

Notes and Gleanings.

The suicide rate in the United States has increased in ten years from 12 to 17 per 100,000 population.

A North Carolina judge has decided that Bibles shall be used in his court for swearing white and negro witnesses.

The Czar of Russia is the largest individual landowner in the world. The area of his personal possessions is greater than that of the republic of France.

London has no less than 313 parks and open spaces, while in 1884 the number was only 103. They are reckoned to have cost \$10,995,000.

In Wales there are 500,000 people who cannot speak English; in Ireland there are 30,000 who speak only Irish, and in Scotland there are 40,000 who speak only Gaelic.

The German emperor has more servants in his employ than any other monarch. Altogether they number more than 3,000, about two-thirds of them being women.

In 1902 the world consumed 72,799,800 pounds of silk. The largest consumer was China, with over 14,000,000 pounds, followed next by America, with 10,780,000 pounds.

It is soon going to be safe to live in a glass house, even if the neighbors throw stones. The Silesian glass makers are turning out glass bricks of all sorts for building purposes.

The telephone system of Uganda, darkest Africa, is, with its branches, 1,034 miles in extent, the poles being living trees. The charge is 32 cents for each conversation over any distance.

The old jail at Carthage, Ill., in which the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith, and his brother, Hiram, were killed by a mob in June, 1844, has been bought by the Mormons, and will be removed to Salt Lake City, to be set up there as a memorial.

The award of the highly prized Davy medal of the British Royal Society of Prof. and Mrs. Currie, for their discovery of radium, seems to give universal satisfaction. It was Mrs. Currie who actually made the discovery, but the two were so closely associated in their work that the division of honor is equal.

The development of the modern railroad and the steamship makes possible a trip around the world in twenty-seven days; as follows: From New York to Hamburg 4,800 miles, 7 3-4 days; Hamburg to Vladivostock, 7,500 miles, 6 1-4 days; Vladivostock to Seattle, 7,000 miles, 10 1-4 days; Seattle to New York, 3,300 miles, 2 3-4 days; total 22,600 miles in 27 days.

A curious custom prevails in Bulgaria which must be a hard penalty for the woman who loves to hear the sound of her own voice. All newly married women are obliged to remain dumb for a month after marriage, except when addressed by their husbands. When it is desirable to remove this restriction permanently the husband presents her with a gift, and then she can chatter to her heart's content.

According to a writer in the *British Weekly*, the average expenditure per head of the English population for strong drink is nearly \$20 a year for each man, woman and child; while England's national drink bill exceeds eight hundred million dollars per annum. The Earl of Rosebery, at a recent political gathering, asked: "Can any of us be blind to the hideous curse of intemperance, which hinders our progress as a nation far more than any hostile tariffs?"

The coldest place on earth inhabited by man is Verkhoyansk, above the Arctic circle, in northeastern Siberia,

The thermometer there drops to 90 degrees below zero in January, but sometimes rises to 86 degrees above zero in the shade of July, dropping, however, to the freezing point on the warmest summer nights. The hottest place in the world is the interior of the Sahara desert, in Africa, where the thermometer rises to 122 degrees. The wettest place is Greywotn, Nicaragua, where the mean annual rainfall is 260 inches. The place of least rain is Port Nolloth, in South Africa, where less than an inch sometimes falls in a year.

Colonel John Jacob Astor advocates the building of a national highway across the continent for the use of automobiles. It would doubtless be constructed mainly by the private enterprise of such men as himself. The roadbed proposed is "bituminous macadam." The tar added to the ordinary broken stones of an ordinary macadam road hold them in place, reduces the dust, and prevents washing on hillsides, besides giving a smoother track. The route proposed is through the State of New York, parallel with the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and thence to Chicago. It is proposed to limit grades to six feet in the hundred, and to construct the main highway in a straight line without regard to touching village or cities, leaving these towns to build spurs to the main line if they deserve.

THE BLIGHT OF ROME.

This terrific but true indictment of the Roman Catholic Church, by Victor Hugo, was made during one of the efforts of the priests to get control of education in France.

"Ah, we know you! We know the clerical party; it is an old party. This it is which has found for the truth those two marvelous supporters, ignorance and error. This it is which forbids to science and genius the going beyond the Missal and which wishes to cloister thought in dogmas. Every step which the intelligence of Europe has taken has been in spite of it. Its history is written in the history of human progress, but it is written on the back of the leaf. It is opposed to it all. This it is which caused Prinelli to be scourged for having said that the stars would not fall. This it is which put Campanella seven times to torture for saying that the number of worlds was infinite, and for having caught a glimpse at the secret of creation. This it is which persecuted Harvey for having proved the circulation of the blood. In the name of Jesus it shut up Galileo. In the name of St. Paul it imprisoned Christopher Columbus. To discover a law of the heavens was an impiety, to find a world was a heresy. This it is which anathematized Pascal in the name of religion, Montaigne in the name of morality, Moljere in the name of both morality and religion. For a long time the human conscience has revolted against you, and now demands of you: 'What is it that you wish of me?' For a long time already you have tried to put a gag upon the human intellect; you wish to be the masters of education, and there is not a poet, not an author, not a thinker, not a philosopher that you accept. All that has been written, found, dreamed, deduced, inspired, imagined, invented by genius, the treasure of civilization, the venerable inheritance of generations, the common patrimony of knowledge, you reject. There is a book—a book which is from one end to the other an emanation from above; a book which is for the whole world what the Koran

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IT IS THE LIBERTY OF NOT TEACHING.

You wish us to give you the people to instruct. Very well. Let us see your pupils. Let us see those you have produced. What have you done for Italy? What have you done for Spain? For centuries you have kept in your hands, at your discretion, at your school, these two great nations, illustrious among the illustrious. What have you done for them? I shall tell you. Thanks to you, Italy, whose name no man who thinks can any longer pronounce without inexpressible filial emotions—Italy, mother of genius and of nations, which has spread over all the universe all the most brilliant marvels of poetry and the arts, Italy—which has taught mankind to read—now knows not how to read! Yes, Italy is, of all the states of Europe, that where the smallest number know how to read. Spain, magnificently endowed Spain, which received from the Romans her first civilization; from the Arabs her second civilization; from Providence, and in spite of you, a world—America—Spain, thanks to you, a yoke of stupor, which is a yoke of degradation and decay. Spain has lost this secret power which it had from the Arabs; this world which it had from God, and in exchange for all you have made it lose, it has received from you—

THE INQUISITION!

—the Institution, which certain men of the party try today to re-establish; which has burned on the funeral pile millions of men; the Inquisition, which disinterred the dead to burn them as

heretics; which declared the children heretics infamous and incapable of any public honors, excepting only those who shall have denounced their fathers; the Inquisition, which, while I speak, still holds in the Papal library the manuscripts of Galileo sealed under the Papal signet. These are your masterpieces. This fire which we call Italy you have extinguished. This colossus that we call Spain you have undermined—the one in ashes, the other in ruins. This is what you have done for two great nations. What do you wish to do for France? Stop! you have just come from Rome! I congratulate you, you have had fine success there. You came from gagging the Roman people, and now you wish to gag the French people. I understand. This attempt is still more fine, but take care, it is dangerous. France is a lion, and is still alive!"

—The National convention of Colored Baptists of the United States held its annual session this year in Philadelphia. The *Baptist Commonwealth* of that city speaks very favorably of the character of the convention, saying: "The convention with its large audiences and with its men of representative character was a very suggestive and impressive sight. No one could look at the men and women without being impressed with a sense of the vast advancement they had made during these recent times." The convention is said to represent 16,000 churches and a membership of more than 2,000,000.

Sore Throat!

Don't delay; serious bronchial trouble or diphtheria may develop. The only safe way is to apply

Painkiller

a remedy you can depend upon. Wrap the throat with a cloth wet in it before retiring, and it will be well in the morning.

There is only one Painkiller, "PERRY DAVIS."