

READABLE ITEMS.

An Old, Organist—Submarine Miners—In a Bear Pit—Public Libraries in Europe—Russian Cemetery at Sebastopol, &c., &c.

Some months ago a champagne house at Epernay offered prizes for the five best poems on champagne. No fewer than 1,000 poems were sent in.

For seventy-four years the present organist of St. Michael's Church, Coventry, England, has held that position—longer, perhaps, than any person has ever held a similar position before.

It has recently been proposed to prevent petroleum fires by placing a bottle of ammonia in each barrel of the oil; on ignition, by accident or otherwise, the bottle would break, and the effect of the ammoniacal vapors would be to extinguish the fires.

The late Empress Maria Anna of Austria bequeathed a rare and valuable legacy to the treasury of the Dom of Prague, consisting of a magnificent bouquet of thirteen golden roses in a golden vase of old Roman workmanship. The vase stands on a square pedestal, likewise of pure gold.

A corps of submarine miners is in the course of formation at the School of Engineering, Chatham, England. The special duty of this new body of men will be the laying of mines under water for purposes of coast defence. Recruits for this new branch of the service are drawn mainly from the fishing districts. No less than three vessels are undergoing alterations to fit them for the work.

The City of Brussels proposes to try the experiment of using electricity to drive its street cars. One line—that of the Rue de la Loi—is to be equipped with motors, and separate accounts are to be kept, in order to ascertain definitely the cost of the running, as compared with the use of horses. The test is to last for one year, and then, should the result warrant it, electricity will be employed exclusively on the street railways of Brussels.

The French Senatorial Committee on Petitions has unanimously decided on recommending the Government to take steps for the suppression of the Monte Carlo scandal, as urged by an influential Riviers memorial. The movement against the gaming tables has had the effect of holding in abeyance a scheme for converting the concern into a company, with a capital of \$12,000,000, which sum was to be extracted mainly from French investors.

A workman fell over the wall of one of the bear pits in the Jardin des Plantes, Paris, and lay insensible with a bleeding wound in his head. The visitors at once tried to divert the attention of the bears by throwing pieces of bread among them, but one of the beasts walked leisurely to the wounded man and began to lick up his blood. Amid intense excitement the keepers arrived, threw a rope into the pit, and tried to drive the bear off by punching him with sticks. Happily the injured man meanwhile had regained his senses, and presently clutched the rope and was drawn aloft, much to the irritation of the beast, which made no effort to conceal his disappointment.

There died recently in a miserable lodging in Strasburg, Germany, an old man who had valuable to the extent of \$600,000 wrapped up in his pocket, yet was unable to spend any of it for his comfort. It was the diamond belonging to Queen Victoria, and valued at that sum, which was stolen from a jeweller's shop in London in 1866, and the jewel was so well known that he dared not offer it for sale. He confessed himself the thief. This is a rare exception which marks the rule that a man must steal large amounts if he would escape the terrors of the law.

The skirmishing drill of the Third Dragoons and Fifteenth Hussars in the recent London tournament is regarded as an idea which may have important developments. Both regiments have practised, though in different ways, the principles of Rarey, and applied them to an object never dreamt of before. The troopers have trained their horses to lie down and remain in that position, even when volleys are fired over them. At a signal they rise, man and horse together, ready to gallop off without a moment's pause. A dozen men and horses may thus lie hidden behind a bank, or in ambush, until the unsuspecting enemy comes within fifty yards.

In a recent speech Cardinal Manning remarked that he was looking with much anxiety at the changes that were going on in his country. There was a time when the master and the man lived on the estate, and differently to what they did now. There was a time when patriarchal care, feeling of human sympathy, of human happiness and of human service prevailed. There had, nowadays, grown up a new world—a world of money, of commerce, of manufacture, and a relationship between master and man that, unlike that of the time past, was not one of sympathy, or benevolence, or patriarchal care, but a relationship of so many shillings per week, paid on the Friday or Saturday. It would be well if this relationship, even in a degree of confidence, affection, and service, could be restored.

A scheme to make up the deficiency in the French budget is that of a decrease in civil service salaries. In this event the minor officials would be well nigh pauperized, unless possessed of private means. In the ministries, and at the Hotel de Ville, a bachelor of arts, on whose education his family have spent about \$2,000, begins at sixty cents a day. If he manages to pass the examination and has a little influence besides, he often reaches to \$300 per annum, from which is to be deducted a small sum for a provident fund. A Post Office clerk, when not on duty in answering imbecile questions from the most ignorant public in the world in all that relates to practical matters, has to sort and to stamp something like 1,500 or 2,000 letters per day. In Paris he has the magnificent salary of between \$450 and \$600.

There are over 1,000 public libraries in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, twenty of which contain more than 100,000 volumes. In Great Britain there are only nine that contain 100,000 volumes, and in France six. Spain has, all told, 30 public libraries, containing 700,000 volumes, of which 220,000 are in the library at Madrid. The library at Washington contains 513,000 volumes and 170,000 pamphlets, and there are but five larger libraries in the world: The French National library, with 2,300,000 volumes; the British Museum, with 1,500,000; the

Royal library at St. Petersburg, with 1,000,000; that at Munich, with 900,000, and that at Berlin with 750,000 books.

Mr. Edgar Vincent, the brother of Howard Vincent, the recently retired chief of the London Detective Department, is regarded as the handsomest man in England. He is six feet three inches in height and of splendid proportions. He is also of remarkable ability, having carried everything before him in his university career, and been sent when only 24 to fill the difficult post of Director of Finance in Egypt. Gladys, Lady Lonsdale, the celebrated beauty, to whom he is to be wedded in August, is equally tall as a woman, measuring six feet. The father of the Vincents, Sir Frederick, is a clergyman of the Church of England.

Mr. Vriquet, a smart young Parisian thief, finding himself discovered when intent on lead stealing, promptly entered a house by a skylight and requested a young work woman at her sewing machine to save him. "I'll sit here and peel these potatoes, and when the police come they will conclude that I am your lover." At this interesting juncture the police came, and one collared him on "spec," exclaiming, "Got you at last, my boy." "You hear, my pet," said Vriquet; "these gentlemen, mistake me for some other fellow." Miss Melaine, however, who was not fascinated with her impromptu adorer, maintained an ominous silence, and the would-be lover was led off to jail.

The Russian cemetery at Sebastopol would be considered a handsome necropolis anywhere. The men are laid away in batches in great graves, but the officers lie in separate ones. The tombs in many instances are veritable monuments. Among them are a column and bust over the remains of Prince Gortchakoff, Commander in Chief of the Russian forces in the Crimea, who died in Warsaw in 1861, but who "desired to be buried amid those defenders of their country who did not permit the enemy to enter their fatherland further than where their graves stand." But the most conspicuous object in the cemetery is a magnificent memorial chapel of granite, marble, and bronze, in the form of a pyramid, over 100 feet high, the walls of which, inside and out, are covered with the names of all who took part in the defence of Sebastopol and for whom prayers are daily offered up.

Stay on the Farm.

The disposition of so many young men to leave the farm and come to the city is not creditable to their intelligences. Every city in the country is overcrowded with this class of helpless young men. They grow up on the farms with no idea of the trials and temptations that beset their class in the large cities. They think they can live in the cities without the trial and drudgery they say is a part of farm life. There are many ways of living in a city, but there is but one honorable way, and that is surmounted with as many trials and hardships as earning one's living on the farm, and that is, to earn it honestly. A young man without a trade will find he has to work harder to make both ends meet in the city than on a farm.

The young man who thinks the world owes him a living and that the obligation will be cancelled in the cities, makes a mistake that is often learned too late. There is no more room for idlers in the city than on the farm. The criminal class receives some of its most vicious recruits from young men who thought they were too smart to be farmers, come to the city, found they had made a mistake, dropped into bad company, and will end their lives on the scaffold or in the penitentiary.

No, young man, you are not too smart for the farm. The smartest man that ever lived hadn't sense enough to reach perfection in farming. Be independent. While there is always something to do on a well-regulated farm, if you have a leisure moment, use it in study or selling the many kinds of goods you will find that are especially made for your benefit. You can always find something to do if you want to work. If you don't, we have no time to reason with you.

An Egyptian Breakfast.

We went to breakfast with Princess Manseur, the Khedive's sister. The meal was of a most elaborate description, consisting of many courses and partaking more of the character of a dinner than a breakfast, or rather *dejeuner*. The dining-room was luxuriously furnished. In the centre was a large circular velvet carpet, embroidered with gold, on which stood an octagonal table, covered with an embroidered velvet cloth, on which the breakfast service, including napkins worked with gold thread, was arranged in the European fashion, a vacant place being left in the middle for the silver plateaux containing the successive courses. As affording some idea of the resources of Cairene culinary art, it may perhaps be mentioned that we were offered in the following order soup, roast turkey, calves' head stuffed with forcemeat, pillau of rice and raisins, macaroni cheese, kabobs of mutton on skewers, asparagus *a la hulle*, pancakes, cream rice tart, pastry and jam, milk of almonds in a bowl, with pistachio nuts, eaten with tortoise shell spoons, and cheese, followed by dessert, with ices and little cakes, and ending with coffee, which was served in another room. On the table itself were several varieties of *hors d'oeuvre*, such as anchovies, olives, potted meats, a sort of bitter white sauce, and clotted cream. Champagne and other wines were handed round. The party consisted of eight persons, and the entire meal was served within 40 minutes—remarkably quick work, considering the length of the menu. Each guest was provided with a beautifully embroidered Turkish towel, and water was brought to us in large silver basins after dinner to wash our hands in.

If woman's dress does not sensibly approximate to man's, in spite of reformers' efforts, the names of its component parts do. What with "ladies'" "coats," "vests," and "pants," the most sensitive modesty cannot be offended. It is a pity dry-goods stores will not extend this regard for women's feelings far enough to pulp female clerks on their counters of "ladies'" underclothing. Women resent deeply the having to inquire about the fit and condition of such articles from male clerks; and yet many stores which employ girls in other departments pick out young men for there, and women trade there because they must. It would pay the ones which have girls at these to advertise the fact freely.

The King of Cambodia and his People.

M. Delaporte, a Lieutenant on board a French war vessel, gives an account of a recent visit to King Norodom of Cambodia. "The royal residence," he says, "is a town in itself. Several thousand people are lodged in the enclosure, all of whom are attached to the service of the King. At the end of the first courtyard, surrounded by different kinds of buildings, stands the European palace, which is quite similar to the dwellings of the rich merchants of Saigon. Behind that, in another enclosure, is the native habitation, gardens, and huts. This is the division set apart for the harem, and is closed to the profane. The mandarins are the most energetic purveyors of the harem. They hope to obtain favor by giving their best-looking daughters to the King. The women are allowed to go out, and, by one of those strange caprices common enough among the monarchs of the East, who are by turns cruel and paternal, they are allowed to marry, the King giving up all his claims at the request of the lovers. But, on the other hand, any attempt to enter the sacred harem surreptitiously is punished with the utmost severity. The first time I visited Cambodia, a young bonze, in high favor at the court, was discovered flirting with one of the prettiest wives of Norodom. The latter, according to the usual custom, ordered the two lovers to be buried alive. The accused, however, escaped the punishment through the intervention of the old queen mother, who is a zealous Buddhist devotee. Since that time it appears that the fair sex have not become wiser, but their punishment has been changed. On returning from our expedition, the King, who had come to visit the chief of the French protectorate, asked for some details as to the European method of executing, or rather shooting, criminals. M. Moura, without attaching much importance to the question, gratified his Majesty's curiosity. But what was our astonishment when two hours afterward we learned that four young women of the harem had been shot in the European military style, and their heads taken off and hung up for the encouragement of the other ladies of the household.

"The King received us cordially, and promised to facilitate to the utmost of his ability our archaeological researches. Afterward he asked for one of our doctors. He was lamed by a recent fall, and it is an article of faith in Cambodia that an infirm or lame king is unfit to govern. He told us in confidence that he was obliged, in conformity with the superstitious customs of his subjects, to consult innumerable quacks, astrologers, and diviners. None of them was able to cure him, and all agreed in imputing to evil spirits the persistence of his trouble. Our doctor immediately placed himself at the disposition of his Majesty. Ceremony required that the august invalid could only be examined through the intermediary of one of his wives, but the doctor convinced him of the insufficiency of this method, and a close examination of the hurt was made and the remedies applied.

"On going out of the palace we found at the door a group of bonzes on their knees, praying for the recovery of the King. Others were going through the streets chanting and singing psalms. Public prayer had been ordered throughout the kingdom. Around the pagodas and in front of every house tall bamboo canes were placed and dressed with ribbons of various colors. Beside the statues of Buddha, at the cross roads and in the interior of the Chinese dwellings, odoriferous torches were kept burning. Trade was suspended. The people appeared outdoors in their holiday costumes. In the evening and late at night the streets were filled with people carrying torches or lanterns. The sounds of the gong and of the tam-tam were mixed with the constant detonations of fire crackers, and the sky was continually streaked with rockets, whose explosions and brilliancy were intended to drive away the bad spirits that were bent on tormenting the sovereign.

"The next day we met a sort of cortege, composed of about twenty natives, who were marching in file, and before whom the crowd of people opened a passage with great respect. This was the escort of the little son of Norodom, who was out for an airing. The child was seated upon the shoulder of a little dignitary of the court. A servant walked behind and shaded him with a parasol. This royal baby was dressed in a silk gown of a brilliant color. He wore a necklace and bracelets, and on his ankles were rings of gold. His hair was shaved, with the exception of a little topknot carefully rolled up on the summit of his skull, and this was surmounted by one of those white jasmine flowers whose sweet perfume the women here prize highly, and they gladly make offerings of it on the altars of Buddha."

CLIFF DWELLERS.

The Remains of Ancient Races in Arizona.

Arizona has a history which has never been written, says a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle. It is only told by the empty irrigating canals, the ruins of populous towns, vacant cliff dwellings, inscribed rocks, and broken pottery found in many parts of the territory. Before the European saw this continent two races had lived and died in Arizona. The earliest people built their houses in valleys that are now deep ravines, and the cliff dwellings that are seen to-day resting in the sides of deep arroyos two hundred feet above the bottom of the gorge once stood upon solid ground, and yet so many years have elapsed since then that now the houses are high and dry and accessible only to hardy climbers. Time has dug away the foundations as well as scarred and chipped the habitations. Between the age of the cliff dwellers and that of the white man come the race who built the canals and farmed the valleys. Dry and parched and barren as a great part of Arizona is to-day, there was a time, of which abundant proof exists, when the valleys were rich and fertile and when great cities were populated by an active, capable, and energetic people. Who were these industrious beings? No one can tell. Toltec or Aztec, black or white, from Egypt or from Peru, none can say. Time has nearly destroyed evidences of their existence. In the lapse of ages their history has grown almost a mythology. What a race they were, though! No farming for them, if you please, on any small scale. They had ditches to bring water to their crops that would astonish the soil-tillers of to-day, and their houses were castles.

Perhaps the most extensive of their ruins now are at a place called Casa Grande, in the Gila river valley, six miles below Florence and five miles south of the river. When first discovered by the Spaniards, in 1540,

the largest building of the group was four stories high and had walls six feet in thickness. A hundred years ago Casa Grande still remained which was 420x260 feet. To-day there is but a suggestion left of the former magnificence of the houses, but one may still see that the walls were made of mud and gravel, held together by a hard cement, and the rooms are still coated with cement. Near Casa Grande are the remains of an irrigating canal which has been traced for forty miles, and which must have watered thousands of acres which to-day are dry, neglected wastes. Miles of these wide canals can be seen scattered over the territory. Everywhere are the evidences of a prehistoric occupation of the land. In building the city of Prescott, workmen unearthed not only household and farming implements, but discovered old foundations as well, and as Arizona is settled and explored there may yet be found more traces of the people who lived and died here, leaving no suggestion as to who they were, where they came from, whither they went. What care we for Pompeii? We have a vaster, richer field in which to search for treasures hid for untold ages.

WOMAN'S MOOD.

A red-headed New York society girl rides a sorrel horse to match her hair.

Don't buy a coach in order to please your wife. It is much cheaper to make her a little sulky.

While it is better to be born lucky than rich, it is better to marry a poor girl with a sweet temper than a rich girl with a red-headed one.

"Frog limbs" is the modest sign displayed in a New York restaurant controlled by a woman.

At marriage the bride always meets her betrothed at the altar with gloves on, but after her marriage she generally handles her husband without gloves.

"I hope your uncle won't give me away," remarked young Augur to Miss Gimlet. "Don't you worry about that. He never gives anything away. He's a pawnbroker."

A Vermont girl, who has married a young man by the name of William, says that she intends no treason in affirming that hereafter she will follow the dictates of her own sweet will.

Maude has come into the garden (of journalism) at last—Miss Maude C. Major, at Norfolk, Neb. Don't know the name of her paper, but "Only a Pansy Blossom" would have been appropriate, or say the Norfolk Narcissus.

A Stock Yards girl was asked this morning, if she had ever been married. "No," she replied with alacrity; "but I've sued seven gentlemen for breach of promise, and feel as though I were just good and ready enough to tackle another."

Mendora Hoffman married the Marquis De Mores, who has large landed interests in the North West. In St. Paul she is the most richly and tastefully dressed woman you will see. On the plains she rides and shoots faultlessly. Galloping over the prairie, an eagle plume in her hat and a rifle slung from her saddle, she is the picture of wild beauty.

How Savages use Hot Springs.

The geysers of New Zealand are found on the North Island, scattered through the area which extends from Tongariro (a semi-active volcanic cone), in about the centre of the island, to the Bay of Plenty. They have long been known to the natives, who have no traditions as to their age, but from time immemorial have used the quiet hot springs to warm their huts and to cook their food. Every hut has its boiler close to the door; bread is baked on large slabs of stone placed over the hottest portions of the ground; and on others, not quite so hot, the lazy recline, wrapped in blankets, enjoying Vulcan's heat. In these respects the Maoris have the advantage over our North American Indians, who have always avoided the Yellowstone region on account of their superstitious fears.

The springs of Savu-Savu on Vanu Levu, in the Feejee Islands, are pseudo-geysers. The latter were owned by an old woman who was captured by a chief in 1863, and cooked in her own springs. Miss C. F. Gordon Cumming, referring to this, says: "She was past 70, and must have been very tough and smoke-dried, but as in her younger days she had been a regular Joan of Arc, leading her tribe to battle, and herself fighting hand to hand with a hatchet, he determined to eat her. So he had her cooked with the sixteen men, and made a great feast, and then to spite the people, before leaving the district, he attempted to choke up all of the springs, in which admirable effort he partially succeeded. These springs were also a favorite place for depositing all superfluous babes, especially girls, who never got much of a welcome. They were popped in alive, like so many lobsters, and treated with quite as little ceremony."—*Popular Science Monthly*.

What a Woman Can Do.

She can say "No," and stick to it for all time. She can also say "No" in such a low, soft voice that it means "Yes." She can sharpen a lead-pencil if you give her plenty of time and plenty of pencils. She can dance all night in a pair of shoes two sizes too small for her, and enjoy every minute of the time. She can pass a display window of a draper's store without stopping—if she is running to catch the train. She can walk half the day with an ailing baby in her arms without once expressing the desire to murder the infant.

She can appreciate a kiss from her husband seventy-five years after the marriage ceremony has taken place. She can suffer abuse and neglect for years, which one touch of kindness or consideration will drive from her recollection. She can go to church, and afterwards tell you what every woman in the congregation had on, and in some rare instances give a faint idea of what the text was. She can look her husband square in the eyes when he tells her some cock-and-bull story about being "detained at the office," without betraying in the least that she knows him to be a colossal liar.

She can—but what's the use? A woman can do anything or everything, and do it well. She can do more in a minute than a man can in an hour, and do it better. She can make the alleged lords of creation bow down to her own sweet will, and they will never know it. Yes, a woman can do everything, with but one exception; she cannot climb a tree.

Origin of the Names of the Days of the Week.

In the museum at Berlin, in the hall devoted to Northern antiquities, they have representations of the idols from which the names of the days of the week are derived. From the idol of the Sun came Sunday. This idol is represented with his face like the sun, holding a burning wheel, with both hands on his breast, signifying his apparent course around the world. The idol of the Moon, from which comes Monday, is habited in a short coat, like a man, but holding the moon in his hands. Taisco, from which comes Tuesday, was one of the most ancient and popular gods of the Germans, and represented in his garments of skin, according to their peculiar manner of clothing; the third day of the week was dedicated to his worship. Woden, from which comes Wednesday, was a valiant prince among the Saxons. His image was prayed to for victory. Thor, from whence comes Thursday, is seated in a bed, with twelve stars above his head, holding a sceptre in his hand. Friga, from whence we have Friday, is represented with a drawn sword in his right hand and a bow in his left. Sater, from which is Saturday, has the appearance of perfect wretchedness. He is thin-visaged, long-haired, with a long beard. He carries a pail of water in his right hand wherein are fruits and flowers.

An Escaped Comet.

During the last four years some comets have paid visits to the ruler of the solar system and displayed their dazzling trains to the admiration of his attendant worlds. Every one of these comets has been remarkable for some unusual or unaccountable conduct. The big comet of 1881 suddenly flitted its streaming tail into the northern hemisphere unannounced and unexpected, and surprised the astronomers at their telescopes as much as it did the milkmen on their early morning visits to the pumps. The comet of 1882 amazed the world by suddenly appearing at broad noon close to the sun, where it soared like a fiery bird with broad wings extended, and as it retreated from the solar system it appeared to be chased by a bevy of little comets to which it had apparently given birth during the terrors of its plunge through the flaming banners of the sun. In 1883 the comet of 1813 reappeared. But the most extraordinary comet of all is the one which was discovered at the Vienna observatory about a month ago. It seems to have been clearly seen, for the observers carefully measured its position among the stars, and it was believed from its place and motions that it was one of the comets of 1858 returning. But after thus showing itself the comet disappeared, and although a battery of telescopes has been brought to bear upon the spot where it appeared, from nearly every observatory in Europe, not a glimpse of the mysterious visitor from the realms of outer space has been caught.

Unexpected Prizes.

An English clergyman obtained an excellent position for having refused preferment offered to him under circumstances derogatory to his dignity. He was a fair singer, and a vulgar plutocrat, who had invited him to dinner, promised to give him a living if he would sing a comic song at dessert. The quiet rebuke which the young clergyman administered made the plutocrat ashamed of himself, so that the next day he proffered the living with a letter of apology; but the living was refused, the clergyman stating that it would be impossible for him to forget the circumstances under which it was first tendered. This was the more honorable, as the clergyman was very badly off. Another patron, hearing of what he had done, appointed him to a benefice as a testimony of his admiration. We may conclude with the story of a man who was suddenly made rich because of his great stupidity. He was the only dull man in a bright witted family, and going to dine with a very wealthy relative who had a horror of fools, he made so many silly remarks that the old man cried out in exasperation: "I must do something for you, for you'll never do anything for yourself. If I don't make a rich man of you, you'll become a laughing stock to the world and a disgrace to your family."

A Novel Revenge.

A maid servant was discharged, but was to remain until the end of her month. She invented a retaliation which has proved the most ingenious and effective of any that ever those involving the perpetrator in danger of punishment. The house had a commanding overlook of a park in which suicides had been committed. The mistress was abnormally affected by anything weird and tragic. So the maid to do her of the suicides, pointed out from the window the spot where this poor fellow had hanged himself, where that one had died by drowning, and where the other had blown his brains away. She added, with a shrug and shudder, that she fancied she could see them 'nights; the ghosts of the self-again hunting the places of their crimes. The old woman was horrified. She could not look at the park, which had previously been a solace to her eyes, without describing the points which the girl had invested with gruesome interest. She has gone to Newport for the summer, and will never return to her home alongside the park.

A Disinfectant.

In cases of diphtheria or other contagious diseases, a German physician recommends a mixture of equal parts, say 40 drops of turpentine and carbolic acid put into a small kettle of water, and allowed to simmer slowly over the fire in the same room with the patient. The atmosphere of the sick room must be kept constantly impregnated with the odor of the substances. In several cases of diphtheria there was no attempt at isolation of the patient, and the mother cared for sick and well without spread of the disease.

Turning White.

We saw on our streets last Saturday evening an old negro woman about 70 years of age, who was at one time a dark ginger cake color, but now has turned white, with the exception of a few liver-colored spots on her face and arms. "Aunt Kitty" says that the remaining spots are disappearing very fast, and if she is spared to live a few years longer it will be one instance to be recorded on the pages of history where a negro was born black and buried white.—*Montezuma Record*.