

SOME MODERN BELLS.

Behar the patrol bell! What a tale of human failings its clanging notes foretell. How its ding, ding, ding tells you of the city's sin: Gather in, gather in, Gather in, in, in, We gather in, gather in, gather in. Headless of the bitter wails go, Of the mockings, jeers and railings, Of the curse of human failings Which brought about the sin! Gather in! Gather in! 'Mid the din, din, din, We gather in, gather in, gather in!

THE BURNED WILL.

I had been engaged to my cousin Kenneth for two years, and the course of true love had run as smoothly as possible. Nobody objected. Nobody prophesied evil for the future. In fact, my uncle Graham, Kenneth's father, had been delighted when he discovered our liking for each other. "It was what I hoped for the first," he said. "Bessy will make a good wife, and she is the only girl I know that I should like to have about the house. Of course, you will both live with me, and everything I have will be Kenneth's when I go."

His spirits left him. His temper grew outrageous. He refused to see his friends, and at last he took to his bed. I nursed him tenderly. One day, as I sat beside him, he said, more gently than usual: "Bessy, you will be a rich woman very soon. All I have is left to you. I have heard of my son. The unflinching and un-natural boy has not prospered. He is in need, I believe. I am sorry." I sunk on my knees and implored him to send for Kenneth, to forgive him, to embrace him once more. "He is your natural heir," I said. "I hope you may live many years. But pray alter your will. Give him your blessing, and forgiveness, and his portion. You will be glad when you have done it—glad whether you live or die." He shook his head. "Neither will I give him," he said. "And I have made my last testament so carefully that you cannot help him, as no doubt you would. Anything you attempt to bestow on him you will only lose yourself. He shall live to regret his disobedience and ingratitude to a good father."

McDonald, foreman of the logging camp of the Crescent City Mill and Transportation Company, informs us that he has taken from a 120-acre tract of the company's land 200,000 feet of lumber, and that there is considerable amount of lumber, which shows a result of about 160,000 feet to the acre. This, of course, is choice timber, and while there are thousands of acres of good, and some better, there is considerable that is very inferior.—Crescent City (Cal.) News.

John Heffner's Big Family. The death near Allentown, Penn., a few days ago of John Heffner recalls the fact that he was one of forty-one children. His father, John Heffner, was accidentally killed by the car six years ago at the age of sixty-nine years. At that time he was still in the vigor of health. He was a dwarfed hunchback. He was born in Berlin in 1816, and came to this country in 1840, settling in the city of Reading. Until his death he made a living by collecting and selling rags and paper. His family history is part of the records of the Berks County courts, it having been told by him a short time before his death while he was a witness in a lawsuit. He was married first in 1840. In eight years his wife bore him seventeen children. The first and second years of their marriage she gave birth to twins. For four successive years afterward she gave birth to triplets. In the seventh year she gave birth to one child and died soon afterward. Heffner engaged a young woman to be his second wife, and a brood of babies, and three months later she became the second Mrs. Heffner. She presented her husband with two children in the first two years of her wedded life. Five years later she had added five more to the family, having twins five times. Then for three years she added but one a year. At the time of the death of the second wife twelve of the thirty-two children had died. The twenty that were left did not appear to be any obstacle to a young widow with one child consenting to become the third wife of the jolly little man, for he was known as one of the happiest and most genial men in Reading, although it kept him tolling like a slave to the courts of the county in bread. The third Mrs. Heffner, became the mother of nine children in ten years, and the contentment and happiness of the couple were proverbial. One day in the Fall of 1885 the father of the forty-one children was crossing a railroad track and was run down by a locomotive and instantly killed. His widow and twenty-one of her children in the children are still living, most of them in Reading. They are thrifty and respectable people.—New York Times.

Among the Boers. STRANGE SCENES WITNESSED IN SOUTH AFRICA. People Who Seldom Wash, and Who Look Upon People That Do as Being Filthy—Their Houses and Customs. Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese mariner, might be said to have discovered South Africa as much as Columbus discovered America, writes a correspondent of the Atlanta Constitution from South Africa. No landing was made at the Cape of Good Hope until the Portuguese, who were at that time the foremost navigators and colonizers of the world, soon established a settlement here. The first ship which sailed for that purpose was wrecked, and only one or two persons escaped the vengeance of the sea. After great hardships and suffering they landed and called the place "Good Hope." Others followed from the old country, and the Dutch East India Company established a trading station. The Boers (farmers) finding the country rich and the soil productive, emigrated from Holland in large numbers and founded a colony under the home government. This colony was soon augmented by numbers of the Huguenots, who assimilated with the Boers. The latter ruled with a rod of iron, and the former found it all the easier to submit to the inevitable, and a few settlers from other nations had to bend their necks to the yoke. Hence the power to rule supreme remained with the Boers until the English conquered and drove them from Cape Colony to Natal and Orange Free State, a country at that time the home of lions, tigers, leopards are called tigers in South Africa, and all kinds of wild game. These, however, soon disappeared before the vortices of the settlers' rifles, or escaped into the interior. This brings us down to about 1830, when the Boers got embroiled with the Kafirs, especially the Zulus, the most powerful and warlike tribe in South Africa. Their efforts to subdue the Zulus were baffled, and the English profiting by their helplessness, seized upon their cattle and drove them across the Vaal river, where they formed the new famous south Africa republic, with Pretorius as president, naming the country, Transvaal. The Boers were most inhuman in their treatment of the Kafirs. As a rule the Boers are a lazy, idle, drunken set. They do not work except to oversee the Kafirs, and their only pastime is to go hunting and keep visiting with their pipes as constant companions, and the Cape smoke (whiskey) bottle always at hand. They generally hire the Kafirs by the half year, the copper-colored servant's pay being a heifer or two sheep for six months' service. In two cases out of three the Kafir thus working was made to have wholesome fear of his master by being every now and then taken to a wagon wheel or a tree and flogged unmercifully, and it was not an uncommon occurrence for these poor victims to die under the chastisement. As late as 1886, since the retrocession by the English of the Transvaal to the Boers, a certain half-breed Erasmus, an influential Boer, fastened a poor Hottentot to a wagon wheel, brutally flogged him, and deliberately shot him. No punishment followed this outrage, although it happened within six miles of Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal. Conduct of this kind, together with appropriating lands belonging to the natives, brought them to collision with the Kafir tribes, the Zulus on one side and the Siocoonis on the other. Pretorius, being an ignorant man, was altogether incompetent to carry them successfully through these difficulties. He was soon deposed, and Burghers, a well educated and enlightened man, chosen in his place. In thought and action this man was about a quarter of a century ahead of the times, and worked hard to civilize the Boers, who had by this time sunk almost to the level of the natives themselves, but was unsuccessful, as he was not supported in the least by the Boers, although they promised anything asked for. The British government then stepped in and took charge of the country, restoring peace after a terrible war with the Zulus and Siocoonis. The Boers find everything nicely settled for them, and followed the Boer war in which the English were defeated. Boer etiquette demands that when a stranger arrives at a house he must shake hands with the inmates all around without speaking, beginning with the eldest down to the youngest. This is found not to be a very pleasant task, as the hands to be shaken are never very clean, and so on around a circle, containing perhaps a dozen, without changing water or towel, the stranger's turn coming last. Refusal on his part to participate would be considered a great insult to his hosts. The Boer houses are built of either stone or mud. The rooms, as a rule, are large and airy. In many cases the Boers sleep on the matting spread on the floor, only the fathers and mothers having the luxury of a bed. In cases where beds are used, they are on the Brigham Young plan—large—and five or six people sleep in one of them. The sleeping places are none too clean, and have more or less a suspicion of disagreeable insects. There are no schools amongst the Boers. A wealthy man with a family often permanently engages a schoolmaster or tutor, who lives as one of the family and is but rarely paid for his services, receiving little more than board and lodging. In the poorer families the children are taught what they do know by their parents. The sum of this teaching amounts to little more than being able to read the Bible, a book found in every Boer house. The Boers are very devout; attend well to their religious duties and never omit to say grace before and after each meal, and copiously interlard their conversation with pious ejaculations. As a rule they are very hospitable to strangers, providing they are not English, or when they have a great antipathy. They will often turn a sick and hungry traveler empty from their door if they know him to be of that nationality.

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Some Modern Names.

The following are derivations and meanings of names of some prominent men of the present day as given by Notes and Queries: Patten—This is an Irish name and means the son of Patrick. The name Patterson is the same. Patrick is derived from the Latin Patricius, meaning noble, a senator. The name was bestowed upon the eldest sons of the Roman senators. Delamater—This is a French name from Le Maître, meaning the preceptor, a master, or landlord. Cameron is Gaelic, from Cam, crooked, and son, nose, hence crooked nose. Blaine—This name is from the town of Blain, in France. It also has a claim to Welsh origin, and in that case it signifies the summit or top. Tilman—The farmer or alliance governor of South Carolina, is well named, as his name means till of the soil. Parnell—The Irish leader has not an Irish name. It comes from Italy and is derived from Petronilla, a pretty stone, and also an immodest girl. McCarthy—This name is pure Irish and means the son of Canach, who was an Irish chieftain of the eleventh century. Dillon is Welsh, from Dilynn, meaning handsome, brave. Vanderbilt is Dutch, from Byl, a hatch or bill. The ship carpenters in Amsterdam were nicknamed Die Byltye, the hatch or bill men. Van, the Dutch for the word of. Hence Van die bilt, or of the bill men. Aster is Scandinavian, from the town of Aster, in Jutland, meaning star. Intelligent Leaf-cutting Ants. The leaf-cutting ants of Texas and further South are great pests, usually destroying the most valuable trees. We have received many complaints and specimens of these ants from Texas in years past, but what seems most strange is that those who have the opportunity of experimenting are discovering means for destroying them rarely or ever attempt it. These ants are certainly very intelligent, and when about attacking a tree they divide their forces, one division of workers ascending the tree and cutting away the leaves, while another division of their forces remain on the ground and gather up the leaves as they fall, dragging them away to their nests. To drive them away try dusting the foliage of the trees with air-slacked lime, with London purple, Paris green, or some other kind of poison. Look for their nests, and when found pour hot salt brine into them, or kerosene emulsion, creosote and water, or common tar water, for almost any offensive or poisonous liquid would do the work of all these pests. It is also quite probable that a piece of cloth wrapped about the stem of the tree and kept constantly smeared with soft tar or wax would prevent the ants from getting at the leaves.—New York Sun.

Gri Slavery in Tibet.

The people were in a state of excitement over the marriage of the belle of the place and the high priced prospective husband had had to pay for her; fifty taels to purchase a "number two wife" was highly creditable to the town which gave birth to such a treasure. The Szu-chuanese are much given to selling girls, and large numbers are exported yearly from Ching-ching, or Han-kou or Shanghai and other eastern cities. The price usually paid for one of six or seven years is from seven to ten taels. They are kindly reared by the stock farmer who buys them, receive a "liberal education with all modern accomplishments," and when they have attained the age of sixteen are easily disposed of at high prices. The trade has nothing cruel about it, and many of these girls are respected members of society in after life, and certainly enjoy many more material comforts than if they had been left in their poor villages. I have lived in homes of highly respectable Chinese where the wife had four or five little girls purchased from these parts, and they were treated with as much kindness and love as her own children.—Century.

The Monarch of Trees.

The redwood tree is the monarch of the forest. It is not rare to see its trunk twelve to eighteen feet in diameter and its branches 300 feet high. John A.