

The boys now thanked Mr. Delafield quite heartily for what he had told them, and they all sat talking for a few minutes longer. The Curate wished to know whether he had ever heard anything of that castle and the tradition of the gambling lord since. To which Mr. Delafield said,—"Yes; only a very short time ago he had met a lady, who knew another lady who had slept in the castle, and declared she heard the dice rattling in the night as she lay in bed. But you see, boys," remarked Mr. Delafield, in conclusion, "even the account of this lady does not convince me that the dice do rattle; for I incline to think with the house-keeper, that old houses always are full of noises, and that people can please themselves as to whether they think them 'odd' or not."

Current Notes.

England has commenced importing coal from France, 250,000 tons having already arrived.

Professor Plantamour, who prophesied the world was to be burned up a few weeks ago, is now in Paris. He desires to read a paper before the Academy to prove the diminution in the sun's heat, and that we will be all frozen to death about A.D. 2011.

A tradesman in Bristol, England, has just made a monster umbrella for an African chief. It is 65 feet in circumference, the lancewood ribs being 9 feet long, and there are 140 yards of material in it. It is covered with red, blue, and white chintz, and takes two men to expand it.

Paris will be endowed before the close of the year with warm baths, for the use of what are now too truly styled the unwashed classes. The price of admission will be two sous, and in some places admission will be gratuitous. These baths will be constructed in the form of tanks. The largest tank will be at Passy, and supplied by the artesian well.

The most prosperous city in the South appears to be Charleston. Her exports for the year ending August 31, were \$86,275,000, four or five times as much as in 1865-6. The trade in rice, Sea Island cotton and fertilizers all centres in Charleston, and is increasing year by year. The burned district is being rapidly built up, and fine blocks and residences are going up all over the city.

We learn from the *New York Herald* that Mr. M. Stanley, commander of the *Herald* Search Expedition for Livingstone in Africa, had two interviews with Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He dined at Balmoral by royal invitation. Queen Victoria expressed to him, in the most warm and friendly terms, her congratulations on the successful result of the American enterprise in furnishing news of the English traveller in Africa, his condition of health, his discoveries and his hopes for the future, previous to his return to Great Britain.

The visit of the two Emperors to Berlin has come to an end. The result of their conference with the Emperor William is not officially announced, but the comments of the journalists agree in prophesying it is to be peaceful. The discussions of the three rulers are said to have included their present and future relations to France and the Papacy. The "peace," so confidently prophesied as the result of the meeting, will probably last until one, or all, of

the three powers consider that there is sufficient reason for war.

The following statistics have lately been published by the British postal department: Of the 75,000,000 post-cards, nearly 800,000 came to a dead lock in the returned letter office. Of the 915,000,000 letters, above 8,500,000 found their way to that species of prison-house, but a large proportion was ultimately liberated. About 170,000 went back to foreign countries, and of the remainder more than nine-tenths either reached their destination by means of corrected addresses or were returned to the sender. About 80,000 of the undelivered letters contained property of various kinds, and of those 1,340 had no address, although in not a few instances the latter enclosed coins or bank-notes.

The coal question is agitating the British mind. Reliable statistics show that the raisings of coal, which in 1855 were only 64,000,000 of tons in Great Britain, rose to 80,000,000 in 1860, and to 108,000,000 in 1869; and that the price of all kinds of coal has, in the colliery districts, risen about 100 per cent within the last twelve months. This increase of consumption, and this rise in price are startling facts, and have led the English people to reflect seriously upon the value of fuel. It is believed out of the total of 98,000,000 or 99,000,000 of tons of coal which in 1869 were retained for home use, 18,500,000 tons, about one-fifth of that quantity, were consumed for domestic purposes, about 10,000,000 tons being exported. These facts are leading to a careful discussion in the papers of the necessity of economy in its use.

Lake Erie is only sixty or seventy feet deep, but Lake Ontario, which is 592 feet deep, is 280 feet below the tide level of the ocean, or as low as most parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and the bottoms of Lakes Huron, Michigan, and Superior, although their surface is so much higher, are all, from their vast depth, on a level with the bottom of Ontario. Now, as the discharge through the river Detroit, after allowing for the probable portion carried off by evaporation, does not appear by any means equal to the quantity of water which the three upper great lakes receive, it has been conjectured that a subterranean river may run from Lake Superior by the Huron to Lake Ontario. This conjecture is by no means improbable, and accounts for the singular fact that salmon and herring are caught in all the lakes communicating with the St. Lawrence, but in no others. As the Falls of Niagara must have always existed, it would puzzle the naturalists to say how these fish got into the upper lakes without some such subterranean river, more over, any periodical obstruction of the river would furnish a not improbable solution of the mysterious flux and reflux of the lakes.

Literary and Scientific Notes.

The Emperor William of Germany has recently bought a two-page letter of George Washington's for \$200.

It is a curious fact that the morning and evening journals which are understood to have the largest circulation in England—the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Echo*—are at present conducted by two brothers, Messrs. Edwin and Arthur Arnold.

Prof. Doelcker, of Albany, has perfected a new system of musical notation. The idea is very simple, and, assuming its excellence, the

wonder is that somebody has no thought of it before. It consists simply in making the syllables used in reading vocal music always represent the same notes, avoiding entirely the transposition of the scale in case of a change of key. Thus C is always do, and D always re, etc.; and where a note is sharpened or flatted in the exigencies of changing keys, the sharp is denoted by adding the letter s to the syllable, or the letter f if be flatted, making it dos or dof.

The fact that coal gas, however well purified, is by no means free from ammonia, is proved beyond any doubt, by Dr. Gunning, of Amsterdam. The result of some experiments he had conducted, shows the existence of a little over one cubic foot of ammonia, or ammoniacal substances, in every one thousand cubic feet of gas. Dr. Gunning calls attention to the fact that, where wet gas meters are in use, the water being rarely if ever changed, must in time become fairly saturated with ammonia. A meter used for two years in the laboratory at Amsterdam, with a capacity of fifty-seven gallons of water, held no less than nine pounds of these bases. Since coal gas also contains sulphur compounds, sulphate of ammonia is formed, which, converted by the intense heat into bisulphate of ammonia, attacks the glass cylinders, or chimneys, placed on the Argand gas burners. No remedy is suggested by Dr. Gunning for these chemical and mechanical difficulties.

HOW TO SPEAK TO CHILDREN.

It is usual to attempt the management of children either by corporal punishment or by rewards addressed to the senses, or by words alone. There is one other means of government, the power and importance of which are seldom regarded. I refer to the human voice. A blow may be inflicted on a child, accompanied, with words so uttered as to counteract entirely its intended effect, or the parent may use language quite objectionable in itself, which, spoken in a severe tone more than defects its influence. What is it that lulls the infant to repose? It is an array of mere words? There is no charm to the untaught one in letters, syllables, and sentences. It is the sound which strikes its little ear that soothes and composes it to sleep. A few notes, however, unskillfully arranged, if uttered in a soft tone, are found to possess a magic influence. Think we that this influence is confined to the cradle? No: it is diffused over every age, and ceases not while the child remains under the parental roof. Is the boy growing rude in manner, and boisterous in speech? I know no interest so sure to control these tendencies as the gentle tone of a mother. She who speaks to her son harshly does but give to his conduct the sanction of her own example. She pours oil on the already raging flame. Perhaps a threat is expressed in loud and irritating tones; instead of allaying the passions of the child, it serves directly to increase them. Every fretful expression awakens in him the same spirit that produced it. So does a pleasant voice call up agreeable feeling. Whatever disposition, therefore, we would encourage in a child, the same should be manifest in the tone in which we address it.

Spirit is now a very fashionable word; to act with spirit, to speak with spirit, means only to act rashly and speak indiscreetly. An able man shows his spirit by gentle words and resolute actions; he is neither hot nor timid. —*Chesterfield*.