

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

It is reckoned that the daily sale of flowers in Paris realizes about \$20,000. The flowers most in fashion at present are the gardenia, which sells at \$1 each flower; the lily of the valley, worth \$2 the pot; the queen rose and the purple rose, the Spanish carnation and the violet. Of the latter a large number come from Nice; but they have not the perfume of those grown around Paris. The camelia, at one time so much prized, is now quite out of fashion.

When it comes to an international eating match the American champion, if he has the choice of weapons, will doubtless be required to choose pies by his confident but wily fellow-countrymen. It is certain, however, that the American champion will not be Louis Heinmütz, of St. Louis, for he failed in attempt to eat fifteen pies within an hour, on a wager of \$5 and the costs. He began well, but became much distressed at the tenth pie, and at twelve pies and a half lost all control of his stomach and retired.

Did any one of our readers ever think how many steps the farmer takes in a year? Take the simple planting of a field of corn. Take a five-acre field. To break it up would require walking some forty miles; harrowing it, ten miles; furrowing it, twenty miles; planting, eleven miles if with a planter, and if dropped by hand and then covered, twenty miles. Thus it will be seen that it takes 100 miles of travel to put in a five-acre field of corn, to say nothing of cultivating and harvesting, and the going to and from the field while planting.

Mr. Gladstone at seventy-three is the oldest of the British ministers, and Sir Charles W. Dike at thirty-nine the youngest; Mr. Henley at eighty-nine is the oldest privy councillor, and Prince Leopold at twenty-nine the youngest; Mr. Bass at eighty-three is the oldest M. P., and Mr. Kenney of Ennis, at twenty-two the youngest; Vice-Chancellor Bacon at eighty-four is the oldest, and Judge Brown at forty-six is the youngest of the judges; the Bishop of Chichester at eighty is the oldest, and the bishop of Sodor and Man the youngest of the bishops; Sir Moses Montefiore at ninety-eight is the oldest, and Sir Thomas Neave at eighty the youngest of the British baronets.

An interesting decision was made recently by the attorney general of Minnesota. The son of Judge Farmer, of the sixth judicial district, was assigned the task of delivering, on a certain Friday, a declamation in the Spring Valley high school. He commenced an extract from one of Ingersoll's speeches, and was told he must select something else. Declining to do so he was expelled by the teacher. The affair created a great deal of talk on account of the standing of the boy's family. The matter was referred to the state superintendent, and he in turn called for a decision from the attorney general. The decision was that the expulsion was illegal.

The first American adhesive stamps were issued by the United States in 1851 in denominations of 5 and 10 cents. Shortly afterward a second series was issued in 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12 cents. In 1857 this series was increased by the addition of a 24, a 30 and a 90-cent stamp. A third issue appeared in 1861, and in 1863 the first 2-cent stamp made its appearance—black, with a head of Jackson. In 1866 the 15-cent stamp was introduced for foreign postage. In 1870 a series of ten square stamps of various devices appeared, but they were unpopular, and a month later the present stamps were brought out. The head of Washington has always been upon the most used denomination. It is now on the 3-cent stamp, and when that denomination, as will soon be the case, shall pass almost entirely out of use, the image of Washington will supplant that of Jackson on the universally used 2-cent stamp.

Bankrupts have a hard time in China. The *North China Herald* says that the broker of the silk firm of the Red Peacock chop of Shanghai, which has suspended payment, was walking on the street when he was set upon by a crowd of bankers, creditors of the firm, who carried him off to a house, where they hung him up by the queue so that his feet were off the ground, and otherwise maltreated him. A foreigner heard the disturbance, and informed the police, some of whom were sent to the house, where they found the man still hanging. He was taken to the police station for protection, after which a number of bankers repaired there and clamored for him to be given up to them. As appears to be usual in such cases, the bankers stated their

intention, if the man came into their power, of biting him to death and eating him afterward, and there is no doubt they would have bitten their debtor's servant severely had he been given into their hands.

The opponents of capital punishment in France have been furnished with a new weapon. The last time that the guillotine was set up in Paris the criminal upon whom it was employed was a youth named Meneclou who murdered a little girl under circumstances of appalling atrocity about two years since. His conduct was so abominable that even a Paris jury could find no extenuating circumstance for him, although it was admitted that his intelligence was of the lowest order. When, however, he was dissected certain cerebral lesions were brought to light, and those who wage war against the guillotine declared that he was not responsible for his actions. This view has been greatly strengthened by the fact that the convict's mother has become a lunatic. It appears, moreover, that her sister is also insane, and that her father committed suicide. These revelations have given a new impetus in France to the endless controversy waged there respecting mental unsoundness in relation to criminal impulsion.

W. Sanday, M. A., D. D., professor of the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures at Oxford, is graciously pleased to speak well of certain American accomplishments. "Clearness and exactitude," he says, "are qualities that seem to be fast becoming national characteristics in America, as our burly English stock is toned down and refined by other climatic and social influences. The fine precision of American mechanism has long been acknowledged. Scientific transactions and observations (those in astronomy, for instance) are published not only at lavish expense—that may be taken as a matter of course—but with a delicate accuracy which surpasses the best European workmanship. Again, in classical philology it appears that we are going to America for our best grammars and dictionaries. And I can appeal to even a wider circle to corroborate me when I refer to the finish and delicacy of American engraving. American theology is a rising school, and it is being conducted, as I cannot but think, on lines that promise well for the future."

The wine production of California is reported to be steadily growing. In 1881 the vintage was about 9,000,000 gallons. In 1882 it was estimated to be between 10,000,000 and 11,000,000 gallons. In France it was noticed that the exportation of champagne from that country to the United States is seriously falling off. It was 123,574 dozen bottles during the first six months of 1881, and only 104,755 dozen during the corresponding six months of 1882. This is attributed to the substitution of California wines for French wines, the California wines being, according to an admission contained in a communication from the French minister of commerce to the president of the Rheims chamber of commerce, "not much poorer" than some imported articles, and very much cheaper. California red and white still wines are passing in the same way for wines imported from France or Germany. The California wine grower, or the merchant who buys from him, gives the California wine a foreign name for the purpose of finding a market for it.

The story of a wedding cake is thus told by the *Fond du Lac (Wis.) Journal*. The joke is a sorry one, and if the young couple are at all superstitious it may cloud with apprehension the dream of their youthful lives: "About twenty years ago occurred a wedding in this city upon a grand scale. In the course of the evening a guest suggested that one of the wedding cakes be sealed in a tin box and kept until the marriage of the bride and groom's first born. One of the most delicious cakes was selected and sent to a tin shop, with the proper instructions. As may be supposed, the tinner yearned for that cake, and soon it was divided. The tin box, which had been prepared for its reception, was then filled with water-soaked ashes, carefully sealed and sent to the blushing young couple, who, remembering what was expected of them and their prospective offspring, took it tenderly in charge, and have since guarded it well. In course of time a son was born to them, who is now nineteen years old, and, it is said, will ere long be married. It will be an amusing sight when that box is solemnly brought before the guests, its little romance related and the seal of the company." Boston is becoming quite enthusiastic over the foreign exhibition to be

held in that city next fall, opening on September 1. The enterprise is unique in some respects. It will consist of a display of arts, products and manufactures. Commissioners have been at work for many months past in almost every foreign country, and with the most encouraging results. A very full exhibit of British, Irish, French, Russian, German, Italian and Spanish products, both mechanical and artistic is already assured. Japanese arts and industries will also be very fully represented, and so also will those of Persia, and the *Traveller* asserts "it is certain that the exhibition will present features both from the orient and the occident of a unique character, such as never before have been seen in this country, not even in the great centennial exhibition, vast and comprehensive as that was supposed to be. Persia had no exhibit, it will be recalled, at Philadelphia in 1876." Among the many novel attractions will be a collection of some 15,000 newspapers, representing the journalism of over 100 different peoples and languages, not a single American paper being included therein. The scheme is backed by an association of capitalists, and no pains or expense will be spared in efforts to make it a grand success.

Statesmen in Bed.

A Spanish minister signaled his accession to power by going straightway to bed and staying there, lest he should be expected to do something. No English minister ever adopted that ignominious expedient to escape performing his duties, but Walpole relates that William Pitt and the Duke of Newcastle once held counsel together in bed. Pitt had the gout, and, as was his custom when so afflicted, lay under a pile of bed clothes in a fireless room. The duke, who was terribly afraid of catching cold, first sat down upon another bed, as the warmest place available, drew his legs into it as he grew colder, and at length fairly lodged himself under the bed clothes. Somebody coming in suddenly beheld "the two ministers in bed at the two ends of the room, while Pitt's long nose and black beard, unshaved for some time, added to the grotesque nature of the scene." The Great Commoner was abed and asleep when Wyndham and others of his colleagues burst into his room and shook their chief out of his slumbers to tell him there was mutiny in the fleet, that the admiral was a prisoner on board his own ship and in danger of death. Sitting up in bed Pitt asked for pen, ink, and paper, and wrote: "If the admiral is not released, fire upon the ship from the batteries," turned over on his pillow, and was asleep again before his disturbers were well out of the room. The shadow of death was upon Fox when George Jackson came for instructions before setting out for Germany, and followed so quickly on the heels of the servant announcing him that Mrs. Fox had only time to slip from her husband's side and take refuge in a closet. The interview proved longer than she expected or desired; and finding her signals of distress, in the shape of sundry little coughs, all unheeded, the imprisoned lady had no resource but to tap on the closet panels and ask if the young gentleman was going, as she was perishing with cold. Looking at him with a smile, Fox bade Jackson farewell forever, and released his shivering wife from her unpleasant situation.—*Chamber's Journal*.

The Cashier Ahead.

A new bank which had been established in a town in Indiana had engaged the services of a watchman who came well recommended, but who did not seem over-experienced. The president therefore sent for him to post him up a bit, and began: "James, this is your first job of this kind, isn't it?" "Yes, sir?" "Your first duty must be to exercise vigilance." "Yes, sir?" "Be careful how strangers approach you." "I will, sir." "No stranger must be permitted to enter the bank at night under any pretext whatever." "No, sir." "And our cashier—he is a good man, honest, reliable and thoroughly trustworthy, but it will be your duty to keep an eye on him." "But it will be hard to watch two men and the bank at the same time, sir." "Two men—how?" "Why, sir, it was only yesterday that the cashier called me in for a talk, and he said you were the squarest man in Indiana, but that it would be just as well to keep both eyes on you, and let the directors know if you hung around after hours.—*Wall Street News*

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

Aid For the Injured.

How would you treat a person taken out of the water apparently drowned? Clear out the mouth and stomach, loosen the clothing and cause artificial respiration by pressing at intervals on the back.

How would you treat a case of apoplexy? Elevate the head and keep the person quiet. How would you treat sunstroke? Use ice on the head and cold water on the extremities. How would you treat a burn? Apply equal parts of lime water and linseed oil. What would you do if a person were bitten by a rabid dog? Tie a cord tightly about the wound, apply warm water to encourage bleeding, suck the wound and apply caustics. These instructions are only meant to be used pending the arrival of a surgeon or physician.

Remedy For Diphtheria.

The editor of the *Des Moines Register* publishes the following letter, signed, W. A. Scott, M. D.: In long years gone by you published my cure for diphtheria. It attracted widespread attention, and became known as the "Register diphtheria cure," and saved hundreds of lives, as thankful letters received by me show. The years of progress and thought have brought better treatment, because not so slow in action. I have lately received several letters asking for the treatment as published in the *Register*, their much treasured copies containing the same having been loaned, mislaid or lost. I now give my improved treatment, which can be had at any drug-store, and used by any person without danger. Take ten grains of permanganate of potassium and mix it with one ounce of cold water. As soon as dissolved it must be applied with a rag or sponge mop or swab to the whitish places in the tonsils, and other parts that have the diphtheria membrane on. Do this very gently, but thoroughly, every three hours until better; then every six hours until well. It does not give pain, but is rather nauseous to the taste. If the tongue is coated white I mix one drachm of hyposulphite of soda and five drops of oil sassafras in four ounces of syrup made of sugar and hot water, and give a tea-spoonful every one to three hours as needed, when awake. If the tongue is not coated white I mix twenty drops of tincture of phytolacca in four ounces of cold water, and give a tea-spoonful every one to three hours as needed, when awake. The phytolacca is the common poke root of the South, and as it loses its strength by drying and age, the tincture should be from the fresh root or it is worthless. It is well to apply a little sweet oil, or cosmoline, to the outside of the throat to protect it from the action of the air, as the patient must be protected from all danger of getting chilled. In the beginning of the disease in mild cases, the above solution of permanganate of potassium is all I use, and all that is needed, as the disease is located at first, but rapidly affects the whole system when seated. In the stinking form of diphtheria this solution soon destroys all smell, and in every case it destroys the diphtheria membrane without leaving any bad effect behind.

A Scene in the United States Senate.

Inferior in intellectual ability to Webster, Clay, or Calhoun, Thomas Hart Benton had no superior as a man of iron will and haughty disposition, during the twenty-nine years and seven months that he served continuously in the United States Senate. Aggressive, bold and defiant, he would occasionally strike out recklessly at everything and everybody about him, like the huge wild buffaloes of the Missouri prairies, treading his opponents beneath his feet in his angry rush. His greatest display of ungovernable rage in the Senate chamber, was when, in an angry debate, he advanced with threatening gestures toward Senator Foote, of Mississippi, who, fearing that he was to be attacked, drew a small pocket-pistol. The sight of this weapon made Benton uncontrollable, and, endeavoring to shake off the grasp of friends who seized him, he shouted: "The cowardly assassin, let him shoot me if he dares. I never carry arms, and he knows it. Let the assassin fire." After quiet was somewhat restored, Clay suggested that both senators should enter into bonds to keep the peace, upon which Benton rose and exclaimed: "I will rot in jail, sir, before I will do it! No sir! I will rot in jail first!" and he proceeded to pour forth a torrent of bitter invective on Foote before he could be quieted. Even when he was defeated in seeking a re-election for the sixth time in the Senate, and was forced to accept a seat in the House of Representatives, Benton failed to display a chastened ambition or softened heart.—*Ben Perley Poore in the Century*.

False Perceptions.

The simplest forms of insanity are those which consist merely of false perceptions, and they are not of such a character as to lessen the responsibility of the individual. There are two forms of false perceptions—illusions and hallucinations. Uncomplicated illusions are rare; still there is no doubt that there are illusions not the results of disease in the organs of sense or of circumstances unfavorable to exact perception, but which are due to a morbid condition of the perceptual ganglia, and the unreal nature of which is clearly recognized by the individual.

Illusions of sight often relate merely to the size of objects. Thus, a young lady who had overtaken herself at school saw everything of enormous size at which she looked. The head of a person seemed to be several feet in diameter, and little children looked like giants. So far as her own person was concerned there were no illusions. Her hands appeared of the natural size, but those of other people seemed to be of enormous proportions. Sauvages refers to a case in which a young woman, suffering from epilepsy, had the illusion of seeing objects greatly magnified. A fly seemed to her to be as large as a chicken. In the case which came under my observation, the unreal character of the perception was fully recognized, and hence the intellect was not involved.

Morbid illusions of hearing, unaccompanied by other evidences of mental derangement, are not very common. One class only has come under my observation. It was that of a gentleman to whom the ticking of a clock was resolved into articulate words. Generally the expressions were in the form of commands. For instance, if at dinner, they would be, "Eat your soup!" "Drink no wine!" and so on. One day he made the discovery that, if he closed the right ear firmly, the illusion disappeared; but, if the left ear were closed, the words were still distinctly heard. It was hence clear that the center for hearing on the right side was the one affected, and that that on the left side was normal. For a long time this gentleman resisted accepting any of these illusions as facts, but after a time he began to be influenced by them to the extent of regarding them as guides. Eventually he put clocks in every room in his house, and professed to be governed altogether by the directions they gave him.—*Dr. Hammond in Popular Science Monthly*.

Getting In and Out of the Army.

Mothers and fathers are constantly applying to the secretary of war for the discharge of their sons from the army, says a Washington correspondent. Secretary Lincoln has absolute power in this matter. As a result he has to talk to a dozen or two agonized parents every day. As a general rule they represent that their sons were under the lawful age when they enlisted. If they can prove this their sons are discharged. When they can't they complain that it is unjust to hold a young man to a contract which he concluded impulsively in a moment of desperation. Sometimes it was the result of money troubles, sometimes of love troubles, and sometimes of family troubles. You would imagine, if you heard all these tales, that this was the popular method of committing suicide. Most of our young soldiers appear to have taken up arms because of a sea of troubles. In almost every case the young man is just about to desert. He sees nothing before him in the army but the slavish, monotonous life of a soldier without a cent and without a future. He sees about him—if he is in the West, as he usually is—splendid possibilities for a young man. They want to get out of the army. They want to get at the possibilities. So they write to their people in the East that they will desert unless they are honorably discharged from the army by a certain day. Thereupon the half-frantic mothers and fathers and uncles and aunts flock to the war department. The war department holds on like grim death to the few soldiers it has. The army grows smaller day by day. A year's desertions decimate it as a battle would. There are only 20,000 men in all. They are dropping out by twos, threes, dozens every day. The fascinating recruiting agents do not charm enough recruits to make up for the losses. So the war department fights for its soldiers as its soldiers ought to fight for it. When they desert they are chased, if enough soldiers remain in the garrison. If the deserters are caught they are tried by court-martial and sentenced to two years' imprisonment at hard labor in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. At the expiration of his term of imprisonment he is dishonorably discharged from the service of the United States. I would advise young men to keep out of the army until at least the army grows better. Perhaps it will never grow better unless they grow better, and unless more of them go into it.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

It is estimated that 32,000,000 human beings die every year.

General pardons were first proclaimed at coronations by Edward III in 1327.

Paraffine was first obtained from coal in 1830, and from mineral oil in 1848.

At a stenographic exhibition at Paris a postal card was exhibited which contained 44,000 words.

Emperor Louis Napoleon served as special constable in London during the Chartist riots in 1848.

Samuel S. Tilden's house at Grammercy park, New York, is now said to be the richest and most ornate in America.

In Churchill county, Nev., is a hill of moving sand four miles long, a mile wide, and from 100 to 400 feet high. Within a few years the hill has traveled a mile.

In a Bethlehem, Penn. shop window are a pair of spun silk gloves made in 1783, and they are almost a fac-simile of another pair lying alongside and made in 1883.

There is an Indian woman 120 years old living in Fitzpatrick, Ala., who was once a cook on Andrew Jackson's staff when he was cutting a road from Alabama to Florida.

Frederick N. Crouch, the composer of "Kathleen Mavourneen," is a gray-haired man, who lives on poor fare in Baltimore. A tattered coat keeps some of the cold out. He is now out of employment and too old to help himself.

The virtues of Peruvian bark were discovered by a Jesuit in 1535, and it was used by members of the Society of Jesus from that time. In 1649 it was introduced into France, and Sir Hans Sloane carried it to England in 1700.

A lady in Brunswick, Me., lately called in a physician to prescribe for her sick cat. In a short time the cat died, and a coffin was purchased costing \$12.50. Finally a cable despatch was sent to the lady's absent husband, announcing pussy's decease.

An Indianapolis taxidermist has completed the mounting of a most curious and wonderful monstrosity. It is a lamb, which was born alive, but only lived a short time. It has seven legs, two tails and a double mouth. From the head to six inches back of the neck it is perfectly natural (except the double mouth), but from that point the body divides, each half forming a complete body, with two legs and a tail.

In all Great Britain and Ireland, with a population approximating 37,000,000, there are between 11,000 and 12,000 lawyers. In the United States, with a population larger by only 15,000,000, there are 65,000 lawyers; and in New York, with a tenth of the country's population, abide a sixth of its entire body of lawyers. There is a lawyer to every 3000 people in Great Britain, while in America there is a lawyer to every 800 people.

The Field of glory.

Clambering over the rude bank of logs and earth that formed the defensive line of our antagonists, I found myself at last on the well-remembered ground. But what a sight met my eye! In the bright moonlight lay nearly 300 bodies of my comrades, their picturesque zouave uniforms now blackened by contact with corruption. In rows and in groups, just as they had fallen on that fatal day, these unburied corpses had become wind and sun-dried skeletons. The faces that were upturned to the silvery rays of the moon had lost all semblance of humanity and were now simply hideous masks, the eyeless sockets of which seemed to mock me as I stood among them. But I was not done, for at my feet writhed countless swarms of the repulsive Virginia tumble-bug, all struggling for a share in the awful banquet the god of war had provided for them. Horror stricken and heart sick I gazed over the field and along the line we had held, seeing bodies in every direction and in every possible attitude. Here one poor fellow had crawled to the foot of a tree and died as he sat. The fez was still on his head, the gibbering skull beneath it seeming to laugh at me, as the jaws had relaxed and fallen apart. On the sleeves were the chevrons of a sergeant. Beyond were the bodies of five or six men, lying one over the other; but now they seemed like a design on a carpet, having become flattened to one level. Near these men was the body of a man lying apart from his fellows. Falling on his back, the dead man had flung his arms wide apart, and one leg was drawn up as if in agony. Now the hands were bare of flesh and peeped hideously out of the sleeves, while the elevated knee had become shrunken, a wide rent in the cloth permitting the skin covered bone to protrude. Everywhere about me these ghastly spectres met my gaze.—*Bullet and Shell*.