## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA

 HOME JOURNAL.Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip.

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-HE BRITISH COLUMBIA HOME
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Vietoria, B. C.
-ATURDAY JANUARY 19, 1896.
ALI. THE WORLD OVER.
I must have liberty.
Withal os large a charter as the windTo blow on whom I please."

W
HATEVER' be the merits of the issues as between the Times and Coloniet on the Pust Office employee qucstion the fact remains that the Ottawia Goverument have paid, or have ordered to be paid, $\$ 40$ out of the $\$ 50$ which were in dispute. It matters little to the public whether or not the credit of securing au act of delayed justice was due to the Governor General, to Messrs. Earle and Prior, or to Senator Macdonald, so long as the object has been attained. The men asked for no favors, their demands were backed up by their leading tellow-cetizens, and it certainly has been disgusting to see how, over the subject, the two city papers have been berating one another like two old fishwives, the one in the interest of the powers that be, the other so as to secure the advantage for those who want to be.

There is such a thing as carrying out the principle of retrenchment and economy to by tar too great lengths, and in this direction the Board of School Trustees of Victoria have gone to an unwarrantable length in the report which has just been issued and which much resembles the cam. paign manifesto of the retiring trustees who were seeking reelection. The report harps upon the proposed ten per cent. reduction, the observation being made that the salaries had in the main been determined when the cost of living was high. But let it be asked if it costs ten per cent. less to bury people, have the profits on articles in the faucy line been reduced all round to the extent of ten per cent, and have the incomes of those who are classed as "gentlemen" been reduced proportionately, to what ton per cent. would mean to the bulk of the teachers whom it is proposed to deprive of one tenth of their living without in any way diminishing their labors?
A gentleman recently returned from Honolulu says that numerous settlers are arriving in the Hawaiian Islands, many of them from the Pacific Coast, particularly Puget Sound. The person referred to says the climate is mostly perfect and the soil is very fertile. By no means as much money is said to be required to put coffee on the market as sugar. There is a good demand for firstclass mechanics but no room for laborers, there being an ample supply of them. Altnough Honolulu has no cable service it has laplendid telephonic connections;
almost every house having a connection. The new railway fortytwo miles long, now being built at Oahu, will, it is said, open up a great deal of government lal.d especially suited for growing pineapples and bananas, which is offered for sale at very reasonable prices.

It is reported that the Chinese government is so jealous of the National territory that rather than yield a foot of it to the conquering Japanese it would continue the war and take the chances of the effect of climate upon the invaders in preference to making any surrender. This is a direct and distinct bid for European intervention, which, no doubt, the Japanese are quick to apprehend. Bat it should not be permitted to influence the policy of the government. It is not natural that China, following the example of Russia, should leave it to the "unseen toe" to strike down her enemy, but the cases are different. Civilization is interested in making a speedy end of this quarrel. China is worsted beyond recovery and must accept terms. Protraction of the struggle is out of the question.
There is one very important matter that was not discussed during the recent municipal campaign, and although it payy seem of secondary consideration to those men who aspired to occupy chairs around the council board, it is one of the most vital to the stranger within our gates. I refer to street numbering. On this sabject Paul C. Bushby writes:
"Compared to Europe every

American city is far behind the times in the matter of lettering the streets. Take Paris, for example. After countless experiments the city government came to the conclusion that the only satisfactory way of marking the names of streets where strangers can read as they run was not on the street lamps nor on small strips of wood or tin on house corners, but on permanent metal plates attached to the corners of houses. These plates are very large, the letters are half a foot or more in length and are waised. These letters are painted white, while the background is painted in cobalt blue, which enables one to read the name of the streets at night as well as in the daytime with little difficulty. Every sign also indicates by appropriate letters what arrondissement or ward the street is in, so that there can be no mistake about the political subdivisions of the city. When a man moves into another quarter of the city, he has only to go to the nearest street corner and look at the sign to find out in what ward he is living. Signs on lampposts are all right in their way, but the lamps are often broken, and a small sign on a house corner is 99 times out of 100 invisible to the naked eye."

No doubt there are many Conservatives who are disposed to regard the recent destruction of the building in which the Toronto Globe was published as nothing more nor less than the anger of an offended higher power, as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of old. It is pleasing to note that the Toronto Empire, the organ of the Conservative party in the Dominion, did not take this view of the matter. Scarcely had the ruin of their enemy's house been completed betore the Empire offered the Globe shelter, and the Globe people decided to accept the offer of the Empire. This is regarded by the Hamilton Spectator, and other

Canadian newspapers, as a demonstration of the fact tbat, however widely they may differ in policy, the friendship of the journalistic brotherhood is strong enough to enable the gentlemen of the Toronto press to promptly and cheertully lend a helping hand to a political enemy in distress.

Fires, like death, they say, are are often angel visitants, in that they remove much of the dross that is allowed to accumulate during the days when the prejudices created by political partisanship are given full swing.
This, however, does not deprive the Empire of the right to crack a few jokes at the expense of the Globe. For instance, the morning after the fire the great Conservative organ inquired: "Will out contemporary at the other end of the office please note that if Mayor Keunedy's advice regarding the purchase of fire engines had been taken our best office chairs would probably not now be occupied by Liberal editors. We make no complaint. Neither do the chairs. In fact ouly a profound love for truth inspires this present writing.'

## And again :

"Yesterday, owing to circum. stances over which no one has any control, an invasion of Liberal journalists took place at this office. They came, they saw, and they-sat down, or stood when the chair supply ran short. It is understood they brought a full set of Liberal principles with them, but these were not visible to the naked Conservative eye. With a skill born of long practice the aforesaid principles were put into proper shape and will, it is rumored, appear in this morning's Globe. As for the journalists themselves they appeared to be even as other men are, genial, good-tempered under misfortune, and animated by a desire to be as Oonservative in mander and as Liberal in opinion as events would permit. No weapons of any kind were drawn-on either
side. There was nothing to indicate an imminent outbreak of hostilities, but only a keen desire on each side to imagiue what the other was going to say in the morning. This will be made known in the regular way, no previous rehearsal, so to speak, having been permitted. Even the occasional courtesy of "an advance proof" was mutually omitted, so that the enterprising correspondent who sometimes informs a marvelling public that "the (flobe will say so and so to-morrow" has the entire field to himself. The desire to remark that the "lion and the lamb shall lie down together" was strong, but is believed to have been un. selfishly resisted, both from motives of personal consideration, and also with a view to possible future operations to which the quotation would not be applicable. In brief, the invasion was of a peaceful character unmarked by resistance, unsustained by bloodshed. Up to an early hour this morning all was serene, and no outbreak anticipated, even when we express our undiminished confldence that Mr. Kennedy will win."
Once more:
"The Happy Family is uow on exhibition at the Empire office on Adelaide street every lawtul evening."
Does not the above go to prove that although the Liberals may differ with us in political matters, "we are, after all, the same people."
"Fair Play," a correspondent of the Times, draws attention to a most heartless act of inhumanity. Ireland has generally been supposed to be the home of the cruel landlord, but if "Fair Play" writes what is true we need not go so far as the land of the shamrock to bestow our sympathy. In short, the story of "Fair Play" is as follows:
"Two women, sisters, were making a living by sowng or
ng out. Times being hard p hill work. They made an ement with the lindlord's $t$ to pay the rent of the house end ot a certain time, when the girls received money from a fraser river farm. The floods came and tenants could not pay the amount the girls depended The day the house rent was due the ageut sent the balliff without notice to take possession house and all in it; one sister lying in bed sick wasordered to get up as they wanted the bed. However, she got permi ssion to stay until next day and were then forced on the street withort money or clothes, in. a helpless starving condition. The sewing machine to the smallest article that would assist them to make a living was suld."
I have vo means of knowing the names of the persons referred to above, but I believe "Fair Play" would be only doing what was right to expose the landord, so that honest men and women would be able to, shun him on the street.

It might seem that the maternal duties of actresses were the least successfully performed. It appears no the contrary that on the whole actresses are rather distinguished as mothers. Their children are not only tenderly cared for, but they arrive at positions of distinction and responsibility. The most prominent example seems only,to balt bear this assertion out. Sarah Bernhardt has been a devoted mother, but ber son has not proved a valuable member of the commu. nity. The son of Madame Favart is a captain in the artillery service of France. One of the sons of Rachel was a naval officer and died in the service of his country. Another son is now in the diplomatic service. The son of Mme. Marie Laurent is a member of the municipal government of Paris. The private secretary of Bismarck was a son of the famous Taglioni. $0_{\text {ne }}$ of the sons of Celine Monta-
land is a successful man on the Bourse, the other is at school at St. Oyr. The actresses of the Comedie Francaise vie with each other in the devotion to their parts as mothers. Bartet has a son in the naval school after taking a high rank as collegian: Samary, Baretta and Reichemberg compare their babies and relate infantile anecdotes between the acts just as do mothers who have never been behind the footlights. Croizette, who is now Mrs. Jacque Stern, left the stage to devote herself more entirely to a small Michael. Mrs. Kendal has acquired as much reputation as the British matron as the actress. When Ellen Terry was in this country a few years ago she had with her her danghter, now known under the stage name of Ailsa Craig. When she made her first appearance on any stage, in some private theatricals for the benefit of the Workingman's School, that night those who saw Ellen Terry saw the auxious mother, not the actress.

The New York World asked its femivine Sunday readers "what shortcoming in man is most dis. tasteful to a woman, and why?" Tuis is a question which no doubt goes to the root of the relations of married life. The paper has received 837 answers, which is a fairly representative number, although few women we imagine would have written an answer had they not some special grievance of their own, and they probably put their own grievance at the head.
Out o1 those hundreds of women but two objected to a man's being "wicked." Only fourteen had any marked objection to "unfaithfulness" or "inconstancy," while twents-four consider a lack of good manners as the most unendurable defect in a man. One woman considers "shyness" the unpardonable sin; another can apparently stand all known vices, but cannot endure an unknown one
she calls "ineffectualness," One woman seriously dislikes a want of humor in a man, which is rather surprising.
Altogether the World has unearthed about fifty shortcomings in the unhappy sex, each one of which is the worst possible in the eyes of one or more fair ones.
This table will give a clear idea. of what the women regarded the leading shortcomings:

Self-couceit. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 247
Effirainancy . . . . . . . . . . . ................ 142
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Insincerity..... ........................... . 24
Intemperance. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 23
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Habitual use of bad language . ........ 19
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The result of the municipal elections has clearly demonstrated the confidence which the electors of Victoria have in Mayor 'Teague. To any one but the most enthusiastic supporters of Alderman Wilson it did not seem as it the contest were necessary; in fact the result of the polling was the strongest evidence that the Mayor was entitled to a second term. There was much to be said in favor of the other two candidates, but the time in which to say it was too short.
Of those elected to seats at the Conncil Board, it can trathfully be said that there are many worthy of the confidence reposed in them. The election of a man of the integrity and honesty of John McMillan cannot be regarded as anything less than a wise dispensation of Providence, and the other two men in the North Ward give promise of working in the best interests of the city. There have been several changes in the other Wards, in some instances for the better and in some for the worse ; but on the whole, I believe the new Council will prove vastly superior to the lasts There is much to be done before Victoria attains the pre-eminence. which by virtuc of her geo-
graphical position she should occupy, and the Mayor and the new Council will be fulfilling the anticipations of the people if they proceed with the good work at once.

The report of Dr. Geo. H. Duncan; city, health officer, is the first matter which should receive consideration from the new Canncil. The doctor deals wita a variety of subjects ; but perhaps the one which interests the citizens most is the lack of proper quarantine regulations on the western coast. On this point The Homb Journal has expressed itself most emphatically in the past, and it now takes this opportuniiy of fully endorsing the Health Officer in his report to the city Council. The Dominion Government should know-and if it does not it ahould avail itself of the earliest opportunity of obtuining expert testi-mony-that our quarantine requirements on this coast are altogether inadequate. Here w9 are constantly menaced with an alien immigration, coming from a port in which smallpox, typhoid fever and kindred pestilences are ever epidemic, and the past has shown that our quaranfine is not sufficient to prevent their introduction. Cholera always exists in Hong Kong,-the port from which the Pacific liners startwhile it is said that 9 out of every 10 visitors to Shanghai become victims to typhoid. Does anything further need to be said as to the necessity of disinfecting the baggage of incoming Celestials. This advice does not come from an alarmist, but from a gentleman who has recently visited the Orient and knows whereof he speaks. The new Council should take steps to have the Dominion Goverument informed as to the existing condition of affairs. In connection with Dr. Duncan's report, it will no doubt interest many to learn that the doctor has procured a
supply of anti-toxine, the great remedy for diphtheria. Antitoxine is one of the greatest discoveries of the age, inasmuch as diphtheria bas always been regarded as the most dangerous disease with which the medical protession has had to contend. In fact medical men recoguized in the disease an enemy ot not only their patients, but of themselves as well.
The subject or tuberculosis is dealt with at length and certain recommendations as to the precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the disease are made.
From the above it will be observed that Dr. Duncan has guarded well the interests of the city in so tar as is concerned the conduct of his department. He is making the health oftice not ouly a safeguard to the health of the citizens, but also a place in which useful knowledge can be obtained.
I regret that space prevents the publication of the report in tull, and I would recommend a perusal of it, not only by the new Council but by every citizen as well.

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## PERSONAL GOSSIP.

The K. of P. gave a dance Werlnesday evening in the Pythi:n Castle, Broad Street.: Richardsulis orchestra werein attendance.

The regular aance of the lolanthe club was held Friday evening, beuause of the opera being on Mounday, the regular meeting night.

A pleasant private dancing party was given last'Friday evens ing at the residence of Mr. M. J. Appleby, Cook Street. Mr. Richardson supplied the music.

A grand masquerade ball is on the tapis for February 14, St. V'alentines Day, in the A. O. U. II. hall, under the auspices of the Sons and Daughters of Englanc. Richardsons's orchestra will supply the music.

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 a) A YEAR

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STORY OF THREE TUNNELS

MY brain was on fire. I felt choking as I walked away from the office. Dismissed as a thief! I, the son of a man whose very name was still held saered for his honor and integrity ; ob, it was too much.
For three years I had been in an office in Edinburgh, and prided myself I was getting on fairly well. I did my work honestly and faithfully, and all seemed going smoothly when Mr. Heron, my employer, took a strange and unaccountable dislike to me. I tried to persuade myself I was mistaken, but the pleasanter I tried to be the more distant he became.

Things went on like this for about three months, till one day I was called into my principal's sanctum and dismissed. Of course, I demanded an immediate explanation. Mr. Heron sueered, and my blood began to boil, I felt as if I could havo killed him as he said-
"No heroics, if you pleaso, Blair, but thank your stars I am not to prosecute ; for you widowed mother's anke I refrain, but not another day do you stay hore."
"Mr. Heron," I began, as calmly as my indignation would permit me. "I demand to know what you dismiss me tor?"
"For theft," he answered curtly. "For months it has been going on. Everything pointed to you as the culprit, but I was loth to believe that the son of William Blair could have fallen so low, but this day has proved it."
"In what way?" I enquired, sarcastically.
Mr. Heron's face fushed angrily-more at my tone than my words, I think.
"You have overreached yourself this time," he said. "The cheque you so cleverly forged my name to was suspected. As a rule one uses his cheques straightforward, and it would have answered your purpose better had you not clumsily supposed it
would avert suspicion, and used the last in the book."
In vain I protested-threatened -demanded a clear explanation. Mr. Heron simply ignored my request, and sternly pointed to the door.
"Go," he said, "and never darken my door again. Once your father befriended me , and for the memory of that I let you go free."
Mr: Heron's stern face is the last thing I distinctly remember. I have a hazy recollection of put. ting on my coat and hat, walking through the outer office amongse the clerks, who eyed me curiously, and of walking the whole length of Princess street. I could not realize what had happened; it came upon me with such a shock that I felt dazed and stupid.
Suadenly I thought ot Mardoch Murdoch was a tawyer in Glasgow. We had been tast friends since the day we both entered the same office-raw, country lads we were, too. From the very first we drew together. We shared the same rooms for three years, then Murdoch left for Glaggow, and I remained with Mr, IIeron. I resolved at once to go to Murdoch, tell him the whole story, and get his advice.
I could not go home; my mother would have broken her heart to know her only son was suspected of being a thief. I turned my steps to the Waverley Station and took train for Glasgow, via Polmout. By this time my head was aching, and I was thankful to lean back on the cushons and shat my eyes. My tellow-passengers were an old lady, with a curious black bonnet -somethin, like the ones worn by the Sisters of Mercy ; an old, foreign-looking gentleman; a young mother with two little children; and a plain-looking, quietly-dressed girl, who was seated in the corner opposite me. My head was throbbing fright. fully, and I lay back intending to sleep if poseible.
But just as we emerged from
the first tunuel I was roused from my lethargy by a curious change that had taken place. I could have sworn that when I entered the train at Edinburgh the carriage contained but two child-ren-now there were three. I puzzled over the third child till my brain ached. I rubbed my eyes, shut them, looked again, but no, there sut the third child grinning at $m e$ in an idiotic ty
Enddenly the old lady with the Jack hood dived underneath her cloak and stealthils produced a long dagger. I started violently, and was about to say something, when, to my horror, we entered the second tunnel. I beard a muffled groan, then a dull thud, and when once more we emorged into daylight the old gentleman was gone.
The old fiend in the black hood looked at me sardonically and smiled. An icy, finger seemed laid on my heart-I could not speak-I could not move. I looked wildly at the other passongers, and they seemed paralyzed with horror.
At the next station the young mother and her child.en hurried out ; but the young girl opposite me seemed glued to her soat, and gazed at me with terror in her face. I was about to open the door and go into another compartment when the train moved off, and we were alone once more with the maniac.
We were fast approachng the last tunnel, when the old woman looked furtivoly at me, pointed to her dagger, then to the defenceless girl in the corner. But I could not see her butchered in that cold-blooded way, and I stood up to wreat the dagger from the man wotman. But just as I got to my feet wo entered the third tunnel. I rushed to the window to feel for the cord to alarm the guard; but I was dragged back and thrown violently to the floor, and I remembered no more.

[^0]in a strange room. It was and everything had a ike look, but gradually my became accustomed to the larkness, and I saw a girl seated in an arm-chair, gazing in', the fire. I had seen her heture, but where I could not remember.
" Where am I ?" I asked her, 4. he glanced across to the bed. A. I spoke she started violently, and came across to the bedside.
"You ale with friends," she siil, "but you must not speak, you will kuow all about it, when you are a little better."
"Have I been ill ?" I enquired,
"Yes," she replied ; "very ill, but you are now out of danger." Just then the door opened, and the doctor entered.
"Well, young man," he said, grimly, "so we are to pull you through after all,"
"Doctor," I began eagerly, "tell me how all this happened. Where am I? Who brought me here?"'
"Just you let all these questions rent for the present," replied the loctor. "Try and sleep, and rest with the assurance that all is well ...t 0 -morrow, if you are strong "nongh, you shall be enlightened!"
I was too weak to protest. A feeling of rest and peace gradually stole over me, and I fell asleep.

Next morning I felt very much stronger, and gradually memory returned. I remembered perfectly my eruel dismissal, my leaving for Glasgow, the bloodcurdling episodes of the journey, thell a blank till my awakening in my present position-what was ill between was a mystery to me, and by the time the doctor arinved J was in a perfect fever of impatience. At last be entered the room, and I began at once.
"Doctor," I said, "now you must tell nie what has happened I shall never get well till I know the meaning of this." For answer the doctor seated
himself by the bedside and took my hand.
"Young man" he began, "didn't I tell you not to trouble yourself about anything ?"
"Yes, doctor," I answered, "bat I can't help troubling myself, If you only knew-"
"I know all about it," inter rupted he, "and just you lie quiet till I tell you. You left Mr. Heron's office on the 21st of June, exactly seven weeks ago, and took the train for Glasgow, fainted in the carriage, and here you are."
"And what about the old man who was murdered ?" I enquired. The doctor stared.
"What old man ?" he asked, in surprise.
Then I related the experiences of that awful journey to him. The doctor listened patiently till I bad finished, then said-
"My dear fellow you have had a very severe attack of brain fever -it must have been begun even then. There was certainly po murder. Miss Arveston, who was on the trais, prevented you from throwing yourself from the window and took you to her home in a cab.
"They knew nothing about you for over a week, then I noticed a paragraph in the papers about the mysterious disappearance of a young man. As the description given answered exactly to you, I communicated with a Mr. Heron, who was advertising in all the papers for you, and also with a Mr. Murdoch, who has been here every day. Now, Mr. Heron can explain the rest himself."
"Mr. Herou," I repeated, in amazement, as the doctor rose.
"I promised to telegraph whenever you were well enough to see him. I did so this morning, and he arrived an hour ago, accompanied by your mother, who has also been ill,"
The doctor left the room, and in a few minutes returned with Mr . Heron and my mother.

Mother burst into tears and Mr. Heron seemed deeply moved.
"Sohn Blair," he said, huskily, "I have come to beg your forgiveness. I shall explain shortly how it all happened ; meantime it is euough to know that all is cleared up, and I shall try to atone to you for what you have suffered."
I was about to speak, when the doctor coolly ordered me to hold my tongue and try and go to sleep.
I mended rapidly after this. Mother and Miss Arneston nursed me, and in another week I was sitting at the fireside,
One afternoon Mr. Heron ap. peared. Mother rose and left the room-evidently knowing he had come for a talk.

Mr. Ueron had a paintul story to tell me. For a long time his only son had beed living a very fast life. Again and ug.in Mr. Heron paid his debts, but at length he refused him everything save his allowance, which was a handsome one. By dint of careful planning, Johu Heron had got access to bis father's rnom, and by means of a false key had opened bis desk, and, of course, in a very short time everything was in confusion. But his last act was the most atrocinus. Not only had he forged his father's name, but by oleverly laid plans he fixed the blame on me, By means of leav. ing scraps of paper purposely torn up in my room, a blotting-pad with his father's name many times there, and many other trivial waiys, suspicion could hardly tail to rest on me.
But John Heron's life had had a sad ending. Only the day after my dismissal he had been out driving with a party of young fellows as wild and reckless as himself. The horse bolted-one young man was killed on the spot.
John lived long en ungh to tell his father of his cowardly crime, and obtain his forgiveness.

Mr. Heron finished his tale with boved head and husky voice, and my heart ached for the old man.
In a few weeks I was back in the oftice, but somehow business seemed to take me pretty often to Glasgow. Margaret Arneston's plain face was the one face in the world to me. By and by Mr. Heron saw how natters stood, and soon I had a snug little home to ofter Margaret.

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MUNIC AND THE DRAMA.

THE engagement of the Calhoun Opera Company for next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, promises to be more successful than their phenomenal one of a year ago, at which time they broke the record of the Victoria Theatre. The company is said to have been augmented in regard to principals and complete sets of scenery, and new and gorgeous costumes obtained for each opera ; and the criticisms of papers
we have bcen receiving from along the line of their route would seem to show that they are giving more complete performances than ever before, and are consequently playing to exceptionally g ood business.

The engagement will open on Monday evening with Czibulka's charming opera comique "Amo rita," with new costumes and decorations, which announcement will doubtless arouse a thrill of pleasant memories in the breasts of lovers of the better class of opera. "Amorita" is one of those operas of which one never tires. Thousands have laughed at the comedy part and ween thrilled with its charming music. It fulfills the conditions of a successful opera, because there is a blending of humor and pathos, possessing also several scenes of strong dramatic interest, with a continued run of catchy music. It is filled with charming airs that are carried home to be remembered and oft repeated. Tuesday evening a magnificently staged and costumed production of "Black Hussar." Wednesday, matinee, a repetition of "Amorita" and Wednesday evening Richard Stahl's popular comic opera, "Said Pasha" will complete the engagement. $A s$ an added attraction, there will be presented each evening, between acts two and three of the operas, a complete series of "Worth's Living Pictures," which will prove most attractive feature. They are said to be best appreciated by the more cultured, as
they are really works of art, being
exact representations from the living models of the more celebrated of the world's famous paint. ings, and to any one who sees the beautitul in painting they will prove to be a source of delight and admiration.

Following the Calhoun Opera Company comes Nellie McHenry, in "A Night at the Circus," February 1 and 2. 'Tom Ricketts' "Troubadours," February 7 and 8, and Emily Blancher, in "Our Flat," February 19 and 20.

The concerts given by the choir of the First Presbyterian church are always popular, but the annual Burns concert is certainly the most popular. For seven years Mr. Brown, their popular leader, has given his countrymen, their wives and sweethearts a chance to hear the auld Scotch songs so dear to them all ; nothing touches the heart of a Scot like the songs his mother sang. Next Wednesday evening this choir will give their annal Burns concert in the Schoolroom of the church, Blanchard street. The hall is capable of seating 600 people, and on former occasions standing room was all the accomodation that could be had; this year grave doubts are expressed as to the hall being large enough to hold the crowd that is sure to be there, judging from the demand for tickets. The programme will consist of part songs by the choir, which have proved so uttractive in past events. Songs by Mrs. McCandless, Mrs. Watson, Miss Wilson, Míss Russel ; violin selection, Miss Brown; humorous reading, Mr. Allan; songs, Mr. Watson, Mr. Brown ; duett, Misses Milne and Baker; trio, Messrs. Watson, Kinnaird, Brown. Tickets to be had from members of the choir, W. D. Kinnaird, Johnson Street, J. Russel, baker. Douglas Street, Cochrane \& Munv, druggist, corner of Yates Street. Concert begins promptly at 8 o'clock. In accordance with our announcement to criticise all musical events on their merits a competent musical critic wili be present and report in our next issue.

## A) ULD TIME RANGING.

how trey strung Them up malf A CENTURY AGO.

An Frucution Then Was a sort of Pubile Picnic All the Countryalde Gathered to Willi.ss It-Digkraeoful seenes Around the ceatrold. $^{\text {and }}$
Finutions half a century ago were not restrin as they are now, to the prison yart in the presence of a limited number if u 1 nurneses, but were celebrated conspicuan open field, before a large and ,.ftwil rillicking and tumultuous crowd of
Sucli a body I remember to have seen gathered in such an amphitheatre more than - Nic years ago to witness the hangHL if a murderer. The man was a farm han in and well known. When under the intllume of strong drink he was sullen, curtule ent and dangarous; but when'sober fin was ... proverbially quict and inoffenive that he was the easy-going butt of his cwiciates. While at work one day in harryst time, mowing a meadow near town, he drank freely and became tipsy; whereupon the of his comrades indulged in longcmutinued and rough horse-play et his expenne. till in an excess of passion inflamed by rum he turned upor. his formentor and Jlew him on the spot.
of course he was immediately arrested, and never shall 1 forget the wave of horrur that swept over the little town when the n.w.wof the murder was yruited and the sittim was carried to the home of his parentwona barn door.' During the trial of H|, homicide the court-house was eriwiled to overflowing with people, who fiwhinl in from the country for miles armund to listen to the gruesome details of the Nay ing and to gaze upon the murderer an hue was escorted to and fro by the contr.|l), between the jail and the court-
For several days immediately preceding the thanking (that was before the day of railruadx, it should be recenlled) multitudes from the country for twenty and more milte- around flocked into town to see the siecution, and some of them "to turn an homest penay."
Un the fatal Friday the "Big Field" sur rounding the gallows was fringed with hwintha and tents for the sale of cakes, pies, wall beer and other refreshments, interNpereed at frequent intervals with farm(Tx wakgons laden with watermelons, munkmelons, apples, peaches and other fruit, the enterprising vendors of which druxe a lrisk trade under the very shadow if thu fatal tree. It was estimated that on that trakic summer day over twenty-five thousand people, a large proportion of whoth were women and children, were clustered around the gallows to witness the -lyink throes of the wretched man. And thoughtless boy though I was, I was shorked by the horrible indifference to the dread event for that poor sonl which was manifested, and by the still more horrible jesting, profanity and drunken combats that were indulged in. It was a saturnalia if irntishness and indifference never to be lorgotten.

A Bit of the Aqtocrat's Wit
Everyone probably has heard the atory that when James T. Fields invented the naurnc ip Manchester-by-the-Sea and wrote $a$ note dated from there to Dr. Holmes, the poet replied in a note dated "Beverly-by-the-1) pot." It is said that Whittier, egged on by the irrepressible Autocrat, also wrote one dated "Danvers-among-theHolly hocks."-Boston Transeript.

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## OF THE LAST PIRATE.

## a visit to the romantic island

OF ST. THOMAS.

Two Buccaneer Stroggholds-A Danish
Possession in Which There Are No Danes
-Every Other Language But That of the

## Owners Spoken.

Of St. Thomas, in the Danish West Indies, Fannie B. Ward writes:
The shops and stores are particularly uninteresting. filled with straw hats, ready-made clothing and tawdry trifles, but the strcet itself-or rather the human life of it-is altways diverting. Everybody is continually making no end of noise and chatter; bui nobody seems to he in any hurry aiout it, not even the shopkeepers in their money-getting, who al ways charge a foreiguer at least double the price they ask native buyers for the same articie. A sudden screaming and wild vociferation at your elbow makes you think that at least a murder is being committed; but it is only a bevy of sable-coloral ladies having a friendly "talk," or wishing each otler good morning. Groups of men converse with such vehemence and gesicalate so madly that you momentarily expect to see aknife plunged into somebody's bosom; but presentiy the grinning disputants-annter along, to renew the fracas with the next acquaintance they meat. Evidently this is not the place where "men must work and women must weep." Thnse noisy companies of jet black females, tall and sturly as the Amazons wonld be had those fabled creatures existed, are the coalers returning from several hours' hard labor in the harbor. Ench wears a very short petticoat and a twist of hemp around the head, her wooly hair plaited in horns, or crowned with a half cocoanut shell by way of a bonnet, and $: 11$ are shouting and singing like frantic Monads. There goes a tall and stately Haitian woman, a veritable Juno in ebony, dressed in flowing white, topped by a gaudy turban beside which Joseph's coat would be no cotnparison in the line of many colors, and on top of the turban is poised a tray of cakes. Those children, playing on a doorstep, dressed precisely in the suit they were born in, are evidently natives. Here comes a white horse (no use to look around here for red-headed girls), with a scarlet saddle-cloth and other brilliant comparisonings, closely followed by a sheep with a bell on its neck. Is there a circus coming? Oh, no! The patriarehal rider, with mutton-chop whiskers and closely eropped head under a broad panama hat, is only plain Mr. Somebody formerly of Copenhagen, and it is the fash ion here, as in many parts of the West Indies, or sheep to accompany horses. They say it is healthy for both animals to live in the same stable. They often become so attached to one another that, out of doors, the sheep will not leave the horses as long as they can keep up with them.
Of Danish rule the casual visitor can, of course, say little. He sees clean, wellordered streets, and evidence of continual improvements, sanitary and otherwise; but he cannot help thinking that the great open sewer, crossed by a bridge on the main street down which in the rainy season come avalanches of dead cats, tin cans and other despised articles, might lie made less conspicuous and answer its purpose equally as well. He also sees that relic of darker ages, the chain-
gang on some of the public works, and the pitiful sight of women working with the male convicts; but the unfortunate female themselves seem to care less ahout it than the spectators, and shoulder their spades and pick-axes with a jaunty air, singing to chain accompaniments. Coxey's army would fare badly here, for the police, acting under orders, have the inconvenient habit of picking up harmless idlers and exiling them to the little island of San Jan, there to tend sheep and cattle. We met a mother, who was weeping and wailing and like Rachel, refusing to be comforted, because her son, aged 14, had been sent to San Jan the day before, inerely for preambulating the streets with nothing on but a "cuttie sark" of less than the regulation length! The "President," who gets his title from pre siding over the Senate, here combines th three functions of Judge, Prosecutor and Judge of Appeals; and-as in some parts of our own far West, where to steal a horse is held a greater crime than to kill a man -theft is punished with much greater severity than murder. "To assist the Governor-General in his arduous duties of governing the colony"-so the statute book says-there is a Colonial Council, partly appointed by the King of Denmark and partly elected by the inhabitants; so that affairs run smoothly enough. barring occasional trouble over the entrance of some quarantined steamer, or the killing of an animal without permission of the Council. The old fort still quarters a garrison, mostly negro troops with Danish officers. I met one of the captains, a finelooking, blue eyed German, who gallantly declared:

Of course, we must visit both the grim old castles that frown down from their lofty perches upon the peaceful town and harbor. They belonged to noted buccaneers of the seventeenth century, when the pert of Charlotte Amelia was celebrated as a pirate stronghold, where the searovers came to sell their prizes and re plenish their stores. It is a legend of the island that an Englishman named Fogarty (probably from Cork or Dublin, fur all those people are "Englishmen" away from home) purchased the castle of Blnebeard about 70 years ago; and found beneath it, after much persistent digging, enough treasure to make him wealthy for a lifetime. The story goes on to say that be had a charming daughter-"Pretty Kathleen Fogarty," she is called-who had blick hair and eyes of Irish "true blue." After spending her childhood in this castle and becoming the belle of the town, she ran away with a penniless clerk of the English Consul, and thereby nearly broke her ambitious father's heart. She came back years afterwards, no longer "pretty Miss Fogarty," but gray-haired, sad and deserted by her scamp of a lover, to be forgiven by paterfamilias and end her days in peaceful retirement. So in this case, at least, the pirate's ill-gotten gains did not seem able to purchase happiness.

The original owner of the other estate now spoken of as Blackbeard, and used as a bugaboo to frighten refractory children, is said to have deposited his plunder in a cave in the rocks of the hill which the sailors call "Mizzen Top." You may easily find this cave, but it is a question whether the famous pirate ever saw it or not. At any rate, the divining rods with which the old negroes hereabouts search for treasure have failed, so far, to reveal anything. But the same cannot be said of all the freebooter's hidings, for many an iron chest, filled with Spanish gold of the seventeenth century, has been discovered, buried in caverns or near ancient landmarks.

## INTERESTING BITS.

The fuchsia was named for Fuchs, a distinguished German savant.
Plants could not grow if the red and orange rays were eliminated from the spectrum.

The Russian peasant never touches food or drink without making the sign of the cross.
The Moravians claim to have had an independent church in Bohemis as early as the niuth century.
A man versed in language heard ten different tongues spoken while he walked across the Brooklyn bridge the other day

New South Wales owns two thousand one hundred and eighty-two miles of rail way, and New Zealand in 1892 owned six hundred and seventy-two miles.
If applied immediately after attack aqua ammonia, it is claimed, is a specific for bee stings. It should be applied thoroughly, and will reduce or prevent swelling.
The windmill, which is so conspicuous in Dutch and Belgian scenery, is likely to be seen in India. It is proposed to drain the unhealthy flats around Bombay by means of windmill pumps on the system of the lef countries.

## A Little Story of Editor Dana.

Mr. Dana was managing editor and I a correspondent of a metropolitan journal. Abraham Lincoln had signed a proclamation, the first call for troops during the civil war. I think it was in April, 1861. Then I was in Washington at the time, and, being impressed in my little journalistic heart with the importance of the occasion, I ventured, as an introduction to the literal proclamation phrase, upon a quotation from a favorite hymn in our family circle, worded thus:
"We are living, we are dwelling, in a
grand and awful time
In an age on ages telling, to be living is sublime.
"What. then, must it be to be a factor in the affairs of nations, such as Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States, who to-night has affixed his signature to the proclamation?" And then followed the Lincolnian document. Two daysafterward I received from Brother Dana by mail, not by wire, a cautionary suggestion to the following effect
"Dear Mr. Howard-After this, if, in your dispatches you really must drop into poetry, telegraphy being four cents a word, won't you kindly wire us the number of the hymn, as we have the book in the office?'-Joe Howard's Reminiscences.

## He Got It.

A prisoner before the police judge secured the services of a young sprig of an attorney who not only was a very consequ ential young man, but he thought he knew about ten times as much as the judge knew he knew. When the case was called the attorney arose.

May it please your honor," he said, with great formality, "my client wants more time-",
"Very well, very well," interrupted the judge in the kindliest way, "I'll be glad to accommodate him. He was arrested for abusing his wife, wasn't he?"
"That's the charge of the arresting officer, your honor."
"Very good," said his honor. "I had intended giving him only three months, but since he wants more I'll make it six. I always strive to please. Call the next case, Mr, Clerk"

## A DICKENS CHARACTER.

nong our neighbors over the houndary where crime is of course more ram$t$ than in peaceful, law-abiding Canada, e queer criminals flourish. The "ArtDodger" of Dickens's "Oliver Twist," an exact counterpart in New York. in organized gang of juvenile pickpockets d sueak thieves, as carefully trained and thoroughly organized as any commandby the great Fagin of fiction, have been gently operating in ard around town the pa: $t$ six months. In many respects the artful little crimil's resemble the old. Cockney's gang. They all contribute to a common fund hich is banked by the boss. They work sets of three and four, each one having especial duty.
Two "steerers," one "dipper" and a nasser"' form a set. They are bound toher by fear of the power of the "push" gang. They firmly believe that the life
a "squealer" is not worth a moment's chase.
Bill Sikes, of the story, is represented by or two burly bullies who live upon d of all this association of $\sin$ is conned in the curly black head, of a four-$n$-year-old boy.
They have no Fagin. The Artful Dodger ninates the whole.
be Solomon, who is supposed to live at 10 Suffolk street, is the modern Artful ulger of this wicked young crew.
his precocious prince of pickpockets achieved an unenviable notoriety in last. On the thiricenth day of
mo at month two Polish lads, Michael Men-
lovitch and Bernard Ragafsky, were arted for stealing a pocketbook from a s. Mary Conners, in Central Park. professed to be perfect strangers the boy to the other. This is an essential of the scheme taught in Solomon's the boys, who gave his age as fitteen , indignantly repudiated the idea of being a thief, He claimed that he proof of his hard work was found on erson in the shape of Mrs. Conner's cket-book.
Mendelovitch, the younger boy, stoutly od out for his honesty at first, but when found himself in the hands of the Gerry iety for an indefinite period he expressed llingness to "give the suap away,"
tory was he reached over her with his er story was he reached over her with his ht hand and made a grab at a pear. At e came time she felt his left hand slip her pocket. She seized him but was nmediately surrounded by a dozen young xllums, and he wriggled away, but not ore she had recognized him and others the group as the redoubtable Solomon kang.
That night her sonßenny went down to e junction of Essex and Division streets I there found the crew. He mingled th them, and being familiar with crooks' ug he readily pitched a story that he had come from doing time and was anxions work. They told him it was no use
oing it alone" down there. Solomon oing it alone" down there. Solomon
ssed the whole show. A woman passed ong, and wishing to test them, Mendel $t$ them on her as a plant. Quicker than cought they had sampled her pocket. The sult was only a hanulkerchief. This hievement they pooh-poohed. One of ith twenty-three dollars odd that very Mendel grabbed him and held on. it the gang came in force, and he had to t go.
Finding Patrolman Ed Housmann, he reet. The boy, Sammy Abrahams, was reet. The boy, Sammy Abrahas,
years old, a good boy, and went regularly io school. But, the policemin took him tiong, and the sight of an Vidridge strect Il caused young Sammy to squeal. He stid he was there when the pocketbook vas stolen, but he did not do the job. He said the thieving was done by one of Ahe silomon's scholars called Davey Schopirn. le swore he had never, attended the iool, although he was quite fnmiliar vith the methods of teaching, and described the whole process in detail.
Schopiro was taken, and at the hearing was committed for trial at General Sessions, and Sainmy Abrahams, against viom there was no direct evidence, was discharged with a caution. He profited by this caution so far as to change his scene of action to Coney Island: There on Sunday, Aing. 9, as a man called Davis, who teeps the camera obscura on Surf arenue, was standing outside his show, he saw two or three tiny young urchins surround a .ady, while one slipped his hand into her nocket and withdrew it plus a fat pocketbook. He grabbed the boy and secured the purse just as it was being passed to another.

## STALKED BY A LION.

There were five of us encamped at the base of Chickasaw mountain, Montana, and I had given my ankle a bad twist and was laid up for repairs. We had a shanty in the edge of the thicket, and before leaving camp after dinner the boys slung me up a hammock between two cedars and helped me into it. We hat a half-breed for a cook and all-around man, and so I was not to be left alone. I smoked a couple of pipes after getting into the hammock, had some conversation with Jim about the horses and the supply of food, and before I realized that I was even sleepy I had departed for the land of Nod. The half-breed saw that I slept and went over to the grazing-ground, half a mile away, to see that all was right with the horses. He meant to return at once, butfound diversion and delay in setting snares for the hares he saw running about.
I slept for perhaps half an hour-not more. When I awoke I was still lying on my right side and facing the heavy growth of cedaus clothing the base ol the mountain. There was no yawning or stretching; I simply opened my eyes and was Fide awake. My head was elevated so that I could see about me, and my eyes were scarcely open when they fell upon a mountain lion and her cub advancing upon me. The shanty was to the west of me and about two rods away. To the south, and about the same distance; was a "wickup" of brush for the cook and his campfire. The lioness and her cub were advancing from the east. They need not pass the shanty nor the fire to reach me. They were out of the underbrush and into the open, and had probably had their eyes on me for ten minutes before I awoke. While the hammock seemed to puzzle them, the mother at least had the scent of a men in her nostrils and her actions went to show that she meant to attack me. The cub was about half-grown, and I had not had my eyes on the pair thirty seconds when I concluded that the mother was coaching him. When I awoke he was ten feet behind her and acting as if he meant to run away. She coaxed and threatened him by turns until he advanced to her vide. She then crouched down and wormed herself along the ground and gave him \& lesson in advaneing upon his prey. At tha end of twelve or fifteen feet she looked back gnd, growled and swicched her tail and he reluctantly imitated her. This brought them to within thirty feet of me, with the ground all clear.

Had I ctarted up and shouted for Jim the lions might have run away or the mother might have attacked me. Their presence was a proof that I was alone in the camp, and the fact that I was practically helpless decided me to wait. The return of the cook would frighten them away, and I expected to hear his whistle or voice any minute. The lioness advanced another ten feet and after considerable persuasion the cub followed. It was plain that he had never stalked big game before and did not feel sure of himself. If the mother had not held him up to his work he would hava turned tail a dozen times over. She must have seen that my eyes were wide open, but as I lay perfectly quiet I doubt if she knew whether I was aweke or asleep. At the distance of twenty feet she crouched down with her hind feet under her, switched her tail from side to side, showed her yellow fangs, and I knew that she was about to spring. Her idea was to give the cub a lesson in attacking, and he watched every movement and prepared to imitate. I think the mother made two springs to cover the distance, though she moved so swiftly that I was not sure. She cleared the hammock like a ball sailing through the air, and struck the ground to return to the cub and demand that he go through the same motions. He got down and made one spring, which left him ten feet away, and then skulked back. The mother flew at him and gave him blow with her paw which rolled him over and over and made him whine and cry like a puppy. He lay for a time on his back with his feet in the air, and then she advanced him seven or eight feet and forced him to crouch down for another spring.
The question with me now was whether the culb would go over the hammock or light upon me, but before I could decide it he made his spring and went under it. I wasabout thirty inches above the ground, and he grazed the netting as he passed under. It was a false spring, and he had no sooner returned to the old lady than she bowled him over again and bit him so savagely that he yelped with the pain. He started to run away, but she forced him to return and then crouched down to show him how it should be done. The distance she took was fourteen feet, and I believe it was her design to come down on top of me. This time her claws were exposed and she had eyes of fire. Only a few seconds were givén me in which to make up my mind. I was about to start up and shout at the top of my lungs when the sound of Jim's voice reached my ears. He was singing as he. returned. The lioness and her cub caught the sounds at the same. instant, and the cub at once ran away. The mother arose, looked this way and that in surprise and alarm, aud presently as the sound of footsteps came to us she turned tail and bolted for cover at a much faster pace than the cub had gone. I am ashamed to add that when all danger had passedwhen the lioness was half a mile away and Jim was close at hand-I played the baby act and fainted dead away. None of the crowd ever knew it, though, for Jim looked into the hammock and thought I had fallen asleep, and I was careful to conceal that part of the incident from the boys when they came in. My excuse is that it was a new sensation to be stalked by a mountain lion, and that I was as helpless as if caught in a trap a mile away from camp. When I told Jim of the adventure he went out and looked at the tracks and measured the distance and then carelessly remarked:
"Good thing for you, I guess, that the cub hadn't got worked up to bizness yit and that the mother had to cut it short." And that has always been my opinion of the affair.-Detroit Free Press.

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## POOR MODERN TOOTH.

correspondent sends this interesting
$r$ to Nature on the subject of teeth: a letter to Nature for May 17, on 'The
$h$ and Civilization,' the writer ad-
es a theory to account for the great
alence of decay of the teeth at the
ent day, and concludes that $\mathrm{Dr}_{\text {r }}$ Wil-
force Smith's investigations show that
ancients enjoyed a perfect set of teeth
advanced years, and modern savages
'y the same blessing.'
I have not had the opportunity of see-
Dr. Wilberforce Smith's communica-
. but the number of cases examined in
particular instance (ten Sioux Indians)
ild hardly be sufficient to draw any clusions from; and even in these ten all the teeth were not examined. 1
$n k$, however, it has been sufficiently
ed by several careful investigations caries of the tooth is not a purely
dern disease, and is not entirely confined vilized races. My father, in a comnication to the Odontological Society * 70 , brought together the results of an niry extending over more than ten rs, in which he examined over 2,000 ulls, including all the available collec$s$ in Great Britain, and his conclusions ) the prevalence of dental caries differ $y$ considerably from those of the writer his letter.
Among thirty-six skulls of ancient yptians he found caries in fifteen (41.66 $r$ cent.); in seventy-six Anglo-Saxon ulls he found twelve cases ( 15.67 per ut.), while among 44 miscellaneous ulls of ancient Britons 20.45 per cent. ctions gave similar results.
Again, with regard to savage racesmong the Tasmanians 27.7 per cent. of aries was found, among native Australins 20.45 per cent., among East African kulls 24.24 per cent., and amorg those of Vest African natives 27.96. Similar reults were cbtained on the examination of kulls of many other races, but I think I ave quoted figures sufficient to prove that ries is no, conilned to civilized races or modern times.
"It is quite comprehensible that excesve nerve strain, especially by affecting ascular stapply, may lead to imperfect .eth, and we know that the diseases of eth, and we know that the diseases of arly childhood have a very marked effect idged and defective teeth so frequently cen, and it seems quite possible that too arly stimulus of the brain in childhood nay have a similar effect on forming teeth. It is very difficult, however, to understand how nerve strain can have any direct ffect upon fully formed teeth, and we hould, I think, look for the explanation $f$ the cases referred to in some vitiated ondition of the fluids of the mouth, causd by the depressed condition of health so ommon among hospital nurses.
"There is little doubt that an open-air fe and healthy surroundings encourage he formation of sound, teeth in a sound rody; but I cannot but think that the prinpal cause of caries must be looked for in .1e food. It is plainly shown by many inestigators, and in the paper above refered to, that caries is rare amiong peoples ho subsist principally upon animal food; he Esquimaux showed, among sixty-nine kulls, only two cases of caries, and the irgest amount of disease was found among hose races who lived upon a mixed or exlusively vegetable diet. These results are, $f$ course, easily understood under the ore accurate knowledge which we now ossess of the immiediate cause of dental aries.
"As to the relative frequency with which different tecth are effected, I think statistics plainly show that it is the first molar tooth of the lower jaw which is most prone to decay of any tooth in the series, and most authorities consider the sccond lower molar as the next in order; with those two exceptions, the upper are more frequently discased than the lower teeth. This would however, not affect the argument, as the lower molars are of course also supplied by the fifth nerve.
"Structural defects, due to inherited weakness or imperfect nutrition during the development of the teeth, combined with the use of soft cooked food, which is loug retained in contact with them, and is of a nature eminently suitable for fermentation, give us, I think, the principal factors of decay among civilized races.
"While allowing the influence of nerve strain in early childhood, and as a factor in hereditary transmission of defective structure, I fail to see how it can influence teeth already formed."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLI
Europe has only about eight per cent. of the Sunday school attendance of the world.
The Sunday school membership of Germany has increased over eighty per cent. in the last twenty years.
There are $22,000,000$ persons, teachers and scholars, enrolled in the Protestant Sunday schools of the world.
There are 25,099 Sunday schools, 81,950 teachers, and 1,635 scholars in the different. continental nations of Europe.
In 1374 there were in Germany 1,218 Protestant Sunday schools, with $86,41 \mathrm{~b}$ teachers and scholars, in 1893 there were 5,900 schools and 784,769 teachers and scholars.

## IN AND AROUND ENGLAND.

The announcement was lately made by the paymaster general of the supreme court of England that the total amount of dormant funds lying in chancery is $\$ 6$, 000,000 .
The Fastnet lighthouse, the spot on the Irish coast best known to Canadians, is said to be in a dangerous condition, as the fron fastenings of the tower have become corroded.
"Window gazing" is a profession in London. A couple of stylishly dressed ladies pause before the window of a merchant, pemain about five minutes and andibly praise the goods displayed inside. Then they pass on to another store on their long list of patrons.

Dr. Goriansky, a Russian physician, claims to have found that the juice of raw craimberries given freely, pure or diluted with an equal part of water, is an excellent means of relieving thirst and romiting in Asiatic cholera.

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## STORY OF ${ }_{3}$＂OLD IRONSIDES．＂

＂Old Ironsides，＂Dr．Holmes＇most stir－ ring lyric and the one which brough：him recognition as a poet，was first printed in the Boston Advertiser．In 1830 the frigate Constitution，the conquering hero of many a sea fight，lay at Chariestown navy yard， condemned by an unsentimental depart－ ment，to be destroyed as no longer sea－ worthy．Dr．Holmes was then a youth of 21．He had been graduated from Harvard the year before and had spent some time in the study of law．At that moment， however，his legal studies had been aban－ doned and he was living quietly at home， uncertain of his future occupation．It was in the interval between his desertion of the law and his resolve to study medicine that ＂Old Ironsides＂was written．The young man＇s mind was filled with enthusiasm for the achievements of our navy，and that its most famous vessel should be chopped up like any unhallowed wood naturally provoked and galled him．The feelings which the action of the depart ment aroused in him found spontaneous expression in the poem．There was nothing deliberate about its composition，according to the Boston Post；it was wholly impromptu． To the best of his recollection，he says，he wrote it on a scrap of paper with a lead pencil while standing one day before the fireplace in the old house at Cambridge． And then，without dreaming of the great popularity it would win，or of how effectual its protest would be，he sent it off to the Advertiser，where it appeared in the issue of Thursday，Sept．16．As it gave eloquent voice to the sentiment of the whole country， its success was both sudden and universal． The poem was copied with applause from paper to paper，while in Washington it was struck off on handbills and distributed through the city．The grand result was preservation with honor for the Constitu－ tion．

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