

canvas town swarmed with men. Some were having their heads shaved, others were combing and winding their pig-tails; others, stripped to their waist, were enjoying a sponge bath. One man was on his knees going through some religious ceremony over a chicken, before dissecting it for the pot. There were Chinese stores, Chinese restaurants, and Chinese gambling tents. For fifteen miles the woods were literally full of Mongolians. Not a feature of their Asiatic life do they abandon, save that, from the necessity of working in mud and dust, they wear American boots. Their basket hats, blue blouses, and loose trousers are supplied by Chinese merchants, and a large portion of their food—their rice and dried fish, and all their sweetmeats and dainties—comes across the Pacific. The road was lined with Chinamen driving fat hogs to the camps to be slaughtered for the Sunday dinner, or carrying bundles and boxes, and boards for tent-flooring, suspended to bamboo poles, balanced on the shoulders in the exact style of the pictures on the tea-chests.

The Chinese labourers on the railroad earn one dollar and sixteen cents a day, and are hired by gangs of forty from agents of the Six Companies in San Francisco. The usual estimate of the effectiveness of their labour is that three Chinamen are equal to two white men; but the superintendent of construction on the railroad asserts that he prefers the Chinese, man for man, to such white labour as can be had on the Pacific coast.

The railroad operations have caused to grow up at Cabinet Landing, a grotesque and hideous town of tents and shanties clinging to the hill-side, among the pines—a town subsisting on the wants and weaknesses of the working men, and flaunting in their faces facilities for all the coarser forms of vice. Across the river from this pandemonium of frontier dirt, drunkenness, and debauchery, is another transient railroad town, where the engineers and overseers live, with their wives and children, in clean tents, prettily embowered with evergreens.

NOOSING SHARKS.

The Island of Aitutaki, one of the Hervey group, in the Pacific, is surrounded by islets, underneath which are submarine caverns, the homes of sharks. The natives classify them as lagoon sharks, which are comparatively tame, and ferocious sharks, which spare nothing they can seize. The lagoon shark, about six feet long, is esteemed a delicacy, and the natives supply their feasts with the toothsome dish by a remarkable style of fishing.

Arrived over the entrance to the shark cave, the fisherman leaves his canoe to the care of his companions, and dives to the bottom, carrying with him a slip knot of strong cord.

He expects to find two or three sharks at home, well satisfied and drowsy after feeding in the lagoon, with their tails toward the entrance. Selecting the largest, the diver adroitly adjusts a noose over the tail, taking care that it hangs loosely. If he has another noose, he secures a second shark.

The shark catcher now, with one bound from the white, sandy bottom, rises to the surface, in order to assist his friends in hauling up the fish. The astonished sleepers beneath suddenly find themselves ascending tail first to the surface. Once inside the canoe, a smart blow from an axe between the eyes or on the tail ends its career.

But accidents sometimes happen to the bravest. One of the most successful shark-catchers at Aitutaki was Reubena, whose ancestors had excelled at this perilous sport. Long practice had made him almost amphibious.

One Saturday morning he started out with two companions in a canoe across the placid lagoon to one of the more distant islets. Grasping in his left hand a noose provided for the occasion, he dove down to the entrance of a large submarine cave.

On entering it, Reubena found several sharks lazily resting themselves. In a trice a slip-knot was skillfully passed over the tail of the nearest shark without exciting its ire. The shark, at this critical juncture, moved so that there was not room enough for Reubena to get out.

He now gently stroked the side of the shark, and succeeded in inducing it to move away, so as to permit his exit. This operation is said to be very agreeable to the fish; but if through nervousness the shark be stroked the wrong way, its anger is sure to be excited, and the diver's life would be the certain forfeit.

Reubena was making his escape, when, in his dismay, another large shark came back from feeding in the lagoon, and blocked up the entrance with his unwieldy body. To get out now was impossible, for even Reubena dared not stroke the head of the monster.

The captive fisherman waited, hoping the shark would go farther in, so as to leave the opening free. Unhappily the huge fish did not move. Reubena's agony became intense; seconds seemed to be hours. Was he doomed to perish in a shark cave?

At last the shark passed quietly into the interior, and Reubena was barely able to get out of the cave and rise to the surface. His associates in the canoe, who had become anxious for his safety, seized him by the hair and pulled him in, blood flowing from his ears, eyes, and nostrils.—*Youth's Companion.*

TRUE GENTLEMANLINESS.

True gentlemanliness includes both manliness and gentleness. The real gentleman combines the tenderness of the womanly nature with the strength and nobleness of high manhood. The lad who aspires to be a gentleman must not be content with lifting his cap to a lady, and showing her deference in his words and actions. That is all well, as far as it goes; but it does not go far enough. Real gallantry does not limit its show of respect to those who are of the gentler sex: it is as deferential to age, and as keenly alive to the needs of the weaker of either sex, as it is uniformly courteous and polite towards every woman. But it is a very common thing to see a young man quick to rise from

his seat in a crowded car and proffer the place to a well-dressed and attractive lady, when he had no thought of offering that seat to an aged gentleman who had been standing before him for a considerable time. His action proves his attention to ladies, but it does not show his gentlemanliness. Parents who would have their sons gentlemanly must teach them that it is quite as important to give deference to age as to sex. The command, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man," was spoken by God Himself before the command had gone forth to be very quick to give your seat to a pretty girl in the horse-cars.—*Sunday-School Times.*

THE MILKY WAY.

Evening has come, and across the skies,
Out through the darkness that quivering dies,
Beautiful, broad, and white,
Fashioned of many a silver ray
Stolen out of the ruins of day,
Grows the pale bridge of the Milky Way,
Built by the architect Night.

Dim with shadows and bright with stars
Hung like gold lights on invisible bars,
Stirred by the wind's low breath,
Rising on cloud-shapen pillars of gray,
Perfect it stands, like a tangible way
Binding To-morrow with Yesterday,
Reaching from Life to Death.

Dark show the heavens on either side,
Soft flows the blue in a waveless tide
Under the silver arch.
Never a footstep is heard below,
Echoing earthward, as, measured and slow,
Over the bridge the still hours go,
Bound on their trackless march.

Is it a pathway leading to heaven
Over earth's sin-clouds, rent and riven
With its supernal light,
Crossed by the souls of those who have flown
Stilly away from our arms, and alone
Up to the beautiful great white throne
Pass in the hush of night?

Is it the road that our wild dreams walk,
Far beyond reach of our waking talk,
Out to the vague and grand;
Far beyond Fancy's broadest range,
Out to the world of marvel and change,
Out to the mystic, unreal and strange,
Out to the Wonderland?

Is it the way that the angels take
When they come down by night to wake
Over the slumbering earth?
Is it the way the faint stars go back
When the young day drives them off from his track
Into the distant, mysterious black
Where their bright souls had birth?

What may it be? Who may certainly say?
Over the shadowy Milky Way
No human foot hath trod.
Ages have passed, but, unsullied and white,
Still it stands, like a fair rainbow of night,
Held as a promise above our dark sight,
Guiding our thoughts to God.

—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

HOW THE ALLIGATOR FEEDS.

An alligator's throat is an animated sewer. Everything that lodges in his mouth goes down. He is a lazy dog, and instead of hunting for something to eat, he lets his victuals hunt for him; that is, he lies with his great mouth open, apparently dead, like the possum. Soon a bug crawls into it, then a fly, then several gnats, and a colony of mosquitoes. The alligator don't close his jaw yet; he is waiting for a whole drove of things. He does his eating by wholesale. A little later a lizard will cool himself under the shade of the upper jaw. Then a few frogs will hop up to catch the mosquitoes, and gnats light on the frogs. Finally, a whole village of insects and reptiles settle down for an afternoon picnic. Then all at once there is an earthquake. The big jaw falls, the alligator slyly blinks one eye, gulps down the entire menagerie, and opens his great front door again for more visitors.

THE 3,500 slaves in the Malay Peninsula are to be emancipated next year.

THE Mount of Olives has been desecrated by the opening of a beer-garden upon it.

LORD RIFON, the Viceroy of India, has appointed a native gentleman, of acknowledged qualifications for the position, Chief Justice of Bengal.

DURING the past century the population of the United States increased eleven-fold and its churches thirty-seven-fold. A hundred years ago there was one church to every 1,700 inhabitants; now there is one for every 529.

THE loss by this war to Egypt is estimated by a prominent financier to be £70,000,000 (\$350,000,000). The cotton crop, which has been nearly ruined, would have been worth about \$200,000,000. But little of the sugar crop can be saved.

THE great French railway companies have for some time employed women as ticket and audit clerks, as also the Credit Foncier and several banks and public companies in France. The corporation of the city of Paris mean also to employ women in their offices, and 300 situations are offered in the 20th Arrondissement.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

A RUSSIAN edition of "Spurgeon's Sermons" is in preparation for printing.

A SYRIAN paper has been suppressed for having published an article against Christians.

AN official return of the census of France shows that the population of the country is \$37,672,048.

BEER brewing has, a Japanese paper says, become an important branch of industry in that country.

THE United Presbyterian Church of Scotland is engaged in raising £8,000 for the repair of the church buildings in Jamaica.

OFFICIAL records show that the saloons of Chicago cost the taxpayers last year \$900,000 more than was received from licenses.

THE Egyptian Ministry have formed a plan to indemnify the inhabitants of Alexandria for losses sustained by incendiarism or pillage.

REV DR. MARCO DODD, Kenfield Free Church, Glasgow, has declined the call to St. Mary's Free Church, Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Rev. Dr. Main.

CANON FARRAR is following up his great success with his "Life of Christ" and "St. Paul" with "The Early Days of Christianity," which is promised shortly.

At the Horticultural Gardens, Leeds, England, recently, 30,000 persons attended a demonstration which was held in celebration of the jubilee of the Temperance movement.

MRS. SCOTT SIMMONS has again retired from the stage, her last theatrical venture in London having been a failure. It is said she will again devote herself to dramatic readings.

THE harvests of the world are in an excellent condition. No serious deficiency is reported from any quarter, and there is a general abundance throughout Europe and America.

THE house where Jonathan Edwards wrote "Freedom of the Will" and "Original Sin," one hundred and thirty years ago, is still in existence at Stockbridge, Mass.

PROFESSOR J. S. BLACKIE, acting on the recommendation of his medical advisers, has resigned the chair of Greek in the University of Edinburgh, which he has held since 1852.

THE contributions to the Sustentation Fund of the Free Church for three months ending 10th August, are £33,871, an increase of £1,302 on the corresponding period of last year.

THE late Bishop Steere, who died at Zanzibar of apoplexy, edited an edition of Bishop Butler's works, and translated portions of the Bible into the language of the people among whom he laboured.

THE tide of Dutch emigration has turned from the United States and is setting in for South Africa. A line of steamers will be established between Amsterdam and the port nearest the Transvaal.

ARCHBISHOP TAIT continues to progress favourably. He is daily gathering strength, and a strange drowsiness which for weeks has been one of the chief features of his ailment, is now fast diminishing.

KING CELEWAYO, before his departure from England, signed a letter inviting the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to send Bibles printed in Zulu or English for distribution among his people.

MADAME LENOIRS, wife of the veteran Baptist pastor of Paris, has received the distinction of officer of the Academy, in consideration of her devoted work in connection with the school in the Ecuries d'Artois.

VICTORIA, Australia, has the forest giant of the world, in an almond-leaf gum-tree, which is 380 feet high at its lowest branch, and 450 feet to its top, and has a girth of sixty feet at some distance above the ground.

ONE brewer in London confesses to a correspondent of the Chicago "Times" that the "Salvation Army" had diminished his receipts over \$15,000 dollars in one year, through their work among the lower classes.

SIR WILLIAM THOMPSON, at the late meeting of the British Association of Scientific Men, declared that he had observed the moon at all its stages, and could find no relation between its course and the variation of the weather.

THE London (England) "World" hints that on the successful completion of the Egyptian campaign Sir Garnet Wolseley will be rewarded with the baton of a field-marshal, accompanied by a peerage. This is certainly not a bad prediction.

MR. MOOLY closed his nine months' campaign in Scotland on August 16th, by addressing densely crowded meetings in Dumfries, where he had held a two days' farewell convention. He was to begin his work in Wales, at Swansea, on September 1st.

LIVERPOOL ranks as the most important port in the world. Its annual tonnage is 2,647,372. Next, London; tonnage, 2,330,658. Next, Glasgow; tonnage, 1,432,364. Fourth, New York; tonnage, 1,153,676. But New York is the greatest manufacturing city in the world.

GREAT temperance demonstrations have been held at Inverness and Kilmarnock—in the latter town in connection with the inauguration of a branch of the Blue Ribbon Army. In the highland capital Sir William Collins and Mr. Fraser Mackintosh, M.P., were among the speakers.

THE yellow fever has prevailed fearfully in Texas during the past month. August 29th, seventy-two new cases were reported at Brownsville and two deaths, and during the week ending September 1st, there were 425 new cases, and on the last named day there were sixty new cases and two deaths. During the month of August there were 214 deaths at Matamoros. Louisiana is under quarantine, the railroads being prohibited from bringing any cars, passengers, merchandise and baggage from Pensacola, Fla., within the bounds of that State.