

"None of Our Business."

(London Christian Commonwealth.)
[A little girl was heard to finish her evening prayer with these words: "And I saw a poor little girl on the street to-day, cold and bare footed; but it's none of our business, is it, God?"]

The Three Bachelors.

Three bachelors slept in their shuttered room—
In their shuttered room when the sun shone high;
Not one of them felt he must rise till noon
Or take his breakfast till by and by;

The Surgeon's Knife.

There are hearts—stout hearts—that own no fear
At the whirling sword or the darting spear—
That are ready alike to bleed in the dust,
'Neath the sabre's cut or the bayonet's thrust;

The Old Bridge Rail.

Gosh! goodness! hain't it fun
When the yaller of the sun
Turns to purple in the west,
When the dary milk's in the sun?

The Cyclone.

All ill-fraught calm broods o'er the fertile plain,
The air is hushed and nature seems to sleep;
And in the distance looms the mist of rain,
That hangs o'er space like an outpouring deep.

Saturday night the policemen of the Bow street station, London, Eng., refused to go on duty because a constable who had taken a prominent part in the agitation for the improvement of the condition of the police force had been removed to another district.

THAT BABY.

A Thing of Beauty and a Joy Forever.
There was a baby in the railway car the other day. It was not an unusual child, but it had a decidedly bright face and pretty ways.

The ubiquitous young man, ever on the move, passed through, and was at a loss to account for the frowns of everybody. He had failed to notice the baby. The brakeman looked in from his post on the platform and smiled.

The train sped on and pulled into the station where the baby, with her parents were to leave the car. A look of regret came over every face. The old gentleman asked if he couldn't kiss it just once; the old lady returned the carress she had received and the baby moved toward the door, shaking a by-bye over the shoulder of her papa, to which everyone responded.

Newspapers of the Present.
No doubt the present tendency toward trivialities and personalities will continue until private rights and public morals are better protected by the laws, and until the same of size and profit in newspapers has been reached.

Prince Lobanoff.
Prince Lobanoff, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, who is about to succeed M. de Giers, is a man of rare intellectual endowments. He will receive the rank of Chancellor of the Empire, a title never accorded to M. de Giers, and a general belief prevails that under his guidance Russia will rapidly recover the prominent position in the councils of Europe which she held when Prince Gortschakoff was at the zenith of his career.

Mr. Carnegie has donated £10,000 for a library at Ayr, Scotland.
The Duke of Fife has a dozen suits of clothes in constant use, and a gossip chronicler says that he keeps his various pairs of trousers on shelves labelled "Monday," "Tuesday," and so on to the end of the week.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY AT HOME.

How He Manages His Immense Household and How He Eats.
It is estimated that over 6,000 persons are fed daily at his Dolma Bagtche palace when the Sultan is there. One who claims to be well informed gives a graphic picture of the Sultan's housekeeping in the Leisure Hour.

The treasurer of the household has the burden of the housekeeping on his burly shoulders, and has an organized force of buyers who are each charged with the purchase of certain supplies for their individual departments, each paying his helpers, servants and slaves. One man is charged with the duty of supplying all the fish, and as to furnish fish for at least 6,000 persons is no light undertaking in a place where there are no great markets such as there are in other large cities.

Speed of Locomotives.

It seems to be quite clear that if steam enough could be supplied to a locomotive engine any speed could be attained, unless the resistance to its progress augmented in such a proportion that the boiler pressure was not great enough to overcome it, says the "Engineer." The engine would then be, to use a marine phrase, "locked up."

Von Moltke on Beer.

Count von Moltke, in reply to an enquiry as to whether he had made the statement attributed to him that beer was the greatest enemy of the Germans, has given the following reply: "I can never have made such a statement. On the contrary, I wish a good, cheap, light beer for our people could be supplied. I myself abstain altogether from alcohol. I do not consider it necessary or helpful, except, perhaps, after fatiguing work, when the principal thing is to revive one's strength at once."

The Parasol.

Before marriage—Excuse me, George, did my parasol hurt you?
"Oh, no, my dear; it would be a pleasure if it did."
After marriage—Great heavens! There was never a woman under the sun that knew how to carry a parasol without scratching a fellow's eyes out.

Boys in Corea.

Every man who goes to Corea should be, or should get, married. Every unmarried man is considered a boy, though he should live to be 100. No matter what his age, he follows in position the youngest of the married men, despite the fact, perhaps, of having lived years enough to be their father.

George Augustus Sala draws \$10,000 a year for dictating four editorials a week for the London Daily Telegraph.

To prevent your glass jars from cracking when putting in hot liquid, stand a tablespoon up in them. There is a prevailing idea that this process has something to do with electricity, but the true solution is that the spoon absorbs some of the heat and also carries some of it out into the open air.

New York's new aqueduct is 30 miles long. It cost \$22,000,000, and eighty lives were lost in its construction.

WHAT AMMONIA IS GOOD FOR.

Various Domestic Uses to Which the Article May Be Put.
A little ammonia in tepid water will soften and cleanse the skin.
Spirits of ammonia will often relieve a severe headache.
Door-plates should be cleaned by rubbing with a cloth wet in ammonia and water.

Equal parts of ammonia and turpentine will take out of clothing, even if it be hard and dry. Saturate the spot as often as necessary and wash out in soap suds.
Put a teaspoonful of ammonia in a quart of water, wash your brushes and combs in this, and all grease and dirt will disappear. Rinse, shake and dry in the sun or by the fire.

Flannels and blankets may be soaked in a pail of water containing one tablespoonful of ammonia and a little soda. Rub as little as possible, and they will be white and clean and will not shrink.
One teaspoonful of ammonia to a teacupful of water will clean gold or silver jewelry; a few drops of clear aqua ammonia rubbed on the under side of diamonds will clean them immediately, making them very brilliant.

The Stove of the Future.

"That looks neat," was the remark to the stove man. "What is it?" "It is the new gas stove. The day will come when all the world who can get at it will want to do its summer cooking by gas, and maybe its winter cooking as well. This stove, you see, has burners, for all the stove holes and two ovens. It admits air into the gas at the point of combustion and makes a bunsen flame of each. We ran all the burners full blast for two hours the other day, having the meter taken before and after, and it cost exactly twelve cents. We can raise a kettle of cold water to boiling in seven minutes and all you have to do is touch a match to the gas and your fire is going. Handsome, too, isn't it? Looks like a stylish fancy range."—Lewiston Journal.

Worthy of Imitation.

A story that is almost too good to be true comes from Chicago, and concerns Miss Fanny Gary, a daughter of the famous judge of that city. She is a member of the Girl's Friendly Society of St. James Church, which has a number of poor persons under its care. One of these, Mary Anderson, aged 15, was broken down and was unable to take a vacation in the country offered by Miss Gary because the tailor who employed her threatened to discharge her if she went away without providing a substitute. Miss Gary sent the girl away and worked herself in the tailor shop two weeks, leaving her luxurious home at 6 o'clock in the morning and returning at 7 at night. Truly, this is practical Christianity.

Cupid and Cupidity in Brittany.

In Brittany a curious matrimonial custom prevails. On certain fete days the young ladies appear in red petticoats, with white or yellow borders around them. The number of borders denotes the portion the father is willing to give his daughter. Each white band, representing silver, denotes 100 francs per annum, and each yellow band denotes gold and betokens 1,000 francs a year. Thus a young man who sees a face that pleases him has only to glance at the trimmings of the petticoat to learn what amount accompanies the wearer.

Baldness Due to Indigestion.

Of all the causes of premature baldness none is so common as indigestion. Dyspepsia and weak and falling hair go hand in hand. As the one affection has increased so has the other, and not all the oil of Macassar, the bear's grease of Siberia nor the cantharides of Spain will prevent a man's hair from shortening and thinning whose stomach is badly out of order. Indeed, anything which debilitates the nervous system has a weakening effect on the scalp tissues, which shows that loss of hair may proceed from general as well as local causes.—New York Telegram.

The Nizam of Hyderabad paid \$65,000 for the big Gordon-Orr diamond to wear in his head-dress. Before cutting, the stone weighed 673 carats, and after cutting, 243 carats. It is said to be the best, purest and most brilliant stone known.

Cumso (reading the newspaper): An African explorer has discovered a wonderful race of hardy dwarfs at Hohm. Mrs. Cumso (sweetly): That was much better than finding them away from home—at the club, for instance.

The Empress Frederick's youngest and prettiest daughter, who is soon to marry Prince Adolph, of Schaumburg-Lippe, is a girl of attractive figure, with blue eyes and fair hair. She is devoted to out-of-door exercises, and rides, plays lawn tennis and drives a four-in-hand in fine style.

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

How Some Ministers and Choirs Behave Themselves.
A clergyman, writing on "Bad manners in Church," gives the following description of the conduct of the choir and minister: "To begin with the minister. Mark how often he is restless and inattentive when not himself directly engaged in leading the service. Who has not seen him leave the pulpit after entering it, and skip down to confer with this or that church officer? While seated and awaiting his 'turn,' he nods to various familiars in the pews. During the parts of the service rendered by the choir he busies himself in turning the pages of the hymn-book or fumbling with the paper on the sidetable. If a brother clergyman sits beside him, he chats with him while the service of song proceeds. If the other clergyman offers prayers, his eyes are wide open and wandering. What an utter lack of reverence! What an object-lesson in bad manners, visible and demoralizing to the entire assembly!"

We have attended service in a great many places in Canada and are thankful that we never saw a minister behave in that way. We hope the number of those who so conduct themselves among our neighbors is small. Still, there must be some ground for complaint, or a staid conservative journal like the Christian at Work would not publish the clergyman's letter. Here is what he says about choir: "Pass to the choir. The example of ministerial indecorum naturally corrupts the singers. They regard themselves as performers and the service as a performance. As soon as their duties are discharged, sometimes while they are proceeding, their by-play is noticeable and annoying. When the sermon is reached the curtains of the choir loft are closely drawn. The soprano places a box of caramels in her lap, draws a novel from her pocket and regales her palate and her mind at the same time. The organist scribbles notes to the contralto. The bass closes his eyes and nods assent to the minister in the wrong places. Meantime, the tenor slips out and speeds away to an adjacent saloon to wet his whistle. All are alert, however, when the last hymn is reached, and the curtains are drawn back to display the choir once more. True, the basso's hair is unkempt, the soprano is chewing suspiciously, as though she had not had quite time to dispose satisfactorily of that last caramel; but the organist is seated decorously at the key-board; the contralto stands demurely in her place; while the tenor displays an amount of white shirt front which is calculated to mislead observers into imagining he means to make a clean breast of his evil doings.

Better a thousand times over to have no singing at all than have the Sabbath profaned and the House of God desecrated in that way. Canadian congregations cannot watch too closely the beginnings of such scandalous practices.—Canada Presbyterian.

A CHICAGO SCANDAL.

How Unfortunate Women are Said to Have Contributed to the Public Funds.
Startling revelations were made last week by the Woman's Alliance of Chicago to the judges of the Circuit and Superior Courts. It was proven that the Police Courts were fostering a system of fining unfortunate women for revenue only—that for this purpose women and girls are arrested in droves fined only in their capacity to "earn," and all for the purpose of giving the professional 'bailer,' the 'shyster' and the judge each a fee, leaving \$1 besides for the City Treasurer. The Alliance charges that the whole machinery of the police force of Chicago is run on this plan. The order is issued to an officer to go out and bring in a 'load,' because, forsooth, these who live off the trade of law enforcement need a little money, and in gathering the 'load' innocent girls, married women, in company with their husbands, have been arrested and in spite of all pleading and remonstrance placed in the wagon and driven to police headquarters. When taken before the judge it has been proven that they were 'doing nothing,' but the fine was levied just the same and their names entered on the long roll of convicts. The Alliance also claims that on the other hand a procuress who has enticed scores of innocent girls to her dens—who has made \$50,000 off their despair and shame, when prosecuted by distracted parents, has been allowed to go free on some technicality. Judges Tuley, Altgeld and Shepherd replied to the ladies charging them to push the cause of girlhood against the city boldly, Judge Altgeld saying: "You should not hesitate to mention the names of those who are to blame, be they high or low, in or out of office."

The U. S. Wheat Crops.

The Chicago Farmer's Review says: The prophecies of a shortage in the winter wheat crop are confirmed by the late reports of private correspondents relative to the yield and condition of the grain. Winter killing and the ravages of insects reduced the crop in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi. In Kansas drought prevented the perfect development of the berry, while the wheat fields of the Pacific coast, as also those of the Southern and Eastern States, were drowned out by the excessive rainfall experienced during the early spring months. It may safely be said that the average condition of the entire crop when harvesting commenced was 20 per cent. below the average. The Review estimates a total of 272,344,436 bushels as the entire wheat crop of the United States, but adds that, considering the low condition of wheat at harvesting time, the merchantable product will be considerably less than that figure.

An Agreeable Speech.

Miss Redingote.—Mr. Ponsonby, you are very quiet this evening. Do say something agreeable.
Ponsonby (with an effort)—I feel 'all out of sorts, and I believe I'll say good night.
Miss Redingote (archly)—There! I knew you could say something nice if you tried.

They have a curious custom at the burial of an unmarried woman in Brazil. The coffin, hearse, and the livery of the driver must be bright scarlet, the four white horses drawing the hearse must be covered with scarlet nets, and the scarlet plumes must deck the horses' heads.