

MISCELLANEOUS.

One of the very best sources from which the farmer may get sound practical ideas about his business, and much interesting and useful information of a general kind is the "American Agriculturist" which is published in New York.

Information has reached us that it is not necessary to go so far as London, England, to find an instance of cheap gas. It appears that at Jackson, Mich., the price of gas was reduced on the 1st of October to 30 cents per 1,000 feet. The gas is a water gas, but is manufactured on what is known as the Swedish system. It is stated that Cornwall, Ont., is soon to be supplied with illuminating gas on the same terms as in the case of Jackson. If gas can be profitably supplied to consumers in a small place like Cornwall for 30 cents per 1,000 feet, the citizens of Toronto would like to know why they are charged \$1.25.

The Grey Nuns were founded as a religious order in Canada about a hundred and fifty years ago, the mother house being in Montreal. "La Minerve" of Thursday contains an interesting account of the progress of this order, from which it appears that it now numbers in the Dominion 1,301 persons, namely, 1,080 professed nuns, 141 novices, and 83 postulants. They have a hundred and two establishments in various parts of the country, spread over twenty-three Roman Catholic dioceses.

Some of the Democratic papers in the United States have been claiming that, although President Cleveland was defeated in not securing a majority of the Electoral College, he did get a majority of the popular vote. In Texas there was a gain in the Democratic figures of 30,000, in Michigan 20,000, and so forth, apparently greater than the total gains of the Republicans. The latter, however, refuse to allow that the figures from the Southern States can be fairly included in making up the popular vote, for Republicans contend that their voters are not allowed to cast their ballots in the solid South.

A Mr. Tuke, of Rotheringham, who died in 1812, by his last will and testament left a penny to every child who should attend his funeral, with the result that over 700 youngsters, who didn't care whether school kept, were in attendance. All the poor women of the parish were made happier by the best of one shilling to each; the belling-ers were left a half-guinea "to strike off one peal of grand bells" at the exact moment the body was interred; and seven of the oldest navvies were to have a guinea for "puddling him up" in his grave. An old woman, "who had for eleven years tucked him up in his bed," was made richer by the sum of one guinea. His crowning act was to make one endowment by which forty dozen penny leaves were to be thrown down from the parish church steeple at noon on every Christmas Day forever.

The following is the percentage of water in some well-known articles: Wheat, 15; barley, 5; oats, 16; rye, 12; rice, 13; beans (field), 15; beans (kitchen), 23; peas, 14; turnips, 88; carrots, 83; rye-flour, 14; barley-flour, 14; maize flour, 13; Indian corn-flour, 14; oatmeal, 14; wheat bread, 44 to 48; rye bread, 44 to 49; cane-sugar, 5; linseed-oil, 10; fish, 77; skin, 58; bones, variable, 7 to 20; beef, 74; veal, 75; mutton, 71; pigeon, 79; haddock, 82; trout, 80; sole, 79; tea, 5; coffee, 11; mangel-wurzel, 85; cabbage (leaves), 92; cabbage (stem), 84; mushrooms, 96; fungi, 86 to 95; potatoes, 75; water-melons, 94; cucumbers, 96; vinegar plant, 95; wheat-flour, 13 to 16; cocoa, 5; manna, 10; figs, 21; plums, 75; apples, 80; gooseberries, 80; peaches, 75; eggs (entire), 74; milk, 87; blood, 79 to 83; gastric juice, 97; cheese, 40; hair wool, horn, 9 to 11; brandy, 56; whiskey, 47; rum, 30; beer, 90.

There are many tendencies in the civilization of the United States, like the rage for divorces for example, which do not promise well for the future of the republic. The tendency to seize other people's property and belt for a foreign country is another. It does not confine itself to bank cashiers and civic officials, but has spread into the ranks of society, afflicting young and old, even young girls falling victims to the prevailing rage. A girl of fourteen has just been taken back to New York by her mother, having been caught in a Canadian city. She got hold of a large sum of money and fled with it. The nursery door needs to be double-locked in view of such cases as these.

The crop of anarchists in Chicago shows no signs of giving out, and the quality is also first-rate. Evidence is being taken against certain prisoners believed to have had some connection with recent dynamite plots. During the progress of one of these cases an informer named Chlebon was giving testimony implicating Anarchist Hronek, one of the men under arrest. "Hronek told me," he said, "that he had a bomb ready to throw at President Cleveland's carriage when the President was here and would have thrown it had not Schneider and Nekolanda dissuaded him." This will give rise to the impression that the number of Presidents assassinated in that land of freedom may not be so large as those who have narrowly escaped a violent end.

From Zanzibar it is reported that the English and German admirals, in the Sultan's name, have published a proclamation to the effect that the blockade will commence at noon on Sunday, and that the fleets are to take their positions to-day, the German vessels on the south, from Wa-ga to Linde, and the English on the north, from Wango to Lamer Island. The Sultan is still ill. Heavy and constant firing was heard on the mainland yesterday. It seems that the vessels Sophie and Carola were fired at from the shore, and thereupon bombarded the coast. They also landed some men, who found two dead Arabs. One German was wounded. It is rumored that the Arab chief Bushiri, with 800 soldiers, is assembling the tribes at Bagamoyo for a fresh attack.

There is renewed agitation in Great Britain in favour of the payment of salaries to members of the Imperial House of Commons.

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mons, but the prejudice against the transaction is so strong that many years may elapse before it is adopted. Great Britain, Spain and Italy are now the only European countries which do not pay their parliamentary representatives. France pays \$1,800 a year and Prussia \$5 a day. On this continent Mexico, the Argentine Republic, the United States and Canada all pay the members of their legislatures. The present system in Great Britain, which prevents poor men from entering Parliament, unless like the Irish Nationalist members, they can induce their constituents to subsidize them, has done sufficient harm to more than counterbalance its advantages.

The London "Daily Telegraph" points out that while forty years ago the world went crazy in favor of youth, the present tendency in public life is to worship old age. The English people in particular believe fervently in old age and grand old men. There is, however, an awkward side to the worship of old age. "For at least ten years," says the "Telegraph," "the Duke of Wellington delayed useful improvements in the British army; for about the same period Lord Palmerston staid reform. And, if one day the realm is split up into two, three, or four sections of jarring nationalities, it will be because reverence and gratuity led the multitudinous to accept any proposal, however wild or sentimental, made by that remarkable man who excels in his old age the oratorical achievements of the strongest speakers of the past."

From all quarters come complaints of the arbitrary conduct of the German authorities in Samoa, and unless some change takes place in their treatment of other Europeans, there is likely to be a serious diplomatic protest from the English and United States Governments. By the latest advices the situation in Samoa was very complicated, and a battle was pending between Tamasese, the usurper, and Mataafa, the successor of Malietoa, who was deposed by the Germans. The German marines and sailors, besides giving aid and supplies to the usurper, have been guilty of several attacks on English and American residents. An Englishman was met on the street by a night patrol of the Germans, and knocked down and otherwise brutally maltreated. Should the American and English Governments take joint action in demanding redress, the Germans will doubtless find it prudent to make amends.

The balance of trade against the United States for the twelve months ending October 31st was \$44,354,089, while the exports of gold and silver amounted to \$26,000,000 more than the bullion imported. A Republican journal, in commenting upon these facts, says that it seems the United States can no longer pay for what they import with the products of the farm, the stock range, and the cotton plantation; they must continue to pay with coin, unless the manufacturers will come to the rescue and send the fruits of the loom and the anvil in exchange for the necessities or luxuries obtained from foreign lands. If the manufacturers are to do their part in paying for the imports, the tariff policy will have to be modified, and assuredly not in the direction of further restriction. In any case, the fact of there being an adverse balance of trade is not particularly alarming; but some of the American journals are apprehensive that unless the drainage of coin is stopped there will be grave trouble caused thereby.

The habitual cougher in church is being rapped over the knuckles by the London *Lancet*. His existence not being confined to any one part of the world, the views of the great medical journal may be noted. It is held that too often the cougher disturbs the audience through thoughtlessness, and a little restraint would remedy the matter, and even "when basis of disease underlies the explosion, a little self-control could usually do something to lessen its force or its frequency." The admission is made that honest coughers do really exist, and these are recommended to refrain from using the voice during the service, and to resort to medicinal aids. The public eye is, therefore, upon the cougher at present in England. How much of the complaint is due to the bad ventilation of churches the London critic does not seem to consider, nor is any light thrown upon the curious fact that the chorus of coughs comes just when the preacher is making some interesting announcement, or winding up a brilliant sermon with an eloquent peroration.

It is said that the workmen of the Western States will make a big effort to obtain a reduction of the hours of labour. A great convention of labourers is planned to be held at St. Louis in December, which will consider the advisability of a general strike in the interest of the eight-hour movement. The strike is intended to take place a year from June next, and the long preceding interval is to be employed in organizing and in making other preparations. An eight-hour law is in force in Illinois but it has not worked to the satisfaction of everybody. The effect of substituting eight hours for ten has there been to cause a loss to married men and slow men. The former suffer by having their wages reduced, and the latter because they cannot earn as much in eight hours as they did in ten hours. No doubt the shortening of the hours of labour will give work to many now unemployed, but would the condition of the present wage-earners be benefited by the change? This is a question which has not yet been satisfactorily answered.

Blighted Ambition.

Billy—Hello, Jimmy! Why don't you come out an' play wild the fellers?  
Jimmy—I dassen't.  
Billy—What for?  
Jimmy—You know that book we was readin' out in de barn? Well, I run away and was goin' to be de "Scourge" de Plains," but before I got to the South Side, pop ketched me.  
Billy—Aw, come on out.  
Jimmy—I dassen't. Pop took my pants and hid 'em.

A Redeeming Feature.

Dismal dude—"Life has no charms for me. I sometimes think I wish I were dead."  
Miss Blunt—"Well, there is one comfort about suicide. It usually strikes the right person."

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Wine, Women and Song.

but the greatest of these is, "women." "Wine is a mocker," and song is good to "soothe the savage," but women respond to every active power and sentiment of the human mind when in good health. But when afflicted with disease you will find them tantalizing, coquetical, cross and hard to please. For all "female complaints," sick headache, irregularities, nervousness, prostrations and other displacements popularly known as "female weakness" and other diseases, peculiar to the sex, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the great world-famed remedy.

Anna Catherine Green, the detective story writer, writes with a lead pencil.

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No, Lucinda, women are not called the fair sex because they like to get up Christmas fairs.

Love in a Cottage.

"Chally," said Amarantha Jane, "I notice that your spirits recently seem to be bubbling over with happiness. I am glad to see it, but do tell me, dear, what has caused it?" "I will," said Chally, as he enfolded her waist and imprinted a kiss on her inviting lips. "You know for a while I was melancholy, blue as indigo—had no appetite, was bilious and dyspeptic, but the use of two bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has brought me out and I am 'bright as a button.' I feel like a new man now. Jane, name the day soon; there is more of this medicine at the drug store."

Montaigne says there is no torture that a woman will not endure to enhance her beauty.

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