A woman may regain at civil suit the loss sustained by her gambling husband, according to a recent decision of the Indiana supreme court.

New South Wales last year paid out \$180,000 for the destruction of noxious animal pests. Among the varieties slaughtered for bounties were bandis, pandemelons, wombats, lables, kangaroos, emus, native dogs, flying foxes, kangaroo rats and hares.

Those who are disposed to think that the determining word in the matter of China will be spoken by Russia, and that what that unwieldy nation says, "will go," should recall, the York Observer suggests, the proverb of the Russians regarding their own emperor: "The czar's hand has not more than five fingers." Russia cannot grasp quite everything in the Far East.

Is it possible we have been mistaken as to high civilization in Japan? queries the St. Louis Star. It would seem so. Only the other day the newly appointed Japanese consul to Chicago and an imperial navy constructor landed at San Francisco, went to a hotel, blew out the gas and went to But for the united efforts of bed. several doctors the consul would have passed in his chips and taken passage for a trip over the river Styx.

Over nineteen dollars for every man, woman and child in Great Britian is the tremendous liquor bill that ought to impress even the complacent Englishman, thinks the San Francisco Chronicle. The consumption of strong drink increases every year in England, the figures for last year being \$17,500,000 over those of 1896. Only a rich country, with wealth flowing in from all parts of the world, could withstand a drain like this.

Mr. Gladstone has lately added the name of inventor to his other titles. True to his literary instinct, the grand old man has designed something of use to shelves, namely, a combination book-case and screen. On one side of the screen are arranged shelves adapted to hold many books in small compass. The other side is finished off to serve as a simple screen. Necessity is the mother of invention, but in this case Mr. Gladstone could hardly have felt, in his spacious quarters at Hawarden, any necessity for economiz ing space for book shelves.

The projected national university is becoming less and less of an uncertainty, states the Christian Herald. Hon. John Wesley Hoyt, chairman of the national committee that has for its object the establishment of such an institution, announces that many of the ecclesiastical and sectarian interests that were decided in their disapproval of the project have withdrawn their opposition. Offers of contributions are coming from many patriotic societies and individuals. The chief epposition to the plan, it is said, centres in the Senate committee.

There is no better coal in the world than the famous Welsh coal, used in the British navy, which comes from South Wales and Monmouthshire, with an output of thirty million tons a year, employing a hundred thousand men. In this great field of labor strikes have been unknown, owing to a happy arrangement called the sliding scale. This scale of wages has been arranged since 1875 by a joint committee of workmen and owners of collieries. By formal agreement the price of labor is periodically fixed by the joint committee according to the price of coal at the port of shipment. Six months' notice must be given by either side to terminate this arrange

A sailor jumped overboard in th bay the other day, relates the New York Times, because the captain refused him a drink of whiskey. When the soaked and half-frozen son of Neptune was hauled back aboard his ship, the "old man" poured three large drinks of gin down his throat. After that Jack went about his busi ness perfectly satisfied. The incident was not at all uncommon. There is nothing Jack will not do to get a Once upon & time a sailor aboard the Chicago, then flagship of the North Atlantic squadron, was seized with a jumping toothache. There was no dentist aboard the ship, but the doctor, after nearly killing the poor fellow, got the tooth out. Then he poured a huge drink of brandy down the half-fainting seaman's throat. Next morning at sick call fourteen seamen reported to the doctor with toothache. But alas! the doctor cured them without whiskey by a generous display of appalling surgical instruments.

J. Sterling Morton, formerly secretary of agriculture, says in a letter protesting against the cutting down of evergreens for Christmas decorations that last year more than twenty million Christmas trees were put on the market.

Appraiser Wakeman of the port of New York dealt a blow at bargain counters by ruling that dress goods must be classified for duty on the basis of the most valuable material contained in them. This will elicit protests, predicts the New York Herald, because there will have to be an advance in the retail price of stuffs containing very little silk, but which by a subtle invention are made chiefly of wood pulp and celluloid.

The endowment of Johns Hopkins university has been dissipated through the depreciation, or rather by the entire loss, of its preferred shares in the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and now asks the state for aid, which it is to be hoped will be granted. Maryland will not maintain her high standard for education should she fail to come to the rescue of this sterling institu. tion, now in trouble through no fault of its management, observes the St. Louis Star.

A wonderful career that is often sited as a practical demonstration of the prayer test has been closed at Bristol, England, by the death of George Muller, at the age of ninetythree. Depending solely upon prayer and without asking anybody for sixpence, he raised over \$7,000,000 for five immense orphanages, Bible distribution and mission work. Mr. Muller was not a religious fanatic, but had the simplicity of a child the business capacity of a great financier and laith sufficient to remove mountains.

Oriental potentates are not adepts in diplomatic language, but they are often enough shrewd as to the essential points of diplomacy, and have frequently a vivid pictorial way of expressing themselves which lends a certain homely force to argument. Thus the emir of Afghanistan is reported to have remarked to some Englishmen concerning his own buffer state: "England and Afghanistan are as one house with one wall. Are your soldiers going to join mine in defence of that wall?" That emir is evidently a knowing man, if he does live off in Central Asia.

The government of Venezuela has recently entered into a contract for the importation of 60,000 colonists. By the terms of the contract the immigrants are to be established in colonies according to nationality, and the colonists of one nationality must not predominate in numbers over others. The immigrants must be agriculturists; they must be over ten years of age and under sixty, and must be settled on the public lands within the next seven years. The members of each colony will have the right to elect from among themselves their police authorities. The government makes liberal land grants to the promoters of the scheme of colonization.

Another terrible story of suffering and death from thirst and hunger comes from Australia. This time it was two prospectors in the Mount Malcolm district of West Australia, who tramped about in the bush for a week, and then tried to maintain life by sucking each other's blood. Such tories as this will not be read end of the next century, for the ingenuity already shown in producing condensed food and drink will have resulted in light portable articles that will bid defiance to hunger and thirst. Then a man may carry in his pocket food and drink sufficient for a month. The Klondike demand is sure to greatly stimulate the production of these condensed foods and thus to free Alaska from the terror of famine.

One of the inevitable results of the present movement in favor of national defense will be a recognition of the importance of the proposed Nicaragua Canal, predicts the New York World. No system of defense can be considered complete which does not protect the Pacific coast as well as the Atlantic coast, and a close connection between the two coasts by way of the isthmus is as important a part of the system as the navy or the forts. The question is an old one. It has been pretty thoroughly discussed. The country knows as much about it as it is ever likely to know. The only obstacle in the way is the difficulty of a fair agreement as to the terms on which the canal shall be constructed and owned. As a part of the military defense of the country the control and ownership of the canal naturally belongs to the government.

LOSS AND GAIN.

There are gains for all our losses
And a loss for every gain;
There are crowns for all our crosses,
And a joy for every pain.
Songs and laughter, moans and sighing,
Heartaches, bitterness and fears
Fill the days forever flying
Onward with the passing years.

Every soul its share of sorrow
Is by fate destined to bear;
We who laugh today tomorrow
May be stricken with despair.
There are gains, and there are losses,
Days of peace and days of strife,
And a crown for all our crosses
At the journey's end of life.

Oh, the gladness, oh, the sadness
That combines the mighty wholeThe excessive joy and madness
Of the unfledged human soul!
Oh, the losses and the crosses,
Hours of pleasure, years of pain,
As each frail bark onward tosses,
O'er life's tempest-ridden main!

Every joy has sorrow in it, Every laugh is half a sigh; Every laugh is half a sigh;
But let storms rage every minut;
There'll be sunshine by and by.
By and by there'll be no crosses;
By and by there'll be no pain,
And for all our bitter losses
There will be eternal gain.
—Sidney W. Mase, in Little Rock Gazette.

**** - - PROVED. - -

"Uncle Coleman, I'm going to marry Lucia Frothingham!"
"Eh? What?"

What?" Uncle Coleman put down his newspaper, pushed his spectacles up on his forehead and glared at his neph-

"Going to marry Lucia Frothingham?" he cried, after gasping awhile in sheer dismay. "You idiot!"

in sheer dismay. "You idiot!"
"Thanks," was the cool reply. "I
know you do not admire the lady,
"but where there is a strong mutual

"Strong mutual fiddlestick!" inter-rupted Uncle Coleman, contemptuously. "You may love her; she is pretty and fascinating, but what she loves is your bank account, my boy. I knew it would be so when your Aunt Jennie left you a cool hundred thousand. But boys will be boys. Only, for goodness sake, wait a year or two before you saddle yourself with a wife."

"I am 21, sir," (with an immense sign of dignity)

air of dignity).

"And I am 64! Now, Frank, do hear reason. Lucia Frothingham is a fascinating woman, touching the thirfinished flirt and as mercenary as she is pretty. I know her, and I tell you her affection is centred upon your Aunt Jennie's legacy and the half million in perspective at my banker's."

"Uncle Coleman," cried his nepheron both. "I near the present the state of the present the state of the

"Uncle Coleman," cried his neph-ew, hotly. "I never thought of it, much less spoke of it."

"I don't suppose you ever did. Having always had an independent income, I don't think you ever counted on a dead man's shoes. But Miss Frothingham was educated in the hard school of genteel poverty, and a rich husband is the prize for which she has studied and toiled, for—well, say ten years. She was in society before were done playing with tops

"Uncle Coleman, you are speaking of my betrothed wife, remember."

Hem!" "Years are of no consequence where there is true love.'

"Hem!" "And I love Lucia as she loves

"Not a bit of it."

"Tomorrow she goes to Saratoga,

and if you can spare me I will go, "And the business in Hartford?

should advise you to attend to all matters belonging to your aunt's estate as soon as possible, Frank.' 'It may keep me in Hartford a nth,' said Frank, disconsolately. Coleman Burke looked with a pity-ing affection at his young relative— such a boy yet in many matters, though

"I suppose I must go."
"It will be best. Besides," added
Uncle Coleman, dryly, "it will be a
good test of your lady love's constancy!" 'I am not afraid of her forgetting

me," said Frank, loftily.
"You are actually engaged?" "Certainly! I bought a diamond

be off and let me finish my paper in peace. You will go to Hartford?"

But after his nephew left him, Cole-But after his nephew left him, Coleman Burke let his paper lie idly upon his lap, while he fell into a fit of musing, often interrupted by impatient ejaculations. He was a man, as he had said, past 60, and he had been a childless widower for 30 years, while four little graves beside that of his wife recorded the heart history of his life.

When he had lived lonely and a sin cere mourner for many long years, his brother and wife died, leaving Frank, a curly-headed boy, to the care of his Uncle Coleman. All the long-sealed fountains of love in the desolated heart opened to pour out their affec-tion upon the child. He was truly the very sunlight of the old man's existence, and though his manner had been cynical, his heart had been sorely wrung by the announcement of his engagement, but not from any paltry jealousy or mercenary motive. Had Frank loved a true, tender woman, were she a beggar, his uncle would have given her a father's love and welcome. But by the light of his own brief married happiness he read the misery in store for his nephew if he misery in store for his nephew if he married Lucia Frothingham, a flirt, extravagant and selfish. him was costing the old man torturing thought. Active opposition would only strengthen what was now but a only strengthen what was now but a boyish infatuation, and yet saved he must be. Suddenly a light broke over Coleman Burke's face, and he rose from his chair and went to a long mir"If I can only carry it out, it will be proof positive," he thought. Short, fat, nearly bald, with spec-

tacles and a cane, Coleman Burke certainly a strong contrast to the tall, handsome fellow who had won Lucia for his promised bride, yet he said aloud:

"I'll cut him out!"

A week later all the fashionables at the C—— hotel, Saratoga, knew that Coleman Burke was intending to the Ctake a wife. What bird first bore the news upon the scented air no one could have told you, but there was no lack of information about the elderly bridegroom in perspective. Every-body (that was anybody) knew that Coleman Burke had retired from busi-ness years before, worth half a million of money, and had made fortunate investments since. That he was decked in fashion's latest styles, wore dia-mond studs and ring, carried a switch cane, drove a fine team and occupied expensive rooms at the hotel, all could see for themselves.

Very soon after he came, another

fact was patent to all observers-that he was very attentive to Miss Lucia Frothingham, the belle of many sea-

Mrs. Frothingham hoped in her Mrs. Frothingnam noped in ner heart that Lucia would not be a fool and would remember how far Mr. Coleman Burke's pocketbook out-weighed his nephew's; also that an old man's darling was far more apt to

have every whim gratified than a young man's slave. Having delivered this maternal lecture, the widow diated upon the expenses of the Saratoga trip and was rather marked in her carefularies. her emphasis upon a speedy subjuga

tion of the elderly adorer.

And Miss Lucia shrugged her fair, sloping shoulders, threw over them a cloud of black lace and descended to the porch, where Mr. Burke waited to the control of the control escort her for a drive. His manner of wooing was certainly more business-like than sentimental. Where Frank had grown eloquent over the beauty of the liquid dark eyes, his uncle di for brunette beauty. Where Frank tenderly quoted poetry descriptive of the slender grace of the willowy fig-ure, his uncle thought velvet was the most becoming wear for slight figures.

As they drove, the fat old gentleman asking her opinion of his horses, also obtained her description of the most suitable carriage for a lady's exclusive use. Likewise he expressed a con-tempt for an India shawl folded upon a seat near the lake as one far below the quality he would purchase to deck a lady's shoulders.

such a boy yet in many matters, though he had reached "man's estate."

"A month that may settle your whole fortune," he said. "Remember and rolling up his pale blue eyes over the rims of his spectacles, like a fat old porpoise."

But. as a rule, he was simply defined to the reached the reached

But, as a rule, he was simply devoted in his constant attentions. bouquet of rare flowers in the morning, followed by a call; a dree in the afternoon, a walk in the evening or an offer of escort duty at a ball became the usual daily routine. But the elderly wooer was an energetic and per-sistent one, and even Lucia, vain o "Certainly! I bought a diamond ring at — 's yesterday and put it on her taper finger last evening."
"Hem! Well, the fool-killer hasn't been here lately, that's certain. There, he had but a bowing acquaintance with Mr. Burke, and now he had but as for her secentarics. her conquest, was bewildered by the

expensive cameos for her acceptance.
"A letter from Frank! Coming tofor her a day!" mused Mr. Coleman Burke, reading an epistle handed in at his day! door. "Sur "Surprised to find me away ome. Hopes I have seen his dear Lucia in a kinder light than the one I had previously had. Hem-yes

And so Mr. Burke mused and mut-And so Mr. Burke mused and muttered as he donned his most exquisite suit, his most dazzling necktie and fastened a bouquet in his buttonhole. "Bless my soul, Uncle Coleman, what a swell you are!"

And then Frank was in the room, and the two exchanged cordial greetings.

ings. "And Lucia?" Frank questioned; "is she well?"

"She was perfectly well last evening when I took her for a drive."

"Certainly. You do not suppose I have failed in attention to my future

niece, do you?"
"You are are always kind!" was the

"You are are always kind!" was the quick reply.

"You like her better than you did?" continued Frank, almost pleadingly.

"See here, Frank," the old man said, suddenly wheeling round from the glass to face his nephew. "I have a bargain to make with you. If, within one hour, I prove Lucia false, mercenary and a traitor to her promise to you, will you give her up? Stop! If she is true, loving and faithful, I withdraw my harsh words and will give draw my harsh words and will give her the love I always hoped to give your wife."
"But how can you find out?" said

am already satisfied. You are to go to the centre window of the small am aircady satisfied. You are to go to the centre window of the small drawing room on the porch and listen to the conversation I am to have by appointment with Miss Frothing-

"Eavesdropping!"
"Never mind that grand air of contempt. I am to have my way for just one hour, and you can take yours afterward for a lifetime. Will you

'If you say so."

"If you say so."
"Go, then."
Just a little later Miss Frothingham, all smiles and white muslin,
sailed into the east drawing room to
greet her elderly admirer. With an
air of deepest devotion he raised her
hand to his lips and greeted her with
a flowery compliment.

a flowery compliment.
"I presume," he said, in a low, tender tone, "you are not at a loss to guess the reason why I have ventured to summon you here. You must have understood the meaning of my atten-tions. Need I tell you how dear you have become to me? Need I speak of the love you have inspired?"
"You are so kind," she murmured.

"I am contemplating a speedy re-turn to the city, and I wish to arrange for the wedding, if I can obtain any

expression of your wishes. Do you object to an early day?"

"Any day will be supremely blest," she said, softly, "that makes me your wife."

"My wife! Bless my soul, my

nephew told me—"
"Oh, Mr. Burke, you do not imagine I have encouraged that boy?" with an accent of most magnificent scorn.
"He is an amiable young fellow, and I have been kind to him. But love between myself myself. tween myself and a boy of that age is simply preposterous.

'I am aware that the disparity of

"My dear Mr. Burke, do not speak of that. that. To me there is a dignity and nobility about a man who has passed middle life that can never be attained without the experience of years. Be-lieve me, your having a slight advantage of me in years will but increase my respect and detract nothing from my affection."

"You are only too kind. Then I

may tell Frank that you—"
"Why talk of Frank? Surely you

may choose a wife without your neph-ew's interference."

"I choose a wife! My dear young

lady, what are you talking about? have no intention of seeking a wife. "No-intention-of-seeking a wife!

Have you not just made me an offer of marriage? "Not at all," was the cool reply. "I was under the impression that you were engaged to my nephew. As Frank is my nearest relative and my the affects of the strength of of

heir, I was anxious to win the affec-tion of his promised wife. But since there is no engagement between you—" "Oh, Mr. Burke, you must have mis-understood me. My only fear was lest you should not sanction our love.

Dear Frank has often spoken to me of your fatherly love for him. You will not repeat to Frank the conversation we have had? I-my confusion
—you will forget my wild words?" 'But I shall not!

"But I shall not:
The blinds parted as Frank spoke, revealing his white face and angerlighted eyes. Miss Frothingham lighted screamed, and Uncle Coleman

"Are you convinced?"
"Fully! The boy, Miss Frothing-ham, thanks you for showing him the folly of trusting in the love of a coquette. You have given me a sharp lesson, Uncle Coleman; but I thank you that my life has not been blighted by a woman's treachery.

The pale face vanished. Uncle Coleman, with a ceremonious bow, took his departure, while Lucia Frothingham went into genuine hysterics on the sofa.

Uncle Coleman joined Frank on the

porch and, linking his arm in his nephew's, said kindly:

"Forgive me the pain I cause you for the love I bear you." "I thank you," was the reply. "You

have saved me from a life of misery by showing me a mercenary woman's treachery. I shall never feel any emotion but gratitude that you proved your words."

Six Thousand Persons in One House

The biggest house in the world is at Mecca, Arabia. It was built by the sultan for the accommodation of 'true suitan for the accommodation of 'frue believers,' who flock to the mosque containing the sacred relics of the prophet. The house is capable of sheltering and accommodating 6000 persons. It is filled to its utmost persons. It is filled to its utmost capacity when the sultan makes his annual visit, in order to touch the sacred robe of Mahomet. No other hand must profane the garment.

Mecca is a bit out of the beaten Mecca is a bit out of the beaten track, and until recently it has been spared the indignity of kodak fiends and the memento gathering tourist. But at last it fell under the ban of commercialism and now relics are purchasable by the ton, and it is the "dog of an infidel" who fills the coffers of the relic merchant with

sacrilegious gold.

The second largest house in the world is at Vienua. In this building, which is tenanted chiefly by working men, there are 1500 separate rooms, thirty-one staircases, thirteen courts and accommodations for 2112 tenants.

England's Lifeboat Service.

The volunteer lifeboat service of England, established in 1824, has more than 300 lifeboats on the shores of the kingdom, and has been instru-mental in saving 30,000 lives.

"But how can you find out?" said a message, one may talk to even the smallest of Swiss towns over a long-not calculated to waken vanity, yet the old man smiled, well pleased.

"But how can you find out?" said the young man, astonished at his smallest of Swiss towns over a long-distance telephone system to any part of the country.

VISION.

She said, "Oh, that glorious day! The deep, deep blue of the sky! The shadows that drooped and lay. And the little wind's low sigh!" Said he, "What is that you say! There were only you and I."

She said. "Oh, that wonderful night!
The lake and the waterfall!
The moon was so high and white,
The elms were so dark by the wall!"
Said he, "Your eyes were so bright,
I saw naught else at all!"
—Post Wheeler, in New York Press.

HUMOROUS.

Gladys—Do you think Charley means business? May—I can't tell yet; but I'm afraid he only means poetry.

Hooplar—Do you know anything about the origin of the American Indian? Highlow—No; I've never taken any interest in race tracks. Reporter - Madam Gostwok, the

spiritualist, does an enormous business. Publisher — That's because she's such a good advertising medi-

nm.
She—It's funny, but all the time
I've known Mr. Tigg he has never
paid me a compliment. He—That's
not strange. Tigg never pays anybody. She-I don't like the preachers who

read their sermons from manuscript. He—I do. If a man writes his sermons he is more likely to realize their length.

She-I know I am not the first girl you ever loved. He—Well—er—at least you are the first girl I ever bought more than \$17 worth of presents for.

All these schemes for taxing bachelors with a view to driving them into matrimony are wrong. More men get married now than wives can comfort-

ably support. Farmer-I say, John, what do you call a pineapple—a fruit or a vegeta-ble? Waiter—A pineapple ain't nei-ther, gentlemen. A pineapple is al-

ways a hextra. "I'm something of a mind reader," he said, as they sat on opposite sides of the room. "I think not," she replied, as her eyes ostentatiously measured the distance between them.

"There! Didn't I tell you Wednesday was my lucky day?" "In what way has fortune favored you?" "Why, there goes Cholly Softly, and he has passed us without seeing us."

Jasper—What do you think will be

the last conflict before comes? Jumpuppe-It will be the one in which the contest is cettled what daily paper has the largest circulation.

"Is it not a fact that enlightened laws have had the effect of increasing the span of life?" "Hardly. Of course, murderers live longer, but, on the other hand, there are the murdered, you see."

"My grandfather," said the shoe clerk boarder, "once knew an old man clerk boarder, "once knew an old man who insisted that the ghosts came and milked his cows every night." "Sort of milkin' specters, eh?" commented the Cheerful Idiot.

Adelbert-I cawn't say that I'm feeling nachuwal this evening; I got a beashly cold in my head, dontyerknow? Geraldine—Never mind, Addy. Don't grumble. Even if it's only a cold, it's something.

Miss Thirtysmith (meaningly)-An Italian proverb says that "honest men marry soon," and— Jack Swift (solemnly)—I cannot conceal it any longer; I live in deadly fear of being at any moment arrested for embezzlement!

She-Our minister will exchange pulpits next Sunday with the Rev. Mr. Talkington. He—Yes? An exchange of pulpits seems to me a great deal like a horse trade. It is hard to tell which congregation is going to get the worst of it.

Outshone-"We've got a man in our town," said the passenger with the red clay on his boots, "who has voted at seventeen presidential elections."
"Ho!" was the scornful reply of the "Ho!" was the scornful reply of the passenger with the faded red muffler. "We've got a man our town that's read all the messages."

"Miss Wigglesworth thinks she's eligible to the Order of the Crown. she's sure she can trace her lineage back to one of the English sovereigns." "How far has she got?" "She told me yesterday she had struck a bar sinster." "That's right. Her great-grandfather was a bartender."

How the Humble Cabbage Will Be Glori-

Professor L. H. Bailey of Cornell Professor L. H. Salley of Cornell nniversity has been asked to go to Finland to conduct a series of experi-ments in electrical plant-growing, in conjunction with Professor Lemstrom of the University of Helsingfors. The experiments to be carried on have nothing to do with the electric light or the running of electric wires through the soil for the purpose of forcing the growth of plants by direct current stimulation. They are to be based on some pertinent observations made by Lemstrom, of the effect of the aurora borealis on the plant growth

of the North.

It is a well known fact that the plants of the North arrive at maturity at a much shorter period of time than those plants which are grown further south. It is necessary that these plants should arrive at maturity very plants should arrive at maturity very quickly, inasmuch as the summer season in the North is very brief, and it has always been looked upon as a wise provision of Providence that plants were enabled to accomplish their business in life in so short a space of time. Professor Lemstrom, exide the providence. space of time. Professor Lemstrom, however, casting aside the providen-tial idea states that the rapid growth

of plants in the far North is due directly to the light of the aurora borealis.—New York Journal.