

A Misunderstanding.

Why it was done, we cannot say, but quite a number of the streets of Austin have been named after females. Such names as Emma, Laura Isabella, stare at you in large letters. The Austin people, or some of them, at least, have become tolerably familiar with Maria, Jane, Susan, and the rest, but strangers are liable to become bewildered by this singular nomenclature.

A gentleman from Dallas, who had only a few hours to spend in our city wished to take a look at the new capital, and not knowing where it was, he made inquiry of the first man he met.

"Can you tell me how I can find the new temporary capitol?"

"That's easy enough. You know where Emma street is?"

"I do not. I have no acquaintance with any lady of that name. There is a family by that name in Dallas, but I am not acquainted with them. Does Emma Street live near the new capitol?"

The Austin man stared at the stranger for a moment, and then pointing down Magnolia Avenue, he said:

"You see where Maria comes into the avenue?"

The Dallas man looked in the direction pointed out, and perceiving a fat old negro woman with a big basket on her arm, nodded his head in assent.

"Well, you must take Maria until you get to the corner of Elizabeth, and until Peggy and Sarah come together, and then you will be all right."

"Look here, my friend, if you think I am that kind of a man because I come from Dallas, you are most comfoundedly off. I want you to understand that I am a gentleman."

"You dod-gasted idiot!" retorted the Austin man, "if I was as bad off for brains as you are, I would bore a hole in my empty skull and hire a nigger to pour in ten cents' worth of cheap oleomargarine."

The Dallas man shook his fist at the native and said:

"I've always heard that the State Lunatic Asylum was too small to accommodate all the lunatics, but now I know it," and he moved off towards Esmeralda, while the other party leaned up against the corner of Ann and Matilda, and glared after him as he disappeared in the direction of Maria.—*Siftings.*

Variations of Climate.

Dr. Croll attributes the great fluctuations of terrestrial climate, as displayed by the former extension of glaciers on one hand, and the existence of coal seams and corals in the now ice-bound shore of Greenland on the other, to variations in the earth's orbit, and calculates the periods of three cycles, extending respectively over 170,000, 260,000 and 160,000 years. I am unable either to confirm or refute these calculations, which may or may not be correct, but quite outside, or rather within, these there have been curious fluctuations of terrestrial climate hitherto unexplained. The name "Greenland," which we literally translate "Greenland," is itself a record of this. It was given to that country when colonized by the Scandinavians, above 1,000 years ago. It was then fairly described by its name, and the remains of human settlements discovered by our arctic explorers in regions now uninhabitable, confirm the old Norse sagas, which describe these colonies. When Ingolf, with his retainers and followers, settled in Iceland, A. D. 874, that island must have enjoyed a very different climate from that which it now endures, or it could not have become so pop'lar a colony as to alarm King Harold the Fair-haired so greatly as to induce him to check the emigration by imposing a fine of four ounces of silver on all intending emigrants. The growth of its population until it became in the eleventh and twelfth centuries the focus of European poetic literature, when its great poet, Snorro Sturleson, attended the meetings of the Thingvall or island Parliament, "with a splendid retinue of 800 armed men," when houses and ships were built with native timber, of which remains are now to be found, all indicate a curious change of climate. I could quote many other evidences of this if space permitted.—*Gentleman's Magazine.*

Professor Crudelli, of Rome, points out in the *Practitioner* that the keeping of plants in ill-ventilated rooms may cause malarious infection even in regions where malaria is unknown. Professor Eichwald, of St. Petersburg, reports the case of a lady who was attacked by true intermittent fever while living in a room containing plants, yet after the removal of the flower pots a cure without relapse was effected. The unwholesome influence is said to be due not to the plants, but to the damp earth in which they grow.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

It is maintained by Nordenskiöld that the aurora is a permanent phenomenon in polar regions, appearing constantly when the sun is below the horizon and the moon is invisible.

Four German expeditions are now prosecuting their researches in Africa, two from the east and two from the west side of that continent. Very interesting and accurate reports of the several journeys are looked for after the explorers have revised their journals.

Observations on Russian railways during a period of six months showed that seventy-seven per cent. of the fractures of ties occurred when the temperature was below zero, and only nineteen per cent. at a higher temperature.

Professor George L. Goodale stated in a recent lecture that a sunflower three feet and a half presents an evaporating surface of thirty-nine square feet, and that the roots of such a sunflower have an aggregate length of 1,448 feet. According to the same well-known botanist, grasses and like plants exhale about their own weight of water on a hot summer day.

It is stated that several kinds of woods, says the *Engineer*, although of great durability in themselves, act upon each other to their mutual destruction. Experiments with cypress and walnut and cypress and cedar prove that they will rot each other when joined together, but on separation the rot will cease and the timbers remain perfectly sound for a long period.

A diver, at 600 yards' distance from the persons communicating with him, can converse with ease with persons above water by means of the telephone, as was recently proved by Mr. Ware, of the River Meare commissioners.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

A scar nobly got, or a noble scar, is a good liver of honor.

No man ever worked his passage anywhere in a dead calm.

Lay by a good store of patience, but be sure to put it where you can find it.

The reproaches of enemies should quicken us to duty, and not keep us from it.

No man can be happy without a friend, or be sure of a friend until he is unfortunate.

There is no folly equal to that of throwing away friendship in a world where friendship is so rare.

Private troubles are very much like infants, the more you nurse them the bigger they grow.

They that do nothing are in the readiest way to do that which is worse than nothing.

Act well at the moment, and you have performed a good action to all eternity.

Truth, like the sun, submits to be obscured, but, like the sun, only for a time.

He who requires much from himself and little from others, will keep himself from being the object of resentment.

The power of a man's virtue should not be measured by his special efforts, but by his ordinary doing.

Men of great parts are often unfortunate in the management of public business, because they are apt to go out of the common road by the quickness of their imagination.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.

Balfe's "Grand Crash."

Balfe, the composer, was born in 1808, and very early developed an unmistakable talent for music. There is a characteristic story of his childhood preserved by his surviving relations, and quoted by Mr. Barrett. "He had recently heard an orchestral band perform Haydn's 'Surprise Symphony,' and his lively imagination exaggerated the crash which Haydn introduced upon the half-close of the first movement, to make, as it is said, the ladies jump. A simple arrangement of the themes was one of the pianoforte lessons he had to practice. His mother and sisters were engaged elsewhere in the house, when suddenly they heard a fearful crash, and, as the mother thought, the screams of her child. In terrified haste they rushed into the room in which he had been at work, expecting to find the place in ruins and the boy a corpse. The mother's fright yielded to surprise, her surprise to anger, as she saw the child dancing and crowning with delight. In order to make this 'grand crash' at the proper point of the music he had piled the fender and fire-irons upon a chair, and had fastened a cord to them all in such a manner as to make them fall with a clatter, and so realize Haydn's design most completely.

THE BIGGEST OF ALL.

An Interesting Account of the Largest Diamond in the World.

If genuine, the Braganza, in possession of the king of Portugal, is by far the largest diamond, not only now in existence, but of which there is any record. But its very size, weighing no less than 1,680 carats in the rough, has caused it to be suspected, and no opportunity has hitherto been afforded of examining it with sufficient care to warrant anything like a conclusive judgment as to its true character.

One of the earliest and best accounts we have of this stone is that given by Mawe in his "Travels in Brazil."

"A few leagues," he writes, "to the north of the Rio Plata is the rivulet named Abaite, celebrated for having produced the largest diamond. Three men named Antonio de Sousa, Jose Feliz Gomes, and Thomas de Sousa, having been found guilty of high crimes, were banished into the interior, and ordered not to approach any of the capital towns, or to remain in civilized society, on pain of perpetual imprisonment.

"Driven by this hard sentence into the most unfrequented part of the country, they endeavored to explore new mines or new productions, in the hope that sooner or later they might have the good fortune to make some important discovery, which would obtain a reversal of their sentence, and enable them to regain their station in society.

"They wondered about in this neighborhood, making frequent searches in its various mines, for more than six years. At length they, by hazard, made some trials in the river Abaite, at a time when its waters were so low, in consequence of a long season of drought, that a part of its bed was left exposed. Here, while searching and washing for gold, they had the good fortune to find a diamond nearly a pound in weight. Elated by this providential discovery, which at first they could scarcely believe to be real, yet hesitating between a dread of the rigorous laws relating to diamonds and the hope of regaining their liberty, they consulted a clergyman, who advised them to trust to the mercy of the State, and accompanied them to Villa Rica, where he procured them access to the governor. They threw themselves at his feet, and delivered to him the invaluable gem on which their hopes rested, relating all the circumstances connected with it.

"The governor, astonished at its magnitude, could not trust the evidence of his senses, but called the officers of the establishment to decide whether it was a diamond, who set the matter beyond all doubt. Being thus by the most strange and unforeseen accident put in possession of the largest diamond ever found in America, he thought proper to suspend the sentence of the men as a reward for having delivered it to him. The gem was sent to Rio de Janeiro, from whence a frigate was dispatched with it to Lisbon, whither the clergyman was also sent to make the proper representations respecting it. The sovereign confirmed the pardon of the delinquents, and bestowed some preferment on the priest."

This famous stone, which has been valued at no less than \$1,500,000,000, is said to be about the size of a goose's egg, and weight is usually estimated at 1,680 carats, which, at the rate of 150 carats to the ounce, would make rather over eleven ounces.

Murray tells us that Don Juan VI. had a hole drilled through it, and it was suspended to his neck on gala days. Murray was not aware whether it was still among the crown jewels given up by Miguel, or had been previously pledged to carry on the war against the French. For this latter report, current in Murray's time, there seems to be no foundation; and according to all recent authorities, the stone would appear never to have been removed from the Portuguese treasury, where it is jealously guarded against all inquisitive sight-seers. For obvious financial motive, the government is naturally anxious that, whatever be its true character, it should continue to be regarded as a genuine diamond. On this point the strongest doubts have always been entertained.

Murray tells us, on the authority of Mr. Magellan, that "a fragment was broken off from it by the ignorance of the person who found it, having struck it a blow with a hammer." This was the old rough-and-ready method of testing stones, the nature of which was not obvious at first sight. It was supposed that true diamonds resisted the heaviest blow of the hammer, whereas it is now well ascertained that they are easily split by cleavage; hence the circumstance here mentioned would not of itself imply that this stone was not a real diamond.

With regard to its value, Murray, rejecting Rome Delisle's preposterous estimate of \$1,500,000,000, considered that, "according to the method of cal-

culatation by Jeffries," its value will be in its present form, \$28,224,000. But no price at all can be set upon a stone which is still in the rough state, and regarding the true character of which the greatest uncertainty prevails.

To Tell a Horse's Age.

At three years old the horse should have the central permanent nippers growing, the other two pairs wasting, six grinders in each jaw, above and below, the first and fifth level, the others and the sixth protruding. The sharp edges of the new incisors will be very evident, compared with the old teeth. As the permanent nippers wear and continue to grow a narrow portion of the cone-shaped tooth on each other. The mark will be wearing out and the crowns of the teeth will be sensibly smaller than at two years. Between three and a half and four years the next pair of nippers will be changed, the central nippers will have attained nearly their full growth, a vacancy will be left where the second stood, and the corner teeth will be diminished in breadth, worn down, and the mark in the center of the tooth will become faint. The second pair of grinders will be shed. At four years the central nippers will be fully developed, the sharp edge somewhat worn off, and the mark somewhat wider and fainter. The next pair will be up, but they will be small, with a mark deep and extending quite across them. The corner nippers will be larger than the inside ones, but smaller than before and flat, and the mark nearly effaced. The six grinders will have risen to a level with the others, and the tushes will begin to appear. At five years the horse's mouth is almost perfect. The corner nippers are quite up, the long, deep mark irregular in the inside and the other nippers will bear evident tokens of increased wear. The tushes are nearly grown, the sixth molar is up and the third molar is wanting. This last circumstance will prevent the deception of attempting to pass a late four-year-old as a five-year old. At six the mark on the central nippers is worn out. At seven years the mark is worn out in the four central nippers and fast wearing away in the corner teeth. The tushes are rounded at the points and edges, and beginning to get round inside. At eight years old the tushes are rounded in every way; the mark is gone from all the bottom nippers. There is nothing remaining in them that can afterward clearly show the age of the horse. After this the only guides are the nippers in the upper jaw. At nine years the mark will be worn from the middle nippers, from the next pair at ten years, and from all the upper nippers at eleven years. At nine years the center nippers are round instead of oval. At ten years the others begin to become rounded; at eleven years the second pair are much rounded; at thirteen years the corner ones have the same appearance; at fourteen years the face of the center nippers becomes somewhat triangular; at seventeen years they are all so.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

Qualities of a Soldier.

Sir Garnet Wolseley, England's military chieftain, was asked by an American correspondent:

"What do you think are the most essential qualities of a soldier and an army?" He replied:

"Esprit de corps and pride. A soldier should be proud of his profession, and he should have the greatest interest and feeling for his individual command. He should be dressed well. Even should he incline toward dandyism that should be encouraged. The better you dress a soldier the more highly he will be thought of by women, and consequently by himself. The Duke of Wellington said of his officers in Spain that many of the best of them were the greatest dandies. Men in the campaigns of the past used to pride themselves in being slovenly. To be unshaven and dirty was supposed to be the sign of a good officer. The spirit runs like wildfire amongst an army. Whatever the officers think fine the men will think so, too. It is very difficult to make an Englishman at any time look like a soldier. He is fond of long hair and uncut whiskers. In the field no person should wear his hair over half an inch in length. It should never be long enough to part. No man can have smart hearing who can part his hair. Hair is the glory of a woman but the shame of a man."

A dramatic suicide occurred in Wayne county, Ala., recently. T. A. Cox, a respectable young man, attended a party. At midnight he arranged the chairs around the room, invited the ladies to be seated and look at him when he died. He then placed a chair in the center of the room, sat down upon it, and taking a pistol from his pocket blew his brains out before the astonished spectators could interfere.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Women are now eligible to school offices in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Virginia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wyoming, and to any office in Wisconsin except State Superintendent. Mississippi has a State Board of Education, which includes the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and eight other persons, one of whom is a woman.

In Dallas county, Texas, lives J. L. Shirley, who is probably the only man in the United States who has used greenbacks for gunwadding. He went duck hunting with \$300 in currency in his pocket, and not having any gun wads, he used paper in loading. He became so engrossed with the sport that he forgot all about his currency, and had shot about \$50 of his wad before he discovered his mistake. He, however, killed thirty-seven ducks, which cost him a trifle over \$125 each.

The area planted to potatoes in England, in 1882 was 57,000 acres less than in 1881, and the total deficiency in the crop as compared to last season is 500,000 tons. In Germany the official reports of the potato crop estimate a deficiency of fifty per cent. or equal to 11,750,000 tons, while in some of the other continental countries the potato crop was almost a complete failure. The prices of potatoes in England are fifty per cent. higher than at the same time last year. It is evident no European potatoes will be shipped here during the next six or eight months at least.

An establishment has been opened in London called "The Health Home," by a Doctor Que tin, who proposes to cure all diseases by a dietary system. The patient is handed by a servant in black and gold a card specially prepared, on which he will find his soup, if soup is allowed; his fish, if it is permitted; his joint, if it suits his condition, and so on to the coffee. There also will be found inscribed the mineral water suitable to the state of his liver, with directions respecting the dessert, which will consist of a digestive pill or two, a peepsin sandwich, or some equally attractive novelty.

According to a comprehensive statistical return lately published in Germany, there are in Europe ninety-two cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants, out of which four capitals show each a million population, as follows: London, 3,832,440; Paris, 2,225,910; Berlin, 1,122,509; Vienna, 1,103,119. Out of the ninety-two cities and towns referred to, England claims 26, Germany 16, Italy 11, France 10, and Russia 8. The others are divided among the smaller States. There were in the United States in 1880 twenty cities having 100,000 inhabitants and upward.

A young man of Providence has been traveling in the West and Southwest for two years, riding for the most part on express trains which could not afford to stop to put him off between the principal stopping places. He made it a rule never to "sass" the conductors who let him alone until they reached a suitable stopping place. In this way he saved enough money to pay for his board and lodging. Now and then he suffered hardship, as when he was put off on an uninhabited island in the Mississippi and nearly starved to death, but generally he fared well, and experienced no discomfort.

A curious sale is held annually at a store-house in the Rue des Ecoles, Paris. The articles sold are of two classes, such as the garments of a murdered man or the weapon with which a murder was committed, which have been offered as evidence in the trial, and are sold at the expiration of six months if they remained unclaimed; and such articles as have belonged to deceased prisoners, or have been found and delivered to the police authorities, and have not been claimed by their owners. It is said that large prices are often paid for property that has belonged to notorious criminals.

The old Mormon temple in the little village of Kirtland, O., twenty-three miles east of Cleveland, is undergoing repairs, and is, according to the *Cleveland Leader*, to be rededicated on the 6th of next April in the presence of a thousand Mormons from the West, to the propagation of the faith once delivered to Smith. A few members of the old Kirtland community remained behind when their brethren departed to a new field, and still survive, faithful to the tenets of Mormonism, minus, it is said, the polygamy doctrine. The creed of the rejuvenated Church is expected to make a vigorous declaration against plural marriages, and in that case its disciples will be tolerated in Northern Ohio.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A new form of phosphorus—termed white phosphorus—has been discovered by Professor Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins' University.

The captain-general of the Philippines reports that, after a severe hurricane, the cholera, which was of a bad type, nearly disappeared from Manila.

Unripe grapes contain an unusually large quantity of extractives, acids, ash and phosphoric acid, and a small proportion of alcohol, the extractives having as a rule, a sort of gelatinous consistency.

Continuous baths, as carried out in Vienna, are reported unofficially by M. Lenoir as very efficacious in the treatment of skin diseases, and he warmly recommends their introduction into the hospitals of Paris.

Where the air is charged with sulphur fumes the tints of foliage in the fall, so noticeable elsewhere, are not produced, and there is no burst of glory in the woods before the trees sink into the repose of winter. The leaves simply blacken, shrivel up and fall to the ground.

Mr. F. C. Whitehouse contends that the caverns of the island of Staffa, including the famous Fingal's cave, are artificial, and created by the hand of man at some very early period. He bases his theory on the Gothic shape of the roofs, the sheltered location of the caves, the lack of evidence of erosion of the rocks by water, and the insufficient mechanical power of the sea-waves at that island to excavate such caves.

According to Professor Loomis about one fifth of the entire land surface of the globe has an annual rainfall of less than ten inches, and a still larger part has a rainfall so small as to make it valueless for purposes of agriculture, except in the limited districts where irrigation is practicable. In North America an almost rainless region is found in Southern California and Arizona, and in a large district about Slave Lake the yearly precipitation of water is only about ten inches.

Fashion in Dogs.

Of late years the King Charles and Blenheim spaniels—in spite of their fearful beseeching eyes, their trailing ears, their blunt black noses, their silky coats, and the glories of their bushy tails and feathered legs, have undergone unmerited neglect. Nor has the Italian grayhound, for all the grace and beauty of its slender form, its taper, almost transparent limbs, and the elastic agility of its movements, been prized as once it was. Fashion has turned its approved eyes rather upon the fluffy white Pomeranian, with its fox-like picked ears, and pointed black nose; the Dandie Dimont, brought into vogue by Sir Walter Scott's "Guy Mannering;" the Skye terrier, save the turnspit the longest of all dogs in proportion to its height, with its flocculent door-mat coat, its masked eyes, and obscured nose; and the Maltese terrier, a duodecimo edition of the Skye, shorter of back, however, and with a whiter and stikier jacket. The pug, too, has recovered the favor it had lost so completely that between 1836 and 1846 the breed was almost extinct in England; it has returned to society in the retinue of Queen Anne, as it were, one of the emblems and scenic properties of her reign, its tastes, modes and foibles. Happily the cruel mutilation of the ears of the animal which once prevailed as a means of wrinkling and puckering its forehead and muzzle has been abandoned. The poodle has never been so esteemed in England as in the land of its nativity. Of the Dalmatian, spotted or carriage dog—popularly known as the "plum pudding"—there has been some vanishing of late. The creature, perhaps, was always regarded as more ornamental than useful, and then, with the circus horse, he became the object of suspicion. Could he not, unlike the leopard, change his spots upon occasion? Were they not sometimes due rather to art than to nature? Stories were told of carriage dogs that had gone out spotted and had returned home pure white. Heavy rain had fallen, and the footman had neglected to hold the carriage umbrella over the carriage dog.

The great popularity enjoyed just at present by the Scotch collie, or Highland sheep dog, has to be reckoned among the striking events or "landmarks" of canine history. To the collie have been sacrificed almost the entire spaniel family, and even that former favorite of aquatic romance, the Newfoundland dog, so long famous as a savior of children from watery graves, and in such wise as a member of the Royal Humane society.—*London Graphic.*

Sir C. M. Lampson, an enthusiastic hunter and explorer, is the fur monopolist of the world. By far the largest portion of all the furs worn in civilized countries are distributed through the baronet's auction mart in London.