

OBITER DICTA.

The number of religious denominations in England and Wales is officially stated to be over 250.

The street accidents of London amount to about 3,500 a year—nearly ten a day.

A medical commission examined not long ago into the cause of the alarming increase of insanity in Ireland, and came to the singular conclusion that tea-drinking was a most potent factor in inducing the prevalent type of melancholia.

More than 60,000 stamps are said to be found loose every year in the letter boxes of the United Kingdom.

A recent writer on "Errors in the use of English" notes the following epitaph in an Ulster churchyard: "Erected to the memory of John Phillips accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brother."

The largest cannon in the world was taken by the English when India was conquered. The cannon was cast about the year 1500, and was the work of a chief named Chuleby Khan, of Ahmednuggar. The inside of the gun is fitted up with seats, and is a favourite place for English officers to go for a quiet noonday sleep.

With moderate care and good usage a horse's life may be prolonged to twenty-five, thirty-five, or forty years. A Somersetshire gentleman had three horses that died in his possession at the ages of thirty-five, thirty-seven, and thirty-nine years respectively. The oldest was in a carriage the very day he died, strong and vigorous, but was carried off by a spasmodic colic to which he was subject. A horse in use at a riding-school in Woolwich lived to be forty years old, and a large horse of the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Company is declared to have been in his sixty-second year when he died.

The highest trees in the world belong to a species of Eucalyptus found in Australia. Single specimens have been found upwards of 400 feet in height.

The carelessness of the public in posting letters not properly addressed, costs £17,000 a year at the Returned Letter Office Department of the General Post Office, London.

A physician writes as follows respecting the influence of tea and coffee upon character: "The nervousness and peevishness of our times are chiefly attributable to tea and coffee; the digestive organs of tea and coffee drinkers are in a state of chronic derangement, which reacts on the brain, producing fretful and lachrymose moods. Fine ladies addicted to strong coffee have a characteristic temper, which I might describe as a mania for acting the persecuted saint. The snappish petulant temper of the Chinese can certainly be ascribed to their immoderate fondness for tea."

According to the theory of Sir William Thompson, the end of the world, which is 10,000,000 years in the future, will not be brought about by excessive heat, but by the remnant of humanity being frozen to death.

Query—prompted by the atmospheric conditions of to-day,—Are we getting a foretaste of that far-a-way event?

When the election comes vote a plumper for THE GLASSVILLE NEWS.

ENGLISH v BOER.

The late trouble in the Transvaal when the silly Kaiser of Germany was jubilant over the defeat of mere handful of men, led by Dr. Jamieson; and, which threatened to lead to grave complications between Great Britain and Germany, was without a doubt, brought on by the insolent and overbearing conduct of the Boers, and their brutal treatment of English and other European settlers, who have made the fine city of Johannesburg, the Birmingham of South Africa.

That they are brutal, and cruel, to other human beings is beyond all question, in fact their savage treatment of the natives has long been a matter of history, and calls for redress by civilized nations.

How the Boers treat human beings may be seen by reading Rider Haggard's novel "The Witch's Head." Those who have read that work will remember the fight between Van Zyl and Jeremy Jones, when the latter interfered to prevent the inhuman treatment of a young Hottentot who was being unmercifully thrashed by the Boer giant.

How they treat dumb brutes may be learned from the following extract from "Story of an African Farm." "The oxen were very thin now, and they had been standing about in the yoke all day without food while the wagons were being loaded. Not far from the town was a hill. When we came to the foot the first wagon stuck fast. I tried for a little while to urge the oxen, but I soon saw that one span alone could never pull it up. I went to the other wagon to loosen that span to join them on in front, but the transport rider, who was lying at the back of the wagon, jumped out. They shall bring it up the hill; and if half of them die for it they shall do it alone, he said.

He was not drunk, but in a bad temper, for he had been drunk the night before. He swore at me, and told me to take the whip and help him. We tried for a little time, when I told him they could never do it. He swore louder, and called to the leaders to come on with their whips, and together they lashed. There was one black ox, so thin that the ridge of his backbone almost cut through his skin. It is you, Devil, is it, that will not pull? the transport rider said. I will show you something.

He looked like a devil.

He told the boys to leave off flogging, and he held the ox by the horn, and took up a round stone and knocked it's nose with it till the blood came. When he had done they called to the oxen and took up their whips again, and the oxen strained with their backs bent, but the wagon did not move an inch. So you won't, won't you? he said. I'll help you. He took out his clasp-knife, and ran it into the leg of the trembling ox three times, up to the hilt. He then put the knife in his pocket, and they took to their whips again. The oxen's flanks quivered and they foamed at the mouth. Straining, they moved the wagon a few feet forward, then stood with bent backs to keep it from sliding back. From the black ox's nostril foam and blood were streaming on the ground. It turned it's head in it's anguish and looked at me with it's great starting eyes. It was praying for help in it's agony and weakness, and they took to their whips again.

The creature bellowed aloud. If there is a God, it was calling to it's Maker, for help. Then a stream of clear blood burst from it's nostrils; it fell on the ground, and the wagon slipped back. The man walked up to it. You are going to lie down, devil, are you? We'll see you don't take it too easy.

The thing was just dying. He opened his clasp-knife and stooped down over it. I do not know what I did then. But afterwards I know I had him on the stones, and was kneeling on him. The boys dragged me off. I wish they had not. I left him standing in the sand in the road, shaking himself, and I walked back to the town.

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