THE VANDERBILTS.

The Quiet Tastes and Many Charities of the Richest Americans.

Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the head of the Vanderbilt family, is as ordinary a looking man as you will find in a day's walk. He looks like a well-fed and prosperous banker, and to see him passing the plate in St. Bar-tholomew's Church on Sunday morning, no one would dream that he could draw his cheek for \$150,000,000. There is nothing about him and his wife in the slightest degree showy. They dress well, but never loudly. They give fortunes to charity every year, but never ostentatiously. They give elaborate entertainments, but the facts never get into the newspapers except as second hand. In a word, they are as modest, gentle and affable as any couple whose income is not over \$2,000 a year.

It is interesting to know that the entire family goes in for religion, art and literature. Even the children are religiously inclined, and there is not a book sale of importance or an art sale or a bric-a-brac sale, where there is likely to be a rare piece of lace, embroidery or china, at which the Vanderbilts are not represented.

The ladies of the family are accomplished women. They embroider, paint, sing fairly well, are clever in amateur theatricals and recitations, and well read and can perform on several musical instruments. When they give an entertainment at their boxes they employ the best talent the metropolitate stage affords, the best singers from the house for their guests, and frequently erdists of the calibre of Coquelin and Jane Inding to recite for them.

Their afternoon teas are marvels of good vulgar extravagance anywhere visible. There the English fashion of decanting the champagne into pitchers, and it is served without the froth, in regular Continental fashion. The wine and supper are always servof separately.

The family is never too gay or too much occupied to pay strict attention to devetional exercises, and every Sunday morning they are found in their pews at church. They walk to and fro. They believe in giving their horses a day of rest. The aggregate Vanderbilt fortune is placed at \$450,-000,000. The family is the richest in the world, and it is now indisputably at the head of social New York. The vast wealth, the tact, the education and the good breeding of the third and fourth generations have accomplished their purpose. - Philadelphia

Gold in Transvaal Republic.

The gold discoveries in the Transvaal Republic of South Africa are now bringing the home of the Dutch Boers into great repute. Very little is known here of that far away country except its name. The town of Johannesburg contains 15,000 inhabitants. Two years ago it was a peaceful farm. There are seventeen mining companies in the Transvaal, and the rise in the value of their shares has been remarkable. The gold is found in a peculiar conglomerate rock resembling pudding stone, which is made up of quarts and pebbles cemented together by a highly ferrouginous earth. The precious metal is in the cement not in the quartz, and is in particles so fine that it cannot be discerned by the eye and will float on water. The rock is crushed by machinery and the gold collected by quicksilver. The machinery in use is manufactured in Chicago and England. Both coal and petroleum shale are found in quantities in combination with both lead and copper. Very extensive deposits of iron ore are found in the Transvaal. These were worked in a rude way by the natives Kaffers and Zulus before the country was occupied by Europeans. The area of this highly favored country is about 120,000 square miles. The Government is a Republic, and is just now afflicted with a surplus arising a little squeamishness caused by the thought solid. Our next point was Sulphur Bay, money will be applied to internal improve- stomach. There is nothing repulsive about ments, much needed, which have been impossible of execution heretofore. The Transvaal will be put in railway communication with both Capetown and Durham. At present there is 300 miles of stage travel from the former, and 267 from the latter to Johannesburg.

SHORT AND CRISP.

The girl who carried off the "Beauty Prize" at Vienna has married an American gymnast.

Walker Blaine is one of the most popular

young men in Washington society. He has finished and polished manners and is a charming conversationalist. There is no truth in the story that Mary

Anderson is to be married to her agent, Mr. Abud. Miss Anderson is, and has been, engaged to a young man in the shirt business on Wood Street, Cheapside, London.

The other day a New York newspaper published a complete list of the marriageable rich men of England. Three days later the same paper announced that "the decks of the out-going ocean steamships are crowded with American women."

A carpenter's college for women has been started in England at the famous university town of Cambridge.

It took 144 horses, 200,000 pounds of hay, 27,676 pounds of bread and 84 barrels of apples to feed the animals of the New York Zoological Gardens last year.

There is not a State east of the Mississippi River, says the Philadelphia Press in which there are not thousands of acres of land that can be purchased at a nominal price, nearly all of which can be made in five years as productive as the lands of Oklahoma.

A Scorpion Suicides.

A writer in Nature maintains that brutes do sometimes commit intentional and wilful suicide, and in proof of the fact he narrates the following incident. At Madras a scorpion of enormous size was captured and confined in a glass box. In order to examine his prisoner the reporter had the box re-moved into the sunlight, whereupon the scorpion appeared to become greatly excited. The light and heat seemed to effect it painfully, and the reporter having heard that a scorpion which had been surrounded with fire would kill itself, resolved to make an experiment somewhat of that sort. Taking a lens, he concentrated the rays of the sun upon the back of the unfortunate scoranimal sprang wildly about the box in which

fifth, the scorpion raised its tail with the rapidity of lightning, and plunged its sting into its own back. From the sting there was an emission of fluid; and in one half of a minute the poor scorpion was dead. This incident proves not only that a brute may actually commit spicide, but also the fact (which has been disputed) that a poisonous animal may die of its own poison.

CURIOSITIES OF RAILWAY HISTORY Odd Incidents Happening When Rail Traffic Was Young.

less than sixty years ago.

dence of English ministers of state would permit their Soverign to travel by rail. Prince Albert traveled frequently on the Great Western, and often at a tremendous rate of speed, though he would sometimes say to the conductor, "not quite so fast next time, Mr. Conductor, if you please." But the first time Queen Victoria took a railway trip was on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, June 12th, 1742.

In France Louis Philippe having come to the conclusion that a mode of travel which was safe enough for his subjects was safe enough for himself, ordered a special train for a royal trip with his family to his chateau at Bizy; but was unexpectedly side-tracked by a solemn resolution of his council of ministers to the effect that the chief of the state ought not to take so hazardous a mode of

Smokers had no toleration on the early aste. Guests come and go as they place. English trains. A certain foreign gentle There is no restraint, and all the protty to man who precumed to smoke his clear was cleary buds find it advantageous to state warned to desist, but continued to take a sly of this wealthy family. Even for an after- other passanger, however, in another coupee, neon reception the refreshments are of the smelt the offensive oder, and complained to most elaborate character. Yet there is no the guard that somebody on the train was smoking. The guard failed to abate the is always enough champagne to fill a hegs- nuisance; the besty passenger brought suit, head. The Vanderbilts have established and recovered damages against the com-

One of the most recent improvements in railway management in England is the ap following story of his journey to a replication of photography in many ways, such as the examination of bridges or tunnels which conductors allege to be giving 20, 1888, for New York. My object was way. It is the photographer, and not the engineer who makes the inspection, and it is found that what might escape the eye of the engineer is never overlooked by the eye of Arctic Ocean and study the birds and

Perhaps the oddest railway in the world is a cat-corps at a station in the London and North-Western where many thousands of middle of March before I got to Winnipeg sacks are constantly lying. The cats are having been detained for three weeks by fed daily with milk only, and an appropriation is made for their support. The rate are thus kept from destroying the sacks; and a number of women are employed to mend the holes which are made in the sacks by the rate which the cats of the company

ANT PICKLES ARE GOOD.

Says a Maine Lumberman Who Has

Boten Theusands of Them. Should a Maine lumberman find a stump or rotton log with thousands of big black ants in it he scoops the torpid insects from that time I have had no change and have their winter domicile and fills his dinner had to use natives furs. I had sixty-nine pail with them, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. dogs and eighteen Indians with me. The When he gets back to his oabin at night weather was severe, sometimes forty behe setshis pail in a cool place until his sup- low zero, and in 24 hours 30 above. This per is ready, then brings it forth, and, while helping himself to pork and beans, helps ing for tastes, and he esteems a handful of 7, we reached Athabasca Lake, 175 miles himself also to ant . There is no accountants a very choice morsel.

them to have a peculiarly agreeable, strong. to sleep or cook anything, as we could ly acid flavor. The woodsmen, whose food get no drift wood. It consists largely of salted meat, baked beans and similarly hearty victuals, naturally have a craving for something sour.

voured thousands of them. "They are food. We came across many Indians cleanly insects, and there is no reason why dead from starvation. Reached the Great them, and when a man has learned to eat the creatures as pickles he prefers them to any other kind."

An English Idea of the Dude.

The realistic descriptions of the wonders white China silk, with collar of cardinal red | cold during the journey from there that artfully sewn with threads of gold. No the Indians were wonder the young gentleman finds little time for politics. Like Browning's pretty woman, his own beauty must be his only We were oblidged to walk over fifteen duty; all hope of grace beyond lies there." hundred miles across Alaska, owing to

Willie Could Stay.

came this evening to ask you-"

"One moment please, Mr. Hankinson. Willie, you are making too much noise with those blocks. You'd better take them into the other room.'

"To ask you," resumed the man, mop ping his brow with a trembling hand, "if "Willie, take those blocks instantly and month latter ?"

remedy you said the other evening you were going to take, and if it did you any good! England by the 1st June, at which time I am nearly wild with a headache to-

"I have forgotten the circumstances to which you allude, Mr. Hankinson," said ordered out. Miss Kajones, coldly. "Willie, you may remain if you wish."-True Flag.

Realism in Journalism.

"I don't want yer old paper no more, 'n case before the commission. ye may jest stop it to wunst.' "What's the matter?"

ain't fit to place inter a refined and educated a few headings in the process. household like mine is." "Has it been lying?"

pion. The effect was instantaneous. The rayther. Only last week it sed in the items wife with him all the time. His madness animal sprang wildly about the box in which it was confined, whistling and spitting with uv Bosting filled the pulpit at the Union manifests a violent antipathy towards her. Opposite Daly house.

"No, siree, he didn't. Why, he's a little light weight whipper snapper, wot don't weigh no more'n eighty-five pounds, and it would take 200 uv such as him ter fill aour pulpit or cum anywhars near it. We've got a full grown pulpit, wot can't be filled by no one such boy ez he is."-Danville Breeze.

How They Did It in Yorkshire.

town to the effect that, after several couples had been simultaneously married at the parish church, one bride found her bride- DEPOSIT AT OTTAWA, groom walking away with another lady on his arm. The curate, summoned to her aid, It is curious to know that the first sure remonstrated with the defaulter and beenough railway in the world was laid be sought him to take his proper partner. tween Manchester and Liverpool in 1830 "Nay," said he, "aw was married to this 'un, and I loike her t' best." There is no It was twelve years later before the pru reason why this should not be sober truth. -The Cornhill Magazine.

Composition Cake.

One cupful of butter, 21 cupfuls of sugar, ary 1st, 1888, as follows :four eggs, two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, one quart of flour, 12 cupfuls of raisins, AETNA LIFE, stoned and chopped, or the seedless raisins, 11 cupfuls of currants, one teaspoonful of CANADIAN AND BRITISH COMcinnamon and a little nutmeg, one curful of milk, mix into a smooth batter, bake in paper lined flat cake pan, when nearly cold strip off the paper and ice the bottom with clear

A Case in Point.

Uucle Tom-"Got anything to do to-morrow, Jack ?" Jack-"Yes; I've got to go down town to Uncle Tom-" Then you've got a chient at

Jack-"Oh! this case isn't in court; it's at wine merchant's."-Life.

AMIDST FROST AND SNOW.

Lord Lonsdale's Arctic Journey. Lord Lonsdale, who arrived at San Francisco last Tuesday morning, told the porter: "I left Eugland on February not to go to the North Pole, as stated, but purely to explore the inlands in the animals to be found there. From New Ontario. York I went to Montreal. It was the a snowstorm. On the 7th of that month I went to Troy, where horses and sleds travelled to Prince Albert, a distance of three hundred miles, the journey occupying three days. I then went to Green Lake, 270 miles further, covering the whole distance, mainly through a dense forest, in a week. From this point I sent back my servant with all my luggage, only keeping one change of clothes. From made travelling terrible work, and kept us wet from morning to night. On May long, and lost ourselves for two days in a Ants are said by those who have tasted fog. During that time we were unable

RAINED AND SNOWED ALTERNATELY all the time. For the next 800 miles we "Ants are the very best of pickles," said had many difficulties, but were never an "logger," who confessed to having de- more than four days at a time without they should not be eaten if one can get over Slave Lake on June 1st, the ice being from the tax on mining companies. The of taking such crawling things into his where our boat was caught between two Lindsay. blocks of ice and we were kept there for 28 days. Our Indians were terribly fatigued and lay down in the boat useless. Finally we got out to Hay River, where St. Lindsay, opposite Baptist Church, we saw the most beautiful waterfall in the world. It is horseshoe-shaped, has a of an American dude's toilette to which the sheer fall of 200 feet, about one and a half New York papers have given such promi- mile wide at the top and one and three New York papers have given such promination nence have excited wonder and admiration quarters at the bottom. It is far more line the breasts of Englishmen A dude in beautiful than Niegara Block of the Lindsay, Ontario. in the breasts of Englishmen. A dude in beautiful than Niagara. Block after his war-paint, says an English society paper, block of ice, and iceberg after iceberg, "is an object worth looking at. A waist-coat embroidered with seed-pearls, a cord of abyss below. We went to Peel River in gold running up his trousers, underclothing the Hudson Bay Compay's steamer and pink silk, his manly bosom enceased in a there got a boat and eight natives, and corset of apple-green satin, he may well re-gard himself as a personification of the art of dress in its highest development. Nor does he condescend to simplicity even when reached Melville Island, in latitude 75, April 22nd, 1889.—13. no one is looking. He sleeps the sleep of course was directed from Melville Island to Kodiak, Alaska. So intense was the a just man made perfect in a night-shirt of to Kodiak, Alaska. So intense was the and delicately embroidered cuffs, the fronts all but 28 of the dogs died and several of

NEARLY FROZEN TO DEATH.

the depth of the snow, which in some places was 11 feet, making it impossible "Miss Laura," began the youth with a for the dogs to drag anything more than the 10th of November we reached the Russian mission on the Yukon River, and after many more difficulties arrived at Katima, of the other side of Kodiak, about the 12th February. Owing to the thickness of the ice it was impossible for a boat to arrive from Kodiak until nearly a

the Border regiment of Her Majesty's troops, of which he is the Mayor, is

Sir Charles Russell drank nothing but cocoa during the delivery of his great speech at the opening of Mr. Parnell's

Chauncey M. Depew never writes a in reflecting on his subject, jotting down

At the beginning of his present illness "Hez it! Well, I should say it had, the king of the Netherlands wanted his

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THE WAITING THOU THE LINE

and the Vacant Prairies Teem With People-See

of the Opening.

The future historian of t

oma, insearch of material,

find in the records of the

ponwealth full of strik

these in importance and 1 will be the events of April day is destined to live long le who witnessed tate. It was a const in the annals of th before in the histo States have 10,000 peo around a piece of land, aw years even, the day upon receive permission to take simultaneously upon a giv before has there been so li tributed among so many was the difference so mark and demand. Why, acc moderate estimate, at le 6,000 people camped in G equal number congregated Scarcely less can be the n went to Kingfisher. The chants, the professional nu as a rule. By far the gr the actual settlers. The much less than 12,000. crossed the railroad bridge the Arkansas River the d tory was opened up, and far larger crowds were aw

day at Purcell on the s Oklahoma, then. This does not take in who entered by other but Altogether, however, it s which gives 25,000 as the Oklahoma gave shelter o April night. Was there

THE FIRST TO REA influx of population in the fornia gold fever, or dur citement of the discover

of Pennsylvania? No unique, the experiment likely ever to be repeate such a scale. Punctually at noon a the, "dinner call." It v upon for the start. Im up shouts and cheers. discharging their conter faintly echoed the joy, t feeling of relief in the p the supreme moment h Away dashed the horse lashing their horses as i

reaching the hill yonder ed closely by buggies, b wagous, and the rear was heavy drays, all lashin cline. Clouds of dust ground. Through it at friends as they galloped "There he is," cries a Fing her hands, "there White horse, there he go The white horse is th

and another rider is los of dust raised by the "Oh, he can't beat proudly exclaims the ol son, the only child, wh "Good luck to that wish of the bystanders picks up the reins and alcepy mules to strain a

behind the crest of the !

dd wagon out of the ru

EN ROUTE-CROSSING deliberation up the hil The mad race cont good horses, and they learless riders. They rubreakneck speed, all tanimals with lash and overtaken the overtaken, there one st Up he pulls the beast signal not a single rid

north side of the hill. In the meantime th ling at good speed up in many instances have and depending upon land. There was no road any longer. From the ground as it we made its appearance