

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

AN order by the Sultan forbidding the wearing of turbans in places of public amusement is creating some disturbance at Constantinople.

It is a curious fact that all the great ocean steamship lines—British, French, and German—employ Scotch engineers, almost exclusively.

PRINTING was introduced into America at Mexico, in the year 1540, by the Jesuits, the first book being a religious work entitled "A Manual for Adults."

THE exportation of Arab horses from the provinces of Bagdad and Syria has been prohibited for the next seven years, with a view to preserving the breed, which has been seriously diminishing in those parts of the empire.

PRINCE OF WALES.—The following are the names of the Prince of Wales's children:—Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, born Jan. 8, 1864; Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert, born Jan. 3, 1865; Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar, born Feb. 20, 1867; Princess Victoria Alexandra Olga Marie, born July 6, 1868; Princess Maude Charlotte Marie Victoria, born Nov. 26, 1869. Besides the above a child was born more recently, but died a few days after its birth.

ABSURDITIES AT THE VIENNA EXHIBITION.—The firm providing the English refreshments is not English. The thing is well managed and so forth, but it is not so entirely British as it ought to be. For instance, the bill of fare this "day" includes "Sir Loine" of beef, "Cheese and salad," "Sherries goblers," and "Pastry-anx-fruits." The barmalids are got up in an over-done British style, some of them with exaggerated tow-like mounds of head-dress or hair, whichever you like to call it, that look as if they had been made to clean out an Armstrong gun, but do not give intelligent foreigners a real notion of the normal barmalid.

THE swallow, in Germany, is deemed a sacred bird. Like the stork, it preserves the house on which it builds its nest from fire and lightning. The Spanish peasants have a tradition that it was a swallow that tried to pluck the thorns out of the crown of Christ as He hung upon the cross; hence they have a great reverence for this bird, and will never destroy it. In France, in the Pays de Caux, the wren is a sacred bird. To kill it, or to rob its nest, is deemed an atrocity which will bring down the lightning on the culprit's dwelling. Such an act was also regarded with horror in Scotland. Robert Chambers mentions the following popular malediction upon those who rob the nest of the wren:—

"Mallions, mallions mair than ten,  
That harry the lodge of Heaven's hen!"

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE POPES.—The whole number of Popes from St. Peter to Pius IX., is 257. Of these, 82 are venerated as saints, 33 having been martyred; 104 have been Romans, and 103 natives of other parts of Italy; 15 Frenchmen; 9 Greeks; 7 Germans; 5 Asiatics; 3 Africans; 3 Spaniards; 2 Dalmatians; 1 Hebrew; 1 Thracian; 1 Dutchman; 1 Portuguese; 1 Candiot; and 1 Englishman. The name most commonly borne has been John; the 23rd and last was a Neapolitan, raised to the chair in 1410. Nine Pontiffs have reigned less than 1 month, thirty less than 1 year, and eleven more than 20 years. Only five have occupied the Pontifical chair over 23 years. These are: St. Peter, who was Supreme Pastor 25 years, 2 months, 7 days; Silvester I., 23 years, 10 months, 27 days; Hadrian I., 23 years, 10 months, 17 days; Pius VI., 24 years, 8 months, 14 days; Pius IX., who celebrated his 25th year in the Pontifical chair, June 16th, 1871.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

In the young shoots of the bamboo occurs a bitter principle to which an officer of the Bombay government calls attention, as of probable value in the medical treatment of fever.

EVERY man who works indoors at any trade or pursuit which requires a cap on the head to protect the air from dirt should wear a paper one, instead of one of cloth or other heavy material. The latter so heats the head as to injure the scalp, and in multitudes of cases causes baldness.

A LAMP for use in diving-bells has been constructed by M. J. D. Pasteur of Gennep. He has ascertained that the air which has been breathed by the diver, although of course no longer fit for respiration, still suffices to maintain combustion, and this is utilized by his lamp, which yields a light whereby small handwriting can be read without difficulty, at a considerable depth below the surface.

NEW KIND OF GUNPOWDER.—A novel description of gunpowder, possessing extraordinary projectile power, is said to have been recently adopted by the Prussian artillery. It is composed of a certain proportion of nitre and sawdust, and in this state can be kept in store without fear of explosion. To render this composition explosive, it is necessary to add a sufficient quantity of sulphuric acid to make it cohere; and when dried, it is ready for use. This composition has certainly the advantage of cheapness, combined with extreme simplicity in its manufacture, and is said to leave but little residue after being fired.

STRYCHNIA FOR BLINDNESS.—Prof. Nagel of Tubingen has published reports of cases in

which he has, by the use of strychnia, restored sight to patients suffering from decay of vision or from blindness. Strychnia, as is well known, is a deadly poison, but it has a wonderful effect in stimulating the nerves, and Professor Nagel found that in diseases of the optic nerves, whether functional or organic, its operation was alike speedy and efficacious. The quantity used is of course exceedingly small—one-fortieth of a grain—mixed with water, and this solution is not to be swallowed, but is injected under the skin of one of the arms, which seems to render the result more remarkable. This remedy has also been tried by oculists elsewhere, and with marked success.

THE scientific surveying ship *Challenger*, on her voyage from Teneriffe to St. Thomas, dredged from a depth of 3,125 fathoms, at a place about one-third of the way across from the Canary islands to the West Indies. This is deep enough to submerge the Alps and leave half a mile of water above the summit of Mont Blanc. Dredging from these great depths is not very difficult, but requires a good deal of patience, as each haul occupies twelve hours. Among the most interesting acquisitions of the cruise thus far is a perfectly transparent lobster totally blind. This curious creature, which is entirely new to science, has no eyes and no traces of any. It has been found that the bottom of the ocean, even at great depths, is not so free from rocks as it is generally said to be.

BAMBOO PAPER.—The British consul-general at Havana has recently called attention to the enormous quantities of fibrous vegetables which the island of Cuba produces. Some paper-makers have made experiments, it is said with success, on the fibre of the bamboo and on some of the creeping plants indigenous to the island. The bamboo has been devoted to the service of literature as long as the papyrus itself. More than two thousand years before the Christian era, the conquerors of China signalized the establishment of a new dynasty in the Flowery Land by a conflagration of the national records. These documents were written on plates of bamboo. How far they went back takes us almost beyond the Flood. The dynasties of Yu, Chang and Chea had inscribed their records on bamboo plates for a thousand years before their barbarous destruction under the Thsin kings. Books of this primitive nature may be seen among the curiosities in the King's Library at the British Museum. But to use the plant, not as wood, but as paper, to tear asunder the durable and jagged fibres only that they may be felted together in a finer and closer union—to supersede the toil of the chiffonnier by that of the cane-cutter—is a new application of an old material. It would be of great utility to those who are making experiments of this nature on the utilization of the vegetable fibre to make themselves acquainted with the mode and materials of manufacture now used in Japan. Paper in that wonderful island empire serves purposes unknown in literary Europe and America. It is hard as *papier maché*, or soft and delicate as cambric. It is there used for manufactures as diversified as they are numerous.

FAMILY MATTERS.

PACKING BUTTER.—It is generally packed in a dry cloth, in a hamper called a butter flat, the butter being made in 2lb. rolls, and put upright. It keeps best in a cool place.

ALMOND PUDDING.—Blanch and pound 1lb. of almonds to a smooth paste; mix with 3oz. of butter, 4 eggs, the rind and juice of a lemon, 1 pint of cream, 2 tablespoonfuls of sugar, 1 glass of sherry. Stir these ingredients well together, and put into a pie dish lined with puff paste; bake for half an hour. This is a very rich pudding.

SHRIMP CURRY.—Take a pint of fresh prawns or shrimps picked from the shells, and let the same be well sprinkled over with a sufficient quantity of curry-powder to impart a spicy flavor to them. Have some fresh boiled spinach at hand, and mix the fish with it, taking care to see that they are well worked up together. Fry in good butter for a few minutes, and they will be done. Serve them up hot.

STEWED TOMATOES.—Scald in a quart of boiling water, remove the skins, and put the tomatoes into a saucepan. Stew slowly for one hour. Strain through a colander, and return the thin portions to the saucepan. Add a tablespoonful each of grated bread-crumbs, loaf sugar, butter and minced onions, a teaspoonful of salt, and a little cayenne pepper. Stir all well together, boil up once, and serve hot or cold.

LAMB CUTLETS WITH GREEN PEAS.—Take some neatly-trimmed neck cutlets, and brush them over with well-beaten yolks of eggs, and then sprinkle with bread-crumbs seasoned with a little pepper and salt. Then fry for eight or ten minutes, according to size, over a clear fire. Place about enough green peas to be served with the cutlets in the centre of a good-sized dish, and arrange the cutlets tastefully around it.

TO PRESERVE GREEN TOMATOES.—Take green tomatoes of any size; pull off the stems; boil them in plenty of water till tender, but do not let them break. Strain the water from them. Make a syrup, allowing one pound of sugar to a pint of fruit boiled; add bruised ginger, lemon-peel (pared very thin), and lemon-juice according to taste. Boil the tomatoes till they are clear. Just before taking off the fire add a small quantity of brandy—about two tablespoonfuls to six pounds of fruit.

VEAL CAKE.—Cut some slices of cold roast veal very thin, and add a few slices of ham;

chop two sprigs of parsley fine, and cut three hard-boiled eggs into slices. Take a mould, butter it, and put the veal, ham, eggs and parsley in layers until the mould is full, seasoning each layer with pepper and salt, placing a few slices of egg at the bottom of the mould at equal distances. Fill up with good stock and bake it half an hour. When cold turn it out, and garnish with a little parsley.

MINCED MUTTON.—This is a very useful preparation of "cold mutton," and will be found excellent for a change. Cut slices off a cold roasted leg of mutton, and mince it very fine; brown some flour in butter, and moisten it with some gravy; add salt and pepper to taste, and let it simmer about ten or fifteen minutes, to take off the raw taste of the flour; add another lot of butter, and some parsley chopped fine, then add the minced meat, and let it simmer slowly, but not to boil, or the meat will be hard.

GOOSEBERRY FOOL.—Put two quarts of gooseberries into a stewpan with a quart of water; when they begin to turn yellow and swell drain the water from them, and press them with the back of a spoon through a colander. Sweeten them to your taste, and set them to cool. Put two quarts of milk over the fire, beaten up with the yolks of four eggs and a little grated nutmeg. Stir it over the fire until it begins to simmer, then take it off and stir it gradually into the cold gooseberries; let it stand until cold, and serve it. Half this quantity makes a good dishful.

GOOSEBERRY CHUTNEY.—Brown sugar, 1lb.; 1lb. salt, 1lb. powdered ginger, 1lb. mustard seed, bruised; 1lb. raisins, stoned and chopped; 2oz. onions, chopped fine; 3oz. French garlic, chopped fine; one pint unripe gooseberries, one pint vinegar. The sugar to be made into a syrup with a quarter of a pint of the vinegar; gooseberries to be cut into very small pieces and boiled in half a pint of the vinegar. When cold put into a basin and mash until quite small; pound the garlic, and add the other ingredients with the remainder of the vinegar until well mixed. Tie close for one month before using.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

THAT was an unhappy editor who wrote that "White pique costumes are now popular," and was gravely informed by the proof next morning that "white pine coffins are not popular."

A VERY wicked man in Hollidaysburg, having recently been taken ill, and believing he was about to die, told a neighbor that he felt need of preparation for the next world, and would like to see some proper person in regard to it, whereupon the feeling friend sent for a fire insurance agent.

A WIDOW in New York has been three times married. Her first husband was Robb, the second Robbins, and the third Robinson. The same door plate has served for the whole three, and the question now is, what extended name can be procured to fill out the remainder of the space on it.

"MAY it please your honor," said a lawyer, addressing one of the city judges, "I brought the prisoner from jail on a habeas corpus. 'Well,' said a fellow in an undertone, who stood in the rear of the court, 'these lawyers will say anything. I saw the man get out of a cab at the court door.'"

FROM Athol we hear of a good Methodist parson, somewhat eccentric, and an excellent singer, exclaiming to a portion of the congregation who always spoil the melody, "Brothers and sisters, I wish those of you who can't sing would wait until you get to the celestial regions before you try." The hint was a success.

GONE.—A little boy who was this afternoon crossing St. Joseph street at Chabollez Square took a fit of coughing and before he ceased expectorated a 25c. piece, which he was carrying in his mouth. The coin fell between the bars of the grating over a sewer, much to the rein's disgust. He wept as he left the scene of accident penniless.

IN a Scotch church recently after the publication of the banns of marriage by the minister, a grave elder, in a stentorian voice, forbade the banns between a certain couple. On being called upon for an explanation, "I had," he said, pointing to the intended bride, "I had intended Hannah for myself." His reason was not considered sufficient.

A WARNING.—Be careful how you go to sleep at an auction. A New York gentleman settled himself in a comfortable chair, and his senses soothed by the auctioneer's lullaby, soon dropped asleep. When his nap was over he left the place. The next day he was astounded at the receipt of a bill for several hundred dollars' worth of carpets and other things. The auctioneer had received his somnolent nods for bids.

ON THE WRONG SIDE.—Mr. Robert Kettle, a temperance missionary in Glasgow, left a few tracts with a young lady one morning. Calling at the same house a few days afterwards, he was rather disconcerted at observing the tracts doing duty as curl-papers on the head of the damsel to whom he had given them. "Weel, ma lassie," he remarked, "I see you have used the tracts I left wi' ye; but," he added, in time to turn confusion into merriment, "ye have putten them on the wrang side o' your head, my woman."

WHERE THE ADVANTAGE WAS.—"I had more

money than he had to carry on the suit," said a very mean Glasgow individual who had just won a law-suit over a poor neighbour, "and that's where I had the advantage of him. Then I had much better counsel than he, and there I had the advantage of him. And his family were ill while the suit was pending, so he couldn't attend to it, and there I had the advantage of him again. But, then, Brown is a very decent sort of a man, after all." "Yes," said his listener, "and there's where he had the advantage of you."

THE manager of a London theatre lately condescended to hear in his sanctum a young man (who had an unfortunate hesitation in his speech) read a short farce, the sole condition being that it should not occupy more time than it took to finish the weed the manager had just lit. Away they both start, the one reading, the other smoking, but as the mild Havana reaches its termination, the worse the young author splutters; they finish together. Of course the question is immediately put, "What do you think of it?" "Well," replies Mr. Manager, "not half a bad idea; father, mother, lover, daughter, all stuttering, will have a novel effect." The author, furious, exclaims: "They don't stammer; it's only my misfortune." "Oh, then the play ain't funny at all; sorry I can't accept it," replied the manager.

A PROMINENT citizen of Detroit is the father of two mischievous lads, aged about twelve and six years. The boys had embarked in some speculation or frolic, and to complete their arrangements an expenditure of about fifty cents was necessary. They made application to *pater familias*, in proper form, but were not successful in raising the requisite currency in that quarter. They set their wits to work. The fractional currency they must have, and to raise it this novel expedient was hit upon: A sack was procured and the street anxiously watched for the "rag man." I due time the accumulator of defunct apparel made his appearance. The younger hopeful was speedily disposed in the sack, the mouth tied, and this bundle of animated rags being duly weighed was disposed for the sum of sixty cents. But here one of those accidents that always will happen at the wrong time, marred the whole clever scheme of the lads. The bundle was roughly pitched into the junk dealer's wagon. In its fall it came in contact with a piece of old iron. Suddenly there was a scramble, and a squall issued from the interior of the sack. A lively panic ensued. The elder lad scampered off with his ill-gotten gain, with the rag-man in hot pursuit. The money was recovered, the lad in the sack issued forth whimpering about his bruises, the man who so nearly escaped being the victim of the sell drove off, the boys retired, no doubt meditating on the poet's proverb: "The best laid schemes of mice and men (and boys) gang aft a-glee."

OUR PUZZLER.

5. DIAMOND PUZZLE.

1. 500; 2. A part of the foot; 3. A small ship;
4. The skin of animals; 5. A mineral; 6. A harsh sound; 7. Having many sides; 8. Not plausible;
9. A gap; 10. Opposite to nature; 11. A description of the earth; 12. To change; 13. A dog; 14. A long substance; 15. Flints; 16. 250.

H. HARCOURT, JUN.

6. PUZZLE LOVE-LETTER.

Wonsmo reitak mypininand,  
2 sh omil uvtoy un ydeer;  
Becausipro misdwenwrepted—  
Lavinm ealbro knard—  
That winu'dg one X thec,  
I'dnot 4 get to write llye.  
Whinwilly eucmo m llmdyuret risure?  
'Tisalong wileu rabsint. 'Twud flm ewidpleasur,  
Cudtwonsmo rebut say urdeerfas, meboy,  
'Twud make metoapyidbby ingofjoy.

W. T. WIGLEY.

7. ENIGMATICAL REBUS.

What we'd all wish to do  
If we could get our wishes,  
E'en beasts, birds and reptiles,  
Worms, insects and fishes.

But transpose, I'm a cause,  
And if mix'd I'm no better,  
Tho' you'll send me to church  
If you drop the first letter.

Change again, I'm a priest  
That once flourish'd in Shiloh,  
And commix yet again  
And I'm false as Delilah.

Now should you feel puzzled  
In solving my riddle,  
You will find in my last,  
That I stand in the middle.

S. MOORE, Quebec.

ANSWERS.

- 95.—CHARADES.—1. Shy-lock, in "Merchant of Venice." 2. Sun-shade.
- 96.—ENIGMA.—Crown. 1. Crown of the hill. 2. A crown, bl. 3. Crown of the head. 4. Crown of the hat.
- 97.—QUARTETTE OF IRISH TOWNS.—1. Mayo, 2. Downpatrick. 3. Antrim. 4. Maryborough.
- 98.—METAGRAM.—Stone, tones, ton, not, one.