TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Little Denmark, which has a population of about 1,800,000 and a national debt of $28,000,000, is going to spend $18,500,000—a good deal more than her yearly income—in forts and new ships of war.

The latest investigation informs us that the United States contains 11,333 blind men and 8,977 blind women—in all 20,310—a population which is greater than that of most of our inland towns. Of these unfortunates 2,213 were found in New York State.

Reports from different sections of the United States indicate that more agricultural implements will be sold this year than in any other in its history. The great influx of emigrants has assisted to subdue and put under cultivation a large extent of new farming lands. With fair crops the products of the soil this year will be immense.

General Robert C. Schenck, ex-minister to England, has, he says, been entirely cured of what appeared to be a fatal attack of Bright's disease by using skimmed milk as his only diet. Unskimmed milk and buttermilk have also been successfully employed in typhoid and other fevers. French and Russian medical scientists have, after trial, indorsed their use in all such cases.

There has been so much water in Manitoba that the people there don't know what to do with it. There is more of the thin fluid than the Manitobians know how to satisfactorily use, opposed as they are to it as a beverage. A gentleman writes from there that he sailed over a $25,000 farm in a large steamboat a short time ago. The same farm produced forty bushels of wheat to the acre last year.

There is, perhaps, no better way of getting a correct idea of the vastness of the city of London than from the police records, which show that 173,000 persons are every year brought before the city courts. This is at the rate of nearly 550 per day, exclusive of Sundays, or one arrest for every three minutes, day and night the year round. To provide for such a vast business there are established thirteen separate police courts in various parts of the city, before each of which there are brought an average of forty-two prisoners daily.

The colony of thrifty Swiss, recently established near Mount Airy, Ga., is as prosperous and happy as there was every reason to suppose it would be. It now comprises twenty-four families, and several more are expected soon. Each family brought from $2,000 to $5,000, and now owns a farm which, in comparison with the scanty measures of Switzerland, seems like a kingdom. The average size of the farms is 160 acres, and they already show the intelligence and honest industry of their owners. The colonists call their settlement, upon which they have expended about $60,000, New Switzerland.

Trichinæ continues to give a surprising amount of trouble in Germany. Inspectors have been appointed in every district, stringent rules are in force for the microscopic examination of pork, and negligence or evasion of the law is severely punished. Nevertheless the sale of infected meat, often with fatal results, is a thing of frequent occurrence in all parts of the country. If American pork were half as liable to be infected with trichinæ as that raised in Germany, it would not be admitted into a single European port. By comparison the American meat, free as it is from government inspection, is singularly pure.

Statistics of population compared with representatives in legislative bodies of the leadies countries of the world, show that the United States, with the largest population, has the smallest number of legislators. For her nearly fifty millions of people she has 369 Senators and members of Congress, while the figures for the European nations are these: Germany, 45,000,000, and 397 delegates; England, 34,000,000, and 658 members of parliament; France, 36,000,000, and 950 representatives and senators; Spain, 17,000,000, and 387 deputies in the cortes; and Austria-Hungary, 35,000,000, and 1,600 members in the two houses.

It was reported recently that an elderly impostor, who had lived on the charity of benevolent persons in Philadelphia, had died, leaving a large sum of money to her daughter, who was spending it in a prodigal way. The daughter was thereupon exceedingly indignant. The matter has been thoroughly investigated, and the fraudulent character of both women has been amply proved. By playing that they were "a sick and famishing family" they received a regular pension from one of the churches. From a charitable maiden lady they received at various times sums amounting to $1,500. This victim lives in Brooklyn, and like sundry others responded to piteous appeals which were sent by mail. By the oft repeated death and burial of an imaginary man, who sometimes was served up as a husband, and sometimes as cousins, these females raked in a good deal of funeral money. The case is a remarkable instance of what ingenious impostors can do in deceiving persons who are both charitable and unwary.

The following table shows how rapidly the extravagance of the country has advanced with its prosperity. The list of imported luxuries is as follows:

	1879.	1880.	1881.
Books	$1,764,914	$2,173,171	$2,560,588
Carriages	56,524	88,395	138,749
Gold & sil. watches	845,779	1,388,446	1,947,873
Diamonds	3,875,804	6,705,692	8,330,071
Feathers	973,258	1,356,628	1,839,258
Fancy articles	2,468,000	3,858,735	5,245,043
Furs	2,773,291	3,823,969	4,270,161
Jet	174,364	1,352,553	223,216
Musical instruments	590,234	892,178	1,385,892
Paintings	1,050,092	1,959,902	2,210,914
Silks	23,630,411	31,460,947	32,377,226
Spirits and wines	6,050,707	7,578,281	8,762,762
Tobacco	5,675,407	6,179,238	6,474,938
Carpets woven whole	166,865	118,601	371,681
Brussels	100,678	102,337	213,724
Velvet carpets	11,621	31,540	71,674
Hosiery over 80 c. per pound	322,766	468,114	827,508
Total	$50,530,595	$69,538,727	$77,242,368

During the last thirty years the United States government has given away to railroad corporations not less than 161,653,401 acres, 21,554,201 acres more than comprises the great State of Texas, an area equal to eight times the area of Indiana, or seven times the area of Kentucky. The great State of Illinois covers an area of 36,256,000, and Ohio 26,278,400. Their areas are, however, as a small corner lot compared to some of the territory given away. To one railroad, the Atlantic and Pacific, was given, between 1866 and 1871, 42,000,000 acres, the Northern Pacific, 47,000,000 acres. But it is now pretty evident that no more land will be given to railroads, and it is not impossible that large slices may be taken away from railroads which have not fulfilled the conditions of their respective grants. Hundreds of thousands of American citizens, and almost as many emigrants, are now wanting land for homes, but the government lands of good quality are getting scarce. They have all been absorbed by railroad corporations and are held at speculative prices.

An English hydraulic engineer proposes to make use of the vast energy that is to be found in the tides. The idea of utilizing the rise and fall of the ocean is by no means new, and the various plans which have been tried have proved quite inefficient. It is now proposed to put in practice a means which will likely prove a measurable success where the difference between high and low water is considerable. The method is as follows: A weir or dam is built across the mouth of an inlet of the sea. The rising tide is kept out of the inclosure until near about high water. The tide is then let in, and while it is running in the water is made to turn water wheels, which may be made to give dynamo-electric machines that will "store up" electricity for light and power. When the inclosure is full the gates are shut and the water retained until about low tide, when it is liberated and made to give useful results the same as before. The wonderful progress made within the last few months in secondary batteries raises the hope that many other sources of motive power now neglected will be made capable of adding to the material progress of this wonderful mechanical age.

The Zodiac.

Very few people know the signification of the various signs peculiar to the title page of the almanac, and some of them are not exactly clear to us.

In the first instance, the man who stands in the center with his vest unbuttoned in such a manner as to expose his alimentary canal, has only been a mystery to us. Why in every almanac for the past century this man, with all his works exposed to the cold night air, in a literary work like the almanac, should be given the most prominent place, we are unable to clearly understand. He certainly can claim no great degree of consideration for this act. It does not entitle him to any amount of prominence, for the public do not thirst for a man who has made an autopsy of himself and is apparently proud of it. What the planets have to do with the cardiac orifice we do not at this moment know positively, or why astronomy and the gastric juices should have anything in common.

Again we must come out and confess our ignorance as to the bearing that the ram or the tarantula, or the twins, or the crab, or other astronomical delirium tremens may have upon the weather. Of course it is stupidity and we ought to be ashamed of it, but we are in that fix and we cannot help it. When our son gets old enough to look into these things we will see that he isn't left to grope along through life and make a moral show of himself as his father has. —*Boomerang.*

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

The Tender Passion.

It seems that in England and America the tender passion is much the same. A recent marriage at Hyde Park, Pa., completes a romance of absorbing interest. The young couple are both children of farmers in England, he of poor, she of wealthy parents. The farms adjoin. They became infatuated with each other, and a courtship began. The parents of the young bride were bitterly opposed to the match, and did everything to break it up. Love for parents, however, could not repress the flame that glowed for her lover. The tie grew stronger and stronger. Even threats of disinheriting her availed nothing. As a last resort she was sent to Scotland.

Her lover was almost broken-hearted. She was closely watched lest she might write to him. Not a word came to console him, and, despairing of ever seeing his love again, he sailed for America. This was ten months ago. After his departure the girl was brought to her home in England. The hope she had fostered of meeting her lover was usurped by bitter grief and disappointment.

Some time after the arrival of the young man in this country he wrote to a former governess of the young lady regarding her. Through the governess she learned where her lover was. Without preparation, and with the bare means of defraying the trip, she set sail and arrived in New York almost penniless, and without a friend in the great city. She was soon found by the young man, and the couple were married by a Hyde Park minister.

Story of a Blighted Life.

The Cleveland *Leader* tells the story of a blighted life. After the late A. T. Stewart had received a start in this country he returned to Ireland to settle the estate of an uncle who had died and left him quite an inheritance. While there he renewed his acquaintance with a family named Morrow, and spent the greater part of one winter at their house. One of the members of the family was Miss Abby, a fresh-faced, bright-eyed Irish lass of some eighteen years. Thrown constantly in her society, Stewart fell a victim to the young lady's manifold charms, and was soon an accepted suitor. In the spring the young man, having sold out his interest in the elder Stewart's property, began preparing for his return to America, and suggested that the family of his betrothed accompany him. After due solicitation on his part and with great reluctance on theirs they finally consented to emigrate, and coming to this country settled in what was then a small village but is now the city of Cleveland. Stewart and Miss Abby corresponded for a year or more, and Stewart visited her at her distant home. Upon his returning to New York his letters grew infrequent and ultimately ceased. Shortly after, Miss Morrow received tidings of Stewart's marriage. The news prostrated her completely, and after her recovery from the illness which ensued she was entirely changed. Before that time she had been light-hearted and cheerful. Afterward she was never known to speak above an ordinary tone, and smiled only on rare occasions. The roses permanently left her cheeks and she became prematurely aged. Her mother died the year following Abby's sickness, and for thirty years she kept house for her two brothers. In the early years she did not lack for suitors, for attractive girls were even ewer in proportion in those days than now. None of them succeeded in awaking any responsive emotion in her breast, and in 1856 she died, and, with her griefs and blighted affections, was laid away in a grave dug by her brothers in front of their cottage door. Two years after his marriage A. T. Stewart sent to his former affianced a silk dress pattern, with the attendant trimmings. Each following year till the time of his death Miss Morrow received a similar offering from her faithless and possibly remorseful lover. All the presents she received without remark, and all were carefully laid away and never worn. After his marriage Miss Morrow was never known to refer to Stewart in any manner, and after her death her brothers rarely spoke of the man who broke their sister's heart.

Fashion Fancies.

New black lace veils have borders.

Old-fashioned blue is coming in again.

Linings to trains have assumed great importance.

Among novelties brought out in London are parasols of straw.

New mown hay and putty are the latest shades talked about.

Stockings of new cheery grade are worn with black costumes.

New York women of fashion display little or no jewelry on the street.

French costumes grow more bouffant and æsthetic dresses become more and more clinging.

Laced boots are again revived, both in stout material for long tramps in the country and in fine kid for the street.

It is considered bad form to wear the bustle close up to the waist—the correct thing being to fasten it some inches below the waist line.

Shoulder capes in various styles, made of the dress material, are to be very fashionable as a part of walking suits a little later in the season.

A great many wrappers made from fancy blankets are being prepared for use at the seaside. Red, blue and gray blankets are alike used for these, and the border forms the trimming.

Ribbon neckties are in vogue. These are from an inch and a half to three inches wide, and pass round the neck outside the collar and inside the dress, tying in front with long loops and ends.

Stylish gold braid bonnets have an Alsace puff of dark maroon velvet. A cluster of ostrich tips, an aigrette of marabout, or a bunch of currants trims the left side, and there are two pairs of narrow satin strings, one of which is of gold color.

Among novelties in lingerie are Elizabethan and Marie Stuart ruffs, made, some of lace and others of exquisitely embroidered India muslin. They are kept upright by means of a very fine wire covered with gauze and run along the edge.

It is a great art to do up an umbrella properly, an art in which few persons are proficient. First see that every fold is straight and then roll from the top down keeping the hand over it and fasten with the strap, which should be tight, before releasing your hold.

Tailor-made costumes of black diagonal cloth or serge without luster, and also of flannel, are worn by ladies in the morning. Braiding in parallel rows is the trimming, or else the braid appears merely at the edges of the basque and overskirt, and there are rows of stitching above it.

Little princesse or bebe bonnets made entirely of flowers are again in fashion. Among the prettiest are those made of white lilacs mingled with pale pink hedge roses, or those of white wood violets with trailing arbutus blossoms intermingled. These dainty little capotes are particularly appropriate at weddings, either for the bridemaid or lady guest.

Quite inexpensive but very charming little dresses can be made for little girls by purchasing American surah, which can be had in all the delicate shades of baby blue, rose pink, cherry, or fawn color, and making perfectly plain princesse slips of this fabric, over which can be worn different dresses of dotted Swiss, mul, organdie or batiste, trimmed with dainty ruffles of some fancy lace and little bows of ribbon matching the shade of the slip. The American surahs are of good width and are now reduced to about half their former price.

The First Advertisement.

It might be supposed that these announcements of births, marriages and deaths, so interesting and valuable as we have found them to be, would early have found a place in our newspapers. Such, however, was not the case until they had reached a pretty mature age, although the earlier representative of our newspapers. The Acta Diurna of the Romans contained such lists. The first paper in Britain published at stated intervals for the dissemination of intelligence was the *Weekly News*, the first number of which was published in London on the 23d of May, 1622. It was destitute of advertisements and indeed contained very little news. The first advertisement appeared on the 2d of April, 1647, in number thirteen of a weekly paper called "Perfect Occurrences of Every Daie Journal in Parliament and other Moderate Intelligence"—a name that would make our newsboys frantic—and relates to "A Book applauded by the Clergy of England, called The Dine Right of Church Government." For several years booksellers were the only advertisers, but as the newspapers began to circulate more among the less educated classes, other kind of advertisements appeared, and the columns gradually assumed a business like aspect. The *Mercurius Politicus* of September 30, 1658, contained the first trade advertisement, which relates the charms of the new "drink called by the Chineans Tcha, by other nations tay alias tee."—*All the Year Round.*

A sad story of cannibalism comes from Great Britain. A Fijian teacher's wife and two children set out for the house of a friend, about three miles distant from their residence, and the natives killed and roasted the children preparatory to eating them at one of their "feasts." The woman escaped into the bush, and was found, after roaming about for eighteen days, a living skeleton.

An Indiana farmer believes that a famine is now at hand, and for several years has refused to sell any of his large wheat crops. The grain fills nearly all the buildings on the farm, including the residence, and much of it has spoiled.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

Go On.

"Forward, march!" That is the order of the day; and the dream of the night is "Go on!"

Paul's desire of the church was that it go forward, and the work of the church is to go on.

The Master's command is, "Why stand ye here all the day idle? Go on!"

If ye be at work, do ye well. Until your work is done, go on!

If ye be indifferent and idle, raise yourselves—make a start, and go on!

If you are traveling a hard road, and find it up-hill business, brace yourself and go on!

Are you weary with the march? Add another weary. Go on!

Are you hungry? Let hunger be increased; tighten your buckle and go on!

Are you half clad and shivering with the cold? Step the quicker. Go on!

Don't you know what to do? Then do this, and keep doing it; go on!

Have you got discouraged? Don't stop to be discouraged. Go on!

You may be lame and halt; never mind it. The best treatment is to go on!

You may be weak and fainting; strength will be gained if you go on!

Temptation will assail, and the devil sometimes prevail, but go on!

Has somebody made a false report? You have no time to pick it up. Go on!

You will meet with naught but the Master has met; face all things. Go on!

Nobody may thank you for your pains. The pay is at the end. Go on! —*Anvil.*

Religious News and Notes.

The net increase of members in the Methodist church South, for the past year, amounted to 13,000.

Seven Congregational churches in Northwestern Pennsylvania are vacant, only as supplied by the general missionary.

The Unitarians of Great Britain have just held a national conference in Liverpool, which is spoken of as "a grand success."

The Rev. Joseph Cook will go from Ceylon to Hong Kong, Japan and Australia, and to San Francisco about October 1.

The Protestant Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts reports 1,114 persons confirmed the past year. The number of clergy in the diocese is 162.

A Congregational association has received into membership two Baptist ministers with the understanding that they retain their "Baptist principles."

The United Presbyterian church has decided, by a vote of 616 to 606, to repeal the law forbidding the use of musical instruments in their churches.

It is reported on good authority that sixteen out of twenty prominent infidel lecturers in England during the past twenty years have embraced Christianity.

The Southern Methodist general conference resolved to establish an educational fund for the benefit of the Colored Methodist Episcopal church, which it organized some years ago.

The new French version of the Bible, by Professor Segond, has attained great success, and a copy of the New Testament at three-halfpence has been published, of which 100,000 were sold of the first edition. Of the second 50,000 copies were sold in three weeks.

The Rev. C. Lewis, LL D., a Baptist minister of Kentucky, died suddenly a short time ago, of heart disease. On the table of his study was found a sermon on First Corinthians, xv. 26: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"—which he had prepared to preach the morning he died.

Fifteen Million Dollars an Acre.

A New York correspondent states that "in the more common streets of New York land is worth from $250,000 to $350,000 per acre. In the best part of Broadway its value is increased to $2,000,000 per acre; but in the vicinity of Wall street its value is immensely increased because this locality is the money heart of America. The land on which the Drexel building stands cost its present owners at the rate of $14,000,000 per acre. It occupies the corner of Wall and Broad streets, which may be considered the most valuable corner on this continent—and yet when I was a Broad street clerk in 1840 this very place was occupied by a hat store. The corresponding value of property in this neighborhood has been illustrated by the recent sale of the corner of Broad street and Exchange place, which was at the rate of $15,500,000 per acre. Hence the Drexel lot was none too dear. In fact, these dazzling figures are justified by the immensity of the transactions which occur here daily. Almost all the railroads on the continent (except New England) are managed within 300 feet of this spot, and the general pressure of our immense financial system gives it a value which a few years ago could not have been dreamed of."

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The hides of all the cats in America would be worth $10,000,000 to commerce.

Chapman says that the Bushmen of South Africa thought that his big wagon was the mother of his small one.

The fleet and spirited horses of Hungary are bred on wide plains, where they scamper at liberty until they are broken.

A planter of South Carolina has over 1,000 tea plants. Some of them are six feet high and over ten feet in circumference.

Parian marble was obtained from Mount Marpesia, on the island of Paros, and was sometimes called Marpesian marble.

The consumption of rails, for renewals alone, amounts to half a million of tons annually in the United States railroads.

The mountains round Great Salt Lake bear evidences of the existence at some early period of a much larger lake in the same locality.

Ruins of houses, fortifications and dishes made by a prehistoric people have been found in Southwestern Colorado and Southeastern Utah.

In 1768 General Gage wrote home: "It is of no use to argue in this country, where every man studies law." He favored the enforcement of obedience at the point of the sword.

The earliest evidence of glassmaking in England seems to be in 1447, when John Prudde engaged to execute the windows of a chapel at Warwick, and to use "no glasse of England."

Deprivations of the Eucharist was the penalty for a multitude of offenses among the early Christians. The lowest penalty was for a few weeks. The penitent spent most of the period in religious exercises, and when he was readmitted to communion he appeared before the congregation clad in sackcloth, and confessed his sin aloud.

When the government of Spain, endeavoring to place that country on a more respectable footing than it had held for some centuries, attempted a general reform in the eighteenth century, the aid of foreigners was called in. Military schools were intrusted to an Irishman, a French officer was placed at the head of the naval academy, the artillery was improved by a Frenchman, and the arsenals by an Italian.

Starting a Balky Horse.

Here are seven ways for starting a balky horse; each has been tried by various persons and is said to have succeeded:

1. Pat the horse upon the neck, examine the harness carefully, first on one side and then on the other, speaking encouragingly while doing so; then jump into the wagon and give the word go; generally he will obey. 2. A teamster in Main street says he can start the worst balky horse by taking him out of the shafts and making him go around in a circle till he is giddy. If the first dance of this sort does not cure him the second will. 3. To cure a balky horse simply place your hands over the horse's nose and shut off his wind till he wants to go, and then let him go. 4. The brains of a horse seem to entertain but one idea at a time; therefore, continued whipping only confirms his stubborn resolve. If you can by any means give him a new subject to think of you will generally have no trouble in starting him. 5. A simple remedy is to take a couple of turns of stout twine around his foreleg, just below the knee, tight enough for the horse to feel, and tie in a bow knot. After the first check he will go dancing off, and after going a short distance you can get out and remove the string to prevent injury to the tendon in your further progress. 6. Take the tail of the horse between the hind legs, and tie it by a cord to the saddle girth. 7. Tie a string around the horse's ear, close to his head.

Dreams.

Dreams may be more capable of control than is generally supposed. It is known that brain action causes a rise of cranial temperature, and reciprocally M. Delaunay asserts that an increase of heat in the head stimulates the action of the brain. Dreams are generally illogical and absurd, but by covering his forehead with a layer of wadding M. Delaunay gets sane, intelligent dreams. He has also experimented on modes of lying in bed which favor the flow of the blood to certain parts, increasing the activity of those portions of the brain. He has observed that dreams while lying on the back are sensorial, variegated, luxurious; those experienced when on the right side are mobile, exaggerated and absurd, and refer to old matters; while those which occur when on the left side are reasonable and intelligent, and pertain to recent matters—in which dreams one often speaks. It is claimed that these observations confirm the accepted ideas of the functions of the different parts of the brain.