

FUN ON THE PLAINS.

Westward, westward, westward we have been riding all day over the Kansas Pacific. From Kansas city the road runs straight up the Kansas River bottom and along Smoky Hill and the buffalo country to Denver. On the train are Grangers from Carson and Hugo, and killers and stabbers from Wild Horse and Eagle Tail.

As we near Salina, Kansas, Conductor Cheney comes along to collect the fare. Touching a long-haired gentleman on the back he looks down and says:

"Tickets!"

"Haint got none," says the passenger, holding his gun with one hand and scowling out from under his black slouch hat.

"But you must pay your fare, sir!" expostulated the conductor.

"Now jes look a-her, stranger! mebbey you'r a doin' your duty, but I haint never paid yet goin' through this country, and—"

Just then a slouchy, old frontiersman who had been compelled to pay his fare in a rear car, stepped up in front of the mulish passenger and, pointing a six-shooter at him, said:

"See here, Long Bill, you jes pay yer fare. I've paid mine, and they don't anybody ride on this train free if I don't—if they do damme!"

"All right, you've got the drop on me, old boy, so put up yer shooter an' I'll settle," said the passenger, going into his pockets for the money.

"Do these incidents often happen?" I asked the conductor a little while afterwards.

"Well, yes, but not so often as they used to in '68 and '70, Mr. Perkins. The other day," continued the conductor, "some three-card-monte men came on the train and swindled a drover out of \$150. The poor man seemed to take it to heart. He said his cattle got so cheap during the Eastern 'bust' that he had to just 'peel 'em' and sell their hides in Kansas City—and this was all the money he had. A half-dozen miners from Denver overheard the talk, and, coming up, they 'drew a head' on the monte men and told 'em to pay that money back."

"Just you count that money back, conductor," they said, "and after I had done it," continued the conductor, "one of the head miners said:

"Now, conductor, you jes stop the train, and we'll hang these three-card fellers to the telegraph pole."

"But the monte men flew out the door too quick for 'em."

To illustrate the value of human life in this country, Mr. Locke, the manager of the Kansas City Opera House, tells me this story:

Two years ago the James brothers, the same two desperadoes who sacked the express car, and "went through the passengers on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific at Gad's hill, stole the money-box at the Kansas State Fair. They rode into Kansas City on horseback, and when the cashier was walking to the bank with the receipts of the day, about \$2,000, they pointed their pistols at his head, seized the box, and galloped off. This was done in broad day-light in the midst of a great crowd.

Well, some time afterwards one of the Kansas City reporters wrote an article about these highwaymen, saying some kind things. He called them brave, and said they had done the most daring deed in the highwayman's record. A few night's afterwards the James brothers rode into Kansas City, went to the newspaper office, and calling the reporter out, presented him a handsome watch and chain. They said the article in question touched them in a tender spot, and they desired to show their gratitude.

"But I don't feel at liberty to take this watch," said the reporter.

"But do it to gratify us. We didn't steal this watch; we bought and paid for it with our own money," continued the desperadoes.

"No; you must excuse me," continued the reporter.

"Well, then, if you can't take this watch," replied the James brothers, regretfully, "perhaps you can name some man around here you want killed!"—"ELI PERKINS," in the *Daily Graphic*.

A SUMPTUOUS HOUSE-WARMING.

M. Menier, the chocolate manufacturer, recently gave a ball in Paris, and a correspondent, speaking of the affair, says: "The town residence which he has built for himself at immense cost stands at the west end of the Parc Monceaux, just within the large gilded gates abutting upon the Avenue de la Reine Hortense. The style of the architecture is florid, and amid the ornamentation of the pillars may be perceived in many places sculptures of the cocoa plant, by the culture of which the fortunes of the house of Menier was founded. M. Parent, the architect of the house, took great part in the fitting up of the interior. Every room has a distinct character, and is a museum in itself, without, however, being crowded, like an old curiosity shop, with heterogeneous articles which render apartments uninhabitable with comfort. From a drawing-room, gilded in modern French fashion, you pass to a dining-room, where old carved wooden panels, worthy of Blenheim, harmonize with massive oak sideboards, displaying the best imitation of the choicest old models which modern art can achieve. The chimney-piece of rare marble, within which massive logs of wood glow on the hearth, reminds one of a manor hall fireplace in some great English ducal house. In many rooms there are ceilings painted by Boucher, or great Dutch artists, carefully transferred from the house in which they were originally painted. The grand staircase, with balustrades of ponderous marble, is ornamented on either side by large pictures of Snyder's and one of his contemporaries. Smaller paintings of merit are studded about rooms, in which are choice pieces of furniture and vases of great price. To *prendre la crème* (the French phrase for house-warming) in this richly and tastefully furnished palace, 1,500 guests were invited and at least 1,200 came, which is an unusually large proportion, considering the inevitable average of excuses from indisposition and other engagements. Dancing was kept up till seven o'clock, to the music of Desgrand's band—the one which participated with Waldteuffel at the *fetes* of the Elysée. The buffets were so plentifully supplied all the evening with substantial refreshments, as well as ices and bonbons, champagne and claret flowing copiously all the time, that further supper was not expected or desired by the majority of the company. But in the small hours of the morning, when two-thirds of the crowd had gone home, at least 400 people sat down comfortably to a sumptuous supper. In one of the rooms the lights suddenly went out, and then alone the people in it became alive to the fact that it was broad daylight."

Our Illustrations.

We present this week a series of pictures appropriate to Holy Week and the Paschal season. The *SORROWFUL MOTHER* is from the celebrated original by Guido. The Easter services are portrayed as given in the Russian ritual at the church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburg.

GERMAN EMIGRATION is the subject of three sketches by our own artist—one representing the passage at Hull, the other the embarking at Liverpool, and the third the passage across the Atlantic.

THE ENGLISH MINISTRY consists of twelve members. We have already given Mr. Disraeli's biography. Lord Cairns has held the office of Lord Chancellor before, viz., during the short-lived Conservative Government of 1868. Previous to that he successively held the offices of Attorney and Solicitor-General. Lord Cairns, who was raised to the peerage in 1867, is an Ulsterman by birth, was born in 1819, educated at Trinity College, called to the Bar of the Middle Temple, and for sixteen years represented Belfast in the House of Commons. For some time he was leader of the Conservative party in the House of Lords, but indifferent health has prevented the full display of his remarkable abilities.—In this leadership he was succeeded by the Duke of Richmond, who has now become Lord President of the Council. The Duke, who is a man of excellent sense and good business qualifications, served in the last Conservative Government as President of the Board of Trade. He was born in 1818, and was educated at Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford.—The Earl of Malmesbury, now Lord Privy Seal, is quite an official veteran, having previously held that post in 1866-68, besides being twice before Foreign Secretary. He was born in 1807, and was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford.—The Earl of Derby, the new Foreign Secretary, held the same post in 1866-68. Judging from his speeches, which are remarkable for their sound common sense, he is not likely to lead his countrymen into any rash enterprises abroad. Lord Derby was born in 1826, and was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge.—The Marquis of Salisbury succeeds to the Indian Secretaryship at a very critical moment, but if intellectual power and a remarkable capacity for hard work are qualifications for such an office, Lord Salisbury is well worthy of it. It will be remembered that both Lords Salisbury and Carnarvon declined to follow Mr. Disraeli when he made his famous "leap in the dark." Their conscientious scruples were generally respected, but everybody is pleased, now that the deed is done and cannot be undone, to see them return to active political service. Lord Salisbury was born in 1830, and was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford.—The Earl of Carnarvon resumes the post of Colonial Secretary, which he held in 1866-67, during which he carried out the Canadian Confederation scheme. He was a very popular Colonial Secretary then, and may, we hope, become equally popular now. He was born in 1831, and was educated at Eton and Christ Church.—Most people expected that Mr. Gathorne Hardy would return to the Home Secretaryship, an onerous department, which he managed very creditably, but he has been appointed to the War Department, where he will doubtless feel it his duty to carry out the changes introduced by his predecessor, now Lord Cardwell. Mr. Hardy, who represents the University of Oxford in Parliament, was born in 1814, and was educated at Shrewsbury and Christ Church, Oxford.—The new Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Cross, one of the members for South-West Lancashire, is a freshman as regards office, but is much esteemed in the House of Commons as a man of good sense. He is not a very enviable post. If he confines himself to his routine duties he will be stigmatised as a King Log; if he attempts reforms he will stir up hornets' nests all round him. Mr. Cross was born in 1823, and was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge.—Mr. Hunt, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer during Mr. Disraeli's late administration, has now accepted the premiership of the Admiralty, for it seems that the Sea Lords prefer to have a landsman to rule over them. Mr. Hunt was born in 1825, and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford.—Sir Stafford Northcote is still more of an official veteran, having been private Secretary to Mr. Gladstone more than five-and-twenty years ago, and having since held several important offices. He has been Secretary of State for India, and went to Washington as one of the "Alabama" Commissioners. He has now become Chancellor of the Exchequer, an appointment that gives general satisfaction, as he is imbued with the financial principles of his early preceptor, Mr. Gladstone. Sir Stafford Northcote was born in 1818, and was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Oddities.

"Sir Roger," the claimant, looked so unconcerned upon hearing the verdict, that a bystander exclaimed; "He stands it like a gentleman."

A Yankee editor has placed over his marriage a cut representing a trap, sprung, with this motto:—"The trap down—another nunny caught!"

It is said that a small piece of borax placed in the mouth will often relieve speakers of the hoarseness from which they suffer. Speaking may have the character of bore-act without the use of borax.

A Springfield girl threatens to sue her father for breach of promise. She says that the old gentleman first gave his consent, and then withdrew it, and that her beau, having got tired of waiting, has gone after another girl.

The jocular American literary man and poet laureate Smith issues the following notice:—"Lost or strayed from the scribe a shepe all over white—one leg was black and half his body—all persons shall receive one pound to bring him. He was a she gote."

A friend who had been appointed to a judgeship in one of the colonies, was long afterwards describing to Sir George Rose the agonies he had suffered on the voyage out from sea-sickness. Sir George listened with much interest to the recital of his friend's sufferings, and then said in a tone of deep commiseration, "It's a great mercy you did not throw up your appointment."

Caution in giving an answer to a direct question was illustrated to me, says a correspondent the other day, when I asked a friend of mine, whose family were not noted for very active habits, "Was not your father's death very sudden?" Slowly drawing one hand from his pocket, and pulling down his beard, the interrogated cautiously replied, "Well, rather sudden for him."

From a scientific contemporary—"Spiral shells are only straight cones twisted round a central axis." But then plum puddings are only rhomboidal parallelograms conglomerated into prehensible globes, and the most centrifugal marble that ever waited down the ringing grooves of change—small change, of course, as marbles are twenty a penny—began its career of iniquity as the parallelepipedon of synchronous but amorphous chunk of protoplasmic clay.

Scraps.

"Every man who saves money must be made to divide with every man who saves none," is said to be the platform of the Communists.

The London *Lancet* learns that mental anxiety and confinement are doing their untoward work on Marshal Bazaine, and that he now exhibits unmistakable evidence of impaired health.

A Parisian poet gets a living by leaving a poem about the deceased at the door of the still mourning relatives. He never ascends the stairs. He has a reason for it in some houses.

When the Prince Imperial was born endowment assurances to a large amount were effected on his life, and made payable at the age of 18. Consequently, on the 16th of March, 1874, he will receive several millions of francs from the insurance companies.

The newest Parisian handkerchief has a *coût au last* centre of linen, and is about twelve inches square. In the four corners is a simple tulip embroidered in white, and the brown square is edged with the finest round point lace. The combination is very curious, but exceedingly handsome and effective.

A Troy merchant took his wife to New York the other day. The conductor, when he came along, recognised the Troy merchant as entitled to a free passage, but not knowing the lady, whispered to him:—"Is this lady a friend of yours?" "No, no," said the Troy merchant, in haste, "she is my wife."

The Boston "Red Stocking" Base-ball Club and the Philadelphia "Athletic" Club contemplate a trip to England in July or August next, and Mr. A. G. Spalding, of the former club, is now in London arranging the preliminaries. Mr. Spalding is receiving every encouragement from the prominent cricket clubs, and the scheme promises to be a great success.

In the new House of Commons the Duke of Abercorn has three sons; the Duke of Devonshire, two sons and a brother; the Duke of Buccleugh, two sons; the Duke of Rutland, two brothers; the Duke of Richmond, a son and a brother; the Dukes of Northumberland, Marlborough, and Argyll, each a son; and the Duke of Manchester, a brother. The ducal families are therefore well represented in the Lower House.

The 5th of February was appointed for the formal trying of the great bell for the cathedral of Cologne. It is now finished but it still remains at Herr Hamm's foundry in Frankenthal, where it was cast, and where its tone are to be tested by the musical commission appointed by the directors of the cathedral works, at the head of which stand Herr Weber, the chief musical director, and Dr. Hiller. Their verdict has not yet been made public.

At a recent revival in Iowa all who wanted to go to heaven were requested to rise. The entire congregation, with the exception of one boy, immediately rose to their feet. All who wanted to go to hell were requested to rise, and the boy was up in an instant. The church society had the lad arrested for disturbing the meeting, but the Court held that if the boy really wanted to go to hell he had a perfect right to, and ordered his discharge.

A NEW INVENTION.—A Mr. George A. Gustin, a Georgian, residing in Washington, D.C., has invented a typewriting machine which may prove to be a very valuable invention. The typewriter is about the size of an ordinary sewing machine, and is worked with keys similar to piano keys. It is claimed that an expert can write with it readily sixty words a minute, and that it can write fully a hundred words a minute. Any person, it is said, with only two weeks' practice, can write with it faster than with a pen. It can also "manifold," or write two to twenty copies at once, when desired.

In the late Gladstone Ministry of all the "talents," only two of the Ministers were not first-class University men; and yet the Queen's Speech was shamefully ungrammatical.

The woman of the coming time

Shall man to vote appoint her?

Well, yes or no, your bottom dime

She'll do as she's a min'ter.

We know she will or else she wont;

'Twill be the same as now;

And if she does, or if she don't,

God bless her, anyhow!

News of the Week.

CANADA.—Parliament opened on the 26th ult., the Speech from the Throne being delivered the following day. Mr. Anglin was elected Speaker of the House of Commons. Parliament will sit over Easter on account of press of business.

UNITED STATES.—Bishop Cummins is in such bad health he is obliged to abandon his work.—It is stated that the River Mississippi has overflowed its banks and spread itself fifty miles wide from Cairo to its mouth.—Mr. Dawes has been elected as the successor of the late Chas. Sumner.—The hands on strike on the Erie Railroad have agreed to accept the company's terms.—Rates of the fare for emigrants on the New York Central to all principal points have been reduced nearly 50 per cent.—An appropriation has been made in the Washington Senate for the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi River.—An Extradition Treaty, to continue for ten years, has been officially proclaimed between the United States and Ecuador.—Mr. Richardson, United States Secretary of the Treasury, favours free banking, and a gradual resumption of specie payments.—Propositions have been submitted to the United States Senate to reduce the maximum limit of notes to \$356,000,000, or \$30,000,000 less than fixed by the Bill.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The British Government have declined to release the Fenian convicts.—Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson is mentioned as likely to succeed Mr. Disraeli in the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University.—The Royal Marines and Rifle Brigade arrived at Portsmouth from the Gold Coast last week by the troop-ship "Himalaya."—The steamship "Calcutta," with the remains of Dr. Livingstone on board, arrived at Aden last week.—It has been resolved to press the subject of Home Rule upon the Imperial Parliament, notwithstanding the failure of Dr. Buti's amendment to the Address.—The London *Morning Post* intimates that Gen. Wolsley will receive the rank of Major-General, and a pension of \$7,500 per annum for two lives.—Disraeli has consented to receive the deputation of 70 Irish members of Parliament urging the release of the Fenian prisoners.

SPAIN.—The Carlists under General Seballo are reported to have routed a force of Republicans.—Further shipments to Cuba of Carlist prisoners are suspended, and the return of a number is ordered for the purpose of exchange.—A desperate engagement is reported between the Carlists and Republicans outside Bilbao. The National troops are said to have lost 470 men.—Gen. Burriel is to be made a field-marshal for his eminent services in Cuba.

FRANCE.—A Paris despatch says a deputation is to wait on the Count de Chambord to make a last effort to effect the restoration of Monarchy.

ITALY.—The Pope intimates that Archbishop Manning and nine other Archbishops will be created Cardinals at the next Consistory.—A despatch from Rome says the Calabrian Brigands have been completely exterminated.