

MISCELLANEOUS.

There seems a greater or less measure of restlessness in the world over. Even Germans and German cabinet ministers don't seem to agree as colleagues ought.

The question has been gravely asked why buttons are placed on the back of a man's coat. One will give it up. It is a mystery to great for solution.

That poor unfortunate mortal, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett—the old lady's "curled darling"—is determined to take Dr. Israel's advice and "bustle about."

So the French have invaded Madagascar and are busy at their work of slaughter, and of ending as fast as they can a nascent and Christian civilization.

We fully believe in President Arthur's truthfulness. That gentleman says that no possible inducement could lead him to take another term of the Presidency.

In the days of Henry the Eighth, able-bodied tramps and sturdy beggars were whipped and passed on. Not a bad idea, as it seems to us.

The Presbyterians on the other side are determined to be on good terms with their brethren on this. When any minister applies for admission into the Presbyterian Church of the United States, he must be on probation for a year before being finally admitted.

Charivaris are very old affairs. They were a protest against what were regarded as ill-assorted marriages, and were hundreds of years ago very much as they are in some cases to day.

It is a great deal more than time that the very strongest measures were taken to put a stop to the ravages of forest fires. Generally they result from very culpable carelessness which can not always be discovered or punished.

We have seldom seen or heard of a meaner trick than that which has been going the rounds, about a so-called lawyer by the name of Warmoll getting \$10 out of a poor drunk old man, on pretense that he was his lawyer and had helped him out of trouble.

All those land societies which sprang up at the touch of the Gospels of greed are not yet among the things that were. Apparently some must still believe in the unselfish benevolence of their promoters, else they would have before this utterly collapsed.

When manufacturing establishments are paying dividends of so and so per cent., is it not time that somebody were asking who pays for all this in the long run? Somebody does. That is evident, and there is as little doubt the consumer is that somebody, and why he should be obliged to pay so much above the cost of production and of reasonable living profit would puzzle a good many people to make out.

when such competition comes in the home produce will naturally charge and the consumer pays the piper!

Now then for the flowers. The flower mission is anything rather than a mere piece of pleasant amusement to those engaged in it. We have no doubt that those engaged in that work feel pleased and gratified, not besides that they are doing real honest effectual work, for humanity and heaven, in periodically bringing flowers from their own abundance, to cheer and gratify the sick and suffering.

Here is another thing which in our estimation seems to indicate that the world is not yet altogether given over to idiocy and kindred weaknesses. A teacher at St. Louis had punished a boy corporeally when all forms of moral suasion were found unavailing. For this he was pulled up into Court, but very soon discharged by the Judge, who ruled that the teacher must determine the necessity, the nature and the extent of punishment required, his acts of course, like those of a parent, being subject to judicial review.

Who the "living writer" is, who makes the following remarks, we though struggling to be omniscient, or at least to appear so, do not know. Nevertheless the same is hereby fully endorsed and commended to the notice of all masculine and unmarried readers.

Labor troubles seem to be far greater and of a far more formidable character in the States than here. Canada will have enough of them also before all the play is played out. And why not? What reason is there in the manufacturers being so protected that they can divide their 20, 30, 40 or even 60 per cent of yearly dividends while there is no protection whatever to the workman, who may be any day underbid by the importation of hordes of foreign workmen from other lands?

The "Derby."

How could English-speaking people manage to get along without the Derby? To very many it would be a poor world indeed, without that attraction. Still, a considerable quantity might rub along, though it had ceased to exist.

ABOUT CANARY BIRDS.

How to tell a Norwich Canary from a Belgian—The Length of Their Lives.

The big goldfish swam around and around in a globe regardless of the efforts of the green parrot to attract his attention. The white macaws were screaming with all their might in rivalry with a mocking bird, which was making a variety of sounds.

"It is a clear Norwich canary," he said to the reporter, "which I have just received. Notice what a compact form he has, and how handsome his plumage is. People can talk about their Belgian birds, but for my part I think there is no canary like the Norwich canary.

"Are they very healthy birds?" "Very healthy and long of life. They are used to our climate and are not subject to the ailments to which German birds so often fall victims. They seldom suffer from cold. I once had a Norwich bird which lived five years without being sick a day as far as I could see.

"How long ought it to have lived?" "For seven or eight years. The reason why many birds die young is that they are not treated properly. In mistaken kindness their owners give them too much sugar, cake, and other rich food, which destroys their digestion. They lose their song, become listless, and die."

Canada Abroad.

Lord Archibald Campbell, brother of the Marquis of Lorne, discourses in the London Times on the attractions of Canada in the following fashion:—

"Lord Lorne, the present Governor-General of Canada, may surely by this time be allowed to be a judge of the capabilities of Canada, and most decidedly would not so enthusiastically love the land and its people, or long for the continual inroad of his fellow-countrymen, did he not really and truly believe that by so doing they would lay the corner stone of their future success. Before many years have flown the Government of this country will have to purchase probably whole regions as a refuge for the destitute of this country—England Scotland and Ireland—in order to prevent actual starvation, and give thousands the chance of blessing those so sending them and providing them, at all events, with some means of gaining a livelihood in 'Greater Britain.'"

That is all very well, but at the same time it is no reason for sending paupers to Canada unless those who send them guarantee them support till they can support themselves. There is more needed for people going to the North-West than the mere expense of their journey to Winnipeg. Energetic people will soon make their way, but they ought to have a year's subsistence money at any rate. Those who land with only their ten fingers, will find themselves in a poor way.

Brooklyn's Bridge.

The great bridge between Brooklyn and New York is by far the greatest engineering feat of its kind yet attempted. It was begun on the 3rd of January, 1870, and completed in 1883. The length of its river span is 1595 feet 6 inches. The length of each land span is 930 and 1850 feet. The total length of the bridge is 5989 feet, and its width 85 feet. The number of cables is four, and the diameter of each cable is 15 1/2 inches. The first wire was run out May 29, 1877. The length of wire in four cables, inclusive of wrapping, is 14,361 miles. Weight of four cables, 35,882 tons. The depth of tower foundation below high water mark on the Brooklyn side is 45 feet; on the New York side 75 feet. The height of towers above high water is 278. Clear height of bridge in centre of river span above high water at 90° Fahr 135 feet. Height of towers above roadway is 159 feet. The cost was estimated at three millions, the actual is about fifteen millions.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER BRIDGES.

Table with 2 columns: Bridge Name, Length/Status. Includes Chelsea, Cincinnati and Covington, Clifton, Fribourg, Hungerford, Keiff, Menai, Niagara, Pesth.

At a recent Southern camp-meeting the eloquent divine said: "The wheels of the righteous shriek and groan as they toil up the hill of salvation and over the ruins of temptation and the bridge of damnation, and have to scrowidge pretty lively to get up at all; but the sinner, with greased wheels and flying colors, slips down to damnation, like a dose of oil, with a ripp and a whizz, and raises no dust whatever."

GARNERED WITTICISMS.

A burst of confidence—failure of a savings bank.

A humane equestrian will never stir-rup his horse.

One swallow may make a summer, but a swallow-tailed coat does not necessarily make a gentleman.

Since the telephone has come into constant use there has been a remarkable increase of the yell-low fever.

Carpenters who refashion the old dry-goods boxes should be called "circumstances," because they alter cases.

The season has arrived when the funny farmer will send his cousin a package of shoe-pegs bearing the label, "fresh oats."

"The alphabet is the key which unlocks the storehouses of knowledge," says an exchange. But it's the whis-key that loosens the tongue.

A Newark drummer, who travelled for a jewelry firm, has beat his employers to the tune of several hundred dollars. He was a snare drummer.

Princess Louise says she was very much pleased with Boston, and the Bostonians are so proud over it that they think of building a wall around the city and charging an admission fee.

In a recent article on etiquette appears the advice: "Never pull your watch out in company unless you are familiar with the people." This is simply a new version of the old warning, "Beware of pickpockets."

Rich uncle to his physician: "So you think there is hope for me?" "Not only that, but I can assure you that you are saved." "Very well; I wish you would inform my nephew, but break the news gently to him."

"You know I'm in a great hurry," says an American amateur to a French artist; "I want to take your picture to America before the new tariff goes into operation. Sign your picture and I will have it finished over there!"

And now the small boy gazeth admiringly at the gorgeous circus poster, and he importuneth his mother for her hard-earned savings, and when she refuseth he abstracteth her flat-irons and selleteth them for old metal.

Louis Veullot was not tender for any one, but above all he was bitter against literary people. One evening that he had dined in company with several of them, he said: "These people astonish me! they write much better than they talk!"

Miss Rosebud's partner: "Were you at Mrs. Jones' ball two seasons ago?" he said to Miss Rosebud at the Patriarch's ball. "Oh, no," she answered; "I'm a debutante this winter." "Are you?" he exclaimed; "why somebody told me your folks were Episcopalsians."

A new coachman has been advised to be scrupulously polite toward his employer if he wishes to keep his place. Accordingly, when his master visits the stable the following conversation takes place: "Well, John, how are the horses this morning?" "Quite well, sir, thank you. And you?"

The stage beard looks as much like a beard that grew there as a cow's tail would if tied to the bronze dog on the front porch. When you tie a heavy black beard on a young actor, whose whole soul would be churned up if he smoked a full-flavored cigar, he looks about as savage as a bowl of mush and milk struck with a club.

The Leafy Month.

This is the "leafy month" of June, the month of roses and marriages in England, but not of the former in Canada, whatever may be the fact about the latter. In any case, it is generally a pleasant month even in Ontario, and there is no reason to believe that the present one will be an exception. The leaves are out and,—and,—but TRUTH is not eloquent, especially in the descriptive line. Better leave that to every one's own experience and imagination and in the meantime say a few things on the superstitions and enjoyments associated with the name.

It is sometimes said that nobody is superstitious now-a-days; that people have all become so educated and shrewd that they are no longer frightened at ghosts or even staggered by omens, Aha! but this is quite a mistake. Just think for a moment. It has been, time out of mind, thought unlucky to marry in May, and how many have put off their marriages till the present month on that very account? More than some would think. They would not marry in May! wouldn't some very sensible folks! no, not for a queen's ransom. Didn't the Romans think it unlucky? Hadn't evil and malignant spirits especial power during that month? Aye, and not only that, but wasn't it held unlucky for a bridal party to meet a monk, or a priest, or a hare, or a dog, or a cat, or a lizard? Is there nobody in Toronto who has the same feeling yet? Why, Heaven help you, there are some who would not get married in May, or on a Friday, on any account, and if they met a cat when they were setting out on a journey they would immediately turn back. But never mind, the ominous month of May is away and young men and maidens may marry with all freedom if they only avoid Friday, though why Friday, no fool on the face of the earth could tell! Speaking about marrying it may not be generally known that it is only lately that the law allowing the husband to give his wife and apprentice "moderate chastisement" was repealed. Indeed TRUTH is not quite sure if it is repealed even yet. At any rate in a good many cases it has still practically a great deal of force. Marriages in Canada have got down to a very prosaic and matter of fact point. The license, the ceremony, the wedding breakfast, the marriage trip and then the steady humdrum routine as if the couple had been married a hundred years.

Speaking of our new country and immigration thereto, it was an amusing and lively scene when the Hamilton Presbytery "pitched into" one of their brethren for speaking "lying calumnies" against the land of his adoption. Not only did they "pitch into" him, but they formally censured him in a strong and serious resolution, against which censure he has appealed to the Synod. We are not sure if they have behaved in a very wise fashion, though, of their patriotic motives there can, luckily, be no doubt.

Spelling Reform.

What is the use of so many people crying out about spelling reform? Let them go at it in their own individual practice, and with all the influence they can personally and socially exert, and they will do more to bring round what they want than by all the talk in which they are indulging, though they continued it till doom-day. Language is in a continued state of flux, so is its spelling. There is no reason why it should be thus and not otherwise, but general or universal consent. Nobody is hindered from spelling the English language in any way he thinks best, and any change will have to be brought round in the gradual form of individual usage growing always more common till the old plan becomes obsolete and disappears. If William Gladstone and all the other great men mentioned are in favor of spelling reform, why don't they begin in every letter they write, in every book they publish, in every newspaper over which they have any influence? Nobody forbids them to write "ov" instead of "of" if they chose. What is to prevent their dropping the final 's' in 'as' as often as they please? or doing anything else which may strike their fancy, or commend itself to their judgment? Do they think by agitating there will be a grand universal strike against the abominations of the present mode of spelling, so that on the first of January of a certain year the change will take place much as the "New Style" in time reckoning took place last century? If they do they are mistaken. And it is well that they are. The transition, come when it may, will be gradual, and for the interests of the language and the reading millions it ought to be. Why should Gripe and William Houston, and many others cry out for a change, and yet in a humble, somewhat cowardly fashion bow to the present conventionalism which they say is worthless as a drunkard's dream, and cumbersome as an elephant that has the gout? Let everyone who believes in spelling reform start it in their own individual practice. If it is rational and satisfactory it will make progress, and surely they are too whole-souled and too thoroughly convinced of the impragable position they occupy to care one straw for the jibes of puny wit-crackers, and careless worshippers of use and wont, though these were a great deal more formidable than they are ever likely to become. Spelling, after all, like freedom, must "broaden slowly down from precedent to precedent." Come, good, reforming friends, show your manhood and the might and mastery of the truth and reasonableness that are in you, by actually "sweeping before your own doors." The best plan for learning to walk is to walk, and the best plan for reforming the spelling is to spell. Come, go in and win.

The Safety Pin—Its Antiquity.

Taking the common "safety pin" as a starting-point, the various types into which the variants fall are classified and exemplified very thoroughly in this little study. Not a single part of the simple, though not primitive, instrument but has suffered some strange metamorphosis. Now the catch is flattened into a disk or diamond-shaped plate, now lengthened into a tube, now knobbed and put back to the bow; the bow is alternately shortened, lengthened, squared, rounded, decked with studs, grain-work, braces, rings, plates, amber beads, figures of birds and beasts and men, or tricked with hanging ornaments; while the spring is found doubled, multiplied into coils, changed into a solid roll, or hinge, or magnified into gigantic proportions in relation to the other parts of the brooch. The Italian groups, with either simple or two-springed bow, are very distinct; the Hungarian-Scandinavian examples are marked by their spiral catch and coil spring; the Greeks characteristically seized on the spring as the feature of the fibula, and curled the wire into two spirals, from the centres of which catch and pin spring. The history of the fibula can be traced for some 2,000 years, starting from its first appearance about 10 centuries before Christ.

Foolish Litigants.

Every day affords fresh proof of the need and the reasonableness of arbitration in the settlement in the great number of disputes which have now to be settled in a court of law with no end of expenses. A few dollars in a great number of cases constitute the whole bone of contention, and in order to settle about that witnesses are called, time and temper wasted, and lots of the ten commandments broken into slivers. Is there no reason in people? Apparently not. There is such an amount of what is called "big feeling," and of a subordinate kind of infallibility, that nothing apparently will do but the ultimate appeal to law with all its excitement and all its outlay. Very well. So be it. But the litigants are generally great fools all the same. A little common sense, a little reasonable feeling, and an honest, sensible neighbor or two, might manage the whole thing, and leave the limbs of the law and the courts leisure for more important matters. While we advise in this sensible way, we know that no change will be effected. Very well! The advice is good, all the same, and those who won't follow it are not much to be pitied if they get their fingers pretty severely burnt.

And poor Count Von Moltke can not take a brief holiday in Italy without all the papers declaring that the old gentleman is preparing for a campaign against France by way of Italy. The "Silent Dane" is doubtless enjoying himself, as he has a perfect right to do on his holiday tour, and the peace of Europe will be in no way endangered thereby. The triple alliance undamaged the other week has had a good deal to do with raising the suspicions, whilst the action of both Germany and France in keeping themselves ready for war, and steadily increasing the number of their battalions until each has a standing army of some 1,200,000 men, has a great deal to do with the note of alarm that every now and then is sounding from the continent.

The Primitive Methodists seem a unit for Union. Nothing in the future can be more certain than the consolidation of the Methodists of the Dominion into one strong, earnest and evangelically aggressive body. So may it be, and we will add, so may all the prophecies of evil from such a step be found in due time to have been without foundation.