CHOICE MISCELLANY

The Prisoner.

"Everybody in London," said H. K. Adair, the western detective, "is wearing now, like us, the semi-total pledge button. The pledge is, you know, an oath only to drink at lunch and dinner.

"In London I heard Lord Roberts, the head of the English movement, make a speech at a banquet.

"One thing the little old soldier said was that wives could without fear allow semi-total husbands to go to the club. A semi-total husband would always come home from the club early.

"Thanks also to the semi-total pledge, wives wouldn't have to look after their husbands so vigilantly.

"There was an old soldier who said to a friend:

"'My wife does look after me well. She even takes off my boots for me.'

"'When you come home from the club?' the friend asked.

"'No. When I want to go there.'"—Washington Star.

Death and the Race Problem.

According to the seventh annual report of the government on statistics of mortality for the year 1906 for cities containing as much as 10 per cent or over of colored people, the death rate of the white population was 17.2 per thousand and that of the negro race 28.1, or more than 60 per cent higher.

In the state of Maryland the mortality rate for the colored was 321.6 as compared with 146.1 for the white, and similar high rates of death in the negro race are shown for all cities with a large colored population. For instance, in Mobile, Ala., the rate for the colored was 625.2 and for the white 229.2.

Here is a statistical study. Ever since the negroes were set free the death rate has been increasing, and this increase has been made the basis of a claim that extermination by disease would ultimately solve the race problem.—Roanoke Times.

Advancing Microscopy.

By a recent invention the wonders revealed by the ordinary microscope are increased a hundredfold. Henceforth students may use a high power lens as large as six inches in diameter, thus bringing the whole of objects instead of details only under observation. By this means a common house fly is magnified all at once till it appears to be as large as an ostrich. Being inclosed in an open space, where it is kept directly within the field of the glass and yet has ample room, considering its size, to move about and engage in its usual occupations, the opportunities for observation are immensely in advance of anything previously enjoyed by scientists.

American Princesses.

Two princesses, representatives of the only real American royalty, descendants of that Massasoit whose word was law to thirty villages and 30,000 red men, are living in poverty on the shores of Lake Assawampsett, Massachusetts. They are Teweelema and Wootonekanuske. An effort is being made to secure for these last of the royal blood of the Wampanoags a material recognition of their rights and of the services which their ancestor, the mighty sachem Massasoit, performed for the pioneers of New England, for without Massasoit's friendship and protection the struggling colonists would have been swept from the land.—Argonaut.

The Grain to Biscuit Record.

From standing grain in the field to well baked biscuits in twenty-two minutes was the record made in converting the raw material into the manufactured product at Waitsburg, Wash., not long ago. This is said to beat the previous record held by a Minneapolis mill by twenty-nine minutes. The Minneapolis record was made several years ago and might be improved on at this time, but until the Minnesota farmers begin using combined harvesters and other up to date machinery such as have made the Pacific northwest famous the record will remain on this side of the Rocky mountains.—Portland Oregonian.

Wool and Mutton.

Twenty-five years ago nearly all the sheep in this country were Merinos, grown mainly for wool, and mutton was the incident. At this time a majority of the sheep of the country are raised for mutton, and wool is the incident. Twenty-five years ago sheep were sent to market when they were four or five years old and averaged eighty to ninety-five pounds. Now sheep are marketed earlier and average 105 to 120 pounds. The ewes sold in the market at the present outweigh the wethers of former years.—National Farmer.

An Accessible Governor.

On the glass of the double doors leading to the offices of the governor of Massachusetts there is printed this cordial invitation: "Walk in." And many visitors to the famous statehouse beneath the golden dome on Beacon hill who might otherwise pass by contenting themselves with furtive glances feel that here is a welcome so plain and cordial that any timidity they might otherwise be conscious of is entirely dispelled.—National Magazine.

A Stiff Shirt.

John Murphy of Sedalia was engaged in unloading a car of cement. His shirt "wilted" and likewise was covered with cement. The cement "set" until it was as hard as rock. When John went home he attempted to remove the shirt, but he was not able to do so until Mrs. Murphy had pounded the garment with a hammer for fifty thirty minutes, breaking the shirt into pieces.

Names of the Days.

The English names for the days of the week are derived from the Saxon and the French from the Latin.

An Era of Poisoning.

During the middle ages, when the aristocracy of Florence and Venice was so tyrannous to its dependents, murder was considered as a small crime, and poisoning was so skillfully effected that many people lived almost entirely on boiled eggs.

Tortoise Shell Hats.

In Samoa the smart ladies wear tortoise shell hats.

British Colonial Governors.

British colonial governors are appointed, the premier having political power to oppose or acquiesce in a suggested appointment. The governor has practically the same power as one appointed to govern a territory of the United States.

The Beard.

The growth of the beard is strongest in most men on the right hand side.

Robin Hood.

Robin Hood is a traditionary English outlaw and popular hero. He is said to have been born at Locksley, Nottinghamshire, about 1160. He lived in the woods with his band either for reasons of his own or because he was really outlawed.

Prater Park.

The largest park in Europe is the Prater, in Vienna, measuring eighty square miles.

Uncle Sam's Foresters.

Thirty-nine young graduates of our national forestry schools have lately received appointments as assistants in the forest service. There is a growing interest in the profession of forestry, and many young men are asking how to get into it and what rewards it promises. Recently the chief of the forest service wrote on this subject as follows:

To be a good forester a man should combine something of the naturalist with a good deal of the business man. To know how to use the forest he must be able to study it. He must have, therefore, the power of observation, a fondness for nature and the ability to penetrate her secrets. But if he is to succeed he must also have good practical judgment and the ability to handle men. He must be resourceful, able to stand by himself, willing to undergo the privations of rough life and capable of commanding the respect of rough men, who quickly recognize virility and genuineness of character, but will not tolerate pretense or the assumption of authority. A forester needs a vigorous mind in a vigorous body. He must be of the kind that likes to get things done and does not give up when things are not going his way. He will have to face difficulties and work out problems far from outside help, relying solely upon himself. He ought to be hard to whip.

On the national forests the assistants often act as advisers to the supervisors in charge, who are experienced in all practical matters, but have not had technical training in the science of forestry, or the assistants may be assigned to the study of some particular problem which needs to be investigated in the interest of good forest management. As scientific forestry means knowing how to get the most out of a given piece of land, it calls for studies and experiments, both scientific and practical, much like those which have to be made in the interest of good farm management. If the forester's temperament is scientific he will have the joy of the discoverer and organizer of knowledge in an almost virgin field, and if it be practical he will have the chance of sharing in a national work of vital importance to the people of the present day and of the future.

"Dean of American Playwrights."

Financial success in a new and difficult profession was by no means the sole reason for calling the late Bronson Howard the "dean of American playwrights." He wrote for an active theater and produced plays to meet the requirements of his time. But he worked carefully and conscientiously, and his plays by winning recognition from the public opened the way for native effort.

Mr. Howard himself struggled long for recognition. When he began foreign adaptations were the vogue here and disputed the field with the classical drama. The first to produce a Howard play, Augustin Daly, was himself an adept at adaptation. It was easier and cheaper for a manager to borrow plays from foreign sources or pirate them, as the phrase was, than to experiment with the efforts of native authors. Howard fought for the recognition of American authors, and if his direct influence was ephemeral his general service to the American drama was considerable. When he began there was little interest among playgoers in purely American types and more especially none in distinctly American themes. Nowadays managers give the preference to plays dealing wholly with American life, and the New theater, which proposes to strike out in new paths, announces that the American type of play will be made the most of on its boards. George Bronson Howard, the novelist, should not be confounded with the family of the dead dramatist. Mr. Howard had no children, and it is said that the novelist was not related to him in any way.

Moral Law and the State.

A forward march of the school teachers in the right direction is what the Chicago Interior calls the action of the National Education association with respect to the Bible in the schools at the recent annual convention. The action referred to was a resolution upon the subject of character training, as follows:

We earnestly recommend to boards of education, principals and teachers the continuous training of pupils in morals and in business and professional ethics to the end that the coming generation of men of affairs may have a well developed abhorrence of unfair dealing and discrimination.

The National Education association wishes to record its approval of the increasing appreciation among educators of the fact that the building of character is the real aim of the schools.

We hope for such a change of public sentiment as will permit and encourage the reading and study of the English Bible.

The Interior holds that the above declaration for the Bible as a standard of moral ethics is especially satisfactory because the state has the undisputed right to uphold a "social morality which covers justice and truth between man and man," and what it intends to maintain as the standards of conduct it should duly inform its citizens of in advance. Arguing for the Bible as the standard, the Interior cites the teachings of secular history "that nations which have observed the morality of the Scriptures have been strong nations, of persisting vitality and steadfast orderliness."

Campaign contributors are expected to bestow their money with the same generous freedom with which the less affluent auditor bestows his applause. And if the funds are in proportion to the cheering at Chicago and Denver it will be a record for contributions.

Our Respect For Law.

People who are fond of comparing what they choose to call English respect for law with our alleged disposition to lawlessness must have read with astonishment the calm endurance of the woman suffragists recently turned back in an effort to take their cause into the privacy of the summer capital at Oyster Bay. The entire suffragist mission was conducted with a show of decorum vastly different from the demonstrations of zealous suffragettes which have recently marred the peace of British statesmen.

The suffragist party which attempted to reach President Roosevelt was led by a woman who is said to have participated in demonstrations against the British house of commons and elsewhere in London. She found that the usually accessible president of the United States has means of safeguarding his privacy. Had the tactics of the London suffragettes been followed at Oyster Bay the president's secret service men would have had their cars boxed, and perhaps there would have been some window smashing, followed by incarceration in the local jail. After all, it may be that our suffragists gained more in being repulsed and in accepting their repulse with calmness and dignity than would have been possible had they been rough and obstreperous.

The New Soldier's Dream.

The destruction of the Zeppelin airship No. 4 in a measure readjusts the European balance in the matter of "the nations' airy navies." Authorities record the fluctuations in aerial equipment the same as they do that of the marine armaments. Zeppelin's accident puts the French back in the place from which the intrepid, if not skillful and resourceful, Germans apparently dislodged them, and France now has seven airships, five of the latest approved type. She officially [illegible] the Patrie, which [illegible] the others. Germany [illegible] airships, and the [illegible] reduced the list to [illegible] two. The Ditty [illegible] neering companies, in [illegible] the class with Italy.

The possibility of the airship as a war machine continues a fascinating topic of speculation in military circles the world over. Experiments with dirigible balloons and aeroplanes are everywhere reported. Recently a British authority on military aeronautics, Colonel Cappers of the Royal engineers, discussed the probable use of dirigibles in war. Assuming that dirigibles can be perfected, the colonel says:

Large vessels of from 500,000 to 1,000,000 cubic feet capacity, capable of traveling at a speed of forty miles an hour in a calm and of carrying considerable quantities of high explosives, can set out and, with a favorable wind, can cover vast distances in a few hours. When they will come and what their objective will be cannot possibly be known to the enemy, who cannot always be looking with guns ready pointed into the air, while they will pass over the country so quickly as to be out of range almost as soon as seen.

Keeping high up in the daytime and descending at night, they can keep their direction with practical certainty and hovering close over any desired spot, may launch explosives with deliberate aim, which will results more or less in a safe distance [illegible] explosive occurs, or they may even use destruction to effect some [illegible] object.

Their objective may be, of course, the enemy's armor, his dockyards, arsenals, storehouses, railway centres, etc., where the maximum of damage can be caused at a minimum of risk. Possibly they might even attack the enemy's navy if he has one, but possibly the same effect would be produced in a more made manner by merely destroying the docks, etc. There would appear to be but little difficulty in hitting the explosives with great accuracy, if good plans are available. To work for, with the expense, even should several airships be lost, would be insignificant.

But Hiram Maxim, also an expert in military innovations, declares that dirigible balloons must sooner or later yield supremacy to perfected aeroplanes. It is well known that aeroplanes cannot carry large crews or much cargo and hence could not be very effective in destroying arsenals, storehouses and railway centers. They might perhaps torpedo or lance the dirigibles encountered. Anyway, the dream of "airy navies grappling in the central blue" still seems far from realization.

Labor's Forward March.

Labor has triumphs to celebrate at this time irrespective of those associated with organized effort. Less than two centuries ago man didn't even own his labor. [illegible] time 200 years ago Landgrave [illegible] of Hesse-Cassel took a notion to construct a magnificent playhouse near his summer place to entertain his royal friends, and the whole elaborate structure was created without expense except for foreign talent to design and superintend. All the labor of quarrying, carving, digging, hoisting, grading, etc., was wrung from his people something in the way modern road taxes are worked out. Every subject was assessed so many days' work a year to build a toy for the prince. The burden lasted many years. This piece of folly is still to be seen by the tourists who visit Wilhelmshoehe.

Imperial Germany now has about 2,215,000 organized workingmen, and labor unions are even more influential there than in any other country on the globe. Germany has developed systems of workingmen's insurance which are the models of the world. It is also active in insuring employment and improving the standard of labor among its members.

An evidence of the strides made by labor is the act which went into effect Aug. 1 in this country granting compensation for injuries received in government employment. Carl of Hesse-Cassell got his government work done for nothing. Today labor is paid for on government works and the laborer is practically insured against injury when so employed. This principle of liability for injuries incurred in the service of others is gaining strength everywhere and in more or less modified form will doubtless become the rule generally in this country. The frequency with which the term "social legislation" is used indicates that human toll must not be confounded under any guise. A single inroad has been entering wedge, and more will follow.

Private Betting and Gambling.

No well balanced person ever contended that private betting is a crime, and Judge Gaynor's recent decision in a Brooklyn court is a rebuke to those who wish to obscure the issue in warring upon gambling by making a test on private betting. What the anti-gambling laws aim to regulate and check is not the wager between man and man upon a golf or ball game or the speed of an auto, a turbine steamer or even a race horse.

What the anti-gambling laws are meant to reach are those flagrant cases of betting which make the apparent sanction of law are sometimes considered as a public business for the sole profit of professional gamblers. Those who think that they can broaden the issue raised by efforts to control this sort of trafficking with the desire of personal liberty as involved in the betting of bets on games or any form of innocent recreation are either ignorantly wasting the time of the courts by bringing up such actions or are recklessly seeking to discredit the principle of laws which justly restrain and control.

Mr. Harriman now controls seventeen railroads. He is a young man yet. Noah, it must be remembered, was 600 years old when he cornered the transportation business of the world.

In spite of its tragic end Count Zeppelin's record breaking airship may figure in the history as the first pioneer in man's conquest of the air.

A Russian who has lived 120 years was presented to the czar the other day—as a sample, we suppose, of what a Russian can do if he and [illegible] for the amusement of nihilists and bomb throwers.

It is claimed that there are now [illegible] in New York. These figures, however, do not include the Gothamites who study racing charts.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

In the French Pyrenees a quart of milk costs 4 cents.

There are more than 5,000 motor boats already on the canals of Holland.

The total exports of camphor from Formosa last year amounted to 4,121,[illegible] pounds.

The capacity of the Atlantic cables is 2,000,000 words annually. Only 25,000,000 are sent.

Fish worth $20,000,000 is landed every year in England and Wales, furnishing employment for 40,000 men and boys.

Paraguay, once the "Jesuit state" par excellence, is soon to be in direct communication by steamer with the United States and Europe.

Foreigners may now open and manage drug stores in some Mexican cities provided they announce on the front of their store that they have no local professional title.

Time was when the patent kid made in France was unequaled, but now the French themselves are said to prefer the American leather of this kind as being less liable to crack.

Of the 59,076 men employed on British sailing vessels, 928—or one in sixty—lose their lives by drowning, whereas of the 192,129 men employed on steamships only 674—or 1 in 241—are drowned.

The Milford (N. H.) Cabinet entered upon its one hundred and sixth volume on July 2. The paper has been published by the family of its present owner, Colonel W. B. Rotch, for ninety-eight years.

The capital invested in breweries in the United States, according to the last federal census, was $415,000,000. The experts of the United States Brewing association say that it is now nearer $700,000,000.

A quantity of Saracen wheat has been sown in Chile, with fine results. The first harvest showed a yield of sixteen bushels for one and of a very fine quality. It grows very strong and nearly four feet in height.

Experiments made in Sicily have shown that rubber can be successfully cultivated there, but it will take ten years to bring the trees to profitable productiveness, hence the assistance of the government is being asked.

A mask of aluminum wire to absorb mercury vapors is the suggestion of Signor Turati, an Italian, for avoiding poisoning by mercury mines, mirror factories and other places where workers are exposed to this volatile metal.

Drought has never been known in the southeastern districts of Australia, nor are rabbits found there, but pastoralists on a large scale are hampered by several varieties of poison bushes which prove harmful to stock.

A 22 caliber bullet played a unique trick in Gardiner, Me., recently, lodging in a telephone cable and cutting twenty out of sixty wires therein inclosed. It required seven hours to locate the trouble and considerably more time in making repairs.

Japan consumes more than one-half of the cigarettes consumed annually by the 2,000,000 Russians. New Japan prefers cigarettes to the old fashioned pipes, some of which were so long that a servant was required at the far end to apply the match.

Sam Jett of Winchester, Ky., has a thousand acre goat ranch in Breathitt county. It is mountain land and is inclosed by a wire fence. His specialty is the Angora breed. The fleece of this goat is what is known in trade as mohair and is very reliable. The ranch is proving quite a success.

From a British newspaper: "A gentleman in good social position finds that wherever he goes friends pity him with whiskies and sodas, which he does not like and which disagree with him. They resent it if he refuses them. He would like introduction to society in which whisky and soda do not form so important an element."

From Sept. 19 to 30 an exposition will be held at Nuremberg in the interest of culinary art, general food products, grain, agriculture and of meat, poultry, dairy, bakery, hotel and brewers' industries, etc. The exposition is to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Innkeepers' Association of Nuremberg and is under the protectorate of Prince Alfonso of Bavaria.

President G. Stanley Hall of Clark university announces that college professors must organize for self protection and boycott all news gatherers as outrages to academic dignity and weight. He says college professors must do something to free themselves from [illegible] The time has come when a college professor can not appear in society without being made to feel small and not like a fool."

An "Uncle Remus" home for children is to be established near Atlanta, Ga., as suggested by Joel Chandler Harris. The Juvenile Protective association is to have charge of the institution, which will contain a school [illegible] and industrial work [illegible] The home will be [illegible] of which [illegible] Harris [illegible] Remus [illegible] Harris [illegible] Remus [illegible] Harris [illegible] Remus