ROBBING TRAVELLERS.

How a Band of Excursionists Were Cleaned Out of Their Valuables.

"One of the excursionists, a feller from Maine, who wore glasses, got up on top with me after a while, and wanted to know if there were ever any robberies on this road.

" 'Lord bless you, no,' says I kinder innocent. Them robbers is all ten mile north or twenty mile south of here on the other roads. They don't never dare come on the Madera road, because we won't have it. About fifty years ago they tried it here, and the boss put 200 white men and Injuns on the trail, and chased them for more'n three months picking off a man every once in a while, until all were laid out. Then the old man cut off their ears and nailed them on the dashboards, and there they stayed for years and years. There was one on this here coach when I took it, but I got tired of answering questions about it, it had been so long since we had a robbery, and so I threw it away. There's no danger here.'

"I was having a good deal of fun with the party, and had about made up my mind that the agents had not got wind of us when the Maine man says, after a long pause:

" 'What would you do if robbers was to come at you?'

" 'Do? I'd just give these here hosses this here gad, and I'd put the reins in my teeth and I'd let him have it out of this here gun. Don't you worry about robbers," says I.

"I hadn't any more'n got the words out of my mouth when a big scarecrow jumped out in the road with a rifle and yells: 'All hands up!' I dropped the lines and raised my hands, and my Maine friend did likewise. His teeth was a-rattling, and I see that I didn't have to make no apologies to him.

"The feller in front kept his place, with me a-looking at him, and another one came alongside, opened the door, and told the passengers to get out, which they did in good order. Then he stood them up in a row, and yelling to his partner, he said:

" 'Have you got 'em all covered?'

" 'Every one,' said the other.

" 'Now, then, ladies and gentlemen,' said the operator, 'no one will be hurt unless some one tries to hurt us. I will have to ask you to keep your hands up except when I come to you, and then you are to reach down in your pockets and pass out your money and watches. The first one who drops a hand until I tell him to dies.'

"It was about as pretty a string of victims as I ever see in my life. They all wore linen dusters and most of the ladies had blue veils. The agent began with his back to his partner, and went along the line in pretty good shape. They all shelled out without making any trouble until the robber came to a Massachusetts man who only handed out a handful of nickels, dimes and quarters. The agent put these in his pocket, took the feller by the ear with one hand, rammed his revolver into the other ear with the other. 'I'm a greenbacker,' says he, 'and I want 'em.' He got 'em, too. The old feller had them in a spectacle case in his inside vest pocket. After that the agent took the earrings and breast pins from the ladies. One of them was an elderly party with a sharp beak and shiny false teeth, and as he unclasped the earrings he said something of a complimentary nature to her, to which she responded with her lips set tight like a clam:

" 'You're a brute."

" 'I know it ma'am, he said. 'I'll have to trouble you for that linen duster you're wearing, and for those sleeve buttons and finger rings. It's long since I was called a brute, and I want something to remember you by.'

"He got pretty much every thing she had. By this time my friend and I was getting awful tired holding up our hands, and we began to be anxious for our turn to come. The Maine man had an idea that he might escape, but he soon found out that he was wanted. The agent, at the head of the line, shouted to us:

" 'Come down, you chaps up there, and be lively now.'

"We got right down and it didn't take more'n a minute to go through us. I didn't have nothing of course, and I wouldn't have had any trouble at all about the matter if one of the robbers hadn't called me by name just as the passengers were filing into the stage again. How he got my name is more'n I can tell, but after they had ordered us on and I had driven a few miles down the road the fellers inside stopped me and said they wanted to hold an indignation meeting.

" 'Not an indignate," says I severely. 'You're going to the Yosemite, and can't hold no meetings until you get there.'

"I didn't know but I would have to hold the crowd up myself. The ladies were the worst. They accused me of leading them into the trap and said they knew the agents was friends of mine, because they called me by name. After I had driven on a ways and talked with them a little, they got cooled off, and we got to Yosemite all right."

The robbery was the boldest and most successful that has been perpetrated in this vicinity in a long time, and it is thought to be the work of professionals. It is expected to have an injurious effect upon travel during the season just now opening.

"My neighbor tied a knot in my horse's tail, and I want ter hab de law on him," said Si Jackson, an Onion Creek darkey, to Lawyer Gouge. "Hand over five dollars," said the lawyer. Si did so cheerfully. Having got the money the lawyer said calmly, putting it in his pocket: "My advice to you, my colored friend, is now to go and untie that knot in your horse's tail."

INSECT-EATING MEN.

Whole Nations who Greedily Devour and Live upon Creeping Insects.

The insect eaters here referred to are not occasional persons of depraved tastes, but whole nations, who consume insects on so large a scale as to raise them to a regular rade. Locusts are an article of food in parts of Africa, Arabia and Persia of such importance that the price of provisions is influenced by the quantity of the dried insects in hand. The Tuafegs. of Africa, esteem them highly, and a single individual will eat as many as three hundred of them—raw, roasted or stewed—at a meal. Cakes of crushed locusts are a delicacy. Boiled locusts are appreciated in Burmah. Termites and ants are the next most important food insect. The egg-laden bodies of the females of altha cephalotes, are industriously collected by Indians in South America, and the taste of their roasted and salted bodies has been appreciated even by the European. The African negroes can hardly eat enough of termites, which are eaten fried at the Cape, and in other regions are made into cakes. Roasted termites taste something like marrow or sweet dream. The 17 year locusts have been eaten in North America and are said to have been used in soap-making. Cakes are made in Mexico with the eggs of two kinds of water bugs. A cake made in Fezzan of insect eggs is described as having the taste of caviare. The Romans were fond of a larvæ which they called cossus. A favorite dish is prepared in Jamaica from the larvæ of a beetle that lives in the trunks of palm-trees. Another wood insect is preserved in sugar by the Chinese and Malays, and a liquor is made with the addition of some water from a beetle in Mexico. Caterpillars are eaten in Australia and at the Cape, at the risk of woeful pains in the stomach, and even spiders, abhorred by every other race are eaten by the Hottentots of New Caledonia, with the same liability. Worms are accepted as food by very few people. A kind of grub is collected and eaten in Brazil, a nereid worm in Samoa, and a reed-worm by the Amos of Japan. The Australians around Port Adelaide are said to have lived exclusively on worms and molusks, while they abhored beef. Some persons in Naples eat a tape-worm, parasite of the crab, fried in oil, and call it by the name of macaroni piatti. Sea-urchins form a quite important item of the cookery of some lands, and are popular in some of the Mediterranean districts of Europe. Vestiges of them are found among the remains of feasts of Pompeii, and 100,000 dozen of them are still sold in the markets of Marseilles every year. They, with holothurias, form important items in the food consumption of China and Japan where the people rarely see our butcher's meat. The holuthuria fishery is carried on extensively in Japan from April to August. The "catch" is consumed fresh on the spot, or is prepared and packed for the Chinese market. Even the Medusa, which no other animal, so far as is known, will eat, is sought for by the Chinese, and used as a dried and salted meat.

Cannibal Snake

Snakes are commonly in such ill-repute that they scarcely need anything added to their bad reputation. But it may not be generally known that snakes are cannibal. Some years ago in a London Zoological Garden, two large pythons were kept in a cage together. One morning it was discovered that the largest python, nine feet long, had swallowed his living companion of eight feet, both being apparently in the same state of health. For about a yard below the head this snake was distended to treble his usual size, having doubled up his victim in the gullet. The naturalist, Buckland, thus discribes a snake's cannibal feat, of which he was a witness:

I went one day to the Zoological Gardens when I knew there would be few visitors about, and the animals left to themselves would relapse more into their natural state.

I stopped before one of the cages in the snake-house, which contained many harmless snakes, of the common English kind, and about an equal number of the French common snakes.

One of the English snakes, I found, was murdering a French snake, or at least trying so to do; for in the centre of the cage there he lay, with his body enormously distended, and half another snake down his throat.

I watched them. Every now and then the English snake gave a gulp, and down went a bit more of his living dinner. The dinner did not seem to relish the dark hole he had got into, for at the same time he generally gave a wriggle and a twist, as though anxious to escape—a foolish movement, for it only helped his downward passage.

This went on for some minutes, the Frenchman gradually disappearing inside the Englishman till at last more than half was swallowed, and the swallower became enormously dilated.

I then called the keeper, who took the Englishman by the tail and gave him two or three good shakings, hitting him, at the same time, gently against the wall, as if to loosen the contents of his abdomen.

The French snake, finding deliverance was at hand, began to coil about, till at last out he fell upon the floor, again restored to daylight. He seemed rather stupid, but otherwise none the worse of his trip down what the children call "the dark lane" of his English brother-snake.

The cannibal, disappointed in his wicked deeds, when put in a cage, glided about with head erect, hissing, and putting out his tongue, apparently in a great rage at having been interfered with. The French snake slunk under some carpet that was in the cage.

ROUND THE WORLD.

Trees in Washington—The Queen's Asiatic Army—Business in Austria—Family Quarrels in Spain—&c., &c.

There are 60,000 trees in the streets of Washington.

The projected bridge over the Tiber is to be commenced immediately. It will span the river at the point known as the Orso, where the ancient inn of that name is still standing. It was at this house that Montaigne loged when he first came to Rome.

Garibaldi's widow announces through the medium of the *Italia* that she will shortly publish two manuscripts of her husband, entitled "Mille" and "Manlio." Garibaldi's memoirs, which are in the hands of his son, Menotti, will be published later on.

The German Government has discharged all women who were employed in its postal, telegraph, and railway service as clerks and in other capacities. As during the last twenty years they nearly monopolised such service in some towns, much suffering has ensued among the discharged. The motive alleged is that women are unfit for such public service.

Dr. Laborde reports some recent observations upon the heads of decapitated persons. He found the reflex action of the pupil to exist for twenty-eight minutes after the neck was fully severed, and even after this time had elasped a slight excitation of the membranous lining of the skull produced contractions of the eyelids and some of the muscles of the jaw.

Rats and mice were long the scourge of the Hawaiian farmers, but they have been successfully dealt with by the introduction of the mongoose. Thirty-six pairs of this animal were imported from Jamaica two years ago into the district of Hilo, with the result of instantly clearing 4,000 acres of cane of this nuisance. One planter estimates his saving from this cause last year at $50,000.

The Queen's Asiatic army numbers three distinct classes of troops, viz, European, Indian, and those belonging to the native Princes, the latter having frequently rendered efficient aid. Lord Ripon, when Governor-General, reported in favor of unity in the organization and command of the three classes, the policy of trusting to the honor and loyalty of the native soldiers and Princes having been found much the safest.

Mr Young, the coiffeur of the Princess of Wales, begins dressing hair at 7 o'clock on the morning of a drawing room day So great is the anxiety to receive his services that he is engaged not days, but weeks, beforehand. Woe be to the lady who comes first on his list. She must be in a state of worry the whole of the morning, lest a careless movement should disarrange the coiffure before the hour approaches for displaying it to the world.

Although a state of war exists between France and Madagascar the Malagasy Government have in no repect relaxed their efforts in the cause of education. Two Malagasy youths of considerable promise, who have been educated in London during the last four years, will return to their own country in a few days in order to occupy a position as teachers in the public schools. Since the war there has been no interruption of educational work in Madagascar.

The Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter gives a report from San Francisco of the death of Dr. Charles Pierce from the morphine habit. He and his wife had been living for months in a lodging house, spending most of their money for the drug to which both were slaves. They were discovered half dead, after being four days without food. They once held high social positions in Baltimore, where the wife acquired the habit while nursing her husband. She will recover.

Those dreadful literary iconoclasts are at it again. They have now turned their guns on Milton, and a reverend gentleman named Edmunson is endeavoring to rob the author of "Paradise Lost" of all the honor which belongs to originality of conception. He has published a work to prove that Milton was largely indebted in the compositen of his great poem to various poems of a Dutch rhymster of the same period, one Joost Van den Vondel, and that Samson Agonisteo was inspired by a drama by Vondel on the same subject.

Business has not for many years been so dull in Austria as it is now. At the late annual market of Brunn the prices of cotton cloth and leather showed a great fall on the averages of previous years. The war alarms stopping purchases from Russia and the Danubian principalities may have had something to do with this. But the general stagnation in Austrian commerce cannot be explained wholly by this cause, for it existed throughout the past year, as is shown in the diminished receipts of all the railway lines and of the Danube Steamboat Company.

The famous Panama hats are all made in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and get their name because Panama merchants formerly controlled the trade. They are made of the pita fibre, a sort of palm, and are braided under water by native women of strands often twelve and fifteen feet long, and fine ones are very expensive. It often takes two or three weeks to braid a single hat, which sells for five or six dollars, and lasts forever. A traveller speaks of one made of a single straw or fibre, as fine as thread and soft as silk. The woman who made it was engaged four months in the work, and it was valued at $250.

During the month of May all the altars of the Virgin in the Roman Catholic churches of Paris were gay with flowers. The floor spaces in front of those in the more fashionable shrines were literally covered with floral wreaths and bouquets in many cases with cards attached to them on which the fair devotee who deposited it had written some special request for the Virgin's intercession. At a church much frequented by rich worshippers conspicuous among other wreaths was one of orange blossoms with a card with the following inscription: "O, blessed mother of God, pray for me this month and grant it may be mine to wear such a wreath as this, standing beside the husband of my choice, before the year is ended."

The Madrid correspondent of the *Petit Marseillais* relates a striking instance of the intensity of family quarrels in Spain. About a year ago a gypsy named Moralis was assassinated at Zerza, in the province of Caceres, by one of his comrades named Silra. The latter was in due course tried and sentenced to death, but his execution did not satisfy the vengeance of the victim's family. There had been ill feeling between the families for three years, but there had been no open quarrel until the murder of Moralis. Soon after the execution of the murderer, which took place last month, the two families met on their return from a fair near the town of Caceres. They had their mules and cattle with them. There were about fifty on each side, including women and children. A regular pitched battle ensued, revolvers, knives, and sticks being freely used by the men, while the women employed their nails with considerable effect, and the children threw stones indiscriminately. The result of the struggle was that the heads of the two families were both killed, two of the women, and several of the children. There were ten or twelve wounded, and the bodies of the dead were horribly mutilated. If the mounted police had not interrupted the fight there would have been many more lives lost. Several of the mules were killed, and the baggage of the two families was strewn about in such disorder that the road for nearly half a mile looked as if a large army had beaten a retreat along it.

Mosquitoes and Cholera.

I do not know that there is any connection between mosquitoes and cholera, but just now a good many persons are trying to establish one. The popular mind is still full of apprehensions as to a visitation of cholera this summer, and lately there has been an uncommon outbreak of mosquitoes in some parts. The latter pests have appeared in swarms in several neighborhoods, and proved a positive and most provoking nuisance, and the people who delight in putting this and that together say it is a sure sign that cholera will be here by and by. My own notion is that the inference is the rankest nonsense, but I never found that it was much use reasoning with the kind of people just mentioned. As for the possibilities of cholera coming over here, of course they exist, but they do not cause much uneasiness either among physicians or in the health department. The general opinion is that even if cholera actually shows itself it won't get a chance to make any headway. Nevertheless, a single case would probably cause a good deal of a scare.

Where the Scorpion Gets His Poison.

When he strikes you with the end of his tail, like a wasp, he exudes a venomous liquid, and a man might better hold a red-hot iron in his hand than to get a tenth part of a drop of this liquid into his blood. It is not necessarily fatal, particularly in the Bahamas; but it condenses the heat of forty furnaces. In some parts of South America scorpion bites are frequently fatal, but I have not heard of any one having been killed by them in Nassau. This is easily accounted for. The scorpion likes to feed on decayed wood. In South America, where dye-woods and other poisonous woods abound, the scorpion feeds upon them, and thus work into themselves a good supply of outside poison, which, taken together with his naturally poisonous liquid, does its work for whoever is unfortunate enough to be stung. But, in Nassau, such poisonous woods are few, and the scorpions have to fatten themselves respectably on pine, cedar and mahogany.

An Italian Murder.

A terrible crime was committed a few days ago at the city of Monte Rotondo only eighteen kilometres distant by rail from Rome. A family of butchers having a grudge against a young man, Menlouccio Poli, planned his death. He was paying attentions to one of the girls of the family, and so, with the help of the girl, the parents and other relatives—seven in all—coaxed him into a cellar, where they attacked him with axes. They left him half dying, and hooked by his chin on one of the hooks where they were accustomed to hang their slaughtered cattle. The next day, finding him yet alive, they tied his hands and feet, and then cut his throat. After they had cut his body into small pieces, as they would the body of an animal, and carried him into the woods with a donkey and baskets. The head having been accidentally found in the woods by a shepherd boy, the police soon tracked the murderers. They have all confessed the crime. The citizens of Monte Rotondo would have lynched them all had not the police sent a strong body of soldiers to protect them. They were taken to Rome, and are now in the Carceri Nuove. The murderers belong to the Neapolitan provinces, where they made money by helping and hiding brigands They moved to Monte Rotondo in order to escape punishment.

The woman question—Is my hat on straight?

A BARONET'S BIG SCH

Proposed Farming of Tule Lands on a Scale.

Sir John Lister Kaye, of Y England, a young gentleman of and cosmopolitan inclinations, the city. Sir John left Engl eight months ago, and has been through the southern and eastern Cuba, and Canada. He comes from Winnipeg, where he witnes of the Riel rebellion. The pur 8,500 acres of agricultural land line of the Canadian Pacific, near nia, in the province of Assinaboi recently made by the baronet. is 350 miles west of Winnipeg, and very sparsely settled but rapidly country. According to Sir John's ment, English capitalists are buying tracts of land along the line of the dian Pacific, and he is firmly of the lan that the investments in most will prove to be paying ones. D nardo, the great English philanthr has recently purchased five secti land adjoining the Kaye tract, on he proposes to establish an agric college for the practical education of picked up in the streets of Londo beneficiaries to be graduates of the nardo Industrial Home of Londo which institution beneficiaries tained until 17 years of age.

Just before his departure Land missioner McTavish, of the C Pacific, informed Sir John that h onies of Russians were settling al railroad, and that many of the al sections of land belonging to the were being disposed of to them other immigrants. The Canadian has been doing a very good freig passenger business, and the tran government troops and stores has increased its traffic of late. The conducted entirely on the American and English tourists who have passed over the line are much with the novelty, both in equipm management, although the scenery of the Rockies does not strike them ing anything wonderful.

"I have succeeded in interes number of my countrymen in a larg ing scheme in California," said the net, "and expect ere long to org company to purchase 60,000 acres in the Sacramento valley. I h some experience in land-buying and raising in this state," contin "and intend to go into the busin still greater scale. I am now the of 5,000 acres of tule land in Yolo I put 3,200 acres in wheat the fir and my crop brought $56,000. has been considerable difficulty in of organizing the company of speak. The average English does not rush into American fields ulation as fearlessly as in former He is very careful now to secure the actual valuation of lands or It is mainly to satisfy these peopl am about to dispose of my ranch them what improved property in California. I have little doubt success of my plan, and am satisf the purchase of the large tract paying investment."—[San Chronicle.

Hailstones as Big as Ora

A heavy black cloud, some tinged with green and the lower with red, came from the south following up the Kickapoo Va another cloud apparently came west. A junction was formed The clouds had much the appear heavy windstorm, growing light joining, but too high to cause ma age. So it proved, there was only erately strong wind, which threw good many fences and trees. hail exceeded in size and quan thing ever witnessed by anyone Hailstones were measured that inches in diameter the widest the large ones were considerably in shape, they were not so thick way, but carloads of those three diameter could have been pi About two hours after the storm elled over eight miles of its there were three acres of ground the stones lay on an average of with an average size of over diameter. And in depressions face they could be scooped bushel. In fence corners they snow-drifts, many of which inches deep. The result of that sheep, lambs, pigs two months old, calves, ducks, chick in the woods squirrels, were kill

Is it a Hopeless Ca

The continued persecution Jews in Europe, as illustrated recent outbreaks in the Austria ces, suggest a sort of hopeless future civilization in central eastern Europe. It is quite reflect that, in so far as some of or less mongrel white races are the lessons of 500 years seem been utterly thrown away. the Russian and you will find might well be chunged so as the discovery of savagery and crystallized in perpetuity so-called civilized people.

Mr. Toole has just related good story anent a Scotchman He asked a man in Glasgow glass of the national beverage, his reply: "No, it's too early I don't want it, and I'm whiskey, and I'd rather not I've had four already!" another story. A Scot was if he drank whisky to his din on two occasions," he answe there is fish and when there