THE MIRROR

"OH, WAD SOME POWER THE GIFTIE GIE US, TAE SEE OORSELS AS ITHERS SEE US."

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NOTES AND COMMEETS.

Few social changes in recent years have been more marked than the rapid growth of the vacation habit. Twenty years ago the criticism that we gave too much time to business and too little to recreation, and that we worked too late in life, was of general application. Whole classes which then regarded an interval of leisure as possible only to the wealthy, now deem it a necessity and provide for it as systematically as they do for other wants of life. Everywhere throughout society there is recognition of the fact that the tension of the stretched bow must be loosened, not to lose command of the purposes for which it is stretched, but to improve that command. With no class, perhaps, is this recognition more general, or more clearly indicative of the change of popular view in this respect, than with employers of labor. They have found that for the best work there must be some relief from attention to endless detail, some arrest of hurry, and that a week or two given employees for the renewal of energies is good economy.

But the reform is confined to no class. Society as a whole has arrived at a wiser distribution of time, and is giving recreation and diversion a larger place in the plan of life. Everybody arranges for an outing of some sort, adapting it to the demands of business, the claims of family and friends, or following out personal inclinations. The wives and children share its benefits equally with the fathers and brothers, and the country people have come to have as clear a recognition of its value as have the city dwellers. For a month or two the current of business runs slowly. Men turn away from the prevailing preoccupations of life, and seek a change of attitude and environment. They frequent the summer hotels, take cottages on the seashore or in the highlands, and set up camps in the woods. They travel, gathering new ideas by visiting new places, and by following a life as different as possible from that which they ordinarily lead, seek to renew energies weakened by unchanging occupation. Even those whose engagements keep them daily at their desks, find some near-by resort by wood or stream at which the nights and Sabbaths may be spent.

To meet the needs thus created multitudes of resting places have sprung up all over the country. The daily papers at this season of the year are filled with advertisements of and news from these resorts. They can be found everywhere by mountain, lake and sea, and in the main, afford the guest facilities for enjoyment and pleasure of which he could not hope to possess himself without an outlay which few could afford. Unfortunately their very number tends to distraction, to foster another evil which we have not yet fully overcome, same the desire to crowd a great deal info our interval of leisure that characterizes our business life. Indeed, to the majority of people the summer vacation seems desirable rather for purposes of distraction than for those of rest and repose. In seeking rest they seem animated by an impatient restlessness. With an opportunity for an interval of serenity, they grow nervous lest it should not be filled to the full with activity. They are in eager haste to go everywhere and see everything, the dominant feeling being that of the swift passage of their holiday and the necessity of crowding as much change into it as possible.

This is, of course, only to distract the mind and to dissipate, not renew, the energies. What men and women need to restore the jaded mind and body is not noise and laughter and rapid change of scene, but only such release from ordinary preoccupations as will enable them to recover their true selves. No vacation is worth anything which does not give scope for rest for the body and the recovery of the mind from the incessant engagements which extraust it and divert it from its true aims. It is a mistaken theory of a holiday which makes it a mere interval in which to create a new test for our usual occupations. Its highest use is, not merely to renew enegy for ordinary work, but to find a higher ideal for life as a whole, to consider the interest for which we usually have little opportunity, and which will remain when life's fitful fever is over. To give one's self up to a hurried round of sight-seeing and sensous pleasures is to confuse thought and prevent meditation, and to dissipate, instead of restore the energies. Unceasing agitations physical and intellectual, leave no time for weighing the relative value of things, for considering what we really care for in life outside our daily toil, and for marking out the course which we most desire to take. The best use of a vacation is not to lose, but to find ourselves.

OLD AS EGYPT.

The artificial incubation of eggs originated in Egypt, where it is still carried on. According to a Consular report, no fewer than 75,000,000 eggs are hatched in this way every year on the banks of the Nile.

A LIFE OF FAITH.

THE ACTIONS OF WISE MEN DOMINATED BY THE LARGER TRUST.

Recognition of the Divine Plan in Nature the Most Comforting Ideal Mankind Has—Limit of Action Determined by Man's Own Character.

Washington, June 28.—A most uplifting truth is presented in Dr. Talmage's discourse of to-day. His text was Matthew x., 29: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

You see the Bible will not be limited in the choice of symbols. There is hardly a beast or bird or insect which has not been called to illustrate some divine truth—the ox's patience, the ant's industry, the spider's skill, the hind's surefootedness, the eagle's speed, the dove's gentleness, and even the sparrows meanness and insignificance. In oriental countries none but the poorest people buy the sparrow and eat it—so very little meat is there on the bones and so very poor is it what there is of it. The comfortable population would not think of touching it any more than you would think of eating a bat or a lamprey. Now, says Jesus, if God takes such good care of a poor bird that is not worth a cent, will He not care for you, an immortal?

We associate God with revolutions. We can see a divine purpose in the discovery of America, in the invention of the art of printing, in the exposure of the gunpowder plot, in the contrivance of the needle gun, in the ruin of an Austrian or Napoleonic despotism, but how hard it is to see God in the minute personal affairs of our lives! We think of God as making a record of the starry host, but cannot realize the Bible truth that He knows how many hairs are on our head. It seems a grand thing that God provides for hundreds of thousands of Israelites in the desert, but we cannot appreciate the truth that when a sparrow is hungry God stoops down and opens its mouth and puts the seed in. We are struck with the idea that God fills the universe with His presence, but cannot understand how He encamps in the crystal palace of a dewdrop or finds room to stand between the alabaster pillars of the pond lily. We can see God in the clouds. Can we see God in the flowers at our feet?

We are apt to place God on some great stage, or try to do it, expecting Him there to act out His stupendous project, but we forget that the life of a Cromwell, an Alexander or a Washington or an archangel is not more under divine inspection than your life or mine. Pompey thought there must be a mist over the eyes of God because he so much favored Caesar. But there is no such mist. He sees everything. We say God's path is in the great waters. True enough, but no more certainly than He is in the water, in the glass on the table. We say God guides the stars in their courses. Magnificent truth! But no more certain than that He decides which road or street you shall take in coming to church. Understand that God does not sit upon an indifferent or unsympathetic throne, but that He sits down beside you to-day and stands beside me to-day, and no affair of our lives is so insignificant but that it is of importance to God.

In the first place God chooses our occupation for us. I am amazed to see how many people there are dissatisfied with the work they have to do. I think three-fourths wish they were in some other occupation, and they spend a great deal of time in regretting that they got in the wrong trade or profession. I want to tell you that God put into operation all the influences which led you to that particular choice. Many of you are not in the business that you expected to be in. You started for the ministry and learned merchandise. You started for the law, and you are a physician. You preferred agriculture, and you become a mechanic. You thought one way, God thought another. But you ought not to sit down and mourn over the past. You are to remember that God arranged all these circumstances by which you were made what you are.

Hugh Miller says, "I will be a stonemason." God says, "You will be a geologist." David goes out to attend his father's sheep. Saul goes out to hunt his father's asses, and before he gets back finds the crown of regal dominion. How much happier we would be if we were content with the places God gave us! God sav your temperament and all the circumstances by which you were surrounded, and I believe nine-tenths of you are in the work you are best fitted for. I hear a great racket in my watch, and I find that the hands and the wheel and the springs are getting out of their places. I send it down to the jeweler's and say, "Overhaul that watch and teach the wheels and the springs and the hands to mind their own business." You know a man having a large estate. He gathers his working hands in the morning and says to one, "You go trim that vine," to another, "You go and weed those flowers," to another, "You plow that tough glebe," and each one goes to his particular work. The owner of the estate points the man to what he knows he can do best, and so it is with the Lord.

I remark further that God has arranged the place of our dwelling. What particular city or town, street or house you shall live in seems to be a mere matter of accident. You go out to hunt for a house, and you happen to see a sign and you select that house. Was it all happening? Oh, no. God guided you in every step. He foresaw the future. He knew all your circumstances, and He selected just that one house as better for you than any of the 16,000 habitations in the city. Our house, however humble the roof, and however lowly the portals, is as near God's heart as an Alhambra or a Kremlin. Prove it, you say. Proverbs iii, 33, "He blesseth the habitations of the just."

I remark further that God arranges all our friendships. You were driven to the wall. You found a man just at that crisis who sympathized with you and helped you. You say, "How lucky I was!" There was no luck about it. God sent that friend just as certainly as He sent the angel to strengthen Christ. Your domestic friends, your business friends, your Christian friends, God sent them to bless you, and if any of them has proved traitorous it is only to bring out the value of those, who remain. If some die, it is only that they may stand at the outpost of heaven to greet you at your coming.

You will always have friends, warm hearted friends, magnanimous friends, and when sickness comes to your dwelling there will be watchers; when trouble comes to your heart there will be sympathizers; when death comes there will be gentle fingers to close the eyes and fold the hands and gentle lips to tell of a resurrection. Oh, we are compassed by a bodyguard of friends! Every man, if he has behaved himself well, is surrounded by three circles of friends those of the outer circle wishing him well; those in the next circle willing to help him, while close to his heart are a few who would die for him. God pity the wretch who has not any friends.

I remark again that God puts down the limit to our temporal prosperity. The world of finance seems to have no God in it. You cannot tell where a man will land. The affluent fall, the poor rise. The ingenious fall, the ignorant succeed. An enterprise opening grandly shuts in bankruptcy, while out of the peat dug up from some New England marsh the millionaire builds his fortune. The poor man thinks it is chance that keeps him down; the rich man thinks it is chance which hoists him, and they are both wrong. It is so hard to realize that God rules the money market and has a hook in the nose of the stock gambler, and that all the commercial revolutions of the world shall result in the very best for God's dear children.

My brethren, do not kick against the divine allotments. God knows just how much money it is best for you to lose. You never gain unless it is best for you to gain. You go up when it is best for you to go up, and go down when it is best for you to go down. Prove it, you say. I will—Romans viii, 2. "All things work together for good to them that love God." You go into a factory and you see 20 of 30 wheels, and they are going in different directions. This band is rolling off this way, and another band another way, one down and another up. You say, "What confusion in a factory!" Oh, no. All these different bands are only different parts of the machinery. So I go into your life and see strange things. Here is one providence pulling you one way and another in another way. But these are different parts of one machinery by which He will advance your everlasting and present well being.

Now you know that a second mortgage and a third and fourth mortgage are often worth nothing. It is the first mortgage that is a good investment. I have to tell you that every Christian man has a first mortgage on every trial, and on every disaster, and it must make a payment of eternal advantage to his soul. How many worriments it would take out of your heart if you believed that fully. You buy goods and hope the price will go up, but you are in a fret and a frown for fear the price will go down. You do not buy the goods, using your best discretion in the matter, and then say: "Oh, Lord, I have done the best I could. I commit this whole transaction into Thy hands." That is what religion is good for, or it is good for nothing.

There are two things, says an old proverb, you ought not to fret about. First, things that you can help, and second, things which you cannot help. If you can help them, why do you not apply the remedy? If you cannot help them, you might as well surrender first as last. My dear brethren, do not sit any longer moping about your ledger. Do not sit looking so despondent upon your stock of unsalable goods. Do you think that God is going to allow you, a Christian man, to do business alone? God is the controlling partner in every firm, and although your debtors may abscond, although your securities may fail, although your store may burn, God will, out of an infinity of results choose for you the very best results.

Do not have any idea that you can overstep the limit that God has laid down for your prosperity. You will never get one inch beyond it. God has decided how much prosperity you can stand honorably, and employ usefully, and control righteously, and at the end of the year you will have just so many dollars and cents, just so much wardrobe, just so much furniture, just so many bonds and mortgages, and nothing more. I will give you $100 for every penny you get beyond that. God has looked over your life. He knows what is best for you, and He is going to bless you in time, and bless you for eternity, and He will do it in the best way. Your little child says, "Papa, I wish you would let me have that knife." "No," you say, "it is a sharp knife, and you will cut yourself." He says, "I must have it." "But you cannot have it," you reply. He gets angry and red in the face and says he will have it, but you say he shall not have it. Are you not kind in keeping it from him? So God treats His children. I say, "I wish, Heavenly Father, to get that." God says, "No, my child." I say, "I must have it." God says, "You cannot have." I get angry and say, "I will have it." God says, "You shall not have it," and I do not get it. Is He not kind and loving and the best of Fathers? Do you tell me there is no rule and regulation in these things? Tell that to the men who believe in no God and no Bible. Tell it not to me.

A man of large business concludes to go out of his store, leaving much of his investments in the business, and he says to his sons: "Now, I am going to leave this business in your hands. Perhaps I may come back in a little while and perhaps not. While I am gone you will please to look after affairs." After awhile the father comes back and finds everything at loose ends, and the whole business seems to be going wrong. He says: "I am going to take possession of this business—you know I never fully surrendered it—and henceforth consider yourselves subordinates." Is he not right in doing it? He saves the business. The Lord seems to let us go on in life, guided by our own skill, and we make miserable work of it. God comes down to our shop or our store, and says: "Things are going wrong. I come to take charge. I am master, and I know what is best and I proclaim my authority." We are merely subordinates. It is like a boy at school with a long sum that he cannot do. He has been working at it for hours, making figures here and rubbing out figures there, and it is all mixed up, and the teacher looking over the boy's shoulder, knows that he cannot get out of it, and cleaning the slate says, "Begin again." Just so God does to us. Our affairs get into an inextricable entanglement, and he rubs everything out and says, "Begin again." Is He not wise and loving in so doing?

I think the trouble is that there is so large a difference between the divine and the human estimate as to what is enough. I have heard of people striving for that which is enough, but I never heard of any one who had enough. What God calls enough for man, man calls too little. What man calls enough, God says is too much. The difference between a poor man and a rich man is only the difference in banks. The rich man puts his money in the Washington Bank, or the Central Bank or the Metropolitan Bank or some other bank of that character, while the poor man comes and makes his investments in the bank of Him who runs all the quarries, all the mines, all the gold, all the earth, all heaven. Do you think a man can fail when he is backed up like that?

You may have seen a map on which are described with red ink the travels of the children of Israel through the desert to the promised land. You see how they took this and that direction, crossed the river and went through the sea. Do you know God has made a map of your life with paths leading up to this bitterness and that success, through this river and across that sea? But, blessed be God, the path always comes out at the promised land. Mark that! Mark that!

I remark again that all those things that seem to be but accidents in our life are under the divine supervision. We sometimes seem to be going helmless and anchorless. You say, "If I had some other trade; if I had not gone there this summer; if I had lived in some other house." You have no right to say that. Every tear you wept, every step you have taken, every burden you have carried, is under divine inspection, and that event which startled your whole household with horror God met with perfect placidity, because He knew it was for your good. It was part of a great plan projected long ago. In eternity, when you come to reckon up your mercies, you will point to that affliction as one of your greatest blessings.

God has a strange way with us. Joseph found his way to the prime minister's chair by being pushed into a pit, and to many a Christian down is up. The wheat must be flailed; the quarry must be blasted; the diamond must be ground; the Christian must be afflicted, and that single event, which you supposed stood entirely alone, was a connecting link between two great chains, one chain reaching through all eternity past and the other chain reaching through all eternity future—so small an event fastening two eternities together.

A missionary coming from India to the United States stopped at St. Helena while the vessel was taking water. He had his little child with him. They walked along by an embankment, and a rock at that moment became loosened and falling instantly killed the child. Was it an accident? Was it a surprise to God? Had He allowed His servant, after a life of consecration, to come to such a trial? Not such is my God. There are no accidents in the divine mind, though they may seem so to us. God is good, and by every single incident of our life, whether it be adverse or otherwise, before earth and heaven God will demonstrate His mercy.

I hear a man say: "That idea belittles God. You bring Him down to such little things." Oh, I have a more thorough appreciation of God in little things than I have in great things. The mother does not wait until the child has crushed its foot or broken its arm before she administers sympathy. The child comes in with the least bruise, and the mother kisses it. God does not wait for some tremendous crisis in our life, but comes down to us in our most insignificant trials and throws over us the arms of His mercy.

Going up the White Mountains some years ago I though of that passage in the Bible that speaks of God as weighing mountains in a balance. As I looked at those great mountains, I thought, can it be possible that God can put these great mountains in scales? It was an idea too great for me to grasp, but when I saw a blue bell down by the mule's foot on my way up Mount Washington then I understood the kindness and goodness of God. It is not so much of God in great things I can understand, but of God in little things.

There is a man who says, "That doctrine cannot be true, because things do go so very wrong." I reply it is no inconsistency on the part of God, but a lack of understanding on our part. I hear that men are making very fine shawls in some factory. I go in on the first floor and see only the raw materials, and I ask, "Are these the shawls I have heard about?" "No," says the manufacturer, "go up to the next floor." And I go up, and there I begin to see the design. But the man says: "Do not stop here. Go up to the top floor of the factory and you will see the idea fully carried out." I do so, and, having come to the top, see the complete pattern of an exquisite shawl. So, in our life, standing down on a low level of Christian experience we do not understand God's dealings. He tells us to go up higher and higher until we begin to understand the divine meaning with respect to us, and we advance until we stand at the very gate of heaven, and there see God's idea all wrought out—a perfect idea, of mercy, of love, of kindness. And we say, "Just and true are all Thy ways." It is all right at the top. Remember there is no inconsistency on the part of God, but it is only our mental and spiritual incapacity.

Some of you may be disappointed this summer—vacations are apt to be disappointments—but whatever your perplexities and worriments know that "man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps." Ask those aged men in this church if it is not so. It has been so in my own life. One summer I started for the Adirondacks, but my plans were so changed that I landed in Liverpool. I studied law, and I got into the ministry. I resolved to go as a missionary to China, and I staid in the United States. I thought I would like to be in the east, and I went to the west—all the circumstances of life, all my work, different from that which I expected. "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps."

So, my dear friends, this day take home this subject. Be content with such things as you have. From every grass blade under your feet learn the lesson of divine care, and never let the smallest bird flit across your path without thinking of the truth that two sparrows are sold for a farthing, and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Blessed be His glorious name forever. Amen.

TOMATOES FOR ENGLAND.

A Grand Chance for Canadian Growers Has Presented Itself—Varieties Suitable for Export.

An enquiry has been received by the Dominion Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner at Ottawa, from Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., on whose line of steamships cold storage accommodation is being provided this year, for the names of growers or merchants who might be disposed to send shipments of tomatoes to the British market. Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. carry large quantities of tomatoes from the Mediterranean, have exceptional facilities for the sale of the fruit in Great Britain, and are disposed to make an effort to introduce and expand the trade in Canadian tomatoes. The Canadian fruit is known to be much superior in flavor and solidity to what is imported from the Mediterranean.

Mr. Craig, horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has arranged the following notes for the guidance of those who may be inclined to have a share in the development of this business. It is known that tomatoes may be shipped safely to England with or without cold storage; and there is every reason to believe that they may be exported with profit after the 1st of September, when there is little demand for them in the home market. Whether or not it will pay to export them during August, when the demand in Canada is fairly brisk and the price remunerative, is a question that can be decided only by actual trial.

SUITABLE FOR EXPORT.

Those varieties which are of medium size, smooth and regular in form, solid, with small seed cavities, and of a bright red color, are the best kinds to cultivate and select for this purpose. Gereral Grant, Canada Victor and Atlantic Prize belong to the earliest ripening varieties, which fetch high prices in the home market and are not suitable for export. Among the most reliable, smooth, medium, early tomatoes, suitable for export, are: Livingston's Beauty, Favorite, Early Ruby (sometimes irregular) and Ignotum. It is possible that the pink and purple (like Mikado) tomatoes, might take well upon the British market, and it would be worth while to send a few cases of them on trial.

PICKING AND PACKING.

Only sound, smooth tomatoes should be selected, when they are fully developed and beginning to color. They should be so carefully picked as to be entirely free from bruises. Small-sized packages only should be used. Tomatoes will not carry long distances, if packed several rows deep in large cases or baskets. Indeed, all fruit will carry better to distant markets if packed, in cases, instead of baskets. Cases also occupy proportionately less space in the storage compartment of the vessel. It is sure to say that tomatoes should not be packed in cases exceeding five and a half inches in depth, outside measurement. A convenient size for handling and shipping this fruit would be cases measuring outside 22 inches long, 10 inches wide, 5 1-2 inches deep; and provided with a partition cross wise in the middle. The boxes should be made of light planed lumber and so constructed as to allow of ventilation. The thickness of the lumber might be five-eights of an inch for the ends and partitions, and three-eights of an inch for the sides, top and bottom. Ventilation could be provided for by using side pieces slightly narrower than called for by the depth of the box. The top and bottom pieces should come flush to the corners. This would leave a ventilating slit along the side without weakening the package. Such a case would hold about four dozen medium sized tomatoes.

Each tomato should be wrapped in tissue paper, or in a light cheap grade of printer's paper. They should be carefully packed, stem-end down, in such a manner as to leave them firmly in place when the case is filled.

Each case should bear the shipper's name, with the quantity or number of tomatoes it contains. The brand "Canada," or "Canadian," should also be put on conspicuously.

STRAW NEWSPAPER EDITORS.

Most Russian newspapers keep "a man of straw" as responsible editor. In return for the use of his name he draws a salary of about $1,000 a year. In the event of prosecution the man of straw has to stand fire. If the judgment is against the paper he has to go to prison. Some time ago the man of straw of the Novoe Vremya was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. It was the first piece of work he had done for some years, although he had been regularly drawing his salary all the time.

A FEW SWEDISH PROVERBS.

"When the stomach is satisfied the food is bitter."

"To read and not to know, is to plow and not to sow."

"One bird in the hand is better than ten on the roof."

"When the cat is away the rats dance on the table."

"That which is eaten from the pot never comes to the platter."

"A new broom sweeps well, but an old one is best for the corners."

BRITISH CENSUS.

Population continues to steadily advance in the British Islands. The Registrar General estimates that on June 30 the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland numbered 39,465,697 persons. England is credited with 30,731,092; Scotland with 4,186,894, and Ireland with 4,546,756.

JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES BY DROWNING.

In the Great Tidal Wave of June 15, Particulars of Which are Brought by the Steamer Empress of China—Story of Devastation.

The steamer Empress of China which arrived at Vancouver on Wednesday brings Yokohama advices to June 18, three days later than the Japanese earthquake, which was accompanied by a great tidal wave brief accounts of which have been received by cable. Disconnected reports of the terrible visitation are published in the Japanese press. These would indicate that the cable aadvices were not in the least exaggerated. The loss of life is in the thousands, and the destruction of property enormous.

AN AWFUL VISITATION.

The centre of disturbance was the Island of Kinkawa Zan. Between Kinkawa Zan on the south and Hachinove on the north, a distance of about 170 miles, practically the whole coast was swept by the wave and over half of the town of Kwawai Ishi swept away. Many persons were drowned or killed.

Four hundred deaths are reported at Hashikami, and 300 buildings were destroyed; 1,450 deaths at Koidizumi and 600 at Utatsu Mura. At Shizukawa 80 houses were swept away; 72 corpses were recovered up to 1 p. m. June 16. At Hachinove Minato 11 persons were killed. At Ckachihama 80 buildings were swept away and the deaths numbered 31. Among those who lost their lives were eight jailers and several prisoners. In the three districts of Motivoshi, Ojika and Momo in Miyaga prefecture the most disastrous damage was done by tidal waves at night.

1030 DEATHS IN ONE DISTRICT.

According to the report of the authorities in the district of Moto--Yoshi alone the deaths were 1030, and the buildings washedd away numbered 560. At Moroeika during the night of June 15 there were repeated earthquakes. The eastern coast of Iwaiteken was washed by the tidal wave and the damage done was beyond description. The worst was experienced in the three towns of Kamaishi, Miyako and Sakari.

All the employes of the telegraph office at Kohiro Hama were drowned by the tidal wave. The office of Yamada also was swept away.

2000 IN ANOTHER DISTRICT.

A telegram from the Governor of Iwaiteken, dated June 18, says the number of persons who either lost their lives or were injured is 2000 in the Sakarima-Chi-Kesen district. Excluding the bluff of Kamaishi the whole town was completely swept away. The wave was experienced along the whole coast of Sapporo. Along the road from Sapporo to Surumura eight deaths occurred and eight buildings were destroyed, while four sampans are missing and three were wrecked.

The whole eastern coast of Mivagi Ken prefecture was washed away by the tidal wave at 8 p.m., June 15. A number of houses were swept away and a heavy death roll is anticipated. In the Motovoshi district more than 70 houses were carried away, involving the deaths of over 70 people.

The steamer Kawanoura Maru collided with and sunk the Hozui Maru off Hiroshima during the storm and 178 lives were lost.

FREAK FACTORIES.

Showmen Have No Trouble in Providing New Attractions.

"How do you manage to find new freaks and curiosities?" was the question asked of the manager of a traveling "show" that had pitched its tent in a London suburb.

"Don't have to find them," was the laconic response. "They find us. The freak business is as regularly established as any other, and has its wholesale and retail firms, traveling salesmen, brokers, price-lists, factories—"

"Factories?" queried the reporter, aghast.

"Why, certainly—factories—of course. The freak business is divided into about three varieties—foreign, domestic and fake.

"In the first class the collectors travel all over the world in search of rarities, but the very best freaks come from India and the Malay Peninsula. In these countries there are people who breed freaks. They buy young children and animals, and deform them while their bones are soft by all manner of means. Then they are constantly on the outlook for genuine natural freaks, and in those lands the birth of a freak occurs very frequently. The headquarters of this business is at Singapore.

"Then there are any number of men who devote themselves to the discovering and placing of freaks of all kinds and varieties, and there is scarcely a day goes by that we do not receive packages of photographs and illustrated circulars from some freak merchant or other.

"Of course, there are 'faked' freak men—a perfect host in themselves. If the proprietor of some little show needs an additional attraction and does not have the money to hire something good—for, like everything else, freaks have their price—he can get something for little money that will serve his purpose.

"The real, genuine live freaks always command high prices, and travel all over the world in order to exhibit themselves. Most of them have regular routes mapped out by their advance agents, just like theatrical companies, and as they only appear at a place at long intervals they never get stale, and sometimes make bigger hits on their second or third appearance than on their first."

MY HUSBAND'S FIRST WIFE.

When the lecturer inquired dramatically, Can any one in this room tell me of a perfect man? there was a dead silence. And has any one, he continued, heard of a perfect woman?

Then a patient-looking little woman in a black dress rose up and answered. There was one. I've often heard of her, but she is dead now. She was my husband's first wife.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

The Canadian Pacific Railway will become a member of the Joint Traffic Association.

Peter Wheeler was convicted at Kentville, N. S., on Wednesday of the murder of sixteen-year-old Annie Kempton at Bear River, and sentenced to be hanged on Sept. 8th.

Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson before leaving Montreal for England expressed his belief that Grand Trunk affairs were progressing under the management of President Hays.

Josiah Hanson, the original of Uncle Tom in Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, died in Dresden, Ont., in 1872, and was buried in the negro cemetery near that town.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The death of Baron Fitzhardinge is announced. He was seventy years of age.

The Irish land bill was passed by the British House of Commons by a vote of 292 to 140.

The Duke of Atholl is the only nobleman who clothes his men-servants in Highland dress in London.

The sale of the estate of the late Col. North, the "Nitrate King," is reported in London to have realized $2,500,000.

As a result of the meeting of the imperial Cabinet on Saturday, the second battalion of the King's Royal Rifles now at Malta, has been ordered to the Cape of Good Hope.

It has been decided that a review of troops will be held at Aldershot camp in honour of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Boston, who are on their way to visit England.

Important conferences have been held lately between the officials of the British Admiralty and War Department and members of the Cabinet, showing that the Government views the present state of the Venezuelan question with the gravest apprehension.

UNITED STATES.

Cattle are dying by thousands on the Arizona ranges owing to the drouth.

A boiler explosion at Houston, Tex., killed three people and seriously injured a fourth.

An enterprising cracker bakery of Washington has now placed upon the market a "bicycle biscuit."

Benjamin Huff, an old soldier living near Niles Mich., shot his daughter-in-law, and then killed himself.

A daughter of James Mullin, of Miami, Saline county, Mo., died from eating mulberries that had been stung by locusts.

The Cheyenne Indians have donned their war paint, and are holding powwows, preparatory to a general uprising.

Robert Lansing, of Watertown, N.Y., has been appointed counsel on the part of the United States to the Behring Sea Claims Commission.

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was stricken down with congestion of the brain and died on Wednesday.

In a fight between Sheriffs men and killed and another fatally injured. Many shots were exchanged.

Gen. Lawton, who served in the Confederate army with Stonewall Jackson and who for two years was United States Minister to Austria, died at Clifton Springs on Thursday.

A systematic system of robbery, by which passenger train conductors, station agents and Pullman car porters have already stolen $15,000 from the Chicago & Alton railroad, has been discovered.

The United States treasury statement for the fiscal year 1896 discloses a deficit of $25,500,000. The deficits for the past three years aggregate $137,500,000. The deficit for July is estimated at $10,000,000.

GENERAL

Forest fires are raging in northern Newfoundland.

The Khedive of Egypt is preparing to visit England.

Smallpox and yellow fever are causing great loss of life in Cuba.

Queen Margherita of Italy is about to publish her Alpine experiences in book form.

It is reported that a brother of Dr. Jameson has been killed by the Matabeles.

A despatch from Cairo states that during June there were 3,598 deaths from cholera.

Emperor William has gone for a six weeks' cruise in northern Norway seas aboard the Imperial yacht, Hohenzollern.

The packet boat Rahmanieh, bound from Suakim for Suez, went on a reef and foundered. Sixty persons were drowned.

The number of horses killed for consumption as food in Paris last year was 23,186, this being exclusive of 43 mules and 383 donkeys.

Brazil has not yet assented to England's offer to submit the question of the occupation of the Island of Trinidad to arbitration.

By the explosion of ammunition in an arsenal near Fort Moselle in the Province of Lorraine 42 men were killed and 100 badly injured.

It is stated in Copenhagen that the Government would be prepared to sell some of its West Indian colonies to the United States at a suitable price, for a naval station.

Exhaustive statistics have been compiled in Berlin to prove the success of the serum treatment of diphtheria, which has been followed in one of the largest Berlin hospitals for the past two years.

Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, in discussing the difficulties which the Cuban parties have created for the Government, said they would have accepted autonomy for the island before the outbreak of the insurrection, but it could not now be granted as the price of ending the rebellion.