

GRANNY'S BAIRN.

A Pathetic Story of a Strike.

It was a desolate scene as I wandered among the pitfalls and abandoned workings of the Beaver Meadow Coal Mines. In a hollow of old and useless stripping lay tons of slaty waste, among which gleamed bits of coal here and there. The mineral had long gone its way to the market and only the refuse remained; but even these bits the poor about the district were forbidden by the owners to glean.

INDIAN BALL GAMES.

The Choctaws Were the Champions—A Muster Game by Sioux Squaws.

The greatest ball players among the North American Indians were the Choctaws. The rule of the game as regarded dress was very strict. No player was allowed to wear moccasins. There was no such thing as "spiking" another player unless the foul was done by some fellow with extraordinary long and strong toe nails.

FIRMLY PLANTED IN THE GROUND

six feet apart. Across the tops of the upright posts was fastened a horizontal pole. These goals were fifty rods apart. Midway between them was a small stake. From this point the ball, at a given signal, was tossed in the air by one of the judges. And then the game began.

SMOKED AND PRAYED

to the Great Spirit that they might be able to judge impartially and escape being mobbed by the losers. This dance was given at intervals of half an hour all night. Nobody thought of going to bed.

TWO BITTER PARTISANS

dropped out of the melee and began to settle a misunderstanding with their fists. That was all right. But perhaps before half a dozen blows had been exchanged the fortune of the game sent the crowd down upon the scene of fist-fights, and in an instant the fighters were swallowed up in the wild stampede.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SCENES

his pencil failed him. When the ball was "up"—that is, flying through the air—everybody was running and reaching for it. But when it was "down"—that is, on the ground—the players flung themselves together, each side pushing and crowding toward its own goal.

The Sioux had a favorite ball game. The women played it. When the warriors were full of whiskey and wanted something to make them laugh they arranged a tournament for the women. Usually the game took place when the Sioux were with goods received in their annual bargain with the fur traders.

Our Two Opinions.

Us two wuz boys when we fell out, Nigh to the age uv my youngest now: Don't rec'lect what twuz about, Some small difference I'll allow. Lived next neighbors twenty years, A-havin' each other, me 'nd Jim!

The Advance in Diamonds.

The extraordinary rise in the price of diamonds—in many cases over 50 per cent.—is exciting considerable attention. Both at Antwerp and Amsterdam several thousand cutters are out of work, as most of the merchants firmly decline any dealings at the present prohibitive rate.

Refuse to Shave Widows' Heads.

The agitation among the barbers of Bombay is likely to result in their refusal to shave widows' heads. Of course, those who are acquainted with native views in India will recognize that this intimation is not so comical as it sounds, but has a very serious meaning and reflects great credit on the native barber.

German Drummers and English.

We are continually hearing of German commercial travelers in neutral countries cutting out representatives of English houses, or doing business simply because English houses have no representatives able to speak the language and introduce their goods.

LATEST BY CABLE

Stanley's Return to England—The Kaiser Still Busy—United States Pressing Forward the Settlement of the Deagoa Railway—The Turkish Debt.

Tommy's Business. Tommy wanted some chances to earn a few dollars. He wanted ten dollars for his friends and snowed out of the house at Maple Grove.