

Robert Louis Stevenson, the celebrated author, has come into a large property through the death of his father.

A young man known as Jubilee Juggins is now the heaviest "plunger" on the English turf. He recently came into a fortune of \$2,500,000, but is going through it rapidly. He lost heavily on the Derby.

Mr. Abington, owner of the Derby winner, Merry Hampton, was prostrated for a day after the race from over-excitement. Other men felt a collapse from a different reason, not unconnected with a lean wallet.

Benjamin F. Butler has been giving advice to the students of the Boston University Law School. One of the most characteristic of his remarks ran as follows: "Make a bargain about fees, and be sure to do this early and get your pay early."

Dr. Ward, who is with the President in the North Woods, is a handsome young physician of Albany. He and Mr. Cleveland became great friends when the latter was Governor. Dr. Ward is an accomplished artist with the fly and is also fond of deer-stalking.

Mrs. Hopkins has endowed a chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy at Mills College, California, in honor of Mark Hopkins, the venerable ex-President of Williams College. The endowment fund is \$50,000. The Rev. Dr. Stratton, the new President of Mills College, will fill the chair.

Gen. Boulanger is described by a recent interviewer as "a short man, rather stoutly built, with brown hair, brown beard, rather a red face; above all things, quiet looking almost to commonplaceness. He wore the ordinary French civilian's dress of black frock coat and trousers, with only the single red spot in his buttonhole."

Thomas A. Edison, the electrician, has a keen appreciation of humor. During his recent illness he was constantly annoyed by having his nurse take his temperature at frequent intervals. One day he slipped the thermometer into a cup of hot tea. The nurse soon after attempted to measure his temperature and was horrified to find that Mr. Edison was apparently burning up with the hottest fever a man ever endured.

An interesting feature of the new rules of precedence at the White House lies in the fact that next year the youngest woman in the Cabinet circle will have first place in the line of assistants at the Presidential receptions. Miss Bayard, the eldest daughter of Secretary Bayard, who now presides over his household, takes precedence over the other Cabinet ladies at the right of Mrs. Cleveland. Miss Bayard is about Mrs. Cleveland's age, quite tall, and a very attractive woman.

A remarkable literary partnership has been formed between Julia Hawthorne and Inspector Thomas Byrnes, chief of the New York Detective Bureau. The result will be a series of tales founded on fact, for which Mr. Byrnes will furnish the material and Mr. Hawthorne the literary workmanship. The stories will doubtless be of absorbing interest. The history of literature does not furnish an instance of collabora-

tion in fiction which has promised better results than we may expect from Hawthorne and Byrnes.

NEW FACTS ABOUT THE CONGO.

The River Found to Have a Wider Expansion Than at Stanley Pool. At its mouth the Congo river is of enormous depth, but only 100 miles or so above Stanley pool Capt. Braconier said a year or two ago that "steam launches drawing barely two and a half feet of water have to be dragged along by our men." H. H. Johnston mentions the same fact in his description of the Congo. "Our boat is constantly running aground on sandbanks," he wrote. "It has an extraordinary effect to see men walking half way over a great branch of the river, with water only up to their ankles, tracing the course of some hidden sandbank." Stanley, Johnston, and others attributed the remarkable shallowness of the river to its great breadth in this part of its course; but none of them knew how wide the river really is above the Kasai river.

We now have some new light on this question, which is a very interesting one, because the Congo is next to the greatest river in the world, and new discoveries with regard to the river are apt to be on a large scale. Capt. Rouvier has been surveying this part of the river, and he finds that for a distance of about fifty miles the river is much wider than was supposed. Its width, in fact, is from fifteen to twenty miles, a circumstance that has not been discovered before on account of many long islands, some of which have always been taken for one shore of the river. It follows, therefore, that there is a vast expanse on the upper Congo similar to and very much larger than Stanley pool. Steamboats have passed each other in this enlargement of the river without knowing of each other's proximity. It is easy to understand, therefore, how it happens that the Congo is in this place so very shallow, while in narrow portions of the lower river no plummet line has ever yet touched bottom. Navigation in this part of the Congo would be almost impossible were it not that here and there soundings are revealing channels deep and wide enough for all the requirements of steamboat traffic.—New York Sun.

A Treeless Forest. Away down in Devonshire, in the southwestern part of England, there is a very interesting tract of land. It is known as Dartmoor forest, and is so named in all old deeds and grants of land; yet, with the exception of a small grove of dwarf oaks, it is almost entirely without trees! This strange contradiction is said to be due to the fact of the greater part of Dartmoor having actually been a forest years ago, but it was so infested with fierce wild animals that the people were forced, in self defense, to set fire to the trees, and so, by degrees, the forest was destroyed.

Certain it is that the soil of the moor is composed of rich, black, vegetable matter, and that remains of tree trunks have been found under the ground. Moreover, the people of one district have, for generations, enjoyed the privilege of free pasturage, through a grant awarded their ancestors for services in destroying wolves in Dartmoor forest; for the same reason they are allowed to gather the peat which abounds in the fens or marshy lands, and which makes an excellent fuel. The atmosphere of the moor is nearly always moist and foggy. Indeed, the people who live there say that—

The west wind always brings wet weather, The east wind, wet and cold together; The south wind surely brings us rain, The north wind blows it back again.

—American Agriculturist.

A Senseless but Startling Feat.

Johann Richter, a 17 year old apprentice in Vienna, a few days ago accomplished the senseless but startling feat of climbing 453 feet to the topmost point of the great tower, which is the crowning glory of the grand old cathedral of St. Stephen's in that city. He climbed up at night. An account says: No moon was shining as he stole to the foot of the tower, and watching for his opportunity he strapped a black and yellow flag on his back, and began to clatter up the lightning conductor. Ere he had got half way up his clothes were torn in a dozen places, his boots were split and the blood was streaming from his fingers. But he hung on like grim death, taking advantage of every chance protuberance, and after heroic exertions actually reached the summit. The slightest head swaying or the slightest nervousness and he would have been dashed to pieces. Happily, he never lost his presence of mind, and in the morning when the Viennese looked up at the cross of the old "Steffen," as they affectionately call it, to their amazement tied to it they saw a tiny black and yellow pennon fluttering in the breeze. Richter was arrested by the police, but discharged by the court after a lecture.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Wanted It for Their Crazy Quilts.

Governor Gray was one of the most astonished persons ever seen for a few moments the other afternoon. Among the sightseers at this new state Capitol building were two nicely dressed ladies who, after meeting the governor and being shown through with a great deal of courtesy, stopped before one of the beautiful lambrequins, which cost something over \$300, and both modestly requested that they be permitted to cut "just a small, little piece," as they were both making "such lovely crazy quilts," and they wanted so much to have some of that lovely material in them. After the ladies had somewhat hastily departed he said in conversation that it was remarkable what some people would ask for. Only recently he was asked to mail some of the ground of the state house yard to a man in Illinois, who stated in his letter that he had a little dirt from the grounds of every state house in the Union except Indiana. He got the dirt.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

An Overcoat on the Statue.

The fact that Mr. Ward, the sculptor, has put an overcoat on his statue of Garfield is a source of great relief to people on Capitol hill, who have been greatly distressed at seeing Greenough's huge, naked Washington sitting out in sleet and snow. Mr. Ward is the first man to put an overcoat on a statue in Washington, and he has shown great boldness and originality in doing so. Besides, it is a ready made one with a card pocket on the right side. Garfield always wore ready made clothing, his well made form securing an easy fit. There are no overcoats on the three bronze figures lying recumbent on the pedestal representing Garfield as the student, the soldier and the statesman. These are in the classic style, with bare bodies and legs.—New York Sun.

Rich Colored Women.

The richest colored woman in America is Ananda Eubanks, of Rome, Ga., who pays taxes on \$400,000. The property came to her by will from her white father. The next richest is Mrs. James Thomas, of St. Louis, who owns the fine barber shop, the Lindell, and is assessed on property to the amount of \$300,000.

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