

struction know that he states the aim of that system to be accuracy and thoroughness. Its strongest criticism upon the ordinary system is that it neglects that very precision and clearness of apprehension which is the essential condition of really available knowledge.—George William Curtis, in *Harper's Magazine* for September.

VICTIMS OF MONACO.

The enormous gains of the Monte Carlo gaming tables are a direct incentive to play in all countries, and we are not surprised that no less than thirty-seven illicit tables were recently found open at night in and around Nice during a single police raid. For several years previous to the formation of the "International Association for the Suppression of the Gaming-tables at Monte Carlo," the clear profits of the Casino were over 25,000,000 francs per annum. The Prince of Monaco receives 250,000 francs yearly for the concession, besides a share in the profits, and considerable supplementary sums; and as the expenses of the Casino and entire principality are defrayed by the bank, the sum annually lost by players cannot have fallen below fifty millions of francs! The receipts have fallen off considerably since 1881, but it is estimated that fully 30,000,000 francs have yearly found their way over the green tables into the coffers of the bank. What losses and misery does this sum represent! How many, tempted to play in the hope of "jack" and sudden wealth, have gone on and on till ruin and disgrace have stared them in the face! How many dependent wives, children and relatives have been reduced to absolute poverty in a day! And, alas! how many have committed self-murder to escape the shame caused by their own folly.

While desirous of avoiding anything approaching sensationalism, we venture to quote the following paragraph from the *Colonia Etrenge*, a paper published in Nice:—"An Englishman allowed a train to run over his neck; a Russian blew his brains out; a young Bavarian fired a couple of bullets into his chest; a Pole shot himself in the middle of the gaming saloon at Monte Carlo; a well-dressed stranger shot himself at the Hotel des Empereurs, Nice; a merchant poisoned himself at the Hotel de la Garle, Cannes; an Austrian of distinguished family blew out his brains in a shed at Séurance, Nice; a lawyer threw himself from the top of the rock Rauba Capen into the sea, Nice; a German officer shot himself in the ear; a Hollander poisoned himself; a Dutch nobleman shot himself in the garden of his villa, Monaco; and a widow, fifty-five, poisoned herself at the Hotel des Deux Mondes, Nice; she had sold her last jewel to try and recover her losses at Monaco. A German shot himself on a seat, a few steps from the Casino; an Englishman hung himself on the Ponsroad; a gentleman shot himself before the Café de Paris, close to the Casino; and a young Russian shot himself at the Casino door."

The "Times," of the tenth ult., reports the circumstances of a young German of good family having shot himself the Thursday after losing at the gambling tables, and a young Englishman of good family, whose father held a high position in the House of Lords, told the writer last week that he had lost a fortune in Monaco, and was a beggar on the world; and that he seriously contemplated suicide as the only way of escaping misery and shame. The writer had a list of fifty more suicides before him, the direct results of gambling at Monte Carlo. What sorrow and distress these violent deaths have entailed upon helpless victims! Many of our readers visit the Riviera as a winter resort, and we entreated them to dissuade persons from going to Monaco "just to see the place." Though Monaco be "even as the garden of the Lord," the cry of it is great, and its sin very grievous, even as Sodom and Gomorrah.

It is gratifying to find that the International Association has succeeded in drawing the serious attention of the great Powers to the subject of public gaming at Monaco. Almost the entire press of the United Kingdom is in favour of the movement, and the leading Continental press lends hearty co-operation. The question has already occupied the consideration of the French Chamber of Deputies and Senate and the Italian Parliament and German Reichstag have denounced in indignant terms the continuance of an institution so fruitful in crime, misery and death. The subject will be shortly brought before the English Parliament.—*The Christian*.

THE PARSEES.

The Parsees of India are the descendants of the ancient Persian "fire-worshippers." They claim a history back to Abraham. The Zendavesta is their holy book, and the venerated Zoroaster, who flourished B.C. 550, is their great prophet. Driven from Persia, a thousand years ago, they found a refuge in India. Now there are but 8,000 left in their ancient home. Of this strange people there are about 200,000 in all the world. Of this number 150,000 are in India. Bombay, "the city of the Parsees," has 75,000 making one-tenth of the entire population. As you walk the streets of Bombay you cannot help noticing these disciples of Zoroaster, differing as they do from both Mohammedans and Hindoos. The Parsee gentleman is tall and erect, with fair complexion and dignified air. His long white coat of silk or fine muslin is buttoned closely from chin to waist, and hangs in a full flowing skirt to the knees. He wears a tall, tapering, queer-looking indescribable hat, without a brim, inclining backward from the forehead, and looking very much like a section of a stovepipe. It is apparently of pasteboard, covered with brown silk or muslin. In the top is a hole in which he puts his handkerchief. This hat is one of the badges of his religion, and he must never change it for any other style. The Parsee always keeps his head covered indoors or out, day or night, asleep or awake. Around his waist he wears a silken cord, which he is to cut when at prayer. No bargain is binding if this cord is left off when the contract is made. These people are among the most intelligent, influential, and patriotic in the community. Most of them are merchants and bankers, and as such are honest, industrious, and polite, taking the lead

in all the commercial enterprises. One half of the wealth and three-fourths of the business of Bombay is in their hands. They are often called the Jews of the East.

NATURE'S LADY.

Three years she grew in sun and shower,
Then nature said, "A lovelier flower
On earth was never sown;
This child I to myself will take,
She shall be mine, and I will make
A lady of my own."

"Myself will to my darling be
Both law and impulse; and with me
The Girl, in rock and plain,
In earth and heaven, in glade and bower,
Shall feel an over-seeing power
To kindle or restrain."

"She shall be sportive as the fawn
That wild with glee across the lawn
Or up the mountain springs;
And hers shall be the breathing balm,
And hers the silence and the calm
Of mute insensate things."

"The floating clouds their state shall lend
To her; for her the willows bend,
Nor shall she fail to see
Even in the motions of the storm
Grace that shall mould the maiden's form
By silent sympathy."

"The stars of midnight shall be dear
To her, and she shall lean her ear
In many a secret place
Where rivulets dance their wayward round,
And beauty born of murmuring sound
Shall pass into her face."

JACK, THE CHICAGO FIRE DOG.

Jack goes to all the fires, and is first to hear the buzz of the telegraph. If upon the third floor when the call comes, he is the first member of the company down. He never dresses, but goes to the fire as he is. He always manages to run down the first flight of stairs like an ordinary Christian, but in his anxiety to get to the horses, he invariably rolls down the second flight. He drives the horses to the pole, and runs ahead of them barking. Jack is known to thousands of persons, and his barking informs them that there is a fire in the district. He clears the street for the engine better than a man could. He is always first in the building. At night, he looks for a fireman's light; and often when the smoke is thick and he cannot be seen, the men know he is about by hearing him sneeze. If there is a fire and the apparatus does not go out, Jack sits down and howls in his disappointment, and cries as if his heart was broken. Sometimes the horses step on him, but he keeps on three legs and sees the fire out, but, often, when he gets home, he is laid up for days. He has been known to go up and down an iron fire-escape, and walk up and down a peaked roof that was at an angle of forty five degrees. He will go anywhere the men do. At home he is fastidious, disliking the smell of the smoke when the stove is lighted. When the floor is being scrubbed, Jack goes across the street, where he sets up a howling until the cleansing operation is over. But, at fires, he does not mind the densest smoke or the heaviest shower-baths.—*Inter-Ocean*.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEARERS.

Burdette, the "Hawkeye" man has been describing the various classes of hearers: "The lounge falls into the pew and slides into a comfortable attitude. You look at him with a nervous fear that sometimes he will slide clear out of sight. Next comes the fidget, who makes the preacher forget his place in the sermon. Then comes the watcher, whose head is apparently fixed on a ball and socket, and can turn three ways at once. He watches and sees so much that he can't hear anything. Fourth is the time-keeper, who is constantly with his eye on the watch while the sermon is being preached. Fifth is the squaker, who comes to church a little late and has a pew near the pulpit. The worst of it is that he is always a good man. In the sixth place is the traveller, who is always a talker; and then comes the boss. When you do sit down on the boss," said Mr. Burdette, addressing the graduates, "sit down hard, and don't get up again."

THE DIAMOND.

A writer in the London "Chemical News" thinks he has solved the question of the origin and formation of the diamond—it being due, he argues, to the fact that the carbonaceous matter of fossils, such as plants and animal remains, has been dissolved by highly heated water, aided by great pressure existing in the crust of the earth. The fact is well known that highly heated water, aided by pressure, can dissolve silica, as in the geysers of Iceland, etc., where it is formed around the mouth of the vent; and there are also the experimental researches of De Senarmont and others, on the artificial production of crystallized minerals, as quartz, mispickel, corundum, heavy spar, etc., by the prolonged action of water at high temperatures and pressures. On these grounds, therefore, it is urged that no reason exists why highly heated water, or water gas, should not have the power of dissolving the carbonaceous matter of fossiliferous plants and animals, and then, on cooling, depositing the carbon in the crystallized condition, forming the gem known as the diamond.

A VERMONT villager has his walk and front yard paved with headstones from a cemetery.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE German Baptist churches in America, which in 1850 numbered only ten, now number 130.

William Chambers, the Edinburgh publisher, left \$100,000 for the restoration of St. Giler.

A FIRM of vinegar makers in London entertained 100 men at dinner in their 53,000 gallon vat.

PORTUGAL is represented in France by M. de Camoens, a descendant of the famous poet of his name.

A COLLEGE for Roman Catholic priests is to be built at Portsmouth on a site purchased from the war department.

It is said Lord Ronald Gower is writing a life of Marie Antoinette, for whose memory he has an enthusiastic admiration.

THE great University of Padua, in Italy, is the place of an unprecedented scandal. Prof. Broglie has slapped the face of Prof. Baysini.

THE Swiss railroad companies now cover a portion of their carriages with a phosphorescent preparation, which makes them visible at night.

An eccentric lounge in Tazewell county, Iowa, has placed thirteen large armchairs in as many stores, so he can always have a seat when he calls.

THE relics of secularised nunneries in Tuscany, when put up to auction, are knocked down for a trifle, holy relics being at a discount even in Italy.

THE Rev. Chinnery Haldane, late of All Saints', Edinburgh, is to be consecrated as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles at Fort-William, on 24th instant.

THE Treasurer of the immense colony of South Australia says that the population is only 300,000, and advises a grant of \$200,000 to encourage immigration.

FOR every five persons who use tobacco in England, France and Russia, there are fifteen in Germany and North America, twenty-four in Belgium, twenty-eight in Holland.

THE Czar has forwarded through the French Ambassador \$400 toward a monument at Lagres to Diderot, to whom the Empress Catherine was a generous patroness and friend.

An Illinois snake charmer gave a public exhibition with a copperhead. The charm didn't work, but the snake did, and weeks elapsed before the showman knew that he would recover.

THE municipality of Rome has refused to give to the Minister of Public Instruction the Convent of the Carthusians. The Government wanted the convent for a sculpture museum.

BISHOP THIRLWALL was an omnivorous devourer of fiction, reading every new novel that came from a respectable pen, but he acknowledged that the "Wide World" was too much for his powers of digestion.

THE Celtic-speaking peoples at present are the Bretons of Brittany, the Welsh, the Irish, and the Scottish Highlanders. The total number who can understand a Celtic tongue is computed to be three and a half millions.

MR. I. B. SMITHES, the founder of the "British Workman" and other popular illustrated periodicals, has died after an illness of eighteen months in his sixty-eighth year. He was a Yorkshire man and a devoted Methodist.

THERE is an Oxford graduate in the poor house at Newburyport, Mass., and he gives what is called "a very eloquent and critical lecture on English poetry, making judicious selections and showing wonderful knowledge."

THE landlord of the hotel where the Princess Beatrice has taken residence, at Aix-le-Bains, wrote to the London "Times" offering to pay for an article puffing the establishment. The "Times" printed the letter without comment.

THE Countess de la Torre pleaded that, being a member of the anti-cruelty society, she took eighteen cats and nine dogs into her house out of compassion, but a London Justice fined her \$1 dollar and ordered an abatement of the nuisance.

THE jubilee of the Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh, founded by a brother of Dr. Chalmers, was celebrated lately. Mr. Rogerson, the headmaster, said their raining was to enable the pupils to fight an uphill battle, and never to know when they were beat.

VICTOR HUGO has a set of stereotyped eulogistic letters which he posts to young authors who send him their maiden volumes. He has not time to read the books. He likes to conciliate rather than offend, and he is always glad to secure another pair of hands for his next play.

A DUBUQUE boy employed on a railroad received a hurt. His father, though of ample means, left him to the charity of friends. He died, and the unnatural parent refused to allow him to be buried in the family lot. The railroad men in town contributed enough to give the body a decent interment.

THE Rev. Dr. McGregor of St. Cuthbert's, in an article in the new number of the "Sunday Magazine" mentions the fact that it has been his fortune to pass Holy Week at three great centres of superstition—Jerusalem, Rome, and Seville. In the magnificent folly of shows and processions, he thinks the Spanish city "bears the bell."

THE Egyptian census has just been completed. The total population is given as 6,798,230, of whom 3,393,918 are males and 3,404,312 females. Cairo has 368,108 inhabitants; Alexandria, with its suburbs, 208,775; Port Said, 10,560; Suez, 10,913; Tanta, 33,725; Damietta, 34,046; Rosetta, 16,071; Mansurah, 26,784; Zagazig, 19,046.

THE Rev. Dr. Mackay of the North Church, Inverness, referring to the Strome Ferry affair, said they had done nothing beyond upholding the laws and institutions of God and of man, and the sympathies of the whole north of Scotland were with them. Dr. Kennedy of Dingwall says £180 have been sent to him as contributions towards their defence.