WIT AND WISDOM.

Committeeman—Before engaging you for our pastorate we would like to know if you can preach without notes. Pastor—No, sir. Banks notes are a necessity with me.—[Omaha World.

Rev. Primrose—"You have a very kind father, little boy, I heard him say it was a shame to punish children." Little Johnnie—"He only says that when ma does the licking."—[Epoch.

Guest—And you are the proprietor of this popular hotel, are you? Why, I was here last summer, and I don't think you owned it then, did you? Proprietor—Oh, no, I was one of the waiters, though.—[Time.

First Shopping Lady—Was that a clark or the proprietor we traded with? Second Shopper—A clerk, certainly. Didn't you notice he said "I" have this and that line of goods. The proprietors always say "we."—Omaha World.

His Pedigree.—Englishman (to stranger—Excuse me, sir, but aren't you a foreigner? Stranger—Foreigner? No, sir, I'm an American pure and simple. Englishman—Ah! and what tribe do you belong to, please?—[Harper's Bazar.

Jack—"Ethel, I am ashamed of you. I saw that Frenchman in the conservatory kissing you repeatedly. Why didn't you tell him to stop?" Ethel—"I couldn't, Jack." Jack—"You couldn't! Why not?" Ethel—"I can't speak French."—[Judge.

Wife—"The twentieth of February we shall celebrate our silver wedding. Don't you think we ought to kill the fat pig and have a feast?" Husband—"Kill the pig? I don't see how the unfortunate animal is to blame for what happened twenty-five years ago."

Her father.—Stern Voice (from first landing, temp. 12.10 p. m.)—"Alice!"—Alice (softly)—"Yes, pa." Voice (with threatening ring in it)—"Does that young man in the parlor take tea or coffee for breakf——?" ("Door"!—and he was gone!)—[London Punch.

Rural Simplicity.—Mrs. Urban—"See here, Rusticus, those hens you sold me last month haven't laid an egg since I bought them." Rusticus—"Why, marm, this is the close season for hens in this State. It's agin the law for hens to lay afore the fust of September."—[Lowell Citizen.

Canada (in great wrath, to John Bull)—Why don't you bring your ironclads over here and teach these impudent Yankees a lesson? John Bull—Sit down, child, sit down! I can't afford to quarrel with them. Got too much money invested in their blawsted country.—[Chicago Tribune.

Minister—"I'm glad, Bertie, to see that you kept your promise to me and came to church to-day instead of going fishing." Bertie—"Yes sir." Minister—"Don't you feel better than if you had gone to the creek?" Bertie—"Yes, sir; 'cos pa said if I follered him to-day he'd lick me."—[Scranton Truth.

Jimmy Freshman (stopping in front of the new neighbor, and gazing intently at her)—"Ain't I a brave boy, Mrs. Spinks?" Mrs. Spinks—"Why?" Jimmy—"'Cause, mamma said you were a perfect fright, but you don't scare me a bit." The Freshleys and Spinkses are not on speaking terms.—[Lawrence American.

Little Bobby—Ma, will I go to Heaven when I die? Mother—If you are a good boy you will. Little Bobby—Will you go, too? Mother—I hope so, Bobby. Little Bobby—And will pa? Mother—Yes, we will all be there some time. Bobby didn't seem to be altogether satisfied, and after some thought he said: "I don't see how I'm going to have much fun."—[Rome Sentinel.

Results of Elixir.—Moses—Isaac, mine son, go down to the glinto und ask de doctor for a dose of dot lamb elixir. It will gest noddings, und you will grow a fine all-wool suit of clodings. Issac—No, fadder, it would ruin my gabacity for pisness. Beoples would bull the wool over the eyes of your son. Moses (reflectively and aside)—Dot poy vas smarter as his fadder.

A Failure.—Mr. Slowpopper (timidly)—Talking of Mark and Maria's runaway match, Sallie, when you and I get married it will not be in that style, will it? Sallie—When you and I get married! Mr. Slowpopper, you are entirely too presumptuous. I would never marry you, even if—Mr. Slowpopper—Oh, I mean—er—that is—when you marry some other man and I marry some other girl.

What is a Fire?

A curious point of law, bearing upon the responsibility of insurance companies, has just been decided in the Paris law courts (Fifth Chamber of the Civil Tribunal of the Seine), at the suit of the contess Fitz James v. the Union Fire insurance companies must idemnify all losses sustained by an assured caused by fire, even in cases where no destruction of premises has been caused by conflagration. The Countess Fitz James insured against fire, in the above company, all her furniture and effects for 558,000 francs, and in her policy, under article 7, were mentioned her jewels, among which figured specially a pair of earrings, composed of fine pearls, valued at 18,000 francs. On April 17, 1887, one of these earrings, which had been placed on the Mantelpiece, was accidentally knocked down by the Countess and fell into the fire, where it was consumed, notwithstanding every effort made to save the jewel. Expert jewellers were called in by both parties to estimate the intrinsic value of the property destroyed, and 9 000 francs was stated to be the amount less 60 francs for molten gold rescued from the ashes. The insurance company refused to pay for the burnt pearl on the ground that there was no conflagration, that the fire which consumed the object was an ordinary fire, in other words, that there was no fire, and that the company was not responsible where combustion had only occurred by the ordinary use of a grate for heating purposes. The court, however, rejected this, and ruled that "the word *fire*, in matters of insurance, applied to every accident, however unimportant such accident may be, so long as it is caused by the action of fire." It was therefore, ordered that the Union Company should pay to the Countess Fitz James the value of the jewel, less that of the gold recovered, viz., 8,000 francs and costs.—[Irish Law Times.

She Had Enough.

"Mamma," said Bridget O'Flynn, who has social aspirations, "it's myself that wants a ridin' habit." "Well, it's yourself that won't get any. Begorra, you've got ridin' habit enough as it is, takin' the horse cars twice a day as ye do at foive cents ivery thrip."

TOPICS OF THE HOUR.

That there is great want among many of the peoples of the Soudan there can be little doubt, but reports of famine in cities like Khartoum are improbable. Such cities live at the cost of the communities along the river, and until the peoples on the Nile as far south as vessels can reach easily are completely stripped there will be no famine in Khartoum. Tekar is a village on the Red Sea Littoral and Kassala is a town situated not beside the river, but in the hilly district about half way between Khartoum and the Red Sea. The fighting men of the Dervish force defeated below Wady Halfa were reported by General Grenfell as well nourished.

The cranks are still at it. One man purposes jumping over Niagara Falls and another purposes going over them in a barrel. They may both lose their lives in the attempt, but as they are offered money for the risk they look upon it as a purely business venture. It is only a little short of suicide, and against attempts at suicide, society has made laws. Niagara has been the scene of suicides and daring feats without number. Sentimental people who tire of life find their way there and throw themselves over the falls or into the swift current above. Running water has a strange fascination for most people, and of the thousands who go to see the falls there are probably few through whose mind the thought has failed to pass how easy it would be to end all the worry and weariness of life by simply taking a step or two. The sight of the falls and the scenery round about is among the grandest in the world and it is a pity that a place of such world wide celebrity should be marred by the silly freaks of queer people trying to do queer things. Suppose that one of the number really succeeded in going over the falls in a barrel a dozen times, what earthly good would it do?

The wrecking of trains has become a daily incident of the existing system of American railway management, and so frequent are those so-called accidents that they have ceased to be interesting. The coroner's jury never fails, however, to discover that there is no person to blame, and strange to say the coroner's jury may not be altogether wrong. The American system of railway construction and management is now passing through a stage of transition. An attempt is being made to run many and fast trains over cheap single track roads, without a block system, and without that constant inspection of tracks which European railways find necessary, and the result is wrecks without number, for which individuals are really not responsible.

Senator Frye has made a new discovery with regard to Behring Sea. He no longer claims that that sea as a whole is a closed sea, but says the part of it where the seals are caught is, and has always been admittedly, so regarded. There is a cool assurance about the putting forth of this new compromise theory, which could only be reached by a Frye. It is consoling to learn that the honorable senator at last predicts the settlement of the whole affair by practical common-sense diplomacy. It has been owing to Senator Frye probably more than to any other man, that every effort to get our fishery disputes settled by common-sense has been blocked. It is certainly a great accession to common-sense to have Senator Fyre giving evidences of it.

Toronto's unanimity and enterprise make her annual exhibition a great success. It is that for which Toronto is now preparing. The busy bustling appearance of the Queen City suggests greatly increased growth and prosperity, which must be pleasant to all Canadians. One feature noticeable above all others is pride of city.—[Montreal Witness.

The change in the tone of the German official press toward England is very remarkable. Prince Bismark's "reptiles" have been completely charmed by some means, and Germany seems inclined to really curb the aggressive spirit of her colonizers, which was directed largely against Great Britain. All the English papers remark upon the extraordinary pleasant and kindly manners of the Emperor. His air of filial deference to the Queen, his kindly banter with his cousins, the princes and princesses of Wales, and his display of his appreciation of kindly attentions from the people are commented upon as so different from what English people generally expected. England and Germany should be friends, but after all Great Britain's future is bound up with that of the United States and Canada, Australia and South Africa, and not with that of any of the continental powers of Europe. If Prince Albert Victor fell in love with a good American girl and were allowed to marry her it would be the best alliance possible so far as alliance of nations can be concerned in alliances of their rulers.

The Gooderham distillery in Toronto which is to be taken over by the English syndicate at a price of six million dollars, is one of the most extensive distilleries in the world. The excise duties it pays to the Government in a year would be a fortune to an ordinary person. The buying up of breweries and distilleries on this side of the Atlantic has been going on for some time past, and there seems to be no telling where it will end. An immense combination such as is evidently contemplated would be a serious thing for others in the same line of business, as such a combination would force the prices down with the determination to destroy competition and then force them up with the object of putting large profits in the coffers of the syndicate. It is not strictly correct to speak of the English syndicate as being composed exclusively of British capitalists. The money is loose capital, which is brought together by American middlemen having a keen eye to business. The rate of interest is so low in the Old Country that capitalists are always glad to find a new opening for investment, as long as it is sure, and they evidently think that the money invested in breweries and distilleries is bound to return good interest. But the confidence with which they make the investment does not say much for the prospects of total prohibition of the liquor traffic in Canada.

How true it is that one half the world little knows how the other half lives. It is quite as true that one half does not know how the other half dies. The despatches from Egypt tell a sad tale of starvation and death from the famine that prevails at Khartoum and other river towns. Deaths from starvation are an everyday occurrence and the survivors actually eat the victims. It would be a mercy to these semi-civilized people if the British Government would take possession of the Soudan and reclaim it from barbarism. Then in China there are floods and in Japan earthquakes. In less than a month there have been fifty-three earthquake shocks in one of the provinces of Japan, while from China the news is sent to the outer world that the number of persons drowned is far too great to be counted. Ten districts are already submerged through the overflowing of the Yellow river, and the end is not yet. These great rivers are a great blessing to humanity. Without the annual rising of the Nile, for instance, the people of Egypt would be doomed. But when great rivers overflow their banks the amount of destruction they are capable of doing is something terrible. In the case of a flood on the St. Lawrence it is property that is destroyed, but in the case of the Yellow river in China, or the Nile in Egypt, it is not only property but human lives. The lives of these poor people may not be of as much use to civilization as the lives which were lost by the Johnstown floods, but they are human lives none the less, each with its aims and objects, its loves and hates, its sunshine and its shadows, whether black be the skin, or yellow or white.

Operations of Lightning.

All those who suffer from fright during thunder storms, should regard the lot of an English woman living in a large town as peculiarly enviable, for, according to Mr. Marriott, the Secretary of the Royal Meteorological Society, these are the beings who of all are most exempt from the danger of being struck by lightning. Mr. Marriott tells us that on an average less than one person in a million is annually killed by lightning in England, while in France nearly two, in Prussia nearly four, and in Russia and Switzerland more than five out of every million perish thus annually. The returns also show that of those who die in this manner in England 81 per cent. are males, and only 19 per cent. females, the striking difference, no doubt, being attributable to the greater number of males engaged in outdoor occupations. Deaths from lightning are also much rarer in towns than in the country. The many lightening rods and high buildings serve to diffuse the electricity. The Eiffel Tower is said of itself to form a perfect electrical conductor, and in the case of one very black thunder cloud which passed over Paris and was observed to emit constant flashes, the lightning stopped as soon as it came within the influence of the tower, and recommenced when it had passed beyond.

Animals are struck by lightning much more frequently than human beings, and this is owing largely to their disposition to take refuge beneath trees or to huddle together in a storm. In the first instance, the trees, and in the second, the currents of hot damp air rising from their bodies, act as conductors. Nothing suffers from lightning so frequently as trees, and the splintering and shivering of the part struck is supposed to be due to the sudden conversion of the sap into steam by intense heat. To a similar cause, the explosion of steam produced from the moisture on the surface of the body, is probably due the rending of the clothes on those who have been struck by lightning, all the garments being frequently stripped away. The boots especially of such victims nearly always have the uppers burst open, presumably because the leather more closely confines the perspiration, and so leads to the production of a particularly strong explosive force. The theory has even been advanced that in executions by electricity the criminal whose skin is dry will suffer in altogether a different manner from one whose struggles have induced free perspiration.

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has been going up from the far west for a good many years. But the cry is not for pale, haggard, debilitated women. The pushing western men are not anxious for beauty, but they need healthy wives. A great cry for health is continually going up from thousands of women, young and old, all over the earth. Countless remedies have appeared in answer. A few have succeeded, and none hold a higher place than Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, a sure cure for all those peculiar "weaknesses" and distressing ailments peculiar to the sex.

Names exclusively for the fair sex constitute a nomenclature.

Get well and stay well. But how shall we do it?

Listen my friend, and the secret I'll tell,
Though, for that matter, there's no secret to it,
As many a man understands very well,
If you're low-spirited, gloomy, depressed,
If nothing tastes good and your nights bring no rest,
If your stomach is foul and your mouth seems much fouler,
And so cross you become that they call you a "growler,"
Be sure that the trouble is due to your liver,
And the blood is as sluggish as sometimes a river
Becomes when it's filled with all manner of stuff.
Clear it out and the current runs smoothly enough.

Go to the drug store and get a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the great blood purifier and liver invigorator. It is a sure cure for the low spirits and general depression a man feels when his liver is inactive and his blood impure. This remedy makes a man well.

A society lady of Topeka, Kan., issued invitations to a "breakfast," and three fourths of her guests put in an appearance before she was up.

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