

ALL IN THE SPELLING. "THAT there bird over in the Australian bush."—There, says our "Civis," is the *ne plus ultra* of contemptible writing. After that the writer has not a word to say that can be listened to.

"Et les moindres défauts de ce grossier génie
Sont ou le pléonasme, ou la cacophonie."

—But wherein lies the outrage? It must be in the spelling. Yes; that's it. We wrote "that there" instead of "that 'ere." The sound of Bow-Bells was not quite familiar enough to our ears. Certainly one so deeply versed in the immortal works of the brilliant "Joe Miller" as our "Civis," could never question the grammar of the sentence. He would know the proof of its correctness adduced by that learned author as given by a famous wit. "That air," said he, pointing to an open window, and then laying his hand on the side of his head, "is bad for this ear." That is as plain as Vaugelas or Lindley Murray could make it. Our "Civis," then, cannot question the grammar. He cannot dispute with a source whence so many of his little jokes are derived. We shall refrain in future from hurting his susceptibilities. We shall use the apostrophe next time. And "jackass" is a shocking word. So much the worse for the thing the word represents then. But we protest that the very Governor's wife herself, who, we suppose, is the pink of fashion over there, must use it if she would make herself understood. Mrs "Civis," perhaps, would use the zoological or the ornithological term—but it is not every lady who enjoys the pedantic privileges that Mrs "Civis" shares. And if laughing jackass why not musical jackass?—Why not jackass pure and simple, for people cannot always have their adjectives in their mouths? Let us, therefore, take our jackass neat. The animal in his native simplicity appears at his best.—Nor can we regret it if we have, for once, sent our "Civis" to consult the learning of the saints, even through the medium of a magazine writer, a member of a class, by the way, whose members are often as stupid as the very scribblers of notes for the newspapers themselves may occasionally be. However, we must remember our apostrophe. The next time we have a grain of salt to put on the tail of a jackass we shall be neither pleonastic nor cacophonous. We shall leave out the "th." Anything to ensure harmony and satisfy an elongated ear.

American Notes.

THE Republican Convention at Minneapolis, for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency, has been the chief event of the season. Mr Blaine's friends were very hopeful as to the chances of his election. His services to the country had been acknowledged even in quarters where there was no great affection felt for him. His Secretaryship was allowed to be successful. His promotion of the pan-American movement for the benefit of the trade of the United States; his attitude towards Protection; his action in the Behring Sea question; and his negotiations with Italy respecting the New Orleans lynchings—all were allowed to have done him credit, and to have maintained the interests and dignity of the country. The completeness of his rejection and the nomination in his stead of Mr Harrison have been severely felt. Blaine, himself, however, has acted a brave and honest part. He has called upon the party to be true to their principles and to give a faithful and fervent support to the decision of the Convention. The programme of the party embraces a renewed advocacy of Protection; the use of both gold and silver as standard money; a free ballot; a more stringent watchfulness as to immigration; sympathy for Irish Home Rule and for the Russian Jews; liberty of thought and conscience, of speech and Press; and a warm support of all agencies that contribute towards the education of the children of the country. The programme, or platform, as they call it, is generally admitted to be a good one. What its effect on the country is we shall see on November 8.

A curious, and withal to some people a very welcome, sign of the times is that while wages, as a rule, have not fallen, prices have done so very materially. The decline on last year is marked. As examples, take the following: in flour it is 19 6 per cent; in pork 18 30 per cent; in live cattle, 15 3 per cent; in butter, 21 7 per cent; in refined sugar, 2 8 per cent, and so on. The reductions are heaviest in those necessary articles consumed in every household. Clothing, too, is cheaper. As compared with a year ago, therefore, the workman has cheaper food, cheaper clothing, and cheaper lodging, with no reduction in the quality of either.

An explosion, caused by a cloud-burst, attended with floods, of three gasoline tanks at Oil City, Pa., on Sunday, June 5, was the occasion of a frightful catastrophe. The oil on the neighbouring creek caught fire and formed a stream of flame eighteen miles in length. The loss of life is calculated at 200, and the destruction of property was enormous—the scene of the event being a busy and crowded centre of industry.

The Boston *Pilot* of June 11, contains the following biographical notice of a rather remarkable Irishwoman. "Miss Maria Morgan,

the cattle-reporter, better known as 'Midy Morgan,' who died last week in Jersey City, N.J., was, according to the competent verdict of the New York *Sun*, the most remarkable newspaper woman in the world. She was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1828, and on her father's estate acquired the knowledge of cattle, and the skill in horsemanship, which afterwards brought her money and fame. She made a sojourn in Italy during her early womanhood, and while at Florence, her bold riding attracted the attention of King Victor Emmanuel, who sought her acquaintance, and gave her a formal commission to replenish the royal stables. This she executed in such a manner as to win marked evidence of the King's appreciation. In 1869 she came to New York, intent on earning her living. Manton Marble, of the New York *World*, engaged her to report the races at Saratoga. John Bigelow, of the *Times*, in answer to her application for a permanent place, jestingly offered her the position of cattle and livestock reporter. She took the proposition in earnest, accepted it, and held it to the day of her death. Later, she reported for the *Bridgeport Forum*, the *Rural New Yorker*, *Turf, Field and Farm*, *Hearth and Home*, the *Horseman*, *Breeder's Gazette* and other papers; besides contributing an occasional editorial to the New York *Tribune*. She had, as might have been expected, much prejudice and jealousy to overcome in her extraordinary field of labour—the more because she was a humane woman, and never saw animals ill-treated without a public and energetic protest. But finally, by her competence, dignity, and generosity, she conquered all obstacles, and became widely known and respected. She made an address before the Legislature at Albany; went to Washington by invitation and gave the President her views on cattle transportation; went to Chicago and examined and reported on the condition of the stock-yards there. Her health failed a few months ago, and she died at St Francis' Hospital, Jersey City, on June 2, leaving many grateful hearts to mourn the loss of a true helper.

America is mourning over a renunciation pronounced against her by the famous Blondin. The advance of the female and the equality of man, he says, have ruined everything:—"It is not the same country at all. There are too many foreigners there. They do not pay any attention to you at all. Anything in the way of female performers gets all their attention. There is too much equality; too much of 'one man is as good as another.' It's all humbug. They pay attention to Barnum and take no notice of a clever acrobat, and you cannot live unless you buy your way." Was it for this that he walked across Niagara—and, indeed, it did not seem to be for anything much better.

A case of lynch law which has occurred at Port Jervis, New York, has attracted more than ordinary attention from the prominence of the locality where it occurred. The victim was a negro, who certainly deserved heavy punishment for a crime committed by him. But the phenomenon of an avenging mob belonging to one of the most advanced States of the Union, and finding no excuse in Southern blood, is looked upon as quite out of keeping with the civilization of the day.

Great expectations are entertained with respect to the exhibit which the Pope has promised to send to the World's Fair at Chicago. His Holiness has promised that it shall be "worthy of the Vatican and of Columbus, the child of the Church."

A Bill is now before Congress for the more stringent enforcement of the law against pauper immigration. Its principal provision is one for obliging steamship companies to prepare descriptive lists of emigrants before they are taken on board.

Labour Notes.

AMONG the people indirectly affected by the Broken Hill strike are a number of railway men. As the running of certain trains has been discontinued there is no work for the men employed on them, and, as a consequence, they have been given their annual leave of absence at what is to some of them an inconvenient time. The worst of it is, however, that leave of absence may possibly be followed by suspension, which involves a stoppage of pay.

Thus (says the *Barrier Miner*) Mr W. Hooper, himself formerly a big business man, to the Adelaide *Register*:—"I see by the *Christian World* newspaper just to hand that the great firm of J. and B. Morley, of London, have just distributed to their 700 hands bonuses beginning at £5 up to £50. Had the directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary mine given the men a share of its enormous profits, happiness and prosperity instead of a strike would have been the order of the day. It is not too late now to be liberal."

Mr J. H. Sturcke, a delegate of the strikers to Melbourne, has explained to an interviewer in Adelaide that the men struck not so

D. DAWSON, Practical Watchmaker and Jeweller.
Exchange Court, Princes Street, DUNEDIN.
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