

Requiem for His Own Mother.

The recent death in Canada of Mrs. Sterling, mother of Charles M. Sterling, who was executed at Youngstown, O., for the murder of Lizzie Grombacher, has unveiled the facts concerning an incident that occurred shortly before his execution. His mother came from Maxwell, Cal., and though he had left home when but a lad with maternal intuition she recognized him. When brought to his cell Sterling without the quiver of a muscle said: "You are mistaken, madam; I am not your son."

She implored him to recognize her, but he refused, and she returned home half convinced that she was mistaken. To his counsel Sterling said: "She is my mother, but I could not break her heart by telling her that her son would be hung. Keep it secret until she dies."

Her death caused his attorney, W. S. Anderson, to break the seal of silence. "It was the most dramatic scene I ever witnessed," said Mr. Anderson. "I have seen all the tragedians of the past quarter of a century, but none that compared to the scene on that occasion. The mother, every line in her face showing the most intense suffering, and her heart nearly broken, while the son, knowing that the truth would kill her, stood like a statue, his face showing the pallor of death, assuring her that she was mistaken. Such intensity of action was never produced on any stage. It could not be."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

From Slavery to Affluence.

The will of the late Rowell J. Jeffries has been admitted to probate by Surrogate Adlington. The deceased was a slave before the war, and often related in the prayer meetings which he attended some of his experiences and the incidents of his conversion to Christianity in his early life. Upon obtaining his freedom he came to this city and bought a small firm upon what was then the out skirts of the city, and which has since been built up into the fine residence section now bounded by Park avenue, Brighton avenue, Meigs and Rowley streets. Although real estate speculators coveted some of the benefit of the tremendous increase in the value of this property, Mr. Jeffries was at his death a rich man. He lived to the advanced age of 90 years. His wife and four children survive him. The exact value of his estate is not known, but it is certainly over \$30,000.—Rocheater Post-Express.

Buried in Perfume.

Passing throngs gazed curiously at a strange plant that sprang up in the windows of the Chinese laundries. People without poetry in their souls darkly hinted that the almond-eyed Mongolians were raising onions. The emperor's subjects were innocent of the base charge. The essence of human emotions was clustered in the white and yellow petals of the flower.

Small Bonnets for the Theatre.

The men in town are looking forward to a delightful winter for playgoing. It is all on account of the ladies' bonnets. A year ago they were only comparable to cart wheels and steeples, but now they are the most modest, low and snug little hats. As for the bonnets, at the opening night of a new play at the Bijou two well known bankers and the president of a trunk line railroad escorted their wives to front seats, and all the men in the house felt like breaking out with applause. This was because these wealthy men's wives wore bonnets that just covered the tops of their heads—little confections of lace that looked pretty and stole no one's view of the stage.—New York Sun.

Electricity in the French Navy.

The French minister of marine has decided that every military port shall send to Paris two foremen and two working electricians to study the various systems of electric lighting. A further evidence of the extent to which the government of France is recognizing the importance of providing its navy with the fullest possible instruction in electrical matters is afforded by the fact that lectures on the theory and use of electricity and its employment for naval purposes are being given at the Brest observatory, and they will be continued for four months.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The German Postoffice Officials have been experimenting with the North sea cable, seventy-five kilometers long, between Heligoland and Cuxhaven, to test the possibility of using submarine cables of considerable length for telephonic purposes. The results have been very favorable, distinct communication having been obtained at both ends.

Some interesting experiments have recently been made in Denmark in felling trees with gun cotton. For felling a tree twenty-five inches in girth it took two men only a quarter of an hour to make the preparations, the rule followed being to make one bore hole for each foot of circumference.

A pleasant cure for hoarseness is to make a lemon for fifteen minutes in a slow oven, cut off one end and remove the pulp, and sweeten to taste. This simple medicine will often take away the tightness in the chest which so often accompanies a severe cold.

A French doctor has recently been collecting statistics with regard to those of the population who complain of nervousness. The result that he has reached is the conclusion that the prime cause of the evil is the practice of reading in the train.

Botany in Winter.

I feel convinced that, if the teachers were not opposed to it, the subject would ere now have been more widely taught, and I shall therefore say a few words in anticipation of difficulties. It has been suggested that materials would be scarce in winter. Not at all. Let the children be familiarized with the observation and comparison of the peculiarities of a sprig of holly as contrasted with one of ivy, or let them be shown how different are the buds and leafless shoots of the beech from those of the oak or a horse chestnut. Show them how to observe the bud scales, how to infer the leaf arrangement from the scars, how to notice the color, roughness, markings, etc., of the periderm. Or give them introductory notions as to the nature of a hyacinth bulb as contrasted with the potato tuber, confining their attention to points which they can make out by observation. Every nut or orange or apple that the child eats might be made interesting if teachers would dare step over the traces of convention and introduce such ostensibly dangerous articles into classwork. And why not? The doctrine of rewards and punishments is applied more crudely than this in most children's schools.—Professor Marshall Ward in Popular Science.

Boys, Keep Away from Africa.

Two or three weeks ago three young men, each having over \$1,000 in cash, left Pittsburg for Africa to explore. About a dozen letters have been received from boys referring to this incident and asking for advice or information. Had the three young men set out for an idiot asylum, calculating to ask to be taken in and cared for during the remainder of their lives, they would have exhibited more common sense.

Africa is not a country where every Tom, Dick and Harry can go ramping about at will. All the seaports are in the hands of Egyptians, Moors, French, Germans or English. Any one has a legal right to land, but not every one has a legal right to go gallivanting around the country.

Stanley had to have the backing of two governments to enable him to do so. A correspondent of The New York World was threatened with arrest if he went beyond certain boundaries. A young man who has no better sense than to set out on such an expedition ought to have a guardian, and that guardian ought to have legal permission to see his jacket ten times a day.—M. Quad in Detroit Free Press.

Who Will Be the Next Pope?

It is stated that the French and Spanish cardinals are concerting for the nomination of Cardinal Zigliara as the successor to Leo XIII. The general feeling is that at the next conclave the election of a foreign pope is impracticable, the only available non-Italian members of the Sacred College being the Swiss Cardinal Merimod, and the American Cardinal Gibbons. It is not likely, however, that either of these will emerge as the successor of Leo XIII.

The nomination of Cardinal Zigliara, who is a Dominican monk, is not altogether unlikely. He is a native of Corsica, but, strange to say, he took out letters of naturalization as a subject of the ex-Pontifical states. He is a man of great learning and quite outside all political questions. I have reason to believe that if the pope died to-morrow Cardinal Zigliara would be sure of nearly forty votes. His only opponents would be the Jesuits, whose nominee is Cardinal Monaco la Valetta.—Paris Cor. London Chronicle.

Boston Wants to Come Nearer.

It is gratifying to observe that the business men of Boston are disposed to make an active effort to secure quicker time by rail between this city and New York. The members of the Executive Business association have discussed the question, and have come to the very sensible conclusion that the public interests of the city demand a better service, and that such a service can be secured "without prejudice to the interests of the railroads connecting the two cities." No one who has studied the conditions involved, and who knows of how much the modern railway is capable, will doubt this. A new line would probably not be a profitable enterprise, but it is within the power of the existing lines to reduce the time of the journey by express trains from six hours to five, and there is no sufficient reason for delaying to do so.—Boston Post.

One Vote.

It is fifty-one years since one vote decided that Marcus Morton, and not Edward Everett, should be governor of Massachusetts. Judge Morton had been a candidate for office thirteen successive years when he was chosen by this meager majority. The state cast just a trifle over 100,000 votes at that election. Two years later Judge Morton was elected governor by one majority a second time. This one majority was, however, then in the legislature, the people having made no choice. These occurrences were very remarkable. They are called to mind by the one vote majority just given in the Tenth aldermanic district of Boston.—Boston Herald.

Poisons in Cane Handles.

A peculiar and painful case of paralysis of the muscles, which ought to be of interest to every man who carries a metal topped cane or umbrella, is being treated by Dr. Henry F. Robinson, of this city. It is a sore of the hand, caused by the pressure of a round knobbed stick against the palm. In the case of Dr. Robinson's patient, the sore has affected the muscles from the fingers to above the wrist. Dr. Robinson says that a stick with a handle instead of a knob is the proper thing.—New York Telegram.

A Giant's Insuperable Chagrin.

Harry Baldwin, a negro, weighing 300 pounds, shot himself through the head recently. He had got into a quarrel with a little ching, who pounded him unmercifully. Baldwin took it so much to heart that he went home and promptly killed himself.—Chicago Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Coal Thieves Run a Coal Yard.

Seven persons have been arrested at Reading for systematically robbing the coal cars of the Reading railroad. It was developed at the hearing that they scaped the coal from the sidings at Port Clinton. They supplied and operated a coal yard from their stealings.—Philadelphia Record.

The Popular Cosmos Flower.

The cosmos flower, which has come to be all the rage here this fall, has an interesting history, which Mr. Small, the florist, related. It is indigenous to Mexico, where it grows wild in the fields like the daisy in this climate. Some four years ago a German florist in Hoboken, N. J., propagated some of the plants from imported seeds and introduced the flowers in New York. Then the plant appeared in the Soldiers' home gardens at Hampton, near Fortress Monroe, where it was found that it would bloom as late as January and February, on account of the milder climate. A gentleman near Alexandria, Va., then secured a quantity of the seed and began to grow the plant for the market, meeting with such success that he has now several acres covered with the cosmos blooms, and he ships immense quantities to New York daily.

Mr. Small says that the plant cannot be grown with great success farther north than this city, as it succumbs to the first frost. This is the first year that it has become common, but just now great branches of it adorn the windows of each florist's establishment, and can be bought cheaply in the market or of the boys on the street. The flower makes a pretty interior decoration, or it will keep fresh for four or five days if placed in a vase of water immediately after it is cut. The white blossoms are the handsomest, resembling a narcissus in their white petals and gold hearts, but there are other tints that are highly prized. The cosmos is apt to be as popular ere long as the chrysanthemum, although florists will always prefer the latter.—Washington Post.

The Cane Has Gone.

The really high caste London swell has "curled his stick and cast it out." Swagger Englishmen no longer appear in public with canes of any description. The collection of choice silver topped and natural wood weapons they drew mental sustenance from through so many seasons has suffered a temporary divorce from the fashionable toilet. British manhood is unprotected, and goes empty handed on the promenade save for a glove possibly, or in stress of weather a medium sized silk umbrella.

The collapse of the stick is attributable to the wholesale adoption of imitation costly canes by the London clerk and petty tradesman.

"Arry, the haberdasher, greengrocer and draper men were contented until recently to carry blackthorns or a light rattan. To this no objection was raised by the aristocrats, and all would have gone well had not a sharp American flooded the market with cheap, flashy copies of swiftdom's own stick. The result was intolerable, and hence the universal renunciation of canes in upper circles.—Illustrated American.

To Winter in the Arctic.

Three vessels from San Francisco are now in winter quarters at the mouth of the Mackenzie river, within 1,200 miles of the north pole. This is said to be the first time that whaling vessels have voluntarily wintered in this location. The colony comprises nearly seventy men. It will be late next summer before they can be heard from, unless by some chance a trapper might find his way that far north by sledges and back again to a British fur trading post. Provisions in the way of fish and game will be procured from the Indians who have villages close by. The vessels are the steamers Granpus and Mary D. Hume and the schooner Nicolene. Alluring stories of bowhead whales being so thick in the water that you could walk about on their backs as on broken ice led the vessels to their present location.—San Francisco Alta.

Last of the Buffalo.

There is a small herd of buffalo on what is known as the Red desert, not many miles from Laramie, Wyo. A party of hunters recently returned from there and report having seen fifteen. During their trip they captured two with a lasso, but both of them died, it is said, from the effects of the choking they received. One of them was taken after a chase of two days. Mr. J. C. Robbins was at the head of the party, and his purpose in capturing them alive was to add them to a private collection of the wild animals of the Rocky mountains, which he intends exhibiting at the World's fair at Chicago. He left three hunters in the hills near the desert for the purpose of capturing other animals.—Denver News.

A Queer Duck at Great Duck Island.

On Sept. 12 a colored individual, who gave his name as "Joe" Hopkins, came ashore in a fourteen foot dory on Little Duck island. Members of the lighthouse department offered to take him to the mainland, but he declined, and since that time has lived on the island. Little Duck is entirely devoid of vegetable growth, and Hopkins has subsisted entirely on mussels. To procure these he has been obliged to wade up to his waist in water. He still refuses to go to the mainland, but desires a new boat. He claims that he is en route for Africa, having started from Nova Scotia.—Cor Boston Globe.

It's a Way Politicians Have.

A lady of this city who has been reading about politics a good deal lately said to her husband the other day: "I suppose it is all right for a prominent public man to be referred to by a nickname, though I think it is rather undignified. But what puzzles me is why everybody should refer to Mr. McKinley as McKinley Bill, instead of Bill McKinley. I suppose, though, it must be in imitation of the cowboy style."—New York Tribune.

Wonders

Are wrought by the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor in restoring gray hair to its original color, promoting a new growth, preventing the hair from falling, keeping it soft, silky, and abundant, and the scalp cool, healthy, and free from dandruff or humors. The universal testimony is that this preparation has no equal as a dressing, and is, therefore, indispensable to every well-furnished toilet.

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for some time and it has worked wonders for me. I was troubled with dandruff and was rapidly becoming bald; but since using the Vigor my hair is perfectly clear of dandruff, the hair has ceased coming out, and I now have a good growth, of the same color as when I was a young woman. I can heartily recommend any one suffering from dandruff or loss of hair to use Ayer's Hair Vigor as a dressing."—Mrs. Lydia O. Moody, East Pittston, Me.

"Some time ago my wife's hair began to come out quite freely.

Ayer's Hair Vigor

get only prevented my wife from becoming bald, but it also caused an entirely new growth of hair. I am ready to certify to this statement before a justice of the peace."—H. Hulsebus, Lewisburg, Iowa.

"Some years ago, after a severe attack of brain fever, my hair all came out. I used such preparations for restoring it as my physicians ordered, but failed to produce a growth of hair. I then tried, successively, several articles recommended by druggists, and all alike fell short of accomplishing the desired result. The last remedy I applied was Ayer's Hair Vigor, which brought a growth of hair in a few weeks. I think I used eight bottles in two years; more than was necessary as a restorative, but I liked it as a dressing, and have continued to use it for that purpose. I believe Ayer's Hair Vigor possesses virtues far above those of any similar preparation now on the market."—Vincent Jones, Richmond, Ind.

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