

"Do you want your likeness for family use?" asks a Sydney photographer, as he seats his victim, "or for reproduction in the newspapers?" The price is the same, but the likeness is not.

**A New Judgment of Solomon.**—Frederick Duck and John Barberi both claimed the ownership of the same goat at Long Island City (U.S.A.) last week. To decide the dispute the animal was brought into court. It suited Barberi over, but fawned on Duck. The magistrate decided in Duck's favour.

Notice of motion was recently given by Mr Joseph Hoult, the Conservative member for the Wairarapa Division, declaring the constitution of the Board of Trade to be obsolete, and urging the substitution for it of a Minister of Commerce and Industry.

In his parish magazine, the vicar of Tillington invites young men to join the "Bell-ringers' Guild," on the ground that bell-ringing is a preferable pastime to the "brutal game of football," which has stolen some devotees from his belly.

Ethem Pasha, the victorious general of the Turco-Greek war, is in supreme command of the Turkish troops in Macedonia, and his appointment to this position is in itself a sufficient proof that the Turkish Government takes a serious view of the situation.

An ideal condemned murderer from a reporter's point of view has turned up in America. Charles Grether, a condemned murderer in prison at Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, has asked for a telephone to be fitted in his cell. He is anxious to converse over it with his friends, and also to communicate with the newspapers.

At the Marlborough Gun Club's £100 Pigeon Match, shot off on Tuesday, the 24th ult., Mr Broderick, who tied and divided £60 with Messrs J. Redwood, H. Cheeseman, Annandale, Eccles, Price, G. Cheeseman, and Richardson, was using the Colonial Ammunition Company's "Favourite" cartridges, with the company's patent bi-concave wadding.

A coincidence of a peculiarly grim character has occurred in the experience of the Rev. T. E. Phillips, of Pittsburg. Twenty years ago while he was in Sterling, Illinois, he was called upon to preach a funeral service over a well-known resident there. During the service the man came to life. Mr Phillips has just visited Sterling again for the first time since that incident. He received another call to officiate at a funeral. It was the same man. This time the obsequies were not interrupted.

Modern enterprise! M. Giron, says the Geneva correspondent of the "New York Herald," has had many offers from people who were willing to make his fortune—and, incidentally, theirs. One energetic manager of a London music hall offered him an engagement at an enormous salary, while a gentleman from New York suggested a series of lectures in the States. The princess in this case was to accompany him on the stage, but would not be expected to speak. Another astute business man wanted him to write an advertisement endorsing a certain well-known patent medicine. The strangest offer of all came from a circus proprietor, who offered to organise a gigantic outdoor fete, at which M. Giron would make an ascent in a balloon.

Over 1,000,000 cwt. of apples were imported into England in 1902 in excess of the imports of 1901.

In the trade this great increase is attributed almost entirely to the shortage of the home crop, but the "Gardeners' Magazine" believes that the fact that England is every year becoming more and more a fruit-eating nation is put without an important bearing on these figures.

It points out as a proof of the great advance which the banana has made, the number of bunches imported during 1902 being 2,865,700 (valued at £1,040,263); or more than double the number of the 1900 consignments.

A strong protest against the criminal alien was made by the Recorder at the Old Bailey recently. "These foreigners," said Sir Forrest Fulton, referring to a case in which three aliens were charged with assaulting a constable, "invade the shores of this country, compete with our own citizens in their efforts to obtain a livelihood, and not only are they undesirable, but some of them are undesirable of the most violent class. This court is occupied for days each session in trying these disreputable foreigners, whom, nevertheless, we receive with open arms in a manner which would be possible in no other country in the world." Equally emphatic protests have been made by the head of every other judicial tribunal of London.

Our great-grandfathers had a way of announcing marriage ceremonies which would hardly find favour nowadays. The following cases in point have been unearthed:

"On August 22, 1782, at Bath, Captain Hamilton, aged 28, married Mrs. Moseon, an aged lady of 86, but possessing rank and much wealth."

"Robert Judge, of Cooksborough, Ireland, aged 95, to Miss Annie Nugent, aged 15. Robert Judge was an officer in King William's army, and was wounded in the nose."

At the New Zealand Defence Force Rifle Association meeting at Trentham, on March 5th last, the Colonial Ammunition Company's 303 ammunition, of which fully 600,000 rounds were used, gave the greatest satisfaction. We hear from a good authority that Colonel Scoville telegraphed both to the Right Honourable the Premier and General Babington saying that the ammunition used was very satisfactory, and equal to the best the Colonel had come across while in England a short time ago, when, it will be remembered, he attended a Bisley meeting, where he had the best chance of judging the merits of the English 303 manufacture. This speaks well for the New Zealand manufacture, and we congratulate the company on the quality of their ammunition.

The German Emperor and Empress have evidently found their subjects—at any rate, some of them—a little too obtrusive and gushing in their demonstrations of homage and curiosity, for the official telegraph bureau has issued an article, evidently inspired by the Court Marshal's Office, begging the toady public to restrain themselves at the sight of their Majesties riding or driving through the streets. The Emperor and his august spouse are, of course, grateful and pleased that a desire should be abroad to show them respect, but they would be greatly obliged if such persons as are animated with this laudable desire would tone down their demonstrativeness and refrain from frightening the Royal horses by hurling bouquets and waving handkerchiefs. People with petitions for the Emperor are also informed that documents of this character are more likely to be noticed if sent through the usual channels than if pitched into a passing carriage.

It is announced, on the authority of a fashionable London corset-maker, that England's male curled dandies are at present suffering from an attack of "corset fever"; and that, in the swell London army clubs, "stays" are as seriously and as deeply discussed as if they were a weighty problem of State. The hump-backed man, who might use corsets with advantage, caught the idea from the comical De Wet chasers of the army; then the dude, who daily parades Rotten Row, thought his "Bianca" would look much more fetching, encased in whalebone; after which the waxed, beltoppered sparks of the Stock Exchange "caught on." As a result, in London to-day, the male corset is worn openly and without a blush, and men of fashion and social weight hail each other up to consult anxiously about their respective whalebones and to consider whether they would look better if they tightened in a little.

The well-known Assyriologist, Dr. Hugo Winckler, has published an account of the legislation promulgated by King Amraphel of Babylon, which, so far as is known at present, was the first book of laws ever given to the world. King Amraphel lived 2260 years B.C.,

and is mentioned in the Bible as a contemporary of Abraham, so that his statutes were drawn up fully five centuries before the laws of Moses. They number 282, and contain the following:—

If a woman who sells beverages gives bad value for the money paid to her, she shall be thrown into water.

If a wife be a spendthrift, or if she otherwise neglect her duties, her husband may put her away without compensation; but if a man put away his wife for no other reason than that she has no children, he shall return her whole dowry.

If a betrothal be rescinded, the man shall pay the woman compensation.

A widow with grown-up children may not marry again without permission from a judge.

One of the Paris newspapers has been giving an interesting list of the works of the late M. Zola, apropos of the forthcoming sale of the author's country house at Medan, which is valued at £8000. The list includes the numbers sold of each work—a fair criterion of the popularity of the different subjects treated. "La Débâcle," which reached by far the largest number of sales of any one book, ran to 207,000 copies, and brought the author in several thousand pounds; of "Nana," the second favourite according to the publishers' figures, 193,000 copies were sold; "Lourdes" and "L'Assommoir" were bought to the extent of 154,000 and 151,000 copies respectively. It is calculated that M. Zola's profits on his household books during the past thirty years reached £60,000, and in addition he received as much as £1000 for each newspaper story contributed during the past decade, and nearly £40 weekly from the "Figaro" for special articles. Large sums were also derived from the dramatic works and popular editions.

An interesting action for damages is just now before the Genoa courts, by which a photographer named Ricci is being sued by Signorina Ida de Frate for £3000 damages. Some time ago the lady, who is exceedingly beautiful, had her photograph taken by Ricci in the ordinary way, and the portrait was such an artistic one that Ricci decided to avail himself of the craze for picture postcards by publishing the photograph in this form. Thousands of the cards were sold in all parts of the country, and Ricci is said to have reaped a handsome profit. On account of the publicity given to the lady in this way, Signorina Frate's affianced husband broke off his engage-

ment and refused to marry her. Hence the action for damages against the photographer, who, however, maintains that it was with the lady's consent that the cards were circulated.

Quite recently the world was startled to learn that a syndicate had been formed—in America, it is needless to add—to utilise the full moon as an advertising medium. There is, however, another scheme, also of Yankee origin, which is infinitely more full of terrifying possibilities. Parrots are being trained in America to shriek in the ears of customers such phrases as "Have you tried Cyrus B. Flint's chewing gum? If not, why not?" The idea has "caught on," in this country, and bird fanciers and amateurs will soon be spending hours every day impressing innocent young birds with the fact that "Blank's baking powder is the best." Bovril, Limited, are endeared with the idea, and are now considering the advisability of offering handsome prizes for ingenious birds who will rattle off the Bovril catch-phrases, as seen on the hoardings, without once descending to the usual parrot flippancies. The birds will be scattered among the retailers, and elderly ladies waiting to be served at the grocer's will be suddenly startled by a weird travesty of a voice, coming from nowhere in particular, exclaiming: "I hear they want more Bovril!"

The Melbourne honorary beak really seems to be a good deal of a plain fanatic. The latest outbreaking of this person arose over the case of a jam factory girl of 16, who, seeing a strange girl in the street, knocked her down, and kicked her over the heart till she was insensible. She was removed to the hospital, and it isn't certain that her injuries aren't permanent. And when the murderous female was fined 1/ with 21 costs, and allowed eight weeks to pay, the following dialogue took place:

Mr. Phipps, J.P., who said he thought it was scandalous for a girl sixteen years of age to be sent out to earn her living at a jam factory, dissented from the decision.

Mr. Witt (clerk): Look at that poor girl, probably injured for life.

Mr. Phipps: Look at that other poor girl, sent to earn her living at a jam factory!

The humanity of the J.P., when he has any, seems a quantity "notic and one-sided sentiment. Because he thinks a girl shouldn't work at a jam factory he holds that she should be allowed to nearly murder another girl with impunity.

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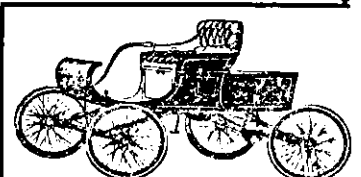
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