

Home Journal

People and Things the World Over

General satisfaction is felt by all turf lovers on account of the announcement that King George has entrusted the royal racing stud to the Earl of Derby until the end of the present year. His lordship is one of the most popular members of the jockey club, and, of course, it was one of his ancestors who established "The Derby" in 1780.

The only absolutely unbiased and unprejudiced person is the man who has no opinions of his own. Just as soon as he forms a conviction on any subject whatever he is bound to favor that conviction, more or less, to become prejudiced on that side; in short, to lose his balance. So, finally, it is a choice between having convictions and being prejudiced, or having no convictions and being a human jelly-fish.

In his early days Herr Arthur Nikisch, the famous conductor, who has been fulfilling some important London engagements, was appointed to conduct a performance of "Tannhauser" at the Leipzig Opera. He was but a young chorus master at the time, and the orchestra absolutely refused to play under so youthful a conductor. They were only induced to do so when a director said that if they were of the same mind after the overture had been played they could then and there hand in their resignations. The overture was a veritable triumph for Nikisch, and with profuse apologies the orchestra offered him their congratulations.

It was toward the end of the sixteenth century that coffee was introduced into Europe. The first account of it is to be found in the work of a Venetian doctor, Prosper Alpini, published in 1592, entitled "De Plantis Egypti." Alpini was impressed with the physiological value of the berry. From Venice coffee was introduced into Italy. It was known at Marseilles in 1650, but it was not until 1680 we learn that it was introduced into the court of Louis XIV., by the then Turkish Ambassador. But it had been introduced into England nearly forty years before this time, by Nathaniel Canopus, a Cretan.—*London Globe.*

Mr. Pierpont Morgan has just bought, through M. Jacques Seligmann of Paris, eighty-six of the most wonderful little watches in the world. He paid \$300,000 for them, or an average of nearly \$35,000 a watch. They formed the Marfels collection, and came to Paris from Berlin. All of them date from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. As will be remembered the first little watches were made in the sixteenth century in Nuremberg, in Paris, and in Italy. The Marfels watches are very tiny and very beautiful. One is egg-shaped, made of Limoges enamel, and is no bigger than a canary's egg. There are only two of these in the world, and both are in Mr. Pierpont Morgan's possession. Many of the watches are in the form of crosses, and can be worn as pendants. The smallest of them might be worn as a cravat pin.

The *Westminster Gazette* has been giving a prize for the best rules for reading and readers: "Never read from vainglory, never read for penance, never read second-bests, never read first editions while eating muffins, never read a great

book in an ill mood, never mark a borrowed book or omit to mark your own, never fail to read some poetry daily to put your mind in tune, never read a book merely because it is new (the devil was young once) never read a book solely because it is old (not all fools die young), never expect to go away full from a book to which you came empty."

Turning from negative to positive: "Always sit on your book at meals if you belong to a reading family, always remember there is a season called 'Lent' and an author called 'Borrow,' but no season or author called anything like 'Give Back,' always keep three volumes in at least three rooms. Always address your host politely before you make for his book-case, always remember that your aunt has a right to love 'Little Lord Fauntleroy,' always put off buying a book until you are sure you can't borrow it permanently."

"When we think of Harvard or Yale, the former dating from 1638 and the latter from 1701, we think of them as old universities," says a writer in the *American Educational Review*; "but when we pass to the other side of the world we discover that even the oldest American universities are in reality very young institutions."

"The oldest educational institution in the

proper. His fame or ability will attract more or less students and disciples, who pay him fees according to their means."

No Idle Hands

"Work in the Kansas harvest fields or go to the workhouse for not less than six months!" is the ultimatum to be handed out by Judge Burney, of Kansas City, to every vagrant brought before him from now on. Good enough! It will be a good thing for the harvest and a better thing for the "vag," whose idleness has been his ruin. The experiment of turning the occupants of the central prison at Toronto out on to a farm and making them work as regularly and with almost as little supervision as the ordinary hired man, has proven a success so far to the extent that there has not been a single attempt to escape, though escape would seem to be childishly easy. Up in New Ontario, where there are not half enough men for the pioneering work there is to be done, a gang of prisoners has been set to work at roadbuilding. They have all day long in the fresh air instead of life within prison walls. They have good food, companionship and muscle building toil. An Ontario editor refers to it as a spectacle of degradation and speaks of it with horror, but *Saturday Night* expresses the opinion of most sane folk in regard to the matter:

"A forced sweat is a curse to human identity—Is it? Well, there are thousands of workmen in the city of Toronto who have been enduring forced sweats of late that they might bring home the pay envelope at the end of the week. Thousands of mothers have been toiling in the heat until ready to drop with bodily and nervous fatigue. Do they do it because they like it? Is their labor not forced? Of course it is. Did the man fail to toil and bring home the pay envelope there would be starvation at home, and did the women idle, what would become of the babies? Is it more degrading to see a lot of scape-graces forced to earn their bread honestly, even if under direct compulsion, than to see a lot of decent men slaving at the manual toil which is, after all, the basis of our civilization? Is the prisoner worthy of an easier life than the decent citizen? By all means get all the useful toil, consistent with humanity, that may be had out of the criminal or the misdemeanant. The mass of the community has no desire that the criminal should be treated with other than mercy, but neither does it wish that he should receive more consideration than the decent men, of whom we see hundreds every day who toil early and late for wife and bairn."

Supplying Accommodation

The temperance people in some districts of Manitoba are determined that the passing of prohibitory legislation will not work to the detriment or inconvenience of the travelling public who are dependent upon hotels for accommodation. In Glenboro, after the passing of local option had closed up the bars, the hotelkeepers refused to keep their houses open. So the men who had been most active in securing local option procured a large tent, set it up near the station and turned it into a big dining-room. Over sixty people from the train had dinner there one evening and expressed themselves as pleased with the accommodation received. This arrangement, of course, has its inconveniences, and is only meant to be temporary, as a joint stock company has been formed to purchase or build a barless hotel.

COMPENSATION

*A gale has blown the elm tree bare,
But in the twigs o'erhead
A nest, a robin's long, sweet care,
Shows in the bright leaves' stead.*

*Who minds the fluttering tree's gay loss
With that snug home in view,
Where late a breast of ruddy gloss
Caressed the eggs' pure blue?*

*Sweetheart, your girlhood falls away
Like summer's leafy grace;
Home-love and mother-magic stay,
Still lovelier, in its place!*

—JEANNIE PENDLETON EWING,
in *Smith's Magazine*.

world is the University of El Ashar, Cairo, founded in the year 988, by the great Saladin. It is the central seat of learning for the whole Mohammedan world, as well as a foundation of spiritual life. It occupies an ancient mosque in the Arab quarter of Cairo, surrounded by a confusing maze of narrow streets, where the population is made up of every representative of every race that follows the prophet.

"The old mosque covers several acres and consists of a series of courts surrounded by long cloisters with low roofs supported by forests of columns. The floors of red tiles are covered daily by a multitude of men and boys, squatting in semi-circles around their teachers, who sit with their backs to the columns lecturing in monotones. The chancellor of the university is always a descendant of the prophet and is usually a man of ability and learning. He occupies apartments in El Ashar and is not only the supreme educational but the ecclesiastical head of the church in Egypt. There is no organization similar to that in modern universities. Any reputable man who desires to teach can obtain the privilege by application and is assigned a column where he may sit and impart the truth as he thinks