

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

Westminster Abbey choristers are prohibited from accepting music hall engagements.

Lord Strathcona has given \$5,000 to University College Hospital, Gower street, London.

Three thousand four hundred persons committed suicide in England and Wales last year.

The Queen has received a cheque for \$50,000 as an instalment of the profits of her Christmas Gift Book.

The new battleship Lord Nelson will begin duty at Sheerness as flagship for Rear-admiral C. Briggs, commanding the Nore Division of the Home Fleet.

Mrs. Hugh Cecil Lea, wife of the M.P. for East St. Pancras, has provided 6,500 free dinners for the poor children of the district.

An important scheme is proposed to connect the towns of South Shields and North Shields by electric railway underneath the Tyne.

Fifty-nine live turtles, all full grown, were landed at Avonmouth the other day from Jamaica. This is the largest consignment ever received at the port.

The naval authorities at Portsmouth are re-fitting and redecorating the old Victory in the same manner as it appeared when Nelson was aboard.

No cases of smallpox or typhoid fever are now under treatment in any of the hospitals controlled by the Metropolitan Asylum Board in London.

This year is the centenary of the birth of Darwin and the jubilee of "The Origin of Species." The University of Cambridge proposes to hold an exhibition of portraits, editions and relics of Darwin.

A flock of fifty sheep strayed on to the railway at Upminster and were run down by a passenger train. Twelve were killed outright, and six others were so seriously injured that they had to be destroyed.

The Duke of Manchester owns some 70,000 acres of land, and is also the possessor of four country residences, two in England and two in Ireland. He succeeded to the family honors on the death of his father in 1899.

A strong effort is being made at Cambridge University to increase the strength of the infantry battalion of the Officers' Training Corps so that it may compare more favorably with the Oxford battalion.

Lack of proper apprenticeship system for training boys 14 to 20 years of age in the different trades is widely held in England to be responsible in a large degree for the "casual labor" lack of employment and poverty of thousands.

A London paper, which has been making inquiries of leading commercial men and the captains of industry, assures its readers that the experience of 1903 will not be repeated this year, that the slump is at an end, and prosperity is returning.

In making a new road at Lower Gernal, Straffordshire, workmen struck a seam of coal. Nearly all the women in the village came out to shovel up the coal, but a fall of some 20 cwt. of loose earth buried many of them, one woman being seriously injured.

INVENTORS POORLY PAID.

Admiralty Niggardly in its Rewards to Clever Workmen.

The Lords of the British Admiralty issued a circular to the officials of the various naval dockyards some time ago in which a system of payment for suggestions made by the workmen employed in all departments was introduced. This, it was hoped, would encourage the men, but the scheme is now practically defunct owing to the extraordinary parsimony of the Admiralty officials.

The workmen manifest keenness in applying their minds to mechanical appliances for saving labor and cost, but after waiting for months received a few paltry dollars as their rewards. Some of the inventions are valuable and will save the country large sums of money, but in no case has any man received more than \$25 for his ingenuity. The men complain that they have spent their spare time in patient study to receive in return grants which are ridiculous.

As an instance of the Admiralty's niggardliness one man submitted an invention which enables a diver in difficulties under water to attach another air pipe and cut the pipe which is entangled in wreckage. Until this ingenious device was submitted such a thing was thought impossible. The Admiralty officials adopted the idea and awarded the clever inventor the sum of \$15.

WATERWAYS OF NATIONS.

There is Going on Remarkable Development in Germany.

Coincidentally with the rise of Germany's sea power there is going on a remarkable development of the nation's waterways. Berlin is now ambitious to be a seaport and a project for a maritime canal from the Baltic sea is under way. The Kaiser Wilhelm canal, but a few years old, has already been found inadequate and a project has been adopted to double the width and increase the depth to forty feet at a cost of \$1,000,000 per mile. Germany's example is felt by her neighbors. Brussels, Ghent and Bruges, are engaged on similar projects.

Russia has an elaborate project in view to enlarging the waterways from the Baltic sea to the Caspian, a project not unlike that from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Throughout an extended tour of the Russian waterways, from the Baltic sea to the Volga river, J. A.

German Schoolboys play Indian



GERMAN schoolboys have discovered that one of the most thrilling games is that of "Indian." In many of the playgrounds of Berlin you will see them rigged out in wonderful "redskin" suits and arm-

enjoying them every bit as much as the American boys would. Even the boys' instructors find the play fascinating, and spend much time watching their pupils assume the characters of Indian chiefs. Bloody battles they have, doubtless with wooden sabers and toy rifles.

She wouldn't say "Please"



TIPTOEING into the library, Ruth nestled her cheek against father's. "Daddy?" she murmured. "I suppose you think that now daddy will be sure to say 'yes' to whatever you ask, little girl," remarked her father, laughingly pinching the rosy cheek.

Then, to Ruth's surprise, her father quietly removed her arms from about his neck and thrust her away from him. For an instant she looked at him, with tears in her eyes, then she turned and ran unsteadily to her own room, where she gave way to the sobs that filled her breast. It wasn't that she minded what she regarded as a refusal; but it hurt her to be treated in such a way.

for a while the thought of her father's strange manner. Her especial chum, May Richmond, was to give a party, and Ruth was asked to be a guest. "Mother," said she, "let me go to May's party? She writes for me to come." But mother said not a word. Too proud to ask the question again, Ruth again sought her room and tried to find comfort in tears. Yet it was a wretched little girl who took her place at the dinner table that evening. During the meal she asked, "Mother, give me some fruit?" Mother kept silence. Ruth could bear it no longer. "Mother!" sobbed she; "Daddy! don't you love me any more? Please speak to me!" "Certainly," replied her mother, gently. "We always answer a little girl who says 'please'." Then Ruth knew what it all meant. "Oh, I see now!" cried she. She hung her head in shame. "You wanted to punish me for not saying 'please'!" she said, through her tears. For answer her father clasped her in his arms. Kissing her, he whispered: "Yes, little girl; and I'm sure you've learned the lesson." "Yes, daddy! Yes, mother! I'm never going to forget again!" It was such a bitter lesson that Ruth never did forget it. Never again was she bothered by the little word, "please."

Ackerson, the St. Louis engineer and student of inland waterways, found a continuous stream of traffic. Great Britain has a royal commission appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the feasibility of developing an elaborate system of

waterways, larger than the total amount expended on American rivers and harbors up to date. In the River Lek, Holland, and its connecting canal to Amsterdam, the traffic amounts to over 60,000 vessels of all kinds per annum.

The Young Man—"Gracie, what is it your father sees in me to object to, darling?" The Young Woman (wiping away a tear)—"He doesn't see anything in you, Al-gernon; that is why he objects."

AWAITED DEATH IN A GRAVE.

Japanese Youth's Attempt to Bury Himself Alive.

A youth of Kobe, Japan, sought to commit suicide by burying himself alive and paid an accomplice 25 cents to spade the earth upon his coffin achieved some degree of notoriety even in Japan, where new things are happening every day. He failed of his original purpose, however.

A policeman was strolling along the bank of the Minatogawa River outside of Kobe one day last month when he happened to spy a joint of bamboo pipe sticking a few inches above a mound of fresh earth. Being a Japanese and also a policeman, his curiosity was especially keen. He looked down the bamboo pipe, but could see nothing.

Then he began to dig around the pipe. He had a considerable wrench put on his nerves when a voice came out of the end of the pipe right at his ear:

"Honorably condescend to go away and permit me to die peacefully."

But the policeman did not go. He dug some more and finally unearthed a pine box, the length of a man's body and about three feet wide.

The bamboo pipe led through an opening into the box. The policeman pried off the cover of the box, securely nailed down, and dumped the self-appointed corpse out.

Yamada Katsutaro, the man who would thus have died, told the prefect of police that he had wanted to die in a seemly fashion because he was out of work. The lack of food had suggested to him the practicability of starving himself to death, but in order to be sure that he should accomplish this purpose he had determined to bury himself in a securely nailed coffin and await the ravages of hunger. He didn't want to suffocate first, hence the bamboo pipe.

The day before the policeman discovered him, Yamada said, he procured the box and the service of a coolie. Then he dug the hole out on Egeyama and after giving the coolie his obi and fifty sen, his last bit of money, he was nailed up in his coffin, lowered into the grave and covered under six feet of soil. Yamada promised never to try burying himself alive again and the police let him go.

PEN POINTS.

We learn to do by doing—also by being done. It's easier to talk philosophy than to live up to it. It is almost as easy to give advice as it is to reject it. The meanest people give themselves away occasionally. In the garden of character, the weed of fastest growth is vanity. If a man doesn't think he's clever it's because he's good-looking. It is often hard to be honest, but not necessarily honest to be hard. Many a man has his nose to the grindstone without sharpening his wits. Envy is the habit of extracting our own misery out of the happiness of others.

PA'S NIGHTMARE--HE WAKES UP TO A SAD REALITY

