

ALMANACKS THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries almanacks were the most popular publications in Europe. High and low, the learned and the ignorant, found something to interest them in their pages; and all classes looked with respect on planetary influences, and fortunate days, and found manifold excitement in prognostications always more or less direful. The astrologers "ruled destiny's dark counsel;" and royalty itself often trembled before impending misfortunes in the conjunction of planets, pestilence in eclipses, and death and the ruin of kingdoms in the advent of a comet. Almanacks began to grow common about the latter part of the fifteenth century, but were familiar to the learned much earlier. Regiomontanus published his *Kalendarium Novum* for three years, at Buda in Hungary, in 1475, and was munificently rewarded for his labours by Matthias Corvinus. This work, though it only contained calculations of eclipses, and the names and places of the planets, met with a ready sale on the Continent and in England, at ten crowns of gold for each copy. Babelais published an almanack at Lyons in 1533, and also for the years 1535, 1545, and 1550, and such productions were considered to add to the fame of the most eminent scholars. The astrologers soon began to make almanacks the medium for political predictions. The almost universal study of alchemy and the occult sciences contributed greatly to extend the demand for such glimpses into futurity; and the prognostications began to be regarded as the most important part of the almanack. Nostradamus was supposed to have foretold the death of Henry II. of France, the beheading of our Charles I., and the fire of London. The fame and popularity of the vaticinations of this astrologer so increased the number of political prophecies in France, to the unsettling of men's minds, that Henry III. forbade such to be inserted in almanacks; and the prohibition was renewed by Louis XIII. so late as 1625. In an Almanack and Prognostication for 1559 by Gabriel Frende, after *Pais* "God save Queen Elizabeth," are these verses, evidently intended to disarm adverse criticism—

"Thou hast my guess at daily weather Here present to thy view. My credit shall not lie therein That every word is true; Yet some to please I thought it best To showe my mynde among the rest."

In England, owing to their loyal expression, or to their abstinence from allusions to affairs of State, no Royal Proclamation ever appeared against almanacks, but they were under the watchful supervision of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. Soon after the accession of James I., that monarch granted a monopoly of the trade in almanacks to the two Universities and the Company of Stationers. During the reign of James the astrologers became so numerous, and in their own view of such importance, that they formed themselves into a body, and for many years had an annual dinner and celebration of their own. Ashmole mentions in his diary his attendance at several of these meetings. The wits of the time soon directed their attention to the astrologers and their proceedings, and unmercifully ridiculed the failure and extravagance of most of their predictions. Dekker, the playwright and satirist, lashes the whole body in his "Raven's Almanack," published in 1609, "foretelling of Plague, Famine, and Civil Warre, that shall happen this present year 1609; with certaine Rules, Remedies, and Receipts." The stationers, probably taking the hint from the productions of Dekker or Lisle, issued almanacks disparaging all prophecies to suit the sceptics, and simultaneously others containing predictions to suit the credulous. During the troubled reign of Charles I. prognostications of all kinds were enormously increased in number and repute; and mild examples of the predictions of Lilly and Booker exist in our own times on the respectable authority of Zadkiel and Francis Moore, Physician.

KLEPTOMANIACS.

Among the various kinds of insanity which are pleaded in courts of justice as an excuse for the commission of crimes is that irresistible propensity to pocket articles, or more correctly, to steal, which has been elegantly denominated kleptomaniac. According to authentic testimony, this mental disease is far more prevalent than is generally supposed, and the recorded instances of various kinds and degrees of such are both numerous and peculiar.

With regard to the intensity of the disposition to commit thefts, this is often so great as to become incurable. A case is related of a man who would not eat unless his food was stolen; in consequence of which his attendant humoured him by placing his food in a corner, where it appeared hidden; but could easily be, so to speak, purloined. A lady was affected with this monomania so strongly that upon her trial for theft she stated that she had such a mad longing to possess herself of everything she saw that if she were at church she could not refrain from stealing from the altar. A famous physician informs us that a woman who was exemplary in her obedience to the moral law except the eighth commandment was so addicted to larceny that, when she could take nothing more valuable, she would often at the table of a friend secretly fill her pockets with bread.

Lavater states that a doctor of medicine could not leave his patients' rooms without taking something away unobserved; and his wife searched his pockets, and returned to their owners the knives, thimbles, scissors, etc., which her husband had abstracted. The wife of another physician had so strong a propensity to steal that on making purchases she endeavoured to take something away that did not belong to her; and two German Countesses appear to have been guilty of the same vice. The almoner of a regiment of Prussian cuirassiers, a well-educated man, frequently on parade stole the handkerchiefs of the officers; and one unfortunate man was so far under the influence of kleptomaniac that being high unto death, he actually secreted the snuff-box of his confessor! We know a parish clergyman, says *Chambers' Journal*, who stole every article he could lay his hands on. If out at dinner, he pocketed scraps of bread, table napkins, or anything. When lodging at hotels he carried off pieces of soap and the ends of candles from his bedroom. His larcenies became so notorious that he was brought before the Church courts, and turned out of his living. The *London Times*, a few years ago, in commenting upon the subject of a lady kleptomaniac being prosecuted for stealing cambrie handkerchiefs in a draper's shop, stated that "every one who is acquainted with London society could at once furnish a dozen names of ladies who have been notorious for abstracting articles of trifling value from the shops where they habitually dealt. Their *modus operandi* was so well known that on their return from their drives their relatives took care to ascertain the nature of their pilfering. Inquired from the coachman the houses at which they had been ordered to stop, and, as a matter of course, re-imbursed the tradesman to the full value of the pilfered goods. In other cases a hint was given to the various shop-keepers at whose establishments these monomaniacs made their purchases, and they were simply forewarned to notice what was taken away, and to furnish the bill, which was paid for as soon as furnished, and as a matter of course by the pilferer herself, without any feeling of shame or emotion of any kind." It is also stated in the *Quarterly Review* in 1856, in an article upon the Metropolitan Police, that "the extent of pilfering carried on even by ladies of rank and position is very great; there are persons possessing a mania of this kind so well known among the shop-keeping community that their addresses and descriptions are passed from hand to hand for mutual security. The attendants allow them to secrete what they like without seeming to observe them, and afterwards send a bill with the prices of the goods purloined to their houses."

Abnormal conformations of the head, accompanied with an imbecile understanding, are often the cause of kleptomaniac. Gill and Spurzheim saw in Bern prison a boy twelve years old, who is described as "ill organized and rickety," who could never avoid stealing. An ex-commissary of police at Toulouse was condemned to eight years' imprisonment and hard labour and at the pillory for having stolen some plate while in office. He did not deny the crime, but persisted to the last in a singular kind of defence. He attributed the crime to a mental derangement caused by wounds he had received at Marseilles in 1815. Another case is related of a young man who, after being severely wounded in the temple, for which he was trepanned, manifested an unconquerable propensity for theft, which was quite against his natural disposition. He was committed for larceny after having committed several robberies, and had not medical testimony been produced to show that he was insane, and which attributed his kleptomaniac to a disorder of the brain, he would have been punished according to law.

FOOT NOTES.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' SONS.—A mystery has been made of the fact that the eldest son of the Prince of Wales is still remaining in the navy. One writer goes so far as to state that it is because the two brothers, Prince Albert Victor and Prince George, do not like to be parted. The simple fact is that the elder of the two princes is not naturally very robust, and as his former cruise had done him so much good, the Prince of Wales decided that he should have another trip in order that his health might be fully established before settling down at the Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich, where H.R.H. intends that he shall be thoroughly prepared for a military life, and go through every grade, from sub-lieutenant upwards.

POPULATION OF THE GLOBE.—The number of our human family living at the present date upon the globe is put by Behm and Wagner, in their great work on "The Population of the Earth," at 1,455,600,000. This is a number almost beyond the grasp of persons not familiar with arithmetical calculations. Suffice to say that the population of London, taken in its widest sense, is 4,000,000, and that consequently the whole world contains only three hundred and sixty-four times as many persons as the metropolis of the British Empire. If the numbers are arranged in the order of the great divisions of the globe, Asia, with its 834,000,000 of inhabitants, stands first on the list, followed by Europe with less than half as many, viz: 315,000,000; Africa has 205,000,000, and America only 95,000,000; whilst Australia and Polynesia contains 4,000,000, and the Polar

regions only \$2,600. These numbers added together, with the fractions which we have omitted, give the grand total of 1,455,000,000.

DR. ARNOLD.—Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, the great English educational reformer, was described by Thomas Hughes in his recent colloquial lectures at Haverford College, Philadelphia, as a fine, tall man, upward of six feet in height, very loosely put together. He was a great walker and always walking at a great pace, and moved, or rather shambled, in his walk, as I believe your great Lincoln did. He had a bushy head of hair when I knew him—which was when he was about thirty-four or thirty-five years of age, and but a short time after his appointment as headmaster at Rugby—and a deep-set, piercing eye. The most remarkable feature of his face was a very strong under jaw, and a lip which when we were all sitting round in form and endeavouring to construe or answer questions before him used to swell up with his feelings, as it were, so that we could always tell when a boy made a very slovenly or bad answer. Whenever we boys saw that lip swelling up, as it often did, we began to know it was not a time to play pranks, and that we had better put on our best behaviour.

A GRAND DRESS.—Worth has just made a most striking ball dress in the First Empire style, which Miss Kate Field probably intends to wear when delivering her lecture in Paris. It will certainly serve as an admirable exemplification of Parisian taste. The back of the corsege and the train are cut all in one, and are in satin of a rich vivid yellow hue that is known as "new gold," in contradistinction to the darker shade, called "old gold." The train is gathered in full folds at the waist. The corsege is cut high behind and in a deep square in front, being finished with a high ruff of stiff net worked with gold and pearls. The front of the dress is composed of chestnut-brown velvet, trimmed down the front with a row of wide white jet fringe, placed perpendicularly. Around them is set a garland of large tea-roses with birds and foliage, beneath which falls a white jet fringe. This garland steps at the wide revers of pale-blue satin which conceal the juncture of the velvet front with the yellow satin train. The effect of the whole toilette is very much that of the dress worn by the Empress Josephine in the famous picture by David of the Coronation of Napoleon I., now in the palace of Versailles.

OFFENBACH.—The Paris papers are recounting innumerable anecdotes of Offenbach. One of them states that the late composer had "the evil eye," and generally brought ill-luck with him wherever he went. Sivori, the violinist, thoroughly believed this was so, and used to say that he had remarked that whenever he happened to play in the presence of Offenbach his fiddle-string grated, a string broke, or some other untoward event occurred. In short, Sivori was so disquieted by this belief that he resolutely refused to perform whenever he knew Offenbach to be in the same house or room. Théodore de Banville, the well-known theatrical critic, is popularly reported to have abstained, from some superstitious fancy, from ever mentioning Offenbach by name in any of his writings, a difficult task when it is remembered that Offenbach had been composing and de Banville criticising him for thirty years. Mischievously-minded persons have also pointed out that Offenbach passed through the Rue Le Peletier the night the Opera was destroyed by fire, that poor Emma Livry was burnt alive in the only ballet Offenbach ever had represented at the Opera, and that Madame Berthelier died while playing in the *Vie Parisienne*.

LOWELL.—James Russell Lowell in a recent address on self-education at the Workingmen's College, of London, said that he learned Italian entirely by his interest in Dante, and if his hearers wished to learn a language he would advise them to take some great author. They would only need a dictionary; they would not need a grammar. His own experience was that nine men out of ten learned a language better in this way than by learning grammar. They were saved an infinite deal of drudgery, and an infinite deal of time often spent on grammar to no purpose. If they wished to understand a great master they would soon find out the distinction between his indicative and subjunctive, and they would be led to it in an easier and more agreeable way than by the study of grammar. One reason why classical literature was not more generally read was that poets like Horace, who was quite as modern as some of our moderns, were made hateful by being used as a ladder to the grammar. He would not be understood to depreciate the value of living teachers, especially such as theirs. There was a vast deal of inspiration in coming in contact with living teachers who could give the results of their experience; yet how few men there were who had become really learned who would not tell you that the chief part of their education was what they had given themselves, and which therefore was within the reach of all of us.

BLACK MILDEW ON ST. PAUL'S.—Professor Leidy, at the late meeting of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, remarked that his attention had been directed to an article in *Science Gossip*, in which the blackness on some portion of St. Paul's Cathedral is stated to be due not to the effect of smoke, but mainly to the growth of a hitherto undescribed lichen, which would appear to flourish only on limestone, and in situations unaffected by the direct rays of the sun. Professor Leidy stated that his

attention was called many years ago to a similar black appearance on the brick walls and granite work of houses in narrow shaded streets, especially in the vicinity of Delaware River. Noticing a similar blackness on the bricks above the windows on a brewery, from which there was a constant escape of watery vapour, in a more central part of the city, he was led to suspect it was of a vegetable nature. On a microscopical examination the black mildew in this case proved to be an alga, closely allied to a species which he took to be the well-known *Prolecoecus utribilis*, and which gives a bright green colour to the trunks of trees, to fences, and to walls, mostly on their more shaded and northern sides, everywhere about Philadelphia. Probably it may be distinguished as *P. lugubris*. It consists of minute round or oval cells, isolated or in pairs, or in groups of four, the result of the division; or it occurs in short irregular chains of four or more cells up to a dozen, occasionally with a lateral offset of two or more cells, which appear of a brownish or olive-brownish hue. In mass, and to the unassisted eye, the alga appears as an intensely black powder.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, Oct. 25.—The Government has ordered large bodies of troops from India. The town of Iquique, in Peru, has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. Negotiations regarding the cession of Dulaguao have been resumed at Mirbazur. A Teheran despatch says the Shah Abdollah has proclaimed his independence. The Post Office at Manchester was destroyed by fire yesterday, supposed to be the work of Fenians. Should the prosecutions against the Lord Leaguers fail, the Government will ask Parliament for special legislation to repress disturbances in Ireland. Cape Town despatches say the natives of Natal have revolted and the colonial troops are in great danger. Late despatches say it is rumoured that a number of Europeans have been massacred beyond Natal.

TUESDAY, Oct. 26.—Count Von Moltke has refused the title of Prince offered him by the Emperor of Germany. A despatch by way of Lahore states that Abdorhaman Khan, the Amir of Cabul, has been murdered. Troops have been called out in the Department of Nord, in France, to prevent anticipated riots by striking miners. Mr. Healey, Parnell's Secretary, was arrested yesterday at Cork, on an order of the Attorney General, for complicity in the Lord Leaguers' plots. Derwish Pasha, with a large body of troops, has been ordered to Dulaguao, on account of the determination of the Abyssinians to resist the cession of the place to the Montenegrins. Later despatches from Cape Town confirm the previous reports of the rising in Natal. The insurgents have burnt and pillaged Pietermaritzburg, and small boxes of saving Col. Clarke's command are entertained, unless they can be immediately reinforced.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 27.—Troubles also are brewing amongst the Maoris in New Zealand. Germany and Austria are declared to be working very harmoniously in reference to the Eastern troubles. Sara Bernhardt arrived in New York yesterday, and was met by a large delegation, mainly composed of French citizens. The Pope has written, so it is said, to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris deploring the policy of the Government against the religious orders. The Greeks are getting ready to take over the territory awarded to them by the Berlin Conference by their own action, rather than to wait for the action of the Powers. Mr. Justice Lush, one of the ablest members of the English Court of Queen's Bench, has been appointed Lord Justice of Appeal in the room of the late Lord Justice Thesiger. At a meeting of representatives of Radical Clubs in the United Kingdom, held yesterday, it was decided to oppose the Government's policy in prosecuting the Irish Lord Leaguers. The Czar of Russia is very ill. The reports are very conflicting, one stating that he has been poisoned by his cooks, and the other that he is suffering from a stroke of paralysis.

THURSDAY, Oct. 28.—Rumours of disagreements in the French Cabinet are current. The Kurdish invaders now occupy 3,000 square miles of Persian territory. Rumours were afloat in Paris yesterday to the effect that the Czar was dead. The Spanish Government will immediately disband 1,500 of the troops in Cuba. A cable from Rome states Monsignor Capel has received instructions to reside in America. The Emperor William delivered the speech from the throne at the opening of the Prussian Diet yesterday. The European Powers are becoming impatient at the delay in the cession of Dulaguao. A despatch says it will probably take place on Monday.

FRIDAY, Oct. 29.—Despatches from China speak of active preparations for war between the Chinese and Russians. Admiral Seymour has applied for additional vessels to be sent out to him immediately, to which Germany has entered a protest. The Australian Geological Survey are asking aid for an expedition to traverse the Zambesi country, though Darfur, and so reach Egypt. The intrepid he has been received from Natal that Col. Clarke's force had won a decided victory over the insurgent natives at Natal. Affairs in Ulughat are growing more serious daily. Further details of the massacre, and of the outrages committed by the insurgents are telegraphed. It is expected that Imperial aid will be asked for very shortly, the insurgent ranks continuing to receive additional forces from the native chiefs.

SATURDAY, Oct. 30.—The Greek army is to be increased to 23,000. Latest accounts from Cabul report all quiet. A London cable announces the arrest and incarceration of the Rev. Mr. Dale, a ritualistic clergyman, for defying the orders of the law courts. The Prefect of Marseilles declined to receive a Catholic deputation which bore a protest against the enforcement of the religious decrees. Parnell, speaking at a land meeting at Tipperary yesterday, said no settlement could be arrived at while the English people and Parliament were in their present temper. The steamship *Enmore*, on the voyage from Montreal to Bremen, sprang a leak and foundered at sea on the 23rd ult. The crew were saved and landed at Queenstown. The Fenians and Boers are the only tribes remaining faithful to the British in South Africa. The insurrection has spread throughout Kafirland and all the stations are threatened.

LADY BEAUTIFIERS.

Ladies, you cannot make fair skin, rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes with all the cosmetics of France, or beautifiers of the world, while in poor health, and nothing will give you such good health, strength and beauty as Hop Bitters. A trial is certain proof. See another column.