

### INTERESTING SCRAPS.

Scraps of conversation overheard between distinguished people are seldom exactly the sort of thing one expects. The tale is old of the enthusiast present at a meeting between Mrs Somervi'le and Miss Martineau whose breathless attention was rewarded by hearing one famous woman ask the other's advice concerning the turning of an old brown ekirt.

"Tarn i', by a'l mans !" shouted Mrs Somerville into Miss Martineau's ear-trumpet; and the advice, although doubtless wise, could scarcely be reckoned a source of intellectual uplift. Neither did the hero-worshiping youth who played eaves-dropper in a London park many years ago, when he beheld Charles Reade approaching Wilkie Collins, although the conversation was certainly interesting, find it precisely what he expect-

"Confound you!" roared the irascible author of "The Cloister and the Hearth," as he neared the ingenious narrator of "The Moonstone." "That cobbler you sent me to s a fraud-a rascal-a rogue-a triple-dyed villain !" He ought to be choked with his shoe-pegs!"

Collins attempted a protest, but Reade, raising aloft a clenched and formidable hand, concluded in the impressive manner of an Oriental calling down the vengeance of his

"May the heels of the conscienceless wretch who recommended him be blistered. and may his joints be cramped! May bunions visit his great toe, and corns sit upon his little one, and the wrath of the enemy destroy his sole !"

An amusing contrast to this exuberant outburst was afforded when, more recently, in New York, the novelist, Miss May Sin, clair, met Mark Twain at a dinner party. Naturally their neighbors at table were curious to learn what the two famous personages would find to talk about. It seem. ed that they were not going to find anything. Miss Sinclair waited diffidently for the great man, so much her senior, to begin the conversation; he in turn waited for her.

Minutes passed in silence. At last he turned to her.

"Child, child," said he, in tones of gentle reproach, "do not be so boisterous.

### NOT FOR GOOd.

There are many reasons for a girl's giving up office work, but one mentioned by a writer in Brooklyn L'fe in the following story is perhaps the most effective that could be invented.

"Miss Smith is going away," sail one of the stanographers to another.

"Is she leaving for good?"

"No not for good. For better or for worse."



ALUMINUM TOO LIGHT FOR COINS

(Chicago Tribune,')

After many months of discussion and experimenting the French Government has decided not to adopt aluminum coinage. This is on the recommendation of the commission of scientists which the Government pointed to consider the subject.

A certain number of aluminum coins were made as a test, but the ightness of the white metal, which was one of is chief recommendations, has condemned it. A 5 cent t me piece (nalfpenny) made of aluminum weighed only 1.9 grams, as against 5 grams in bronze, and it is thought that a coin so light would sip through the fingers especisily the rough fingers of a workman. Tests are now to be made in bronze containing 10 per cent of aluminium, which, if adopted, will reduce the weight by one-half. This combinat on of metals possesses a fine golden yellow color, and the coine made of it will therefore be perforated so that they may not be mistaken for 20 franc pieces.

> MANDY'S TRIAL. (New York Times.)

The guests at a dioner party were tell ng stories about queer uses of words and phrases when a woman from Chicago stoke of the efforts of the Scandinavians in the northwest to g ton intimate terms with the English tongue. "They pick up the slang first," she said, and use it indiscriminately, I was in Wisconsin last summer, near a place where there had been an outbreak of typhoid fever, and I asked a Swedish woman who was doing some work for me if her family had suffered from it. 'Ay ban lost,' she replied, wiping the tears from her eyes, my fader, my husband, my sister, all in one month, and I tink dat wass going some,

"That reminds me," said a womrn who had lived in the South, "of an old mammy down in New Orleans who told me once a most pitiful tale of how she had lived through one of the yellow fever epidemics. One after another the disease had swept away her relatives, while she cared for them as best she could. Her father and mother, her husband, three children, a brother, two sisters, she had watched over day and night, and finally had seen them die. My heaat ached and my threat filled up with sympathy and pity for all that she must have suffered. "Oh, Aunt Mandy." I exclaimed, 'how dreadful it must have been! How did you ever live through it !' 'Yessum,' she replied,

Mr Roosevelt has made a high bid for the presidency in his announcement that if ever he attains to public office-which, of course, he has no idea of doing-it will be in vain that any one will look for reward because of having supported him. Politicians of my own party will be no different from politicians from any other party. It is a question whether the nation will be able to grasp a doctrine so far above and beyond anything it has ever been able to ask or think. Still, great as may be the revelation, it is just the elysium the nation is longing after. This promise will hang to its heavens like a lodestar, and it will never more be able to get it out of its eye. Its achievement would be the emancipation of the nation from govern. ment by professional politicians-about as contemptible a servitude as a people can be subjected to, and one to which the nation will gladly prefer a respectable if not immaculate autocrat. Mr Roosevelt's refusal to meet at dinner a United States senator who is at the moment under indictment for graft was a coup .- Montreal Daily Witness.

## Lost Labor.

A Friend of the great Pasteur recalls a certain occasion when the savant was dining with his daughter and her family at their country residence in Burgundy. Cherries, of which Pastour was especially fond, formed part of the dessert. Despite an assurance son. that they had been thoroughly cleansed, the old man insisted upon washing and wiping each one before putting is to his lips.

Such scrupulous care caused more or less merriment among the members of the family whereupon Pasteur delivered a lecture on indifference to danger, declaring that the majority of fruit was covered with whole colonies of infinitesimal microbes, injurious

A few moments later, however, lapsing nto one of those firs of abstraction to which he was increasingly sudject, the old man raised the glass in which he had dipped the cherries and swallowed the water, microbes and all, at a single draft before any one could speak.

## COULDN'T STAND EXPOSURE.

The member of the Legislature, of whom some graft stories had been circulated, was about to build a house.

'You will want a southern exposure I suppose?' asked the architect.

'No, sir!' said the man, 'if you can't, build this house without any exposure, I'll get another architect.'- Yonkers Statesman'.



## Good, Better or Best?

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#### Mistakes Of Scientists Dry Weather in Aroostook

District. (Bangor Commercial)

trok county are beginning fo feel a little alarmed over the present dry conditions of the forests in that section, and un'ess the present rain reach d that portion of Maine's great forest wi'derness, the conditions there are considered more dangerous than they have been at any time this year.

There has been prac ically no rain in that se tion since the fi st of August, and during the past two weeks the wools have been so dry as to cause general alarm among the owners. No fires have been reported, but owing to the dryness of the ground and the fact that the leaves are beginning to dry and fall off the trees, the fire patrol has been incressed in number, and a sharp lookout will be kept till better conditions prevail.

Hossa B Buck, of this city, the chief fire warden for Northern Aroostook county, which includes the watersheds of the St John, Allagash and Arocs ook rivers, has just returned from a trip through that section, and reports that the conditions at present are worse than they have been at any time this season. Aroostook county, as well as other forested sections of the State, has been particularly fortunate this summer, and there have been no bad fires, the damage from that source being practically nothing, but with the hunting parties beginning to go into the woods, and the present dryness there is every chance of some bad fires before the close of the sea

Unlike portions of the State further south the rainfail in Aroostook county has not been heavy this year, and the lakes and streams are very low at the present time. The log drives on the St John River, which were hung up last spring, are still where they were left. The rear of the corporation drive is stranded in the river just above St Francis, and the St John Lumber Co of Van Buren, has a drive of about 3,000,000 feet hung up above Big Rapids, and there they will remain until fall rains furnish enough water to bring them down.

### Kentucky's Marvel

Contrary to the general belief, the present entrance to the Mammoth Cave is pronounced by Mr James H Gardner, in a communi. cation to the Geological Society of Washington, to be not an opening produced by the falling in of the roof, but the original exit of Echo River, a stream which now flows through the lower parts of the cave nearly 200 feet below the level of the entrance. The cave is the product of solution in the St. Louis limestone, which has a thickness of about 500 feet. The drainage of that part of for a whole month afterwards."-Youth's Kentucky is cheiffy underground.

[London Daily News.]

Sir Humphry Davy's dogmatic prenoance-Timberland owners in northern Aroos- ment against gas lighting is not the only instance of a clever scientist being hopelessly wrong. The early history of submarine cabling furnishes two striking examples. Consul:ed on the scientific side of the project, Faraday asserted that the first cables were made too small. Then he said that "the larger the wire, the more electrici y would be required to charge it"; and in this quite wrong opiaon he was supported by other eminent elect. ricians. As a result of this dictum the curren t was increased until the operation literally "electrocuted" the wire and the cable broke down. It was Lord Kevlin who, by sending messages through heavy cables with incredibly weak electric currents proved that Faraday was mistaken.

> Sir G. B. Airy submitted the project to mathematics, and arrived at the conclusion that a cable could not be submerged to the neccessary depth and that if it could no recognizable signal could ever travel from Ireland to Nova Scotia. In aviation, Prof. New comb one of the cleverest mathematicians America has produced, who died last year declared that he had mathematically investlgated all the conditions operating against the heavier-than-air machine, and was con vinced that the aeroplane would never be more than a scientific toy; and the possibility of an aeroplane motor being reliable in the reduced atmospheric pressure above 3,000 feet was by several experts said to be out of the question a few months ago. Drexel's carbureter was certainly a bit erratic above the clouds last week, but he rose to an altitude of 6,750 feet.

The teacher was telling the story of Red Riding Hood. She had described the woods and the wild animals that live there. "Suddenly", she said "Red Riding Hood heard a loud noise. She turned around, and what do you suppose she saw standing there looking at her and showing all its sharp white teeth?

"Teddy Roosevelt!" cried one of the toys. -Judge.

"What is your last name, my boy?" asked the teacher of the new pupil, a frightened looking youngster of some half dozen years. "Tommy."

"Tommy what?" "Tommy Tompkins."

"Then Tompkins is your last name," turn ing to his record book.

"No, sir," came the reply, with the air of one accustomed to render literature to in quiring elders. "I don't think so, sir. Tomp kins was my name already when I was [born, and aunty says they didn't give me the other

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