OLD BUYS' GAMES.

of Them Are Dying Out in Eng i-"Ring Taw," About Two Cen-turies Old, Replaced.

Many of the old-fashioned boys' games are in danger of being ellowed out of existence. The development of being line and the extraordinary absorption of the modern boy—not the speak of his elders—in football and, in lesser degree, in cricket, are killing many simple old pastimes. These, hoops, harbles, buttons, and the like are not the playthings now-manys of boys of all classes, as they used to be until well past the middle of the last century. Such toys are still played with in the villages, and in the towns to a less extent, but their use has become increasingly limited to the poorer folk. This is somewhat to be regretted, for simple as are such implements, the games in which they are used call for no inconsiderable degree of skill on the part of the players. Each kind of game has always had its appointed meason, and marbles come in with the spring. In many parts of Sussex, by the way, boys and men of every age used to make a special point of playing marbles on Good Friday, but no one has yet been able to give a satisfactory reason for this particular custom.

Games with marbles have quite a memonelature of their own. Every Many of the old-fashioned boys'

to give a satisfactory reason for this particular custom.

Games with marbles have quite a meanenclature of their own: Every one remembers the moving address of Sergt. Buzfuz to the jury in the famous case of Bardell versus Pickwick, in which the learned counsel, emlarging upon the villainy of the designing Pickwick, pictured the desolation of Mrs. Bardell's once happy home: "Even the voice of the child is hushed; his infant sports are disregarded when his mother weeps; has 'alley tors' and his 'commoneys' are alike neglected; he forgets the lang familiar cry of 'knuckle down,' and at tip-cheese, or odd and even, his hand is out." It is a pathetic picture! The names of 'alley' and 'bommoney' may perhaps touch a cheed in the memories of middle-aged readers. The latter, as the manne suggests, was the designation of the commonest kind of marble, usually made of burned clay, while the 'alley' was the white, superior anticle, turned from real marble or salabaster, whence was derived the manne. Both were used in the most peppilar game with marbles.

The "commoneys" were placed in a ring and the players shot with the

The "commoneys" were placed in a many and the players shot with the many tors," or "taws," from an agreed distance, the object being to the many to many the many to the many Rance distance, the object being to knack as many as possible out of the circle. The "taw" was consequently of larger size than the others, as likely to do the more execution. If the "taw," after striking the more "commons" out of the thon. If the "taw," after striking some or more "commoneys" out of the string, wemained itself within that magic circle, it was technically "dead," and its owner was out of the game unless his "taw" was accidentally (or designedly by a partner) knocked out of the circle again. They as usually had a recognized table exchange. One "alley" was warth six or more "commoneys." The latter had different names in different places, such as "stoneys" and facent places, such as "stoneys" and "potteys"—the names usually denoting some slight difference in quality.

"stoney" was worth two

many of his healtrs with the little

Meanth boys at a game of marbles

meet unlike our modern taw." Later,

Charchill, in The Candidate, wrote:

"To whip a top, to knuckle down at taw;" and Cowper, in his "Tirocini-tim," described the return of a man to tis old school, where his heart is

The wall on which we tried our graving The very name we carved subsisting still; The bench on which we sat while deep em-Sloyed, Sloyed, and hewed, and hewed, not yet destroyed;
The little ones, unbuttoned, glowing hot,
Thing out games, and on the very spot,
As happy as we once, to kneel and draw
The chalky ring, and knuckle down at
taw."

The "taw" seems to have been enriginally the name for the marked bime from which the players shot at the marbles in the ring; then the manner marries in the ring; then the reasons was given to the game itself, sand lastly, in the shape of "alley thaw." or "alley tor," to the large manner ties which play so important a goast in the game in the hands (or, mather, on the knuckles) of a dexmather, on the knuckles) of a dexthereus shot. An expert player shoots
fais "taw" so that describing a curve
not falls directly on to the marble
animed at, driving it and possibly
subters out of the ring itself rebacarding or cannoning from it with
sufficient force to be also carried
variable the ring.
Assother game which seems almost
the have died out in the neighborlinead of London is "hole and taw"
out "three holes" or "knucks." The
bholes, three in a line, are about six
our eight feet apart, and either twice

boles, three in a line, are about six ear eight feet apart, and either twice our three times up and down is the game. Whoever completes it first is the winner, the players having powers to drive one another way 'as in screequet, which game "knucks" resembles in several respects. This these-hole game is still highly popular in the North of Ireland. Loading "corner boys" and carmen waiting flor a fare can be seen playing it any clay in Belfast. Another game with mearbles is "chuck-taw," in which one boy throws his marble or "taw" a yeard or two in front of him; the mext "chucks" his marble at the one thrown down, and if he hits it he has another turn, but if he misses, the first player picks up his marble and "chucks" it in turn at his oppon-"tehucks" it in turn at his oppon-ment's, and so the game carries the game is played with marbles as with many other things. One boy edites into his pocket and brings out-ass many marbles as he likes, and, itselding out his closed fist, palm

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to guess how many. In Cornwall they call this "ship sail," because the boy holding out his hand has to repeat the formula, "Ship sail, sail fast. How many men on board?"

repeat the formula, "Ship sail, sail fast. How many men on board?"
But Cornish folk seem to have a marble vocabulary of their own. Miss Courtney, a diligent collector of lore from the land of Lyonesse, says that the young fishermen in West Cornwall play a game called "Towns," and "Boys who hit their nails are looked on with just contempt, and and are said to 'fire Kibby.' When two are partners and one in playing and are said to 'fire Kibby.' When two are partners and one in playing accidentally hits the other's marble, he cries out. 'No custance,' meaning that he has a right to put back the marble struck; should he fail to do so, it would be out of the game. To steal marbles is to 'strakey.' "Oth-er parts of the country, no doubt, have their own technical terms.— London Globe.

Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy, who Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy, who scored a great success as a dramatist with his "If I were King," has devoted his energies so exclusively to the stage during recent years, says an English exchange, that his political career of a decade seems a long time ago, although he is still in years a comparatively young man, and in appearance an absolute youth. He had only recently emerged from his legal minority when he loined his father in the House of Commons. Although he spoke but seldom, he wrote a good deal at Westminster. He also engaged in controversy, and crossed swords with the late of the controversy. One "stoney" was worth two or three "potteys." Other names for sammon varieties were "crockeries" and "clayeys"—terms which explain the mistished shooters, were not all of same with the late Sir Charles Gavan Dufty over the delicate question as to whether the escape of John Mitchel shooters, were not all of same will be same with the late Sir Charles Gavan Dufty over the delicate question as to whether the escape of John Mitchel same was honorable or otherwise. Mitchel and Duffy, fellow-leaders of the '48 came will be same with the late Sir Charles Gavan Dufty over the delicate question as to whether the escape of John Mitchel was honorable or otherwise. Mitchel was honorable or othe furious literary assaults upon each other. Mr. McCarthy championed the integrity of Mitchel. It was as the writer of a political light comedy. "The Candidate," in which Sir Charles les Wyndham made a notable hit, that Mr. McCarthy made his debut as a dramatist.

He—There have been times in my life when I was tempted to commit suicide.

She—O, well; it is no use to grieve over the past. We can all look back and see where we have made mistakea.

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began to read the Bible, crept away fo

sen vague I ponder'd in perplexity Illi all at once from fear I found release in a pretty scarlet tanager came back from year to year, of a war-bird, but a messenger of

Alas for poor humanity! How oft we make uistakes!
How we spoil our beauty-blessings by our 'grad!
For what could be less warfike when the Spring in gladness wakes
Than the plumage of a tanager in red?

O, this blythe and happy herald! How we watch his sportive flight.

As he threads his course and the tange led sprays;
He's a clowler appetition He's a glowing apparition, he's a blush of rosy light. He's a ruddy spangle in the timber'd maze.

Let the superstitions angur by our scarlet-coated fay, Till their signs and wonders set them fill

he is a symbol of a coming golden Just a sparkle of the thousand years of -Charles Harold Barltrop, in The Globe.

A small colony of Nestorians, herdsmen from the mountains of Persia, olive-skinned, dark-eyed, nervous little people with quick, active gestures, clad in bright, variegated costumes, were recently seen in Winnipeg station. Members of the oldest Christian sect in the world these, a religion which has withstood the persecution of the Turk and the Kurd for centuries, and which is just now to flourish in the western hemsphere. For all their lives members of Persian communities, but speaking not the Persian tongue, born on Persian soil but acknowledging no loyalty to the Shah, these strange people, who, after suffering in common with the Armenians, have decided to transplant their ancient religion and customs, old almost as time, to the new and to them almost unknown land. Theirs is the language which priests claim was that used in the earliest period of human history, the language in which Adam spake to Shem and Lamech, and by Shem to Abraham and Isaac. The words "Tallitha cumi," spoken by the Saviour, have exactly the same meaning in the speech of these people to-day, and they firmly believe that they have the very language spoken by Adam, written by the angel on the wall at Belshazzar's feast, and spoken by Christ during His sojourn on earth. They, too, have land selected near the site of the Barr colony, in the Saskatchewan district. Twenty of them were sent ahead last winter to spy out the land, and these, after a hard season's work, were found to have endured the climate so well that a large emigration has begun. The men who hrought this lot on are returning to Europe and expect to have a party of four hundred ready to come next spring. The leader hopes in time to secure homes for one thousand of his people near Battleford. The Nestorians are cleanly, intensely religious and hard-working, and will make excellent settlers. A number of the younger boys in the party have already been engaged as A Canadian Colony of Nesterlans. A small colony of Nestorians tleford. The Nestorians are cleanly, intensely religious and hard-working, and will make excellent settlers. A number of the younger boys in the party have already been engaged as household servants, beginning at once to solve one of the problems of the co.n ry.

A Painting by Murillo.

J. F. Thompson of Toronto Mr. J. F. Thompson of Toronto tells the following story of his painting by Murillo, so far as he knew its history: "The painting came to this country in 1832. It was brought to America by a colonel in the British army by the name of Johnston. The painting was sent back twice to find out who painted it. Each time it was sent back with back twice to find out who painted it. Each time it was sent back with the statement that it was the work of an amateur. When Col. Johnston died, the paintings which he had were sold. This painting was sent to an artist's studio in Canada. There it remained for years. When the art taste of Canada was somewhat advanced, the painting was displayed at an art exhibition. The first day that it was exhibited the artist was ordered to remove it from the exhibition. It remained in the artist's studio until the gentlethe artist's studio until the gentle-man I bought it from saw it." Mr. Thompson refuses to give the name of the man he bought it from.

A Rembrandt in Canada

The News of St. John's, Quebec, is The News of St. John's, Quebec, is authority for the statement, of considerable interest to art lovers that the Rev. Edward Similey of Waterloo is the fortunate possessor of a genuine Rembrandt. It was painted about 1630-40, and represents Judith holding a sword in the right hand and the head of the Assyrian General Holofernes in the other. The painting came to the reverend gentieman by inheritance from his mother, whose family were possessors of it for many years. ther, whose family won it for many years.

Wes Journalistic Prize.

Sir Sandford Fleming s prize of \$250 for the best essay on "What can the Universities do for Journalism" has been won by Mr. A. H. U Colquhoun, of The Toronto News, and Mr. William Houston wins second prize. It is gratifying to see that the winner is a working journalist, whose ideas on the subject are informed by practical experience. As a graduate of McGill Mr. Colquhoun is posted both in newspaper and university work.

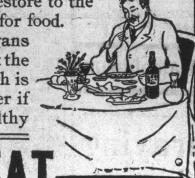
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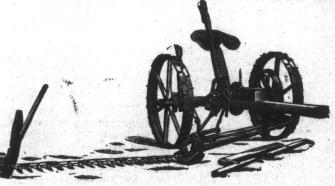
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