

FROM MERRY ENGLAND.

ITEMS OF NEWS BROUGHT BY THE MAIL.

Gathered From Many Points in the Tight Little Island—Matters of More Than Passing Interest.

The will of the late Wm. Singleton, of Edglaston, who died last November has been proved at £72,984.

The death occurred recently of Lord Charles Lennox Kerr, son of the sixth Marquis of Lothian. He was born in 1814.

The will of the late Lord Berwick, of Attingham Hall, Salop, who died last November has been proved at £138,822 gross.

E. J. Halsey has been unanimously re-elected chairman of the Surrey County Council. Lord Ashcombe was re-elected vice-chairman.

The funeral of the late superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department, John Shore, took place at Norwood cemetery recently.

Mr. French has been appointed to the chief agency of Lord Penrhyn's Welsh estates, in succession to the Hon. Sackville-West, who has retired.

Lord Carrington laid the foundation stone of a new Liberal club at Blackpool, and later was the principal speaker at a large public meeting.

On March 10, Admiral R. Coote, C. B., died at Arden, Dulwich, after a long illness. The late officer was born in 1820 and had a brilliant record of naval service.

An extensive scheme of harbour development was inaugurated at Llanelli lately, when the first sod of a large floating dock was cut, which will accommodate the largest vessels afloat.

It has been decided to commence the erection of a new Jenny Lind infirmary for sick children at Norwich. The charity was originated some 50 years since through the munificence of Jenny Lind.

A rare visitor to English waters has been caught off the Lincolnshire coast between Skegness and Gibraltar Point—a file-back sunfish. The creature weighed nearly 15 cwt., and was over 7 feet long.

Addressing the grand jury at Birmingham Assizes recently, the Lord Chief Justice strongly urged magistrates to use more largely their discretionary powers in granting accused persons bail.

The value of the estate of Lord Sackville Arthur Cecil, half brother of the Premier, is sworn for probate at £249,388. His executors are A. J. Balfour and Lady Margaret E. Cecil, sister of the testator.

An epidemic of measles is raging in many of the villages of West Herts. At Rickmansworth several deaths have occurred. Almost every house at Abbots Langley is said to have been visited by the malady.

In the Queen's Bench Division, London, recently, Mr. Jinks a painter, was awarded £500 damages for personal injuries sustained through a beam falling on him from a window in Burreigh street, Strand.

By order from the Admiralty overtime on all new work to the extent of three hours a day is to be commenced in Portsmouth dock yards. Most of the men in the yard will be included in this order.

A deputation from the Life Saving Society waited on the committee of the London School Board recently and urged that all scholars should be taught to swim and render aid to those in danger of drowning.

In addition to the extensive manoeuvres of troops of all arms to be held in Wilts and Dorset in September, it is proposed to muster a large force of cavalry and artillery for manoeuvres on Salisbury plain in July.

A horse attached to a hansom cab, which had been left unattended, took fright in Regent street, London. A man named Adams, who attempted to stop the horse was knocked down and fatally injured.

The governors of Queen Anne's Bounty have made their annual distribution of surplus funds in grants to meet benefactions on behalf of poor benefices in England and Wales. The Bounty grants amounted to £57,100.

In consequence of the strong local opposition, the Brighton Underground Railway bill has been removed from the list of bills referred to the committee of the House of Lords of which the Duke of Richmond is chairman.

The annual rate of mortality of the 33 great towns of England and Wales for the week ending March 12th averaged 21.1 per 1,000. The rate in Birmingham was 21, Derby 18, Leicester 17, Nottingham 24, and Wolverhampton 17.

Thomas Anderson, 40, miner, was sent for trial, recently, charged at Castleford with the murder of his two sons by throwing them into a reservoir.

At Todmorden, on the 3rd inst., John Hitchin, a laborer, was sent for trial, charged with attempting to murder a young woman by throwing her into a canal.

George Williams, a submarine diver, has been remanded at Southwark police court, London, charged with the murder of Wilhelmina, his wife, by shooting her at Dockhead.

Arthur Pawstone, of Woolston, Southampton, was riding a bicycle down hill, without a brake, near Romsey, when he ran into some cows and was thrown on his head and killed.

A two storey warehouse belonging to Messrs. Smith, Edwards & Co., in Queen street, Liverpool, was destroyed by fire with 2,800 bales of cotton. The damage is estimated at £20,000.

At Birmingham Assizes recently Lucy Roberts pleaded guilty to forging the name of Joseph Chamberlain to an order of hosiery, and was sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

C. Coppard, of Perryman's farm, on the high road from Burwash to Brighton, was driving home recently when the carriage was upset and he was thrown on his head and killed.

A woman named Emma Berry died on March 1 at Sunderland, as a result of terrible injuries received by the explosion of a paraffin lamp which she was carrying from one room to another.

At Carmarthen, Timothy D. Williams, 38, a poacher from Llandoverly, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. He was charged with attempting to murder Constable Mitchelmore.

A woodman named Lobley committed suicide at Armeley gaol by hanging himself by his belt in his cell. Lobley had been sentenced to five years' penal servitude for setting fire to the farm premises of his father-in-law.

Benjamin Kirkman, one of the grave-diggers of Louth cemetery, dropped down dead. He was in the act of getting a shovel to dig a grave when he made a remark to a fellow-workman and dropped dead into his arms.

While workmen were preparing the slip in Portsmouth dockyard for laying down the new battleship Formidable, Alfred Baker, a labourer, fell from a derrick, 60-ft. high, and was killed.

The death is announced at Chatham, at the age of 84, of Arthur Dickens, an old quartermaster of the Royal Navy. He accompanied Sir John Ross's expedition to the Arctic regions, and was with the Baltic fleet during the Crimean war.

Some workmen engaged in excavating at Bury, recently, uncovered a large copper bell, beautifully chased and evidently very ancient. The bell weighed about a hundred weight and a half, stands 2 ft. 6 in., and is 2 ft. 7 in. in circumference.

The funeral of the late George Muller took place at Bristol. It was of a public character, thousands of people of all classes crowding the streets from 10 till 1 o'clock, when the long string of sixty carriages passed through the city to the cemetery. On the church towers flags were hung half-mast high, and hundreds of orphan children followed the procession to the Bethesda chapel.

DANGEROUS POST.

In the Fighting Top of a Big Battleship.

There are some men who will have an interesting and exciting time in the next naval battle. They are the fellows who will be perched up in the fighting tops, looking down upon the hell of crashing steel and mangled limbs below and doing their best to reproduce it on the decks of the enemy. The landsman would find an hour in a fighting top a rather thrilling experience even in time of peace. After crawling up a little iron ladder on the inside of a steel shaft like a hollow tree he would emerge in a huge drum with the top off. Looking over the side he would find himself suspended at the height of a church steeple, with nothing visible beneath him to break his fall. He would have the sensation of hanging in the car of a balloon.

It would be a little dizzy even at anchor in a friendly harbor. But send the ship to sea, with every roll of her hull multiplied by three or four, the top describing arcs of huge circles in the swing of the swell, and set another ship to shooting at her from a distance of 1,000 yards at the rate of 5,000 shots a minute and the landsman might be excused if his heart should crowd into his mouth.

The fighting man in the fighting top, intently training his machine gun on any group of combatants he may see exposed on the enemy's decks, may not be troubled by the landsman's qualms, but even his seasick nerves cannot be expected to ignore the meteoric shower of projectiles big and little, that hurtle by him, the smallest of which would terminate his earthly existence. A single one of the larger shells striking the mast below him would bring it down like a tree under the ax of the woodman and plunge the man in the top a hundred feet to his death. In the absence of such a catastrophe the top itself must inevitably be riddled by the smaller bolts, and, if it remain standing when the battle is over, it is likely to contain a crew of corpses.

NOT TRUE LOVE.

Daughter—I will have to break my engagement with Mr. Nicefellow, mother. I find I do not love him.

Mother—When did you make that discovery?

Daughter—Last evening. I saw him out walking with another woman, and I did not want to murder her at all.

AMERICAN SHIPS AT SEA.

CHANCE FOR RICH PLUNDER FOR THE SPANISH NAVY.

760 Yankee Vessels Far From Port With No Idea that the War Is Really on—Without Reckoning Their Cargoes They Aggregate a Total of \$54,466,075.

A careful review of the weekly compendium of the New York Maritime Register, just issued shows that there are at the present moment on the high seas exactly 760 vessels flying the American flag.

Of course this does not represent all the American shipping now engaged in the commerce of the world, for there are many ships that are safe in port, and none of these have been included in this reckoning.

The tonnages are taken from the record published by the American Shipmasters' Association in New York. The valuations are the estimates of an experienced marine underwriter, than whom there can obviously be no better authority. These valuations are for the ships themselves, and no reckoning is made for the valuable cargoes they are carrying from port to port.

So that in the single item of vessels the Spaniards have a chance for a gross sum of \$54,466,075 in prize money. These ships are scattered all over the world, many of them in places where they are really without a particle of protection beyond their own speed, and this is a reliance that is not very far-reaching, except in a few isolated instances. The American merchant marine does not include many such flyers as the St. Louis, the Paris and the New York and of the other steamers almost every one is

LIABLE TO CAPTURE.

by the speedy Spanish cruisers and gunboats. With their cargoes, they would afford more prize money for the Spanish sailors than they have ever dreamed of. There is not one of them that could defend herself, and colors would have to be lowered at the firing of the first gun.

Many of these ships were chartered for long voyages before there was any great fear of war and no extraordinary precautions were taken for their protection or safety. For instance, there is a great fleet that is now on its way around Cape Horn and up into the Pacific to engage in the Klondike trade. These left Atlantic seaports weeks ago, and their captains have no idea now of the serious turn of affairs since they steamed out of American harbors.

Perhaps the first intimation they will receive will be the roar of a shotted gun, an unanswerable challenge for them to heave to and deliver. The Klondike steamers have large cargoes of supplies and numerous passengers, men and women on their way to the land of golden promise, with no suspicion of the danger that impends.

Then there are the steamers engaged in the West Indian and South American trade. These have not been out so many days as the others, but there are many of them that are not in a position to receive a warning that will be of any real use in helping them to take the necessary precautions for safety. The goods which they carry, in many instances

IMPERISHABLE PROVISIONS

is just the thing the Spaniards need the most, and they will make every endeavor to capture as many of them as possible.

A sample instance of the danger to the steamers that have left Atlantic ports for the Pacific is found in the case of the Ohio, which sailed from Philadelphia on March 8, bound for San Francisco, Seattle and Tacoma, with a cargo of supplies for the Klondike trade. She was last heard of at Coronel, a Chilean port, where she touched on April 13. She remained there three days taking on coal, and when she sailed her commander, Capt. Broomhead, could not have heard of the state of war.

A similar instance is that of the steamer Illinois, a sister ship of the Ohio, which is engaged in the same trade. The Illinois left Philadelphia on March 22, and has not yet touched at any port where there is cable communication with the United States. Her captain had no orders touching his procedure in case of war at the time of her sailing.

There are at least a dozen of these steamers which have sailed from New York, Boston and Philadelphia for the Pacific Coast, and every one of them is in imminent danger of becoming a Spanish prize.

One of the richest harvest fields for the Spaniards on the ocean is found among the clipper ships that are cargo carriers between the United States, China, and the East Indies. These ships are the finest vessels of their class, most of them built in Maine, and their cargoes are always of the

MOST VALUABLE KIND.

Many of them are engaged in the tea trade.

Take, for instance, the big ship Abner Coburn, one of the best of this class. She sailed from Hongkong on Dec. 4, bound for New York with little likelihood of her touching at any port during her long voyage. With her cargo she would make a prize worth at least \$200,000 to the Spaniards, and it is nothing wonderful, therefore, that the Dons are inclined to countenance privateering, when there are from fifty to one hundred of just such prizes now on the high seas.

Another example of this class is the big clipper Aryan, which left New York on Jan. 13, bound for San Francisco.

There is no telling where she may be at this time, and her owners are naturally anxious over the danger of her being captured and taken to a port where she can be converted into prize money.

All in all, the best authorities admit that there is a tremendous danger to American shipping, with little or no chance for an adequate reprisal, for the Spanish merchant marine is not one-tenth as valuable as the American, and where the Spaniards have ten chances to make a capture the Americans will not have one.

NO TROUBLE TO FIND THE KEY.

HOLE.

Novel Electrical Appliances in the House of a Buffalo Man.

An electrical engineer in Buffalo has recently fitted up his house with a great variety of novel electrical arrangements. If he arrives home in the night after the usual lights have been turned out he has no trouble in finding the key hole in the front door, for as soon as he steps on the porch floor at the top of the front steps, lights on the porch and in the vestibule are automatically lighted. After he gets in and closes the door these lights are extinguished and those on the first landing of the main stairway are lighted. If he desires to light the hall, the bathroom or any of the bedchambers before going further, he opens a secret panel in the vestibule and turns the proper switch.

When a caller arrives and rings the bell members of the family who may be in any part of the house can speak to him without leaving the room where they are, and if they wish to admit him can do so by merely pushing a button.

Should burglars try to enter the house their efforts will not only ring an alarm bell, but at the same time the electric lights on the porch and in the vestibule flare up and expose him to the gaze of the occupants of the house and the police. The temperature of each room in the house is controlled by electric devices which can be set to any degree wanted. The use of electricity has done away with a stable and in its stead, provided himself with an electric carriage, which he keeps ready for use in the basement of his house. An inclined cement pavement leads to this carriage room from the street, and when the carriage is not in use it is connected to the wires in the house and is automatically recharged ready for service again. In the kitchen all the cooking is done by electricity, and there is besides an electrically driven knife sharpener and coffee grinder. In the dining room the tea or coffee is kept hot by an electric heater, and for midnight suppers there is an electric chafing dish.

In the bathroom there is an electric shaving water heater and a big electric heater for furnishing hot water for the bath. The current for this is turned on by the turning of the spigot and shut off when this is closed. One may use as much hot water, as may be desired without exhausting the supply for the next person. In the sewing room a pressure of the foot upon the treadle of a sewing machine sets an electric motor at work driving the machine, in the smoking room an electric cigar lighter is at hand and the women's rooms are provided with electric curling iron heaters. The laundry has its share of electric appliances in the form of electrically heated sad-irons.

SOME MISTAKES WE MAKE.

A Few Hints About Proper Living Which It Would Be Well to Follow.

We should like to take the opportunity of pointing out a few of the mistakes which are too frequently made nowadays. It is a mistake to work when you are not in a fit condition to do so. To take off heavy underclothing because you have become overheated. To think that the more a person eats the healthier and stronger he will become. To believe that children can do as much work as grown people, and that the more they study the more they learn. To go to bed late at night and rise at daybreak and imagine that every hour taken from sleep is an hour gained. To imagine that if a little work or exercise is good, violent or prolonged exercise is better. To conclude that the smallest room in the house is large enough to sleep in. To sleep exposed to a direct draught at any season. To imagine that whatever remedy causes one to feel immediately better, as alcoholic stimulants, for example, is good for the system, without regard to the after effects. To eat as if you had only a minute in which to finish the meal, or to eat without an appetite, or to continue after it has been satisfied to gratify the taste. To give unnecessary time to a certain established routine of housekeeping when it could be more profitably spent in rest or recreation. We trust that these little mistakes, which, as we pointed out above, are so apt to be made, will in future be avoided.

AT VARIANCE.

I do not believe in rings, declared the amateur politician who was calling on his best girl.

I do, she pouted, as she twisted her empty engagement finger.

AWAY UP.

Mistress—Are you up in French dressings?

Cook—All my best gowns is Paris made mum.

STRANGE CONFESSIONS.

Men Who Have Confessed to Crimes Which They Never Committed.

That a man on the rack with every nerve quivering, with every drop of blood drawn to its utmost tension with the pain increasing in intensity with the pressure of crime is natural enough. The prospect of relief from actual agony is a temptation that blinds the sufferer to the future. But it may seem inexplicable things in human history that men have been induced by religious exhortations and other means of persuasion to sign their own death warrants by confessing crimes actually never committed. Such in England was the case of John Perry, executed at Campden in 1661, with his mother and brother, for murdering William Harrison, steward for Lady Campden. The testimony against them was chiefly the confession of John Perry, himself, to the astonishment of all, Harrison, who had been kidnapped and carried off, returned two years after the execution.

In 1812 a man named Russell Colvin, living at Manchester, Vt., disappeared and suspicions of foul play were entertained. Public opinion attributed his murder to Stephen and Jesse Boorn. Still, as there was no definite ground on which to arrest them, the excitement gradually died away. In 1819, however, a Mr. Boorn dreamed that he

MURDERED BY TWO MEN.

who he fixed upon as his nephews Stephen and Jesse. The ghost of the murdered man even specified the place of the murder and the old cellar where the mangled body had been thrust. There a knife and buttons were found, which were identified as belonging to Colvin. On this the men were arrested. Stephen and Jesse had quarreled just before the disappearance of the latter, and Stephen had been seen to strike him with a stick and knock him down.

In a short time Jesse confessed to the murder and Stephen with him. Stephen knocked him down, had carried him to the old cellar and cut his throat with a jack-knife and further stated that next year they made away with most of the bones of their victim. Stephen, after a time, admitted the truth of Jesse's confession, and this they were convicted, and sentenced to be hanged on the 28th of January, 1820. They applied for commutation of sentence, and as some believed their innocence, advertisements were inserted in various papers for Colvin. A long afterward a letter appeared in the New York Evening Post, signed by Mr. Chadwick and dated Shrewsbury, N. J., December 16, 1819, stating that a slightly deranged man named Colvin had been there five years before. This was generally looked upon as a hoax, but Jas. Whelpley, of New York, who knew Colvin resolved to follow the clue, and actually found Colvin in the house of William Polhemus at Dover, N. J., where he had been since April, 1813.

Mr. Whelpley took him to New York, the common council gave him money to proceed to Vermont, and he arrived at Manchester on the 22d day of December. The whole place was in a state of wild excitement. People gathered from all the surrounding country to see the dead alive. A cannon was brought out and Colvin was saluted with a discharge of cannon and sent arms Stephen Boorn firing the first shot. There was much discussion as to the motive for the confession some attributing it to the effect of imprisonment, a general sort of panic, terror and others to the injudicious advice and exhortations of a clergyman.

SOME OTHER DAYS.

There are wonderful things we are going to do.
Some other day;
And harbors we hope to drift into
Some other day.
With folded hands the oars that tread
We watch and wait for a favorite
To fill the folds of an idle sail
Some other day.
We know we must toil if ever we
Some other day.
But we say to ourselves there's time
to begin
Some other day;
And so, deferring, we loiter on
Until at last we find withdrawn
The strength of the hope we lean
upon
Some other day.
And when we are old and our race
run.
Some other day.
We fret for the things that might have
been done
Some other day.
We trace the path that leads us where
The beckoning hand of grim despair
Leads us yonder out of the here.
Some other day.

DOMESTIC PROBLEMS.

Mr. Newwed—My dear, I wish you tell that cook that we don't like beefsteak burned and don't want your roasts raw.

Mrs. Newwed—Tell her? How can she never comes into the parlor and she won't let me go into the kitchen.

A MAN TO BE TRUSTED.

How did you happen to trust that man for groceries. Spotly? You trust his name.

Yes, I know him for a courageous honest man. I sat behind him at the theater the other night and heard him tell his wife he was going out to a drink. That takes moral stamina.

ARRIVING ROYAL

PRINCE LUIGI HOPES TO NORTH POLE

The King of Italy's Nephe...
ual Plan for Invading...
glans—He Ascended...
Last Year.

Prince Luigi, of Savo...
uzzi, is certainly a...
otherwise, how account...
that this man, who is a...
King of Italy, should...
ent on making a trip...
Pole. Moreover, this is...
proof which he has giv...
of adventure. As our re...
of Mount St. Eli...
last year, thus accomp...
which had baffled sev...
more experienced men...
The Prince's great aim...
purch nearer the pole...
did, and in the depth...
there is a wild hope wh...
flag in the very centre...
is especially spurred t...
now, because he knows...
Sverdrupp is also bent...
pedition, and the idea...
and fiddle to any one...
doubtable Sverdrupp, is...
him.

HELPED BY TH

King Humbert, though...
at first, has at last giv...
tion to his nephew's plan...
show his practical int...
promising to contribut...
towards the expenses...
tion.

The Prince does not pr...
to Nansen's footsteps. H...
go by sea as far as Fr...
Land and to complete h...
means of sledges and b...
known as kayaks. Appare...
first to conceive the ide...
at the North Pole in th...
the arguments which he b...
in favor of his plan show...
acting rashly or without...
thought.

He claims that the mai...
his ascent of Mount St...
which was vainly attempt...
of tourists a few days t...
completed it—was such...
success, was because he...
a large and thorough...
caravan, the members of...
trained mountain clim...
reasons that, if he and...
succeed Mount St. Elias...
thou why they should n...
speaking the pole.

His plan then is to ta...
about twenty of the most...
ian mountaineers, as w...
Esquimaux and teams of...
the party approaches...
ground scouts will be se...
reconnoitre, and thencefo...
they will be made by mea...
In other words, the party...
to a sort of human ladde...
of the foremost being t...
mission of a certain port...
Prince Luigi maintains...
way, not only is the risk...
danger reduced to a min...
the chance of reaching th...
comes much greater. Gen...
recommended that th...
ties be employed during...
Italian campaign, but u...
his recommendation came...
The expedition will cert...
for lack of funds. "Not...
have my uncle's 500,000...
Prince Luigi to a friend...
but I will also have am...
my own. My intention is...
entire income of 150,000...
subject during the three...
journey will last, and if...
enough I am ready to e...
on my capital."

The Prince is only twent...
old, and he looks even yo...
who did not know him w...
has not the robustness...
strength which is necessary...
successful completion of such...
enterprise. He is of s...
medium height, and, so f...
ward appearances go, is...
to such hardy exploit...
Nansen or Sverdr...
whom he has fearlessly...
competition. On the othe...
an immense fund of f...
will power, as his success...
Mount St. Elias amply pr...
A TRUE SAVANT

His brother, the Count...
described him some...
speaking of the members...
he said: "My oldest b...
of Aosta, is the har...
of the family; my youngest...
of Abruzzi, is the s...
am simply a good follow...
A savant Prince Luigi...
means one of the ord...
fin de siecle savant; he...
French journal, "and there...
common between him and...
every one of the Quirin...
interested in the forthcom...
and the Italian peop...
are proud to think th...
of the royal family ha...
to undertake such a per...
and the scientific knowle...
of his own could hardly b...
of the other hand, the im...
of Prince Luigi's fami...
possible exception of King...
rather frightened at th...
what the young man is...
take and they would i...
if some unexpected obst...
prevent him from carryi...
tion.

ALL PREPARATIONS...
that any such obstacle...