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In re. Astor, what profiteth it a man to "cut" his native country and be "cut" in turn by his adopted country.

There is something to be said in favor of the abandonment of the melancholy custom of dressing in black when a friend dies.

A Trenton, N. J., minister has been appointed inspector of paving. He ought to see that the streets are paved not only with good material, but with good intentions.

Evanston, Ill., has a population of nearly 40,000, according to the new directory count, but its greatest claim to distinction is its city clerk, who thinks he doesn't do enough work to earn his salary.

The New York Times declares that the English Socialists are delighted at the growth of trusts in America. They maintain that the spread will compel the people to arise and confiscate the amalgamations for nationalization.

If the firing of vast masses of explosives at a distance by electric current, and without any tangible connection, as has been proposed in Europe, can be perfected, war as we now know it will come to mean annihilation and become obsolete.

Reports which have been received by a Western institution from 1624 colored business men, show a total capital of \$5,416,329. Among the cities, New York stands first, with \$393,000; Richmond, Va., second, with \$303,000; Charleston, S. C., third, with \$212,000; Pine Bluff, Ark., fourth, with \$210,000.

Walter Damrosch wrote a highly spoken of "Manila To Deum," and now the Italian composer of "I Pagliacci" has tried his hand on a hymn in honor of Dewey, and while we, as a people, appreciate the compliment, we still reserve our heartiest applause for such musical productions as "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night" and "The Kissing Bug Two Step."

American rail makers and locomotive builders have within the last year or two sent their wares to Manchuria, Korea and Siberia, to Japan, Siam, Ceylon and the passes of the Himalayas, to Egypt, Morocco, the Gold Coast and the Cape, as well as Madagascar; and they are now about to open trade with Formosa, where, up to this time, the Germans and the English have had it all their own way. It will presently be time for American enterprise, like Alexander, to sit down and mourn that no more worlds are left to conquer, its subjugation of the existing one being already tolerably complete.

The American child may seem to Old World eyes rebellious and irreverent, a scorner of authority, but the American citizen so made is law-abiding and well behaved, observes a writer in the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. He may be less submissive to parents as a child, but he is proverbially more submissive to his family as an adult. What he loses in reverence he makes up in affection. The character that is formed in freedom by individual experience is the most genuine, the most varied, the most widely productive; it respects law much, but liberty more; it is both root and fruit of true democracy.

Around the World in a Month.
 When the Trans-Siberian railway is finished we shall be able to make the "tour du monde" in thirty-three days. According to the Russian minister of roads and communications the itinerary will be: Bremen to St. Petersburg, by rail, one and one-half days; St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, by rail, ten days; thence to San Francisco, by steamer, ten days; thence to New York, by rail, four and a half days. Perhaps some "Phineas Fogg" will do it in a month. At present the shortest route from Southampton, by Paris, Brindisi, Yokohama, San Francisco and New York is sixty-six days.

Births and deaths occur on the world over more frequently at night than in the day time.

NATURE SMILES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Has All the Charms of Both Tropic and Temperate Zones.

GOLD AND OTHER MINERALS IN PROFUSION

Whatever the Island of Santo Domingo may lack, it is not from any remissness on the part of Mother Nature, for it was originally richly endowed. Everything that grows within the tropics may find a home somewhere between coast line and mountain tops, and in the elevated regions may be produced almost every variety of fruit and vegetable peculiar to the temperate zones. As for minerals, the most precious of all, gold, in flakes, particles, sands and nuggets, has been found in abundance. It was the gold of Hispaniola, as Columbus called the island, that first attracted him thither, and from the native canyons on the north coast he obtained the precious metal first taken to Spain, some of which may yet be seen in Burgos and Granada.

As his sailors were filling their water casks at the mouth of the river Yaqui they were delighted with the sight of golden sands, and from this circumstance Columbus called it Rio del Oro, or the river of gold. The founding of the present capital, Santo Domingo, was owing to the discovery of gold on a tributary of the river on which it is situated, from which resulted the rich mines of San Cristobal, first brought to light in a romantic manner in 1496. Here was dug up in 1502 that nugget said to be the largest ever found in the new world, of such dimensions that the lucky miners, in the first excess of their joy, had a pig roasted and served upon it as a table. They let it go to the King of Spain, some time afterward, but sent a message to the effect that they had done what no royal personage had ever done; dined off a table of solid gold. This great nugget was lost when the fleet that sailed with Bobadilla went down, and still



STREET SCENE IN SANTO DOMINGO.

lies at the bottom of the sea off the east end of the island. It is not known that much has been done in recent times to exploit the mineral riches of the island; in fact, the interior mountains have never been satisfactorily examined. In their shelter yet exist nooks and caves, secluded valleys and dells, which have never been visited except by the Indians of early times and the "Cigaroons" or runaway negroes of slavery days. Humboldt declared that what the Spaniards obtained was merely the surface washings of the placers and the hilltops, and what they got from the beds of rivers. The golden secret has not been revealed, as yet, and will not be divulged until some more progressive Government than that at present ruling in Santo Domingo shall undertake the exploration of the great central range of mountains.

But it is not in mineral wealth alone that Santo Domingo offers temptations to the explorer. This island, which of late has been known to political adventurers as "Loechee's" Island ("Loechee" being a contraction of Ulysses, former President Hourean's Christian name) is rich in every possibility. Within its area of some eighteen thousand square miles, Santo Domingo has every range of climate and soil, capable of producing everything necessary to the support of man. Nature, as has been observed, did everything needful for this beautiful island, but during the four centuries of man's domination its rich gifts and generous provisions have been perverted and even prostituted to the basest ends.

When Sir Francis Drake went to Santo Domingo intent upon sacking the city, he found it hardly worth the plucking. So it happens that while rich in historical associations, both



GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND CATHEDRAL IN THE CAPITAL OF SANTO DOMINGO.

island and city are poor even to the verge of poverty. In the interior of the island, where the banana and sugar cane grow wild, and the ground is covered with rank growths of valuable plants and trees, I have been followed for miles by begging children supplicating a morsel of food.

And yet, any good sort of people might make a second Eden of this beautiful island. Notwithstanding its tropical situation, exposed to torrid heats and torrential rains, Santo Domingo is a very healthy island. A white man can live there, if he exercise due caution, with almost perfect immunity from diseases such as endemic and yellow fevers. Many ac-



SANTO DOMINGO AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL RELATION TO CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

quaintances of mine resident there have informed me that they were never sick a day unless they exposed themselves unnecessarily.

Far more precious than gold are the historical memories of this island. Here, on its north coast, Columbus founded the first city in America, Isabella, erected the first church, built the first fort and initiated the movement by which the indigenous inhabitants were exterminated. In the capital city we may see the ruins of a chapel erected in his time, a fortress built by Don Diego, his son, and the remains of the first conventual structure, as well as of the first American university. In the cathedral lie his own remains (notwithstanding Havana's claim to the contrary) and those of his brother and grandson, while relics of such well-known adventurers as Fernando Cortez, Las Casas and Velazquez, the subjugator of Cuba, are on every hand.

There is yet another possession of the island which neither the rapacity of the Spaniards nor the misdoings of their degenerate successors can take away or spoil. This is its great natural basin and glorious harbor, Samana Bay. As a naval necessity Samana is no longer desirable, but as a factor in our commercial development it would be invaluable. However this may be, there it lies, one of the most magnificent bays and natural harbors in the world, almost unused, and at all events not sufficiently utilized. It is not quite so solitary as when Columbus discovered it, in 1493, and thence took his point of departure for Spain, on his return voyage; but it still exists in isolation, the deep channels



OLD CITY WALL, SANTO DOMINGO.

that would suffice for the largest steamships only being passage to few craft besides small sailing vessels. From the grand promontory of Balandra Head, which guards the entrance to Samana Bay, there sweeps a terraced shore line, with a constant succession of palm-bordered beaches, forest-crowned bluffs and crescent-shaped coves of white and glistening sand, back of which run fertile valleys, cultivated to the tops of the hills. The channel takes us close to the beautiful beaches and almost within hail of the fishers' cabins on the shore, giving glorious contrasts between the deep blue water, the silver sands and the varied vegetation of the hills. A few natives cultivate the lands ad-

Arrows lies five or six miles within the gulf, and together with the town adjacent, is known as Santa Barbara. A series of small cays lies opposite town and harbor, between the islets and the main, being a perfect cul-de-sac, with deep water close to shore. Steep, cultivated hills rise directly from the shore, with offshoots offering choice sites for dwellings; the lateral valleys are fertile and filled with every tropical product, the beaches are smooth and fringed with palms, the bay within the reefs delightful for bathing, boating and fishing.

The Samana peninsula is about forty miles in length, and consists of a range of hills thrust right out into the ocean to the north of the bay. These hills, swept by cool breezes, covered with tropical vegetation, and with their feet on either side plunged into the sea, offer desirable sites for farms and winter settlements.

America's Youngest College President.
 John Henry MacCracken, who has just been elected President of Westminster College at Fulton, Mo., is the youngest college President in the United States, and probably in the world.

Mr. MacCracken has not quite completed his twenty-fourth year. He first entered school in New York City in 1886, having been previously taught at home.



JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN, (President of Westminster College in his twenty-fourth year.)

The years 1894 to 1896 he spent in graduate study, the first year in New York University and the second in the University of Halle, Germany. In this latter university he had exceptional advantages in being a member of the family of one of the professors of philosophy, with whom he spent part of the summer in the mountains on the border of Silesia. After completing two semesters in Germany he became instructor in philosophy in New York University College, and was advanced the present year to the position of assistant professor of philosophy.

Wanted to Be Polite.

No one made any remark upon the temerity of the ladies who invited Ambrose Bierce to deliver a lecture before the members of their club. Bierce was so taken aback by the unexpectedness of the request that, to his own surprise, he found himself weakly accepting the bid, and then humbly consulting his callers concerning the topic upon which they might desire him to speak. The president, a dignified and very conservative lady, in reply to a novel suggestion of the lecturer-elect, remarked somewhat loftily that they were not a club of new women. "I am convinced of that," answered Mr. Bierce in a bland and deferential tone which almost, if not quite, concealed his cynicism. "Shall I say you are a club of old women?" News-Letter.

Suited Him Exactly.

Bilkins looked up from his desk as he heard some one enter his office. Two ladies, members of his church, stood before him. "We are out on another begging expedition," they chattered. Bilkins frowned. "What is it this time?" he inquired, snappishly. "I just paid out \$2 yesterday on foreign missions and a dollar the day before on repairs for the church. I suppose you are collecting for a new carpet now." "No, no; we are trying to raise enough this time to send the minister away on a vacation." The frown on Bilkins's countenance vanished, giving way to a broad smile of satisfaction. "Oh, well," he exclaimed in joyous tones, "put me down for \$10."—Ohio State Journal.

The "Dolly Barber" Tree Blown Down.

In the recent storm the "Dolly Barber" tree, a famous landmark on the "New Out" road, Washington, was carried away. It is said to have received its name from a famous belle. It appears as a boundary point in a title deed of 1780. When Jefferson was President he rambled to the street on which the "Dolly Barber" tree was located, and probably rested often beneath its shade. The owner at that time, an Englishman named Foxhall, was his friend.

LADY SALISBURY.

WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND.

Her Present Illness May Result in a Political Crisis—Husband's Devoted Loyalty to Queen Victoria—Division in the Tory Party.

Among politicians in England today the renewed serious illness of Lady Salisbury overshadows even such exciting topics as the Milner-Kruger duel in South Africa. The best traditions of English public life respect the privacy of the domestic hearth even of the greatest men, but grave political issues are once again forced upon the attention by the attack of partial paralysis by which this august lady has been suddenly stricken down. Among the English statesmen of the Victorian era Mr. Gladstone is alone comparable with Lord Salisbury in the simple happiness of his domestic life. It is the rarest thing in the world to find the latter in clubland. He hardly ever dines out. He lives the life almost of a recluse, neglectful in a strange degree of social fame and of fickle public opinion, and is only kept by his keen sense of public duty and his personal devotion to the queen from the quiet joys of his beautiful Elizabethan retreat at Hatfield and of that laboratory where his friends say he has patiently evolved a scientific discovery of no mean importance. This is the man whose conflict between private



LADY SALISBURY.

sorrow and public duty today awakens the keenest sympathy among all Englishmen, for they know that domestic anxiety is the one superadded burden which the overworked prime minister and foreign secretary cannot bear. It was that one superadded burden that nearly forced on his resignation of one or both of his portfolios last autumn, and should the universal though not over-sanguine hopes for Lady Salisbury's speedy recovery be frustrated, the ministry will, in the last year before its appeal to the electorate, be brought face to face with a crisis in that ever-recurring personal conflict which has harassed it ever since Mr. Chamberlain made the provision of offices for his personal following the price of his alliance with the Salisbury and Hicks-Beach sections of Toryism.

Her Sense of Humor.

There was a man out at one of the suburban resorts night before last for whom I felt the sincerest sympathy, says a writer in the Washington Post. He was a very young man and you could see from his looks that he meant well. The girl with him was younger even than he, and pretty enough to eat, and he was doing his best to be witty under the most disheartening circumstances. Story after story he told, till the perspiration trickled down his cheeks and every time he told a story the girl either didn't laugh at all or, worse yet, laughed in the wrong place. At last he remembered one he knew she'd like. "I was over at Alexandria yesterday."

Gov. Sayers of Texas.



Joseph D. Sayers, the genial and popular governor of Texas, who is the chief promoter of the anti-trust convention which is about to meet in St. Louis, is a man of microscopic pretensions and gigantic ability. His most notable political work was his active campaign against extravagant expenditure when he was chairman of the committee on appropriations, succeeding "Watch Dog" Holman in that position and fully carrying out his ideas.

day," said he, "with George Robinson and Pat Sheehy. You know what a brogue Pat has. Well, we had to run to catch the ferry, and George was a half block behind us. By the time he got to the edge of the dock the boat was ten feet away. Pat was terribly excited and dead in earnest. He leaned over the edge of the boat: "Jump, George," he says, with his brogue. "Jump! You can make it in two jumps."

Here the young man leaned back and waited for his hard-earned applause. None came. The girl looked at him expectantly. "Ain't that a good one?" he asked, a bit discouraged. "Oh, yes," she said. "And did George do it in two jumps?"

"DRUV TO DECENCY."

In Many Places the Triumph of "Good" Leaves Much Required.

I stood at Seven Dials and heard the policeman's account of what it used to be, says Jacob A. Rife in the Atlantic. Seven Dials is no more like the slums of old than is the Five Points today. . . . The policeman's story rambled among the days when things were different. Then it was dangerous for an officer to go alone there at night.

Around the corner there came from one of the side streets a procession with banners, parading in honor and aid of some church charity. It marched, young men any boys with swords and battle axes, and upon its outskirts skipped a host of young roughs—so one would have called them, but for the evidence of their honest employment—who rattled collection boxes, reaping a harvest of pennies from far and near. I looked at the battle axes and the collection boxes and thought of forty years ago. Where were the Seven Dials of that day, and the men who gave it its bad name? I asked the policeman. "They were druv into decency, sor!" he said, and answered from his own experience the question ever asked by faint-hearted philanthropists. "My father he done duty here afore me in '45. The worst dive was where that church stands. It was always full of thieves"—whose sons, I added mentally, have become collectors for the church. The one fact was a whole chapter on the slum.

London's way with the tenants we adopted at last in New York with the slum landlord. He was "druv into decency." We had to. Moral suasion had been stretched to the limit. The point had been reached where one knockdown blow outweighed a bushel of arguments. . . . The rear tenements were chosen for this purpose.

They were the worst as they were the first of New York's tenements. The double-deckers had, with all their evils, at least this to their credit, that their death rate was not nearly as high as that of the old houses. That was not because of any virtue inherent in the double-deckers, but because the earlier tenements were old, and built in a day that knew nothing of sanitary restrictions and cared less. The mortality of the rear tenement had long been a scandal. They are built in the back yard, generally back-to-back with the rear buildings on the adjoining lots. If there is an open space between them it is never more than a slit a foot or so wide, that gets to be the receptacle of garbage and filth of every kind, so that the windows in these walls become a source of greater danger than if there were none.

Advice.

"I know what you are going to tell me," said the high-browed youth who wore a uniform; "you are going to advise me to learn to say no." "Not at all. I was about to advise you to learn to say nothing."—Washington Star.

A Wooden Church 700 Years Old.

Here is the oldest wooden church in the world, erected at Borgund, Norway, more than 700 years ago, when Christianity was first introduced in that neighborhood. It is still as sound



OLDEST WOODEN RELIGIOUS EDIFICE.

as ever, but is used by the congregation only during the warm months of the year. As the ancient edifice is not supplied with heating apparatus or glass-protected windows, the people refuse to patronize it in winter. Seen from the outside, the church seems to be all roofs. Over the low colonnades, partly open, partly closed, that surround the church on all sides, rise two rows of roofs covering the side naves. Above them are the roofs of the centre nave, crowned by towering rafters and timber work. The roofs are covered with moss-grown shingles and dragon heads and other emblems of Norsemen lore protrude on all sides.

The interior construction shows even more plainly than the outside that the builders of this edifice were advanced architects, for they discarded the primitive blockhouse principle for that of posts set upright and joined by woodwork. The church proper is divided into a "high church" and a choir, which is smaller than the first, and terminates in an oval altar niche. Both "high church" and choir have a centre and two side naves, separated by rows of pillars. The middle naves are elevated after the manner of the Roman Basilica. There are three entrances under fine arches, masterpieces of wood carved with axes.

The church is always steeped in mystic gloom, for there are no windows, only a series of small, round holes cut into the upper side walls where they join the roof. There are no window frames nor shutters, and the holes in the walls are never closed, summer or winter. The altar and the pulpit are of the simplest description, unadorned by paint or picture. There is a bench at the side of the altar for the burgomaster and the alderman of Borgund; the rest of the congregation has to stand or kneel on the bare floor.

A Moral Tale.

In the whole wide world there is not a class of people to be found who inflict severer punishment upon themselves than the Caribs of Central America. Their religion, which is one of the most peculiar kind, demands self-punishment for sins intentionally or unintentionally committed. The punishment takes the form of starvation and close confinement. If the sin be in the form of a lie, no matter whether it is calculated to injure another or not, the sinner goes without either food or drink for three days, at the end of which it is believed that the offender has paid the penalty for his or her sin.

Blaspheming and using bad language is punishable by absolute starvation for two days. Assault, drunkenness and other serious sins call for four days' starvation for one week, three days' starvation for the second week, two days' starvation for the third week and one day's starvation in the fourth week.

All sins are punished with starvation. For that reason crime is very low among the Caribs, who are among the best behaved and truthful people in the world.—Pearson's Weekly.

The New Czarowitz.

In case of the death of the present Czar of Russia he will be succeeded



GRAND DUKE MICHAEL. (Brother to the Czar, and heir-presumptive to the Throne.)

by his brother, the Grand Duke Michael. He was born in 1878 and is the youngest son of the Dowager Empress. The Republic of Venezuela contains 506,150 square miles. It is larger than any country in Europe except Russia.