

## WAIFS AND STRAYS.

MAN regards woman as an end, but is regarded by her as a means to an end.

It is much easier to die for the cause of virtue than to live according to the tenets of virtue.

'Did I tell you what my boy said to Hicks?' asked Marberry. 'Yes. Four times last night and three this morning,' said Barton, wearily.

Nothing exasperates a woman who has been shading her eyes from the daylight with her hand all the evening so much as to find that after all she had left her best diamond ring on the washstand.

The success of a plant depends not upon its size, as compared with the other plants of the garden, but upon its steady and healthy growth. So the success of a human life does not depend so much upon the rank it takes among others as upon its own continual progress.

## WEIGHED.

## AT CHURCH.

All richly clad within her cushioned pew  
She sat, and heard a tale of sorrow told  
Of want and hunger 'mong the suffering poor,  
And down her cheek the tears of pity rolled.

## AT HOME.

Within her boudoir rich she sat and thought,  
'With pleasure would I meet this piteous call,  
But every cent I've got to spare must go  
For a new dress to wear at Hutton's ball.'

No tie can be so close, no love so strong as to form an excuse for telling a secret which belongs to a third party; and it is a false sentiment and a mean jealousy that would require it at the hands of a friend or lover, husband or wife. Every one is at liberty to decline to receive such confidence if he please; but, having received it, he has no right to impart it.

He was on the road, and billed to appear in a small town. When he came upon the stage he was so tipsy that the audience hissed him. Steadying himself against the scenery, the actor said: 'Ladish and shentlemens, when an artist of my standing consents to appear at all in such a little one-horse town ash thish, he must either be drunkish or crazshy. I prefer to be considered an inebriate.' The audience roared and forgave him.

The people of Paris have consumed within the year 21,291 horses, 229 donkeys, and 40 mules, the meat weighing, according to the returns, 4,615 tons. At the 180 shops and stalls where this kind of food is sold, the price has varied from 2d a pound to 10s, the latter being the price of superior horse steaks. But only about one-third of the meat is sold fresh and undisguised; the rest is used in making sausages, and it should be added that 402 horses were seized and condemned as unfit for food before entering the sausage state.

The salary of the British Ambassador at Paris (Lord Dufferin) is £10,000; at Constantinople £8,000; at St. Petersburg, £7,800; at Rome, £7,000. Sir A. R. Paget at Vienna has £8,000; Sir E. B. Malet at Berlin, £7,500; Sir F. C. Ford at Madrid, £5,500; Sir Horace Rumbold at The Hague, £4,000; Sir George Petre at Lisbon, £3,750; Sir Henry Drummond Wolff at Bucharest, £3,550; Sir E. Monson at Athens, £3,500; Sir F. R. Pinckney at Stockholm, £3,400; Lord Vivian at Brussels, £3,230; Mr St. John at Belgrade, £2,050; Mr Scott at Berne, £1,450; while at Munich Mr Drummond has £1,700; and Mr Strachey at Dresden, £950.

In case any of my readers may have heard of the salicin treatment of influenza, I may tell them that salicin is a substance obtained from the bark of the willow tree, and has been much prescribed by physicians in the treatment of rheumatism. Dr. T. J. MacLagan has advocated giving 'ten grains (of salicin) three times a day, for many weeks, in cases of influenza, the idea on which this treatment is founded being that influenza, being a germ-producing disease, the salicin acts as a germ-killer when it gets into the blood. Of course it may not be at all necessary to give salicin in the above doses for more than a few days. It is said to cure influenza more rapidly than any other form of treatment.

'Last Friday,' says an up country journal, 'we were nominated for mayor by acclamation: this is equivalent to election. We don't deny that we sought the nomination. We have had our eye on it for a year past. We shall also do our level best to snout our opponent under. We have been moved to this course by a desire to see the town well-governed, and because we believe the mayor should be the representative man of the town. We are that man. There's no use in filling and backing and talking about modesty and self-conceit and all that. We lead this town. We know more than any ten men in it rolled together. We shall make the best mayor the town has ever had, and we shall see that all the city printing is given to ourselves at legal rates.'

What is the one thing in America that strikes an Englishman as most unlike what he finds at home? According to the Duke of Marlborough it is the American woman. She has a natural quickness for appreciating the characters of the men around her, and she takes infinitely more trouble, and in some respects greater interest all round than the English woman displays. Maternity does not seem to crush everything else out of them as it does with all classes in England. The bright cheery girl remains the gay carefully-dressed married woman who is always trying to show herself off quietly to the best advantage; and she understands the art perfectly among all classes of the people. In middle age and even later in life she seems to preserve a perennial interest in everything around her; she does not grow old mentally as so many English women do. The tendency to nagging and gossip-mongering of an ill-natured character, moreover, seems rarer in that country. The Duke of Marlborough, in drawing his portrait of the American woman, suggests that the climate has something to do with these differences of disposition; but then the American man is under the same 'skye influences.' Yet he, we are told, so far as club life is an indication, is pretty much like the same sort of person we should expect to find in England.

## BOOKS AND BOOK-MEN.

MOST certainly humorists are rare. During the last decade no writer has ever for even a moment ousted the bookman whose portrait I now give this week from the position of the freshest, most invigorating, humorist known to readers of latter day English literature. Mr Clemens—Mark Twain as he calls himself—has made us all laugh, and there is nothing we have laughed at which is not absolutely cleanly and free from all double meaning. 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,' 'Huckleberry Finn,' 'The Tramp Abroad' are perhaps his best works, though the 'Innocents Abroad,' 'Life on the Mississippi,' and his shorter stories run them very close. Yet he is not only a humorist. As a light and chatty descriptive writer



MARK TWAIN.

Mark Twain is unexcelled. 'The Tramp Abroad' is a most excellent descriptive guide to certain parts of Europe, and 'Up the Mississippi' gives perhaps the finest idea of that mighty river that has ever been printed. There are one or two accounts of his reason for the selection of Mark Twain as a *nom de plume*. As most people know he began life as apprentice to a printer, but ran away to become a pilot boy on a Mississippi steamer. Here, so says one authority, he constantly had to cry out 'Mark Twain' when as leadman he signified that there were two fathoms of water, and that he adopted these familiar words as cognomen when he came to write. His own story, however, if my memory does not play me false, is that Mark Twain was the name of an old pilot whom Clemens grievously offended, but for whom he had a great respect. When the old fellow died Clemens took his name 'for luck.' As he himself explains in his various works he has been every thing. He was, by the way, born at Florida in 1835. Mark Twain is now touring in Europe, and his letters on his travelling experiences are appearing week by week in some of the New Zealand papers.

'WOTTON REINFRED,' the so-called original novel by Carlyle now appearing in the *New Review*, is a dull, heavy piece of work which should never have seen the light. Whole passages are almost verbally identical with passages of 'Sartor Resartus,' and the *Speaker* last month suggested it might be an attempt to reduce that immortal work to a more popular form. Now, however, the *Speaker* has come to the conclusion 'Reinfred' preceded 'Sartor.'

LORD TENNYSON'S action in accepting £100 for seventeen feeble lines on the death of the Duke of Clarence, which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*, has been very unfavourably criticised. People are asking what the Laureate receives £200 a year for if this sort of thing is to be permitted. Alfred Austin, whose verses were infinitely finer than Tennyson's, wrote them within a few hours of the Prince's death, and gave them to the people through next morning's *Times*. The poem was not merely obviously spontaneous, but properly timed and placed. Tennyson's laboured lines, hammered out a month late are so bad they have not even been widely quoted.

MR MORLEY ROBERTS, whose volume of short stories called, 'King Billy of Ballarat,' has just been published, will be heard of again. His work is unequal, but the tales which are good are very good indeed. Like Kipling, Mr Roberts can draw a vivid picture in a single sentence. Volumes of tenacious misery are condensed into 'A Domestic Tragedy,' and the even grimmer 'Father and Son.' 'A Quiet Man' and 'The Sheriff of Red Butte' remind one of Bret Harte.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

## SAWDUST.

It is stated that a German firm has perfected a means of making a profitable disposition of sawdust by which it is applied to a mechanical use, and has thus far been attended with success. An acid is mixed with the sawdust, and the whole mass moulded into blocks or any other form, resulting in a fine material for building purposes. The blocks assume extreme hardness of surface, and are practically non-combustible. The material in the moulded forms is said to be much stronger than timber in these forms, and much lighter than either iron or steel, and can be prepared cheaply.

## ELECTRIC SEARCH LIGHTS.

The subject of the use of electric search lights in military operations at night continues to engage the attention of different Governments, and experiments have recently been conducted both in Spain and in Turkey. In the former country a Mangin projector was employed. It was mounted upon a special wagon, together with a length of cable and accessories, whilst on a second wagon the boiler and a turbo-electric generator giving 110 amperes at 70 volts were placed. In Turkey two projectors were tested, one being of the same type as that used in Spain, and the other a German apparatus with a parabolic reflector. The results of the experiments were entirely satisfactory, and it was found possible to distinguish objects at distances ranging from three to nearly six miles.

## AMMONIA FOR SNAKE-BITE.

Dr. Gunther, F.R.S., the celebrated herpetologist, recommends the following treatment for snake-bite: A ligature or two should be made, as tight as possible, at a short distance from the wound, and between it and the heart. The ligature should be left on until the proper means are provided to destroy the virus in the wound, and until medicine is taken internally; or until great pain or swelling necessitates its removal. The punctures are to be enlarged by incisions at least as deep as the wounds, to cause free efflux of the poisoned blood, and to facilitate its removal by sucking. The wounds should be sucked by the patient himself, or by another person whose mouth is free from wounds.

## THE SPREAD OF DISEASE BY BOOKS.

Seldom do we stop to think, on taking a book from a public library, who might have handled the volume last. Books are lent out and go from family to family, no attention being paid to the fact that they may have been handled by a patient having a contagious disease. The *British Medical Journal* mentions a case where a physician recognised in the house of a patient suffering from scarlet fever a book which he had noticed a few days before in the room of a former patient suffering with the same disease. On inquiring he learned that a few days after borrowing the book the symptoms of the second case appeared. The paper used for covering library books soon becomes roughened and undoubtedly furnishes the means of transmitting infectious diseases. Libraries should be notified either by the Board of Health or by the attending physician of any cases of infectious diseases.

## DISCOVERED.

Diamonds in their rough state are not much more attractive than pieces of quartz or glass, and one picked up in the diamond fields of South Africa would probably be thrown away as a worthless specimen of stone by a boy or girl. In fact, something like this first led to the discovery of the rich diamond mines near Cape Town, South Africa. A Dutch settler's child was found playing with pretty pebbles one day near her father's lonely home in South Africa, when a stranger happened to pass. Noticing the glassy pebbles carefully, he induced the child to give the playthings to him, and, after an examination, he was satisfied they were real gems. History does not tell whether he made the child a present for the valuable discovery, but the incident led to an exploration of the country, and to the establishment of the largest diamond mining industry in the world.

## MECHANICAL FLIGHT.

Mechanical flight is a subject often discussed by schemers, but now for the first time approached in a truly scientific manner. Lord Raleigh and Professor Langley, both physicists of considerable standing, have investigated the conditions necessary for successful mechanical flight, and in their experiments they have employed a kite 110 feet in length and 40 in breadth, which has been propelled by means of a light petroleum engine, working a large screw. The result of this experiment must not be put down as more than affording a promising field for future study. In these trials it has been found quite possible to drive the large kite carrying an engine worked mechanically, and to cause it to lift itself by compression of the air beneath it.

## CURVATURE OF THE EARTH.

Any figures relating to the earth's curvature must of course be understood to apply to large surfaces of water, the inequalities of the land preventing exact measurements. A straight line a mile long, touching the earth at its middle point, would be 2 1/4 inches from the surface at each end. The visible horizon of a man 5 ft. 6 in. high, standing on the shore, would be two miles 167 yards distant. Such a person could see a rock rising 12 feet out of water 5 miles 1,320 yards away. If he stood 20 feet above sea level, the same rock would be visible at a distance of 9 miles 120 yards. To find the distance of the horizon: 1/2 times the square root of the height of the eye in feet equals the distance of the horizon in miles nearly. Given the distance of an object, the height the eye required to see it may be found by squaring the distance in miles and multiplying by 2 for height in feet.