

PERSONALS.

Miss Charlotte Mary Yonge, who, a generation ago, conquered the world of sentimental youth with her *Heir of Redclyffe* and *Heart's ease*—the proceeds of which she gave to the cause of church missions in New Zealand—finds no exemption from work in her sixty-seven active years, but is busily engaged on her one-hundred-and-first book, which is to be a story of the time of Vespa-

The New Hampshire courts have finally admitted a woman to the bar of that State. She is Mrs. Morilla M. Ricker, who has practised before the courts of the District of Columbia since 1882. It is said that she never receives a retainer or a fee, her services being gratuitous and for the cause of the needy. In New Hampshire she hopes soon to test the legal rights of her sex in a number of cases.

The visit of the German Emperor to Copenhagen and Christiania is said to have revived the old idea of a great Scandinavian empire, to embrace Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and the former Swedish provinces of Finland. This is thought to be the reason for the Czar's change of plan and decision not to visit Copenhagen. Perhaps, also, it is from expectation of such an effort that the Czar has suddenly begun a more decided Russifying of Finland.

Mr. William Waldorf Astor possesses two books which have no duplicates. These are his own historic novels, *Valentino* and *Sforza*, interleaved and illustrated with water-color drawings, pen-and-ink sketches, and illuminations in gold and silver, all done at his own suggestion, and expressing his own ideas. The artist is Major David E. Cronin, who is one of the best of living illustrators, and the beautiful volumes are said to have cost three thousand dollars each.

In Mr. Gladstone's library of twenty-five thousand volumes are two which were given to him in 1815, when the future statesman and bibliophile celebrated his fifth birthday, one of the two shabby little booklets being the gift of the admirable Mrs. Hannah More—his "holy Hannah," as Horace Walpole used to call her—then already seventy years of age, but taking great delight in clever children, in which class her young friend "Billy" Gladstone was conspicuous.

Miss Fanny Gary, daughter of Judge Gary of Chicago, a young lady of wealth and position, lately worked for two weeks in a Division Street tailor's shop from seven o'clock in the morning till six at night as substitute for a consumptive girl, who could obtain her needful holiday only on condition of leaving a competent seamstress in her place, which, until Miss Gary insisted on taking it, she found it impossible to do. With the mercury in the nineties, this sort of good Samaritan succor touches the heroic.

One of the most distinguished of German men of science, Dr. Ernest von Bruecke, best known, perhaps, as an eloquent antivivisectionist, has just resigned the chair of Physiology in the University of Vienna, after a continuous service of forty-one years without missing a lecture. Professor Bruecke was never more able or brilliant in the classroom than to-day, but the Austrian law requires all Professors to retire with a pension on their seventieth birthday. The Emperor has conferred upon him the highest decoration in his power to bestow.

Society at Newport has developed a Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters. Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt and other fashionable women belong to it, and it is supposed that the terms of their league are found in the injunction, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them." The members fine themselves when they break any of their self-made vows, and go about privately "slumming," like an exclusive and very elegant Salvation Army. They have devotional reunions among themselves, and are said to do a great deal of good.

The Czar of Russia is especially fond of his Finnish possessions, because only in Finland does he feel himself safe from assassination. At present, accompanied by the Czarina and their children, he is making his annual picnic cruise among the Finnish Islands. Sometimes the royal party lands for five o'clock tea, when the Emperor gathers sticks for the fire, and the Empress boils the kettle. They travel and live like any plain bourgeois couple, the Czar in tweeds, in which he looks enormous, and the handsome Czarina in the simplest of yachting costumes.

Garden Work in August.

The present month is the one in which most attention in the garden will be required to care for the growing plants and destroy weeds, and little to their propagation, says *Vick's Magazine* for August which gives the following suggestion. Still a little spinach and radish and cress seed can be sowed for late fall use.

Strawberry beds should be kept free from weeds and the plants where they are too thick, and crowding, thinned out. If there should be a lack of rain, see that the celery trenches are supplied with all the water they need to keep the plants growing freely.

After the fruit has been gathered from the gooseberry and currant bushes, the watchfulness that thus far has been kept to defend them from the worms is apt to be relaxed, and the leaves soon become a prey to a brood of devastators that may have grown up unnoticed. The dusting of the bushes with hellebore should be kept up as long as necessary to preserve the foliage and ripen the wood perfectly. Upon the perfect maturity of the wood depends the ability to produce a good crop the following year.

Cuttings of many kinds of plants made now and dibbled in, in a nice piece of ground, will root easily on account of the warmth of soil and the favorable atmosphere; when first put in, water and give a little shade, which, however, should be withdrawn as soon as practicable. Most of the soft-wooded house plants can be increased in this manner, and also many kinds of shrubs.

Beds of foliage plants need to be watched and trimmed and kept in shape; clipping off the tips of the growing shoots will make the plants branch out and thicken up, and spread into a compact mass.

Seeds of pansy, carnations, pinks and sweet william can be sowed for flowering plants the following year.

Usury That Thrives in Italy.

The British Consul at Brindisi, in the course of an interesting report on the trade and agriculture of his district, especially of the province of Lecce, observes that there are but thirteen local or co-operative banks in the province, and small proprietors unable to obtain advances from the agencies of the large banks, and having no co-operative bank to assist them, had to resort to usurers to obtain funds to cultivate their vineyards. In the published statistics of the Chamber of Commerce for the province for the year 1888 some astonishing figures are given on this subject. "How the Chamber has obtained the information I am unable to say, but the surprising feature is that, after paying the land tax of 40 per cent. on the assessed value of the land, the owner has been able to pay such rates of interest as those quoted below, (as he must have done or sacrificed his property.) Such being the case, it can only result that had these unfortunate proprietors been able to get money on fairly easy terms, say 8 to 10 per cent. per annum, they would have found agriculture in this province a very profitable speculation. At first sight it would seem that such a state of things might be worthy of the attention of foreign bankers; if proprietors can and do pay such rates of interest, surely legitimate banking business would prosper here. The communes cited are in out-of-the-way positions, far from the larger towns, which in some measure explains matters." The table appended gives a list of twenty-eight communes, with the rate per cent. per annum charged for money loaned to agriculturists. The lowest rate is 40 per cent., and prevails in two communes. In one it was 50, in five 60, in one 72, in two 100, in three 120, in one 150, in one 160, in one 200, in three 240, in two 250, in two 300, in one 400, in one 480, in one 550, and in one 1,200 per cent., or cent. per cent. per month. This is an average of about 215 per cent. per cent. throughout the whole province.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR.

A Great List of Entries and Many Attractions for the Coming Show at Toronto, From Sept. 8th to 20th.

The success that has attended the Great Industrial Fair, which is held annually at Toronto, has been remarkable, and it is evident that the exhibition for the present year, which is to be held from the 8th to the 20th of next month, will again surpass its predecessors. The entries which have already been received from all parts of the Dominion, the United States and Great Britain, are sufficient to fill all the buildings on the grounds, and they are expected to be of a much finer quality than any heretofore exhibited. A large entry list is generally a good indication that it will be followed by a large attendance of visitors, and as very cheap fares and excursions have been announced by all the Railway and Steamboat lines from all parts of Canada and the adjoining States, this indication will doubtless be fully verified on the present occasion. The Governor-General and Prince George of Wales will probably visit the Exhibition. Several more new buildings have been erected this year and still there is no space to spare. Special exhibits have been entered from Spain, British Columbia, Manitoba, and other sections of Canada, and the plays will be made by the Dominion and Ontario Experimental Farms. A long list of special features have been provided including a large Wild West Show, grand displays of fireworks, concluding with the magnificent spectacle, "Last Days of Pompeii," Edison's wonderful talking dolls, a great dog show, and a multitude of other features that cannot fail to entertain the many thousands that will doubtless visit the great Fair. Full particulars of all that is to be seen will be contained in the Official Programme which will be issued in a day or two. Over two hundred and fifty thousand people visited the Toronto Fair last year, and the attendance has been gradually increasing each year, it is probable that this number will be exceeded this year. A large number of conventions and meetings are to be held at Toronto during the Fair, and these are those of the Stock Breeders, Manufacturers, Ontario Creameries Association, Central Farmers' Institute, Inventors, the Canadian Medical Association, Dog fanciers, &c., and visitors to the Fair will have an opportunity of attending these meetings. All entries close on the 10th inst., and intending exhibitors should govern themselves accordingly.

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