

## HERE AND THERE.

The muskrat predicted an open winter haan't tumble down so far.

A New Hampshire shoemaker makes squeaky shoes to order, and has all tie work he can do. They are ordered by men who have pews near the pulpit and plan to come in late.

A Paris Judge refused to hear a case against a wife who had thrown her husband out of a window and broken his leg, but advised her to open a gymnasium in which other wives could train.

"I am simply here to obtain the latest information about the election," remarked a tramp, apologetically, as he met the family dog in the back yard. The dog caught on.

A Nebraska girl of 19, calls herself the champion cow girl of America, and she offers to ride a race, throw the lasso, or shoot a match with any woman in the country who is disposed to dispute the claim.

A New York dealer in hosiery says that no true lady will wear a pair of stockings costing less than \$150, and he thinks the true gentleman should lay down at least \$75 per pair. Reckon most of us must be mud-sills.

A man in Talaha-see, Fla., in digging a well the other day struck a deep layer of oyster shells. He is making arrangements, it is reported, to bore down deeper, hoping he may strike a strong flow of oyster soup.

A New York judge says to a wife seeking a divorce: "You voluntarily choose a drunkard for a husband, and you should discharge the duties of a drunkard's wife. His failure to keep a pledge of reformation made before marriage does not justify you in deserting him. Having knowingly married a drunkard, you must make yourself content with the sacred relationship."

## FUNNIGRAMS.

A friend thinks that the winds must be great mathematicians because they sigh forever.

An opossum was found in the umbrella stand of a Reading, Pa., hotel recently. If it had been an umbrella it would never have been found.

A writer says you can almost tell a man's occupation by his gait. True; same way with a youth. If it is a mile an hour he is a messenger boy.

In the war between France and China let us not forget the poor slain. For "poor slain" read "porcelain," and there you are. We hate to be compelled to explain a joke.

John Ruskin refuses to use the word Celtic in his lectures lest he should be expected to call it Keltic. Next thing they will insist on saying salt-kellers.

A boy who kissed the schoolmarm now the Mayor of a Western city. When one enters upon a career of crime there no knowing where he may end.

An old maid in Nashville keeps a parrot which swears, and a monkey which chews tobacco. She says between the two she doesn't miss a husband very much.

At the theatre: Indignant old gentleman to young lady who has been jabbering at the top of her voice—"This talking is abominable. Nobody can hear a word." Young Lady—"That's just what I was telling Miss Smith, here. Those actors keep up such a racket on the stage you can't hear yourself speak."

"You've got my seat, sir," said a man on a Texas railroad who had left his seat for a moment. "There is nothing to show that you have retained this seat." "Look up there! There is my hat box on the rack right over this seat." "Well, then you sit up there on your seat if that's where you have retained your seat."

## Gambled into Slavery.

There are ten kinds of legalized gambling in Siam, and so absorbed do the Siamese become in gaming that when their money and personal effects are gone they will stake their own bodies on the turn of the game, going into voluntary slavery if they lose. In this event before he is permitted to leave the place the gambler must surrender himself, in fee simple to his owner, who procures from the Amphor (District Judge) a san kromatan (deed) in which, among other stipulations, he binds himself to render such services as may be required until the pecuniary obligation is discharged. The owner may also extract interest on the amount of indebtedness at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, but no more, as this is the highest rate of interest the King permits his subjects to charge. If a greater sum is demanded, and the fact can be established by acceptable testimony in a native court, the debt is cancelled and the slave becomes free. If for any reason he becomes dissatisfied with his owner, or master, which is often the case, he may secure another one by transferring the deed without asking the consent of the owner, provided the redemption or "taking over" (as the Siamese express the transaction) is made in pursuance of law. If he can prove to the satisfaction of the District Judge that his wife possesses the requisite amount, he may apply to the court for an order compelling her to pay the debt and thus redeem him from servitude; but, inasmuch as the government is not supposed to encourage gambling with a wife's money, the law requires that the assignment of the san kromatan shall be made to the wife; so that, when possessed of this formidable document, with the official seal duly attached, she becomes the absolute and bona fide owner of her husband by an indisputable title which nothing but a royal decree can possibly annul.

## French Holiday Presents.

During the last ten years the custom of making presents during the holidays, has been so abused, that thousands anticipate Christmas with beating hearts. Even those who dare not disobey the fashion speak of it as "one grand farce." It is, however, to Paris that one should go, if he wishes to see the tyranny of the "Christmas-box."

The reign of the despot begins a week before the New Year and lasts until the middle of January. The first attack is made by the postman, who is closely followed by the water, wood and coal carriers.

Then come the street-sweeper, the lamp-lighter, the baker, butcher, grocer, fish-woman, shoe-maker, tailor, hatter, and glove man. Each salutes his victim in the finest phrases. They are very polite on these days of visitation—and receive from two to five francs.

At the cafe, on the tray from which the cup of chocolate is taken, lies an orange, a box of bonbons and a cigar tied up with tricolored ribbon. The waiter smiles and the victim, also smiling pockets one of the presents and lays a five-franc piece in its place.

The walker on the Boulevards is hailed by the women who keep the little stalls with, "Give me a present, my dear monsieur!" The gamin picks the gentleman's handkerchief out of his pocket, in order that he may restore it and ask for a "present."

The porter of the house in which the gentleman has rooms must be liberally fed, or during the year the lodger's letters will be lost, his friends will be told that he is not at home when he is expecting them, and those whom he does not wish to see will be shown into his apartment.

If he makes a social call, he must take a present for the lady of the house, and for the children. The ordinary present consists of a box of bonbons. Fashion requires that these should be bought of certain famous confectioners, though just as good bonbons may be purchased at a hundred shops, at a quarter of the price.

These famous confectioners inscribe their names on the pretty boxes and bags—which cost no trifle—so that the lady and the children know where your present was purchased.

Some of the ladies receive scores of such boxes or bags. A smile and a word of thanks reward the giver, and when he has departed, his present is handed over to the maid or footman.

The servants eat the bonbons and re sell the boxes to dealers, who do a paying business by furnishing people with second-hand boxes or bags stamped with the name of a fashionable confectioner. One lady, it is said, received the same box four times in as many years.

A witty Frenchman, annoyed by the tyrannical custom, announced his purpose to reverse the method. Accordingly on New Year's Day he presented himself to the proprietor of the cafe which he frequented and claimed a present for having been a daily customer for twelve months.

## Proper Food Indispensable to Health.

Good, healthy food that will give strength to the blood is the best preventive of disease that can be provided. It furnishes the system with the resistive power necessary to ward off disease. On the other hand, food defective in quality or quantity leaves the blood impoverished and the system open to the attack of various forms of epidemic. Thus the potato rot in Ireland, which produced a famine, was attended by low fevers, evidently superinduced by the lack of proper food. And cholera, typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other diseases rapidly spread where the people are reduced in strength by improper food. And when to this is added filth and overcrowding all the conditions for an epidemic exist.

## Hereditary Crime.

Some years ago a remarkable little book was written to show that a tendency toward crime may run in the blood, like the passion for liquor or a predisposition to insanity. The work was clever and it contained a good deal of truth, too. The thesis laid down in it has an illustration in New York at the present moment. One of our most incorrigible criminals is a man named Abraham Leslie, known to the police as "Gen. Greenhal," and now pretty well on in years—threescore and ten, in fact. The "General" has been in the hands of the police many times. In May last he was pardoned out of the State Prison after he had served six out of twenty years' imprisonment for robbery. The police now have him in hand again for pocket-picking. There is nothing strange in even an old man continuing a career of crime, but in this case all the old man's family work in the same line. He has three daughters and one son. Two of the daughters are habitual pickpockets, constantly under the eyes of the detectives. The third daughter is the wife of a man who keeps a "saloon" on the Bowery—and I don't know of any saloon on the Bowery that bears a good name. The son, to keep up the family reputation, took to criminal ways long since, and is now serving a fifteen years' term in the prison from which his father was so lately released. If this is not a case of hereditary crime, the article would be pretty hard to find. The Greenhals, or Leslies, are not quite so coarse in their criminal tendencies as the Jukes (the subjects of the little book referred to), but the inclination is about the same. And the police could tell of many families with the same bent—each member, from parents down to boys and girls of six or seven years, being a thief or moral outlaw of some kind. It will probably take a long time to find a sure cure for this sort of disease.

## A Ruling Family.

Prince Albert Victor, son of Prince Albert of England, who, it is reported, is coming to this country in the spring, is a manly lad who will be twenty-one next month, and the heir, after his father, to the English throne. He is German in descent from both the Houses of Guelf and Holstein, his grandfathers on both sides being pure German, and his grandmother Victoria, the present queen of England, but half English. It is singular to notice how this family has placed itself on all the principal thrones of Europe.

The grandmother of this young prince, for example, is queen of Great Britain, and empress of India; his grandfather is king of Denmark; one of his aunts is empress of Russia; another on the death of Wilhelm, will be empress of Germany; one uncle is king of Greece; a grand-uncle king of Norway and Sweden; another king of Belgium, a cousin will be empress of Austria on Franz Josef's death; and the dukedoms and principalities of Germany are ruled by other cousins, while still others sit upon the thrones of Portugal and Italy.

It is singular to notice that of the Bonaparte family raised by the ambition of Napoleon to the control of Europe, not one occupies a throne or even a position of influence; the Houses of Plantagenet, Stuart and Bourbon, which numbered so many warriors, are almost extinct and powerless; while this German family of quiet, commonplace bourgeois character, which does not number among its members a single great chieftain or king, wears the great crowns of the world.

Abraham Lincoln is said to have declared that a nation which was ruled by a commonplace man should thank God, for it only was safe. Most of these rulers, both men and women, are sensible, respectable folk with the kind of virtues which would be admirable in private life.

# EATON'S Xmas Sale!

Our object in having this Sale is to make prices to suit the hard times and to reduce surplus stock in our several departments. To enable us to do this we have made some extraordinary reductions as may be seen by our advertisements, and by the rapid sale of these reduced goods, day by day, more especially in our Mantle and Dress department; and to make it more successful we have made some still further reductions. As stated last week, we are offering

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Ninety " " 25c. " " " 12½c.  
One Hundred pieces of 15 cent Dress Goods for 7½c.

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Bargains in fine Mantles, Sealette, Dollmans, Fine Ottoman Cord, Dolmans etc. Mantles can be sent C. O. D., on approval to any express office in the Dominion.

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