nto the gardens of the old Chateau. the hidden Dantzicers would put their This evening he tended the flowers scheme into operation. with even greater diligence than isual. As he would be dead before the twilight of another evening gathsey, seeks kindly remembrance.

When Don Jose had concluded these labors he retired once more lo the Chateau, where, seated by an spen window, he sipped his wine with great gravity and re-read the letter. The letter ran as follows:

They have discovered everything. The chateau has been surrounded since daybreak, and there is no poslibility of escape. Do not look for antil to-night or the late evenin ADRIAN." '(Signed)

Don Jose folded the letter, sighed again heavily, and sipped his wine. The fellow Adrian has been more faithful than I expected," he mused cause he cannot expect money from ness, was not unlike himself.

Don Jose closed his eyes and disan exciting and profitable pastime. heaven-sent chance of escape from The announcement that he had re- the Dantzicers. selved through the medium of the baker was not altogether unexpected. had been instrumental in the deaths I promise you deliverance. of so many politicians that it was not strange the dead men's friends and than yourself." telatives should try reprisals. For time months he had carried his life in his hands with true Spanish dignity, and he was sufficient of an art ist not to spoil the pose at the last

Expecting a visitor, he slept lighty, and awoke to hear the sound of footsteps stirring amongst the long grass below the window. The sound tent the blood thrilling through his veins. He sprang from his couch and retreated into the shadows of the Sarkened room, with a large horsepistol grasped in either hand. He felt that it would be a useless fight against overwhelming odds, but family tradition, as well as personal bravery, demanded that he should die with his face to the foe. So he crouched in the shadows and waited. Suddenly some one sprang into the ppen window and for an instant a man's profile was silhouetted against the summer sky. A good angel restrained Don Jose with his horsepistols. In another moment the Cark figure framed in the window scrambled into the room and fell sobbing for breath on Don Jose's favorite

'One movement, and I blow your brains out," said the Don quietly. The intruder gave a cry of anguish and burrowed deeper into the cush-

ons on the couch. 'Mercy, senor; mercy, for love of heaven, mercy!" he implored.

'What' a countryman," exclaimed Jose's passive countenance. Don Jose, "and why have you traythe way to Dantzic to take

"Take your life, senor! Mother of

Heaven, I am innocent of any such intention. I cannot see your Excellency, but, by my soul, I am your most faithful slave."

'You speak pleasantly, friend: nevertheless I feel it would be safer to lodge this bullet in your skull before we are further acquainted."

The intruder relapsed into inarticulate verbosity. He likened the unknown senor to all the saints he could remember, and opined that if the most glorious of men would deign to grant the dog beneath his feet a further lease of his miserable life the gratitude of heaven to the most giorious of men would pass all earthly comprehension.

"I am to understand, my friend that you did not come here to murder me?" said Don Jose. "O heaven!

Is your Excellency mad? Merciful Providence!" "To what, then, do I owe the honor

of this visit?" Don Jose had lighted a candle and surveyed his visitor narrowly. found him of middle age and height. and from his dress evidently of the peasant class. His large earnest eyes had a curious frightened expression. His limbs trembled, and even now he drew breath with difficulty.

"A fool, who is in fear of his life," thought Don Jose, and aloud repeated his former question

The visitor buried his face in his great brown hands and sobbed. "I will be frank with you, senor,"

he groaned. You are wise, my friend; pro-

"I will resign my destiny into your Excellency's keeping; I place my soul in your hands."

They are in safe keeping, but you have not answered my question." "I fed here because I am pursued by enemies. I have been pursued all

Don Jose was surprised that so insignificant a person should possess enemies, but he held his tongue and

smiled encouragement. asked, dryly,

"I am accused of theft, your Excallency, "but before high heav-

"You are innocent, of course. understand that."

"You do not believe me guilty "I know you to be innocent."

"You know, senor?"
"Yes, my heart tells me." The stranger dissolved into tor-rents of gratitude. He praised the senor's perspicacity and called down the blessings of heaven upon the head

"What is your name, friend?" said and come to him in the badly-baked Don Jose, interrupting because he oaf, three times with the utmost de- was afraid he would be dead before aberation. He sighed heavily, picked the conversation had concluded. ap his pruning-knife and walked out There was no telling at what moment

"Giorgio, with your Excellency's permission. I have been pursued all day. I was nearly dead, senor, when pred in the gardens, he rendered Providence directed me to the garthese services with the good will of dens below. I saw the open window one who, departing on a lonely jour- and determined to enter at all costs. Something told me that I should meet kindness here. The saints befriended me, and---

"But stop a moment, you are not safe yet. What of your pursuers, my friend?"

"You will not deliver me into their hands, senor. You know me to be innocent."

Giorgio stretched out his hands with an impioring gesture. His eyes They will probably not strike scanned every line of Don Jose's face with desperate eagerness.

Don Jose offered him some wine From the moment that his gaze had lighted on the stranger's countenance an idea had been formulating in his brain. He had been startled he tore the letter leisurely into from the first by the fact that the little fragments. "It is strange, be- man, save for his clothing and coarsea dead man; but perhaps he has a height and stature there was little to choose between the two. Dor Jose coupled this with the fact that posed of himself for sleep. He ac- his visitor was a fool, and his heart septed the inevitable in a manner became rejuvenated with hope. His that was almost magnificent. The brain was, in a manner, subtle and thought of death did not greatly dis- quick to conceive a ruse and strataturb him, although he had found life gem, and in Giorgio he saw a

"My friend," he said, charging his vine-glass, "I not only undertake to He had been in Dantzic now nearly shield you from your enemies, but aine months, during which time he if you will be guided by my advice ven in a more hazardous position

Giorgio began to open his eyes. 'You are in danger, senor! Is it possible?

"Peace. I will explain. I am in such danger that my life is not worth an hour's purchase."

"Nevertheless, I speak the truth. may be murdered any moment." "Mother of mercy! Your Excellency is then rich?"

"Fool, I am so poor that I am servant of the Emperor."

"But, senor, you are a Spaniard." "And not the only one in the Emperor's service. Now, listen; I was sent here nearly a year ago because Dantzic is seething with sedition and plots against the Emperor's person. The place was honeycombed with secret societies. A great many of these, I flatter myself, no longer exist, but there are several still alive. Somehow they have discovered me to be the Emperor's servant. For the last month I have had the utmost difficulty to keep my feet out of the grave, and to-day I learn from a man in my pay that my hiding place has een discovered. Further, I am in full knowledge of the fact that certain seditions gentlemen are determined upon my death before the morning.

"But, senor, why do you remain here?" he exclaimed, furiously excited; "why do you not escape?" A smile of pity illumined Don

"I see, friend, that you are ignorant of the ways of Dantzic," he said

quietly; "every mode of egress from this chateau is guarded." "I do not understand.

"Very likely. The chateau is surrounded by unseen foes. You have seen nobody, and if I were to walk abroad this moment it is unlikely that I should meet a single soul upon the highways. But I should be found dead to-morrow morning with a bullet in the brain.'

Giorgio gave a gesture of despair. "Then all is lost, senor," he cried; we are both dead men." 'Nonsense! We shall both es-

"Senor, you bewilder me! First

you tell me that the chateau is surrounded, and then-Ah, heaven, what is that?" The sound of horsemen approaching at the gallop broke the silence

They are either your pursuers or my murderers," said Don Jose very calmly. "Quick, go to the window

and tell me what you see." They are soldiers, senor. see their uniforms in the moonlight."

"They are your pursuers. Quick, and undress yourself." Giorgio stared at Don Jose a though he were in the presence of a lunatic. The Don had already thrown have escaped from Dantzic alive. On aside his coat and vest, and Giorgio, still bewildered and dazed by the sudden turn of events, had enough

Jose snuffed out the candle "Quick, give me these clothes," he whispered, almost tearing Giorgio's rags from his back

But, senor, what does this mean?" "It is simple enough, my friend. When the soldiers come I shall take your place.

"They will arrest you, senor!" "Exactly. As their prisoner I shall be carried safely through the area of death. You will remain here; when I have gone make your peace with the Dantzicers when they come for me. Do not say you have seen me. Tell them you have been pursued by the Emperor's soldiers. They will help "What is your offense, friend?" he you to safety when they hear that."

Before the last words had escaped Don Jose's lips the soldiers had reached the chateau. One of the horses could be heard whinnying below the window, and the next moment hunderous knocks shook the outer

"Farewell," said Don Jose, as he slipped from the darkened room. He crept silently down the stairs and flung open the door with such suddenness that a couple of troopers nearly fell into his arms. He was selzed in a moment by a dozen hands and dragged before the officer in

ats captors roundly, but offered no

other resistance. "Who are you, fellow?" cried the Meer; "from your clothes I should know you well."

"It is possible, captain," said Don ose, in a hourse voice; "my name s Giorgio, and I see no reason to disguise it.'

'So we meet at last, my brave felsaid the officer, with a mock "Well, on my side the meeting low." is a very happy one."

Without another word two of the roopers at a nod from their leader wung Don Jose on to the nearest His arms were tightly bound and he rode from the chateau in the centre of the party. At about five miles from the cha-

teau they were met by a further relay of troopers with a large rumbling coach of the most antique pattern Don Jose now wished to enter into explanations with the officer, but before he had the opportunity he was dragged from his horse and bundled on to the floor of the coach, with a brigadier and two troopers.

Don Jose was astounded at so much attention being paid to a common thief. It was certainly most unusual, and for the moment his leart misgave him.

Where do we halt, friend?" he isked the brigadier, "Paris."

Don Jose almost leapt out of his "Paris! Do you know where we

are now?" "Perfectly." "We are in Dantzic."

"Exactly." "And you say we are going to Paris?

With all possible speed. Don Jose bowed his head and groaned. Of all experiences this was

the most extraordinary that he had ever suffered. Had the world turned mad that a common thief was escorted in a coach and four to Paris? He asked many questions, but the brigadier, who was disposed for sleep, bade him hold his tongue, and relapsed into silence.

Don Jose did not reach Parls. The avalcade was held up by Marshal De Main and some staff officers neary ten miles from Napoleon's capital. The Marshal held some conversation with the officer in charge of the party, and then, alighting from his horse, peered eagerly into the carriage at the prisoner.

"Marshal De Main, you know me, you know me; explain to these fellows who I am," cried Don Jose frantically; "they will not listen to me."

The Marshal seemed to be in the broes of convulsions. He staggered back from the coach window and clutched at the air with outstretched hands. When he had sufficiently recovered he laughed, and when he ceased laughing he became very an-

"What foolery have we here?" he cried hoarsely to the bewildered offiers in charge of Don Jose. Emperor will not thank you for taking this man from Dantzic. Release Don Jose at once. "General, this man has confessed

nimself to be Giorgio." The Marshal for reply turned his ack upon the captain.

Don Jose stepped out from the coach and related the full history of the adventure.

"Since when has it been the cusom to convey common thieves from Dantzic to Paris?" he asked in conclusion, with an ironical smile

Marshal De Main smiled also. "Your friend Giorgio is so common a thief that the Emperor has rope. Have you ever heard of Don Pepe Avolannas?"

Don Jose was silent and bit his

"Giorgio and Avolannas are the same man, my friend," continued the Marshal; "about a month ago it was known that he was in Dantzic in the former name."

'I was not notified." "You had sufficient in your hands." Don Jose and the Marshal looked

at each other, shrugged shoulders and sighed. "I thought only of escape," said

Don Jose apologetically. "You succeeded, but at a heavy

cost. We could have spared two of you for one Giorgio." They parted on this, but it was ully six months later that Don Jose learned the entire truth of his adventure. A letter was brought to

him from England and left silently at his door by an unseen messenger. It ran as follows: "Most Wise and Excellent of Men:

Permit the dog beneath your feet to thank you for a great service rendered in the past. I am eternally your debtor, for had it not been for the passports and papers in your coat, which you so kindly lent me on a memorable occasion, I should never one point I wish to enlighten you. There was no conspiracy against your life. Your hiding place at the chawit left to follow his example. Don teau, of which I shall always have such pleasant memories, was known only to myself and one Adrian, who was in your illustrious service. had been hiding in the neighborhood three days when the idea of obtaining your papers and passports occurred to me as the best means of juitting Dantzic. I felt assured that under the circumstances your wisdom would dictate the course of action you so timely adopted. Had you not done so, I should have suggested it myself, if necessary with force. But your wisdom forestalled me in this." Here Don Jose broke off abruptly

in his reading. "My wisdom!" he repeated to himself, and then, without proceeding further, cast the letter into the fire. -London Black and White.

Margaret of Austria. Bearded women have been very numerous. The most noted of the number was Margaret of Austria, appointed by Charles V. to be governor of the Netherlands. She had a long, tiff black beard and, conceiving the her appearance, was very careful of it, and so combed and trained it as to make it seem much greater than it

GHINGS WORTH KNOWING

The cost of the recent Torrey-Alex ander Mission in Philadelphia, which lasted three months, was \$26,365.

In the prize contest at Houlton Me., the largest potato, weighing three pounds and seven ounces, was shown by J. C. Foster.

Tradition says that locks were made in England in the reign of Alfred, but it was not till the fourteenth century that the locksmith craft was recognized as a distinct one

Black Bess, an Australian mare

which has appeared over 2000 times in the play of "Dick Turpin," died.recently in London. Before she went on the stage she was a steeplechaser. The number of patents granted in Germany since 1889 has varied be-

ween twenty-nine per cent, and for-

ty-five per cent, of the number of ap-

plications filed.

The spotlessly pure marbles of the Island of Paros, Greece, are mined by an English company. Many of the celebrated stytues left by the ancient world were sculptured from the marbles of the Parian mines.

There is an enormous number of small landholders in Egypt. 5.000,-000 acres being cultivated by over 1,000,000 landowners, of whom 6000 are Europeans, owning on an average a little over 100 acres.

George Washington was the first breeder of fine grade mules in America-the King of Spain and Lafavette. of France, gave him some fine jacks The great Compromiser of Kentucky was also a lover of muleflesh as work animal. He gave a lot in Washington city for a fine jack. This lot is now worth millions of dollars.

It is common to think of a camel the proverbial ship of the desert, as a patient beast of burden. Guided by skilful hands, however, it becomes a very formidable war steed. The Somali warriors have ridden camels in many fierce charges for generations. Mounted on the back of an active camel with a long spear for a weapon, one of these savages is an enemy to be feared.

American Tea Success.

Consul-General William H. Michnel, of Calcutta, reports that the success of the Pinehurst tea plantation near Summerville, S. C., in drying tea by proper exposure to the sun instead of by the mechanical methods, and thereby preserving the natural flavor of the plant, attracted the attention of tea growers in Ceylon, and has now aroused interest among the tes producers of India. He writes:

"Although at the very threshold of tea husbandry, the United States is really instructing the oldest teaproducing districts in the best methods of curing that commodity. China has known the 'trick' for a long time, and has been able to furnish a tea of superior flavor by practicing it, but for some reason her example was not followed in India, if, indeed, it was known here, and it remained for the West to furnish the East with this practical and useful knowledge."-Daily Consular Reports.

Our Divorce Laws.

The Census Taker-"Your name,

'I don't know

'Beg pardon, mum?" "I've been divorced. At present my name is Mrs. Jones in this State. In several States it is Miss Smith, my maiden name, and in three States it is Mrs. Brown, my first husband's be to have a light woolen (sixty per

name.' 'This Is your residence, mum?" "I eat and sleep here, but I have a trunk in a neighboring State, where I am getting a divorce from my pres

ent husband. "Then you're married at present?" "I'm married in Texas, New York and Massachusets; divorced in South Dakota, Missouri, Alaska, Oklahoms and California; a bigamist in three other States, and a single woman in eight others."-Chicago Tribune.

A Graceful Getaway.

Mr. Makinbrakes, who had been urged to stay for luncheon, was try ing to make a graceful getaway.

'Awfully sorry," he said, ever so much obliged, but I couldn't think of it. It's a lot of bother te have people drop in on you unexpectedly and to feel that you've go to invite them to stay and eat with you-er-just to be polite, you know-I mean that it's always a lot of bother for me, of course, particularly when-when it happens to be somebody that you don't care for anyhow-speaking of myself, you understand-or perhaps I should say I don't mean myself in this particular case-well, anyhow, I have ar engagement, besides, or it would as ford me great pleasure, I assure you to-to-well, good afternoon, Mr and Mrs. Varney."-Chicago Tri-

A Descendant of Holbein.

A lady who formed a most inter esting link with a celebrated name has just passed away in Vienna. This is the authoress Frau Hermann whose maiden name of Marie vor Holbein at once sets up the associa descendants in the direct line of the famous artist family of the Holbeins Besides the Austrian branch, the members of which are principally to be found in their country's service as army officers and civil servants, there is still the collateral branch descend ing from Ambrosius Holbein, while recent years, says the Pall Mall Gazette, have brought forward the brated stock following the profe of the brush and palette—namely Albert Holbein, who produced his ar-in Schwebish-Gmund, and the pups of the sculptor Begas.-Eduard Hol

FORTIFYING THE BODY AGAINST COLD.

By F. E. McCLURE.

***************************** At this season of the year "colds" are prevalent, and the subject of suitable hygienic clothing is uppermost in many homes. The matter of proper bathing is also an intergral point of the discussion. bility to "take cold" depends almost entirely on the condition of the eliminative organs and, to a very large measure, on the condition of the akin.

The skin has five functions: tective, excretory, temperature regulating, absorptive, sensory. Only two, however, the excretory and temperature regulating, are of importance from a strictly hygienic point of view, the absorptive power being so small, excepting in some diseased

conditions, as to be safely ignored. The excretion of the skin is from two varieties of structure, sebaceous and sweat glands. The purpose of the sebaceous secretion is to keep the skin and hairs soft and pliable, but the sweat glands are by far the most important of the two, for upon their activity depends the temperature regulating function also. Normally, about thirty per cent. of all the moisture excreted from the body passes through the skin. This varies, however, depending upon the climatic conditions, clothing, exercise, etc. Unless during active exercise this is known as "insensible perspiration," and has been estimated by some observers to be as high in amount as two quarts daily. Perhaps one quart or one quart and a half is more near-

ly correct. The proper action of the skin is also, to a large extent, under the control of the nervous system. Thus the matter of bathing falls naturally under two heads; bathing for purposes of cleanliness and bathing for the

refix, or "hardening," effect. For purposes of cleanliness, under ordinary conditions during the winter months, for people who are not engaged in dusty or laborious occupations, the hot soap-and-water bath once a week is usually sufficient to keep the mouths of the sweat glands free from obstructions and function ating properly.

The daily ablution for "hardening" effect has popularly been taken to mean "a cold bath every morning." For the average person this is a mistake. Few people can react sufficiently after a cold morning bath to make the procedure beneficial. In starting the morning bath or sponge (and all baths should be taken in the morning with the exception of the hot cleansing bath, which is taken at bedtime) tepld water should be used, the temperature gradually cooled, day by day, until water can be used which is quite cold. This bath should be taken very readily, then the entire body should be immediately and vigoronsly rubbed with a coarse towel until a complete reaction has set in and the body is in a glow.

Bearing in mind that the real function of the sweat is the regulation of body temperature, the proper form of clothing is more or less self-evident. Generally spenking, the underclothing should be light, and the variations of temperature met by putting off or putting on outer clothing. Cotton is an excellent conductor of heat Wool is a non-conductor. Individuals differ, too, in the varying thickness of the layer of fatty tissue lying just beneath the skin, which is also a nonblanket, keeping in the natural body warmth. The ideal undergarment then, should be a light garment, composed of from forty per cent. to sixty per cent. of wool mixed with cotton or silk. Perhaps the best form would cent.) body, faced with cotton or

Blik. A very important hygienic measure too often neglected is the proper ventilation of sleeping apartments. Each individual should have 1500 square cubic feet of air, changed every hour This can be obtained only by opening the outside windows. Provided one is not lying in a direct draft and is warmly covered, it is impossible to have too much fresh, cold air in the room. A simple way to accomplish this is raise the windows, and against the inside of the casing fix a wide board in such a manner that the current of air is directed upward, then close the door and, no matter how low the mercury sinks, sleep with no fear of any harm. It possible one should have a warm room in which to dress in the morning, but if this is impossible, more has still been gained by having the windows open all night than is lost by a very rapid dressing in a cold room in the morning. Fresh health-giving.

air is stimulating, tonic, germicidal, A vigorous protest must be made against the wearing of all chest protectors and pads, also against the wearing of heavy furs unless they are immediately removed upon coming in from the cold. The prevalent habit of women in retaining their heavy furs when calling or at public gatherings is most reprehensible. The old saying that "sealskin sacques kill more people than does smallpox is not far from the truth.

Rubbers are another article wear whose use has been abused. Of course they should be worn in heavy rain storm or when the walks are wet and sloppy, and always removed immediately upon going indoors; but ordinarily the feet should be kept warm and dry by means of good, stout shoes with felt or cork hasoles, if necessary. Rubber is absolutely impervious to moisture and so the natural perspiration is retained and cold, damp feet, with inevitable

colds, result. For people who "take cold easily" se precautionary measures are of importance than medicine. Those individuals who suffer from the various hypertrophies, deviations, etc., of the nasal passages or are the victims of organic disease should have such pathological conditions removed by surgical or other measures which a qualified physician may rec-ommend.—From The Pligrim. WORTH, NOT BIRLIN.

An Aim of Learning-Augustine Birrell on the End of Education

As president of the Salt Schools,

Saltaire, Mr. Birrell the other Saturday night, gave the annual address. He was much delighted, he said, to find himself in the constituency of his friend and parliamentary secretary, Mr. Percy Illingworth. A better friend and a better parliamentary secretary no man ever had. Apologizing for not having had time to prepare an address of some literary kind, Mr. Birrell said that since he entered Whitehall he had not had time to read anything worth reading or write anything worth writing, and he had considerable doubt whether he had said anything worth hearing. He had been astonished to find the great number of people who seemed honestly to believe that the money spent on education was wasted. There were agriculturists who preferred that it should be spent on manure. He once ventured to say in Parliament that they preferred muck to mind. But he was also astonished at the great number of people who showed keen interest in the development of education on sound principles. The rate-payers should grudge that part of the rates which went to the sacred duty of training teachers. A great work was going on in that direction. Training colleges were not what they ought to be, but they were improving steadily.

Then the devotion of teachers to their work had affected him very much. They worked not only for wages, but for love. He would beseech all teachers to recognize the fact that they were all one great corporation engaged in the same work, although on different sides of it. Not one of them was entitled to look down upon another. All part of education work should be looked upon as one and indivisible.

Speaking to the pupils, Mr. Birrell advised them to remember that the acquisition of knowledge is not everything. In the House of Commons, he said, we have all sorts of people-some of the learned, but not many. Some have had great educational advantages, others have been educated in the wine or the workshop. I am not going to praise any class at the expense of the other. There are uneducated labor members, capitalists and country gentlemen. It is not a question of what school you went to, but what you are. You may train your mind working down a mine so as to make your mind the envy of those who have had an excellent scholastic education.

On the floor of the House of Commons it does not matter one straw whether you are the son of a duke or of a costermonger, you will be listened to for a short time, and if the House comes to the conclusion you are worth hearing it is gloriously indifferent to everything else about you. I am quite sure that every one who comes to the House of Commons recognizes at once that the reputation a man gains or loses there is wholly independent of what he has done in the past or to what class he belongs. He is judged wholly on what he is. If you can get a well trained and disciplined mind, then you need fear no one. It is upon the success of the efforts of all these bodies who are endeavoring to train the minds of the nation that the success of the country must ultimately depend. - Manchester Guardian.

What Did He Do With It? A Philadelphia clergyman was talking about the late Sam Small. "I once heard him speak," he said,

and his humor and eloquence impressed me deeply. "He had a happy knack of illustration. He wanted, I remember, to illustrate the frailty that is a part of even the best characters, and he told a story about a brave young soldier.

"This soldier, he said, enlisted in the Spanish-American War, and he fought like a lion for his country. The firm he had worked for, pleased with the record he was making for himself, told his wife that all the time he was away they would pay half his

wages to her. 'Accordingly, at the end of the first week the young woman called at the office, and the head of the firm handed her 39.

"She looked at the money, and her face clouded over. "'Nine dollars," she said.

"'Yes,' said the head, a little hurt; that is just half. I'm sorry you are not satisfied. 'It isn't that I'm not satisfied,' said the young woman, 'but all along he's been telling me his pay was only \$14 a week. Walt till he gets home!

French Tax on Titles.

If them Spaniards don't kill him, I

will." "-Washington Star.

It is proposed in France, where ingenuity in devising new sources of revenue has been raised to a fine art,

to impose a tax on titles of nobility. In a nation which has taxed windows and doors the proposal will not seem extraordinary. The odd thing is that the republic, which has de-clared such titles fictitious, should now recognize them as a means of national income. A point of interest for the outer world is that only genuine titles wil be taxed. Their legitimacy will thus be guaranteed by Government stamp, and fathers of heiresses contemplating an investment may pay down the purchase money with the same assurance of validity that safeguard real estate transactions.-New York World.

Biggest American Fing.

A tourist has been looking for the big flag which Mauch Chunk folk celebrated the Fourth of July with several years ago. "It was," he said, "the biggest American flag ever unfurled, its dimensions being fifty by 250 feet. A wire cable was stretched from the top of Flagstaff mountain to the top of Bear mountain, and the reat bit of bunting was awang about he centre, right over the middle of the valley. The air currents are tempestuous there in the evening, and whenever the sun went down the flag was ripped from its fastenings, -New York Press.

KISSING CUSTOMS.

At Hungerford, Newcastle-on-Tyne,

Maidenhead and Halmagen The charming country town of Hungerford, in Berkshire, has an annual kissing day each April, when it celebrates its Hocktide festival. Ti certain duly appointed officials hold court, collect the tithes and claim kiss from the woman of each house they have to visit during the cere-mony. The two fortunate officials thus appointed are known as "tutty or tithe men, and usually there is no small competition for the honor among the eligibles of Hungerford. The custom is hundreds of years old, and neither husband nor wife, as a rule, objects to the advent of the tutty men, with the inevitable result.

Once every five years the good town of Newcastle-on-Tyne has been in the habit of holding a festival known as "barge day," on which day the Mayor and corporation go down to the river in a fine State barge to claim the rights of the town to certain dues at an appointed spot. Then the procession returns up the river to a well known stone, where the Mayor selects any woman he likes from the large crowd generally there kisses her before the assembled company, and-let it be said softly-before the good Mayoress herself. His worship then gives the favored woman a sovereign as a present, while the Mayoress, to show that there is no ill feeling, adds a gift of her own, such as a sachel, purse or other appropriate article.

Not only is it the duty of the Mayor to do the kissing in this fashion, but the appointed sheriff, not willing to be left out in the cold on such occasions, also duly carries out a similar privilege. He chooses another lady, and after saluting her gravely, or otherwise, he also hands to her a useful present. This curious ceremony, which is supposed to take place quinquennially, was last performed, I believe, in the year 1901. But, of course, it always rests with the Mayor, for the time being, whether it shall be performed.

When the pretty Thames town of Maldenhead takes it into its head to have a "beating of the bounds," the steward appointed for that purpose in always accompanied by a large crowd of curious people. These help him. or think they do, when he has to climb over houses which stand in him path, or to get through windows under which the bounds pass. Also, when the party meets any man by chance during its progress, it proceeds gravely to "bump" that individual, but if the person met should be a lady, she is given the choice as to whether she will be "bumped" or kissed.

Nor is our own country the only one with such compulsory kissing ceremonies. Halmagen, in Austria. has an annual fair on St. Theodore's day, at which every man present has the right to claim one lady and to kiss her without her having any right to object. This strange custom is the outcome of a raid which was once made on the town by Turkish brigands, who carried off all the women as captives. But a band of men traveling in the district chanced to meet the captors and forced them to give up their victims, who were then kindly escorted to their homes and friends. In grateful remembrance of the day the maidens of Halmagen annually offer their lips modestly and freely to the strangers who frequent the town during the fair of St. Theodore. -London Answers

How to Attain Old Age. Seven pithy precepts for the attaining of old age were given recently by. General Booth, in explanation of his

surprising activity and vigor at the age of seventy-eight. He said: "Eat as little as possible. The average man eats too much. Instead of nourishing his body he overtaxes it. compelling his stomach to digest more food than it has capacity for.

"Drink plenty of water in preference to adulterated concoctions. Water is wholesome nourishment. Take exercise. It is just as foolish to develop the mind and not the body as it is to develop the body and not the mind. Perform some manual labor; dig, walk, chop wood, or, if you can talk with your whole body,

why, then talk; but do it with all your might. "Have a system, but do not be a slave of the system. If my hour to rise is 8 a. m. and at that time I haven't had sufficient rest, I take longer time.

"Do not fill your life with a lot of silly and sordid pleasures, so that when you come to die you will find you have not really lived. "Abstain from indulgences which

overtax the body, and injure not only yourself but the generations that come after you. "Have a purpose in life that predominates above all else, that is beneficent to those about you, and not to your own greedy self alone. there is one thing for which I am

giad it is that I have found a purpose

which involves not me alone, but all

humanity." Reclaiming Salt Meadow.

A tract of about 10,000 acres of salt meadow is being reciaimed near Bridgeport, Connecticut. This work is of special interest because land of this kind abounds in large acreage all along the Northeastern Atlantic Coast. At present it produces nothing but salt hay, which scarcely more than pays for the labor of harvesting. The large tract mentioned is being reclaimed by construction of dyker to keep out the sea water. After the salt water is shut off, the land begins to sweeten by natural process and the washing of rain. It is thoroughly plowed and dressed with lime to help counteract the sait and sourness. The engineer in charge of the work has reclaimed large tracts in the West and claims that the sait meadow near Bridgeport can be made to pro-duce big crops of English has and garden crops, such as colery and as-paragus.—American Cultivator.

plant fruit trees along the highwa In the province of Hanover there, a 1976 miles of such roads, along will here are 175,734 truit trees.