The Well-Rnown Humorist Deals With His Own Countrynen.

M. Max O'Rell, after making much "copy" and plentsous lectures out of John Bull and Uncle Jonathan, has now turned his attention to his own cousin "Jacques Bonhomme" by name. In a new book, pub-lished by Mr. Arrowsmith, M. O Rell tells some diverting anecdotes of his soldiering experiences in the French army. The officer who has risen from the ranks (he says) is very popular with the soldiers, whose wants he knows much better than do the young lieutenants fresh from the military school. He can speak very fair French, but prefers bad language, and can swear for a quarter of an hour without using the same oath twice. I remember, during the Franco Paussianwar, I happer ed to be quartered for a day in an aristocratic household in Lorraine with a lieutenant of this type. Trembling at the thought of my worthy friend's unruly member, I seated myself at our host's dinner table. All went well until the conversation unluckily fell upon military marches, when the lady of the house wanted to know whether the feet did not suffer very much with such a quantity of walking to do every day in the hot weather. "I'll tell you what, ma'am," said he, "you must never wash the feet. I never do. Grease them well with tallow, and they'll be all right." The French corporal, to be seen in all his glory, must be studied when he has a written report to make to the colonel. He is a good fellow, who rules four men and defies all rules of grammar. His spelling is phonetic; yet he loves long words, and his reports bristle with such words as nevertheless, notwithstanding. He is regarded by his f ur men as an authority on elegant diction. A private may be able to spell, but a corporal never-such is the deep rooted belief of all French officers. I was present one day when a corporal came to the doctor with one of his men who was unfit for the saddle. The doctor examined him and found him suffering from rheumatism. The doctor proceeded to fill up the requisite form for the man's admission to the nearest military hospital. "Can you spell rheumatism, corporal?" said the doctor. "I think I can, doctor, thank you," replied he, saluting. That corporal was Louis Coetleyon, one of the leading journal-ists of Paris, who had volunteered soon after the outbreak of the war. We had a good laugh over the incident when I told the doctor of his blunder. "What business has he to be a corporal if he can spell?" exclaimed the surgeon.

As soon as two young French people are in love they want to die, unless their parents immediately consent to their marriage, which is very seldom the case. Of course they never do die. They live all the while, and are almost inclined to think that, in love matters, plain sailing is not so sweet or so romantic as obstacles to overcome. What lovely letters crossed love suggests to them! Letters invariably written at midnight—French lovers never write by day—midnight, "when all is in repose around them." Letters full of "all is known, we are lost! What will become of us? Ah! forget me as soon as you can; we shall never be each other's. As for me, I shall die of it I know I shall. Then you will marry another woman. I will pray in heaven for your happiness. Perhaps now and then you will come to the cemetery and lay a bunch of violets on my tomb. You know, beloved one, that violets are my favorite flowers. You won't forget that, will you? Farewell!" When the Frenchman in love has an opportunity of making a viva voce de-claration to the mistress of his heart, he generally sets about in theatrical fashion.

The French are essentially a happy people. Their cheerfulness, which strikes the foreigner the moment he sets foot on French soil, is due to sound stomach. Dyspepsia is not known in France. Light bread, generous wine, dainty dishes productive of good humor, never bolted, alway eaten in cool apartments or in the open air, with lessure and jocularity, there lies the foundation of the Frenchman's happiness. From the rich hanker's mansion in the Champs-Elysees to the simple mechanic's garret at Belleville, will-knocks the bottle in lifting her glass to prevent its being filled full. "Sapristin madame; say that you won't have any more, but, for goodness' sake, don't shake the bot-tle!" Or look how he frowns if he catches a guest in the act of adding water to his pet wine, "Mix this wine with water! My dear fellow, it's a sacrllege! God will never for-give you!" There is nothing irreverent in this exclamation. He is thoroughly convinced that good wine was given to man by God to rejoice his heart; and to spoil it by adding water to it is in his eyes nothing short of a sin. A Frenchman is very poor indeed who has not in the corner of a cellar a few bottles that he has carefully tended for years, and that he brings upstairs to welcome an old friend at his table or cheer a poor neigh-bor on a sickbed. Every year the French " bourgeois" promotes some hundred bottles of wine that has improved by keeping. You should see him as he gently opens the door of his cellar, and almost walks on tiptoe, for fear of shaking the ground. With very little inducement he would take off his hat.

### The Elixir of Life.

Elixirs of life are all well enough in their way, but there seem to be drawbacks con-nected with them which go a long way to wards preventing their universal popularity. It will be just as well at anyrate to "bide a wee" until Brown Sequard, Hammond, and a few more of the scientific big wigs, have more definitely made up their minds on the subject. Don't go making experiments on yourself, and don't be easily persuaded by your doctor to let him try experiments on you. That sort of thing has been tried with very undesirable results in more cases than Reports tell of frightful sufferings undergone by men who were bold enough to allow themselves to be experimented with in the name of science, and in other cases, blains, boils, and the other horrors of blood poisoning have followed the use of the perilous stuff, instead of the limber joints, the lithe frame, the rounded cheeks and the flashing eye, which it was fondly hoped might possibly follow the administration of a mysterious nostrum evolved from certain parts of a dead lamb. We are inclined to think that the Brown-Sequard elixir has made more noise in the world at its inception than it ever will again.

#### PASSING NOTES.

Western Ontario grain crops are reported to be rather below the average. But in the township of Hay one farmer threshed 524 bushels of wheat from twenty-two acres. This is at the rate of twenty four bushels to the acre. It would be difficult to improve upon this.

Electricity has not only invaded the churches by supplying them with light at the evening services, but it is now being utilized for operating the organs. The old weary days of the boy and the bellows were succeeded by water power and gas engine, and now eight of the largest church organs in New York are pumped by electricity. It remains to be seen whether the preaching of the sermon will be done by the same great

Sullivan has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment. This will prebably discourage priz) fighters from going South for their "mills." The California law, however, appears to be lenient eneugh, the so-called glove fights which take place at a club in San Francisco being simply fights thinly veiled. Pagilism, like bull baiting and cock fighting, has had its day, and its professors are now almost universally treated as the

The British Columbia fruit growers have just held a very successful exhibition. The cultivation of fruit out there has largely increased, and one of the papers says : "What four years ago was a howling wilderness, to day blossoms as the rose. It was a genuine suprise to many unacquainted with the possibilities of the country to learn that we had here such magnificent peaches, pears, apples, plums, prunes, cherries, and small fruit generally, and such a wealth of rare flowers and tender buls."

Some of the American journals have been talking pretty wildly about the Behring Sea business. But it has been left to The Minneapolis Tribune to discover that when the Black Diamond steered his beat to Victoria instead of to Sitka he offered a gross insult

to the American flag:
"The duty of the United States Govern ment in the premises is clear. It will insist on a prompt apology for this gross insult to which our flag has been subjected, and the schooner must return to Sizka, whither she was ordered to proceed by the captain of the It makes no difference whether or not the British Government dare give her British Columbia cannot remain a part up. British Columbia California honor is the of the Dominion if American honor is the Province." price of the contentment of the Province."

The Duke of Fife has done the right, pro-take any part of the grant voted to her by Parliament. He feels that he has quite enough wherewith to keep his wife in comfore, and he will not allow any to have even the shadow of an excuse for saying that she is a pauper or state dependent. This is the right way to talk and act, and it will make the young couple still more popular than ever. Louise will feel increasingly how much better it is to marry a Sootch Duke than a German Princelet.

A London special says Messrs, Balfour, Goschen and Chamberlain have put in legislative shape an Irish land scheme. It deals with Ireland as consisting of two parts. The poor Western District, covering an area of 700,000.000 acres and having a population of 1,300,000 is to be acquired by the State by compulsory measures. Land banks are to be established to help peasants buy holdings, the whole business being controlled by the Government. In the prosperous eastern districts, the area of which is 13,000,000 acres and the population 3,700,000, tenants will also be assisted in making purchases through land banks, but the sales will not be compulsory. According to the present plans of the Ministry, the whole of the next session is to be devoted to this measure.

An electric railway has been devised by Mr. David G. Weems, of Baltimore, which, the inventor believes, will revolutionize the transportation of mail and express matter, and, perhaps, in time, of human beirgs also A working model has been constructed on body and joy to the heart. It is a message obtained) a double-track road from New York to Chicago, on which such cars shall run at the rate of two hundred miles an hour. The power would be furnished by nine electric generators about one hundred miles apart. The road would be inclosed by wire lattice work or fences; there would be no conductors or brakemen; the speed, stopping, and starting would be controlled by a despatcher with an electric button under his finger. The movement of each train would be automatically and accurately registered on a chart in the power stations.

The slightest accident to a train or the presence of an obstacle on the track would shut off the connection. The inven-tor predicts that after his system had proved a success in carrying mall and freight, it could and would be applied to the passenger traffi, the only limit on the speed being the resisting powers of the train, while absolute safety would be secured by automatic appliances. If this prediction should ever come true—and, in view of what science and invention have done, it is impossible to declare what they may not do—the traveler could leave Chicago early in the morning, lunch in New York, spend the afternoon on Broadway or in Wall Street, dine at Delmonico's, and reach Chicago again in time to retire at midnight .- [The Christian Union.

THE TORONTO COLLEGE OF MUSIC-F. H. Torrington, Director, opens its second year on September 5:h next. Remarkable and unequivocal success has attended its operations thus far, and the basis of musical work adopted as the college course, provides for pupils decided superior advantages and is eminently practical. Thoroughly qualified teachers only are employed. At the college every opportunity is turned to advantage for the benefit of the pupils. The building contains what but few similar institutions in the world possess, a large and complete three manual pipe organ, which is used con-tinually each day for lessons and practice, while frequent recitals are given on it by students, professors, and prominent organists, such as the great Frederick Archer, of

#### A Scared Editor.

A rugged farmer stalked into the sanctum with a big whip under his arm.

"Be you the editor?" he asked. "I am," was the apprehensive reply.

"Here's two dollars—send me your paper, for life," he said.

"You see," he went on "our daughter was sick and like todie; she drooped and grew weak and pale, had headaches, no appetite. back ached, feet and hands like ice, couldn't sleep, hacked with cougn, and we thought she had consumption. No medicine helped her till we tried that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription mentioned in your paper, when she began to mend in no time and is now well and handsome as a rose—put me down as a life subscriber."

Now the editor is looking for another scare. The medicine has cured acores afflicted as was the farmer's daughter, restoring the female functions to healthy action, and removing the obstructions and suppressions which caused her trouble. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction, or price (\$1 00) refund

There may have been times when Job was out of humor," but there is no emphatic record of it

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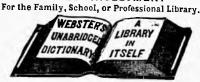
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