

MISCELLANEOUS.

FALSE TESTIMONY.—It is customary to accept death-bed confessions or accusations as truth; one naturally expects that a person with the near prospect of eternity before him will not perjure himself by false speaking, and his last words are implicitly believed. Especially strong does this sort of evidence become when the accused is brought face to face with his supposed victim at the bedside, and is then and there sworn as the real criminal. Yet judicial annals abound with instances in which persons have been thus accused, and have suffered the dread results of such accusation, who have afterward been proved clearly guiltless. It need scarcely be remarked that innocent persons often confess to having committed crimes sometimes for the sake of notoriety, sometimes to mitigate a punishment which they think certain to be inflicted upon them. As to death-bed accusations, we give a case in point. In London, one night a girl was attacked by three men who had the appearance of being brewers' apprentices. Of her death-bed she accused a certain man, by name, as being one of her assassins. The man was indicted, convicted and executed. Two years after it was discovered that he was wholly innocent, the real criminals being apprehended, and confessing that they did not so much as know the unfortunate man by sight. A still more remarkable instance was that of a laborer who had a daughter who was in love with a young man of whom the father strenuously disapproved. One day loud words were heard in the room where they lived. After a quarrel between father and daughter, the former left the house, locking the girl in the room. Not long after, the sound of groans caused the neighbors to break open the door, when the girl was found writhing in agony on the floor, a bloody knife lying by her side. When asked if her father had done the deed, she nodded faintly, and immediately drew her last breath. The man was arrested, tried, and paid the penalty of the crime. Some time after, a letter written by the girl, was found in the chimney of the room stating that she was about to commit suicide, and also containing the words: "My cruel father is the cause of my death." This gave the clue to the fatal gesture she had made at the moment of expiring, and clearly proved her own guilt and her father's innocence. There is little doubt that many death-bed accusations have no firmer foundation than these.

She was a little woman with a squeaky voice, and was soliciting contributions in aid of a fair. After presenting her work to several employees in a Lynn market, without receiving any pecuniary assistance she approached a tall man who stood with both hands run into his pockets, looking into the corned beef barrel, and said: "Sir, wouldn't you like to assist us a little?" "Certainly, madam, certainly," was the ready reply; "which do you prefer, money or goods?" Either, sir that you choose to donate." "Donate, let me think. That is the high-toned name for give. How large contributions do you receive?" "Anything; no matter how large, sir. We do not limit a person. There is one man there who gave me five dollars, and there is one who only gave me twenty-five cents," said she showing him the book. "No one given you more'n \$5?" "No; that is the largest amount, I believe," said she, turning over the leaves. "Wouldn't take more'n that, would you?" "Why certainly, sir, take any amount that a person chose to give," said she handing him the pencil. "Well now, supposing I should offer you five dollars, would you take it?" "Take it, yes; and be very thankful." "Would you, though," said he, with a grin. "Why, that's nothing for me to give," gave the C. A. R. folks \$2,000 at one lap." The little woman looked at him in amazement. "You seem to be surprised, but that is nothing. Why, madam, I gave the Sons of Temperance \$8,000, the Woman's League \$10,000, and the Reform Club \$24,000, all in one night, and never felt it either; and I'll do you what I'll do," continued the ringer, as the little woman began to rave away: "if you'll get any one to it down for \$150,000, I'll double the amount, and not lose a wink of sleep or it, either," and she started out to bid the man with the \$2,000. He was and to say, "I'd like to help that man, but it wouldn't do for me to go for \$300,000 first, for people would think that I was doing it to show off, to get my name in the papers, and to no such chicken. For an unostentatious giver, or I'm a liar." And so who heard him thought so, too. *Sanbury News.*

MARK TWAIN ON THE INDIANS.—An Mark Twain in 1867, resigned clerkship to the United States Senate Committee on Conchology. It was by caused by his tender of the following advice concerning the treatment of the Indians. "I next went to Secretary of the War, who was not used to see me until he learned that I was connected with the Government, and not been on important business upon I would not have got in. I bid him for a light (he was smoking a pipe), and then I told him I had mit to bid with him defending a role of General Lee and his command arms, but I could not approve a method of fighting the Indians a plains. I said he ought to get more together—get them together some convenient place, where he have provisions enough for both and then have a general massacre I said there was nothing so congenial to an Indian as a general massacre. If he could not approve of a re, I said, the next surest thing Indian was soap and education.

Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run, because a half-massacred Indian may recover, but it you educate him and wash him it is bound to finish him some time or other. It undermines his constitution, it strikes at the foundation of his being. "Sir," I said, the time has come when blood curdling cruelty has become unnecessary. Inflict soap and a spellingbook on every Indian that ravages the plains and let them all die."

POSTAL LAWS.—The following sections of a law have been passed by Congress and approved by the President: Section 15. That transient newspapers and magazines, regular publications designed primarily for advertising purposes, or for free circulation at nominal rates, and all printed matter of the third class except unsealed circulars, shall be admitted in the mails at the rate of one cent for every two ounces of fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof; and the sender of any article of the third class of mail matter may write his or her name or address therein, or on the outside thereof, with the word "from" above or preceding the same, or may write briefly or print on any package the number and names of the articles inclosed. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent from the office of publishers to regular subscribers the time to which subscription thereof has been paid, and addresses upon postal cards and unsealed circulars may be either written, printed, or affixed thereto, at the option of the sender.

Sec. 16. That all acts or part of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

On unsealed circulars and all mailable matter of the third class other than that designated in foregoing section, postage will be charged as heretofore, one cent for each ounce or fraction thereof.

THE FIFTEEN-YOUNG-LADY PROBLEM.—The London Mathematical Society lately occupied itself with a discussion of the following problem. "In a school of fifteen girls a rule has been laid down that they shall walk out every day in rows of threes, but that the same two girls shall never come out twice in the same row." The rule is supposed to have been carried out correctly during the six working days of the week, but when Sunday comes it is found impossible to send the girls to church without breaking the rule. This problem was announced more than a quarter of a century ago, and has engaged the attention of distinguished mathematicians, for the reason that its solution involves the use of mathematical synthesis. Prof. Sylvester's paper, in which the subject was discussed, was on "the fifteen young ladies problem and a general mathematical theory of pure syntax."—*August Galaxy.*

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS.—At the nineteenth annual meeting of the Scottish Arboricultural Society, held recently, the President, in his inaugural address, alluded to the beneficial effects of the maintenance of a due proportion of forest land in every country, from the shelter it gives in spring and protection from high winds, as well as to the common belief that malaria and flights of locusts and noxious insects, are often arrested by belts of forest. He then proceeded to sketch the evils that have followed the reckless cutting down of indigenous wood in many countries, where, only when it was too late, have measures been adopted for preserving the forests. He urged the necessity of prudence and caution in all operations, which, on a large scale, interfere with the primeval arrangement of the organic and inorganic world.

A HISTORIC BALL.—Mr. J. P. Campbell, of Florence, N. J., has in his possession the grapeshot with which Lafayette was wounded at the battle of Brandywine. It has been in his possession over a half a century, and was given to him by his aunt, who picked it up after it had struck the Marquis and been stopped by a wall. The heroine was on that day carrying ammunition in her apron, and when the gallant Frenchman was wounded she tore off her clothing to staunch the blood and bind up the wound. On the visit of the Marquis to this country fifty years after he sought her out. The ball is a cast-iron globe, about one and a half inches in diameter, and has been religiously preserved.

SAFETY FROM RATS AND MICE.—A. J. Willard of School House Station, San Mateo county, California, gives a very simple and in his experience, a very effective safety against rats and mice. He takes two round pieces of tin, like the bottom of a fruit can, punches a hole in the center of each piece, and strings them on a strong wire, one near each end. Then he stretches the wire from end to side of a room and fastens each end firmly. Anything which is hung upon the wire between the plates of tin is safe from the rats, for if they try to mount the circle of tin, it revolves and they cannot pass over it. Mr. Willard has found the simple contrivance very useful in saving meat, grain, etc., and advises all farmers to try it.

WOMAN'S ADVANTAGE.—Alluding to the custom of Siam, a writer says that when a girl falls in love she goes to the man's house and will not leave; and if he declines to marry her, the old women of the neighborhood turn out and pelt him with inferior egg until he changes his mind. As long as this custom prevails, we shouldn't think the girls of Siam would care much if the almanac makers were to leave out leap-year altogether.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.—A writer in the *American Grocer* says that glycerine is not used in the right way. She asserts that to preserve the smoothness and softness of the hands, keep a small bottle of glycerine near the place where you habitually wash them, and when ever you have finished washing, and before wiping them, put one or two drops of glycerine on the wet palm and rub the hands thoroughly with it as if it were soap, then dry lightly with a towel. Household work and bad weather will not prevent your skin from being smooth and soft if this plan of using glycerine is followed.

In order to preserve tomatoes through the year it is not necessary to resort to the expense of canning them. If stewed in the ordinary manner, but without butter or crackers, only a little salt and sugar, they can be put into jugs—two quart or gallon, according to the size of the family—and if corked up tightly they will keep for a year. To make assurance doubly sure, some melted wax may be poured around the corks. Tomatoes may also be dried easily. Skinned and prepared with a little sugar they make a good substitute for figs, and are sold under the name of tomato-figs.

The best material for cleaning coat collars and grease spots of all kinds is pure benzine. The article is sold at the principal drug stores in cities. That used by painters is not pure enough, and has a very unpleasant odor, which the pure article has not, and the little it has soon disappears. If this cannot be obtained, strong alcohol—ninety-five percent.—will clean collar very well. A mixture of equal parts of strong alcohol and water of ammonia is also used. The trouble with all these liquids is that not enough is used; a small quantity only softens and spreads the grease spot; they should be applied in sufficient quantity and repeated, to not only dissolve the foreign matter, but to wash it out.

The following mode of cleaning silk garments has been successfully tested. The garment must be ripped and dusted. Have a large flat board and over it spread an old sheet. Take a half a cup of gull, half a cup ammonia, and half a pint of tepid soft water. Sponge the silk with this on both sides, especially the soiled spots. Having finished sponging, roll it on a round stick or broom handle, being careful not to have any wrinkles. Silk thus washed, and thoroughly dried needs no ironing and has a luster like new silk. Not only silk but merino, barege or any woolen goods may be thus treated with the best results.

BIG JAW.—W. E. C., Cheyenne Agency, L. T.: "I have a very fine heifer suffering with 'big jaw.' What shall I do for it? Can it be cured?" Ans.—This is more properly called "inflammation of the jaw bones." In horses it is sometimes called "big head;" it is a bony tumor, in which the interior of the bone is absorbed, sometimes leaving a mere shell of bone, divided into cells, containing purulent cheesy matter. This is supposed to be caused by a deficiency of phosphate of lime in the food, rendering the bone deficient in this most important element, and the following prescription is often given with good result; phosphate of lime six oz; powdered golden seal, two oz; powdered ginger, 2 oz; powdered saffron, three oz; oatmeal, four pounds; mix. This will be divided into six parts, one given in the food every night. This will have a tendency to restore the missing elements in the bone. And the general diet should be food rich in phosphates. You may get your phosphates of lime by boiling beef bones in lye of wood ashes, and after it is reduced fine, wash with water and give a small quantity daily in food. The first thing to be done surgically is to open it and let out any matter it contains. Having removed the matter, inject the cavity with weak pyroigneous or weak carbonic acid. This will cleanse it and render healing possible. —*Live Stock Journal.*

DOM PEDRO'S POEM.—Following is the translation of a poem which Dom Pedro contributed to Godey's *Ladies' Book* while in this country: "If I were element, just or pious, I would do what I ought. The scepters weight is very great, and he who holds it has not the sacred laws at his discretion—as a faithful ruler, he must execute, but cannot alter them. The throne is the seat of justice, and he who sits in so high a place becomes subject to the most severe law. He loses his will. Any neglect on his part becomes an enormous, detestable, sacrilegious crime. When in the horizon the sun sheds the light of day over the face of the earth, no one wonders, for all are used to it. But if eclipsed, perchance he is disturbed. In that unhappy moment all are alarmed; all remark it, and are frightened. In like manner, if I always reward virtue and punish vices, I should deserve credit."

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRADE UNIONS.—The rights and responsibilities of a trade union are to be tested in court in Montreal, Canada. A stonecutter in that city, who did not belong to the Stonecutter's Union, accepted work from a firm employing union hands, but at less rates than the Union exacted. The Unionists, by threatening a strike, compelled his discharge. The stonecutter has sued the Union, which is a regularly incorporated body, for actual and prospective losses caused by its action, and has laid his damages at \$1,000.

Six thousand tons of locust have been burned in trenches by petroleum in the provinces of Bagdad and Cuibad. Fifteen thousand soldiers have been employed to destroy them.

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