ABSOLUTELY PURE

PESSIMISTIC LABOUCHERE.

He Thinks the Principle of Perversity Boverns All Departments of Life.

It has been observed from time immemorial that a curious perversity of climate—so we have been accustomed to consider it-generally provides one sort of weather to match a precisely opposite sort of clothing. Thus a walking stick will generally attract rain and an umbrella will produce sunshine.

Indeed the principle of perversity governs every department of life. Should sunshine be necessary it will be wet. Documents of no importance are never mislaid. We invariably meet the people whom we are anxions to avoid and miss those we especially wish to meet. A woman generally loses her heart to the wrong man; a man generally marries the wrong woman. Every one will be able to add to these examples almost indefinitely from personal experience.

There are no accidents whatever in life. Modern science has established that every incident is governed by an invariable law. Careful observation and the study of statistics prove beyond the possibility of doubt that clothes do very materially influence weather, a discovery which should be invaluable not only to the farmer, but to every member of the community.

Recent science, moreover, has erroneously adopted the theory of the survival of the fittest. The primal law which governs every circumstance of life is the survival of the unfittest. For instance, if a man is to inherit a fortune from a relative, the latter will survive to extreme old age. In literature and in art the man of talent fails, the charlatan attains fame. In finance and in commerce the swindler makes a fortune and becomes fashionable, the honest man is driven into bankruptcy. An enemy is sure to flourish. The pattern Sunday school boy is cut off in his youth; the truant grows to manhood, marries happily and dies respected and regretted by The worthy youth never marries the woman he loves; she marries his utterly worthless rival.-London Truth.

IMPRESSIVE GLITTER.

The Metallic Splender of the Diplomatic Corps on New Year's Morning.

Washington's most picturesque feature, the diplomatic corps, never gets into action until the reception at the White House on New Year's day, although the individual members will be seen out in society for a month or more before the recognized social season. At the New Year's reception, however, the diplomats come out strong, and the procession of the members of the foreign legations and embassies from the White House to the home or hotel of the secretary of state, where the diplomatic breakfast is served, is one of the gala sights of the year. Many of the population of Washington stay up all night in pass as soon as it has been received and properly attended to by the president.

After this reception the entire organisation lines up and puts out on foot for the home of the secretary of state. As they pass from the White House grounds in their glittering raiment they are the showiest things in Washington and worth coming miles to see. The lowli-est attache in the crowd will give cards and spades to the most showily dressed drum major in the country and will win out with ease. They have gold lace and bullion strung all over them, while the aigrets, plumes, epaulets, cords, tassels and ribbons of any one legation would stock a millinery store. Such is the effect of this aggregation of beauty and valor on the great American crowd gathered without the gates that every man in it utters at some time while the procession is passing, with contemptuous emphasis, the remark which occurs oftenest in the narrative of the adventures of Chimmie Fadden. - Indianapolis Journal.

Running the Gantlope.

The following extracts give further information concerning this punish-

"In running the gantlope, the regiment was formed six deep, and the ranks opened and faced inward. Each man being furnished with a switch, the offender, naked to the waist, was led through the ranks, preceded by a sergeant, the point of whose reversed halbert was presented to his breast to prevent his running too fast. As he thus passed through the ranks every soldier gave him a stroke."—Grose's "Military Antiquities," Volume 2, Page 108.

But the oldest notice I have seen is given in "Monro: His Expedition with the Worthy Scots Regiment (called Mackeyes Regiment), levied in August, 1626, etc. London: Printed by William Jones in Red-Crosse-Streete, 1637:"

"Other slight punishments we enjoyne for slight faults, put in execution by their camarades; as the loupegarthe (running the gantlet; Swedish gantulopp, to run through a hedge made by soldiers), when a souldier is stripped naked above the waste, and is made to runne a furlong betwixt 200 souldiers, ranged alike opposite to others, leaving a space in the midst for the souldier to runne through, where his camarades whip him with small rods dained and cut for the purpose by the Gavilliger (provost marshal), and all to keepe good order and discipline."— Notes and Queries.

TWO LIFELONG LOVERS.

A Sentence Overheard In the Street Asswers the Old Conundrum

Tired by a long day's work and feeling a bit "blue" over some matters which had gone counter to my hopes, I was walking down Broadway one night last week, on my way home. It was after 10 o'clock and the down town streets were almost deserted.

As I turned through Sixteenth street I noticed an old lady and an older gentleman walking slowly, arm in arm, evidently husband and wife. He was apparently about 70, she perhaps five years younger.

They seemed very fond of each other. There was just the least little inclination of the head of each toward the other, and they were strolling along so slowly as to suggest the thought that their pace was regulated not so much by the infirmities of age as by the desire and pleasure of being alone together. They were talking earnestly.

It had rained earlier in the evening and the sidewalks were still wet, so that I had put on my rubbers before leaving the office. Consequently my approach was noiseless. Just as I overtook and passed the old people the man turned to his wife and said, as if in answer to some remark she had made, "But, my dear, I like to think God sent you to

From a lover to his sweetheart or from a young husband to a young wife the words might have sounded sentimental, and would certainly have seemed commonplace, but from a husband of three score and ten to a wife of 65 they had a weight and dignity which made them sweet to hear and wholesome to

Here was the whole story of two lives told in a sentence. Here was the answer to the old question about marriage. For them it was surely a divine success. Here at least was proof that the writers of fairy tales and of old time novels spoke truly when they said that "they were married and lived happy ever after. "-New York Herald.

KOREAN CURIOSITIES.

All the Tools Made by Hand and Native Iron Used.

Frank G. Carpenter, writing about the peculiarities of Korea, says among other things:

"One of our ponies had to be shod. and another time we put shoes on the bull which carried the baggage. The pony was first thrown to the ground, and his four legs were tied together so that he couldn't possibly kick.

"Then the blacksmith pounded hoop iron shoes on his feet with a rude iron hammer. It was the same with the bull, though one man had to sit on his head while he was being shod. The iron seemed to be very good, and it comes from the mines in the northern part of the country. The tools of the country order to get a place on the White House | are made of it, and the farming tools fence where they may see the procession | are very ingenious, the three and four pronged hoes being quite as good as anything we have in America. They were making tools in this blacksmith's shop, and all the tools and plows are made by hand.

> "The blacksmith had a rude bellows, which was worked by a boy who stood on a seesaw and by moving up and down pumped the fire into a blaze. In other places I saw bellows which boys worked by pulling a stick in and out like that of a squirtgun, and everything is rude in the extreme.

"Sometimes horses are shod by being strapped up to poles, so that only two of their feet can rest on the ground, and the band which goes around the belly holds the horse up while he is shod."-Roxbury Gazette.

A Lake of Boiling Lava.

Mauna Loa, the gigantic Hawaiian volcano, has two craters or openings, one of which, Kilauea, is the largest active volcanic crater in the world. The mountain is 14,100 feet high, and Kilanea is situated on the eastern side, about 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. This marvelous crater is really a vast lake of boiling lava which rises and falls continually by the action of subterranean fires. In tossing to and fro

like a troubled sea of molten metal the lava is dashed against the cliffs and hardens there in the form of long, glassy filaments, gigantic knobs, miniature trees, and in imitation of grass, leaves, Another form of glassy filament to

be found along the shores of this fiery lake is in the shape of queer bunches and tufts of lava made up of an aggregation of vitreous threads which the natives call "Pele's hair," Pele being the goddess to whom the mountain is dedicated. These glassy threads appear to be caused by the passage of steam through the molten lava. In so doing small particles in the shape of bubblelike balloons are thrown into the air, leaving a tail behind like a comet. When the scene of these miniature steam eruptions is near a rock or the shore all solid and cool surfaces are found covered with bunches of "Pele's hair," This "hair" was formerly used in mystic native ceremonies, and of late years has been gathered in large quantities by curiosity seekers.—St. Louis Repub-

Explained.

"Pa, what is a trip hammer?". 'It's the hammer, my son, that your ma leaves on the curpet when she hangs up a picture."-Detroit Free Press.

A LITTLE WARCLOUD.

KING PREMBI DODGED WHEN HE SAW IT COMING.

At First the Monarch of Ashanti Scorned Lord Salisbury's Ultimatum, but Weskened When He Saw the British Prepara-

If what we hear from Ashanti is true, the bloodthirsty monarch of that depraved people deserves a thorough thrashing, and a few days ago it seemed to be a settled thing that he would get it. Now, however, the bloodthirsty monarch reconsiders the defiance he had sent to the British government and con- just what one or two of the others withcludes to consider the ultimatum recent-

ly sent to his capital by Lord Salisbury. Ashanti has been slightly known to the civilized world for 200 years, but few white men are acquainted with the country or its people. In 1873 Sir Gar-net Wolseley made a dash into the region and attacked King Koffi Kalkalli, then the monarch, who fled from his capital, Kumassi, at the approach of the British forces, whose triumph was signalized by burning the town. After that the king sued for peace, which was accorded on condition that he should submit to a pecuniary penalty for his repeated invasions of the Fanti country, which lay within the British protectorate and because of which the expedition



was entered upon. Besides, he had to promise to cease from the wholesale destruction of human life.

A plain story of the frightful killing of the men of Ashanti by the orders of the king of the country reads like the most exaggerated product of an insane imagination. Not far from the town is what is known as the "forest of death." It is a "perfect catacomb of skulls and bones." Whoever displeases the king is sent there to be decapitated. Whenever a rich man or a man of prominence dies, numbers of his relatives are beheaded in like manner, and sometimes 40 or 50 persons are killed there in a single day. Those who saw this awful place in 1878 say there is not language in existence fitly times many bodies in a state of partial a beauty?" decomposition, and from the place there arose, 23 years ago, such dreadful old one. I just laid it down here." stenches as to make some of the hardy Liverpool Mercury. white soldiers obliged to endure them ill for weeks.

The Ashanti country extends from east to west more than 500 miles, but just how large it is is unknown. Its pop-5,000,000 to 10,000,000. The country is

bly well organized state of society. The country is divided into districts, each being ruled by a prince who is absolute and receives his rank in a hereditary erally. manner. He may cut off as many heads as he likes, and, in fact, is absolute master of the inhabitants of his district, but in turn is himself completely at the mercy of the king and liable at any time to lose his own head. In time of peace these chiefs collect the royal revenne; in time of war each commands a much better organized than those of the

surrounding tribes. The present ruler, King Kwaku Dua, sometimes called Prembi, who is only 22 years old, has abrogated most of the provisions contained in the treaty drawn up between his predecessor and the British in 1873 and beyond a doubt has revived the old custom of wholesale slaughter. This was supposed to be true as long ago as 1888, when it was first proposed that a British resident should live in Kumassi. To this proposition the young king dissented with great emphasis, and somewhat recently the governor of the Gold Coast sent to the savage ruler an ultimatum on behalf of the British by the hands of two officers. Captains Cramer and Irvine, escorted by a force of houseas, or native west Af-

The king treated the ultimatum with contempt, and Colonel Sir Francis Scott. inspector general of the Gold Coast constabulary, began immediate preparations for an armed expedition to Kumassi to enforce the terms of the demand. Seeing these warlike preparations, the savage king curbed his royal temper and concluded to comply with the very reasonable requests of his great and good friend Salisbury. So the Ashanti warcloud has blown over, and the Scott expedition that started to fight will remain to feast, while King Prembi will pay the cost.

Naking Artificial Pearls.

The French artificial pearl is produced by boring a hole in the shell of the oys ter and introducing a small bit of glass, which the animal covers with "nacre. or mother of pearl, to stop the irritation. Such pearls are flat on one side and of less value than those produced naturally.

"The train was late," the traveler said, "and when it got to the place where we were to get supper everybody was tremendously hungry, and everybody, or almost everybody, made a wild rush for the restaurant. A cool man was one of a few who did not hurry, and who, when they got into the restaurant, found that every seat was taken. Here was a situation to test a man's nerve. Only 20 minutes for the meal, and with the train late, that time sure not to be prolonged, and it was the last meal of the day. There would be no more eating stops until morning. Some men would have fretted and fumed and made themselves unhappy over this, and that is out seats did, but the cool man remained perfectly calm and undisturbed. In fact, he seemed rather to enjoy looking on at the scene of activity. But calm as he was, he was none the less alert. With unerring acuteness, though in a casual sort of manner, he stationed himself near the quickest eater, and when that gentleman had pitchforked himself full, which he did in about ten minutes, the cool man took his seat, the first one vacated. There was still ten minutes, and how he profited by it could be told by the added touch of serenity observable upon his countenance when he lighted his cigar in the smoking room of the sleeper. "-- New York Sun.

A Divided Jury.

A man was on trial in Lake county recently on a charge of grand larceny. He was accused of stealing a hog. An old rancher, whose interest in the case was due to the fact that he owned a big drove of hogs, listened attentively to the impaneling of the jury and then left the courtroom with an undisguised dis-

"What's the matter, Sam?" inquired an attorney.

"That jury's goin to disagree," he

declared emphatically.
"What makes you think so?" "Think? I don't think nothin about

it. I know it. "Well, then, how do you know it?"

"Why, they've got six hog men that raise hogs and four men that I knows has stole hogs on that jury, and nobody ever know'd a hog raiser an a hog thief as would agree on a hog case."-San Francisco Post.

It Was a Good Old Parasol.

A draper's assistant was showing a lady some parasols. The assistant had a good command of language and knew how to expatiate on the good qualities and show the best points of goods. As he picked up a parasol from the lot on the counter and opened it he struck an attitude of admiration, and holding it up to the best light that could be had said:

"Now, there, isn't it lovely? Look at that silk. Particularly observe the quality, the finish, the general effect. Feel it. Pass your hand over it. No nonsense about that parasol, is there?" he said as to describe its horrors. There are at all be handed it over to the lady. "Ain't it

"Yes," said the lady. "That's my

NO NOT ONE.

There is not a human being physically perfect. Much of this imperfection comes ulation is variously estimated at from from heritage, much more from accident. neglect or ignorance. All of this mass of fertile. It is extremely rich in gold. In fact, some of the mines are said to be among the richest in all Africa, and there are whispers that the coming extrive for relief.—The simplest and surest is of course the best, and true economy demands to have it always at hand. When fertile. It is extremely rich in gold. In mortal suffering is manifest in aches and pedition has been projected chiefly for the purpose of enabling Englishmen to control these mines. Most of them are now worked for the benefit of the king.

For an African kingdom, ruled by an absolute despot, Ashanti has a tolerably well organized state of society. The ands have done so.

She-What is a burlesque? He-A take off.

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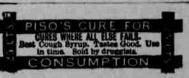
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