

MISCELLANEOUS.

It was a cr... thing surely for the Toronto Globe to publish that skit of Bill Nye's on Joseph Chamberlain's appearance here.

One doesn't hear nearly as much about Annexation or even Commercial Union these days. The Jesuits' question seems to have absorbed all other interests.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain appears to have almost made a fool of himself by the speech he made on John Bright. If it was intended as an eulogy it was an abject failure.

If any Canadians feel that nothing can satisfy their aspiration but emigration to Dakota, let them by all means do so, but they will do well in the first place to weigh well the chances of cyclones, blizzards and prairie fires which vary the monotony of farm life in these regions from time to time.

The New York "Sun" complains of the success of the Canadian railways in securing a large portion of the carrying trade to which the United States railways think they have a right. It wants Congress to interfere.

Germany is afflicted with an epidemic of trade strikes. The masons, plumbers and carpenters are out in Hamburg; the manufacturing works at Elberfeld and Barmen are closed; the carvers and toymakers at Nuremberg are out; and a general strike of the building trades in Berlin is said to have been determined on.

The Cleveland Leader considers that if Canada increases the duty on United States lard on account of the adulterations of that article the action will be "justifiable discrimination." Says the Leader: "The adulteration of food is one of the besetting sins of this country, and ought to be rebuked and punished wherever possible."

Lady Dufferin's interest in obtaining woman doctors for India has led her to accept the presidency of the Royal Free Hospital in London. The authorities of this institution intend to permit the students of the medical school for women to use the hospital for instruction. Lady Dufferin emulates her husband in a life of public usefulness.

The French government has been guilty of a gross piece of stupidity in determining to prosecute Boulanger. Unless they mean to guillotine the man they ought to know that such a course will only make the people idolize him all the more, and if they were to guillotine him then, alas for them, the Parisian mob would be likely to introduce them to La Lanterne.

Mr. Clifford Lloyd had a letter over two columns in length in Monday's "Times" on the Irish question. He holds that to settle the Irish question will require all the talent and concord of both parties in the State, and any practical attempt to settle it by one party in the face of the opposition of the other will at least end in failure, if not in a great national disaster.

There is a bitter struggle going on in St. Louis for the control of the municipal government. The Democratic nominee for mayor is a sort of a judge or magistrate who is alleged to have been not long ago in such a state of intoxication while on the bench as to be quite unfit for duty. The Republicans are straining every nerve to keep this man and his "gang" away from the city's treasury.

There is still a considerable exodus from this side to the United States. Explain it as you like, a certain amount of that sort of thing is inevitable. It would happen if there wasn't a custom house between the two oceans. There will always be an attraction in the wealthier and more populated country to draw enterprising, ambitious emigrants from poorer and less developed neighbours.

The Minister of Militia has refused the request made by the volunteer battalions of Toronto, Hamilton and Brantford, to go into camp for four days to study the new drill movement. There is force in the ground he takes that if he granted the request, he would have no excuse to do otherwise in the case of similar requests coming from other city battalions, but that the estimates for the year having already been settled, such liberality was out of the question.

What a lovely spot Dakota is! What a peaceful and happy land for the repose of the superannuated members of a bear garden, with its blizzards, its cloud bursts, its cyclones, and that new and original feature of Western life the "sand blizzard." The new article of torture is evidently the summer recreation of the Dakota hurricane, and is designed to prove to the satisfaction of a scientific generation how much the human constitution can stand.

The House of Lords (Discontinuance of Writs) Bill, introduced by Lord Carnarvon, provides that if it shall appear to the House that any peer has been guilty of discreditable conduct inconsistent with his position as a peer, and if the House presents an address to the Queen praying that the writ of summons issued to such peer may be cancelled, it shall be lawful for her Majesty by warrant to cancel such writ, and the peer shall cease to be entitled to sit in the House of Lords.

The experience of the Scottish companies which are engaged in the cattle-raunching business in the Western States and Territories has been a sad one, judging from statistics published by the London "Economist." Of the ten companies, not one paid a dividend in 1887, while last year only three were able to do so, the amounts paid, moreover, being wretchedly small. The other seven companies increased their indebtedness, and several of them, the "Economist" says, are in very low water.

The Cuban is more afraid of the moonlight than the sun. He will live in a fetid atmosphere that would stifle a savage, but surrender a year's income rather than expose himself to the rays of the moon. Every deformity, every distemper, every fever or bilious attack he attributes to the effect of the moonlight, which he believes is the direct cause of most of the ills man is heir to. The drainage of the city is a trivial matter compared with exposure to the moon.

There can be only one opinion about the bill which Mr. Read introduced in Parliament to restrict the right of carrying con-

cealed weapons, and to punish those who disobey. Such a law is necessary. Many persons carry revolvers and other dangerous weapons out of sheer bravado, and edged tools in the hands of such fools are too formidable playthings altogether. If anyone really needs to carry weapons for his defence he can easily secure the necessary dispensation on fulfilment of certain conditions.

From a recent cable despatch to a New York paper it appears that a Canadian girl named Kinharvie, who has theatrical ambitions, has been having a hard time of it at the hands of London critics. She appeared as Young Mrs. Winthrop, and her acting is said to have been weak and stupid. The London newspapers referred to her as an American, but seeing she is a failure, the Yankees try to saddle her on Canada. Who is Miss Kinharvie if she is a Canadian, and did anybody ever hear of her before?

The unworthy policy of letting prisoners spend their time in absolute idleness which has been inaugurated in the State of New York at the dictation of shortsighted demagogues acting on behalf of alleged labour interests, is said to be bearing fruit in increase of insanity among the victims. No wonder. If anything is calculated to drive a man with any brains insane it is the thought of having to spend five, or ten or twenty years, or perhaps the rest of his life in confinement without anything to do. The policy is barbarous.

The time is drawing nigh when another instalment of young people will be launched upon the world with the hall mark of some educational institution upon them. Heavy bless them, they won't think half as much of their B. A. or M. B., or B. S. C., or whatever else it may be, in ten years' time as they do now. At any rate, they won't think of it in the same way. But if they will not be quite as conceited about it, they will be better able to appreciate the training of which such things ought to be the signs.

It is a comparatively trifling circumstance but it shows how completely the tide of English feeling has turned in Parnell's favour since Times faux pas. His friends are getting up a banquet in his honour, but are puzzled to find a place large enough. Most of the big halls are owned by rich Tories who hate Parnell so much that they won't let him be banqueted there. It is thought that Crystal Palace will have to be resorted to. And what a triumph it will be to be sure if even that immense area should prove to be not a whit too large.

The Republic of France deals leniently with forgetful officials sometimes, as appears from the report about an ex-Governor of Senegal having been fined \$100 for having left four negroes on a desert island to protect the French flag, and then forgetting them, until they died of starvation. Perhaps an indignant contemporary goes too far in saying that the \$100 should have been spent on a rope and gallows for a man whose shortness of memory proved him fit for the asylum or for hanging, but certainly it was a gross perversion of justice to let him get off so easily.

The very positive assertion was made a few weeks ago that peach buds were seriously injured by the winter but is now as positively contradicted, and by a large number of growers. Of course, this has been the usual thing for years, except very rarely when the later reports made about the beginning of April have in part confirmed the fears expressed in March. It certainly must be satisfactory to both growers and consumers of this very important product of Ontario to find that the peach prospect is so good.

It is one of the unsolved curiosities of nature how it is that animals can exist, and for long periods of time, embedded in solid rock. That this is the case does not admit of doubt, there being too many well authenticated cases to the contrary. Recently a live bat was dug out by men who were quarrying rock near Romney, in West Virginia. The hole in the stone was only large enough for the bat's body. Another case is reported from Barton, Mo, in which a live bat was found embedded in stone a mile from the mouth of the mine and 200 feet from the surface above. It must have become embedded before the surrounding matter had solidified into rock, and that fact gives a glimpse of the bewildering vitality the beast must have had.

A Montreal Judge recently allowed a young man, convicted of indecent assault on a young girl, to get off with something like a day's imprisonment, and a small fine, on the ground that before his crime he had borne a good character. That perhaps was some excuse for not subjecting him to the full severity of the law, but we fail to see that it was an adequate reason for such limited treatment. The "cat" might be dispensed with, but if there was to be imprisonment and fine both should have been more calculated to act as salutary warning against such an offence. It is to be hoped that the original in this case will profit by the judge's leniency. In the great majority of such cases we still cling to the belief that an efficient castigation is the most salutary cure and the surest preventative.

A good example of how sorely appearances may sometimes testify against even the most deserving of men was afforded in Paraguay recently. A number of men landed from a canoe at Asuncion in that country and made their way to a street car. They were barefoot, ragged, dirty, and generally unkempt in their appearance. They had no money and told the car conductor so, but also assured him that if he would take them to a certain hotel they would be identified there, and he would get his money. The conductor, however, did not see his way clear to be so trustful and told the beggarly looking crew that they must either pay in advance or walk to their destination. They were forced to accept the latter alternative and when they reached the hotel they were given a cordial welcome as the members of an exploring party sent out by government, and who had distinguished themselves by a remarkable trip on the Pilcomayo river.

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WHALE WITH GREEN PEAS.

One Whale Sufficient Food for a Man's Whole Lifetime.

There are obvious difficulties in the way of selling a whale over the counter in a fishmonger's shop. Nevertheless, we may yet see bits of whales being thus purchased and carried away. There was a time in Merrie England when whale with green peas was considered a delicacy. History, it is said, repeats itself, and some of us who now strut the stage of life may, ere we die, indulge in the same feast.

In Barbados, when obtainable, the fish of the humpbacked (Megaptera Americana) is eaten by all classes, being preferred to beef, which is there tough. A South Sea harpooner will tell you that, excepting the delicacy of a draught of the yellow, creamy milk taken from a freshly-speared she whale, whale fins properly cooked are the greatest of conceivable dainties.

A single octacean, it is calculated, will supply 500 pounds of extract, and a pound of extract makes 100 pints of nourishing soup. Thus it can easily be seen that one whale is capable of satisfying the hunger of 50,000 persons, if they were content to have a meal of whale soup alone. An average whale converted into extract would suffice for the daily dinner of a man all through his life, even if he lived to the age of 140. As he would not be likely to accomplish that feat, there would be plenty of whale over for breakfast and supper, when—as he might be expected to tire of soup—the octacean might appear on his table in the form of cutlets, or minces, or even rissoles.

THE HOME OF DICKENS.

Gad's Hill, the Residence of the English Novelist, Again for Sale.

The numerous admirers of Charles Dickens will be interested to know that the novelist's favorite Kentish home at Gad's Hill, the house in which he died, is again offered for sale. Besides the substantially built house, containing fourteen rooms and the usual offices, the Gad's Hill property of eleven acres includes a gardener's cottage, greenhouses, stables, coachhouses, farmyard, kitchen garden, rosary, lawn tennis ground, etc.

The house and grounds were subjected to considerable improvement during the novelist's residence there, such as the construction of a large conservatory adjoining the dining-room and a tunnel under the public highway connecting the front lawn with a charming retreat called "The Wilderness," with its two magnificent cedars. Here stood the pretty Swiss chalet presented to Dickens by his friend Fechter, but which now finds a resting place in Cobham Park, close by. In the chalet the famous writer was wont to work, free from interruption, during the summer months, and here he penned the last lines he ever wrote.

"When I Was a Boy"!

is an expression almost every lad has heard his father use as a basis for bombastic self-adulation. But the boy of the last quarter of the nineteenth century may retort, "when you were a boy, and had an attack of green-apple stomach-ache, you had to take calomel and jalap, but I am treated to Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, sugar coated, and just as nice as chocolate caramels; no blue mass and castor oil for me—I'd rather fight it out with the pain!"

Russet leather harness is the correct thing for a yellow dog cart, village cart, or buckboard.

If you don't want to disgust everybody with your offensive breath, cure your Catarrh upon which it depends. \$500 reward is offered by the proprietors of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy for a case of Catarrh which they cannot cure. It is sold by druggists; 50 cents.

The few broadened silks that are seen this spring have very small figures arranged in stripes.

Alas, how changed! The rosy cheek is pallid as the dead. And from the eyes that were so bright the happy light has fled. Life has no joy for her to-day; grown old before her prime, She waits in hopeless suffering for that swift coming time.

When death shall set her free From poor, sick woman's misery. But if she knew what wonderful cures Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has effected in worse cases than hers, she would clutch at the chance of recovering lost health as drowning men catch at straws, and she might be saved.

It is very doubtful about long lace circle cloaks becoming popular or fashionable in New York.

Consumption Surely Cured.

To the Editor,— Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. address. Resp'y, T. A. SLOCUM, M.C., 164 West Adelaide St. Toronto, Ont. According to Harper's Bazar girls of 14 or 15 wear their skirts almost to their shoe tops.

A. P. 446.

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