## CURRENT TOPICS.

THE number of cattle in the State of Colorado is estimated at not less than two millions, valued at $60,000,000. Nevertheless they are owned by only 300 persons, who employ, perhaps, 3,000 herders at from $35 to $50 a month and board. It requires an average of twenty acres per head of cattle.

THE English revenue for the past year amounted to £90,035,522. This is a net increase over the previous year of £3,690,664. With the exception of miscellaneous receipts, which show a decrease of £230,843, there is an increase in every branch of revenue, including £2,838,000 from the property and income tax, £352,000 from the customs, £300,788 from stamps, £290,000 from the post-office, £60,000 from telegraphs, and £50,000 from house duty.

STRONG rays of light are day by day eating out more and more of the ink in the original parchment draft of the Declaration of Independence, which is kept in a glass case in the State Department's library. Few of the names are now legible. Near the parchment is the original, on foolscap paper. The ink is as fresh as it was when it dropped from Jefferson's quill. The many erasures and interlineations by Franklin, John Adams and others are still perfect as to color. The paper is yellow with age, and worn through where it has been folded.

M. BARTHOLDI, who is in high spirits over the completion of his mammoth statue, which is to be erected at the entrance to the harbor of New York city, received the visit of the Burmese embassy in Paris the other day. These men from the orient informed him that there was no statue of Buddha in all the East Indies as colossal as his "Liberty." They said that his work ought rightly to be called one of the wonders of the world. M. Bartholdi thinks that the French Government will be willing to furnish a ship to take the statue over next summer.

THE late Mr. Holloway gave in his lifetime large sums of money to charity on the condition that the name of the donor should not be made known, and in his will he allows his executors, in their discretion, to continue some of these subscriptions. Last August he endowed a college for the education of women with the sum of £300,000. Mr. Holloway left the whole of his fortune, except that set apart for charitable purposes, to a near relative. It is said by a leading dealer that Mr. Holloway paid no less than £70,000 a year for several years in outbidding other buyers and in adding to his gallery the most notable pictures that came before the habitues of Christie's auction rooms.

THE prize of $5,000 offered by the French Academy of Medicine for a cure for diphtheria was demanded at their last meeting by all sorts of people, among whom were a glassmaker, a machinist, an iron founder, a hotel keeper, and a Justice of the Peace; two women applied for it, one a lawyer's wife, and the other the wife of a veterinary surgeon. One man proposed that the diphtheritic patient be beaten until he expelled the membrane, and another that he be exposed to scarlatina as a counter irritant. There were several who wanted their expenses paid to Paris so that they might explain their method of cure, and a large number who refused to disclose the secret before receiving the $5,000. No one had found the infallible remedy.

THE London (England) police are in future to be armed with revolvers on account of the increase of street robberies accompanied by violence and also burglaries. About 1,000 of the force have already been provided with the regulation weapon, which is altogether different from that carried in many American cities. It is to take the .450 British Government ammunition, is sighted point-blank at twenty yards, and is effective even at forty yards, or 120 feet. Although the length of the barrel is only two and one-half inches, yet at twenty yards a moderately good pistol-shot will easily place the six bullets in a six-inch circle. At thirty feet, with one of these weapons, the whole of the six bullets were placed in a two-inch square. The comparatively small size of the weapon is among its chief recommendations.

THE famous Chazie apples, which are the most admired and expensive of all Canadian varieties, and sometimes fetch as much as £5 a barrel in Covent Garden, were not (according to a horticultural correspondent of the *St. James' Gazette*) introduced from France into the colony, but were discovered by a lucky accident. Chazie, a Dutchman, was well advanced in years in 1854. He owned a farm a few miles distant from the Falls of Niagara, and on that farm he found growing a wild tree bearing the apple known as the Chazie—or "Swayzie," as some writers spell the name. Some one had flung away the core of an apple; one of the seeds had fructified and grown into a tree bearing an apple with the flavor of the muskmelon, double the size of the Lower Canada *pomme grise*, the same color and form.

SOME people—very worthy people, no doubt—have been shocked by the recent accounts of the cremation of the body of the late Captain Hanham, remarks *Iron*. For charity's sake, we will respect their feelings, but we are utterly unable to understand their arguments against such a method of disposing of our dead. From a sanitary point of view their objections are absurd, and must be relegated to an age of darkness which we have happily passed. We will do our best to direct their attention to an important extract, which bears directly upon the question, and which is taken from the reports from Her Majesty's diplomatic and consular officers abroad on subjects of general interest, presented to both Houses of Parliament this year. The report is by Mr. Corbett, of Rio de Janeiro, and embodies the investigations of Dr. Freire on the subject of yellow fever. Dr. Freire states: "I think it a duty to divulge as soon as possible a circumstance of much importance to the public health. Having gone to visit the Turnjuba cemetery, where those dying in the maritime hospital of Santa Isabel are interred, I gathered from a foot below the surface some of the earth gathered from the grave of a person who died about a year ago of yellow fever. On examining a small quantity with the microscope, I found myriads of microbii exactly identical with those found in the excreta of persons sick with yellow fever. These observations, which were verified in all their details by my auxiliaries, show that the germs of yellow fever perpetuate themselves in the cemeteries, which are like so many nurseries for the propagation of new generations destined to devastate our city. A guinea pig, whose blood examination showed that it was in a pure state, was shut up in a confined space in which was placed the earth taken from that grave. In five days the animal was dead, and its blood proved to be literally crammed with cryptococcus in various stages of evolution." Could science speak more plainly, and is sentiment to get the better of its teachings? We have too great a faith in healthy public opinion ever to doubt its verdict in this matter.

### HOW WE FREEZE TO DEATH.

#### And How to Restore Those Who are Not Quite Dead.

"By the way, continued the scribe, "if I should happen to take it into my head to go out to-night and freeze, what would be the process?"

"It is very simple," replied the old doctor. "Did you ever notice how drowsy you become in cold weather? The extreme parts of the body when subjected for a time to a temperature impressively low readily lose their vitality; the circulation in the small vessels become weaker and weaker until it stagnates, and they are said to be frost bitten. I know a man, who, while on a drunken spree, lay out in the woods, and had his toes frozen off. But to proceed. The influence of cold being extended and still further protracted there is great drowsiness, with lassitude and extreme dislike to muscular exertion. If you succumb to the feeling of drowsiness and sleep you drop into the sleep of death. You would first suffer intense pain, afterward you would experience a benumbing effect, and if walking your steps would become uncertain and tottering. Your utterance would become indistinct and an irresistible drowsiness would seize you. You would drop into sleep from which it would be impossible to arouse you, and death would speedily follow."

"If you should happen along in the nick of time and find a man at the point of freezing to death what would you do?"

"The first thing to do is to restore warmth, but it must be restored gradually. It has been found that in case of insensibility from cold the sudden exposure of the body to an elevated temperature is certainly fatal. If reaction takes place, it is short and violent, and the patient soon dies, not unfrequently in a state of delirium. In order to avoid this danger the man should be first rubbed with snow, if at hand, which, though in itself cold, is, when near the melting point, much warmer than the frozen body; or the patient should be immersed in a bath of very cold water, made gradually less and less cold until the temperature is raised to the natural standard. As soon as the muscles and other soft parts are sufficiently relaxed to admit of easy motion, artificial respiration should be resorted to. It might be done by throwing cold water upon the face or dashing it upon the shoulders. The sudden impression of cold upon the surface is a powerful stimulus to the respiratory process. When blowing into the mouth is resorted to, it is best to breathe two or three times deeply, so as to give the patient a better quality of air"

"Is cold injurious to one's system?"

"Yes; upon the weak and exhausted cold acts as a permanent debility. There is not, indeed, a more frequent exciter of disease than cold, when applied to the body under certain circumstances. A short exposure will, of course, do little harm, but should a person be out long in it—say for instance he should lose his way on a winter night—the result would be dangerous. It is exceedingly dangerous to go from a heated room into the cold air. The fair votaries of pleasure and dissipation often fall a sacrifice to the pursuit on this account, and many a young dancer has found in the chilling blast the call to an early tomb."—*Atlanta Constitution.*

#### Another Poisoning Case.

A Quebec despatch says: The memory of the Coate case has scarcely died out ere another fatal poisoning case is reported from the neighborhood of Sherbrooke. The victim in the present instance is understood to be a miner named Rothwell, who had been working at the Ascoe copper mines, and the poisoner is believed to be his boarding-house mistress, name not given, her object being, it is said, to secure a considerable sum of money the unfortunate man had in his possession. At all events she has been lodged in Sherbrooke jail charged with the crime, and Dr. Vallee, Toxicologist of Laval University, here, who has examined the contents of the victim's stomach, pronounces death to have been caused by Paris green, a quantity of which has been since found on the woman's premises.

#### Drowned Himself with His Cat.

A Keighley correspondent of the Glasgow *Mail* says an extraordinary case of suicide has occurred at Cullingworth. A middle aged man named Thomas Lund, occupied a cottage at Cullingworth, for the rent of which he was £4 in arrears. Notice had been served upon him that unless the money was paid his furniture would be sold. On Saturday night he purchased some petroleum, saturated his furniture with it, and set fire to the house. He had a cat of which he was particularly fond, and he put the cat in a bag, which he fastened around his neck, together with a flat iron and a clock-weight. After setting fire to the house he proceeded to an adjoining reservoir, where he drowned himself. The body was not recovered till Monday morning, after the reservoir had been run off. The house and furniture were completely destroyed by the fire.

Dr. Reddy, a leading physician of Montreal, died suddenly in Dublin, Ireland, on Tuesday, having been travelling for his health for several months in Europe.

## LATEST OLD WORLD GOSSP.

#### The Queen's Health—Coming Royal Weddings—Some Eccentric Marriage Costumes—Politics at Fever Heat—Barnum's White Elephant.

Old fashioned people complain of the new style which the Marquis of Kildare's and other weddings have recently started. The bride and her maids instead of appearing in pure white are arrayed in yellow repp, or "terry" velvet as it is technically called, and the party looks like a gathering of canaries. In Paris, where the season is already in full activity, the hostesses have adopted the plan of assuming a different naticnality, and if they dress as a Spaniard, or Pole, or Italian, the costumes of the other guests must correspond, and likewise the dances and music. The boulevarder's latest boast, accordingly, is that he can make a tour of the world in forty minutes.

Lord Randolph Churchill, who has distinguished himself lately by abusing Mr. Gladstone, has been invited by the Conservative leaders of Birmingham to stand as their Tory candidate at the coming election.

An explosion took place at Aberdeen on Saturday at the gas works. Seven persons were injured. The report was started that the explosion was the result of Fenianism, but there seems no ground for the rumor.

An English edition of the Princess Alice's letters with a translation of the memoirs of Princess Christian is announced, also the correspondence of Saul Rogers, a book on America, by Miss Iza Duffus Hardy, and a new volume of essays by Max Muller.

Mr. Tennyson, on his first appearance at the House of Lords, will be introduced by the Lord Chamberlain and the Duke of Argyll.

Prince William, the eldest son of the Crown Prince of Germany, has given a lecture before a large audience at the military casino at Potsdam on "Roman Warfare." The Prince is a clear and emphatic speaker, and showed thorough study of his subject.

The dislike of the working classes to vaccination, especially when compulsory, has been much fomented by the prosecution of some poor parents at Leicester for refusing to take their children to the doctor. They were imprisoned by the magistrate.

The concentration of the garrisons at Khartoum will give General Gordon 17,000 troops. The General has obtained full power to evacuate or defend Khartoum and treat with or fight the Mahdi, as he sees fit. Gordon goes without an escort through the desert, and cannot reach his destination under eighteen days, and the whole future is still really as uncertain as ever.

The Emperor William's cold affected his throat and lungs slightly. He also suffered a little from fever.

The Macmillans have issued a new and complete single volume edition, arranged and corrected by the author, entitled, "The Works of Alfred Tennyson, Poet Laureate." Nothing is said about "Lord Tennyson." The Queen's "More Leaves From a Journal of Life in the Highlands," in one volume octavo, is announced by Smith, Elder & Co. for February 12th.

All the Tory leaders except Sir Stafford Northcote are obviously in a fighting humor. The nearer the opening of the session approaches the more violent become the Tory attacks at every point upon the Government policy.

Mr. Parnell has again indefinitely postponed the often announced speech to his constituents in Cork.

There has been a lively dispute during the whole week as to the merits of Barnum's elephant, Professor Flower, President of the Zoological Society, considering it to be an interesting specimen. Numerous experts, residents of and travellers in India and Burmah, testify that the animal is neither white in a technical sense nor sacred. In no respect is it different from hundreds of other elephants commonly seen in the East. Professor Flower announces that the pretended religious ceremony advertised will not be tolerated in the Zoological Gardens.

The announcement in the *Court Circular* that the Queen is only able to take short walks and cannot stand longer than a few minutes was issued to serve as an excuse for the non-appearance of the Queen during the season. Her Majesty is stronger in health than she has been for years. She will go to Baden on April 15th to attend the wedding of her granddaughters, the Princesses Victoria and Elizabeth of Hesse with Prince Louis of Battenburg and the Grand Duke Sergius of Russia. The Emperor of Germany will, if his health permits, meet the English Royal family, and the German Imperial family will go. The marriage ceremony will be private.

#### E Pluribus Unum.

The words E Pluribus Unum, which have appeared on different United States coins, and are on the standard silver dollar, were never authorized to be so placed by law. They were first used in 1786. There was no United States mint then, but there was a private one at Newburg, and the motto of the United States was first placed on a copper coin struck at that mint. A very few collections have specimens of this coin. They are very valuable. In 1787 a goldsmith named Brasher coined a piece, which was known as the $16 gold piece, and the motto placed in this form, "Unum E Pluribus," was stamped upon it. The coin is worth to-day $2,000, and only four are known to be in existence. In 1787 the motto also appeared on various copper coins of the State of New Jersey A great many of our early coins, before there was any legal authority for national coinage here, were made in England. The State of Kentucky had some peculiar copper coins, which were minted in England in 1791, and bore the national motto. The United States mint was established in 1792, but the use of the motto on any of the gold, silver or copper coins was not authorized or directed by any of the provisions of the Act establishing it. The motto had not appeared on any of our coins since 1837, until the standard silver dollar was coined. It remained on our early gold and silver coins until 1834, when it was omitted from the gold coins. In 1836 it was dropped from the 25 cent piece, and the following year from all silver coins.—*Boston Transcript.*

A tramp was arrested in Montreal yesterday for forging the signature of Mgr. Fabre to a document recommending the party as an object of charity.

### FOUND IN THE WOODS.

#### A Father Discovers the Skeleton of His Daughter Four Years After Her Disappearance.

A Bruce Mines, Algoma, telegram says: Four years ago the daughter of Mr. James Mills was lost in the woods. Mr. Mills was living in the Township of Kirkwood, newly opened up for settlement, and far away from any neighbor. Early in the afternoon his daughter, aged 14, started with a pail and dipper to fetch some water from a small creek a few hundred yards from their house. As time passed and she did not return her father became alarmed for her safety, and having obtained assistance a search was instituted, and continued for many days without discovering anything more than the track of her feet in the soft mud at the creek. A force of forty lumbermen joined in the fruitless search for the missing girl. A few days ago some men working in the woods came upon a human skeleton, and lying near by it were a tin pail and dipper, all plainly indicating the remains to be those of the poor lost girl.

#### How to Keep a Good Fire.

In "Pickwick" Dickens makes repeated allusions to the care, in well managed inns, to keep the poker out of reach of newly arrived travellers in winter weather. A better economy yet in the way of saving coal can be applied in every house, and to either stoves or grates. It is that of always making a good fire, clear of clinkers, slate, or ashes that might impede the draft, and as soon as the fire is bright and clear, retaining it so by covering the top with fine coal, made a little damp to prevent its dribbling down among the hot coals. Or the mixed ashes and cinders from the hearth may be used in the same way. The bright fire will then last for many hours, and all the heat the coal is capable of giving will be obtained. There will be a warm and rosy glow in the morning instead of shivering chill. Ventilation will be checked so far as draft through the fire is concerned, but its ever-needful action can go on, even through a stove, by opening sufficiently the door above the fire. Of course there should be no damper in the flues—there never should—unless headaches and general prostration are invited.

#### An Incident in the Mormon Country.

While I sat in a Mormon cottage one day a little girl of 13 years tapped me on the shoulder and whispered, "I know how to make mamma mad."

"How?" I asked, seeing she had a twinkle in her eye, and that she wanted to tell.

"Why," she said, laughing, "by saying, 'mamma, whose turn is it now?'"

"What do you mean by that?" I asked the child.

She said, "Why, you know papa spends a week at each house, and mamma watches and waits for her turn. She always knows, or thinks she does, whose turn it is, but she don't like to tell. She doesn't want to think about the other wives."

"O, that's it; is it? How do you like polygamy?"

"I don't like it," she replied.

"What are you going to do about it when you grow older?" I asked.

"I am going to be a Gentile and choose a husband who will love me and no one else," was the unconditional response.—*A Lawyer in Chicago Tribune.*

#### The Abiding Snow.

Heaven is unusually kind this winter to men who own sleighs. Whether the days are cold or warm, dry or wet, sunny or gloomy, the snow remains. It increases everybody's store of enjoyment, for those who cannot buy or hire sleighs cannot help imagining themselves sleighing, and are the pleasures of the imagination to be despised? No one has ever explained why the effect of a sleigh ride is peculiarly exhilarating, for no one is in a fit condition to do so except when flying over the snow, and then time is too precious and delightful to waste on such prosy work as explanation. Sleighing, like love, puts all ranks on the same level of enjoyment; the man who spends $500 on cutter and robes seems just as happy as the country youth who sits in a home made "jumper," but not a bit happier. As for the sex that likes sleighing better than flirting, when was it ever known to decline a ride because the sleigh was not new and handsome? Never!

#### Putting the Chief on His Feet.

The Hamilton (Ont.) Fire Department, under the training and supervision of Chief A. W. Aitchison, is not excelled in efficiency by that of any other city in the Dominion. Chief Aitchison, by the way, met with a very severe accident in driving to a fire not long ago. His head, shoulders and back were injured in a terrible manner. Being asked how he accounted for his rapid recovery, he replied: "Simply enough; St. Jacobs Oil can put any man on his feet, if there is any life in him at all. I used that wonderful medicine from the start, and the result is that I am to-day in prime health and condition. St. Jacobs O the panacea that comes to the relief of he Fireman for rheumatism, burns, etc., served me in my trouble and cured me quickly, completely and permanently. It is the standard medicine here in the Fire Department."

#### The Pill Man.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian* remarks that the life of Mr. Holloway would furnish curious if not interesting material for a biography. When he was considering the line of his benefactions he was proud of being an occasional guest at Mr. Gladstone's breakfast table, and through Mrs. Gladstone he became interested in the welfare of convalescent homes. When talking of his vast affairs he said he believed he had advertised in every respectable newspaper in existence. Of late years his business became a vast banking concern, to which the selling of patent medicine was allied, and he was understood to say some few years ago that his profits as a dealer in money approached the enormous sum of £100,000 a year.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Hop Bitters have been of great value to me. I was laid up with typhoid fever for over two months, and could get no relief until I tried your Hop Bitters. To those suffering with debility or any one in feeble health, I cordially recommend them.
J. C. STOETZEL, 683 Fulton street, Chicago, Ill

### MONTREAL'S ICE PALACE.

#### Interesting Details of the Extraordinary Structure—The Visitors.

The Ice Palace which is being built for the winter carnival at Montreal is a perfect work of art. The palace will be uncovered and of a composite design of architecture, and will contain numerous towers. Nothing is in its construction but ice. It will consist of about 10,000 blocks of ice and will cost about $3,200. The facade will be about 160 feet, and the greatest depth 65 feet. The walls will be castellated and of different elevations, and three thick partitions of ice will trisect the building. Doors will be cut in these walls, so that the public can roam about the building at will.

The main tower, which will be finished in a few days, will be a marvel of frozen architecture, and will be 76 feet high. It will be in three stories, each one different in shape from the other. Numerous windows will be left at intervals in the walls of the structure, which will be filled in with thin ice. On the gala night of the carnival the building will be filled with volunteers, who will defend their fort from about 1,500 snow-shoers, who will attack them, armed with fireworks. The cross-fire of Roman candles and rockets, together with the illumination of the ice palace by twenty-five electric lights by the Phœnix, will be a magnificent display. Little else is being spoken of in Montreal at present than the approaching winter carnival.

"Oh! husband dear," she cried, "I've got such a pain in my jaw that I can't stand it." "Never mind your jaw, Lucy. You'll get used to it in time—I had to."

Why are washer-women like navigators? Because they often cross the line.

The snow blockades are having a depressing effect on railway traffic.

The suggestion is made that Toronto be provided with quarters for tramps.

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