

**PASSING NOTES.**

The amount spent on intoxicating drink in Ireland for the year 1887-88 was £11,041,588.

The value of exports to the United States from Prince Edward County, Ont., during 1888 was \$435,731.59.

Mlle Nevada is said to have accepted an engagement for South America at \$300 a night for forty performances.

Every man, however humble his station, or feeble his powers, exercises some influence on those who are about him for good or for evil.

It has been decided in the London Law Courts that a person who is photographed has a copyright in his or her own face or figure.

Professor Herkimer has etched his picture of "The American Lady," which excited so much attention in the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1887.

Prof. James Johnson in the February "Popular Science Monthly" has a paper called "The Story of a School" which is well worthy of perusal, especially by those interested in pedagogues.

Mr. Robert Gibb, R. S. A., has recently finished a large and important military work "The Battle of the Alma," which is to be exhibited at the exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy in February next. The picture took eighteen months to paint.

Sir Frederick Leighton, Sir John Gilbert, Sir James Linton, Mr. F. Bourne Jones, Mr. Sidney Calvin, and others have founded a drawing Society of Great Britain and Ireland with the object of making drawing an essential part of education in all schools.

It is said that the Lansing Michigan Common Council has adopted a resolution ordering all theatrical companies visiting the city to furnish every city official from Mayor down with a free pass to their performances.

Wilberforce University has received a gift from Dr. E. N. Yelland, of Philadelphia, of a thousand acres of land in Eastern Kentucky, underlain by valuable coal measures identical with the Pittsburgh beds, and abounding in iron ores and timber.

Mr. Alma Tadema is engaged in painting a Grecian village festival which is called "An Offering to Bacchus." Mr. Burne Jones is engaged on the third of a series of four large pictures representing the "Briar Rose or Sleeping Beauty Legend," and also on a colossal "Adoration of the Magi," painted "tempera," which will go to Birmingham.

The statistics of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, for last year show that no less than 1220 pupils have been under instruction. Of those it is notable that 600 had been in the architectural classes, 200 in excess of the students of painting. The scholars of the Royal Academy average about 200 and at the Royal Scottish Academy 30.

Sir Frederick Leighton, P. R. A., is to get £4000 from the Liverpool Corporation for his large painting of "Captive Andromache," which was exhibited at the Royal Academy last May. He states that the picture was the result of twenty-five years' thought and two years' hard work, and that if it had not been going to a public institution the easel price would have been 8000 guineas.

Experiments have recently been made to show the effect of cigarette smoke upon mice. Dr. Dudley, of Vanderbilt University, cooped up some mice where they were obliged to inhale the smoke of cigarettes. The first mouse died in 22 minutes, the second in 25, the third, when the supply of smoke was increased, in 6 minutes. It is thus conclusively established that smoking cigarettes is a dangerously pernicious practice for mice.

The latest gift of the Queen to her people is received as a most gracious and generous act. She has bequeathed nearly the whole of the jubilee gifts received by her last year to the nation. The collection will continue to be open to public inspection at Windsor till at a future time it is transferred to some public institution, probably the South Kensington Museum. As a memorial of the present reign, and as a symbol of the attachment of the people to their Sovereign, the gifts will be justly treasured by posterity.

Minister Phelps leaves London because England has not yet appointed a successor to the unfortunate Lord Sackville. The temptation to contrast the manner of Mr. Phelps' departure with that of Lord Sackville is strong, but the contrast is too suggestive to require to be emphasized. It is to be remembered, however, that Mr. Phelps has written no letters, and it is further to be borne in mind that no Englishman has sought to entrap the distinguished American.

Since April, 1887, the shrinkage in American railway securities has been at the rate of one per cent a month. There has been a drop of at least \$50,000,000 in the face value of railway stocks and bonds. The chief sufferers are the Chicago, Burlington & Santa Fe and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Investors in Boston were large holders of these stocks. The decline in prices has brought down several families there whose wealth was counted by the hundred thousand. The Western railway business has been badly overdone.

A man who was condemned to death for murder a short time ago, and is at present confined in the prison of Ratib, in Austria, having resolved to commit suicide by starvation, is being fed by force twice a day, every twenty-four hours.

Four days ago he began to refuse all nourishment. The means employed to feed him are the following: In presence of the prison doctor a screw is with great difficulty driven between his teeth, and his mouth is kept open by small wooden wedges. An Indian-rubber tube is then put down his throat and he is made to take sufficient quantity of milk gruel to keep him alive. He studiously resists the operation, during which he has to be bound hand and foot.

Certain moths and butterflies have recently been found to give off odors from their bodies, which are either secreted from organs specially adapted for the purpose and situated near the end of the body, or, as in some species, from certain hair-like scales on the wings. Mr. Meldola, according to "Nature," has lately detected the scent emitted by the male of a mountain moth, a species of *Hermia*. This insect possesses a fan-like arrangement of hairs on the forelegs, which he has proved are scent-organs. The odor they produce is like that of artificial essence of jargonelle pear, viz., *amyl acetate*. The

white butterfly expels an odor like that of citron, and in a Brazilian butterfly three different scents arise from as many parts of the body. The males of Callidryas, a yellow butterfly, gives off a mink-like odor, while certain of our Arctic moths give out an intense odor somewhat like the smell of laudanum.

Mr. Lide Meriwether, president of the Tennessee W. C. T. U., in her annual address before the State Convention at Knoxville, urged the importance of the problem of working-girls' wages in connection with the work of social purity. She tells of a letter written by a young working girl of Auburn, Mass., to her mother, not complainingly, but as a simple matter of fact, saying, "I am doing stockings and get fourteen cents a dozen. It takes me two good days to do one dozen, but I am going to try to do more next week." This is no exceptional incident, but one of many.

The resources of British Columbia are too rich and vast to be neglected by capital. The Victoria "Colonist" records an important investment by Wisconsin capitalists in timber lands in Vancouver Island. The transaction has been brought to accomplishment by the exertions of Hon. Robert Dunsuir, and the sum involved is over \$600,000. The Wisconsin firm has purchased the Chenainus saw mill and timber limits, and the mill will be enlarged so as to admit of an increased capacity for output, and the investment means an important impetus in the development of the lumber industry of the province. The manager has already taken up his residence in Victoria and will erect a \$25,000 residence there.

A correspondent of The New York Tribune believes that children's features, like their manners, can be trained. He writes:—"To joke upon 'ears that stand out from the head' would be sombre fun for show victims. But all young parents ought to know that this trial to a child may be just as surely averted as a 'tip-tilted' nose. If the mother teaches her nurse always to lay the infant in the cradle on its ear, never letting the pillow push it out, the ears will grow flat to the head. Just so the nose can be 'educated' by a very gentle pull at the bridge of it every day of babyhood to grow straight. A pretty mouth is often spoiled by a careless parent allowing the three-year-old to suck its thumbs."

The Greek town of Castri is to be bought out in order that enthusiastic explorers may excavate the site of the ancient Temple of Apollo at Delphi. To buy out the town will cost \$75,000, and this sum, together with a similar one for the American College at Athens, Professor Norton, of Harvard, is now trying to raise in the United States. At a meeting the other evening in New York the professor, on learning that two gentlemen were willing to start the subscription list with a thousand dollars each, regretted that the first donation was not to be twenty thousand. The rage for digging up ancient remains in the East has hardly reached that stage of intensity, in the classic city of New York.

There has been much talk of the infamies alleged to be commonly practised in "Zens" in the Wisconsin woods. Girls are said to be retained against their will in these places, maintained for rough and vicious men whose employment takes them away from towns into the forest regions of the State. There have been heartrending stories of helpless girls trying to effect an escape and being traced by blood hounds and brought back. Denials and reiterations of these atrocities have followed quick upon each other during the past year, and now the Wisconsin Legislature has done the best thing it could have done in the matter. It has ordered an investigation which will settle definitely the truth or falsity of the charges.

Baron Hirsch, of Paris, well known all over the world for his magnificent charity, has, it is said, advised the Hebrew race, so blend their nationality with other races, so that in process of time the Jews as a people would become extinct. The proposition has not been favorably received by the Jews themselves, and seeing that they have preserved their prejudice against the Gentiles for centuries, it is extremely improbable that they will take any particular pains to efface themselves by mingling their blood with that of the Christians. Rabbi Pereira Mendes, of New York, in some remarks concerning the absurdity of merging Judaism into Christianity, says:—"It is much more likely that the Christians will come nearer the Judaism which was practised, preached, and taught by Jesus Himself."

At a recent meeting of the Colonial Institute Mr. H. H. Johnson, her Majesty's Consul for Portuguese East Africa, read a paper on "British West Africa and the Trade of the Interior." He showed that if England declined to develop these regions—the basin of the great Niger river—other European nations would assuredly do so to the detriment of British trade. Cattle rearing was possible to as great an extent as in Australia or America. The mineral wealth was great as were also the animal and vegetable productions. British trade with the West Africa coast amounted to more than £5,000,000 a year. Mr. Johnson said he saw no reason why England should not make of West Africa a second India. In closing he remarked that "if we had not parted with the energy and resolution which as a Government and people, had characterized us of old; if we should frame and patiently carry out a sensible, settled policy in these regions yielding to no sentimental clamour from false philanthropists, nor ignoring the just rights of the natives and our responsibility towards them as their guardians and instructors, we should make of Western Africa another India, equally worthy of our renown and equally profitable to our trade."

**They Didn't Remember.**

"You all remember the words of Webster," shouted the orator. "No, we don't," interrupted a man in the gallery. "He has so many words I can't remember more than half of 'em."—Harper's Magazine.

**The New Pain King.**

Polson's Nerviline cures flatulence, chills, spasms, cramps. Nerviline cures promptly the worst cases of neuralgia, toothache, lumbago, and sciatica. Nerviline is death to all pain, whether external, internal, or local. Nerviline may be tasted at the small cost of 10 cents. But at once a 10 cent bottle of Nerviline, the great pain remedy. Sold by druggists and country dealers.

**What Saved Him.**

One Christmas morning, many years ago, a young reporter on a daily paper had occasion to call with a message at the office of one of the foremost editors and publishers of the country.

The younger man was a sickly country lad of keen sensibility and nervous temperament, who finding himself homesick and friendless in a great city, had yielded to temptation, and had fallen into the habit of drinking and gambling. The publisher, as he listened to the message, noted the lines which dissipation had already left on the boy's face. He was a man who made it his work in the world to help others. No man touched his hand in passing who did not gain from him new courage and hope in life.

He answered the message which the reporter brought, and then, holding out his hand cordially, said, "Let me wish you a Merry Christmas, my lad." He took from a shelf a book, containing sketches of the lives of the greatest English, French and German authors, with extracts from their works.

"Here," said he, "are some friends for the new year. When you spend an hour with them, you will have noble company."

The surprise of the gift and the unexpected kindness from the powerful editor upon whom he had a powerful effect upon the lad. He spent all of his leisure time in poring over the book. It kindled his latent scholarly tastes. He saved his money to buy the complete works first of this author, and then of that; he worked harder to earn more money to buy them. After a few years he began to gather together and to study rare and curious books, and to write short papers upon obscure literary subjects.

Men of similar tastes sought him out; he numbered some of the foremost scholars and thinkers of the country among his friends, but he never forgot the lonely friendless lad who had been sinking into a gambler and a drunkard until a kind hand drew him back, and he in his turn sought out other lonely, friendless boys in the great city, and gave them a helpful hand out of the gulf.

So, year by year, his life widened and deepened into a strong current, from which many drew comfort and help.

He died last winter. The sale of his library gathered all the collectors of rare books in the seaboard cities. During his illness, the newspapers spoke of him with a sudden appreciation of the worth which had so long been hid in obscurity.

"A profound scholar, with the heart of a child," "A journalist who never wrote a word to subserve a base end," they said. He read those eulogies with a quiet smile. The actor who has left the stage forever cares little for the faint plaudits of the crowd in the distance.

One day he put into the hands of a friend an old dingy volume. "When I am gone," he said, "take this to Mr. —, and tell him that whatever of good or usefulness there has been in my life I owe to him, and this Christmas gift of his thirty years ago. The little story is absolutely true. We venture to tell it because there is no one living whom it can hurt, while there are many whom it may help to hold out friendly hands to their brothers who have stumbled into darker paths in life than they."

**A Large Clock.**

A new clock, weighing two and one-half tons, has been placed in the tower of the Glasgow University, similar to the great clock at Westminster. The frame of the clock newly erected is horizontal, and of cast-iron planed. It is six and one-half feet long, two feet wide, and one and one-half feet in depth. It is supported on beams built into the wall of the tower, so as to obviate vibration. The wheels, which are of gum metal, can be moved separately, as the pivot holes are screwed to the frame. The main wheels of the striking and quarter trains are twenty inches in diameter, and attached to them are cams to lift the hammers, which are fixed in iron frames connected with the clock by cranks, and having a check spring to prevent vibration. The weight of the hammer that strikes the hours is 120 pounds, and it is lifted ten inches. There is an automatic apparatus attached to the clock, which stops the quarter peals at night and starts them in the morning. The escapement of the going part is known as the double three-legged gravity, invented by Lord Grimthorpe. The pendulum is of zinc and iron, to counteract influences of temperature. The tubes are arranged so that the expansion of one raises the centre of gravity while that of the other lowers it. The bob of the pendulum is cylindrical, and weighs three cwt., and the beat is one and one-half seconds. The "bold and shunter" appliance of the nobleman already named maintains the motion while the clock is being wound. Messrs. J. B. Joyce & Co., Whitechurch, Shropshire, manufactured the clock.

A significant sign of the times in England is that, according to the report of the Registrar-General, the average age of those who get married is becoming higher and higher every year. For bachelors the age is now 26, and for spinsters 25 years. It will be interesting to calculate at what date, if the present progress continues, the average age of being married will reach fifty years. The fact, however, indicates either that a dialike rot married life is spreading, or that the difficulties of maintaining a wife and family are increasing.

The remarkable decrease of late in the death rates of New York and Boston and other large cities is apparently a remarkable contradiction of the popular idea that open winters are unhealthy. There is no doubt that the recent mild and equable temperature has been especially favorable to old and young people, and to persons having a tendency to such diseases as bronchitis, pneumonia, and tubercular consumption. On the other hand it may be expected that an open winter promotes the ravages of diphtheria and typhoid fever.

Booth and Barrett have not given up their project of securing Mme. Modjeska to act with Mr. Booth next season. They have agreed to present her as a joint star with Mr. Booth, instead of simply as a leading lady. This concession is coupled with an offer of a certain salary of \$1500 a week. Nixon and Zimmerman held a contract binding Modjeska to play under their management next season, and are naturally unwilling to give it up without negotiations succeed. Should present negotiations succeed Mr. Booth will open his season in New York next Fall with a production of "Macbeth," with Modjeska as "Lady Macbeth." Otherwise Mr. Booth's opening piece will be "Richelieu."

**A College for Horses.**

"That's the best educated horse in New York. He is the most intelligent horse that ever came out of school."

The speaker was a broad-shouldered fireman, who stood at the door of a downtown engine house. The handsome roan which stood a few feet away ready to jump into his harness, seemed to know what was being said, for he twisted his head and arched his neck in the proudest manner. A moment later, under the direction of the fireman, he went through a wonderful exhibition of fast harnessing, showing almost human intelligence. He practically harnessed himself and did it so quickly that the eye could scarcely follow him.

What the fireman said was true. He had been to school, from whence he graduated with distinguished honors. There are many interesting things in New York, but there are few things more interesting than the school from which this particular horse graduated. It is situated in the upper part of New York and is under the management of several veterans of the fire department, commanded by a well known veterinary surgeon, who is practically principal of school.

And there is as much hard studying done in this school as in any in New York, even if the pupils are horses.

The school in New York educates horses for the fire service only. It is a more important institution than most people may at first thought imagine it to be. Intelligent horses are almost as indispensable as are intelligent men. A stupid, a slow or a balky horse may at times cost the loss of thousands of dollars, and perhaps many lives. The delay of two or three seconds in getting a fire engine out of the engine house sometimes gives a fire an impetus that is unnecessarily damaging to life and property. The horses turned out from this school are warranted to be strong, intelligent and to have a thorough knowledge of their business. They never balk, they are never lazy, and are in every respect reliable, being sound of wind and limb and more than intelligent.

The horses are all picked, but they seldom are of any use for fire work after five years of service. They are selected by experts from among the best horses that are to be found at the Bull's Head horse market, the chief horse market in the United States. The horses selected come mainly from the West. It requires some skill to pick out horses for use in the fire department. Big and clumsy horses are of no use. But the horse must be speedy and strong. The horses selected are usually about sixteen hands high, weighing from 1,200 to 1,450 pounds, and their ages range from four to six years. Younger horses are not strong enough to drag heavy fire engines, and older ones are too old to train.

As soon as the horse is bought he is sent to the school, and Dr. Shea, who is in charge of this institution, says that in his opinion horses and boys are very much alike, and must be managed in very much the same manner. But Dr. Shea believes in kindness as a means to get control of his pupils and teach them.

It is marvelous how quickly these young horses learn what is necessary for them to know before they can be put to work. The men who handle them know their business thoroughly, and are in love with it. Under their careful handling the green horse understands his duties in little more than a month. No whip is used in this school. The first test is that which establishes the soundness of the animal's wind. Then he is put in his stall. He is led backward and forward to where the harness hangs until he becomes used to the engine, and until he also becomes accustomed to ducking or lowering his head to get it into the collar.

When he accomplishes his task well he is given apples or candy or lumps of sugar, and is petted and made much of. He is next taught to rush to his place in front of the engine at the clang of the gong. When he becomes expert at this his education is complete and he is ready for serious work, and a week later can run to a fire, as well as the most thorough, going veteran.

There are always a dozen horses being put through their paces at this school, which is constantly becoming more and more of a necessity. These horses cost about \$300 each, and after their five years they are disposed of to street peddlers or cartmen for any sum from \$50 to \$150. These horses are so well taught that they never forget their training. It is not an uncommon thing when a fire engine dashes through the streets of New York to see some dilapidated looking nag attached to some huckster's wagon pick up his ears and join in the race to the scene of fire. It is an old and broken-down fire horse who can't forget the stirring days when he helped draw the engine. It is the same spirit that led broken-down hunters to join in the hunt at the sound of the cry of the hounds.

There are some wonderful horses in the New York fire department, but the champions are "Joe" and "Charley," the splendid team that are attached to engine company 17, in Chambers street. These were the prize-winners at the world's fair at the American Institute in 1885, and they are still the champions. They are the two most famous scholars ever turned out from New York's school. Joe is the champion of York's school. He entertains many visitors who come daily to admire his intelligence. His Joe is a roan, and a handsome one, too. His mate Charley is a bay, and this team can drag a heavy engine over the ground faster than any team in the United States and probably in the world. At the world's fair when they won the medal which they still hold, they were tried on a dash of twenty-hold, they were tried on a dash of three tests, six feet six inches. They made three 2 in one at 10 in the morning, another at 2 in the afternoon, and yet another at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The time of the first dash was one and five-eighths seconds; for the second two and one-half seconds, and for the last two seconds and one-half seconds, and for these horses is one. The intelligence of these horses is simply remarkable. Chief Shaw, of London, could scarcely believe that they could do what was said of them until it was done before his own eyes. Even then it was hard to believe. On three ordinary trials the other night Joe and Charley got into their harness and had their engine on the street and on their way to a fire in an average time of eleven seconds. And there was no special effort to make extraordinary speed, either.

[Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The poor in Windsor have good reason to bless the generosity of Princess Christian. Twice a week, during the winter months, they are made happy by the dinners which she provides for them at the Town Hall.

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Stylish young men now wear silk elastic garters. The farmers have been doing excellent work at the meetings of their Institutes. Dairying, ensilage, fodder, and forestry are some of the themes that have been discussed, all handled by those who knew whereof they spoke. Such meetings must have a wonderful influence for good, if not now appreciable, yet progressive and cumulative, and certain to be soon recognized.

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