

# "The New Zealand Graphic."

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# Here and There.

A well-dressed young American and his wife, while passing through St. Paul's churchyard, London, one day last month, caused considerable amusement among the fair sex by the novel manner in which the dutiful husband was carrying the baby, slung in front of him in a broad leather strap, which was passed round his neck.

Three Fisherrow (Midlothian) fishermen were out on the Forth when a storm arose, and for a time it looked as if they were not likely to successfully make the harbour. At this juncture one of them said, "Taru, can ye pray?" "Naw, Wattie, I canna." "Weel, just lift a bit hymn." "I dinnae ken ony." Lord presbyter's Tam, we intae dae something' relegious." "Weel, Wattie, let's make a collection!"

The question who invented the clever phrase "the kailyard school" to describe Scottish fiction of the present day, is set at rest by Mr. J. H. Millar, in his "Literary History of Scotland." The title was given to an article by Mr. Millar, which was published in the "New Review" when that periodical was edited by the late Mr. Henley. Mr. Millar has, therefore, been generally supposed to have originated the phrase, but he explains that Mr. Henley himself, in his editorial revision of the article, invented it.

The Pope's mother is still living. "What a proud mother she must be," remarks a Catholic contemporary. In the study which Cardinal Sarfo has occupied for the last ten years the only ornament was "the picture of a grey-haired peasant woman, in fustian dress, and with a kind, intelligent face"—the mother of the new ruler of the Catholic Church. His three sisters—Maria, Rosa, and Anna Sarfo—are also "living, and are well-preserved women of over 60," an excellent peasant type of Northern Italy.

Visitors to Stratford-on-Avon may frequently see two ladies driving a small trap drawn by a pair of shaggy Shetland ponies. The occupants are probably Miss Marie Corelli and Miss Viva, who is her great friend. One day quite recently the local guide pointed out Miss Corelli's residence to an American tourist. "Well, I guess," he remarked, "that is a fine house, and I wonder Miss Corelli has never married." "Well, you see, sir," replied the guide, "Shakespeare is dead."

F. Weiss, the Australian champion billiard-player, who is touring South Africa, played a match recently at Ladysmith with A. Johnson, who was conceded a start of 350 in 750, while Weiss only counted breaks of 50 or upwards. The local man won, scoring 750 to 510 by Weiss. Johnson's highest break was 31, and Weiss' 98. In a match with H. Levy, at Ladysmith, Weiss conceded 200 points in 500, and counted breaks of 80 and upwards. This time he won easily. He made breaks of 100, 110, 134, 82, and 80 (unfinished); while he once broke down at 78.

A well-known figure at Baltimore has passed away in the person of a man named Miller, who in face and form was the ideal model for "Uncle Sam." Miller was tall, thin, with aquiline nose, prominent features, clean-shaven upper lip, and a bunch of white chin-whiskers. When he donned the gorgeous raiment accredited to the part, he seemed to fill perfectly the fanciful character of "Uncle Sam," so familiar to every American. He first appeared in public at Washington many years ago, and since then he has taken part in practically every inaugural parade. He was in the World's Fair procession at Chicago. As Miller grew older the better he played his part, and even took to drawing his words through his nose. He was a great favourite with children, who believed him to be the real character he impersonated.

Mr. Stephen Fortescue, promoter of the project of a bowling team from the Mother Country visiting Australia and New Zealand, has announced the reluctant abandonment of the undertaking. In addition to communicating with several hundreds of leading clubs and most prominent bowlers, Mr. Fortescue made a tour in Ireland and Scotland as a member of Dr. W. G. Grace's bowling team, and throughout the whole route traversed did his utmost to enlist supporters on behalf of the movement he has laboured so devoutly to make a success.

The notice, "Smoking strictly forbidden," which appears near the west door of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, was posted up two years ago in consequence of the nuisance caused by workmen then engaged in the building—smoking under the porch and filling the cathedral with the odour of pipes. "Since that time," says one of the vergers, "we have had great difficulty during the dinner hour in preventing people from smoking under the porch, and even inside the building. Foreigners are the chief offenders in this respect, but a still greater evil is the objectionable habit of spitting on the floor indulged in by many American visitors."

It has been asserted by some of those who have seen the cinematographic views of the Royal visit to New Zealand that the films are hopelessly bad, but Sir Joseph Ward evidently thinks that they are of some value, for he told Mr. Herries in the House last week that the views are in the hands of the Government, together with the necessary appliances for exhibiting them. The Government are now considering the advisability of sending some qualified person through the colony with these to give free exhibitions to the several public schools and institutions. It would, Sir Joseph thinks, be unwise to allow these films to be used by private individuals.

The wonderful tone of the old violins depended on the varnish a great deal. The secret has been lost. "We don't know to-day how the old varnishes were made. An expert who went into this subject deeply claimed that oil with gum in solution and colour evaporated in spirit were the bases of the best varnish. But whether he was right or wrong no one knows. A violin consists of from thirty to seventy pieces. We make violins to-day just as they were made in the past, but we don't varnish them the same. Some varnishes contained ground amber. Recently, to the ruin of a priceless Guarnerius, its varnish was scraped off and analysed, and an abundance of amber powder was found.

Mr W. T. Stead is responsible for a new book called "The Despised Sex," in which all the time-worn arguments in favour of a woman's suffrage are woven into the texture of a story—the impressions of a mid-African on a visit to London, remarks an Home paper. If Mr Stead had contented himself with steering clear of his well-known tendency to cast odium upon his own countrymen, he might have succeeded in making an exceedingly entertaining book. Englishmen are not so sensitive that they resent just criticism, but when this is turned into endless abuse of their country, their habits, and their customs they feel that even an anti-English Englishman like Mr Stead should be discouraged. "The Despised Sex" is worth reading merely for the purpose of testing the temper. A Briton who can read the book without feeling his ire rise against the author may claim the prize for phlegm.

A Wellingtonian who recently visited the Auckland Peninsula gave an exceedingly doleful account to a local paper of the condition of the alleged roads in the district, and in the House of Representatives Mr Harding took advantage of the text to ask the Minister for Public Works if he intended to take remedial steps. The reply

was not of a very encouraging nature, the Minister stating that the difficulty referred to is common to nearly all newly settled districts during the winter months, and does not apply only to the district north of Auckland. During the last few years the Government had spent large sums of money by way of grants and otherwise on these roads with the object of permanently improving them. It is hoped that during the current year further progress will be made in this direction.

"I don't wish to take up your time," the caller said, "unless you think it is likely I might interest you in the subject of life insurance."  
"Well," replied the man at the desk, "I'll not deny that I have been thinking about it lately. Go ahead. I'll listen to you."

Whereupon the caller talked to him forty-five minutes without a stop.

"And now," he said at last, "are you satisfied that our company is one of the best, and that our plan of doing business is thoroughly safe?"

"Yes."  
"Have I convinced you that we furnish as good insurance as any other company, and at rates as cheap as you can get anywhere?"

"Yes; I am satisfied with what you say—perfectly satisfied."

"Well, don't you want to take out a policy with us?"

"Me! Oh, no! I'm a life insurance agent myself. I thought I might be able to get some tips from you!"

In reply to Mr Hanon, the Premier stated in the New Zealand House of Representatives that he was of opinion that power should be given to coroners, judges, and magistrates to suppress the publication of the horrifying details similar in character to that in the case of the inquest on Mrs Niccol. "It must be harrowing to the feelings of those bereaved, it does harm to the younger generation, and no good results follow therefrom. The prudent-minded should not be gratified at the expense of good taste and morality. The views thus expressed may be unpopular. They may be held to be a restriction of the freedom of the press, but if all journals are placed upon an equal footing there can be no good ground for complaint. It is owing to one paper doing that which is referred to in the question that others follow in like manner. If all were forbidden the ends of justice would be met without contaminating our public morality."

John Alexander Dowie, head of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, who was nearly mobbed in New York the other day, has planned for his American capital on the shore of Lake Michigan what he says will be the largest tabernacle in the world devoted exclusively to the worship of God. The structure will cost £200,000, and seat sixteen thousand persons. It will occupy a ground space of 230ft by 340ft, and will be Oriental in architecture. The proprietor's attempt to raise five million dollars to help build this palatial structure are not, if we can believe the cables, being enthusiastically sided by the New Yorkers. Two large galleries, in the shape of a horseshoe, will be built in such a manner that the public leading seats there will be able to see plainly the face of everyone sitting on the platform. These galleries will seat about 8400, the ground floor about 6000, the choir and officers' galleries about 1600, giving a total seating capacity of 16,000 persons. On either side of the basement, directly under the choir gallery, robing rooms for the candidates for baptism will be arranged, on one side the women, on the other the men; both rooms will be seventy by fifty-eight feet in size. On leaving the robing room the candidates go directly to the river-side baptistry by way of separate corridors, one for men and one for women, entirely hidden from public view until the large stairways leading into the baptistry proper are reached. Two hundred persons may be baptised at one time, and so complete will be the arrangements that one thousand can easily be baptised in one hour. The baptistry basin will be twenty feet wide and sixty-five feet long. It is to be arranged with flowers and shrubbery, while the water will come from a waterfall under the speaker's platform. The water will fall in full view of the public, flow through the entire length of the baptistry, and pass out of sight under the floor of the auditorium.