

A United States exchange gives some sound advice to ministers about the proper discharge of their duties in performing the marriage ceremony. It speaks of the slipshod way in which ministers regard this part of their work, and calls them to a stricter regard for consequences. In the case of minors a minister should not consent to marry them without the consent of parents, and extreme caution should be observed with strangers and people apparently unsuited by age to enter wed-lock. The excuse so often urged that some one would perform the ceremony is not of any use, and the clergyman who does the unwise thing will be held accountable for results to a large extent.

Everyone who feels interested in the preservation of big game, not only in our own country, but on the continent of America, will be glad to hear that the buffalo is not yet extinct, nor from what we are told, likely to be so for some time. A short time ago a civilian scout, Captain Burgess, attached to the post in the U. S. National or Yellowstone Park in Wyoming, was sent out to make a journey south of the Hayden Valley, with the object of detecting poachers and gaining information about game. The scout reports that there is an abundance of elk in that region and also several herds of bison. In one of these he counted seventy-eight animals, a second fifty, a third one hundred and ten, and a fourth fifteen. He does not hesitate to say that he saw altogether fully 300 buffaloes, and this constitutes a breeding stock living under natural conditions and yet protected from attacks from man, which is able to keep that reservation well stocked for all time. Besides, it is not likely that Mr. Burgess saw all the animals in the valley, and the number is most likely greater than he says. It is to be hoped that means will be taken to protect these herds, so that the reckless slaughter of former years may be to some extent overcome.

Tastes differ as to what is the best reading to offer young children, but we are inclined to agree with Agnes Repplier, who asserts in the *Atlantic Monthly* that children "do not need to have poetry written down to their intellectual level." There is a certain clearness of style which children appreciate, but all intelligent children despise and reject nonsense that they can see through with their eyes shut. The case of a child with intellectual proclivities, who asked a lady to lend her some books, occurs to us. The lady replied that her daughter had some children's books and would be glad to lend them to her little friend. The child replied, "O, I do not want children's books, I like grown-up people's books," to which the lady in question replied—"You would not get them if you were my child." This raised the young one's opposition; and she expressed herself as glad that the lady was not her mother. Let children choose their reading to some extent, and if they prefer Scott's novels, by all means encourage the taste. Unless a large number of the standards are read during childhood's days, it is extremely unlikely that they will ever be read. Sensational trash is what must be kept away from young readers, but they should be allowed free choice among good authors, even if they do appear too deep for youthful brains.

Unless Mr. Irving is correct (he says people only pretend) Shakespeare is nearly everybody's favorite author, and we fancy we are not far wrong when we say everybody takes an interest in things concerning him. Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's cryptogram will not have been forgotten by our readers, and the news that Mr. W. White, M. A., has completely out-Heroded the former gentleman respecting the authorship of Shakespeare's plays will be received with both amusement and amazement. The latter sentiment will be aroused by the absolute lack of foundation the venturesome critic has for his statements. For instance he says that Shakespeare had nothing whatever to do with the composition of the dramas, but that Francis Bacon (Lord Verulam) commenced the series by writing "Hamlet"; that he was afterwards the author of "Antony and Cleopatra," "Julius Cæsar," "Coriolanus," "Timon of Athens," and "Henry VIII.;" and that he was the revisor of other works which had been previously bought by Shakespeare from various play-wrights. To Robert Green are attributed "Love's Labour Lost" and the "Comedy of Errors;" "Richard III" and "Henry VI, 2 and 3," and probably "Othello," to Christopher Marlow; "Romeo and Juliet" to Samuel Daniel; "As You Like It" to Thomas Lodge, and "Macbeth" to George Chapman. This is indeed a distribution of merits, but when we come to Mr. O. W. Owen's statements about Shakespeare, et al, we open our eyes still wider. This gentleman lives in Detroit, and has been devoting himself to Shakespeare with dire results to the reputation of the Virgin Queen. Mr. Owen has discovered, after five years' diligent research, the biography of the divine William within the folio addition of 1623, but what is more astounding he has unearthed a morgantic marriage between Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester, of which union Francis Bacon was the fruit. Lady Nicholas Bacon, the Queen's devoted friend and confidante, adopted the royal infant, and it is not until centuries have passed that the scandal then perpetrated is dragged to light by a citizen of the wild and woolly and unterrified West! It would appear from this that no reputation, however sound at the time of death, is safe from the ruthless antiquary, who has developed an adeptness at turning and twisting facts until they seem to mean what he wishes equal to the most advanced cross-examining attorney of modern law courts. Poor Shakespeare! Not only did Bacon write his plays, but that usurper of his fame must turn out to be the son of the Virgin Queen! Ignatius will have to hide his diminished head after these revelations, which take the wind out of the sails of his cryptogram.

K. D. C. Restores the Stomach to Healthy Action.
K. D. C. Acts Like Magic on the Stomach.

The man in the moon can no longer be a pleasurable object of contemplation for unattended females of this globe, since M. Flammarion has discovered that this ancient and honorable gentleman has a companion of the gentler sex, whose features may be observed on the northern edge of the Mare Imbrium, a great depression on the surface of the moon, commonly supposed to be an old sea-bed now devoid of water. This fact has been mentioned twice before by astronomers, and M. Flammarion's discovery is really a re-discovery.

It is only friendly for us to give our readers a word of warning as to the newspaper prize competitions so largely advertised at the present time. They are, for the most part, simply a scheme for selling silverware, and those who secure prizes pay for all they get. Hundreds of people in this city have been trapped in this way; they do not discover until they receive the "prize" that it is a poor article which they have no use for, and that they paid the full value and more for packing and expressage. The more quickly people learn to abandon trying to get something for nothing, the better it will be for them. As for the newspapers, the best ones do not need to make use of any such fake schemes, and those who intend subscribing to a paper would find it to their best interest to use their judgment as to the quality of the reading matter offered, rather than to be led into taking a paper they do not want for the sake of the chance of a prize.

"The Chinese must go" may prove to be more easily said than enforced by the United States. Considerable trouble is anticipated when the treaty of 1880 between China and the United States expires. The Chinese, both at home and in America, sent out a circular about a year ago with a request for concerted action towards addressing a monster petition to the Emperor of China, asking that His Imperial Majesty avoid making any further treaty with the United States of such a restrictive character as the one of 1880. The petition has been presented to the Emperor and contains over 400,000 signatures. It represents that the Chinese are being persecuted in America, and that efforts are being made to induce the United States to adopt more stringent measures against them. Retaliation is asked against this, and much testimony as to the truth of the charges is proffered. As a result of this petition it is stated that a retaliation Act is under preparation, to take effect so soon as cable advices have been received in Peking that the United States has adopted extreme measures in the way of legislating for the absolute exclusion of Chinese subjects from American soil. What this measure means may be inferred from the statement that thirty days after the passage of a restrictive law in the United States there will not be a single American citizen resident in China.

For as long a time as we care to remember it has been considered the proper thing to regard plenty of cold water bathing in the morning as conducive to health, vigor and cleanliness, but now a thinly veiled scepticism is creeping in among the heroic followers of the custom. It seems clear that people who are vigorous and of strong constitutions may indulge in a liberal use of cold water with good results, but weaklings, and those possessing only mediocre constitutions are finding out by experience that such treatment is too severe. This is considered rank heresy by cold water propagandists who are, like early risers, more virtuous in their own opinion than other people. It is necessary, however, to keep the skin in perfect working order if the other organs of the body are not to be over-taxed, and to insure this, thorough cleanliness is requisite. Those who find a cold plunge too much for their vitality can with safety take a hot sponge, using soap when required, and follow this with cold water. Such treatment does not chill the skin, but produces a splendid glow, and is much better in every respect than the cold plunge. People should study themselves before taking finally to any particular form of bathing, but it should never be lost sight of that a complete wash from head to foot should be a daily task. Only the lazy and dirty will evade this duty, which has so much to do with keeping the physical being in good order.

Mr. Edison's scheme for discomfiting enemies in the warfare of the future has something diabolical about it. He says:—"Some years ago, when the wires loaded with heavy electric charges began to go underground, I predicted that there would be danger of the fireman receiving a deadly shock by the electricity running down the streams of water which might cross the wires. In each fort I would put an alternating machine of 20,000 volts capacity. One wire would be grounded. A man would govern a stream of water about 400 lbs. pressure to the square inch with which the 20,000 volt alternating current would be connected. The man would simply move this stream of water back and forth with his hand, playing on an enemy as they advanced and mowing them down with absolute precision. Every man touched by the water would complete the circuit, get the full force of the alternating current, and never know what happened to him. The men trying to take the fort by assault, though they may come by tens of thousands against a handful, would be cut to the ground beyond any hope of escape. Foreign soldiers undertaking to whip America could walk around such a fort, but they could never get through it. It would not be necessary to deal out absolute death unless the operator felt like it. He could modify the current so as simply to stun everybody, and might then walk outside his fort, pick up the stunned generals and others worth keeping for ransom or exchange. He could also make prisoners of the others if he chose to do so." It must not be forgotten that two or more could play at this game.

K. D. C. The Greatest Cure of the Age.
K. D. C. The Dyspeptic's Hope.