

## Notes and Gleanings.

..Women are now being substituted for men in the Italian postal service.

..The average farm laborer's family in England lives on \$185 a year; the average mechanic's family spends \$300.

—In South Africa the white ants have been found so destructive to wooden ties that steel has necessarily been adopted.

..Now that cotton presses reduce the size of a bale until it weighs forty-five pounds to the square foot, one ship will carry the product of 40,000 acres of average cotton land.

..Atlantic liners to the number of fifty have wireless telegraph apparatus to communicate with forty-eight land stations. Sixty British and twenty-four Italian war vessels are so equipped.

..The new schools in Switzerland all have a part of their lower floors given over to bath rooms. Each pupil is made to take a bath once in two weeks and soap is given them for the ordeal. The Swiss are such a cleanly people.

..The income of the Emperor of Russia is \$25,000 a day; the Sultan of Turkey, \$18,000; Emperor of Austria, \$5,000; German Emperor, \$8,000; King of Italy, \$6,000; King of England, \$6,500; King of Belgium, \$6,500; President of France, \$5,000; President of the United States, \$130.

..Old whalers may be interested to read that there are said to be now only four tons of whalebone left in the world, all the supplies, American and British, having been cleared up. Two and a quarter tons of whalebone were recently sold at Dundee, Scotland, for \$15,000 a ton. The highest previous record for whalebone was \$14,000 per ton.

—A method of decoying young ladies has been discovered in London, where an elderly lady fell ill on the street beside a young lady, who helped her, and when getting into a cab, the elder asked the younger to accompany her, as she felt that she was too ill to go home alone. Fortunately a policeman was near, who laid his hand upon her arm and said: "I do not advise you to go miss; if you do you will never come back."

..Roman Catholicism in Ireland is firm in its demands for the establishment of a Roman Catholic University, for which the British taxpayer is to give £100,000 for building and £40,000 per annum. That is the minimum of the demand. The bishops will accept no compromise and the general election will likely see a sharp contest, to strengthen the hands of the Irish party. Nonconformists will require to be wide awake on the matter.

..The Japanese are well known for their alert progressive qualities. With a surprising facility and success they have adopted many of the best of western ideas and practices. Their educational system is being rapidly developed. About two years ago they opened their first college for women, and already the number of its students is said to exceed eight hundred. These have been drawn together from even the most remote parts of the Empire.

..In Japan the nose is the only feature which attracts attention. The nose determines the beauty or ugliness of the face, according as it is big or small. This is probably due to the fact that difference in noses constitutes about the only distinction between one Japanese face and another. The eyes are invariably black, the cheek-bones high and the chin receding. In Japan a woman who has a huge proboscis is always a great beauty and a reigning belle. There are a few large noses among the natives, and lucky is he or she upon whom nature lavishes one. In all Japanese pictures representing the supposedly beautiful woman, the artist invariably improves

on nature by depicting this feature as abnormally developed.

..Mr. Noe, of Green County, Ky., says that he was in the habit of taking two drinks of whiskey a day, but now he gives his wife two dimes a day and abstains from drink. Since he commenced this practice he has purchased a horse for ninety dollars and paid for it in ten installments, all in dimes, and he recently paid ten dollars for his hay in dimes. Poverty would almost disappear if persons of limited means were to eliminate all the needless expenditures, saving their money and laying a foundation for a permanent interest account.

..Australians claim that the constitution of their commonwealth is the most liberal in its basis of any constitution on the planet. Both houses of the legislature are elected by the direct votes of the people, and in the electoral laws adopted by the first parliament the two principles of one adult one vote and one vote one value were embodied. In the last election this law was administered with such thoroughness that in one state the number of names on the election list was equal to 93 p. c. of adult population shown by census returns. Singularly, it seems to foreigners, every institution that has 100 inmates, other than criminals, is appointed a polling place.

### A MURDER.

When John B. Gough was speaking in Norwich, Connecticut, once, he referred to a local incident. Mrs. Faulkner had told him some facts concerning her son. The young man, it seems, had been a drunkard, but signed the pledge. To get away from the influence and power of his old drinking companions, he left home and went to a distant city. After he had been away two years his mother received a letter, which contained the glad news that he was coming home to spend Thanksgiving with her. How the joy welled up in her fond mother's heart! "My boy is coming home! My boy is coming home for Thanksgiving!"

The young man came by the stage into the town, which stopped at the door of Solomon Parsons' tavern. He got out. It was after dusk. Some young men were standing by.

"Hello, Fred. How are you, old boy! What will you take to drink?"

"Nothing, thank you."

"Not on Thanksgiving! Come, take a glass."

"No, I'd rather not. I've come to see mother. She hardly expects me tonight. I thought I'd wait till dark, and then go in and surprise the old lady."

Solomon Parsons spoke up, and said, "Fred, Falkner, if I were six feet tall, and broad in proportion, as you are, and yet was afraid of ale, I'd go to the woods and hang myself."

"But I am not afraid."

"Oh, yes, you are—ha! ha! ha! I say, boys, here's a big fellow afraid of a glass of ale. I suppose he's afraid of his mother—ha! ha! ha!"

Though possessing the strength of mind to keep his pledge when let alone, he could not stand ridicule. They handed him a glass of liquor, and dared him to drink it.

"Well," he said, "I am going to mother now, but I'll show you I am not afraid to drink the stuff."

He drank it; then came another, and still they piled him with it. Twelve o'clock that night he staggered into a barn, and was found there in the morn-

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ing—dead! "My boy is coming home for Thanksgiving!"

Having stated the facts, Gough continued: "Ladies and gentlemen, Solomon Parsons, the man who tempted Frederick Falkner to his ruin—Solomon Parsons, who staggered through life under the weight of that poor mother's curse—is in this hall to-night, and he sits right there! This same Solomon Parsons still keeps a grog-shop on the bridge of your town, licensed by the State. Men of Connecticut, rout him out!"

Parsons slunk from the hall and hurried home. In less than twenty-four hours, he and his bag and baggage, license and all, were carted out of the town, escorted by an indignant throng.—*Forward.*

### THE BEGINNING OF IT.

Now that war has actually begun it may be useful to recall the circumstances that led up to it. To do this we must go back to the close of the war between Japan and China. At that time Japan occupied the greater part of Manchuria as an indemnity for the war; and China, in the treaty of peace, had ceded the territory to Japan. Against this Russia protested on the ground that it was unfair to China and a menace to the peace of the East; and securing the cooperation of Germany and France, she succeeded in ousting Japan. The hypocrisy of this proceeding was seen not long afterwards when Kiao-chau was seized by Germany and Russia occupied Port Arthur as the terminus of her Siberian Railway. At the close of the Boxer disturbances in China, the treaty of peace drawn up among the powers contained an agreement to respect and maintain the integrity of China. Russia signed this treaty with the rest and even fixed a term within which she would withdraw the troops which had been placed in Manchuria for the purpose of guarding her railways. This term expired last April and the troops were not

withdrawn. On being pressed by Japan, Russia fixed a later date, October 8, as the time for evacuation; but during the intervening months, instead of making preparations to leave, fortifications were built, troops and supplies were sent out, new ports were occupied and aggressive movements were made even towards Korea.—*The Presbyterian.*

WHAT A TRACT DID.—The *India Witness* tells the following interesting and impressive story: "Early in 1819, while waiting to see a patient, a young physician in New York took up and read a tract on missions which lay in the room where he sat. On reaching home he spoke to his wife of the question that had arisen in his mind. As a result they set out for Ceylon, and later India, as foreign missionaries. For thirty years the wife, and for thirty-six years the husband, labored among the heathen; and then went to their reward. Apart from what they did directly as missionaries, they left behind them seven sons and two daughters. Each of these sons married, and with their wives, and both sisters, gave themselves to the same mission work. Already have several grandchildren of the first missionary become missionaries in India. And thus far, thirty of the family, the Scudders, have given five hundred and twenty-nine years to India Missions. Such a record is wonderful as well as interesting."

It is stated that 50,000 people are thrown out of work by the Baltimore fire. Assuming a weekly wage rate of \$5 to \$10, this means the stoppage of a pay roll of from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

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