

thoughts by taking leave of her friend as "dear Mrs. Luncheon." It must be extremely inconvenient to be thus liable to betray what one thinks. Absent people are perpetually affronting their friends, who do not always believe that their unfortunate speeches are purely accidental, and not sarcastic. As a rule, absent men are the kindest-hearted creatures in the world, and most averse to giving annoyance to any one; yet they will say the most terrible things in society, and tread on the tender feelings of their neighbours in a manner distressing to witness. Who cannot recall seeing an absent person complacently and persistently dwelling on some subject of conversation which every one but himself knows is peculiarly distasteful to his hearer; enlarging on the duty of strict honesty in all commercial transactions to some man whose name has not always been free from reproach, or expecting a husband whose domestic unhappiness has been proclaimed in the newspapers to enjoy the details of some other divorce case. To inquire cheerfully after deceased friends, whose funeral he has perhaps attended, is a very common occurrence for an absent man, and is a slight offence compared to passing disparaging comments on distant acquaintances to their nearest relatives, as many modern Racines do. It must be a terrible shock to the innocent offender when the full understanding of his enormities dawns upon him, when the coldness with which his amusing stories are received, or his remarks answered, awakens him to a remembrance of the circumstances of the friend he is addressing. To apologize is to make matters worse; he can only trust that his known infirmity may plead his excuse. Absent men should keep some confidential companion, like the Scotch laird of the last century, who retained a faithful valet to whom his friends always sent the invitations designed for his master, and who was responsible to produce him in due time and properly arrayed at their hospitable boards. Absent people are sadly at the mercy of practical jokers. Conscious of their infirmity, it is difficult for them to be certain how much of their thoughts they may have inadvertently uttered aloud. It was easy for Goldsmith's friends to persuade him that when everyone was looking with admiration at some beautiful woman in the park, he had the egregious vanity to say aloud, "Here am I with my talents standing unnoticed in the crowd, while everyone runs to admire these painted creatures." "I believe I did think something of the sort, but I had no idea that I uttered it aloud," was the meek reply of the unfortunate poet, who had, in fact, been perfectly silent.

Sometimes absence of mind is questionable, as in the case of William III.'s eating up the whole (and only) dish of forced peas, at supper with the Queen and Princess Anne, an act described as the result of "gluttony," or "pre-occupation with affairs of State," according to the bias of his biographer. A still more doubtful instance of an accidentally unfortunate speech is that of Sydney Smith; when, dining in company with the Prince Regent, and being asked whom he considered the worst historical character of the eighteenth century, he immediately replied, "that for his part he had always considered the Abbe Dubois—a priest, Mr. Smith—worse than his Royal master." As for the Scotch sixteenth century nobleman, who, pressed by the Queen Regent to yield some lands to the Crown, absently (?) apostrophized the hawk he was feeding with "a greedy gled, will she never have enough?" This case is one where the affectation of accident is hardly attempted, and the real meaning is plain to the dullest comprehension. As the fools and jesters of the Middle Ages frequently appear to have been clever men, who assumed the motley as a license for freedom of speech, so feigned absence of mind has often been made the excuse for the utterance of words impossible to be spoken under other circumstances. Like the American-Indian chief, who was always extracting presents from the governor of a Canadian fort by announcing that he "had dreamed" such articles were bestowed upon him—a hint difficult to evade politely—the feigned absent-minded ones gain great liberty of speech. In the American chief's case, the English governor was a match for him, for he in turn began to be visited by visions that large tracts of country were being ceded by his friend, upon which the Indian plaintively remarked, "you dream too hard for me," and gave up the contest. Undoubtedly there are really absent people as there are really shortsighted ones, but in both cases so many imitators have arisen that the real sufferers are often suspected of imposture.—*London Globe*.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

SIGNIFICANT NAMES.

You will often be able to glean knowledge from the names of things. What a record of inventions is preserved in the names which so many articles bear, of the place from which they first came, or the person by whom they were first invented! The "magnet" has its name from Magnesia. The "bayonet" tells us that it was first made at Bayonne; "worsted" that it was first spun at a village of the same name in the neighbourhood of Norwich; "cambrics" that they reached us from Cambray; "damask" from Damascus; the "damson" also is the "damascene," or Damascus plum; "dimity" from Damiatta; "cordwain," or "cordovan," from Cordova; "currants" from Corinth; "indigo" (indicum) from India; "agates" from a Sicilian river, Achates; "ja'ap" from Xalapa, a town in Mexico; "parchment" from Bergamum; the "guinea," that it was originally coined (in the year 1663) of

gold brought from the African coast, so called "camlet" that it was woven, at least in part, of camel's hair. The fashion of the cravat was borrowed from the Croats, "Crobats," as they used in the sixteenth century to be called. Such has been the manufacturing process of England, that we now send our calicoes and muslins to India and the East; yet the words give standing witness that we once imported from thence, for "calico" is from Calicut, and "muslin" from Maussul, a city in Asiatic Turkey. "Ermine" is the spoil of the Armenian rat.—*Trench's Study of Words*.

It is claimed that a man never loses anything by politeness, but this has proved to be a mistake. As an old Philadelphian lifted his hat to a young lady the wind carried away his wig.

A LONDON TOURIST met a young woman going to the kirk, and, as was not unusual, she was carrying her boots in her hand, and trudging along barefoot. "My girl," said he, "is it customary for all the people in these parts to go barefoot?" "Partly they do, and partly they mind their own business."

THE boast of independence is a trait of vulgarity and sometimes of insincerity, since professors are not always performers. In reality we are all more independent than is generally imagined, for the whole world can neither take from us what nature has given, nor give us what nature denied.

THE New York *Times* thus deals with one phase of protection:—Which is the most deserving of protection, the fractional industry employed in the protected manufactures, or the rest of the workingmen of the country? Any one who will glance at the statistical atlas of the United States compiled by the Census Bureau will see that the green band, representing agricultural labour, covers more than one-half of every State, and nearly four-fifths of every Southern State, while the blue band, representing manufactures, nowhere reaches one-fourth. It is perfectly reasonable to argue that a very small portion of the latter cannot claim to be, in itself and exclusively, "American industry," for the benefit of which all the remainder of whatever class must be taxed.

NOVA SCOTIA MINES.

The following summary shows the extent of the mineral production of Nova Scotia during the past twelve months:—

Gold,	Ounces,	13,801	† Building Stone	Tons,	5,562
Iron Ore,	Tons,	29,889	† Barytes,	"	480
Manganese Ore,	"	145	† Limestone,	"	9,444
Coal raised,	"	* 738,273	Fireclay,	"	50
Coke made,	"	9,646	Grindstones, etc.,	"	1,675
† Gypsum,	"	95,126			

* Ton of 2,240 lbs. † Quantities shipped, amounts used in Nova Scotia unknown. ‡ For Iron smelting.

The total sales of coal for the year 1879, amount to 688,624 tons being a decrease over the sales of 1878, of 4,883 tons. The shipments to New Brunswick, have decreased slightly. The sales in Newfoundland and P. E. Island are about the same as in the preceding year. The amount sold in the United States, was 51,641, the smallest sales recorded since 1850. The sales to the West Indies fell off from 16,999 tons, in 1878, to 10,124 tons, in 1879. The total yield of Gold during 1879 was 13,801 ozs. 8dwts. 10 grs. against 12557 ozs. 1 dwt. 22 grs. in 1878. The yield per ton has also averaged 4 dwt. higher than in the preceding year from a lessened tonnage of quartz crushed. The yield per man has been \$234 per day.

THE GENESIS OF THE NEW ENGLAND CHURCHES.

O God! beneath Thy guiding hand
Our exiled fathers crossed the sea,
And when they trod the wintry strand,
With prayer and praise they worshipped Thee.

Thou heard'st, well pleased, the song, the prayer—
Thy blessing came, and still its power
Shall onward to all ages bear
The memory of that holy hour.

What change! Through pathless wilds no more
The fierce and naked savage roams;
Sweet praise, along the cultured shore,
Breaks from ten thousand happy homes.

Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God
Came with those exiles o'er the waves;
And where their pilgrim feet have trod,
The God they trusted guards their graves.

And here Thy name, O God of love,
Their children's children shall adore,
Till these eternal hills remove,
And spring adorns the earth no more.