CURRENT TOPICS.

A FAMOUS Boston wit says that the prospects appear to be that protectionists will not much longer allow the tide to come in unless a tariff can be collected off it.

A BOTANICAL exploring party from Germany recently discovered on one of the Philippine Islands a number of plants whose flowers were almost a yard in diameter, the petals, five in number, being oval and of a creamy white shade.

LADY SHAFTESBURY, a niece of the Marquis of Donegal, is another fair sprig of the British nobility to go into trade. She has established a shop in Bournemouth for the sale of farm and dairy produce, much of which comes from her own property.

A MINNEAPOLIS minister, Rev. C. S. Nickerson, indorses the Presidential Inauguration ball, saying that it is natural innocent and beautiful. He denounces some round dances, but high-necked, 11 o'clock, square-cornered, long-meter dancing he approves of thoroughly.

IT has been demonstrated that in piping natural gas in pipes of one size about eight pounds per mile of the pressure is lost, but by using the telescope system, smaller pipes at the well and gradually increasing the size toward the point of consumption, the loss of pressure is reduced to three pounds per mile.

LIEUT. STANLEY, whose marriage with a daughter of the Duke of Manchester on the 5th inst., was the most fashionable event in London in recent years, will arrive in Canada with his bride about the beginning of February, and for a few weeks following accompany his father, the Governor-General, on various visits to noted places.

THE Princess of Wales has set the fashion for a new boot which is intended for rough country walking and is impervious to any amount of damp. It is very high, buttoning nearly up to the knee, of black leather, with an inner lining of stout water proof tweed between the leather and the kid lining. The sole is about half an inch thick

CANON HAWEIS still retains his stall in Chichester Cathedral and occasionally preaches with great vigor, though he is 84 years old. He is a son of the Dr. Haweis who was chaplain to the famous Countess of Huntington, and is the father of the Rev. H. R. Haweis, the funny little man who visited this country recently and is preacher, lecturer, musical and art critic, author and newspaper man all in one.

IT has been discovered that the grave of William Penn is in a sadly neglected condition. There is not even a mound above it, and only a flimsy slab of stone stuck in the ground, at the head or foot—no one can tell which. The Friends do not approve of the erection of elaborate and costly monuments, but there surely could be no objection to some more definite and permanent marking of such an interesting spot.

NEARLY all the sweeps in Paris are Italians The funeral of their chief, M. Scazziga, has just taken place at St. Augustin Church with sumptuous solemnity. He came to Paris 60 years ago on foot, "sweeping" his way to the metropolis. He died a millionaire by knocking down soot, and curing smoky chimneys. His charities were proverbial. Two facts in his career: He would never allow any of his employees to work on Sunday, and any stove chimney or fire place that was sick, in a poor man's home, he doctored it gratis. The Pope decorated him with the order of St. Gregory, which ranked him "Cousin," with the Emperor of Austria and the Queen of Spain.

THE London *Morning Post* has published a story describing the finding at Holyrood Palace a short time ago, of "the remains of a baby wrapped in cloth of gold and marked 'J.,'" and proceeded to suggest that the baby was none other than the real James VI. of Scotland and I. of England. The story, it may be pointed out, has got rather mixed on its way south. The fact is, no such discovery was ever made at Holyrood. About two years or more ago Major Gore Booth discovered the body of a child concealed in the stonework of the castle not far from the entrance to Queen Mary's room. There is no clue to the identity of the child, and none has since been forthcoming. Every visitor to the castle gets the story from the guides, and no mystery is made about the matter.

THE advantage which a good cigar has over a cigarette is that the smoke of the cigar is likely to kill microbes, while that of the cigarette only retards their development. The London *Telegraph* says editorially: "An eminent physician of Pisa has recently been engaged, we observe, in some experiments undertaken with a view to test the action of tobacco smoke upon micro-organisms. The microbes were subjected to the smoke for about half an hour, during which time three and a half to four and a half grammes of tobacco were consumed. Among the various kinds of tobacco used were the large Virginia cigars, large and small cavour cigars and the best cigarette tobacco. The result showed that tobacco smoke has the effect of wholly preventing the development of some micro-organisms and of retarding that of others. The Virginia cigar seemed to have the most powerful result, while cigarette smoke had only a retarding influence, and did not entirely check the growth of any form." If, therefore, you want to be healthy—most diseases being the product of microbes, as Dr. Flint stated in the *Forum*—why, smoke cigars and swear off from cigarettes.

THOSE who complain of the amount of fiction taken out of public libraries should remember how frequently the most important questions have been forced home upon the public mind in the form of fiction—this arresting attention, and other inquiry and action coming afterward. No one will ever be able to compute just how much was contributed by "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to the fall of slavery. The late Mrs. Helen Jackson (H. H.) worked hard in libraries for a whole winter over her compilation "A Century of Dishonor," and when it was fairly published, and a copy sent to every member of Congress, she felt that all she could do to right the wrongs of the Indian had been done. Yet it failed to produce the impression on the public mind which she had desired; and she then wrote, at a white heat, and with a rapidity and facility which she compared to inspiration, the novel of "Ramona;" and this time the work was accomplished. Her utmost dream of success for the book was of a circulation of 10.000 or 15,000; but it has now got up to 75,000, and is still steadily selling. Schools, societies, villages and even drawing-room cars have been named after its heroine, and it has unquestionably done more than any other single influence to reach the public mind. The recent religious novels have brought anew the problems of theology before all. And the very latest illustration of this work of fiction, as a sort of moral breaking-up plough for thought and knowledge, is to be seen in the clubs which are said to be forming to study the problems presented by Mr. Edw. Bellamy's novel, "Looking Backward." The object of this ingenious story is to portray the condition of life in the year 2000, supposing that the existing tendencies of legislation are carried farther and farther, and government becomes more "paternal" in its character.

SEVERAL glass factories now cut the large cylinders of window glass by encircling the cylinder with a fine wire, which is then heated to redness by an electric current, and a drop of water being allowed to fall upon the hot glass, a perfectly clean cut is obtained. The old method was to draw out a fibre of white-hot, semi-molten glass from the furnace by means of tongs and to wrap it round the cyclinder.

AT the unveiling of the Wellington statue the other day the Prince of Wales wore a dark overcoat, with broad velvet collar and cuffs, fawn-colored trousers and seamless boots without toe-caps. He was looking well and in capital spirits, but it was observed that his beard is turning very gray.

THE smallest steam-engine ever made ha just been completed, after two years of abor, for the Paris Exhibition. It is composed of 180 pieces of metal, is a shade under three-fifths of an inch in height, and weighs less than one-ninth of an ounce. A watchmaker made it.

THE greatest monopoly in France is that enjoyed by the Vichy Mineral Water Company. It pays 50 per cent. to its shareholders and only 2½ per cent. to the State, from which it secured the original grant of the mineral springs. Shares of the stock that were originally 530 francs are now 4,400 francs.

TH total number of murders committed in the United States, as reported by telegraph to the Chicago *Tribune* during 1888 is 2,184, as compared with 2,335 in 1887, 1,499 in 1886 and 1,808 in 1885. The cause of these murders may be classified as follows:

Quarrels	1,033	Resisting arrest	64
Unknown	247	Self-defense	38
Jealousy	214	Infanticide	66
Liquor	19	Riots	34
By highwaymen	143	Outrage	6
Highwaymen killed	82	Strikes	12
Insanity	41	Duels	2

THE "Statistical Abstract of India," which has been issued, contains an estimate of the present population of India. According to the census of 1881, the population of British territory was 198,790,853, and of the native States 55,191,742, giving a total of 253 982,595. The estimated population of Cashmere (which was not included in the census) in 1873 was 1,500,000; of Upper Burmah in 1886, 3,000 000; and of the Burmese Shan States, 2,000,000. The yearly increment of the population is at least ½ per cent. With these additions, and with allowances for annual increments since the census of February, 1881, the population of India in March, 1887, would be: British territory, 207,754,578; the native States, 60,382,466; giving a total population for all India of 268,137,044. Both in British territory and the native States the number of males is much larger than that of females. In 1881 in British territory there were 181 2 males to 97.4 females; and in the native States 28.7 males to 26 4 females; and in all India there were in that year just 6,013,419 more males than females.

MARK TWAIN, who groaned at Adams' grave and let a tear trickle down at the thought of his "forefather" in the cold cold ground, ought to crack his sides over the story that comes from San Domingo concerning the bones of Christopher Columbus. H. C. Astwood is the United States Consul at San Domingo, and, according to *La Nacion*, of that West Indian capital, he recently shocked Senor Figuero, Dominican Minister of the Interior, by the submission of a Yankee scheme of which this is the gist: "H. M. Linell, American, would guarantee the Dominican Government at least $200,000 a year if said Government would intrust said Linell with the bones of Christopher Columbus for exhibition in the chief cities of the United States. Said bones were to be watched by four Dominican priests and guarded by eight Dominican soldiers, and finally to be restored intact to San Domingo." Very naturally, Minister Figuero and the gentle San Domingo people were scandalized, and now they are said to be about to demand the Consul's recall. "Audacity," say they, "thy name is Astwood!"

A Child's Apology.

A little 4-year-old told his father he was a fool. On being reprimanded by his mother and required to say he was sorry, he toddled up to the insulted parent and exclamed: "Papa, I'm sorry you's a fool."

"When a woman has plenty of clothes to talk about," says a cynic, "she is not in mischief." What a misfortune that Eve had not more clothes to talk about.—*Binghamton Republican.*

They are putting in a lick here and a lick there with the big Lick telescope, now doing business in California. The latest act reported was a long, steady look at Saturn's South Pole, which seems to show a shiny tiny ice cap. This report is subject to revision. The shadow of the rings upon the ball and of the ball upon the rings come strongly into ken through the great glass.

—Philosophers have noticed that when a man makes up his mind that he must practice economy, he generally tries to begin with his wife's expenses.

—Whatever you may be sure of, be sure at least of this, that you are dreadfully like other people. Human nature has a much greater genius for sameness than for originality.

A SIEGE OF BURGLARS.

Terrific Commotion and Combat on Chicago's Finest Avenue.

The most fashionable part of Michigan avenue boulevard was wildly excited at 7 o'clock last night E. C. Lewis, an insurance broker, who lives in a handsome house at No. 1,450, had just sat down to dinner when a servant girl rushed in from the kitchen, yelled "Burglars!" and crawled under the table.

Mr. Lewis plunged into the back yard. A low-sized man, dressed in dark clothes, confronted him. The low-sized man pretended to be drunk, and said he "wouldn't go home till morning." Mr. Lewis looked around and saw a ladder which had been raised to an upper window. Mr. Lewis ran into the house and returned with a big gun. As he entered the yard he heard a mocking laugh and saw the low-sized man loping up the alley.

"I'll fool the other one," muttered Mr. Lewis, and he took down the ladder and stored it in the woodshed. Then he went into the house to lock the door. The servant girl thought the burglar had come to scalp her and she hurled herself into the street, screaming.

George Hankins, the ex-gambler, lives next door in a stately mansion. Mr. Hankins has numerous servants. Each of these servants turned in a call for the police. Every other neighbor who had a police call used it. Every other neighbor who didn't have a police call made a noise. Mr. Hankins' coachman climbed over the fence, and George Jones, a druggist's clerk, who had sneaked around to the back door to get the first lick at the burglar, smote the coachman with a baseball bat and chased him down the alley. A boulevard policeman, thinking George and the coachman were the burglars, started after them. They were met by a patrol wagon full of bluecoats, who fell upon George.

And the burglar? He buttoned up his coat, walked down the front stairs, met one of Mr. Hankins' servant girls at the door, chucked her under the chin, and went home.—*Chicago Cor. New York World.*

Petticoat Emancipation in Paris.

The *Gaulois* attacks Mme. Carnot because she suffered Mme. Dieulafoy to appear at her last ball dressed in man's clothes. The *Gaulois* speaks of a police regulation which forbids ladies to wear such garments, and of a Prefect of Police who ordered it to be put in force at the Opera Comique against Mme. Dieulafoy. The moral which this attack points to is that things are tolerated at the Elysee which the police would not allow at the theatre. It has been decided by a committee of the Chamber of Deputies that there is nothing to prevent ladies who find men's attire convenient from wearing it. Mme. Dieulafoy is a very exceptional person, and her life not only above the breath of scandal, but in the highest degree honorable. The Louvre owes to her its Persian collection. At the opening of the Persian Museum there she received Mme. Carnot in the suit which she found so convenient when she was excavating the earth mounds at Shushan. She emancipated herself from petticoats for the first time in 1870 to follow the army of the Loire, in which her husband was serving as a volunteer. At Shushan, when she went there to excavate, she arranged for herself an easy kind of man's suit, and on her return to Paris she found it impossible to revert to, as it seemed to her, the less convenient garments of her sex.—*London Daily News.*

Bible Scenes Still Enacted.

In writing from Fayal, one of the Azores Islands, a correspondent of the Boston *Transcript* says: On the country roads and near the wind-mills you will see circular thrashing floors made of hardened pumice stone. When cows and oxen are driven over the grain, crossing and recrossing it, these are a distinct and frequent feature in the landscape, and reminds one of Bible scenes. What is that strange noise I hear from afar? I say to my native companion. Why, its an ox cart coming along the lane with a load of grain. I watch and wait, and within half an hour it passes, with its two or three yoke of oxen dragging this uncouth cart with its high encircling wicker front and sides. Its great solid wooden wheels creak and groan. One is impelled to be merciful and beseech the owner to oil the wheels. But no, I must not, and am told that this noise is a part of the equipage, and no farmer is satisfied unless his wheels have the proper amount of squeak. A law was once made by the Portuguese Government that no creaking cart should be allowed to enter a city, but the people rebelled and the law was repealed.

A Victim of Weather.

Madder than the defeated candidate is he who laid in a fur overcoat for a hard winter and found the coat harder to bear than the winter.—*Toronto News.*

—A cat makes the most noise when every thing is still—that is every thing but the cat.

—No man dies of inflammation of the lungs in middle life, or indeed of any acute disease, be it what it may, if he has lived healthily as to habits and character of surroundings.

—A character at unity with itself—that performs what it intends, subdues every counteracting impulse, and has no visions beyond the distinctly possible—is strong by its very negations.

First love is but love's frivolous froth.
Now, fond lovers, wax not wroth,
Nor give the lie
To this my sigh—
You'll test its truth, too, by and by.

The last love is love's boundless deep,
Where strong, resistless currents sweep;
The sun's warm eyes
The froth soon dries—
No love like last love satisfies.
—*Christian Union.*

—The slightest vein of iron or steel can readily be detected by the application of aquafortis to the surface. On steel it leaves a black mark; on iron the metal remains clean.

From recent archæological discoveries it appears that the Romans, at the height of their civilization and splendor, had no system of street lighting. No trace of anything of the kind has been discovered.

There was recently discovered in Central Africa a village of houses built along a street and having gabled roofs. The inhabitants are of superior intelligence, keep good order in the village and sleep in beds raised above the ground.

A BURGLAR'S CLEVER EXPEDIENT.

Policeman Seized by Bulldogs.

A woman named Catherine Barragan was charged at Bow Street Police Court, London, the other day with aiding in a burglary in an optician's shop in Holborn. Evidence was given to the effect that detectives went to prisoner's residence, and there found several opera glasses and barometers. Whilst there a man came in, whom they charged with complicity, and on searching him found a barometer in his pocket. He said he had just bought it over the way. The officers went with him to a shop on the opposite side of the street. The man went behind the counter, and suddenly disappeared through a trap-door. Witness immediately followed, and fell into a dark cellar, where he was instantly seized by two bull terriers, who held him while the man made good his escape. Other officers came to the rescue of witness, but it was necessary to beat the dogs off with an iron crowbar before they released their hold. The prisoner was remanded.

Try Not to Cough.

A physician who is connected with an institution which contains many children says: "There is nothing more irritating to a cough than to cough. For some time I had been so fully assured of this that I recently determined, if possible for one minute, at least, to lessen the number of coughs heard in a certain ward in the hospital of the institution. By the promise of rewards and punishments I succeeded in inducing them simply to hold their breath when tempted to cough, and in a little while I was myself surprised to see how some of the children entirely recovered from their disease.

"Constant coughing is precisely like scratching a wound on the outside of the body; so long as it is done the wound will not heal. Let a person, when tempted to cough, draw a long breath and hold it until it warms and soothes every air cell, and some benefit will soon be received from the process. The nitrogen, which is thus refined, acts as an anodyne to the irritated mucous membrane, allaying the desire to cough and giving the throat and lungs a chance to heal. At the same time a suitable medicine will aid nature in her effort to recuperate."

Latest Scottish News.

Dr. McGregor, the Governor of British New Guinea, began life as a ploughman in Aberdeenshire.

Mr. George Yule, the President of the Indian National Congress, is a son of the late Mr. Robert Yule, draper, Stonehaven.

Mrs. Robb, the Laurencekirk centenarian, has just seen another birthday. On the 25th ult., she entered on her 102nd year, and is enjoying fairly good health.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Thomson, Edinburgh, in the course of a New Year's address to the Broughton Place U. P. congregation, expressed the belief that this year would witness the renewal of negotiations for an incorporating union between the Free and U. P. Churches.

By the recent death of Mrs. Macneille £10,000 (left by her husband, the late Provost Macneille) falls to be administered by the Ayr Town Council for behoof of the poor of Ayr not paupers. Provost Macneille was a leather merchant in Ayr, and for three terms filled the office of Chief Magistrate of the town. He had no children.

Two Odd Old Ones.

Moses Bradshaw, of Claiborne county, Tenn, celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary this week by riding fifty miles on horseback. He made the journey on a wager.

Mrs. Sophie Merklein, who died at New York a few days ago, leaving $10,000 to her children, had a queer bank—the bed on which she slept. After her death $4,000 in cash was found between the two mattresses.

Obliging!

Collector—I have called six times, sir, for the amount of this till already.

Citizen—Wha-at, six times? Is it possible you have been put to all that annoyance? Now, I'll tell you what I'll do: when I feel like paying the amount I will call on you myself. It's outrageous to give a man the trouble I have unconsciously given you.

Why She Refused Him.

"I know," mumbled the weazened octogenarian millionaire, gazing fondly into the azure eyes of the charming woman by his side, "I know that I am somewhat advanced in life, but still an old man can love, and besides the disparity in our years is not so apparent that—"

"Sir!" she cried, flushing indignantly—and they were not married.

He Put it Strong.

"They tell me you are married again, Pat; is that so?"

"It is, sor?"

"How are you satisfied with the change?"

"Moighty well, sor! Ef the ferst Mrs McGlacherty was aloive the day, me ownly regrit wud be that oi hadn't married me second woife ferst."—*Yonkers Gazette.*

Worse than the Small Boy Behind the Sofa

"So you and Herbert are going to be married?" said one young lady to another.

"Yes, during the holidays."

"You didn't threaten him with a breach of promise suit, did you?"

"No. I merely showed him the phonograph that I always keep concealed under the sofa."

—Waiting for the fish that bite other people's hooks is what wearies.

Sarah Bernhardt's foreign tour has been a brilliant success in all respects, but she will not derive any permanent benefit from it, as her expenses are enormous. She actually makes her son an allowance of $1,200 a week, and her debts amount to $140,000. Sarah and her company always lodge in the same hotel when she is "on tour," and she is a Monte Cristo like hostess when things are going well and she is in good humor. She is still very extravagant, and wastes large sums in buying trash of every description, and she carries her purchases about with her. Her bills at the Austrian, Roumanian and Turkish custom houses amounted in the aggregate to $18,000.

A STRANGE DISCOVERY

At the Disinterment of the Body of Mr. Samuel Bowlby.

Another remarkable case of the growth of hair after burial came to light yesterday at the disinterment of the body of Mr. Samuel Bowlby, who died in Southwold in May, 1887, and was buried in the Talbotville cemetery. When Mr. Bowlby died his beard was about four inches long, and the hair upon his head was the usual length worn during life. When the coffin was taken up yesterday by his son-in-law, Mr. J. Learn, for reburial in Mapleton cemetery it was discovered that the beard had grown to the length of eighteen inches.—*St. Thomas Times.*

"There are moments when silence prolonged
and unbroken
More expressive may be than all words ever
spoken."

Look at that wan and wasted woman, once the picture of health, now so pallid. She cannot begin to tell her sufferings, but as from day to day she goes through the house, attending to her many cares, her attenuated form, her white face, her stooping shoulders, her pinched features, all tell that she is a silent martyr to disease. Her once cheery voice is seldom heard, but her silence tells her suffering more than words could do. O! ye silent, sorrowing, suffering sisters, there is a cure for your troubles; Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a sovereign remedy for the derangements and maladies peculiar to your sex. 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, "Favorite Prescription" is the greatest earthly boon, being unequaled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.

Curiosities of the Phonograph.

Subscribers to whom are rented machines can have left at their door every morning the waxy tablets known as phonograms, which can be wrapped about a cylinder and used in the phonograph. On these tablets will be impressed from the clear voice of a good talker a condensation of the best news of the day, which the subscribers can have talked back at them as they sit at their breakfast tables.

"That Diabolical Apparatus,

the stomach," is the energetic phrase which Carlyle applied to his own troublesome organ of digestion. The great essayist was a dyspeptic from his youth, but had he used Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets he might have shaken off the incubus of indigestion, "like a dewdrop from a lion's mane," and there would have been more "sweetness and light" in his writings and his home. All druggists; 25 cents a vial.

Will Know Better Some Day.

First Lady—"What an imperious, dictatorial, arrogant man that Mr. Pompus is!" Second Lady—"Yes; you know he has never been married."

Wanted, 10,000 Disabled Men,

must be in poor health and unable to do a good day's work. A disordered liver or any disease caused by scrofula or bad blood will be considered a qualification, but preference will be given to those having obstinate affections of the throat and lungs or incipient consumption. Apply to the nearest drug store and ask for a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

General Lew Wallace has cleared $60,000 thus far from "Ben Hur."

Amelie Rives has dropped the name she made famous and calls herself simply Amelie Chanler.

Abraham Lincoln was the tallest President, 6 feet 4 inches; Martin Van Buren the shortest, barely 5 feet 6 inches. Benjamin Harrison will be shorter still, his height being 5 feet 5 inches.

Judge Charland gave a lengthy judgment yesterday in the Morrissette case, in which a girl of 19 changed from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant religion, and voluntarily went to and remained at the Grand Ligne Baptist Mission. He ordered that the girl should be restored to her father, and refused a delay of twenty-four hours to enable a writ of appeal to be taken out and served.

MERCHANTS, BUTCHERS AND TRADERS generally

We want a GOOD MAN in your locality to pick up

CALF SKINS

for us. Cash Furnished on satisfactory guaranty Address, C. S. PAGE, Hyde Park, Vermont, U. S

The *Shoe & Leather Reporter*, N. Y., and *Shoe & Leather Review*, Chicago, the leading trade papers of the U.S. in the Hide line, have sent their representatives to investigate Mr. Page's business, and after a thorough examination and comparison the *Reporter* gives him this endorsement

"*We believe that in extent of light-weight raw material collected and carried, Mr. Page holds the lead of any competitor and that his present stock is the largest held by any house in this country.*"

And the *Review* says:

"*After a most thorough investigation of Mr Page's business as compared with others in same line, we have become fully satisfied that in is specialty, light-weight stock, he is unquestionably the largest dealer in this country, while in superiority of quality he is confessedly at the head.*"

QUERY: If Mr. Page's business is the largest in its line in the United States, is it not the best possible proof of his ability to pay highest prices? If he did not do so, would he naturally get more Skins than any of his competitors in the same line?

D. F. L. 5 89

SALESMEN We wish a few men to sell our goods by sample to the wholesale and retail trade. Largest manufacturers in our line. Enclose 2-cent stamp Wages $3 per day. Permanent position. No postals answered. Money advanced for wages advertising, etc. Centennial Manufacturing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND