Shylock Methods Employed by Berlin Money Lenders.

Thousands of Prussians Driven to Rule or Exile Every Year-Marrying for Money the Sole Hemedy.

All Berlin sighs under the despotism of-usury. The government, or at least the pillars of the government, sigh and suffer the most. For the past six months one huge trial for usury has followed another, and the end is not yet. In one of these trials last fall, says the San Francisco Argonaut, there were no less than one hundred and twenty-seven defendants, and the number of witnesses amounted to nearly four hundred. A number of the worst usurers have been found guilty and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from six months upward to seven years, besides heavy fines in money. Quite a number of the shrewdest and most dangerous had to be acquitted for lack of proof. The young capital of the new German empire will remain the most usury-ridden city in the world, where the vampireism of a legion of Shylocks steadily sucks the life-blood of the higher as well as lower classes, and drives annually hundreds and thousands into ruin or into exile.

The cause is expressed by the un-translatable word "standerstrucckichten," by which is meant the thousand and one considerations which Germans deem due to their rank or station in life. Prussia is a poor country, even to-day, after amalgamating into its domain large districts of more fertile and wealthier regions, such as Nassau, Hesse-Cassel, districts in Hanover and by the Rhine. The Prussian nobility is the poorest of any civilized country, with the single exception of But the Prussian nobility, nevertheless, is as proud as the Spanish, vastly prouder than the British. Their poverty now and their claims to consideration, their station in life, their prominent position in the state lend to never-ceasing conflict. Their peculiar code of honor forbids them to engage in money-making pursuits, least of all in trade or commerce, and nothing is left them to live in accordance with the cast-iron notions of their mind but either to enter the army as professional soldiers, to enter the goverment employ, or else to till the meager paternal acres.

The latter occupation-which used to furnish to brothers, cousins and sons of such agricultural noblemen the secret wherewithal to live standesgesmaes (i. e., according to their rank) in Berlin or elsewhere—is becoming less and less profitable, owing to cheap American and East Indian wheat, cheap Russian rye, and cheap Australian meat. And the pay of Prussian army officers or government employes is still so wholly inadequate that it does not suffice even est modest expectations up to the age of forty or so.

A "money marriage" is the sole remedy left them to adjust their affairs under normal conditions; but "money marriages," too, are becoming less and less frequent, since the number of claimants to each wealthy girl's hand is yearly becoming larger. The hunt for an American heiress or for some other exotic "goldfish" is hence mentioned in the lexicon of these unenviable young men as the dernier ressort. This rapid pen picture of the actual conditions confronting nine-tenths of the young Prussha nobles on entering life is by no means camplete. But it will serve to show why the usurer in Berlin has become a power of the first magnitude.

Each year scores of cases occur in Berlin of young hopefuls ending their brief butterfly existence by a well-directed bullet; of despairing fathers quitting the service of that state to which they had devoted the best years of their life at a personal and financial sacrifice; of middle-aged men disappearing (and often turning up again in miserable guise in some transatlantic country) from their old-time haunts, and all this because the usurer at last has drawn the net close about them. And the number of poor, dowerless girls, of sisters and brides of these same young men, girls who of their own free choice abandon every hope of wifehood and motherhood simply to enable their lords of the other sex, their brothers in most cases, to cut a figure for a time, to live standesgemaes, is fairly innumerable. These poor girls, silent, uncomplaining vic-tims of hoary prejudice, are the real heroines in these tragedies of life. That is why Berlin is honeycombed with usury, and that is why usury is a regular profession-or, rather, a fine

NEW USE FOR BICYCLES.

Discovered in London That a Wheel Will

Show Whether a Man Is Intoxicated. A new test of inebriation has been discovered by an Englishman, says the New York World. The latest that has been introduced into America was the requiring of the "suspicioned" to pro-nounce the words "truly rural" three times rapidly, but the new English method has a decided advantage, and it will quite easily be transplanted and used here with effect. A pushing British policeman on the Surrey side of London found Mr. William Andrew Gill the other day in a state which suggested the unconscious cerebration of alcoholic symptoms and brought him before a local police official. Mr. Gill defended himself masterfully. "The policeman's charge is wrong," he said. "I was on a bicycle, and no man who is under the influence of liquor

can ride a two-wheeled machine." An interesting question is thus opened, and a question that admits of a good deal of argument. A competent London authority, after due reflection, has declared that if the man drinks steadily and only makes use of straight

But if, on the other hand, he mixes his drinks with exasperating carelessness, combining, for example, Scotch ale and Dublin stout with dry champagne and seltzer, there is every reason to fear that the heavy liquors might fly off to one side, leaving the center of gravity upset and tumbling the rider to the

Treating the question seriously, however, the bicycle as a detector of inebriety would-seem to be a valuable test. It is hardly likely, however, to be accepted as a conclusive argument in the police courts. In nearly every case that can be imagined the magis trate on the bench would prefer a medical man's testimony. That was what the London police official in the case above mentioned did, despite Mr. Gill's proposition that he would ride his wheel in the courtroom in support of his theory.

STOVEPIPE AND ELBOWS.

An Important Feature in the Business of 40,000 Dealers in Stoves in This Country. Tin and sheet iron workers dealing in stoves usually make their own stove-pipe, while the bulk of the product of stovepipe manufacturers is sold to dealers in stoves, hardware and housefurnishing goods, Most stovepipe is made by hand. There are various patents relating to the manner of joining the seam, and pipes are made that can be shipped nested, the seams to be joined at the point of destination, thereby saving freight charges, says

the New York Sun. Stovepipe is sold in joints, two feet in length, and in various diameters. In anthracite regions the pipe averages five or six inches in diameter, but in soft coal regions it is mostly seven or eight inches in diameter. Stovepipe is much cheaper than it used to be. Such pipe as formerly sold at retail at twenfive cents a joint, can now be bought at fifteen cents or less. There are in the United States about forty thou-sand dealers of one kind or another who sell stoves, and the annual consumption of stovepipe in this country amounts to millions of joints. Stovepipe manufacturers begin making pipe for the winter trade about the middle of summer, and jobbers begin placing their orders about the same time. The distribution to dealers is active through August and September, and it continues until the end of winter.

While many stove dealers having tinsmiths' plants make their own pipe, very few now manufacture elbows which they can buy cheaper from the manufacturer. There are numerous patents on elbows. There are elbows that are made all in one piece, and others are made in sections. There is more machine work in the manufacture of elbows than in the manufacture of pipe. The old-fashioned right-angled elbow of two pieces is still made by hand, but its sale is limited; and most elbows are of the modern kind, with three, four or five sections. There are adjustable el-bows, made with a movable joint, which can be adjusted to any angle or to two

The antiquity of modern inventions has often been the subject of remark by way of commentary upon the old aving that "there is nothing new under the sun." An extreme case is reported by the London News. A peripatetic exhibitor of the phonograph in Holland seems determined to distance all competitors. He was exhibiting the machine in the streets of Utrecht and a number of customers were listening to a selection of tunes. Suddenly the music ceased and there was a pause. Then in a loud, clear tone was heard the one word: "Halt!" "What is that?" asked one of the listeners. "That," was the reply, "is the voice of Napoleon Bonaparte giving an order at the battle of Waterloo!"

SOCIETY'S NEW FAD.

Planting a Little Acorn at a Birth or Marriage.

Society has a new English fad. It might be more properly called a sug-gestion of a fad, for it requires time to grow, just as an acorn requires time to become an oak. When the duke of York was married a loyal subject planted an acorn. The loyal subject assiduously cultivated the tiny sprig which presently appeared above ground. When the son of the duke of York was born, says an eastern ex-change, the loyal subject presented his tiny oak to the infant prince, in behalf of whom it was received most graciously. It was planted at Sandringham and is the chief pride and care of the head gardener. A new leaf on that oak is second in importance only to a new tooth in the future king's head. It is the court fashion for royalty and nobility to inquire frequently as to the growth of the little tree, and it is esteemed a high privilege to see Prince Edward's tiny oak, the acorns of which will doubtless be treasured up as souvenirs several hundred years after Prince Edward has been gathered to his fathers. The "family tree" idea is certain to be no less popular in Ameri-ca than in England, where the fad has the favor and patronage of royalty. The fashion may be called a pretty one, commemorating anniversaries about which most family sentiment attaches, the date of marriage and of the birth of the first heir, and it carries on in the future, in a way which it is pleasant to fancy, its story of a double happiness. To plant the acorn on the date of the wedding, to transplant and present the tree on the day the first baby is born—that is the simple method of the new fad.

The German emperor is ambitious to win success also in amateur theatricals. This is the most difficult undertaking he has yet ventured on, and if he could be assured of absolutely unprejudiced criticism he might learn that there are

PLENTY OF WILD FRUITS

Nature Has Been Very Generous This Year.

The Abundance of Berries and Nuts, It 1 Said, Presages Severe Cold and Lots of Snow the Coming Winter.

If there is anything in the old belief hat a season of abundant wild fruits, and especially nuts, presages a cold and snowy winter, we may expect severe weather five, six and seven months hence, says the New York Sun. All the wild fruits hereabouts have been unusually abundant, and there is promof an equally abundant nut crop. The fruit season opened with plenty of wild strawberries. If the cultivated strawberry could retain, along with its large size, the sugary sweetness and juley tenderness of the wild berry it would be vastly more popular even than now, and the sin of strawberry short cake would be seldom committed Just after the strawberries came the wild blackcap raspberries, abundant and excellent. They were greedily eaten by birds and boys and like wild creatures. Blackberries are still ripening, because their senson is longer than that of most other wild fruits. In the immediate suburbs they are abundant, but smaller than usual, though farther north they are both pientiful and luscious. They are extremely sweet this year in spite of the plentiful rain, which is sometimes supposed to increase the size of such fruits at the expense of the flavor. The berries that grow in the shade of the woodlands seem to reach the highest perfection. Wild cherries are abundant, and ripening in good season. They seem to be a favorite fruit with the birds, and the output of that delectable and beautiful cordial, cherry bounce, is greatly curtailed by reason of the fact that the birds seize each separate cherry as it ripens on the bunch. Wild apple trees in fields and woodlands, where they have sprung up as volunteers and have never been grafted, are "roping" with fruit, as is the picturesque country phrase. They have a pleasant wild tang, often in keeping with their outlawry, but they make excellent applesauce. Cooking seems to rob them of a certain griping quality, but does not

destroy their wild flavor. The nuts promise well, and upon these the weather indication is sup posed especially to hang. An abund ant nut crop is held to indicate a providential care against snow and cold, for the needs of squirrels and other wild creatures that lay in winter stores. The nuts are full of delightful suggestions to country-bred men whose memories are still supple. The hickory nut seems to be full size now, and they gleam pleasantly among the leaves Their pungent odor is a lively spur to memory. The chestnuts, which seem only yesterday to have lost their tassels, are showing abundant small tender furs. They were hoary with promise in the blossom stage, but the trees never lived up to the early indications. Walnuts swing high in air, their twin green spheres thickly dotting the rather thin foliage of the great trees.

DEGENERATION IN BOSTON. Time-Honored Spots Being Ruthlessly

Wiped from View. Notwithstanding the sentiment in the commonwealth against the demolition of the state house it will have to go, writes G. W. Wilfred Pearce, of Boston, to the New York Sun. The drawings of a new building have been completed, and the work of construction will begin next March.

The process of disfiguring the public The process of disiguring the public garden and the common goes merrily on. The old burying ground on the common, wherein rested the bones of many soldiers of the revolution and Jullien, the inventor of Jullien soup, has been vandalized by the promoters of that queer conception, the subway, in which electric cars running south in which electric cars running south the British empire. War with

and west are to go.

Within a short time the common will be grabbed by politicians and real estate speculators. Flaws have been discovered in the title, and, as for ten years it has been suffered to decay. Bostonians take little pride in it; the new parks have given the venerable common a death blow.

Seven peanut and balloon peddlers and two astronomers who used to cater to the wants of Bostonians have shut up shop, owing to the decay of trade on that famous ground. Even well-bred Boston dogs consider it bad form to bathe in the frog pond where the foun-tain squirts only on Sunday. The good old man who for many years has served the city on Flagstaff hill told me, with tears in his eyes, that the "Ohld common is going to the divil entirely."

mere are two incidents with a moral: A boy was sent to town to sell some potatoes. He returned at night, and threw down the bag and said, surlily: "Nobody that I met asked me for potatoes. Business must be awful dull!" In the same town there was a bey who went about, bawling at the top of his voice: "Fish, fish-fresh fish!" "What a dreadful noise!" said an angry woma dreadful noise!" said an angry wom-an. "Do you hear me?" asked the boy, politely. "Hear you! You can be heard a mile away!" "Well," said the boy, placidly, "that's what I'm hollerin' for. Fish, fish-fresh fish!" If you want people to appreciate your worth, you must let them know what you

M. Tronve, the well-known electrician of Paris, has brought out a tiny telephone no larger than a franc piece, and, in conjunction with Rostoff, the "wizard," has applied it to clairvoy-ance. The telephones attached to the cars of the blindfolded performer are hidden by a wig and connected by fine wires, also invisible, to a transmitter behind the screen. A confederate behind the screen who can see and hear metes and bounds beyond which even all that passes, prompts him by means of the telephone.

The Northern Pacific Farmer, Published at Portland Oregon, now in its twenty-first year, is the best and in fact the only truly weekly agricultural paper published in the Northwest. It is edited by Frank Lee, the granger editor, assisted by scores of correspondents, and contains from 16 to 32 pages weekly, of agricultural, horticultural, stock, poultry, Western market reports, childrens, household, and other tems of interest that no one who has any interest in the farm or the Northwest can afford to be without. At \$1 cash in advance per year for this large weekly makes it the best and cheapest paper in the United States. To all new subscribers who will pay one years subcription to THE PRESS in advance, and all old subscribers who will pay their back subscription and one years subscription in advance to THE PRESS will receive this great Northwest journal free for one year. No one can afford to be without it.

How to PreventCroup. Some reading that will prove intresting to you mothers. How to

guard against the disease. Croup is a terror to young mothers and to post them concerning the case, first symptoms and treatment is the object of this item. The origin of croup is a common cold. Children who are subject to it take cold very easily and croup is almost sure to follow. The first symptoms is hoarsness; this is soon followed by a pecaliar rough cough which is easily recognized and will never be forgotten by one who has heard it. The time to act is when the child first becomes hoarse. If Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is freely given all tendency to croup will soon disappear. Even after the croupy cough has developed it will prevent the attack. There is no danger in giving this remedy

American Estables in London. John Chamberlain is to prepare the bill of fare for the Thanksgiving dinner of the American Society in London, and it promises to be as appetizing a meal as ever a table groaned under. Rhode Island turkeys, canvass back and terrapin from Cheasapeake Bay, Lynn Haven oysters, Philadelphia acpons, Virginia hams and Kentucky mutton comprises a few of the delicacies of the menu. Some of them will be sent across the water cooked, the others raw, and it will be a most delectable dinner.

for it contains nothing injurious.

For sale by P. M. Kirkland, Pioneer

Hood's Pills cures all liver ills, relieve constipation and assist digestion, 25c.

War Inevitable. Congressman S. C. Hyde of Spo kane, who takes his seat in Washington in December, in expressing his views on the Venezuelan question and Munroe doctrine, said:

"The English nation is our rival. Their aid and sympathy for the South prolonged the confliet, cost us hundreds of millions in money and hundreds of thousands of lives. I am one of those who believe this nation has mighty destiny to fulfill, one which will not permit the overlapping of this continent by a large part of Great Britain must come. When it does come the British possessions in North America will be no more. In the language of John Bright. We shall have a vast ocean-bound republic, stretched from the frozen oceans of the north to the warm seas of the south' I would love to enlist as a private soldier again to prosecute that war." HAIRSINGING,

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Mr. H. WETTSTEIN, a well-known, enterprising citizen of Byron, Ill., writes: "Before I paid much attention to regulating the bowels, I hardly knew a well day; but since I learned the evil re-

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ened and I am free from all pain. I cheerfully recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla to whoever wishes to enjoy health and com-fort." Miss Rosa Smellon, La Center, Washington. N. B. Be to get Hood's. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all druggists, N; six for \$5. Hood's Pills cure Nausea, 81ck Headach stion, Billousness. 25c. per box.

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