

The Late Mrs. Vanderbilt.

The widow of Commodore Vanderbilt set out to be a lady when she married the millionaire, writes a New York correspondent. She had already led a polite and refined life, although previous wedlock had been brief and unsatisfactory, but it is a much harder task when coupled with conspicuous wealth in New York city. There was the opportunity and temptation to become a chief figure in the showy circles of our society, for she was young, handsome, and accomplished, and the unavowed notoriety of the marriage afforded an impetus that would have carried her far in the direction of frivolity. But she chose a quiet course, made hobbies of benevolence—as in the founding of the Vanderbilt university, which was altogether her own project—and mixed very charily in the doings of the newer and friskier Vanderbilts. She lived to her death in a big, luxurious but unfashionably-situated house that had been her husband's home; and, although friendly with the numerous Vanderbilts, usually going to their entertainments, she sedulously avoided any participation in the displays of riches which they have made. There was never a bit of trouble over money matters. The settlement on her of \$500,000, in consideration of which she signed, before marriage, an agreement to accept that sum in lieu of dowry, forestalled all controversy over her fortune. By his will he gave her only the residence and its furniture.

There is no good reason to say that Commodore Vanderbilt was matrimonially caught by Mrs. Crawford, the mother of the bride, as was charged at the time by some of the Vanderbilt family. The betrothal happened at Saratoga with great suddenness, and the pair hastened to Canada to be joined quietly. The mother was there, and she never afterward left the household of her Croesus son-in-law, but I have from a close observer of the courtship and nuptials an account which exculpates her from the accusation of entrapping the old man. Bob Crawford, the bride's brother, was an employee of the Vanderbilt railroad, having charge of a ticket office in Broadway. In the summer of 1869 he had considerable to do with the pleasure traffic between this city and Saratoga. He had the opportunity to give to his mother and sister a holiday in the great resort. They lodged in comfort, but no excess of style, at a boarding house, but sought mild diversion in the big hotels as the cottagers used to do with little of the hindrance which the landlords now contrive to place in their way. One evening Crawford went to the Grand Union to consult with the Commodore on a business matter. The ladies went along to be left in the parlor while he hunted for the millionaire, but Vanderbilt was encountered while they were all together, an introduction followed, and within a month Frank was the wife of the richest man in America. According to this authority there was no scheming at all, and hardly a premonition of the marriage offer.

Praying for the Moon.

A well-known idea among the Oriental nations is that in eclipses of the moon that luminary is eaten up by some other celestial body. Many people have supposed that this primitive belief is now exploded. It appears, however, that the Chinese, while they attach all due faith to the ailments of the infidel, are yet unwilling to admit in any part of their reasonings upon which their prophecies are founded. A French missionary who happened to be imprisoned in China on the 5th of last October has sent a detailed account of the formalities observed when there was an eclipse of the moon early on the morning of that day, being the same phenomenon seen in this country late in the evening of the 4th. The approach of the eventful moment was heralded by a tremendous beating of drums succeeded by a blowing of the trumpets and a noise of other instruments, designed with a view of anything but harmony of sound. In the middle of the Court of Justice, one of the chief centres of ceremonials on these occasions, an altar was set up, supporting a pair of candles and a tablet inscribed with Chinese characters with a carpet in front of it ready for the mandarin to perform his devotions upon. On the first contact of the moon with the devouring shadows, a bonze, who is told off to do duty as a master of the ceremonies, gives a shout, and the mandarin prostrates himself with a prayer "that the moon may be spared from destruction." Directions are sent to all the provinces for similar devotions to be performed at the local Courts, although the very same science which enables astronomers to predict the phenomenon proves at the same time the absurdity of the idea that the moon is in danger of being bodily devoured.

An Educated Chimpanzee.

I was once the owner of a highly educated chimpanzee. He knew all the friends of the house, all our acquaintances, and distinguished them readily from strangers. Everyone treating him kindly he looked upon as a personal friend. He never felt more comfortable than when he was admitted to the family circle and allowed to move freely around, and open and shut doors, while his joy was boundless when he was assigned a place at the common table, and guests admired his natural wit and practical jokes. He expressed his satisfaction and thanks to them by drumming furiously on the table. In his numerous moments of leisure his favorite occupation consisted in investigating carefully every object in his reach; he lowered the door of the stove for the purpose of watching the fire, opened drawers, rummaged boxes and trunks and played with their contents, provided the latter did not suspicious to him. How easily suspicion was aroused in his mind might be illustrated by the fact that, as long as he lived, he shrank with terror from every common rubber-ball. Obedi-

ence to my orders and attachment to my person, and to every body caring for him, were among his cardinal virtues and he bored me with his persistent wishes to accompany me. He knew perfectly his time for retiring, and was happy when some one of us carried him to the bedroom like a baby. As soon as the light was put out he would jump into the bed and cover himself, because he was afraid of the darkness. His favorite meal was supper with tea, which he was very fond of, provided it was largely sweetened and mixed with rum. He sipped it from the cup, and ate the dipped bread-slices with a spoon, having been taught not to use the fingers in eating; he poured his wine from the bottle and drank it from the glass. A man could hardly behave himself more gentlemanlike at table than did that monkey.

A Sketch of Big Bear.

Big Bear, who is the prime mover in the late bloody work at Fort Pitt, is well known to many residents of Edmonton who formerly resided at Fort Pitt. Mr. J. Sinclair, who was in charge of Fort Pitt for the H. B. Co. for twelve years, is well acquainted with him, and gives the following particulars: He is a plain Cree, a native of the Carlton region, and is about 60 years of age. He is of short stature, thin and old looking. His appearance is anything but impressive. He speaks with a loud voice, but is short of breath, and is not an orator by any means. About twenty years ago he removed from Carlton to Pitt, and became the head man of a small band of his relatives who resided at Pitt, numbering about twelve tents, or perhaps twenty men. He never was recognized as a chief until after treaty six was made, and he removed to Cypress hills. At Fort Pitt he was frequently employed by the H. B. Co. as a buffalo hunter, and had the reputation of being a good Indian. His band, however, were generally rascals, the greatest being his nephew named Little Poplar. During a famine which occurred thirteen years ago, caused by the buffalo leaving for the south and the Indians being unable to follow them, they began to kill the H. B. cattle, but were prevented from continuing the practice through the efforts of Big Bear. He and his band seldom engaged in war, but they were notorious for stealing horses from the Blackfeet. He was thought to be rather cowardly. On one occasion four Crees were attacked opposite Ft. Pitt by a large band of Blackfeet, while Big Bear was in the fort with eight men. He refused to go to their assistance, although Mr. Sinclair offered him the use of the boat, and the H. B. horses. The four Crees, however, succeeded in escaping. On several other occasions his actions showed that his courage was not of the highest order. At the making of treaty No. 6, in 1875, Big Bear refused to accept the terms offered to and accepted by the rest. He wanted to see first how the promises made by the Government would be carried out. Pending a decision he removed to Cypress hills, where he remained six or seven years, gathering a larger number of discontented spirits around him each year. Between frequent spats with the Blackfeet and incursions to the States his men became much more expert than formerly in the art of war, and he came to be looked upon as a big chief, equal in importance to Pi-a-pot. At last circumstances, in the shape of five buffalo and many United States troops, coupled with profuse promises from the Indian Department, induced the Bear to return to his old camping ground near Pitt some two years ago. Although he took treaty money he refused to go on a reserve, always having an excuse ready. During the winter before last he freighted one trip from Pitt to Edmonton. He always kept moving about and fomented discontent wherever he went, which the management of the Indian department made easy, especially among the Ft. Pitt Indians, who never had a good reputation, and of whom he seems to have secured control. A large number of the original band of Sweet Grass, once head chief of the Crees, but now dead for several years, seems to be under his control, and have taken a prominent part in the Ft. Pitt butchery. The remainder of the band of Sweet Grass are near Battleford under Little Pine. Report has it that Little Bear, who has a wall eye, killed three of the white men, probably the mill hands, Pa-pa-mo-chau-o (the moving spirit) killed Delaney, the farm instructor, and Wa-pa-soos (light hair) killed Rev. Pere Fafard. The manner of their death is confirmed as first stated in the papers, and not as stated in the Battleford report. Quinn, Delaney and the two priests were taken prisoners in their homes. Quinn refused to consider himself a prisoner or to obey the Indians in going where he was told. The Indians having him in charge then shot him. Delaney and his wife seeing this began to run, when Delaney was shot and his wife taken again. The priests were shot while attempting to perform service over the bodies. Their blood being up, the Indians then went and cleaned out the five mill hands, but the manner of their deaths is not yet known here. There is an enthusiastic and universal desire among Mr. Bear's numerous acquaintances to see him wind up his long, if not useful career, looking through a hempen collar. They think if the band is broken up and not destroyed, they will take refuge in the woods, and be a terror to settlers, at least as horse thieves, for years. Unlike most of the Saskatchewan Crees, Big Bear and his band make no pretensions to any form of Christianity. By strict attention to business they have succeeded in amassing a reputation for unadulterated devilry which is equaled by few and excelled by none.

"Who was that gentleman with whom you were so intimate last night at the concert?" asked one Brooklyn lady of another. "He is a four-handed acquaintance of mine. We play duets together on the piano."

THE WORLD MOVES.

Melbourne is putting her telegraph and telephone wires underground.

Nineteen kinds of metal are produced which are valued at more than \$1000 a pound.

Women are taking an active part in astronomical and microscopical work in Great Britain.

Distilled water is gaining in favor for table use, as well as in the treatment of diseases of the digestive organs.

The power of Niagara Falls, exclusive of the velocity with which the water reaches the brink, is calculated to be 5,000,000 horse power, or nearly one-fourth of the whole steam power of the earth.

The American telegraphic alphabet and instruments have been adopted for the new telegraph lines in Siam, and several American telegraphers have been offered \$150 a month to go there and operate the lines.

Experiments are being made with wood compressed by hydraulic pressure as a substitute for boxwood, which is becoming more costly every day. The wood when subjected to a pressure of ten tons to the square inch becomes very dense and uniform in texture and answers many purposes for which boxwood is now used.

The twenty-four hours' system is not making as rapid progress as some reformers expected. The London and North-western Railway Company, England, after spending \$4,000 in experimenting with a new time-table on this basis, have come to the decision not to make any alteration after all, on the ground that it would be too confusing.

Some fine deposit of talc exists among the magnesian rocks of this country. Ground talc is extensively used in dressing leather, in paper making, and steam packing for engines, as well as for lubricating heavy journals in machinery. These are among its legitimate uses and the trade name is soapstone, which it resembles in many respects. It is used as so glove powder and is accused of entering into butter and cheese as a make-weight. It is worth about \$12 per ton, and the annual consumption is said to be nearly 50,000 tons, one-half of which is imported from Italy, France and Austria.

A London exchange notices what is probably one of the earliest references to the use of India rubber for the removal of pencil marks from paper in a note to the introduction of a treatise on perspective by Dr. Priestly published in 1770. The author remarks at the conclusion of the preface: "Since this work was printed off I have seen a substance excellently adapted to the purpose of wiping from paper the marks of a black lead-pencil. It must therefore be of singular use to those who practice drawing. It is sold by Mr. Natne, mathematical-instrument maker, opposite the Royal Exchange. He sells a cubical piece of about half an inch for three shillings, and he says it will last several years."

Cases of changes in the color of hair other than to gray are not uncommon. Workers in cobalt-mines and indigo-works sometimes have their hair turned blue, and workers in copper green, by deposition of coloring-matter upon it. This, however, is only a superficial coloring and can be washed off. Dentist records a case of a patient to whom mercurial pilocarpine was administered hypodermically whose hair was changed from light blonde to nearly jet-black, and his eyes from light blue to dark blue. These changes were due to increase of normal pigment. Hauptmann relates a case of a body exhumed twenty years after burial, the hair on which had changed from dark brown to red. Leonard cites a case in which, after death, red hair was changed to gray within thirty hours. Other cases have been mentioned in which the color of the hair has been variously changed in consequence of disease.

Refuse sawdust is now made to yield a handsome profit. When dry it is carbonized in iron resorts, and in the process is given off some 30 per cent. of volatile products, the remaining 20 per cent. being granulated charcoal, which can be used in making gunpowder, filters, lining refrigerators and as a disinfectant. With a very little tar it can be pressed into bricks and employed as fuel. Twenty-two of the 80 per cent. volatile product is in the shape of fixed gases, useful for lighting, heating, etc.; 47 per cent. is pyroigneous acid, or crude acetic acid, and, after being purified and concentrated is valuable in white lead, color, print and vinegar manufactures. There remain 10 per cent. of tar and 1 of wood alcohol. The former has the same properties as coal tar, with its almost endless variety of applications in art and industry, while the wood or methyl alcohol is employed as a solvent for gums, in varnish-making and in the manufacture of aniline colors etc.

Old Time Dentists.

Italian antiquarians have discovered false teeth in a skull which was excavated in an ancient Etruscan cemetery. The sepulchre from which the skull was taken dates, according to experts, from the fifth or sixth century B. C. The false teeth are animal teeth, and are attached to the natural teeth of the skull by means of small gold plates.

Dinah: "De conduct ob some ob de white folkses am scandalous, puffed scandalous." Sambo: "Dat's so, but dar's bound ter be some black sheep in ebery flock."

Matilda's lover to her little sister: "Come, Myrtle, give me a kiss, only one." Little sister: "No, I wont; you asked Tiddy for just one in the parlor, before dinner, and you took two."

"Papa, why do the little pigs get so much milk?" "Because we want them to make hogs of themselves."

Russia's Moving-Day.

Great nations like England and Russia are perpetual students over some very difficult problems. The problems are difficult on account of their immense size and costly or bloody character. When a manufacturer has in his employ a thousand men, he must be on the lookout continually for large contracts, for good paying customers, for materials, and against the least quantity of idleness among the workmen. When a firm or an individual has learned how to manage all these parts of their business, the result is a great firm, like that of Krupp in Germany, or of the Mustard man in England.

A nation is only a large business firm. It is a trade carried on ward until the employees are fifty or a hundred millions in number. How to find work for all these, pay for all these materials for such an army of laborers of many grades how to hold these within some good condition of contentment, how to prevent other large firms from carrying on an injurious competition are inquiries so large that the men who band over them are called statesmen or emperors or kings—a king being in a colossal foreman in a tremendous shop.

The Krupps in Germany being large dealers and workers in iron, they must reach out after mines for ore and for coal; they dare not take any risks as to supply of ore or coal, they must possess the means of keeping their thousands employed, and of filling the orders which come in from almost the whole globe.

Thus Russia must look down upon her swarms of toilers, be these toilers in field or shop or factory or newspaper or studio or street, and must study how to keep up the work, the enthusiasm, the pay, the peace of such an almost countless multitude. Revolts, nihilism, atheism, dynamite plots are liable to result from idleness or extreme hardship; the fields of the farmer are soon worn out, public works become completed, crime increases, Siberia becomes a disgrace, and the foremen and Emperor in the large enterprises are compelled to face the problems, what plans to lay for the morrow? One emperor had lately been blown to pieces by some grenades flung by a heart embittered against his nation.

It thus comes to pass that now and then these large contractors must make some new move. These moves are sometimes fatal to the mover, but often they re-inspire the millions, and to a conquest abroad add a much greater conquest at home. Louis Napoleon resolved to expand his business, increase the pay of all his workmen, dissipate all discontent, magnify his France, and to this end he suddenly marched out against Germany. The Emperor's foremen in this French firm were not the best of advisers, for the beautiful boss, Eugenie, at the final meeting of the cabinet, said excitedly, "We must have war if the honor of France is to be preserved;" and Marshal Le Boeuf swore that if war was not declared he would throw down his portfolio and also leave the French army. Thus badgered by wife and prime minister, Napoleon III. ordered that grand advance whose magnitude faded away at Sedan. But at other times France has done better, and so has England again and again moved outward from the little island and has made great additions to her already immense business.

In the course of events it has become necessary for Russia to find new resources in the shape of land and income, and also new subjects of thought and commotion, and new invoices of Russian glory. The people must have new climates, new soils, new Eldorados of emigration, new dreams, new enemies and, as a result, a new pride in Russia. Thus comes up the Eastern question. Russia cannot go west on account of obstacles such as Germany; icebergs and polar bears oppose an excursion northward; southward there are only the well-picked bones of Turkey. No question remains except the Eastern question. In the solution of it Russia is making another of her periodic moves. In 1854 Russia attempted to go east by the southern route, but England and France put in an appearance in the Crimea, and the battle of Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann, made that road a frightful one for the great Czar. He has not since attempted to acquire more of Asia by that path.

SOME FUN.

He—"Please give me your ring; like my love it has no end." She—"Please let me keep it, like my love for you it has no beginning."

A married minister can always feel more sympathy for his audience than a single one. The latter does not appreciate how difficult it is to sleep when there's a "sermon" going on.

A mendicant approached a Westchester man on the cars the other day and said, "Dear Sir, I have lost my leg," to which the Westchester man replied, as he hurried away: "My dear friend, I am very sorry, but I have not seen anything of it."

"The greatest catastrophe which can happen to a woman is to drop a lead pencil and break the point," says an exchange. The only humorous thing about this statement is the proposition that a woman has a lead pencil with a point.

Youth: "Then you refuse to give me your daughter's hand?" Mamma: "I do, most decidedly. I put my foot down on the entire affair." The young man gives one look at her foot and turns sadly away.

Mrs. Mulvaney (the laundress)—"In-dade ma'am, and its miserable I am. I'm just on me feet wid the pain in me back, an' Jimmy he's as bad off; he has a cough on um that sounds loike an empty bar'l. Cough for the lady Jimmy."

"You say he called you a donkey?" "Yes." "What did you do about it?" "Nothing." "Well, if a man should call me a donkey I'd kick him with both feet." "Certainly, any donkey would naturally do that."

AWOMAN'S PLOTTINGS.

A Bold Scheme to Prevent the Marriage of Her Lover to a Rival.

A lady from New Hampshire has been in Salem for a week, seeking information as to one George S. Hill, who was said to have been thrown from a wagon last winter in Lynn, and to have died of his injuries a few days later. No one had heard of such a man. At length a newspaper man was asked if he remembered the accident. He produced a note signed Carrie Hill, an alleged sister of the dead man, which he received at the time, but declined to publish, as the handwriting was the same as that of a bogus marriage notice previously received. The lady had a letter from a Salem woman announcing Carrie's death, and comparison showed that also to be in the same handwriting. This led to the discovery of the following facts:

About a year ago a Salem man named Elliott was in correspondence with the New Hampshire lady. He proposed marriage and was accepted. At the same time he was attentive to a Salem woman, who intercepted some of the letters, found out how matters stood, and determined to break up the match. She wrote an anonymous note to the New Hampshire lady saying that Elliott was unworthy, and afterward sent by mail to the Salem papers a fictitious notice of his marriage to a New Jersey girl. This he heard of, and in some cases was able to prevent its publication, but the notice appeared in one paper and clipping was sent to the New Hampshire lady. Then assuming the name of George S. Hill, the Salem woman began to make love to the New Hampshire lady and finally proposed marriage, was accepted, and the wedding fixed for January last. As the time drew near, in order to prevent the lady coming to Salem, she concocted the story that Hill had been killed by a carriage accident. She sent one account of the fictitious accident to several papers. It appeared in one paper, and a clipping was sent to New Hampshire in a letter purporting to be written by Hill's only sister, Carrie Hill, giving the particulars of his death, which did not however tally with the published notices. Correspondence in the character of the sister was kept up for a while, when, fearing a visit and consequent exposure, a letter was sent, signed by the Salem woman, announcing the death of Carrie. Then the victim of all the plotting began to realize that something was wrong. She visited Salem, learned these facts, and has gone home a wiser woman.

A Young English Girl Becomes a Buddhist.

A novel and imposing ceremony took place on April 5 at the Widyodja Buddhist College, Colombo, by a young and accomplished English lady, well known in Bombay, formally became a professed follower of Lord Buddha. Not long ago a clergyman from England, the Rev. C. W. Leadbeater, took the "five precepts" in the presence of the high priest, Samangala. This time it was Miss Mary Flynn who accepted the faith that is now becoming fashionable among the enlightened classes in the West.

It was a curious sight to see an English young lady, dressed in an elegant robe of black silk, sitting in the midst of a crowd of yellow-robed Buddhist priests and repeating the Pansil. The ceremony began by the high priest examining the fair candidate as to the reasons that led her to desire to accept Buddhism as her faith, to which Miss Flynn answered that, after having studied the various religious systems of the world, she found the Buddhistic esoteric philosophy as being the most in accordance with her own reason and common sense. Other questions having been satisfactorily answered by her, the high priest administered to her the "five precepts," which Miss Flynn promised to observe.

The ceremony ended by the chanting of "Ratana Sutta" by all the priests present. Besides the large number of priests, there were present at the temple where the ceremony took place many of the most prominent Buddhists of Colombo, the Captain and several officers of the screw steamer Tibre of the Messageries Maritimes, and several European passengers that had arrived by that vessel.

Royalty on a Shake-Down.

Some years ago as the Prince of Wales and his tutor were traveling in the West of England the landlord of a certain hotel having reason to expect a visit from his Royal Highness prepared his best rooms in his best style and then waited day by day in feverish anxiety. One afternoon a gentleman and a youth arrived at the hotel and asked if rooms could be had for the night. All the servants were in a bustle immediately, for the landlord was sure he discerned the young Prince and his tutor in the newly-arrived travelers. So the best rooms were speedily given to the guests, and every possible comfort was added to make them happy; while the landlord, with a certain wink of bland satisfaction, behaved to his royal visitors with the utmost deference, and yet without any open acknowledgment of their rank, as he knew it was desired to keep this concealed. Later in the evening, and when almost every room in the house had been filled, there arrived three more travelers, two gentlemen and a boy. When they asked for bedrooms the landlord said: "Very sorry, gentlemen, we have only room for two of your party, but perhaps we can make up a bed for the young gentleman on the sofa." This was done, and in the morning it was found that the youth who slept on "the shake-down" was the heir to the Crown of England, while, much to the landlord's discomfiture, the boy who occupied the bed meant for the Prince was only Master P—, traveling with his father.