

THEY SHUN THE MINISTRY.

Young Men of Talent Refuse Clerical Orders in the Church of Scotland.

The scarcity of young men desirous of entering the ministry of the established church of Scotland and in a slightly less pronounced degree of the free church is creating much solicitude among the clerics. It has already so lessened the attendance in the different university faculties of theology, especially in Aberdeen and St. Andrew's, as to be nothing short of a scandal. A movement is on foot to either unite the two faculties or abolish that of St. Andrew's, but as such a change would involve the re-consideration of the relations between the universities and the churches on the one hand and between the churches and the state on the other, it is not probable that it can be effected at short notice.

WOMAN IN A NEW FIELD.

Opens a Shoe Shining Parlor with Conveniences for the Fair Sex.

"Dot" Parkhurst, a Brooklyn woman, has opened in 42 West Twenty-second street, in the heart of Manhattan's shopping district, a shoe shining parlor. The rooms are furnished daintily and appropriately, just as a woman would desire. There are lace draperies at the windows, with carpet on the floor, a writing desk and materials for those who wish to use them, and a long-distance telephone. At one end of the room, shut off by screens, is a platform of Italian marble, on which three small boys polish the shoes of the patrons, free from public gaze. A manicure establishment is also maintained in conjunction with the shoe polishing force. Miss Parkhurst said: "I have no desire for notoriety in this matter, as I am in it for the purpose of legitimate moneymaking and not to exploit myself or advertise my relationships. I hope to take care of myself, and am succeeding better than I hoped. Women patronize freely, and I have frequent requests over the telephone for the services of my boys. I would like to employ girls as boot-blacks, but do not seem able to get any, as those who would be neat in appearance do not like this sort of work. They may be willing, however, to benefit themselves in the future. My personal belief is that a woman is ordinarily as competent to carry on business as a man. I am certainly willing to try."

RAILROADS FOR YUCATAN.

American Capital to Construct Lines That Will Open Up Valuable Timber Lands.

The Southeastern Railroad company of Yucatan, which was formed some time ago largely with American capital, for the purpose of constructing lines in the state of Yucatan, Mexico, has just concluded final arrangements with the Mexican government. It is expected that contracts will shortly be placed in the United States for rails, locomotives, cars, etc., which, it is estimated, will involve an expenditure of some \$2,000,000. It is also anticipated that an American contracting concern will be allotted the contract for the construction of the road.

Among the New Yorkers interested are Henry P. Booth, president of the Ward line of steamships; W. D. Munson, president of the Munson line; James M. Motley, H. H. Barnes and Felipe G. Canton. These men hold nearly one-third of the capital of the company, which is \$1,250,000. The railroad will be nearly 300 miles long, and will open up a country said to be rich in logwood, cedar and other valuable products, which cannot be taken advantage of under existing circumstances because of lack of transportation facilities. The entire system, which is calculated will cost fully \$5,000,000, is to be completed inside of two years.

Uses Music While Drawing Teeth. Dr. Laborde, of Paris, has communicated to the academy of medicine a method of drawing teeth which is not only painless but positively pleasant. One of the objections to the use of anaesthetics is that in many cases the patient suffers from a terrible species of nightmare. This is due to the effect of various noises on the brain. If, however, for ordinary noises, such as the sound of traffic in the streets, the voices of people in the room, etc., strains of music are substituted, the patient, instead of the usual terrifying nightmare, has delightful dreams. Dr. Laborde's invention consists of two small phonographs, which, fastened to the ears, are set in motion just as the anaesthetic is administered.

Prohibition of Pilgrimage. No person will be permitted to make a pilgrimage to Mecca this season from any of the infected portions of India.

A WONDERFUL CLOCK.

A Bohemian Watchmaker Works Twenty Years on Timepiece.

Stands Eight Feet High and Measures Fifteen Feet Around the Base—Has Four Dials on Front Face.

An old man, weak and very near to the grave, has just completed a piece of work the accomplishment of which has been his dream, waking and sleeping, for the past 20 years. He is Frank Bohacek, a Bohemian watchmaker, who lives in a broken-down building at 6304 Winchester avenue, Chicago, in the midst of a little settlement of his countrymen. Bohacek has produced a wonderful clock, and his neighbors, who for many years have looked on him as a visionary, pottering away on old cog wheels and springs, have seen his handiwork and now consider him a wizard. The old man was one of Chicago's first and best jewelers, with a little store at Eighteenth and Wood streets, and he prospered so well that early in the '80s he was able to retire on a small competency. Then he evolved the idea of his marvelous clock, and he worked on it early and late till it became almost a part of his life.

It is a giant among clocks, standing 18 feet high and measuring 15 feet around at the base. On its front face it has four dials—one the ordinary 12-hour plate, one of 24 hours, another with three hands showing the day of the year, the month and the week, and the fourth presenting a wonderfully accurate movement of the earth and other planets about the sun, which is represented by a red electric globe. The moon is also shown in its correct revolutions, and the sphere representing the earth swings on its own axis every 24 hours, passing through the solstices and equinoxes with astronomical accuracy.

Thirty automaton figures, representing American presidents from Washington to McKinley and Uncle Sam, Columbus, Dewey, Franklin, an Indian and America, pass an opening at the top of the clock with intervals of two minutes between each. Bohacek is still working on the clock, and plans to add a phonograph arrangement and chimes of bells. He does not intend to exhibit it publicly or sell it, but says he will be well content to spend the balance of his life attending the mechanism he has created.

DREAMS OF DEATH.

Visions That Appeared to a Woman Three Times Are Verified.

Mrs. Maria Conkling, wife of David Conkling, living near Rockhill, N. Y., who died suddenly the other day, had a presumption of her fate and foretold her death, having been warned in dreams on three successive nights that her end was near. The facts in the case, which are authenticated by members of her family and by neighbors to whom she related her dreams while making preparations for death, which she was convinced was near, are as follows:

She was 49 years old and apparently in perfect health. Monday night she dreamed that her daughter, who died 12 years ago, appeared to her and beckoned to her; Tuesday night, her mother, who died 25 years ago, appeared to her while she slept and beckoned to her. She told these dreams to her family and was much disturbed by them. Wednesday night she dreamed that a black-robed figure of death stood by her bedside holding a taper, and while it beckoned the taper suddenly went out. She interpreted the visions as meaning that death was near, and that it would be sudden, and made preparations. That afternoon, while engaged in household duties, death came from a stroke of apoplexy.

NEW YORK'S NAVAL ARCH.

Magnificent Monument Proposed to Cost \$830,000, with \$300,000 Extra for Approaches, Etc.

The trustees of the Naval Arch association have approved the general design for the arch submitted by Ernest Flagg and referred it to their finance committee, with instructions to organize at once for the collection of funds. Simultaneously the design goes to the municipal commission. The architect's estimate now fixes the cost of the arch, including its statuary, at \$830,000. The approaches, beacons, sea walls and monuments thereon will cost about \$300,000 additional. A model of the arch in miniature is being prepared and will be placed on exhibition in a few weeks. The arch will be 125 feet wide and 125 feet high, up to the cornice. The Victory and Sea Horse groups will add 35 more feet to the height. The entire structure will be of white marble, with the exception of the base, which is to be granite.

Recipe for Four-Act Comedy. London Truth gives the following rules for writing a successful four-act comedy: "Act 1. Get the characters into a mess. Act 2. Get them into a worse mess. Act 3. Get them into the worst possible mess. Act 4. Get them out of it as best you can."

Three-Fourths of a Jury. The Massachusetts senate favors a constitutional amendment to permit three-fourths of a jury to render a verdict in civil cases.

A MONSTROUS LAZY CRITTER.

An Aquatic Fowl That Is Too Indolent to Eat the Food It Catches.

"During a recent trip through the lower western section of the country," said a young man who has recently returned to New Orleans, says the Times-Democrat. "I believe I discovered the laziest and most stupid form of life to be found anywhere on the globe. It was an aquatic fowl, with a big clumsy-looking beak, in form something like the dodo, now extinct. I have spent much time in watching this fowl, which is found in some of the shallow lakes, and the chief point of interest to me was the startling stupidity displayed. They call them shags, I believe, out west. They generally squat on stumps or logs in the lake and watch for the smaller fish that play around the surface of the water. They are fairly clever in catching what they want, and they throw out their bills with considerable precision when they get to eat. But they never get to eat what they catch until they have fed at least one and maybe more than one member of another kind of water fowl. Whenever a shag begins to catch fish, a long-legged, long-necked water hen will take a place immediately behind him. When the shag lands the fish, the water hen simply reaches over and gets it. Without any show of resentment and without turning around, the shag will continue its watch for fish, and this is kept up until the water hen has finished its meal, and then, if no other enterprising member of the same tribe comes along, the shag is permitted to enjoy the product of its own sleepy efforts. I have, on one occasion, seen one shag feed as many as three water hens before eating a single fish. It is certainly a singular display of stupidity, and after having watched the performance a number of times I am convinced that the shag is actually too dull to even know that the water hen stands behind him to steal the fish out of his mouth."

HER HUSBAND'S PARTNER.

Much of D'Oyley Carte's Success Was Due to His Wife's Efforts.

D'Oyley Carte, the dramatist and manager, whose recent death was sincerely regretted by members of the dramatic profession, owed much of the success he achieved to his wife, one of the most remarkable women in her way that ever was associated with theaters, says the Chicago Chronicle.

Joining Mr. Carte's company in a somewhat subordinate position, she soon showed a grasp of everything connected with the stage—so completely astonishing, indeed, that everybody used to say Miss Lenoir—the Frenchified and dramatized version of her own name of Black—had the head of a man and the shoulders of a woman. She could keep accounts in bookkeeper fashion, dress a piece in a way that a French dressmaker might envy, bargain with authors—in short, do all sorts and conditions of things in dramatic work, until in the end she had all the threads of Mr. Carte's business in her hands, and when he and she got married it was the conclusion of a great business partnership, as well as the joining together of two people who had a true and abiding affection for each other.

In recent years the business partner—the devoted wife—has had to perform the duties of the tireless nurse, and it was to her soothing hand that poor D'Oyley Carte owed the alleviation he received during the tedious journey which lies between constant ill health and welcome death.

COLONIAL SABBATH LAWS.

None More Rigidly Enforced Than the Regulations Regarding That Day.

A narration of the laws relating to the Sabbath and the prosecutions due to them would fill a huge volume and make interesting reading. The rigid Puritan observance of the Lord's day had its origin with the Puritans of old England and reached its fullest development in Puritan New England, says Donahoe's Magazine.

None of the laws were more rigidly enforced than those intended to prevent the "prophaning of the Lord's day." The old records are full of convictions for violation of them. Capt. Kimble, of Boston, was in 1656 set for two hours in the public stocks for his "lewd and unseemly conduct," which consisted in kissing his wife publicly on the Sabbath day upon the doorstep of his house, when he had just returned from a voyage after an absence of three years. The story is told of Robert Pike, of Amesbury, that, having to go on a journey, he waited patiently until the sun sank behind the western clouds on Sunday evening, and then mounted his horse; but he had only gone a short distance when the last ray gleamed through a break in the clouds, and the next day he was brought before the court and fined.

Military Advice Grants. "The public are very fond of offering me advice," Gen. French told an interviewer. "One fellow wrote: 'Why don't you collar your horses?' And then I also have my little correspondents who take me after their own fashion. 'My Dear French,' came from a Rugby boy, 'I want you to send me your signature, but mind you don't let your secretary write it,' and a little girl, expressing herself as very wishful to see me back in London, pointed out an immense number of ink smudges she had traced on the paper, and said she hoped I would take them for kisses."

REORGANIZING ARMY

Desire to Have Work Accomplished by August 1.

Considerable Apprehension Felt Over Getting Full Quota of Competent Line Officers by the Above Date.

A special to the New York Tribune from Washington says: At the war department it is said that efforts are being made to have the reorganized standing army fully officered and equipped and enlisted to the strength of 75,000 by August 1. More apprehension is felt over getting the full quota of competent line officers by the date mentioned than over the recruiting of the 15 new regiments. Except for this, it is probable that Secretary Root and Adj. Gen. Corbin would have accompanied the president on his western trip. It is true that nearly all of the 800 or more line officers of the grades of first and second lieutenants created by the new law have been designated by the president, but every one of these appointees must undergo a rigid mental and physical examination before commissions in the regular army are issued to them. On the law of averages it is estimated by experienced army officers that fully one-third, and perhaps half, of those originally designated by the president for appointment will fail either on mental or physical examination. In order to meet this exigency lists of alternates by states are being prepared by the secretary of war and the adjutant general, to whom the president has turned this task over. The alternates are being selected from the long list of applications now on file in the war department, with reference, of course, to the wishes of senators and other influential men in the several states.

In order to expedite the work of disposing of the hundreds of applicants already selected by the president, Secretary Root and Gen. Corbin will appoint a dozen or more boards of examiners to sit in various parts of the country where the convenience of the appointees will be best served. Whenever an appointee fails to pass the examination the name of the first alternate from his state will be certified to the board for examination, and this process will be continued until the full quota of subalterns created by the new law is complete. It is not thought that the examination will be in full swing for six weeks, or two months yet, and on this expectation is based the reckoning that not before August 1 will all the new officers be selected.

TO BUY AUTO FIRE ENGINE.

London Committee Recommends the Purchase of an American Machine.

Soon there will be an automobile fire engine whizzing along London streets. The fire brigade committee of the London county council has come to the conclusion that the first city of the empire must not lag behind the times much longer. In a report which will be submitted to the council the members will say they have found it expedient to substitute some more rapid method of traction than is now afforded by horse power.

Commander Wells has been devoting considerable time to a study of the best method of fire traction. He is of the opinion that the most satisfactory system will be a steam liquid fuel motor. He has recommended a car manufactured by the Locomobile company of America. The committee has advised the council to purchase such a car for £285, together with a spare boiler and two spare tires.

HAD HUNDREDS OF TEETH.

Prehistoric Dwarf Was Well Supplied with Masticating Apparatus.

Lately while a crew of stone laborers were working an excavation through the Forman cliff, two miles east of Newport, Tenn., for the bed of the Tennessee & North Carolina railroad, they found a human female skeleton 19 inches in height, in a perfect state of preservation. The only anomaly was the teeth, which were 200 in number and had no sockets, but were developed and grew upon the jawbone with no adjacent valvular process. The bones were hermetically sealed and sent to the Smithsonian institution.

The skeleton was found in solid rock ten feet from the face and eight feet from the top of the cliff in a cavity two feet by fifteen inches. About the cavity was no opening crevice or aperture for the skeleton to enter since the formation of the cliff more than 2,000 years ago.

WONDERFUL STRIKE OF GOLD.

Two Men Wash Out \$5,000 a Day in the Eldorado Creek District.

Men who have just arrived from Dawson say a second strike has been made in the marvelous Eldorado creek district in Alaska. Two men who discovered the spot washed out \$5,000 the first day. Pans of dirt taken from the streak yield as high as \$50 each, and not a bucket of the gravel comes to the surface that does not contain nuggets running all the way from a quarter of an ounce to an ounce in weight, pure gold. The messengers say that the strike has created the wildest excitement all along Eldorado, and that miners are flocking to the neighborhood by the thousands.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

Soon to Pass from Control of British Military Authorities into a Naval Station.

Halifax will soon cease to be a military station and pass exclusively under the control of the British admiralty. This statement was lately made in official quarters, says the Ottawa (Ont.) Citizen.

Halifax has been a military station since 1749, and it is now proposed to make the city one of the greatest naval stations in the world. In addition to the men of the fleet there will be a reserve consisting of about 2,000 soldiers and marines, of which 600 will be marine artillerymen. This naval reserve force will be retained here. Information states also that royal engineers will be retained and continue under and in charge of the submarine department. The royal marine artillery belonging to the reserve force will be required to man the forts, and will, when necessary, be assisted by sailors. It is the intention to station in Halifax a regiment known as the royal garrison regiment. This will be recruited from time-expired men, who will be required to serve four years before going on regular service. The garrison will, of course, be under command of the admiralty, and the British admiral will replace the army general, who has hitherto commanded the station.

It is also stated that the works at Esquimaux will also be transferred wholly to the admiralty department. A military officer stated in conversation the other morning that he would not be surprised should an announcement be made that the imperial government had decided to construct and operate a factory near Halifax for the manufacture of small arms and ammunition.

CHINESE PEANUTS.

They Are Nothing But the American "Goobers" Prepared by the Celestials.

The trans-American railways have their agents in all parts of the world—commercial agents, industrial agents, car service agents and oriental agents, as well as the regular assortment and variety of freight and passenger agents. The oriental agent of the Great Northern railway in this city, says the New York Press, is Mr. Moy Wu Yen, a highly interesting Chinaman, who carries in his pockets a handful of Chinese peanuts with which, from time to time, he regales his friends. In the midst of business he suddenly conceals his hand beneath his blouse and asks: "Will you try a Chinese peanut?" The hand, soft as that of a gentle maiden, reappears with the nuts, and you are tempted. You yield with pleasure, accepting one. It resembles the native "goober," which ex-Gov. Campbell failed to endorse, but is the most delicious morsel in the nut shape that you ever tasted. Mr. Moy laughingly tells you, when you ask where more nuts can be had, that they are not Chinese peanuts at all, but the familiar old Virginia "goober" prepared in the Chinese fashion. "We take the raw nut," he explains, "and dry it perfectly in the sun, leaving it many days on the house-top. Then we soak it in salt water—brine, you call it—for three days, after which we again dry it thoroughly. This may take a week. Then we put it in an oven in a pan of very hot sand, and continually stir until it is cooked well done. That is all. Nothing could be more simple. The peanuts the Italians roast in their sheet-iron cylinders—no Chinaman would touch one! We say Chinese peanuts to love fun with our friends. There are no Chinese peanuts."

TRANSPARENT MIRRORS.

Exceedingly Curious and Interesting Optical Effect of the New "Platinized Glass."

Mirrors that one can see through are a new invention already coming into use. They are of so-called "platinized glass," being backed with a compound made of 95 per cent. silver and five per cent. platinum, and, optically speaking, they are exceedingly curious and interesting. Looking into a glass of this kind, one finds a first-rate reflection; it is a mirror and nothing more. At the same time, a person on the other side can see directly through it, says the Saturday Evening Post.

For example, a glass of this sort placed in front of the prescription desk in an apothecary shop perfectly conceals the prescription clerk and his apparatus. Thus the privacy of that department is secured, while on his part the clerk is able to survey the shop and see everybody who comes in just as if the mirror were ordinary glass. It is transparent to him, but is like any common mirror from the viewpoint of people in front. It is easily seen that glass of this kind is likely to be useful for a good many purposes. It can be put in the doors of dark bathrooms, or of any other rooms where privacy is desirable and light is wanted. Anybody who has observed his own reflection in the plate-glass windows of shops will understand the principle well enough. The effect is merely enhanced by an extremely thin coat of the platinum silver, which allows light to pass through, and yet furnishes an excellent looking-glass. The process consists in pouring over plate-glass nitrate of silver and platinum, and then applying Rochelle salts.

Good for Stamp Collectors. One pleasant thing about exhibitions, says the Chicago Record-Herald, is that they give the post office department a chance to vary the monotony of the stamps.

DEBTS OF THE WORLD

Aggregate Over \$30,000,000,000 at Close of Nineteenth Century.

Statistics at Close of Eighteenth Century Had Indebtedness of Only \$2,438,250,000—Increase Largely Due to War.

The recent announcement of a new British loan of \$300,000,000 lends interest to a statement just issued by the treasury bureau of statistics regarding the national debts of the world. This statement shows in brief that the national debts of the world aggregated more than \$30,000,000,000 at the close of the nineteenth century, or ten times as much as in the closing years of the eighteenth century.

In 1803, at the beginning of the Napoleonic wars, the national debts of the world amounted to approximately \$2,500,000,000; in 1900 they were, according to the best information obtainable, \$31,000,000,000. In general terms it may be said that the world's national indebtedness in 1900 aggregated ten times what it did at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Maritime population has increased 150 per cent., and gold and silver, which form the basis of the money, with which debt payments are made, 300 per cent., though the proportion of the existing gold and silver which is turned into coin is now much greater than at the beginning of the nineteenth century, while the utilization of the various forms of credit as currency may have increased the world's circulating medium quite in proportion to the increase in its national debts.

Whether national wealth has increased as rapidly as national indebtedness is equally difficult to determine, since official estimates of national wealth were made at the beginning of the century in the case of only a few nations. The wealth of the United Kingdom, France, Spain and the United States in 1800 is estimated at \$20,244,600,000, while Mulhall in 1888 estimated their wealth at \$195,759,829,000, or practically ten times that at the beginning of the century. The debts of these four nations in 1793 aggregated but \$1,630,270,000, and in 1900 were \$11,794,000,000, or seven times as much as in 1793. If the rate of growth in wealth which has characterized the four nations during the century may be also properly applied to the world at large, it may be said that the growth of national wealth has about kept pace with that of national indebtedness, since national wealth in the cases where it can be measured is to-day ten times as great as at the beginning of the nineteenth century and the national indebtedness, where it can be measured, is to-day about ten times what it was at the beginning of the century.

The relation of war, with its ever-increasing cost, to national indebtedness is shown by a study of the detailed debt statements of the world at various periods during the century, presented in the following table. From 1793 to 1843 national debts only increased from \$2,438,250,000 to \$4,419,000,000. The latter half of the century, however, has experienced great and costly wars, the Crimean, the civil war in the United States, the Franco-Prussian, the war between China and Japan, and those of the closing years of the century and accompanying this period the national debts have grown from \$4,419,000,000 in 1848 to \$31,500,000,000 in 1901, as will be seen from the table which follows:

NATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS OF THE WORLD

1793	\$2,438,250,000
1843	4,419,000,000
1848	4,419,000,000
1853	4,419,000,000
1858	4,419,000,000
1863	4,419,000,000
1868	4,419,000,000
1873	4,419,000,000
1878	4,419,000,000
1883	4,419,000,000
1888	4,419,000,000
1893	4,419,000,000
1898	4,419,000,000
1901	31,500,000,000

RIVAL OF AMERICAN COTTON.

India's Product to Be Largely Used by Japanese Manufacturers—Can Be Bought Cheaper.

The steamship Oopack brings news that the shipments of raw cotton from the United States to the orient will be greatly affected by immense purchases of Bombay cotton, just made by the Cotton Spinners' union, embracing the largest cotton manufacturers of Japan. Their agents have bought 250,000 bales to be shipped within the next few months. Of this quantity the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will carry 100,000 bales at 12 rupees a ton. Many manufacturers intend to mix Bombay with American cotton while others will use the former exclusively. It is laid down in Japan cheaper than American cotton.

Elephants in England.

While excavating for the foundations for the new buildings of the Victoria and Albert museums in South Kensington a car load of fossilized bones was brought to the surface by the workmen. These were taken in charge by Dr. Woodward, of the geological department, who pronounced them the remains of the primitive denizens of the soil that lived there before man came to interfere with them. The bones belonged, he said to a London newspaper representative, to the elephant, the stag and the primeval horse, and date back to a time before Great Britain became isolated, ere yet the Straits of Dover had been cut through.

Consumptives in New York.

Dr. Alford Myer thinks there are 25,000 to 30,000 consumptives in the city of New York. He announces that the treatment of consumptives has reached a point where, instead of being uniformly fatal, as was the case a few years ago, more than half of the patients are wholly or partly cured.