

were in their bedroom dressing for tea. Blanche had chosen a lovely locket—it cost twenty-seven shillings, but her uncle, on seeing that she had set her heart on that particular one, had added the additional seven shillings, and her mother's photograph was already fastened into it.

The guests had already arrived, and Mrs. Stanhope called her nieces forward to introduce them. Beyond a stiff nod, or a cold shake-hands, Mary was scarcely taken any notice of; so escaping as soon as it was possible, she passed over to the opposite side of the room and sat down in her favorite seat by the window, while Blanche, who became immediately the centre of attraction, remained talking to a group of ladies and gentlemen.

"What a lovely girl Blanche is, Mrs. Stanhope; you really must feel quite proud of her," said one old lady, who sat by Mrs. Stanhope on the sofa.

"Yes, indeed," said an elderly gentleman who stood near her; "but what a pretty locket that is, my dear! May I look at it, Miss Blanche?" And then added, almost involuntarily, as he unclasped it, "Oh, what a handsome face! Surely this must be your mother; the likeness is very strong."

But at this moment a servant entered the room and handed something to Mrs. Stanhope, saying that Mr. Thompson, the jeweller, sent it, and that the young lady who drove through Emsely yesterday with Miss Mary had dropped it in his shop.

"Why that must have been you, Blanche. What does all this mean? I did not know you lost a sovereign?" said Mrs. Stanhope.

Poor Blanche was perfectly thunder-struck. She stood speechless in the centre of the room, not daring to meet her aunt's eyes, and feeling that every one in the room was looking at her.

"You lost it? Surely there is some mistake. I did not hear you went shopping alone yesterday, and how were you able to buy that locket if you lost your money?"

Poor Blanche! She knew her aunt was waiting for her answer, and that a full disclosure must follow; so she looked imploringly at Mary who was still sitting by the window. Mary immediately came forward, and going up to her aunt, she explained all in a low voice, making as many excuses as she could for Blanche's behavior, and begging Mrs. Stanhope not to say anything more about it at present.

Her words were unheard by all save Mr. and Mrs. Stanhope, and old Mr. Clifford, who stood near them; but when Mary had ceased speaking, Mr. Stanhope remarked aloud—

"Well, Blanche, if I were in your place I should be ashamed to wear that locket, seeing how you came by it. You first disobeyed your aunt yesterday, and then when you lost the money I gave you, you were selfish enough to take Mary's to buy that locket. You, Mary, acted most unselfishly and generously, and you shall not be disappointed about the bracelet."

"Ah, yes! Mary never thinks about herself; she is always trying to please others," murmured old Mr. Clifford, as he glanced at his god-daughter, affectionately. "I have always been an admirer of a pretty face myself, but you see the old saying, 'Handsome is that handsome does,' is the best and truest after all."

LEARN A TRADE.

There is one lesson which we hope the present times will so deeply engrave upon the minds of all parents that its impression will never be effaced. That is, the necessity of teaching boys some trade, and making them thoroughly conversant with it. The flood of men who are wandering anxiously about the streets of all great cities, seeking, with weary hearts, employment which will prove for themselves and families even a meagre support, contains surprisingly few mechanics, or men who have been trained up to any regular trade requiring skill and practice. It is made up mainly of men who in their youth were "smart" young men, who thought they knew too much to tie themselves down to the drudgery and unpleasantness of any shop. They would be "gentlemen," wear good clothes, don a clean shirt every day, and follow some light "genteel" employment, which they could follow without serious effects upon their clothes or hands. These men have drifted around, clerked in a dry goods store at a small salary, run a cigar stand, perhaps done some indifferently good book-keeping, copied papers, or done any and all of the thousand and one things involving but little manual labor, brains, or experience, which are possible in our complex system of life. As long as times were flush they succeeded tolerably well in satisfying their little ambitions. They wore tolerably good clothes, and seemed passably "genteel." But the moment the stringency began to make itself felt they were the first to suffer. Employers turned them off relentlessly, and retained skilled men to the last. The reason was obvious. A trained man is an acquisition to any establishment, and if dropped there is no certainty about replacing him. But the crop of these men, who are simply "generally useful," is a never-failing one, and a man can go out into the street and pick up a hundred of them in an hour's time, each of whom will know about as much, be able to do about the same things, have the same general low standing of usefulness as the other.

THE KAFFIR PEOPLE.

I sometimes see the chiefs, or indunas, passing here on their way to some kraals which lie just over the hills. These kraals consist of half-a-dozen or more large huts, exactly like so many huge bee-hives, on the slope of a hill. There is a rude attempt at sod-fencing round them, and a few head of cattle graze in the neighborhood. Lower down, the hill-side is roughly scratched by the women with crooked hoes, to form a mealy ground. Cows and mealies are all they require, except blankets and tobacco, which latter they smoke out of a cow's horn. They seem a very gay and cheerful people, to judge by the laughter and jests I hear from the groups returning to their kraals every day, by the road just outside our fence. Sometimes one of the party carries an umbrella, and I assure you the effect of a tall, stalwart Kaffir, clad either in nothing at all, or else a sack, and carefully

guarding his bare head with a tattered "Gamp," is very ridiculous. Often some one of the party walks first, playing upon a rude pipe, whilst the others jig before and after him, laughing and tapering like boys let loose from school, and all chattering loudly. You never meet a man carrying a burthen, unless he is a white settler's servant. When a chief or the induna of a kraal passes this way, I see him clad in a motley garb of old regimentals, with his bare "ringed" head, riding a sorry nag, only the point of his great toe resting in his stirrup. He is followed closely, and with great *empressment*, by his "tail," all "ringed" men also; that is, men of some substance and weight in the community. They carry bundles of sticks, and keep up with the ambling nag, and are closely followed by some of their wives, bearing heavy loads on their heads, but stepping out bravely, with beautifully-erect carriage, shapely bare arms and legs, and some sort of coarse drapery worn around their bodies, covering them from shoulder to knee, in folds which would delight an artist's eye, and be the despair of a sculptor's chisel. They don't look oppressed or discontented. Healthy, happy, and jolly, are the words by which they would be most truthfully described. Still they are lazy, and slow to appreciate any benefit from civilization, except the money; but then savages always seem to me as keen and sordid about money as the most civilized mercantile community anywhere.—*Lady Barker's Housekeeping in South Africa.*

WOMEN AND CULTURE.

There can be no doubt that a very remarkable change is passing over English society, the meaning and direction of which no thoughtful man can contemplate with unalloyed satisfaction. The nature of this change is gradually defining itself. Its origin is not difficult to account for; and its origin may help to explain its character, its possible future, and its probable significance. Among the many penalties which a highly-civilized community has to pay for the blessings it enjoys is to be numbered the disturbing agency of innovation. By a natural law as inexorable as the law of gravitation, or as the principle which develops ripeness through over-ripeness into corruption, human energy will at a certain point in a successful career, rush excitedly to wrestle with problems recommended mainly by their difficulty and novelty. We are living in an age more highly civilized than any which the world has as yet beheld; and we are consequently living in an age more than ordinarily signalized by daring experiment. We are now engaged in an experiment which will, in all probability, completely change the face of society, and be fraught with results of the utmost moment to us all. More than two thousand years ago, the acutest of the Greek philosophers propounded the theory that there was no radical difference between the sexes; that women were in every way fitted to take upon themselves the work of men; that, properly trained and duly seasoned, they might arrogate the honors of the male athlete—that they might rival men in every department of human science, and share with him the palm in every department of human action. Plato propounded this theory as a jocose paradox, as a merry flight of fancy. We have accepted it as a serious truth, and are setting soberly to work to give it practical expression. Our efforts have been crowned with success. We are granting women diplomas as doctors. We grant them degrees in arts; we find them representing every branch of literature. They confront us on public platforms. They preach to us. They lecture to us. They swim six miles. They have volunteered to trundle a wheelbarrow on a tight rope over Niagara. They shoot tigers and Red Indians and smoke cigarettes with their feet on the chimney-piece afterwards. They scale the Matterhorn, and bid fair to put the doughtiest champion of the Alpine Club to the blush. In short, when a few more years shall have ripened the exception into the rule, when the generality of women shall succeed in raising themselves to the level reached by individual members of their sex, Plato's joke will be laughed at as a self-evident truth, and man will be confronted with a rival where he sighs for a partner.—*Mayfair.*

BABYLONIAN RELICS.

A series of interesting relics of the early Babylonian Empire have just arrived (says a London correspondent) at the British Museum. They were found on the site of the ancient city of Zergul, which is now marked by the modern village of Zira, on the river Hye, in Babylonia. Their discovery is due to the excavations of Arabs working in the employ of a Jewish dealer in antiquities at Bagdad, the same person from whom the late Mr. George Smith obtained his last collection of tablets. The largest of these objects is a black basalt torso of a figure of large size, bearing the earliest known bilingual inscription of a king who reigned in the 17th century before the Christian era. This monarch bears the name of Hamurabi, and the inscription is of great philological importance, as it furnishes many new words and phrases. Along with this torso are a large number of bricks and cones bearing inscriptions of various early monarchs. While writing on this subject, I may add that the collection of drawings and copies of Hamathite inscriptions found by the late Mr. Geo. Smith on the site of the city of Carchemish has been purchased from that gentleman's widow by the Trustees of the British Museum. The Trustees have also set apart a sum to be expended by Mr. Skene, the consul at Aleppo, in further excavations at the site. The "History of Babylonia" left by Mr. George Smith in a nearly complete state has been just published by the Society for the Propagation of Christian knowledge, under the editorship of the Rev. A. H. Sayer.

THE Mayor of Napanee has written a letter to a gentleman in Guelph, in which he says:—The Dunkin Bill is a success in this town and county, and the Antis cannot get strength to repeal it, which we consider one of the best evidences of the utility of the law. We have no prisoners in our gaol, except one, a lunatic. We have no fights, no quarrels, no arrests, no paupers; all is peace and harmony and good-will. The trade of the town has not suffered in the least.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE rebellion in Japan has been crushed and peace restored.

To suppress the Cuban revolution has cost Spain two hundred million dollars.

THERE were 17,488 bankruptcies in England in 1876—1,360 more than in 1875.

IN London the taxes are \$10 per head; in Paris, \$17.20; in New York, \$27.20.

THE colliery explosion, at High Blantyre, resulted in the loss of two hundred and fifty lives.

A FANATICAL priest, named Felix Pajes, attempted on Sept. 29th, to assassinate President Barrios, of Guatemala.

IT is alleged that the Newfoundland fisheries will prove a failure this year, and that much suffering will be the result.

THE Obelisk intended for London will remain at Ferrol, Spain, this winter, pending the determination of the question of salvage.

THE London Missionary Society has over a thousand Christian congregations in Madagascar, and 45,000 children are taught in the mission schools.

AN Arctic Expedition will be started early next year for the purpose of recovering the relics of the Franklin expedition, and obtaining the reward offered by the British Government.

THE Moderator of the Presbytery of Egypt, of the United Presbyterian Church, is an ex-Coptic monk, now a Presbyterian minister. The minutes of this Presbytery are written in Arabic.

AT the present moment, 4,000,000 Hindoo and 100,000 Mohammedan children are attending schools in India, and 40,000 to 60,000 of them are receiving instruction up to the English Universities' standard.

DR. MOFFAT, who is over eighty years of age and who has spent more than half a century among the tribes of Africa, says he has lived to see with his own eyes an African wilderness turned into a garden of the Lord.

ONE of the anomalies of the day is to be seen in almost all of the respectable secular papers of New York supporting the notorious gambler and former pugilist, John Morrissey, as a reform candidate for the Legislature.

A BRIDGE across the Bosphorus is to be Captain James B. Eads' next attempt. It will cost \$25,000,000, and be of iron and masonry, 100 feet wide and 6,000 long, with fifteen spans, the central one of 750 feet.

THE American population of San Francisco, numbering about 100,000, are not a church-going people. Only 15,000 of them, it is stated, attend public worship. There is certainly an opening for missionaries.

THE old Bible which Luther filled with foot-notes and comments, was sold recently, among other things belonging to the estate of the late Dr. Kutze of Kothen, for the sum of \$2,000. The Berlin Museum was the purchaser. It was published in 1540.

THE dispensers of Church patronage in the House of Lords, including the prelates, are 266 in number, and they have 4,559 benefices at their disposal. Of these, 2,252 livings, of the annual value of \$752,145, are in the gift of archbishops and bishops.

CHINA'S railroad has done but a short term of service. The government authorities have seized it and stopped all traffic. Their nominal excuse for this action is the fear of injuring the trade of carriers, but superstition doubtless has something to do with this despotic act.

THE Presbytery of Elizabeth, N.J., at its late meeting, determined to cease to contribute to the general mileage fund of the General Assembly, and to pay the expenses of its own commissioners, and also declared the "Mileage Fund" "unconstitutional and unjust" and "increasingly burdensome."

MAJOR RUSSELL, in his "Russian Wars with Turkey," says: "Eight times has Turkey been in danger from Russia; twice, in 1711 and 1739, she has saved herself by the force of her own arms; twice, 1774 and 1829, has she been saved by the plague; once, in 1807, has she been saved by accidental circumstances; and three times, 1791, 1812, and 1853, has she been saved by the intervention of other powers."

THE Church of England shows great strength in the Australian region. In 1870 and 1871, out of a total population of 1,920,000, the Anglican Church had, in these colonies, 769,147 adherents; the Roman Catholic, 443,926; the Presbyterian, 364,066, and the Wesleyan, 214,960. The total population had, in 1876, risen to 2,322,503, of which 919,000 pertained to the English Church. This Church has, in the colonies, sixteen dioceses.

FURTHER particulars of the wrecking of the caisson "Cleopatra" which contains the obelisk, show that it was thrown on its beam end's by the gale, that the boat sent out from the "Olga" reached the "Cleopatra" but was swamped, and the crew of six men thrown into the sea. After saving the crew of the "Cleopatra," the "Olga" started on an unsuccessful search for the six men who were thrown into the sea, and when she returned to where the "Cleopatra" had been left, the latter was nowhere to be found.

AFFAIRS in France are still in a very unsettled state. President MacMahon's friends assert that he will not recede from the position he assumed previous to the election. There are rumors that the present Cabinet, or a part of it, will retire, but it is declared that their places will be taken by others who approve of the policy thus far pursued. Another dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies is also talked of. What the Republicans purpose doing has not been disclosed, though there are intimations that they will not tamely submit to MacMahon.