#### A BURNING COAL MINE.

### Startling Cavings-in at Albion Lines, Nova Seotia.

The folks living in the back row of houses at the cage pit got a great fright recently. Not many yards from the house a noise, as of an explosion was heard. It was at once discovered that a heavy fall-in had taken place, and the earth had opened out like the jaws of some huge monster. Suddenly flames burst forth, shooting up in the air as high as forty fect, it is said, and passing close to and over Mr. Reid's barn. The tenants in the row were greatly alarmed and at once commenced preparations for flight. Farniture of all kinds were unceremonious ly bundled out of doors and conveyed to a row of houses luckily for them unoccupied (and unfinished) at the time. On Wednes-day the flames had subsided but not the day the flames had subsided but het the fears of the people, and they did not return, and luckily for them they did not. On Fri-day night a large cave-in took place imme-diately under the houses rending them asunder. They are now a lot of ruins being contorted in all shapes. The kitchen at-tached it the house couplied by Mr. Hord tached to the house occupied by Mr. Hood, went bodily out of sight. Mr. Hood los-ing a valuable cupboard and some ten bush-els of potatoes, and other articles. We had a peep into the house, but didn't presume to go much farther than the threshold, as the ground from the centre of the house to the side had been carried down. Before us was a yawning gulf : we peered into it but could not see a vestige of either the house, the cupboard, or the potatoes. They were lost in the capacious maw. Looking across the hole one could see that the ground was undermined in some places where the surface was intact. A frozen crust about a foot thick stretched from one side to the other but which would likely have given way hal any one been rash enough to step upon it. Seven cr eight heavy falls have occurred in all. Out of only two, however, did either much flame or black smoke issue. The fire was well under on Friday, the operation of filling up the apertures, which gave it vent, having been prosecuted vigorously and successfully. The railway for about a distance of one hundred and fifty feet sunk from three to five feet, and double that distance settled a little. On Tuesday the rails were torn up and the work of raising the track was at once bogun. The work was most energetically proceeded with, and the re-laying of rails commenced on Saturday. This was speedy work, considering the earth for filling up, being frozen, had to be blast-od. The track has been raised higher than formerly, to make allowance in case it should settle a little more. On Sabbath the scene of the fire was visited by a large number of people. Fresh smoke had begun to issue from a fall to the west of the one which had emitted the most fiame. Evidently the current of air had changed, the former outlet acting as an iulet and feeding the flames. Here any one with nerve enough had an opportunity of seeing how the fire acted. While the ground had fall-en in on either side a pillar about seven or eight feet square remained, forming a bridge across the chosm. By venturing on the bridge one could hear the flames below roarig, and looking down could see away below the immense furnace blazing and sparkling. Large pieces of coal loosened by the heat wore constantly dropping from the sides and roof and feeding the flames. It is generally believed that the fire is confined to the working nearest the crop out or surface. --- Stel'arton Trades' Journal.

## The Price of a Burglar's Kit.

Bank burglars' tools are generally of a very superior order, gathered with care and piecemeal until the kit is made up. A full kit of the best order is worth \$2,000. This may all go in the event of a failure of a job by disturbance, and generally does go when a successful piece of work is accomplished, as the booty is heavy enough to carry away in itself, so that tools are left behind. Mechanics of a superior class exist in larger cities who make a specialty of fashioning burglars' tools. In the absence of such a mechanic the tools are collected in parts, but as this is a risky way of o staining them. it is avoided if possible. Kits of tobyman's tools are kept on hand for hire, and a good collection can be obtained in the centros of business for from \$100 to \$200. These tool renters are generally tool makers also, but often the fence has them on hand, and it is part of the business of the old cracksmen to keep them. Fifty per cent. of the noted burglars are practical smiths, and thoroughly understand the temper and capacity of their own tools. Sometimes a gang, each owning implements of various kinds, pool their possessions, and thus make a full "kit." The tool makers have their specialtics. Some are famous for chisels, others for punches and jimmies. and one maker made a national reputation for a sledge of lead and copper that entirely supersciled that formerly used of steel, be-cause of the dull, almost noiseless, blow it strikes.

Twenty years ago a man moved away fsom Philadelphia, leaving \$650 on deposit n a savings bank. Some time afterward his brother-in-law swore that he was dead. procured letters of administration, and drew the money. Now the original de-positor turns up and wants to, close up the account for himself.

PITHY PARAGRAPHS.

According to a return issued a few days ago, the value of the Irish harvest last year was nearly six million of peunds sterling less than that of the crops of 1881, four-fiths of the depreciation being caused by the failure in the potato crop. The harvest of 1882 was, however, nearly six millions more than that of 1879, which was the worst season since the famine year.

Mr. Sherman and Mr. Hazard own handsome adjoining grounds at Newport, and they quarrelled about a boundary fence. Mr. Hazard set to work to destroy it with a crowbar. Mr. Sherman hastily got out a hose, and threw a stream of cold water on his foc. A crow of spectators gathered, and Mr. Hazard was encouraged to complete the job despite the drenching.

A man in St. Louis became convinced that his soul's salvation depended on ab-staining from food forty days, and he at once began the fast, but after five days of total abstinence from food and water the police carried him to a hospital, where sus-tenance was forced upon him. He declares that the responsibility is all transferred to his captors, who will be doomed to eternal torment in his stead.

Mrs. Augustus Smith of St. Louis is one of the lightest of sleepers. She is awake twenty-two hours out of every day on the average, and when she does slumber it is scarcely more than a doze during which she is partially conscious of all that is going on around her. She is strong and healthy, with a good appetite, and not particularly nervous. The physicians are unable to bring on sleepiness except with drugs.

A military man and a civil official fellout, at Rosenberg, West Prussia, and the form-er issued a challenge for a duel, but the atter replied: "As you are expert with weapons and I am not, I shall doubtless be killed. Still, I will fight you if you will bind yourself to pay my family \$1,500 a year during their lives, that being the in-come which would cease at my death." come which would cease at my death." These terms were pronounced reasonable by the seconds, but the challenger would not agree to them, and so there was no duel.

A Maine man has perfected an invention for starting the kitchen fire in the morning without getting out of bed. Before retireing he empties a hod of coal into the range, and then closes the dampers, so that there will be just draught enough to keep the fire from dying out. By an ingenious con-trivance a wire connects with the dampers and runs along the walls up through the floor to the sleeping room. When the man wakes he gives the wire a jerk, the dampers fly open, and in half an hour a brisk coal fire is burning.

The white cliffs on which Dover Castle stands are the last objects which the traveller loses sight of on his way to Calais, and the first object which his eyes discover on his return journey homeward. The buildings themselves are a standing witness of every change in English history, from the occupation by the Romans to the present reign. Both cliff and castle, it might have been confidently prophesied, would last as long as the Euglish nation itself, but the cliffs are now being undermined by the action of the sea. The waves have for many years been gradually washing away the coast line on both sides of Shakespeare's Cliff, and they now threaten to carry away the base of the Castle of Dover.

#### Irish Wit.

An Irish priest was standing at the corner of a square about the hour of dinner. when one of his countrymen, observing the worthy father in perplexity, thus addressed him :

"Oh, Father O'Leary, how is your rivir-

ence?" "Mightily put out, Pat," was the reply. "Put out! Who'd put out your rivir-

### SANITARY SCHOOL HOUSES.

New Conclusions of a Gorman Medical Commission.

onto.

A medical commission, which was appointed not long ago in Germany to study certain questions relating to the construction of school buildings, has made an interesting report, a step in advance in that branch of science. In the matter of ventilation we find that the members of the commission agree with all the other experts who have investigated the subject, in increasing the quantity of fresn air which is to be regarded as essential to health. It is but a short time since a thousand feet of air per hour for each pupil was regarded as an extremely liberal theoretical allowance for healthy children, and in practice in this country, at least, a room in which a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet per hour is actually supplied to each person is regarded as ad-mirably ventilated. Now, however, those who have long submitted to be accused of foolish extravagance in insisting that this is an inadequate allowance may cite the authority of the German doctors, who set two thousand one hundred and twenty cubic feet per hour for each pupil as the minimum quantity of fresh air to be supplied. In the best arranged ventilated shafts, of metal, fitted with ges flames, stoves, or other artificial means for promoting the draught, the upward current will occasionally reach a velocity of a thousand feet per minute in cold weather, although the average is rarely more than five hundred feet and generally much less; so that a room containing sixty pupils shoul have an outlet shaft of four square feet or more in sectional area to be even capable of such ventilation as pronounced essential. In regard to lig t-ing, the new commission totally denies and rejects the famous theory of unilateral illumination, following in this respect the French authorities, who began to call it in question a year or so ago. In the language of the report, it is practically impossible, even with lofty and narrow rooms, to obtain sufficient light by this method. In cases where openings can only be made in one wall, the report requires that the width of of the piers between the windows shall not exceed three-fourths of that of the windows themselves, and that the width of the room shall not be more than five feet greater than the heighth of the windows, which would restrict it in such cases to about eighteen feet as a maximum. Lighting from two sides being then required under all ordinary circumstances, it is advised that the windows should be it the opposite walls, on the right and left of the pupils as scated. Light from the rear is admissible, but it is not recommended, and windows facing the pupils are prohibited. Walls of neighboring buildings painted white and reflecting the sunshine into the schoolroom are very injurious, and the owners should be persuaded or obliged to paint them a dark color. The inside face of the walls of the school-room itself is to be painted pale blue or bluish white, and the ceiling pure white. Artificial light should be used without hesitation on dark or short days, it is more dangerous to work by insufficient daylight than by gaslight. Argand bnrners are preferable, as giving a steadier light, and ground glass globes are objectionable on account of the large proportion of light which they absorb. -- American Architect.

## Three Women Caught by One Trap.

At the residence of one of our highly respectable families, a trap had been set on a remote shelf some time ago, for the purpose of catching an intruding cat which was in the habit of visiting that locality, and had been entirely forgotten. The mistress of the house, wishing something which was supposed to be on that shelf, reached up, and immediately the trap closed upon her fingers. She made an effort to extricate them, but to no avail, and the pain was so intense that she was obliged to scream for help. A servant immediately appear-ed, and in her endeavors to extricate her mistress's hand accidentally enclosed herown fingers, causing the two to scream for help. A younger member of the house, hearing the screams, rushed fo the place, seized the trap, made a desperate attempt to extricate the tingers of the other two, when her own hand accidentally slid into

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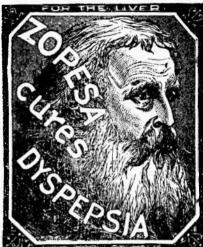
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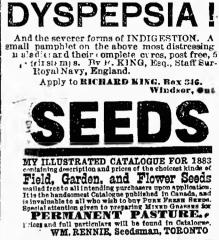
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Public Letter-writers.

One street-sight that interests me specially is the public letter-writer, who still plics his trade as in the old, old days of which I read so long ago. I had quite forgotten there were such people, but one morning, as we were trying to find a short cut to the Pantheon, we came suddenly into a quiet little open square round which were established seven men, each with his table and writing materials, waiting for customers. Of course I insisted on waiting to see whether people did really engage in this vicarious style of correspondence, and I was quickly gratified by the arrival at one table of an aged woman, and at another of a young girl who gave the scribe their sentiments and their soldi, and sat watching his slow moving fingers with evideut satisfaction.

#### Not In.

"Is your father in?" asked an Austin lardlord in search of back rent. The little boy who was sitting on the steps devasting a large slice of bread and butter, replied between bites :

No, he ain't in town."

"Suppose you go in and : sk him if he ain't in

"He ain't awake yet."

"Ah, you don't understand. This is just it: I am invited to dine at one of the houses in the square, and 1 have forgotten the name, and 1 never looked at the numbe, and now it's seven c'clock." "Oh, is that all ?" was the cry. "Just

now be aisy, your rivirence ; I'll settle that for you.

saying, away flew the good-natured Irishman round the square, glancing at the kitchens, and when he discovered a firo that denoted hospitality, he thundered at the dcor and enquired : 'Is Father O'Leary here?"

As might be expected, again and again he was repulsed. At length an angry footman exclaimed : "No; bother on Father O'Leary. He is

not here, but he has to dine here to-day, and the cook is in a rage, and says the din-ner will be spoiled. All is waiting for Father O'Leary."

Paddy, leaping from the door as if the steps had been on fire, rushed up to the as-

tonished pastor and oried:
"All right, your rivirence, you dine at
43, and a mighty good dinner you'll get."
"Oh, Pat," said the grateful pastor, "the
blessings of a hungry may be upon you."

"Long life and happinoss to your rivir-ence. I have got your malady. I only wish I had your cure," returned Pat.

#### The World's Railroads.

Of the 249,590 miles of railroads at the close of 1881, North and South America are credited with 132,186 miles; Europe, 108,002; Asia, 10,674; Australia and ad-jacent islands, 5,481; Africa, 3,147. The United States led all other countries many fold, it having at that time 104,831 miles of completed road. The second country in extent of railroad is Germany, which had 21,446; Great Britian comes next, with 18,281, Russia has 14,779 miles. The United States at the close of 1881 had within 4 000 miles as much railroad as all of Europe. The total footing for the year will be not less than 12,000 miles. In less than three years there will be as many or more miles of railroad in the United States, as in all the rest of the world besides.

the trap. and all three were fast. Their united voices called to their aid a gentleman who opened the trap. - Utica Observer.

## A Juror's Excuse.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, in London, the other day, before Mr. Justice Manisty and a common jury, the court was alter lunch delayed for a short time waiting for a missing juryman. His lordship had to pro-ceel with only eleven jurors. On the jurycce i with only eleven jurors. On the jury-man arriving in court his lordship asked him why he had delayed the business by his absence for half an hour, to which he re-plied, "I lost myself, my lord, in the corri-dors." [Laughter.] His lordship having pointed out the inconvenience caused by the delay, the juryman replied, I can do no more than apologize, my lord." His lord-ship rejoined that he hoped it would not happen again.

#### Important Proclamation.

The Hon. Peter Bowe is Sheriff of the City and County of New York. Recently, in conversation with one of our reporters, Mr. Bowe proclaimed the following fact : "I consider St. Jacobs Oil an excellent remedy, and one that ought certainly to find its way into every household. Mrs. Bowe always has a bottle of it there, and makes a family remedy of it."-New York Evening Telegram.\*\*\*\*\*\*

An Illinois butcher slaughtered a cow that had swallowed a bundle of Greenbacks, and for several days afterward he was subjected to great torture in consequence of being asked by almost every person he met as to what was likely to be the effect of legal tenders on tenderloin.

tenders on tenderioin. Extract from a letter just received (December. 1882) by Mrs. Thos. Murray, from her hus-band, Mr. Thos. Murray, who was for many years' Bridge Conductor for the Great West-orn Railway at Niagara Falls, afterwards one of the contractors on the enlarged Wel-land Canal (section 12), and is now in North-ern Michigan, looking atter his timber inter-ests in that country. He writes: "Tell Sutherland I am now starting for the woods with 36 men, where I will be all winter, and that I am now without ache or pain in either my knees or arms (something I have not known for years), thanks to the two bottles of Rheumatine which I procured from him be-fore leaving St. Catharines.





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