

A LOCUST PLAGUE.

An Annual Affliction of Australian Agriculturists.

Locusts Covering the Ground Four Inches Deep.

In order to check, if possible, the annual plague of locusts that devour the herbage and blast the hopes of graziers, farmers and fruit growers to a greater or less extent in December, the Victorian Government proclaimed November 7 and 8 last as holidays for the scholars and schoolmasters in the rural districts, in order that they might co-operate with the settlers in destroying the young locusts in the early stage of their development, before they have been equipped with wings enabling them to take flight over the country to begin their work of devastation. With this end in view, preparations were made in numerous parts of the interior to destroy the pest in various ways, such as by beating with branches the beds in the fields where the as yet wingless creatures were known to exist, or harrowing the ground or turning flocks of sheep upon the land and moving them rapidly about so as to tread upon and kill or injure the young brood, and also by spreading straw on the plague spots and setting fire to it. In such ways vast destruction was done to the armies of the young locusts in the early stage of their existence. It was seen, however, that the raid upon the vermin should have been made somewhat earlier, as numbers were already so far advanced as to be on the wing on this mission of mischief; and besides, the attack upon them was not so generally made as was desirable in some districts of Victoria, while north of the Murray comparatively little effort was put forth to cope with the evil, owing to the fact that on the New South Wales and South Australian side of the Murray the bulk of the land is taken up with large squatting runs, and population is sparse there, thus giving the ravaging locusts almost complete scope to propagate.

People at home can hardly conceive how serious the locust plague is in these colonies. Recently the reports came that the creatures massed themselves so thickly along some of the lines of railways that, although the brakes were shut down, the trains could not be brought to a stand until they had gone half a mile beyond the stations, owing to the multitudes crushed beneath the wheels causing the trains to pass along as if the rails were covered with oil. The wheels actually slid along the rails. In many of the northern towns the inhabitants had to close their doors to keep out the invading hosts. The plague has now fairly begun work, writes a correspondent of the Glasgow Herald. In the southern parts of New South Wales and some of the northern portions of Victoria the outlook is ominous. In and around Barnawartha (Victoria) the insects are spreading in swarms and causing great destruction. A resident of that district reports that in traversing that part of the country, in his buggy the wheels of his vehicle were completely imbedded in masses of young caterpillars and grasshoppers, which on many extensive areas "covered the whole surface to a depth of about four inches like a gigantic and undulating coat of green paint."

Where the country presented any depressions it was found impossible to pass with a buggy, and in several favorable localities, such as low-lying lanes, etc., the insects were surging about in masses some two or three feet deep. The ground in their wake is quite destitute of grass. Such are some of the breeding grounds from which the fully developed creatures take flight to waste and destroy other parts of the country. In the Batherglan district (Victoria) the locusts are doing great damage, eating up the grass and invading the extensive vineyards. One vineyard owner there having ten acres of vines reports his entire crop as spoiled. The grapes are not yet fully formed, but the locusts are busy stripping the leaves and ringing the bunches, the result being that these wither and die. So dense are the insects that work has to be suspended, as the horses will not face them. Reports come from the Albany

district that the locusts are attacking the flags on the wheat stalks, and in some instances the wheat heads have been eaten off. One report states that in the locality of Walbundrie, about thirty miles from Albury, the pest is travelling southwards, in the direction of the Murray, in columns several miles wide, partially obscuring the sky, and advancing at the rate of ten miles in twenty-four hours, resting to devour green spots, and then winging their way to fresh pastures.—[Pall Mall Gazette.]

Alaskan Streams Teem With Fish.

Alaska is 2000 miles in extent one way by 1700 miles the other. The icy wastes of its northern part are the home of the polar bear, while in its southern forests the humming bird nests. With fish the streams are so crowded that a favorite method of capturing them is by thrashing the surface of the water with a rake-shaped instrument, a scaly victim being often jerked out on each prong. When the salmon are making their way up the rivers at the spawning season the bears come down in numbers and feed upon them, eating only the heads.

Boats are often much impeded in their progress by the funny myriads. The ocean fishing banks of Alaska are greater in extent than those of the north Atlantic, and afford inexhaustible supplies of fish, certainly equal if not superior in size and quality to those caught on the eastern seaboard. Cod are found there in vast quantities. Along the Yukon the natives dry their fish for winter use, burying what they require for current consumption in the ground until it becomes sufficiently putrid, when they eat it with a relish, preferring it much in that way. Funnily enough, alligators in the south follow a very similar practise, burying their meat in muddy banks until it has become sufficiently decayed to be more digestible.—[Boston Transcript.]

Faucial Derivations.

The San Angelo (Tex.) Enterprise says: "The term 'greaser,' as applied to Mexicans of the lower classes, was not started, as many suppose, as a signification of disrespect, but was applied by a witty war correspondent in 1846, just after the battle of Palo Alto, to those Mexicans who had fore sworn allegiance to their own country and in preference to fighting taken the task of loading and unloading provision trains, which then consisted mostly of bacon. In this way they gained the name of the 'greaser brigade.'" Whatever the term implies, it is much older than the Enterprise supposes. It was known to the United States volunteers who came to what is now the Indian territory in 1831, at the end of the Black Hawk war. The story that the name Maverick, applied to yearling cattle, was given on account of the head of the San Antonio family of that name, is equally fabulous. It was in use in Louisiana before that state was a part of the United States.—[Dallas (Tex.) News.]

The A-borning of a Fish.

Few things in this world are more curious than the method by which a little fish comes into being. The grown female lays a quantity of eggs and upon this spawn the male subsequently deposits its milt. The milt, examined beneath the microscope, is found to contain an endless number of minute pollywogs. Each egg has a small hole in it, and through this hole a pollywog makes its way into a nucleus contained within what is called the "germinal vesicle." The result is that the nucleus takes life and quickly it begins to multiply, becoming two, then four, then eight and so on. These cells, all the time multiplying by division, combine together and begin to form the cellular structure of the organs—the eyes and the heart first—of the fish that is to be. Finally, when the creature is made, it bursts its transparent shell and swims as if it had always been used to that sort of thing.—[Washington Star.]

A Good Excuse.

Biddy—There's a couple o' ladies called, Missus De Vere.
Mrs. De Vere—Oh, dear, I can't see any one now. Excuse me, Biddy. Tell them I'm asleep.
Biddy—Missus De Vere presents her compliments, an' says she's very sorry, but she's asleep.—[Texas Siftings.]

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A machine has recently been invented for making shoestrings out of paper.

A petroleum-motor tricycle has been invented that will run forty miles on one gallon of oil.

The English bacteriologist who discovered taxalbumens has just found a remedy for anthrax.

The French artillery is using an explosive made of cryolite in their shells instead of gunpowder.

The average weight of the human adult brain is 48 ounces in the male and 45 ounces in the female.

At the depth of about 3500 feet the temperature of the ocean is about the same, varying only a trifle from the polar latitudes to the equator.

It has become quite the thing in the polite world to employ the art of the electrician for the decoration of banquet halls and reception parlors.

Two heavenly bodies are "in conjunction" when they have the same right ascension, or are on the same meridian, namely when one is due north or south of the other.

A sugar fifteen times sweeter than cane sugar, and twenty times sweeter than beet sugar, is reported by a German chemist from cotton-seed meal. It cannot be sold to compete with the ordinary article.

There is very little ebb or flow of tide in the Arctic, but occasionally there are very strong currents. All winter there is a general flow of tide and ice toward the south, while in summer this flow is northward.

A well-known embalmer, Dr. Vickersheimer, has produced a liquid so perfect that it can be applied successfully to game. An embalmed hare served after having been shot six weeks was recently pronounced to be as good as fresh.

A writer on mosquito bites declares that common soap is as effective a remedy as ammonia, chloroform, or any of the many articles recommended. The lather is allowed to dry over the affected part, when all burning and pain soon disappear.

A recent survey, it is stated, has established the number of glaciers in the Alps at 1155, of which 249 have a length of more than four and three-fourths miles. "The French Alps contain 141 glaciers, those of Italy 78, Switzerland 471 and Austria 462."

A material closely imitating malachite is made by precipitating a solution of cupric sulphate by potassium or sodium carbonate. When the precipitate has settled and cohered, it is dried with gentle heat, and may then be cut and given a beautiful polish.

A patented shoe-blackening which contains no acid is made in Germany by dissolving casein in a solution of borax or soda and adding resinates of iron, besides the usual bone-black, grease and sugar. A brilliant luster is imparted by the casein, and the resinates of iron gives a deep black color.

The First System of Posts.

A system of posts was established in England in the time of Edward IV., about 1481, and postmasters were appointed; but their business was confined to furnishing post horses to the carriers of the Government, and to persons who were desirous of traveling expeditiously or who wished to send important packages upon special occasions. In 1635 Charles I. established a letter office for the transmission of letters between England and Scotland, but these only extended to a few of the principal roads. The lines of carriage were uncertain, and the postmasters on each road were required to furnish horses for the conveyance at the rate of five cents per mile. The establishment did not succeed, and at the breaking out of the civil war great difficulty was experienced in the transmission of letters. At length a postoffice, or a national establishment for the weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the Kingdom, was established by Cromwell in 1649.

The Money Safe.

Needy Client—If I lose my case, I don't see how you are to be paid.
Lawyer—Oh, don't worry about that, my dear sir. The lawyer on the other side is my partner.—[New York Weekly.]

RELIGIOUS READING.

IF I COULD ONLY KNOW.

"Cast all your cares upon Him, for He careth for you."—I. Pet. v. 7.

If I could only surely know
That all these things that tire me so
Were noticed by my Lord!
The pang that cuts me like a knife,
The noise, the weariness, the strife—
What peace it would afford!

I wonder if He really shares
In all these little human cares,
This mighty King of kings!
If He who guides through boundless space
Each blazing planet in its place,
Can have the condescending grace
To mind these petty things.

It seems to me, if sure of this,
Blent with each ill would come such bliss
That I might covet pain,
And deem whatever brought to me
The loving thought of Deity,
And sense of Christ's sweet sympathy,
Not loss, but richest gain.

Dear Lord, my heart shall no more doubt
That thou dost compass me about
With sympathy divine.
The Love for me once crucified
Is not the love to leave my side,
But waiteth ever to divide
Each smallest care of mine.

COMING CHURCH-GOERS.

Not only for the sake of the child of today, but for the sake of the man of the future, should parents bring their children to the house of God. If the coming generation is to be the church-goers, the children of the present must be church-goers. The failure on the part of Christian parents to take their children to church, by gentle but firm compulsion if necessary, is the preparation of a generation who will neglect the house of God. And for that neglect the Christian parents of today will be responsible.—[Bible Teacher.]

INVITED SIX TIMES.

In one of the Rev. C. H. Yatman's evangelistic services recently held in the South, he related this incident of a young man in Philadelphia who was asked on Monday to be a Christian, but declined; on Tuesday another worker gave him the choice of receiving or rejecting Christ, and he refused; on Wednesday it happened that again some one said to him, "Give your heart to Jesus," but "No," was all the answer they got. Thursday, by a strange providence, he was once more urged to give up sin, and again on Friday was lovingly invited to seek the Saviour of all men—all with no effect. As though God would do all that could be done, once more on Saturday he was entreated to "follow Christ," but stubbornly refused. It was his last refusal. He said, "No, I won't. I'm going to have some fun and a good time. Tomorrow I'm going to Atlantic City for a Sunday's holiday trip, and I don't want you folks to keep tormenting me with your gospel invitations."
He was never asked again. Six times invited and six times refused! Sunday he went for his pleasure to the sea, but when he came back on Monday it was in his coffin. He was drowned while bathing.

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

The theory of Strauss, that the Gospels have a mystical origin, was fully exposed when it first appeared some forty or fifty years ago, but it often reappears in various forms. It may be worth while, therefore, to reproduce an old but true incident which occurred some years since and was then widely circulated:

Some time since, a woman delivered a lecture in Lancashire, England, against Christianity, in which she declared that the Gospel narrative of the life of Christ is a myth or fable. One of the mill hands who listened to her obtained leave to ask a question.

"The question," said he, "I want to ask the lady is, 'Thirty years ago I was a curse to this town, and everybody shrank from me that had any respect for himself. I often tried to do better, but could not succeed. The teetotalers got hold of me, but I broke the pledge so often that they said it was no use trying me any longer; then the police got hold of me, and I was taken before the magistrates, and they tried; and next I was sent to prison, and the wardens tried what they could do, but though they all tried, I was nothing better, but rather worse.'"

"Now, you say that Christ is a myth. But when I tried, and the teetotalers, the police, the magistrates, and the wardens of the prison, all tried in vain, then Christ took hold of me, touched my heart, and made me a new man. And now I am a member of the church, a class leader, a superintendent of the Sunday-school; and I ask, if Christ is a myth, how comes it to pass that that myth is stronger than all the others put together?"
The lady was silent. "Nay, miss," said he, "say what you will, the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation."

"I AM MY OWN MASTER."

"I am my own master," says the young man. Well, be your own master, and sit down and have an earnest and plain talk with yourself. Ask yourself who you are, what you are, what you have been doing, what you are doing now, and what you propose or expect to do hereafter. Ask yourself what you have done to make the world wiser or better or happier. Try to ascertain whether you have done the world harm or done it good, see if you have been of any real service to mankind, and how. What are you worth to the world in which you live? What great enterprise for the promotion of human interest would suffer by your death? How many would miss you or care whether you lived or died? You are one of fourteen hundred millions of human beings on earth. How much, and what sort of influence have you exercised on others? or have you, or do you exercise any influence worth notice?

You are your own master. Does the rascal try to be a man, or is he content to be a mere cipher, an 0 in society? Has he sufficient self-respect to keep himself above all that is low, coarse, vulgar and bad? Does he always speak the truth—never use obscene nor profane language—never do a mean thing? Is he always respectful of age, respectful to equals and kind to inferiors? Does he labor earnestly to improve his mind, his morals and his manners; or, is he careless, idle and indifferent to such things? Does he spend much time in the company of idlers—smoking, drinking and foolish talking? If so, tell him—that master of yours—he is on the wrong track, and if he does not switch himself off, there is surely a crash ahead, and no one to save the pieces, and when it comes, the verdict of the people will be, "served him right." He might have known it would come. He lived for it and he has it. "You are your own master."

Better watch that master very closely—see that he forms no bad habits, keeps out of bad company, uses no improper language, is always engaged in some honest and useful pursuit, lives honestly, truthfully and usefully. If these and like things are well and

faithfully attended to, then and then only may you expect to be of any real service to the generation in which you live. Remember there will be many obstacles to be overcome, many difficulties to be encountered, many temptations to be resisted and many hard struggles between inclination and duty, so that you will have to put down all that will force you can possibly command, and choose the right in all things and stick to it, and all will end well. It requires continued and earnest effort to be a true man, true in every sense of the word, and yet every man may be a true man if he will. With all the privileges granted, and all the advantages attainable, it still depends on the individual himself whether or no, he will be a true man.—[St. Louis Advocate.]

TEMPERANCE.

AN EXHIBITION WITHOUT LIQUOR.

The London Temperance Record says: "The Glasgow East End Exhibition, which was opened by the Marquis of Lothian, which has done more to break down the barriers that have drawn other exhibitions. A strong effort was made to induce the Lord Provost to grant a license for it, and he wavered for a time, but ultimately refused the request." If an exhibition can be held in Glasgow without liquor, it ought certainly to be possible at Chicago.—[National Advocate.]

PHYSICIANS AND TEMPERANCE.

Upon no one does responsibility for the continuance of the widely prevalent, injurious social drinking usages rest more heavily than upon the members of the medical profession. Medicine, in the true sense, is preventive as well as remedial. Among the agencies productive of disease, physical and moral, intoxicating liquors are pre-eminent. The attitude which physicians as a class assume toward the use of intoxicating beverages, personally and professionally, therefore involves very largely for good or ill, the interests of the temperance reform.

There have been from the beginning, since the time of Dr. Benjamin Rush, and are now, a few eminent American physicians who have done much to encourage, by both example and precept, the cause of temperance. But they have been and continue to be a small minority of the profession as a whole. A very large majority of physicians upon social and festive occasions, at their banquets, etc., do not hesitate to provide freely and to partake of intoxicants. The International Medical Congress, held last year in Berlin, appears to possess a striking and most unseasonably objectionable lesson of this kind. A Berlin correspondent of the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter writes: "The disgraceful scenes at the banquet given by the city of Berlin to the Medical Congress were recently the topic of discussion in council. A Councilman called it 'the medical schuetsenfest,' and emphasized the waste of money. He was not altogether wrong. The money spent by the city for the Rathaus banquet was really enormous, and the result was the total intoxication of most of the shining lights of the profession."
This correspondent, whom we assume to be a physician, and from the high professional standing of the journal in which the letter is published, also to be trustworthy, gives additional details of the great medical drinking-bout in the German capital as follows: "I regret to say that the bigger the man the more he was inebriated. On a Professor whose name is a household word all over the medical world artificial respiration was practiced for almost an hour, and another professor who has revolutionized one of the most important of medical branches had a head cut in his head, the result of a fall. A French physician who has made his name renowned by fighting intemperance through exposure of the injury inflicted upon the organism by alcohol, was unable to spell his own name. By a queer coincidence I also saw two men hugging each other who are known as irreconcilable antagonists in science, one a leader in German bacteriologists, and the other a well-known Paris professor who does not believe in bacilli!"

Such disgraceful alcoholic excesses on the part of eminent medical men, if not thus well attested, would seem well nigh incredible. We may hope that they would not, at least, in grossness and want of common decency, be equaled at any kindred gathering in this country. Yet we remember that the liquor supply for the late International Medical Congress, held in Washington, was reported in the public journals, was very large.—[National Temperance Advocate.]

ALCOHOL AS A BEVERAGE.

It will be a shivering surprise to the average reader to know that of late a colorless and simple, has become a beverage in America, especially in the West, Northwest and in the coal regions of Pennsylvania. Even in New York City the census returns estimate fifteen barrels a day as the allowance for drinking purposes.

It is an intoxicating as that of the opium habit when it came in. As the opium habit came through the Chinese, so the alcohol habit has come through the Poles, Norwegians, Swedes, Finns, Hungarians and Russians.

The eagerness with which any such evil practice becomes "all the rage" among drinking people may be seen from the fact that, although recently introduced and at first indulged in quickly, alcohol is now sold over the bar in the lower-grade bar-rooms. One-half of the liquor sold for drinking purposes in the Northwest is alcohol. This is a phase of the liquor problem that may well cause alarm, even among those who are naturally indifferent to the ordinary evils of the social drinking of light beverages.—[Boston Traveler.]

DRANK FIVE PINTS AND DIED.

George Johnson, the colored porter at the Court Exchange, Paris, Texas, was sent to feed some horses, but went instead to another saloon where the porter invited him to drink. He poured out a pint of whiskey and drank it off. The owner offered him another, which he drank, and bystanders put up three more, all of which he swallowed. He was so drunk to go alone, and a negro was sent to pilot him home and put him to bed. About two hours later his employer hunted him up and found him dead. The enormous quantity of whiskey he had taken it is supposed arrested his action.—[St. Louis Republic.]

TEMPERANCE NEWS AND NOTES.

It is no excuse for a man to drink beer because Christ turned water into wine.

Denmark has five local W. C. T. Unions. Special attention is given to work among the children.

Fifteen hundred women of Cape Cod belong to the League of the Cross. Their work is in the moral-suasion line.

God and the saloon-keeper never agree about anything. The devil don't want you to sign the pledge. God does.

Mrs. Mary Grant Cramer, a sister of General Grant, is an active worker in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The Patrons of Industry, of Green County, Wis., at a largely-attended mass-meeting, adopted resolutions demanding among other things the total suppression of the liquor traffic.

South America has but one regularly organized W. C. T. U. It is in Concepcion, and does good work. Within a few months forty men have been induced to sign the total abstinence pledge. A Loyal Temperance Legion, numbering thirty-five, meets every two weeks.