Editor and Proprietor.

VOL. XLI.

MIFFLINTOWN, JUNIATA COUNTY, PENNA.. WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1887.

NO. 21.

### A Fair Florentine.

She hath eyes that shame the night, Deep and mystic, dark with doc Rich in thought, alive with light When the passion flowers bloom, And her lips are scarlet red Mute, and motionless, and calm, Till a score of kisses shed Soft and downy is her breast, Tranquil as a virgin rose, Now to rock in wild unrest, Like an ocean in its throes.

Graziella,

Queen where Arno's river flows. She hath locks of darkest dark, Brow of snow and face of fire : Tuneless is the singing lark
When she strikes her silver lyre; Arno's speech is not as sweet When she runs to meet and greet The Luigi of her choice. Myrrh and oleander dells Bloom with beauties rare to see: Yet within their shadows dwells Not a fairer nymph than she;

Bella, Bella, Graziella, Heart and heaven throb for thee. Florence hath more stately dames Garbed in silk and decked with lace. But they lack the living flames Sweeping o'er her cherub face,

Plain-robed lasses often are Each a more bewitching prize, Than the blue-veined proudest star Gleaming from palattal skies, Viva Bacco! Tap the cask! We will drink this health of thine With a bumper from a flask Of the ruddy Tuscan wine, Rella, Bella,

Maid of maidens, Florentine!

# MEETING STREAMS.

"A gentleman to see you, sir." I was not particularly anxious to see I was not particularly anxious to see and will go near to making it immortal, any one at the moment my Martha In the celebrated gallery of Dresden, made this announcement, for I was trying hard to finish a short story I had face. The pleture has hung there for a anguaged to write by a certain date for a century, and it shows no signs of fading well-known magazine. For some days out. Of course, the woman who sat past my clerical duties had been usually leavy and time was precious. Besides, ieavy and time was precious. Besides, it was in the midst of an animated conrersation between the two chief characers in my tale, and this interruption sadly disturbed its course. Still my work could wait for a few minutes if it was necessary "Who is it Martha?"

"A stranger, sir."

edica

Aidd!

Show him in," and with a sigh my MS, is laid aside, The person who entered my study was a young fellow of some two and wenty; tall, rather bandsome, and with a smile that took me at once. I shook hands with him and offered him a chair. "My name is Davies," he said,

it was money he wanted, but my expelike him had gone to wreck and ruin for lack of some timely assistance in this vast northwest, and if I could be of use tiny curl escaping at either side, the eyeto him it was my plain duty to be so.

upon you," he continued, "but I was looking through a directory in a store this morning, wondering if I could the very bow of Cupid, the cheeks chance on the name of a friend, when rounded and tinted with warm color, I I noticed yours, sir-Mr. Stephenson. Some near relations of mine in the old country are called Stevenson-S-t-e-v-e-n- details, and not a complete presentment. s-o-n," he spelt the word and then went How can I describe the charm of it—its

"Your name is not spelt quite in the same way," he observed, but "directories are not always correct, and the name is not a common one. Perhaps you are a connection of these friends of mine: they live at Pocklington in Sur-

vensons of Pocklington; but I had watched Mr. Davies attentively while he made his statement, and come to the conclusion that it had not been manufactured for the occasion. It had rather the air of something of the kind, but the man's manner made me believe that he was sincere. Would he say in what way I might be of use to him? His hopes had evidently been a good deal dashed, for he continued in a slower

"Two years ago I came from England to Canada. I was at Rugby, sir; and my father is a clergyman. When and my father is a clergyman. I left school I was articled to a solicitor. but I did not take kindly to desk work. that sert of thing. However, I did not think of anything else until a cousin of mine, who had settled near Torontohis farm is a few miles north of the city jumped at the offer, I didn't know anything about farming-which would te against me, but I could learn. In any case I was sure I should like its free, open-air life a long way better than the atmosphere of a stuffy office."
I nodded approval, If Mr. Davies had set about to win my entire sympathy he could not have hit upon a better

plan to gain it. I had often pointed out that we Canadians are for the most part an agricultural people, and had deplored that so many of our young men were not content to stay on their father's farms, but went to the city. I did not see my Dresden face in Winni- nil; therefore, should a solitary suitor had preached to many a lad, better be a peg again, I did not forget it, farmer any day than a clerk. Of course, "He that will to Cupar maun to Cupar," as the wise Scotch preverb says,

reached Winnipeg yesterday. I find I to a decision out of my hands, have not quite enough money to take me to Calgary; where Jim Thompson is Calgary stamp on the envelope, and the to meet me. I have \$33 and some cents, but I need a few dollars more. Will This was what was said in it: you kindly lend me a small sum?"

"How much do you require?" I asked. "The fare is about \$40," he said suggestively. "Suppose I lend you \$10; will that

"Yes, sir. I'll send you the money hear from him, but it would be a waste

me. By one of those curious coinciden- and, if you like, you can go on to the ces which sometimes happen, the same | mountains, I can assure you, at any mail which brought me the money and rate, of a royal time when you are with grateful letter in which Mr. Davies me. I can hardly say how disappointed acknowledged my opportune assistance I will be if you are unable to come. to him also brought me a check for a Please telegraph if you will come. Very much larger amount than I had expect- gratefully yours, EDWARD DAVIES. ed from the publishers of the magazine

completely passed out of my mind,

The evening of the same day that Mr. Davies had called upon me, I was present at a bright and delightful party every day, they had suffered severely. However they were cheery, wholesome minded people, who faced their troub'e bravely. At the same time of which I write-two or three years ago-the full me, all determined to show every attenextent of the collapse was not under- tion possible to the "parson." We spent stood. Mr. Dalston was telling me how a night in Calgary, a stirring town of confident he was that a good harvest would cause trade to revive, and that local coloring in cowboys and miners the country would speedily recover. I and railroad men. Early next morning was expressing a similar conviction, we set out for Man's ranch, as Thompthough I could not pin my faith to the son called his place, a drive of some results of one season, when my attention was taken by a remarkable face, which I did not remember ever having

een before in the society of the city. The face itself was perfectly familiar to me; indeed, it must be known to a great many others, as art has made it live already for more than 100 years, there you will see to-day that beautiful for that wonderful portrait has been of us; but her face has not perishedthere it is on the canvas. As long as the colors last it will never cease to be a striking, and to most people, a charming picture. I for one, had not fergotten it, and here, in Winnipeg of all places in the world, was the same face! this sweetheart of his! If the conversa-I do not need to fell you that it was

the woman of the Dresden painting died But it was a face of a rare long ago. But it was a face of a rare type; and the girl in my friend's drawing-room reproduced it exactly. Now no words of mine can do as much-cerves the world a portrait ne was easy to see that he was not an may use the word) together so as to tell ordinary beggar. I could not tell that a harmonious tale that the whole man stands before us. So when I say that rience led me to suppose it was. No the girl's face was oval, the forehead of one knew better than I how often men that kird which is best suited by having the hair brushed back from it and then massed above it, with perhaps a brows arched high above the soft hazel eyes, the nose neither Greek nor Roman, but a happy mixture of both, the mouth small and firm and shaped like cannot but feel that I have given a somewhat lifeless catalogue of certain grace; its vivacity, the look of wonder, struggling with humor in the eyes? Yet

you can see all these and much more at a glance in the Dresden picture. The extraordinary resemblance was helped even by the way in which the girl was dressed. The white column of her neck was exposed save where a row of amber beads partly hid it; the square bodice she wore was of a dark rich material, the skirt of the same, but

It was almost impossible to believe she had stepped out of that century-old

slashed across with a broad band of

An elderly gentleman was talking to was, but she was sure she had a mission mile upon mile of smooth snow, with

. . . . . . Two years later I was meditating a out, in most cases the exchange from holiday trip. It was the middle of sumthe country to the town is not a benefi- mer, and I had been hard at work for many a month and needed some change. "Well," continued Mr. Davies, "I The question was, where to go? Should ago. Last month I received a letter from an old schoolmate called Thompson who is remained beyond the delightful C. T. R. boats was very stayed with my cousin until a few days I betake myself to Ontario-the charmson, who is ranching beyond Calgary, tempting. There was the United States, asking me to go out to join him. It's a tremendously wide field; what point rather a wild life, but I thought I should I make for? While I thus hesiwould like it; so I left Toronto and tated events took the trouble of coming One morning a letter came with the

handwriting was quite unknown to me. "Dear Mr. Stephenson: Perhaps you have forgotten me, but I shall always remember your kindness to me on a certain occasion. You were good enough to lend me \$10, though I was a complete stranger without any claim upon you. I can't forget that. I have He told me before I started he would pay my passage out to lim if necessary, but I thought I had enough. Of course, I might stay in town and wait till I hear from him, but it would be a waste associated with that very important step in my life. To come out here to

Here was a holiday, but it was even for which my story had appeared.

Time went by, and soon Mr. Davies and the episode in which he had figured feeling this unexpected letter gave me! Of course I telegraphed my acceptance of Mr. Davies' offer.

Two or three weeks later I took the western train from Winnipeg, sped past Portage la Prairie, lying amid its yellowgiven by my friends, the Dalstons, ing wheat fields; on across the long, They had been induced to come to green levels of the plains, with settlers' Winnipeg from Hamilton during the huts rising here and there, through the famous "boom," of which many in the eastern provinces have a sufficiently and marshy hollows; along the values with thousands of the valuable oil palm lively recollection. They had been in of Assinidolne, where Brandon stands; time to share in the phenominal and unnatural prosperity of the period of for a couple of days, till we come to the inflation, but when the terrible reaction land of streams and mighty pastures, set in, and prices went down and down and could almost persuade ourselves that we could see the far-off blue of the Rockies, and Calgary was reached.

Here Davies, his friend Jim Thomp-

son and two other young ranchmen met the true western type, with its own seventy miles. Davies and I had a buckboard, and the others were on horsetack. During the day and a half we were traveling, Davies gave me an spirits, as was natural. How he enjoyed whites. life! He spoke of the freedom and healthfulness of the plains; then of the Thompson's; an uncle had left him some oney, and he had "chipped in with marry-what a wonderful and gracious, little woman she was! English, like himself, he said; but devoted to Canada. He said so many pretty things about this sweetheart of his! If the conversatle and the country, a word about the not quite the same face; for, as I said, girl and off he went like a sky-rocket.

> altar. Lo, it was my Dresden picture! I recognized her at once, but I think she had forgotten me. After the sermy congratulations, I whispered to her that I was glad to see that she had found her "mission." She smiled and said that she knew me new. Had she

gone out to Fort Macleod. What a scene to be remembered was the bridal feast! The whole-soul enjoy- that signifies innocence; if on the conment, the genuine, light-hearted laughter of these young fellows-there were troops of them from many a distant ranch, who had come to "see Ned through." How attentively they waited on the young ladies that were present! What a bright spot in one's memo-

ries is all this! When I proposed the bride's healthhow they manage to get champagne in these northwestern territories, notwithstanding the prohibitory legislation, it slightly, to the chain of curious coinci-dences I have recorded under the name of Meeting Streams.

The Trade of Marriage. plain of want of remunerative employment, is that they should not work, but her—perhaps paying her some pretty find men to support them. As there compliment, for she blushed slightly as she glanced at him with a smile. I England, it is obviously impossible that asked to be introduced, and found she every woman should have a husband. was interesting and agreeable as could This state of things is as bad in Gerbe wished. She was enthusiastic about many also. The preponderance of the Canada. She told me she was a new- women over the men is the greatest in comer to Winnipeg indeed, to the Do- the professional and upper middle minion. Perhaps I might laugh at her, classes. Among the richer aristocracy but she felt she must come out to the of England, and the absolutely working northwest. She did not know what it was, but she was sure she had a mission ber, and women can still marry. But out here. There were plenty of fine the sons of clergymen, officers, civil young fellows at the Dalston's that servants, lawyers, doctors, and some of evening, and I wondered if her "mis- the country gentry find the struggle for sion" was in the room. She looked existence too great in this kingdom forward with pleasure to the winter. they emigrate, or leave the country by Of course it was cold, very cold; but the joining the military or naval service. skating and the tobogganing and the snow-shoeing. The sleighing — how splendid it must be to glide along over work, even domestic work. These "superfluous women" most undoubtthe bells tinkling in the keen, clear air.
She was delighted with her Canadian of their sex—that of being charmingly, friends; the girls were so bright and they are often handsome, are generally jolly, the men such good fun, And on well-mannered, and well-dressed. They she prattled in a way that was alto- are "charmers," but there is no one to gether very winning. I was compelled to leave the party early, and though I their chances of marriage are almost with even a modest competency appear, they feel driven to accept the first man who asks them, whether they care for him or not, and most generally they do not. Their parents wish to get rid of them, so they marry without love. An evil arises out of this, more ghastly

times to the deterioration of men. The money and obliges her to sell herself, before she has lost her only salable comber from whom to pick and choice.

ON THE CONGO.

A Land Reported to be Flowing With Milk and Honey.

The hundreds of beautiful islands of he Congo, some of them ten to twenty miles long, are as rich if not richer than the main land, says Lieutenant Taunt in his report concerning his recent expelition to Africa. As a rule, both main-and and islands are covered with dense orests, in which are to be found the rubber, gum copal, palm and other valnable trees. On the the mainland are occasional stretches of immense plaleaus, which the elephant, buffalo and other game use for feeding grounds, The islands above Bangala are covered

The Congo abounds in most excellent ood fish, which form a staple article of ood on the upper river. The natives eldom eat the fish when fresh, but moke or dry them. The man-eating rocodile is met with throughout the iver, and in the region of the islands and sandbanks the hippopotami are ound. I have frequently met herds of ifteen or twenty of these beasts playing in the river. If disturbed in their breed ng season they will attack passing anoes and sometimes steamers. of the state launches has been badly jured by the tusks of a hippo. Of the mineral wealth of the Congo

valley there can be no question. The natives of all sections possess iron and copper in large quantities. The knives and spears are made of the iron and decorated with copper. Their brass account of what had happened since I brnaments are made from the matakos had seen him last. He was in high

I saw no gold or silver; the natives lo not place any value on these metals. money that was being made out of the great herds. He was now a partner of have found gold in small quantities in

the interior above, Stanley Falls. The natives of the lower Congo are Jim," as he expressed it. Yes, they were doing very well. He had built a house in the spring—ah, yes, he was engaged before that, he said, with a region when a man is killed in their happy look on his sun-tanned face. Iribal wars. In October, 1885, between Then the young lady he was going to M'Bauza Mateke and Vivi, I was in camp with nearly 600 of Makito's people one of the most powerful chiefs on the wer river); these people were returning from the coast with rum, gin, etc., out with my native caravan and one other white man, I camped as peacefully among these 600 natives as I could have done at Vivi. And again, one of the Next day the marriage took place in English mission is living alone at Jim Thompson's house; there was a Lutete, and has been so for months, the table for an altar, and a couple of cushions for the bride and bridegroom to from him. The agents of the state kneel on, and a few chairs for the never travel with a guard in the lower "You are not likely to know anything about me, as I came here yesterday. I tainly not in a few touches. This is tainly not in a few touches. This is tainly not in a few touches. This is the painters have the advantage to the painters have the advantage. The red to the painters have the advantage. aged some help, and I have come to ask of us. For when a really great artist before. The tride had arrived late the tation of their camp equipage only. As previous evening, and so I did not see far as I could learn, there is no case on scord during the last two years where a white man's caravan has been molested on the lower river,

The Baskungas are superstitious to vices was over and I had made the pair the last degree; they rely for protection on the fetich charms, and the medicine men of the tribes have great influence. On the death of any person of note in the village the poison test is used. The not met me in Winnipeg two years ago! medicine man designates the man or Shortly afterward, she told me, she had woman suspected of causing the death by charm or witchcraft. The poison is admistered, and if it acts as an emitic taary, it kills, the guilty one is punish-

In some instances the laws of the Baskungas are very stringent. Stealing from each other is punished by death. Fighting or disorder in the market places is seriously punished, and if a firearm is used the punishment is death. The market place, which usually covers some acres of ground, is used as the place of execution, and it is not an musual sight to meet a skeleton hanging and bleaching in the sun on the outskirts of the market, or to find a broken musket driven into the ground, which marks the spot where a man has been buried alive to his throat, his brains dashed out, then covered and the musket driven into his body. All this to serve as a warning to others not to

use firearms in the market place. The native food of the lower Congo valley is principally peanuts and chiquango (made from the manioc root.) On market days fowl, eggs, goat and pork may be bought, and (in small quantities) sweet potatoes, peas, beans, onions and bananas,

As a rule I did not find the lower Congo people intemperate; the native drink is malafu or palm wine, which, when fresh, is not at all intoxicating. They are fond of rum and gin, and these articles will go much farther in trade than either cloth or beads. The native caravans demand rum or gin as a por-

tion of their pay, The woman are slaves, there being no marriage laws.

Above Stanley Pool, and more cularly above the mouth of the Kasai river the natives are an entirely ifferent race, both physically and intel lectually. The greater part of these people are traders, and rich; they own any slaves; in fact, a chief populates his villages with slaves, the freemen of the village being the members of his own family. A singular fact is that slaves can in turn own slaves; in fact, the men are more like retainers than slaves; the women bear that burden.

## A Monster Rattlesnake and a Great

A great black rattlesnake was moving surely about in his cage in a shopthan can be described. The marriage window in Denver, when a reporter paused to look at the reptile for a few stitution abroad. In England, in this minutes. A bright patch of sunlight minutes. A bright patch of sunlight was flooding the window, and in this upper middle classes adopt it without acknowledging it. However we may his holiday, as it were—for it takes a affect to deny it, there is a vast amount of married unhappiness in all classes. The fault is sometimes ascribed to the had his house all to himself (at least present degeneracy of women and some- there were no other snakes present at the entertainment), but away in one fault really lies in our social system, corner of the cage, cowering and quiverwhich gives a woman neither work nor ing in the most agonizing fear, sat a half-grown rat, with his feet curled up under him, his long slender tail fairly modities-youth and beauty. As their lashed into an interrogation point with exists four "superfluous women" to one man, the female has no choice, while the lordly male has the greater numeyes snapping as if they would pop out of his head with horror. The rattle-snake moved leisurely along, first to one sometimes crawling to the opposite end of the cage, but always keeping his glit-tering eyes on the rat, which poor little animal seemed utterly transfixed with

meantime a crowd had congregated outside the window and were curiously watching the movements of the rattle

snake, whom they expected any moment to pounce upon the terrified rat and sword, forty inches long, and the time. It was evidently no common inches in length, Messrs. Wilkinson disrattlesnake, but a genuine monarch of its kind, who took life on an easy plan Pall Mall Gazette. There are genuine and never hurried about any thing. In an adjoining cage lay a great red lizard dozing in the sun on the gravely in the old fighting days, and which are

the most artistic fashion, as if the deft time has upon good metal and sound fingers of some young lady skilled in the art of fancy work had beaded him to walls beside the formidable Lochaber the queen's taste. But this has little to ax. A huge Swiss two-handed sword, do with the story in question, save that which it must have taken a giant to the lizard was soon roused from its wield, did service in the fourteenth slumbers by being sharply prodded with a stick, inasmuch as it was time for one of the famous Damascus blades is him to dine. Having, therefore, the in the catalogue, When Tinaur Lung vision of a feast in its mind, it lifted its | conquered Syria in the beginning of the fat, red body, opened its eyes, and fifteenth century he carried off all the bars. When the lizard awoke the people than ordinary quality, since which time turned their attention to it, and the

upon it like some rapacious monster the crowd was at once turned again to the direction of its prey. It was a plain feasting time, many fields fairly paved It was the first time the lizard had partaken of food for six weeks.

The proprietor of the establishment induced to eat frogs. If the rat had cruel desire of the rattlesnake. It is steel of the day. nature for the purpose of imitating the sound of insects, thereby luring the hapless birds into the toils of the snakes. A bird singing on the branch of a tree who dally pass across the London bridge juicy bug, quickly descends among a a tunnel is approaching completion, knows more, for it is at once seized upon and devoured by the reptile which the public. It is said, also, that there is no such thing as snake charming. has sufficient courage to keep his eye | The total distance from the and to prod it vigorously with a stick. In this way the snake may be irritated almost to death, and will never attempt has long since been ascertained by those who deal in snakes that a professional have their po son-fangs extracted, and poison found in a rattlesnake are inherent in the common Irish potato. A teaspoon upon being ferced into a rattlesnake's mouth comes out brimful of the poison so much dreaded by man.

## Chinese Dishes.

cans and Europeans, seem disgusting, others that are merely odd. Walking through the Chinese market in San Francisco, one sees some very queer articles of food for sale; small pats of soft cheese, varnished amber brown and stamped with Chinese characters; well peeled chestnuts, with tiny slices of white cocoanut wrapped in neat little cornucopias of glossy cabbage leaf; forty kinds of dried nuts, fruits, (whole or sliced) roots and barks.

Then there are living turtles an

frogs; fowls and fish, alive, freshly dressed, and smoked or dried; meats, half cooked in the carcass; wreaths of dried oysters strung on bamboo splints; abalones, like black models for dolls hats; shreds of white cuttle-fish, and a host of other edible curiosities.

A stranger might suppose that they were simply curiosities, like the ancient sticks of barber-pole candy exhibited in the dingy window of a country grocery; or like the ham, elaborately with geometrical puzzles in jelly, to be admired, but on no account to be carved. Notat all. They are regarded In fact, the Chinese and Japanese

eats everything that comes out of the sea. All the fishes are good to their taste, and are caught with great skill. I agreed with him. Then I wrote out a check in favor of Edward Davies and handed it to him. He thanked me and withdrew. I went back to my MS, and succeeded in picking up the thread of my story.

A few weeks later the loan was repaid

Seaweeds of several sorts are sent far into the interior, to be used in thicken-into the interior.

I agreed with him. Then I wrote out a sea in alm. In the interior, to be used in thicken-into the interior. Seaweeds of several sorts are sent far

COSTLY ANCIENT BLADES. Curiosities Worth Noticing.

Alongside the modern life-guard's play many antique weapons, says the specimens of the famous Andrea Ferrara, which were so prized in Scotland bed prepared for his comfort. This now used to some extent by t e officers creature was fat, and broad and torpid. in the British army. The quality of It was also red and black alternately in these swords show how little effect awited developments. In the mean-time the rattlesnake was moving slowly their successors, having been dispersed

about his cage, and the timorous rat all over the east, are said to have lost was crouching closer and closer to the the secret of making blades of more rattlesnake, attracted by the sound of blades has declined, although there are footsteps, took its eyes off the rat, for many imitations. With respect to the the time being, and fastened them in- genuine blades it must be remembered tently upon its next door neighbor. that a good deal of exaggeration has been At that juncture the door of the lizard's indulged in. At the time when the cage was quickly opened and an egg natives of the east were well acquainted was rolled upon the gravely carpet of with the art of working in iron and steel his habitation. It rested there but a we, and indeed all Europe, were in a state of perfect ignorance. When the The fat, lazy red, creature became old Damascus blades were therefore porsessed of momentary energy. Moving opposed to those of other countries they quickly to where the egg lay it selzed were found to be infinitely superior in temper and quality, and the extraordevouring his prey, and, taking it in its dinary prices that were offered and mouth attempted to swallow it down with a gulp. But the task was too sufficiently attest the estimation in great. The lizard's mouth was not which they were held. In the present large enough. The creature gasped and day swords of equal or superior quality gurgled, and finally spat the egg out are manufactured at one-hundredth part again upon the gravel. Then rage of the cost. In some respects the best seemed to inspire the lizard. He rolled even of our present light regulation his fat body angrily upon the egg, broke | blades are at a disatvantage when opit in two pieces, and quickly devoured posed to the heavy curved eastern it one piece at a time. This operation cimeter, but they have the advantage being completed, his lizardship laid that they can be used for thrusting, down to rest again, and the attention of which, although unknown in eastern swordsmanship, is by far the mos the neighboring cage, where the rattle- deadly form of attack. A European snake was beginning to move rapidly in cuts only or mainly from the wrist, knowing that if he lifts the arm too far case. The snake had tormented and from its position of guard he exposes tantalized the rat until, tiring of the himself to a thrust that would probably sport, it had turned for a moment to be fatal. On the other hand, an eastwatch the lizard feeding on the egg. ern swordsman, who seldom guards and the sight had evidently increased himself with his sword, but is provided its own greedy hunger. Making one swift advance upon the rat, he swallow-cut, has his sword ground as sharp as a ed it so quickly that not one of the razor and cuts from the shoulder only, spectators could explain how it was done. As the snake swallowed the rat muscles of the forearm and back, the the animal could be seen slipping along small hilt of his sword allowing no play the length of the reptile's body with un- whatever to the wrist. As to the lowher or water of the genuine Dama and all was over. His snakeship then, cus blade this is attributable to the na-surfeited with the rat on which it had ture of the iron cre used and the method ture of the iron ere used and the method dined, soon flung itself on the cloth of converting it into steel. The late lining of the stage which composes its Mr. Henry Wilkinson went thoroughly couch and sank away into sleep. Doubt-less sleep brought to it many visions of mens of Indian wootz or cake steel, and proved by making blades from it that with gigantic rats which it possessed the figure so sought after existed in the the privilege to fall upon and devour. only the action of light and a chemical called kusees.

Among other curiosities worth not said that they never eat oftener, and is a fierce Mahratta weapon called that caged rattlespakes could never be wakdah, or tiger-claw, which the user holds in his hand, affixed by two rings been thrown into the cage dead the rat- to his fingers. With a traitorous emtlesnake would have crawled over its brace he clasps his victim and tears him open. A knife penetrating a dollar is out eating it; but it is the appearance of a reminder of the old Spanish Inclife in these smaller and more helpless cancer's test of the soundness of his animals which seem to provoke the blade, and a proof of the quality of the

## Tunneling the Thames.

hears a chirping sound which it imag- are aware that a few yards further west ines emanates from the throat of some and deep down in the bed of the river thick growth of grasses and never it has not by this time already reached the Surrey side of the river. This is one of the tunnels which the city of has been lying in wait for it, perhaps for a day. This is one of the rattlepany are empowered to drive under the snakes sly tricks not usually known to Thames, and extend as far as the Elephant and Castle, for the purpose of conveying passengers from that city to Anybody may be a snake charmer who that centre of the industrial population fixed on the bright orbs of the reptile, the Middlesex side to the Hibernia wharf, wall is nearly six hundred and seventy feet, and that has been accomplished in something like fifteen to bite anything except the stick. It weeks. The work has been done on a very different plan to that adopted by by Sir I. Brunel in his famous but unsnake-charmer never buys a snake until fortunate Thames Tunnel, for the new gold leaf, but it does not compare in he has learned that it is absolutely free tunnel more closely resembles the from poison. The rattlesnakes they use Tower Subway, which was the first executed example of a system of boring other varieties of snakes are many of under rivers, which, in a slightly difthem harmless. In this way wonderful ferent shape, was suggested some time feats are p rformed by so-called snake- before Brunel obtained power to carry charmers in public. It is a curious out his design. The new tunnel or subscientific fact that all elements of the way is not adapted for ordinary way is not adapted for ordinary vehicular traffic; but the ease with which it has been driven lends support to the schemes of those who hold that, given the will, there will be no real mantie story in which this stone figures difficulty in making one or more road- so extensively, and which, in these later ways beneath the Thames to connect days, is supposed to bring ill luck to the the busy and populous districts lying wearer, is growing to be one of the east of the Tower. In these days of most highly favored and most costly of cheap iron and appliances which were the precious jewels. The han under unknown at the beginning of the cen- which it has rested for so long a time tury, tunneling under rivers is com-paratively easy to what it was in years ago they could be bought for Brunel's days, and there are many en-gineers who would confidently under-bringing fabulous sums. A welltake the work and bring it to a satis- known jeweler showed me a necklace of factory conclusion, probably for a considerably smaller sum than the new \$30,000. This necklace is now the Tower Bridge will cost, and with less property of the wife of a Brooklyn milthan a tithe of the continuing expenses lionaire. The central opal in the penwhich that construction will involve, dant is alone worth \$2,000. I might The City and Southwark Company are hardly be believed when I say its magso satisfied with the outlook of their nificent color and luster dimmed the scheme that they have deposited a bill magnificent diamonds that were set in Parliament asking for powers to ex- with it. I saw at this same place an tend their lines from the Elephant and opal that was to be set in an engage-Cistle to the Swan at Stockwell, and ment ring, which was valued at \$1,500. if they obtain them, we may expect before the close of the century a rapid development of the new system of underground railways on which the smoky locomotive will be unknown.

own people,

phosphorus in 1677. -They kill claim jumpers in the home in country."

### GOLD LEAF.

How, Where and by Whom It Is Manufactured.

Gold leaf is manufactured in about 20 shops in New York city and its suburbs. It is e-timated that 20,800 ounces of gold are consumed here annually in making gold leaf. Gold can be beaten so thin that it will take 1,200 leaves to equal the thickness of the sheet upon which this paper is printed. An ounce can be beaten down to 2,500 leaves, 33 inches square.

A reporter was told that the gold is bought of brokers in small ingots which, are melted into bars about a quarter of an inch thick. These are rolled into a ribbon as thick as note paper. After tice. passing through the hands of the beaters it is put in books, interleaved with manilla tissue, and 20 books are put in a package. The ordinary sells for \$7 a package, and the best \$7.50 to \$7.75. No dross comes from the gold as it is beaten, but there are ragged edges that drop off. The leaf is used by gilders, bookbinders, dentists and sign

The wages of gold beaters are \$11 a —Twelve thousand people followed the body of Robert Burns to its resting A good one can possibly do two a week, place in the grave. and as many as nine in a month have

been done. Extra is paid to a workman fame, has been knighted by the King who beats the gold below five grains to of Italy, it is stated. a book. Some can go to 41 and even four grains per book," "How thin can you get it?" a beater was asked.

"It is beaten to one three-hundredgrains to the book. If it gets down to from Jacksonville, Florida. four grains it is only three hundred-and- -In the Spring of 1776 New York sixty-thousandth of an inch. The New was supplied with water conveyed York system employs men only, with through pipes in the streets. girls to do the cutting. The German system employs children of 8 or 9, to eastern points from Butte, M. T., which system Hastings of Philadelphia purchase second class tickets, tried to introduce, but his workmen struck, and he lost his lead. On that system men do the beating and girls do the priming and filling."

him fifty years of writing and rewriting before the work was published. the priming and filling."

"How is the gold beaten?" "It is beaten in moulds made in London from the intestines of cows cleaned O.d Point Comfort for a few days. and varnished with a secret preparation. The skins are put in packages of 900 sylvania was instituted through the skins each, and three of these moulds go exertions of Benjamin Franklin in to a beating."

"How much gold is there in a beat-"Fifty pennyweight in a beating. The for years was a drummer boy in the

ribbon of solid gold is divided into 170 army, or 180 pieces, each about an inch square. These are put into a cutch made of French paper four inches square. That languages in use, Latin, French and is beaten until we get the gold to the edges. It is handled with pincers at that time. It is beaten half an hour, The pieces are then piled 20 on top of each other. They are then cut in four and doubled over, making 720. They mould cut down. We fill the 'schoder,' with those leaves in the middle, and break it out to the edges. about two hours, until we draw about 10 pennyweights off the schoder.

"Does it have to be kept dry?" "We have to keep the windows shut; take up so much moisture that they have footing, has 160,963 men, divided as to be put in a hot mould to press the follows: Infantry, 131,522; cavalry,

moisture out.' "Oh, no. The leaves are cut again

nto four with a tool called a wagon, Nebraska, it is reported, by a man who making 2,880, but the moulds hold only The moulds are beaten four hours, at the end of each hour there being what is called a close, when they are heated. Then the beater is through with it and the cutter takes it. This is the only work done by the girls in New They can cut from 30 to 64 books a day at 24 cents a book. The leaf when it gets in a book is so thin | quarter one morning recently, that it is handled only with the breath," "How is the work tested?"

"Only with the eye. There is no rule about the business, but it is purely a a walnut and lift a keg of beer. matter of skill and judgment. The best | all imperfections,'

"I notice goldbeaters usually work in | count of the rage for buil fighting. pasements? Why is that?" "A firmer blow can be given. If or the first story, there is a jar, which deteriorates the quality." "Is there any adulteration in the

"The Germans beat what is called a netal leaf with an alloy. It is sold very heap. It is the elemargarine of gold sed by bookbinders." "When did the trade start?"

"It is very ancient. It is mentioned n the Bible, Gold leaf was used on Solomon's temple. The Chinese beat quality with American leaf. Some of the Chinamen had trouble with their employers, but they soon ended it. They and then one after another took a big

The opal, which, ever since the days when Sir Walter Scott wrote his ro-

An Augusta paper, in the course of an article on the Suwanes river-"the Penobscot of Florida"-says: "This lark river has, too, its romance, as be ing the place which gave rise to a melody which, like Home Sweet Home, troduced into England by Rowena, the the affection of the heart will never let daughter of Hengist, the Saxon. At go. For it was here that a French a banquet which was given by the family, in the time of Louis XIV British monarch in honor of his allies, came over and settled upon the Suwanes the Princess, after pressing the brim- and made a plantation. After a while ming beaker to her lips, saluted the the father and mother and all died save astonished and delighted Vortigen with one daughter, who, disheartened and a little kiss, after the manner of her desolate, returned to France, and there wrote, adopting in part that negro dialect which she had been familiar -Brandt, an alchemist, discovered with on the plantation in her girlbood, a feeling tribute to 'the old folks at home' in their graves in the far-off

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

-The United States colleges cortain 18,000 female students.

-There are in the United States 15,210,141 church members. -New England in 1642 contained but fifty towns and villages.

-The first printing press in North America was set up at Cambridge. -A car lead of ostriches from Africa arrived at Los Angeles the other day. -Oliver Optic has published 113

volumes. His first book appeared in 1853. -Nathaniel Bowditch, the eminent mathematician, was a cooper's appren-

-William Sturgeon, the able and famous electrician, rose from a cobbler's bench.

-Los Angeles County, California, is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware -The Yale law school is the only

one in the country that has a four years' course.

-George M. Pullman, of palace car

-There are said to be more beggars In Birmingham, Alabama, than in any other city in the South.

-In one week recently 70,000 quarts thousandth of an inch thick at five of strawberries were shipped north

> -Ninety per cent, of the travelers -Buffon's "Studies of Nature" cost

-It is quite the fashionable thing now to run down from Washington to -The first public library in Penn-

1742. -Correra, afterward president of Guatemala, was born in poverty, and

-In England at the time of King Edward, 1327, there were three written

-A resident of Eatonton, Georgia, has prepared and furnished a large and costly cyclone pit near the back door of his residence.

-The oldest library in the world is tablished during the Cnow dynasty in We beat it China (B. C. 1122). -The Hawaiian government has

just annexed Ocean Island, which is described as a sand-bank 1,200 miles from the Hawaiian group. -The Mexican army, when on a war

25,790, and artillery, 3,660. \*-A diamond of good quality and unusual size has been found at Ponca,

was sinking a shaft for coal. -The latest advices from the volcano of Mauna Los are that the flow of lava which was recently upheaved from that

mid-ocean furnace had ceased. -The river Thames is said to have ebbed and flowed in a very decided manner three times in one hour and a

which he can bite a nail in two, crack -Buils for fighting purposes are worth from \$200 to \$300 now in Mexico,

an increase of nearly double, on ac -George Jeffers, a Merced County, (Cal.) farmer, Lecame despondent over the prospect of a dry season and hanged himself. The next day the rains began. -The water used in the White House for drinking purposes is conveyed to the mansion by pipes from a spring in Fraklin park, several squares

distant. -The Bachelor's Club of Philadelphia asks all men to resign when they marry, except those who take widows for life companions. These are ex-

ture an annesthetic not unlike cocaine in its action, and claim that the anaesthetic property is the juice of the eye of the freg. -Manuel Barriant and his wife

Maria have celebrated the eightieth anniversary of their marriage at Matamoras, Mexico. The husband is 102 and the wife 96. -A Virginia justice of the peace has fined a fisherman seven dollars for contending in open court that the moor

had any thing to do with the ebb and flow of the tides. -The cave animals of North Amer ica, according to Professor A. S.-Packard, comprise a total of 172 species of blind creatures, nearly all of

which are mostly white in color. -A hald eagle killed recently nea Santa Rosa, California, measured seventy-eight inches from tip to tip of his wings, and its talons, when

a long course of observation has con-vinced him that vessels named after women are remarkably unlucky, as

-A Senator in the New Jersey Lez Islature in opposing a marriage li-cense bill for that State, said the other day in debate that if the bill passed Camden clergymen would lose \$10,000 a year, as they had united 2700 Phila-

months. -A study of pension statistics move the Washington Post to assure its female readers that the most healthy business there is for their sex is to be a soldier's widow. There are now on the pension roll of the war of 1812 only 2945 surviving pensioners, while there are 17,212 soldiers' widows.

-The contract for the supplying of coal (about 15,000 tons) to the Jersey City (N. J.) Water Works is to be thrown open hereafter to all collieries desiring to compete. Heretofore, it is stated, bids were sent out only to certain owners, and it has been developed that, with the exception of one (we of course, got the contract), the have been closed for years