

THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY.

Oh, the nursery is lonely, and the garden's full of rain, And there's nobody at all who wants to play...

FACTS ABOUT NORWAY.

CAUSES WHICH LED-UP TO ITS SEPARATION FROM SWEDEN.

History of the Union Now Broken—Norway to be an Independent Nation for the First Time in More Than Five Centuries.

peace until this year, when, during an abdication made necessary by his age and illness, the Norwegian Storting passed the bill creating a separate consular service.

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THE PULPIT.

AN ELUCIDATED SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. CHARLES G. AMES.

Subject: The Glory of Simple Rectitude.

London, Mass.—The following helpful sermon was delivered Sunday by the Rev. Charles Ames. It is entitled "The Glory of Simple Rectitude."

There is one sign of truth. It affects us like a part of the permanent order of things: it is all of one stuff with the world and with our own proper nature.

Germany Using Iron for Their Construction.

In America the opinion prevails that the best kind of curtain to prevent the spread of fire from the stage of a theatre to the auditorium is one made of asbestos.

It has been proposed to make obligatory the possession of two iron curtains to make more nearly certain that one at least will work in a crisis.

The Critic and the Lady.

Talleyrand, the noted Frenchman, possessed wit of so high an order that it has stood well the test of time, and his jokes are still good.

Binbad's Alleged Prototype.

GEMS OWNED BY THE SULTAN.

In Value More Than Sufficient to Pay the National Debt of the Country.

A party of American tourists saw the jewels in the Sultan's treasury recently. The royal throne of Persia, captured by the Turks in 1514, about half the size of an ordinary bedstead, and the footstool accompanying it, were covered with beaten fine gold, and the entire surface of each was thickly studded with precious jewels, chiefly diamonds, emeralds and sapphires.

There is also a writing desk of secretary of ordinary size of the same character, and hundreds on hundreds of other minor objects, of public and private character, made of the finest materials, most perfectly, and decorated in every part with the same kind and quality of most precious jewels, from a finger ring and a pipe to a saddle, sword and scepter.

For example, there are many coffee, tea and other drinking sets made of gold, porcelain and a variety of other fine materials, beautiful in form, style and workmanship, whose decorative figures are worked out in a profusion of the most precious jewels, diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and rubies, the edges of the cups, mugs or tankards, as the case may be, being encased with diamonds in such a manner as to make them complete circles of glittering splendor.

To enumerate all the priceless objects which the Sultan's treasury contains would require a small library of books. Suffice to say that our party of tourists was of the opinion, expressed then and there, while viewing the treasury's contents, that what we saw with our own eyes was of sufficient value, in dollars and cents, to pay off the entire Turkish debt, and that such an exhibition of splendor other fine materials, beautiful in form, style and workmanship, whose decorative figures are worked out in a profusion of the most precious jewels, diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and rubies, the edges of the cups, mugs or tankards, as the case may be, being encased with diamonds in such a manner as to make them complete circles of glittering splendor.

Japanese Goldfish Farms.

Although the goldfish occurs in a wild state in Japan, it is probable that China some 400 years ago furnished the stock from which the wonderful varieties of Japanese goldfish have been bred.

Old Men with Young Wives.

Propensity of the Times, as Noted by Insurance Agents.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

A bolt of lightning which struck the barn of Joseph Jaggard, at Almonesson, Pa., recently, tore a hole through the roof, passing through the hayrack and out the side of the building.

The man who built a house and forgot to put in the stairs has been overwhelmed by the Swedish Corporation.

One of the greatest curiosities among the domesticated animals of Ceylon is a breed of cattle known as the "kooloozoo," which is the "sacred running oxen."

The Swiss town of Zurich has taken a step toward the municipalization of medicine, and puts a poll tax on all the population over sixteen years of age sufficient to make up an income of \$100,000 to pay the doctors.

Near the Tonga Islands, in the Pacific, some time ago a fish net was sunk twenty-three thousand feet below the surface.

A woman was arrested in Paris for shoplifting not long ago, and it was noticed that she carried a bright-looking King Charles spaniel on her arm.

When Victorine was alone with her dead, she had a wild outbreak of passionate grief, but it rapidly gave way to a calmness so stern that it would have appalled an observer had there been witnesses in the chamber of death.

Two months after the funeral the friends of the family were apprised that the widowed lady was the mother of a daughter! Shortly after this event, she retired with her infant child to an estate in Brittany.

Antiquity of Cheating.

False weights were found in the ruins of the oldest city that has yet been excavated. And false weights will probably be consumed when the earth drops into the sun and the heavens are rolled together like a scroll.

Young wives re-juvenate old husbands. "The insurance agent ended, "They make these old fellows dress younger, talk younger and feel younger. Youth is contagious, like the croup."

Old X, aged 70, with a third wife of 23, said on this head the other day: "You can't marry a girl too young. The younger she is the longer she'll keep her health and strength and beauty. Furthermore, the older you are the more respect she'll have for you. She'll reverence you and obey you as she would her own father or grandfather."

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AN AFFAIR OF HONOR.

By Francis A. Durivage.

When I was last in Paris, I had a letter of introduction to the Countess de Clairmont, who lived in a venerable mansion in the Faubourg St. Germain, near the ancient abbey church. I found her to be an aged lady of a very old family, a very devout churchgoer, and a bigoted legitimist, believing in "divine right" and the Count de Chambord, and fully expecting that he and his white flag would rule the destinies of France, when Orleansists, Bonapartists and Republicans would be forgotten.

One day I was looking at the portrait of a lady so lovely, with a sweet and melancholy beauty, that even the disfiguring countenance of the previous century, especially the abominable high head-dress, could not mar its effect, for you looked only on the face and forgot the accessories. It was from the pencil of Madame Lebrun, the favorite artist of Marie Antoinette, who has left the such touching souvenirs of the unhappy queen.

"That lady, I am sure, had a story," said the Countess. "I will tell you her story at full length. It is an old family history, but it is thought to have some of the elements of romance. Perhaps it may be of future use to you as a story-teller in point of fortune and opportunities for rising in the world than Hector, she gave him her hand because she could bestow her heart with it."

De Grantier was handsome, gentle and warm-hearted. He had no vices, and but little ambition. He was a poet and a painter, though not a professional one, and he was in easy circumstances, although not reckoned a man of wealth.

There was a shade of melancholy in Victorine's nature, and she often thought to herself that he married her too happily—that it was like a bright summer day, so perfect, so full of sunshine, so heavenly, that weather-seers pronounce it too lovely to last, and regard it with shaking heads, as the precursor of a devastating storm.

And the storm that wrecked the happiness of Victorine was near at hand. Among her rejected suitors was a wild, bold man, named Raoul Maltravers, an ensign in the royal navy, of a very distinguished family high in power at court, who might well look forward to the prospect of seeing the broad pennant of an admiral float over his own quarter-deck.

It must be borne in mind that this project of vengeance was a secret locked in his own heart, to be divulged in action, not in words. Therefore, when, some months after the marriage, the ensign returned from his cruise, the incident did not create any stir.