proves that an animal as well as a human being, for a uses of which we can form no definite knowledge, can deliberately take its own life.—*Washville (Wis.) Gazette*

A Fanciful Pair of Swindlers

[From the Pall Mall Gazette.]

The Paris police have just arrested two Russians who have been residing in that city for some months, and who, passing themselves off one as physician to the Czar, and the other as an engineer who had obtained the concession for an important line of railway in Asia, have made numerous victims. They stayed for some time at a hotel in the Rue de Rivoli, occupying an apartment which was let to them at the rate of three guineas a day and for some time they paid their bills, which were swollen by the cost of sumptuous breakfasts and dinners to more than a respectable total. In the meanwhile, the tradesmen were plying upon them with goods from all the shops, and financiers of repute came to them about the railway, the plan of which was written in red chalk upon a large map of Asia which was always spread out upon one of the tables. As the summer came on, the two Russians who told the proprietor that they only wanted 5,000,000 francs more to complete the 25,000,000 required for the railway, took a villa at Neuilly, retaining only two small rooms at the hotel, and contracted so many debts there that

their proceedings came to the ears of the police, whose suspicions were excited just as a lady from whom they had obtained £1,000 lodged a complaint against them. They are now under arrest, but the elder of the two declares that he is in reality the physician to the Czar, that he saved the life of one of his Majesty's relatives, and that as a recompense the Czar granted him the concession of this railway, and gave him authority to issue the shares. The Paris police will in the course of a few days ascertain from St. Petersburg whether there is any truth in this statement.

The working man who owns his cottage and lot already finds his taxes a heavy bill to pay. If you don't want to make it still more burdensome vote against the Dunkin Act.

Remarkable Self-Sacrifice.

PARIS, June 23.—A singularly romantic and painful scene was witnessed in the Court of the Eleventh Chamber a couple of days since. On the seat allotted to defendants cited to appear but not restrained of their liberty sat a woman some thirty years of age, of imposing appearance and haughty demeanor, with a such as one sees on a Roman cameo. She toyed negligently while being questioned with a jewelled fan and gave her answers disdainfully. Beside her, but upon the prisoner's bench, was a girl of eighteen, a tall and slight brunette whose great dark eyes with tears resembled those of a Madonna in ecstatic prayer. They were both red of face, both of Spanish origin. The elder, Virginia Pulgar, is the wife of a Venezuelan general who in 574 represented Venezuela in France; the latter, the Governor of a Province, then revolted and was defeated. He is now planning another revolution, while his wife lives, or rather lives, an elegant life, having a ample fortune of her own, in one of the splendid hotels on the Champs Elysees. The niece Germaine Lassoada—"Nina," as her aunt called her—is the daughter of an ex-President of Venezuela, wife of a handsome young colonel, Lopez Mendez, twenty-four. They were married last winter and came to Paris to spend how sad a holiday.

In some respects the case resembled that of Mme. Kovatchikoff, the wealthy Russian, who forced her little daughter of twelve years, Nodine, to steal in the shops they visited. According to the prosecution the young woman "lifted" everything she could secure at the counters when her husband and aunt kept the shopman occupied. Why people rich should steal as these stole, why they should steal only to give to these stole, the prosecution did not pretend to explain; but at Mme. Pulgar's residence the police found articles of all descriptions and every value, from a 250-franc ring down to a pair of coarse woollen hose, from gold bracelets to handkerchiefs at 5 francs a dozen—8c. each.

The young girl indicated as principal offender took upon herself with a touching resignation the sole and entire responsibility for the thefts. She had but one thought, one desire—to save her husband and her mother's sister by establishing that she had taken the articles in question, without their knowledge or assistance, and she set herself to make out her own guilt as broadly, and resolutely as another woman would have striven to prove her complete innocence. The principal accusations against her were two jewelers' fragments, Baucheron, she had stolen a sapphire ring; from the other, Fortana, a gold chain. Baucheron missed his property just as the trio left the store on the 1st of May, and had them arrested. Their rooms were found full of goods still bearing the trade-marks of the great shopping emporiums, the Louvre, Princesps and Bon Marche.

M. de LaFaye, who prosecuted, cited for a severe sentence upon the husband and aunt, asserting that they had shamelessly worked upon the poor girl's ignorance, "a child scarcely conscious of what she did," as the Venezuelan Minister wrote to the Court. Maître Georges Lechaud defended the two women. Virginia Pulgar, he claimed, had not been proved guilty of the slightest connection with the offence, and as for the young bride who said in her examination that she felt an irresistible desire to steal when goods were placed before her, was she not rather a poor, silly child to be instructed and cured than a guilty wretch to be punished? The husband's advocate placed the whole guilt upon his wife, insisted that her story was true, and in support of his theory read the following letter, written by her twelve days after the arrest.

"I do not think, dear husband of my life that they will find you guilty. They cannot, for you are completely innocent. I hope

they will soon set you at liberty, for I am dying of pain to think that you are in prison. Pardon me, my husband, pardon me! I did not know the gravity of my offence; I did not know to what I was exposing myself; I had lost my senses. You have forgiven me, have you not? I know how good your heart is, and I am so unhappy. Do not abandon me in my despair. If you have forgiven me I shall be tranquil and resigned. Ah, how I repent, my darling husband, how bitterly I repent."

The magistrates, it is comparatively pleasant to report, acted upon the theory of the prosecution and recognized degrees of responsibility. The young wife was sent to prison for eight months, while her husband and aunt were sentenced to imprisonment for a year and a day, which, the term exceeding a year, involves confinement at one of the central prisons where the discipline is much more severe. Besides this, the two seniors will be subjected to five years' surveillance by the police after regaining their liberty.

The Transport of the Great Obelisk.

A correspondent of a London newspaper, writing from Egypt, says:—"The preparations for the transport of England's obelisk are being very actively carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Wayman Dixon. The case in which the stone is to be conveyed was brought out by one of Messrs. Moss' ships last week, and the neighboring ground is strewn with the iron plates of all shapes and sizes, all ready to be put together as soon as sufficient space has been cleared round the prostrate stone. Fifty men and boys were at work yesterday clearing away the soil—the men digging, the boys carrying soil, in straw baskets, and already a mound of excavated stuff has arisen which overtops the trees that line the road close by. The sea, only 20 yards away, one boisterous night last winter, made a convenient breach in the sea wall, and very little widening is needed for the passage of the iron case, which, when ready, is to be rolled into deep water a hundred yards from shore. The stone itself is quite clear, and can be more closely examined than its upright sister. The hieroglyphics are worn, and on one side, which, when the obelisk was erect probably faced the desert, and was exposed to the sand-laden winds, they are almost illegible. The edges also have been clipped, and will have a slightly jagged appearance. Still all this will have diminished prominence when the stone is raised, and our obelisk will no doubt form an object of beauty as well as of interest when it stands in its home on the Thames Embankment, after having been towed through all the threatened storms of danger in the bay of Biscay and fogs in the English Channel. A curious check to progress occurred yesterday. The case of the obelisk could not be found. The sister obelisk that is erect was excavated to see what case there ought to be, and a large square block of granite was found. Originally at the four corners were four bronze animals, on which the obelisk had rested; but three of these supports had gone, and stones had been thrust beneath in their place. After this investigation a search was organized for the missing base, but as yet it had not been discovered. It will be unfortunate if a new block of granite has to be used.

My rich brother, thou hast a perfect right to drink; it is highly moral, correct, and proper for you to obtain your wine in five gallon lots. But the poor man must not dare to look upon a single glass. Such is the tyrannical logic of the Dunkin Act. Workingmen, vote it down.

THERE is a great deal in imagination. About this time a fat man in a linen suit fancies he is cool.

THE FIRST step toward wealth, used to be considered the choice of a good wife; but now-a-days wealth is the first step toward the choice of a wife.

AN ENGLISHMAN who is bright at anagrams has amused himself by transposing the names of "Disraeli" and "Gladstone" which somewhat appositely resolve themselves into "I lead sir," and "G. leads not."

A REMARKABLE suicide was lately committed at Kingsbury, Eng. A young woman named Emma Fisher, having been disappointed in love, poisoned herself with salts of lemon, and was discovered laid out on her bed in a clean night-dress, and with her chin tied up with a handkerchief. Her hands were crossed over her breast.

A Novel Craft.

A little steamboat has arrived at New York from Baltimore which was propelled the entire distance between the two cities without wheel or screw. She is called the Alpha, and in outward appearance resembles the tug-boats which ply in the harbor. Her length is forty-three feet, beam ten and a half feet, and depth eight feet. She is supplied with a sixteen-horse power tubular boiler, which drives a pump. From the pump to the stern and bow of the vessel are two lines of pipe which strike the water about three feet below the surface. The pump drives through each pipe a two and a half inch stream, which enters the water through a seven eighth inch nozzle. With sixty pounds of steam the pump makes one hundred and eighty strokes a minute, each stroke driving a stream into the outer body of water. The invention is the result of many years of study, and it is asserted that it can be applied to ocean steamships with success. In moving through the water there is no ripple astern, and but slight displacement perceptible except at the bow. By shutting off the discharge from the stern pipes and forcing the water through the bow pipes the boat is becket, and by using one bow and one stern pipe she can be turned in her own length. The propelling power can also be used to steer the boat, the nozzle being used alternately as levers on the principle of the car. The boat consumes but a quarter of a ton of coal per day, and is considered to be well adapted for use on the canals.

If your taxes are too light vote for the Dunkin Act and make them oppressive.

Extraordinary Shooting.

The Lebanon (Penn.) Times insists upon the accuracy of its statement that a boy 11 years old had shot 30 out of 31 glass balls thrown from a spring trap at a distance of 30 yards. In its issue of the 7th inst. it not only reiterates that story, but gives another, neglecting, however, to mention the distances, or other particulars, including the quantity of ammunition for each charge, whether it was done with a single rifle-ball, &c. It says:—"In a recent issue of the Times mention was made of a remarkable exploits of young George Zorbes, aged 11 years, of Hummelstown, with the rifle, in shooting at wooden balls thrown from a spring trap. That excellent paper, the New York Times, some time afterward, while expressing admiration for the quick eye and steady nerve of the boy, took occasion to doubt the truth of our story. And now we go one better, on the strength of the same authority, which we have no reason to doubt. There are two brothers, and a shooting match between them, at Hummelstown, recently, has proven to be most remarkable, as each have shot at 31 wooden balls, missing only one of the number, or, jointly, have succeeded in hitting 60 balls out of 62. Now bring on Capt. Bogardus of New York, to compete with Pennsylvania boys."

How the Rulers Dine.

Marshal McMahon is frugal, and never makes any observations on what is set before him. He is not a great drinker but very fond of fruit.

Queen Victoria is not a great eater, but she likes beef and pastry.

The Emperor of Russia is fond of game. He drinks plenty of Burgundy and champagne.

The Emperor of Germany drinks anything he can get—Marcobrunner, Liebraunlich, and Roederer. He is a simple-hearted and merry guest. He likes beef and sweet dishes.

The Emperor of Austria is a serious eater. He prefers beef and mutton to poultry. He drinks Hungarian wine and Bordeaux.

Victor Emmanuel has a strong appetite; loves small birds; does not touch the boars he kills. Burgundy is his wine.

The King of the Netherlands is a good eater. Give him anything and a salmon with good old wine. His cellars are the best in Europe.

The King of the Belgians has a stomach no bigger than a sparrow's. Cannot eat much; larks will do and old Burgundy.

The ex King of Hanover likes pheasants, grouse, and smoked hams, Rhenish wine and Moselle.

The King of Portugal is a miserable guest; eats little, drinks less.

Alphonse XII, has a brave stomach. Plenty of poultry, veal, desert and claret.

President Hayes, when he is at home, is obliged to say he likes cold water and Hayes cake, a compound of saleratus and plaster of Paris, invented in Columbus, Ohio.