

## AUSTRALIAN NANNALS.

They Are Now the Lowest Species of Humanity in the World.

Carl Lumholtz, member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Christiania, Norway, is one of the first white men who ever lived among the Australian natives. In a general talk about the expedition undertaken by him for the University of Christiania he said:

"At the present time the Australian natives are the lowest known species of humanity. They have little or no reasoning faculties, and their only idea of a higher power is gained through fear. They are chocolate colored, wear no clothing, and their weapons are crudely made from wood. I was possessed by two things which protected me during my sojourn with the savages. They were deadly afraid of my revolvers and they would make every sacrifice for some of my tobacco. To pistols and tobacco is due my success among the wild men. I first went to the northwestern part of the territory, where no white man had ever been before. I made a hut of palm leaves and lived just as the natives did. Every night before going to bed I would shoot off one of the pistols. That seemed to perpetuate the fear they had of me when I first mingled with them. For several months the natives were generous and peaceful relations existed between us. I will never forget the first time they dragged in some captives from a rival tribe and cut off their heads and ate the bodies.

"The natives have no religious scruples. They like human flesh better than anything else. Men, women and children partake of the food with great relish. They seldom eat a white man or one of their own tribe. The palms of the hands and the thighs are considered the most delicate portions. The heads are cast away—thrown about the camp in every direction. Lice are the only things an Australian native will not eat. I was with the natives for one year and had plenty of time to learn their manners and customs. I might have cultivated a taste for rival savages, but it was bad enough to have to subsist on snakes, grubs, lizards, grasshoppers and roots. The natives are fast dying off. I hardly think there are over thirty thousand in all Australia.

## Progress in Science.

Experiments have recently been made in Spain on the action of sunlight in maturing wines. Layers of new wine in bottles of colored glass have been exposed to the direct rays of the sun, with the result that both flavor and quality have been improved. In the south of Europe there has been a practice of ripening cognac by exposing the bottles on the roof for years.

The aborigines of New South Wales show great ingenuity in shaping their harpoon heads for spearing fish. Instead of shaving the wood up and down the grain as we are accustomed to whittle, they turn it round and round and chip it off across the grain.

Foreign military men are looking forward with much interest to this summer's manoeuvres between two corps of the German Army, one corps to be armed with the new rifle and smokeless powder ammunition and the other with the old equipment.

A new sketching apparatus for cyclists has recently appeared in England. The paper is placed on a small board in front of the cyclist, and the work can be roughly contoured in about half the time ordinarily required.

The effect of the electric light current on the compasses of some vessels is so great that it becomes necessary to determine how many hours the dynamo has been running before working out the vessel's reckoning.

A new electric lantern has been designed for the use of lecturers and medi- cians. By a combination of lenses the colored image of an object is projected on a screen in its natural color.

## TRAGEDY AT ST. HELENA.

Thousands of Tons of Rock Roll Down into Jamestown's Narrow Valley.

A story comes from Jamestown, the only important village on the famous little island of St. Helena. The town is built along a narrow valley between two elevations that rise several hundred feet above the houses on either side. The slope on the left of the town is considerably steeper than that on the other side. One Thursday morning last month, before Jamestown had woken up, a great mass of rock, weighing thousands of tons, became detached from the upper part of this west or left-hand slope, and rolled down the steep escarpment with frightful impetus. In the path of the rolling mass were two houses, built just a little way up the side of the slope. They were crushed like egg shells, and nine persons, who were sleeping in their beds, were sent to death in an instant. It is not likely that one of the victims ever realized for a moment that anything had happened.

The mass of rock that overwhelmed them was 108 feet long 25 feet high and 11 feet thick on an average. It tumbled down a steep hill about 500 feet. Most of the victims were so badly mangled that they were wholly unrecognizable. Ten other persons were badly injured. They were in partially crushed buildings at the spot where the rolling monster finally stopped.

All the men in the town turned out with picks and shovels, and it took them two days, assisted as they were by the sailors from a British man of war, to recover the bodies of the killed, though the injured were rescued in the first few hours.

On the top of this slope are the buildings of the British military establishment. One part of the slope is called Ladder Hill because a very rickety sort of a ladder with 700 rounds or steps mounts the hill from the village to the fort. It is said to be as much of a spectacle as any circus acrobatic act to see women from the interior with heavy baskets of vegetables balanced on their heads descend this ladder as erect and easily as though they were walking along a level road. At the top of this same hill is the road that winds around among the mountains to the little mansion at Longwood, famous as the home of Napoleon, and near by is the Valley of the Tomb where his body rested under a group of willows until it was removed to its present resting place under the dome of the Invalides in Paris.

## At Malta.

A recent visitor to Malta sends the following interesting letter, describing the scenes he witnessed in that harbor:—

Our approach to the harbor of Naletta, Malta was made amid one of the sights characteristic of an English naval station. Half a dozen torpedo boats came dashing out of the narrow entrance on their way to practice with torpedoes. The sea was a little rough and the light, sharp boats cut into and through the waves, now tossing it lightly aside, again breasting the waves till the combers climbing over the bows swept the vessel fore and aft. Once inside the harbor, we might have known without other evidence that we were in Malta on seeing the array of battle-ships supplemented by a fleet of smaller vessels, all flying the red cross of St. George, and forming the flower of England's navy, here assembled. Here are the Benbow and Camperdown, Colossus and Collingwood, Edinburgh, Temeraire, Australia, Agamemnon, Orion, Phaeton, Dolphin, Landrail, Polyphemus, Hecla and Crocodile battle ships, armored and unarmored cruisers, torpedo, depot and transport ships, together with a fleet of torpedo boats. Here are represented all the engines of war afloat; naval ordnance by all classes of guns from the smallest to those weighing 110 tons, firing a charge of 1,000 pounds of powder and a shell weighing 1,800. Here are vessels fitted out with everything human ingenuity can devise and science supply to preserve the life of friends, and destroy that of enemies; vessels which have cost over four million dollars each. Here are docks capable of receiving the largest ships of war, stores sufficient for four years, a city and its environs so surrounded by fortifications that the eye can at first determine where the gun-curtains and the houses begin. And so England's navy guard her Mediterranean and the east.

In Dockwood Creek is the

receiving ship Hibernia, with yellow sides, gaping with a hundred port-holes, each in time past harboring a gun, now devoted to the more peaceful object of housing the crews of men-of-war temporarily bulked. Over her cutwater is one of those famous figureheads, emblematic of the ship's name, such as the vessels of old were proud to carry and in which they were personified—a fine figure of Neptune holding in his arm the harp of Erin. No contrast could be more quickly and strikingly presented to the eye than this old wooden three-decker affords alongside of one of the modern battle ships, say the Benbow.

## Photographing Rifle Bullets.

Rifle bullets are now photographed in their course by means of the electric spark. The bullet is caused to traverse a dark room in which is placed the camera. As it passes the front of the camera the bullet is made to interrupt an electric current, or break contact as it is called, producing a spark which lights it up for a moment, and enables the picture to be taken. The wave of condensation in the air before the bullet and the rarefaction behind it are plainly visible in the photograph, and it is by studying these that the expert is enabled to judge which form of ball will receive the minimum resistance from the atmosphere. The bullet of the new repeating rifle, a copper pound soldered one, is said to give excellent results, the soldering on of the core giving it an advantage over the old solid leaden bullet in the matter of rotation. This kind of bullet, too, does not strip in the bore or break upon impact, thus inflicting a more deadly wound.



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—Mrs. L. L. Brown, Dunsmuir, Miss.

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—Horace Fairbrother, Rockingham, Vt.

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