

MISCELLANEOUS.

Shot by his own Orders.

Jonathan Hartgroves, of Hillsboro, Ill., owns a large water-melon patch and has a chronic fear of the perennial melon thief. Lately he loaded a big duck gun with a heavy charge of shot and gave the weapon to his 12-year-old son with instructions to watch the patch till day-break and shoot any one he saw in it. The old man wondered if the boy was "dead game," and whether he would really shoot. So Jonathan dressed himself and sneaked into the melon patch. He was just on the point of devouring a luscious melon when the boy emptied both barrels into the old man's body. Jonathan is badly hurt and may die.

Preserved in a Salt Mine.

In a salt mine near Hermannstadt, in Hungary, which had for many years been full of water and was visited by tourists on account of its great depth and its repeating echo, a recent heavy rainfall raised the water to an extraordinary height. Recently a number of dead bodies appeared on the surface, and they were taken out, with considerable danger to those who undertook the task. They were found to be the bodies of Hungarian Honveds, three hundred of whom fell in the battle of Viz Akna on the 4th of February, 1849, and instead of being buried were thrown into the salt lake of the mine. The bodies are so well preserved that the wounds which caused death may be seen quite plainly. Two of the bodies are headless.—*Cor. London News.*

Women of Business.

Women are intolerant of one another in business and intensely jealous in society. Mistress and servant are not the only classes between whom dignity of demeanor is set aside. And then the unkindness!—it makes a generous spirit shudder. Said a poor washerwoman who has a family of seven to support: "The gentlemen I wash for give me old clothes enough for my three little boys, but I have never had five cents' worth from the ladies. They give me old dresses and cloaks and sometimes a hat, but for each I have done two or three week's washing in payment. That isn't all. They are all the time accusing me of stealing their handkerchiefs."

A Transpacific Cable.

The Colonies and India, of London, say that "the breaking of the Australian cables and the consequent cutting off of those colonies from communication with the outer world for several days emphasizes in the strongest possible way the necessity of constructing an alternative cable across the Pacific ocean between British Columbia and Sydney to Brisbane. The lesson will no doubt not be lost upon our Australian cousins: It is said that her majesty's government has decided not to share in the guarantee the companies require in order to effect the proposed reductions in the

existing cable rates, and it was hardly expected that it would do so. It might, however, view with greater favor the laying of the new line, and the subsidies the colonies are now asked to give for perpetuating for a time the monopoly of the old line, with assistance from Canada and from the imperial government, would, it is believed, permit of arrangements being made for the construction of the Pacific cable, and probably insure a reduced tariff by both lines."

A Dutch Princess.

Princess Wilhelmina, the Dutch heir apparent, is now ten years old, says the *St. Louis Republic*. The Princess' governess is an English lady. The Princess can express herself very well both in French and English. She has not learned German, the language of her mother. She has a pretty garden of her own, with chalet and pigeon croft. The Princess rises at 7 o'clock and goes to her mother's rooms. Then she goes to her father and gives him a morning kiss. At 8 o'clock the royal family takes breakfast, the Princess being present, as at all meals. After breakfast she receives lessons till 11 o'clock. She then goes to the Queen's rooms, where the time is spent in conversation or her majesty reads and explains a chapter of the Bible. Before lunch, which is served at 12:30 o'clock, the Princess takes a drive in her pony carriage or amuses herself in a boat on the large ponds of Loo. After lunch she has more lessons, plays with her toys and takes a drive with the Queen. At 6 o'clock dinner is served and a few hours afterward the royal family retire to their apartment.

Was he a Mean Man.

One of the meanest men in Harlem has made his will, which some day will be offered for probate. The testator, as reported in the *New York Mercury*, sets forth his peculiar views as follows:

"I declare this to be my last will and testament. I claim to be perfectly sound in body, but I do not presume to affirm that I am sound in mind. I would not stultify myself by setting up such a pretension. I have about \$60,000 in invested funds. What a vast amount of hypocrisy, sorrow and falsehood I could buy with that amount. I first thought of bequeathing it to charity. But what's the use? The greatest benefactors of humanity are war and cholera. Besides I owe a debt of gratitude to my wife, who lives I don't know where. She rendered me the greatest service in her power—she abandoned me one fine day and I never hear of her since. In remembrance of this kind act I shall make her my sole legatee; however, on the express condition that she shall remarry at once. In this way I shall be sure of knowing that my death was regretted by one human being at least."

How Coyote Pelts are Captured.

Coyotes are very wise. The proverbial fox is a driving idiot by comparison. They can not be steel

trapped or done to death by dead fall or any familiar gin. The only method is to poison them. Their pelts are valuable for robes and many men—"coyoters"—make a business of their collection every winter. It is not feasible to put the poison in a piece of meat as the victim would gulp it down, lope off a matter of four or five miles before he died, and the coyote would never find him. They take a pine beam eight or ten feet in length and six inches square. At intervals of two feet a hole is bored with a two inch auger—say four inches deep. A big kettle of tallow richly intermixed with arsenic is melted, ladled out, poured into these holes and allowed to cool. These tallowed beams are then placed around on the prairie for the pleasure and profit of the coyote. That night some gray vagrant, with nose held high and scouting up the wind smells up the tallow. He draws near. He announces the find by a yell of joy and begins to lick the tallow out of one of the auger holes. Other coyotes come into the game and each selecting a hole goes on his last debauch. In the morning the coyote comes out and skins them. They never get ten rods from the tallow after they once find it.—*Ex.*

Electricity in Agriculture.

It appears from the results of a series of experiments recently undertaken in Russia by N. Specnew that electricity may eventually be made to play a prominent part in agriculture. These experiments, which extended over five years, showed that by submitting different seeds to the action of an electric current their development is rendered more rapid and complete. The seeds of haricot beans, sunflowers, winter and spring rye were used. A second series of experiments was made with pot herbs and flowering plants at Kief. The influence of the electrical treatment was shown by a larger crop and by the growth of vegetables of enormous dimensions. In a third series of experiments electricity on a large scale was applied, static electricity being used instead of current electricity. The results were quickened ripening and larger growth. Barley ripened twelve days sooner with electroculture. Potatoes treated in the same way seldom showed disease, only 0 to 5 per cent being bad, instead of 10 to 40, which is the usual percentage. An important factor in this treatment is that vines which have been subjected to it possess immunity from phylloxera, and this points to a new means of combating the microscopic diseases which attack vegetable growth. It is suggested as a weapon with which to fight the potato bug and the army worm. The cost of the process is comparatively small.—*Chicago News.*

An Arabian Baby's Toilet.

A royal baby's first toilet in Arabia consists in winding a bandage about its body after it has been bathed and perfumed. The little creature is then placed on its back, its arms and feet are straightened,