

to look at itself in the glass it will cut teeth hard. To step over an infant as it lies on the floor will render it puny and delicate, and if beaten with a broom it will be good for nothing all its life.

He who kills a cat may bid good-by to good fortune henceforth; and the unlucky breaker of a looking-glass has to expect seven years' trouble.

The negro believes abjectly in the moon and conducts all the affairs of his life with regard to her phases. If he should kill his pig on the wan of the moon, the meat would shrink to nothing in the pot; and it is not an uncommon thing for a colored cook to explain an astonishing shrinkage in a joint with, "Dat meat mus' 'a' been killed on de decrease ob de moon."

RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

Students of nature have recently discovered that there is no such thing as birth or death among the lowest of living beings; those beings are single cells; and when one of them has completed its period of life, it simply divides itself into two cells. Nothing of its old material is cast aside; there are merely two new beings where there had been but one. And each of the new beings lives its own life, and then divides in its turn. And so on until a single cell has increased to a million or billion of independent individuals. Life can thus multiply itself indefinitely without birth or death. But, when we rise one step in creation, we find the first traces of death. In the higher stage the single-celled creature divides as before, but it divides now internally. The outer covering of the cell seems to have become so hardened by use that it can no longer be divided and fitted to the new lives. Therefore, it bursts; and the new creatures come forth, leaving the thin shell behind them, but fashioning all of its contents into into their new lives. And when we climb another step higher, where the first rude organs begin to appear, we find the outer husk of organized form cast aside at death. The new lives make their own organs. But all of the inner life of the parent goes into the children. Death then, in its original form, is only the brushing aside of the old and useless material, the outer husk, the shell of life. It is supposed, that, when life first began on this globe, it began with the single cell. As long as it remained in that low form there was no death; and if life had remained forever stationary, this world would have been forever deathless. But death was given to us that we might have life more abundantly. Therefore, human instinct is entirely justified in feeling, as it does, that death is not the end of all things, but the beginning of new and higher things. Religion has a right to believe in the resurrection from the dead, since science herself has a faith full of such resurrections. The whole past life of the globe is a resurrection from preceding deaths. Not every death is indeed a resurrection to higher life, but every death may be. Every death is an open door set before the dying creature, leading downward or upward according as its past life has been aspiring or declining. Death is the crucible, as it were, through which nature passes all her products that she

may burn away the dross or the gilding of the past, and start each being just where it deserves to go. Science and religion, then, are agreed that there will be a resurrection from the dead. The only chance for a disagreement is in conjecturing the exact way in which man is to rise again. Judging from the analogy of the past, we might think that his resurrection would come only in the new life of his children. In all the past death has been brushing aside the parents to raise the children to higher life. Death is still doing the same thing among men, and thus elevating the human race. The cry of the new-born babe is the ever repeated trumpet of resurrection to higher life. And, if this is all the resurrection there is, our immortality will be in the race, and not in the individual. This is the way the resurrection of man appears, when we look backward. But it is wise to look forward as well as backward. Is it reasonable to think that life is to end in nothing? That all the leaves and branches of the past ages, all the higher lives from past deaths, are to culminate in a few brief years of human existence—just enough to rouse our longing for a still higher existence, just enough to enable us to gather a few pebbles on the shore of the infinite ocean,—and then plunge us into annihilation? No other creature, so far as naturalists can see, has ever hoped to rise above earth at death. If all creatures had thus hoped and hoped vainly, then man might see good reason to distrust his own hopes. But what all the lower creatures have hoped and struggled for they have attained. All their desires have been satisfied here on this earth. Among them an instinct impossible of gratification is absolutely unknown to naturalists, Man is the first to feel a desire this earth cannot satisfy. The appearance of that desire seems to mark some change in nature's process, some boundary between the old life and the new.

THE FAMINE IN RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 25.—It may be truthfully said that news from the famine stricken districts of Russia does not in the least degree take from the horrors of the condition that now confronts thousands upon thousands of the Czar's subjects.

Nobody can estimate the number of deaths that will result from starvation and cold during the coming winter. The area affected by the famine comprises a section of the Empire equaling in size nearly half the area of the United States with a population of more than 4,000,000 souls. In many districts no winter sowing whatever has been done and consequently the inhabitants have nothing to look forward to. The hope that they will be able to exist through the coming winter lies in the fact that the government is taking the most energetic measures to help the sufferers, and it is believed that under the direction of the new central finance committee, of which the Czarowitch is president, the methods of relief will be more systematic and effectual. Hunger-stricken peasants are daily becoming more lawless and acts of brigandage are occurring more and more frequently.

NOTES.

Brooklyn is on the verge of a water famine. Nearly all of her large industries have been suspended in consequence. Should fires break out in that city under such conditions the consequences might be fearfully disastrous. This is indicated by the fact that one did occur, and in the absence of a water supply the firemen were compelled to pull down contiguous buildings, to prevent the spread of the flames.

Mr. Oscar Vandercook's resignation of the wardenship of the penitentiary is announced, to take effect at the close of the present month. He has occupied the position ever since Mr. Arthur Pratt retired from it. We believe he has filled the office efficiently. While insisting upon obedience to the regulations of the prison, his treatment of the inmates has been uniformly humane and such as to win for him their respect.

Russia and Germany are assuming a frigid aspect toward each other. The former is indulging in reprisals upon the latter, because Germany opposed the Muscovite loan scheme in Berlin. Now a lot of German lawyers located in the Baltic provinces are not permitted to practice at the bar of the courts there. The feeling between the two countries is becoming decidedly icy, probably preparatory to becoming proportionately hot.

The tremendous atmospheric disturbances that have been spreading desolation along the British coast, and on the continent of Europe appear to have been transferred to the Atlantic seaboard, and portions of the interior of our own country. The cyclones and hurricanes that have wrought great damage, attended with loss of life, in some of our Eastern and Southern States, were of unusual severity. The details are not all in yet, owing to telegraphic communication with a number of points having been temporarily cutoff.

The recent earthquake disaster in Japan, a description of which appears in the despatches, ranks as one of the greatest calamities of modern times. The details, so far as given, are most harrowing. Five thousand people killed, and a large number wounded are among the casualties. The fact that 42,000 houses were demolished implies an extent of destitution and suffering among the survivors that can scarcely be imagined. No fewer than 158,000 people in one district have applied for relief.

Fonseca, the would-be dictator of Brazil has succumbed to the inevitable, by resigning. The tide of popular opposition became too formidable for him to longer withstand it. In signifying his intention to step down and out, however, he accompanied the act with a signification, by naming Florino Piexotto, in whose favor he said he retired. If he could not be at the head of affairs himself he wished to have the say as to who should have the position. It is not probable that his gratuitous nomination will be accepted. His candidate is likely to be too much of the same stripe as himself.

The Pope's health is again a matter