CURRENT TOPICS.

PRINCIPAL CUNNINGHAM, of St. Andrew's University, says there never would have been a union between England and Scotland if the conditions had been imposed that the latter should renounce its church and its laws.

No one knows the exact nature of electricity. Its effects and the laws overning its action are well understood, but what it is is still a mystery. Probably it is a mode of motion, like light and heat. The causes which produce the electricity of thunder storms and auroras are still a matter of doubt.

THE human cuticle is fine, supple, tough and durable. It is easily tanned in the usual way, and keeps out water, cold and heat. Medical students are in the habit of tanning it or having it tanned and getting useful and ornamental articles made of it. They send it to their friends as purses, pocket-books, card-cases, slippers and covers for books, music, footstools and handbags.

SIX thousand kangaroo skins are received at Newark, N. J., every week. They are brought from Australia, 300 miles from the coast. There are twenty varieties of this animal, and the skin is worth 70 cents a pound. Parisian and London shoe manufacturers, as well as buyers in Greece, Spain, and even Australia itself, are said to purchase tanned skins from Newark tanneries.

THERE are many authentic examples of French history of the fancy for human skin. Many great persons have shown a predilection for that leather. Carnot, Robespierre, Billaut and many others dressed themselves with garments made out of human skin. They had slippers, boots, hats, gloves, robes, vest and breeches made out of this stuff, and they not only wore them openly, but boasted of them.

THE experiment is being made in Chicago of paving a street with steel rails 16 feet 10 inches in length, with a grooved surface on top, so that the horses will not slip on them. The rails will be placed a few inches apart, and the space between will be filled with a patent composition that is said to be very hard and durable. A trial lot of fifty tons has been made at the Bay View Iron Works, Mich.

IN 1840 the tonnage of British shipping entered and cleared from the ports of the United Kingdom was 6,505,000; in 1885 it was 46,390,000. In 1840 there was 58 per cent. British to 42 per cent. foreign; in 1885 the percentages were 73 and 27. The era of free trade has thus been one of phenomenal progress not only in manufacturing industries but in the twin industry of the carrying trade.

THE authorship of the poem "If I Should Die To-night" has been a subject of dispute for a long time. It was not written by Henry Ward Beecher, as has been supposed by many. The Hartford *Times* says that the authorship "has been traced to Miss Belle E. Smith, at present a teacher in Tabor College, Tabor, Ia. It first appeared in the *Christian Union*, June 18th, 1873. The authorship is vouched for by President Brooks, of Tabor College."

DR. CAMERON LEES, minister of St. Giles', Edinburgh, before leaving Melbourne, threw out the suggestion that Scotsmen in Australia should assume the responsibility of erecting a monument to John Knox in St. Giles', where the reformer so often thundered from the pulpit. The suggestion has found much favor and is likely to take a practical shape. Mr. Marshall Lang, of Glasgow, has sailed for Melbourne to continue the pacific work begun by Dr. Lees.

MRS. GLADSTONE, despite her 75 years, is one of the most active and energetic of women. The improved condition of the cottagers all about Hawarden attest her influence. In the schools she has placed teachers who instruct the children in serving, cookery, etc., and in various handicrafts suited to boys; she has also founded an industrial school for boys at Clapham, and a home for aged and incurables, both of which are model charities and under her direct supervision.

A NUMBER of Bradford, Eng., firms have received notice from their correspondents in Germany and other countries on the continent that "Volapuk," the new universal language, will be used after a certain date. The attention of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce has been drawn to the matter, but the Chamber has not yet determined to assist in spreading the knowledge of "Volapuk." Its study has been taken up, to a certain extent, privately, and a class will soon be formed in Bradford.

THE great cottonwood trees in the swamps of Tennessee contain veins of clear, sparkling water, which tastes somewhat like unsweetened soda water, and which spurts forth as if under gaseous pressure when a vein is punctured. It is said to be deliciously refreshing, and hunters are in the habit of carrying gimlets with which to pierce the veins when they are thirsty. It is a point of honor with them to plug up the orifice when their thirst is satisfied, so that the next comer may not be disappointed.

A POWDER of pine needles is now prepared in Germany, and is becoming popular for use in baths. A half pound or a pound of the powder is allowed to dissolve in lukewarm water for a few minutes, when the bath is ready. The principles extracted act upon the skin as a tonic and antiseptic, and the baths are prescribed for rheumatic complaints, gout, certain skin diseases, and for invigorating the system generally. The powder is also used for fumigations in chest affections, etc., or, as an antiseptic, a little may be placed on a hot shovel and carried about the room.

THE chances of life are thus set down: Out of every 1,000 men 25 die annually. One-half of those who are born die before they attain the age of 7 years. The men able to bear arms form a fourth of the inhabitants of a country. More old men are found in elevated situations than in valleys and plains. The number of inhabitants of a city or county is renewed every thirty years. The proportion between the deaths of women and those of men is 100 to 108. The probable duration of female lives is 60 years, but after that period the calculation is more favorable to them than to men.

PAVING blocks called iron brick are now being introduced by Louis Jochum, of Ottweiler, near Saarbrucken, Germany. This brick is made by mixing equal parts of finely ground red argillaceous slate and finely ground clay, and adding 5 per cent. of iron ore. This mixture is softened with a solution of 25 per cent. of sulphate of iron, to which fine iron ore is added until it shows a consistency of 38 degrees Baume. It is then formed in a press, dried, dipped once more in a nearly concentrated solution of sulphate of iron and finely ground iron ore, and is baked in an oven for forty-eight hours in an oxidizing flame and twenty-four hours in a reducing flame. The German Government testing laboratory for building materials has reported favorably on this brick.

THE advertisement of a divine in London, England, that he is prepared to loan his sermons at the rate of 5s. apiece, or three for 10s., is our excuse for directing attention to the striking titles of some sermons printed in the British capital in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: "Crumbs of Comfort for Chickens of Grace," "The Snuffers of Divine Love," "The Church's Bowel Complaint," "Cuckoldom's Glory, or the Horns of the Righteous Exalted," "A Pack of Cards to Win Christ," "The Spiritual Mustard Pot, to Make the Soul Sneeze with Devotion," "A Funeral Handkerchief," and "Baruch's Sore Gently Opened and the Salve Skilfully Applied." Nobody in those times regarded any of these as irreverent, and they were not meant to be funny.

INDIANS on the Pacific coast in times of scarcity of food sometimes eat pine bark. Around many of the watering-places in the pine forests of Oregon and California the trees may be seen stripped of their bark for the space of three or four feet near the base of the trunk. This has been accomplished by cutting with a hatchet a line around the tree as high as one could conveniently reach and another lower down, so that the bark, severed above and below, could be removed in strips. At certain seasons of the year a mucilaginous flim separates the bark from the wood of the trunk. Part of the flim adheres to each surface and may be scraped off. The resulting mixture of mucilage-cells and half-formed wood is nutritious and not unpalatable, so that, as a last resort, it may be used as a defence against starvation.

PROFESSOR ELMSLIE, of the London Presbyterian College, yet a young man, is one of the most accomplished Hebrew scholars of the day. Although he does not go in for literalism in the interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures, he gives his whole strength to the maintenance of orthodoxy in the Church. According to him, liberal interpretation does not necessarily conflict with the old and accepted views regarding the great fundamental truths of Scripture and the general scope and purport of Divine revelation. Professor Elmslie, in the December "Contemporary Review," gives a new interpretation of the Mosaic account of creation. He sees in the Mosaic account what he calls a theologico-literary device. The days stand, not for definite periods, but for achievements, and, these in agreement with Hebrew parallelism, are broken up into two sets of three each, the first set dealing with untenanted spheres and the second with the inhabitants of those spheres. The whole narrative, he says, is a poetic description of the character, being and glory of God.

THE new electric type-writer relieves the operator of every duty except pressing down the keys. The carriage moves automatically to the starting point whenever the end of a line has been reached, and also moves up one notch or line at the same time. But the most important office of the new instrument seems to be its use in receiving and transmitting telegraphic despatches. It is said at the Patent Office that the instrument can be used both as a transmitter and receiver of intelligence over a single wire, no matter how great the distance may be. The receiving instrument does not require the attendance of an operator, but prints the despatch automatically. The instruments at both ends of the line print the despatch sent, and so a safeguard against mistakes is provided. It is claimed that the electric type-writer will be valuable as a local aid to business and offers many advantages over the telephone. One advantage claimed for it is that no matter whether a person called up is at his place of business or not, the message can be printed through the medium of his type-writer and will be there for perusal on his return. The despatches printed are in letter form, and not an endless tape. The instrument has been christened the dynamograph.

For Ambitious Boys.

A boy is something like a piece of iron, which, in its rough state, isn't worth much, nor is it of very much use, but the more processes it is put through the more valuable it becomes. A bar of iron that is only worth $5 in its natural state is worth $12 when it is made into horseshoes, and after it goes through the different processes by which it is made into needles its value is increased to $350. Made into penknife blades it would be worth $3,000, and into balance wheels for watches $250,000. Just think of that, boys; a piece of iron that is comparatively worthless can be developed into such valuable material! But the iron has to go through a great deal of hammering and beating and rolling and pounding and polishing; and so, if you are to become useful and educated men, you must go through a long course of study and training. The more time you spend in hard study, the better material you will make. The iron doesn't have to go through half so much to be made into horseshoes, as it does to be converted into delicate watch-springs; but think how much less valuable it is! Which would you rather be, horseshoe or watchspring? It depends on yourselves You can become whichever you will. This is your time of preparation for manhood. Don't think that I would have you settle down to hard study all the time, without any interval for fun. Not a bit of it. I like to see boys have a good time, and I should be very sorry to see you grow old before your time, but you have ample opportunity for study and play too, and I don't want you to neglect the former for the sake of the latter.—*Pittsburg Christian Advocate.*

Explained.

"My sister Calra," said Bobby to young Mr. Sissy, "was talking to ma about your leaving so early last night."

"Did she say she was sorry, Bobby?" whispered young Sissy.

"No; she said she s'posed you went home so early because very likely your mamma won't let you carry a night-key."
—*The Epoch.*

Truths in Business.

Men who have company must have money.

Some men carry too much sail, some too little.

Great men when analyzed usually prove to be very small men.

Men trade on borrowed reputation as they trade on borrowed capital.

Good intentions will not help a man on his way if he takes the wrong road.

The history of trade shows that failure is the rule and winning the exception.

Money moves the crops that make the great west the granary of the world.

One man is overnice and becomes fussy; another is careless and loses his trade.

The same great lesson of failure is taught in the professions that is taught in trade.

One man ruins his business because he is a sloven; another ruins it because he is a fop.

Men neither win nor lose in the same way. One fails and is smart; another wins and is dull.

Talent and temper often go together. It is rare to find a sharp, bright man that is a courteous man.

The merchants of old Tyre were "princes, and her traffickers were the honorable of the earth."

Integrity, honor and piety do not save a man from disaster if he fails to observe the law of success.

The law of success is as certain as the law of the tides. All must obey these laws if they would prosper.

A diamond with a flaw is better than a pebble without. But the flaw adds nothing to the value of the diamond.

Mormon Superstition.

"You can tell a Mormon house by the number of doors," I heard some one say as we approached Salt Lake City, writes a Minneapolis *Tribune* correspondent. Sure enough! There they were, two doors side by side, even in the smallest houses. Sometimes there were two woodsheds, or two wells; and we saw one house that had begun with a single room, and been lengthened out room by room and door by door. That patriarch must needs look about him sharply on the resurrection morn, or he will overlook some poor wife and have her sleeping through all eternity. The Mormons have a doctrine that in the resurrection the men rise, but the women lie in their graves until their husbands please to call them. If the liege lord pleases to be so gracious he goes to the grave side of his spouse and speaks the new name he received in the endowment house at the time of his marriage, which has never before crossed his lips. She answers with the name which she received at the same time and rises. One of the most potent means of domestic tyranny among the ignorant Mormons is the threat, frequently resorted to by the head of the house, that he will not raise his wife on the resurrection morn "unless," etc., etc.

When the Modest Girl's Alone.

Most men like modest girls best. Modesty is discretion; that's all. The modest girl won't let you hold her hand when there's anybody to see; but she's whole-souled when there's nobody looking, and gives you both her hands. I have known young ladies who would squeeze your hands tenderly, look into your eyes and do everything that was agreeable in the most shameless manner before other people; but when they are alone with you they'll sit a half a mile off and talk primly about the weather. I don't think those girls would make good wives. At all events they don't make good sweethearts, and about marrying it is much the same as with boys eating cherries. They lay aside the best to finish up with, but when they get to what they've laid aside they're so full of cherries that they can't enjoy any more. Of course there are other boys who eat all the good ones first. But it seems to me all rules work both ways anyway, and end in discomfiture of some kind. The only rule of life experience brings to is never to lose a chance for fun when we can get it.

Sixty Thousand Useless Words.

"There is no man living," said a public school teacher the other day, "that knows every one of the 75,000 words in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, nor half, nor a third of them. Nor is there a man that could define them if he were asked. Shakspeare, who had the richest vocabulary used by any Englishman, employed only 16,000 words. Milton could pick out from 8,000, but the average man, a graduate from one of the great universities, rarely has a vocabulary of more than 3,000 or 4,000 words. Right here in Buffalo there are Americans born and bred who contrive to express all their wants and opinions in 300 words, and in the rural districts the knowledge of 150 or 200 words is sufficient to carry a man through the world. So the unabridged dictionary is cluttered up with 60,000 or more technical or obsolete words that you never hear in ordinary conversation or see in ordinary books and newspapers.—*Buffalo Courier.*

The Palate-Tickling Oyster.

On the subject of oyster eating the writer recently saw a rhyme something after this order, entitled "How to kill an oyster:"

Don't drown it deep in vinegar, nor season it at all,
Nor cover up its glistening form with pepper like a pall:
But raise it gently from its shell, and firmly hold your breath,
And then, with eager tooth and tongue, just tickle it to death.

The Merciful Wife is Merciful to "Him."

When a man comes home late at night, after working hard all the evening at the office on the books, it is mean for his wife to require him to say, "Say, should such a shapely sash shabby stitches show?" before she will unbolt the front door.—*Journal of Education.*

OUR lady friends will be interested in knowing that by sending 20c. to pay postage, and 15 top covers of Warner's Safe Yeast (showing that they have used at least 15 packages) to H. H. Warner & Co., Rochester, N. Y., they can get a 500 page, finely illustrated COOK BOOK, *free*. Such a book, bound in cloth, could not be bought for less than a dollar. It is a wonderfully good chance to get a fine book for the mere postage and the ladies should act promptly.

—A man's life may be like an open book, but it is bound to be closed.

"A THREE-TIME WINNER."

Has Hanlan Lost His Grip?—Philosophical Training Demanded.

The defeat of "Ned" Hanlan by Teemer at Toronto in August indicates the "end of the glory" of the doughty champion.

He has sustained his record with admirable pluck and success, but the tremendous strain of years of training must certainly some day find its limit.

Apropos of this we recall the following interesting reminiscence of aquatic annals:

On a fine bright day in August, 1871, an excited multitude of 15,000 to 20,000 persons lined the shores of the beautiful Kenebecasis, near St. John, N.B., attracted by a four-oared race between the famous Paris crew, of that city, and a picked English crew, for $5,000 and the championship of the world. Wallace Ross, the present renowned oarsman, pulled stroke for the Blue Nose crew, and "Jim" Renforth, champion sculler and swimmer of England and of the world, was stroke in the English shell.

Excitement was at fever heat.

But three hundred yards of the course had been covered when the Englishmen noticed that their rivals were creeping away.

"Give us a dozen, Jim," said the veteran Harry Kelly, ex-champion of England, who was pulling No. 3 oar.

"I can't, boys, I'm done," said Renforth, and with these words he fell forward, an inanimate heap in the boat.

"He has been poisoned by bookmakers," was the cry, and belief.

Everything that science and skill could suggest for his restoration was tried; but after terrible struggles of agony, the strong man, the flower of the athletes and pride of his countrymen, passed away.

The stomach was analyzed, but no sign or trace of poison could be found therein, though general examination showed a very strange condition of the blood and the life-giving and health-preserving organs caused by years of unwise training. While the muscular development was perfect the heart and kidneys were badly congested.

The whole system was, therefore, in just that state when the most simple departure from ordinary living and exertion was of momentous consequence. His wonderful strength only made his dying paroxysms more dreadful and the fatality more certain.

Hanlan is now in Australia. Beach, champion of that country, is a powerful fellow, who probably understands the liability of athletes to death from overtraining, the effect thereof being very serious on the heart, blood and kidneys, as shown by poor Renforth's sudden death.

Within the past three years he has taken particular care of himself, and when training, always reinforces the kidneys and prevents blood congestion in them and the consequent ill-effect on the heart by using Warner's safe cure, the sportsman's universal favorite, and says he "is astonished at the great benefit."

Harry Wyatt, the celebrated English trainer of athletes, who continues himself to be one of the finest of specimens of manhood and one of the most successful of trainers, writes over his own signature to the English *Sporting Life*, September 5th, saying: "I consider Warner's safe cure invaluable for all training purposes and outdoor exercise. I have been in the habit of using it for a long time. I am satisfied that it pulled me through when nothing else would, and it is always a three-time winner!"

Beach's and Wyatt's method of training is sound and should be followed by all.

A Large Estate.

A broad land is this in which we live, dotted so thickly with thirfty cities, towns and villages! Amid them all, with ever-increasing popularity and helpfulness, is Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, giving hope and cheer where there is disease and despair. Wherever there is humanity there is suffering; wherever there is suffering there is the best field for this greatest American Remedy. Consumption (which is lung-scrofula) yields to it, if employed in the early stages of the disease; Chronic Nasal Catarrh yields to it; Kidney and Liver diseases yield to it! If you want the best known remedy for all diseases of the blood, ask for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and take no other.

Making Hay While the Sun Shines.

"You seem to be enjoying yourself, Bobby," remarked one of the guests at a dinner party.

"Yes," assented Bobby, with his mouth full, "I am making the most of it, 'cause after pa an' ma give a big dinner like this, it's always cold pickin' for the next thirty days."—*Harper's Bazar.*

Always Prompt in Action.

This is just what every sufferer wants—prompt action and rapid relief from pain. The grandest discovery of the age, the great pain cure, is Polson's Nerviline—prompt, powerful, pleasant to the taste, and yet so pure that it may be given to the youngest infant. Try a 10 cent sample bottle, which you can purchase at any drug store. Nerviline, the great, sure, and prompt pain cure. The large bottles are only 25 cents.

Who Told You So?

It is a solemn hour with a rose-lipped society bud when she begins to wonder vaguely how a mustache feels on the face.
—*Binghamton Republican.*

Popular Preparation!

Pure, Potent, Powerful! Pallid People Praise, Progressive People Purchase! Positively Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, Properly Partaken, Preserve Physical Powers, Produce Permanent Physical Perfection. Purchase, Prove!

There Was Wire Enough.

Friend (to happy father)—Hello, Jones, let me congratulate you. I hear you have a new boy at your house.

Happy Father—By George, can you hear him all this distance?—*Pittsburg Chronicle*

Isaiah Williamson, of Philadelphia, is the richest bachelor in the United States. His fortune of $20,000,000 was made in the dry goods trade, and yields him an annual income of a million and a half.

—Notice is given by Bennet Rosamond, of Almonte, of application for divorce from his wife, Adair M. Rosamond, on the grounds of adultery and desertion.

ALMA LADIES' COLLEGE,

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO.

This institution which had last year the largest enrolment of all the Canadian Colleges for women is offering superior advantages to young women in Literary Course, Fine Arts, Commercial Science and Music at the very lowest rates.

Address, Principal Austin, B. D.

The Longest Word in the Dictionary

is incompetent to communicate the inexpressible satisfaction and incomprehensible consequences resulting from a judicious administration of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, a preparation designed especially for the speedy relief and permanent cure of all Female Weaknesses, Nervousness and disease peculiar to the female sex. The only remedy for a woman's peculiar ills, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee, to give satisfaction. See guarantee on wrapper of bottle. This guarantee has been faithfully carried out for many years by the proprietors.

Doggishness Acknowledged.

Passenger (in crowded car)—Is this seat engaged?

Occupant—Don't yer see it is?

Passenger (forcibly removing bundles, placing them on the floor, and sitting down)—Pretty comfortable kind of a sty, ain't it?

The treatment of many thousands of cases of those chronic weaknesses and distressing ailments peculiar to females, at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., has afforded a vast experience in nicely adapting and thoroughly testing remedies for the cure of woman's peculiar maladies.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the outgrowth, or result, of this great and valuable experience. Thousands of testimonials, received from patients and from physicians who have tested it in the more aggravated and obstinate cases which had baffled their skill, prove it to be the most wonderful remedy ever devised for the relief and cure of suffering women. It is not recommended as a "cure-all," but as a most perfect Specific for woman's peculiar ailments.

As a powerful, invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system, and to the womb and its appendages in particular. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequaled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.

As a soothing and strengthening nervine, "Favorite Prescription" is unequaled and is invaluable in allaying and subduing nervous excitability, irritability, exhaustion, prostration, hysteria, spasms and other distressing, nervous symptoms commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease of the womb. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a legitimate medicine, carefully compounded by an experienced and skillful physician, and adapted to woman's delicate organization. It is purely vegetable in its composition and perfectly harmless in its effects in any condition of the system. For morning sickness, or nausea, from whatever cause arising, weak stomach, indigestion, dyspepsia and kindred symptoms, its use, in small doses, will prove very beneficial.

"Favorite Prescription" is a positive cure for the most complicated and obstinate cases of leucorrhea, excessive flowing, painful menstruation, unnatural suppressions, prolapsus, or falling of the womb, weak back, "female weakness," anteversion, retroversion, bearing-down sensations, chronic congestion, inflammation and ulceration of the womb, inflammation, pain and tenderness in ovaries, accompanied with "internal heat."

As a regulator and promoter of functional action, at that critical period of change from girlhood to womanhood, "Favorite Prescription" is a perfectly safe remedial agent, and can produce only good results. It is equally efficacious and valuable in its effects when taken for those disorders and derangements incident to that later and most critical period, known as "The Change of Life."

"Favorite Prescription," when taken in connection with the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and small laxative doses of Dr. Pierce's Purgative Pellets (Little Liver Pills), cures Liver, Kidney and Bladder diseases. Their combined use also removes blood taints, and abolishes cancerous and scrofulous humors from the system.

"Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, **under a positive guarantee,** from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

Large bottles (100 doses) **$1.00, or six bottles for $5.00.**

For large, illustrated Treatise on Diseases of Women (160 pages, paper-covered), send ten cents in stamps. Address,

World's Dispensary Medical Association,
663 Main St., BUFFALO, N. Y.

D U N L. 51 87.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE BAKING'S BEST FRIEND

I CURE FITS!

When I say cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office. It costs you nothing for a trial and I will cure you. Address DR. H. G. ROOT,

Branch Office, 37 Yonge St., Toronto.

CONSUMPTION.

I have a positive remedy for the above disease; by its use thousands of cases of the worst kind and of long standing have been cured. Indeed, so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE, together with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease, to any sufferer. Give express and P. O. address.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM,

Branch Office, 37 Yonge St., Toronto