Americans and Englishmen are said to be investigating in large tracts of land adapted to coffee, tobacco and cocoa in Mexico.

In an essay on Egypt, recently published, Dr. Philip Schaff estimates that no less than 731,000,000 mummies have been buried in its soil.

It is a fact worth noticing that twenty-five per cent. of accident insurance policy holders who notify companies of an injury never make a claim for benefits.

According to the method which is now adopted for reckoning leap years in England, December, January and February will be the summer months about 720,000 years hence.

Joseph Hessel, the Austrian, who is said to have invented the marine screw propeller, died in abject poverty. But a monument was erected to his memory in Vienna the other day.

There seems to be no lack of openings for female medical practitioners in this country, notes the Courier-Journal, for the Indian Bureau announces seventeen vacancies for women.

New York City has $16,000,000 invested in school sites and buildings. The educational budget of Spain last year was $5,500,000; of Italy, $8,000,000; of France, $25,000,000; of Great Britain, $35,000,000, and of Germany, $40,000,000.

By irrigation 25,000,000 acres are made fruitful in India alone. In Egypt there are about 6,000,000 acres, and in Europe about 5,000,000. The United States have just begun the work of improving waste area, and have already about 4,000,000 acres of irrigated land.

California people have subscribed $400,000 for the support of the California Midwinter International Fair. The Fair Structures will be placed in Golden Gate Park, a large plot of reserved land west of San Francisco between the city and the Pacific Coast line. The buildings will be Moorish, Aztec and early Spanish Mission in design. Commissioners of Foreign Governments at Chicago have been informed of the Fair and invited to aid in securing exhibits for it.

Further testimony concerning the physical charms of the Japanese women, a matter on which Sir Edwin Arnold and Clement Scott, the dramatic critic, are violently at odds, is furnished by Mrs. Louis Fagan, a traveled English woman. Mrs. Fagan knows the Mikado's land well and she avers that, though the Japanese women are not beautiful, had Providence given them good looks in proportion to their other attractions, western women would in time become extinct, for men would go en masse to Japan for their wives and sweethearts.

Running is the great beautifier of figure and movement. It gives muscular development, strong heart action and free lung play. The muscle comes where it ought to be, the shoulders go back, the loins hold the trunk well balanced, and the feet take their correct positions. It was running which made the Greek figure. The more active tribes of American Indians have been runners from time immemorial, and from the chest to the heels they are much more beautifully built than the average of white men. Running people have usually the firm but elastic texture which is the beauty of flesh.

The commercial and industrial failures in the panic of 1873 numbered 5183, with total liabilities of $228,499,900. Until 1878 these failures steadily increased in number though not in volume of liabilities save in 1878, when 10,478 failures covered liabilities to the amount of $284,383,000. This, however, was the year prior to that in which the bankruptcy law was to cease, and very many shaky concerns and individuals in business desired to advantage by passage into bankruptcy. In 1874 the number of names recorded in business in the United States and Canada, as the New York Evening Post presents it, was 594,189, while in 1893 the number has more than doubled. The failures of 1892 are shown to be 10,344, with liabilities of $114,044,167. For the first six months of the current year the number of failures is 6401, with liabilities of $168,920,839. "The comparison makes decidedly in favor of the present situation," adds the Post, "and many factors warrant the assertion that present disaster does not compare with the disaster wrought in 1873, and leads to the hope that recovery will be much quicker."

The United States have for each 100 miles of railway twenty locomotives, seventeen passenger cars and 714 freight cars.

In the production of iron ore Michigan ranks first. Her product is nearly one-half of the total of the entire country.

Some of the richest gold and silver mines in the world are in Japan. From them ore to the value of $250,000,000 has been extracted.

Gattling has succeeded in adding an electric appliance to the gun which bears his name, which makes it possible to fire that weapon 5000 times a minute.

The National Bank of Italy, like the Bank of England, manages the finances of the Government. It is a practical monopoly and has branches in every large city.

Officers and soldiers of the French army will henceforth have a metallic plate fastened to their collars for identification. A similar scheme is being considered for the benefit of miners.

The New York Recorder avers that Kansas farmers have reaped more wealth off the earth's surface in grain than has been dug out of its interior in precious metals in the same time in all the States and Territories west of her.

The wool crop of California for 1892 is given by Thomas Denigan, Son & Company, at 32,521,000 pounds. The heaviest yield during the past decade was in 1883, when it reached 40,848,690 pounds. The crop has not since that date fallen below the yield of last year, except in 1891, when it was but 29,013,476 pounds. The crop of the present year is expected to exceed that of 1892 by some millions of pounds.

Some experiments in military ballooning have just been made in France. Five balloons were released from the Esplanade des Invalides in Paris; the aeronauts in charge having been previously instructed to pass over a radius of twenty miles of country supposed to be held by an enemy, and then to descend as closely as possible to Combs la Ville. One of the balloons descended within a mile of the desired place, and two others at a point somewhat more distant from it.

Reports from the recruiting station of the United States Army in Boston and from the recruiting station of the Marine Corps in the same city show that at both stations an unusually large number of men have presented themselves the present summer as recruits. It is suspected by the New York Tribune that the closing of mills in New England and the discharge of thousands of workingmen have led to the enlistments. The recruits also are of a better class than usually present themselves.

The farmers of Saratoga County New York, regard the golden rod as a nuisance, exceeded only by the Canada thistle. It fills the meadows, chokes out the grass and ruins the pasturing. That the "pesky stuff" had value was unknown until a man recently arrived from New York and arranged with several agriculturists for the purchase and shipment of the flowers. He is to furnish boxes specially made to preserve the golden rod's freshness during its seven hours journey cityward, and hopes to reap a profit from sales on the street and at the florists' stands.

The American Agriculturist observes: "In nearly every county one or more fairs are held each autumn. Farmers and their families should endeavor to spend one or more days at these annual gatherings. There is certain to be something of great interest and benefit to every branch of farming. In fruit or vegetables, if anything of merit is observed, find out the name and price, test it for next season. Follow the same with grain or other products of the fields. Talk with the producer, if possible, and obtain valuable points or hints that will aid in future labors. Look over the improved breeds of stock, and decide whether a thoroughbred animal could be used in your neighborhood with profit. The machinery and implements will receive their share of attention. You will usually meet many of your friends, and make new ones, and thus add another link to the evidence of why you should attend the fairs, both local and State. Take something with you to exhibit, and whether you obtain a premium or not, you have aided in the display and success of the exhibition, and in the future, by this course, be more deeply interested."

THE TOOTHSOME POMPANO.

A FINNY MORSEL THAT TICKLES THE CALIFORNIAN'S PALATE.

It Came Originally From Japan, But is Caught Now On the Pacific Coast—Three Ways of Cooking It.

WHAT are pompano, anyway?

To begin with, pompano in California are like the snakes in Ireland. There are no pompano. The real pompano, the genuine, simon-pure article, only swims in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The delicious little finny morsel that is sold in San Francisco fish markets under that name is really the stromateus simillimus, or "butter fish," but he is a thousand times more appetizing than the real article, and whether you call him pompano, butter fish, stromateus simillimus or similia similibus curantur, he's the finest little fish that ever sizzled over a fire of hot coals or followed the soup on a menu card.

Originally the pompano, as we call him to save trouble, came from the Japanese coast. A little school of them strayed too far from shore and got caught in the great Japan current, the gulf stream of the Pacific, and eventually brought up in Monterey Bay. How long ago this took place no one knows, but it was not until 1870, or thereabouts, that the fishermen began to find stray pompano in their nets. Only a very few at first, but California seems to have suited the Japanese strangers, and the number has been steadily increasing from year to year, and now they are only forty cents a pound.

When the Monterey fishermen began to catch them first each man caught so few it hardly paid to sell them. So a sort of co-operative scheme was adopted. All the pompano caught on Monday, no matter by whom, became the property of Giuseppe, to have, to hold and dispose of at the highest market rates. Tuesday's catch went to Felip. The pompano "corner" on Wednesday became the property of Luigi. Thursday Antone had his innings, and so on, each fisherman in time being entitled to the entire catch of all the fish. This system served a double purpose. Each fisherman, when his day came, had enough pompano to insure a good profit on the sale and it kept prices at one figure, as it did away with competition. All that is past now. Every one catches enough fish to market for himself, and pompano can be had for 37½ cents a pound.

Although the pompano supply still comes from Monterey and Santa Cruz, the toothsome little fish is caught at other points, but these are either too remote or the supply not sufficient to make it pay to market them. From Santa Barbara and Santa Monica the good news comes that down there, too, the price of pompano is steadily falling and the supply is increasing. At Santa Monica the new wharf that the railroad has thrust a half mile or more out to sea seems to have penetrated into the "stamping ground" of the pompano. They swarm around the end of the wharf, and the Santa Monica summer girl abandoned everything, even flirting, for the fascinating sport of pompano fishing. They bite readily, and there is not only the fun of catching them, but the subsequent and greater joy of eating them afterward.

Pompano should be cooked in three ways—broiled, in the pan or en papillote. Done the first way they are delicious. After the second fashion they are better still. But en papillote—well, words fail to convey any adequate idea of the epicurean joy of eating pompano en papillote. The latter method of preparing the fish is simplicity itself. The pompano should be placed in the pan and cooked as usual until they lack but a few brief moments of being done. Then remove them from the pan and wrap them quickly in white paper thoroughly buttered, each fish in a separate sheet, place on the fire for a moment more, and then—well, if any one doesn't know what to do then, codfish balls would be too rich for him.—San Francisco Examiner.

Process of Making Postage Stamps.

Every part of postage-stamp making is done by hand. The designs are engraved on steel, 200 stamps on a single plate. These plates are inked by two men, and then are printed by a girl and a man on a large hand press. They are dried as fast as printed and then gummed with a starch paste made from potatoes. This paste is dried by placing the sheets in a steam fanning machine, and then the stamps are subjected to a pressure of 2000 tons in a hydraulic press. Next the sheets are cut so that each one contains 100 stamps, after which the paper between the stamps is perforated, and after being pressed the sheets are filed away. If a single stamp is injured the whole sheet is burned.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

A New Story of George Washington.

Here is a new story of the Father of his Country. Washington's head gardener was a man from some European kingdom, where he had worked in the royal grounds. But coming to America, he left his wife behind. Homesickness for his "gude" woman's face soon began to prey on him, and Washington noticed the anxious eye and drooping spirits of his servant. Finally the man went down to the river and declared his intention of shipping to the old country, when who should come up and lean over the side of a newly-arrived vessel but his wife. The kind-hearted General had secretly sent for the woman, and she unfortunately surprised her loving husband in one of his fits of despondency.—Philadelphia Times.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

There are electric railways in New Zealand.

A Paris medical journal declares jaundice is, or can be, cured by eating nothing but lettuce and lemons.

Doctor E. M. Hale, the climotologist, states that Bright's disease is most common in New Jersey, and least frequent in Virginia.

Experiments made at a cancer hospital in New York have convinced the physicians that the virus of erysipelas injected into cancerous tumors causes them to disappear.

In the museum at Cambridge, England, is the skeleton and stuffed skin of an adult hybrid between a lion and a tigress. This, with several distinct litters by different parents, was born in the same menagerie.

It appears that the camel does a good deal of harm in Egypt, by eating the trees as they are growing up. Already the massive Cairo camel is a type distinct from other camels, surpassing all in its cumbrous, massive proportions.

Some investigations carried out by Doctor Alexander A. Houston, of Edinburgh, respecting the number of bacteria in the soil at different depths from the surface go to prove that the micro-organisms become less and less abundant as the depth from the surface increases.

Extensive draught will cause the snail to close its doors, to prevent the evaporation of its bodily moisture and dry up. These little animals are possessed of astonishing vitality, regaining activity after having been frozen in solid blocks of ice, and enduring a degree of heat for weeks which daily crisps vegetation.

The common purslane, which grows anywhere as a weed, produces more seeds than any other plant. One seed pod, by actual count, has 3000 seeds, and as a plant will sometimes have twenty pods, the seeds from a single year's growth may, therefore, number 60,000. There is no instance of similar fruitfulness in any other plant growing in this country.

The Bible fixes the creation of life in successive periods, the creation of the higher order of animals in the last period, and immediately before the appearance of man. According to Moses, the order in which living things appeared was Plants, fishes, fowl, land animals and man. Science, from a study of fossils in the rock foundations, has independently arrived at the same conclusions.

Telephonemeter is the new word naming an instrument to register the time of each conversation at the telephone from the time of ringing up the exchange to the ringing-off signal. Such a system would reduce rentals of telephones to a scale according to the service, instead of a fixed charge to a business firm or occasional user alike. The instrument has been constructed at the invitation of the German telephone department and is to control the duration of telephone conversations and to total the time.

Space for a fort on a hill near London is being cleared of tree stumps by an electric root grubber or stump puller. The dynamo for supplying the current is about two miles from the hill. The current is taken by overhead wires on telegraph poles to the motor on the grubber carriage. By means of belting and suitable gearing the motor drives a capstan upon which are coiled a few turns of wire rope. A heavy chain is attached to the tree roots, and as the rope exerts its force the roots come up quietly one after the other.

The Oldest Trees.

The Soma cypress of Lombardy is, I believe, the oldest tree of which there is any authentic record. It is known to have been in existence in 42 B. C. There are, however, many trees for which a vastly greater antiquity is claimed. The Senegal baobabs—some of them—are said to be 5000 years old.

The bo tree of Anuradhapura, in Ceylon, is perhaps the oldest specimen of another very long-lived species; it is held sacred upon the ground that it sprang from a branch of the identical tree under which Buddha reclined for seven years while undergoing his apotheosis. This oak is well known to be a long liver, and there are specimens still standing in Palestine, of which the tradition goes that they grew out of Cain's staff. The hawthorn, again, sometimes lives to be very old; there is said to be one inside Cawdor Castle of an "immemorial age."

The cedars of Lebanon may also be mentioned, and there are, according to Dean Stanley, still eight of the olives of Gethsemane standing, "whose gnarled trunks and scanty foliage will always be regarded as the most affecting of the sacred memorials in or about Jerusalem."—Notes and Queries.

In Northern Alaska.

Juneau is the most northerly stopping place on the regular Alaska excursion route, and while it is not sufficiently near the pole to meet the midnight sun, there is time at this season of the year for a good deal of light work.

What most troubles strangers is to know when to go to bed. The sun is apparently unwilling to pass and leaves its halo behind.

Twilight waits for dawn, or if there is an interval between I have not discovered it. It is not difficult to read ordinary print at 11 o'clock, and sitting on the deck at midnight (the ship keeps San Francisco time) watching the shadows cast upon the smooth water, and the snow-capped peaks at a few miles' distance is not uncomfortable with an overcoat.—San Francisco Bulletin

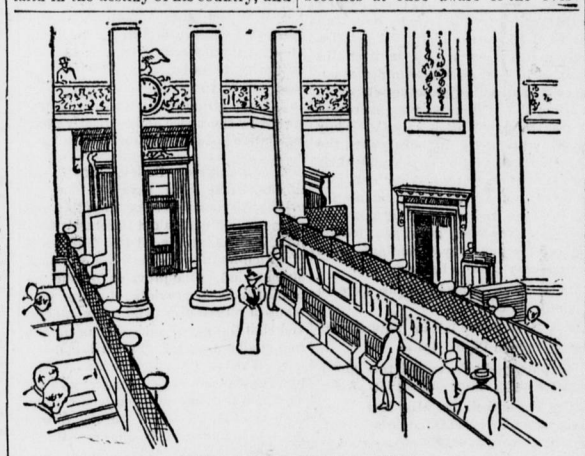
A TREASURE HOUSE.

THE UNITED STATES SUB-TREASURY IN NEW YORK.

Two-Thirds of the Financial Operations of the Government Are Transacted There—How Its Business is Done.

A WRITER in the New York Herald says: Uncle Sam's strong box is situated at Wall, Nassau and Pine streets and is officially known as the New York Sub-Treasury. The average individual who passes it by on either of the three thoroughfares is thoroughly acquainted with its massive granite walls, huge columns and severely classic style of Grecian architecture. Half way up the long flight of stone steps which communicates with the main entrance in Wall street stands a bronze statue of Washington of heroic size, keeping watch and ward, as it were, over the vast treasure within

Upon the same site in 1789 and for a score of years later was Federal Hall, standing upon the balcony of which the Father of His Country took the oath of office as the first President of the United States. The building, therefore, rests upon historic ground, which lends to it a double charm and connects the present with the past. Washington no doubt had an abiding faith in the destiny of his country, and



MAIN FLOOR OF THE SUB-TREASURY.

believed that it would attain an important place among the nations of the earth, but never, it is safe to assume, did his mind picture the transformations that have come to pass over the site of the old colonial hall within the brief space which separates his generation from the present.

Then the country was emerging front the effects of a devastating war and was without a revenue or public credit. Now its resources are boundless, and its credit, unshaken by a financial storm, stands pre-eminent among the nations of the earth. On the site where in 1789 the infant Republic was launched forth upon an unknown and untraversed sea, without a penny in its coffers, stands its treasure house in which is stored wealth beyond the dreams of avarice or the combined fortunes of Crœsus of old or Monte Cristo of modern times.

Within the gray granite walls of the New York Sub-Treasury are transacted two-thirds of the entire financial operations of the United States Government. In 1892 its receipts were $1,259,730,591.30 and its disbursements were $1,279,579,904.24. This would have shown a deficit but for the fact that the Sub-Treasury had a small balance of $138,072,240.63 left over from the year before, and hence a year ago last June, when the balance was struck, the Government found that it had stored in its New York treasure house the neat sum of $118,222,977.69 to begin the work of the fiscal year of 1893. It is difficult to conceive of one hundred and eighteen million and odd hundred thousands of dollars in coin and bills, and yet at the Sub-Treasury this is a trifling amount, and has frequently been exceeded by a hundred or two millions more.

The building fairly groans under the weight of gold and silver and heaps of copper and nickel and huge stacks of

WHERE THE TREASURY NOTES ARE KEPT.

bills. Stored neatly in little steel cubby holes, inside huge vaults, themselves incased in metal and granite, or scattered around on desks or counters, undergoing the process of weighing and counting, the building fairly reeks with wealth. The very air seems impregnated with an odor of riches. In one instance this amounts to an embarrassment, for in the case of the silver dollars, forty millions of which are stored in a series of vaults in the basement, the heavy iron lattice work and huge steel bars are bulging out of place under the enormous pressure of 1200 tons of silver, for $1,000,000 of silver weighs thirty tons, and $40,000,000 is the burden of the vault.

Under ordinary circumstances the Sub-Treasury handles very little coin. The metal lays stored away in the vaults in neat canvas bags, $5000 in each one containing gold and $1000 in each bag of silver. At the present time, however, all this is changed. The Government has suspended the issue of gold certificates against deposits of that metal, the free silver dollars are exhausted, and only those secured by silver certificates remain in the vaults; the Clearing House balances are settled in actual coin, gold is coming in and going out, is weighed and counted, and the passer by in Nassau street at the corner of Pine hears all day long the clink and clatter of metal.

At any time a visit to the Sub-Treasury is interesting, but it is particularly so now. Walk up the long flight of stone steps leading from Wall street to the main entrance of the building any morning after 10 o'clock, pass by the guardian statue of Washington and between the huge granite columns which support the projecting roof, and you enter a cool, lofty counting room.

Standing at the main entrance between two supporting granite columns similar to those outside, the view is unobstructed to the Pine street, or rear, entrance of the building. Before another step is taken the visitor becomes at once aware of the overpowering strength and massiveness of the structure. He has passed through a doorway of solid granite blocks six feet in depth, guarded by an outer door of huge iron bars, an inner door of heavy steel plates and a frame door the projecting rivets in the surface of which bears testimony that it is metal sheathed.

On either side of the entrance is a room of comfortable proportions. That on the left, or Nassau street side, bears the words over the door, "Assistant Treasurer," while to the right are the quarters of the Cashier and Acting Assistant Treasurer. The one is occupied by Conrad N. Jordan, the other by Maurice L. Muhleman, one of the most popular, painstaking and thoroughly efficient Government employes in the country. The entire executive work of the Sub-Treasury—and it is vast and multitudinous in detail—is transacted within these two rooms.

The interior arrangement of the Sub-Treasury is peculiar to the date of its construction. The ceiling of the main room rises in the form of a dome to the extreme height of the building, and is supported by granite columns, forming a rotunda. Four galleries afford a means of communication between the rooms situated at either angle of the building on the second floor, from which can be obtained a bird's-eye view of the clerks at work in three departments on the floor below—the cashier's, receiving and paying. These, situated on the main floor, are separated by bank counters of wood and partitions of iron, pierced here and there by the familiar pigeonholes of a bank. In fact, the entire appearance of the main room of the Sub-Treasury suggests the arrangements of a large bank as they existed two score years ago.

The departments of the Sub-Treasury are the cashier's, receiving and paying, which is sub-divided into cash paying and check paying; coin, divided into paying and receiving; minor coin, bond, coupon, authorities, accounting and superintending. The names of these in most instances amply describe in a general way the nature of the work performed. The duties of the authorities department, however, are peculiar. In it are kept the lists of corporations having business relations with the Government and the names of the officials of each who are authorized to sign and receipt for checks. In the accounting department are kept, in addition to the general accounts of the Sub-Treasury, the account of the Post Office Department, always maintained separately, and the accounts of the disbursing officers of the United States Army and Navy, etc.

At the present time the daily balance in the Sub-Treasury averages about $125,000,000. It runs, however, at times as high as $225,000,000, a sum of money of which the ordinary mind can form no conception. Naturally enough every safeguard is taken for the protection of this immense treasure. The casual observer of the Sub-Treasury building knows full well its massive exterior. Its full strength, however, is not apparent until after a careful scrutiny of the interior. The building itself was constructed for the purposes of the Custom House in 1834 and used as such until 1862.

Strong as it was originally it was, in remodelling, made absolutely impregnable. A board of United States army officers were intrusted with the work, and as it stands to-day it contains many features of a fortress. The walls in the basement are eight feet thick and are built of solid granite blocks. No part of the walls anywhere are less than four feet through. All the partitions between the rooms are of masonry. The ceilings are concrete, all the doors are of stone or metal and the various doors are of steel plate.

The treasure is stored in five principal vaults, three of which hold the greater proportion. These are the gold vault, the note vault and the vault in which is stored the silver dollars. The first two are on the main or rotunda floor, while the other is a huge cavern in the cellar of the building. The vaults on the main floor are bombproof and burglar proof and proof against everything else short of a general cataclysm. That in the cellar is equally so. The walls of the building forming the sides of the vaults are eight feet thick, and masonry encases them on all sides, saving where the entrance doors pierce through. The ceilings of the upper vaults are about twelve feet in height and the dimensions perhaps twelve by fourteen feet.

A Pest of Western Farms.

To the order of animals known as Rodentia, or gnawers, belongs the ground squirrel, or gopher, one of the numerous enemies against which the farmer has to contend. These pests, says the New York World, have become so destructive that many schemes have been suggested for their extermination. The latest report of the Wyoming Agricultural Station details the experiments undertaken to destroy the various orders of gophers.

The ground squirrels attack root crops and seeds of all kinds as soon as planted, though they do the greatest damage after the plants have commenced to grow and are through the ground. Their burrowing habits are a source of annoyance to the farmer, and greatly injure the land. In this respect gophers resemble the prairie dogs, their burrows being close together so as to form towns.

While the gophers are fond of seeds and have a particular weakness for carrots, sugar beets and roots of all kinds, they also attack fruit trees. The latter suffer so much from their depredations that a California orchardist suggests tying newspapers around the trunks of the trees in such a way that when the squirrels attempt to pass over the paper its rattling will frighten them away.

The plan of drowning these pests out of their burrows has also been tried. But this is a tedious method and water is not always procurable. Strychnine or some other poison mixed with grain has been used with considerable success. But the danger attendant on this method is great, as stock, poultry and wild birds are as liable to eat the poisoned grain as the squirrels.

CALIFORNIA GROUND SQUIRREL.

As the result of a number of experiments, the station advises the use of bi-sulphide of carbon. The method of applying it is to take a ball of cotton about the size of an egg, thoroughly saturate it with qi-sulphide of carbon, throw it into the burrow and close the opening with some earth. The bi-sulphide of carbon evaporates rapidly, and being heavier than the air, soon fills the burrow and smothers the squirrels. A pint of the fluid is sufficient to treat twenty burrows.

Bi-sulphide of carbon is good also for prairie dogs, rats, ants and any kind of vermin. A caution in its use is, however, necessary. The liquid is highly inflammable, and should never be brought near fire or any kind of light for fear of an explosion.

According to ancient custom the Queen of England has forwarded to the Lord Mayor four fat bucks from Buskey Park and to the City Sheriffs three bucks. This usage had its origin in the times in which the city had rights of hunting in the royal forests and parks. Similar presents are made in due season in January of each year.

The Little One's Guardian Angel.

"Aunt, have I a guardian angel?"

"Certainly, my dear. I am your guardian angel!"—Fliegende Blaetter