

At Low Tide.

Shining and even packed to north and south... At low tide, the water is shallow, and the rocks are exposed...

INTERESTING MISCELLANY.

THE VOID LEFT BY O'REILLY.

What a rare soul was John Boyle O'Reilly! It seems to me that no man, in my time at least, has been mourned in the peculiar way that John Boyle O'Reilly was.

BEAUTIFUL CATHOLIC CUSTOMS.

It is a pleasure to note that many of the traditions and customs that earned for France the distinction of being the most Catholic country of Europe are still carefully preserved.

RUSSELL SAGE ON JAY GOULD'S WEALTH.

There is not a man in America or in the world at large, who absolutely owns and controls and has registered in his own name as many stocks as Mr. Jay Gould.

AN OLD DUTY EXPLAINED.

You all know "Sing a Song of Sixpence." Have you ever read what it meant? The four and twenty black birds represent twenty-four hours.

THE FIRST EXPRESS PACKAGE.

The first express package carrier was a rather conspicuous-looking young man of the name of Harnden (his given name has escaped my memory), who in 1836 instituted the business in New York city by calling on bankers, brokers, and merchants with a cart loaded with the carrying of money and other valuable packages between that city and Boston.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

Probably ninety-nine persons in one hundred if asked to name the most precious metals would name gold first, platinum second, and silver third, the New York Journal.

us see how near the truth they would be. Gold is worth about \$240 per pound, silver about \$120, and platinum \$130 and silver about \$12.

WORTHLESSNESS OF PUBLIC OPINION.

Oh, the tyranny of public opinion! Its jurisdiction seems to be so universal, and its verdict without appeal in this world.

A LEGEND OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS.

St. Martin, as I have several times said, is famous for his miraculous powers, and is even said to have raised the dead.

ON A PECULIAR SYSTEM IN THE CRIMINAL DISTRICTS OF NEW CALEDONIA.

It is well known that the largest part of the criminal classes are unmarried people. Some philanthropists, particularly in Europe, have time and again reiterated their belief that matrimony, with the loving responsibilities that parents assume, would redeem from lives of crime many an outcast who is now regarded as wholly irreclaimable.

THE GODLESS SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

Several teachers and principals of the Brooklyn public schools united in a petition to the Board of Education, asking that the school system be reformed.

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Island, when the men who have obeyed the rules of the prison life are permitted to build huts outside of the prison walls, to choose wives from the convent school, and to devote their future life to the care of their families.

Mr. Ordinaire interviewed the Mother Superior on this matrimonial scheme and learned that she regarded it as an utter failure so far as reformatory influences are concerned.

"Our duties here are very simple," she said. "We have the care of the unfortunate women who are sent to us from France until they are married. When a male convict desires to take a wife he comes here, informs me of the fact and I call all the female convicts down into the court, where he surveys the crowd and chooses one who pleases him. Then they get with me into the parlors, where they talk over the conditions of their union, and if the woman desires to wed the man the bans are proclaimed and the marriage takes place in the church after the delay required by the law. I have assisted at forty of these marriages in a single day."

"Do these marriages turn out well?"

"Alas, they do not," said the Mother Superior. "The woman leaves church on the arms of their husbands and go to their new homes, but it is rare that they make these homes happy or in any way attractive. They are more likely to descend to lower depths of depravity than to become self-respecting women. The children of these unions are, if possible, more degraded than their parents, and in the last, impossible to teach anything useful in the public schools beyond the merest elementary studies without treading on somebody's corns. What is the history of the British Isles with no allusions to the religious facts that have impressed themselves upon the country and made the people? What can be said of Germany, with no hint of the Reformation, or of Spain with no reference to the Inquisition? Italy is too dangerous ground, and the Pope and the Vatican must be left out or glossed over as myths of other days."

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no religious belief can be taught by its authority and at the public expense.

But some will ask if the children may not receive what is called a "secular" education, leaving out of the instruction all reference to any form of religious faith or of unbelief? We answered the several years ago, and the increasing difficulties in the use of text books, with all the light that subsequent experience has thrown upon it, establish the truth of our conclusions.

Every year some new complaint is made and the work of expurgation goes on until the class books will soon be more celebrated for their negations and omissions than for their positive affirmations. It will be found, at the last, impossible to teach anything useful in the public schools beyond the merest elementary studies without treading on somebody's corns.

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Burden Bearer.

In the gay, glittering mansions of the East, Gaul and grotesque, the patient camel stands. Calm amidst tumult, ugly grand, with rough-edged form, and meek, up-lifted face.

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For He that is mighty hath done great things to me, and Holy is His name, and His mercy is from generation to generation to them that fear Him. - St. Luke, i, 49, 50.

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