The Grocer.

(Those who like puns must read this poem, by JIM CRACK.)

The grocer loved a charming girl,
As lovely as the day;
He wondered if she'd marry him,
And said, "Let *soap* she may."

And straightway to her house he went,
Her lovely face to see,
Exclaiming, "Ah! I know full well
That *cheese* the girl for me."

The girl was very kind and said
That she was very glad
To see him there, and then remarked
What a bad *coffee* she had.

And soon they got most intimate,
She let him kiss her brow;
But when he spoke of marriage said,
"Oh! do not *teas* me now."

The grocer's spirits fell at this,
He felt as though he'd die,
And hinted at a suicide,
While she *bacon* to cry:

"You silly boy, you don't suppose
I'm blind to all your merits."
It's evident she knew a way
Of *raisin* up his "spirits."

But true love's course did ne'er run smooth,
Her father saw them kiss,
And kicked him from the room and said,
"You'd *biscuit* out of this."

And thus adjured, he soon got out,
It hardly need be said;
And tumbling headlong down the stairs,
Mustard-ly hit his head.

"Oh! father, you are cruel to
So roughly handle us;"
Thus spoke the girl, and father said,
"I think it's *candle*-us."

Papa relented when he saw
His child begin to cry;
"There, there, you think my treatment harsh,
My daughter, *soda* I.

"There, keep your lover, dry your eyes,
And let's have no more row;
I did not like the man, but my
Opinion *salt*-ered now."

The two were wed and made a pair
By no means ill-assorted,
And happy ever after were
It's *currant*-ly reported.

Write Often to the Old Folks.

'Write often to the old folks,"
Said sister Kate to me;
"You're going off to college, Will,
'Mong strangers you will be;
I know you'll work as well as play,
But whatsoe'er you do,
Please don't forget that we at home
Will long to hear from you.

Now, Will, don't think me foolish,
But mother is not strong,
And she will surely worry
If you put off writing long;
I know her eyes would sparkle
And a bloom would tinge her cheek
If you could only write her
A letter once a week.

Write often to the old folks,
Their hair is growing grey—
Not very many years, alas!
Have they on earth to stay;
Oh, promise me this favor,
And never will you rue
The hour you write the old folks,
Who will long to hear from you."

"Dear sister, this I promise"—
And my tears began to flow—
"I'll write often to the old folks,
If you think 'twill please them so."

* * * *

And I write a weekly letter
In my snug and cheerful room;
And sister Kate informs me
Mother's cheeks are full of bloom.

IN THE HEART OF AFRICA.

A New World and New Races—Joseph Thompson's Startling Discoveries.

A London correspondent writes: There seems to be a general revival of that old spirit of adventure that animated Europe at the close of the fifteenth century, when Spain and England entered upon a splendid rivalry for the conquest of the world. To-day France and Germany appear to be entering the lists with England for the colonization of those portions of the globe which have not already been annexed by "The Mother of Nations." No trouble can come out of this newly awakened ambition so long as France and Germany keep clear of English rights, and there is no reason why they should not.

But apart from this new ambition of colonizing the dark places of the world there has grown up with Stanley's discovery of Livingstone an individual spirit of exploration and adventure. The Americans have headed all achievements toward the north pole; the English are busy in the eastern seas and in the heart of Africa. I am favored with some new and startling facts (briefly referred to in my previous letters) in connection with East Africa, that are full of the deepest interest.

Mr. Joseph Thomson, who in 1878-80 conducted the Royal Geographical Society's east central African expedition, the remarkable story of which was told in his book, "To the Central African Lakes and Back," started in the spring of 1882 on another expedition to the Kilimanjaro district. He travelled over one thousand miles of unexplored country, and returned recently with a budget of notes and experience that, when revealed to the public, is likely to prove one of the most startling narratives of modern travel. Mr. Thomson is taking a rest in Scotland prior to settling down to work at his new book, which will direct a new attention to the east coast of Africa, more particularly as the traveller (his last expedition, like his previous one, was made under the auspices of the geographical society) claims to have discovered a new and far more expeditious route to the Victoria N'Yanza than hitherto known.

A letter just received from Mr. Thomson, and which I am permitted to quote, says: "I am extremely fortunate in being the first to explore an entirely unique region—geographically and ethnographically—a region teeming with interest, containing such features as snow-clad, extinct volcanoes, rising to a height of 19,000 feet, and now seen for the first time; mountain ranges reaching 14,000 feet in altitude, with plateaus at an elevation of 9,000 feet, the lower plains dotted with wonderfully preserved craters and cones. Another feature discovered is the existence of a curious meridianed trough containing a series of beautiful lakes. The region is, in fact, an epitome of the geographical features of the whole of Africa. The great, monotonous stretches of desert, plateau-region, or forest, are not found here. You have incessant variety and a bit of everything. Nothing is allowed to pall before one.

"Of this interesting country I travelled over one thousand miles entirely new to geographers except through native reports, and several of the features have long been subjects of controversy among stay-at-home' scientists.

"My journey also opens up a new route to Victoria N'Yanza infinitely shorter and more healthy than any other.

"If the country is interesting the people are much more so. I have visited five new tribes. Of these three are in a sense new to ethnology. They are not negroes, neither are they Somali nor Galla. In language, mode of life, religious belief, government, election, etc., they differ from any tribes hitherto described. Their customs are of the most astounding character. Take, as an example of this, the fact that all the unmarried young men and women live together in villages apart from the married people, and so agreeable do they find it that they rarely marry till well up in years. Yet, strange to say, if a young woman should become enceinte she is immediately killed. The Masai—one of these tribes—occupy the greater part of the country I traversed, and I can assure you we had some lively times among them. They are the most dreaded people in the whole of east Africa. Caravan after caravan has been annihilated—no year passes without some disaster; and it was only by a series of lucky accidents that I ever got through them and back to safe ground again. Stanley was not very far wrong when he told me previous to my leaving London: 'Make your will or take a thousand men.' Besides this Masai I discovered a tribe inhabiting a series of enormous caverns which pierce a great volcanic region on this equator. These caves are artificial, and penetrate a great distance through solid rock. There can be but one explanation of these caves—namely, that they have been mines. Their present possessors did not excavate them, and have no tradition about their origin. All that can be said is that they must have been made by a very different race—probably the Egyptians.

"Of material of popular interest I have collected far more than on my previous journey. Of hunting adventures alone I have sufficient to make a book. I can enumerate four times in which I have been charged by rhinoceroses, still more by buffaloes, while I can actually say that I have been in the very midst of a herd of elephants, while I have made an aerial flight and somersault, propelled by a wild bull. I have twice also had narrow escapes from infuriated negroes, and once was only saved from transmigration into the body of a lion by a little dog.

"These facts will sufficiently indicate to you the possibilities of my new book. The journey has been of unusual interest, both from a scientific and popular point of view."

The natives of the Congo—the interest in which marvellous region is growing daily among English merchants—have some strange and curious habits. Even the best of the Bakongos burn persons suspected of witchcraft, and accept the most trivial evidence of sorcery as sufficient for the stake. Mr. Thomson says that "at Pallaballa, for instance, for every one—child, woman, or man—who dies, somebody is suspected of having caused the death by supernatural causes, and the horrid old uganga, or 'medicine man,' who holds the inquest over the coffin, is called upon to detect the guilty person, and generally fixes upon those possessed of worldly goods, in order that they may buy him off from his fell accusation. Should the person thus accused be unable to satisfy the uganga, he or she is compelled to take the casca, the infusion of a poisonous bark; and according as the potion is regulated in strength by the uganga, so the suspected tamperer with witchcraft either vomits up the poison and recovers, dies at once from its effects, or retains it in the stomach and does not die, in which latter case the natives have rare sport in hacking the ill-doer to pieces with their blunt knives or in cooking their victim over a slow fire." The first days of all peoples seem to be very much alike. On the lower Congo as far as Stanley Pool phallic worship is prevalent, rustic temples being dedicated to it, but the rites are far less obscene (one gathers from both writers and travellers) than in the classic days of the bacchanalian feasts. The highest form of civilization has a remnant of savagery in it. Take in point the history of witchcraft in the New England States; it is as full of superstitious fear and inhumanity as anything the depraved African can show. The Nikambas, a kindred tribe, believe that all diseases and physical troubles are due to demons, "who are represented materially, in the embodiment of the malady they incite; there is a smallpox bogey, a fever-spirit, and in certain temples about Manyanga you may come across a loathsome representation of the foul demon who is supposed to have inflicted syphilis on the unhappy natives, who bring offerings to his shrine with a view to appeasing his cruel ravages." They have little or no knowledge of the healing art; "medicines are represented by vague potions and powders, delivered without any reference to their antiseptic qualities, but merely in regard to their hidden potentialities of magic."

Church Chimes.

An official decree, proclaiming toleration for all religious denominations in Cuba, has been promulgated.

The Presbyterian congregation at St. George has extended a call to the Rev. Dr. Moffat, of Walkerton.

The Rev. Samuel Acheson, of Wick, Ont., has received a unanimous call to the congregation of Kippen and Hillsgreen, Presbytery of Huron.

The induction of the Rev. H. Rose, late of Manchester, Eng., to the charge of Knox Church, Elora, last week, filled the only vacancy that existed in the bounds of that Presbytery.

The Bishop of Niagara stated at a meeting of the leading clergy and laity of the diocese recently held, that owing to increasing infirmity he would be obliged at an early day to either resign the see or ask for the appointment of a coadjutor.—*Mail.*

The Rev. Canon Caswell, M.A., incumbent of the English Church at Georgetown, Niagara Diocese, has been unanimously elected Rector of St. John's Church, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, by the Wardens and Vestry of that parish. He will leave Georgetown for Lunenburg on October 28th.

The French Budget Committee has decided upon a reduction of five million francs in the appropriation for distribution by the Minister of Public Worship. Among the items disallowed are the repairs of cathedrals. The allowance of the Archbishop of Paris is diminished by 72,000 francs.

MOUNTAIN SURVEYING.

Preparations for the Issue of a Geological Map—Return of Mr. George M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey—Large Quantities of Coal in the Mountains—A Rich Mineral Region.

Mr. George M. Dawson, of the Dominion Geological Survey, who has been prosecuting his geological researches in the Rocky Mountains, arrived in the city last night on his way to Ottawa. To a reporter this morning he stated that he and his party, who have been in the mountains since last June, have been finishing the work begun last year to secure the data for a general reconnaissance geological map of the country from the Red Deer River down to the boundary line. The work has been completed fairly well, and the map will be issued this winter. Inaccessible places will be left blank. The map will be of very great service to prospectors in that country, as all the coal basins will be marked out. Coal basins or seams were found in many places. The coal was a very good specimen, although probably the best has been discovered at the Cascade Mountain, near Silver City. The coal deposits extend like long troughs. The deposits are much more numerous and extensive than was originally supposed. Many of the coal deposits are so isolated by mountainous tracts of country that they are almost inaccessible, but will doubtless prove of great value eventually for smelting the different kinds of ores which abound in their vicinity. Copper was found in considerable quantities, but as none of the mines were opened up the extent of the deposits has not yet been ascertained, but the prospects are very favorable. Extensive deposits of lead were also discovered in many places by the survey party. Mr. Dawson thinks the coal could be used to great advantage reducing the copper and lead ore, so as to make its export a paying investment. As to wood, Mr. Dawson says there is an abundant supply of excellent timber in the mountains, but great quantities have been washed and burned by forest fires. Mr. Dawson says it will be desirable to take some measures to preserve the forests, because the lumber is excellent in the valleys. The devastating of the country by the fires renders it useless, as it is made impassable. In the mountains there is abundance of good game, such as wild sheep and goats, elk and black-tailed deer. During the past month considerable snow has fallen in the higher altitudes. At the head of Red Deer and other rivers very large glaziers exist. Along the Kicking Horse large glaciers also exist. Mr. Dawson says the Canadian Pacific Railway is the only railway crossing the moutains from which glaciers can be seen, and he says it would be very desirable to have a trigonometrical map of the country, and he has no doubt such a map will be prepared before long. Mr. Dawson says the Rocky Mountains afford a fine field for any enterprising mountain explorer. There are so many peaks to climb, up which man has never ventured. There is also a vast extent of country which has never yet been traversed.—*Winnipeg Sun.*

Increased Duration of Life.

The stage to which we have at present attained may be stated thus: Compared with the period of 1838-54 (the earliest for which there are trustworthy records), the average of a man's life is now 41·9 years instead of 39.9, and of a woman's 45.3 instead of 41.9 years, an addition of 8 per cent. to the female life and 5 per cent. to the male. Of each 1,000 males born at the present day 44 more will attain the age of 35 than used to be the case previous to 1871. For the whole of life the estimate now is that of 1,000 persons (one-half males and one-half females) 35 survive at the age of 45, 26 at 55, 9 at 65, 3 at 75, and 1 at 85. To put the case in another way, every 1,000 persons born since 1870 will live about 2,700 years longer than before. In other words, the life of 1,000 persons is now equal in duration to that of 1,070 persons previously, and 1,000 births will now keep up the growth of our population as well as 1,070 births used to do. This is equivalent in result to an increase of our population, and in the best form, viz., not by more births, but by fewer deaths, which means fewer maladies and better health. What is more, nearly 70 per cent. of this increase of life takes place (or is lived) in the "useful period," viz., between the ages of 20 and 60. Thus, of the 2,700 additional years lived by each thousand of our population, 70 per cent., or 1,890 years, will be a direct addition to the working power of our people. It is to be remembered that there might be a great addition to the births in a country with little addition to the national working power—pay, with an actual reduction of the national wealth and prosperity—seeing that, regarded as "economic agents," children are simply a source of expense, and so also are a majority of the elderly who have passed the age of three-score. On the other hand, as already said, only one-quarter of the longer or additional life now enjoyed by our people is passed in the useless periods of childhood and old age, and more than one-third of it is lived at ages when life is in its highest vigor, and most productive alike of wealth and enjoyment.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

A Very Important Railroad.

Persian and Russian capitalists are behind a scheme to build a railway from the Caspian Sea to Bassorah, near the Persian Gulf. The object of the road would be to open a route between Persia and Russia and thus create an opposition road to that now existing between England and India. The plan is not a new one, having been agitated for several years. The Czar and the Shah of Persia have entered heartily into the scheme. Bassorah, the Persian town which is designed to be the terminus of the road, is a city of 60,000 inhabitants, which is the greatest emporium of the Turkish empire for Eastern produce. It is situated at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris, and is a shipping port of considerable importance.

THERE are, this year, 850,000 qualified voters in Ohio. Just half of these are out-and-out Americans. Of the remainder 250,000 are Germans, either by birth or descent; 100,000 Irish; 50,000 English, Welsh, Scotch and Canadian, and the balance Swiss, French and Bohemian. Of the latter there are 3,500 voters, six-sevenths of them in Cuyahoga county (Cleveland). The colored vote of Ohio is 22,760.

GOVERNMENT CREAMERY.

A New Establishment at the Model Farm, Guelph.

Some days ago the creamery in connection with the Ontario Government's model farm, at Guelph, was put in operation. It is now running in first-class order. The building is well-adapted for the purpose. It is large, airy and quite convenient to the leading highway entering the city. Nearly two years have elapsed since the idea of establishing an industry of this nature first occurred to the Government, and it was not until the spring of the present year that decisive action was taken to carry that idea into effect. The system adopted in gathering the cream is known as the Fairbank system, and throughout the United States it is credited with being the most practical and expedient method yet introduced. Each patron is provided with as many common cream cans as he may require. This can contains four and a half gallons. It is fitted with a glass gauge on the side by which the amount of cream which has gathered can be determined. After milking, the patron puts the milk in this vessel and then places the can in a tank filled with cold water. The cream gatherer on arriving ascertains by the gauge the depth of cream on the surface, puts down the amount to the credit of the customer and then proceeds to skim the cream off, which is done with an ordinary skimmer. This plan is considered better than the patent process of running off the milk. From the waggon which brings the cream to the creamery, the cream is transferred to vats. After remaining over night in these vessels the cream is next morning run by spouts into two churns and the manufacturing process commences. Those in use in the creamery are common box churns. One holds 200 and the other 300 gallons. It requires about an hour's time to churn the butter as only 60 revolutions are made to the minute. As soon as the butter gathers the buttermilk is run off and cold water is thrown in. The churn is again set in motion. In a short time this water is run off and a fresh supply poured in. Thus the butter is washed. It is then removed and placed on a salting scales. By an ingenious device in this machine the quantity of salt required is weighed simultaneously with the butter. From the salting scales it is taken to a golden butter worker, a circular table on which two niched cone-shaped rollers revolve. After operations by this machine for about five minutes the work of manufacturing is complete. From the cream vats a drain carries the buttermilk to a tank outside from which it is pumped into a piggery. Each patron receives ten cents per inch for the cream in the can, but this rate will be increased or lowered according to the price of butter. The capacity of the creamery is 2,000 pounds.

BURNED BY VITRIOL.

A Toronto Errand Boy Flayed Alive—The Terrible Fluid Eats Its Way Into His Body.

An accident of a terrible and, happily, unusual nature, occurred at Sutherland's bookstore on Yonge street, near Agnes street, Toronto, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Sutherland had sold a medicine chest to a customer, and directed a boy named James Nicholson, aged 13, to carry a number of bottles that had been in the chest out into the yard. The lad picked up three good-sized bottles, one of which contained vitriol, and holding them aginst his breast, went to carry them out. The bottles struck each other, and the one containing the vitriol broke, allowing the fiery fluid to run down the front of his body from his breast to his knees. The boy fell to the ground and rolled about in frightful agony, for the vitriol had eaten through his clothes and into his flesh. His piercing screams at once gathered a crowd of people who were in the neighborhood, none of whom knew what to do for the boy. P. C. Coombes was summoned from No. 2 police station and found him sitting on a chair, frothing at the mouth, throwing his arms wildly about, and crying out that he was burning to death. Shortly afterwards Dr. McPhedran arrived on the scene, and at once commenced applying oil to the boy's breast, stomach and legs. The poor lad's cries were most heartrending, as he begged the doctor to put more oil on him. By this time the boy's father, who worked for Wheeler & Bain, house-furnishers, had arrived, and when he saw the terrible condition that his son was in it was hard to control him. The ambulance was summoned, and young Nicholson removed to his home at 235 Sackville street.

Froude's Life of Carlyle.

A London cablegram says: The third and concluding volume of Mr. James A. Froude's "Biography of Thomas Carlyle," has just been published, and is likely to prove the literary sensation of the present season. It embraces the period from 1834 to the death of Carlyle, in February, 1881, and is accompanied by a preface, in which Mr. Froude elaborately vindicates his conduct as Carlyle's literary executor. The volume is crammed with hitherto unpublished criticisms, in Carlyle's rugged language, of public men, many of whom are still living. He regards Gladstone as one of the most contemptible men he ever saw. "He is," said Carlyle, "but a poor ritualist. He is almost spectral—a kind of a phantasm of a man. There is nothing in him but forms and ceremonies and outside wrappages." On the other hand the Liberals say that Mr. Froude's work presents the character of his revered master in an even less enviable light than before, and that Mr. Froude should be called hereafter, not Carlyle's literary executor, but his literary executioner.

Labouchere says in *Truth*: "I see it stated that the Church Missionary Society has expended in thirty-three years upward of £120,000 on 'missions' to Jews and Mohammedans in Palestine without making a single convert. The London Jews Society spent £30,000 between 1877 and 1882 with the same result."

The Missouri father did not pursue his eloping daughter, but sent a clergyman on a swift horse to overtake the couple, in order that the marriage ceremony might be performed properly.

A Georgia man recently killed his horse in an outburst of temper and then blew his own brains out through remorse for the deed.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Latest News from All Over the World.

Lady Macdonald arrived in Kingston on Saturday, and will remain there during Sir John's absence in England.

The Vice-regal party returned to Halifax from Annapolis on Saturday night. His Excellency will leave to-night for a trip to New York.

It is rumored that the friends of Sir Hector Langevin are trying to induce the Roman Catholic clergy to condemn *Le Nouveau Monde.*

Two converted Chinese women, brought out by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to teach in the mission school at San Francisco, were refused permission to land because they were not provided with the certificate required by law.

J. C. Fraser, of London, advertising agent of the Grand Trunk Railway bulletin, endeavored to jump on No. 18 express east at Glencoe on Friday night, while the train was running at a rapid rate, and for his pains received a bad shaking up, and narrowly escaped a terrible death.

A little girl named Hughan, aged 6 years, daughter of Mr. Hughan, farmer, of Nissouri, while driving into church yesterday forenoon with her father and mother, was kicked in the head by the horse and killed. She was sitting with her back to the animal at the time.

On Saturday night the safe of J. A. Martin, proprietor of the Bradburn House, of Omemee, was robbed of about $57 in cash, besides papers, etc. Mr. Martin had neglected to adjust the combination properly, and the thieves having effected an entrance at a side door, found little trouble in breaking open the inner closings of the safe. This is the second theft inside of a week, Mr. T. A. McPherson, merchant, being relieved of about $150 worth of goods last week. No clue as yet to the theives.

W. H. Vanderbilt has given the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons half a million dollars for a building fund.

A wonderful find is reported to have been made in the Greek colony in London. An enterprising antiquary claims to have stumbled across some statues, which are undoubtedly Grecian, and which he believes are 2,000 years old. A scientific inquiry is to be made as to the antiquity of the statues, and an archæological sensation is in prospect.

When the hatches of the steamer Nevada were opened after she was docked at Liverpool, it was found that the fire was still smouldering in the bales of cotton, which composed a part of her cargo. A number of steam fire engines had been ordered to await the arrival of the Nevada at the dock, and they deluged her hold, drowning out the fire in the cotton bales. The steamer is practically uninjured, and her commander speaks in the highest terms of the coolness displayed by the passengers and crew.

It has been well known that gambling hells have been largely on the increase in Paris for some time back. Many of these places were ostensibly clubs for social and literary purposes, but were in reality the favored resorts of the votaries and baccarat and lasquenet. At some of these houses play ran very high, and there were unpleasant rumors of pigeons having been plucked to a very considerable figure. The police have been quietly collecting information, and as a result twenty of the clubs have been closed. One of the most respectable of them was the resort of senators, deputies, *litterateurs* and artists.

The Earl of Limerick has been carefully analyzing the effect of the proposed franchise and redistribution schemes in Ireland, and has given the results of his figuring to the public. His Lordship's paper states that the proposed extension of the franchise would affect Ireland to an extent that has probably not been foreseen, even by the framers of the measure. He shows by figures, which are apparently incontestible, that the voting population of Ireland, which he approximately states at 230,000, would be suddenly increased by 500,000, or by more than 200 per cent. This would enlarge the electorate value of Irishmen, *per capita*, to an extent which His Lordship considers dangerous, and he adjures his Conservative colleagues to be very reluctant in giving their assent to the scheme.

Mr. Range, a farmer known as "Clever Range," of Mill Village, near Erie, is a stanch Democrat. In 1864 he made a vow that he would neither cut his hair nor shave until he saw a Democratic Administration. His hair is now twenty-two inches in length, and his beard eighteen inches long.

Great excitement prevails over the arrest on Saturday, at Fort Worth, Texas, of Jim Courtright, a notorious desperado, who killed several Mexicans. A crowd of 1,500 surrounded the officers, preventing his removal from the hotel last night, and he was with great difficulty lodged in jail. Courtright is very popular, having served as State ranger and city marshal. His arrest was effected by Mexican officers, who entrapped him under the guise of friendship. The Governor of Texas is censured for signing the requisition. McIntyre, Courtright's partner, was also arrested.

A sensation was caused in the Louisville Court House on Saturday morning by a fight between Judge Hargis, until recently Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, and Col. Bennett Young, a well-known lawyer, and President of the Southern Exposition. In an argument in an injunction case Hargis made a remark reflecting on Young, who denounced him as an infamous liar, when Hargis hurled two law books at Young. They clinched and were having a regular mill when they were separated.

A Buffalo despatch says A. W. Morton, of Walsh & Morton, railroad contractors, Deale, Pa., was arrested with his partner some time ago for defrauding his employees out of about $7,500. Morton gave the officers the slip and went to Canada. He stopped off at St. Catharines and registered at an hotel there as Williams. By letters written from there to his wife he was traced, and by means of a forged telegram, purporting to be from Walsh, saying he had been discharged from custody and that the coast was clear. Morton boarded the train for Buffalo, and on arrival was arrested, and at midnight was escorted to the Lake Shore depot in company with Pennsylvanian detectives.