

We are too apt to give modern genius the credit for the invention of tools and appliances which are in reality many centuries old. It has been ascertained for instance that in the building of the Great Pyramid at least 4000 years ago, not only were the modern appliances for lifting and placing the stone in use, but that also the smaller tools of the workmen were not unlike those of our modern stone-cutters. An examination of the cuttings will show that both solid and tubular drills set with jewels must have been used, and that both straight and circular saws were of constant service. Modern research seems each day to give more point to Solomon's sage conclusion, that "there is nothing new under the sun."

The pages of the New York *Herald* are very suggestive of the power of the German residents of the State, and of the desire of the Democratic party to make of them friendly allies in the coming Presidential election. All the letters on the courageous young Stanhope, who, after inoculation, entered a Hamburg cholera hospital in order that the results of the experiment might benefit the world at large, have appeared in the *Herald* in both German and English print. The paper has consequently fallen into the hands of the whole German-speaking population, who are both flattered at the attention, and who for the most part, return the compliment by perusing the able Cleveland leaders which the *Herald* delights in.

A new light has been thrown upon the origin of the wild men of whom we hear from time to time. A well-known English doctor, now in China, states that these half-human creatures are the result of a most barbarous practice. First, a lad is kidnapped—he is slowly fayed alive, and the skin of some wild animal is grafted bit by bit upon his body. His vocal chords are then destroyed by the action of charcoal, so that dumbness ensues. The victim is then immured for years in some dark hole, where he receives the treatment of a beast. All the lower instincts are developed by this life, and the lad veritably becomes lower mentally than the brutes of creation. The credulous Chinese will flock to see one of these creatures when they are put on exhibition as natural wild men. The Chinese Government is now endeavoring to put a stop to this horrible practice under severe penalties.

Those of our readers who have been following with great interest the accounts which our contemporaries have been full of, of the increasing flow of lava from Mount Etna, and the consequent loss of property to the vine-growers in the vicinity, will be a trifle startled by the result of the investigation held recently at the crater. The eruptions have been much less frequent and much less in volume since the early part of July, notwithstanding all the reports to the contrary; but the Mayors of the neighboring communes, finding that after each announcement of an eruption the tourists come flocking to see the sight, agreed to boom the volcano for all it was worth for the benefit of their townships. The disappointed sight-seers have now got even with Etna, and the excursions will probably be inaugurated for the purpose of securing interviews, photographs, etc., from the wide-awake Mayors.

No new developments have arisen in the Borden case, in which Lizzie Borden is accused of murdering her father and step mother at Fall River, N. Y. But the lawyer for the prosecution has disgraced himself and his profession by his efforts to prejudice the public through the press against the prisoner. In his shameless "account of the murder" he abandons all the arguments which he had used against the girl in her preliminary trial, and advances a totally new theory, which to one not well versed in the mysterious case seems to be a circumstantial account of the murders. The rigmorale is not in accordance with the facts of the case, and its publication will, we trust, only result in gaining sympathy for the unfortunate girl whose right to a fair trial is being tampered with. In any case, the low-minded counsel for the prosecution who has so shamelessly put his blackest thoughts in print, should be severely censured by the court.

We are delighted to note that the Commissioners of the New York State Reservation at Niagara have during the past year done much to protect the travelling public from the exorbitant demands of the land pirates who have heretofore infested the beautiful spot. All the sights on the American side can now be seen without the payment of a cent. Or if the visitor is not a pedestrian he can be driven to all the points of interest in the Reservation carriages, and have a ride on the inclined railway for the small sum of twenty-five cents. The commissioners hope to effect a few more reforms before next year—they mean to put down those indefatigable hackmen who waylay passengers at the train with startling stories of the great crush of travellers, and of the utter impossibility of securing seats in the Reservation carriages. Many of our readers will remember being fleeced in a neat way at the "Whirlpool Rapids," where, after enjoying the fine view, they have suddenly been obliged to hand over fifty cents each to the proprietor of the staircase which they have descended. The demand is an unjust one, for the placard which announces the entrance fee is ingeniously arranged so that it is visible not to the "coming" but the "parting" guest. The commissioners have a scheme on hand which will probably cause the proprietor and the staircase to remove to a more lawless community. The grounds on the Canadian side are kept in beautiful order, the sharpers have been for the most part spirited back over the border where they belong, and with the exception of a few curio stores which demand an admittance fee, there is really little to complain of in the Queen Victoria Park, a fact which is due in great part to the successful work of our Canadian commissioner.

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Emperor William of Germany has been quiet of late, so that his recent utterance bursts with even more effect than usual upon his amazed subjects. He has now decreed that no further public prayer meetings for the abatement of the cholera shall be held. The order, if issued on the ground of checking contagion by forbidding large numbers of people to assemble together, would be an extreme but perhaps not an unwise measure; but young William expressly states that "such practices breed a superstitious reliance upon Providence," and are therefore not to be tolerated. Strangely enough the Emperor is by no means an unbeliever, but a man who, though struggling against inherited tendencies which continually threaten to destroy his mind, still endeavors to lead an upright Christian life. The German people hotly resent this interference in what they consider a sacred duty, and there is little doubt that of all the innovations which their young Ruler has introduced this will strike deepest into the hearts of his many subjects.

The city of Hamburg, noted for its beautiful streets, its trees and its gardens, is now pointing a moral to many cities who have, like her, sacrificed the health-needs of the people to presenting an attractive appearance. Every effort has been made to advance the trade of the city—no effort was made to secure a proper water supply or to use any proper proportion of the public money in serviceable drains. There is now little doubt that the old drains which were re-opened this year—drains which had been closed since the last outbreak of cholera—contained the germs of the present plague. The public money of Hamburg has this year been invested in a temporary railroad which connects the city and the outlying cemetery where the victims are interred. A crematory would have been a more sanitary investment, for the imperfect drainage has already impregnated the soil with disease, which at any time may rise spectre-like from the graves of the victims. The errors of the Hamburg authorities will not soon be forgotten by the civilized world.

A fine illustration of muscular Christianity was given last week by the Rev. Mr. Ramsay, a Presbyterian Pastor of Ballymoney, Ireland. A stout lady who was crossing the bridge at Niagara Falls fell through the side railing and hung suspended over the rushing depths below, until the reverend gentleman agilely descended to the perilous task of rescuing her. Time and again the public has been called upon to admire acts of so-called bravery at the falls—men have attempted to swim the rapids, to peril their lives for the honor of successfully navigating the whirlpools in barrels, or in walking the tightrope stretched over the great precipice of the falls. These fool-hardy feats have done no good, in fact they have encouraged betting; and while they have shown immense nerve on the part of the performers, they have by no means raised the intellectual status of the adventurers. The young Irishman has shown more intelligent, disinterested pluck than the whole crowd of them put together, and too much praise cannot be given him for his complete mastery of himself in mind and muscle when so serious a test was put to him.

Dublin, and all Ireland as well, are at present wildly excited over the new move of the Gladstonian Government. Mr. Morley, the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, has issued a proclamation which puts an entirely new face on political affairs. According to the *Gazette* the provisions of the Act are—first, that the famous Coercion Act is to be declared null. Special inquiry before local magistrates in investigations over evictions are no longer to be held, and the Irish National League, which was denounced by the Government five years ago, is now recognized as a peaceable power in the Island. The proclamation is of course widely popular among the Nationalists, who are no longer threatened with summary punishment for any disturbance which they may kick up, and the League members are rejoiced at the recognition of their Society. The experiment is, however, but a doubtful one—it is very probable that in case of trouble a counter-proclamation would call for the full enforcement of the Coercion Act; and in view of the fact that within the last fortnight there have been three rows, which the League has permitted, the wisdom of the State in approving of the League's action cannot fail to arouse the peace-loving portion of the people.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has aroused Missionary circles throughout Great Britain by his late address on the Foreign Missionary work of the Church at the meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The venerable Primate, who has spent much time, thought and money on mission work, claims that much mis-directed industry is now being wasted in vain. In his opinion there has been a lack of general method on the mission field, while much energy has been expended on unnecessary detail work. The Archbishop points out that we commit a grave error in treating the great religions of the world, Mahomedanism and Hinduism in particular, as degrading creeds. On the contrary the teachings of both these sects inculcate high moral doctrines which are in many cases but indifferently lived up to by the disciples. Former missionaries have too often sought these giant powers as enemies instead of fraternizing with them in the moral issues of the struggle. The Archbishop concluded his notable address by calling for help in the work of educating natives in both Asia and Africa for the mission field. They can enter upon their work without prejudice or fear. Their native tact will enable them to cope with the peculiar demands of their brethren, and finally through their efforts Christianity will be grafted upon what is true and enduring in the old religions.

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