CURRENT TOPICS.

SIR DANIEL GOOCH, whose death is announced by cable at Windsor, Eng., yesterday, for twenty-seven years filled the position of chief locomotive engineer to the Great Western Railway, and became Chairman of the Board of Directors of that company. He was one of the original shareholders of the Great Eastern steamship, was member of the House of Commons for Crickdale and a prominent Freemason.

THE United States leads the world in the amount of mail matter distributed by the postal authorities. In 1881, according to Mulhall, the number of pieces handled in the United States mails was 2,243 000,000. In 1888 it had increased to 3,576,100,000. In the same period Great Britain increased from 1 682,000 000 to 2,279,000,000 pieces. In 1881 the number of pieces to the inhabitant in the United States was 45, in Great Britain 49; in 1888 the number had increased to 71 in the United States and to 61 in Great Britain. In Germany the number of pieces per capita increased from 29 in 1881 to 41 in 1888; in France from 36 in 1881 to 37 in 1888.

WHO would imagine that the flannel shirt so popular during last heated term with a large circle of gentlemen could incur the condemnation of any body of men? Yet it is classed alongside of the pestilential Chinaman by President Purchase, of the Laundrymen's National Association, now in session in Buffalo. In his annual address Mr. Purchase said the general condition of the laundry business had not been good. During the past year every kind of business had suffered depression, but it was probably felt most by laundrymen. The use of what was known as the neglige or flannel shirt had contributed largely to this result, but its reign the speaker believed would be of short duration. If laundrymen would only have patience they would soon wear their customary smiles, silk hats and probably diamonds. Speaking of Chinese competition, the President said: "Working by lamp-light morning and night, one Chinaman ordinarily did more work than three laundry girls, and, reversing the order of things, three Celestials did not eat as much as one girl. It was safe to assert that of every $100 taken in by them not $10 was ever returned to circulation. They were a pestilential, vicious, non-American race, robbing honest labor as well as capital, and the association should keep the issue constantly in motion."

A GREAT reformation has taken place in prisons and prison management since the days when Howard, the philanthropist, was spending his time in effecting the amelioration of the lot of the prisoners in British jails, but still much has to be done in the interests of humanity to make the jails the reformatories they ought to be and to manage them for the ultimate good of those detained therein as well as for their punishment in breaking the laws. The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, supported by the church courts of the land and the press in general, is doing a good work in this connection. It has memorialized the Ontario Government to appoint a commission of competent gentlemen to collect information regarding prisons, reformatories, houses of correction, workhouses, etc., with a view to the adoption of the most approved methods of dealing with the criminal classes. It makes a demand for the classification of prisoners, so that old and hardened criminals be not allowed to herd with and contaminate the comparatively innocent, young and susceptible. Employment of prisoners is also favored as well as their education, and the organization of Prisoners' Aid Societies is also asked for. As already stated, the church courts have taken the matter up. The Bishop of Niagara, we learn, has appointed the following gentlemen a Committee on Prison Reform: Revs. E. Cayley, Canon Worrell, E. E. Hoyles and De Gaviller, Mr. H. McLaren and Mr. J. B. Mills.

THE Ontario Prohibitory Alliance will meet in Toronto on December 18th. Meanwhile the Executive Committee has prepared an address which will be presented to the Alliance at its meeting. It suggests a number of amendments to the present liquor law. The amendments proposed are that the number of licenses in rural districts be reduced to what has been shown possible in Toronto, one for the first thousand of the population and one for each subsequent thousand; that the applicant for a license secure the signature of the majority of the neighbors, electors desire it to be issued; that it be made possible for municipalities to secure local prohibition; that barroom gambling be abolished; that all public houses be closed, if only at a nominal fee; that all barrooms be closed at an early hour and on Saturday afternoons; that Prohibition be enforced on holidays; that steamboat licenses be abolished; that the age of minors be raised to twenty-one; that all tavern keepers be required to furnish security that they will keep the law; that no license be allowed to go on more than one to a hundred; an effort to stop brewers from putting on a number of dummy beer-sellers; that the licenses of persistent law-breakers be cancelled; that no subletting of bar-rooms by licensees be allowed; that adequate penalties be required for infractions of the law; that bar-room screens and blinds be removed; that no liquor be sold to intoxicate persons; that no appeal to the County Judge be allowed to convicted liquor sellers; that the police be empowered to arrest keepers and frequenters of unlicensed dens as they now do with houses of ill fame; that liquor selling in unlicensed clubs be suppressed; and that a positive authority be given to Municipal Councils.

—Naturally, what was the most astonishing thing you saw in Paris, Mr. Spicer? asked Miss Gusher, and without a moment's hesitation Seth answered, "My hotel bill."

—Chinook Indians have just slain their medicine man because his patients insisted on dying. Is it possible that there are real social advantages in non-civilization?

—When a girl falls in love she stops saying nice things, but after she is married she begins to again.

GREAT LONDON STRIKE.

Its History Told by Cardinal Manning and John Burns.

The discussion of the great London strike by Cardinal Manning and the labor agitator, John Burns, has already been mentioned in the London Despatches. It forms the leading contribution to the October number of the *New Review*. Both writers, apparently by a coincidence, begin with a military allusion. "In truth," says Cardinal Manning, "a strike is like a battle. No one who was in it can give an account of it. Each man knows only the events on the spot where he stood." And he intimates that, as an outsider, he is all the better able to form a just opinion of it. The Cardinal thinks the strike has done harm. It has inflicted great suffering on women and children, has brought ruin among the lesser tradesmen, and been a bar to the importation of food. He thinks that it has permanently injured the port of London, which with difficulty now holds its own against Southampton, Cardiff, Liverpool, Glasgow, and even against Antwerp and the French ports. And he hopes that a result of the strike will be a registration of laborers and an organization of labor. The effect of this organization will be to clear the docks of a great number of unskilled and indolent persons who year by year come into London. Cardinal Manning continues by remarking upon the self-restraint which has been shown upon both sides, saying: "I am bound to bear witness not only to the self-command of the men but also to the measured language and calm courtesy of the employers."

John Burns begins by remarking that he has been in the thick of the battle, and by admitting that he is therefore not an impartial witness. But he considers that he can speak with some authority as to what he has to say about his own part in the event. It was said a few weeks ago by a writer who knew Burns that Burns had told him that he expected to be hanged. He is evidently a courageous and energetic man, and has somewhat the tone of a fanatic. He meets the charge of secret conspiracy by showing how bold and open his instigations to the dockers have been for years. He had been for six years engaged in this work, making speeches to the men at dawn before his work and theirs had begun. "I myself with my wife, he says, "have frequently left home at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, winter and summer, tramped to the docks, made speeches at three different gates, and returned to begin my day's work in the west end at 7 or 8 o'clock. These speeches were made sitting on walls or standing astride of palings.

The success of the strike was due to the sympathy of the public. It was physically possible, because Burns and his associates had money enough to feed 250,000 people while the strike lasted. The various trades sent large contributions and promised more. The compositors sent £500 and the engineers £700. A gift of £25,000 came Australia. A sufficient supply of money having been assured, then came the difficult question of the administration of relief. The committees had recourse to the system of issuing tickets, presentable to the East End shopkeepers. By withholding money drunkenness was prevented. But they were greatly assisted by the good behavior of the people. "From first to last," says Mr. Burns, "no man asked me for money for beer. I have been in the thick of starving men with hundreds of pounds about me (they knowing it), and not a penny have I lost. I have sent men whom I did not know for change of a gold piece, and have never been cheated of a penny."

Mr. Burns sums up in a few words the results of the strike. The dockers struck because the directors of the dock companies refused to give them more than 5½ an hour. This they considered poor wages, because the work was, in its nature, not continuous. The wages have now been advanced to 6½ an hour. Three pence an hour more than the former rate is paid from 6 to 8 p.m., and 2½ per hour after 8. Contract has been abolished, and with it the sweating system. He claims, also, that the benefits of the strike have been felt by other trades. The carmen employed by the post-office have secured rises of from 1s to 4s a week. Workers in the chemical manufactories along the Thames, engineering laborers and some two hundred London trades have gained a 10 per cent. advance on their old wages. As might be expected, Mr. Burns does not agree with Cardinal Manning as to the conduct of the representatives of the dock companies. He says they never seemed to know their own business.

The sympathy of the general public was manifestly with the strike. The feeling seemed to pervade all classes. The East End pawnbrokers would not charge interest on the goods left with them by the strikers, and the East End landlords and lodging house keepers refused rent as long as the strike lasted. Numbers of men marched in the processions who were not dockers and had nothing to gain by the success of the strike. But it proved that the strikers had on their side, not only the workmen and the small shopkeepers, but the middle and upper classes as well. Not only did sailors, soldiers, policemen, firemen, and the blue men of Southwark send their subscriptions, but checks were received from noblemen, clubmen, and clergymen. "I remember," says Mr. Burns, "the half-sovereign which an officer of the guards gave me in the park, with a half-uttered suggestion that if he were called upon to act against the strikers he would give them 'blank cartridges'"—*New York Times.*

A Schoolboy Strike.

The strike of Scottish school boys which began in Hawick has spread to Glasgow, Govan, Greenock, Port Glasgow and other places in the west of Scotland, and also into Ayrshire and about Aberdeen. The boys have formed regular labor-like parades, with banners and cries for "shorter hours.' The strike has also spread into England. The other day 100 malcontents paraded the streets of Barnet, demanding "abolition of the cane, less hours in school, less parsing and no home lessons.'

The Political Mother Goose.

"O Tariff! O Tariff! O Tariff!" said I,
"Wherefore, oh, wherefore, oh, wherefore so big?"
"To see the prices way up in the sky—
Pull down a tumble by-and-by"—*Puck.*

Though some of our colleges are very old, they are still in possession of their faculties.

WHITECHAPEL JACK.

A Doctor on the Track of a Suspicious Boarder.

The London edition of the New York *Herald* says: There is one man in London who knows more about "Jack the Ripper" than all the policemen and detectives in the metropolis. This gentleman, who possesses sufficient material and circumstantial evidence to hang ten "Jack the Rippers," is in secret communication with Dr. Forbes Winslow. "Jack the Ripper" is known. He is known to the police, and he is known to several other persons. The latter have supplied the former with full descriptions of his personality, manners and habits, and at certain times there has actually been no doubts as to his whereabouts. The invisibility in which "Jack" is enveloped is gowing thinner, and to those who have followed his murderous movements it is certain that Nemesis is closing upon him, and that within a period that may be measured his capture and identity will be effected.

A gentleman, living at Brixton, called upon Dr. Forbes Winslow several times to give information anent a Whitechapel murder, but unfortunately every time he called the doctor was out. The doctor is on the murderer's track. He possesses tangible proof of identity, and is convinced that he could effect his arrest in a week. He means to act upon the clue suppliedto him, and he does not intend to call in the assistance of the police. Here is his remarkable story: A gentleman, whom he had previously known, called upon him in reference to the Whitechapel murders. "Jack the Ripper" lodged in this person's house. He knew that it was "Jack the Ripper" by putting two and two circumstances together. Suspicions were first aroused by the lodger coming home about 4 o'clock one morning. He had expected to find everybody in bed, and to be able to get to his room unobserved, To his surprise, his landlord, Dr. Winslow's informant, had been kept up waiting for his wife, who was on a visit to some friends. The lodger was excited and incoherent in his talk. He said he had been having a rough time, that he had been assaulted, and had his watch stolen; and he gave the name of a police station where he had laid a complaint. Upon inquiries this story was found to be entirely devoid of foundation. He had made no complaint, and the police had no knowledge of a street disturbance. The man's shirt and underclothing were found hanging over chairs. They had been washed and had been put out to dry. He was in the habit of talking about the women of the street, and wrote "long rigmarole" about them. His writing, in minute particulars, resembled that of the letters sent to the police purporting to come from "Jack the Ripper." He had a wardrobe as extensive as a duke's. It included eight suits of clothes, eight pairs of boots and eight hats. The man can speak several languages, and when he went out he always carried a black bag. He was apparently well off, and never wore the same hat on two successive occasions. When he left his lodgings a quantity of bows, feathers and flowers and other articles, which had belonged to the lower class of women, were found in his room. He also left behind him three pairs of boots and three pairs of goloshes, one of each of which is now in the possession of Dr. Winslow. The boots are ordinary leather lace-up boots, with thin soles. The goloshes have indiarubber bottoms and American cloth uppers, and are bespattered with blood. Upon this and other material a most important clue is thought to have been discovered.

A Eulogy on Silk.

Silk is an agreeable and healthy article. Used in dress it retains the electricity of our bodies; in the drapery of our rooms and furniture covers it reflects the sunbeams, giving them a quicker brilliancy, and it heightens colors with a charming light. It possesses an element of cheerfulness, of which the dull service of wool and linen are destitute. It also promotes cleanliness, will not readily imbibe dirt, and does not harbor vermin as kindly as wool does. Its continually growing use by man, accordingly, is beneficial in many ways. Grace and beauty, even, owe something to silk. You cannot stiffen it like thick woollen or linen without destroying all its gloss and value. The more silk ribbons, therefore, the more silk kerchiefs and robes are used instead of linen and wool—the more graceful becomes the outward aspect of mankind. A number of strange, grotesque fashions originating in the use of linen would never have been invented during the more general employment of silk. The flittering of ribbon, the rustling and flowing skirts of silk, the silk kerchief loosely knotted round the neck, have materially contributed to make our customs more natural and pleasing to the eye.—*Exchange.*

Johnstown's Flood a Mere Gill.

The amount of water passing over Niagara Falls varies with the height of the river. Professor W. D. Gunning estimates the average amount at 18 000 000 cubic feet per minute. Allowing 62½ pounds to the cubic foot, this would give a total of 562 500 tons per minute, or 25,312 500 tons in forty-five minutes, of which somewhat more than two-thirds passes over the Horse-shoe Falls. Other estimates place the total amount passing over both falls as high as 100,000,000 tons per hour. In comparison, the flood at Johnstown was a gill.—*Iron.*

The Advantage of Being Literary.

Scribbler—When is that review of my novel coming out, Scather?

Scather (professional critic)—Well, to tell the truth, I have not read it yet.

Scribbler—Yet, when I brought the book to you, you assured me that you would find no time in reading it.

Scather—So I did. Well, I have lost no time in reading it yet.

Turn About is Fair Play.

"I see that some of Henderson's clients are making very serious charges against him."

"Well, turn about is fair play. Henderson's grown rich on his charges against them."

—Alfred Sentery, a Somerville, Mass. hunchback, has won a bet of $1,500 by beating his way to San Francisco and back in first-class coaches. He was put off from trains 180 times.

KILLING AN ELEPHANT.

Rider Haggard has told some marvellous stories, descriptive of the mixed pleasure and danger of killing elephants in their wild state, but it seems from the story that comes from Berlin that it is quite a formidable undertaking to despatch one of the monsters, with all the resources of civilization at command. "Rustum" is one of the two Indian elephants presented in 1881 by the Prince of Wales to the Zoological Gardens at Berlin. The animal some few years ago ran his warder through the body with one of his tusks. The poor keeper died from the effects of his wound. Sentence of death was not at the time passed on the culprit; it was deferred, and only quite recently solemnly proclaimed. "Rustum" was, however, not condemned to the scaffold for this crime alone; he is said to have learned nothing from the clemency shown to him after the above mentioned outrage, and to have displayed on divers occasions since that time evident symptoms of a wicked and depraved nature. Moreover, his external appearance, as compared with that of his colleagues in another part of the elephant house, is declared to be anything but attractive, and to have brought discredit on the estabishment. Some gossips attributed this to the want of food—it being affirmed that he has had to live on almost starvation rations, besides having had his feet in irons since the commission of his foul crime. Be that as it may, the director of the Zoological Gardens, after long and deliberate consideration, and after having consulted all the experts, sentenced "Rustum" to die by strangulation. The mode of his death had also been previously carefully considered. Some proposed that he should be shot; but this method was considered dangerous, lest the bullet should not take immediate effect, or lest the sports man's hand should tremble and miss the mark. Others preferred poisoning, and some suggested the electric current. All these propositions were rejected in favor of a process of strangulation by a three-quarter inch steel wire. Every precaution having been taken, the noose was let fall over the monster's head at what was supposed to be a favorable moment. This was when he passed out of his half-opened cage in order to sniff the morning air. No fewer than forty-two men were stationed in the vicinity to draw the noose tight. Whether it was that the dumb creature had a presentiment that these were his executioners, ruthlessly bent on depriving him of light and life, or whether it was that the arrangements were clumsily made, the main point is certain—namely, that "Rustum," as soon as he felt the pressure of the wire, quietly made a slight movement in the opposite direction and snapped the substance that was to strangle him as if it had been cotton thread. The executioners were discomfited; the chief officers were dumbfounded; but "Rustum" took no further notice of them, and continued his promenade around his out-of-door enclosure. The next attempt to settle "Rustum" is postponed till after the director's return.

He Got a Negative.

Amateur photographer—I've got her negative, old man.

Tripodde—I thought you told me she wouldn't sit for her picture.

Amateur photographer—I asked her to sit with me through life, and she said "No."

Had Met Them.

Stranger (to bicycle rider)—Are you acquainted with the roads around here, my friend?

Bicycle Rider (pointing to the scars on his face)—Yes, I've met them quite often.

Charity, Sweet Charity.

"Madame, can't you give me something to eat; I haven't had a mouthful for two days."

"Certainly, you poor creature. Take this piece of chewing gum. If treated kindly, it will last you four days."

Tough Old Wretch.

Mrs. Oldboy—Oh, I needn't talk, John. You was bound to have me. You can't say that Jeser ever married after it.

Oldboy—Very true, Maria, and the rat trap never goes after the mouse, but it gathers him in all the same.

Never Said.

Returned Traveller—"I have often thought of that young Mr. Rose, and how he used to talk about Aubrey about her red hair. Did she ever get even with him?" Old Friend—"Long ago. She married him."

A Sweet Return.

She (at the piano)—"Dear—how do you enjoy this return?"

He—"Very much. The more you refrain the better I like it."

Correct.

Professor of Journalism—Mr. Smith, how would you answer an unanswerable argument in an editorial one page?

Student—Call it a "yawp."—*Cornell Sun.*

—Princess Louise, who has joined Lord Lorne at the Duke of Argyll's shooting lodge in the Island of Mull, will proceed to Germany in the course of this month to visit Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg at Jugenheim, and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at Coburg.

Are you almost discussed
We'll tell you a wonderful trick
That will bring you into fashion
If anything can.
Do something for someboddy quick;
Do something for someboddy, quick.

Thought rains like the rain
Of the flood, little man,
And the clouds are lowering and thick.
You can make the sun shine
In your soul, little man,
Do something for someboddy quick;
Do something for someboddy quick.

If a man works 100 hours in 6 days he is entitled to a seventh day of rest. He is entitled to this much, not only because his body and mind demand the relaxation, but because industrial conditions should be such as to enable him to earn a sufficient livelihood in six-sevenths of a week. There is scriptural warrant, as well, for the day of rest; but for purposes of the present contest, into which so many and so different classes and creeds enter, religion may well be set aside and the question urged solely on economic grounds.—*Chicago Herald.*

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

The Shah reached Teheran yesterday.

Mr. P. T. Barnum has arrived in England.

Two inches of snow fell at Rat Portage on Friday night.

Mr. Cyrus Bowers, a pioneer of Waterloo county, died on Saturday.

Kingsville, Essex county, will soon be supplied with natural gas.

The Parnell Commission begins again on Thursday, and is likely to last about a month.

The German steamer Marcs Brunner, recently wrecked on the Red Sea, was looted by Arabs.

Queen Victoria has sent a message condolence to King Carlos on the death his father.

Three thousand of Lord Londonderry's miners at Silksworth colliery, Durham, have struck.

It is proposed to present Archbishop Cleary with $10,000 on the day when he receives the pallium.

The Windsor Board of Health has decided to enforce the by-law requiring every person in town to be vaccinated.

Mr. Koechlin, the engineer of the Eiffel tower, proposes to construct a railway to the summit of the Jungfrau Mountain.

The Sultan of Zanzibar has given a promise in writing that all children born in his dominion after Jan. 1st shall be free.

The steamer Keepler, which left New York on Sunday, and which it was feared was lost, arrived at Baltimore on Friday night.

A general strike of the moulders in Pittsburg was to be inaugurated to-day. They demand an advance of 10 per cent. in their wages.

The Bazaar du Centre at Lemanse, France, was burned yesterday. The proprietor and three assistants were burned to death.

On Friday, at Windsor, Bishop Walsh resigned the mitre of the diocese of London in order to become Archbishop of Toronto.

Mrs. Agnes Hochstetter, one of the victims of the Mount Auburn incline plane accident Tuesday, died in Cincinnati yesterday.

It is rumored that the Governor-General will return home from the Pacific Coast via San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Chicago.

The cholera spectre is alarming Europe. The disease is advancing from Persia, and the only hope of checking it is on the Russian frontier.

The body of George W. McGuire, a young lawyer, was taken from the Erie Canal in Rochester last night. He had jumped in about half an hour before.

Col. John English, clerk of the Stratford Division Court, and for many years colonel of the 26th Battalion, died in Stratford yesterday morning, in the 52nd year of his age.

Mr. J. F. Way, of Belleville, Crown timber agent, died on Friday at Los Angeles, California, to which place he went last year for his health. Mr. Way was 76 years of age.

Eighty chiefs have recognized the authority of the Congo State and have promised to furnish men to assist in maintaining order and suppressing human sacrifices.

The Sultan has ordered Chakir Pasha, Governor of Crete to disband and dismiss the battalions of his command, who recently mutinied because they were employed in road-making.

A Minneapolis despatch says: "August Dalmage, wanted by the Canadian Government for stealing $63,000," has been located in that city by P. A. Phelps, a newspaper man, of Rat Portage.

Patrick Staley, who was tried before Judge Drew at Guelph on Friday and found guilty of assaulting Miss Ella Gardfraxa, on Saturday sentenced to three years in the Penitentiary.

Mr. E. V. Bodwell, formerly M.P. for South Oxford, and afterward Superintendent of the Welland Canal, died in Vancouver, B.C., on Friday night. He removed to the Pacific coast two years ago.

Dr. Lindsay, of Lawrence, Mass., and Mr. Parkins, of Lowell, Mass., are in Quebec with a view to making arrangements with the Mercier Government for the repatriation of French-Canadians in the States.

The condition of Dr. Gaboury, Reeve of Belle River, Essex, who was injured in a runaway, has taken a change for the worse, and he is now lying in a critical state. He is well known throughout the country and is very popular.

Wm. Carey, a farmer, of Altamont, Ill., died on Friday night, it is supposed from the effects of poison placed in his well. His wife and child and Mrs. Darnin and her children are sick and there is danger that some, if not all, will die.

The U. S. Secretary of State has been informed that the Lin Ho, or Red River, of China, has been opened for trade, and that foreign goods imported by this route will be liable to only 70 per cent. of the regular coast import duties.

An unknown man on Friday night brutally murdered Conductor Brown, of the Houston & Texas Railway, because the conductor had put him off the train for refusing to pay his fare. Bloodhounds are on the murderer's track.

The Ontario Government has filled the vacancy in the professoriate of the University of Toronto by appointing to the joint chair of Metaphysics, Logic and Ethics Prof. Baldwin, of Princeton, and Mr. J. G. Hume, of Toronto University.

Edward Ashton, aged 16, the lad who received a fracture of the skull by falling off his wagon on Oct. 14th, at the corner of Lisgar and Queen streets, Toronto, died yesterday morning about 5 o'clock in a private ward at the General Hospital.

The other night as James Doherty, of Brigden, was on his way home a number of men seized him when opposite Lemon's blacksmith shop, and proceeded to tie him with ropes. After getting him well tied they had a race down the street, and in so doing handled Doherty quite roughly. It is alleged that Doherty is a wife beater, spends his money in whisky and leaves his wife in destitute circumstances.