

THE ETERNAL CITY.

MODERN NOTIONS CROWDING OUT THE OLD AND PICTURESQUE.

Growing Disrespect for the Sabbath—A Vast Change Taken Place—The Priesthood and the Military—Foreigners. The Roman Cowboy—Malden Fair.

Rome is unquestionably the high school of art, but in its everyday aspect it is a disappointment. The city has lost its individuality. Government employes pave the streets on Sunday, and men saw wood in public on the same day.

Business is at a standstill on Sundays. Boys begin early in the morning to scream their discontentedness in the streets, and this is done by announcing the best prices they ask for long onions they carry with them on a long string; green looking men, with fish on platters, cry out the excellence of their stock, while others, with huge bunches of celery, laurel and other things, degrade the festival with their noisy and unbecoming cries.

A vast change in modern notions has arrived. A street railway skirts the Coliseum, and omnibuses come one another into the famous precincts of the city. The site of a grand palace, razed in 1859, is now a beer garden, with the beverage at three cents a glass, and the walls of the building allowed to suit the purposes of the business conducted therein.

Many men have been drawn to their destiny by the most trivial occurrences. Fenimore Cooper became a novelist through his wife's challenge. One evening, while reading a novel, he threw it down, saying: "I believe I could write a better book myself."

Deserted, save with occasional exceptions, is the public square, crowded with massive steps. Roman girls of rare beauty and bright hair dress went to congregate to hire their charms for the artist's guidance in his work.

I have measured a great many Roman coffins, and my average shows that the Roman could not have greatly exceeded five feet five inches. In taking measurements of ancient armor, I find that the English armor has decidedly increased in average height within 500 years.

The mummy of the celebrated Cleopatra measures about fifty-four inches, about the height of the present European girl of 13. The most ancient mummy of an Egyptian king yet discovered measured fifty-two inches.—Nature.

A Tramp's Modest Request, Farmer's Daughter—I suppose you want my father to take you in for the season? Tramp—No, miss; if you will kindly sew a shirt onto this button, that's all I ask.—Harper's Bazar.

VERY SLIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Instances Where They Have Led to Grave and Important Issues.

It is stated that when Leopold von Ranke began to collect facts for his history, a singular accident occurred in his native town. A bridge gave way one morning, and some persons were swept away in the current beneath. Van Ranke, who was absent at the time, on his return inquired into the details of the catastrophe.

A few moments' consideration will convince any one that some of the most momentous crises in history have hinged upon very slight circumstances. A glass of wine, for instance, changed the history of France for nearly twenty years. Louis Philippe, king of the French, had a son, the Duke of Orleans, and heir to the throne, who always drank only a certain number of glasses of wine, because even one more made him tipsy.

If Mr. Grenville had not carried, in 1765, his memorable resolution as to the expediency of charging stamp duties on the plantations of America, the western world might still have been under British rule. In connection with this matter, there is another slight, albeit remarkable, circumstance, which may be told in Thackeray's own words.

The great failure of the potato crop in Ireland cannot be called a slight circumstance, yet it was comparatively slight when compared with the momentous changes which it brought about; for the repeal of the corn laws was hastened by the potato famine. As Lord Beaconsfield has observed: "This mysterious but universal sickness of a single root changed the history of the world."

Oysters in Australia, and of very good quality. The government controls them, and the law forbids their being taken from the water till they reach a certain size. A license is required for the fishermen, and holders are required to pay thirty-six cents for every three bushels of oysters. The annual license fee is \$50.—Chicago Herald.

Caputney of the Churches. St. Peter's, in Rome, will accommodate 54,000 persons; Dome of Milan, 37,000; St. Paul's, in Rome, 25,000; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 23,000; Notre Dame de Paris, 21,000; the Dome of Florence, 20,000; the Cathedral of Pisa, 16,000; St. Mark, in Venice, 7,000.—Public Opinion.

Care of an Oil Painting. "Never roll up an oil painting with the reverse side out," said an artist, recently. "If it is raining or snowing the wetting of the reverse side will make the paint in front peel off. Don't be afraid to have the paint outside if you must roll."—Chicago News.

Next Century's Science Primer. "What would one not give," asked Lubbock, "for a science primer of the next century to paraphrase a well known saying, even the boy at the plow will then know more of science than the wisest philosophers do now."—Arkansas Traveler.

The Test of Ability. "That young Simkins is a very charming fellow. He was talking to me all the morning, and he was so clever." "What did he say?" "Oh, he didn't say anything, but he put it so well."—Lafé.

The entire literature of Abyssinia, it is said, does not include more than one hundred volumes. The manufacture of orange wine is becoming an established industry in Florida. The population of Paris is said to be decreasing.

HAS HE FORGOTTEN THIS?

"A little sweetness I've borrowed, To brighten this sad life of mine; For long, oh, so lonely I sorrowed, To think that I never should twine My arms around one in affection; But a desolate, trampled vine, I should never receive the reflection Of a love that was glowing as mine."

"Now I wander alone in my bowers, And I worship each plant anew; For before they were only frail flowers, Now each one is something of you. I turn from the pale blossomed lilies, So cool and of purity a hue, To the red gorgeous columbine, For, oh, they remind me of you!"

What Sherman Says of Grant. I said to Gen. Sherman: "General, was not Grant, after all, one of the most remarkable characters which have come across your orbit?" "Yes," said Sherman, "Grant was simply a wonder. To think of that man in his great success, stagers all of the examples you can get out of the book. I was at West Point, in what you might call the senior class, when Grant came in there as a plebe. It might be said with truthfulness that he made no impression at all as a cadet, except as a good writer. As a student he was not effective. But he made a military policy of his own, apparently derived upon observation, taking advantage of the simple things which occurred to him, and he figured in one of the great wars of history as a man almost solitary and alone."—Gath in Boston Globe.

Discovery in China Painting. The present manufacture of porcelain is a comparatively recent industry, and is constantly reaching fresh results. The under glass treatment of china, for example, was not known here twenty-five years ago. It was a secret guarded most carefully, and confined to a few European and eastern factories and workers. It was a girl who discovered it—Miss McLaughlin—and now it has become the property of all expert china decorators. Her success was not alone important to china painting as an art; it was specially valuable in raising the estimate put upon the work of her own sex, and has perhaps done more than ought else to stimulate to good results the work of women in this branch of industrial art.—Jenny June in American Magazine.

Peculiarity of Billiard Players. I have noticed a peculiarity of professional billiard players, their remarkably high foreheads. Take George Stenson and Jake Schaefer, for instance, both have very broad and high foreheads, and the others are the same. Thus Vignaux, Carter, Thatcher, Maggioni and others, go right through the list, and you will notice this peculiarity among all of them. The possible exception to the rule is Billy Goss, who has the lowest forehead of any billiard player I ever saw. Can it be that a high forehead is necessary to acquire great skill at billiards? It may not be so, but it is a fact that all the champion billiardists of the world have had this peculiarity.—Hank Widen in Globe-Democrat.

World Make No Difference. Tombs Dealer (to widow)—I have a second hand stone, marble, which I can make quite a reduction on. Widow—Any inscription on it? Tombs Dealer—Simply, "The good die young." Widow (contemplatively)—Let me see—William was high on to 89, but I don't suppose the inscription would make any difference if you fix the price right.—The Epoch.

Water Held by Woods. The proportion of water held by different woods varies greatly. According to Schouler and Harbig, freshly cut horn beam contains 18.6 per cent of water; willow 38 per cent; ash, 28.7 per cent; birch, 30.8 per cent; oak, 34.7 per cent; pine, 39.7 per cent; red beech, 33.7 per cent; elm, 41.5 per cent; larch, 48.6 per cent; and white poplar, 53.6 per cent.—Arkansas Traveler.

A Cruel and Unusual Punishment. "Now, my son," said a Round man to his youthful offspring, "you have disobeyed me again, and you must be punished. Take this Waterbury watch and wind it up. Mind, do not stop winding until the spring is tight." "Oh, father," sobbed the boy, "I'll save the whole cord of wood if you'll not punish me like that."—Kingston Freeman.

Origin of Color Blindness. That the origin of color blindness lies in the brain, and not in the eye, has been suggested by Professor Ramsay. While engaged in teaching in Brooklyn some years ago, the principal of a school insisted in treating every case of the sort as dependent on the will of the pupil. His remedy was the rod. This certainly seemed a tyrannical and unworkable treatment, but the result was favorable to his theory. It is possible that a thorough examination will ultimately demonstrate that the fault lies very largely in the selfish methods of observation which have grown up under the old classical system of education, and which have to a large extent become hereditary.—Science.

The Confectionery of India. All kinds of India sweetmeats are made of brown sugar, many of them moulded into various shapes of birds and beasts. Tubes also are made, filled with honey, and twisted into various forms. Then there are balls of sugar and clarified butter. These confectioneries are soft and melt in the mouth. Those made by the higher caste differ from those made by the lower, according to the laws of caste.—Wide Awake.

A DIPLOMAT'S DINNER.

A Plain and Cheap Banquet Where Every Body Was Extremely Well Pleased. Some years ago an accomplished diplomat at Washington, the representative of a power not of the first importance, expressed his regret to a friend that he could not give dinners, "because," he said, "my government is poor, and I cannot afford it." The conversation occurred at the profuse and splendid table of a rich and courteous host, whose friends were of great fame, and whose invitations were credentials of admission to the best society.

The young minister of the small and poor kingdom was one of the most accomplished men in Washington. He was known to have exercised a profound influence upon the course of a decision of a United States court in a western state, and to have made the correction in English, which was a foreign tongue to him, but in English so minutely chosen and urbane expressed that the justice was probably unconscious of the modification of the correction. The young minister had no foolish fond reserves. "My government is poor, I am poor, we are all poor in my country," he said, "and I and my secretary work like day laborers here in Washington to acquire and to report necessary information to my government." But nobody was more sought; there was nobody whose coming more surely brought pleasure to any circle than that of the young minister.

The day of the dinner came, and a plainer and pleasanter dinner was never known in Washington. Every guest, from the secretary of state and the English envoy to all their neighbors at table, gave every week, indeed, requests much more magnificent. But the simple dinner, admirably cooked and served, without display of table service, without the carp and nightingales' tongues, but with the enlivening and inspiring charm of the host and the welcome variety of plainness, after the luxurious extravagance and ostentation of the usual dinner, was so fresh and delightful that the satisfaction and pleasure were universal, and the skeptical colleagues who had thought great cost essential to a successful dinner owned himself converted, and the next month ventured upon a similar feast, and with the same success.—George William Curtis in Harper's Magazine.

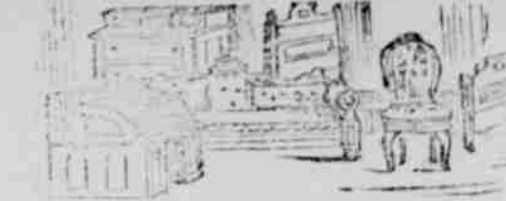
Letting a Thousand Pounds. To lift 1,000 pounds on the health life is no very remarkable feat for a person of average strength, giving sufficient time daily for a few minutes to practice. Mr. Blake learned in this way that at the age of 17, to lift 1,000 pounds after only six months' practice. Those who wish to lift an actually measured weight will find it necessary to adopt some such plan as was employed by Totham, preparing a framework to bear the weight and standing in its midst, so as to lift the weight by means of systematically attached straps. For the body cannot when at all aslant, bear such a weight as 1,000 pounds.

Whether such exercise is good for the body as a whole depends a good deal on the opportunities which a man has for correcting an abnormal development of the lifting muscles by means of other exercises, increasing the development of other muscles and giving activity as well as strength to the frame.—Richard A. Proctor.

Georgina and Cressida. The Georgian has a beauty quite different from that of the Cressidan. The Cressidan is dazzling, queenly and stately. She has a fair skin. She is elegant in form. She is kindly and gentle in ways, but lazy in movement and without spirit. One of her own sex has said: "There is no soul in a Cressidan beauty; and as the pillows her pure, pale cheek upon her small dimpled hand, you feel no inclination to arouse her into exertion; you are contented to look upon her and to contemplate her loveliness." The Georgian is a creature with eyes like meteors and teeth almost as dazzling as her eyes. Her mouth does not wear the sweet and unconscious smile of her less vivacious rival. But the proud expression that sits upon her finely arched lips records so well with her stately form and lofty brow that you do not seek to change its character.—Home Journal.

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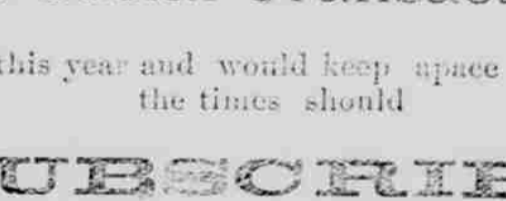
Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of Political, Commercial and Social Transactions of this year and would keep pace with the times should

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