SIBERIAN CITIES.

Though Prospering They Nevertheless Seem Dull and Depressing.

Perhaps the most curious feature of all Siberian cities and villages is the quiet of them, says Anna N. Benjamin, in Ainslee's. The American finds it depressing. The places seem half dead, yet they are alive and thriving. Our conception of prosperity in new cities is so associated with the clang of the trolley, the smoke of the factory, the weird writhings of the steam siren, and the bustle of the population, that it is hard for us to realize that prosperity may exist in a place of dead calm.

Vladivistok, Khabarovsk, Blagovestchensk and Irkutsk all present the same features. Blagovestchensk, in the heart of eastern Siberia, on the junction of the Zeya river with the Amur, is, perhaps, the most interesting city. On the central square of the city, where the market is, face two large department stores which for size, beauty of architecture and variety of stock would do credit to any American city. The bank buildings, the museum, and other business and government houses, are of brick or stone. Good schools have been established, so that it is possible for a boy here, as well as in all Siberian cities, to receive a thorough education. In Vladivostok a training school for eastern diplomats turns out graduates accomplished in oriental languages to begin their careers as interpreters or secretaries of legations.

CARRIED GRANDMA'S PICTURE

Prince Henry of Prussia, Who Astonished the Captain of a Trading Ship.

Some time ago when Prince Henry of Prussia, who, as all know, is the grandson of Queen Victoria, was at Hong-Kong, the captain of a British trading steamer sailing out of that port was walking around the graving dock in which the prince's flagship was being brushed up, when he saw an officer standing near the gangway leading from the quay to the ship, and being curious to have a look over the vessel, he saluted with a "Good-morning, sir," and asked if he had any objection to his having a walk through the ship.

"Not at all," replied the officer, "I shall be delighted to escort you round."

After showing him over the different parts of the warship the officer took the captain into his cabin. He offered him a cigar and a glass of wine, and they had quite a friendly chat together. Before leaving the captain happened to glance round the cabin and saw a photo of Victoria. Said he to the officer:

"I notice you have a photograph of the queen of England."

"Yes," said the officer, "I always carry one of my grandmother's pictures with me."

[illegible] the captain's feelings were when [illegible]nd that he had been en camaraderie with the admiral, Prince Henry of Prussia, can be better imagined than described.

RAINED BATS AND HAWKS.

Bats Blew Aboard the Ship from the East, and the Hawks from the West.

The steamship Curityba, which arrived at New York the other day from Cuban ports, had a weird experience with winged things on her trip up the coast. When she was off Matanzas an off-shore gale, permeated with tropical moisture, piled the combers about her. On the blast came thousands of land birds and big bats. Mate Bregman says the bats literally covered the ship, roosting on all the rails. He says they appeared to be a "cross between a vampire and a squirrel." When the weather moderated and dawn came the bats were near enough to one of the Bahamas to venture leaving the ship.

A hundred or more miles off Florida the Curityba was visited by what the seventh mate, who is English, declares was a flock of "heagles." The eighth mate says he believes they were "howls," and the ninth mate positively asserts that they were "'awks." Whatever they may be called, Capt. Hoppe and his men captured two of them, which measure, according to the new ultramarine reporter who was sent out by the ship news experts to get the yarn, "about eight feet from tip to tip." There were altogether 30 eagles or hawks or owls in the flock.

BRITISH LIKE CHEAP PAPERS.

The Increasing Popularity of Half-Penny Sheets May Abolish Reading Rooms.

The revolution which the half-penny newspaper has wrought in this country was one of the questions raised at the Library association's meeting held in Bristol recently. Sir Edward Fry gave the presidential address and urged those who have the control of libraries to discourage the frivolous use of books and to stimulate serious effort in the pursuit of knowledge.

During a discussion on the subject of [illegible] in public libraries, which are at present regulated by act of parliament, it was urged that the time had come to liberate library authorities from the restrictions at present imposed upon them, says the London Mail. The half-penny newspaper topic [illegible] Mr. [illegible], who said that in [illegible] of [illegible] half-penny papers reading-rooms might very well be dispensed with in public libraries and their space utilized for lecture purposes. His experience showed that in many cases news rooms were the resort of men who went there with the object of reading nothing but betting intelligence.

COULD NOT BE PHOTOGRAPHED

Railroad Men at Philadelphia Protected Miss Helen Gould from the Camera Fiends.

When Miss Helen Gould visited the tenth annual convention of the railroad department of the Young Men's Christian association at Philadelphia some weeks ago the newspaper artists were bound to sketch her as she appeared at the reception. To this Miss Gould objected strenuously, but the artists were not routed until the railroad men threatened to demolish the photographers' expensive camera and tear up the artists' cardboards. A score of newspaper photographers and artists appeared at the Y. M. C. A. building early and were informed that they could not enter with their machines.

A dozen burly railroad men were appointed to smash all cameras found inside the building and tear up all artists' materials. The picture men then waited outside. When Miss Gould arrived with Mrs. Sage a flank movement was made and their carriage was driven around to a side entrance.

The men of pictures rushed to the side door, but upon arriving there found the women surrounded by over 50 tall men, who formed a bodyguard clear into the building, shutting the cameras out completely.

In the crush to close out the picture men Miss Gould and Mrs. Sage were almost crushed themselves. They seemed amazed at the excitement at first, but soon learned the cause and helped to deprive the picture men of snap shots.

HOME FOR SCHOOL-TEACHERS.

Switzerland Will Found a Place Where They Can Spend Their Vacations.

The Swiss educators are taking active measures looking toward the founding of a lehrerheim, or home for school-teachers during their holidays, upon the model of the admirable eisenbahner-heim, or home for railway workers, on the Grubisbalm, upon the slopes of the Rigi, midway between Vitznau and the Kaltbad, says a foreign correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle. The hotel on the Grubisbalm, which owes its initiative entirely to a committee of workers on the Swiss railways, has now been open for three or four years. Any railway man, or member of a railway man's family, may be excellently lodged and boarded there at a cost of three to three and one-half francs a day. The economical question is exhaustively treated in a little pamphlet circulating amongst the teachers in the Swiss common schools. If the railway workers can "help themselves" to so successful a cooperative hotel and pension, why cannot their educators do the same? asks Herr Walt, the writer of the pamphlet. The railway workers' home on the Rigi not only pays its expenses, but at the end of the last season showed a profit of 1,300 [illegible]ancs, which is expected to increase as it becomes more widely used. The German school-masters in Silesia have already provided themselves with a similar cooperative hotel and pension in the Schreiberhau.

ALL WANT TO BE HEROES.

Rivalry Among British Soldiers Upon the Veldt in South Africa.

A great rivalry exists among the private soldiers in South Africa for the honor of performing the most heroic deed of the campaign. The most dramatic feat of the war, perhaps, was the hoisting of the union jack over Pretoria, and it is interesting to note that this was done by a man who is often described as the richest man in England—the duke of Westminster. It is the first notable thing the young duke has done since his accession, and he well deserved his reward—a cigar handed to him by Lord Roberts on behalf of a lover of the weed at home. The flag at Bloemfontein was hoisted by Viscount Acheson, son of Lord Gosport, though the honor has been claimed for Lord Herbert Scott. The first man to enter Mafeking on its relief was "Karri" Davies, who received £50 from a Liverpool merchant as his reward. It is pleasing to know that Davies is an Australian, as was the first man to enter Bloemfontein, Mr. Donohoe, a correspondent. The first colonial V. C. was Trooper Morris. So far nobody has succeeded in winning the £25 offered in Melbourne to the man who would first lay his hands on President Kruger.

NEW ARMORED TRAINS.

Are Designed to Traverse a Country Where There Are No Railroads.

Two new armored trains, intended for use in a country where there are no rails or permanent ways, have lately been placed upon the establishment at Aldershot. Each consists of a locomotive or traction engine, and four trucks, all of which are painted the now familiar but ever unlovely khaki. The locomotives, which are of exceedingly powerful construction, are completely cased with steel, the vital parts being especially protected. An ingenious arrangement of prisms and mirrors, somewhat after the manner of the camera obscura, enables the driver inside the cab of the engine to see without being seen or in any way exposing himself. The trucks are built with high sloping sides, which are pierced and [illegible] to enable the occupants to fire through them. They are also provided with sides at either end to permit of guns and wagons being run into the trucks. The steel sides of the carriages are so constructed that when necessary they may fall inward and lie flat on the platform of the truck, which can then be used for ordinary transport purposes.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for November 18, 1900—The Ten Lepers Cleansed.

[Prepared by H. C. Lenington.]

THE LESSON TEXT.

(Luke 17:11-19.)

11. And it came to pass, as He went to Jerusalem, that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.
12. And as He entered into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:
13. And they lifted up their voices, and said: Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.
14. And when He saw them, He said unto them: Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.
15. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,
16. And he fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks; and he was a Samaritan.
17. And Jesus answering said: Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?
18. There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.
19. And He said unto him: Arise, go thy way; thy faith made thee whole.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be ye thankful.—Col. 3:15.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We have come to March, A. D. 30, a time shortly before the crucifixion. Jesus and His disciples are on the border line between Samaria and Galilee, on the way from Ephraim across the Jordan, and down through Perea to Bethany. The events intervening between this lesson and the last are two: (1) Jesus raises Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha. (2) He retires to Ephraim, in northern Judea, till near the time for the feast of the Passover. It is somewhere on this journey that Jesus meets the ten lepers.

LESSON ANALYSIS.

The Ten Lepers.....vs. 11-13.
The Lepers Healed.....vs. 14.
A Lesson on Gratitude.....vs. 15-18.
A Lesson on Faith.....vs. 19.

The Ten Lepers.—The prominence in the Gospel given to the healing of leprosy is probably due to two facts: (1) The disease was, and is to this day, invariably (in so far as concerns physical science) fatal and incurable. (2) Leprosy is a type of sin and its effects. Like sin, it is unclean and defiling. It is contagious. Like sin, it is destructive. William M. Thompson says of the results of leprosy that "the hair falls from the head and eyebrows; the nails loosen, decay and drop off; joint after joint of the fingers and toes shrink up and slowly fall away; the gums are absorbed, and the teeth disappear; the nose, the eyes, the tongue and the palate are slowly consumed." Like sin, it is often latent, its presence not being known to others by any physical appearance. It is said that modern medical treatment removes for a long time the external signs of the disease. The cure of these lepers has a moral significance. Science has not been able to cure leprosy; science cannot help the man who is burdened, diseased, with sin.

The Lepers Healed.—They stood "afar off," because the law protected the untainted. But they had heard of Jesus, and cried to him: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" There is no word save that of love which is so full of meaning as that word "mercy," and it implies love of the most boundless character. One of the beatitudes is for the merciful. It is a Divine quality. Happy is he who emulates the Master by showing mercy. In answer to the prayer of the lepers Jesus said: "Go show yourselves to the priests." This assumed that they were healed. When a leper was cured he showed himself to the priest and so restored to his former status as a member of society. It implied a certain amount of faith on their part that they started. On the way they were cleansed.

A Lesson on Gratitude.—From the fact that we are told special emphasis is given (verse 16) to the fact that the one who returned was a Samaritan we may fairly imply that the other nine were Jews. The lesson on this account was all the more striking. The Samaritans hated the Jews. A Jew might have been expected to return to thank Jesus, Himself a Jew, but it remained alone for the Samaritan to come back to own his gratitude to a Jew for his healing. The Jews, we may take for granted, saw little connection between the word of Jesus and the fact that they were healed. The lesson for such as they is this, that even though one gives thanks unto God for what cannot be done without the Divine agency, yet should he be grateful for the kindly wish and word of fellow man. The Samaritan had probably cultivated the grace of gratitude, and assuming no more, yet are we in debt to him for a lesson we all need to learn.

A Lesson on Faith.—Yet there was more than gratitude in the heart of the Samaritan, for Jesus commends also his faith. Without faith he could not have been healed.

Stimulus of Opposition.

Who that pleads for the King would not rather face opposition than heartless acquiescence? Missionaries write that the Muhammedans in Persia have a way of assenting readily to all they say. Here is difficulty almost to hopelessness. Ezekiel knew it: "And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear thy words, but they do them not." Bitterness is better than shrewishness, and cold than lukewarmness; and contradictions are worth more to honest people and their cause than empty compliments.—S. S. Times.

Figs and Thistles.

Our dominant duties determine our destiny.

Every sin becomes a tiger on our track.

What a [illegible] very big people consider.

God's place for a Christian is where he is needed the most.

God is not in the religion that is not using both hands to lift up men.

The raven who failed to return to the ark is a picture of many Christians who, being saved, never look back to say so.—Ram's Horn.

Found Her Anyway.

Mrs. Borem—You weren't in when I called the other day. I wrote to you that I would call. Didn't you get the letter?

Mrs. Tewkute—Why, no. Isn't that too bad! Are you sure you sent it to the right address?

Mrs. Borem—Oh, yes. I addressed it to 699 North Sixteenth street.

Mrs. Tewkute—No, you didn't. You wrote it "Fifteenth street."—Philadelphia Press.

Leading Up.

"Before I make any business proposition to you, would you mind telling me just what your financial condition is?"

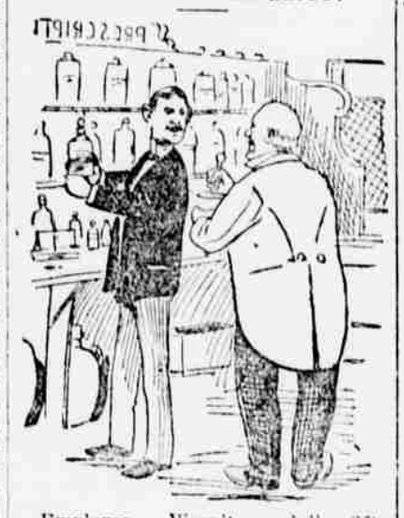
"My business has been established for 25 years; my yearly profits are constantly increasing; I am known everywhere, and have unlimited credit, and have besides private property worth half a million."

"Very good. May I ask for the hand of your daughter?"—N. Y. World.

The Charitable Egotist.

He was not built upon a perfect plan,
Yet never spoke he ill of any man,
And that is something in these days, although
He only talked about himself, you know.
—Chicago Record.

KEEPING UP THE BLUFF.



Employer — Wasn't a dollar-fifty rather a stiff price for that prescription?

Clerk—Yes; but I forgot and let the customer wait nearly an hour!—N. Y. Journal.

Extemporaneous Remarks.

'Tis now the hustling candidate
For ink and paper reaches;
And with deep study he prepares
His bright, "impromptu" speeches.
—Baltimore American.

Merely a Suggestion.

"Good night, dearest," he murmured, as he prepared to go forth into the darkness as the cuckoo clock chirped 12:15.

"Better stick to facts and make it good morning, young man," said a gruff voice from the top of the stairs.—Chicago Daily News.

The Fuel.

"[illegible] you burned a great deal of [illegible]night oil before you became eminent as a statesman," said the friend.

"No, sir," answered Senator Sorghum. "I burned money."—Washington Star.

The Cheerful Idiot.

"I am going to win my suit against the railroad company," said the young lawyer boarder. "It hasn't a leg to stand on."

"Then, indeed, it must be a soleless corporation," said the Cheerful Idiot.—Indianapolis Press.

An Infant Industry.

De Writer—What are you doing now?"

Scribbler—Writing $10,000 prize stories for the Great North American Literary Syndicate.

"What do they pay you?"

"Ten dollars a week."—N. Y. Weekly.

His Only Chance.

"Well," said the poet, "I never can be spoiled by praise, any way."

"No," the critic admitted, "not unless your stuff improves wonderfully in the future."—Chicago Times-Herald.

He Made a Sale.

"I don't quite like the shape of these shoes."

"They conform precisely to the shape of your foot, madam, and nothing could be more beautiful than that."—Tit-Bits.

Her Revengeful Nature.

"I wish I had a voice like yours," said her rival, flatteringly.

"Do you really?" said the singer.

"Yes, indeed, I do; I know some people I'd sing to every chance I had."—Chicago Post.

A Cheap Extrication.

"How did you finally get rid of that man who wanted you to become a millionaire by letting him put you in on the ground floor of a mining scheme?"

"Oh, I gave him 25 cents to buy his lunch."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Used to Heavy Burdens.

"I want to hire half a dozen men who are used to bearing heavy burdens. Do you know of any such?"

"Not especially; but you'll find lots of married men looking for a job."—Harper's Bazar.

A Conjecture.

She—If a man has been married twice what will happen if he should meet both wives in Heaven?

He—Perhaps he'll wish he was somewhere else.—Puck.

Just Ex[illegible]

[illegible]—How old is Ind[illegible]

[illegible]—Seventeen.

He—Ah, at the age of indiscretion.—Somerville Journal.

Alack! Alas!

Of all the bores detestable,
There's none disliked so well,
As the one who does anticipate
The joke you start to tell.
—Chicago Daily News.