

CUP DAY IN VICTORIA.

The Great Event in the Calendar of the City of Melbourne.

No one who has not visited Australia can have any conception of the interest which attaches to such a race as the Melbourne cup, which, with its sweepstakes from the one hundred and forty-nine entries that were made in 1890, its trophy of £150 value, and its added money of £10,000, amounting altogether to £15,050, is the most important money contest in the world, says Sidney Dickinson in Scribner's Magazine. On the day of its occurrence all business is suspended by mutual consent throughout Victoria, the banks and government offices are all closed, and by twelve o'clock the streets of Melbourne are as silent and deserted as if the city were stricken with a plague. For a week before the event, the railway trains from Sydney, to the number of seven or eight in a day, and all the inter-colonial and mail steamers from that city and Adelaide, are taxed to their utmost capacity, and the accommodations of Melbourne, as well as all the neighboring towns, are taken up by the immense concourse of visitors. The facilities for reaching Flemington are so good, however, and the course itself so spacious that even at the great race of the centennial year, when more than 140,000 persons were upon the grounds, one saw the event with perfect comfort, and was transported to and from the course without five minutes, waiting at either end of the line. The admirable temper and sobriety of the great assembly are largely responsible for such a result. During the four days' meeting of 1888 only five arrests were made on the grounds, and none of these was for serious offenses. The crowd at an Australian race meeting is often rough in appearance, but in orderliness and good-nature can hardly be excelled.

BIRD SONG.

By It the Feathered Race Deplets Love and Passion.

The gift of bird song is largely a masculine prerogative, an expression of tender sentiment by which the affection of the opposite sex may be attracted and retained. Indeed the birds furnish no exception to the sweeping assertion that "his love that gives the key to all earth's music." They sing from love and happiness, says one; from love and rivalry, another asserts; while joy and buoyancy of spirits are said by a third authority to be answerable for their music. That most of the species sing best in the spring is well known, the motive that is responsible for the general outpour of song being a result of its influences; they are happy to be at home again in the old haunts, to be surrounded by plenty and to feel the matchless sweetness of returning springtime.

One of the most delightful of our American essayists believes all birds to be incipient or would be songsters, then—that even the hen has a homely, contented carol—and he credits the owl with a desire to fill the night with music. The light of love within the little bird's heart is brightest at that season and overflows and illumines his song: "the language of passion keeps time to the heart's rhythm" until the full beauty of the flower of love is reached in the thousands of beautiful homes about us.

Undoubtedly they sing at times for very joy, just as we go singing about our work because our hearts are light and happy and the song sings itself; we have only to listen to it.

THE PARSON'S TEETH.

They Didn't Arrive, So He Had to Be Excused.

There is a story of a clergyman who had taken temporary duty for a friend, and who had the ill-luck to injure his false teeth during the week. The plate was sent to the dentist's for repairs, a faithful assurance being given that it should be duly returned by Sunday's post; but the dentist or the post proved faithless.

With the assistance of the clerk, the clergyman managed to stumble through the prayers, but felt it would be useless to attempt to preach. He therefore instructed the clerk to "make some excuse for him and dismiss the congregation."

But his feelings may be better imag-

ined than described when, in the seclusion of the vestry, she overheard the clerk, in impressive tones, thus deliver the "excuse."

"Parson's very sorry, but it is his misfortune to be obligated to wear a set of artificial teeth. They busted last Wednesday, and he ain't got them back from London to-day, as he was promised. I've helped him all I could through the service, but I can't do no more for him; 'tisin't any use for him going into 'the pulpit, for you wouldn't understand a word he said, so he thinks you all may as well go home."

The Way Cyclones Turn.

The question is often asked: Why do cyclones, "whirlwinds" and tornadoes all persist in the polar whirl of from right to left? Astronomical speculators have supposed that all the planets once existed as rings of thin scattered matter around the sun, and that these rings were annular segregations from a vague, irregularly scattered mass that turned one way in spiral courses, thus determining the direction in which the rings revolved, and all the rest from this took the same course. "But," you say, "why did the nebula revolve at all?" It grew from chaos, and chaos, presumably, possessed an inherent motion from right to left. This being the case, from that time to this, sun, moon, stars, planets, cyclones and tornadoes have adhered to the original habit.

Matching of Teeth.

Dentists say that the greatest difficulty they meet with in their work is the matching of false teeth with the natural teeth of their customers. The tooth factories supply dentists with rings upon which are strung thin metal bars, each carrying a tooth at its extremity. There are twenty-five of these sample teeth, that run all the way from nearly white to a shade that is almost olive.

SOME STATE OFFICIALS.

The path to success for the recently-elected governor of Kansas, Mr. Lewelling, lay along a canal. He drove on the Erie's towpath in the sixties.

Ex-Gov. Hoyt's death leaves only two men living who have held the chief executive's office of Pennsylvania—Andrew G. Curtin and James A. Beaver. James Pollock and Gen. Hartranft are two others who have recently died.

Gov. RUSSELL, of Massachusetts, declined to approve a bill fixing his official compensation at \$8,000 per annum, but signed it when it was made to provide the higher salary for his successor. He is now about to become an \$8,000 governor, as his own successor.

Ex-Gov. CARLTON, of Maine, now eighty-five years old, is a rather spry old gentleman and fond of horses. He may often be seen behind a spirited young animal in the streets of Lewiston, and he handles the reins with skill. Twenty-three horses may be found in his stables.

GREAT JURISTS.

JUSTICE FIELD has been a member of the supreme court for about thirty years.

LORD COLERIDGE has declined an earldom, which would remove him from the bench.

JUSTICE FIELD has been a member of the supreme court for almost thirty years. Only six justices—Marshall, Washington, Johnson, Story, Wayne and McLean—have served longer.

JUDGE RYAN of the Sixth Iowa judicial district shows to what length judicial tyranny can go in this alleged free country by prohibiting smoking in the courtroom and ordering the lawyers to keep their feet off the tables.

SHORT AND INTERESTING.

A TWO-POUND pomegranate is an agricultural curiosity of Starke, Fla.

SOME Egyptian mummies, recently examined, were found incased in caskets.

ACCORDING to statistical reports 20,000 Chicago husbands are supported by their wives.

BEER was the universal drink of the English until the introduction of tea and coffee, about 1550.

DEARBORN FOX, of Wolfeborough, N. H., harvested a squash that measured ninety-two inches in circumference.

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