

The diocese of the Bishop of Mashonaland in South Africa is six times as large as the whole of Great Britain and Ireland.

Within a year or two there will be some half a dozen Arctic explorers in the field—Peary, Jackson, Nansen, Wellman, Sverdrup and perhaps Andree, if he be yet alive. The pole may as well come in and surrender and save all this trouble.

It has been found by careful observation that in the New York tenement district the American family lives the poorest and at the greatest cost. On the contrary, the Italian lives in the most wholesome manner at the least expense, while the French follow closely upon the Italian. The German is economical, but the cooking is not as dainty and palatable.

What compensations France may ask of Germany in China the latter will have to pay. Before the trouble is over China will heartily wish that she had let Japan have the Liaotung peninsula rather than run into debt to Russia, Germany and France for the means of turning her out. The diplomatic triumph over which Li Hung Chang prided himself seems merely to have armed China's western enemies with the means of dismembering her empire.

London has discovered an evil attached to the motor cab. In case of the ordinary horse and hansom, an intoxicated cabman is unpleasant to his fare, but he can be deposed from his seat and the horse, which is never drunk, will go just as well with another driver. But with the motor-cab it may be more difficult to deal when the engine driver is discovered to be incapable. The other night in Gray's Inn road the man at the wheel was noticed by the police to be guiding his cab in a very erratic fashion, and he was stopped and taken off the box. A constable volunteered to carry out the contract; but he collided with the motor-cab standing in the road.

In the future we may be exporting masut instead of exporting coal, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean. Masut is a by-product in the distillation of raw petroleum. It is also manufactured from a cheap brown coal found in Saxony. There has been, until recently, great trouble in finding a furnace suitable for burning it. It is now blown by steam into a special furnace, on the principle of the Lucigen light, and used without difficulty. It is forty or fifty per cent. cheaper than coal, and is twenty per cent. better than coal as a heat raiser. Steam can be got up quicker and kept at a higher pressure, and more work can be done by the machinery. From a naval point of view these are vitally important facts. No sign of a ship under full sail will be shown in the sky, for masut is a smokeless fuel.

The Atlanta Constitution says:—"Although nothing may ever come of the Nicaragua canal project, there is still ground for hope that the two oceans may yet be connected by means of the Panama canal. Some time ago it was announced that a wealthy British syndicate had purchased the canal franchise, and that work thereon would be commenced without delay; but since the announcement lacks confirmation, there is probably nothing in it. Our consular agent writing from Panama states that the canal can easily be completed within the next ten years if sufficient men are employed. Up to the present time this monstrous undertaking has cost in round numbers not less than \$275,000,000. Everyone is familiar with the long story of fraud and disaster which underlies this enormous expenditure. Suffice it to say that the French government, though eagerly embracing the project at the start, would be ready to part with the franchise on a moment's notice. In order to finish the canal it is estimated that some \$200,000,000 must yet be expended, and France is not able to shoulder the burden. Up to the present time the canal extends only fourteen miles. When completed it will measure a distance of fifty-four miles, from Colon on the Atlantic ocean to Panama on the Pacific ocean. The width of the canal will be 160 feet at the top and 72 feet at the bottom. In certain quarters it is urged that the United States should step in at this point and undertake to finish this canal; but without discussing the feasibility of this proposition it may be observed that the completion of the Panama canal either by national or individual agencies is one of the probabilities of the near future."

England exultingly declares that she holds "the key to the East," but whether she will use it to lock herself in or Germany out remains to be seen.

Juggernaut's car cannot pass through the streets of Colombo owing to the interference of overhead telegraph wires. Petitions have been sent to the governor by the Ceylonese, as twenty-five people wish to throw themselves under the idol's car.

A telegram from Portland, Oregon, states that within the next few months a raft containing 5,000,000 feet of lumber will be constructed and towed to San Francisco by the firm of Inman & Poulson, owners of a large timber interest. The raft will be 396 feet long and 53 feet wide. Several rafts of piling have been towed from the Columbia river to San Francisco, but the rafting of sawed lumber is a new undertaking.

The German emperor ascribes his good health and vigor to the excellent advice given to him by his favorite doctor, and he has learned by heart the latter's "rule of life," which is as follows: Eat fruit for breakfast. Eat fruit for lunch. Avoid pastry and hot cakes. Take potatoes only once a day. Do not take tea or coffee. Walk four miles every day, wet or fine. Take a bath every day. Wash the face every night in warm water. Sleep eight hours every night.

The year 1897 was more than usually free from great calamities. The most notable single disaster was the burning of a great charity bazaar in Paris May 5, in which 150 persons, including the Duchess D'Alencon, lost their lives. November 19 a fire in the central part of London destroyed property valued at \$10,000,000. It was rumored that this great conflagration was of incendiary origin. The bubonic plague again broke out in southern India, and, according to some reports, caused the death of thousands of the unfortunate natives.

While the past year presents to retrospection no single event of overshadowing importance, it is in the sum of its events so full of significance that historians, reviewing it hereafter, may conclude that since the Franco-Prussian war and the federation of Germany no other year has been more remarkable or more worthy of attentive study, observes Harper's Weekly. A year of movements and economic climaxes rather than of startling events, it thrusts on the world's attention, as the two greatest facts of the time, the growing political importance of Germany and the already transcendent commercial importance of the United States.

There is grave reason to doubt whether the internal dissent and dissatisfaction in the German empire is entirely or chiefly political. It is rather to be found in the increasing poverty of large numbers of the people. Statistics taken from the tax returns of Prussia reveal an appalling condition of poverty in many sections. Although the limit of taxation is drawn at the low income of \$25, but 8.46 per cent. of the population of the kingdom pay an income tax. That is more than ninety-one out of every hundred must make ends meet in some way on less than \$225 a year. There is only one person out of every 550 of population who has an income of \$2400 a year.

A pair of Irish wolf-hounds, imported recently, will receive systematic training on a treadmill and in other ways in Louisville, and in the spring will be furnished an opportunity to show their ability in killing the American wolf. The outcome of the experiment is said to be eagerly awaited by the cattlemen in the far West, who suffer much loss through depredations of wolves. Russian wolf-hounds and American deer-hounds have been tried in vain. One of the great difficulties in the way of killing the American wolf is the peculiar thickness of the animal's neck and the large quantity of matted hair thereon. This renders it almost impossible for a dog to choke a wolf, and in a battle with dogs the wolf's phenominal sharp teeth usually cut the dog to pieces. Then, they have such a phenomenal spring that they can frequently jump a distance of ten or fifteen feet and land on the dog's back, tearing their opponent's head and face with their fangs. Owing to these facts, Kentucky dog-fanciers do not generally believe that there is a breed of dogs in existence capable of exterminating the American wolf, or to even interrupt him in his marauding expeditions on the great cattle plains of the West.

**THE HUSKER.**

He breaks the leaf—  
Of the tall corn sheaves  
Duged crisp in the autumn time  
While he answers the hail  
Of the piping quail  
And the blackbird's resounding chime;  
And singing, the careless fellow,  
Till the morning hours are spent,  
He jingles the eight-rowed-yellow  
In heaps with creamy dent,  
The faded corn stalk bows its head  
And leans from its zigzag row:  
From brown husk glimmers the smutnose red  
And dent with its golden glow.

The long day through,  
From a mist of blue  
Faint smiles of the sky flesh down;  
From the sun unrolled  
Snarls a thread of gold  
In those tangles of curling brown.  
He's calling a noisy "Hello!"

To the crow with an eye intent  
On kernels of eight-rowed-yellow,  
On ears of crimped dent,  
The mournful corn stalk bows its head  
With murmuring sighs of woe:  
O'er heaps of yellow and gleams of red,  
The whispering south winds blow.

The red sun dies  
In the western skies,  
Wide rises the hunter's moon,  
Through the lucid light  
Of the silent night  
Rings the chirr of the sly raccoon.  
A whistle calls clear and mellow,  
And the tall hound finds the scent,  
Unheeded the eight-rowed-yellow,  
The red smutnose and dent,  
The lonely corn stalk bows its head,  
While shadows its tassels throw  
On silver dent and the smutnose red  
Go wavering to and fro.

—Elsie B. Egan.

## A Woman's Little Game.

BY CHARLES B. LEWIS.

I wish you to understand from the very outset of this story that I am an old bachelor. I can say without egotism that I could have placed the yoke of matrimony over my neck a score of times between the ages of 20 and 40, but I did not elect to do so. It seemed a great deal better to keep my liberty and to fall in love with a new face about once a month. A bachelor can do this, you know, while a married man is bound by certain ties not easily broken.

Up to the time I was appointed warden of the Keswick prison I had been in love just 42 times. This was an average of twice a year, which I think is doing very well for a modest, retiring man, who was baldheaded at the age of 22 and yet not too much for a man with a natural leaning toward the fair sex. I was appointed warden, not because of any peculiar fitness, but as a political reward for assisting to elect a certain candidate for governor. I think best to admit this, lest you find it out from other sources. I held the place for a year and a half, and the files of the newspapers prove that I was a "soft mark."

The Keswick prison was for both sexes, and when I took charge it contained 380 male and 90 female convicts. I felt sorry for the females even before the keys had been turned over to me, and they soon discovered that I was ready to listen to their stories and to do my best to ameliorate their condition. In the course of a month I was pretty well satisfied that at least 80 out of 90 were entirely innocent of the crimes charged and that the other ten ought to have new trials at least. Fifteen of the women were in for murder—cold-blooded murder the courts said—but when they had told me all about it I could see where witnesses had perjured themselves and jurors had shown their thirst for revenge. I tried to make things very easy for the female contingent, actuated solely by a natural courtesy toward the sex, and I think the newspapers that criticized me so severely should have been sued for slander.

In eight months the governor, more to oblige me than for any other reason, pardoned 20 of the females and among them were five under sentence for murder. I should have recommended him to pardon at least 20 more before the year was out if the opposition hadn't got after us and made things hot. There was an investigation, a great deal of talk, and as a result I had to repress my natural gallantry and wait for things to cool down. It was during this period of waiting that the vaults of the state treasury were robbed of \$320,000 in cold cash. The trick was done by one man and in the nearest manner. He drove up to the building at high noon in a carriage and entered the treasurer's office. The money had just been bundled up to go to the bank, and these packages were lying on a table with two clerks to guard them. The robber gave one clerk a clip over the head, bound and gagged the other, and the packages were carried out and dumped into the carriage in the most expert sort of a way. He had 20 minutes of nervous pursuit, and though overhauled after a hot chase of an hour, every dollar of the money had disappeared. As he had not thrown it away during his flight, the idea was that he had either stopped at some house in town for a moment or met another carriage, according to arrangement. The problem seemed easy of solution, but though it was worked upon for weeks by many detectives nothing was discovered.

The captured robber was a young and good looking man who gave his name as Charles Day. He refused any information as to his home or people and insisted on pleading guilty when arraigned for the robbery. There was a great sensation over the loss of the money, as the state was heavily in debt with a big interest to pay, and the party in power, from governor down to janitor, got a daily raking for many long weeks. It was even charged that a certain clique of us put up with the robbery and were to whack up with the robber. This was a bold-faced scandal, of course, but it materially dimmed our prestige and almost caused me to doubt the innocence of a fresh lot of female convicts sent for various crimes against the law. They made quick work of sending Charles Day to prison for 20 years, and, owing to the personal attacks of the opposition, I was rather prejudiced against him, as he came under my charge. His daily demeanor and daily conduct were, however, beyond any fault-finding. Reports from my deputy proved him a model prisoner. The hunt for the money did not cease when the prison door shut him in. At least ten detectives were constantly at work to discover where and how it had been transhipped, and the state was ready to pay \$50,000 to the lucky man. Every day or two some of these

hand, but pressed it and was very effusive in her speech. She said she would have something special to tell me when she returned from the interview, and she looked at me so archly that I jumped at the conclusion she was going to confess a first sight love for me.

The interview did not last over 15 minutes, and it took place just as dusk was drawing on. When the two ladies returned to the door Miss Lancaster came over to me and whispered:

"He has promised to confess all tomorrow, and every dollar will be restored. I am glad, not only on his account and mine, but for your dear sake. I know you to be a noble man, and if you would not think it unmanly in me I—"

I took her hand in mine and gave it several squeezes and assured her that nothing she could possibly announce or confess in the English language would be considered by me unworthy of her. She pressed my hand in return and was going to confess her love, but the telephone bell rang and put her out. She just whispered in my ear that I was an old darling and then laughed and joined Miss Day at the door, and I myself pulled the lever which swung back the hinges that let them out. Need I tell you that I walked around on air for the next quarter of an hour? I had won that little girl's love at first sight, and when she came on the morrow I should ask her to name the day and the date. She had said she was an heiress. I was loving her for herself alone. I was still loving when the deputy warden came rushing in and called out:

"Those girls—have they gone?"

"Certainly—long ago."

"Then we are in for it. Come out here, will you?"

He led the way to the west wing and upstairs to the second tier of cells. When we reached the one occupied by Charles Day we found a woman in his bed and his convict suit lying on the floor. It didn't take five minutes to grasp the situation. Miss Day had given up her apparel to the convict, and he had walked out with Miss Lancaster. Miss Day was a Miss Somebody else, who had been paid \$1000 to do the trick, and Miss Lancaster was the pal of one of the boldest robbers in America.

We raised an alarm and made pursuit, of course, but the fugitives got away as slick as grease and are probably yet living on the boodle stolen from the state. As for the girl left behind she was sent to prison for a couple of years, but after six months was pardoned out. As for me, my resignation was demanded in no gentle tones, and I tendered it and got away into the woods and kicked myself around a section of government land for a week without stopping to rest.

### QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Red hats were first worn by carlinians in the year 1245.

In Ptolemy's time any one who killed a cat was put to death.

The magnetic clock was invented by Dr. Locke of Cincinnati in 1847-48.

Tobacco is said to have been first brought into England from Virginia in 1583.

The poet Burns spelled his name Burness (his family name) until the publication of his poems in 1786.

A naturalist of eminence finds that land birds make their journeys in the daytime and water birds at night.

The largest printing office in the world is in Washington, D. C.; it is for printing government documents.

The fastest railroad engine in the world is "the Flying Welshman"; its fa is has extended round the globe.

Lake Erie is the lake of the "wild cat," the name given to a fierce tribe of Indians exterminated by the Iroquois.

A woman in Hope, Knox county, Maine, still wears a common wire hairpin in which she has worn for forty years.

The largest telegraph office in the world is in the general postoffice building, London, over 3000 operators being employed.

It costs \$5.74 per million gallons to pump water to Chestnut Hill reservoir, Boston. The engines pump 8938 on one pound of coal.

The largest hotel in the world is the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York city, a \$10,000,000 establishment, built by millionaires for millionaires.

The Sudbury river aqueduct in 359 days has delivered 14,857,300,000 gallons to Chestnut Hill reservoir, and 35,500,000 to Lake Cochituate.

If an Egyptian dies before noon the funeral must take place the same day. If death occurs after noon, the funeral may not be delayed after the next day.

In 1774 Philadelphia was the largest town in the American colonies. Estimates of the population, which are all we have, differ widely, but it was probably not far from 30,000.

A resolution appropriating \$5 to purchase a copy of the Bible was recently introduced in the Georgia legislature, it having been discovered that there was no copy of the book in the state library.

Five is the sacred number of the Chinese, who have five planets (Mars, Mercury, Venus, Saturn and Jupiter); five cardinal points (north, south, east, west and centre); five virtues, five tastes, five musical tones, five ranks of nobility and five colors (white, black, red, green and yellow).

A few months ago a picture was discovered at Copenhagen which experts believed to be a Murillo. The director of the Paris Louvre, after examining the picture thoroughly, pronounced it to be genuine. The owner wants \$100,000 for it. It represents Loyola kneeling before the Virgin and Child

## A TEMPERANCE COLUMN.

### THE DRINK EVIL MADE MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS.

You Can Rise—What America's Greatest Educator Said—Dr. Horace Mann on the Ravages of Drink in Our Colleges—True Words Spoken Forty Years Ago.

You can rise with God's assistance,  
You can leave the past behind;  
Every time you make resistance  
Stronger grow your heart and mind.

Firmly stand against temptation,  
Do not leave your soul to sink;  
You can rise from degradation,  
You can free yourself from drink.

—Sacred Heart Review.

Horace Mann on Drink's Ravages.

It reduces the fertile farm to barrenness. It saps the industry in the shop of the mechanic. It banishes skill from the cunning hand of the artisan and artist. It dashes to pieces the locomotive of the engineer. It sinks the ship of the mariner. It spreads sudden night over the solar splendors of genius at its full-orbed meridian glory. But nowhere is so ruinous, so dreful, so eliminating and explosive of good, so expulsive and redundant of all evil, as in the school and the college, and the person and character of the student himself. Creator of evil, destroyer of good among youth, it invests its votaries with the fulness of both prerogatives, and sends them out on the career of life to suffer where they should have reigned, to take course where they should have bloomed.

"We are in a sick world, for whose maladies the knowledge of truth and obedience to it are the only healing. Oh! if the literary institutions of our land would sanctify their ambition to the comparative earthy rivalry to send forth great men, would provoke each other to the holy work of rearing good men, they would thereby be doubly rewarded, both by greater and gooder men, as they have never yet imagined. Referring to the comparative worth of scholarship and morals, Montaigne says, 'We know how to decline virtue, but we know not how to love it.'"

"Surely, it is the most appalling fact in our annals, and it ought to make every parental heart palpitate with alarm, that the college, where the youth of our country must be sent for the higher culture of the mind, should ever expose them to a deprivation of their hearts. And yet it is an opinion not uncommonly held, that God I could say—wholly unfounded, that as young criminals learn new lessons in crime when sent to our public prisons, so young men lose purity of character and contract habits of vice and sin when sent to college. 'Some of the most awful and heaven-defying vices that destroy the peace of society and turn all the sweets of life into bitterness are only college vices full-grown—the public manhood of the academic childhood of our country.'"

"On its colleges, far more than on its Legislatures, does the well-being of a country depend—on its education more than on its legislation."—Works of Horace Mann.

Use of Alcohol by Employers.

At the international congress of railroad and marine hygiene, held in Brussels last September, there was a discussion on the question whether the use of alcoholic drinks should be permitted to railroad employees and sailors. Dr. Van Collie, of Brussels, made an address in which he answered the question negatively; first, because such drinks are useless; second, because they are dangerous to the health and lives of the men, as well as to safety in operation. He urged that the use of alcohol should be as far as possible suppressed. To this end he would have the men instructed as to the dangers, and have severe rules against the misuse of liquor. Delegates from Buda-Pesth, London and Berlin doubted whether it would be possible to carry out a prohibitory regulation. The congress agreed in a resolution recommending the managements to limit the use of alcohol by employees so far as possible; to warn them of its dangers, punish those who get drunk and to rid the service of them. As there are scarcely any total abstainers among continental railroad men, this is a more decided step than it would seem here.

A Vivid Temperance Lesson.

Robert Quail, of Van Horn street, Jersey City, while intoxicated went into the house of Mrs. Margaret Martha, at No. 5 of the same street, and beat and threw Michael Lynch, a boarder, down stairs. Lynch died of his injuries and Quail was held for the Grand Jury on the charge of manslaughter. Quail had been out of work and spent yesterday afternoon at the home of his brother. He was intoxicated when he reached Van Horn street on his way home. The house in which Quail lived is exactly like that of Mrs. Martha, and he entered that. Quail entered the room which is in the same relative position as the one occupied by Quail in his own home. Lynch was seventy-five years old, and without any warning was attacked by Quail and thrown down the stairs. He died on his way to the hospital.

Verily, the World Moves.

In the year 1840, a gentleman named Mr. Robert Warner applied to a well-known insurance company in New York to insure his life. But when the directors learned that he was a total abstainer, they informed him that they would only insure him on condition that he paid more money each year than those who took in their service of liquor. They would not insure a total abstainer, he would shorten his life!

Mr. Warner refused, and with some other friends started an insurance company for total abstainers. That company is now known as "The United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution."

At the end of five years it was found that during that period the death rate of the three most prosperous insurance companies was 19 per 1000, while the death rate of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution was 12 out of 1000, or at the rate of 7 1/2 per 1000.

Hard Cider.

There is probably no kind of drink that is more dangerous to the temperance cause than cider after it has begun to ferment. The combination of alcohol with the malic acid of the apple is especially bad for the digestive organs. The sweet cider, for the short time it remains sweet, is a nice, pleasant drink. But as soon as fermentation begins, it should be turned into vinegar as soon as possible. Warming a little of this to near blood heat, and pouring this with some yeast into the barrel, will make it into vinegar very quickly.—American Cultivator.

A Hint to Wives and Sisters.

Somebody, who seems to know, says: "If wives were as careful to make themselves and their homes as pleasant to their husbands as they are to do when their husbands were only their sweethearts, the saloons would not be so enticing. And if girls made the homes as pleasant for their own brothers as they do for some other girl's brother, so many boys would not go astray."

A Child's Worth of Drink.

While the Cabinet saloon at Prescott, Arizona, was crowded with hundreds of customers one night recently, a Mrs. Bell entered with a babe in her arms, and, placing it on the bar, said:

"The father of this child deserted me and my baby, caring more for whisky than for us. I wish to tender you his child, so that his appetite may be gratified to the extent of the deposit."

There was a rush for the child, seventy-five men coming forward to ask for it. The Probate Judge was called in to settle the controversy. He has taken charge of the deserted infant.