

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE YANKEES?

Upon the publication of the vital statistics of Massachusetts, last year, it was discovered that a decided majority of the births of the preceeding year were the offsprings of foreign born parents. This fact excited a good deal of comment at the time, as it showed that either the virginity of Yankees proper was running out, or else that Massachusetts women had voluntarily given up the business of bearing children to their foreign born neighbors.

It seems that this surrender of the maternal function by native New England women still continues. In the official returns of the births in Boston during the past year, published in the *Advertiser* of that city, we find the following paragraph:

The tables of births shows that the number of children born whose parents were both natives of the United States, was 1,306, making 24.55 per cent of all the births. This ratio of children of native parentage is less than it was in 1864, when it was 26.23 per cent, or the whole increase of that year. The births of children of Irish parents in 1864 made 40 per cent. of the whole number, while in 1865 this class had increased to 43.35 per cent. The number of births where both parents were foreign born, was 3,256 or 61.70 per cent. of the whole number.

That is to say, of the 4,551 children born, 3,255 were parented by foreigners, and this in the capital of Yankeeedom—the Hub of the Universe. Of the foreigners, the Irish are by far the most prolific. The consequences of this state of things in a generation or two are appalling to contemplate. By the year 1966 the old Bay State will see the Everetts, Adamsses, Sumners, Winthrops, and Lawrences supplanted by the Hoolaghans, O'Shaughnessys, McGurks, Moloneys, McFaddes, Brannigans and O'Callahans, while the Blarney Stone will be revered instead of Plymouth Rock.

THE NORTH POLE.—Two French gentlemen recently explored the Island of Spitzbergen in a manner never before done. They have measured the mountains, mapped the whole coast, examined the vegetable products, the geological composition, &c., of the island. They found that the long day, extending over several months, during which the sun never sets, became intensely hot after a month or two, by the unceasing heat from the sun. In this period, vegetation springs up in great luxuriance and abundance. The North Pole is only a matter of about 600 miles from the island, and it is thought by the two explorers, as by many others, that the pole itself, and the sea which is supposed to surround it, could be reached from Spitzbergen without any great difficulties being encountered. A singular fact noticed by the explorers in connection with this island is the enormous amount of floating timber which literally cover the waters of the bays and creeks. A careful examination of the character, condition, and kind of these floating logs would, no doubt, lead to a conclusion as to whence and how they come, and probably suggest new theories for the solution of geographical problems connected with the Arctic seas.

—Our friend, Sam Jones, wanted a servant in his family, and pushed for an intelligence office and made known his wants to the proprietor. Says Sam:

Have you any first-rate, tip-top servant girls for the kitchen? I want one that can mind her own business, and attend to her work.

Oh, yes, says the proprietor, let me show you one.

Sam is at once introduced to a daughter of the Emerald Isle, and greeted with:

And does ye want a sarvant?

Yes, says Sam.

How many have yer in the family?

Sam answered.

And have yer got hot and cold wather?

Answers again.

How many children have yer? and do yer make yer girls wash Sundays? Is the church far away?

All these questions, and about fifty more, were heroically answered by Sam, and he thought he would take the laboring part himself.

You look, says Sam, like a pretty nice girl, but I want to ask you one question: Do you play the piano?

No.

Then, says Sam, very blandly, you won't answer my turn, and away went the astonished Celt, feeling that she, for once, had caught a Tartar.

MAKE CHILDHOOD HAPPY.

It should ever be urged upon parents the high importance of preserving in childhood a cheerful and happy state of temper, by indulging them in the various pleasures and diversions suited to their years. Those who are themselves, either from age or temperament, grave or serious will not unfrequently attempt to cultivate a similar disposition in their children. Such, however, is a manifest violation of the laws of the youthful constitution. Each period of life has its distinctive character and enjoyments; and gravity and sedateness, which fond parents commonly call manliness, appears to be quite as inconsistent and unbecoming in the character of childhood as puerile levity in that of age. The young, if unwisely restrained in their appropriate amusements, or too much confined to the society of what are termed serious people, may experience, in consequence, such a dejection of spirits as to occasion a sensible injury to their health. And it should, furthermore, be considered that the sports and gayeties of happy childhood call forth those various muscular actions, as laughing, shouting, jumping, etc., which are, in early life, so absolutely essential to the healthful development of the different bodily organs. Again, children, when exposed to neglect and unkind treatment (for to such they are far more sensible than we are prone to suspect), will not unusually grow sad and spiritless, their stomach and nervous system becoming enfeebled and deranged; and various other painful infirmities, and even premature decay, may sometimes owe their origin to such an unhappy source. Let them, also, ever remember that nature is industrious in adorning her dominions; and that those to whom this beauty is addressed should feel and obey the lesson. Let them, too, be industrious in adorning their domain, in making home, the dwelling of self, wife, and children, not only convenient and comfortable, but pleasant. Let them as far as circumstances will admit, be industrious in surrounding it with pleasant objects, in decorating it within and without with things that tend to make it agreeable and attractive. Let industry make home the abode of neatness and order—a place which brings satisfaction to every inmate, and which in absence draws back the heart by the fond associations of comfort and content. Let this be done, and this sacred spot will become more surely the scene of cheerfulness and peace. Ye parents, who would have your children happy, be careful to bring them up in the midst of a pleasant, a cheerful, and a happy home. Waste not your time in accumulating wealth for them, but plant in their minds and souls, in the way proposed, the seeds of virtue and prosperity.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—The British Registrar-General reports one hundred distinct causes of death in England, but more than half the deaths in every year are due to one or the other of ten diseases. Thus, in 1864, 53,046 persons died from phthisis, 33,869 from bronchitis, 24,470 from pneumonia, 21,311 from heart disease, 29,498 deaths from old age, 26,332 from convulsions, 29,634 from atrophy and debility, 29,700 persons from scarlatina, 20,106 from typhus, and 16,432 from diarrhoea.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.—At a second class hotel in Frankfort, Ky., a few days since, a little girl entered the bar-room, and in a pitiful tone told the bar-keeper that her mother sent her there to get eight cents.

Eight cents! said the bar-keeper.

Yes, sir.

What does your mother want of eight cents? I don't owe her anything.

Well, said the child, father spends all his money here for rum, and we have no bread today. Mother wants to buy a loaf of bread.

A loafer suggested to the bar-keeper to kick her out.

No, said the bar-keeper. I'll give her mother the money, and if her father comes back again, I'll kick him out.

Humanity owes that bar-keeper a vote of thanks.

KNAPSACKS.—Among the knapsacks now in use in Europe, the lightest, when packed with a field kit, is that of the Austrian army, weighing ten pounds; the heaviest, the English, weighing fifteen pounds. But when to this is added the weight of arms, accoutrements, clothing, and provisions, the total carried by the foot soldier of each nation is as follows: Austria, 51 lbs. 8oz.; England, 54 lbs. 8oz.; France, 55 lbs. 8oz.; Prussia, 56 lbs. 8oz.; Russia, 71 lbs. 7oz.

TEXTURE OF SOILS.

The quality of soils is very various, particularly as to texture and consistency, and no quality has more influence upon the well-being of plants than this. All the operations of spading, digging, plowing, trenching and draining have for their object the production and preservation of that condition which will allow all excess of water to pass freely away, and admit as freely fresh supplies of atmospheric air. While humidity is necessary, and too loose a texture makes too dry a soil, excess of moisture is a great evil, and must be corrected by whatever means is applicable. When the soil is saturated with water the access of the genial air and its gaseous properties is excluded. The soil is kept too low in temperature by constant evaporation at the surface, and by exclusion of the sun's rays, plants are deprived of the supplies of food which new supplies of air would constantly afford, and the delicate fibres imprisoned and choked, and drowned out in greater or less degree, in proportion to the extent of the evil.

When rain and air can permeate freely, a constant supply of both gaseous and aqueous nourishment is afforded, independently altogether of the richness of the soil, whether natural or artificial. On the other hand, if the soil be compact, or baked hard by drought, in consequence of its natural condition, or of its having been previously worked and stirred when too wet, no plant can flourish.

Sandy soils are never liable to these conditions, unless when they have a clay stratum lining underneath, very near the surface. All the water they absorb sinks deep into the subsoil, and far below the roots of corn or any agricultural plant on the surface. Such a soil needs neither draining nor subsoil plowing. Neither does it ever require to be exposed to the frosts of winter, or any kind of treatment by implements for its physical amelioration. It is almost always in such an open, friable state that it may be plowed and sown at any season. The cultivation is easy, and executed at moderate expense, and with moderate care and judgment in their management, their fertility is easily maintained. For these reasons we have several times urged that lands of this character are not sufficiently appreciated, for we find them in many parts of the country thrown out of cultivation and laying waste.

In such descriptions of land, however, it often happens that beds of clay lie alternately with those of sand, at different depths, beneath the surface. These beds not unfrequently crop out or approach so near the surface that the water does not get readily away, and even a sandy surface soil is kept too wet for the good of growing plants. In such a case draining is the remedy.

It is well, however, to know that this remedy may often be applied at much less cost than if it were necessary to seek an outlet in some low ground at a considerable distance from the land to be drained. If there be wet and dry places in the same field, we may be assured that a bed of clay or other impervious earth lies beneath the wet, and a porous subsoil beneath the dry places. A drain of sufficient depth opened and filled nearly to the surface, with stones or loose gravel from the wet to the dry places, will soon render the whole dry. A very short drain will sometimes effect this quite as well as one made at four times the cost to convey the water to a ravine.—*Balt. Sun.*

VITALITY OF SEED PEAS.—Three years ago John Hill, tailor, of Dulverton, Somerset, received from his sister in Wales, three single peas taken from a bottle found buried in an old ruin near that town. The bottle contained a parchment, from which it appeared that it had been deposited there 200 years before. Mr. Hill planted the peas, and in his garden plot the produce may now be seen, a most luxuriant crop of gigantic peas, the stalks much above the usual height, and covered with very light-green, semi-transparent pods of enormous dimensions, one of which measures five and a half inches in length and three in circumference, another being seven inches long and one and three-quarters wide.

The English people have been amused lately by the vagaries of a pack of roving zealots who call themselves "The Hallelujah Band." They visited, among other places, Derby, and placarded the town with this notice: "At 9 o'clock the soldiers of the Cross will open fire in the Market place on the kingdom of the Devil. A procession will be formed to proceed at once to the Field, when a second volley will be fired on the armies of his Satanic Majesty."

FAMINE AND DESTITUTION.

The *London Times* has the following from Calcutta, August 2:

The famine is sore in Orissa. In the fifteen affected districts, but chiefly in the three districts of Orissa and the adjoining country of Midnapore, 75,000 are daily fed by public charity. If you double that for the numbers fed privately, and chiefly by Hindoos, you will be still within the truth. Out of Orissa and Midnapore half of the destitute are professional beggars; in these provinces nearly all are the laboring poor and the lower classes of agriculturists. The largest number of deaths from Orissa and Midnapore reported in one week is 3,500, and in the Santhal country 12. The average number of deaths reported to the authorities during the past six weeks may be, and is by officials, taken as not less than 3,500 a week. Add to these the deaths witnessed by no human eye in the far interior, where aid has never penetrated, and you will have by no means an exaggerated idea of the state of Orissa and Midnapore. I will not harrow the feelings of your readers by the details of cases which appear in the daily papers here, reported by eye witnesses, of the jackals eating the corpse of one wretch while they wait for his companion who is dying, or of the child taken from the breast of its mother, who has been dead two days. We know still less of the state of Ganjam, the Madras district immediately to the south of Orissa. The famine began in October last; it became so grievous by December that gold, silver and brass work sold at twenty per cent. below the usual rates, and the magistrate of Poo-ree urged the establishment of a relief fund and public works as well as the revival of the salt manufacture. The December crop was saved by the rain, but it was so scanty, and the peasantry had to give so much of it to the landlords and money lenders in repayment of advances, that by the middle of February prices again fell to the starvation level of five pounds of rice the shilling. The people managed to struggle on till by the beginning of April they had exhausted their stores, and from the first week of that month, when the missionaries and the magistrates appealed for public assistance, the famine in Orissa and Ganjam dates.

—Uncle Bill Tidd was a drover from Worcester county. Being exposed to all weathers his complexion suffered a little, but at the best he was none of the whitest. Stopping at a public house near Brighton, a man rich in this world's goods, but of notoriously bad character, thought as Uncle Bill came in he would make him the butt of a joke. As the black face of the weather-beaten man appeared in the doorway, he exclaimed, Mercy on us, how dark it grows! Uncle Bill, surveying him from head to foot, coolly answered, Yes, sir, your character and my complexion are enough to darken any room.

DENSITY OF POPULATION.—The new volume of the British Board of Trade Statistical Tables gives the following statement of the population of countries with more than 10,000,000 inhabitants, according to the most recent census: United Kingdom, 258 persons to the English square mile upon the average; Italy, 225; France, 180; Prussia, 179; Austria, 155; Spain (and Balearic Islands), 84; Turkey, 19; United States, 11; Russia, 9; Russia in Europe, 31; Brazil, 3. The population of the eight above-named states of the old world exceeds 270,000,000.

NEWS ITEMS.

THE island recently thrown up on the Florida coast, by volcanic action, has been explored, and consists mainly of quicksand, dangerous to travel on, except in one small portion, which is of a rocky nature. Some signs of vegetation are already apparent, some rank grasses and plants having started.

In a lead mine at Memphis, Tennessee, last Thursday, some specimens of red sandstone were broken open, and one was found to contain a petrified human hand, in a perfect state of preservation. In other cases parts of animals were found, and one black snake some five feet long was found, of the consistency and weight of the stone.

A MAN was recently fined \$25 for residing with his family in a rock cave which he had hewn out and fitted up near the sea-shore, in Sunderland, England. He refused to leave the premises and was by force taken to jail. His family had then to be forcibly ejected and their furniture removed. They had left a comfortable house of their own to occupy the cave.