SUPPLEMENT TO

Acton Free Press.

BALLOONS FOR THE NORTH POLE.

Commander Cheyne's Project for Reaching that Much Sought-for Spot.

Commander Cheyne of the Royal Navy, who was an officer in three Franklin search expeditions, began a series of three illustrated lectures on voyages in Northern seas in Chickering Hall last evening. He is a sturdy Englishman, with a square head, a resolute face, and decided manner in speaking. He prefaced the lecture by modestly offering to America his services in any way in the search for the Jeannette, because America came forward so nobly in the search for Sir John Franklin. He also explained one of his objects in coming to this country. He desires, in company with Lieut. Schwatka, who approves of the project, to do what has been deemed impossible—reach the North Pole by means of balloons. His method is to start out next spring with a vessel which will carry him to St. Patrick's Bay. There a house is to be put up near a coal field and provisions are to be stowed in a cave in the cliff. Then three balloons are to be filled. Each balloon is intended to carry three men, a sledge, Esquimaux dogs, provisions, and instruments. Preliminary observations are to be made at three different points to determine the variations in the course of the wind and after the proper wind curve has been found the balloons are to be released to drift toward the pole, 496 miles away, at the rate of thirty miles an hour. Commander Cheyne believes that the pole can be reached in from eighteen to twenty-four hours with one of the balloons, the other two being left part way behind in case of necessity; and he asserted that a probability is that after the vicinity of the pole has been photographed, the successful balloon will drift beyond the pole to the shore of Russia, where, on landing, the trip can be continued to St. Petersburg, whence the news of the discovery of the pole can be telegraphed to the world within a week of the event.

For this Anglo-American expedition Commander Cheyne wants $150,000, but he said that he had announced that he could carry out the project with $75,000 by chartering a vessel instead of buying one. Subscription lists have been started in England, and he hopes to get aid in this country.

The lecture was based on an imaginary trip to the pole by the audience, and was illustrated by limelight views of Arctic scenery and scenes of previous expeditions. Speaking of the Jeannette, he said that he believes she has not been lost. He believes that she is drifting with the pack ice in an easterly direction, and that she will in time be reached by way of Smith's Sound, thereby meeting her instead of following her.

Selling Gibraltar.

London Saturday Review.

A curious side light on the views which are entertained abroad of the foreign policy of the present Government, and at the same time a prospect of much congenial occupation for the Prime Minister, is to be obtained from a paragraph which went the round of the papers at the beginning of this week. Spain, it seems, has so much money that she does not know what to do with it, and the moment seems so favorable for such an operation that a subscription is to be set on foot for the purchase of Gibraltar from England. Some Madrid bankers have offered 5,000,000£.—a handsome basis certainly. In the improbable event of England declining the bargain, the money is to be spent on rival fortresses dotted about the Straits; but this is evidently "done as chapmen do," to quote "Troilus and Cressida." The inconveniences of muzzles at Queta and Algeciras are only intended to frighten the shopkeeping nation into an acceptance of the bargain. We do not known what the total price likely to be offered may be. Fortresses are not very often quoted in the market, and then there is the *pretium affectionis* to consider. The Heathfield picture, the perpetual copyright and all obtainable examplars of "Drinkwater's History," the memories of Rooke and Rodney, and so forth, would have to be reckoned in. Just at present, however, all this may be classed under the head of "*Vieux habits, vieux galons*," and is not likely to fetch much. The Spaniards have calculated their time well. However, judging from the proposed basis of the Madrid bankers, we should imagine that a nation of Castilian and other gentlemen could not do much less than cover this deposit several times over. A million sterling—if not two—ought to be bid at the very least. Then there is the important consideration of the relief on the garrison expenditure. This, again, is not very easy to calculate. But the normal garrison of Gibraltar is, we believe, 5,000 men, and there is a rough and ready computation that every man on active service costs Britannia, all things considered, about a hundred a year. Call it a half a million, then, and capitalize it at 30 years' purchase—which, with consols at par, is certainly not too much—this will give altogether a *beaux* of sixteen or seventeen millions for Mr. Gladstone to manipulate, with prospects of, at least as much more should Italy follow so excellent an example and buy Malta.

A SAILOR'S YARN OF ARCTIC LIFE.

A Bear Hunt from the Alliance—Union Colors in Icebergs.

Six blue jackets from the United States man-of-war Alliance, which arrived at New York recently, from the Arctic regions, were seen at the foot of West Twenty-second street by a reporter. They were all young and bright looking fellows, talkative and merry.

"We had a rough time," said one of them "and have got enough of Arctic expeditions. We'll never go up there again, unless we're forced to it. It was nothing but fog, hail, rain, and snow all the time. I tell you we were mighty glad when we reached New York. Our four months' voyage has done us little good. We had to pay $40 for our outfits, which are almost useless to us now, and we never got more than a few hours' liberty during all the time we were up there among the ice and snow. I seen a statement that we cooked eggs in the hot springs of Iceland. That is not so. We never had a chance to go to the hot springs. There's not a sailor aboard who wants any more service like we have gone through without extra pay."

Another sailor said: "The only real sport I remember was when we sighted a bear on the beach of Dane's Island. He was a big white fellow, and must have been very hungry to venture so close to our ship. Somebody fired and struck the bear and he leaped into the water. Then a whole broadside was poured into it. The firing was kept up so long that I think some of the men must have shot in the same hole two or three times. Well, finally we brought the carcass on board. It was full of bullet holes. The boys say the Captain is going to use the skin as sleeve."

A New Species of Horse.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History for July contains a translation of a Russian paper, in which M. Poliakof brings forward a mass of evidence in proof of the existence of a hitherto unknown species of horse not far from Zaisan, in Central Asia. The animal appears to resemble a small domestic horse, of a dun color; its head is large in proportion to the size of the animal; and the root of its tail is destitute of long hairs for some distance. M. Poliakof names his supposed new species *Equus Przewalskii*, in honor of the traveller who brought the skin to Russia. He regards it as a true horse, and remarks that "if it were possible to prove that culture influenced the growth of the tail, and that this became more hairy, and the mane longer, under altered conditions of life," it might be affirmed that "it was indeed the animal whose ancestors were reclaimed by man in the stone period, the so-called domestic horse of our day."

Dangers are no more light, if they seem light; and more dangers have deceived men than forced them.

A CHINESE WEDDING.

Two Mongolian Concerts at the Nuptial Altar.

A wedding of more than usual interest was solemnized yesterday at 10 o'clock in Trinity church, on the corner of Post and Powell streets. The bridegroom, Rev. Walter Ching Young, is a Christian Chinaman, and regularly ordained Episcopal deacon, and has had for some years a mission school at 957 Clay street, under the control of the Episcopal denomination. The Chinese bride, Miss Fu Ah Ting, who is a very pretty girl, 18 years of age, is also a Christian, and has been for many years a member of the Berlin Foundling mission at Hong-Kong. She came out here on the last voyage of the City of Tokio, in charge of a Christian convert who has been a missionary in Oregon. Long before the hour named for the ceremony carriage after carriage rolled up to the church door, from which alighted many of our most prominent citizens, with their wives and families, who, upon entering the church, were shown to the left section, the right section being set apart for the Chinese portion of the spectators. Every Protestant church in the city was represented, and many clergymen were observed among the audience.

Promptly at 11 o'clock a close carriage brought the bride and bridegroom, attended by the wife of a wealthy Chinese merchant. The bridal party was received and attended by the ladies of Trinity church. One lady pinned a *boutonniere* on the groom's coat and presented a beautiful bouquet to the bride. As they proceeded up the aisle, the bride attended by her female friend, the organ pealed forth Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." At the altar they were met by the Right Rev. Bishop Kip, who performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Beers, rector of the church, and Rev. Mr. Cochren, of Vallejo. The bride was dressed in her native costume, in robes the most superb and magnificent. Over a robe of purple and black, with a touch of gold thread in it, she wore a peacock-blue brocaded satin tunic, lined with scarlet brocade, and edged with stripes of yellow satin, fastened together by solid gold buttons. The headdress was a profusion of the flowers of China, and entirely covered the back of her head. Gold-embroidered slippers, and a large scarlet satin handkerchief, which she carried in her hand, completed the gorgeous toilet. The young husband wore a handsome new English suit of black, with a light pearl-coloured necktie.

After the ceremony they drove back to the mission house, where a reception was held from noon until 4 o'clock, in the chapel, which was adorned with flowers, both natural and artificial, the walls being newly covered with Chinese emblems. Here light refreshments and choice tea in the tiniest of cups were served till 4.30, when the newly-married pair, with a few of their friends, both Chinese and Americans, drove to the principal Chinese restaurant on Dupont street, where a dinner was served which lasted for several hours, and where the health of the bride and bridegroom was drank with glasses of the very best of champagne. Among the callers at the reception were ladies of our first society, who displayed magnificent costumes and brilliant diamonds many of them attended by high officials and army and navy officers. Mr. and Mrs. Young will reside at the mission house, where he will continue to teach.

Food.

Two good hearty meals in the day are sufficient for health, one before going to work, and the other after work is over; that is, breakfast and supper, or what is the same, late dinner. Some lunch is needed between these meals, but this should be light. A heavy meal in the middle of the day may suit children, but if hard work has to be returned, it interferes with the work, and the work with digestion. Hot heavy suppers taken shortly before going to bed prevent refreshing sleep, and are among the most frequent causes of attacks of indigestion. At the same time an empty stomach is to be avoided; a few biscuits, or something equally light, is all that is required. Variety of diet is of importance to health; the stomach gets weary of a repetition of the same every day. Hurry at meals is to be avoided—eat slowly and chew well. Bodily toil and manual labour can be best supported by a vegetable diet, as bread, porridge, &c., with the addition of milk, eggs, butter and cheese; meat is much inferior to these as a supplier of strength. But it is very different with mental labour; here a mixed diet, with animal food in moderation, is best. Fermenting drinks wall always have a place among articles of diet, though health can be maintained best without them. The most wholesome are those which contain the least amount of alcohol; such as good sound beer or claret; these when taken moderately with meals aid a weak digestion. The practice of drinking stimulants as aids to work is a serious mistake; it checks the desire for wholesome food, leads to excess, and sooner or later injures the health. Tobacco should not be smoked just immediately before or after meals, as it weakens digestion. Too much smoking is a harmful habit, causing nervousness, shaky hands, palpitation of the heart, want of appetite and sleeplessness; when any of these occur tobacco should be left off, or used very seldom. The practice of boys learning to smoke cannot be too strongly condemned. They think it manly, while they are really injuring their health and growth, so preventing themselves from becoming manly. Excessive tea-drinking is an evil not unusual among working women, producing ill-nourished mothers and weekly babes. Tea should not be taken more than once or twice a day, and should never take the place of a substantial meal. Health depends greatly on good cooking; the object of cooking is to render food digestible and attractive, and to give at the same time the greatest amount of nourishment with the least amount of waste. Every opportunity of learning and improving in this art should be eagerly seized.

Digging up the Pantheon.

Discoveries still continue to be made in the new excavation around the Pantheon, where the ugly little houses that used to disguise it are being pulled down. Another circular well has been discovered, which formerly surrounded the temple, and a large portion of Agrippa's baths adjoining the Pantheon. Six large rooms have been brought to light off the baths, and a large porch entrance bearing an inscription to Agrippa. The other parts of the bath are under a house not yet pulled down, but soon will be when it is expected that all the baths will be brought to light. The pedestals of eight columns and one entire column broken in four pieces were lying on the ground of one of the excavated rooms of the baths. These columns are of beautiful Oriental marble, and the pavement is also of colored marble. The whole of the discovered parts are of the purest Greek-Roman style, and the excavations are in every way most interesting. A large pot has also been discovered, containing a hundred gold pieces of the thirteenth century.

A French family named Millard, at Avon, Fulton county, Ill., own a genuine painting by Raphael, about eight inches square and nearly 400 years old.

Feminine Leaflets.

Lady Florence Dixie, who went to the Transvaal as correspondent of the London *Morning Post*, camped out with her husband and cooked her own rations.

The *Woman's Journal* says: "While American colleges and universities are making a 'to do' about women students, the question is settled very naturally and quietly in Italy. A correspondent writing from Rome says that lately a poetess of Pinerola passed a very fine examination at the university of Turin. The faculty proclaimed her 'dottressa' unanimously, and congratulated her cordially upon her success. Then she left the hall for examination, all the students formed in a double line, and as she passed down the middle of this hedge of galante-giovani they saluted her with respectful applause.

Queen Ranavalomanjaka of Madagascar has always been a strong temperance woman and a rigid advocate of prohibitory laws. In Imerina, her central province, a new prohibitory law has just been promulgated, which, if she shall be able to enforce it, ought to result in the strictest sobriety. Under the penalty of a fine of ten oxen and ten dollars, it prohibits the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages, and punishes with lighter penalties those found drunk are carrying the liquor, whoever may have sent them. If one convicted be unable to pay the fine, he must suffer imprisonment, one day being regarded as equivalent to a sixpence of the fine.

The Ninth Congress of Women, held in Buffalo, October 17, 20 and 21, has afforded another stricking proof of the gradual overthrow of existing prejudice against the propriety of women's public work. Long before the congress assembled a prominent clergyman of New York State, in addressing a girls' school, had advised the pupils not to attend its meetings, for "those who compose it are neither men or women; they are to be thought of as things and spoken to as 'its.'" A lady invited to contribute to the local expenses scornfully refused; yet came the first day from malicious curiosity, remained throughout all the sessions from enjoyment of them, and gave liberally.

The appearance at the cashier's desk of the Palmer House, Chicago, of a bright young lady who filled the position with all the expedition and complacency of a man of trained experience, challenged public attention. The proprietor says that for some time he has been convinced that for such positions women were more apt to give satisfaction than men. "Of course this was flying into the face of the prejudice of a very large class of very excellent people, who do not believe that ladies should be employed in public capacities at all. The success of experiment has shown the fallacy of that theory. At present we give employment to three ladies in our office. Two of them are cashiers and one a bookkeeper. To one of these ladies at the cashier's desk we pay $1,000 per year and board, to another $900 per year and board, and to our bookkeeper we pay $600 and board. If they choose to live away from the hotel we give them an additional allowance of $600 per year, but they have the talent, they do the work, and we are much better satisfied than we were with our male employees."

Acorn-Storing Birds.

At a late meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, a paper was read by Mr. R. E. C. Stearns, on the acorn-storing habits of the California woodpecker. In Napa County he had examined a fallen yellow pine, the bark of which was full of acorn holes. Its length was 175 feet, and the diameter of its butt was five feet ten inches, and at ninety feet three feet eight inches. Above the ninety foot line the woodpecker holes were comparatively few; neither were there any in the first ten feet of the trunk from the ground. A piece of the bark, twelve by twelve inches, showed sixty holes. Taking an average of thirty-six holes to the square foot, it gave 41,040 acorn holes in the bark of this one tree. The holes were drilled to receive acorns of different sizes, for the birds are exact workmen, and each acorn is nicely fitted into its special cavity. Woodpeckers reject the cups and store the acorns without them. In Knight's Valley he observed woodpecker holes in a large spruce tree, and he was informed that they also bore into the bark of certain oaks to a limited extent. The acorns were generally considered as laid up for a winter supply of food; but while in this climate no such provision was necessary, it was also very improbable that woodpeckers would feed on hard nuts or seeds of any kind. The more rational explanation is that they are preserved for the sake of the grubs they so frequently contain, which being very small when the acorn falls, grow until they eat out the whole interior, when they become a welcome delicacy for the bird.

Mr. Lightner, a member of the Academy, had observed woodpeckers engaged in drilling holes in the bark, when a bluejay was seen to fly close up to one and inspect the size of the hole. Some active chippering then ensued, when the bluejay flew away, but soon returned with a green acorn, without the cup, in his beak. This he offered to the woodpecker, who took it with his beak, and set it into the hole, and drove it home with a few taps, where it remained. This process was continually repeated. Mr. Lightner desired to know what were the special benefits derived by this mutual service conducted between a seed-eating and an insect-eating bird. Mr. Stearns said that great numbers of untouched acorns remained in the spring, which have developed no worms suitable as food for the woodpecker, but which supply nutriment to bluejays and squirrels. Thus a community of interest was manifest, explaining their joint labors.

Paper Plates.

The latest application of paper is said to be the adoption of plates by some of the great restaurants and cafes in Berlin. The innovation was first introduced during the summer of last year by the enterprising landlord of a much frequented open-air restaurant. Every customer who ordered bread and butter, rolls, cakes, buns, or similar articles, had them served to him upon a paper plate, made of light papier-mache, adorned with a pretty border in relief, and having at the first glance a great similarity to porcelain. Guests, waiters, and host were all pleased with the novelty; it saved the waiters many a deduction from their wages on account of breakages, which the deftest and cleverest can scarcely avoid when he handles hundreds of pieces of crockery during a single afternoon and evening. The paper plates were so cheap that the landlord did not care to assert his ownership over them, and his customers were allowed to carry them away, like the pretty serviettes of thin paper used in so many restaurants in Holland.

A dog which had been accidentally confined at Metz lasted 39 days before he was released and recovered.

A nurse was telling about a man who had become so terribly worn out by dissipation that he could not keep any food on his stomach, when one of her listeners asked: "What does he live on then?" "On his relations, ma'am," answered the nurse.

The Degradation of Niagara.

Harper's Magazine.

The Empire State, great in so many ways, has yet shown herself to be an unworthy custodian of the most sublime natural object upon the continent. Niagara is made a huge circus show, surrounded by every kind of petty degradation, and in the whole aspect of its surroundings announcing that the public sentiment of the State can see nothing in it but a chance of raising revenue for peddlers from ranges of huckaters' booths and every kind of ugly detail of traffic, and a vast water-power to be used without the least regard to what may be called the natural decencies of the situation. The present degradation of Niagara not only ruins the datarset as a resort of pilgrims from all this country and from all the world, but it involves the national and State character in disgrace for permitting the degradation.

There is no immediate thrifty advantage of a water power in this great wonder of the American continent that might not be preserved and made completely available with the vulgarization which has taken possession of it; and there is no revenue to be derived from it as a show and a resort which might not be doubled by restoring its natural charm. The old sailor said that his experience had shown him that the Lord had so made the world that a man can afford to do what is becoming. Ike Marvel wrote a delightful lecture upon the "Uses of Beauty," and no man in the country could see more clearly or state more strongly and picturesquely the high use to which the beauty and sublimity of Niagara could be adapted. With a kindred sense, the painter Church, whose picture of the cataract is the most famous, and who has studied it as diligently as any man living, suggested to Lord Dufferin, when he was Governor-General of Canada, that the banks on both sides should be reserved as a park, to be simply laid out in walks and shrubbery, and kept carefully free from all booths and bazaars and shops of every kind, and from whatever defaces and degrades the character of the place.

This admirable and reasonable proposition was followed by a petition to the Governor of New York from eminent Englishmen and Americans, and a bill had been introduced into the Legislature providing for the purchase of a strip of land long enough and broad enough to secure the object in view. The water for power would be conducted around the falls through the village, and the sum of one million of dollars, which would probably cover the cost, would be a reasonable price for the land which the State would condemn by right of eminent domain. A small charge for entrance to the park would produce a revenue to maintain it and to pay interest upon the cost, and Niagara would again become what it has now ceased to be, one of the most charming and attractive of summer resorts.

Artificial Pearls.

Many persons have, no doubt, been frequently struck with the great beauty of artificial or imitation pearls. Those who make it their business to produce such articles of ornamentation have attained to a high degree of perfection in their art, so much so that in 1862, at the London Exhibition, a Frenchman, who was an adept at their manufacture, exhibited a row of large real and imitation pearls alternately, and without close inspection, we are assured, it would have been impossible even for a judge to have selected the real from the unreal. Some translations from French and German works on this manufacture have recently been communicated to *Land and Water*, and from these it appears that the art of making imitation pearls is ascribed to one Jacquin, a chaplet and rosary manufacturer at Passy, who lived about 1680.

Noticing that the whitefish, a species of dace, was of a silvery appearance, he gradually collected the sediment, and with this substance—to which he gave the name of *Essence d' Orient*—and with a thin glue, made of parchment, he lined the glass beads of which he framed his rosaries, and afterwards filled them with wax. The method of making the round bead is by heating one end—which has been first closed—of a glass tube, which then, when blown into two or three times, expands into a globular form. The workman then separates the bead, places the end which has been heated on a wire, and heats the other end. This process is called bordering or edging. The best pearls are made in the same way, the holes of the tubes being gradually reduced by heat to the size of those of the real pearls, the workmen taking each bead on inserted wire, and by continually turning them round in the flame of the lamp used, they become so true as to be strung as evenly as the Oriental pearls.

The process of coloring the pearl is commenced by lining the interior of the ball with a delicate layer of perfectly limpid and colorless parchment glue; and before it is quite dry the essence of orient is introduced by means of a slender blow-pipe. It is then allowed to dry; the pearl is filled with wax, and, if intended for a necklace, is pierced through the wax with a red-hot needle. The essence of orient, as it is called is the chief ingredient in the manufacture of gator, up and down shelves filled with flower-pots and plants. The rat was evidently the pearl. It is a very valuable substance, and is obtained from the fish above named by rubbing them rather roughly in a basin of pure water, so as to remove the scales; the whole is then strained through a linen cloth, and left for several days to settle, when the water is drawn off. The sediment forms the essence referred to. It requires from seventeen to eighteen thousand fish to obtain about a pound of this substance. Besides the French imitation pearls, as those above described, are called, there are the Roman pearls, which are made of wax, covered with a kind of pearly lustrue. But these do not look so well as the French pearls.

Two Pulpit Jokes.

"You would hear, I dare say," said McLeschlar, "what happened to our brother from the Sound when he was preaching at Kilmore. You know he is fery fond of preaching extempore, and when he went into the vestry he said to the elders: 'I really do not know what to preach about,' said he. 'Do you not know,' says Tuncan McTaviah, one of the elders, 'what to preach about?' 'No; I do not, really.' 'Well, then,' says Tuncan, shust preach about five minutes, it'll be quite enough.'" "It's out of his own head," said Ross, "he got that one, Mr. McRoy, put here is one that is quite true about himself. When he was preaching at Slashack, one day he was fery elegant indeed, and when he was in his raptures he cried: 'And what shall I say more, my friends? and what shall I say more?' 'Say amen,' says a tecent woman sitting below the pulpit."

Whiskey is bound to rise. A great consolidation of distillers is being effected in the West by which the amount of whiskey produced hereafter will be regulated by the association of distillers. The distillers think the price of whiskey is not high enough, and are bent on forcing it upwards.

A Pathetic Story.

Nasby, now in Ireland, relates this touching story: In our party was an American gentleman, who was blessed with an abundance of boys, but no girl, and he and his wife had been contemplating the adoption of a girl. Here was an opportunity to secure not only a girl, but just the kind of a girl that he would have given half his estate to be the father of. And so he opened negotiations.

An Irishman who knew him explained to the father and mother that the gentleman was a man of means, that his wife was an excellent, good woman, and that the child would be adopted regularly under the laws of the state in which he lived, and would be educated, and would rank equally with his own children in the matter of inheritance, and all that. In short, she was to understand that Norah would be reared a lady.

Then the American struck in. She, the mother, might select a girl to accompany the child across the Atlantic, and the girl selected should go into his family as the child's nurse, and that she should be reared in the religion of its parents.

The father and mother consulted long and anxiously. It was a terrible struggle. On the one hand was the child's advantage, on the other paternal and maternal love.

Finally a conclusion was arrived at.

"God help me," said the mother. "You shall have her. I know you will be good to her."

Then the arrangements were pushed very briskly, and with regular American business like vehemence. The girl selected to act as nurse was the mother's sister, a comely girl of 20. The American took the child and rushed out to a haberdasher's and purchased an outfit for her. He put shoes and stockings on her, which was a novel experience, and a pretty little dress, and a little feather in it, and a little sash, and all that sort of thing, and he procured shoes and stockings for the elder girl, and a tidy dress, and a hat and shawl, and so forth. And then he brought them back, instructing the mother that he should leave with them for Cork the next morning at eleven, and that the girl and child should be dressed and ready to depart.

The next morning came, and the American went for the child. She was dressed, though very awkwardly. The mother had never had any experience in dressing children, and it was a wonder that she did not get the dress on wrong side up. But there she was. The mother wailed as one who was parting with everything that was dear to her; the father lay and moaned, looking from Norah to the American. Time was up. The mother took the baby in her arms and gave it the final embrace and the long, loving kiss; the father took her in his arms and kissed her, and the other children looked on astounded, while the girl stood weeping.

"Good-bye," said the American. "I will take good care of the baby," and taking her from her mother's arms started for the door.

There was a shriek, the woman darted to him just as he was closing the door, and snatched the baby from his arms.

"Drop the child," said the father. "You can't have her for all the money in America!"

"No, sor," ejaculated the mother, half way between fainting and hysterics. "I can't part wid her!"

And she commenced undressing the baby.

"Take back your beautiful clothes, give me back the rags that was on her, but ye can't have the child."

And the girl commenced undressing, too, for she did not want to obtain clothes under false pretences, but the American stopped the disrobing.

"It's bad for the child," he said. "but somehow I can't blame you. You are welcome to the clothes, though."

And he left as fast as he could, and I noticed he was busy with his handkerchief about his eyes for some minutes.

Whales Cut in Two by a Steamer.

The steamship Newport, of Ward's Line, had an unusual experience during a recent outward trip to Havana. She sailed from New York on Thursday, October 27, and before daylight next morning she was off the Capes of Delaware. At about 8 o'clock, when she was steaming at the rate of fifteen miles per hour, she ran into an immense school of whales twenty miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. The animals were of all sizes, and disported themselves in the water as if enjoying it. Suddenly the ship shook from stem to stern, as she struck a monster about sixty feet long, which was attempting to cross her path. The whale was cut in halves, which passed astern on either side, while the water was dyed red with his blood. The steamer came to a standstill, and her stem was examined. It was found to have escaped injury, but the steering gear was slightly damaged. This was soon repaired, and the Newport proceeded, but the passengers were not so delighted with the whales as they had been before the shock. The sight of the monster's head as it shot upward from the water had been anything but pleasant to them. Ten minutes after the vessel started up there was another and a heavier shock, which almost threw the passengers from their feet. Another whale had been cut in two. The body of this animal passed under the vessel and struck the propeller with great violence. The engineer rushed on deck, imagining that the ship had struck a submerged wreck. Capt. Sandberg ordered the course of the steamer changed, and she soon ran out of the troublesome whales.

Morsels for Sunday Contemplation.

All things are artificial for Nature is the art of God.

The firmest friendships have been formed in mutual adversity, as iron is most strongly united by the fiercest flame.

If you dissemble sometimes your knowledge of that you are thought to know, you shall be thought another time to know what you know not.

The world usually pushes a man the way he makes up his mind to go. If going up, they push him up; if going down, they push him down—gravitation, however, making the speed greater on the decline.

Yet even in the Old Testament, if you listen to David's harp, you shall hear as many hearse-like airs as carols; and the pencil of the Holy Ghost hath labored more in describing the afflictions of Job than the felicities of Solomon.

We see in needle-works and embroideries, it is more pleasing to have a lively work upon a sad and solemn ground, than to have a dark and melancholy work upon a lightsome ground; judge, therefore, of the pleasure of the heart by the pleasure of the eye.

Affected despatch is one of the most dangerous things to business that can be. It is like that which the physicians call predigestion, or hasty digestion, which is sure to fill the body full of crudities and secret seeds of disease.

He that questions much shall learn much and content much; but especially if happily his questions to the end of the persons whom he asketh; for he shall give the occasion to please themselves in speaking, and himself shall continually gather knowledge.

Dinner Invitations and Etiquette.

The Queen.

As society is now constituted, persons who are strangers to each other are not authorized to consider themselves acquainted, from the mere fact of having dined at the same table, and having been included in the same dinner party, unless introduced by either the host or hostess; and, all things considered, this is a very wise restriction, and prevents an acquaintanceship being thrust upon one to whom it may be unwelcome. When making up a dinner party a hostess is often obliged to invite those who are quite congenial to each other, and, though a few remarks may pass between neighbors at a dinner-table during dinner, and again in the drawing-room after dinner, yet they are not quite at liberty, should they meet on any subsequent occasion, to pass each other without recognition of any kind. This is a mantle of protection which etiquette offers to those who do not wish to know each other, or to one who does not wish to know another. It is to avoid such *contretemps* as these, viz., the *rapprochement* of those who are not likely to get on well together, that causes a hostess to take such infinite care when inviting guests to dinner. In the first place, she endeavors, as far as possible, to invite those who are already known to each other, or those who would be glad to meet each other, and whom she would have pleasure in introducing. An experienced hostess makes a point of introducing such guests to each other, either before or after dinner. General introductions at large dinner parties are not made, but individual introductions are, as a matter of course; but it often happens that there is very little time given to a hostess in which to make introductions before dinner. The guests probably arrive at the same moment, or they follow each other in such quick succession, that, beyond shaking hands with them, she has little opportunity of doing anything further before dinner is served. When people strangers to each other are sent in to dinner, the hostess introduces them when sending them in to dinner, or previously if occasion offers. A hostess, accustomed to making introductions, does so in such a quiet, well-bred manner as to divest the act of anything like formality or undue *empressement*. There are many dinner parties in town where not a single introduction is made; the hostess has so cleverly assorted her guests, and has been so fortunate in her acceptances, that she has succeeded in getting together the very people she most desired to secure when sending out her invitations. Her principal guests are more or less known to each other, and even the lesser lights number an acquaintance or two amongst the party. Again, there are certain sets in society where very few introductions are made, save to the intimate friends of the hosters, to whom she can say, "I thought you would not mind knowing Mrs. A., so I introduced her to you the other evening;" or, "I hope you did not mind my introducing Mrs. A. to you the other evening; I see a good deal of her and I like her," &c. In these sets ladies do not care to make introductions, and prefer not to take the responsibility of making people acquainted who would not get on well together. These houses are not the pleasantest at which to dine, save to members of the set in question.

When young ladies are asked with their parents it is then only in proportion of two to twelve or sixteen guests, and the eldest daughter is the one generally asked. When parents wish to take a second daughter in place of the eldest they do so, and explain to the hostess that they have ventured to bring Blanche instead of Éveline; but the eldest daughter invariably accompanies her mother, and her place is yielded rather in the case of a dance than of a dinner party.

Invitations to dinner are often refused on the grounds that guests are staying in the house; but when the guests are relatives or young ladies, it is not necessary to decline on their account, but merely to mention an invitation a day or two previous to a dinner party. When a hostess has a party of guests staying in her house, she generally asks three or four people to dine each succeeding night, to vary the house party, and to change the order of going in to dinner; besides which, it is agreeable to the country people to be asked to meet other than those who are resident in it, although the principal houses are generally filled with guests about the same time of the year, and for the same reasons; and thus the brightest representatives of country society cannot be asked to dinner, because the hostess is aware that they too have people with them.

People in town often give what is termed by men a "scratch" dinner party. Friends or relatives of a host and hostess who are passing through town must be asked to dinner, and some one must be asked to meet them, and who can be got at a moment's notice. One resource is to invite other friends who may also be passing through the town, in addition to resident relations. These impromptu dinner parties are often a great success, as far as the guests are concerned, although they may have given a hostess no little trouble in getting them up. She may have written twelve invitations, and have only received three acceptances. Sometimes she gets a vague answer, such as, "I will see what I can do; I am afraid I cannot promise; I will leave it open if I may." A hostess, not caring to depend solely upon so dubious an acceptance, perhaps asks some one whom she would not have chosen to meet the guest whose appearance was so uncertain, but who appears, nevertheless, at her house on the given evening.

Journalists' Prayer.

There is just at present a particularly animated discussion going on as to the province and efficacy of prayer.

It is very easy for unbelievers to ridicule prayer. They say—"Does it rain when you pray for rain?" "Does it stop raining when you pray for sunshine?"

Then they laugh at the idea that a universe which is manifestly governed by general laws should be influenced by special prayers.

In reply to all this it may be stated that all spiritual and religious affairs are developed in mystery. We see them as through a glass, darkly.

But what seems to us a very powerful argument in favor of prayer, and, indeed, unanswerable, is the universal instinct to fall down before a higher power and petition for help and relief under afflictions for which there is no human remedy.

By the death-bed of our beloved who would not pray?

Then it will not do to make light of prayer—to attempt to ridicule the whole world on its knees; alike saint and sinner—the revered pastor and the pirate in a storm—supplicate the same God for forgiveness and preservation.

This was written by the lawyer and journalist, William A. Bartlett, who died a few days later. The article was read at his funeral by Bishop Clark as evidence of the religious feeling of the deceased.

The ripeness or ruinousness of the occasion must ever be well weighted; and generally it is good to commit the beginning of all great actions to Argus with his hundred eyes, and the ends to Briareus with his hundred hands—first to watch, and then to speed.

Notes.

Ostrich plumes ornament dresses as much as bonnets.

Hussar jackets of scarlet cloth, adorned with military braid and tiny gold buttons, are worn by girls in their teens.

Very handsome silk circulars, trimmed with fur, can be bought for $50. This reduction is caused by the greater popularity of the dolman.

Exquisite toilets are made of silk de champagne satin, embroidered with chrysanthemums and leaves, and combined with pale primrose velvet.

Mother Hubbard bonnets of [illegible] green beaver or plush, trimmed with [illegible] ostrich plumes, a shade darker, [illegible] antique gold buckles, are exceedingly becoming to blondes.

Autumn costumes of dark green cloth are trimmed with many rows of fine gold braid, put on straight. The first effect is very good, but the glitter of the tinsel soon wears off, and then the effect is very dull and dingy.

Alphonse Daudet says of his wife that "she is an artist herself. There is not a page which I have written that she has not seen and retouched, whereon she has not thrown her delicate powder of blue and gold."

Kittens' and monkeys' heads are rivalling the autumn owl in popularity. They are seen upon the outside of new plush and beaver muffs, made up envelope fashion. New gilt buttons also show the faces of both the monkey and the English colley in brilliant enamel.

Handsome cloak clasps to fasten a coat of dark green plush or velvet are made of aqua marine and mock emeralds; and for coats of a dark wine color are star buttons set with imitation rubies. These coats are fastened by silk cords which wind around the buttons, reaching from the throat to about an inch below the waist line.

England's blind Postmaster-General, who wins golden opinions even from Tories, has scored another success. You can now write a telegram on ordinary note paper, stick on postage stamps sufficient to pay it, and put it in a street post box, and it will be sent so soon as the box is emptied.

Party and ball dresses are imported having no sleeves to speak of. Sometimes a narrow band adorned with garniture corresponding with that upon the skirt is seen. Solid "pearl sleeves" about four inches in length are much in vogue, and with them, to correspond, is worn a Medici collar made of the same beads. These are very effective with evening toilets of white surah or satin.

Entire evening dresses are made of pale-tinted plush, which are most generally cut princess style, with long panels of the same goods faced with delicate gold color, or with a shade of satin several hues darker than that composing the dress. These panels and other portions of the dress are otherwise trimmed with soft frills of costly white lace, and large satin bows placed here and there upon the skirt.

A very stylish evening dress, intended for a bride, is of doe-brown satin, worked up to the front in a set pattern, with gold and shaded brown beads. All around the skirt are placed bias two-inch shirred bands of alternating dark and light brown satin, put on perpendicularly, with a finger-length of space between each cluster of bands. The corsage is a deep-pointed cuirass of chestnut brown satin, with a wide falling collar and deep cuffs of the paler shade, embroidered with beads matching the skirt-front garniture.

The assertion made by one or two fashion writers, early in the year, has proved true—namely, that the return to crinoline was inevitable. Slowly but surely, it is looming up in increasing proportions. The small bustle was long since replaced by a much larger one, and now the full crinolette, reaching from the belt to the foot of the skirt in the back, is seen, and it is to be feared that fashion will stop short of nothing but that hideous rotundity which Leigh Hunt calls "less an habiliment than an inclosure."

Tea in Japan.

The firing and preparation of tea for market, as practised in Japan, is as follows: The Japanese green tea may be divided into three general classes; colored, uncolored, and basket-fired. The leaf from all these are from the same plant, different only in quality, condition, &c. All teas used by foreigners are first fired by the natives, in the places where grown. If a grade of colored tea is to be made this fired leaf (four or five pounds) is taken and put into iron pans or bowls, which are heated sometimes up to temperature of 212° Fahrenheit. The leaves are then rapidly stirred by hand against the smooth iron surfaces some 20 minutes. A teaspoonful of thoroughly pulverized soapstone (saponite) and five grains, or so, of powdered Chinese indigo are placed in the pan, and thoroughly rubbed into the leaf for about 20 minutes more, when a half-teaspoonful of soapstone or gypsum and pulverized tamarack bark (a species of larch) is added, and the stirring and rubbing is continued for 20 minutes more. It is then put into cold pans and simply cold rubbed against the iron surfaces until it has the required polish, which is arrived at in from 40 minutes to an hour. This is the ordinary way of preparing colored tea. Other materials are perhaps sometimes used, but, so far as I can learn, all are as harmless as those mentioned. The different manufactures, of course, vary the process a little now and then to produce slight changes of color. The leaf is then run through three to five sizes of sieves, till all the dust and loose coloring matter is separated. The shrinkage is about 12 per cent. This coloring process is considered beneficial to the leaf, tending to preserve its shape and color. There can be no doubt that the Japanese prepared teas are far superior in purity to the Chinese. In coloring Chinese teas various drugs are used that are deleterious to health, unless it be that the heat to which they are subjected render them innocuous. Prussian blue is frequently used instead of indigo in their green, and black leaf in their black teas. Uncolored teas are made in the same way and quantities, and rubbed against the iron pans until the surfaces have the desired polish, and are then sifted until nothing but the whole leaves are left. Basket firing is done in bamboo baskets, shaped something like our hour-glasses, which are shaken over hot pans. The leaf is put into the upper lobe of the basket and worked into the lower, and so, back and forth, until finished. The loss of weight is about 3 per cent.

When the Plumbers First Began It.

The ordinances of the plumbers, approved by the Mayor and Aldermen of London in the thirteenth year of Edward III., ordain "that every one of the trade shall do his work well and lawfully, and that for working a clove of lead for gutters or for roofs of houses he shall take only 1d., and for working a clove for furnaces, belfrys, and conduit pipes, 1d. Also, that no one for any singular profit shall engross lead coming to the said city for sale, to the damage of the commonalty, but that all persons of the said trade, as well