

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

Texas has the greatest school fund of any State in the Union. The increasing number of Jewish undergraduates is much remarked at Oxford. The Swedish Church has recently adopted the Revised Version of the Scriptures. The School law is to be enforced in such a manner in Gridley, Cal., as to make boys attend school or leave the town. The First Congregational Church of Kansas City, located on the corner of Eleventh and McGee streets, was dedicated recently. The edifice is of stone, and cost \$80,000. Dakota has eighty-four organized counties. A common school system has been organized in six of them, and two-thirds of the children of the Territory are enrolled. There are few better arguments for industrial education than the fact that there are only seven mechanics among the 1,014 prisoners in the Eastern Penitentiary, Philadelphia. The growth of the organization known as the Young Men's Christian Association, during the last eighteen years, has been remarkable not only as to membership, but also as to the results accomplished. Sixty Harvard freshmen have dropped their Latin, eighty their Greek, and one hundred their mathematics. None of them have dropped their baseball or their boating, however, and college culture is still safe. There is this difference between happiness and wisdom: that he that thinks himself the happiest man really is so; but he that thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool. Work on the walls of the Mormon Temple, in Salt Lake City, has suspended for the winter. The main structure is up to the square, but the central spires have yet to be reared a distance of ninety feet. Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-on-Avon, in the chance of which the bones of Shakespeare lie, is to be restored at a cost of \$60,000. The restorations include the opening of the north and south transepts and the removal of the galleries in the nave. The first General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States met in Baltimore December 24, 1847. When Francis Asbury was ordained Bishop the church had eighty ministers and 15,000 members. The Centennial Conference, which met in Baltimore recently, represented a church with 25,000 ministers and 3,800,000 communicants. Methodism has done a great work in the century past. What will it do in the century to come?—Chicago Inter Ocean.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Man is man's greatest study, and how to get ahead of him his most persistent. A gushing poetess in an exchange asks: "Why do the leaves fall slowly to the ground?" Laws of gravity, dear, that's all. Mary's Little Lamb. Mary had a little lamb—twelve hundred and how many. And every where that Mary went her key was sure to go. The left it in the door one day. Which made her brother laugh. He called his children and asked the lam. And shared it half and half. Money doesn't always make the mare go. Fat man (who is in something of a hurry) "I'll give you ten dollars to get me to the station in three minutes." Cabman (with provoking slowness): "Well, sorry, you might corrupt me, but you can't bribe that horse." Look here, said Uppereca, the character as the grocer was weighing out his goods, "those things of yours weigh light." Mr. Uppereca, replied old Hyson, severely, "I'm like you, myself: I run the scales to suit myself, and the congregation has to stand it." And the chorister pulled out all his stops at once. Young wife—Why, Charley, what have you gone and bought a dog for? Young husband—Ah—um, my dear, you know we can't eat everything that comes on the table; no family can. Young wife—O Charlie, ferget it. I know you wouldn't like my cooking. O dear, dear! Young husband—There, there! don't cry. I'll sell the dog. Smith purchased a "muley" cow and drove her home yesterday evening. The animal was a curiosity to his children. "Oh, what a tow!" exclaimed little three-year old; "it dot no horns." "Papa has 'em," said five-year old. "Why don't you put 'em on to tow?" "I don't know," replied the boy, "he had swallowed a couple of horns afore breakfast, and I guess they are inside of him now. Mamma told him he would swallow the cow afore six weeks." Not long since a New Hampshire committee man was examining an infant school class. "Can any little girl or boy give the definition of the word 'average'?" he asked. "For some time no one replied, but finally a little girl hesitatingly replied: "It is a thing a hen lays an egg on, sir." "No, that's not right." "Yes, sir, my book says so," and she trotted up to her questioner and pointed to the last sentence in her reading book: "A hen lays an egg every day on an average." Every Other Saturday. Why He Felt Easy. "I'm afraid of these coachmen," remarked one old gentleman to another in a Broadway stage. "How so?" "They are always running off with one's daughter, and I don't know what sort of thing 'Ain't you afraid?" "Not particularly." "How do you manage it. Do you hire a married man?" "No." "Do you hire a companion to watch your daughter?" "No." "I don't think there is any danger in my case." "Oh! I see; you have no coachman." "No. No daughter."—Drake's Traveler's Magazine.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

AN OLD-TIME CHRISTMAS. The Feasting, Games and Pastimes of Three Hundred Years Ago. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries this whole season was given up to revels and jollity, in which eating and drinking had a prominent part. In London in the fifteenth century the first duty of the Lord Mayor and corporation was to dine, and then go, as soberly as might be, to the Church of St. Thomas Acon, and sit through the whole service. On other festival days and Sundays they had a habit of skipping out after the prayers were under way, but on Christmas they were bound to set an example of perseverance. Service over their worshipers rode on horseback, by torch-light, through the market of Chepe and back to the church, where, being in a liberal frame of mind on account of the wine, they made a merry of it, and they made a money offering to the church. Each man contributed the magnificent sum of one penny to its treasury! This duty done, they returned to their own homes, and many more less a night of it after the memorial manner of good city fathers, in private, the custom not having yet arisen of manifesting happiness by "painting the town red." The next day a good deal about the excess of the Christmas dinners. Sir John Keresby in his memoirs makes a penitential note of a dinner at Thyrberg in 1681: "The Earl of Huntington, my lord Elford, and some others dined with me, when we ended the year in more than an ordinary debauch; which, God forgive me! it being neither my custom nor inclination much to do so." The next year there was at table a Mr. Bolton, an ingenious clergyman, but too much a good fellow." The good fellows liked Thyrberg during the holidays as many as forecure gentlemen and yeomen, with their wives, dined daily at the house of the good fellow.

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Christmas was always a democratic festival: all classes mingled in the games and merriment, and hospitality was universal. An English gentleman in the country on Christmas Day in the morning, had all his tenants and neighbors enter the hall by daybreak. The strong beer was brewed, and the black-jacks went plentifully round. The next day there was at table a Mr. Bolton, an ingenious clergyman, but too much a good fellow." The good fellows liked Thyrberg during the holidays as many as forecure gentlemen and yeomen, with their wives, dined daily at the house of the good fellow. Christmas was always a democratic festival: all classes mingled in the games and merriment, and hospitality was universal. An English gentleman in the country on Christmas Day in the morning, had all his tenants and neighbors enter the hall by daybreak. The strong beer was brewed, and the black-jacks went plentifully round. The next day there was at table a Mr. Bolton, an ingenious clergyman, but too much a good fellow." The good fellows liked Thyrberg during the holidays as many as forecure gentlemen and yeomen, with their wives, dined daily at the house of the good fellow.

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SPHERICAL SOAP. Mr. Thimblejig's Unpleasant Experiences With a Cake of that Variety. Old Mr. Wagstaff Thimblejig the toilet soap that comes in balls instead of in cakes is a great blessing and an evil that should be suppressed by law. One day last week Mr. Thimblejig was standing in the bath-room with the open window washing his hands with one of these spherical specimens of transparent soap. He couldn't get any lather out of it to save his life by rubbing it on his hands; he was either obliged to get a lather by first rubbing it on his hair, or by holding it pretty tightly in one hand and turning it swiftly around with the other, as a pitcher manipulates a base-ball before delivery to get the proper twist on it. As he was turning it around for the fifth time, it slipped swiftly from his hand, flew up, and falling, and came back, taking Mr. Thimblejig on the nose, and then scudding out through the window. Before it could touch the ground it came in contact with the dog, who was asleep in the path, and drew a yelp out of him that could be heard after the dog was out of sight. From the dog's head it flew against a clothes-pole, and thence up in the air, taking the soap with it. The dog then came crashing toward young Thimblejig, who could not understand what it meant. He had a base-ball bat in his hand, and with that he hit the soap-bat, and it flew as he would expect a ball flying on a line toward the kitchen door. Before it got there, however, Mr. Wagstaff Thimblejig came bounding through the aperture to get the soap. He got it, too—got it in such a way that he was obliged to increase his speed. And the further he got from the house, the more distinctly you could hear him. If he could sign his name to all he was barking, it would be a very valuable advertisement for that soap. Meantime that soap, after rebounding from Mr. Thimblejig's nose, had taken the liberty of laming the milkman's cow, and upsetting the cans as he went along, thus watering, or milking, the hot, dusty road. The soap was almost master of the situation. The most hard-fisted of the village, when he came out attired in a base-ball catcher's mask, a fencing-jacket and a tennis-racket. But before he could get on his guard, or rather before he could locate the soap, it came suddenly around the corner of the house, took him on the back of the head, and grassed him like a shot. As it sped on its course, a nice innocent dog next door saw it coming. He was a sort of trick dog, and he thought it was a ball, and he ran to get it. But, instead, it fetched—fetched him right in the mouth, and a few hours later, when he was down at the village being measured for a set of false teeth, you might see the dog in the corner of his eye, and he would run after it, and pick it up after it stopped. But right off the dog's jaw it bounced straight back toward the window, where Mr. Thimblejig was washing the gore of his face. He ran to the window, and he went on washing his hands with it as though nothing had happened. After he was through, however, he set to work to clean his face. He took a hammer and flattened them out with a hammer to make them harmless. And he vows that if his wife brings any more of them in the house, he will try to secure an absolute divorce from her.—K. Munkittrick, in Luck.

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FIGURES ON FENCING. A Vast Expense That Must Disappear in the Near Future. Fences are neither of ancient nor modern origin. They are the result of a transition from nomadic life to a permanent occupation of limited tracts, the peaceful possession of which was secured by fencing out an outside stock, and must disappear with the state of civilization which brought them into existence. As civilization advances and the human race increases, and the land becomes more thickly inhabited and cultivated, the most increase and grazing decrease till the occasion for fences will, by slow degrees, pass away. Fences have already disappeared from continental Europe, at least in all the most densely populated parts. A traveler as seldom sees a farm fenced in Europe as he sees one here unfenced. The advancement of agriculture in the eastern part of the United States is rapidly tending to a condition which will do away with the fences. The tendency, even with dairymen, is strongly toward grazing less and stall-feeding more. They find it more profitable to contract their pastures and support their herds more on cultivated crops because so much more food can be produced by cultivating than by grazing a given surface. They not only reduce fences by diminishing the size of their pastures, but they are fast doing away with inside fences, and throwing all their grazing fields into one lot. In the best dairy districts of New York State single pastures are quite general and are believed to be best. Their adoption is one step toward a reduction of fencing. Another step in the same direction might be made in abolishing fences along highways, which are built for the most part not for the convenience of the land-owner, but to fence intruders out, and in all snowy regions at least, had better be out of the way than remain. Fencing the highways involves an expensive magnitude of which few will appreciate unless they take some pains to figure it out, and the same is true with respect to farm fences. The high price of fencing material and labor make the cost of fence about one dollar per rod, whether of board and posts or wire and stakes. At this rate a man who has a mile of road-fence to build must invest \$320 in labor and material, and be subject to an annual tax of ten per cent. of its cost for annual repair, which together with the tax on the land, a yearly tax of \$51.20, reckoning interest at six per cent., a pretty severe tax to pay for a nuisance, and one which, if applied to the roads of the whole State, becomes surprisingly large. By tracing the lines of the later State maps which lay down the roads in detail, it appears there are about 65,000 miles of road in the State, requiring 130,000 miles of fence to fence them, involving a cost of \$41,600,000 for building, and an annual tax for interest and repairs of \$4,650,000. The farms of the State, the census shows, average about 100 acres each, and are supposed to be fenced into ten-acre lots. To fence the entire territory of fence to the acre, and at the above rate of cost would require annually for interest of outlay and repairs, \$1.28 per acre, or \$128 for a 100-acre farm, and for the 16,000,000 acres of improved land in the State would make an annual expense for interest and repair of fences of \$20,480,000, to say nothing about the 10,000,000 acres of woodlands and other lands included in the farms. If the fences along the highways are counted with the rest of the fence, it would be safe to say that one-half the fences in the State are continued from the force of habit rather than from economy, making a leak from the pockets of New York farmers of some \$40,000,000 a year, besides the waste of ground the fences occupy, which is no inconsiderable item. The waste of land will vary with the style of fence. The average is a strip of land one-fourth of a rod wide, making for a 100-acre farm having 800 rods of fence, a waste of 200 square rods, or 1 1/4 acres, and for the State, 200,000 acres, which, at \$10 an acre, make an investment in land occupied by fences of \$2,000,000, which is an annual expense for interest and repair of a little thought bestowed upon the subject must make it apparent to every reflecting farmer that the most important question in regard to fencing is how to get along with the least expense. If fences must be built it pays to make good ones, and withal as cheap as possible. A poor fence, like a broken beam, is a deception and a snare, having the appearance of protection but without the reality. The most common kind of fence which would be best everywhere. The style to be preferred must depend on locality, and the materials that can be made available. Where rails of lasting durability are to be had, they are the cheapest and best, but they are not to be had everywhere. In other localities posts and boards are the best that can be used, and failing of these, posts and wire must be resorted to. However, the real question as already said is not so much how fence can best be made as how one can best get along without it. Fences, as shown above, are expensive convenience to be avoided wherever this is possible. Some fence farmers who keep stock think they must have, but it is wise to reduce the necessity for it to the smallest possible amount, especially permanent fences which become a nuisance by being rigidly in the way, and a fruitful resort for propagating all sorts of fruits and bushes, and foul weeds to grow and ripen their seeds to scatter over the adjacent fields. By having fences movable so that their site may be cultivated occasionally, such unsightly and contaminating accumulations may be wiped away.—Prof. L. B. Arnold, in N. Y. Tribune.

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FOR HOUSEHOLD USE. Some Chemicals Which Should Find a Common Use in Every Family. It is surprising, considering how many women have been instructed in chemistry in their school days, to find how few housekeepers make any use of chemicals in various household processes. Especially in the case of cleaning, the washing of clothes is usually wholly accomplished by rubbing the clothes on the washboard, and with no other detergent than soap. The rubbing of the clothes wears them out, and the knowledge of housekeepers only knew, or if knowing they would take advantage of the fact, that many washing compounds will almost entirely cleanse clothes which are soaked in water, and which are rubbed with these. These mixtures frequently, and are not the worse, but the better for missing them, because there is profit for such minds in going twice over the same ground. In any case, a failure in examination is not disgraceful, and it is false and hurtful for parents and teachers to treat it as if it were in some way shameful. That way disaster lies.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

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HE WOULDN'T SPEAK. A Youth on Whom the Young Ladies at a Dime Supper Wasted Their Labor. They had a dime supper in the neighborhood of Pawtucket, conceived and carried out by the ladies. The conditions of this novel supper were these: For every word spoken by the gentleman at the supper-table a forfeit of ten cents was imposed; but, on the other hand (as duties are always compensated with rights and restrictions with privileges), it was agreed that whoever could weather the whole supper, submitting to all queries, surprises and ingenious questions without replying, should be entitled to it gratuitously. Many and frequent were the articles and subterfuges resorted to by the ladies in attendance to entrap the unguarded, and one after another stout and discreet men went down before the constant volley of artful interrogations. At last all fell out and put the dime penalty save one individual, a queer chap whom nobody seemed to know. He attended strictly to business, and passed unheeded the jokes, gibes and challenges. They quizzed him, but all in vain; he wrestled with turkey and grappled with the goose. He bailed out the cranberry sauce with an unswerving hand, and he ate celery as the scriptural vegetarian ate grass; and, finally, when he had finished his fifth piece of pie, he whipped out a pocket slate and wrote on it in large and legible hand: "I am dead and dumb."—Providence Journal.

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CHEWING GUM. The Complicated Process Indulged in by the People of Patagonia. To fit it for use the natives make it into pellets, then hold it on the point of a stick over a basin of cold water; a coal of fire is then approached to it, causing it to melt and trickle down by drops into the basin. The drops, hardened by the process, are then kneaded with the fingers, cold water being added occasionally, till the gum becomes thick and opaque like putty. To chew it properly requires a great deal of practice, and when this indigenous art has been acquired a small ball of mastic may be kept in the mouth two or three hours every day, and used for a week or longer without losing its agreeable resinous flavor or diminishing in bulk, so firmly does it hold together. The mastic chews, on taking the ball or quid from his mouth, washes it and puts it by for future use, just as one does with a tooth-brush. Chewing gum is not merely an idle habit, and it is not a waste of time, as is commonly supposed, that it always the desire for excessive smoking—a small advantage to the idle dwellers, white or red, in this desert land; it also preserves the teeth from the influence of the acids of wine. In Russia they are very long and stiff, and are in consequence of great value for making brushes, and for attaching threads to the use of shoemakers. Hogs in Spain and Northern Africa, however, are covered with curly hair instead of bristles. A plant called the melon shrub has been introduced into California from Guatemala. It grows to the height of three feet, bears a beautiful purple and white flower, is an evergreen, and produces a melon about four inches long by two or three in diameter, of excellent taste. Dr. Spitzka says the popular delusion that the human eye has an influence over insane people similar to that claimed for the same organ over wild animals is one that is often ridiculed by the insane themselves. He adds that whoever attempts to utilize the notion will recognize its absurdity promptly. Some people have no use for railroads. A middle-aged white man and wife walked into Acworth, Ga., the other afternoon to do a little trading. They stated that they left Rome a little before the same morning, and walked every step of the way. They said that a fellow was no account that couldn't walk seventy-five miles a day. The man carried a gun and the woman several overalls. Over fifty years ago the farm now owned by James McChesney, at Guilderland Station, N. Y., a lady by the name of Jupp put a jar of butter in the well to harden up. The jar slipped from its fastenings and fell into the water. It was gone, and the butter was broken in getting it out of the well.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

THE COST OF TRAVEL. A Texas Who Speculated Five Years Ahead on a Trip to New York. A long, raw, specimen "grey," with mud covered boots, and little flakes of coal dabbed all over his clothes and ornamenting his red, shaggy beard, sidled up to the Union Depot ticket window last Monday, and asked if the ticket agent was in. "Yes, sir, that's me," responded Charlie Lusk, trying to size up the inquirer. "What can I do for you?" "Wal, Cap'n, I wanted ter know out the price of a ticket to Noo Yok. Yer see—" "Yes, sir," interrupted Charlie, with a bland smile. "I see. Forty-four dollars, and I'll take a trip when I get things sorter settled up like and—" "As I was sayin', Cap'n," interrupted the stranger, "I thought me an the ole woman and the boys might go to Noo Yok." "Oh, yes. How many are there in the family?" "Countin' me and the ole woman and all of the boys there's eight." "Eight?" and Lusk's smile grew blander as the corners of his mouth disappeared, behind his eyes, which he looked up at the ceiling and mentally calculated what his "commish" would amount to. "Yes, Colonel, we can fix you up. When did you want to start?" "I want to start on Monday, Cap'n," replied the "grey," as he reflectively wiped his nostril on the ball of his thumb, while the agent melancholically tried the stamp on a folder to see if it was correctly dated. The old woman's been diggin' at me to take 'em on a trip when I got paid up. Yer see, I bought everything on credit when—" "Yes, yes, I know; that's all right. Now what route would you prefer east of St. Louis?" "Wal, I don't jest know. Yer see, Cap'n, I bought on credit when—" "Oh, yes, I see. Now we have several choice routes east of St. Louis. What do you say to the O & M?" "That's jest it, Cap'n. I'm ovain' 'em so dern much that I be dadd gummed if I think I'll get away for five years; but you might lay them ere tickets one side for me and I'll come and get 'em when I'm paid out. Yer see, I bought when—" The ticket window closed with a bang, and the farmer thoughtfully took a huge bite of navy and turned sorrowfully away.—Texas Rail and Wire.

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MISCELLANEOUS. "Evangelical Base-Ball Club," is the name of an organization which is working the life out of an Ohio town. The school law is to be enforced in such a manner in Gridley, Cal., as to make boys attend school or leave the town.—San Francisco Call. Bean-bean is the chief food of the Indians in Indian Territory. It is composed of powdered beans, mixed with water, and baked over an open fire. Bishop William Taylor says that in Africa the natives have only two suits such—dirty and plain—made of animal all a Christian Kaffir, because he wears a shirt. Howard Barnes, poor, dissipated and sick, shot himself, in the woods near Truckee, Nevada, recently. Five years ago Barnes was one of the wealthiest gamblers, saloon-keepers and sporting men in Indianapolis.—Indianapolis Journal. John Hunsberger, of Harvey County, Kan., reports a great yield of wheat from a small quantity of seed. From one and one-half bushels of seed sown on three acres he reaped 135 bushels, a yield of ninety bushels to each bushel of seed sown. Climate appears to exert an important influence on the yields of wheat. In Russia they are very long and stiff, and are in consequence of great value for making brushes, and for attaching threads to the use of shoemakers. Hogs in Spain and Northern Africa, however, are covered with curly hair instead of bristles. A plant called the melon shrub has been introduced into California from Guatemala. It grows to the height of three feet, bears a beautiful purple and white flower, is an evergreen, and produces a melon about four inches long by two or three in diameter, of excellent taste. Dr. Spitzka says the popular delusion that the human eye has an influence over insane people similar to that claimed for the same organ over wild animals is one that is often ridiculed by the insane themselves. He adds that whoever attempts to utilize the notion will recognize its absurdity promptly. Some people have no use for railroads. A middle-aged white man and wife walked into Acworth, Ga., the other afternoon to do a little trading. They stated that they left Rome a little before the same morning, and walked every step of the way. They said that a fellow was no account that couldn't walk seventy-five miles a day. The man carried a gun and the woman several overalls. Over fifty years ago the farm now owned by James McChesney, at Guilderland Station, N. Y., a lady by the name of Jupp put a jar of butter in the well to harden up. The jar slipped from its fastenings and fell into the water. It was gone, and the butter was broken in getting it out of the well.

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