

Miscellaneous

Cost of Diamond Digging. (From illustrated paper, by Dr. W. J. Morton, in August Scribner.) Diamond digging is expensive. We will take, for example, the average digger, who owns a quarter of a claim and works his own ground. He can take his choice, according to locality, of paying from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for his quarter claim—i. e., 7 1/2 feet by 31 feet. It pays best to buy high-grade ground. His outfit of digging tools, washing-machine, etc., will cost \$1,000. His gang of twenty Kaffirs will cost him five dollars each per week, or \$100. One overseer besides himself, twenty-five dollars per week. Meat and tobacco for Kaffirs, five dollars per week extra. Then expenses of carting and taxes will make his total outlay at the least \$500 per week, or over \$10,000 a year, exclusive of his own expenses of living. If one cannot spend \$500 per month, I believe it is of no use to go to Kimberley to dig for diamonds. To offset this expense is, of course, good luck in "hitting," and from the very beginning of operations the digger often not only clears expense, but makes a handsome profit. There is no doubt that diamond digging pays two-thirds of those who engage in it, well. The fortunes made, as a rule, are small and numerous. Rarely has any one cleared \$50,000 from any one claim. Success seems to be very evenly distributed, and chiefly attainable by those who can begin with as little as \$5,000 to \$5,000. The amount of money paid for Kaffir labor alone is enormous. For instance, there are a thousand wells; allowing five Kaffirs to each, we have 5,000 laborers daily at the mine. These, at \$5 each per week, are paid \$25,000, or \$100,000 per month, or \$1,200,000 per year, and for this 5,000 Kaffirs only. The assessment of the Kimberley mine for the year 1877, simply for the purpose of distribution of rates or taxes, was \$5,151,500, or about \$7,000,000, if we add a third to bring the first amount up to selling price. It apparently never occurs to the digger to inquire into the unstable nature of the value of the Kimberley Kaffir. Immense sums of money are invested in and around the mine, and owners of town lots, of houses, of public buildings, and of claims, have settled into the calmest feeling of security. But no fear never disturbs the digger of Kimberley. His belief in the immortality of the mine is supreme. But there are influences at work which are crowding the small capitalist from the field. The increasing depth, crumbling roof, inflating water are fast multiplying the expense of working. The great bugbear of the digger is the word "company," but even now small proprietors are becoming merged in large aggregations of mines, and the next phase of mining operations must undoubtedly be that of several large and competing companies, or perhaps a single one controlling the whole mine. Then the individual romance of diamond-hunting will be over. But there is no danger that the diamond will ever become common. Nature has placed it in leads difficult of access, and it is likely to remain a royal gem, surrounded with the seduction of royalty.

What Paul Said. The other evening the Rev. Mr. Philauster sat down to the table with a very thoughtful air, and attended to the wants of his brood in a very abstract manner. Presently he looked at his wife and said: "The Apostle Paul—" "Got an awful lump on the head 'satternoon," broke in the pastor's eldest son, "playing base ball. But fell out of the striker's hand when I was upwired, and cracked me right above the ear, 'n' dropped me. Hurt." "But expressive pantomime as he tenderly rubbed that lump that looked like a billiard ball with hair on it. The pastor gravely pondered for the interruption, and resumed: "The Apostle Paul—" "Saw Mrs. O'Ginnine down at Greenbaum's this afternoon," said his eldest daughter, addressing her mother. She had on that same everlasting old black silk made over with a vest of tulle green silk, coat-tail basque pattern, overskirt made with deep fringe; yellow straw hat with black veil facing inside the brim, and pale blue flowers. She's going to Chicago." "The good minister waited patiently, and then, in tones just a shade louder than before, said: "The Apostle Paul—" "Ben in swimmin' last night with Harry and Ben, and stepped on a clam shell," exclaimed his youngest son; "cut my foot so, 'n' I can't stay home to-morrow." The pastor informed his son that he might stay away from the river and then returned to his text. "The Apostle Paul—" "My teacher is an awful liar," shouted the second son; "he says the world is as round as an orange and it turns around all the time faster than a circus man rides. I guess he hasn't got such sense." "The mother lifted a warning finger toward the boy and said: 'Ah! and the father resumed: "The Apostle Paul says—" "Daddy's bits off (twice) as much as you can chew," broke out the eldest son, reproving the assault of his little brother on a piece of cake. "The pastor's face showed just a trifle of annoyance as he said, in very firm, decided tones: "The Apostle Paul—" "There's a fly in the butter," shrieked the youngest hopeful of the family, and a general laugh followed. When silence was restored the eldest daughter with an air of curiosity, said: "Well, but pa, I really would like to know what the Apostle Paul said?" "Pass me the mustard," said the pastor absently.

Italy's Treatment of the Pops. The very first article of the Italian constitution is: "The Roman Catholic religion is the religion of the state." It is to be conceived, therefore, that a nation composed of Catholics and which in the first article of its political charter proclaims the Catholic religion as the religion of the state, shall still hold in honor the sacred person of the supreme head of the religion she professes. When the Italian Parliament first assembled in Rome one of the principal laws enacted accorded a proper recognition and endorsement of the Pope, as head of the religion of the state. The following are some of the principal articles contained in that law (I am quoting from memory): Inviolability of the person of the Pope, with the rights, honors, and prerogatives of a King; the palace of the Vatican (the so-called prison) with its eleven thousand rooms, grounds, gardens, museums, library, etc., for his residence; and his extra-territoriality, viz.: that the Italian government renounces all political, civil and criminal jurisdiction over that locality and residents thereof, as if it were outside of Italy; inviolability of the mail sent from, or addressed to the Papal Court, and its free transmission through the Italian post-offices and mail routes; the cardinal to be entitled to the rights, honors, and prerogatives of a King; the Pope's negative veto as a prince of the Papacy; the archbishops and bishops to those of a minister of state; a revenue of three million francs yearly assigned on the interest of the public debt for the personal use of His Holiness; with many other rights and privileges. This is certainly a very different treatment from that which the other six kings and dukes who were dethroned and expelled from Italy received at the hands of the Italian government. The Pope, under the advice of those who desire to keep up the ill feeling between Italy and the Papacy, refused to accept these concessions, and sought assistance from all the Catholics of the world, who generously responded to his appeals, millions of dollars having been remitted to Rome by the faithful. The Italian government on its part has regularly remitted a check every year for three million francs to the secretary of state of the Pope, which has been as regularly returned with a polite note, stating that His Holiness could not receive this money from a government that has usurped his temporal rights, and the minister of finance has deposited a check in the treasury, subject to the order of the Pope, or of his successors; for the money being voted by Parliament, is a part of the public debt of Italy. There is therefore accumulated into the Italian treasury, since 1870, some twenty-one million francs,—over four million dollars,—which, when better counsels prevail in the Vatican, can be made use of for the service of the Church.—Luigi Monti, in Scribner for July.

Polished manners have made scoundrels respected, while the best of men, by their hardness and coolness, have done themselves incalculable injury—the shell being so rough that the world could not believe there was a precious kernel inside of it. Had Kuleb never hung down his cloak in the mud for the proud Elizabeth to walk on, his career in life would hardly have been worth recording. Scores of men have been successful in life by pleasing manners alone.

SHE GAVE IN.—The Prairie Grove (Texas) swain, who had been "refused" three times by his lady love, called on her at last and announced his intention to neither eat, drink nor sleep till she had consented to become his bride. Invitations to dinner and supper and finally the offer of a servant to show him a room were received with negative shakes of his head, and then the lady tripped away to bed, only to return, however, at 12 o'clock and accept her lover's offer. After the first sweetness was over he eagerly asked: "Where were any cold vitals on hand." A young lawyer, who had been admitted about a year, was asked by a friend, "How do you like your new profession?" The answer was accompanied by a brief sigh to suit the occasion: "My profession is much better than my practice."

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AUDITORS NOTICE. In the matter of the estate of Matthew McDowell, deceased. Matthew McDowell, deceased, died October 25, 1884, and was appointed administrator of his estate on the 28th day of November, 1884. The said Matthew McDowell, deceased, was a resident of the County of Luzerne, State of Pennsylvania, and his estate is now being administered by the said administrator.

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