CURRENT TOPICS.

An unpublished letter from Blucher, written immediately after Waterloo, comes to light in Berlin. The marshal writes: "My child, the finest battle has been fought, the most glorious victory gained. Details will follow. I think the Bonaparte affair is now again about finished. La Belle Alliance, the 19th early. I can write no more, for I tremble in all limbs. The exertion was too great."

In a long communication to the French Academy of Sciences, M. Paul Bert, a high authority, testifies to the excellence of 8 grammes of chloroform vaporized in 100 litres of air as an anæsthetic. His experiments were made on human beings of both sexes from 17 months upwards. The mixture is not disagreeable. Some rather like it. Insensibility resulted in 6 or 8 minutes, and in one case was maintained 1¼ hours. There was no nausea.

In a letter dealing with Land Law Reform, Mr. John Bright expresses the belief that opinion has so far advanced on this question that the British Parliament will before long consent to changes which a few years ago men thought almost impossible. He feels satisfied that in the main the owners of the soil will profit by those changes not less than other classes of our population. "Some," he adds, "may be timid, some may doubt, but future years will prove the wisdom of the changes we have suggested, and which cannot now be long delayed."

From a recent decision of the German Reichsgericht it appears that snuff is to be considered an article of food. A taker of snuff discovered that his nose was colored blue by the use of a certain article, and chemical examination proved that the tobacco had been colored with ultramarine. Testimony was brought forward to show that this was in accordance with long-established usage, but the judge regarded the manipulation as an adulteration and imposed a fine upon the manufacturer under the law prohibiting the adulteration of foods, etc.

Lesseps, the Suez and Panama Canal proprietor, has a running account with sleep, taking twenty-four hours at a time, and at another none for five or six nights. In travelling he gets into the first compartment at hand, and sits anywhere; if he finds an agreeable companion he talks, if not he folds his arms and goes to sleep, never waking until he reaches his destination. When he went down the other day to Chesnay, near Bordeaux, he requested the guard to wake him lest he should go beyond. On a voyage from Marseilles to Alexandria he slept 107 hours out of the 130 of the voyage, and then not for some days.

An English judge, the late Mr. Justice Byles, always took his notes of evidence in shorthand, and he was therefore enabled to get through cases with most exceptional rapidity. At Bristol Assizes, a few years before his retirement, he was once quite floored by his own hieroglyphics and after a delay of some minutes he turned for aid to the reporters' box. "Can you gentlemen kindly assist me with a word here? I have not put in the vowels, and what I have got in my book looks as if the witness had said: 'Go and call the baby.'" The witness had been referring to a policeman, which the judge had rendered "bobby."

In 1842 there stood, and there is every reason to believe, still stands, at Vostiza, on the Gulf of Depanto, Greece, an Oriental plane tree, whose girth was, in 1842, at five feet from the ground, 37 feet. This tree, situated in the middle of the village, on a gradual slope, standing on a raised platform of flat stones, evidently for protection to the roots, is a striking object on entering the village, and especially noteworthy as existing in the days of Pausanias, the Greek historian, who, living in the second century, makes mention of it in his travels; and the tree must have been of considerable size and age at that time to have made it worthy of remark, its age, probably dating considerably before the Christian era, making it more than 2,000 years old. It was in full vigor in 1842. The villagers hold it in high respect.

From a rough draft of Prince Bismarck's Bill for insuring men against accidents and death, it appears that all the various employers will be required to establish insurance companies, and to pay the whole of the premiums on the lives and limbs of their workmen, in proportion to the wages earned by the latter, and to the danger tariff. Thus one element in the previous Bill, which formed such a bone of contention, had been dropped—namely, part payment by the State of the accident assurance premiums, with which the labor-givers or capitalists are now to be exclusively burdened. Should, however, any of the companies (Genossenschaften) prove unequal to their liabilities they may be aided, or even taken over by the State.

Technical newspapers in Germany have for some time been discussing the relative value of clover grown in this country. The opinion lately expressed by a farmer in an agricultural association in Elbing, East Prussia, on the subject will be of interest. Herr Schwann said that he had used American cloverseed for more than ten years, and never noticed that it suffered in winter; that he had previously used German clover, which suffered considerably, and once the crop entirely failed. He has, too, noticed that, though American clover has a thinner stem, it grows fuller and yields more. So, notwithstanding he cautions of the papers, he intended to continue sowing American clover. He considered the Canadian the best, and recommended applicants to be careful to procure fresh seed.

The words "sewerage" and "sewage" are so often confounded that even our best dictionaries have been compelled to give each of them the same pair of meanings. Yet it was just to avoid the embarrassment and make a useful distinction that they were invented. They were coined by Mr. James Pilbrow, an eminent English civil engineer, and were first used by him in a report in 1850. They soon came into general use, but as they were not then in any dictionary, he was on one occasion summoned before the Lord Chancellor of England to state their exact meaning. He then explained "sewerage" as meaning "the complete system of sewer-pipes and drains of any city or district," and "sewage" as denoting "the refuse which passes through such pipes or the soil." This distinction is plain and should always be observed.

The absurdity of the existing English marriage law is well illustrated, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, by a piece of persecution about which a question was asked in the House of Commons a few days ago. A parishioner at Epping and his wife were refused the Holy Communion by the vicar on the ground that the woman was the man's deceased wife's sister. The husband was 82 years old, and the wife 77, and they had been married 50 years; but Dr. Claughton, the Bishop of the diocese, apparently held that they both came within the definition of "notorious evil livers," and sustained the vicar in his action. The Attorney-General, however, has now pointed out that the marriage, having been contracted before Lord Lyndhurst's Act, is strictly valid, and the vicar has been advised by the Bishop that the two parishioners "cannot legally be repelled from the Holy Communion." "Had this view of the law been present to my mind," adds Dr. Claughton in a letter to the parishioners, "I should have been spared the pain—no less to myself than to yourselves—of ordering the said repulse."

No family in Britain probably has such strong reasons for desiring the accession of the Tory party to power as that of the Duke of Abercorn, whose sons are the bitterest personal assailants of members of the present Government. The Duke is a poor man for his position, and the action of the Land Commission has by no means raised his income, which is chiefly derived from Ireland. His daughters have married men who have no need of money with their wives, but he has five sons, three married and with children, all of whom mainly depend upon their father's purse, while in addition to domestic expenses four have incurred those of elections. The eldest receives a salary as a lord in waiting to the Prince of Wales, the second eks out his income by being Vice-Chairman of a railroad and Director of about a dozen companies. The ablest, Lord George Hamilton, married a lady with some $5,000 a year, which his brothers did not. It may easily be imagined that to men so situated exclusion from office year after year is a serious mortification. The Duke has now to find money to pay the election bills of his son who has just been defeated at Paisley.

Ten Million Car Wheels.

"There are more than 10,000,000 iron car wheels in use on American railroads,' said the master mechanic of one of the trunk lines, "and it requires about 525 pounds of pig iron to make one wheel. About 1,250,000 wheels are worn out every year, and the same number of new ones must be made to take their places. The iron men are called upon for only a small proportion of the 312,500 tons of material required for these new wheels, however, for nearly 290,000 tons are supplied by the worn-out wheels themselves. Formerly the life of a car wheel was estimated at eight years, but the reduction of the railroads generally to the standard gauge, and the improvements in loading and unloading facilities, have materially decreased the length of service that a wheel may be depended on to perform. The uniformity in gauge keeps cars in more continuous use, while the decrease in time of loading and unloading enables them to be put to more active service even where they are run only on short local routes. These figures do not include the wheels on palace coaches and the better class of passenger coaches. The wheels on that grade of rolling stock are now made almost exclusively of paper. They are as serviceable as iron, and combine lightness with strength, a great desideratum where speed and economy in motive power are of paramount importance."

Latest News Notes.

Two bridges have been carried away by the freshets at New Hamburg.

On one occasion when her grandfather in his haste forgot to ask the blessing, Dot called out, "Whoa! whoa, papa Willard! back up and say your prayers!—*Harper's Bazar.*

The younger sons of peers are described in the Eton school lists as "Mr.," while the names of other boys are put down without any prefix. Snobbery is rampant at Eton.

Among the speakers at a mass meeting under the auspices of the Church of England Temperance Society, in Toronto, last night, were the Bishop of Huron and Hon. G. W. Ross.

President McCosh, of Princeton College, is considered conceited because he told a gentleman who complimented him on his ability in dissecting Kant, "Oh, it was perfectly easy to me." But most men are aware of their own ability. When Thackeray was in New York some years ago speaking of his books one evening a lady remarked: "Mr. Thackeray, you are the vainest man I ever met." "Yes,m adame," was the reply, "but you forget that I have a great deal to be very vain of."

The Smith family fills fifteen closely printed columns in the new London directory, and the Browns eight. There is in the city a charity for poor Smiths established by an alderman of the name 200 years ago. He gave £1,000 to captives held by Turkish pirates, and £1,000 to poor kinsmen, and the latter fund has increased until it is worth about $60,000 a year

A man was received into the Laborisiere Hospital, Paris, the other day, with a yard of rope hanging from his mouth. Traction upon the cord revealed a section of clothes line measuring eight feet. He had been surprised in an attempt at suicide and had tried to conceal his design by swallowing the cord. He lived, of course—they generally do.

TITLES OF POPULAR NOVELS.

The Way in Which the Authors Came to Hit Upon Them.

Shortly after marrying his first wife, who, though a most sweet and charming creature (see "David Copperfield"), wasn't very much of a housekeeper Charles Dickens came home from the lodge one morning in the wee, sma' hours, and as usual struck a bee-line for the pantry. He was unusually hungry even for him, and as he stole stealthily across the kitchen floor in his stocking feet he thought to himself that the best half of a cold fried chicken would be about as acceptable a nightcap as he could wear to bed. But when he got there the cupboard was bare. From the top shelf to the bottom and from one end to the other of all of them there was not to be discovered so much as a pickle. It is said that upon this occasion Charles Dickens uttered his first, last, and only oath. "By gad, sir!" swore the great man, "this blawsted cupboard presents as blank an aspect as the rest of the establishment. It's a demnition bleak house;" and Mr. C. Dickens was so struck with the happy significance of his last remark that he immediately forgot his hunger, and, rushing up-stairs to his study, wrote on the title-page of his last half-completed novel: "Bleak House, by Charles Dickens."

A noted Frenchman of an alleged scientific turn of mind ran away to sea in his early youth. Failing to gain either fame or fortune in the sea-faring business, he became despondent, and finally, resolving to learn what the next world held in store for him, plunged one day from the mast-head into the sea. Several seconds before he came to the surface he had come to the conclusion that he was hardly prepared to die, and wondered how many miles it was up to daylight and air. He was at last discovered, hauled on board the ship, the water pumped out of him, and lived long enough to embody his submarine experience in a voluminous lie entitled "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."

Messrs. Gilbert & Sullivan had always belonged to that despised class of human beings known as land-lubbers until a few years ago, when they accomplished a short voyage aboard one of Her Majesty's men-of-war. As might be expected, neither of them proved good sailors, and the weather throughout the entire voyage being unusually tempestuous, they encountered no little difficulty in keeping anything on their stomachs more than an hour or two at a time. At last, to save their shirt-fronts from utter ruin, both these gentlemen were compelled to resort to an arrangement usually applied to very young children under similar circumstances. And "Pinafore" was the name they naturally chose for the opera they subsequently produced in commemoration of that remarkable voyage.

"Put Yourself in His Place" is a title which is supposed to have suggested itself to Charles Reade on observing the hopelessly henpecked condition of the unfortunate man who married his former sweetheart.

"All that glitters is not gold," moaned a certain song-writer when he discovered too late that the coins he had received in change for a crisp new greenback were counterfeit. He immediately set to work and wrote a song about it.

One night Wilkie Collins awoke suddenly out of a deep sleep, oppressed with a sense of horror for which he could not account, but which almost deprived him of the power to move or breathe. After several which seemed to him superhuman efforts he managed to raise himself up on one elbow, but fell quickly back with a smothered shriek, and covered his eyes to shut out the unnatural shape which stalked mysteriously about in the moonlight of the room. The familiar voice of Mrs. Wilkie telling him that the baby had the colic, and the paregoric was out, brought him to. Before Mr. Collins had returned from the drug store he had already blocked out that thrilling story, "The Woman in White."

THE HUDSON BAY ROUTE.

Three Months' Steamboat Navigation all that Can be Expected.

The Hudson Bay Committee met at Ottawa yesterday morning, with Mr. Royal in the chair. Mr. Wm. Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, was examined. He stated that he had secured from the Hudson Bay Company the log-books of their vessels running to Hudson Bay during the past thirteen years. The vessels were sailing vessels. One of them took 42 days to reach York Factory from Stromness. Another 38 days, and one on the 22nd July met with many icebergs and thick fogs in the Straits. The Ocean Nymph was on one occasion 14 days working her way through the Straits. In 1870, 1875, and 1883, the vessel was 17, 22 and 32 days respectively working through the Straits. In 1872, 1873, 1874, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1881 the Straits were passed without detention. The opinion of Capt. McIlhenny was as follows on the subject of navigating Hudson Bay: "I am of opinion that steamers fitted for the work can make the passage with very little difficulty as early as August 1st, entering after the 1st, keeping along the north shore and avoiding the pack ice. Three months' navigation is all that can be depended upon, extended from 1st August to 1st November."

Pride often miscalculates, and more often misconceives. The proud man places himself at a distance from other men. Seen through that distance, others perhaps appear little to him; but he forgets that this very distance causes him to appear equally little to others.

Canon Farrar is a man, in appearance, of 55. His face is most uncommon, and is, says Rev. Robert Laird Collier, beyond the power of words to pourtray. It is not a modern face, and it is not in any way an English face. No more is it a Scotch face. The complexion is fair, the hair almost yellow. The eyes are uncommonly small—so small that one cannot guess their color, though I should take them to be a very pale grey. There is a cast in the left eye. The forehead is narrow, the cheeks are wide, and the cheek-bones high. The mouth is a straight line and a long one. Canon Farrar stands about five feet ten inches, and has a splendid physique, although his face is pale.

Osman Digna's martial robes consist of a sheet and a straw hat. He does not depend upon the set of his clothes for his Dignified appearance.

THE WORLD'S WORKERS.

Will There be a Strike on the G. T. R.?—What the General Manager Says—Other Labor Notes.

A Montreal despatch says; With reference to the retrenchment policy of the Grand Trunk Railway management, the officials state that no definite terms of reduction in wages have yet been fixed. Mr. Hickson has held conferences with engineers, conductors and trainmen, and laid the matter before the men and asked them to meet the company fairly during the time they are running the road at a loss, as the company had met them when times were good and advanced wages. He assured them that when profits increased sufficiently wages would be advanced to the former figures. The engineers appear to have received the proposition with a disposition to comply with the request, but the Managing Directors having left it to both them and the conductors to propose what the reduction should be, the rates are as yet an open question. It was understood here that a deputation of employees on the Western portion of the road were coming down from Toronto yesterday to interview Mr. Hickson, but up to the present writing nothing has been seen or heard of them by the officials. Rumors of a strike on the part of conductors and trainmen, which seem to have gained currency more particularly in the west, have not yet assumed a shape to be dealt with, as the officials have received no intimation of such an intention. The officials state that notwithstanding the recent reductions in staffs, they could still profitably dispense with a large number of trainmen. Pending a reply proposing a reduction from the employees the matter rests for the time being.

A Port Richmond, Pa., telegram says: The coal troubles in the Schuylkill, Leghash, Wyoming and Lackawanna regions are becoming worse. Continued suspension of operations and the half-pay plan that has been exacted by the leaders of the combination are creating intense dissatisfaction. The miners are organizing for protection.

"BUCHU-PAIBA."

Quick, complete cure, all annoying Kidney, Bladder and Urinary Diseases. $1. Druggists.

Ernest Dore, elder brother of the late Gustave Dore, is dead, aged 53 years.

*The term *hydra* may be used to represent any manifold evil. If you would battle successfully with this many-headed monster of disease you will find it expedient to keep Mrs. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound always at hand.—*Dr. Banning.*

A Dublin despatch says Mr. Parnell has sued one of his tenants for arrears of rent.

Scipio, N.Y., Dec. 1, 1879.

I am the Pastor of the Baptist Church here, and an educated physician. I am not in practice, but am my sole family physician, and advise in many chronic cases. Over a year ago I recommended your Hop Bitters to my invalid wife, who has been under medical treatment of Albany's best physicians several years. She has become thoroughly cured of her various complicated diseases by their use. We both recommend them to our friends, many of whom have also been cured of their various ailments by them. Rev. E. R. Warren.

Lieut.-Col. Villiers has been examining candidates for second-class military certificates at Belleville. The examinations concluded last evening.

"ROUGH ON CORNS."

Ask for Wells' "Rough on Corns." 15c. Quick, complete, permanent cure. Corns, warts, bunions.

Falsehood is in a hurry; it may be at any moment detected and punished. Truth is calm, serene, its judgment is on high; its king cometh out of the chambers of eternity.

☞ Fast, brilliant and fashionable are the Diamond Dye colors. One package colors 1 to 4 lbs. of goods. 10 cents for any color.

Riches are less wealth than is learning, for wisdom cannot be stolen or lost; it is therefore thy best friend.

, "The best advice may come too late." Said a sufferer from Kidney troubles, when asked to try Kidney-Wort. "I'll try it but it will be my last dose." The man got well and is now recommending the remedy to all sufferers. In this case good advice came just in time to save the man.

One can no more judge of the true value of a man by the impression he makes on the public than we can tell whether the seal was gold or brass by which the stamp was made.

"ROUGH ON COUGHS."

Knocks a Cough or Cold endwise. For children or adults. Troches, 15c. Liquid 50c. At druggists

Meissonier is painting a large picture which represents Francis I. and the Chevalier Bayard in the midst of a gorgeous company.

Crowned with Success.

Success has current value the wide world over. It breaks down every barrier and holds the key that unlocks every door. Prejudice, the result of many failures, and the memory of painful experiences melt away like mist before the convincing merit of Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, and now when thousands are willing and glad to testify to its wonderful efficiency, it goes forth crowned with the success that only real merit attains. Buy Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Beware of imitations. N. C. Polson & Co., proprietors, Kingston.

A little girl of 7 years, daughter of Mr. George Dunontier, of St. Sauveur, Que., died suddenly on Sunday. She complained to her mother of a headache, and immediately fell dead at her feet.

The Agony Over.

Pain banished as if by magic. Polson's Nervaline is a positive and almost instantaneous remedy for external, internal, or local pains. The most active remedy hitherto known falls far short of Nervaline for potent power in the relief of nerve pain. Good for external or internal use. Buy a 10 cent sample bottle by dealers. Large bottles 25 cents, at all druggists.

Buenaventura Baez, ex-President of Santo Domingo, has died, aged 75. He left a fortune estimated at $2,500,000.

Tears are softening showers which cause the seed of heaven to spring up in the human heart.

LIVING WITHOUT MEAT.

The Bill of Fare and Experience of a London Society.

A society has been recently formed in London to advocate the improvement and cheapening of the diet, one of its main objects being to show that a flesh diet is much more costly than a vegetable one, and less nourishing. A number of entertainments have been given under the auspices of the National Food Reform Society, of which the following supper is a specimen: One hundred and fifty persons, for the most part belonging to the working classes, sat down to a bill of fare consisting of Scotch broth, with slices of whole meal or graham bread, green pea pie with potatoes, the pie crust being made with cotton-seed oil, and for dessert sweetened semolina or farina pudding with stewed prunes.

Mr. F. P. Doremus, Secretary of the society, addressed those present after the cloth had been removed, and said that as they had all apparently enjoyed their supper, they might, especially the mothers and heads of families, like to know something about its ingredients and proportions. In making the soup, or broth, there were used for every gallon of water, four ounces of pearl barley, one turnip, one carrot, two ounces of groats, or oatmeal, with pepper, salt, etc., to season. In the green pea pie, the contents were dried green peas boiled tender, a hard-boiled egg, a little tapioca and mint to flavor. For the dessert, one pound of semolina or farina to a gallon of water, with sugar to sweeten and served with stewed prunes. After exhibiting some colored diagrams to show graphically the relative quantities of water, muscle-forming, bone-forming and heat-giving constituents of bread, oatmeal and beef, he remarked that they would see by the difference in the proportions of these substances, that in a pound of butcher's meat 12 ounces represented the water present, for which they were paying at the rate of 9 pence to 1 shilling (18 to 25 cents) per pound, while in the dried peas, costing 4c to 6c a pound, the water was a very small part of the whole, they getting 14 to 15 ounces of solid food instead of the 4 ounces contained in the pound of meat they had to pay 25 cents for. Mr. Doremus stated that the members of the National Food Reform Society themselves practised what they preached. He instanced his personal experience of four or five years in favor of the sufficiency, wholesomeness and superiority of a diet into which meat, bird or fish had not entered. Dr. Allinson, a prominent member of the society, also stated that for nearly two years he had taken no meat at all; that his food cost him little more than 12 cents a day; that he could do his work as well or better without meat, and that he frequently worked 16 hours out of 24.

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—LIVER—

It has specific action on this most important organ, enabling it to throw off torpidity and inaction, stimulating the healthy secretion of the Bile, and by keeping the bowels in free condition, effecting its regular discharge.

Malaria. If you are suffering from malaria, have the chills, are bilious, dyspeptic, or constipated, Kidney-Wort will surely relieve and quickly cure.

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EYE, EAR AND THROAT.

DR. G. S. RYERSON, L.R.C.P. & S.E., Lecturer on the Eye, Ear and Throat, Trinity Medical College, Toronto. Oculist and Aurist to the Toronto General Hospital, late Clinical Assistant Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorefield's and Central London Throat and Ear Hospital. 317 Church Street, Toronto.

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