

MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE.

MR. GLADSTONE'S physician is putting still more restraints upon him, and insisting upon his adopting every means of economizing his failing strength.

ALTHOUGH Mrs. Gladstone is over eighty years old she has a voluminous correspondence, and, notwithstanding this advanced age, she writes her many letters without the aid of glasses.

MR. GLADSTONE varied his ordinary athletic programme of tree-chopping the other day by lifting the first shovelful of earth on the occasion of the commencement of work on a horse railroad at Wirral.

GLADSTONE is reported as saying in a recent address: "I am a Scotchman by blood and a Lancashire man by birth. I have lived most of my life in London, and in one way or another I belong to most parts of the country."

MRS. GLADSTONE gave her services at the London hospital during the last great cholera epidemic. She was also instrumental in making provision for the many children suddenly made orphans by the cholera, and in the Children's home, close to the Epping forest, thus founded, the prime minister's wife has always taken great practical interest.

LITERARY PERSONALITIES.

MARK TWAIN has settled down for the winter with his family at Florence, Italy.

THE new Lord Tennyson is said to have very little interest in poetry except for the face value it possesses at the publisher's.

WHITTIER was once mobbed in Philadelphia during an anti-slavery agitation in that city, and George William Curtis suffered in a similar manner.

JANE AUSTEN'S cottage in Hampshire, England, where she wrote the books that made her famous, is still standing, and has been but little altered since her day.

YUNG KIUNG YEN, whose recent article in the Forum, entitled "A Chinaman on Our Treatment of China," has attracted attention, received his education in this country, and is now an Episcopal minister in Shanghai.

EMPEROR EUGENIE devotes two or three hours of each day to writing her memoirs, but so sensitive is she about her work that she allows no one to look at her manuscript, and has made special arrangements that her book shall not be published until she has been dead twenty-five years.

FARM STATISTICS.

NEW ZEALAND exports produce every year to the value of \$75 for each head of the population. The net increase in such exports has been from \$28,800,000, in 1881, to almost \$50,000,000 in 1890.

THE dairymen of Victoria, Australia, have petitioned their government to place the bonus on export butter at four cents instead of reducing it from six to three cents, as originally contemplated.

OFFICIAL figures give the area planted to wheat in France, for the 1892 crop, at 17,450,000 acres, and the crop at 300,477,000 bushels. To rye there were 3,901,000 acres planted, and the crop was 72,076,000 bushels.

NEW ZEALAND has sixty-two large cheese and butter factories, that cost over \$350,000. Some of the cheese factories turn out from 100 to 160 tons of cheese, and the butter factories and creameries from 50 to 140 tons annually.

IN Ireland all kinds of live stock have increased this year, excepting pigs. The total number of cattle, as officially given, is 4,531,000 head, sheep 4,824,000, pigs 1,116,000, goats 333,000, poultry 15,333,000, horses and mules 625,000, asses 217,000.

"BROTHER JONATHAN."

The Sobriquet Originated from a Remark Made by Washington.

It seems strange to speak of the United States as "Brother Jonathan," and the wonder is how it ever began, says Harper's Young People; but on inquiring into the matter we find that the custom arose from an ordinary remark made by Gen. Washington at the beginning of the revolutionary war. On going to Massachusetts to organize the army he found it scant of ammunition and all means of defense; and no one

could suggest any way out of the difficulty. Something must be done at once for the public safety; and Gen. Washington, who had great confidence in the judgment of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut, said in this dilemma: "We must consult Brother Jonathan on the subject."

"Brother Jonathan" was equal to the occasion, and supplied many of the lacking necessities; and afterward during the war it became the custom in any emergency to say: "We must consult Brother Jonathan." In time the name became applied to the whole country, and it is pleasant to know that the great Washington himself was the originator of it.

The Congo's Deep Mouth.

The London Society of Telegraph Engineers and Electricians have been making soundings along the coast of Africa from a view of laying a cable from England to Cape Town. At the mouth of the Congo they found a remarkable state of affairs, their maps and soundings showing that that river's mouth is an extraordinary marine gully of no less depth than fourteen hundred and fifty-two feet! The mouth of the Mississippi at an equal distance from shore would only show thirty-three feet and the Thames forty feet. The Congo's incredible depths were traced for more than one hundred miles out at sea.

THE STUDIO.

BARRETT BROWNING, son of two famous poets, wrote verses of promise when he was five years old, and John Ruskin said he should be a great poet. He is a painter instead.

THE monument to the late emperor of Russia at Moscow will be completed within a few months and next spring it will be dedicated. It has been for seven years in course of erection.

MRS. HELEN ELIZABETH KING, of Cleveland, has been copying, to be exhibited by the state of Ohio at the world's fair, Huntington's portrait of Gen. Sherman, which belongs to the national government and hangs in the war department at Washington.

THE illumination of Whittier's centennial hymn, done in 1876 by Miss Annie Lewis Wriley, of Pennsylvania, will hold a place in the Woman's building at the world's fair. An autograph letter from Whittier in regard to the hymn will probably be placed with it.

FASHION NOTES.

IN five o'clock tea no two cups and saucers should be alike.

A GIRL'S coat of red cloth is trimmed with gold and black braid.

BUTTERFLY bows with aigrettes suggesting antennae are among some of the most approved hat and bonnet trimmings.

IT is said that five hundred persons worked for ten days on the beautiful lace bridal veil of Princess Margarethe of Persia. It was made at Hirschberg, Silesia.

STICK-PINS are shown in every imaginable style, from the plainest and most inexpensive to the elegant and elaborate, some of them being of enormous value from some very expensive stone either set singly or surrounded by smaller ones.

A Story About the Pansy.

A pretty fable about the pansy is current among French and German children. The flower has five petals and five sepals. In most pansies, especially of the earlier and less highly developed varieties, two of the petals are plain in color and three are gay. The two plain petals have a single sepal each, and the third, which is the largest of all, has two sepals. The fable is that the pansy represents a family, consisting of husband, wife and four daughters, two of the latter being step-children of the wife, with only one chair; the two small gay petals are the daughters with a chair each, and the large gay petal is the wife, with two chairs. To find the father one must strip away the petals until the stamens and pistils are bare. They have a fanciful resemblance to an old man with a flannel wrap about his neck, his shoulders upraised and his feet in a bathtub. The story is probably of French origin, because the French call the pansy the stepmother.

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