The Plattsmouth Weekly Berald.

KNOTTS BROS., Publishers & Proprietors.

English Funerals.

Directly after the breath leaves the body the window blinds, usually inside Venetian shutters, are pulled down, the windows of the room where the death occurred being left slightly open, howevtake its celestial flight. This latter is an old superstition, a very poetic one. In the country the house door is left ajar on the day of the funeral until after the mourners' return. "Because," they say, the corps. To leave it open is to show a welcome to the spirit's return." In the country, notably in Hampshire and Somler village folk is composed of white to the cemetary, the other mourners following on foot to the grave.

Naturally such customs are impracticable in a city like London. Only itimate friends, but not the more immediate famfamily, accompany the body to its burial place. The leave taking of the family is private. Other friends assemble in the drawing rooms. There is no cervice until reaching the chapel in the cemetery where one takes place, if at all, as suplementary to a final one at the grave itself. Only when the deceased has been a great public man is there service in the church he attended in life, or in St. Paul's, the Abbey, or other noted sacred edifice. This service is called a "mourning function." Memorial services, on the other hand, for a noted man or woman may occur simultaneously in many churches.

There are no crape streamers on the door knocker or bell handle, as in Philadelphia or other cities in America. The blinds are down, the knocker muffled and frequently straw is placed in the street for half a block to deaden the sound of vehicles. It is also an unwritten courtesy of the neighbors to draw their blinds on the day of the death and on that of the funeral. Thus we know the "King of Terrors" holds his grim, duml court within the house withd rawn blinds and muffled knocker.

Even in the last four years changes in the funeral customs have taken place Some people still rigidly keep to the old ways. Therefore, if we should not at first be sure of death, the presence on the doorsteps of two lugubrious persons would prove it. These, relieved with other two at certain intervals, stand one on each side of the door to weep until the period shall be ended between th death and the removal to the cemetery. These paid mourners are "mutes." Their business is to weep, and they perform it faithfully In solmn black garments, hands in black gloves, broad streamers of crape, called "weepers," about their hats, they ply handkerchiefs to their eyes, black-bordered and gloomy. When there are no passers by they discuss the local politics or their own affairs. Directly some one heaves in sight, up go the handkerchiefs. The ends of their noses are suspiciously red. One feels that gin is the cause of such a perpetual flow of salt water from their weak reddish eyes It is, despite the solemn cause of their employment, exceedingly droll. They look like pen and ink sketches, and their marionet woe is ghastly in its grotesque ness. Strange that this custom of the early Romans should be survived until the nineteenth century. Many of the Roman rites have lingered on these isles of Great Britain, once so extensively used as Roman encampments. "The funeral baked meats" of sacred as well as profane history-these are still prepared. Poor, indeed, the London family which fail to have a banquet provided on the funeral day for the assembled friends.

So wides-pread is the horror concerning being burried alive that bodies are kept here longer than in America. It is re garded as barbarious to keep a body less than a week, and ten days is more fre quently the time. Of course in cases of contagious diseases the authorities enforce speedy and private burial. Perhaps the humid atmosphere is not conductive to mortification. Certain it is that less ice is used here, if used at all, than in America on these melancholy occasions.

The funeral flowers are even more extravagantly used than in America, and not alone white flowers, but all the delicate hued blossoms pertaining to the season. Besides natural flowers quantities of a species of overlasting white pinks are used. These flowers come from Africa and are called "Cape flowers," also "wraith flowers." They resemble in shapes a double carnation pink, and are graceful, to hit a slowly moving object with a rifle ghost-like blossoms. They are regarded as a still one. The secret of all shooting as lucky emblems, messages from the is to get your gun in the right place and spirits, and are rather a joyous garniture then let her go in a flash It is quite as than otherwise, since they are symbolic easy to kill a running rabit with a rifle of hope. Another floral extravagance is in the form of composition -China flow- have tried it that it is not widely known. ers made up into wreaths, crosses, auchors, etc., which are preserved under raised who are experts with the rifle, but not glass ca and are placed on the mound good hunters. They shoot altogether at

up squarely like a low bed, with a headtone or monument at the head of the

hearses have made their appearance with of no people nor nation is dependent upare jet black and have tails sweeping a man of character and of experienceer, from the top to permit the spirit to nearly to the ground. They also have and imbued with modern ideas, more or handsomest horses are devoted to funeral travel, both for hearses and mourners' "to shut the door would be to shut out carriages and liverymen there are who fortunate assistance of Bismarck and laborously as though for ring riding in a pected with the incoming of a new adersethires, the usual shrowd of the simp- circus. Their dirvers sit very high up ministration. Not wholly foreign to the cotton wadding, shaped about the body | throne like perches. Their crape weepers | been that he would modify where Bisdressed in ordinary undergarmets. The flow down their backs from one to two marck has been unrelenting; that he coffin is borne on the shoulders of friends | yards from their hats. The horses' heads | would mitigate where the old regime has don Cor. Philadelphia Record.

Through the Suez Canal.

A writer in the Saturday Review de scribes how the trafic along the Sucz canal is directed and controlled from the office at Terreplein, near Suez. The number of ships in the canal at the same time is sometimes very great. On the 8th of December last, for example, fifteen steamers cleared the canal, of which seven ing day seven, so that during the 8th

oat or model, three or four inches long these model ships stands ready beside the model canal, each furnished with a flag. About forty have the English flag, ten or a dozed the French flag, and so on with other nationalities. As the steamer comes up and her name is known it is written on paper and placed on the toy boat. The whole number of ships thus actually in the canal at any moment can be seen at a glance, and as telegraphic signals give notice the toy boats are moved along, or placed in a siding, or shown traversing one of the lakes at full speed. Signals are sent from the office to various "gares" prescribing the siding at which each ship must stop to let another meet and pass it. The official who is on duty keeps the models moving as he receives notice, taking care when perhaps two ships going in opposite directions are both nearing the same siding to give timely warning to the pilots in charge by means of the signal balls and fiags at each station under his control from the office, and to direct which of the two is to lie up and which to proceed. Barring accidents, the whole arrangement goes like clockwork; the clerk can read off in a moment the name, tonnage, nationality, draft and actual situation of every steamer: he can tell what pilot she has on board, what is her breadth of beam, what rate she is moving at, and everytheng else which had to be known about her, and he is able without an effort to govern all her movements, to prescribe the place where she is to pass the night, and the hour she is to get under headway in the morning, although he does not see her and probably never saw her in his life. The fees which vessels pay for passing through the canal are often enormous. Some of the large liners of the P. & O. of the Orient service pay as much as £1,800 in making a single transit. For every passenger half a napoleon, or 8 shillings 4 pence, is charged. Three-fourths of the ships that go through the canal are

Shooting at Movable Targets.

There is a good deal of talk of rifle shooting at movable targets these days. Most people imagine that in order to hit anything with a rifle a man must have a solid rest and take a long aim. Such is not the fact. The best rifle shots at game seldom take a rest, except at long distances. After a little practice it is as easy as with a shotgun, but so few persons There are several gentlemen in this city Arv. This mound is raised targets.-Lincoln Democrat.

Germany's Prince

Conflicting reports about the health of Germany's Crown Prince are affoat, but it The funeral hearse is either open at the can be surmised from them that he is in sides and ends or it is closed in quite danger. Were he to die, it would be a dark. During the last year or two a few misfortune. The destiny or well-being Like flood tide on the angry deep, great waves glass sides. These are called "American on a sengle man, but, for all that, the funeral carriages,"but are not popular. Crown Prince's death would create con-The hearse is ornamented with huge way- ditions that would be unhappy for Gering plumes of toal black. The horses many and for Continental Europe. He is long, full manes which the passing breeze less, great expectations are entertained of during their slow measured stepping his rule, which, in the natural order of blows lightly about. The largest and things, were it not imperiled by disease, should begin soon. As great as his veteran father has made Germany, by the keep nothing else in readiness. These Von Moltke, there is need of improvehorses have to be broken and trained as ment. Reform in Germany could be exwith a black velvet pall across their Bismarck idea, the hope in the Prince has are decorated with nodding plumes. The | been typically the martinet in character "mutes" walk behind the hearse, -Lon- and policy. Comparatively well-advanced in years, it can be individually written in the sense of sympathy for the Prince, that it would be altogether bad for him were helto die now, just as his foot is at the base to ascend a throne which has been made so grand and strong as Germany's, -Omaha Herald.

The Daughter's Room.

The cares of the sitting-rooms and kitchens comes under the management of were outward-bound. On the previous the grownup portion of the family, but day nine ships cleared, and on the follow- every little girl from 10 years old and upwards loves to think that her bed-room some thirty ships were probably in the is her very own, her special domain, canal. Sometimes there are as many as where she may reign absolutely, with forty, and all are completely under the none to dispute her right. Here, then, control of the French gentleman at his is the mother's chance, if she is only judesk in an upper chamber of Terreplein. dictiously enough to turn it to account. The method of work is exceedingly sim- Encourage the little one by all means in luck. ple. Against the wall at one side of the the belief that the room is hers hers to com is a narrow shelf or platform, along beautify and adorn in any way which which runs a groove. At intervals this her fertile little brain may advise; trough or groove has deep recesses, and hers to retire to when she wishes to be at two places these recesses are of a larger alone, either to do stern battle with her size. This trough or groove represents lessons, for, girl-like, to dream her wonthe canal. The recesses are the sidings. | derful day dreams, and hers above all to The larger intervals are the Great Bitter keep in perfect order and neatness. This lake and Timosh. When a vessel has knowledge will go a long way towards been signalled and is about to enter the fortering in the child all those elements tell his lawyer the plain truth.-State canal at, say, the Suez end, a small toy of character so essential in the woman, Journal. s chosen to represent her. A group of gradually exercise her individual tastes and ideas, and thus acquire an interest in domestic concerns which, nnder other circumstances, she might never obtain .-Country Gentleman.

> will make the proposed trip to Alaska this summer is, of course, very faint. But even if he should go the danger to the country's finances would scarcely be so great as some conspicuous journals fear. During such a trip it is supposed he would be out of telegraphic commun ication for about three weeks, and during that time the alarmists dread that "locking up of currency" in the treasury vaults may produce a contraction at a time when the president may be powerless to relieve it. There are two ways, under present laws, of preventing any dangerous contraction of the currency. One is by buying bonds in the open market, and the other is by paying interest on the bonds before it is due. The secretary is as well aware of the existence of these laws as he is of the fact that the last of the 3-percent bonds are called. He also knows that he has power to adopt either of these methods, whenever he chooses, without the president's direction, or even without his knowledge. The country has no good reason to fear that the secretary of the treasury lacks the judgement and courage enough to successfully meet all the financial perils which the country is likely to encounter until congress meets even though the president should be out of telegraphic communication with Washington for the next six months .-

-Some of our esteemed democratic centemporaries are trying to work up steam against John Sherman by noting the fact that the boys in blue and the boys in gray that fought out the late war are friends now and respect and love each other very much. But John hasn't said anything against the "boys in gray" nor attempted to stir up "the boys in blue" against them. Only one "boy in gray" figures as a democratic leader, and he has Sample bottles 10 cents. Try it. (1) just been elected by a scratch down in Florida to the United States senate and will probably turn out a good fellow. The brigadiers in gray were not "boys" in the popular acceptation of the term.

The balance of the democratic leaders for the most part were careful not to wear any uniforms of either shade during the late upleasantness. It may be said that Sherman is in the same category. But then it must be remembered that John did realy set out to be a soldier when the war broke out, and was dissuaded from the enterprise by Mr. Lincoln, who wanted a good man or two in congress to back him there. His big brother, Tecumseh, however, did enough fighting for the family, and so Shherman is acquitted of

Reconciliation.

I had a friend, but in the heat of rage, When passion killed his nobler sense of mind, He smote me, and in silence worse than words

A weary round of years went by, when came, Of trouble rolling onward in our paths :

Alike the skies were dark for both, Alike the gentle, smiling sun beamed forth. Then, after we had felt the fire of life, Fate, chance, or God, or what you will, took up

The raveled ends of our remaining days, And brought us face to face. I met him in the early dawn when morn, Gray heoded and with somber mien,

Looked o'er the hills upon a drowsy world. Pale was his face, and in his eyes I saw Few were the moments till his race was run. He turned upon his couch, his dying couch, And bade me hear the last words of his life. Yet ere he spake his breath forsook his lips, And with a gentle, winning smile, he passed "Into the confines of another world"-And I rejoice he spake not, for his smile

Was better far than idle words. -Will B. Dickson in Kansas City Journal.

-Faults of digestion cause disorders of the liver, and the whole system be comes deranged. Dr. J. H. McLean's Strengthening Cordial and Blood Purifier perfects the process of digestion and assimulation, and thus makes pure blood.

- In his address to the law students the other day Ben Butler gave the coming petty forgers an abundance of sound advice from his own budget of experiences. Among other things Ben told them never to defend a criminal until he had made a clean and full confession of his guilt to his lawyer. Then he would know how to go about the defense and would not be liable to surprise when the testimony came in and he should find to his cost that his client had lied to him.

The old lawyer does not seem to grasp fairly the idea that a man arrainged for a crime is or may theoretically be held innocent by his lawyer. If an innocent man is indicted he evidently considers it a hopeless task for any lawyer to take his case. He ought to have had better

Probably Ben's experience in criminal practice has taught him that there is no such thing in fact as the arraignment of an innocent man. The duty of the criminal lawyer therefore consists in getting off a guilty person. This theory of Butler's sounds brutal enough, but doubtless it is held by most successful practitioners in the criminal line. The prisoner, must

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> -The judicial election in Chicago resulted in the complete defeat of the democratic end of the compromise ticket. The citizens' convention, engineered by the bar association, endorsed the republican nominations, but repudiated the democratic candidates on the ground that they had paid \$5,000 each to the democratic bosses for their nominations, and put up three candidates in their places. The republican candidates were elected without opposition and the citizens' candidates were elected by a majority of more than two to one over the democratic nominees. The socialists and anarchists worked for the election of the democratic nominees, but though there was a very light vote their support was of no avail. The anarchist leaders have lost their grip on chicago, and Carter Harrisonism is deader than a door nail .- Lincoln Jour-

Enjoy Life.

What a truly beautiful world we live n! Nature gives us grandeur of mountains, glens and oceans, and thousands of means of enjoyment. We can desire no better when in perfect health; but how often do the majority of people feel like giving it up disheartened, discouraged and worn out with disease, when there is no occasion for this feeling, as every sufferer can easily obtain satisfactory proof, that Green's August Flower will make them free from disease as when born. Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint are the direct causes of seventy-five per cent, of such maladies as Billiousness, Indigesttion, Sick-headache, Costiveness, Ner vous Prostration, Dizziness of the Head. Palpitation of the Heart, and other distressing symptoms. Three doses of August Flower will prove its wonderful effect.

It may seem a little queer but Kapelani, the dusky queen of the Sandwich islands, knows more about the United States than our own President Cleveland. She has traveled the continent from ocean to ocean, visited all of its principal cities talked with many of its representative men and has much better idea of the greatness of the country than the fat man who, by the grace of St. John and the mugwamps, sits in the executive chair .- Gazette Journal.

-If you suffer pricking pains on moving the eyes, or cannot bear bright light, and find your sight weak and failing, you should promptly use Dr. J. H. Mcmugwumpery during the war. -State Lean's Strengthening Eye Salve. 25 cents

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PETER MERCES.

-It is a good while sence the Ameri can eagle took such a flight as he did at a democratic convention the other day in Lee county Ky. It appears that one Sebastian, was before the convention for nomination for the state senate, and it was the following speech that swept the convention like a tornado and secured

Place our banner in the hands of J. M. Sebastian, and the future will show the correctness of my assertion, that high over the thunder-riven craigs of politics it will float through the dark hours of strife and when the struggle shall have ended aloft over the thirty-fourth district will its ample folds spread forth, and with wild acclaim of joy will we see blazoned thereon in burning letters of light the legend of glorious triumph-"Victory. -Sioux City Journal.

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