# DIVORCE IN BURMAH.

### An Original and Exhaustive Method of Settling Family Troubles.

In Burmah, as in civilized Europe, suspicion often disturbs the family circle, but instead of filling lawyers' pockets and giving society papers highly spiced paragraphs the following effectual mode of divorce procedure is adopted: The family relatives on both sides are called in-even distant cousins living a long way off-and many are the long journeys made in jolting bullock carts, and many the animated discussions by the cigar puffing circle of relatives squatted ceremoniously on the bamboo matted floors.

If an amicable settlement can be obtained thus—and very difficult it is to smooth down the quarrels, as a rule, for the Burmese are a spirited race—the eld-ers or patriarchs of the village or dis-trict are called in, and after the circumstances are explained arbitrators are appointed from among them, who proceed as follows: Two candles-wax if possible, but generally rushlights-are selected of equal length and thickness, and being simultaneously lighted are placed on the table if the establishment boasts of one; if not, on the floor.

This is done with the greatest gravity, care being taken that neither party has any advantage over the other in the shape of drafts through the doors and crannics, and that all present are seated at sufficient distance to prevent their breathing from affecting the flame. The gradual burning down of the flames is then watched with breathless and solemn silence, which culminates as one or the other of these slowly burns down and splutters out its life in the waters of the basin in which it is fixed.

A deep "Ah!" a gutteral sigh of relief, greets this termination, and if it be the husband's candle that burns out first he and his relatives walk slowly out of doors, solemnly and silently, leaving his better half in possession of the goods and chattels contained therein. If the wife's candle expires first, she and hers do likewise, and with a small present to the judges and umpires the divorce is completed .- Chicago Herald. .

## Advance In the Value of Pictures.

At the sale of the art collection of the late Mme. Denain, once a famous actress of the Theatre Francais, a comparison of prices with those obtained at the auction of the Didier collection in 1868, from which most of the paintings, etc., brought to the hammer were derived, is most instructive as showing the wonderful variations in the value attached to masterpieces of art. Thus "The Four Seasons" (Prudhon) brought 80,000 francs, against 33,500 francs in 1868; a portrait of Mme. de Sombreval and of her son (Nattier), 40,700 francs, against 6,000 francs; a portrait of Rembrandt (by himself), 40,000 francs, against 4,000 francs; "The Rainbow" (Th. Rousseau), 17,500 francs, against 4,700 francs; "A Riverside View" (Bonington), 17,500 francs, against 4,200 francs; "The Recon-ciliation" (Fragonard), 16,200 francs ciliation" (Fragonard), 16,200 francs, against 1,450 francs; portrait of Mile. Olivier (Greuze), 15,000 francs, against 6,500 francs; portrait of a Monk Confessor (Rubens), 12,800 francs, against 2,000 francs; "A Forest Landscape" (Diaz), 12,500 francs, against 3,000 francs. On the other hand, a few works by Prudhon and Decamps were knocked down at prices far below those obtained in 1868, and a portrait of a girl by Velasquez, presumably his daughter, was sold for 10,000 francs, against 15,100 francs at the Didier sale.—London Telegraph.

# Roses All the Year Round.

Splendid as the blooms of the June ones are, we want roses all summer long, hence have to look to the teas, Chinas, Bourbons and similar ones to give them to us, and they won't disappoint us. Summer roses, as we call them, bloom from first to last, giving us their smaller, though sweet scented, flowers until

A Steamship Line to Africa.

The first vessel of a new line between the port of New York and sundry ports uthern and eastern Africa has sailed from here with a cargo of machinery, merchandise and lumber. She is a British built, twin screw steamer of 3,000 tons, well adopted to the trade in which she is engaged. The British company to which she belongs owns other steamers of about the same power and tonnage, and it is intended that a vessel of the line shall leave this port every month of the year for trading purposes. The Worcester, which has just taken

her departure, will first touch Africa at Cape of Good Hope, and after entering and leaving the port of Cape Town will proceed northward along the cast coast to Elizabeth, East London, Durban, Delagon bay, Mauritius and such other places as may offer opportunities for trade. The company which has established the line is British, but its ships are ready to transport such American products, goods and wares as can be marketed in eastern Africa and to bring here upon the return trip such African commodities as may be marketable in this country

We shall be very well pleased to get some better share than we now have of the African trade, which several European countries are desirous of control-ling, and we shall be pleased to encourage the Castle company in its efforts to enlarge the exchanges between the two continents. We could wish that it were an American company, that its ships were American, and that its profits, if there happen to be any, were to be di-vided between this country and Africa. -New York Sun.

# Growth of the German Democracy.

In the middle of the confusion and wrangling of other parties the Social Democrats are full of activity and of hope. They have many reasons for their confidence. For some years past the emperor, the political parties, the church, even Prince Bismarck, have coquetted with them more or less, have acknowledged that their aims are often excellent and have promised with here and there a qualifying "but" or "if" to carry them out as far as is humanly possible. They are therefore justified in the hope that voters whose minds have been trained to hear them with attention by this general chorus of approval will be the more disposed to listen to promises which are not qualified by "ifs" and "buts."

Then the Social Democrats are well organized and know both what they want and how they propose to obtain it. These are great advantages to a political party in all countries, but are more particularly so among the Germans, whose natural instinct it is to obey orders and to march in file, even when they are in revolt. It is therefore quite possible that the Social Democrats may double their numbers at the next election, and it will not be surprising if that estimate is sur-passed.-London Saturday Review.

# A Belgian Sunday Law.

The Belgian postoffice is about to issue what is called a special Sunday stamp. It will be a 10-centime (2-cent) stamp and at one end will have a little flap. This can be torn off or left intact at the user's will and will carry in French and Dutch these words: "Ne pas livres le dimanche," "Nict bestellen op zontag," which means in English, "The postman is not to deliver on Sunday the letter bearing this stamp." This novelty is intended to start a

popular agitation against Sunday gov-ernment work in Belgium, which is to be stopped if possible in the future. It is said that a large number of people

will post letters unnecessarily on Sunday mornings in order to give expression to their sentiments. It will be interesting to hear how

many of these stamps are used .-- Courrier des Etats-Unis.

# A State Without a Militia.

BETTING ON THE SENIOR WRANGLER. A Story of the Undergraduate Days of the

Late Professor Adams. I was an undergraduate of St. John's college, Cambridge, when the late Professor Adams was there as an under-graduate also. I well remember his appearance. He was rather a small man, who walked quickly and wore a faded coat of dark green. As I had entered as a pensioner and he as a sizar, we did not sit at the same table in hall or indeed dine at the same hour. In my time the Fellows' hall and ours was at 4 o'clock, the sizars' (who had some dishes left from the Fellows table) at 5. Chapel was at 6, when every member of the college was due and when some came.

Fellow commoners and pensioners sav but little of the sizars as a rule, and I fear they were looked down upon on account of their poverty, except indeed those few who were certain to do great credit to the college. The fastest and the vainest man would have been civil to Adams, for he was known to be a pretty certain Senior Wrangler; besides men bet on him and backed him as they would a race horse. But he was so exceedingly good, so unusually safe, so utterly and entirely the favorite that odds

were laid on him at 3, or even 4 to 1. -Men little thought indeed that he would very shortly discover a comet, and that science all through the world would "cap" him in concert with the undergraduates to whom he soon became a mighty don, though I believe one of the most gentle and unassuming that ever lived.

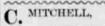
A couple of days after Adams had come out Senior Wrangler, I knocked in late and had a chat with Ballard, the porter, before going to my rooms. I said, "Well, Ballard, we've got the Senior Wrangler, but that was of course." Ballard looked glum. I could not under-stand it, for he was as proud of the college as any of its members. "Ah, sir," he said, "Mr. Adams did not behave well "Not well to you! Why, what to me." on earth has he done?" "I have lost £5 by him, sir." "How?" "Mr. Adams is not a gentleman as often knocks in late, but two nights before he went into the senate house he did, and I made so bold as to say, 'Mr. Adams, I hope no offense, sir, but I suppose you are certain to be Senior Wrangler, because I have laid £10 on it already and I have a chance of laying another £5.' Now you'd hardly believe it, sir, but Mr. Adams told me there was no certainty at all about it, and that he might come out second or third when all the while he must have

nown he was dead certain." "Well," I said, "I don't know what he knew, but all the university knew. But how did you lose your £5?" "By not putting it on, sir, which I should have done if he hadn't knocked in late. 1 kept the £10 on, however, and won what came of So really Mr. Ballard had not that." very much to complain of .-- London Queen

Women and Comie Papers.

ing out and in daily on a suburban train for years he had never yet seen a woman buy one of the comic weeklies, though they sold by dozens to the men travelers. It would be interesting to know what kink is missing from the female mentality which deprives her of this boon, for it is nothing short of a boon to be able to see the funny side of life. It helps over many hard places and lubricates many creaking joints in domestic ma-chinery.—New York Times.

Miscellancous.



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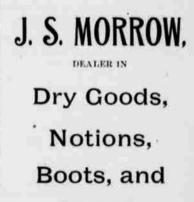
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### The Growth of a Metropolis.

Things seldom seen in New York nowadays: A runaway, a man trying to as-certain where he is from the sign on a lamppost, sheep or steers being driven to slaughter houses, a 'man carried on a stretcher, girls selling newspapers, boys sweeping crosswalks, advertisements pasted on the curbstones, a torchlight pa-rade, a chowder party keeping step com-ing home, a goat south of Fifty-ninth street, an omnibus on the west side of town, a barber shop in the second story of a building, or a woman as ready to take pennies in change in a street car as to give them for fare.—New York Sun.

# Asking the Wrong Party.

"Some of you," said a political orator, "remind me of Johnny Bizirn, who un-"remind me of Johnny Bizirn, who un-flertook to break the yearling bull, and to make sure he did not get away tied the rope around his waist. The break-ing process angered the yearling, and he split a crack in the atmosphere toward the swamp. Johnny only hit the ground in the high places. In their mad career they passed a neighbor, who yelled to John, 'Where are you going?' 'Blanked if 1 know,' he replied as he sailed through the air. 'Ask the bull.'"--Northwest Magazine. Northwest Magazine.

Not a Paying Occupation. Hicks—What a chance for a fellow to trab these women's pocketbooks that hey hold in their hands so temptingly! Wicks—Excellent, as you say. An in-instrious this might snatch scores of an every hour and make as much as saif a dollar a day.—Boston Transcript.

This condition of affairs has its militia. origin in the adverse action of the state legislature as to an appropriation needed for the support of the national guard in that diminutive but prosperous commonwealth. As soon as the legislature defeated the militia bill every officer and enlisted man in the admirable and well disciplined little force voted to disband, and they are now engaged in car-rying their convictions to a conclusion that is, while personally creditable, most discreditable to Delaware. It may even prove to be dangerously inconvenient, for the posse comitatus is not the power it once was and, in fact, can but rarely be assembled, much less depended upon. -Washington Star.

### Mr. Kennan's Serious Charge.

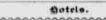
George Kennan, the Siberian traveler. writing on the Russian extradition treaty in The Forum, makes the startling as-sertion "on the highest authority" that even now "the Russian secret police at St. Petersburg open and read the pri-vate letters of the American minister and the members of the American legation." He adds significantly: "It seems to me that a government which makes a practice of opening and reading not only the private letters of its own subjects, but the letters of the diplomatic repre-sentatives of a friendly state, is not a government upon whose honor it is safe to rely in a question of extradition."

# She Was His Wife.

Alfred Stockham, a resident of Weth-ersfield, Conn., and his wife and one child went to Hartford to see the circus. After the procession had passed they started up Main street together. A disstarted up Main street together. A dis-pute arose between them, and the fellow struck his wife in the face, breaking her nose and felling her to the ground. When arrested and asked why he struck her, Stockham replied, "Why, show my wife."

The Result of a Dog's Shake. A fire which destroyed the house of John Downey on Grand island, near Buffalo, was originated in a queer man-ner. A large Newfoundland dog, which was alseep in the room, shook himself, and in so doing upset a lamp, which ex-ploded and set fire to the house.

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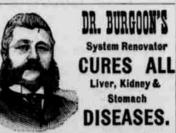
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