HAPPIEST OF MANY ISLES.

LIFE ON THE SUGAR CANE ISLAND OF BARBADOES.

Density of the Population-A Healthy Financial Condition - Englishmen Who Meet There-Hospitality and General Good Nature of the People.

The Barbadian, from a variety of causes, political principally, has developed a com-mercial activity greater than has so far appeared possible in the other of these islands. His island has become the dishere under the eyes of an American bishop.—Barbadoes Letter in New York tributing point of the region, and has, in consequence, attracted and held together a population larger, proportionately, than any of the other islands. The streets of Time the capital are alive with bustling trades, her buildings bear evidence that land is valuable, her roadstead is alive with forvaluable, her roadstead is anye with for-eign shipping, and the annual addition to her population appears to gohand in hand with the increase of her material pros-perity, while other islands, notably St. Lucia, have been sacked and pillaged for 150 years prior to the opening of this cen-ture, connected first by one owner and tury, conquered first by one power and then by the other. Barbadoes has, since 1625, developed as peacefully and nor-mally as New England, and is today, in spite of the low price of cane sugar, one of the happiest little countries in the world.

FOR MALTHUSIANISTS.

Barbadoes has only 106,000 acres which to support a population of nearly 172,000, giving only one square mile of elbow room to each 1,000 inhabitants—a state of density that should reassure the state of density that should reassure the most pessimistic Chinaman of Malthu-dan disposition. She raises nearly \$1,-000,600 a year in revenue, has a public debt of only \$150,000, has about \$400,000 in her savings banks, has a good water supply and complete constitutional liberty. Could any man want more? And yet her chief port is a mere open road-stcad; nor does she differ materially from the other Caribbean islands in climate or

the other carlocarl transformations in the solution of the solution of the West Indies that has the appearance of belonging to England; not only by the presence of British men-of-war in the roadstead and British soldiers about the streets of Bridgetown, but from the fact that the English people here control local affairs, take a pride in identifying themselves with the colony, and by their geographical situation are the center of the best English social life in this quarter of the globe. The Royal Mail steamer from Jamaica to Southampton, her and the families of plants and tourists, stop at Barbadoes long enough to refresh body and wint is the south of the stop of the s Barbadoes long enough to refresh body and mind in the society of fellow coun-trymen. From Barbadoes ply the smal-ler connecting steamers that distribute passengers to the neighboring islands as passengers to the neighboring islands as far north as St. Thomas and south to Demerara. The governor of the island unites in his drawing room—or, to speak more accurately, on his lawn tennis courts—Englishmen from every corner of the queen's dominions whose ways cross at this little point. If the Bar-badian does not keen un with the hest badian does not keep up with the last fad from Piccadilly it is merely because he cannot or will not appear at Govern-ment house ment house

ENGLISHMEN FEEL AT HOME

In other islands of the Caribbee groun the exiled Briton broods in miser sur-rounded by a mob of hopelessly unintel-ligent blacks. Here, on the other hand, his beloved ensign greets him at every turn, assuring him that he is on soil that s English more than mercly in name. The governor's residence, known as gov ernment house, is in a handsome par approached by an avenue of grand trees, guarded by a sentry at the lodge gate and by very majestic household func-tionaries at the hall door. Visitors in-scribe their names in a book kept for that purpose, and nothing is omitted to impress them with the fact that they are here dealing with the representative of royalty. But government house in the British West Indies is more than a for-mal official residence. The governor is expected, if not to govern, at least to be an important factor in the political and social life of the island; he is to be a man above party, able to unite under his roof the leading people of the place; to medi-ate between the crown and the people. His wife, on the other hand, is expected to be the pattern of good breeding, the arbiter on all social points, assisting her husband in making Government house a colonial court. To do all this the government allows \$3,000 a year for entertainment alone, \$15,000 a year as salary besides his residence, handsomely furnished, represent-ing for this little island about double what is furnished to the United States what is furnished to the United States minister to England. When my rickety conveyance drew up before the great en-trance of the Barbadian palace I handed to one of the resplendent servants a let-ter of introduction and then proceeded to write my name in the visitors' book. Before I had completed this important task the illustrious footman returned, and, with some appearance of having made more haste than usual, showed me into a large, shady, cool morning me into a large, shady, cool morning room, where the "first lady of Barba-does" and Sir Charles Lees, the governor,

feeling. The black chief justice of the island was away on official duties, much to my regret. Officially he holds a most exalted post and receives the highest honors; socially he cannot enter the dining room of the meanest white trader. Consequently we have the conical pict-we of a neuron extensized by the poorest white clerk, yet a frequent guest of the first lady of the island—not merely on her lawn, but at her table. The attorney general, by the way, told me many things about the negro that confirmed my suspicion that in spite of centuries of Christian rule devil worship was a

A Man with a Lariat

A man was found nearly buried in the A man was found nearly barled in the sand near San Francisco. Two deputy coroners could not pull him out. A horseman was sighted. This is what happened: He rode up to them, and when the situation was explained, calm-ly alighted, untied a long lariat which was coiled at the back of his saddle, and when the seried because to make one and without a word began to make one end of it fast about the upper portion of the dead man's body. The rope was passed under the arms and tied in a knot at the shoulders. Having accomplished this the stranger paused, and looked up at the astonished morgue officials as much as to

"What's the matter with that?" "What are you going to do next?" asked the deputy coroner. "Do? Why, Pm going to pull him

Why, I'm going to pull him out

"Well, you might as well give up that idea," returned the deputy. "It would take half a dozen men like us to move that man.

"Maybe it would," replied the stran "Maybe it would," replied the stati-ger, with a chuckle that was certainly a little out of place, considering the oc-casion: "maybe it would take a dozen men such as we are, but it will only take one horse such as this is." As he said this he pointed to his steed, which hed hitherts stood motionless

which had bitherto stood motionless, watching the movements of his master with evident interest. Without more ado the stranger mounted his horse, and taking a turn around the horn of his saddle with the free end of the lasso, moved slowly ahead until the line was drawn taut. Then, in response to a gentle cluck from his rider, the animal settled his feet down into the sand and steadily bent his strength against the rope. There which had hitherto stood motionless, bent his strength against the rope. There was no jerking." It was an even, steady nut. The line vibrated rapidly under the heavy strain as the intelligent equine hauled away upon it. In a moment the boop tightened about the corpse, and the body was drawn, slowly at first, then with a swish, from its bed in the sand. Having accomplished this the mysteri

body, recoiled his lariat, mounted his horse, and, after saluting the wondering officials in a highly dignified man ode silestly away, no one knew whither. -San Francisco Chronicle.

A Funeral from the Tenen

A funeral in a crowded east side street! From every window in the giant tene ments human heads are thrust, in every doorway is a group of women, and clus-tered on every hand are little knots of children, on whose peaked faces is stamped the desire to lose no portion of what is going on. Stretched along the curb is a long string of coaches, headed by a hearse decked out in all the trap-pings of woe. The drivers, a brawny set of men, used to such scenes, stand to gether idly talking. In the mouth of our of the tenements stand a dozen women. "She must be heart broken," said one. "Indeed she must," said another, "or

she'd never have spent so much money." "It'll cost a heap to pay for such a beautiful funeral."

"And she hasn't a cent, poor thing. She'll have to work her fingers to the bone to pay for it.

"And the poor children; what'll they do?"

There is a clatter of heavy footsteps on the stars, and a rosewood casket comes bumping down on the shoulders of six struggling men. It is rolled into the hearse, which moves slowly away, and the first coach takes its place. A wild shrill cry, half a moan and half a shriek of pain, is heard, and out comes the widow, a gaunt faced woman of middle age. She sways her body to and fro, and rubs her eyes viciously with her handkerchief. A crowd gathers around of sight in the coach with three other women in worn knickerbockers climbs up in the driver's seat and there graciously recognizes a crowd of little chaps on the side-walk, who gaze at him with envious

THE FISK RANGE FINDER.

AN INVENTION OF VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

aerican Naval Success in 1813-14 Was Due Solely to Superior Mandling of the Guns, and This Was Due to Close Estimates of Range-British Improvements

Authorities are quite generally agreed that in the war of 1812 the great that in the war of source of our success was undoubt edly the superior management and direction of our guns, and that the Engand lish and other governments were satis fad of this is sufficiently proved by the careful attention they have since con-tinued to bestow upon this branch of the naval service. Not only must we have naval service. Not only must we have well trained guns crews with good shots as gun captains, but the officers must perform their parts as well. The guns must be completely under the control of the officers and through them of the captain; which means that to the speedy service of the guns must be added the event pairs of the sight hear so that correct placing of the sight bars, so that no shot may be wasted. The fire of guns at sea is a much more

difficult matter to deal with than their fire on shore, the speed of the swiftest target on shore, a squadron of cavalry, being nearly always exceeded afloat. In finding the distance of a target, or the range as it is called, it is customary to feel the way to a first approximation to the correct range by firing as rapidly as may be convenient a succession of single shots, using the rapid fire guns for this purpose, as their range is generally suf ficient, and the waste of ammunition is



THE RANGE FINDER.

not as appreciable. Existing guns, in the hands of gun captains of fair skill, will put about one-fourth the shots fired from them when afloat into a target from them when alloat into a target twelve feet bigh and of most any length —the vertical rather than the horizontal being the chief consideration—when at 2,000 yards range, the distance being accurately known. This will probably be the effective range for opening future encocoments. engagements

Such is at least the opinion held by most gunnery experts both in this coun-try and in foreign services. It is to overome this element of uncertainty in the calculation of the distance the enemy is off, and to thereby increase the range at which'the gun reigns supreme, that Lieut. Fiske, United States navy, has brought his knowledge and ingenuity to bear. His range finder, which is illustrated by the accountation cut introduces dec It is range finder, which is fluctrated by the accompanying cut, introduces elec-tricity and depends almost entirely upon the principles of the Wheatstone bridge or the electrical balance. The instru-ment consists of an iron tripod support-ing a flat iron table, carrying a telescope which has a vertical and a horizontal mo-tion, and which is also in the circuit of an electric aurent. It worden to support electric current. In order to secure hav-ing a base line, no matter whether the vessel presents bow, stern or broadside to the target, there are four of these tri-pods on each ship, one at either end of the bridge forming the shorter base line: a third forward and a fourth aft, form-ing a longer base line, which is about the a third forward and a fourth att, form-ing a longer base line, which is about the length of the ship. The two tripods forming the base lines are connected with the electric battery, carrying a weak current, two accumula-ter calls being articlinet weak.

tor cells being sufficient, and also with tor cens being sufficient, and also with a galvamometer. The principle involved in finding the range and position of an object depends upon the determination of a fractional portion of a conducting body bearing in length a ratio to an angle between two lines of sight directed upon the disturbility of the second second second second the disturbility of the second s the distant object, and the measurement of the electrical resistance of that length. e practical working of the apparatus the practical working of the apparatus includes three observers, one at each telescope, and a third at the galvanom-eter. On top of one of the tripods, and underneath the telescope, is a slider which is adjustable and has its middle which is adjustable and has its middle portion insulated so that the current can-not pass across, but goes by wire to the galvanometer. Moving this slider one way or another increases or lessens the resistance and causes a deflection in the resistance and causes a denection in the needle of the galvanometer. One of the observers sights his tele-scope at the target, and a certain deflec-tion of the needle is observed. The other observer also sights on the object, and the needle shows a change in deflection. The slider is then moved until the needle of the endeaconter needs mean of de of the galvanometer reads zero, and the position of the slider in reference to a fixed scale of yards shows at once the In the scale of yards shows at once the distance the target is away from the ob-ject. Well known principles of the re-lation of arcs and the sides and angles of triangles bear to each other render it while the the state of longthe angles and triangles bear to each other render it possible, from the data of lengths, angles, etc., of the apparatus itself to extend their proportions to any distance, and it is by these methods of proportion and the electric balance that the required distance is obtained. Its application is not confined to vessels alone, as it can be applied anywhere where a base line of known length can be obtained. The application is not confined to vessels alone, as it can be applied anywhere where a base line of known length can be obtained. The application is not confined to vessels alone, as it can be applied anywhere where a base line of known length can be obtained. The application is not any other advanced position and the distance of an enemy's works or troops accurately determined, so that the gunners would know at what range to elevate their guns. The trouble on shipboard ins been that the base line bas heretofore proved too short for practical use, and the delay has been caused by time required for communication between the two observers.

EVENTS IN ASTOR'S LIFE.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOTED MILLIONAIRE

His Vast Wealth and Unostentations Cha itles-Sending a Beggar to Prison-The Guard at His Wife's Tomb-The New Read of the Family.

"He died as he had lived, like a gen leman.

This was the statement of the physician who stood by the bedside of the head of the house of Astor, listened for

his latest breath, and closed his eyes when life's battle had ended. Courteous, uncomplaining, carefully considerate of others, the owner of millions greeted death with as grave and gentle dignity as he ever did a welcome guest at his stately home. For sixty-seven years, from the date of his birth until the hour when his life ended, John Jacob Astor was a resident of New York city, and naturally his doings and surroundings have been matters of interest and com-

The greatest personal owner of real estate in the largest city of the Union, he had many responsibilities as a land-lord outside the main duties of keeping his property in repair and collecting his rents. That he fulfilled them is shown by the fact that when he walked from his home on Fifth avenue to his office on Twenty, sight stream to not his office on Twenty-sixth street, as was his daily custom, no one received more greetings of a cordial and

friendly nature. The policeman and the car driv-er knew him as well as the millionaire, and his vast wealth seem-ed to create no

the poorest, for all recognized that his fortune was legitimately JOHN JACOB ASTOR

volved him in queer experiences, some times of a disagreeable and sometimes of an amusing character. On one occa about two years ago, the ruddy faced old gentleman was walking home in the early evening when a loquacious stranger buttonholed him. The man was poorly dressed and also slightly under the in-fluence of liquor. He sketched to Mr. Astor the contrast between their positions. "You," he said, "have unli money and I'm without a cent. Y You are an honest man and I'm a criminal—or rather I was, for I'm just out of the peni-tentiary. Under the circumstances, would you object to making a small loan

would you object to making a small foan .co aid me in reaching Philadelphia?" Mr. Astor was moved by the appeal to the extent of contributing a twenty-five cent piece. He tendered the silver coin cheerfully, but the recipient accepted it with an air of disgust. "Thought you'd give up a dollar, at least," he growled, But his protest work no, further, for Po-But his protest went no further, for Po-liceman Kelley of the Broadway squad, who regarded himself as one of Mr. Astor's friends and protectors, suddenly bore down upon the beggar and placed him in custody after an exciting chase. The well meant friendliness of the officer caused the milliouaire more annoyance than anything else, for he had to appear in the police court the next morning and furnish testimony on which the ex-con-A more pleasing instance of his con-tact with and sympathy for the poor has

to do with the founding of the Skin and Cancer hospital. Ann Corrigan was a servant in the Astor family. She developed a cancer, and despite the best medical attendance died. Thus the submedical attendance died. Thus the sub-ject of suffering from this disease was prought to the notice of the head of the house, for his pity was roused when he saw a faithful domestic, tortured by pain, sink into her grave despite all that money and skill could do for her. He at once consulted with expert medi-cal men, and they told him that possibly,

under conditions favorable for close ob servation and experiment, a successful treatment for the disease might be found. the employed physicians and architects which were to test effectually the plan to plan the hospital now in use, and made of water storage on a large scale—the plan which, if successful, is destined to

jointly by the brothers, and they wished jointly by the brothers, and the brothers and the br were displayed at half mast on the two buildings in New York which have chiefly aided by their extense in making the family name a household word—the Astor house and the Astor library.

For the better conservation and man-For the better conservation and man-agement of their immense property the Astors practically accept and follow the rules of primogeniture, so that John Jacob's son is now the chief of the family and the possessor of the bulk of its wealth. William Waldorf Astor is now something over 40 years of age, and is the first of his name to take any position in public

He has been a member of the New York assembly, an unsuccessful candi-date for congress and United States minister to Italy. As a diplomate he acquitted himself with credit, and took advantage of his residence abroad to col-lect material for two novels, which were recently published and have been re-ceived by the public with moderate favor. He is married and the father of several children.

BURSTING RESERVOIRS

The Far West, After Long Exemption, Suffers a Great Calamity.

The states and territories in the west-ern half of the United States have, in the last twenty-five years, gone beyond all previous experience in the rapidity of dam and reservoir construction; and it is a matter of sincere congretulation that the disasters have been fewer in proportion than in any other part of the world.

The recent calamity on the Hassayam pa river in Arizona, therefore, comes with the horror of a novelty in that line. In magnitude it falls far below the Johnstown disaster, as the lives lost do not exceed forty and the total damage is probably but little over \$1,000,000; but the nature and cause of the two calamities were almost exactly the same

The Hassayampa dam, located about forty miles by the shortest trail from forty miles by the shortest trail from Prescott, had been completed for eigh-teen months and was a matter of pride to the territory. From bluff to bluff the dam was 145 feet long at the bottom and 410 feet at the top; its width (thickness) was 16 feet at the top and 110 feet at the bottom, and its height was 110 feet. The lake thus formed covered some 800 acres and was supposed to contain 3,000,000,000



WALNUT DAM LAKE. cubic feet of water, its depth being 100 feet. At the bettom of the dam was a pipe-gate 5 by 5 feet; in the dam proper there was no waste way, but one 40 by 8 feet had been cut around the end of it—through the solid granite of the canyou wall. Therefore, say the of-ficials of the company, the disaster could not have occurred if the attendants had done their duty in opening these pas-sages for the surplus water. Local engineers, however, say that the work was "scamped." The "Walnut Grove Storage company" has its head-WALNUT DAM LAKE.

Grove Storage company" has its head-quarters in New York, and the design of its dam was to save the winter floods of the Hassayampa for summer use in Irrigation, or mining if occasion should arise, the stream going dry in summer. The dam was built in 1887 and 1888, the construction having been pushed with wonderful rapidity. Everything to bewonderful rapidity. Everything to be-gin with had to be hauled some sixty miles over desert and mountain, and dozen new industries created on the spot. On \$1,000 worth of cement the freight was \$2,000; lumber was worth ten times as much as in New York, wages and the cost of living were a little more than

national interest from the start, and by a strange coincidence was fully described in Scribner's Magazine for January and classed as one of the four great dams which were to test effectually the plan of water storage on a large scale—the

sents hundreds of disasters and a

The Swedes have taken an interest in

The Old Lociors

Drew blood, molera doctors cleanse it, hence the increased demand for Altera-tives. It is now well known that most diseases are due, not to occaphondance, but to appurity, of the Blood; and it is equally well actested that no blood me it he is so chleacions as Ayer's Sacoparilla.

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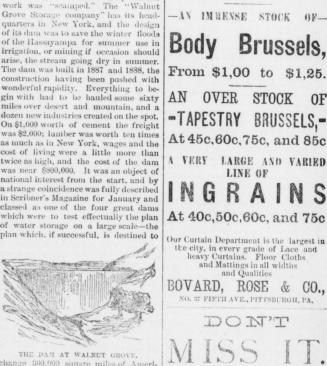


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envy or hatred in the minds even of

acquired and increased, and that the man regarded his immense resources as a trust to be administered uprightly and

carefully, Mr. Astor's pedestrian habits often in-

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The lawn of Government house stretches away from the open doors and windows to the shade of graceful trees. When I arrived tennis was well under way. Ruddy, well built men and grace-ful women, all in comfortable flannels, Were struggling for success with a vigor not readily associated with the tropics. Officers from the squadron as well as from the local garrison vied with one from the local garrison vied with one another in entertaining all such as wore petitioats, while groups of very impor-tant looking men chatted together here and there—made up, it was plain to see, of local officials. The governor and Lady Lees lost no opportunity of adding to the pleasure of their guests either by saying a few words of welcome to a new arrival or introducing those who ap-peared tortured by the know nobody peared tortured by the know nobody zar.

eyes. . "Are ye goin' to ride up there, Dinny?"

"Of course," was the reply; "ain't it me fodder's funeral?" And the somber procession moved slowly away,--New

Safety Pilot for Railway Trains.

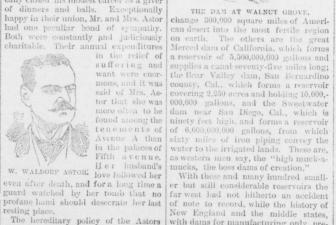
An apparatus which promises to ma-An apparatus which promises to ma-terially lessen the danger to human life in case of collision on railways has just appeared. It consists of a collapsible buffer, which, attached to and propelled in front of a train, will receive the force of the shock and permit the train to be brought to a standardill without being inbrought to a standstill without being inbrought to a standard whenout being in-jured or derailed. The apparatus is pro-vided with a series of air chambers con-nected to telescope together and permit the air to be gradually driven out, and mounted on a rolling support, which may be held near to, or removed some dis-tance in a drame of the tenia in the feld tance in advance of the train by the folding or unfolding of the telescoping sec-tions. Either compressed air or steam may be admitted as desired to both series of air chambers .- New York Telegram.

The Boon of Long Descent.

Miss Plympton -After all, Mr. Brough-ton, what is the advantage of having an-

cestors in the Seventeenth century? Mr. Broughton-Oh, a great deal. They can't hang around and mar your social aspirations today.-Harper's Baway. The matter of ventilation, among

The death of Mrs. Astor, cally closed his modest career as a given of dinners and balls. Exceptionally happy in their union, Mr. and Mrs. Astor



New England and the middle states, with dams for manufacturing only, pre-

The hereditary policy of the Astors has been never to sell any real estate. Always buy and always keep is the fampalling destruction. ily motto. Only once was this rule vio-lated. That was in 1887, when John Jacob and William disposed of a block Jacob and William disposed of a block of land, Mount Morris park and Sixth avenue, for \$325,000. The reason for the sale was that the property was owned

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