fhe man behind the gun is espe cially dangerous when the hunting season opens.

Surgeons are doing wonderful mings. In France they have supplied a patient with an artificial larynx which can never feel fatigue. What a campaign orator he will be!

Says the Galveston Daly News 'The demand for horses increases and the field for usefulness so long aeld by the 'faithful friend of man appears to be growing broader in spite of a cloud of competitors."

Times.-But after all the marvel lous thing is that what seemed so sure to happen has not come true, but ...at China, instead of being destroyed and divided, is today stronger as a political proposition than she has even been in modern history.

The largest educational event of the year is Andrew Carnegie's gift to Pittsburg of a great polytechnic institute, at a cost of \$33,000,000, including an endowment of \$25,000,000 This will far exceed the largest en lowment of any American university or college excepting only Girard.

London has started a movement against blinkers for horses, which in most cases are useless and harmful to the sight of the animals. Most of the great railroad companies and one of the tramway lines have done away with them, so that now, it is stated, 30,000 horses are working without blinkers.

Germany is beginning to object to the number of foreign students in her universities and technical schools. The latter have protested that something must be done to keep foreigners out. as out of 11.311 students in technical high schools in 1900, 2017, or more than a sixth, were foreigners and of these 896 were Russians.

Within a year, reports say, more than 100 mountain climbers have lost their lives in the Alps. Is it now advisable for the local authorities to exercise a proper supervision over parties which attempt dangerous ascents. and see to it that they are suitably equipped and employ a sufficient numbr of competent guides? Such precautions would seem to be only reason-

An anti-duelling conference has been held in Leipsic. It ought not to be necessary even at the outset of this new century, to hold councils and congresses, meetings and debates and dis cussions with respect to so detestable a practice as that of the duel. The folly, the unfairness, the contemptibile nature of such encounters were exposed to the scorn of all intelligent persons generations ago.

The exemption of Cuban cities, es pecially Havana, from the ravages of vellow fever means a great deal to the people of the United States, who have suffered so much from the disease introduced from Cuba. Since American sanitation has shown by eloquent example that it is possible to stamp out yellow fever in Cuba the United States will doubtless insist that it shall be kept out after the American occupation ceases. It is only a question of care and money, and it is worth much more than it costs.

A series of experiments are to be undertaken in the Chicago hospital school to determine the kind of food most conducive to the physical and mental growth of children. These experiments have been suggested by observations made upon the condition of boys and girls coming to the hospital

······ IN THE HANDS OF THE MAFIA. Emmunummunum

of romance are gone, never to return; but my strange experience in Venice, in the winter season of 1894, changed my opinion on the subject once and for all.

I had at that time a business commission in the larger towns of Italy, and from Verona I was going on to In my compartment was a Venice. young Italian-a rather nasty looking fellow, clad in a curious green travel-ing cloak. We did not speak to one another, and as it was very cold, I curled myself up in my corner and went to sleep, wishing inwardly that I had had the forethought to bring a nice warm overcoat with me like that of my companion.

When I awoke we were apparently nearing Venice, and I was the only occupant of the carriage. Where the Italian had got out I did not know. out, curiously enough, he had left his cloak behind him. It was a new garment, warmly lined, and I slipped It over my shoulders, intending to hand it over to the officials at Venice. Ten minutes later the train steamed into the station, and I tumbled out to look after my luggage. There were a good many people in the train, and in my eagerness I quite forgot that I was wearing a cloak which did not belong to me, and which I ought to hand over forthwith to the lost property office. Outside the station there were the usual crowds of persuasive gondoliers plying for hire, and the whole scene was one of bustle and confusion. was now late at night, and the lights of the station, reflected in the inky black water, had a weirdly picturesque effect. Presently a gondolier came toward me, gave me a searching glance which took me in from head to foot, and then inquired, with a courtly bow, if he might have the of taking the signor to his I signified my assent, and in honor hotel. a few moments my few belongings and myself were more or less snugly stowed away. With a few strokes my gondolier drew clear of the crowd at the station, and we were presently gliding down the broad bosom of the Grand Canal.

The night was cold, and there was a kind of damp frostiness in the biting wind which sighed across the lagoon. Instinctively I drew my cloak closely round me, and then realibzed with a jerk that I had quite forgotten to deliver it to the railway officials. "How forgetful of me." I thought. "But, never mind! I will send a messenger from the hotel with it to-morrow morning."

The ancient palazzo, now turned into a plebeian hotel, at which I had engaged rooms, was situated on a side canal some little distance from the Grand Canal, and we were presently threading a maze of narrow waterways, lit only by twinkling lamps which threw straggling lines of light across the inky water. Everything was ab-solutely quiet, for Venice is indeed a silent city when night falls on the scène. Occasionally, but very rarely, a gondola would cross our path, and every now and then there came the monotonous chant of my gondolier, as we neared a point where the canal branched off. "Sa sta!" he would chant, as we turned to the right; "sa premi!" as we dived into some devious waterway to the left; while if we were keeping straight on, "lungo eh!" rolled across the water from his lips. It seemed to me that we were taking rather a long time to reach the hotel, but as I not been in Venice be

fore, I did not like to say anything. Presently, however, the gondola ran alongside a sort of decayed stone quay, above which towered a closely shuttered house, evidently of considerable antiquity.

"Surely this is not the Hotel --?' cried, in surprise; "it looks more like a dungeon." The gondolier bowed low.

not, signor." he said: " the hotel is down the passage on the left, and I will do myself the pleasure of con-

ducting your excellency thither." He stepped off the gondola, tossed a loop of rope over a stone projec-

People will tell you that the days off, my footstraps removed, and J of romance are gone, never to return; was led from the room by a wierd looking figure in a mask and hood he bore an uncomfortable tesem blance to a member of the Spanish Inquisition.

We emerged into a brilliantly lighted room, filled to overflowing with men, all clad in the same somber garb of mask and hood. As my gaoler drew me in a kind of muffled roar went up from the assembly, and those nearest to me shook their fists in my face. Suddenly a tall man at the far end of the room moved toward me, the others making way for him respectfully.

For a moment he gazed earnestly into my face. Then he turned angrily to my gaoler. "What, in the name of heaven, does this mean?" he hissed. You have brought the wrong man!

Instantly consternation reigned in the room, and everybody crowded round to examine me, while the gaoler tried to explain things. Up to this moment I had been more or less in a dream—the rapidity with which events succeeded one another had confused me—but now I found my tongue.

"I do not know what is the meaning of the outrage to which I have been subjected." I said; "but if you have any doubts as to my identity I may tell you at once that I am an English-man, Charles Raymond by name, and I have come from Verona today. 1 have papers in my pockets to prove it."

The leader heard me out, then he beckoned to me to follow him. chanically I obeyed, and he led me into a small ante-room. Then he turned to me. "Sir," he said, in most excellent English, "we owe you a profound apology, and also an explanation. But, first of all, will you tell me how it is that you are wear ing that green cloak?"

In a few words I explained how I came to be possessed of the coat.

The eyes behind the mask smiled. Yes," he said, "I see now how the "Yes," whole thing has happened. We were on the lookout for a member of our society—a member who has violated his commands. He was known only to the members of our inner circle, but our humble instruments were told to ook out for a man in a green cloak and to bring him hither. I much re-gret that you should have been the victim of so unfortunate a mistake. It is a pity, too, that the traitor has temporarily escaped us; he must have

received a warning. At what point did you say he left the train?" I told him as nearly as possible, and he nodded gravely. "It is of little he said; "the scoundrel will moment,'

not get far." "And now," continued my mys-terious interlocutor, "I can see you are eaten up with curiosity as to who and what we are. Is it not so? I thought so! But, unfortunately, I am not at liberty to tell you anything. I want you now to give me your solemn promise, on your honor as an Englishman, to say nothing to any person in Venice of your adventure of tonight. I know you English; and I know that if you pass your word you will keep it. Having given me this promise, you shall be conveyed to your hotel without delay, and we shall be happy to recompense you for the inconvenience we have caused you."

The politeness of the man-he was evidently a gentleman to his fingertips-fascinated me, and I gave my parole quite willingly. Forthwith, with a few words of apology, he placed the covering over my head again and led me out through the main room to the ancient quay on which I had first landed, and so into the gondola.

"Farewell, Signor Raymond," he said; "I rely on you." Then, in a whisper: "It is not every one who enters the judgment hall of the Mafia and leaves it alive!"

Ten minutes later my gondolier re moved the cloak from my head and took the strap off my wrists. Three minutes afterward he dumped me and my baggage down on the broad steps of the hotel, and, with a couple of sweeping strokes, vanished into the night. The landlord of the hotel was in a mild state of wonderment

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THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

The Paramount Question is Not One of Politics or of Social Classes, But One Pertaining to Public Health and Morals -Alcohol a Positive Poison.

In his address before the American Med-

i. The admerical Medical Medical Medical Temperance Association, Dr. N. S. Davis, M. D., LJ.D., of Chicago, President of the association, said:
"The paramount question before the intelligent men and women of Christendom to-day is not one of politics or of political parties or of social classes, but one solely pertaining to public health and morals.
"H is whether alcohol and other well-known narcotic drugs are really wholesome articles of drink or fool, safe for general use; or are they absolutely subtle, deceptive and dangerous poisons, stealthily destroying both public health and morals.
and constantly multiplying hereditary degenerates in all clases of human society? If the former, they are entitled to the same treatment as other articles of commerce and general use. If the latter, then their regulation belongs exclusively to the police and semilary authorities aided by the courts. They cannot be both. That alchol, as it exists in fermented and distilled inducts, is a positive proto-plasmic poison, directly impairing every natural scrueture and function of the living body in proportion to the quantity used, and the length of time its use is containued is proved by the results of every experimental in "estigation concerning it, instituted by emicent scientific men, both in this country and Europ.
"And their ve diet is abundantly confirmed by the history and couldiion of the immates of every asylum for the poor, the feelle-minded, the englicytics, the insane and the inebriatas; those of every reformatory and prison, and by the recerds of were y live and and riminal court, and by the details of every will-light registry of vital statisties. As concerns danger to human life, every intelligent reader of more suicides, homicides and murderes every molice and eriminal court, and by the details of every will-kept registry of more suicides, homicides and murderes of the subel prosons known to toxicologists in a year. Then why not now, at the beginning of this twentieth century of the Chr

Price of a Drink.

Price of a Drink. If it were necessary to describe in words-might use the thoughts of John B. Gough expressed in one of his lectures entitled "Man and His Masters," wherein he rep-resents a man overcome with the appe-tile for intoxicating liquors as pleading in his manner: "Give me a drink! I will give you my hard earnings for it. Give me drink! I will pay for it. I will give you more than that. I married a wile; I took her from girlhod's home and pro-teet her-and cherish her, and pro-teet her-and i have stolen hev will be drink for me and I have driven hev-out to work for me and I have driven hev-dive me drink and I have stolen hev will rom the while lips of my famished headth. More yet. I will give you my heath. More yet. I will give my homes of Heaven-body and soul; I will barner bread from Give in me!"-Christian Wook.

Statue From Whisky Money.

Statue From Whisky Money. The Rev. W. F. Lloyd, of the Walnut. Street Methodist Church, Louisville, Ky., m.de an attack from the pulpt on Messrs. I. W. and B. Bernheim, distillers, who recently gave a bronze montment of Thomas Jeiterson to the city of LoLasville. He said: "The city of Louisville is congratulat-ing itself on the statue of Thomas Jeffer-son, presented by two wholesaic whisky selfers. The mraney with which this was done was blood, moary, wrung from bleed-ing heats of innecent women and chil-dren. It represents tears of orphanage-and widowhood, and is a sort of concrete expression of destroyed character and despolled manhood. Jefferson held senti-ments strong y antagonistic to whisky, both in its drinking and sale, and t was enough to make him turn over in his grave a the bhought of having his statue presented to the city by men who had made thrir for-tanoecent women and children." "On Signing the Pledge."

"On Signing the Pledge."

Why do temperance men waste so much time in debating points which are not de-batable? What nonsense has recently been written and spoken about this "echics of piedge-signing!" Would the temperance movement have ever attained its present position without piedge-sign-ing? While we are waiting for temper-ance legislation, and while the public house reformers are hatching out their schemes for improving the drinking tav-erns, let every earnest worker keep peg-ging away enlisting piedged abstainers. Those who wish to see quick returns for their work and a'iding results, will still go on entreating men and women to sign the pledge, no matter how many logic-choppers declaim against old-inshioned methods. In some things the old is cer-tainly better than the new. Why do temperance men waste so much ime in debating points which are not de-atable? What nonsense has recently een written and spoken about the

for treatment and education. It has become the firm conviction of the dean of the school that lack of observation, attention and concentration, defective memory and self-con trol and a number of other unfavor able conditions in children are due largely to improper nutrition.

A story with no love interest at al would be no new experiment. The greatest thing in this line in our lan guage is "Robinson Crusoe," dear to the hearts of the youth of every fresh generation. And the "professors of literature," those queer and solemr fogies who want to put everything into its proper pigeon-hole of classification while pointing out the influence that this "immortal classic" had on the de velopment of the novel, are careful to exclude it from the list of novels be cause of the absence of the eternal feminine. In a later day Robert Louis Stevenson showed in "Treasure Is land." a book for boys, young and old in "Kidnapped" and "The Wrecker." that he could keep his readers awake and interested without dragging in the usual feminine complication, remarks the New York Sun.

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tion, and led me toward a narrow passage, which I had not noticed. At the far end of this alley I saw a twinkling oil lamp, which my guide assured me was the light of the Hote Inwardly I cursed the friendly Italian merchant at Verona who had recommended me to such a miserable place.

Suddenly. without the slightest warning, I felt something slipped over my head. I heard a few muttered commands, and then I felt myself being carried by strong arms. I could not see, I could hardly breathe; but I realized at once that I was the victim of an outrage. And the memory of all the crimes which have occurred in this vast network of silent waterways and ancient houses surged into my brain until 1 felt sick with terror.

Presently I was laid down, none too gently, on a bench. Then come the shutting of a door, and silence. I tried to rise to my feet, but during the brief period I had been carried along my captors had contrived to bind me, so that I now found it impossible to move My thoughts at this time were none too pleasant. I realized that if I never left my prison alive no one would be very much the wiser, and the reflection did not make me feel any more comfortable.

I was not left to myself for long. Presently I heard footsteps close to me, the cover over my head was torn

steps of the hotel, and, with a couple of sweeping strokes, vanished into the night. The landlord of the hotel was in a mild state of wonderment as to where I had been, but, mindful or my promise, I told him nothing, and tumbled off to bed as soon as possible. As I was undressing an envelope fell out of my side pocket, and on picking it up. I found enclosed the envelope fell out of my side pocket, and on picking it up. I found enclosed the senses are a hull, the entire body goes into a lethargy a which in all languages is used as a type of the possible. As I was undressing an envelope fell out of my side pocket, and on picking it up. I found enclosed the and then the soul spreads its wing foculd only surmise that the smoney had been slipped into my pocket by was chatting with a merchant in his office close to the Rialto when my hoard as: "O God, and I immortal? A was chatting with a merchant in his office close to the Rialto when my hoard seeps the long sleep of the seade on the soul spread it. It was chatting with a merchant saw the paragraph in an Italian the few hours in which he had been killed the heart in the jail at Verona. The dagger with which he had been killed var man are merely the reast of the vargancy, had been found stabed te the heart in the jail at Verona. The dagger with which he had been killed even in a prison cell." he said. No one can escape the Mafa."
The average cost of horseflesh in France is five cents a pound. Two and one-half million pounds ara eaten vearly.

100 100 blicts that with a provide the sense of the se

Then from this earthly grossness ouit, Attired in stars, we shall forever sit. [Copyright, 1901, L. Klopsch.]

The Crusade in Brief.

In every Methodist church in New Zealand intoxicating wine has been ex-cluded from the Lord's table. Some parents who set intoxicating liquors upon their table wonder where their children learned to become draft ards

ards. Dr. Ganser, a Dresden physician and alienist, has found hyprotic suggestions a great aid in reclaiming drunkards and stealing their will.

The Temperance Permanent Building Society has 8515 members, and last year loaned \$1,590,000 — the largest sum ad yranged by any building society in Eng

A vigorous crusade against liquor joint is in progress at Mount Vernon, III. Three local dealers have been fined \$200 an. costs for selling liquor on Sunday, the max imum fine under the law.

imum fine under the law. A Columbus (Ohio) saloon keeper, wh placarded his establishment as a "Soldier" Rest," was notified by the soldiers at the garrison that the name was offensive an that it must be removed immediately. The sign came down.

sign: came down. The battle against alcohol is the moi significant phenomenon of our ages; mor important than all political action, war and treatics of peace.—Adolf Fick, M. D. Professor of Physiology, University Wurzburg, Bavaria.