

taken every meal on shipboard, I have frequently missed them!"

Irrepressible they still are when the sea and the storm pound the waves and the fog upon the distracted passengers while crossing the Newfoundland banks, and there is not life enough left in the objects in the deck-chairs to quicken even profane response. It is then they espy a solitary being, on its legs, in blue and gold, away out forward. They sidle, slip and slide up to it. The being proves to be a ship's officer—first, second, third, or somewhere along the line. But it is alive, has hearty jowls, a big paunch, and hoping these bespeak geniality, they timidly address it.

"Beg pardon, officer, but are these fogs always to be found here on the banks?"

The being is a blue, gold and bronze statue for a long, long time. Finally as they despair and are about to turn away, its red head suddenly turns quarter round, and they involuntarily listen for its click. Then, its cavernous, coral mouth expands frightfully while the being roars,

"Ow the bloody 'ell do H'I know? H'I doant hide 'eerel!"

Up in Scotland the grimness and quaintness of humor in speech and anecdote, rather than in rejoinder or situation, is to the traveler an endless ripple of sunshine across the stern features of Scotland's folk and land.

At Galashiels, of a Sunday morning, I came upon two lads savagely disputing where their best interests should lead them to Sunday-school. The lesser of the two, a hard-headed little fellow, closed the controversy and set the pace with,

"Coom awa; croom awa. It's maist for naithing we'll get at the Free Kirk!"

I witnessed a fisherman's bride leaving her old home for the new, at Oban. A sharp-tongued neighbor gave her this grisly god-speed:

"Joan, buck tooth tho' ye are, ye are weel busked and kisted (well dressed and provided); but the deil is na waur-faured (uglier) than th' auld-beik that owns ye!"

The advent of the doctor when a new baby arrives in lowly homes—as the physician usually brings currant-bannocks, or buns, called "curnie-bannies," with which to divert the attention of the children—is a supreme occasion in child life experience.

"Hoot!" I heard a wee lassie of Edinburgh old-town relating to her big-eyed comrades in the shadows of a narrow close, "th' dochter brocht us a new bairn th' mornin'! An' a muckle guid dochter he is." Then after a long and impressive silence: "An' he brocht a curnie-bannie—an'—an' a sponge, tae!"

Riding along the Carlisle and Glasgow road in an old trap driven by a serious youth named Andrew, the horse shied, kicked the dashboard in pieces, stopped stock-still, and turned and looked at Andrew.

"Puir beastiel pulr beastiel!" said Andrew soothingly. Then he dismounted and plucked a tuft of grass which he gave to the animal, with the ruminative remark: "We'll gie't a bide o' girse (grass) t' pit it (the viciousness) oot o' its heid!"

An intelligent traveler could fill a volume with these quaint sayings within his own hearing. A crofter who pulled

me out of a stream into which I had unwittingly fallen, closed the narration to his friends of his gallant rescue with: "Oh, ay, I brocht the uncoo Yonkee o'er the heckle-pins sairly!" A Highland guidwife predicted my difficulties in climbing Ben Nevis by remarking, "Ye'll need pit a stoot heart tae th' sty brae;" while a canny and cynical old bookseller of Perth, when ridiculing me for my limited knowledge of the Scottish people, gave his own countrymen the exquisite bit of satire of, "Ye'll ne'er rightly ken a Scotchmon till ye ken him for a mon that keeps the sawbath—an' all else he can lay his twa hands oopon!"

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

## THE FAR NORTH.

### SWEDEN.

A new church will be built in Hellestad, not far from Linköping.

The oldest of Swedish clergymen is Rev. Nyman, of Tegene, who was born in 1800.

The city of Lule and Ofoten, Norway, will probably soon be connected by a railroad.

Influenza is raging epidemically in Linköping. The public schools have been closed.

The new royal theater, which is now being built in Stockholm, will be one of the finest in Europe.

The large mercantile firm of S. and F. Lamm, of Stockholm, has been forced to make an assignment.

The Crown Prince Itussar Regiment will have a new building in Malmö. The lot alone costs \$500,000 crowns.

Several buildings at Vintrosa, not far from Örebro, were burned to the ground. Twenty-seven cattle were roasted to death.

Olof Alfred Beckman, one of the most prominent lawyers of Stockholm, died at the advanced age of seventy-eight years.

It is a peculiar fact that Stockholm, which has only 250,000 inhabitants, has a larger number of telephones than any other city in the world, not even London excepted.

A new bishop will be elected in the Linköping stift. The most prominent bishop of that district was Rev. Jacob Axel Lindblom, who lived in the beginning of this century.

Consul Asplund, of Lulea, has sold the giant iron mines of Ruotivaara and Silbojokko and the silver mines of Alkavaara and Vallatj to Count T. A. Posse. The price is not known.

O. Anderson member of the lower house of the riksdag, has introduced a bill making confinement in jail for minor offenses conditional, that is, the offender shall not be incarcerated at once but only after the lapse of a certain period of time, provided he commits a second crime during that period. If, however, he behaves well during that period he shall not be imprisoned at all.

Captain R. Schenstrom delivered a peculiar lecture before the students of the Upsala university. Its first part was devoted to a sweeping criticism of the social, moral and economical evils throughout the civilized world. Toward

the close the speaker proposed that the students of Sweden rise in the dignity of their splendid manhood, trample old habits and prejudices under their feet and lead a healthy, natural life in every respect. As an entering wedge he would start a society whose members should pledge to be chaste and frugal in their habits and not to indulge in strong drinks gambling etc. The proposition was received with intense applause, and a committee was immediately appointed to draft a constitution for a society, which it was proposed to call "Sweden Great Once More."

### NORWAY.

A new large Lutheran church will be built in Bergen.

Krogh, the author and artist, is writing a new book.

The weather was very unfavorable when the "Viking" was towed from Sandefjord to Christiania, and at times it looked as if it would be crushed by ice. At Christiania it was moored near "Pipers" vicks bryggen, where it has been on exhibition, the admission being 25 ore, 6½ cents.

The union question will evidently soon be brought up for discussion in the storting. The officials of the national government and the speakers of the two houses have had joint meetings, and the other day the liberal members of the storting held a caucus, the results are as yet unknown.

The new "centre" or moderate party finds it difficult to formulate a platform on which any large number of intelligent people can stand. The last break in attempts at platform making is the following plank: "Thoroughly convinced that any Norwegian government in the future negotiations with Sweden relating to the union will maintain that Norway has the same rights as Sweden—we are of the opinion that it is now time for negotiations." Several members have already left the organization representing the "centre," on the ground that a party which is convinced, that any party will do what ought to be done thereby declares that there is no reason for its existence.

### DENMARK.

The "Phingvalla steamer Hekla" has been ready to leave for America for over a month. This steamer is to carry the exhibits of Denmark to New York, but it cannot get away on account of the ice. Several thousand passengers are also waiting for a chance to cross the ocean.

In commenting on the attempt of the conservatives to exclude the reporter of the *Politiken* from the sessions of the Riksdag, that paper says: "Danish politics consists very largely in a fight against the liberal press. The press of Europe—even the conservative papers—has sided with the *Politiken* in this ridiculous mess."

## PALACIO FLORES' EORTUNE

James L. Morgan, an extensive rancher in southwest Texas is now on a trip to the east, superintending the construction of devices and machinery for the purpose of procuring \$300,000 of Mexican money.

In the early part of the present century, when San Antonio was the home