#### TIMELY TOPICS.

A telephone has been placed in the Congregational church, at Mansfield, O., the wires leading to the houses of several aged and invalid persons. It surmounts a floral decoration on the table in front of the open platform, where it is hardly seen. The speaker pays no attention whatever to it, yet every word uttered in the auditorium is easily heard in the rooms of the dwellings which the wires reach. The first message from the minister was from Scripture: "The word is nigh unto thee;" "His word runneth very swiftly." runneth very swiftly.

According to the Railway World, near-According to the natural words, near-ity 400,000 persons are employed on the railroads in the United States, and five times that many depend upon the roads for support. It is also estimated that between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 are annually paid to employees, and to persons who furnish the companies with supplies of various kinds. This vast business has sprung up in the lifetime of one generation, and its growth is still rapid. What another quarter of a century will develop in this field would doubtless seem fabulous could it now be foretold.

When the Zulus rushed in on the small British detachment of Col. Wood, and while there was yet an open road in one direction, Col. Weatherly, an English cavalry officer, clapped his son, a boy of thirteen—who was with him, on horseback—kissed him, and told him to fly for life. The lad jumped from the saddle, striking the horse a lash which sent it galloping off, and said: "Father, I'll die with you." The father handed his revolver to the child just as the Zulus reached, over British bodies, the spot where they stood. Weatherly slew five Zulus before he fell, but the son was spot where they stood. Weatherly slew five Zulus before he fell, but the son was

There have been some singular circumstances in which the eruptions of Mount Etna have differed from others. One occurred in 1852, when, after the throwing of lava had ceased, in a certain area the trees, vines and even grass were struck dead as if by lightning, with no visible cause. Another was the burial of a glacier under the lava, which Lyell states remained for thirty years unweltates remained for thirty years unweltages. of a glacier under the lava, which Lyen states remained for thirty years unmelted, a gigantic ice-house for the Catanians. Much of the ruin caused by the eruption of this volcano in 1755 resulted from the sudden melting of the snows above the Val del Bove and the prescripts in a first of a field devications. cipitation of a flood of water two miles

The amount of water passing over Niagara Falls has been estimated at 100,000,000 tons per hour, and its perpen-dicular descent may be taken at 150 feet, without considering the rapids, which represent a further fall of 150 feet. The force represented by the principal fall alone amounts to 16,800,000 horse-power an amount which if it had to be produced by steam would necessitate an expendi-ture of not less than 266,000,000 tons of coal per annum, taking the consumption of coal at four pounds per horse-power per hour. In other words, all the coal raised throughout the world would barely suffice to produce the amount of power that annually runs to waste at this wonderful fall.

The Scientific American asserts "that the common fault in lightning rods is that they are not sufficiently connected with the ground. They are generally stuck down two or three feet into dry earth; but such an arrangement is worse than useless; it is almost like placing the bottoms of the rods in a glass bottle. In all cases the bottoms of the rods underground should be connected with iron or water pipes, if they exist; or in lieu thereof, the rods should be extended a long distance underground, or should connect with a mass of old iron, or iron ore, or charcoal, or coal dust of any kind, laid in a trench. No lightning-rod can be regarded as a safe conductor unless its lower extremity is carried deep into the ground, and there put in good connection with a large surface of conducting material." ing material.

Apropos to the inter-oceanic canal across the isthmus of Darien, a correspondent in Buffalo writes to the New York Graphic, suggesting the construction of an enormous railway across the isthmus, constructed and equipped to carry ships of any tonnage. He would have the track at each end of the route run down into water deep enough to support a properly built dock, so that a vessel could sail into a basin surrounding this approach to the track, and then be docked and drawn across the isthmus on wheels. The writer does not profess any engineering skill, and modestly admits that there may be difficulties in the way of his scheme which he does not see. If so, others will probably see them. He thinks such a road might be built for one-tenth of \$200,000,000, the estimated cost of the proposed canal.

The police statistics of large cities are often more impressive than a long and rhetorical sermon could be. Take those of Chicago, for example. The annual arrests number about 30,000, one-half for drunkenness, and of the total, 6,000 are women. Without going into elaborate comparisons of figures, it may be affirmed that Chicago is not greatly worse than other large cities; it may not be as bad as some others. At the best we obtain a glimpse of an incalculable amount of crime and misery; and when we remember that the influence of evil examples spreads like-a contagious disease, the subject is seen to be one of terrible moment. Mere preaching to those whose surroundings alone render virtue almost impossible on the The police statistics of large cities are render virtue almost impossible on the one hand, and mere attention to physical wants on the other, will not meet the exigencies of the case. Nothing will effect an immediate or general cure, but there should be a union of all the methods which common sense and unconverse charity can devise. common charity can devise.

At Emperor William's golden wedding in Berlin, "a profound sensation was caused by the cold, not to say slighting, reception given to Prince Bismarck by the Empress Augusta. The emperor had greeted him with the greatest frankness, evidently wishing to show to those around him the confidence and regard which he entertained for his chief adviser. But the empress, on the other hand, seemed as if she wished to show her dislike of the prince by not only answering his obeisance in a very slighting fashion, but by not even extending her hand to him, as she did immediately afterward, with gracious mien, to the veteran Von Moltke. The incident is causing much talk in Berlin, where it is known, however, that the empress has long entertained a most bitter dislike to the chancellor. But this is the first time

that she has evinced her anger toward the emperor's favorite in such a decided and striking manner." So says the New York Herald's correspondent, who was an eye-witness of this little by-play dur-ing the resulter performance. ing the regular performance.

McCarthy, the recently-captured chief McCarthy, the recently-captured chief of the Umzuzi tribe, a tributary of the great Gwazi people, was a draper's clerk in Limerick in the year of the Fenian rising. He had a relative, a constable of police, who warned him that his name was on the Castle books, and that if he wanted to preserve his liberty he had better leave the country. McCarthy fled to the South African diamond fields, where he preserved, making two profits. fled to the South African diamond fields, where he prospered, making two profitable investments in London. He also contributed some readable sketches of the diamond fields to the London Globe. Somehow or other he picked up with the natives, and being of a bold, adventurous disposition, and already reduced to a half savage state by his occupation, he ended by joining the Umzuzis. When the chief of that tribe died, McCarthy was elected to the position, which he secured by killing, in single combat, half a dozen pretenders. He made an effort to introby killing, in single combat, half a dozen pretenders. He made an effort to introduce Christianity, but failed. He has a white wife, daughter of a rich Boer, who eloped with him some time ago. The lady's father would be glad to receive his son-in-law, but the Irish Kaflir re fused o desert his adopted people.

Strange mischances with fatal results Strange mischances with fatal results are daily happening here and there. A Boston butcher ran against a knife that lay on a block, severed an artery, and bled to death. A Denver woman caught her foot in a railroad frog, and could not get loose before a train ran over her. A Vermont farmer sneezed with a straw in his mouth, drew it into his lungs, and died choking. A horse kicked a Michigan boy into a deep well, where he was drowned. The shoe flew off the foot of a kicking mule, in Nashville, and fracgan boy into a deep well, where he was drowned. The shoe flew off the foot of a kicking mule, in Nashville, and fractured the skull of a baby. An Oregon girl swallowed her engagement ring, and lived only a week afterward. While standing on his head, on the top of a high fence post, an Iowa boy lost his balance, fell into a tub of hot water, and was fatally scalded. A stone, thrown by a playfellow, broke a glass from which a St. Louis boy was drinking, driving some of the pieces down his throat, and he died a few days afterward in great agony. Looking up to watch the flight of an arrow, a Nashville woman did not see it descending directly over her head, and the sharp metal point penetrated her brain through one of her gyes, killing her instantly.

Murders That Do Not Out.

A New York paper says: The sacredness with which our civilization has invested human life finds expression in the common assertion that "Murder will out;" and possibly in the large majority of cases the perpetrators of murder are discovered and punished. Yet it is certain that in respect to a considerable minority of the total number of murders committed the guilty escape detection. Bodies are daily and weekly discovered in the rivers. They may represent deaths by accident, by suicide, or by murder; but there is no way of ascertaining with accuracy how many are attributable to either cause. In some cases the waters may cast up the body when it is yet in condition to show marks of violence, if any there be upon it; but if it has passed a certain stage of decomposition this is not possible. Thus it depends upon the mere accident of the action of the tides whether it can be known that a murder has been committed; and when this is ascertained it may well happen that the knowledge gives not the slightest clew to the perpetrators of the crime. The truth is, that not the murder itself but the social position of the victim largely determines the chances of discovery. If a couple of drunken and degraded men, the offscourings of society, quarrel in their drunkenness and one pushes the other into the river; or if a man of the same class be found dead, with his skull fractured, in some wretched cellar, the chances are that the person at whose hands the deceased came to his death will not be discovered. Here is a murder, but society cares little about it because the murdered was at best useless to it, and possibly preyed upon it. Society is rather the better for his taking off, and those who are responsible for it are too brutalized to feel much compunction about the matter. If they are discovered it is mainly by chance circumstances rather than by the vigorous action of society through its constituted authorities. But let the murdered person be of good standing in society, or let there be circumst Murders That Do Not Out. bered, while it is morally certain that not a month, and perhaps not a week, passes in this city but some wretched creature meets death at the hands of per-sons who remain unknown and almost unsought.

# Appearance of a Tornado.

Appearance of a Tornado.

Various descriptions were given of the "features" of the storm. One of the most graphic was furnished by Mrs. Gaylord, who saw what we may call the "onset," from one of the mill buildings on the river. The cloud seemed, said Mrs. Gaylord, as if built up of successive layers of ashy smoke. It came on with a roar that could be compared to nothing save that of an immense mass of towering flame, yet without any of the crackling sound usually associated with fire. In the brief moments of its passage it brought with it a darkness like that of late twilight. In its circle it was resistless. A farmer was coming toward the mill; the wagon was torn to pieces, but the horses were unharmed. Not far from the mill is or was the iron bridge across the Blue, built some years ago at a cost of \$20,000. This was torn down by what is known as the "first" storm. The superstructure was torn from the piers and thrown yards away, a mass of twisted iron and broken timbers.

Mr. Robert Patterson, who preserved his coolness (as all his neighbors say) throughout the storm, and rendered valuable assistance, advanced the opinion that this "pillar of cloud" was hollow, and drew up everything movable into its center. Its movement was described as eccentric, zigzagging in its onward course, and bounding up and down just as every soldier as seen a solid shot richochet. In this connection your reporter may state that he repeated light and the state of the decame.

#### A NAVAL BATTLE.

sperate Conflict Between Peruvian Ironciads and Chilian Vessels--A Chil-ian Vessel Sunk and a Peruvian Ironclad Wrecked.

Official reports and correspondence chave been received from Iquique, Peru, of the battles between the Peruvian vessels Huascar and Independencia and the Chilian ships Esmeralda and Covadonga. The Huascar arrived off the bay of Iquique and, discovering the Esmeralda and Covadonga in the harbor, ordered the Independencia, accompanying her, to guard the entrance of the bay, while the Huascar advanced against the Esmeralda. This vessel was lying fur in shore, and protected by a line of torpedees. When the Huascar got in position she had the enemy between her own fire and that of the field artillery on shore, which, however, did little damage. Eight 300-pound shells were discharged by the Huascar against the Esmeralda, one falling in her engine-room and killing all the machinists and firemen. The Esmeralda was fought very bravely by her commander, Don Arturo Prats, a son of the recent Cabinet Minister of Chili. Capt. Grau, seeing that his artillery practice was bad, owing to the heavy sea, determined to go to close quarters. The first two attempts at sinking the Esmeralda by ramming proved ineffectual, as she turned, and the monitor's ram passed glancingly along her side; but the third effort sank her, striking her fair amidships, and causing immediate submersion. At the moment of this third shock, Capt. Grau also discharged his two turret guns at the Esmeralda, shattering her terribly. The crew of the Esmeralda threw themselves into the water, with the exception of Captain Prats, who called upon his men to follow him in boarding the ram. He, however, was accompanied by only half a dozen of his men and his second lieutenant, all of whom, including Prats, were killed on the deck of the Huascar. The Esmeralda, out of a crew of nearly 200, had only forty odd saved by the boats of the Huascar. The latter lost her signal officer, and had two or three men slightly injured. No damage was done to her by the artillery fire of the Chilian. The Esmeralda was a species of storeship for the Chilian, as he sank in deep water.

The fight lasted from eight A. M. to

tried by the Husscar. Advancing rapidly against the Chillian, receiving a heavy fire from her battery and from the riflemen and mitrailleuses in her tops. Capt. More brought his ship close alongside, so that the yards were aimost interlaced. Just at this moment, as the Independencia was preparing to give the coup de grace to her antagonist, she struck heavily on a sunken rock, turned upon her side and in an instant it was apparent that she was lost. The Covadonga let fly her last broadside, which was gallantly returned by the starboard battery of the Independencia, the men standing knee deep in the water that was pouring in through the great hole made in her bottom. The commander of the Covadonga, Capt Condell, of Scotch descent, opened a sharp fire from his tops on the sailors of the Independencia, who had thrown themselves into the water and were striking out for the shore. After this the Covadonga, badly damaged by the fire of the Innependencia, steamed away at the best speed she could toward the south. The Husscar shortly afterward gave chase, but the Covadonga had a good start, and the chase was abandoned. Boats were sent from the Huascar, and nearly all of the crew of the Independencia placed in safety on board. Capt. More gave orders to set fire to the magazine, but as the water had penetrated to that point it was impossible to reach it, and it was decided to fire the ship after spiking the guns. This was immediately done. The loss on board the Independencia was eighteen men killed and wounded, principally by the fire of the riflemen and Gatling guns of the Covadonga. Lieut. Guillermo Garciay Garcia, of the well-known family of that name, is among the killed. While replacing the Independencia's flag, which had been shot away, he was struck by a ball from a mitrailleuse and killed instantly. The enemy's loss cannot be stated, but must have been severe, as their men, on a lower vessel than the Independencia, were more exposed. The disaster to the Peruvians is certainly great. The loss of the Independencia

The Covadonga was run ashore and destroyed in Antofagasta, possibly from damages received in the fight with the Independencia.

# " Sarsaparilla."

Yesterday afternoon a red-faced young man belonging to an excursion party called into a Woodward avenue drug store and softly asked the soda fountain boy if he was out of any particular kind of syrup. The boy made an investigation and replied:
"We are out of sarsaparilla but—"

on and rephed:
"We are out of sarsaparilla, but—"
"That's all right—all right—you wait
minute," interrupted the young man,

"That's all right—all right—you wait a minute," interrupted the young man, and away he went.

The boy took the empty reservoir from the fountain and replaced it, and in about two minutes the young man returned in company with his girl and four other people, evidently all friends. Walking up to the fountain he said:
"I'm going to take sarsanarilla in

"I'm going to take sarsaparilla in mine, for the doctors all recommend it, and if he hasn't any sarsaparilla I won't take nothing. What do you say?"
"Oh, we'll take the same," they re-plied

plied.

The young man began to smile and his left eye began to draw down, but what was his horror to see the boy draw off six glasses in succession and push them to the front, where they were eagerly drained of their contents! He tried to give the boy a look of mingled hate and murderous intent, but the lad was too busy to see it. He felt in all his pockets, brought up watch-keys, pennies and peanuts, and finally laid down twenty-seven cents and whispered to the boy:

boy:
"That takes my pile, and if I ever catch you outside of town I'll lick you to death!"—Detroit Free Press.

Twenty-seven daughters cheer the family of a Cleveland (N. C.) man.

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Life in Ludlow Street Jall. During the investigation of the charge

During the investigation of the charges of mismanagement made against the sheriff of New York by the Bar Association of that city, interesting testimony was given concerning the manner in which affairs were conducted at Ludlow Street Jail. Mr. J. Edward Ireland, recently released from that institution, said that he was forty years of age and lived at Broadway and Twentieth street. He was arrested and taken to Ludlow Street Jail under a process issued by the sheriff of the county of New York on August 30, 1878, and liberated on May 13, 1879. He described the construction of the jail, and said that on the lower floor were two rooms which rented to wealthy prisoners at \$35 and \$40 a week, and another and handsomer room which brought \$75 a week. The witness had paid at first \$7.50 and afterward \$15 a week for his board in the jail. As a boarder he was far better treated than the non-paying prisoners. Each of the latter had in his cell an iron bedstead, a straw mattress and pillow, a coarse army blanket and an iron slop-pail — nothing else; no sheets or pillow-cases. These prisoners were locked up at five o'clock in the evening and allowed to come out of their cells at six in the morning. Their cells were, for the most part, filthy, and one of them, belonging to an old man of the name of Frost, was so dirty that it made the witness sick to go near it.

The paying prisoners, on the contrary, were treated "like gentlemen." They went to the dining-room for their meals, and were waited upon by a colored attendant known as Marc Antony. They had clean sheets and pillow-cases upon their beds, and were permitted to remain in the yard until ten and a half o'clock at night, besides being allowed various other privileges. Mr. Fitzsimmons went around the jail every week to collect the board hills, and generally

o'clock at night, besides being allowed various other privileges. Mr. Fitzsimmons went around the jail every week to collect the board bills, and generally there was no delay in the payment.

After a time the witness ceased to be a paying inmate, and at once experienced a change of treatment. His sheets and pillow-cases were removed by wear

a change of treatment. His sheets and pillow-cases were removed, he was locked up at five and a half o'clock in the evening, and the quality of the food furnished was widely different from what it had been. His friends, too, were rarely permitted to see him, and once, because a lady and gentleman who called upon him entered his cell, the keeper locked him up from one and a half o'clock in the afternoon until seven o'clock the following morning, and deprived him of his supper.

The bill-of-fare for non-paying prisoners, as he described it, was not succulent

prived him of his supper.

The bill-of-fare for non-paying prisoners, as he described it, was not succulent or delicate. On Monday, for breakfast, they got dry bread, which was often sour, and a concoction which was called coffee. Every morning, Sunday included, the same breakfast was served. On Monday, for dinner, they got what was facetiously termed an Irish stew, consisting of onions, a little meat and bread, all being served in a tin pail, without knife, fork, spoon, pepper or salt. On Tuesday, for dinner, a plentiful supply of beans, so strong and pungent that they made the prisoners sick, was ladled out. On Wednesday the Irish stew was served again; on Thursday and Sunday corned beef and potatoes constituted the banquet; on Friday fish, and on Saturday the stew once more.

For supper, throughout the week, a pint of bad tea and a piece of hard bread were served. All the meals were carried around in a tin bucket and ladled out in the cells.

When the witness first became an

e cells.

When the witness first became an

inmate of the prison the floor of his cell and his bed were covered with a coating of filth half an inch thick. He was unable to remove it himself, and he had to pay to have it taken away.

There were three or four female prisoners in the jail, who seemed to be all boarders. They had free access to all parts of the prison and associated familiarly with the men. He once saw one of them having her supper served in a male prisoner's cell.

ale prisoner's cell.

On the ground floor was a cell called The ground noor was a cell called the "bar cell," where liquor was sold. The witness had bought very bad lager beer there at fifteen cents a bottle, and scenes of drunkenness and debauchery frequently took place there.

Haunted by Her Victim.

Officer Herrick, of the Tenth precinct, early on Sunday morning arrested a woman for being drunk at Eldridge and Hester streets. At the station-house, so gave the name of Margaret Myers, of No. 8 Ludlow street. She refused to go to court at eight o'clock when the other prisoners were arraigned, and was left locked up to get thoroughly sober. About one o'clock in the afternoon the doorman passing the prison heard groans, and going to the cell of the woman tound her hanging to the door. She had torn her apron into strips, and had tied one end to the cell door and the other about her neck, endeavoring to strangle herself. She was cut down, and promised not to make any further attempts on her Haunted by Her Victim. not to make any further attempts on her life. Three hours later she was again found hanging to the door, nearly dead. She was again cut down, and an officer was stationed in her cell. She raved wildly. In her ravings she asked her guardian to "take McChesney away." It was then that she was recognized as "Mag Weish," the woman who killed Officer McChesney, of the Eighth precinct, on the night of October 19, 1867. McChesney found the woman drunk, clinging to a lamp post at Mercer and Canal streets. As she refused to go home, the officer arrested her, and a scuffle took place, during which she drew a pocket knife, which she had concealed in her hair, and stabbed the officer in the neck, completely severing the jugular vein. The wounded man bled to death before a hospital could be reached. The woman was tried, convicted and sentenced to the State prison for life, but obtained a new trial and was finally convicted and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. She was pardoned before her time expired, Six weeks ago she married a tailor named Myers and tried to settle down, but her old habits had too strong a hold on her. She was taken before Justice Bixby at the Essex Market court and sent to the island for three months.—New York Commercial Advertiser

How the Mints are Cleaned. not to make any further attempts on her life. Three hours later she was again Three hours later she was again and hanging to the door, nearly dead.

## How the Mints are Cleaned.

An annual cleaning up is carried on at ill the United States mints at the end of all the United States mints at the end of the fiscal year. During the progress of this species of house cleaning all minting operations cease, and a thorough overhauling is made. No house in the cleanest city of Holland receives the minute cleaning which is rigorously applied to every spot in the mints. The furnaces are torn down, the chimneys carefully swept, and the bricks taken down one by one and dusted. The same painstaking labor is applied to the roofs and walls, and the dust thus collected is ground, and generally yields a rich return of minute particles of gold. This process is necessary in order to complete the yearly accounts.

### AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

### A Boy's Strange Malady and Curio

The Chicago Telegraph says: Probably the most wonderful phenomenon that has ever come under the observation of the medical fraternity of this city developed itself at the Montealm House, on Erie street, in the person of a boy named Herbert G. Schwartz. Herbert is a boy of German parentage, though born near the town of Buckingham, in Tama county, Iowa, The Schwartz family consist of five persons; Mr. Carl Schwartz, the father, being a man of some fifty years of age. There are four children, two girls and two boys, Herbert being the oldest child. Mrs. Schwartz has been dead several years. Schwartz senior is a farmer, and well-to-do, owning a fine prairie farm of 160 acres in Tama county. Herbert has for a number of years assisted at the farm work, and was, until recently, a stout, healthy and intelligent boy.

Last April Herbert and his brother Fritz were playing together in the farm's barn, having turned the horses in after a day's plowing. At supper that evening young Schwartz complained of a queer feeling in his chest, and coughed considerable. Thinking that the boy had caught cold, but little attention was paid to the matter, and for the two or three succeeding days, though the cough continued and he complained of an oppressive feeling in the left chest, his father used the simple country remedies for ordinary cold. These seemed to have a

used the simple country remedies for ordinary cold. These seemed to have a beneficial effect, for the cough left him, though he still complained of the singu-ar and unaccustomed feeling in the

chest.

In the latter part of April Herbert's appetite deserted him, and he commenced to lose flesh to such an extent that from a stout, healthy farm lad he dwindled down to nothing more than a living skeleton.

windled down to nothing ring skeleton. Various remedies were tried, and local Various remedies were tried, and local Various remedies were tried, and local medical advice taken. The physicians called were of the opinion that hasty consumption had set in, and but little hopes were offered of his recovery. In the latter part of last month another singular feature added itself to the afflicted youth's distress.

The pain in his chest became more intense, and added to it there was now an irritating, tickling sensation in the throat, as though some foreign matter had lodged there that demanded a removal. This induced a continuous cough, until

lodged there that demanded a removal. This induced a continuous coupl, until, at last, the sufferer had hardly a moment's release from the attack.

Every one connected with the boy gave him up, and his family already felt that the doom of a speedy demise was inevitable. With a last grasp at hope Mr. Schwartz brought his son to this city and summoned the skill of Drs. Charles A. Andrews and Ernest Solomon to arrest, if possible, the fell destroyer. At first both Dr. Andrews and Dr. Solomon agreed that it was a case of mon to arrest, if possible, the fell destroyer. At first both Dr. Andrews and Dr. Solomon agreed that it was a case of hasty consumption, and extended no hopes to the distracted parent. But Friday morning, while Herbert was undergoing one of his worst paroxysms of coughing, a light, or an intuition suddenly forced itself upon Dr. Solomon. Requesting the boy's father to assist him, he suspended the patient by the heels near a window, with a strong light thrown down his throat. Without whispering his suspicions or intentions the doctor, with the aid of instruments, made an examination of the throat, so far as the eye could penetrate; and his investigation was rewarded by a wonderful discovery. A foreign body was discovered partially implanted in the mucous membrane of the windpipe. Having firmly seized upon it with his instrument, despite the struggles of the patient, Dr. Solomon drew forth a germinated kernel of wheat, with a growing stalk seven and one-quarter inches long. The stock was of a brownish-red color, while the tendrils of the germinated kernel were massed in clotted blood. A violent hemorrhage ensued, that required much trouble to check, but young Schwartz, though very weak, is now much better, and bids fair to rapidly recover. The only explanation of this most singular incident is that Herbert swallowed a grain of wheat while playing in the barn with his brother, and

swallowed a grain of wheat while play swallowed a grain of wheat while playing in the barn with his brother, and
that the kernal, instead of taking the
natural channel, reached his left lung
and there remained and sprouted. It is
certainly one of the most extraordinary
cases on record. Dr. Solomon has preserved the wheat in a vial, where hundreds of the curious viewed it in his
office.

A Sea Serpeut as Thick as a Mast. Captain Davison, master of the Misu Bishi steamship Kiushiu Maru, gives the following relation of what passed before his eyes on his voyage from Riu Kiu to Kobe. The statement is duly signed by himself and countersigned by Mr. John McKechnie, the chief officer. signed by himself and countersigned by Mr. John McKechnie, the chief officer, and its authenticity appears to be beyond question: At 11.15 A. M., Cape Satano, distant about nine miles, the chief officer and myself observed a whale jump clear out of the sea, about a quarter of a mile away. Shortly after it leaped out again, when I saw there was something attached to it. Got glasses, and on the next leap distinctly saw something holding on to the belly of the whale. The latter gave one more spring clear of the water, and myself and the chief officer then observed what appeared to be a large creature of the snake species rear itself about thirty feet out of the water. It appeared to be about the thickness of a junk's mast, and after standing for about ten seconds in an erect position, it descended into the water, the upper end going first. With my glasses I made out the color of the beast to resemble that of a pilot fish.—Tokio (Japan) Times.

## A Brave Little Girl.

A Brave Little Girl.

Mr. H. F. Gaulding has a little daughter eleven years old to whose nerve and courage he is indebted for the life of his three-year-old boy. The boy was playing by the cistern in Mr. Gaulding's yard. There was a plank off, and through this aperture the little fellow fell. He caught a plank, however, in falling, and held for some time before he was discovered. But his hold weakened, and with a splash he fell into the cistern. His sister saw and appreciated the situation. Most girls would have screamed and run off in quest of help. Not so with this little girl. The screams and struggles for life of her baby brother gave her the strength and courage of a man. She saw a ladder, and, with all her might, she dragged it to and placed it into the cistern, and then went down into the water, reached out and caught her brother just in time to save him from a watery grave. By this time help arrived and both were landed safely from their perilous position. All honor to this little heroine!—Bainbridge (Ga.) Democral.

## The Amethyst.

The amethyst is a variety of the vitreous portion of the quartz family. It is of a fine violet color, passing from white to a deep purple, sometimes in the same specimen. The deep purple colored specimens are frequently called oriental, even by some jewelers and lapidaries, although the oriental amethyst is an entirely different stone, as will be seen by the description of the oriental gem which is given below. The color of the amethyst is by some supposed to be derived from a trace of oxide of maganese. Later analyses however have discovered also silica, iron and soda. The amethyst is found in India, Ceylon, Brazil, Persia, Siberia, Hungary, Saxony, Spain, etc. A fine vein is said to exist near Kerry, in Ireland. In Oberstein it is found in a trap rock, in geodes of agate. These geodes are sometimes as much as two feet in diameter, hollow and filled with crystallized amethyst of a fine color. Similar grades are also said to exist in India. This variety of quartz, in common with some other of the vitreous members of the family, possess a peculiar, minute, wrinkled or wavy fracture on the fresh broken surface, resembling the impression of the thumb on a waxy substance. Sir David Brewster classes all kinds of quartz having this peculiarity as amethyst without regard to their color. This gem is found in pieces of considerable size, and, from its beautiful color and play, is much used in jewelry. Many years ago amethysts were of considerable value, ranking next to the sapplire, but immense quantities having been sent to Europe from Brazil, they became comparatively common and gradually depreciated in value. Latterly, however, the taste for them has revived, and at present they are gaining ground in public estimation. On account of the cheaper cost of cutting amethysts is form the Greek—a negative and inebriate—in allusion to the superstition that this stone had the power of dissipating drunkenness. Pliny says that the gem was so cailed from the fact of its approaching near the color of wine, but not guite reaching may be distinguished from the ordinary amethyst by its superior brilliancy and play, as well as by its hardness, etc. It is a gem of rare occurrence, and even jewelers frequently confound it with the ordinary amethyst. There are some few specimens in the green vaults of Dresden. There are also in the Vatican one or two engraved intaglios of this stone of very early date. Many sapphires, however, have an amethystine tint, which becomes very apparent by candle-light.—Detroit Free Press.

## A Bagpipe as a Detective.

For nearly two years past a young man wearing the garb of a Highlander piper For nearly two years past a young man wearing the garb of a Highlander piper has been wandering about in the coal regions of Pennsylvania, playing his pipes in the street, attending picnics and dances, apparently depending upon his instrument to make him a living. A short time since he was playing in a mining village on the outskirts of Scranton, Pa. A crowd had gathered around him, among them a mine laborer named Braidy. Suddenly the piper ceased the music, and stepping from the crowd seized Braidy by the shoulder and announced that the laborer was his prisoner. At the same time he produced papers which he said were his authority for making the arrest. Braidy seemed entirely overwhelmed by the arrest, and made no opposition to the authorities when it was revealed that the piper was a detective. For two years he had been on the track of his prisoner, who is charged with having murdered a wealthy man named Findlay in Scotland in January, 1877. Braidy was in the employ of Findlay. Early one morning the latter was found dead by the roadside, his skull crushed with a club. Braidy had been discharged the morning before for drunkenness. He had been heard to make a threat that he would get even with Findlay. He was nowhere to be found, but was traced to Glasgow, where it was believed he had taken a vessel for America. William Male, detective, was employed by the relatives of the murdered man to come to this country and search for Braidy, who, it was thought, would bring up in the Pennsylvania coal regions, where he had friends working. One of Braidy's peculiarities was he love for the bear of the piper for the pennsylvania coal regions, where he had friends working. One of Braidy's peculiarities was he love for the bear of the piper for the pennsylvania coal regions, where he had friends working. One of Braidy's peculiarities was he love for the bear of the piper for the piper for the pennsylvania coal regions, where he had to this country and search for Braidy, who, it was thought, would bring up in the Pennsylvania coal regions, where he had friends working. One of Braidy's peculiarities was his love for the bagpipe, so the detective, being a piper, adopted the disguise of a Scotch piper, played about in the coal towns in the hope of some day attracting the attention of the man he was seeking, he being sure from information he had received that Braidy really was somewhere in the coal regions. The ruse succeeded after two years of patient trial. Male is now on his way to Scotland with the alleged murderer.

#### murderer. Can Cats Reason?

Baron Von Gleichen, a German diplo-Baron Yon Gleichen, a German diplomatist, used to tell a story of a favorite cat as a proof that the feline race can think and draw practical conclusions. The cat was very fond of looking in mirrors hung against the walls, and would gnaw at the frames, as if longing to know what was inside. She had, however, never seen the back side of a mirror. One day the baron placed a chevalglass in the middle of the room, and the cat instantly took in the novelty of the situation.

Placing herself in front, and seeing a

Placing herself in front, and seeing a second cat, she began to run round the mirror in search of her companion. After running round one way several times, she began to run the other, until fully satisfied that there was no cat beside herself outside of the glass. But where was the second cat?

She sat down in front of the glass to meditate on the problem. Evidently inside, as she had often before imagined. Suddenly a new thought occurred to her.

Suddenly a new thought occurred to her.

Rising deliberately, she put her paws on the glass in front and then behind, walked round to the other side, and measured the thickness in the same way. Then she sat down again to think.

There might be a cavity inside, but it was not large enough to hold a cat. She seemed to come to the deliberate conclusion that there was a mystery here, but no cat, and it wasn't worth while to bother about it. From that time the baron said she lost all curiosity about looking-glasses.

Railways are aristocratic. teach every man to know his station and to stop there.