

Notes and Comments.

Reports of the famine in India grow steadily worse. The destitute now employed on relief works number more than 5,500,000, with a weekly rise in the total; hundreds of thousands are on missionary relief, while in some districts cholera is completing the work of destruction begun by starvation.

In the native states the situation is much worse, no adequate organization for relief existing, and though the Calcutta government has lent them experienced British officials to supervise the work, the mortality from sheer starvation is reported as very heavy.

Cattle camps have been formed with a view to keeping alive those that survive, for without them there can be little cultivation of the soil when the rains do fall, and none where irrigation by wells is depended on for crops, and \$2,667,000 have been expended for the purchase of cattle and seeds.

RAILROAD COLLISIONS.

Experiments to Lesson Accidents in Russia.

Experiments have been made at Vershobolovo Station, on the St. Petersburg and Warsaw Road, with an invention of Mr. Nikolaiiev, designed both to give warning and to lessen the deadly effects of railroad collisions.

RUBBER HEELS.

India rubber heels on shoes, decreasing the fatigue of marching, will soon be adopted by the French army.

BIRTHS IN THE WORLD.

The world's births amount to 36,792,000 every year, 100,800 every day, 4,300 every hour, 70 every minute, or one and a fraction every second.

THE GREAT WANT OF REST.

Rev. Dr. Talmage Speaks of This World and the Next.

A despatch from Washington says: Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text: "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest."—Micah ii. 10.

This was the drum-beat of a prophet who wanted to arouse his people from their oppressed and sinful condition; but it may just as properly be uttered now as then. Bells by long exposure and much ringing lose their clearness of tone; but this rousing bell of the gospel strikes in as clear a tone as when it first rang on the air.

What about those stocks? Hark to the tap of that fire-bell; it is your district! How if you should die soon? Awake, man! think of it! Who will get your property when you are gone? What will they do with it? Wake up! RICHES SOMETIMES TAKE WINGS.

THE LAND OF GOLD.

I hold in my hand a deed from the Proprietor of the estate, in which he offers to all who will join the company ten thousand shares of infinite value, in a city whose streets are gold whose harps are gold, whose crowns are gold.

UNENGIN REST.

Into that rest how many of our loved ones have gone! The land is in mourning for the dead. Never in one summer of my ministry have so many of my congregation been swept off by disease. The little children have been gathered up into the bosom of Christ.

He sounds their lungs; he measures their stature; they must be just right, or they are rejected. But there shall be no partiality in making up this army of Christ. Whatever your moral or physical stature, whatever your dissipation, whatever your crimes, whatever your weaknesses, I have a commission from the Lord Almighty to make up this regiment of redeemed souls and I cry, "Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest."

THE BOER WAR.

United States Financier's Argument in Favor of British.

Henry Clews, of Henry Clews, & Co., New York, comments as follows upon the Transvaal war:—"While many Americans have sympathized with the Dutch, chiefly because they have fought valiantly for a losing cause, yet as a nation we were not only compelled to be neutral by all legal precedent, but on the merits of the cause our judgment could not sanction the position of the Dutch.

HEAR ME TALK ABOUT REST.

But there are some of you who want to hear about the land where they never have any heartbreaks, and no graves are dug. Where is your father and mother? The most of you are orphans. I look around, and where I see one man who has parents living I see ten who are orphans.

NOT BROKEN.

So you quarreled with George, said one young woman. Yes, answered the other with much pathos. Is your engagement broken? Oh, no. I told him I never wanted to see his face again, and he said that he would leave me forever.

HER PREFERENCE.

O'Brien—So Cassey and Costigan fought for Miss Kelly's hand, and Cassey won? Thin O! suppose Cassey got her? O'Rourke—No, Costigan got the prize! She said she wanted the man she could lick easiest, begorra!

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JUNE 17.

"The Feeding of Five Thousand." John 6: 5-14. Golden Text, Matt. 6: 11. PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 5, 6. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes. On a hill overlooking the plain of Butaiha Jesus and his disciples are seated, conversing on holy things. Looking up, he sees a great company which had come on foot around the lake.

7, 8. Philip answered him, and his answer reveals his character. It will be found not unprofitable to guess what Peter or Thomas or John or Judas would have said if this question had been asked of one of them.

It is sad to say farewell on earth, but how sad to say farewell in the judgment—to gaze eternally up toward the place where our loved ones dwell, but be ourselves thrown out!

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Floriculture.

PANSIES.

Pansies, with your human faces, You are queens and lovers loyal! Queens, indeed, with tender graces, High-born kings in colors royal.

FLORAL HINTS.

Perennials, after blossoming, may be divided and reset. If well shaded for a few days, until new root growth takes place, they are more certain to winter well than if transplanted as deferred until autumn.

White clover, if left undisturbed, will spread and overrun the lawn. The only way to exterminate it is to use a sharp spud and cut each plant just below the crown; then it will not start.

In hot, dry weather the earth around flowers should be often stirred, in a protracted drouth this is imperative. Plants are often injured by injudicious watering.

When the thermometer is in the nineties, hunting bugs and slugs and pulling weeds is not pleasant work. Weeds must not be allowed to gain a foothold; it is never so hot or dry but they will thrive at the expense of the flowers.

The water on wash day, if judiciously applied, is one of the best of fertilizers for flowers. It should never be allowed to form a coating over the surface of the ground.

Roses should be pruned when they are done blooming. If cut back and the growth of new wood stimulated with a fertilizer dug into the soil about the roots, several varieties will bloom at intervals during the season.

The golden elder, with its variegated green and yellow foliage, is beautiful for the lawn. It is quite easily propagated by heading over branches growing near the ground.

FABULOUS FORTUNES.

An incident that recently occurred in Austria, in which the principal parties are the Archduke Frederic and a Hungarian Colonel, has had the effect of attracting general attention to the question of the enormous fortunes that exist in Austria.