

THINGS TO BE DESIRED.—A method to make truth as agreeable as falsehood: a recipe for praising a pretty girl without giving offence to her older sisters; some way of collecting a small debt without having to earn the money a second time, in the attempt; how to find a "constant subscriber;" a plan of editing a paper without being considered dull by the giddy, frivolous by the "serious minded," unappreciated by three-fourths, and cheated by the other quarter. *Mem.* "When found, to make a note of."—*Post*.

"Annette, my dear, what country is opposite to us on the globe?"

"Don't know, sir."

"Well, now," continued the perplexed teacher "if I were to bore a hole through the earth, and you were to go in at this end, where would you come out?"

"Out of the hole, sir," replied the pupil, with an air of triumph at having solved the great question.

A LOVING COUPLE.—A newly married couple, some years since, took up their abode in Poplar street. At breakfast the next morning, after their entrance, the gentleman said to his lady, "My dear, this is Poplar-street, and by putting u (you) in it it becomes popular." And by putting us in it, promptly replied the lady, "it will become populous."

SCENE IN A SCHOOLROOM. School Marm—To a five year old urchin, pointing to the letter G:—

"What letter is that?"

Young America—"Don't know."

School Marm—"What do you say to your horse?"

Young America—"Go lang—two forty on the Shell-road."

When a Russian soldier is drawn for the conscription, he is sent to the nearest town and there quartered. All soldiers are considered to be legally dead men, and if a wife does not see her husband for five years she may marry again. One Russian woman who was born stone blind, is now united to her sixteenth husband.

To see a wasp waisted young lady in ringlets and an abundance of flounces, gracefully sailing to the head of the table, and with a voice as angelic as a tenor flute, call to the waiter for a plate of cold pork and beans, is the most trying romance one can encounter.

At a late trial, the defendant, who was not familiar with the multitude of words which the law employs to make a trifling charge, after listening a while to the reading of the indictment, jumped up, and said, "Then 'ere allegations is false, and that 'ere alligator knows it!"

In all cases where persons are struck with lightning, cold water should be applied to the body for four hours: and if after three or four hours' drenching, animation is not restored, add salt to the water and continue the drenching.

A gentleman who had borrowed money of all his friends, at last restored to an old Quaker, who said, "Friend Fordyce, I have known several persons to be ruined by two dice; but I will not be ruined by Four dice."

Grace Greenwood has taken to swearing. She said of an old mill which had gone to decay, the water having dried away in the stream, "it wasn't worth a dam."

"I wish you would pay a little attention, sir," exclaimed a carpenter to his careless apprentice. "Well, sir, I am paying as little as I can," was the reply.

"Well, Pat, Jim didn't quite kill you with that brick-bat, did he?" "Faix no, but I wish he had." "What for?" "So I could have seen him hang the spalpeen."

Constitutionally tired, is now the polite way of expressing the fact that a man is naturally lazy.—We live in wonderfully refined times.

SATISFACTION FOR A RUSSIAN GENTLEMAN.—All that Nicholas wanted of Turkey was a trifling note. Instead of that he has got a serious check.

CON.—"Why is a bow-legged man like a holiday down South?" Because you see the knee grows out! (negroes out.)

An object of "Interest"—A girl whose income is \$3000 a year.

The New York rowdies respect neither position age or physical capacity in the gratification of their revenge. They recently assaulted and beat severely in Grand street Judge Phillips, of the marine court. He had been enticed from his house by one of the gang that the beating might be accomplished.

By order of the French Minister of War, the English airs "God save the Queen" and "Rule Britannia," and the march of "The Grand Sultan Abd-ul-Medjid Khan," shall in future form part of the repertory of all the bands of the army.

During a recent interview granted to a foreign diplomatic agent, then on his way to a distant mission, the Emperor Louis Napoleon is said to have expressed himself very earnestly and openly on the project of aggrandizement attributed to the Americans, and directed against the Spanish colonies. The Emperor manifested his disapprobation of the ambitious and encroaching spirit which has characterized the American Government. He declared that so far as his foreign policy was concerned, it should be the same in the West as in the East.

RUSSIA.—The Czar has informed his subjects that they are able to defy the heretical allies of the Pagan crescent. In spite, however, of this information, his Imperial Majesty goes in daily fear of seeing Sir Charles Napier in the water of the Neva, and is taking every possible precaution to place St. Petersburg in an attitude of extraordinary defence. The city is divided into four districts and each district is under the strictest military supervision. Over these districts are placed four general officers. To the command of the special district in which stands St. Petersburg itself, General Strogonoff is appointed; to the command of the district of Wassileff, General Plantin; of the district of Ochtensk and Wyborg, General Muller; and of the district of the Admiralty and Narva, General Racheffsky. All matters which have been submitted hitherto to the decision of the police or civil authority, are now placed under the administration of these four officers. In their hands are vested the life and death, liberty and imprisonment of all classes of persons.

At Cronstadt, the Russian fleet lies in apparent perfect readiness for action. The fortress itself swarms with seamen, marines and soldiers. Upwards of 10,000 men are quartered within the circuit of the fortifications; and on the island the troops are posted in tents which extend to the westward of the fortress. In the harbour of St. Peter there are great numbers of merchant vessels laying at their anchors. One English vessel only—the Ann M'Alister—is to be seen among them. This is the vessel also on board of which Sir Hamilton Seymour's luggage and other effects were not permitted to be stored for transference to England.

The conscription which has just been ordered creates the utmost discontent among the people. The discontent is limited to no class, for the landed proprietors themselves will feel the loss of 220,000 men withdrawn from the cultivation of the soil. Such a heavy man taxation will entail on the land owners alone an outlay equal to £3,650,000 yearly; and in addition to this large pecuniary loss, each proprietor has to pay down in hard cash 10 silver roubles towards the clothing of each recruit. At a rough calculation, therefore, 10 roubles for each man, in 220,000 men, will amount to £336,650.

A private letter from "a Russian lady in high rank," to a friend in Paris, states that Count Nesselrode has been hissed, hooted and menaced in the streets of St. Petersburg. He is accused of being the cause of the war, and not having taken sufficient care to provide against its casualties. The lady mentions the fact with regret, as a sign of future troubles. All accounts agree in asserting that the suspension of trade and the enhanced price of provisions have caused much fermentation in the Russian capital.

RUSSIAN PECULATION.—A new fact is related, illustrative of the well-known Russian peculation. Sevaborg fortress was formerly covered with a valuable roof of copper. Some time ago, this was removed by the local dignitaries, and transferred into roddles for their private use. It was replaced by painted paper. The last commandant, a German named Altvaten, was dismissed by the Emperor on the above being discovered, although he had only concealed, not committed, the theft. The Russians are now covering the fortress with sheets of iron plate.

RUSSIAN DECEPTIONS.—A letter from Odessa, of the 20th ult., via Vienna, mentions a fact which (says the *Patrie*) shows to what extent the Russian authorities carry duplicity and falsehood. In the night after the bombardment of the military port, General Osten-Sacken had the dead soldiers, a mounting to between 500 and 600, removed and buried seven or eight miles beyond the town. The next day, in order to make the people believe that the loss had been trifling, he had forty soldiers, who had been left lying dead on the batteries, buried at Odessa with great pomp. A citizen, who during the night had seen what was passing

and mentioned it, was arrested on a charge of propagating false news, and being tried by a court martial was sentenced to death.

Palestine Mortgaged to the Rothschilds.

[From the Philadelphia Ledger, May 27.]

It is said, abroad, that Palestine has been mortgaged to the Rothschilds, as security for loan advanced to the Sultan. The rumor further asserts, that among the possibilities of the future, is the erection of Palestine, on the conclusion of peace, into a Jewish kingdom, under the dynasty of the Rothschilds. That serious territorial alterations will grow out of the pending war, is incontestable; and this suggestion regarding Palestine, however visionary it may seem, is, therefore quite absurd.

That Palestine should fall into the possession of some other people than the Turks is desirable, on many accounts. Situated, as it is, at a distance from the central government, and liable continually to the exactions of Pachas, or the indifference of Governors, it offers no sufficient inducements for capital to settle there, or industry to remain. It is consequently in a state of progressive death. Agriculture is neglected, trade finds little to support it, and ignorance, superstition and vice dominate over the land. From the furthest shores of Nazareth to the Southern waters of the Dead Sea, a curse seems to hang over the country, blighting it like a pestilence, or a flight of Egyptian locusts.

There was a time, however, when Palestine was the most flourishing region, perhaps on the face of the globe. Its vallies were filled with the low of cattle—its terraced hill-sides glowed with golden crops; the vine dotted the landscape with purple grapes; and an almost continued line of villages crowned the acclivities, in sight of each other, from the desert of Idumea on the south to Mount Libanus on the north. There is reason to believe that at the beginning of the Christian era, the whole land was like a vast suburb. The four Gospels are full of allusions which warrant this conclusion. But now desolation broods over the entire prospect. The foot-prints of successive invaders have deeply dented the surface of the country. The round, battlement towers of the Crusaders rise amid the ruins of old Roman works, while modern Turkish fortresses lift themselves above the blackened walls of Roman castles. The axe and fire have gone over this once fair region in repeated surges of blood and conflagration. Centuries of war and oppression have exhausted the spirit of the people, have destroyed the old improvements, have turned what was once a continuous garden and vineyard into a comparative desert. No man can remember what Palestine once was, and recall what it is at present, without wishing that equal laws and liberal institutions might restore it to its former splendor.

The creation of a Jewish kingdom promises the speediest method of arriving at this. There are millions of Hebrews scattered over Europe, who would avail themselves of such a restoration, to return to the land of their fathers. Poland and Russia, especially, swarm with them. The oppression under which they suffer, wherever the Czar holds sway, would be an additional inducement for them to emigrate to Palestine. A Jew in Russia cannot wear a beard as he wishes, cannot appear in certain garments, cannot import even the Hebrew Scriptures, cannot enjoy the common rights of a citizen. When we consider the adventurous character of the race, and recall the great Jewish exodus which is even now going on, we cannot see any difficulty in the way of a Jewish emigration, such as would repopulate Palestine in a very few years.

There are difficulties in the way, however, and serious ones. A small kingdom, like Palestine proper would be, would hardly sustain itself against its mightier neighbors. But if, as appearances begin to indicate, the present war will end in the re-construction of Turkey; and if the reconstruction should be based on a federal union, under the Sultan, of various independent provinces, then we see no reason why a Hebrew principality might not take its place in such a union, side by side with a Servian, a Russian, or an Albanian one.

What will be the end of the excitement which now attends the attempt to carry away fugitive slaves from Boston, Syracuse, Cleveland, and other cities? That it will end in mere talk, or die away in a short time, no one can believe. It is our opinion that the thing is but just commencing and nothing but an early repeal of the fugitive slave law will save the Union from dismemberment by a civil war. We hope it may be averted; but if the slave power insists upon the continuance of the obnoxious statute let it bear the responsibility. The North has too long helped to maintain slavery. It should cease now, let the consequences be what they may.

THE POPULATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The *Westminster Review*, in an interesting article entitled "Results of the census of 1851," gives some curious statistics in relation to the character and prominent divisions of the British people. The census was taken in a single night by forty thousand persons. The result showed that out of a total population of 21,121,967 persons, 20,000 were absent in France, 2683 in Russia, and 1235 in Turkey. About a quarter of a million were at sea or abroad. The entire population was nearly double that of 1800. According to the census, about 115,000 persons die annually in England of preventable diseases. In addition to this average the cholera, during its last visit, carried off 72,000 victims.

As to private or family life, some of the facts presented are strange enough. But one solitary case was found of a family, consisting of parents and twelve children living together, among 41,916 families. Celibacy is very prevalent in England. In the southeastern division, of women under the age of 45, the wives were less than 170,000, and the widows and spinsters more than 120,000. Of 67,609 households, 25,253 belonged to single men and women. These are startling facts. It is said, however, that now, since the rise in wages, caused by the influx of gold from California and Australia, marriages have become more frequent.

One of the most important facts developed by the census was this—that the city and country populations are now equalized—ten and a half millions for each. The consequence is that England no longer grows food enough for her population. She has ceased to be an agricultural country, and has become a manufacturing and commercial one. Many people maintain that the nation has now reached its culminating point and will begin to decline, for that in all ages a preponderating town population has sowed the seeds of death in kingdoms. Others, however, believe that there is space enough in England for all that can be born for a thousand years to come; that agriculture has now become a science and will increase to a corresponding degree in productiveness; and when we think how the land was once peopled in Judea, with towns and cities almost joining each other throughout the land, we may well wonder that there has been any talk as yet of overcrowding England.

STEAM GUN BOATS IN THE BALTIC.—Mr. J. Scott Russell, an English ship builder, writes to the London Times the following account of a class of steam gun boats in the Russian Navy. He says:

"I know as a fact that the navies of certain foreign Governments are in possession of steam gun boats of a description and power for which no vessel in our navy is at all a match. These vessels have proved themselves in the open sea to be perfectly good sea boats. They go under steam in their best trim 15 statute miles an hour, and in their worst 13 statute miles an hour. Their light draught of water, when fully armed and equipped, is only 5 feet; and their load draught, with coals for 2000 miles, is less than 7 feet. They carry four long 68 pounders and four long 32 pounders. They can fire two of the 8 inch guns parallel to the keel at either end, and they can bring all the four 8 inch guns over to either side for a broadside. These long 8 inch guns are all mounted on traversing slides, and there is ample room for the stowage of the guns when out of use, and for working them in action."

I have seen these guns worked with perfect ease and security in a heavy sea—in so heavy a sea that the water was coming over the weather bow in such quantities that an experienced officer in the navy, now commanding one of her Majesty's ships in the Baltic, assured me that it would have been impossible to work the long guns of her Majesty's steamer of 1200 tons, which he then commanded, in similar circumstances, without the water pouring down the bore of the gun. Two experienced captains in the navy were on board at the trials of these ships in the North Sea three years ago, and I know they communicated in high quarters their opinion that in case of a war it would be most important that our Admiralty should be prepared with a sufficient number of such vessels.

I ought to add that the portion of these vessel, which is immersed in the water is entirely of iron, while the portion above water is mainly of wood, and the bulwarks behind which the crews are placed in time of action are entirely of wood, and similar to those of other men-of-war."

FATAL RIOT IN BROOKLYN.—A serious riot occurred in Brooklyn, New York, on Monday evening last, in which three or four persons were killed and several wounded. It arose from street preaching. A procession of two hundred Americans were attacked by the Irish, and pistols, clubs and bricks were used in the affray. A regiment of troops was called out and the riot finally quelled.