

## WAIFS AND STRAYS.

Some months since an Englishman named Atkinson bought a country place near Pithiviers in France. For many weeks thereafter, carpenters and masons were busily employed in repairing and altering the château, and after their work had been completed, Mr. Atkinson issued invitations for a large dinner party to all the most prominent families in the neighborhood. The guests arrived at six o'clock, and on taking their seats at the dinner table, noticed with surprise that there was not even one servant to be seen. The soup was consumed in silent astonishment. When all had partaken of it, the host sounded a whistle, and as if by magic the soup plates disappeared, and three magnificent silver platters, each containing a roast goose, appeared. Little cries of terror were heard from the ladies. Mr. Atkinson took no note of his guests' surprise, but remarking that it was a very warm evening, whistled again, and the whole ceiling disappeared; the host's black coat vanished at the same moment, leaving him clothed in a white suit. The guests, alarmed, were about to rise from their chairs, when they found themselves, their chairs, and the table suddenly raised five feet above the floor. They, however, were soon lowered again to the floor, and all took refuge in hasty flight from the demoniac abode. A judicial investigation was instituted, and it was found that Mr. Atkinson had been for ten years the chief machinist at the Covent Garden Theatre in London, where he had amassed a nice little fortune. The dinner was a little freak to indulge his fondness for his old pursuit.

Speaking of dress in the last century, a writer says:—"The toilet was the great sum and business of life, the adjustment of the hair the principal employment. Take, for instance, how a lady of fashion passed her day: At ten, after her 'dish of Bohea,' as it was called, generally taken before rising the lady arrayed herself in a muslin wrapper, and had a regular reception of friends, while, with her hair dishevelled, she was submitted, for the first time in the day, to the hands of her hairdresser; for usually she dressed four or five times a day. Her hair, dragged off her face, covered with powder, plastered with pomatum, frizzed in stiff curls, was raised by means of gauze feathers and flowers into an edifice often equal to her height; four ells of gauze have been contained in some of these erections, with butterflies, birds and feathers introduced—the last of the most preposterous height of, it is recorded, about a yard. After an hour's plastering and frizzing the hairdresser's task was over, and a weary one it was, though enlivened by the animated conversation of the visitors. The remainder of the toilet was finished, the most important of which was the arrangement of the patches—a point of great interest. These were made of black silk, gummed and cut into stars, crescents and other forms. Patches had originated in France under Louis XV., with a view to show off the whiteness of the complexion, but they were never worn by women of dark skins. Great was the care in placing these patches near the eye, the corner of the mouth, the forehead and the temple. A lady of the world would wear seven or eight, and each had a special designation. She never went without a box of patches to replace any that might accidentally fall off; and these little boxes, generally of Battersea enamel, finely painted by some eminent artist, had usually a tiny looking-glass inserted within the lid to help her repair the accident.

Professor Crookes of London has actually succeeded in weighing the light of a candle, although light has hitherto been considered imponderable. The principle of his delicate and complicated instrument is based on the fact that a fine thread of glass, suspended at one end, may be turned round twenty or thirty times without breaking, and has a tendency to untwist itself. By fastening such a thread in a tube, and throwing a ray of light on the interior, it has been found possible, with the aid of other scientific appliances, to register the revolutions and tensions caused by the introduction of the light of a candle into the tube, the result of which is that it weighs about 0.001728, or nearly the two-thousandth part of a grain. Taking this as an approximate starting point, we find that the light thrown out by the sun on the earth is equal to about thirty-two grains per square foot, or fifty-seven tons to the square mile, or 3,000,000,000 tons on the whole earth, a force that, but for gravitation, would drive our planet into space.

An article in the 'Galaxy' should be read and copied by the 'Woman's Journal,' and the facts scored to the credit of the Catholic Church. It is interesting to know that 600 years ago the Church recognised the chief of those "rights" which intelligent women have now to beg from political conventions. The writer says:—"We went to see the great university, where, in 1250, Bologna entertained 10,000 students. She taught them jurisprudence, the Roman law, medicine and philosophy. Here first was taught the anatomy of the human frame, galvanism, and the circulation of the blood. Bologna with a wonderful success has seemed definitely to settle the question of woman's rights, for she has had a long line of female professors, who are not deemed inferior to their male coadjutors. One, Movella d'Andrea, was so beautiful she lectured behind a curtain; 'lest if her charms were seen, the students should let their eyes wander o'er her and quite forget their jurisprudence.' Others were Madonna Manzoliana, professor of anatomy; Matilda Tombroni, learned in languages; Laura Bassi, professor of mathematics; and, most distinguished of all, Marie Agnesi, who asked permission to fill her father's chair, made vacant by his illness. She showed such talents for mathematics that Colson, professor of mathematics at Cambridge, translated her great work 'Instituzioni Anilitiche,' and it is now used by the students of that university. She was beautiful, and modest, and pleasing, but her severe studies overwhelmed her delicate frame, and in 1799 she hid herself in the convent of Blue Nuns at Bologna, where she lived for several years a devotee and invalid, and in dying left behind her a sad but honorable record.

HISTORICAL!—Vide "Jurors' Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. A. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. C. Skirne

"So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, a most useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded." Honorary Certificate 629: Gustav Hirsch, Dunedin, for specimens of Dyeing in Silk, Feathers, &c.

THE following SUMS have been received as Subscriptions to the TABLET for the week ending May 11, 1876:—

	£	s.	d.	
Mr. E. J. Delany, Reefton, to September 6th, 1875	...	0	12	6
" J. Dermody, Winton, to November 22nd, 1875	...	0	12	6
" P. Kennelly, Invercargill, to May 1st, 1876	...	0	12	6
" C. Mc Devitt, Taranaki, to June 26th, 1876	...	0	12	6
" Murphy, Dunedin, to March 26th, 1876...	...	1	5	0
" Kearnes, Lawrence, to April 10th, 1877 ...	...	1	17	6
" Spencer " October 24th, 1876	...	1	5	0
" O'Gorman " July 24th, 1875 ...	...	1	5	0
" N. Wall, Waimate, to October 10th, 1875	...	1	5	0
" C. O'Hara, Invercargill, to November 29th, 1875	...	1	0	0
" M'Carthy, Dunedin, to April 24th, 1876	...	1	11	0
" F. Chapman " June 1st, 1876 ...	...	1	5	0
" P. O'Boyle, Leeston, to June 5th, 1876 ...	...	1	5	0
" D. Synnot, Dunedin, to April 25th, 1877	...	1	5	0

THE ANNUAL TRADESMEN'S RACES,  
TO BE HELD ON THE  
FORBURY PARK RACE COURSE,  
ON THE  
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY,  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1876.

## STEWARDS:

James Marshall	James Davidson	C. W. Cutten
Henry Driver	J. Reany	W. H. Taggart
James Shand	George Dowse	H. Gourley.

Judge: Mr. John Stephenson. Clerk of Course: Mr. H. Falconer.  
Handicappers: Messrs. Moore, Reany, and Dowse.  
Starter: Mr. George Dodson. Treasurer: Mr. F. Meenan.  
Official Time-keeper: Mr. R. H. Bailey.

MAIDEN PLATE, of 35 sovs. Entrance, 30s. One mile and a quarter Weight for age. For horses that have never won an advertised prize exceeding £20.

HANDICAP TROTTING RACE, of 35 sovs. The second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stakes. Entrance, 30s. Three miles. No weight under 10st. Optional saddle or harness.

BIRTHDAY HANDICAP, of 100 sovs. The second horse to receive 20 sovs from the stakes. One mile and three-quarters. Nomination 2 sovs; acceptance, 2 sovs.

SELLING RACE, of 35 sovs. Entrance, 30s. One mile and a distance. Weight for age. Horses entered to be sold for £50, to carry 10lb over weight for age; for £40, to carry weight for age; for £30, allowed 14lb.; £20, 28lb.; for £10, 42lb. The winner to be sold by auction, and any surplus to go to the funds.

TRADESMEN'S HANDICAP, of 60 sovs. The second horse to receive 10 sovs. from the stakes. One mile and a quarter. Nomination, 2 sovs; acceptance, 1 sov. The winner of the Birthday Handicap to carry 7lb extra.

CONSOLATION HANDICAP, of 35 sovs. The second horse to receive 10 sovs. from the stakes. Post entry, 1 sov. One mile.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The decision of the Stewards to be final. No entries accepted unless on this condition.

Nominations for all the Handicaps to be made at the Empire Hotel on Wednesday, 3rd May, before 8 o'clock. Handicaps declared on the evening of the 6th (Saturday), and published in the daily papers of the 8th May.

General Entries and Acceptances to be made at the Empire Hotel on Thursday, 18th May, before 8 o'clock

All entries and acceptances must be in sealed covers, addressed to the Stewards or Secretary, and contain entrance money, description and age of horse, and colors to be worn by the jockey.

No qualification fee required for this meeting.

No protest will be received unless the sum of 2 sovs. is deposited with the Secretary, to be absolutely forfeited if the same be considered frivolous or vexatious.

Five per cent. deducted from the gross of all moneys paid for expenses.

Dunedin Jockey Club Rules strictly adhered to.

NOTE.—Nominations and Entries will not be received after the time stated under any pretence whatever.

The privileges of the Course will be sold by auction by Messrs Wright, Stephenson, and Co., on Tuesday, 16th May, at 12 o'clock.

SYDNEY JAMES,  
Secretary.