TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Miss Jennie Corson went to Montana about a year ago and established a sheep ranch near Oka at an expense of \$10,000 cash. She has managed her business herself, and her sheep and ranch are said to be worth \$7600 more than they cost her. She is known as "the Montana shepherd-

There is a grim humor about some of the advertisements in the daily papers. A Philadelphia journal contains the notice that an undertaker will give a gentleman with a full black beard of impressive proportions, permanent employment at visiting families, which death has invaded, and taking instructions regarding the funeral. The full black beard is strictly a business requirement, the theory being that a black beard has a tendency to inspire confidence and respect.

Since the large capitalists came into the business of cattle-raising in Texas, great bodies of land have been bought up for ranges, and soon desirable free pastures will be a thing of the past. Having the money to fence as well as buy the land, most of the large ranges are being inclosed with wire. More than\$100,000,000 would be required to purchase the cattle now roaming over the state. Half of this value, according to the best testimony, is the increase of cattle within two years.

In 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 state, 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. If this does not show an advanced stage of civilization, it certainly shows a decidedly litigious spirit.

According to a Montreal paper the engineer of the Saskatchewan mining company, while examining the company's coal areas recently discovered the remains of an ancient forest at a depth of over 200 feet from the top of ravine. The stumps are plainly visible, and are about two feet in hight, and look very much as though the forest had been laid low by the woodman In addition, the fossil remains of a gigantic reptile were found under the coal in a stratum of light sandstone.

The leviathan steamship Great Easttern is a veritable white elephant on the hands of her stockholders. At a general meeting of the directors and proprietors in London, it was stated that the efforts to sell or charter the ship had been unceasing, and the directors regretted that, although they were frequently receiving applications in respect to the steamer, nothing had resulted. The income for the year was made up as follows: Transfer fees, £1; interest, £140; visitors' fees to ship, £13. The expenditures for the year in connection with the ship had been £4,402 Is 1d. It does not require much arithmetic to figure out where this sort of business is to end.

There is a fire department in Jerusalem which is very different from what is understood by that term in this country. On the comparatively rare occurrence of a fire, the news is leisurely conveyed to a small detachment of soldiers, who with great dignity march to the scene of the fire. carrying their guns on their shoulders. In front of them march four men with broad-axes. As there is no water supply in the city, a fire engine would be useless, and certainly would be opposed to the traditions of the people. Instead of wasting their time in such unhallowed efforts, these soldier-firemen strike picturesque attitudes around the fire, murmuring, "Allah is good!" And when it has spent itself they go back to their quarters conscious of having done their duty.

We read in a London paper: "We are, so to say, in a state of siege, certainly under the very strictest military and police military and police surveillance. As night comes on we see all the public buildings delivered over to soldiers, gates are closed, sentinels with rifles loaded with ball cartriges pace rapidly to and fro, and some large apartment is for the nonce turned into a guard-room. This has a truly martial aspect, absolutely quite picturesque, and worthy of being commemorated by some enterprising R. A.; soldiers are gathered round the blazing fire, arms are glistening in the light. the toy drummer-boy is waiting to beat to arms, and all are on the alert, ready

bloody business there. This, be it re- ing and unloading bales of cotton and

It is approaching two years since Lieutenant Greely sailed upon his Arctic expedition and was put ashore at a point further north than men have ever attempted to live, at Fort Conger or Grinnell Land, within less than nine degrees of the pole. Grinnell is opposite Greenland on the west side of Smith Sound, which is simply the narrowing of Baffin's bay. Lieutenant Garlington of the seventh cavalry will command the expedition to go to Greeley's relief, sailing this summer and going to Smith's Sound. Greely will start down the coast next fall, if not before, and will find three caches or depots of provisions stored along at intervals of fifty miles, containing 1200 rations. The Arcticians consider his chances of return good, but everything depends on the health of his men, and traveling for 300 miles along a precipitous coast where there may be neither ice nor land that is passable. It will be nearly another year probably, before anything will be known about them.

The sandstone quarry at Carson, Nevada, is proving a rich field for archaeologists. In addition to the giant human footprints, 181 inches in length and of corresponding width, there have been found the teeth of the saber toothed tiger, the horse, the tusk and jaw of the mastodon and a horse's aw. But the most interesting find lately made was a tomb near the needles, on the line of the Atlantic & Pacific road, at a depth of 173 feet from the surface. In it was found a huge skeleton in a sitting position, with its knees drawn up to its head and clasped in a bony embrace with its fleshless arms. At its feet were several bowls, originally made of reddish clay, but hardened by the lapse of ages into a substance resembling flint A tablet was inserted in the wall at its head, bearing a long inscription in hieroglyphics and covered with rude imitations of some extinct species of creature, half animal, half reptile. A number of implements of warfare were also found. Among them a stone ax, the handle and head being of stone, while the edge was formed of iron of great hardness, mortised into flint. The remains of a petrified forest were passed through before the tomb was

The largest prison in Europe is the ouse of detention, which has recent ly been completed at Berlin. This enormous edifice comprises six separate buildings, to which has been transferred all the prisoners awaiting trial who have hitherto been confined in the various prisons of Berlin. The prison for men consists of a ground floor and four other stories, with 732 separate cells, dormitories for 195 prisoners, besides forty rooms for turnkeys and sleeping accomodations for 188 attendants. Each of the 732 cells has a window ten feet high. There are six cells in the basement for prisoners who are refactory to discipline, and in the basement are also to be found the kitchens, the bath-rooms, and the heating apparatus of the prison. The internal part of the prison is constructed of iron, and is so built that all the corridors look out upon a central hall, which commands a view of every cell. The prison for men, which is separated from the rest of the building by a wall sixteen feet high, also contains a chape and four large exercise grounds. The prison for women contains only 110 cells and fifteen large dormitories, the latter of which are divided into sections. each containing a bed, which can be locked up every after its occupant has retired to rest.

The Roman News thus describes a forty-four-ton statue for the city of New York: "Probably the most colossal statue yet ordered for the states has just been finished in plaster form by an American sculptor at Florence, Larkin G. Mead. There are but two in America that can even be compared with it, Greenough's 'Washington' and his group of 'Civilization,' which adorn the capital at Washington. Some idea of it may be obtained by a short decription. The subject is the 'Mississippi River,' a large, recumbent statue not unlike in treatment the 'Nile' group at Rome. The figure is represented leaning against a cluster of rocks whence springs the source of the Father of Waters, while as a sup. port to the other arm is a broken paddle-wheel caught in a snag, a not uncommon sight on that mighty river. At the base are represented in bas-relief the various objects characteristic of the stream during its long course, stern-wheeler and side-wheeler, sugar-cane and crocodile, and its mineral wealth in the representation of a to rush into the streets and do some lead mine, while negroes are seen load- plication.

membered, in the heart of London in tobacco and the sugar cane; crystals, too, are not forgotten, while the giant right foot rests on a ledge of limestone, and in the right hand stalks of that great product of the Mississippi valley, Indian corn, are held, one mature, the other in the shock. A wreath composed of tobacco and cotton crowns the head of the colossus, while a fishing net is carelessly thrown across the base-The plinth or pedestal is twelve feet in length, and the weight of the marble no less than forty-five tons. This is to be presented to the city of New York by Elliott F, Shepard, a New York lawyer, a son-in-law of W H. Vanderbilt.

Catching Sharks.

Those old piscatorial pirates, the sagacity.

merely by the aid of the weakest fish- wig. ing line, when with a long knife the fisherman dexterously dispatches him by the aid of a well-directed thrust through the spinal cord.

From their well-known voracity in warmer climes it seems singular indeed that they do not attack the native fishermen in their little skin canoes, but day the actress, Miss H., with her there is not a record or known instance | maid called upon my lady (they are numerous, and where the natives catch large numbers of them-from 10,00 to 20,000 a year, according to Dr. tilk goods across Lady B's beautiful Rink, Danish inspector of this coast for arm and said: "Oh, if one could get a number of years,

The most usual method of catching these fish can hardly be said to be fish. exclaimed Lady B. ing at all. Near a hole in the ice a lighted torch is placed, and two natives shoulders. Miss H. pinned them to stand on opposite sides of the hole with her dress, and there at that moment two sharp hand-hooks, like deck-hands was born the inspiration of the jersey of a steamer at the end of a chute wait- | we all wear and never tire of. Lady B.'s ing for merchandise, until the shark sticks his nose out, when he is treated | H. drove hastily to the theatrical cosin about the same business-like manner as he is hauled on the ice, where their as the material could not be bought. carcasses often accumulate by hun The skirt and train from Paris was dreds as this shark fishery when once used; not so the corsage. Lady B.'s throughout the whole winter. The sewn on, and never did costume excite cartilaginous bones are the favorite to much admiration and curiosity as parts for food, as the raw frozen fish this symphony in gray velvet and long continued, and to it is attributed sage. No woman knew how the corthe dog disease of the north when fed lage was gotten into. There was no to them, and which every few years light or even hint of fastening. No carries off so many of these useful ani - one thought of the elastic silk material. mals. - Forest and Stream.

A Russian Legend.

The Russians in the Ukraine tell a queer story about a whistling robber of lden times, who evidently was a per on of gigantic proportions, for he was them. Mrs. Langtry was amount in the habit of sitting on nine oak arst customers, but she did no trees at once. One of the nicknames the Jersey until long after L given to him was "Nightingale," on and Miss H. account of his extraordinary whistling powers. Should an unwary traveller ome across his path, he would whistle so melodiously that his victim would quickly faint away, whereupon he stepped forward and killed him outright. At last, however, a well-known hero, by name Ilja Marometz, deter- red to stiff crinolets. mined to subdue the robber, and, having shot him with an arrow, took him prisoner, carrying him off to the court of Grand Prince Vladimir, Even there he proved dangerous, for when the grand prince, merely from curiosity, ommanded him to whistle, the grand princess and all the royal children, being present, the man commenced whistling in such an overpowering manner that soon Vladimir with his whole family would inevitably have been dead had not one of his brave courtiers, perceiving the danger, got up and shut the whistler's mouth. -Gentleman's Magazine.

A Foot Lacking.

"I have brought in a little poem," re. marked a long-haired individual, "that would like to have published. The sentiment is very fine; but, tell you the truth, I'm not so certain about the rhythm. There may be a foot wanting here and there." "Oh, that's nothing," replied the poetry editor, raising his number eleven by way of punctuation; "will you have it supplied now?" The long-haired man probably had an appointment that could not be delayed; at all events, he didn't wait for the ap-

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Five Points of Beauty;

One of the largest fortunes ever ealized in America, says the New York World, was made by the owner of an old-fashioned crimping pin, which a lady had patented in Washington. The woman who can invent a material which will closely resemble the skin of the head, will find millions awaiting Nature generally understands what is best when she gives a brunette black hair, and enlivens a very white skin with red locks, but in foreheads she really does seem to make mistakes, and by the judicious arrangement of hair a homely face can often be made pretty. The French speak of the "five points of beauty." When the hair is combed back straight from the face and sharks, often invade the Arctic, no grows in a point on the forehead they doubt tempted by the carcasses of the draw it to two other points in the cenwhales or seals or walruses left to rot | ter of the temples, and to still two others by white men engaged in their pursuit. close to the ears, and contend that so Natives angling from their skin canoes embellished no woman, no matter how in deep water occasionally catch a slug- homely her features may be, can fail gish shark who has engulfed the bait, to be attractive. Be this as it may, but there is no use pulling against such many a woman owes her reputation as a mountain of flesh, and relying upon a beauty to her coiffure. A young sheer strength to bring him up; and lady in Washington, who was by this the Innuit Izaak Walton fully no means a remarkable beauty, came knows, and overcomes his strength by out of a fever with a perfectly bald head. Her hair did not and would not At every brisk pull Mr. Shark, show- grow. So finally she ordered from ng him to be irritated, the line is low- Paris three or four wigs of a beautiful ered to appease him, but cautiously red gold, and these actually transformhauled in again almost immediately, ed her from a fright into a belle. The the shark slowly rising to this strategic same thing may be observed on the manipulation, until "like a finny fool" stage, where an ordinary woman caphe rests upon the surface of the water tures a whole parquette with a blonde

How the "Jersey" Was Invented

A London letter says: One of the the most charming and admired actresses in London helped invent the "Jersey." Her companion in invention is the wife of an Irish peer. One of such attacks even on the west shore great friends) and carried with her a of Greenland, where they are most pair of tights she had just bought to wear as "Rosalind" in "As You Like It." Miss H. pulled part of the elastic a corsage to fit like that!"

"Let me have them one moment,

She drew the tights around her brougham was called. She and Miss lumer's, ordered another pair of tights ommenced is generally carried on maid run it together — it was literally ems to have a depressing effect when satin, with the marvelously fitting cor-Little by little Lady B. and Miss H. perfected the jersey, and wore it quite three months before any one caught the idea. Then a prominent Bondstreet milliner discovered it and charg ed from thirty to fifty guine

Fashion Notes. Lace upon day dresses is very

Braiding appears on costum ets and wraps.

White lawn bustle skirts are

Tucks and panels are the f in dress-making this year. Gold braid is much used, e rimming morning dresses.

Copper in various shades is tl f tobacco or cigar color.

Percales, batistes, and zephys selling rapidly at the moment. Dress skirts may be very bouffant or clinging, whichever is preferred.

Silk-worm green is soberly announed as the latest tint in that shade. Velvet gauges and brocaded gauges are handsome additions to dress fabrics.

all the new shapes just I elders. Plain jerseys of red or much worn with lawn-ter

Children wear hats and bo

Valenciennes lace trims the handsomest embroidere

dresses Sleeves of dresses and wraps are worn exceedingly high, and full on the

There is a greater variety in the styles of bathing suits than was ever before displayed,

The flower of the moment is the

violet, and clusters are used on hats, bonnets and evening dresses.

The Chinese driving cloak with sabot sleeves has taken the place this eason of the French redingote.

Ecru and brown brocaded velvet grenadine wraps are trimmed with passementerie of the same color.

Dark brown Ottoman silk mantles are elaborately trimmed with brown Russian lace and chenille fringe.

Plaids in subdued colors are made for traveling suits, morning dresses, for shopping and for the street. Pongee dresses will be popular again

next summer and will be trimmed with ecru lace or embroidery. Coral pink is a new shade which

omes only in Ottoman reps and soft heavy materials for evening dresses. For evening dresses the basques

the round Jersey basque are preferred. Tinted linen lawns in gray and eeru grounds with figures in white are among the novelties for summer wear.

Silk jerseys, gloves in strawberry red, pale yellow, nun's gray, and black will be more in vogue this summer than kid gloves of any sort.

the polonaise reappears once and again boat having arrived, climbed into the in varied forms, and with endless styles wagon and drove on board. While of drapery and garniture.

colors triumphant even in floral garni- was getting on. ture. The gaudy sunflower has sunk into oblivion, but is replaced by prim- bothered just now.' roses, cowslips, marigolds, kingcups, Narcissus, and marshmallows.

Burnished gold, mandarin yellow, and the creamy shade of raw silk are the tints in yellow more favored this season than that of old gold or copper color, so fashionable last year; while sage green has given way to a peculiar leaden-green known as porphyry; and cadet blue is replaced by nemophilacthe color of that flower.

Some Pet Superstitions.

"I think there are more idle, silly superstitions in the popular mind on the subject of physiology than any subject I know of," said an eminent physician.

"Why do you say that? Tell about ome of them."

"Take the popular notion in regard to hydrophobia. If a healthy dog bite a child and years afterward go mad. the child will go mad, too. You'll find that sentiment almost ineradicable. Credit to the nineteenth century, isn't it? So is the corollary from the proposition, that when a child is bitten by a dog the beast must be killed to keep the child from going mad. Then there is that time-worn but ever new scare that cats suck babies' breaths. What a cat would do with a baby's breath is a deep and unfathomable mystery to me. I suppose they get into cradles where there are children because of the warmth, and superstitious people are not in love with cats, and especially black ones. They twist the vampire story around till they get the breath-sucking story.

"Another mediaval anatomical romance is that a man has twelve ribs and the woman thirteen, because God took a rib from man and made woman

> y depernd out e silo buy cut as harmtoad me at that I one in hing a

toad as a rattlesnake. Millions of toads are killed annually on this account, when they are really the farmers' upon the bugs and worms that destroy their plants.

"The most of these superstitions are harmless; but one of these wart myths

> one) be ill dis-, usualwhich is More other

cause. I could go on for hours at a time on these medical superstitions, if listen to me."

It is estimated that there are over one thousand pearl divers on the coast of Lower California,

Forgot a Parcel.

Of all the ills to which flesh is heir, forgetfulness is the one that furnishes the greatest number of laughable episodes; and while many of them are annoying, the mirthful feature that is their almost invariable companion affords a certain degree of compensa-

Near one of our Atlantic sea-ports there resides an old whaling captain commonly known as Uncle Gurdon. To keep from getting rusty, he made his home on the river-bank, where he could keep a boat, and fish or paddle about as he liked. The place was about five miles from the city, and, as occasion required, Uncle Gurdon and his wife would journey townward for the purpose of shopping. Reaching the city, the horse and wagon would be left at the water-trough on the with long back and pointed front or parade, and each would go in different directions, carrying their bundles to this common receptacle, the first through waiting for the other. On one of these shopping excursions Uncle Gurdon made several trips to the wagon, finding each time that additions had been made to the store of bundles-a sign that his wife was busy. Having completed his purchases, In French importations of costumes he unhitched his horse, and the ferrycrossing the river one of his acquaint-Pale yellow and bright gold are the ances stepped up and asked how he

"Well, I'm getting on nicely, but I'm

"Why, is anything going wrong?"

"No, nothing special; but I came down to do some shopping, and I've forgotten a parcel I was to get," and the old gentleman scratched his head in a perplexed manner.

"Well, I wouldn't worry. You will think of it next time," said the neighbor; and the boat having reached the landing, Uncle Gurdon drove ashore and went on toward home.

When nearly half-way there he was met by another friend, who stopped to have a chat. "How do you do to-day, Uncle Gur

don?" he asked "Oh, nicely, nicely; though I'm a bit

worried just now.' "Worried? About what?"

"Well, you see, I've been to town shopping, and there's a parcel of some kind that I've forgotten. I can't

think what it is, and it bothers me.' "Oh, never mind it! You will recollect what it is before you go again. By-the-way, Uncle Gurdon, how is your wife?

"Jerusalem!" cried Uncle Gurdon slapping his knee with great energy. "It's my wife that I've forgotten! She went to town with me to do some shopping, and I was to wait for

And Uncle Gurdon turned around. and went back to the ferry for the parcel that he had left behind,-Harper's Magazine.

Chinese Poisons. The commonest poisons are said to be

opium, arsenic, and certain noxious essences derived from herbs. But besides these other things are taken by suicides and given by murderers to cause death. In some of the southern provinces idea, there exists a particular kind of silk worm, known as the Golden Silkworm. which is reared by miscreants to serve either purpose as occasion may require. Quicksilver, which is also used with tion is fatal effect, is either swallowed, or, like Sensi- the "juice of cursed hebenon" which sent Hamlet's father to his account, is warts. poured into the ear. The torture necessarily consequent on this last method of using it must be so excessive that it have may safely be assumed that it finds hope favor only with murderers. Swallowwill ing gold, on the other hand, seems to be the favorite way of seeking death with wealthy suicides. It has been held by some writers that the expression "swallowing gold" is but a metaphorical phrase meaning "swallowing poison" just as when a notable culprit is ordered to strangle himself he is said to have had "a silken cord" sent to him, But the "Coroners' Manual" puts it beand gardeners' best friend, as they feed | yond | question | that | gold | is actually swallowed, and it prescribes the reme. dies which should be adopted to effect a cure. Gold not being a poison, death is the result either of suffocation or laceration of the intestines. When suffocation is imminent draughts of strain. ed rice-water, we are told, should be given to wash the gold downward, and when this object has been obtained, the flesh of partridges, among other things, should be eaten by the patient to "soften the gold" and thus prevent its doing injury. Silver is also taken in the same way. But though wealthy Chinamen thus find a pleasure in seek-I had time to relate them or you had to ing extinction by means of the precious metals, they have never gone the length of pounding diamonds to get rid of either themselves or their enemies after the manner of Indian

potentates. - Nature, ___