### The Mitherless Bairn.

When a' ither bairnies are hushed to their hame
By auntie or cousin, or freckly grand-dame,
Wha stands last an' lanely, an' nae body carin?
'Tis the puir dolted loonie—the mitherless bairn

The mitherless bairn gangs to his lane bed
Nane covers his cauld back or haps his bare head;
His wee hackit heelies are hard as the airn
An' litheless the lair of the mitherless bairn.

Aneath his cauld brow siccan dreams hover there
O' hands that wont kindly to kame his dark hair
But morning brings clutcher, a' reckless and stern,
That loe' nae the locks o' the mitherless bairn.

Yon sister, that sang o'er his saftly rocked bed,
Now restain the mools where her mamma is laid;
The father toils sair their wee bannock to earn
An' kens na the wrangs o' his mitherless bairn.

Her spirit that passed in yon hour o' his birth
Still watches his wearisome wanderings on earth,
Recording in heaven the blessings they earn
Wha couthilie deal wi' the mitherless bairn.

Oh speak na him harshly—he trembles the while
He bends to your bidding an' blesses your smile
In their dark hour of anguish the heartless shall learn
That God deals the blow for the mitherless bairn

—*William Thom.*

### A Thrilling War Story.

Henry J. Savage, one of the Soldiers' Home veterans, tells the following thrilling story of a war incident:

The oft-mooted question, "Was ever a desperately wounded soldier shot dead, at his own earnest solicitation, by a comrade?" is answered in the affirmative by your humble servant. It happened as follows: The writer, a member of G company, First Delaware Infantry, was then attached to the Third brigade (Weber's), Third division (French's), Second corps (Sumner's). After wading Antietam Creek, plunging through ploughed fields, stubble-fields and cornfields, his regiment was finally located within plain view of the enemy, when the welcome command rang along the line to "load and fire at will." It was then that our daily target practice at Fortress Monroe came into excellent use, as many a poor devil of the Sixth Alabama learned to his cost. After firing eleven rounds the writer was wounded and ordered to the rear. While retreating in good order, but making most excellent time, his route led him through a portion of the Irish Brigade. Here he saw a sight that capped the climax of horror. A member of that devoted brigade was aimlessly stumbling around with both eyes shot out, begging some one, "for the love of God," to put an end to his misery. A lieutenant of the Fourth New York was passing by, and, seeing the poor fellow's condition, and hearing his appeal, he halted before him and asked if he really meant what he said.

"O, yes, comrade," was the reply, "I cannot possibly live and my agony is unendurable."

Without another word the officer drew his pistol, placed it to the victim's right ear, turned away his head, and pulled the trigger. A half-wheel, a convulsive gasp, and one more unfortunate had passed over to the silent majority.

"It was better thus," said the lieutenant, replacing his pistol and turning toward the writer, "for the poor fellow could—"

Just then a solid shot took the lieutenant's head off, and the "subsequent proceedings interested him no more."—*Milwaukee Sentinel.*

### The Queen's Book.

A book written by a Queen of England cannot fail to be read with curiosity and a kind of pathetic sympathy due to a consciousness of the peculiar isolation of her position. This isolation is shown by certain errors of taste in the volume from her diary which is just published by the Harpers. There was probably no person in England who could venture to suggest to the Queen that the publication of trivial details of daily life and the record of her interest in her servants' bumps and bruises could not be agreeable to intelligent Englishmen. But the entire simplicity and good faith with which this is done is, as we say, pathetic, and wins a kindly sympathy for the lonely woman who does it. The discomfort for Englishmen arises from the fact that the lonely lady is the Queen, the ceremonial head of the State; and the more she is a mere ceremony, the more desirable it is that the dignity of the ceremony be preserved. A certain degree of glamour is indispensable to royalty, and to this a certain seclusion is necessary. But this is incompatible with the publication of a diary. Yet the book will be widely read, and it will produce the same impression that the previous volume produced, that the author is a woman of simple tastes and of good feeling, with limited interests and strong domestic attachments. The profound regard for John Brown is grotesque, but it is evident that her interest in him was very sincere, and that, too, is an illustration of the solitude of royal life. Society, in the usual sense, is practically closed to sovereigns, and a familiar attendant may acquire a kind of intimacy which is denied to the highest nobleman in the realm. To those who see only what can be seen across the sea, it would seem that Victoria, more justly than Elizabeth, will be known as the good Queen.—*Harper's Weekly.*

### A Trick of a Clever Newsboy.

The boy news vendors on Saturday evening hit upon a happy device to sell their evening papers. "Horrible attack upon Mr. Gladstone in Piccadilly!" was shouted by a young urchin close to one of the clubs. Out rushed the porter to purchase the paper and when it was perused the horrible attack turned out to be Lord Randolph Churchill's speech at Prince's Hall. A gentleman in Harley street hearing the same cry, also went to his door to purchase a paper. He found on getting it that he only had a half crown. The boy offered to get change. "No," said the gentleman; "how do I know that you won't run away with my half crown?" "Oh, sir," was the reply, "you hold my papers as security for my honesty;" with which he took the half crown, thrust a bundle of papers into the gentleman's arms and ran for change. As the bundle only contained twenty-one penny papers, it is needless to say the boy never reappeared.—*London Truth.*

Leo XIII. instructed his almoner, Monsignor Sanminiatelli, to distribute 10,000 francs among the deserving poor of Rome on the occasion of the anniversary of his coronation, on Monday, March 3rd.

## LONDON GOSSIP.

**Is the Queen Ill?—Churchill and the Prince of Wales—The Garmoyle Scandal—Literary Notes.**

The publishers of Dickens announce that the sale of his books remains steady.

"The Life of Chinese Gordon," by Archibald Forbes, will be issued next week by Routledge.

Lord Lorne is writing an essay proposing to give Ireland Provincial Councils instead of a central Parliament in Dublin.

Lord Lytton's biography of his father will be limited to four volumes. He has published a protest against six volumes.

The *Sun* says: George Meredith, the most brilliant and the least read of English novelists, will soon contribute a story to the *Fortnightly.*

Matthew Arnold will give a discourse on Emerson at the Royal Institution on March 21st. His purpose will be to show the influence of Emerson on American thought.

The memoirs of the Princess Alice will be published by Murray. The Princess Christina edits them. The book will appear the first week in April. It will contain a number of unpublished letters of the Princess to the Queen.

The warfare in Egypt has led to a controversy concerning the restoration of Baker Pasha to the English army. One journal professed to have received letters from 200 ladies advocating the restoration, and was immediately inundated with letters from enraged females on the other side.

M. Rouher's "Memoirs of the Second Empire" has been submitted to the Empress Eugeine. It is an exhaustive work, extending from the *coup d'etat* to the death of the Emperor. The Empress sanctions the early publication of that portion which covers the first ten years. The latter part will be withheld for the present.

The private feud between the Prince of Wales and Lord Randolph Churchill has been formally settled. It arose out of the relations between the Prince and the Duke of Marlboro' while the latter was Marquis of Blandford. Sir Henry James, the Attorney-General, gave a dinner in order to effect the reconciliation. Lord R. Churchill, while renewing friendly relations, declines, at least so *Vanity Fair* says, to become intimate with all the Prince's friends.

Lord Garmoyle's defence in the action for breach of promise brought by Miss Fortescue has been delivered to the Court. He admits the contract and breach of it, and leaves the jury to assess the damages, but submits that £30,000 is too much. The recreant lover is at Constantinople just at present, where he is the guest of the Earl of Dufferin, the British Ambassador. On leaving Constantinople he will make a tour of the East. Miss Fortescue is showing better dramatic capacity at the Court Theatre than ever heretofore. Her style is becoming more natural. Gilbert is blamed for having drummed her into an artificial style. She has now much less of Gilbert and much more of herself, and gives promise of becoming a meritorious actress.

A last (Sunday) night's London cablegram says: It is doubtful whether the Queen will be able to go to Darmstadt to attend the wedding of her granddaughter, Princess Victoria of Hesse. Her condition is pronounced to be precarious. She is in apparently good health one day, and the next she suffers extreme fits of depression. If she goes two physicians will accompany her, and she will be attended by a very limited suite, consisting only of the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, who is her private secretary, an equerry and two ladies. A quiet retreat at Kranichstein, three miles from Darmstadt, is being put in readiness for her reception. The Emperor and Empress of Germany and the Empress of Austria will meet the Queen there. The Empress of Austria sets out for Wiesbaden to-morrow, where she will try the baths for her health. The Czar will join the circle of royal personages late in April.

### Leprosy in the Northwest.

The comparatively recent and alleged discovery of a case of leprosy in Minnesota, and the consequent interest aroused, render the present publication of information in regard to the terrible disease in the Northwest interesting and reassuring as well. Dr. Charles Gronvold, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the State Board of Health, has investigated the subject, and presents the following facts: In 1864 twelve cases of leprosy were found, of which two had originated in this country; while one, who came here leprous, had become well. The condition of health of the lepers was better here than it would have been had they remained in Europe. In 1869-70 a distinguished medical gentleman, the late Professor William Boecle, of Christiana, Norway, visited America. He found in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, eighteen cases, all of whom had come from those parts of the Norwegian western sea coast where the disease is epidemic. In nine it commenced in Norway, and five of these had had lepers in their family. In the other nine cases the disease first commenced in this country, and the disease broke out from two and one half to ten years after their arrival. In eight cases there were lepers in the families. These latter cases probably were the result of heredity. Ten lepers of immigrants have died in Minnesota since its settlement, seven of them in the last seven years. All were males and had leprous relatives. The results of investigation are that the dry climate here is less favorable for the development and communication of the disease than that of the coast. The chances of contagion are decidedly less than in Europe, and there is greater cleanliness among the settlers. But, once acquired, the disease seems to run its regular course without abatement.

The Lee-Stevenson match, for $200 a side, will be rowed over the Oakland three-mile course, near San Francisco, on Tuesday next.

Cardinal Hassum, the Armenian patriarch, died a few weeks ago. He is the third Cardinal whose death has occurred within a short period. There is an old Roman tradition that three Cardinals always go together. Bilio and Du Luca are the two other Cardinals that died recently.

## SEEING WITHOUT EYES.

**Strange Experiences of a Young Man Blind for Ten Years.**

(New York Sun.

"I cannot pretend to explain how it is, or why, and people laugh and say I am hallucinated; but it is the sober fact that ever since I lost my eyes, more than ten years ago, I have seemed to see with my brain. But only with a certain region of it, not the whole."

The speaker placed the tip of his middle finger lightly on his forehead, as if locating a nervous disturbance, and slowly described with it the perimeter of a tract not larger than the palm of a hand, commencing at the slight depression in the frontal bone, just above and between the inner margins of the eyebrows, and drawing an irregularly oval figure, the superior limit of which barely turned the curvature beneath the roots of the hair.

"It is this part of my brain that I seem to see with," he continued placidly. "It is not merely that I know what is going on about me, and the relative direction to myself of persons with whom I talk, and of one thing to another, but I have in this part of the brain just as distinct and vivid a picture of scenes, faces, figures and surroundings as I ever had when in the full possession of my senses. And the oddest thing about it is that my impressions generally prove to be correct. You, for example"—turning to one of the group—"are of light complexion, tall and slender, slightly bald, with blue eyes, pale yellow hair, and a full beard slightly darker. You wear a jaunty gray sack coat, of minute plaid, with vest of the same material, and gray trousers, with narrow stripes of different shades. Your scarf is a red ribbed silk of the Lord Stanley pattern, with a diamond pin."

The members of the group, four in all, exclusive of the young man with two glass eyes, stared at one another in

BLANK AMAZEMENT.

The description could not have been more accurate in its terms if the blind man had been possessed of a dozen pairs of perfect eyes with which to make his observations. They were gathered about the heater in a large drug store hard by Printing House square, and the speaker, who, notwithstanding his infirmity, has built up a large business in cigars, had joined the party not five minutes before. He was a slender, lithe, muscular man, dressed in perfect taste, self-possessed, and natural in his manner. He carried a light walking stick in his right hand, moved with the easy grace of a person in possession of all his senses, and without the least vestige of the groping uncertainty and caution of a blind man. On careful inspection an ordinary observer would have noticed that his eyes were unnatural, but he turned his head so naturally and vivaciously from one to another in speaking, and withal behaved so thoroughly like a person with two good eyes in his head, that one could hardly believe that both orbs had been enucleated, leaving two stumps only of the optic nerve.

"Now describe me," said one of the party, a doubter of the medical profession, who believed in nothing but tissues and functions, and did not deny that a man might have a soul, but averred that neither dissection or experiment had ever furnished any evidence in support of the hypothesis, "Describe me, and I'll believe in your brain vision."

The blind man turned his glass eyes towards the sceptic, and answered with the promptitude and absence of hesitancy of one stating a fact of observation "You are dark, with a very pale, translucent, delicate complexion; dark gray eyes; hair almost black, with gray streaks about the temples; Greek features cut like a cameo; heavily bearded on the upper lip, but elsewhere cleanly shaven. You appear to be 35 years old. You are of slight figure, and you wear a dark cutaway coat, with vest of material the same as the coat; gray trousers, with stripes of different shades; and a scarf of pale gold color, confined at the throat by a silver ring ornamented with a dog's head."

Unless some kind of cerebral image of surrounding objects were formed, it was absolutely impossible for the young man to give in detail such an accurate description of the medical man, with accessories of dress, etc.

"It is inexplicable," he said musingly. "I have often heard blind men declare that they could see with the anterior portion of the brain, and persons under the full influence of anæsthesia often say that they have seen every movement of the surgeon during the operation, not with their eyes, but with the middle part of the forehead. But I never took any stock in such assertions, not even enough to test them."

The blind man went on to tell his story. More than ten years ago, in consequence of an inflammatory affection, both eyes were enucleated. He was then 16 years of age. At first he was perfectly bewildered by the loss, but gradually his remaining senses, tact and hearing in particular became marvellously acute, and so acurate that he could estimate distances and the direction of foreign bodies with the quickness and exactitude of vision; while with the tips of his fingers he could discriminate colors and textures with wonderful accuracy. Different colors have different temperatures to the trained sense, but he ascribes his delicacy of perception in this respect to an influence the existence of which he had no suspicion until he lost his sight. Gradually, also, a so-called new sense was developed. He became abnormally sensitive to vibrations in the atmosphere and in the ground beneath his feet. In this way he was enabled to distinguish footsteps, at incredible distances, on the pavement, and even in buildings a square or more away. He has, with this strange sense, followed the footsteps of a person for three squares, and heard the person enter a house that distance away, walk up two flights of stairs, and enter a room, distinguishing every movement, pause, and fluctuation of gait, as exactly as though he could see through brick walls.

A prominent theatrical treasurer says that the idea that a Lenten season is bad for theatricals is erroneous. "I have gone over my books," he said, "and have found that with the exception of two or three days at the commencement of Lent and holy week, the period of Lent is the best, financially, of the year for the theatre."

## AMONG THE COWBOYS.

**An Earl Sets the Fashions of the Ranch and Treats the Whole Population When He Comes to Town.**

The Earl of Aylesford about a year ago found himself $10,000,000 in debt and defendant in a very disreputable divorce case. His lovely wife had the sympathy of everybody, and his creditors were protected by the courts. The estate, which was entailed, was placed in the hands of a conservator for the benefit of his creditors, and the Earl was given an allowance of $50,000 a year, with which he came to America last summer for rest and much-needed recuperation.

At New York he made the acquaintance of Mr. Gould, who, at the Earl's request, sent Dr. Ennis, the land commissioner of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, all over the West with him, looking for a ranch. His lordship found at Big Springs just what he was looking for, and selected a tract of land twelve miles north of the village, where he commenced the erection of a ranch house last August. The house is a plain, unpainted board structure, one and a half stories high, merely comfortable, without any sign of luxury, convenience or decoration. It only differs from the ordinary ranch headquarters by being plastered and having the walls hung with a pretty patterned paper of chocolate and gilt. The location is a good one, but there are many just as good and still unoccupied north, south and west of this point. The Earl bought 37,000 acres of land on credit, but so far has no cattle. They say—and by "they" I mean the gossips at Big Springs—that he has not money enough to buy cattle, but will secure a herd as soon as his allowance for 1884 is forthcoming. The Earl is a tall, robust, finely formed man of great physical strength and endurance, and a handsome face. He is fastidious only about his food and dress, and usually wears a suit of gray corduroys, with the most stunning neckties, that the cowboys try their best to imitate. When he first arrived he was "guyed" a good deal by the natives, but took it so good-naturedly and dropped so readily into the customs of the place that they soon declared him to be a "boss" fellow," and his popularity is now unbounded, particularly among the cowboys, whose companionship he seeks, and in whose wild and reckless sports he joins with ardor. The feminine portion of the community he studiously avoids, and all attempts to draw him into society have failed. He will not look at or speak to a woman, but among the men folks is always a jolly good fellow, fond of a joke or a story, and generally "standing treat" for the whole population when he comes to town. The only persons who ever go to the ranch are strangers, who are politely but dignifiedly received by the Earl, and cowboys, who are always cordially welcomed. With them he "lets himself," out as it were, and there isn't a man of that calling in the country for a hundred miles around that doesn't know his lordship intimately and considers himself his best friend. He rides with them along the lines, hunts and shoots with them, shares their camp fire or cabins for days at a time, does his turn at cooking, and at night around the camp fire entertains them with his adventures in Europe and India, at royal courts and in the jungles.

The cowboys believe him when he tells them that he likes Texas better than London, and proposes to stay here the rest of his life, but the citizens expect that, when his debts are paid and the commotion his divorce case caused dies down, he will return to his estates in England.—*Big Springs (Tex.) Cor. Boston Herald.*

### Latest from Scotland.

The death is announced of ex-Provost Lindsay, of Leith, the author of the Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act of 1862, commonly known as the Lindsay Act.

Lately on the top of Ben Nevis Mr. Omond, the observer, was startled by being lifted off his feet by the wind, carried in the air about six feet and dashed against a bank of snow.

The late Mr. James Moffat has left £3,000 for a free public library for Port Glasgow, while the residue of his fortune of £100,000 is to be devoted to the founding of an orphanage on his estate of Carnegie, near Port Glasgow.

Rev. Dr. Beith, of Stirling, is father of the Churches in Scotland. Professor Bryce, of Belfast, is the eldest minister of the United Presbyterian Church, while Dr. Peddie, of Bristo, is the second, and Dr. Paul, of Banchory, Aberdeen, the eldest of the Established Church ministers.

Lord Dunmore was one of the performers at a concert given in the Music Hall, Inverness, on the 19th ult., in aid of the Northern Infirmary. There was a large audience, and Lord Dunmore's violin solos were warmly applauded. The concert realized £72.

An unclaimed letter, addressed by Mrs. Dick, of Farmers' Row, Kilwinning, to her husband, "On board the barque Alaska, British Consul, New York," bearing the Kilwinning post-mark, April 21, 1873, was returned on the 15th ult., after a lapse of nearly eleven years.

Mr. James Skirving, one of the best agriculturists in Scotland, died at Luffness Mains on the 26th ult., at the age of 77 years. His ancestors had resided in the county for generations, and he was the grandson of the author of "Tranent Muir," "Hey, Johnny Cope," and other Scottish ballads. As an agriculturist he was very successful, and his was the first farm in East Lothian, and possibly in Scotland, on which tile drains were used for drainage purposes.

### Aid From the Air.

A visiting friend found Simkins with his coat off standing on his doorstep the other night and remarked:

"Suffering Cæsar, man, you'll catch an awful cold out here in your shirt sleeves."

"That's what I want," said Simkins, cheerfully.

"Got to sing a base solo at an entertainment to-morrow night you know."—*Washington Hatchet.*

The Countess Euphemia Ballestrem has translated the Queen's book into German, and Victoria herself has revised and corrected this edition, which shortly will be published at Stuttgart. Baron Tauchnitz will also bring it out in English at Leipsic.

## LATE SPORTING NEWS.

### Pedestrianism.

On Tuesday, February 26th, was concluded an all-England 205 yard handicap at Sheffield in the presence of 15,000 people. The trial heats on preceding days thinned out the fifty or sixty competitors to sixteen, of whom H. Hutchens, the fastest man in the world, was one. In the semi-final heats, on February 26th, Hutchens had a walk-over, and came to the scratch fresh for the final, in which four started. Although nominally 205 yards, the race was practically 128 yards, as Hutchens, really the scratch man, had a nominal start of 77¼ yards. The other three starting in the final heat were: J. Tattersall, of Clitheroe, 84½ yards start; R. Ratcliffe, of Huddersfield, 87 yards; and M. Johnson, of Blackburn, 86½ yards. Rating the race as one of 128 yards, the scale was: Hutchens, quarter of a yard start; Tattersall, 7½ yards; Johnson, 9½ yards; and Ratcliffe, 10 yards. The final was a magnificent race, and Hutchens just failed to catch his men, Tattersall winning by a foot from Ratcliffe, who was six inches ahead of Hutchens, with Johnson six inches still further behind.

### Rowing.

To a reporter Mr. Pilkington said: "I have the greatest confidence in Ross, though I do not back either; I simply offer a purse of $2,500 to be given to the winner. With the exception of Hanlan, I believe Ross to be the greatest oarsman we have, and in meeting him Courtney will have a chance to redeem himself in the eyes of the public. He will have none of his own money at stake, nothing to lose and everything to win. It will be a grand opportunity for him to demonstrate the fact that he can row."

Hanlan's match with the Australian sculler, Laycock, is for £1,000. The Toronto oarsman will receive £830 for expenses, and one-third of the gate money. Trickett, Rush and Edwards are eager to meet the champion, but their inducements were not as large as Laycock's.

### The New Baseball Rules.

The League and American Associations have held their March meetings, and now nothing remains to be done before the opening games but to put the grounds in order and engage in practice. It is to be regretted that the associations have neglected to amend the rules governing the pitching and batting so that the work of attack and defence might be made more equal Under the new rules of the league, though the pitchers' list of unfair balls has been reduced from seven to six, he has received greater latitude in delivery by his being permitted to use the overhand throw. This will not increase his speed much, but it will enable him to throw the ball in with greater accuracy in direction, and also enable him to give the down shoot with greater facility. The batsman, however, is left to do as best he can against the increased facilities given the pitcher, while he has but three fair balls to strike at before he is put out.

One result will be more chance hitting, and smaller batting scores will be made, and the game be made more of a contest between two competing batteries than between the two nines as a whole.

In the American Association the pitcher is limited to the underhand throw below the shoulder and he is allowed to pitch seven unfair balls the batsman being permitted but three fair balls to strike at.

The league has made batting even more difficult than before. Those who advocated a change in the batting rules so as to give the batsman greater freedom in hitting, argue that allowing the batsman six fair balls to strike at instead of three, and calling every other fair ball only a strike, instead of every fair ball as now, the batsman would be able to punish the swift pitching without difficulty, and the pitchers would have to resort more to strategy for success rather than to more speed as now, and, in consequence, lively hitting would be added to the fielding attractions of the game. As it is now, however, the probability is that we shall see more than ever those rather tedious trials of speed in the game between the two swift pitchers of the competing teams.—*New York Sun.*

### Rich People Who Are Loved.

It is instructive to note the different feelings with which very rich persons are regarded by the poor, and indeed by almost the entire community. Mrs. Astor, one of the wealthiest women in New York, has been and still is seriously ill. The news of her condition has been read daily by thousands of the poor in that city with heartfelt solicitude, the natural expression of respect and gratitude. It is not that she has been benevolent with her money, but because she has been benevolent in her impulses and energies—has felt and done something for the poor—that she is thus esteemed. Mrs. Astor has provided homes in the west for many hundreds of the waifs of New York, directing the enterprise personally, and employing her own agents. She has in other ways done much, in a personal and unostentatious manner, to ameliorate the condition of the poor and to assist those who are in trouble. And as a result no one rails at her riches; the poor pray for her recovery to health. Peter Cooper was a rich man, but he was not hated and envied as many millionaires of the metropolis are. In case of an uprising, his house would have been safe. He retained his sympathies for the working people, and did as a pure pleasure what the most of his class neglect even as an obligation. There are similar examples wherever the rich and the poor dwell together. The moral seems to draw itself. —*Boston Herald.*

### Justifiable Misleading.

"I made no false statements," said Wendell Phillips once to a critic of one of his speeches; "I simply rectified a fact that had no business to be a fact."

"But," said the other, "your statement was misleading."

"Did it mislead you?" was the retort; "well, it is necessary to mislead some people in order to guide them aright. Remember how Paddy had to drive his pig one way in order to make him go the other."

The official board of the Berkeley Street Methodist Church, Toronto, have unanimously decided upon a call to Rev. J. E. Starr, of Maple, Ont., to succeed Rev. Isaac Tovell, who goes to Peterboro