

FOREIGN GOSIP.

Dancing is said to be declining in popularity in England.

The wives of Miss, the great African chief, are his ministers of state. He has 500 of them. They run the whole kingdom.

One of the rules of the Royal Library in Berlin, made with a view to preserving quiet and order, calls for the exclusion of all members of the gentler sex.

The Emperor of Japan is rich. He is allowed \$2,500,000 a year for his household department and his private fortune is large and increasing.

The Empress of Austria carries a traveling-basket fitted up so that she is able to make soup on the cars. It has silver sauce-pans with gold handles, and the Empress declares that she can make in it better broth than any chef can concoct.

A society called "The Christian Union" has been formed in England for the severance of the British Empire from the opium traffic. The income of the British-Indian Government from opium last year was \$30,000,000.

The little German Crown Prince has a very scant allowance of toys. The Emperor holds that many and costly toys neither increase a child's happiness nor allow those qualities to be developed which are brought out when a child has to turn to its own resources for filling up its leisure hours.

Farmers in Southern Australia, who are anxious to find a market in England for their fruit, recently shipped a box of oranges to London and asked that it be immediately returned. After making the round trip the box was opened at Adelaide and contents found to be in a most encouraging state of preservation. Eighty of the oranges were afterwards exhibited at a meeting of the Australian Bureau of Agriculture.

HUNTING THE CHAMOIS.

A Sport That Involves Great Physical Exertion and Many Dangers.

The person who goes out in quest of chamois in December or January is likely to bag more adventures than game. In reality Alpine sport is considerably tamer than the passing tourist usually supposes. Chamois stalking, though the few who practice it declare it to be the most exciting of all pastimes, is for the most part, at least in Austria, left entirely to the poachers. The physical exertion it requires, the danger it involves, and the rarity, or rather the entire want of staunch and well-trained hounds, account for this. Both the chamois and the roe are driven, but in a way suited to the character of the country and impossible on an English estate. Long before dawn the guests who are invited to take part in a chamois hunt assemble at an appointed place. Then the steep climb into the valley which is to be the scene of operations begins. When the proper positions are reached the head forester assigns to each of the guests a place near one of the passes the chamois are likely to take. All these ambushes are hidden from the heights above by rocks and bushes, and they are always from three to four hundred, usually more than one thousand feet apart. When once a sportsman has been placed he is expected to remain where he is as silently as he can. He must not leave his post on any account, as this might not only disturb the drive but endanger his own life. At about the same time as the hunting party leave their rendezvous a party of drivers accompanied by dogs start from the other side of the mountain range. The noise they make frightens the chamois over the crest, and, if the parties have been properly organized, into the valley, where a warm welcome has been prepared for them. Except in very rare cases, those who are posted above are expected to allow the herd to pass before shooting, in order not to spoil the sport of their friends below. The huntsmen must of course always be placed so that the wind blows toward and not from them. Roe are for the most part shot in a similar way, though roe stalking is by no means unusual.—Saturday Review.

PHYSICAL HEALTH.

The Usefulness of Manly Games in Keeping Up National Strength.

The interest taken in this country in athletic sports may sometimes assume an exaggerated form, but it is not to be discouraged. The sound mind in the sound body is still the sensible maxim. The Greeks wisely trained the body in conjunction with intellectual pursuits, and the Germans owe a great debt to Frederick Ludwig Jahn for his establishment of Gymnasia. The present greatness of Prussia is largely owing to the Turner schools, although they were suppressed at one time on the score of a tendency to liberalism. The indomitable spirit which has ever animated the English people has been kept alive by field sports and physical exercises generally, and the tendency to overstrained nervous organizations which the American climate superinduces can only be offset by vigorous out-of-door habits or some gymnastic training. Walking, riding, shooting, swimming, base-ball, cricket, fencing, snoring, and, indeed, the entire round of manly games involving physical culture, are useful in keeping up a hardy and determined people, able to maintain with their stout arms what their ancestors have given them in safe-keeping. Sound thought, firm will and sound health are nearly inseparable. It is certainly a natural alliance.—Texas Siftings.

BEAUTIFUL AFRICA.

What Can Be Found in the Grand Forests of the Dark Continent.

Hippopotami are abundant in the rivers and lakes, and their hides, when properly prepared (which is done by cutting the skin into long thin strips), will fetch five pounds apiece in South Africa, and are even of considerable value in England for making walking sticks, which have a beautiful, transparent, amber-like appearance. But the great wealth of this country lies in its ivory, which is preferred to any other in the Zanzibar market. The elephant abounds in the neighborhood of Kilima-njaro and Konia to the extent of many thousands. He here becomes quite a mountaineer, and ranges through the magnificent forests that clothe the upper slopes of these giants among African peaks. The natives waylay his forest tracks with artfully-devised pitfalls and traps, preferring this more cowardly way of procuring their ivory to facing the elephant in the chase. Other tribes to the north and west of Kilima-njaro kill the elephant with poisoned arrows or javelins or sharp swords. Indeed, there is one district on the northern borders of Masai-land, where, according to Mr. Joseph Thomson, "elephants are said to swarm unmolested and their ivory to rot untouched, for the people of the surrounding region have no trading relations with any one, and do not know the value of the precious article. A tusk worth £150 in England may be picked up for nothing, or bought from any native for a pennyworth of beads." However this may be, whether the elephants are slain for their ivory, or whether, as in the tales of "Sinbad the Sailor," there are districts in which the tusks may be simply gathered from among the bones of elephants who for centuries have died, and died untouched, in these untraveled wilds, ivory is procured somehow and in such quantities—even with the absurdly inadequate existing means of exploitation and portage—that there is always more than enough to supply the many native caravans led by Moslem traders from the coast which annually traverse this country between the Victoria Nyanza and the Indian Ocean. Another item of trade should not be forgotten, namely, the valuable and handsome wild-beast skins which may either be procured in the chase or very cheaply purchased from the natives. A leopard's skin may be bought for about 2s. or 3s worth of goods, and will sell on the coast for 8s. or 9s. Lions' skins are less easy to obtain from the natives, as that animal is rarely killed by them, but the company's sportsmen might shoot him to considerable extent, as he is both common and bold. Monkey skins of the handsome variety of bushy, white-tailed colobus, which is alone found in this region, are valuable and fetch a good price on the coast.—H. H. Johnston, in Fortnightly Review.

WANTED—MORE LIGHT.

Bob Burdette Addresses a Request to the Fifty-First Congress.

Permit me to suggest a measure of reform and relief which would reflect great luster upon President Harrison's Administration. It might be entitled "A Bill for the Relief of People who Walk in Darkness," or "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Gas by People who Can Not Afford It." And I'll tell you why I favor such legislation. I am fond of the light; I love airy houses with many windows and not too many shades; I enjoy bright rooms at night; I dislike sleeping in a dark room; I don't care to sleep under an electric light and I know that darkness rests the eyes, but I always want enough light around to enable me to distinguish a rocking chair from a bureau and a door from a window. But we can get along well enough when we are asleep; what we want is plenty of light when we are awake. Well, now, you know the house I mean; you have been in it, where the people burn gas and economize with it. A parlor as big—though not quite so cheerful—as the morgue, is "lighted"—that isn't the word I want, exactly, but you know what I mean—an y one burner in a chandelier of half a dozen, and the dim religious light makes you feel as though you were attending your own funeral. Suppose you are a guest and come out of your own room, leaving the gas burning brightly; if you will return in five minutes you will find that some careful body has been in there and turned the gas down till it turns blue. If you venture to turn a gas jet on to a full head, that you may read, the minute you lay down the book somebody turns down the gas. There is one drop-light in the sitting-room; around this ray of cheerfulness the family gathers, now and then looking timidly over their shoulders toward the shadows that lurk in the gloomy corners of the room. The house, from sunset to bed-time, is shrouded in a ghastly twilight—no sort of joke intended; it's a subject too solemn for jesting. There is no economy in this sort of thing; gas bills never vary; and it's no way to live. A dim, religious light is the boss light to go to sleep by, but it's heathenish and wicked to live by.—Burdette, in Brooklyn Eagle.

London has a poor-relief society that receives as contributions garments instead of money. Each member is obliged to contribute two garments a year. These are disposed of in various ways by the officers of the society. Some are sold at low prices to the poor; some are given away; and some are kept in stock and loaned.

HOW DIMES ARE MADE

How the Little Coins are Turned Out by the San Francisco Mint.

The silver dime is a useful little coin, and just at present they seem to be in demand; so much so that the San Francisco mint is turning them out at a great rate.

The process of dime-making is an interesting one. The silver bullion is first melted and run into two-pound bars. These in turn are run through immense rollers and flattened out to the thickness of the coin. These silver strips are then passed through a machine, which cuts them into proper size for the presses, the strips first having been treated with a kind of tallo to prevent their being scratched in their passage through the cutters.

The silver pieces are then put into the feeder of the printing presses, and are fed to the die by automatic machinery at the rate of 100 per minute, 48,000 dimes being turned out in a regular working day of eight hours.

As the smooth pieces are pressed between the ponderous printing dies, they receive the lettered and figured impression in a manner similar to that of a paper pressed upon a form of type. At the same time, the piece is expanded in a slight degree, and the small corrugations are cut into its rim.

The machine drops the completed coin into a receiver, and it is ready for the counter's hands. The instrument used by the counter is not a complicated machine by any means, as one might suppose. It is a simple copper-colored tray, having raised ridges running across its surface at a distance apart the exact width of a dime.

From the receiver the money is dumped on the board or tray, and as it is shaken rapidly by the counter the pieces settle down into the spaces between the ridges. All these spaces being filled, the surplus coin is brushed back into the receiver, and the counter has exactly 1,250 dimes, or \$125, on his tray, which number is required to fill the spaces. The tray is then emptied into boxes, and the money is ready for shipment.

The dime does not pass through the weigher's hands, as does the coin of a larger denomination. One and one-half grains is allowed for variation, or "tolerance," in all silver coins from a dollar down, and the deviation from the standard in the ten-cent pieces is so trifling that the trouble and expense of weighing coins of this denomination is dispensed with.—Golden Days.

STYLISH PARASOLS.

Novelties Produced for the Coming Spring and Summer Seasons.

The new parasols for spring and summer are covered faille or armure silk in plain colors or richly brocaded, or with striped silks, plaids or bordered patterns, and very dressy parasols have thin gauze, silk muslin or net covers brocaded with tinsel in designs like embroidery. The handles are of natural woods—holly, acacia, bamboo, cherry or ebony—with curiously twisted hoops or large hooks or knobs at the end, or else they are quaintly carved and tipped with silver or gold. Coaching parasols and those for general use have handles that extend fourteen inches beyond the edge of the silk cover when closed. The Directorate parasols to be used with walking toilettes have much longer handles, like walking-sticks, extending eighteen inches beyond the cover, and these handles are now put together with a screw joint so that they may be taken apart and doubled small enough to go into a very small trunk. Rich brocades of the last century in dull colors and with metallic designs are appropriate covers for these parasols when meant for dress, while for morning walks the striped and bordered silk covers are used. A novel feature inside the new Cleopatra parasols is a ribbon trimming winding around the stretchers that hold the parasol open as they radiate from the stick; when the parasol is closed these ribbons show beyond the tips, and a cluster of loops is formed around the stick, giving a full, bunched effect that is considered very stylish.

Faille parasols of green or of gray shades are made to correspond with many of the spring stuffs for dresses. Striped parasols must be striped around instead of down the breadths, and those with wide stripes are preferred. The ferule at the top is very long, and is pointed in parasols that have cane handles. Black parasols have new designs of moire, palm, ovals, or large balls on faille grounds. For mourning are Rhadimir parasols with carved ebony sticks. For piazzas and carriage use in midsummer are white and gold brocaded silk parasols, or pale old-rose, or blue brocades in leaf and ostrich feather designs, or else embroidered silk muslin or net is put plainly over white, black, gray, rose or empire-green silk of the shade as the transparent fabric. A bow of the silk or of the ribbon is tied on the handle in full loops, and a loop of passementerie cord is also added there, through which the arm is passed to carry the parasol when it is not hoisted. Sun-umbrellas have a short eight-inch handle tipped with gold or silver, and are covered with black taffeta silk. For the country are cotton satteen and gingham parasols in large figures and plaids, with either short or long handles. India silk is also prettily mounted for parasols to match the summer dress with which it is worn. Small turned-over shades for use in early spring are made up of silks, or they have lace covers all in one piece in the fashion of long ago.—Harper's Bazar.

TAMING A CANARY.

How a Bird May Be Taught to Perch Upon His Master's Nose.

The method I have followed in the earlier training of canaries is not original with me. I am indebted therefor to a Catholic priest, whose entire success therein encouraged me to make some efforts on the same lines.

There are two important preliminaries in the process: First, you must have no one else in the vicinity of the bird's cage—or, better still, in the room; and second, a rare degree of patience is requisite. Of these two essentials, moreover, I would place the greater stress on the latter.

The small bunch of fluff and feathers and warbling incessant, whose dainty tricks shall form the burden of my sketch, I called Cap. He was of a bright, yellow tint, but had a black spot topping his head and extending well down to the eyes. This ebony speck, so neatly placed, suggested his name. When he first came into my possession Cap was a bit fractious—for a bird. Here, then, is the method by which I tamed him.

At a dozen intervals in the day I approached the cage slowly, and, placing one finger near the wires where the perch rested, instantly jerked the finger away. This action, which may seem rather foolish, I repeated over and over, but always in gentle fashion, so as not to frighten the bird, but only to excite his curiosity. Well, it gradually dawned on the tiny brain that I was afraid of having my finger pecked—the very impression my action was meant to convey. The canary's shyness was becoming obliterated through the novel idea that I was actually afraid of him! Cap began quite soon to act on this idea, and with lessening caution each few times. Nor did I fail to give him opportunities. By slow degrees I got closer to the wires and intruded my finger at greater length between them, withdrawing it directly on the bird's approach, and if he chanced to overtake and peck it I simulated much misery if not pain at the mishap.

Well, it got so at last, simply by following the above rules, that, whether Cap was eating or bathing or picking his feathers, he left off the task and flew to the side of the cage the instant my finger appeared, and later on, in fact, if I dared to come within a yard of his territory! His enjoyment of my supposed fear of him was merged at last in genuine temper, and he would evince it by outstretched wings, sharp squeaks, and eyes which had as much of the devil in them as they could hold. At such unmanly times he stood on one leg, grasped the wires with the other claws, and bade me particular defiance.

Cap was now tamed; so the aggravating measures employed in bringing about this condition were gradually dropped, and a coaxing system, which varies, of course, with bird lovers, was adopted to win confidence where I had effectually displaced fear. Once you tame a bird, it is advantageous to give him the liberty of the room for a couple of hours every day. He thus has the chance to improve an acquaintance made behind the bars. But tame him first in the cage; this is my experience. And now let me recount some of Cap's cute accomplishments. I have time and again had him alight on my shoulder or on the top of my head while I was writing, and he had a trick of fluttering around or below from these points and poising with perfect sang froid on the bridge of my nose! This, indeed, was his favorite coign, albeit a trifle awkward for me.

Sometimes I placed his bathing dish on the palm of my hand, which I held out invitingly, and Cap made not a particle of bones about alighting on the dish rim and, after a few preparations, dousing down in the water and making it fly while he performed his ablutions. Having finished, he would seek the top of my head, shake himself thoroughly, and then make the circuit of the room warbling at the top of his voice. My door often stood open while Cap was out of his cage, and if I left the room his invariable practice was to fly after me and have a "lift" down stairs on my head or shoulder; while often, when he heard my step coming up and I had previously crept out without his seeing me, he would fly down to meet me. Occasionally, through inadvertence, the cage door has been left open over night, and Cap has awakened me in the morning sitting demurely on the bridge of my nose. This may not appeal very strongly to the credence of the reader, but it is a fact, as are each of the instances named of my canary's talent for making himself perfectly at home.—Cor. N. Y. Sun.

Some persistent novel readers in the British Museum devoured as many as twenty volumes a day, and occupied their seats so persistently that the authorities have been compelled to issue the rule that novels that have been first published within the preceding five years will not be issued to readers unless some especial reason can be given by those requiring them.

A correspondent says that he treats every man as a rascal until he proves himself honest, and that he finds it saves him many a dollar. If the man is honest he will not suffer from being watched as you would watch a rascal, and if he is a rascal you will be greatly ahead by watching him.

A company with a capital of \$150,000 has been formed to build passenger tunnels under New York City.

PECULIAR ORCHESTRA.

How a Frenchman Made a Number of Forkers Furnish Music.

The credit of the invention of pig-music belongs to the Abbe de Baigme, a great musician, who supplied the court of Louis XI. with many other curiosities in this way. The ingenious abbe was one day asked by the King if he thought it possible to produce musical sounds from the cries of pigs. The abbe thought it was possible, and received a grant of money from the monarch for that purpose. With this money he proceeded to purchase a number of porkers, of different sizes and ages, and, after testing the pitch and quality of their voices secured them fast, and arranged them in order in a large tent. He further constructed a keyed instrument, furnished with a number of wires, tightly drawn, corresponding with the number of animals. At the end of each wire which was inside the tent, and almost touching each pig, was attached a short, sharp spike, which, when moved by the action of the key, pricked the pig and made him squeak. "By this means," says an old chronicler, "the abbe produced such harmony as to astonish the whole court." That the act has been pressed into the service of musical science appears from the account given by Juan Christoval, a Spaniard, of a procession which took place at Brussels at the fetes in honor of Philip II. "The orchestra," says Christoval, "was upon a large cart; in the middle sat a great bear, playing a kind of organ—one not composed of pipes, as usual, but of twenty cats, separately confined in narrow cases, in which they could not stir. Their tails protruded from the top, and were tied to cords attached to the key-board of the organ; and, according as the bear pricked upon the keys, the cords were raised, and the tails of the cats were pulled to make them mew in bass or treble tones, as required by the nature of the airs." Live monkeys and other animals danced to this music. "Although," continues the chronicler, "Philip II. was the most serious of mortals, he could not refrain from laughing boisterously."—San Francisco Argonaut.

CARGOES OF CRIMINALS.

How Russian Convicts Are Transported to the Penal Colonies.

The Nizhni-Novgorod is an iron steamship of about 3,800 tons burden, and is especially fitted as a convict transport. With a full complement of convicts the vessel carries 652. The officers and crew number eighty, exclusive of a marine convoy escort of sixty-two men especially chosen for this duty. The iron-barred compartments or cages in which the convicts are confined run parallel, fore and aft, on either side of the upper and lower 'tween decks. The iron bars, an inch thick, of the cages and the woodwork in which they are set, is heavily and solidly constructed. The cages are of unequal capacity and length, but have a uniform height of seven and a half feet. The more desperate characters are manacled and chained to iron staples in their berths, from which they are released when necessary. The greater number, although retaining the waist and ankle shackles of light construction, have the freedom of traversing the length of the compartment, which may vary from twenty-five to forty feet. Between the outer bars and the two plain plank shelves or bunks running from end to end of the compartments, which afford sleeping room for the occupants, there is a free space of about four and a half or five feet.

Except during the distribution of rations no culinary vessels are left with the convicts. Even the drinking water is obtained only through an India rubber mouthpiece fixed in an inclosed water tank, and through which the drinker sucks his draught. Immediately outside the cages and attached to the under part of the deck overhead is a steam-pipe connected with the ship's boilers. Into these pipes are fitted screw nozzles at intervals of twelve feet. The object of the steam-pipe is to suppress any dangerous outbreak among the inmates of the cage. By means of a short hose, especially made to resist the steam heat, quickly attached to one of the steam-pipe nozzles, the turbulent convicts are readily quieted or parboiled. Strong water jets have been found next to useless in allaying these occasional tumults.

After the ship has passed the canal, but not before, batches of convicts are in turn brought upon the deck for a shower bath and short exercise. A strongly-constructed iron railing, eight feet high, crosses the vessel amidship, in order that the convict, during his bath and while unmanacled, can not by any sudden rush evade the guard and reach the quarter deck. Some of the more desperate convicts, who stubbornly resist all disciplinary control, are confined to the cages during the whole voyage. Both the upper and lower 'tween decks are open and airy, the system of ventilation being excellent, and the cages themselves are kept scrupulously clean. The cages are repainted every voyage. The convict, in addition to having his hair cropped short, has the left half of the head from front to back closely shaved.—Sunshine.

They are talking of having omnibuses in London, especially for those who want to smoke when they ride. Apparently there is a Yankee in the scheme, for it is said that the vehicles will be fitted up with racks of newspapers, and also with drop-a-nickle-in-the-slot machines that will deliver cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and matches.

HUNTING THE LION.

An Englishman's Encounter with the King of Beasts.

Suddenly, while the lioness charged down upon us along the ledge, her consort, with one mighty bound, cleared the gully, alighting in the very midst of the Arabs at its brink, and, for the moment, carrying all before him. We aimed carefully this time as the lioness sprang upon us, and both our bullets took effect; but it needed a second dose of lead out of our breech-loaders to stretch her lifeless at our feet. We then hastened to the assistance of our allies. What a scene met our eyes. Bleeding profusely from many wounds, but as yet far from disabled, the furious male was making sad havoc among the crowd. Cracking a skull there with one mighty sweep of his paw and smashing a shoulder with another, he had already strewn the ground with slain and wounded as we drew nigh to finish him with our rifles. At that very moment the spearman were likewise upon him. While he was scattering his assailants in front, more and more men had drawn near from behind, and half a dozen lances were now plunged into him simultaneously, bearing him to the ground at last. The short but fierce struggle was over. Our terrible antagonist lay breathing his last, with his victims around him. He had killed five Arabs outright and wounded fourteen more, among whom, to our great regret, was the young hero of the day, the same brave lad whose perilous exploit we had admired so much. A great broad gash from neck to shoulder will henceforth bear witness to his prowess in the eyes of the whole tribe.

We were publicly thanked by the chief for our modest share in the glory of the day, and he informed us later on that he deemed victory cheap at the price, considering that thirty or forty victims often fall in such encounters. Two young cubs, scarcely six months old, were found inside the cave half smothered by the smoke. We afterward learned that they had been sent to Algiers for sale, and, for all we know, they may now be inmates of some zoological garden or menagerie. Our work was accomplished. Probably for many years to come the tribe would be exempt from similar infliction. With high hearts we held our triumphal entry into the village, amid shouts of victory blended with death wails, and with lamentations over the many wounded. Our young hero of the fire met with his reward. They carried him along in triumph, as he lay on his roughly improvised couch, faint from loss of blood, but elated with the consciousness of his achievement, no mortal could have been happier than he. The whole tribe, young and old, paid grateful homage to him as he lay there, for "honor to whom honor is due" remains the rule with these unsophisticated sons of the wilderness, and long may it continue so.

Such, then, has been our experience of lion hunting in North Africa. Furnished with the best arms of precision and well supported by the indomitable pluck and ripe experience of our dusky allies, we had found ourselves face to face with the king of beasts, and, after all, had but little right to boast of our encounter with him.—Chambers' Journal.

BULL-FIGHTING IN CUBA.

Good Foresters Can Command a Fortune in the Ever-Faithful Isle.

The older love of the Cubans for bull-fighting is on the wane. Undoubtedly bull-fighting is still a fascinating sport for the old-timers, but there has been such a succession of clowns in the bull-ring during the past ten years that they have practically killed the sport. When a great bull-fighter turns up in Cuba—an event which happens about once in four or five years—he is lionized to a wonderful extent for a time, but there is every indication that bull-fighting as a national sport has seen its best days in Cuba. I often wonder what has become of Mazzanini, who went to Cuba from Spain and fell violently in love with Sara Bernhardt the day that he arrived in Havana. Sara and he were inseparable during the stay of the French actress in Havana. Wherever the bull-fighter went enormous crowds followed him. The conjunction of the French actress and the hero of the ring was almost too much for the sight-seers. Mazzanini was a remarkably handsome man and he won his way into the affections of the people by his amiability and good nature. He was paid \$60,000 and all his expenses for a four weeks' tour through Cuba and Mexico. When it came to the actual business of bull-fighting, however, he proved himself more or less a muff. The bulls were so tame that they excited his derision and he expressed his contempt in pantomime to the populace. The populace grew sulky and refused to attend the bull-fights. Then Mazzanini went to Mexico, where he also expressed his contempt for the bulls and the place generally with rather tempestuous results. The people pelted him with chairs, benches and every thing else they could lay their hands on, and then shot at him casually as he rushed out of the ring.

I saw a woman bull-fighter once in Havana, but the bull she was to fight proved to be a calf. The populace conceived itself to be insulted, Senora Gloria was imprisoned for seven months and all the proceeds of the fight were given over to charity. All of this shows that it is not safe to fool with the hot Southern blood of the people of the tropics.—Cuban Cor. Philadelphia Times.