

converted the filth into slush that was filthier still. At the suburban cemeteries; where funerals are certainly no less frequent than they are in other seasons of the year, the graves dug for those to whom no merry Christmas will ever come again were half filled up by the night's heavy fall; and there seemed to be a literal fulfillment of Campbell's line, 'The snow shall be their winding-sheet.' The cold continued as bitter all day as it had been all night, though the wind lulled soon after dawn. Long icicles depended from window-ledges and other outward projections exposed fully to the freezing atmosphere; and at last, winter did hang out his ensigns, with a fierce prodigality about which there could be no mistake.

"It would be curious to ascertain how much, or how little, shopping was done at the West End. Not a lady was to be seen out of doors; and the chairs in tempting shops like those of Lewis and Allenby, or Swan and Edgar, stood in long empty rows for the spruce young men to count, because they'd nothing else to do. It is a positive fact that many tradesmen shut up shop at once, and gave their servants a queer sort of holiday. No visitor from the rural districts could have received a more dismal impression of metropolitan life 'at this festive period' than he had yesterday the unavoidable means of getting from the sight of London snowed up."

**MONS. FELIX BELL,** one of the writers of the *Constitutionelle*, having made a tour through Ireland last summer, pronounces the following eulogium upon the women of that country:

The most remarkable element, the richest, and certainly the most full of life, of this land so life full, is the population itself. No European race, that of the Caucasus excepted, can compete with it in beauty. The Irish blood is of a purity and distinction, especially among the females, which strike all strangers with astonishment. The transparent whiteness of the skin, the absorbing attraction, which, in France, is but the attribute of one woman in a thousand, is here the general type. The daughter of the poor man, as well as the fine lady, possesses an opal or milky tint, the arms of a statue, the foot and hand of a duchess, and the bearing of a queen.

In the most wretched streets of the olden quarters of Dublin, the most ideal tints of the pencil would grow pale before the beauty of the children; and in the compact crowd which each day occupies the galleries of Merrion Square, there is certainly the most magnificent collection of human beings it is possible to meet. Blondes with black eyes, and brunettes with blue, are by no means rare. The race is as strong as it is handsome, as vigorous as it is charming. The Girls of Connemarra, with their queenly shoulders and eyes of fire, would put to shame, at this day, those daughters of the East from whom they are said to be descended.

**A GREAT STATE.**—The population of New York is now 3,827,818, an increase of 351,502 over the number in 1855, or 10.43 per cent in ten years. The increase is almost wholly in the commercial and manufacturing districts. The agricultural counties are nearly stationary, and seven of them show a diminution of population. The native citizens number 67.84 per cent. of the whole population. The voters are 813,873, an increase of 470,551, or 26 per cent., mostly naturalized citizens. The negro population is steadily diminishing, while the number of Indians is on the increase. The manufacturing capital is \$227,674,187, an increase of 31 per cent. in five years; while the increase of products is 23 per cent. The sum now raised by the State for schools is \$1,406,980; by the school districts, \$4,550,111; by rates and other sources, \$1,422,687; a total of \$7,379,778, of which \$4,583,211 was expended in teacher's salaries. Children between five and twenty-one years number 1,314,967; of whom 919,033, or more than two-thirds, have attended the public schools during some portion of the year. There are 11,552 school houses, and 26,481 teachers have been employed, of whom 21,450 are women.

**METEOR SPECTRA.**—Mr. Alexander Herschel has recently succeeded in obtaining a spectrum of a bright meteor; also the spectra of some of the trains which meteors leave behind them. A remarkable result of his observations appears to be that the metal sodium, in the state of vapor, is present in the trains of most meteors.

**REMEDIES FOR POISONS.**—Cases of poisoning often occur in which life might be saved, and hours of agony averted, if we only knew what to do in season. If a poison burns the throat and acts violently upon the stomach, swallow half a pint of sweet oil, or melted butter or lard, and within five minutes take half a pint of warm water, in which has been stirred a teaspoonful of ground mustard and salt. The oil arrests the action of the poison, and the mustard, etc., causes vomiting. If the poison swallowed does not burn the throat and act with instant violence, but causes sickness, stupor or faintness, swallow the white of two or three eggs, also a quantity of the strongest coffee it is possible to make, and in a few minutes take the warm water and mustard and salt, as before mentioned. An eminent physician says that with the prompt use of oil, and white of eggs, and strong coffee, and the emetic as above directed, the fatal results of any poison likely to fall in the way of man or child, may be always averted. The remedies are, in themselves, harmless, and might all be taken into the stomach at once, in any quantity, without damage to the system; and they are things that we always have at hand. And above all, first of all, don't have any poison around.—[*Country Gentleman*.]

**MERCENARY LAWYERS IN ENGLAND.**—M. D. Conway, in one of his letters to the *Boston Commonwealth*, says: "It is not a little remarkable—more so here, I think than in America—how completely purchasable lawyers are. I heard a good story of the late lord chancellor, Richard Bethell. He was employed by a party in a certain suit to frame a bill. Afterwards the opposing party in the same cause employed him to conduct their side of the case, and of course to oppose the bill which he had drawn for the other. Nothing could exceed the scorn with which he denounced the bill. It was, he declared, a blunder, an imbecility from beginning to end. 'In fact,' he thundered out, 'if the court will allow me to say so, in the whole course of my practice I have never known a bill so disgraceful to be offered to any court of law.' The bill was thrown out of court. The poor fellow who had offered it afterwards went up to the lawyer, as he was retiring, and said: 'Why, Mr. Bethell, you drew up the bill yourself.' My dear sir, was the bland reply, 'a more perfect bill was never offered to the court.'"

**A SMART GIRL.**—Miss Fannie Paine, who is but 13 years old, has, since May last, performed the duties of paymaster in the Eagle Works Manufacturing Co., in Chicago, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. In eight months of this year she will have paid out about a quarter of a million dollars, keeping the time-sheets, pay-roll, and a private account book with and for each of the three to four hundred men employed. She receives the money weekly from the bank to the amount of \$4,000 to \$5,000, carries the transaction of paying all the men through, and settles and makes her balances with the cashier. She knows every man in the establishment, the force being divided into eleven departments, each having its responsible foreman. She commands a salary of \$625 per annum, and takes two music lessons each week, and attends an evening course at a commercial college, where she has a scholarship. Nor does this produce any overstrain of her intellect. She is in the most robust and vigorous health, never has a day's sickness and stands ten hours each day at her desk.

**ÆROLITES.**—An iron meteorite, weighing nearly 1,600 pounds, which fell in Mexico, has lately been transported to Paris. There is one in the cabinet of Yale College, brought from Red River, which weighs 1,635 pounds, and contains about 91 per cent. of iron, with 9 per cent. of nickel. Pallas discovered ore in Siberia of nearly the same weight. The most extraordinary masses have been found in South America. One in Brazil, in size, is equal to 23 cubic feet, and weighs 14,000 pounds; another, discovered in the district of Chaco-Gualamba, is estimated to weigh 30,000 pounds.

**PLATE GLASS.**—Broadway can no longer boast of the size of its window-panes. One, covering an alcove in the State House at Boston, containing the State battle-flags, measures twelve feet four inches by seven feet seven.

**HOW TO PREPARE COFFEE.**—From Liebig's researches it appears that the oxygen of the air influences the liquid coffee made by pouring boiling water on the roasted and ground berry, so that although excellent at first it soon becomes unfit to drink. To obtain the best results Liebig recommends that the good grains of coffee be picked out of a heap one by one. They should be washed in order to see whether the grains have been artificially colored or not and then dried in a towel. The operation of roasting should be performed with great care, and not cease until the grains have lost their horny texture and admit of being crushed between the fingers. Caffeine, the active principle of the berry, would be decomposed if the roasting process were not conducted slowly, and stopped on attaining a light brown hue. A dark brown color, or worse still a black, would show that the berry had lost all its virtues. In order to prevent the air from acting injuriously on the coffee after roasting, sugar should be sprinkled over it in the proportion of 15 grammes to every pound, and the whole should be well stirred. In this way an impenetrable coating of enamel protects each grain. After roasting the berries should be placed on iron plates and left to cool in a dry place. No more coffee should be roasted at a time than is required for the day. The roasting should not be done in a closed cylinder, as is the common practice, but in a fryin-gpan, so as to be able to watch the various changes of color.

**GRAPHITE.**—This form of carbon commonly called black lead or plumbago occurs, mechanically mixed with a small proportion of iron, in granite, gneiss mica-slate, primitive limestone and greenstone. Its principal use in the arts is in the manufacture of pencils and crucibles. It is found in many places in this country, but is seldom of the first quality. The best graphite in our market is brought from Ceylon. Graphite can be formed artificially by subjecting iron, in contact with carbonaceous matter, to a very high temperature. It may separate in the crucible in which the experiment is made or may penetrate the iron itself. By treating gray cast-iron with hydrochloric acid and other reagents carbon is separated in crystallized six-sided tables. In iron furnaces graphite is artificially formed on a large scale. Professor Playfair, before the British Association, recently spoke of a furnace at the Alfreton Iron Works, which was 40 or 50 years old, or about ten times the average age of a furnace. It was recently repaired, and he had then opportunity of ascertaining why it lasted so long. He found it lined with graphite three or four inches thick, not by the manufacturer but by the operations of nature. The carbon in the iron had been squeezed out, and the whole furnace was probably lined with graphite.

**NEW MODE OF MOVING CANAL-BOATS.**—An experiment has lately been tried on the Erie Canal near Buffalo which is said to have been quite successful. A wire rope is laid on the bottom of the canal. By means of what is called a clipped-drum, driven by a steam-engine on the boat, the rope is raised and the boat is drawn underneath the rope. The peculiarity of the clipped-drum is a combination of toggle-joints on its periphery, so arranged that the rope in passing over these joints is pinched with such force as to draw the boat onward. By the revolution of the drum the joint passes beyond the rope and again opens by its own gravity; it thus acts like a series of hands grasping, one after the other, the same rope. The advantage of this arrangement is that the whole power is applied to the propulsion of the boat without the loss by slip which occurs when the paddle-wheel or propeller is applied to water. Only one rope is required, for when two boats moving in opposite directions meet, one boat is released from the rope until the other passes, when the rope is again grasped.

The provisions of the Concordat with Rome, were never executed in Austria with more rigor than at the present time. The priests claim to conduct the education of all Catholic children, and they have just demanded that all who attend their schools should also attend church. This demand is addressed to the civil power, and the Government of Lower Austria has issued a decree requiring parents to obey the direction of the priests in this matter.

R. T. ROSS.

C. R. BARRATT

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