COST OF ROYAL YACHTS.

ENORMOUS SUMS LAID OUT FOR THEM IN THE OLD WORLD.

Examples in Recent Russian Boats-Five Million Dollars Expended for Two Yachts. One of Which Was Never Used-England's Outlays and a Protest Against Them.

Admitting the importance in a country which has a monarchical form of governwhich has a monarchical form of govern-ment that the splendor and dignity of the sovereign should be maintained. The London Daily News remarks that "there are extravagant as well as reasonable methods of maintaining all the splendor and dignity that may be desirable, and few people who give themselves the trouble of inquiring into the subject will be found to dony that an enormous be found to deny that an enormous amount of money has been needlessly wasted in connection with royal yachts. Great Britain is far from being the

Great Britain is far from being the only country in which such wasteful ex-penditure has occurred and is occurring. Russia is a great transgressor in this re-spect. The late czar already possessed half a dozen capital yachts when he gave orders for the building of the notorious Livadia. She was to be the largest and most magnificant as well as the poet most magnificent as well as the most original yacht in the world. Unlike all other vessels of the kind, she was to be constructed with a beam equal to two-thirds of her length, so that she might not roll, and the imperial family might be spared the horrors of seasickness. She was to be supplied with three screws so that she might be handy as well as fast. And upon her spacious deck was was to be built a veritable palace. The plans were carried out, and the Livadia was launched at Govan in 1880.

EXTRAVAGANT CZARS.

14

EXTRAVAGANT CZARS. Probably no one knows what she cost, but it is certain that from first to last considerably more than £500,000 was expended on her. Yet her imperial own-er would have nothing to say to her. As a yacht she was a colossal failure, and today she is only useful as a kind of float-ing hormedie in the Block see. The used ing barracks in the Black sea. The pres-ent czar is, nevertheless, expending a further £500,000 over a new vessel, which is to be called the Polarnaia Zvezda, and which, should she be a success, will have all the magnificence, near ly all the size and more than the speed and handiness of the discredited Noah's ark in which his majesty once hoped to take his pleasure.

The czar's extravagance does not in-The czar's extravagance does not in-jure us. Neither does the yachting ex-travagance of the young German emper-or, who, although he possesses in the Hohenzollern one of the prettiest and most comfortable craft of the kind afloat, has just applied to his faithful subjects for a grant of momor accurd to 2025 00 for a grant of money equal to £225,000 in order that he may build himself a new These examples are interesting British taxpayer only because to the they illustrate what appears to be a very general tendency on the part of the Eu-ropean royalties. It is not until the taxpayer comes to consider the royal yacht question as it affects him personally that he experiences any very discomforting

Her majesty at present enjoys the use of four yachts and tenders. The yachts are the Victoria and Albert and the Osborne and the tenders, which for all prac tical purposes are yachts also, and the Alberta and the Elfin. The oldest of the four is the little yacht Elfin, which was built at Chatham in 1849, and which is of only ninty-three tons displacement. She originally $\cos \pounds 6,168$, or about $\pounds 66$ 78. a ton. The Enchantress, the present admiralty yacht, is a beautifully fitted craft of 1,000 tons displacement, yet her original cost was rather less than £47 a ton. It is clear, therefore, that, at the gain. She has now been in existence forty years, and, during that period, without reckoning the wages of the crew and the price of her consumable stores, she has cost an additional sum of over £40.has cost an additional sum of over $\frac{240}{6}$, 000, or, on the average, more than $\pounds 1,000$ a year, her total cost up to date being about $\pounds 47,000$. It is as if an ordinary citizen had bought a house for $\pounds 6,000$ forty years ago and had since spent $\pounds 1,$ 000, not in adding to it, but simply keep-ing it in repair. The little Elfan at this normer hea cost the country cost $\pounds 500$ ing it in repair. The little Elfin at this moment has cost the country over £500 for every ton of her displacemen COMPARING ENGLISH VESSELS

Next of the four in point of age is the Victoria and Albert, the largest of the royal yachts. She is of 2,470 tons dis-placement and was built at Pembroke in 1865. Her original cost, inclusive of in-

more than £200 on a total tonnage of 4,683, and the average age of the four

vessels is about 29 years. That a great part of this large sum of £960,000 has been wasted becomes tolera-bly apparent when we examine into the relative cost of other ships. The Incon-stant is a large iron and wood steam frigate launched in 1868, and is there-fore 21 years old. Her displacement fore 21 years old. Her displacement exceeds that of all the royal yachts

put together by more than a thousand tons. A man-of-war is not, of course, decorated and furnished as a royal vacht On the other hand, she has much re wear and tear and contains expensive guns and machinery such as find no place in a vacht. The original cost of the Inconstant, including incidentals, was just over £253,000, or under £50 a ton. There has since been expended on ton. her a little over £172,000, or say £456,000 in all. This represents less than £79 a ton, or very little more than one-third of the cost per ton of the four royal

The oldest of our ironclads, the Black Prince, to take another case, was launched in 1861, and is therefore of approximately the same age as the average royal yacht. She is of 9,210 tons displacement—about twice that of all the royal yachts—and she has cost up to date £740,000 in round numbers, or very little word the ers, or very little more than £80 a Yet in her twenty-eight years' ex tence she has seen a great amount of service, and when we contrast her cost per ton with that of the Elfin—£80 with £500—with that of the Victoria and Albert-£80 to £125-or with that of the Dsborne--£30 with £153--it becomes very evident either that she is very cheap or that the yachts are terribly expensive The latter is, no doubt, the fact and the main reason of it is not far to seek.

Did the Dog Reason?

Billy Lynch tells a story about a dog he used to own in Chicago, which goes far toward proving that a brute can reason. He had a fine St. Bernard which was a good retriever, and on Sundays would take him about half a block from his house on Indiana avenue and let him carry the papers home he purchased from the newsboy. One morning it was ruin-ing, and Billy said he spoke to the dog just as he would to a child, and told him that he didn't care about walking over to the corner, so he might as well take the nickel and go and get the paper. He wrapped a nickel up in a piece of paper and gave it to the dog, which immediwent to the corner and waited for ately boy. Billy watched him and saw that he got the paper all right, and was so pleased that the next Sunday he re-

day did the same thing. The following Sunday he overslept inself and was awakened by a scratch-ing at his window. Getting up he saw that his dog had come out of the back ward into a little passageway between his bedroom and a neighboring house and was endeavoring to wake him up. Knowing it was Sunday, he gave the dog a nickel and told him to go and get the paper, which he did. Billy was navele next Sunday, het concluded to paper, which he did. Billy was ke next Sunday, but concluded to see what his dog would do, and, sure enough, it came around to the window and scratched. The next Sunday and the next were tried, and the dog was always on time. Now, whether the dog knew when Sunday came or was aware of the fact by the newsboys being more vociferous on these days is not known but he was thoroughly tested and would not come to the window except Sun-days. Billy thinks that the dog reasoned; that it would be a hard task for any one to say that he didn't.—Helena (Mont.)

Transplanting Evergreens

During the month of August I wit-tessed the transplanting of several hun-red Austrian and Scotch pines, writes oseph Meehan in Garden and Forest. The result was the loss of nearly the whole lot, and it was such a surprise to me that I think the facts in regard to it worth recording. The weather was all that could be wished for, being warm and moist, and the soil was in the same condition. The pines had been growing close together in rows and were from four to five feet high. As they were not as bushy as could be wished, we thought best to prune them in well, and after the transplanting a man was sent with shears to clip them closely. This he did, cutting off all the latest growth, taking from six to ten inches from the branches Out of 300 plants all were so trimmed except some half dozen, which were pur-

HON. SAMUEL J. RANDALL.

INTERESTING INFORMATION REGARD ING "THE GREAT COMMONER."

His Long Record as a Worker in Congress An Incident of His Canvass for the Speakership-His Love of Domestic Life-A Story of Mrs. Randall.

Since July of 1888 the seat of Philadelphia's popular congressman, who has been called the "Great Commoner," has been vacant on account of the serious illness of the incumbent. Mr. Randall was regularly in his seat for twenty-five years, or from the time of his first election in 1862 until his sudden illness in midsummer, 1888. The history of the ailments which have unfitted him for congressional duties is intimately con-nected with his indefatigable labors as nected with his indefatigable labors as a public man. Mr. Randall was made speaker of the house in 1873-77, at the time of the disputed election case be-tween Hayes and Tilden, and he con-tinued in that position five years, or until 1881, when the opposition had the majority. In the speaker's chair he sained national provinence as a party ained national prominence as a party eader, and after leaving it he retained is position as a party leader. With his reputation as a worker, public life could not be a sinecure, and he devoted all his ergies to official work.

energies to official work. During the congressional recess of 1884– 55 Mr. Randall made a southern trip, stopping at Louisville and Nashville, and exploring the new fron developments in northern Alabama. Throughout his ca-reer in congress his status was that of a graving must and he held positions on growing man, and he held positions on every important committee, and when-ever his party was in power was honored with a chairmanship. For months before his health crisis in

88 Mr. Randall's physicians advised him of the dangers of overwork, and

wanted him to take a long rest. The session was a try-ing one, extending into midsummer, and he promised to take 30 long vacation (15 ANT: after the adjourn ment. Several times during the session he suffered with hem orrhages, and his work was at

length brought to a standstill by a SAMUEL J. RANDALL. severe attack on the night of July 10. For several weeks following this his case was very critical, and was further imperiled on election day by his exposure in going to the polls

to cast his vote for Cleveland. Mr. Randall's political work will best be remembered by his position on the tariff. He was the leader of the conservative element of his party on this issue, and about two months before he was stricken down in 1888 made his great speech on that question and one that marks his tariff record. Mr. Randall, as speaker of the house,

uled with a heavy hand. An incident of his canvass for the speakership shows the character of the man, a character that distinguished all his public career. A railway magnate said to him: "Mr. Randall, you want to be speaker. It is n my power to elect whom I please, and you know it. Allow me to name a majority of the Pacific railroad com mittee and you shall be the man, you do it?" Will

"Is that your last word?"

"Then you will not be speaker,"

But he was, all the same. Mr. Randall began public life at an early age. He was born in Philadelphia in 1828 and received academic and mercantile training. He was at the conven-tion that nominated Buchanan, and was a city councilman four terms and aftervard state senator. As a member of the amous Philadelphia "City Troop" he volunteered for a campaign in 1861, and vas elected to the Thirty-eighth congress, taking his seat in 1863. From that time forward he represented the only Demo-cratic district in Philadelphia: one, too, hat gave Republican presidential candidates a majority.

The principal workshop of the ex-peaker was at his home on C street, Washington. His offices were filled with locuments and papers, with but few pools. His clerical work was done large-y by his own hands.

He was not a social man and had few

His Lovish looking sonal appearance. smoothly shaven, was long con-ous on Capitol Hill. His dress was would be called old style. That is, face. si what would be called ald style. That is, he did not change with the fashions, but wore the same cut of garment in 1888 that he did in 1863—a cutaway coat, baggy trousers, low vest, broad shoes and a remarkable full crowned hat. He was a good walker, and when in Wash-ington covered the four squares inter-vening between the Canital and bis hom? rening between the Capitol and his how in a remarkably short time. This was blo-custom regularly, when not troubled with the gout, of which his dining out occasionally gave him a touch. Then he spun rapidly over the car tracks in a coupe. His carriage was well known among the capital vehicles. When he influence was at its height the wags used to say, on seeing the famous carriage and the door of any of the departments of government:

"There goes another Philadelphia mas nto

Notwithstanding his long and active career, Mr. Randall did not acquire # fortune. His home, like all his sum roundings, is plain to simplicity.

THE EISTEDDFOD.

iomething About the Welsh Musical Festival in Chicage

The Welsh "Elsteddfod" held in Cen-tral Music hall, Chicago, Jan. 1 and 2, was one of many recent revivals on American soil of an ancient institution of Wales, the musical and literary congress. The only one held in Chicago previous to this one was in 1881. Since that time Chicago Welshmen have competed in the exercises at Racine, Wis., where the ongresses are held almost annually. They are also held at Utica, N. Y., and t Pittsburg. The original "eisteddfod" The at Pittsburg. was the national bardic congress of Wales. The object of the American congresses is to revive old memories, renew social ties, and show recent progress in national literature and music



POWELL. JONES.

At Chicago competition for prizes was open to the world, and several produc-tions came from the mother country. The competitions were for soloists, choirs The competitions were for soloists, choirs and bands. The prize for the main choral contest was \$500. The concert programmes were conducted principally by W. E. Powell, W. Ap Madoc and Professor J. P. Jones. Professor Jones, whose production, "Unto Thee, O God," was in competition, has been the con-ductor of the Welsh Musical Union of Wisconia for theory for wars. He Wisconsin for twenty-five years, won'the principal prizes at Racine He

Among the choirs represented at the Among the choirs represented at the Chicago "esisteddfod" were the Western Avenue Choral union, the Scottish chorus, of Chicago; the Root River chorus, of Racine; the Gomer Male chorus, the Mahaska Glee club from Oskaloosa, Ia., and a chorus from Youngs-town. O. The Pullman military hand town, O. The Pullman military band, the South Chicago and the Milwaukee bands played in the band contest. In the chor.1 contest no chorus having less than ity voices was allowed to sing.

A Milky Way.

I learned the other day that the big milk supply companies of the city found it necessary to exercise a surveillance over their drivers, but it has been already reduced to an elaborate system. An experienced and dishonest driver can start out with fifty gallons of milk in spected pure at the depot, and from the supply deliver sixty-five gallons, the fifteen gallons accruing to his own profit, and being secured by judicious watering and being secured by judicious watering at various points on the route. Before the discovery of this practice some of the drivers had a regular run of customers of whom their employers knew nothing. The companies' inspectors now go about the city at random, and, following a delivery of milk, as soon as the driver is gone subject it to an inspection with the lactometer. If it has been watered that

driver is discharged, and, by an agree-ment with the other dairy companies, he cannot enter the employ of any of them. —Interview in St. Louis Globe-Demo-

THE LOST SONG

I plucked a wild flower from the river's brim, And drank awhile its faint but fragrant breath And wrathe awhere the howave a-swim, "hen cast it forth upon the wave a-swim, And watched it, as I fancied, drift to death. "Tis lost," I said, but far adown the tide A tempted maiden saw its dainty hue: he snatched it kneeling at the water side, And vowed: "I will be pure, sweet flower, like And I. I never knew

And I, I never knew I plucked a song from out my heart one day, And tossed it on the noisy stream of rhyme. Sadly I watched it slowly font away "Mongst thiatles, weeds and sprigs of fragman thyme. "This lost," I said, "this lost forever more," Although within my heart of hearts it grew And yet, far down the reedy shore It taught one soni its lesson sweet and true. - And I, I never knew -George Horton.

Superstitions 100 Years Age

There is a vague notion abroad in the minds of our people and in our literature that witchcraft follies in New England came to an abrupt close in the Seven-teenth century. Such, however, is not the case. The successor of the two Mathhe case. The Eighteenth century did not hesitate to preach from the pulpit their unwavering belief in "the work of the levil. Thus the Rev. Ebenezer Turell. graduate of Harvard, left at his death f witchcraft. Speaking of divination, he says: "Turn not the sieve, etc., to know futurities. * * * You only gratify Satan and invite him into your company to deceive you." Specially in-teresting is his notice of superstitious practices current in New England. He says:

"The horseshoe is a vain thing and has no natural tendency to keep off witches or evil spirits from the houses or the vessels they are nailed to. If Satan should by such means defend you from lesser dangers, 'tis to make way for greater ones and get fuller possession of your hearts! 'Tis an evil thing to hang witch papers on the neck for the cure of agues, to bind up the weapon instead of the wound, and many things of the like nature which some in the world are

What a clear insight into superstitious usages which some of our forefathers were fond of. How natural the minis-ter's advice sounds.—The Open Court.

A Duel of Politeness

Old Judge Fernald, of Santa Barbara, has the reputation of being the politest man in California. He never loses an opportunity to doff his hat or to offer some slight attention to way faring men and women. One day, as he was about to take the train for San Francisco, he reached the rear steps of the last car just as they were approached by a young "After the cloth," said the chivalric

judge, stepping back with a courtly bow, "Gray hairs have the preference," returned the priest, with a splendid wave of the hand.

of the hand. "The church always has precedence," retorted the judge, taking another back-ward step, hat in hand. "The church follows in the footsteps of the fathers," replied the priest, bow-ing low and indicating the way to the store

The duel of politeness was not half The duel of politeness was not half through, neither yielding an inch, when the train pulled out, leaving both low-ing and smiling on the platform.—San Francisco Examiner.

Tattooed Algerians In Algeria every girl born of native parents is tattooed on her forehead be-tween the eyebrows and just at the root of the nose with a cross formed of several straight lines of small stars running close together. These tattoo marks are a dark blue color. Algerian women are also considerably tattooed on the backs of their hands, their forearms and chests. as well as on their shoulders, their wrists being especially adorned with drawings representing bracelets and flowers strung ogether. As a rule, women are the op rators, and it is principally on children etween the ages of 7 and 8 that they ave to exercise their art. They use ometimes a needle, but more frequently a Barbary fig tree thorn. They employ which is a coloring substance. It is a kind of fine powder made from sulphur of antimony, which is also in great re-quest by the Algerian women for the se of face painting .- Chicago Her-

Shooting Canvasback

"The only proper way to kill canvas-back ducks is to shoot them on the wing as they fly over you. If you are a mult and these lets of sport and will not hurt the ducks. You will blaze away at them as they fly toward you, which is precisely what I, as a lover of the species, ing together neare way only a rare necklent will enable you to do any harm to the beautiful crea-tures. They wear a breastplate of feath-ers which is practically impervious to shot. If you are a sportsmun you will let them fly ever, and shoot them as they rre very swift of wing renders it diffi-cult to kill there on the wing at all, and

OREGON'S WHITE WOLF.

DESCRIPTION OF A BATTLE BETWEEN WOLVES AND ELKS.

everal Ranchers of Southern Oregon Start Out on a Hunt After the Marauders of Their Sheep Flocks and Meet With an Exciting Adventure.

The owners of the large sheep ranches in the vicinity of Linkville, Ore., have been so much annoyed by the depreda-tions committed by the white wolf in their herds that a grand hunt for these daring marauders was organized. The white wolf of southern Oregon is the fercest animal—not even excepting the bear—to be found in the country, and is a formidable looking beast, often attaining five feet in length and nearly as large as a yearling calf. His strength and ferocity are remarkable, and his courage indaunted.

Knowing him to be a rather tough cus Knowing him to be a rather tough cus-tomer to tackle at close quarters, the hunting party, which consisted of half a dozen of the neighboring stock owners and a correspondent of The Independent, went thoroughly armed against him with bunting knives, revolvers and rifles. The cunning of the animal in evading pursuit is incredible, and after chasing a couple all night we found ourselves no nearer than before, so just at daybreak a halt han before, so just at daybreak a halt vas decided upon and breakfast was aten under an immense pine growing in narrow glen between two rocky crags bout a quarter of a mile or a little mor in length and through which a little shal-low stream trickled over a pebbly bottom. We kept as quiet as possible, for the tracks of different animals in the sandy

banks of the stream showed that it was a frequent resort of wild beasts, and sure enough before the meal was finished we felt the ground begin to tremble under the tread of an approaching band of some large animals. Quick as thought we had dispersed and taken up stations about two hundred yards apart in the underbrush, which was dense enough to onceal us completely, and yet admit o

We had scarcely time to freely breather before the lower growth of trees closing the entrance of the little vale parted and the form of a huge elk appeared, advanc-ing proudly toward the stream we had just left. A nobler looking creature than the elk found on the Pacific coast, with his stately antlers, such as the hunters of the eastern states have no conception of, and his dainty tread and sensitive nostrils, cannot well be im-agined. The fine fellow I have spoken of advanced cautiously, sniffing the air with the excitement of suspicion, but he had already passed our most distant out-post, so, apparently thinking return equally hazardous, he brushed forward and was followed the next moment by herd—one, two, six, ten—it was impossible to count them.

But before our rifles could be brought to the shoulder a new actor appeared on the scene. A white wolf, quite six feet in length, and the largest the writer of this article ever saw, came howling from the belt of small timber already spoken of, howling frightfully, and sprang on a fawn drinking near its mother, which screamed loudly as the wolf bore it to the ground. This seemed to be the sig-nal for the rest of the band to appear, and they came yelping down the glen in pairs and threes, their bloodshot eyes and gaping mouths, with smoking, loll-ing tongues, proclaiming that they were hungry. Inspired by the same feeling of curiosity to see what would come of the wolves during the attack every man forbore to interfere and quietly watched the combat that ensued.

For the elks, which had at first scarce-ly seemed to comprehend the intentions of the wolves, soon collected themselves, and, tossing their great heads, began to paw the earth with their fore feet, mak-ing the air resound with their wild and furious bellowing. They formed a circle about the wolves that had crowded around the body of the prossate fawn and presented to them a form, part of bristling heads. This c rowed and narrowed until it c inclosed the wolves, that now le ramele nar gan to realize their danger, for they prey, plunging forward at a with slaught was received on the lowered ant-lers, that in turn struck at them and sent them howling back for a few moments, but only to return again to the attempt The first f This performance was

cidental dockvard charges, was £176 890 or over £71 a ton. She, too, was expen-sive at the outset. In the thirty-four years which have since elapsed-setting side as before the wages of her creand the price of her consumable storesshe has cost, including incidentals, an additional sum of more than £387,000 additional sum of more than £387,000, or on the average nearly £12,000 a year —her total cost up to date being, rough-ly speaking, £565,000. As she lies in Portsmouth harbor today she has cost the counter about 6025 for accounting of the country about £225 for every ton of her displacement. Third in seniority is the Alberta, which was built in 1863 at Pembroke, and which is of 370 tons dis-We regret that we have not placement. succeeded in finding out the exact cost of this vessel. We are informed cost of this vessel. W that, it is about £70,000.

We believe it to be more: but, accepting the estimate, we pass on to the fourth and newest of the royal yachts, the Osborne. She was built at Pem-broke in 1870 and is of 1,850 tons displacement. Including incidental charges, her original cost was close upon £134,-000, or about £72 Ss. a ton. In the nineof about 212 Ss. a ton. In the mile-n years that have since expired she cost. including incidentals, but excln d price of perishable ste of placement, or some £255,000 in al the expenditure that has been incurred on the fabric and furniture of

the four royal yachts is not less than 2960,000. We have good grounds for supposing that it is very considerably over £1.000,000. over £1,000,000. The average expendi-ture per ton of displacement has been

left unpruned to see which would o the better. At that time I confident-y expected that the pruned trees would how the benefit of the work. However, they soon began to turn brown, and in the end every one died, while every one of the few left unpruned are alive today. As soon as it was observed how th matter was going to end another row was set out, unpruned, and all the plant in it are thriving today. No doubt the severe pruning was the cause of this failure. All the younger or active foli-age had been cut away, leaving only that which was past its usefulness and which was about ready to drop off. The tre were, in fact, in just the same condition The tree that a deciduous tree would have been if stripped of all its leaves in the middle of summer. It was a costly but a valuable lesson, and one worth putting on record

as a warning to others

But He Will Be Confined.

A New Brunswick man has been found guilty of murder while insane, but the Canadians work turn him loose to kill somebody else. He will be shut up just as tightly as if his head was level, and given the remainder of his life to "think it over" and get ready to die. Our cli-mate is different, you know.—Detroit Erea Press Free Press.

Scuttling a Ship.

Inquiring Eoy-Pa, what do sailors mean by scuttling a ship? Pa (worried over family expenses)-They mean, my son, that they put a big hole in it like the one which Bridget's scuttle has made in that last ton of coal. New York Wackly.

intimates. He dined out occasionally, but rarely attended theatre or church He was sometimes seen out pleasure rid ing, but his principal recreation was his vork and his family circle.

Mrs. Randall is the daughter of the late Gen. Aaron Ward, of New York ity. An incident of Randall's southern rip of 1884-85 is often recalled by his Kentucky friends as illustrating the influence of Mrs. Randall in the sphere of her husband's public life. It occurred at Winchester, Ky., when, although it was Sunday, two or three thousand people had gathered at the depot to meet the train. A brass band was present, and amidst great cheering and drumming Mr. Randall appeared on the rear of the car and made a speech. Soon the crowd began to call for Mrs. Randall, and the

begin to can for Mrs. Rahdall, and the belighted congressman, pleased with all his display of Kentucky enthusiasm, astened into the car where she sat. "Come, mother," he said, "just show vourself at the car door. People are calling for you. They want to see your face. Just step to the door and bow to hem."

"Do you know, Sam," she replied-"do you know that this is Sunday, and that it is a wicked and outrageous thing those people are doing? You ought to be ashamed of yourself. I shall not go

Very greatly taken aback, Mr. Randall

Very greatly taken aback, ar. Randah returned and faced the crowd again. "Fellow citizens," he said, "Mrs. Ran-dall desires me to express her thanks to you for your flattering kindness in wish-ing to see her, and to say that she is too ill to appear." Mr. Randall is a man of striking per-

History of the Rat.

History of the lat. No, not the slang phrase, but the bothersome little rodent. Rats are na-tives of Asia and their raids westward belong to comparatively modern times. The little animal was unknown in an-cient Europe. The black rat first came to Europe from Asia in the Sixteenth century, and about the beginning of the Seventeenth or the ending of the Six-teenth century he arrived in America. This black rat was the common house teenth century he arrived in America. This black rat was the common house rat until the brown or gray rat made his appearance in 1775. The gray rat came to Europe from India by way of Russia, and is now known as the Norway rat from a mistaken tradition that it came from Norway to England, and from the latter country to America.—St. Louis Republic.

Mrs. Habson's Choice. Mrs. Habson—I wish I had something to read. Did you get only one Sunday paper? Mr. Hobson-Yes, my dear, but it is in Mr. Probable two parts. "Well, let me have one while you are reading the other." "Certainly, love. Which half would you prefer, the political half or the base-likit half?"--New York Weekly.

Ton Carnot He Too Specific. A gentleman walked into a restaurant yesterday and ordered "a dozen fried." The waiter took the order, but returned in a few moments with the query: "Do you want eggs or oysters, sh?" This so pleased Chief of Police Mitchell that he gave his walle a bath in vinegar instead of maple syrup.—Seattle (Wash.) Press.

nything in motion on the ything in motion of the does not understand, no prudence will restrain ing at once towardsit, I danger, and the duck twantage of this by train-yrun about in a frisky, in front of the 'blinds'

had killed the last one of the wolves-they withdraw so that we could see the torn and, bleeding bodies of the wolves that lay scattered about the dead fawn. The deer began now to betray their old unensiness at our hidden presence, and we, judging it was time to have some sport in our own behalf, sont a volley of sport in our own behalf, sent a volley of shot into them. Three of the beautiful, stately creatures fell plunging to the ground in the death agony.--Helena (Mont.) Enterprise.

the are in sight. As soon as see what is going on the whole as for the shore, and the sports-noot at what range they will. Bet (dotes on art)—Do you draw? He—Well, that depends on the cards I get.—Philadelphia lnquirer. Done by Hand.