

Miscellaneous.

It comes somewhat as a shock to learn from the London *News* that the law in Merry England pays no heed to the tradition of the mistletoe bough. A Mr. Chant has been fined 10 shillings for kissing a girl under the mistletoe against her will, although he pleaded in extenuation that "a lot of people had kissed his wife there, and he'd not made a fuss about it."

It appears that in Japan one factor entering into the problem of the choice of a daughter-in-law is her skill in raising silkworms. The thread spun by the silkworm is said to be regular and even, in proportion as the worm has been regularly and carefully fed. The prospective mother-in-law carefully and minutely examines the evenness of the silk thread in the material of the garments worn by the young lady before giving her assent to the betrothal.

Mr. W. A. REID, Jefferson Street, Schenectady, N. Y., 22nd July, '94, writes:

"I consider Acetocura to be very beneficial for La Grippe, Malaria and Rheumatism, as well as Neuralgia, and many other complaints to which flesh is heir, but these are very common here."

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Mr. Charles Mudie, the founder of the famous circulating library in London, began business for himself when but twenty-two years old. That was in 1844. He opened a small newspaper and stationary shop in Southampton Road, where he lent out books at a penny a volume. He has now the greatest private circulating library in the world, and it is probable that commercial considerations have moved him to oppose the printing of novels in one volume.

A remarkable controversy has been in progress in India between a Mohammedan, Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, and a Christian, Abdullah Alhine. The Mohammedan champion, finding himself worsted in the argument, declared that he had received a revelation, and prophesied that his Christian opponent would die from a snake-bite within fifteen months. This would be direct evidence from God that Islam was the Truth. The Christians fear that the Mohammedans may make the prophecy come to pass without waiting for any supernatural agency, for already a cobra in an earthen pot has been found at the door of the Christian's dwelling.

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So much has been written about the Gothenburg system of regulating the liquor traffic and its advantages as a temperance measure, that the following facts and figures furnished by a local correspondent of *The London Times*, which point to an opposite conclusion, may surprise many. The data are all said to be official. "Judged by an English standard," says *The Times* correspondent, "Gothenburg is a very drunken place." There has been a steady increase of drunkenness; "in 1887 the number of Swedish Breweries was 151, in 1891 202." The proportion of convictions to the population has increased. Formerly drunken women were not to be seen in Gothenburg, while in 1893 there were 144 women convicted. The third decade of the system is worse than the second, and the second more unfavourable than the first. Summing up, the correspondent says: "It is clear that the restrictions imposed on spirits and public houses have driven the people to beer and home drinking, and that in this way the women and children have caught the infection."



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A few miles down the coast; high and dry on the rocks of Point Pinus, is a 52-foot whale of enormous proportions. Some tourists who had been exploring the rocks in search of abalones and other shellfish discovered the monster, which appeared from a distance as though alive and basking in the sun. Upon closer inspection it was discovered that the carcass, for such it was, had been wounded in many places as though large swords had been jabbed into it. Not less than 20 of these ugly wounds were in the belly. This is the second incident of this kind in the last five years.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*