

March 29th, 1888, and are capable of producing forty thousand cubic feet of gas per hour, at a cost of less than eight cents per each thousand cubic feet of gas. The gas produced gives every satisfaction not only for melting and welding purposes, but also for lighting as well, the whole of the works being supplied with it. Water-gas is the chemical reaction which takes place in passing steam through incandescent carbonaceous matter, and may be considered as the practical result on a wholesale scale of the ordinary laboratory experiment of decomposing water by passing steam through a highly-heated iron tube. The results of this invention are many and various. Already it has revolutionized the previous methods of working steel, producing steam, and lighting the premises where it is now in use, its economical advantages being established by the fact that it has saved to the Leeds Forge Company more than fifty thousand dollars during the past year. It has been shown for water-gas that it possesses all the conveniences and more of the inconveniences of coal gas, and at the same time has the brilliancy of the electric light, while the cost of producing it is considerably less than either of those illuminants. As fuel, the favorable opinions pronounced upon it are equally glowing; the qualities of adaptability, economy, cleanliness and facility of production marking it out as the fuel of the future. Applications have already been received from a large number of manufacturers, who are anxious to adopt water-gas in the conduct of their business, not only as a means of illumination, but also for motive power, and all other purposes to which solid fuel and coal gas have hitherto been applied.

The Samoan Conference drags its slow length along, but nevertheless something favorable to American interests has been achieved. Prince Bismarck has given way on an important point—the necessity for another native election for king, and he has also acquiesced in the proviso that this election shall be perfectly free and untrammelled. Both English and German journals consider that the election of a king, either Mataafa, Malietoa or Tamasese, by the natives, uninfluenced by foreign warships or consular agents, would be a satisfactory adjustment of the troubles in the islands. The question as to how the interests of the three powers in the Samoan Islands shall be safely guarded is still to be decided, and the discussion on this point may be expected to be somewhat lively.

The death of Father Damien, as announced by telegram, has awakened an interest in Europe which shows that reverence for true heroism is not altogether a thing of the past. Joseph Damien was born in 1841 at Louvain in Belgium. He was the son of a deeply religious mother, and from her influence he derived that earnest character which marked him even as a youth. In early manhood he went as a missionary to the islands of the

Pacific Ocean. Burning with zeal for his religion and love for mankind, his heart was especially stirred with pity for the lepers who, in the Sandwich Archipelago, as everybody knows, have long been gathered together on the lovely, yet lonely, island of Molokai, for the safety of the community. The Hawaiian government sternly searches out each case, and deports it to this spot, where at first there was no care taken for the exiled sufferers. Father Damien, however, volunteered to go and dwell among them, expecting—knowing, indeed—that he must finally contract the awful disease, and die an outcast among the outcasts. It is said that when he approached the beautiful but melancholy island he sprang ashore exclaiming, "Now, Joseph, my boy; this is your life work." Compared with this act of an obscure priest, the history of the world records but few greater acts of heroism. He went willingly to a life of toil, isolation and daily horrors, destined to end in a death lingering, piteous and dismal. For fifteen years he labored in teaching the little ones, tending the sick and comforting the dying, till at last his own turn came. One day the visiting doctor said to him, "I can scarcely bear to tell you, but you, too, are a leper." "It is no shock or trouble to me," he answered. Thus fearless and serene he labored on amid the direst scenes and most dreadful visitations that afflict humanity. He not only gave solace to hundreds of his dark brothers and sisters, but likewise left a glorious example for this infidel and sensuous age. There can be no sorrow felt for his passing away, but only gratitude and praise mingled with the feeling that with Joseph Damien it is well forever and forever.

J. H. WARD.

EUROPE, May 20th, 1889.

#### IN ENGLAND.

The fine weather in the North still continues beautiful. It may be safely said that there has been more warm, dry weather this month than all last year. It is a pleasure to travel through the green lanes of England and listen to the larks vying with one another in singing the sweetest and loudest. Everything at present is lovely, the fruit trees are covered with blossoms, the grain is well started, the potato tops are commencing to show, and the flowers are out in all their beauty and fragrance. The weather is unusually warm for the month, and work in the fields is brisk. The "hirings" are now over and everywhere can be seen young girls and women wedding, stone-gathering, manuring, sowing, digging and potato-planting. The men do the heavier work.

Trade in the coal line has been made brisker through the recent coal strike in Germany. The rise in freight occasioned by the strike was considerable. Steamers could be chartered a week before the strike for \$1 per ton to the continent, but during the strike they

could not be chartered under \$1.50 and \$1.75 per ton. The German strike also stimulated the exports of pig iron. The prices upon the coal, owing to the increased demand, slightly increased, but the coke advanced considerably. At the present time there are 4,000 men on strike in Glasgow. They are riveters. They demand 15 per cent. increase. There is a demand for riveters in England. So the men are applying for work on the Tyne, Weir and Mersey rivers. The Glendalc crofters have had their rents reduced 36 per cent and about 76 per cent of their arrears have been cancelled. There was £4047 of arrears and rent due, and the commissioners have cancelled £3113.

There are six firms in Staffordshire and Yorkshire about to formulate a sheet-iron and tin-plate syndicate. The negotiations for amalgamating these concerns into one immense joint-stock company, to sell at uniform prices, are almost completed. The consumers are much concerned as to the probable effect on prices.

There is much indignation over the proposed cremation in Middlesborough. At a public meeting of ratepayers the following resolution was carried:

"That this meeting of ratepayers hereby expresses its indignant protest against the resolution in favor of cremation recently adopted by the Middlesborough Council. This meeting considers cremation to be an anti-Christian and unnatural practice, and calls upon the council to rescind the resolution as an outrage on the feelings of the community."

The Middlesborough papers have been discussing the question very freely. The feeling of the public is opposed to cremation and to the present members of the council. It is contended that the public mind should have been educated in regard to the subject prior to its adoption by the council, and if their money is to be used for the erection of the crematorium their wishes should have been consulted. It appears none of the councillors are living in Middlesborough, consequently they would not be compelled to pass through the fire after dissolution. If cremation is not favorable to the public mind of the iron town of Yorkshire, it is gaining favor among the wealthy and educated of England, and it is only a question of time before it becomes general. Several of the aristocracy of England have been contributing largely to the cremation society of England.

The disasters, murders, wife-beatings, sweetheart-shootings, infanticides, drownings, railway accidents and other awful things are still on the increase. The papers teem with accounts of them every day, until the heart sickens to read them. But the truths of the Gospel are "heavening the whole lump," gradually but surely, and the day is drawing nearer when the wicked will cease to follow their pernicious ways.

JOHN HAYES.

NORTH OF ENGLAND, May 24, 1889.