

In New Zealand they co-operate for medical attendance. A correspondent of the *Lancet* says: "A system exists of getting up clubs which contain nine-tenths of the population, and are subscribed to by men who would blush to do so in England; well-to-do people who would be shocked over here at the thought of attending a dispensary. The doctor's fee per annum for a member varies from \$4 to \$5. This includes medicines and attendance." He earnestly advises young doctors to stay at home.

The new penal code of New York which took effect on the 1st inst., prohibits five classes of acts on Sunday, unless those acts be done in a work of necessity or charity. They are, first, servile labor; second, public sports and shows; third, trade, manufactures, or mechanical employments; fourth, public traffic; and fifth, the service of legal process. It has made quite a revolution among the Sunday salesmen, and bears very hard on bootblacks, newspaper boys, fruit-venders, and other small traders.

The *Chicago Drovers' Journal* says that it has been suggested that "one of the great disadvantages which the railroads would labor under, if the live stock trade should be largely superseded by that in dressed beef, would be the difficulty in securing return freight." This is denied. While the refrigerator cars can not be used to carry coal, iron, or other freight west, it is suggested that, so far as canned goods, fruits, oysters, and other varieties of fine freight are concerned, this class of cars is excellently adapted for the purpose.

In fourteen out of twenty-three counties in Maryland, absolute prohibition of the sale of alcohol obtains. This is not all; prohibition is an effective, substantive fact. The county authorities enforce the law as State authority never did. The result is the contraction of dockets and costs of criminal courts, and a further result is that the city of Annapolis having now approved the "local option" act by 500 majority, the *American* thinks that the seat of government must be transferred to Baltimore. Is whiskey, then, absolutely necessary for the successful conduct of a State Legislature?

The story of the *Jeannette* and the lost explorers, as obtained from the survivors of the ill-fated expedition and in the records and journals of DeLong, is graphically told in a work just published, of which Bro. Henry Bartlett is the agent for Utah and Sanpete counties. It is revised by the naturalist of the expedition, Raymond Lee Newcombe, and gives a vast amount of geographical, historical, and other information in reference to the cold regions of the forbidding North. Portraits of the officers of the *Jeannette*, maps, views, &c., amply illustrate the subject and make the work very attractive as well as useful.

One of the glories of British jurisprudence is its impartial administration. The rich criminal meets with the same fate as the poor would. Thomas Alexander Heyes Robinson, of Orrel Mount, Wigan, an English gentleman of wealth, enjoying an annual income of \$30,000, was recently sentenced at the Liverpool assizes to five years' penal servitude for shooting at a police constable with intent to murder him. The officer was attempting to arrest the prisoner under a warrant. If it had been in this country Robinson would have managed to fix matters with money.

One of the largest sales of land ever known, was effected by Capt. W. G. Veal, of Dallas, Texas. He sold 4,500,000 acres of land in Western and Northwestern Texas, to an English company. This company will sell alternate tracts of from 200 to 500 acres to European immigrants wishing to settle upon it. The settlers will improve their possessions, and by so doing will increase the value of the reserved tracts. In many parts of Texas the value of land has doubled itself in the last two years. Within six years, land that was bought for \$1 an acre has been known to bring from \$20 to \$40.

The agricultural returns of Ireland for 1882 show that the acreage under crops, including meadow and clover, has decreased since 1881 by 114,327 acres. The total acreage of the country is 20,828,753, of which one-half is under pasture, one-fourth under crops, and almost a fourth left to marsh, fence, road, and water. There has been a gradual diminution of the area under cultivation for the last twenty years.

The country has 184,692 fewer sheep and 9,029 fewer horses than it had a year ago; but it has 334,100 more pigs, 30,000 more head of cattle, and 26,225 more poultry.

According to a correspondent of an English trade journal, it is a mistake to suppose that fruit is absolutely necessary to the manufacture of preserves. He describes a visit to a large jam producing factory, in which he found that the work was being bravely carried on without the aid of fruit at all. Jams of various kinds are being produced before his eyes—currant, plum, apricot, strawberry, raspberry and gooseberry. Yet neither currant, plum, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, nor gooseberry was in the building. Turnips serve the purpose of the fruit. The flavoring matter was extracted from coal tar, and the resemblance to raspberry and strawberry jam was further produced by mixing the boiling compound with small seeds with some cheap innocent herbs. A common form of sugar is used, and this is the only honest ingredient of the mess. These preserves are offered as made from "this season's fruit."

Prof. Ponfick of Breslau has lately made experiments on the common mushroom, from which it appears that all common mushrooms are poisonous, but that cooking deprives them in a greater or less degree of their poisonous qualities. The repeated washing with cold water which they usually undergo to clean them takes away a portion of the poison, and boiling does the rest; but the water in which they have been boiled is highly poisonous, and should always be carefully disposed of. Experiments which Prof. Ponfick made on dogs showed that if a dog ate one per cent. of its own weight of raw mushrooms it fell sick, but recovered; if it ate one and a half per cent. the poison had a more violent, but not fatal effect; and if it ate two per cent. it was inevitably fatal. The water in which mushrooms had been boiled was far more poisonous than the raw mushrooms, while the mushrooms thus boiled could be eaten without hurt to the amount of ten per cent. of the weight of the dog's body. Washing with cold water does not remove all the poison, so that mushrooms thus prepared were poisonous when taken in large quantities.

#### A Live and a Dead Buck with Locked Horns.

The particulars of a very remarkable occurrence near Brander's Bridge, in Chesterfield County, Virginia, have been received here. A son of Charles Harrison and another gentleman, named Balrd, were out opossum hunting, some nights ago, in the vicinity of the Bridge, when they heard their dogs baying in a reedy swamp close by. The gentlemen then concluded to go home and procure a gun, and on their return found that the dogs were after two large bucks, one with eight points and the other with ten points. For some cause or other the buck with the eight prongs had killed the one with the ten points with one of its prongs. The prong entered near the ear. By some means the prongs of the bucks became interlocked, and had evidently been so for several days, as the dead animal had been dugged a considerable distance, and had been killed long enough to become offensive. The live buck, which had undoubtedly suffered for food, was in a very poor and emaciated condition, and was shot and killed, before the marksmen could recognize what it was in the dark.—*Petersburg Index-Appeal*.

#### The Old and the New Bible.

At a reception given the other day to the American committee which had a nominal part in the revision of the Bible, the Rev. Dr. Schaff predicted "great and growing favor for the revision."

Yet a year and a half has elapsed since the publication of the revised New Testament, and it has made scarcely any headway against the old version. The New Testament, read and quoted by the English speaking people is still the one given us by King James' translators. Immediately after its publication the lately revised version commanded an enormous sale as a novelty, but soon the demand for it became insignificant, and already it has almost passed out of the public thought.

The truth is, the old version of the

bible is an immovable part of our literature—is interwoven with it. It is not regarded or estimated as a translation merely, but is cherished as one of the pillars of English literature. The proved inaccuracy

of some of its readings does not shake it so deep are its foundations. It is a great English book, and as such would stand forever, even, if skepticism could succeed in breaking down the religious faith of which it is the support.—*New York Sun*.

#### The Club Adjourned.

It was at the club. It was an exclusive club. None but blue-bloods were allowed there.

"Gentlemen," said the president, as he arose, "It is my painful duty to inform you that J. Fitz Hugh de Herbert, a leading member of this club has been guilty of the gravest offense known to our constitution."

The club fluttered. "Yes, gentlemen. Word has reached me that he has married his father's cook. What action will the club take?"

"I move that we adjourn and call upon the bride in a body!" called a voice from the far end of the room.

Wild consternation. "Because," continued the voice, "the said cook had fallen heir to a cool million before he married her!"

Ah! That's it! That alters the case! I move we adjourn to do honor to the estimable lady!" called a score of voices, and the club adjourned.

#### Protecting His Character.

Entering the shop of his Main Street tailor, the other day, a "Liberal" said:

"Sir, I owe you \$60."

"Yes, sir, you do."

"And I have owed it for a year."

"You have."

"And this is the fifth postal card you have sent me regarding the debt."

I think it is the fifth."

Now, sir, while I cannot pay the debt for perhaps another year, I propose to protect my character as far as possible. Here are twelve two cent stamps. You can use them in sending me 12 monthly statements of account, and can thus save your postal cards, and my feelings at the same time."

It is said that the tailor has credited the 24 cents on account, and feels that he has secured more of the debt than he had any reason to hope for.

#### Why Should Not Women Whistle?

If the mere act of whistling can help and cheer a man so much, why should it be derided to a woman? If whistling will drive away the blues and be company for a lonesome person, surely women have much more need of its services than their brothers, for to them come many more such occasions than to men. There are many who have not the gift of song. Why should they not whistle as they rock the cradle or perform their household duties; or accompany themselves on the piano? But there is a physical or hygienic advantage in whistling which should excuse it against all the canons of property or "good form." It is often remarked that the average girl is so narrow-chested, and in that respect compares so unfavorably with her brother. May this not be due in some measure to the habit of whistling which every boy acquires as soon as he arrives at the dignity of pants, and girls seldom do? Let any one try for five minutes the inhaling and exhaling of the breath as it occurs in the act of whistling, and the effect on the lungs and chest cannot fail to be noticed. A daily practice of this kind would be of more benefit than all the patent inspirations and chest-expanders in the market.

#### What Electricity May Do.

Although the following statements of a professional electrician have been publicly criticised, they are at least ingenious enough, if based at all on possibility to excite a very wide and popular interest. He says he would not be surprised to see the firemen in our cities have a lively time encountering fires some day. If one of those wires were to foul a telephone wire on the roof of a burning building, or even on exposed gas pipe, with its ground connections, the houseman, standing on wet ground, would experience a terrible shock in case the stream from his

hose should strike this wire and form a circuit. Electricity, he says, might be used with a frightfully deadly effect as a defensive measure in time of war. A steam fire-engine being placed in a fort, with a hose capable of throwing a quarter inch stream for three hundred feet, if a man had one end of a Brush machine grounded and the other end connected with the passing through the hose, the instant this stream of water struck a line of troops advancing to attack a fort it would kill them. The stream would be a flexible electric wire, and as it swept along the line it would mow them down like grass. A thousand men in a body would all be killed in ten seconds.

#### A Simple Cure.

A correspondent writes to an exchange as follows about the flowers of a well known plant. "I have discovered a remedy for consumption. It has cured a number of cases after they had commenced bleeding at the lungs, and the hectic flush was already on the cheek. After trying this remedy to my own satisfaction, I have thought that philanthropy required that I should let it be known to the world. It is common mullen steeped strongly with coffee and sugar and drunk freely. Young or old plants are good, dried in the shade, and kept in clean bags. The medicine must be continued from three to six months, according to the nature of the disease. It is very good for the blood vessels also. It strengthens and builds up the system, instead of taking away the strength. It makes good blood and takes inflammation away from the lungs." It is the wish of the writer that every periodical in the United States, Canada and Europe should publish this receipt for the benefit of the human family.

#### Some Little Gain.

"What does this ere mean?" asked an old farmer as he entered a bank in Albany the other day and laid down a printed blank which had been filled out with pen and ink.

"It means that the maker of a note which you indorsed has failed to pay it."

"What, that Brown note?"

"Yes."

"And he hasn't paid?"

"No."

"Well, what's that to me? All I did was to write my name on the back."

"That's enough to hold you for the debt. It was a regular indorsement."

"You don't say so! Consarn his pictur; he said he simply wanted my name there to signify that I knowed him! So I've got to pay it?"

"Well, well! Even as big a fool as I am kin learn sunthin new if he only sets about it with the right kind of speerit! I've learned more about the banking business in the last six minits than I ever knowed in my hull life before."

#### A Cheap Railway.

There is now at work an interesting miniature railway—five miles in length—which unites the village of Westerstede in East Frisia with the station of Ocholt, on the Oldenburg and Leer line. It is solely due to the enterprise of the thinly-scattered population of the district, and carries their cattle and other product to market, bringing them back their few requirements. The soil is marshy, so that a good deal of drainage work had to be done, and it was necessary to carry the line above the level of the frequent floods. In spite of this the cost of construction was only £2,105 7s. 6d per mile, and the cost of working, including wages, fuel, and every expense, amounted to the magnificent total of £1 7s. 6d. per diem. The buildings consist of a shed at each end of the line; the terminus is the courtyard of the principal inn at Westerstede, and the single station half way along the line is the house of a gentleman who hospitably entertains the passengers while they are waiting for the train. The rolling stock comprises two small four-wheeled tank locomotives, weighing, when in working order, 7½ tons each; three carriages of the American type, with a door at each end; two open goods trucks and two covered. A train consists of the engine and two vehicles, between which the guard sits. There are no turntables, so

#### Preserving Harness.

The first point to be observed is to keep the leather soft and pliable. This can be done only by keeping it well charged with oil and grease. Water is a destroyer of each of these. But mud and saline moisture from the animal are even more destructive. Mud in drying absorbs the grease and opens the pores of the leather, making it a ready prey to water, while the salty character of the perspiration from the animal injures the leather, stitching and mounting. It therefore follows that to preserve a harness the straps should be washed and oiled at intervals as required. To do this effectually the straps should be unbuckled and detached, then washed with warm soft water and brown soap, and hung by a slow fire, or in the sun until nearly dry, then coated with a mixture of neat's foot oil and tallow and allowed to remain in a warm room for several hours, and when perfectly dry, rub thoroughly with a woollen rag. The rubbing is important, as it, in addition to removing surplus oil and grease, tends to close pores and give a finish to the leather. In hanging harness care should be taken to allow all straps to hang their full length. Light is essential to the care of leather, and when the harness closet is dark the door should be left open at least half the time during the day. All closets should be well lighted. To clean plated mountings use a chamolus with a little tripoli or rotten stone, but they should be scoured as little as possible.—*Harness Journal*.

#### Baby Lions.

About 9 o'clock yesterday morning the attention of Keeper Weiners, at the Zoological Gardens, was called to a great commotion in the lion's cage. "I knew what was the matter," said Mr. Weiners. "I went to the lion's cage, and there lay the lioness licking a pretty little cub about a minute old. She was as proud as only such animals can be, but as savage as a meat axe. The old lion sat back on his haunches in one corner looking very much interested, but he knew better than to offer his congratulations. She would have scratched his eyes out. Lions, tigers, and all these flesh-eaters are curious about that. The mother of cubs will not let her lord near her or the young for weeks after their birth, for the reason, I suppose, that he may eat them. They are apt to do it, especially in captivity. After a good deal of trouble this morning I got the lion and lioness separated, and put her with her cub in a separate cage, with a dark compartment for the cub. She went into the latter place at once and was in there a couple of hours, and I think, from the variety of noises this afternoon, there is more than one cub now."

Yesterday afternoon the lioness appeared in her outer cage and seemed the picture of contentment. The old lion, in his cage adjoining, watched for her growl and her step and seemed all curiosity and anxiety. But when feeding time came he grabbed his fourteen pounds of meat and busied himself with it, apparently to the exclusion of all other thoughts. When the lioness got her meat she carried it at once to the dark cage where her cubs lay.—*St. Louis Globe*.

Here is an obituary from an Iowa paper which states facts seldom printed about a rich man: "He gained his riches by loaning money and handling notes and mortgages, had a State-wide name for his litigation in various counties and in the Supreme Court, was grasping and heartless in his transactions, became divorced from his wife, and died without a friend."

With the opening of the new year another candidate for support in the field of literature will make its appearance under the title of "The Modern Age." The advance copy that we have seen gives promise of an interesting monthly magazine at a very low subscription price, named \$1.00 per annum. It is not illustrated, but contains sixty pages of interesting and instructive reading, and is published by the *Modern Age Co.*, at Buffalo, New York.