CURRENT TOPICS.

By the will of Mrs. Stapleton-Bretherton which has been published, the Pope is not a legatee for two millions of dollars, as stated. Prior to her decease she conveyed that sum to her near relative, Mr. George Errington, M.P., in trust, to be applied to the Pope's benefit, and the organ of the Vatican states that, while certain journals were ascribing to Mr. Errington secret missions from England to the court of Rome, his business was simply to arrange for this munificent gift to the head of the Church. By the will Mr. Errington acquires a large landed estate, and large bequests are made to another Roman Catholic relative, a brother of Lord Gerard, and to the Rev. Dean Kiernan, parish clergyman of the district in which her estates lie.

The electric light is not everywhere considered an improvement upon the old-fashioned modes of illumination. One of the latest and best systems was recently introduced into the Court Theatre at Stuttgart, and it was supposed that the orchestra would find it very satisfactory. Instead of welcoming the change, however, they have just petitioned the management for a return to the old-fashioned oil lamps that they had been using previously. They say that electric illumination has proved objectionable, because its brilliancy, with many, unpleasantly affects the nerves. They also assert that they now find it more difficult to follow the guidance of the leader. A committee of experts, composed of oculists and disinterested musicians, has been appointed to examine into the matter.

The excavation of the St. Gothard tunnel cost many lives. On coming out of the tunnel the men described the sensation as being like a sudden plunge into icy cold water. The hot, humid air affected the digestive organs very much, and produced intestinal worms, which caused the deaths of a great number of workmen. Horses were similarly affected, and died rapidly. Several eminent doctors who studied these peculiarities pronounced them as being due to the want of aeration and the poisonous gases evolved from the blasting operations. And they reported that during the working hours the men were always in a high state of fever, which was succeeded, when the work was done for the day, by cold shivers and collapse. With these experiences to guide them, the engineers of the Simplon have necessarily made the question of ventilation one of serious and anxious study.

Speaking of newly-born infants, Prof. Genziner says that the sense of touch is developed from the earliest period, and reflex actions are readily excited by the slightest stimulation, especially of the face, and then of the hands and the soles. The feeling of brain is only clearly exhibited after 4 or 5 weeks, before which time infants do not shed tears. Hunger and thirst are manifested in increased general irritability, with reflex movements, which cease after the first week. Smell and taste are not distinguishable to infants. Hearing is perceptible in the first or second day of life. They are very sensitive to light, and after a few days learn to follow the motion of objects by moving their head. Between the fourth and fifth week the convergence of the pupils and power of co-ordination in vision are perceptible. A distinct perception of color does not exist under 4 or 5 months.

M. John Lemoinne, in the *Journal des Debats*, laments the want of enterprise manifested by the French industrial classes, as compared with those of Great Britain and the United States. He says that Frenchmen are not only over cautious, but such great lovers of routine that it is impossible to get them out of a path they have once fairly entered into. As an example of this stolidity of character, he instances the condition of the advertising trade in France. Although Frenchmen know that Englishmen and Americans have made large fortunes by continuous and persevering advertising, few Frenchmen are inclined to seek fortune in that way. As for newspaper advertising in France, it is still in its infancy, and is likely to remain so, for Frenchmen will not see that the presence of numerous advertisements in the same paper in no way prevents the public from giving attention to an individual advertisement.

Chicago's Manual Training School has opened with sixty-five boys. The building, not yet complete, will accommodate 350 pupils. Practical instruction is to be given in the use of tools, with such instruction as may be deemed necessary in mathematics, drawing, and the English branches of a high school course. The tool instruction, as at present contemplated, will include carpentry, wood turning, pattern making, iron chipping and filing, forge work, brazing and soldering, and the use of machine shop tools. The course of study is to cover two years. One hour per day or more will be given to drawing, and not less than two hours per day to shop work. Before graduating each pupil will be required to construct a machine. Less than one-third of those who have presented themselves for examination have been accepted. The expense of the building has been provided for by members of the Chicago Commercial Club, and with moderate charges for tuition it is expected that the school will sustain itself.

Further tests made with the Nordenfelt gun by the British naval authorities exhibit the wonderful capacity of that weapon. It seems that a hardened steel bullet of seven and one-fourth ounces weight, at a range of 300 yards, penetrated, at an angle of forty-five degrees, the side and boiler of a torpedo boat, as represented by a one-sixteenth-inch steel plate eighteen inches in front of a second steel plate one half inch thick. On being fired directly end on at a torpedo boat, the bullets penetrated the steel bow plate, one-sixteenth inch thick, at an angle of ten degrees, and four bulkheads at right angles—and, striking the boiler, the bullet then indented the half-inch steel plate representing it, to a depth of half an inch; subsequently, under similar conditions, the plate was perforated altogether. The accuracy is also remarkable, the mean deviation at 300 yards of ten rounds fired slowly being 5.6 inches; and in respect to rapidity, the trials ashore marked 108 shots in the space of 30 seconds.

A European journal relates that a few months since workmen employed upon some constructions on the bank of the river Dnieper, in Central Russia, employed the electric light to enable them to prosecute their labors at night. The brilliant rays of light attracted so many millions of nocturnal moths, beetles and other insects that from time to time it was necessary to stop work and set all hands to destroying the clouds of winged victims that frequently completely obscured the light. This suggested the idea of employing the electric light to destroy nocturnal insects prejudicial to agriculture, and experiments in that direction are to be tried next spring. Not only to insects, but to fish, the light proved fatally attractive. Its rays, directed to the surface of the water, drew together vast quantities of all the fishes found in the Dnieper, and when within the charmed field of illumination they lay crowded together in masses, seemingly blinded and stupefied. The workmen, improving the opportunity, made a notable haul of fish.

Nearly all the recent Premiers of England have enjoyed the advantage of having had wives of great devotion and considerable ability, to whose tender care and sympathy in their ambition they have been largely indebted. The devotion of the Countess of Russell, who is still living, and the Countess of Beaconsfield, had something of romance. Mrs. Gladstone, who is nearly the same age as the Premier, accompanies her husband, as did Lady Beaconsfield, everywhere, and frequently remains in the ladies' gallery to the close of the night's sitting. Lord Palmerston, more than perhaps any other first Minister, however, was indebted for his position and its maintenance to his wife, who was physically and mentally a remarkable woman. Up to her death in 1869 at 85, four years after her husband, she could read without glasses, and talked with all the fire and energy of a young woman of 20. Her voice was most cheery, musical and soft. Her eyes were of bright blue, and in spite of a very evident wig she was a very handsome old lady. She had some peculiarities, always shook hands with her left hand, and pronounced gold "gould," and china "cheeny."

Echoes of the Great Storm.

In Heard county, Ala., logs were whirled into the air and broken before they reached the ground.

At Leeds, Ala., the tornado deposited near the railroad a wood-working machine which no one about there had ever seen before.

Three horses belonging to Dr. Thomas Wright, near Birmingham, Ala., were lifted into the air, and have not been seen or heard from since.

A house near Birmingham, Ala., in which two negroes were lying sick, was picked up by the wind and landed fifty yards away. Neither of the men was injured.

A bale of cotton was blown half a mile away from Goshen, Ala. A church was destroyed, and a large portion of it was found on the top of the mountain three-quarters of a mile away.

Near Midway, S. C., Martin Mingo, a colored preacher, was lifted from his bed by the wind and deposited in a valley 500 yards away, with but slight bruises. His house was blown to pieces.

Clifford A. Locke, of Jasper, Ga., threw himself into a clump of undergrowth to escape the tornado, and was so severely thrashed about and pelted with hailstones that his clothes were torn into ribbons.

Upon a hill in the centre of the village of Goshen, Ala., stood a new and well-built schoolhouse. Although not a stick of the building could be found after the storm, excepting the flooring not one of the twenty-six inmates was fatally injured.

At Rockport, Ind., a party of twelve, who had been across the river to attend a wedding, were caught in the tornado. The ferry boat in which they were was blown ashore and dashed to pieces, and its passengers were left clinging to the limbs of the trees against which the boat was hurled. None of them were killed.

Things Almost Forgotten.

The following occurrences in 1784 have been copied from an old chronology:

The first appearance of a North American Indian in England.

The frost lasted 59 days.

Muslins first manufactured in England.

Sunday Schools first established.

Thieves carried off the great seal of England.

Polls at elections opened for forty days.

A tradesman in Dublin tarred and feathered for importing English goods. Lord Muskerry's coach treated in the same manner.

No duty on tea.

Wheat, 5s 2d per bushel.

Rye, 8s 6d per bushel.

Barley, 3s per bushel.

Oats, 2s per bushel.

A large loaf 16c.

A man, whose name is given as Patue, was run over on the Grand Trunk Railway yesterday afternoon near the Gregory House, Montreal. His legs were cut off by the car wheels, and he died shortly afterwards.

A large number of coal dealers from various parts of the United States and Canada are in Montreal for the purpose of negotiating for a supply of Grand Trunk coal. It is said this year's contract will be for half a million tons.

The Hungarian patriot, Kossuth, is now 81 years of age, and lives quietly at Milan. He neither believes in the alliance of the Latin races nor in that of the Teutonic. He fancies that Austria and Russia will, ere long, be at daggers drawn, and fancies that, as he has no infirmities save those of old age, he may live to see it.

A correspondent from Japan writes of the strange custom of children carrying smaller children on their backs. "You will see scores of children at play, all carrying these burdens about (for you must know the island swarms with babies), and as they rush along at a break-neck speed the head of the sleeping infant may be seen waving in the breeze."

PHYSIC FORTY YEARS AGO.

How They Educated Doctors when Prof. Huxley Began the Study of Medicine.

(From the Nineteenth Century.)

It is now, I am sorry to say, something over forty years since I began my medical studies, and at that time the state of affairs was extremely singular. I should think it hardly possible that it could have obtained anywhere but in such a country as England, which cherishes a fine old crusted abuse as much as it does its port wine. At that time there were twenty-one licensing bodies—that is to say, bodies whose certificate was received by the State as evidence that the persons who possessed that certificate were medical experts. How these bodies came to possess these powers is a very curious chapter in history, on which it would be out of place to enlarge. They were partly universities, partly medical guilds and corporations, partly the Archbishop of Canterbury. There was no central authority; there was nothing to prevent any of these licensing authorities from granting a license to any one upon any conditions it thought fit. The examination might be a sham, the curriculum might be a sham, the certificate might be bought and sold like anything in a shop; or, on the other hand, the examination might be fairly good and the diploma correspondingly valuable; but there was not the smallest guarantee, except the personal character of the people who composed the administration of each of these licensing bodies, as to what might happen. It was possible for a young man to come to London and to spend two years and six months of the time of his compulsory three years "walking the hospitals" in idleness or worse; he could then, by putting himself in the hands of a judicious "grinder" for the remaining six months, pass triumphantly through the ordeal of one hour's *viva voce* examination, which was all that was absolutely necessary to enable him to be turned loose upon the public like death on the pale horse, "conquering and to conquer," with the full sanction of the law, as a "qualified practitioner." It is difficult to imagine at present such a state of things, still more difficult to depict the consequences of it, because they would appear like a gross and malignant caricature; but it may be said that there was never a system, or want of system, which was better calculated to ruin the students who came under it, or to degrade the profession as a whole. My memory goes back to a time when models from whom the Bob Sawyer of the Pickwick Papers might have been drawn were anything but rare. * * * I remember a story was current in my young days of a great court physician who was travelling with a friend, like himself, bound on a visit to a country house. The friend fell down in an apoplectic fit, and the story ran that the physician refused to bleed him because it was contrary to professional etiquette for a physician to perform that operation. Whether the friend died or whether he got better because he was not bled I do not remember, but the moral of the story is the same. On the other hand, when a famous surgeon, irritated by the pretensions of the physicians, was asked whether he meant to bring up his son to his own calling, "No," he said, "he is such a fool I mean to make a physician of him."

How to Get Rid of the "Mashers."

So much has recently been written in condemnation of the "masher" that a few words on the other side of the question will not be amiss. While not designing to present the masher as a saint, we would suggest that the burden of street flirtation be placed on the shoulders of those who justly should bear it. Brazen as the male street flirt appears, he will not often speak to a woman who offers him no encouragement. It would be poor sort of fun for him to invite attention all day long if his invitation met with no response. It is manifest that the girls are to blame for his presence upon the streets. Let them lay aside their dashing boldness of manner, which they often foolishly imagine denotes independence but which is as dangerous as it is unseemly. Such a demeanor provokes remarks from men and women which would make the ears of the average maiden tingle with indignation could she but hear them. There is no doubt that many girls are lacking in that modesty which would entitle them to consideration. With these the street flirtation, frequently resulting in acquaintance, is a great frolic, but these very girls would soon assume a manner not in accord with their character could they see themselves as others see them. Very few girls wish to be considered fast, yet they can, by a certain recklessness of conduct while in public places, easily earn the appellation. They may not be guilty of any crime, but they will as certainly lose the respect of every one whose respect is worth having as though they were. This particularly applies to women who have reached or passed beyond the age of 20. What may be readily overlooked in the school girl of 15, will not be forgiven in her sister of maturer years.—*Courier-Journal.*

A Sect of Child Killers.

The *Novoe Vremya* warns Russian mothers of a new religious sect which has given several proofs of its existence. In Rostov, on the Don, an officer engaged a middle aged nurse for his three-year-old son. She was very attentive and seemed fond of the child, but after two months she suddenly left the situation and the town. The child began to ail the very next day, lost its memory, and suffered from continual drowsiness. A week later it died without having been really ill. The corpse was placed in the coffin, when a young Jewess burst into the house, threw herself upon the dead child, and crying bitterly said: "The same woman poisoned my child. She was my nurse before, and now she has murdered your poor boy!" The woman spoke the truth. It has been found that in Rostov there is a society of child murderers, who poison children by means of narcotics. They are instigated to do so by a fanatical woman, who says, "It is every woman's duty to spare the evils of life to as many children as possible, and to make them share in the bliss of heaven before the earth has contaminated their souls."

In Wurtemburg the Minister of the Interior has ordered the police authorities to take care that no one of either sex under 16 is permitted, except at wedding festivities, to dance in places of public amusement.

STORY OF A SPENDTHRIFT.

A Man who Made and Scattered Fortune After Fortune.

The suicide of George H. Fryer, ex-millionaire and spendthrift, is the talk not only of the town, but of all the State. Fryer came to Colorado in the earlier days, and since that time has been considered one of the leading citizens. Fryer Hill, at Leadville, was named after him. On this now famous hill, the richest in the carbonate belt, Fryer made the first location, "The New Discovery," which produced millions. After Fryer sold it he was one of Colorado's shrewdest miners, and was thoroughly posted as to geological formations. The Leadville boom was at its height when Fryer Hill was not thought of as containing mineral. Mr. Fryer, after studying the mineral formations, concluded that the carbonate belt necessary extended into the hill and he set a force of men at work developing. His friends laughed at him, but he kept on sinking and the result was "The New Discovery," which produced a furore in the mining world. Since he has been in Colorado he has made and lost a dozen fortunes, being engaged in mining in all parts of the State. He was a high liver, and once he procured a fortune he did not rest till he had spent it all. In spending his money he was the "Coal Oil Johnny" of the West. His extravagance and liberality to his friends caused his financial ruin. For the past year he has been trying to retrieve his fortunes in the mines, but for once in his life fate was against him. While he made money his best days in the mines seemed to have passed. Last summer he married Miss Cunningham, a belle of Chicago. The wife to-night is insane, caused by her husband's death. His relatives live in Philadelphia and St. Paul.—*Denver Republican.*

LEAP YEAR ADVICE TO GIRLS.

If you want to do it neatly,
Very sweetly and completely;
If you want to do it right and do it nice;
First you choose your victim rightly,
Then you press his arm so slightly,
Then you drop your eyes so brightly, once or twice.

Then, with eyes so very lovelike,
You look up to him so dovelike,
As around his manly neck your arms you throw;
When he'll press you to his heart, then
You must swear you ne'er will part; then
You work your cards, but do it very slow.

Then you call him first your lovey,
Ask him then to be your hubby,
And to bear you safely through earth's cruel strife;
He'll clasp you to him madly,
And in loving tones most gladly,
He'll claim you as his pretty little wife.

—The preferred creditor is one who will wait longest for his pay.

—Arabi Pasha dresses in white, but his clothes have the French cut.

—President Arthur's little daughter Nellie is 10 years old. She is dressed very simply.

—The negroes of Jamaica tear off the husk of the cocoanut with their teeth.

—Well, powder is something like money. It's awfully hard to hold after it begins to go.

—Queen Isabella, who is very large, dresses in light colors. Her children are thin.

—The Polynesian arrived at Halifax yesterday, and landed her mails and passengers.

—"Women," it is said, "jump at conclusions." We never heard mice called by that name before.

—"I'm at your service, madam!" said the polite burglar when caught with his arms full of silverware.

—A health journal says that you ought to take three quarters of an hour for your dinner. It is well also to add a few vegetables and a piece of meat.

—The wife of the living skeleton says she will tie her husband into a knot if he molests her. Of course it would be a bone-knot.

—She sang, "I want to be an angel," and he declared that she was one already. To this she blushingly demurred. Then he married her. Demurrer sustained.

—A black velvet brocade has the front of the skirt of blush pink partly hidden by black Spanish lace, the elbow sleeves ending in pink ribbon and black lace.

—Whiskey is made from corn, but you can't make a wife believe when she smells liquor on her husband that he has tasted nothing stronger than grain.

—Women are constantly making a great talk about temperance. The best way for them to encourage temperance is to stop marrying intemperate men.

—Massachusetts, which sets examples for all the world, has 35,000 farmers who own dogs, and who don't care a cent for the smaller number of farmers who own sheep.

—The Princess Hohenlohe, wife of the German Ambassador to Paris, recently wore a necklace composed of seven rows of large pearls. Over this a black velvet ribbon supported a large diamond pendant.

—An English nobleman travelling in the west has offered his heart and hand to a servant girl. Perhaps he knows what wages servant girls get in this country and is after her money.

—A bad egg can be detected by the way it lies in the water. It will float. So with bad characters. They lie so much that it is not necessary to go below the surface to detect them.

A sturdy old son of the plough
Had a genuine creamery rough,
But she took a bad cough
Which carried her off,
And he don't run a creamery now.

—A New York journalist is reported to have lost a gallon of rum fifty years old by theft of a plumber repairing the pipes of his residence. It is only in New York that a journalist can save a gallon of rum and yet be wealthy enough to hire a plumber.

—A Massachusetts man recently put a bullet into the kitchen clock, supposing that he was shooting a burglar. He is the same man who smacked a string of onions hanging on the wall one dark night, supposing that he was kissing the hired girl.

—"Oh, for a lodge in some vast wilderness!" quoted Mr. Splatterly, the other day, when he was feeling in a poetic mood. "Should think you had lodges enough!" said Mrs. Splatterly. "You are out now four nights in the week to lodges, and if you had another, in a wilderness, I don't suppose you would be home at all, except to eat."

FARM AND GARDEN.

Seasonable Jottings for Rural Readers

Oats, thirty-three pounds per bushel.

Timothy-seed, eighty-five pounds per bushel.

Corn is selling in Central Illinois at ten cents per bushel, it being so worthless and immature that it will not keep, and is of little value for feed.

It is a good rule to go to the bottom of things, and, therefore, deep ploughing and enough of it—all the better if it be a sub-soil plough.

Real poor ground will not grow clover, and a farmer is throwing away money to sow his seed upon it, until he has preceded the sowing with an application of manure.

Raw manure fresh from the stable is injurious to young fruit trees. Use wood ashes as a fertilizer where they can be obtained in sufficient quantities. Apply bountifully as far as they go.

Cultivate only as much land as you can manure well if your land is thin and poor. Remember that experience of all good farmers is conclusive on this point: That one acre of ground thoroughly pulverized and well manured will produce more than two acres only half-way prepared.

Poultry houses should open towards the south—should be whitewashed inside and outside—the nests should be cleaned out once a week, when possible, and an occasional application of kerosene given the sides and bottom of those nests the hens have been using. Give your chickens a chance to help you in accumulating a few shekels. They will respond promptly to every attention given them.

Now is an excellent time to grease all gear and harness on the farm. There are two good reasons why this work should be attended to at once. The farm hands are comparatively idle and there is no dust to settle upon and injure the leather after it is greased. Wash every strap and rub every buckle until it shines like a silver dollar. Castile soap and warm water are good for cleansing harness preparatory to an application of neatsfoot oil and lamp-black.

At all times sheep ought to have daily access to salt. It is one of the greatest preservatives of health. It keeps them clean, sound and strong; it braces up their appetites to the consumption of coarser herbage than they would otherwise eat. For lambs, the first year of their lives, add one-tenth of finely pulverized copperas as a preventive against the insidious blood-sucking parasites which cause paperskin.

The points in favor of dairying are: First, a dairy farm costs 10 per cent. less to operate than grain-growing or mixed agriculture; second, the average returns average a little more than other branches; third, prices are more uniform and more reliable; fourth, dairying exhausts the soil less; fifth, it is more secure against changes in the season, since the dairying does not suffer so much from wet and frost and varying seasons, and one can, if prudent, provide against drouth.

Newest Health Hints.

Don't shake a hornet's nest to see if any of the family are at home.

Don't try to take the right of way from an express train at a railroad crossing.

Don't talk back to a woman who handles the fire shovel with grace and dexterity.

Don't go near a draft. If a draft comes toward you, run away. A slight draft is the most dangerous.

Don't blow in the gun your grandfather carried in the war of 1812. It is more dangerous now than it was then.

Don't hold a wasp by the other end while you thaw it out in front of the stove to see if it is alive. It is generally alive.

Don't try to persuade a bull dog to give up a yard of which it is in possession. Possession to a bull dog is ten points of the law.

Don't eat things after you have had enough because you fear they will go to waste; such a custom will bring you too much to waist yourself.

Don't go to bed with your boots on. This is one of the most unhealthy practices that a man, especially a married man, can be addicted to.

Don't call a very large, sinewy man a prevaricator. If you are sure he is a prevaricator, hire another man to break the news to him.

Don't put an old bombshell in the stove to amuse the audience. You may not linger here below to enjoy the applause, even if you should win any.

Don't, when gunning, put the pipe you have been smoking into the pocket where you are carrying your powder, unless you have a very strong constitution and another suit of clothes.

Don't allow the baby to drink the concentrated lye. Concentrated lye is dangerous, even in very small doses, except to a man who is accustomed to drinking Baltimore corn whiskey.

School Boy Bandits.

A Boston despatch says: A number of pupils of the Coddington school, between the ages of 12 and 15, organized themselves into a gang called "The Jesse James Gang," and wore ribbons on which 'J. J." was inscribed. The leader was known as "The Captain," and had a dagger and a dark lantern. They had their headquarters in an unoccupied stable. They have entered several buildings in Quincy and stolen various articles. Some of these have been recovered. The matter has been left in the hands of the school authorities.

At the last election for York, England, which was the first under the new Corrupt Practices Act, the expenses of Sir F. Milner, the successful Tory candidate, were $4,000, and of Lockwood, Liberal, $3,500. At the previous election James Lowther spent $25,000 in an unsuccessful effort to keep his seat.

M. N. Ellick, clothier, was shot and fatally wounded on the street at Richmond, Va., yesterday, by his son, aged 20. An old feud was the cause. The young man fired four shots.

Frank Tousey, a New York publisher, was arrested last night on the complaint of Anthony Comstock for reprinting a book entitled "Memoirs of George the Fourth," which it is claimed is injurious to the morals of the community.

Habit is a cable. We weave a thread of it each day, and it becomes so strong we cannot break it.