

MISCELLANEOUS.

Pampas grass is said to cover an area of 1,500,000 square miles in South America. It was first grown for market in California in 1872, and in 1890 a 28-acre ranch yielded 260,000 plumes.

The use of the word "muff," meaning a foolish, blundering person, has an easy explanation; a stupid youth was said to be a "muff" because, like the article of feminine wear called by that name, he held a woman's hand without squeezing it! The sedate old times were not without their gallantries.

The little church so long ministered to by Father Hyacinthe, on the Rue d'Arras, has, after lengthened negotiations, passed into the hands of the Jansenists and under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Jansenist archbishop of Utrecht, Monsignor Gul. The news of this change had been announced from the pulpit to the congregation of the Rue d'Arras by the reverend orator himself, to whom the release from his responsible functions seemed to give much pleasure.—New York Observer.

There is no doubt that South Africa is regarded at present as the most promising field for development in the production of the precious metals. The continued extension of mining operations in the Transvaal, and the more recent re-discovery of the ancient gold fields of Mashonaland and the Matabele country, seem to be drawing miners and mining engineers from other countries in considerable numbers, and the movement is likely to continue for some time to come.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

In view of the enormous losses that English capital has met with in Australia, it is no wonder that Englishmen are anxious to realize on American securities. Only four large Australian banks are solvent at present, and in the failure of the fourteen or more banks in that country England lost about \$130,000,000. These enormous losses, following on the heels of the Baring disaster, have undoubtedly a great deal to do with the financial straggling in this country at the present time.—Aberdeen Daily News.

There is one feature of the recent budgets of Russia in Europe that appears to be satisfactory, and to augur well for the future, and that is the increased expenditure upon and revenue from railroad construction. The revenue from state railroads, which only amounted to 2,000,000 roubles in 1879, had in 1889 risen to 33,500,000, while the expenditure had, within the same period, advanced from an almost nominal figure to about 34,000,000 of roubles annually. The total expenditure incurred by the state, as such, for railroad development in Russia had, up to the end of 1889, amounted to about 237,000,000 of silver roubles, as compared with 1,582,500,000 provided by companies, public and private.—Railroad Gazette.

The late Dr. McAll, whose zeal in preaching Christianity to the poor of France has won him a world-wide reputation, did not begin his mission among them until he was nearly fifty years old. Before that he was a Congregational clergyman in England, and first became interested in the spiritual welfare of the French people during a visit to France in 1870. He began distributing religious tracts among the communists, and soon won the confidence of the people so far that they asked him to come and hold meetings for them. He went to them, and established the first McAll Mission. This was succeeded by others, not only in Paris, but in other parts of France. He accepted no money for his services, but lived on a small income of his own. Last year his services were recognized by the French Government by the gift of the decoration of the Legion of Honour. Dr. McAll was seventy-one years old when he died.—Harper's Bazar.



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