### VARIOUS TOPICS.

The fruit trees in Santa Barbara are be ing dug up and English walnuts planted in their stead.

A rustic visitor to Burlington, Vt., spent Thanksgiving Day on the horse railway, making the trip of four miles twenty-two

"It is absolutely impossible," said Lord Rosebery in a recent Address in Scotland, future war could ever take n the United States and " that in place England.

The man who receives the most letters day in Washington is not the President or any member of his Cabinet, but a pension attorney, whose daily mail frequently numbers 500 letters.

The physicians of Sanford, Florida, have signed an agreement not to visit any patient who will not pay their bills on the first of each month. Those failing will not be attended until the bill is settled.

It is believed that in ten years Yankton, D. T., will be an inland town. In front of the city, where the river ran twenty feet deep five years ago, there are now 100 acres of land six feet above high water mark.

A Chicago street corner lot that was bought thirty years ago for less than \$9,000, has just been leased for ninety-nine years at an annual rental of \$35,000. Itory building, to cost a round million, will be erected upon it.

During the recent cold snap at St. Louis men were watching along the levees all day and night ready to step on the ice the moment it was able to bear them, and stake out a "claim" to an area for cutting. Such claims are always respected.

Ordinary army signalling, by waving flags or torches, can transmit only ten words or so a minute, spelled out by letters; but an adaptation of the Morse telegraphic alphabet, now generally employed, has more than doubled this rate of speed.

The late M. Bailliere, publisher of some of the most important of modern French medical works, personally conducted his business for nearly seventy years, and worked until within a few days of his death -in his 89th year-although he had become blind during the latter part of his life.

The residents along a lumber flume in the mountains above Chico., Cal., have a novel way of getting their mail. It is started on a raft from the head of the flume at regular dates, and the people below watch for it, take out what belongs to them, and then send the raft with its precious cargo on the way.

An object of public curiosity, near New Philadelphia, Ohio, is a man who never shears the wool from his sheep, or plucks his geese or "rings" his swine. He says it is sinful to interfere with nature. His own hair and beard are never shorp, nor are his nails cut. Every untensil about the farm is home made.

All employees of the New York, Penn sylvania and Ohio Railroad whose duties require them to observe signals have recently been examined for color blindness, and about four per cent. were found to have defective sight. One of the oldest and most lucky passenger engineers was found totally blind to any difference between red and green.

hatues have just been brought to the cellars underneath the old courts of law, at Guildhall, London, where they have been hidden for many years. They formerly stood in front of Guildhall Chapel, and are life size representations of Edward VI. Charles I., and his consort, Oneen Henrietta Maria. All three possess great artistic merit.

In his recent work on anthropoid apes Dr Hartmann of Berlin admits that "the most fanatical advocates of the doctrine of descent are becoming more and more convinced that man cannot be the issue of any extant form of anthropoids," and says that hypothetical being, the common ancestor of man and apes, is still to be found -a task assigned to paleontology.

A New Haven boy recently, "for fun," inserted an advertisement in a local paper for a husband. A Western farmer answered it, and the young man wrote at length, describing himself as a handsome, middleaged woman, with a long bank account. The granger came on last week to see the woman. He is now after the young man with a suit for fraud and loss of time and

money.

The London Standard says that the populations of Paris is decidedly decreasing Last autumn there were nearly 115,000 fewer inhabitants of the French capital than four years ago, and this diminution bears heavily on the cab and omnibus companies. Apparently the thief absentees are the foreign r sidents and the poorer working class, who can get food and house room. class, who can get food and house room cheaper outside the city.

During the last thirty years the consumption of malt liquor, which had been very inconsiderable and confined to a few localities, has greatly increased in Ireland. Brewing in the last century was in some parts a very flourishing industry, but when the duties on a barrel of corn brewed into all the property double the duties. into ale became nearly double the duties on the same quantity distilled into whiskey the latter became the popular tipple.

A railway is building from the Southern Pacific's main line to the celebrated Cinnabar mines, producing quicksilver, in the neighborhood of New Almaden, Cal. Great difficulties have always been experienced in getting cheap and suitable transportation to and from these mines. Donkeys have been largely employed hitherto, and at one time many of the camels now running wild in Arizona were used there.

The business of painting the huge signs upon fences and barns which assault the eye in all parts of the country is in the hands of a few courtactors in New York and Chicago. One firm in N. Y. ci y spends from \$10 000 to \$20,000 a year in this way, paying from one and one half to two cents paying from one and one nair to two cents a square foot for the work. The bigger the sign the better. Many can be found reaching 300 at in lergth, and the biggest of all (at 1 weark, Ohio) is more than 800 feet long and contains only one word.

Mr. G. W. Child's particular ducal crony, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, has just received the present of a postrait of

just received the present of a portrait of his bride from the magistrates of the county of Bucks. The Duke's father was ruined, and in his youth the present Peer had very hard times, against which he bore up most pluckily. The halls of Stowe, which contained the finest are treasures in which contained the finest are treasures in England, resounded to the hammer of the auctioneer, and for many years the empty others, for the the atrical representation eyes

house, which could not find a hirer, was strictly enclosed to everybody.

A story went the rounds at the election time in England that a Roman Catholic chaplain was secretly lodged at Harfield House, and mass privately celebrated there. It seems there is just so much foundation for this story as may be discerned in the fact that a French clergyman attached to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, at Ronen, who is writing an ecclesiastic I history, ha been for some weeks the guest of Lord Salisbury, who not only permitted him to inspect the valuable historical documents of the Cecil family, but offered him the hospitalities of their ancient dwelling.

At a meeting of the French Society of Medical Jurisprudence a case was reported of a child who had died-so stated the certificate—of strangulation, which had also caused a rupture of the heart; and the latter fact was confirmed autopsy. The father of the child was accused of having strangled it, and was placed under arrest. The Court was not satisfied with the medical evidence, and summoned Professor Brouardel, who stated that the rapture of a healthy heart can never take place after strangulation. The Professor then examined the heart and found ulcerations and an aneurism in its wall. The father was at once acquitted.

### What's in a Name?

There is a great deal that is funny in names. Names are sometimes comical in themselves, but eftener they become ridiculous by their association. Thus, the name Asa Poor might excite our pity if we considered what the name might mean. But to see the sign, "A Poor Shoemaker," painted without any punctuation, as one is said to have been hung out in New Orleans, would certainly provoke mirth.

Announcements of engagements and marriages may bring names into strange connec-A happy fitness is seen in the union of a Mr. Catt to a Miss Mew, and of a Mr. Tee to a Miss Kettle. A famous Irish bull is that of the orator who, in delivering a eulogy upon a man of learning, closed by say-

ing,—
In fact, gentlemen, he was a great man, a very great man, gentlemen; he was the father of chemistry, and brother of the Earl of Cork."

From this it appears that the Earl of Cork

must have been an uncle of chemistry,

No words are better suited to the purpose of the punster than are many of our familiar names, and no words have oftener been de-graded to his service. The name of Theodore Hook, a famous wit of the last generation, was made the subject of a very clever pun. eat. He declined. After I had eaten I A gentleman was asked whether he knew

"Oh yes," was the answer, "Hook and Eye (I) are old cropies."

It is related of two gentlemen, one named Fuller, the other Hawke, both fond of a joke, that the former asked the other what was the difference between an owl and a hawk. Hawke replied,—"The owl is fuller in the eyes, fuller in the head, and fuller in the body; in short, he is Fuller all over."

Another old but very good instance of pun-ning upon a name is told of a Mr. Gunn, who was called as a witness in a judicial court. After his examination the counsel said to

judge saw the pun, and either to avert the effects of the shot, or to improve upon the

joke, gravely added,—
"Sir, you are discharged."

# His Sister.

A young collegian, in the Junior year, was packing his valise to go home for the Christ-

mas holidays.
"What are you taking your new meerschaum for? it will be broken," said his chum.
"I must risk it. I told Jenny about it;

"And your diagrams; what do you want with them?

"Well, Jenny would like to see if I have improved. She is very much interested in

my diagrams."

"And you are packing up all your medals!

Lawn-tennis prizes, too "Oh, Jenny knows all about the sports!

by his side, listening to his wordy, earnest, and usually selfish, confidences. Other girls leagued together, with secrets, or talked fancy work or firtation. Jenny gave all her leisure time to her brother.

Who can estimate the restraining power which this friendship and confidence had on the lad, keeping him back from any thought or action which he could not tell to this homely, loving, innocent listener? Neither he nor she ever knew that there was such

an influence at work between them.

what are you to your brothers, girls?
Pert, snubbing tyrants, or imtimate friends,
who will make them always believe, for your sake, that all women are good, and that God is real and near?

The Roman newspapers protest against the revival of the Drama of the Dead, which was again celebrated this year upon the Cam po Santo on All Souls' Day. The custon had been discontinued for fifteen years-The custom had been discontinued for fifteen years— It is not necessary to buy corn cures. Men ever since the nationalization of the capital and women should, remember that Putnam's ever since the nationalization of the capital of Italy. Some pious persons thought that it would be a pious deed to restore this spectacle. Skulls, bones, and entire skeletons were collected from rifled graves, and a piece called "The Vision of Ezekiel in the Valley f Dry Bones" was exhibited.

The real impiety of this odd union of religion and stage was made the more manifest the leaf of the value of the gion and stage was made the more manifest taken?" by the loudly expressed suspicion of some pretty s

## MOUNTAIN ROMANCES

Som : Incidents of Life in the Bockies.

In the northern Rocky Mountains, in Montana, on the stream that runs between Chief Mountain and the main range, and high up in the mountains, I came tiny cabin so small that it looked as though it were a children's play house. There was a shaft about thir y feet deep, long since abandoned, close by the house. I am a little superstitious about desert d cabins. I know that somewhere in the Rocky Mountains there must be a hut that contains a dead man, and I also know that if I passed the hut without looking into it he would come out and run squeaking after me. So it was essential to examine every deserted cabin I came to, to avert this drea ful spectacle. As yet I have not found the dead man, but I will some day. As usual, I examined this hut. It contained a keg which was half filled with cake | blasting pow er and some heavily rust-coated tools. The cabin was in the Blackfoot country, and I b liev- that the hopeful miners who thought they had found a valuable mine really found their deaths.

On a little hill to the east of the log-encumb red trail which leads from the aban doned La Plata mining district of the Medicine Bow Range to the North Platte River stands a double log house. I was quite sure that it was not abandoned, but that its owner, a miner-trapper, was away from home prospecting or trapping; and, as these men are apt to have se era cabins in the same range of mountains, and even in wid ly separated ranges, I thought I might meet the owner some day, as I travelled over the trail frequently. One snowy evening in late October, when I was exhausted day's hard hunting in down timber, I came to this house I was ten miles from home. My horse was heavily laden with meat. He was very tired. I resolved to use the house. Unpacking the horse I turned him loose to shift for himself, and was soon cooking my supper. I heard my horse neigh, and then heard another horse return his greeting In a few minutes the cabin door was thrown open, and in strode a wiry old man of 70 years. Without a word of greeting to me he hung up his rifle and then sat down on a block of white beard hung low on his breast. His white hair hung below his shoulders. He looked at me intently for an instant and then said laconically. "It is you, is it?" I answered, also laconically. "Yes." That ended the interesting conversation He sat stlently looking at me with great disapproval while I cooked supper. I asked h m to went out into the storm to catch my horse. This indication that I was going to leave his house and attempt to get home was more than the old man could bear. To allow a man to leave your house late in the evening and during a storm is against all laws of mountain hospitality. Bareheaded, the old man came to me just as I was swinging the saddle on the horse, and objected to my leaving his house. He said he would be di graced throughout the highlands if he permitted me to go forth into the storm. He excused himself for his lack of courtesy and want of hospitality, and asked me to spend the night with him. I did so. The storm roared outside. At short intervals "Mr. Gunn, you can now go off." The great trees fell with loud reports. The old man sat by the wide fireplace and talked. not much, but still he talked. I had not found a house with a dead man in it, but I had found one where a man lived who had been dead to the world for thirty-two years. A faithless woman had driven a gentleman to seek soluce and hide his shame in the remote recesses of the Rocky Mountains, and for the third of a century he had lived alone among the pines. He was the Hermit of the Medicine Bow Range. Discouraged miners, who have been

stranded on rugged mountain flanks, build cabins to shelter them while they rest and try to regain their courage. They seek remote and unfrequented portions of the high-lands in which to build their huts. Apparently they do not reasor. It appears to be an instinct, such as is exhibited by sorely wounded animals, for grievously stricken American miners to retreat into solitude, During every mining excitement, when eag-Lawn-tensis prizes, too!"

"Oh, Jenny knows all about the sports! She is impatient to examine the prizes. You ought to hear her talk of touch-downs and serves. It would make you laugh. Such a soft, little, shy thing as she is, too!" his eyes shining with tender pleasure.

"Jenny" was considered at school but a dull scholar, and she "had no talent for languages or music," her teachers said. She was not a brilliant or a pretty girl. But she kept herself very near to her brother. She always understood his games; knew what "the fellows" thought of each other and of "Prex;" knew all about Jones's average and Pot's's chances of the scholarship. She was never so happy as when smuggled close by his side, listening to his wordy, earneat, but listening to his wordy earneat earnead to the have r er men rush into the highlands in armies, build their cabins closely together. They scatter in the different gulches, where the gravel carries gold in small quantities. They meet at long intervals. One by one They meet at long intervals. One by one they regain their courage, and leave the lean diggings to prospect for better. But one or two may remain. Those become attached to the solitary life they have led. They are hermits. They are through with the world. They patiently await the coming of death.

How many simple, unselfish souls go through life, too dull to do great or clever work in the world, only giving sympathy and affection unsparingly out of full hearts. The world rates them cheaply, but God knows them as the faithfullest of His mestarder. But if a single house has the power of producing unpleasant about a deserted cabin. I never occupied one of these abandoned huts unless the weather was exceedingly severe, preferring to spread my blankets beneath the pines on the thick carpet of needles. But if a single house has the power of producing unpleasant about a deserted cabin. I never occupied one of these pet of needles. But if a single house has the power of producing unpleasant sensations, that produced by a deserted mining camp is uncanny. I know of nothing that will cause homesickness quicker than to ride into an abandoned village at dusk, and to find houses, stores, saloons, all empty, and streets grass grown, with, it may be, a deer boldly feeding where many men once wrought for fortune.

# For the Babies

taken?" courteous said a gentleman to a pretty shop girl, with whom he was dealing. "I am a miss, but not yet taken, sir, she

### Horrible Recital.

William Stevans makes what he calls a confession of the manner in which he murdered his affianced, Bertha Duckwitz, in Chicago recently, for which crime he was arrested near Orion. The other night he sat in the kitchen with Bertha at home until after 12 o'clock. When he was ready to go she stepped outside the door and walked with him to the front gate. They stood there talking for some minutes, and when he started to leave she followed him down the sidewalk. Then they walked back to the yard. He took out his razor, which was in a pasteboard case. "Bertha asked me what it meant,' sold Stevans "I told her it was my razor. She wanted to know what I was carrying it for, and I said I intended to take it to a shop to be honed. 'Let me look at it,' she said, and she took it out of my hand and op ned it. "How would you like to do this? she asked, drawing the razor across her throat, just in fun. That's easy enough to do,' I said, not meaning anything wrong, and I took the razor away from her didn't want to let me have it, and I had to work to get it. I CAUGHT HOLD OF HER

and pushed her up against the corner of the porch, and then made kelieve I was cutting her throat. She didn't make any struggle, and I didn't know I had hurt her until she gave a gasp and I felt the blood on my hand. Then I was frightened, and, as I loosened my hold on her, she dropped in a heap. I didn't know she was dead, and tried to lift her to her feet. I spoke to her, and as she didn't arswer, and was limp, I saw she was dead. It was over a minute before I could believe what I had done. Then I laid her in the position she was found and stood perhaps ten minutes look ing at her. I wiped the razor on her skirt, and when I got home I washed the blood from my hards, and, saying good-bye to my mother and Josie, started up toward the Grand Trunk junction. I am awful sorry I killed her. I wouldn't have done it for all the world. We had always been the best of friends. I don't remember that we ever had even a little quarrel. We talked about the wedding while we were at the gate, and I told her that I would keep the ergage mentring and get a wedding ring of the same size. I wonder what they will do with me? It looks as if you expect I am going to be mobbed. I suppose they will try to make out that I murdered her, but I did a't."

## Inner Life.

An American who had lived for thirty years in Paris died a few weeks ago. He had long been known as a lover of rare china, fine editions, and old brasses. His tall, stooped figure and grave face were familiar in all the curio shops of the cap tals in Europe. His most intimate friends supposed that he had no interest or purpose in life but to collect these comparatively valueless

But when he died, the poor from every court and street in his quarter crowded to his houes, and a cry of mourning went up from hundreds of homes into which he had

brought help and comfort. It was then known for the first time how vast his charities had been, and how he had, during his life, systematically stinted him-

self, even in his food, that he might have more to give away. Another case, like in kind, though not in degree, was that of a noted gambler and for ger, who was shot in a Southern town a year ago. After his death, it was found that most of his earnings had gone to support in ease and happiness a deformed brother, whom he never visited or claimed, lest the

ill-savor of his own reputation might injure him. Louise Michel, the notorious Communist, is said to be a most tender daughter to her

Charles Lamb once, according to Coventry Patmore, expressed himself vehemently about some man whose name was mentioned before him, ending with, "I hate the fel-

"Why, you don't know him! You never saw him i" exclaimed his friend.

"Of course not, How could I hate a man if I knew him !" was the answer, as full of truth as of wit.

It is only God who can see the redeeming spot in every man's heart, but it is always there. Our part is to trust to it, to believe in it, to reach the man through it.

#### Jimmy's Definition of a Base Burner.

Pa (who has been explaining certain facts about stoves)—"Now, Jimmy, do you know what a base burner is?"

Jimmy—"You bet yer life."
Pa—"Have you one in the house?"
Jimmy—"Yes, sir; ma's slipper."

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## Our Progress.

As stages are quickly abandoned with the completion of railroads, so the huge, drastic, eathartic pills, composed of crude and bulky medicines, are quickly abandored with the introduction of Dr. Pierce's " Pleasant Purgative Pellets," which are sugar-coated, and little larger than mustard seeds, but composed of highly concentrated vegetable extracts. By druggists.

German professor of drawing to new student: "Just bleeze boint owd vich von of dose statues you haf drawn from, den vill I your drawing griticise."

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Laywer-" How far is the tavern from your home? How long would it take you to walk the distance?" Witness—"Oh, that would depend upon whether I was going there or coming home."

The experiment which Messrs. Tuckett & Son entered upon whon they commenced to make their "Myrtle Navy" tobacco was this; to give the public a tobacco of the very finest Virginia leaf at the smallest possible margin beyond its actual cost, in the hope that it would be so extensively bought as to remunerate them. By the end of three year the demand for it had grown so much as to give assurance that the success of the experiment was within reacn. The demand for it to-day is more than ten times greater than it was then and it is still increasing. Succass has been reached.

"Henry, love, I wish you would throw away that book and talk with me-I feel so dull. (A long sitence and no raply.) "Oh, Henry, my foot is asieep i" "Is it? Well, den't calk, dear, you might wake it."

A P. 260.

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# YRTLE NAVY

IN BRONZE LETTERS

Other Genuine. None

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Whereas the reports of the epidemic in Montreal have, for obvious reasons, been greatly exaggerated, we, the undersigned Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of Montreal, beg to inform the trade and the public generally that our manufacturing stablishments are entirely outside and far removed from what is known as the Infected District; that the extraordinary precautions taken by us render it extremely improbable that contagion can be carried in our goods; that every employee in our establishment has been vaccinated and re-vaccinated (their families also being vaccinated), and that a thorough examination of the homes of our operatives has been made by competent physicians; and that it is acknowledged by the Medica Faculty that the combination of chemicals used in the tanning, colouring, and finishing of the leather used in Boots and Shoes is in itself a potent disinfectant.

e have also complied with every requirement of the ONTARIO BOARD OF HEALTH, and after close examination of our factories by Doctor Covernton, their Chief Inspector, we have received his certificates.

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