Real estate in Havana, Cuba, has fallen to one-half and one-third of its value ten years ago.

The latest statistics give the number of Protestants in Germany as 31,-000,000 and the number of Catholics ns 18,000,000.

In the Spanish parliament consist ing of 440 deputies, Caba has never had more than six and usually only three members.

A statistician computes that Queen Victoria is now sovereign over one continent, 100 peninsulas, 500 promontories, 1,000 lakes, 2,000 rivers and

Several literary and medical colleges and other institutions of Indians have confederated for the development of a university on a "broad. non-sectarian basis,"

Judge Ricks of the United States court at Cleveland has rendered a decision of great importance to railroad men. He declares that the preferred stock of a railroad does not constitute a lien on the property.

In the municipal district of Guines, Cuba, two years ago, with a population of 13,000, only 500 of whom were Spaniards and Canary Islanders, the electoral list contained the names of 32 native Cubans and 400 Spaniards-.025 percent to 80 percent of the Spanish population.

The extension of the commerce of some of the great nations in these days is simply amazing. British "tramp" steamers carry Britain's goods everywhere, while countless ramifications of trade routes by land assist in the distribution of her merchandise into most distant and diversified areas. Great Britain holds her markets largely at arm's length. It is estimated that two ships per minute, or twenty tons of shipping per second, enter or leave the home ports of Eng-

Among the great movements of the present day in this country none ranks higher in importance, both economic and social, than the movement for better roads, maintains Public Opinion. Low prices of farm products at the place of production and the high prices of the same products at the place of consumption are the result bad roads. Thus producer and coninterested in correcting the evil.

The New York Tribune says: It is only in civilized countries that woman plays a predominant role in the direction of the course of events, but also in barbarous lands, where the fair sex is generally supposed to eccupy a position of moral and social inferiority beyond the conception of their Western sisters. Thus, in China, it has been the empress Mother who has retained in her hands for nearly two score years the control of that mighty Empire, her predominance remaining unimpaired even after the crushing defeat of her country by Japan. And in Abyssinia it is an elderly woman, the consort of emperor Menelek, who has been the moving spirit in the resistance offered for more than a decade to all the attempts on the part of Italy to secure possession of the country by means of intrigue and force of

A study of statistics of America's growth in population indicates that the native-born population has fallen off concurrently with the increase of the foreign element. From 1800 to 1810 Americans increased about thirty-five percent. Since 1810 there has been a steady decline of the rule. The last decade shows the percentage of native increase to have been only 24 1-2. The first decided decrease coincided with the first pronounced increase of immigration.

From 1750 to 1830 our native population never showed less of a gain than 38.17 percent each decade, except during the revolution, when it decreased to 28.81 percent. But now, when our immigration is larger than it over has been, the increase of our aggregate population is only 24.86 percent. That is almost four percent lower than the rate of increase of native whites during the revolution. The increase of native population of New England was phenomenal until the arrival of the foreigner. Since then it has steadily declined. There sems to be no accounting for this unless it is on the theory that civilization restricts the increase of popula tion. But in contradiction to that theory the fact may be cited that the English people who had never doubled their population in any 100 years al-

Joy and Sorrow.

Joy is young, With a voice like the chime of sliver bells; And sweet are the tales its melody tells, Baptizing all hearts in the hallowed wells

Of love and song.

Sorrow is old-With a voice like the autumn wind it moans. And tells wild tales in its wailing tones Which break the full hearts of tolling ones, Cruel and cold.

Joy, all truth, Roams fields of delight with a lily orown, Braiding her tresses of sun-bathed brown, While fate on her radient head rains down Eternal youth.

Sorrow, all tears, With sleepless eyes walks the way of gloom, Only crowned with a sable vell and plume, and follows a hearse like fellowing doom Through endless years.

Joy can steep In the doomed palace or Ivied tower, Or fold her golden wings in a flower.

And sleep, like a bird on a white rose bower, A peaceful sleep.

Harriet Smead.

THE WEDDING DRESS.

How well I remember it all. We were sitting round the fire in the oak parlor of the old Dower House at Cromer-mother, Aunt Lettie, and I. Dear Aunt Lattie! how beautiful she was still despite her snow-white hair; and though she was 38, her complexion was as fresh and bright as any young girl's. We were chattering over the peace just proclaimed—the peace that ended the long war with France; the war that lasted twenty years. I must tell something of my dear

aunt's life, that you may understand why my mother and I were touched to surprise. Twenty years before my aunt, then 18, and the Belle of Dawlish (some said of Devonshire) was engaged to be married to handsome Gilbert Tresillian. It was a splendid match in every way, for he was young, rich, amiable; he was an orphan, untroubled with any undesirable relatives; and, moreover, Le had an ample income arising from money in the Funds. Gilbert Tresillian came to stay in Dawlish, where my grandfather then lived, at the Mili house, a charming old place some four miles from the town surrounded by magnificent gardens, sloping terrace to the sea-gardens the admiration of the West country. The day before the wedding he spent there, returning in the evening to the Red Lion at Dawvery largely of the unnecessary cost of lish. My aunt walked with him about transportation involved in the use of a mile through the gardens, where they parted until the morrow; and sumer suffer equaly and are equaly from that moment Gilbert Tresillian was not seen or heard of again. He disappeared as completely from the mortal ken as though the earth had opened and swallowed him. The country was scoured, the shore beneath the cliff was searchedbut not the slightest trace could be found. My poor aunt came near to die with brain fever; and when she recovered, her beautiful hair was as white as snow. My grandfather removed from a place whose every object brought back some tearful memory to his daughter; and when, soon after he died, Aunt Lettie came to live with us in Cromer. Though only a little thing I recall perfectly the day she came, for I thought I had never seen any one so sweet and yet so sad. None had ever heard Aunt Lettie laugh, none had ever seen her smile, yet she was cheerful always, and ready to help every one. All this

> Tresillian. During the next few days I could think and talk of nothing save the coming musquerade, and Jack's re.

happened twenty years ago and though

many had sought her hand she was

still true to the memory of Gilbert

But be the day never so weary or long, At length it ringeth to evensong.

And so at length the eventful evening arrived. Aunt and mother dressed me in petticoat and train of loveliest white brocade, trimmed with filmy Honiton lace. Mother dropped many a furtive tear, recalling the bride that was to have been, whose romance of love was cut short in such a mysterious fashion; but aunt said never a word till I was dressed, and then, turning to my mother she exclaimed:

"She looks better, Mary, than I should have done; and after all, you see, it has not been utterly wasted. But you must let me powder your hair, Lettie, every one wore powder when I was young.

I was sitting, oh, so happy, by Sir John, who was making all sorts of plans for our future, when I saw a tall gentleman, dressed in foreign uniform, making his way through the guests toward the recess where we were. I had noticed him several times before in the course of the evening regarding me most attentively.

As he was evidently coming to speak

Who is this gentleman, Bir John?"

"Oh, my dear, a Mr. -Mr. - Tut, tut, I forget his name for the moment;" a - friend of Jack's, who came over from France with him and is staying a few days with us."

By this time the gentleman had made his way across the hall, and stood bowing to us.

"May I have the honor of this dance?" he inquired.

I was going to reply "No," for I wanted to rest till Jack came back to me, when Sir John said, "Yes, Lettie, child, do," so, of course, I was obliged to say, "With pleasure."

"Is your aunt married?" asked my partner as we returned to the recess after the dance.

"Thank God!" I am sure I heard him mutter under his breath.

"No."

"No," I said. "Aunt had a terrible disappointment years ago; her lover was killed-fell over the cliff, we think-the day before they were to have been married, and aunt has never cared for any one since."

"Thank God!" my strange partner said this time aloud. "My child, I ought to explain, to introduce myself. i should have done so at first, but the likeness was so striking; I thought perhape you were her daughter. My name is Tresillian, Gilbert Tresillian -ah, I see you know," noticing my start. "I was not killed on that awful night. I was captured by the Press Gang."

"Yos, yes," I said, "go on."

"I made a desperate fight for liberty, but what was one against so many? I was soon knocked insensible, and when I recovered conscious ness I was on shipboard, 'bound for the Mediterranean. The next day a gale aprang up, our vessel was separated from the rest, and we were captured, after a smart engagement, by the enemy. I was landed, wounded and a prisoner, and have remained a prisoner ever since. I tried to communicate with England, but was discovered, and in consequence was transferred to another prison, this time in Switzerland, and only the entry of the Allies into Paris gave me my Freedom. I came to England, hurried to Dawlish, to find that Miss Treherne had left years ago, and that no one knew my whereabouts. I returned to London to settle matters with my agents, and instruct them to continue the search, and then accept the invitation of Major Pendarves, whom I had met in Paris, to spend a short time with him. And you think Letitia -Miss Treherne, I mean-has not forgotten me?"

"No, I am sure she has not." How happy I was that night! I kept touching my half of the broken sixpence in its blue silk bag in my pocket; it had indeed brought me luck. However, the happiest day must end, and so I suppose must a merry evening. Jack and I and Mr. Tresillian were soon rolling over the frost-bound roads towards home, I with my hand in Jack's, supremely happy, and Mr. Tresillian telling us his experience as a prisoner in France, Poor fellow, how I pitied him! At last we arrived at the Dower house, and it was agreed that I should go in first and break the news to my mother and aunt. Mother came into the hall

"Well, my child, have you enjoyed yourself? But, there, I need not ask you-you look radiant."

"Oh, mother dear," laying my hand on her shoulder, "I am so happy, Jack has asked me and if you consent. we are to be married at Christmas. For answer my mother kissed me. "And, mother Jack is here, and some one else, whom you and aunt, too, will be glad to see-an old friend."

"An old friend; but my dear child, why don't you bring them in?"

"Jack, dear," I eried, "come in, both of you. Oh, mother dearest," said half laughing and half crying, "he was not killed; he did not die."

"Was not killed; what do you mean?" replied my mother, turning round as Jack, followed by Mr. Tresillian, came up the hall. My mother put out both hands to take Jack's, and then catching sight of Mr. Tresillion's face, exclaimed, "Merciful heaven, Gilbert!"

"Yes, Mary, it is I; not dead, as you see, and Lettie?"

"Is waiting still, Gilbert. Oh, Major Pendarves, I am so glad, Lettie has told me. And now, child, go into the oak parlor and break the news to your aunt. No, perhaps I had better. Gilbert come when I call."

Jack and I went over by the fire and in a few minutes mother's voice called, "Gilbert, Gilbert, come quick!"

Mother soon rejoined us, and together in the firelight, we talked over our plans; Jack saying I must go to London and be presented at Court on my marriage. There is little clas to tell. As Lady Pendarves had said,

there were two Miss Trebernes married together, and though Jack would never agree with me, I always said Aunt Lettie looked the better of the two. - Black and White.

Ducks Drown an Eagle.

If a writer for the American Field is to be believed, the crow duck is the most extraordinary bird on the Potomae river, cutting up such capers as to make even a naturalist gasp.

"Four years ago," he writes, "while shooting ducks with Mr. Waller president Cleveland's duck blind builder,) I noticed a crowd of three or four thousand crow ducks. After half an hour I noticed an eagle going toward the flock. When he arrived at the proper distance he made a dart but the ducks as if by magic, went under water like a flash, and sent up a volume of water as if a big mine had been exploded. This was done time and time again, and finally the volume of water thrown up was so great that the eagle was drowned. This is a sight seldom seen, which may occur but ones in a ducking life of fifty years."

This crow duck is also known as the American coot, mud hen, blue peter, and Fulica Americana by various hunters and alongshore people. Up North these ducks may be seen in creeks and marshy, reed-grown rivers, but South in Florida they resort in enormous numbers to the lakes where bonnets or yellow lillies abound, associating there with lesser scaup ducks. They are shy birds, being much persecuted usually, but in localities where shooting is prohibited, near the Titusville, Fig., railroad pier for instance, they are as tame as sparrows, understand-

ing that they are safe. The nearest anybody ever came to the drowning eagle story was Frank M. Chapman in his "Birds of Eastern North America," when he says; "When alarmed they patter over the water using their feet as much as their wings. The sound produced is a characteristic one." He does not say whether the water flies or not, but one could imagine that a crow duck just as it turned up to dive could give its scolloped webbed feet a kick up behind, like a vicious mule and so saturating the eagle that it would be drowned. Eagles often catch living fish, out of the water, and of course, get more or less wet in so doing, but perhaps the Potomac river eagles are of a different species than those known to bird books.

Luring Game to Death.

A writer in a well known sporting paper tells how he and a friend lay down behind a log one day, and watched for a flock of canvasback ducks to come into the broad river. Pretty soon in came a flock of thousands that alighted 500 yards from the shore, and began to plume themselves, duck fashion. One of the men tied his red handkerchief on the end of a stick and began to wave it at intervals in sight of the ducks. The ducks he gan to cock their heads sideways, and after a while they began to swim toward the log. They came within twenty yards, and the men jumped up, and one got nineteen and the other fifteen ducks with the four discharges.

Readers of The Sun remember how it told of the panther on the plains of Patagonia that gets as near a herd of guanacos as it can, then hes down behind a bush on its back. It puts one paw up in the air, then another, then the third and fourth, and after a bit all four at once. That seems curious to the guanacos and they come close to investigate. Up jumps the panther, and lights on the nearest one's back

and breaks its neck. A fox up in Nova Scotia comes down to the bay of Fundy and goes jumping along the beach a couple of rods and back again, rising on its hind legs at each about-face and waving its big tail in the air. The little flock of four or five Canada geese out on the water begin to wonder what can be the matter with the fox. They swim up into the shallow water to investigate when in dashes the fox and grabs one by the neck. The men have taken advantage of this trick and have trained dogs to do as the fox does. For lack of a dog men themselves have ambled about on their hands and knees to attract the birds. - New York Sun.

How She Managed.

"I like that girl," said Woodby Witte, "because whenever I tell her anything amusing she laughs in the right place."

"Yes," replied his friend. She told me how she manages it."

"Why -er-how is that ?"

"She says she always watches you, and laughs when you do, -Washing-

A genuine tramp addressed the Anti-Tramp association at Fon-du-Lac, Wie, the other day,

SHEPHERD BIRD.

A Venezuelan Crane That Herds Domestic Animals.

It Strikes Absurd Attitudes and Dances Fantastic Waltzes.

The natives of Venezuela and adoining countries on the north side of the river Amazon often avail themselves of the services of a native crane to care for their poultry, and also, in the place of collies or shepherd dogs, used by North Americans and Europeans, to guard and herd their domestie animals.

This remarkable bird, which the Indians call yakamik and ornithologista Prophia crepitaus, is found in a wild state in the great forests that lie between the northern coasts of South America and the Amazon river, particularly in Venezuela and British Guiana. The birds never leave the forest unless shot or captured. They travel about in flocks of from 100 to 200, in search of the berries, fruits and insects, upon which they subsist. Their usual gait is a slow and stately march, but they enliven themselves from time to time by leaping up into the air, excenting eccentric and fantastic waltzes, and striking the most absurd and preposterous attitudes. If pursued they endeavor to save themselves by running, for their flight is so weak, according to Schomburgk, that when they attempt to fly over a body of water of any considerable width they are often obliged to drop upon it and save themselves by swimming. When alarmed they utter the peculiar cry which has obtained for them their name of trumpeters. The sound is something like that produced by a person endeavoring to shout the syllables "tow, tow, tow; tow, tow, tow," with his mouth shut, or the doeful noise made by children on New year's with their trumpets. The yakamiks usually deposit their eggs in a hollow in the ground, often at the foot of a tree. A nest generally contains ten eggs,

of a pale green color. The young birds follow their mothers as soon as they are hatched, but do not lose their pretty downy covering until several weeks old. The yakamiks are very readily tamed, and prove valuable servants to the Indians, who domesticate them, and as they are courageous and will protect animals intrusted to their care at every risk to themselves, even dogs are obliged to yield to their authority. They may be trusted with the care of a flock of sheep or domestic fowls, and every morning will drive the ducks and poultry to their feeding places and, carefully collecting any stragglers, bring them safely home at night. A vakamik soon learns to know and to obey the voice of its master, follows him, when permitted, wherever he goes, and appears delighted at receiving his caresses. repines at his absence and welcomes his return, and is extremely jealous of any rival. Should any dog or cat approach, it flies at it with the utmost fury, and attacking it with wings and beak drives it away. It presents itself regularly during

meals, from which it chases all domestic animals, and even the Africans who wait on the table, if it is not well acquainted with them, and only asks for a share of the entales after it has driven away all who might sanire to a favorable notice from the family. It appreciates favors in the same proportion as it is jealous of sharing them with others, and manifests joy and affection by the most exravagant capers and gesticulations. When the animals of which it has charge are shut up for the night, the yakamik roosts upon some shed or tree near at hand to be ready to take its place as keeper as soon as they are let out in the morning. One quality that makes it valuable is its sense of location, which is perfect; however far it may wander with the flocks or herds it guards, it never fails to find its way home at night, driving before it all the creatures intrusted to its care.

It is strange that several species of South American birds of different genera should share with the yakamik its instinct of guarding and taking care of domestic animals. One of these is the crested screamer, another the horned chauna, which is often domesticated as a poultry keeper by the natives. - Popular Science News.

Early Methods of Irrigation.

The earliest method of Irrigation is known as "flooding," and is generally applied by means of shallow basins. A plot of ground near the river or ditch from which water is to be drawn is inclosed by low embankments called ecks. These checks are multiplied

until the whole field is covered. Th water is then drawn into the highest, basin, permitted to stand until the ground is thoroughly soaked, and then drawn off by a small gate into the next basin. This process is repeated until the entire field is irrigated. This is the system practiced on the Nile, where the basins sometimes cover several aquare miles each, while in the West they are often no more than four hundred feet square. There. is both a crude and a skilful way to accomplish the operation of flooding, and there is a wide difference in the results obtained by the two methods. The Indian and Mexican irrigators, in their ignorance and laziness, seldom attempt to grade the surface of the ground. They permit water to remain in stagnant pools where there are depressions, while high places stand out as dusty islands for generations. All except very sandy soils bake in the hot sunshine after being flooded, and the crude way to remedy the matter is to turn on more water. Water in excess is an injury, and both the soil and the crops resent this method of treatment.

The Face in Illness,

The face is a good index to the state of one's physical being, and from it symptoms of disease can be detected almost before the patient is aware that anything serious is the matter with him. For instance, incomplete closure of the eyelids, rendering the whites of the eyes visible during sleep, is a symptom in all acute and chronic diseases of a severe type; it is also to be observed when rest is unsound from pain, whenever seated.

Twitching of the cyclids, associated with the oscillation of the eysballs, or squinting, herald the visit of convul-

Widening of the orfices of th nose, with movements of the nostril to and fro, point to embarrasse breathing from disease of the lungs of their plural investment.

Contraction of the brows indicate pain in the head; sharpness of the nostrils, pain in the chest, and a drawn upper lip, pain in the abdomen.

To make a general rule, it may be stated that the upper third of the face is altered in expression in affections of the brain, the middle third, in the diseases of the organs contained in the abdominal cavity. - The Trained . . .

White Men in Africa. Sir Francis Scott, the governor of the Gold Coast colony, who led the recent British expedition to Asbant lieves in the existence of a race white men in Africa. This belie has received confirmation from various sources since the Ashanti expedition. Captain Larymore, an aide-decamp of Sir Francis Scott, was sent to Koranza, which is farther in the interior of Ashanti than the main body of the expedition went. All the natives he met told him that a race of white men lived many days' journey to the northeast, and their country was on the outskirts of a great desert. So much were the white men feared that caravans preferred the dangers of the desert to crossing the country. Al Hadii, a Mohammedan priest of great intelligence, told captain Larymore that he had seen the white men: they were not only white, but many of them fair-haired and blue-eyed, and they were only armed with bows and arrows. The members of the Ashanti expedition firmly believe that a lost European race exists in the heart of Africa .- New York Times.

The Cheapest Restaurant

All records have been broken in the providing of cheap meals for the very poor, by a German who has a ting place on Oliver street, near Chathan square. He serves a bowl of coffee, bowl of pea soup and four sit of bread for one cent, and average patronage calls for 1,000 and meals a day. The Mariners' Temp grants him free rent, he pays to helpers \$2 a week each, and takes small wage for himself, and general has \$5 profits a week to give to 1 Mariners' Temple. Most of the br is contributed by big baking fire that have it left over. - New Yor Mail and Express.

A Ruse of Abyssinian Warriors. The warriors of Menelek, king Abyssinis, adopt a device that puzzl confuses and frequently baffles the enemies of the white persuasion. The cut down trees about seven feet fro the ground, and burn the stumps they are well charred and blacken In front of these they statio selves, and the resemblance them and the stakes is so stri an Italian rifleman is likely all his cartridges on the latte belief that he is sho former. - New York France