LATEST ENGLISH NEWS BY MAIL

Singular Accident to Excursionists.

A serious accident happened last week on the large passenger steamer Duke of Connaught, which is at present engaged in taking passengers from Fleetwood to the Isle of Man. When the vessel left Fleetwood at 4 o'clock a gale was blowing from the west, and drenching showers fell at intervals. She had not proceeded more than a few miles when the mainmast snapped twenty feet from the deck, owing, it is said, to the pitching of the steamer. The mast fell on the bridge with a crash, and there broke into three pieces. The deck was crowded, and the fractured mast and wreckage fell among the excursionists, injuring seriously six of them. The captain immediately turned his steamer and ran back to Fleetwood as rapidly as possible, where medical aid was promptly procured.

Dismissed with Ignominy.

A singular scene was witnessed at Colchester the other day, when the volunteers encamped on the Abbey Fields were paraded to witness the "drumming out" of a private of the 3rd Essex Volunteer Battalion for neglect of duty and insubordination. The shoulder straps and buttons having been torn off the culprit's uniform, he was marched under escort to the railway station and summarily dismissed.

Poisoned by Hemlock.

At an inquest held at Consett last week on two little boys named Bernard and Joseph Molloy, who died suddenly on Monday, the medical testimony showed that they had sucked the ends of hemlock stalks, absorbing such a quantity of poison as to result in their death. The doctor stated that hemlock was a very active and dangerous irritant at this season of the year. A verdict of "Poisoned by the juice of hemlock" was returned.

Killed by Swallowing False Teeth.

A man named Darcy has died at Birmingham from swallowing a set of false teeth in his sleep. He went to the Queen's Hospital the day after he swallowed the teeth, and, all the ordinary methods to remove the obstruction having failed, his throat was cut open and the teeth extracted. For a time he did well, but pleurisy set in as a result of the operation, and he died.

The Banns Forbidden.

As the vicar of South Acton parish church was publishing the marriage banns from the altar at the morning service on Sunday week the congregation were startled by a young lady announcing in a clear and collected voice, "There is just cause or impediment." Her voice rang through the sacred building just at the moment when Mr. Dunn had concluded the customary invitation, "Ye are now to declare it." The lady appeared to be quite young, about 16 or 17, and was pretty and well-dressed. She bore herself bravely and refused to be hustled out. She was evidently laboring under a deep sense of injury.

Life in London Slums.

An inquest was held at Poplar Town Hall on Saturday week into the circumstances attending the death of a little fellow of 7 named Ephraim John Bond, the son of a bricklayer, at 13 Brunswick road, Poplar. The child was taken ill on Sunday and died on Monday night. The mother said her house had been flooded and a large quantity of sewage matter still lay under the floor. Dr. Wadley said when he saw the deceased on Monday night he was suffering from bronchitis and "dying as fast as he could." Without doubt his illness was attributable to the state of the house, as owing to the water under the floor and the dampness of the walls it was a shocking place for the child or any one else to exist in. The cause of death was acute bronchitis. Verdict accordingly.

Other Jottings from the Old World.

Sir Beaumont Dixie has been received into the Church of Rome.

The important collection of engraved gems in the British Museum has been catalogued by Mr. A. H. Smith in the form of a small volume describing altogether 2,349 pieces.

The friends of Canon Knox Little will be glad to hear that good accounts have been received of his health from Denmark, where he is on a walking tour, sometimes covering thirty miles a day.

Lady Butler's "Scotland for Ever"—probably the best drawn of all her pictures—has been purchased by an anonymous benefactor for £1,000 for presentation to the Art Gallery at Leeds. The same lady's "Floreat Etona" is about to be engraved in the "mixed method" for publication by Messrs. Graves.

A married woman named Jane Medlen was charged at the Thames Police Court on Saturday week with loitering in Wellesley street dressed in male attire; but after hearing the evidence, which showed that the accused had adopted this unsuitable attire so as to watch the movements of her husband, of whom she was apparently jealous, the magistrate, with a timely caution, ordered her to be discharged.

A month ago, George Frederick Curzon, 12 years of age, was attacked by a large black dog in the neighborhood where he lived, Smith-down road, Liverpool. The principal wound was in the boy's lip. It was dressed, the wound healed up, and the boy appeared to be perfectly well until a few days ago, when symptoms of hydrophobia supervened, and he died in great agony on Saturday week.

In an action tried in the Queen's Bench the other day, before Mr. Justice Manisty and Mr. Justice Hawkins, in which a court milliner and dressmaker sued a lady for £303, the balance of an account for dresses and other articles supplied to the defendant, Mr. Justice Hawkins caused considerable laughter by inquiring what was meant by the items in the account "ladies' silk pants" and "gentlemen's silk vests." No answer was returned to the inquiry.

Latest from Ireland.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, is to address a meeting in Glasgow on 1st Oct.

The Queen has subscribed £50 to the Royal Irish Constabulary Fund, which was started recently.

The young woman named Lavery, who was shot during the progress of a Nationalist demonstration at Lurgan on the 15th ult., died next day.

Mr. Wm. Hellier Baily, a man whose name has been familiar to scientists and others in Dublin for many years, has died at the age of 69 years.

Major Dennis, of Ravenswood, Newtownbarry, died on the 9th ult., after being hurt by a car which struck him while training a young horse.

Sir Wm. O'Malley was married on the 7th ult., in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, to Miss Caroline Favey. The bridegroom is a widower of 70 and the bride only just out of her teens.

Mr. Parnell was born at Avondale, in County Wicklow, in 1846. He is a descendant of Parnell, the poet, and his family have been associated with Irish Parliamentary life for upwards of a century.

Rev. John Smith, of Templetrine, County Cork, had a narrow escape from drowning at Tenby on the 14th ult. He was carried away by the current, and only reached the rocks two miles away when completely exhausted.

Best Books for Sunday School Libraries

A writer in the New York *Independent* discusses what kind of books should be placed in Sunday School libraries. A supply of suitable new books is clearly very necessary, if it be true as stated that since the "Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society" came into being they have sold four tons of the old "goody-goody" kind of books as waste paper. The *Independent's* advice is as follows: I have learned that it is not safe to accept any book on the merit of the author without careful examination. Mrs. Burnett has written the sweet, helpful stories of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and "That Lass o' Lowrie's," but she has also written "Through One Administration," a book which should go into no Sunday School library. While Pansy is almost always true and helpful, her book, "From Different Standpoints," is considered objectionable by many. This is also true of Louisa Alcott's "Moods." Very few persons would think of disapproving of George MacDonald's "Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood" or "The Marquis of Lossie," but many object to "Robert Falconer" as unsettling to the simple Christian faith of the young.

Mayne Reid is an author whose books must be selected with care. They are very fascinating to the average boy and some of them may legitimately satisfy his taste for thrilling adventure. Such stories as "The Cliff Climbers," "The Wood Rangers," "The Plant Hunters," "The Forest Exiles" and "The Young Voyageurs" have undoubtedly stimulated many a boy to a healthful love of woods life. A minister who finds his greatest recreation and pleasure during his summer vacation in plunging into the almost unknown wilderness, testifies that his first taste for his healthful enjoyment was given by the reading of Mayne Reid's books. I must, however, warn the boys against some of them. Banish "Oceola," "The Scalp Hunters," "The War Trail," "The White Chief" and "The Wild Huntress" from the shelves.

Jules Verne is a writer condemned by many; but some of his books I believe to be healthful and stimulating. It is a natural step his "At the North Pole" and "Desert of Ice" to Kane's "Arctic Explorations" and other works on exploration. It is true that Verne blends fact and fiction so skilfully that it is difficult to distinguish between them; but I believe that his books of the character of those mentioned do stimulate a taste for reliable works of travel and exploration.

The elder boys and girls should be encouraged to read Sir Samuel Baker's Paul du Chaillu's, Livingstone's and Stanley's wonderful travels in Africa; Parkman's "Oregon Trail," Irving's "Astoria" and "Captain Bonneville's Adventures," Bayard Taylor's "Travels," and Isabella Bird's "Unbeaten Tracks in Japan" and "Life in the Rocky Mountains."

Librarians testify that it is more difficult to supply reading for girls than for boys. This would not be true if girls were encouraged, as I believe they should be, to read the same books which their brothers read. Why should a girl not enjoy works of travel and adventure, historical stories and juvenile books of popular science, as well as fairy tales, the quieter pictures of home life, and the never-failing love story?

A girl has the advantage of a boy in her reading, in that her mind develops and matures much earlier; so that she may safely begin to read at the early age of 13 or 14 authors which boys had better leave until some years later. A girl of 13 may not appreciate the keen edge of satire and the fine analysis of character in Dickens' and Trackeray's novels, but she will find much that she can understand and enjoy, and her taste will be cultivated for the best reading. These authors are not so safe for inmature boys, for too often their pictures of certain vices are painted in a light to awaken admiration rather than abhorrence in the minds of boys.

Specimen Old World Tragedies.

Mr. W. S. Hosley, steward to Lord Braybrooke, at Audley End, was found dead the other day in the grounds surrounding the mansion. It appears that he attempted to drown himself in an ornamental lake, but scrambled out again, and, opening a vein with his penknife, bled to death. Domestic troubles are said to have preyed on the mind of the deceased.

A terrible tragedy is reported from Kopacs, in Hungary. A man named Mati had a quarrel with his wife, a young and beautiful woman, whom he had lately married. She sought refuge in his mother's house. Mati followed her there, and on his mother—an old woman over 0—remonstrating with him, he seized a chopper and literally hacked his mother and wife to pieces.

The woman who wades into the ocean with her two-year-old child in her arms, and then ducks the screaming unfortunate in the water until it becomes wild with fright, is still with us. She is one of the things that never die. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children should have an agent on the beach to arrest all such unnatural fools.—*Martha's Vineyard Herald.*

Sarah Ann—Oh, ain't my brother a clever boy, Jane? Why, he's only been at school two months, an' he's got the Catechism. Eliza Jane—Wot's that? Why, my brother's only been to school two months, an' he's got the measles!"

THE FAITH CURISTS.

Rapid Growth of the New Gospel of Healing.

SOME WONDERFUL EXAMPLES.

Interesting Letter from the Hon. H. G. Joly on the Subject.

The Faith Curists of New Jersey are developing in force and the congregations at their Sunday services are rapidly increasing in converts and enthusiasm. They are spreading the gospel of faith as a cure for all the ills that the body and soul are heir to. Brother Elsey is the leading worker, and has for his adviser Rev. Dr. Simpson, of Forty-fifth Street Tabernacle, New York (formerly of Knox Church, Hamilton). The Mount Zion Sanctuary, which is also a home for invalids awaiting cures by faith, is under the direction of the Society of the First Born in Erie street, Jersey City.

THE LORD WILL CURE.

On Sunday afternoon the sanctuary was filled with devout worshippers and a fair sprinkling of curiosity seekers, who were addressed by Rev. M. D. Hancox, of the Church of the First Born, who preached from Leviticus, xxvii: "Whatsoever a man giveth to the Lord it shall be made holy." In illustrating his text the preacher said that if any one gave his body to the Lord, He would accept it and care for as His own property. If it was ill He would cure it. "If you have a headache or your liver is out of order the Lord will cure it, for you are his peculiar property. He will take care of you so that you shall not dash your foot against a stone."

AN EXPERIENCE.

At the same hour the Elsey Memorial chapel members, converts and friends to the number of about 300 met in the grove on the high bank of Newark Bay at Pamrapo, on the fifteen acres of ground recently bought as a site for their proposed mission and held services. The ground reaches to the blue waters of the bay, where their baptismal services are performed.

Rev. William Raymond, of Troy, N. Y., spoke on the subject of cures by faith. He said that during the last war he was so ill in Washington that the physicians told him he could not live. He went into the woods north of that city to die. While praying to God to receive his spirit, a change came over him, and in one minute he was completely cured and stood on his feet a well man, after five years of intense suffering. He is now 70 years old and for fifty-one years has been preaching the gospel of faith, and has cured over 2,000 persons. He said that men born blind had been made to see and the deaf made to hear as readily as others. Let the healing of the body lead and salvation is sure to follow.

WONDERFUL RESULTS.

He instanced the case of Mr. Osborne of Troy, who was completely paralyzed on his left side. The speaker visited him, and taking the palsied hand in his own, offered a silent prayer. In a few minutes the fingers of the hands moved, the arm was lifted to the head, the paralysis left the leg, and within a week the man was well and walking about Troy.

HON. H. G. JOLY'S LETTER.

Hon. H. G. Joly, of Quebec, has written a letter to the press in which he says: No one can witness suffering without wishing to relieve the sufferer, but few know how much they can do in that direction. After reading the article on "faith cures" in one of your issues, I felt it might perhaps be of some use if I can give my experience on the subject. For many years past I have relieved a good deal of suffering by very simple means, holding the patient's hand with one hand and passing the other over the affected part; in a great many cases the relief has been a permanent one.

INFLUENCE OF AN IDEA.

Instead of attempting an explanation which I have no authority to give, here are some extracts from lectures on the principles and the practice of medicine, delivered by Prof. J. Hughes Bennett before the Edinburgh College of Medicine. Under the head of "Influence of predominant ideas on the body," he says: "In all cases of relief there can be little doubt that any benefit that did occur may be attributed to a strong belief on the part of the patient in the efficacy of the means employed." He calls it from the Greek monoideism, or one idea, meaning, I suppose, the concentration of the minds of the patient and the operator on one single idea, viz., cure.

WHAT PROF. BENNETT SAYS.

This subject, however, says Prof. Bennett, is in its infancy, and has to be separated from the charlatanism which has hitherto been mingled with it. The labors of Dr. Esdale among the natives of India and of Mr. Braid in Manchester exhibit a worthy commencement of the rational treatment of disorders by the means now alluded to, and there can be little doubt that in no long time its influence, when further studied, will be acknowledged. But how far this influence is dependent on the confidence of the patient, on the belief of some mysterious circumstance which is presumed to produce the effect, or on some unknown law regulating function through the mind, further observation alone can determine. He then speaks of suggesting thoughts to patients in different ways and creating impressions on the mind, and mentioned cures of insomnolence, spasms, relief or cure of hysterical paralysis of the limbs or special organs of sense, and torpid functions of lactation, perspiration, defaecation, etc., etc., have been rendered more active.

HIS EXPERIMENTS.

With few exceptions, I have only succeeded with uneducated people, whose confidence was unlimited and who were willing to accept any suggestions as to the effects of my attempts at curing them. The process may be called "mind cure" or "monoideism," as Prof. Bennett calls it, or "faith cure," which is the best name, after all. For without faith the cure does not work; faith on the part of the patient in the operator; faith on the part of the operator in himself and in the power above, whose help he instinctively looks for.

Any one can relieve suffering in this way who will give his whole heart to the task. If you wish to test the purest joy of life, you will find it in relieving suffering among those whose only future is their health, in enabling the workman, crippled with rheumatism, to resume his work, or the poor mother to take, once more, charge of her modest household and her children. If you think that my statement may induce some of your readers to try the faith cure, publish it; but I leave it to you to do what you think best.

H. G. JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

EXPERIMENTS IN MESMERISM.

Making Subjects Insensible to Pain—A Girl is Persuaded that a Cow Sings, but Positively Refuses to Play Cards.

(W. A. Croffut in North American Review.)

Mesmerized sensitives do not see any of the objects or people in the room except the operator, or hear anything except his voice. They can be made apparently cognizant of their surroundings only by having their attention explicitly called to them by the operator. Even then they generally see imaginary objects only. Their eyes are open and their sight appears to an oculist entirely normal, but there is no co-ordination of the faculties. If I introduce "a gentleman," they treat him as such. If I introduce him as a "young person," they wonder whether he is a boy or girl, and are liable to address him as either. Mesmerism is as perfect an anæsthetic as ether and as harmless as water. Any mesmerized person can at once, by a single stroke of the hand, be rendered totally insensible to pain, and can have a tooth drawn, a cataract removed, a cancer cut out or an arm cut off without feeling the slightest pain. This has been so often demonstrated that amputations frequently takes place under its influence in the Paris hospitals, and it is successfully employed in obstetrics.

It is quite erroneous to suppose that the conduct of the responsive is directed in detail by the operator. He only suggests the general line of thought, and each responsive pursues it according to his own knowledge, experience or prejudices. I say to my responsives, for instance, that I have a wonderful educated cow with seven heads. They all want to see it. I call their attention to the imaginary stable door near by; they look toward it, and when I snap my fingers they all see a seven-headed cow enter. Now, by questioning them, it becomes obvious that they all see a different cow. Unless I have designated her color, one sees a white cow, another a red cow, and so on.

Then I tell them that she can dance—can waltz and keep time with music. I hand one of them a cane telling him it is a flute and that he is an eminent performer, and he goes through the motions of playing to the dancing cow. They all hear different tunes, but the exhibition is satisfactory. I now add that the cow can sing—can sing a different part with each mouth—can sing seven ballads at once. At this point there is perhaps some incredulity expressed. They see the cow stand up on her hind legs and hear the seven ballads—and this, I may as well add, is the narrative of an actual experiment.

Five of the six mesmerized persons believed that she sang. "She is singing Tit Willow," said one. "And a Warrior Bold," said another.

"I hear singing," said the incredulous one, turning to me. "'Annie Laurie,' isn't it? How do you work her?—the machinery, I mean?"

The others laughed at him. "Why, the cow sings," said a young lady. "Can't you hear her sing? Can't you see her sing?"

As a rule the responsives can be completely dominated and made to do anything of which they are physically capable. They could generally be induced to take poison or jump off the house, or throw themselves under a locomotive, or attack one another with deadly weapons; but there are some exceptions. I was unable to overcome the fear of one of my responsives, whom I sent to assault an imaginary Indian in the park. He refused to go and said it was "difficult to kill an Indian."

A young lady, one of the brightest sensitives I have ever seen, steadfastly refuses to play cards. I tell her she is Buffalo Bill, and easily induce her to assume his character, but when cards is suggested, "No, I never play cards. It is wrong!" she says, and I cannot move her. I could make her jump out through the window or put her hand in the fire, but play cards she will not. I was puzzled by it, till, inquiring, I ascertained that her religious parents had brought her up very strictly and taught her it was "wicked to play cards."

Valuable Medical Advice Gratis.

We are not so sure that cheap quinine is such an unalloyed blessing. It has come about that nearly every family now has its quinine bottle, that it is sold at many general stores, and that the doctor rarely meets an invalid who has not been thoroughly dosed with quinine. The drug, when taken continuously or excessively, is an injurious one; and its therapeutic value is greatly exaggerated in the popular mind. The value of quinine in "colds," bronchitis, ephemeral fevers, anorexia, general malaise, and various other minor ills, is most problematical.—*Medical Record.*

Living on Stewed Weeds.

"I was surprised," said a prominent physician, "at what I learned of the details of the dietetic hotels of Japan from so close an observer as John La Farge, who has recently spent a number of months in Japan. He tells me that the rice growers, the peasantry who cultivate the rice in Japan, are far too poor to be able to eat it. The poverty that is too great to admit of a rice diet in a rice-growing country is beyond our imagination. What do they eat? That is what I asked. Weeds, stewed weeds, as well as I can learn."

Just a Thimbleful.

Wife—Are you going out this evening, John?

Husband—Well-er-yes, my dear; I don't feel just right, and I thought I would step around the corner and get just a thimbleful of brandy.

Wife (pleased that she could save him trouble)—Well, you needn't go out for that, John; I have a little brandy in the closet.

So she filled her thimble full, and he gulped it down and tried to look happy.

RETENTIVE MEMORIES.

Some Remarkable Feats of Recollection Chronicled.

Mr. Staunton, the United States War Minister during the great civil war, had a very retentive memory, and was especially well up in Dickens' works. One evening in the early part of 1868 Dickens, then on a reading tour in the States, was dining with Charles Sumner, when Mr. Staunton and some others were present. The War Minister was put to the test, and when started could repeat from memory a chapter from any of Dickens' books, showing a much greater knowledge of the works than their author could boast. Mr. Staunton accounted for this intimate knowledge of Dickens by mentioning the habit which he had formed during the war of invariably reading something by the author of "Pickwick" before going to bed at night. The late Bishop Prince Lee, first Bishop of Manchester, was similarly gifted. It is related of him that being once, at an evening party, started by a lady with a line quoted from "Marmion," he went right on with the poem from memory, and could have recited the whole. As a further test the same lady quoted a few words from a conversation in "Ivanhoe," whereupon the Bishop repeated the whole chapter correctly from memory. But greater than any of these was Lord Macaulay. From a very early age the retentiveness of his memory was extraordinary. When only 3 or 4 years of age, his mind mechanically retained the form of what he read so that, as his maid said, he talked "quite printed words." Once as a child, when making an afternoon call with his father, he picked up Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel" for the first time, and quietly devoured the treasure while his seniors were engaged in conversation. When they returned home the boy went to his mother, who at the time was confined to her bed, and sitting down at the bedside repeated what he had been reading, by the canto, until she was tired. Later in life his wonderful memory was always a subject of interest to his friends, and occasionally was put to searching tests. One day at a Board meeting of the British Museum, Macaulay wrote down from memory in three parallel columns on each of four pages of foolscap a complete list of the Cambridge Senior Wranglers with dates and colleges attached, for the hundred years during which a record of the names had been kept in the University Calendar. "On another occasion," says Trevelyan, "Sir David Dundas asked: 'Macaulay, do you know your Popes?' 'No,' was the answer, 'I always get wrong among the Innocents.' 'But can you say your Archbishops of Canterbury?' 'Any fool,' said Macaulay, 'could say his Archbishops of Canterbury backwards,' and he went off at score, drawing breath only once in order to remark on the oddity of there having been both an Archbishop Sancroft and an Archbishop Bancroft, until Sir David stopped him at Cranmer." Macaulay once said that if, by any possible chance, all the copies of "Paradise Lost" and the "Pilgrim's Progress" in existence were destroyed, he could write them both out again, complete, from recollection. When O'Connell made his motion, in 1834, for the Repeal of the Union, Mr. Tennant, M. P. for Belfast, delivered a speech lasting for three and a half hours, full of figures and calculation, entirely from memory, in which he trusted so completely that he sent the MS. of his speech to the newspapers before he delivered it. His confidence was not misplaced, for the oration was spoken without a single mistake, or even a momentary hesitation. Another Irish M. P., Mr. Robert Dillon Brown, member for Mayo, had the same useful faculty. He would dictate a speech to an amanuensis, and twenty-four hours afterwards, without looking at it or thinking of the matter in the meantime, could repeat it word for word. Woodfall, the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* and brother of Junius' publisher, was able to report accurately in the morning the debate of the previous evening, without taking any notes. In some cases the mental action involved in feats of this nature would seem to be quite mechanical and unintelligent. In the newspapers of January, 1820, there are accounts of an extraordinary man who was known as "Memory-corner Thompson." This man, although he could hardly remember anything he heard, could yet retain perfectly the names and descriptions of large collections of objects that met his eye. He could take an inventory of the contents of a house from cellar to attic merely by surveying them, and could afterwards write it out from memory. He could draw from recollection accurate plans of many London parishes and districts, with every street, alley, public building, public house, etc., duly noted, down to the minutest topographical details, such as pumps, trees, bow-windows and posts, all correctly marked. Conspicuous instances of this mechanical kind of memory are to be found amongst the famous mental calculators. Jedediah Buxton was a celebrity of this kind about the middle of the last century. He had but little education, and indeed was not able to write his own name. But in arithmetic and in abstruse calculations his powers were wonderful. The following is a specimen of the problems which when put to the test he solved mentally in a few minutes: Find how many cubical eighths of an inch there are in a quadrangle mass measuring 23,145,789 yards long, 2,642,732 yards wide, and 54,965 yards thick. When in London in 1754 he was taken to see Garrick as *Richard III.* at Drury Lane. The play did not interest him, but he occupied himself in reckoning the number of words he heard, and in counting the number of steps made by the dancers. The American boy, Zerah Colburn, who came to London in 1812, was a similar phenomenon. He had no knowledge of the rules of arithmetic, and was quite unable to explain how he arrived at the answers to the problems submitted to him. Mental power of this nature would seem to imply an unwholesome development of one part of the brain at the expense of the rest. The retentiveness of such a memory as Lord Macaulay's is greatly to be preferred to the abnormal mental activity of an animated calculating machine.

Mme. Mutsu, wife of the Japanese Minister in Washington, is petite and slender, has dead-black hair, a clear olive complexion and kindling black eyes.