

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

ORGAN OF IRISH AND CATHOLIC INTERESTS IN THE RIVER PLATE.

FOUNDED BY VEN. DEAN DILLON.

VOLUME XI, No. 10.

BUENOS AYRES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1885.

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
LONG AGO.

It was a Merry Christmas long ago  
When we gathered round the fire-  
side on the hearth,  
And our spirits felt the jubilee and  
glow  
That in divine efulgence have  
their birth.  
When I nestled in a parent's sweet  
embrace,  
And my heart was a stranger yet  
to woe;  
Oh, the memory of those days I  
fondly trace;  
It was a Merry Christmas long  
ago.  
How blessed seemed the sky above  
my head  
And earth wore a stainless garb of  
snow,  
And the light which each cottage  
window shed  
Was a reflex of celestial light I  
trow.  
As the star over Bethlehem that  
shone  
Led the Magi to the stable poor  
and low,  
Where our Saviour's life on earth  
was begun,  
It was a Merry Christmas long  
ago.  
Oh, the innocent delight and blissful  
joy  
Where with we gathered round the  
Christmas tree,  
And we tasted of the pleasures that  
ne'er cloy,  
Singing hymns of praise to God  
on bended knee.  
Then the piper struck up a merry  
tune  
With youths and maidens stand-  
ing in a row,  
And they danced in magic circle  
'neath the moon;  
It was a Merry Christmas long  
ago.  
The winter winds blew coldly  
through the night  
When old and youg went forth  
to worship God;  
But faith and love within them  
burned bright,  
For they felt they trod the path  
the shepherds trod.  
Now Christ, as comes arrayed in  
summer sheen  
In a sunny land where rarest  
flowers grow,  
But the sacred fire is wanting here,  
I ween;  
That warmed our Merry Christmas  
long ago.  
Oh, let me once again return to  
view  
The syamore, the cottage on the  
hill.  
The sight of home will all my hopes  
renew;  
I'll climb the rocks, I'll hear the  
murmuring rill;  
I'll pluck the holly branches as of  
yore  
To decorate my childhood's  
haunts, but no!  
For she whose smile I basked in  
is no more;  
It was a Merry Christmas long  
ago.

Michael Dinneen,  
Buenos Aires,  
Christmas Eve, 1885.

LATEST  
FROM THE WEST COAST.

The following are the details of the fall of Lima and of the entry of Caceres' revolutionary army into the stronghold of the Iglesias Government. All the vanguard of the Government army was steadily repulsed by Caceres from the outlying districts, and fell back upon the centre at the gates of the capital. After successful skirmishing, the revolutionary army took possession of Mida, where a council was held, and the revolutionary leaders decided to attack Lima and take the city by storm if necessary. Caceres' chief object was to outflank Colonel Relaiza, Commander-in-chief of the Iglesias army, whilst Colonel Solar's division marched from Chicla to Vilarte, where the Government troops were driven back and dislodged from the San Bartolomé heights. Iglesias endeavored to make a stand at the Pantheon outside the capital, and a sharp encounter ensued in which he was completely routed, whilst the enemy followed up the success and entered Lima at several points. Caceres witnessed the advance from the Pino height,

but he took the lead of the forces and advanced into the city by the Santa Anna Square, fixing his headquarters in the San Fernando College.

A desperate street fight took place in all the openings of the square, and a steady fire was kept up on both sides till 5 a.m. when a flag of truce was hoisted, and the other Sheiks. Following our example, the Arabs carry provisions in boats. Four thousand Dervishes, with six thousand forced natives, are said to be 70 miles from Akasba.

It speaks badly for the state of traffic here that in two-thirds of the current half-year the receipts of all the Irish Railways showed a decrease of close on £27,000. Another mishap in the Channel! This time the «Earl Spencer» ran into the mail steamer «Leinster» and the collision will necessitate the sojourn of the latter for some weeks in the Northwall graving dock.

The death of the poor little child of nine under a caning administered by a National schoolmaster at Sandymount has evoked a strong feeling against the system of corporal punishment as a corrective. Though the doctors pronounced him to have been suffering from disease of the heart, and though the jury thought the stool across which he was stretched for the whipping was to blame, there are very few who would care to change places just now with the schoolmaster.

The panic that seized the citizens during the terrible struggle at the Santa Anna square was indescribable. General Iglesias' house was mobbed and gutted. A young fellow got hold of Iglesias' cocked hat, put it on, and headed the mob. The youth of the town rushed to Inquisition square and joined Caceres.

Three hundred men of Iglesias' hidden in the Pierola fort were cut to pieces by Caceres, whose forces stormed San Pedro under a sharp fire. After seizing San Pedro and San Francisco and sweeping the high part of the city, Caceres put up barricades all along the line and a sharp cross fire then began and lasted for thirteen hours. After the carnage, the streets presented a terrible aspect strewn with corpses and debris. The number of killed and wounded is very large.

London, Nov. 20.  
All over the country the tenants are protesting against the exactions of landlords, and in many cases reductions are granted. Justin McCarthy is candidate for Derry. T. P. O'Connor for one division of Liverpool, Michael Conway for Leitrim, Mr. Small for Down, E. D. Gray for Carlow, J. H. McCarthy for Newry, W. Abraham for Limerick, Mr. Harrington, J. O'Doherty, C. O'Neill, and Bernard Kelly for Donegal.

Lord Carnarvon has intimated, we understand, that he cannot accede to the prayer of the memorial of the Rev. John Corry, Adm., Collinstown, for an inquiry into the facts of the conviction of the Barbavilla conspiracy prisoners.

The first purchase by tenants under the new Act has been brought to a conclusion. Mr. Fottrell, through whom the negotiation was conducted, met the tenants of Mr. Thomas Baillie-gage's estate in the county Tyrone, and witnessed the execution of the deeds which made the tenants the owners of their holdings. Between thirty and forty tenants signed agreements of purchase.

A summons-server, accompanied by nine coastables, went to Knockfold town-land, Gweedera, to serve summonses for seed-rate. On his approach a whistle was sounded, and soon the party was surrounded by a furious crowd, pelted with stones, and forced to beat a retreat. The summons-server and several of his escort were badly injured.

The Daily News Cairo correspondent says:

«The reported concentration of large masses of Arabs at Abu Hamed and Khartoum is fully confirmed. No doubt is felt now that an organised advance is intended under El Khair and the other Sheiks. Following our example, the Arabs carry provisions in boats. Four thousand Dervishes, with six thousand forced natives, are said to be 70 miles from Akasba.»

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

London, Dec. 23.

Lord Roseberry, a member of the Gladstone Government, declares that he is prepared to grant Home Rule to Ireland provided the Union be preserved. The Irish party will hold a great meeting in January in order to decide on the policy to adopt in the coming Parliament.

Herbert Gladstone, M.P., has declared his belief that the Conservatives will abandon Parnell now that the Irish have assisted them in the elections.

The Orange landlord faction, who call themselves the «Loyal Union» are in their despair calling on Irishmen to come and help them out of the perdition to which they are doomed, and they say that Parnell will involve the country in a civil war. They propose Local Government for Ireland based on Liberal principles, the Irish members being represented by a Secretary and a Sub-secretary.

News comes from Spain that a conspiracy to establish a Republic was discovered at Tarragona. Venice, 13.

There are 50 cases of cholera here and 12 deaths have already taken place. Many persons fly from the city.

TELEGRAMS.

Dublin, 21.

A special telegram from London says that Lords Spencer and Granville approve of Mr. Gladstone's proposal for the autonomy of Ireland. It is said that Mr. Gladstone has asked the Prince of Wales to assist in removing difficulties in the way of the proposed reform.

The Freeman's Journal and United Ireland say that unless Lord Salisbury offers measures of a wider scope in reference to Ireland, the Conservative Government will be inevitably upset by the united Liberals and Parnellites.

A meeting of the Orange Grand Lodge of Ireland has been held for the purpose of deciding on measures in opposition to the proposal for autonomy.

A large number of peers and members of Parliament loyal to the Crown were present. A man-

ifesto has been prepared, addressed to all the members of the Orange party in Great Britain and Ireland, which will be published shortly.

Another telegram says that Gladstone has waited on the members of the royal family to lay his plans before them for approval. Gladstone is trying to secure the co-operation of the Prince of Wales.

London, Dec. 22.

Telegrams from Widdin announce that the Servian army has completely evacuated that strong position. In view of this it is believed that Bulgaria will continue to reject the proposed arbitration.

The Liberal papers report an interview between Mr. Gladstone and a reporter, in which the ex-Minister declared himself in favour of Home Rule for Ireland, and promised, as far as he was concerned, to forward as much as possible this measure in Parliament.

A telegram from Berlin says that the Sultan has appointed Prince Alexander perpetual governor of Eastern Roumelia, with right of succession.

Rumours again afloat as to the meeting of an International Congress on the Balkan delimitation question. Conference will be held in Constantinople and consist of the same members as the former, with perhaps the addition of some delegates from the Balkan States. The general belief is that the resolution will tend towards peace.

News has been received that the Servian troops have been withdrawn from the Widdin district.

The Daily News publishes the report of the interview of one of its reporters with the Marquis of Lorne, who said that the experience of the Canadians and Americans was not in favor of what Mr. Gladstone calls Irish Reform. On the contrary, the American Government had been obliged to diminish the power of the colonies, because in the states themselves rested the power of preserving the Union. The well-being of Ireland depended in his opinion on its union with England, provided that it is placed in a condition to contract loans on equitable conditions, which would be employed in local improvements.

The colleagues of Mr. Parnell have been informed by him that he expects every bill relating to Ireland to be opposed.

The programme of autonomy for Ireland set forth by Mr. Gladstone has caused much discussion. In fact, many prominent members of the Liberal party have declared through the Press their hostility to the proposal in question, declaring that they should feel themselves compelled to abandon the party of their old leader if some of the offers held out by Mr. Gladstone to the Home Rulers should be put in practise.

Paris, 18.

El Liberal says that Morocco has offered to yield territory to France and Spain, hoping thereby to obtain the support of those two powers in opposition to the German plans of colonisation.

Congress for the election of the President of the Republic to succeed M. Grévy, whose term expires in January 1886, will meet on Monday, 28th inst. According to custom it will be held in Versailles.

From Vienna it is telegraphed that an armistice has been arranged between Servia and Bulgaria until the 1st March 1886.

New York, 17.

While the s.s. «City of Mexico» was being registered by the Customs clerks a large quantity of firearms was discovered stow-

ed away in the hold. This circumstance is, according to the papers, one among many which prove that a coup de main is being prepared to seize the island of Cuba. It is rumored that everything was perfectly combined, the secret end of the plan of invasion being to embark a considerable number of men, steer to New Port to receive orders, thence to Florida, where a reinforcement lay concealed, awaiting the moment to seize some island near Cuba, and the arms to be landed by means of steam launches.

Various meetings of Irish Nationalists have been held here for the purpose of considering the state of Irish affairs abroad, and of providing funds for assisting in carrying on Mr. Parnell's policy.

Constantinople, Dec. 17.

The Porte has issued a circular note to the Powers, explaining the mission of the Turkish Delegates in Eastern Roumelia. The Delegates on their arrival in Philippopolis, proclaimed a free pardon to all who had taken part in the recent revolutionary movement.

King Milan has received a petition from the people to pursue a military policy and seize Sophia.

Lima, Dec. 18.

The Civil Party have proclaimed General Caceres future president of the Republic.

Caceres demanded that the council should organize troops and form a division to attack Relaiza, which is being done, but at the same time the Council is trying to settle with Relaiza to submit in a peaceable manner. General Iglesias and family are thinking of going to Spain. The Union Club has entertained Caceres at a banquet. The medical students are raising a subscription to give Caceres a medal as a mark of gratitude for his having pacified the Republic. The triumph of Caceres was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Arequipa. The general opinion here is that the situation of Peru is a long way from being settled.

Rome, 18.

The Papal arrangement of the Caroline question was signed today with much ceremony.

Cardinal Jacobini, in celebration of the event, gave a banquet at which thirty-two guests were present.

Montevideo, Dec. 19.

All the troops of the garrison are at present under the command of General Tajes, Minister of War.

Vienna, 18.

A semi-official bulletin states that peace is not yet assured. Bulgaria requires Servia to quit the Widdin district.

Valparaiso, 21.

A fire occurred in Santiago yesterday afternoon which destroyed property to the amount of \$100,000.

The news is confirmed that a subaltern employé of the Chilean Legation in Lima was shot by order of Caceres.

200 Chilians who were settled in Lima have returned to Chili.

The triumph of Caceres has been celebrated with great rejoicing at Arequipa.

Madrid, 21.

It is said that the Duke of Seville has asked his regiment to depose Queen Christina in favor of Queen Isabella.

Sr. Copriles, Governor of the Carolines, has been tried by court-martial for having insulted the German admiral when Yapp was occupied by the German fleet. Sentence has been postponed.

St. Petersburg, 21.

A telegram received to-day states that a terrible explosion of dynamite occurred in a mine in Pleychnu, Siberia.

THE WORLD-FAMED

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NOTES FROM THE SALADAS.

December 12, 1885.

To the Editor of the *Southern Cross*.

DEAR SIR,

By the time this letter reaches you the shearing season of 1885 will be numbered among the things of the past. On the score of the weather sheep farmers are to be congratulated, for during shearing-time that uncertain individual the Clerk behaved decently enough, and committed few of those vagaries which distinguished his administration in the season of 1884. So much for the weather, but when we come to compare this season with the last one, in a monetary sense, we find prices fall far short of reaching those of last or former seasons.

With such a fact staring sheepfarmers in the face camp rent is still going up. Is it not sheer madness for farmers to pay such suicidal rents as they are paying at present? One needn't be a prophet to foretell that this system of high rents must end in smash. Let us take a glance at the rents that are being paid in Ireland, England, and Scotland at the present time, and compare them with the rents that were paid in those countries five years ago. What a marked difference! In the old country this great reduction in rent was obtained by the tenants' determined agitation, and their stern resolve not to rent a farm from which the occupier had been unjustly evicted. In this country, owing to several causes, we cannot agitate, but surely we could imitate with profit to ourselves the example of our countrymen in the second part of their programme.

Not a hundred miles from where I write this letter there is a piece of camp on which, three years ago, a sheep run could be rented for \$460 n./n per year; now, an annual rent of \$785 m/n per run has been offered to the landlord, and refused, he stoutly holding out for \$827 m/n or say \$20,000 old currency. And don't you have any fear that he may not get such a rent, because you must be aware that all the fools in this country are not secured inside the walls of the «Residencia.»

In looking over a London society paper a few weeks ago I happened to see a paragraph informing the public that a certain nobleman in Scotland, whose rent-roll amounts to £80,000 sterling, has, owing to non-payment of rent, to content himself with the modest income of only £4000 sterling per annum. Unlike a learned contemporary of yours I do not «dearly love a lord,» therefore I can't sympathise with the poor, dear nobleman. The Scotch, like the Irish, have been the victims of landlord tyranny; whole tracts of their beautiful and romantic land have been depopulated and turned into deer-forests to afford sport to cotton lords and Cockneys, and deer and grouse now roam over the land where a brave and hardy race of Highlanders once flourished, therefore the Scotch, no more than the Irish, can have any liking for a lord, especially if he be a land-lord.

To-day, in England, any amount of large farms are tenanted owing to high rents, in Scotland the

crofters are making a gallant struggle against rack rents, and in Ireland, owing to the mal-administration of the recent Land Act, the tenants are crying out against the judicial rents and are demanding, and in nearly every case obtaining, reductions of from 40 to 60 per cent. And why are the tenants of Great Britain and Ireland not able to pay their rents? Because cattle have fallen in market value £3 per head, and sheep 10s. per head within the past twelve months; because wheat, corn, butter, and all kinds of farm produce have fallen in proportion; and because foreign competition is driving home produce out of the market. It behoves the farmers of this country to look well before they undertake to pay an increase on their present exorbitant rents. *Venienti occurrere morbo* is an old proverb which, freely translated, means—Meet the disease in the beginning.

I remain, dear sir,  
Yours sincerely,  
Dragram.

THE DEPOPULATION OF RURAL ENGLAND.

HOW ENGLISH AGRICULTURISTS ARE BEING WIPED OUT BY BRITISH FREE TRADE.

To the Editor of the *Irish World*.

DEAR SIR,

On more than one occasion of late I have taken leave to lay before your readers evidence of decline in English agriculture under so-called free trade, namely, that freedom to be enslaved which the home producer enjoys in being taxed over 14 per cent on the value of his agricultural products, while the foreigner fights him in his own market untaxed. The beauties of this system of handicapping the British producer for the joint benefit of the foreign producer and the British consumer have been greatly extolled by the British statesman, but they are not so manifest to the outsider as they are to the statesman. Their fruits would seem to be, *a priori*, pretty certain, and experience is entirely in accord with the *a priori* conception.

In addition to the evidence which I have already given I beg to call attention to some passages from a delightful article entitled «Rural Roads» in a late number of *Macmillan's Magazine*. The writer of this article drove from the north-west corner of Hampshire to the south-west corner of Lincolnshire, passing through the middle of England not very far west of London. Note what he says in regard to the tendency to depopulation in rural England and to the «labor starvation» of the land as follows:

«But seeing is believing, and it is worth while for those who live in towns and suffer the costs of over-population to realise what is meant by the statistics which tell of a falling-off in all the agricultural counties. Oxford, Coventry and Leicester are the only towns of any importance upon the one hundred and fifty miles of road. If Leamington is added to these there remain only only eighteen towns and villages, with a population ranging from one to ten thousand; deducting these and a proportionate amount of the whole route, say, to be on the safe side, as much as half, there will remain seventy-five miles of high road in the middle of southern England and with an average population around that may be approximately calculated at 45 to the square mile; to be on the safe side say fifty, for we certainly traverse districts that are much less populous than the part of Hampshire where the exact area of the parishes as well as the population was ascertained. Explore what part of rural England you will, the result will be found much the same, and it is not one creditable to our practical sagacity.

«Tribble the population of the purely agricultural districts, tribble the amount of labor spent upon the land, and rearrange the distribution of the produce, the gross produce will be increased, the trade of the country towns

will revive, and the revival of local markets will stimulate agricultural production.

«A reference to Mr. Stubb's contention that the land is labor-starved, set the stream of his eloquence loose; the state of this and this piece of land is something shameful and, in fact, bad farming and bankrupt farmers are more plentiful than bad harvests can in any way account for.

«Emigration meetings in White-chapel and depopulation in Wiltshire do seem rather unreasonable rear together, and it is a suggestive exercise to look with the bodily as well as the mind's eye first on this picture then on that.»

In previous communications I have furnished you with the results of my own observations in England during the past summer, pointing unmistakably to an extraordinary decline in the character of British agriculture; and cited the evidence of Mr. Harris, M.P. as well to the fact that a large portion of the land given in the Board of Trade returns as «permanent pasture» should be given as in «permanent weeds» as that the taxation of British agriculture amounts to more than 14 per cent of the value of its product. Further I have given the Board of Trade returns showing a decline of the acreage of Great Britain in wheat, barley, oats and potatoes since 1869 of 35 per cent. And now comes another witness to demonstrate that the people are flowing from the land; of course, still further to add to the existing congestion of people in London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, and other centres where mankind almost trample each other to death in the struggle to keep body and soul together.

Were ever the fruits of a policy thus combining stupidity and injustice—the levying of 14 per cent of taxes on your trade to foreigners—more legitimately or more completely such as should be looked to? Did ever a people more thoroughly deserve and court their own ruin, or was ever a people more sure to get what they deserved and courted, that same ruin?

Henry Carey Baird.  
Philadelphia,  
October 29th, 1885.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL ON PARNELL.

Professor Tyndall, the well-known «man of science,» is not much of an authority on politics, yet his view of such a man as Mr. Parnell cannot but have a certain interest for the public. Here are the terms in which he refers to the Irish leader in a letter recently addressed by him to a Scotch politician who had asked him to become a candidate for a seat in Parliament:

«Even now, at the eleventh hour, we might, if we were wise, take a profitable lesson from Ireland. We behold there a man of comparatively brief political experience—sparing of words but resolute in act—who has continually worsted a Government composed of our cleverest politicians with the most fluent orator of England at their head. The case points the moral introduced at the beginning of this letter. As regards rhetorical brilliancy and intellectual culture Mr. Parnell will hardly bear comparison with many of his opponents. But in strength and stability of character, in tenacity of purpose, and definiteness of aim, he has hitherto proved a match for them all. There is, moreover, no shiftiness in the young Irishman. He has never disguised what he aimed at, and what he meant to achieve. But he was not believed—is not even now believed. And so our politicians jog on, trying to win over Mr. Parnell, or to detach from his leadership the Irish people. They will do neither. Mr. Parnell has a good digestion. He accepts and assimilates the sops offered by the Imperial Government, and in return, smites that Government with recruited strength. Give him more and he will do the same. For, be assured of it, the end and aim of Mr. Parnell is to break up an

empire which he hates, and which he has taught his followers to regard as a curse to humanity.»

Professor Tyndall, as the closing sentence would indicate, is an anti-Parnellite, and would, apparently, crush the Irish leader and his party in some unspecified way; but his good opinion of Mr. Parnell's capacity is, for that reason, all the more valuable.

PROSPECTS OF COFFEE.

Just now the position and prospects of coffee are naturally a subject of increasing anxiety amongst those who are interested in the present and future of this staple article of production. It is not surprising, therefore, that at length steps should have been taken by the representatives of the trade with a view to coming to some determination in relation to the existing unsatisfactory state of things. A meeting of coffee importers, buyers, and brokers was held in the Commercial Sale Rooms, Mincing Lane, under the presidency of Mr. D. H. Peat, in order to «consider the advisability of alterations of the terms for the sale of coffee in London.» The proceedings have been reported in summary as follows:

There was a long discussion with reference to the abolition or equalisation of discounts, the abolition or reduction of drafts, the sampling of coffee, and also a proposal that the dock and wharf companies should be requested to alter their rates and reduce their cost of re-weighing and re-housing. The chairman spoke of the great impotence of the meeting owing to the depressed state of trade, and urged the need of the appointment of a thoroughly representative committee who would give their attention to the matters which affected all sections of the trade. Mr. E. Rucker remarked that whereas in the United Kingdom since 1860 the consumption of tea had gone ahead with enormous strides and the consumption of cocoa had also very largely increased that of coffee had diminished very much. The imports which in 1881 were 69,000 tons of coffee, had fallen off to 41,000 tons in 1884, which was not much more than half what it was four years ago. He hoped that all connected with the trade would combine together and see if they could find out the cause of the decrease and do something to improve the trade. He especially hoped that they would endeavor to tackle the question of adulteration, which, he thought, was greatly injuring the trade. After a long discussion the meeting elected a representative committee of importers, brokers, and exporters to consider the questions affecting the sale of coffee in London for the purpose of reporting to the trade and obtaining their sanction to any alterations which might be deemed advisable.

The observations of Mr. Rucker are only too true, and I would advise South American coffee growers to take serious note of the fact that, in face of a largely increasing production, the consumption is undergoing great diminution. Why not try tea culture?—*The South American Journal*.

THE LATE MR. ERNEST WILLIAM WHITE.

[From *The Ibis*.]

Ernest William White, whose untimely death was recently recorded in our last number, was born at Eythorne, near Dover, on the 20th June, 1858, and when six years of age accompanied his parents to South America. Very delicate from birth, it was with great difficulty that he was reared. Books were forbidden him, and thus, untrammelled, he roamed abroad and communed with nature, early displaying a fondness for everything that lived. But it was when Henry Durnford came to Buenos Aires that White's passion for natural history burst forth. They were bosom companions, and it was only by his father's command that White was debarred from accompanying Durnford in his last ill-fated expedition.

At his own request White was now sent to London to make the acquaintance of naturalists. He there became a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and entered into arrangements with Mr. Edward Gerrard, junr., to perfect himself in the preparation of specimens. During his residence in London, White, in his passion for learning, took no heed of weather, and thus developed tuberculosis, the seeds of which were in him from his birth. He was consequently called home, and on the voyage burst a blood vessel on the lungs and lost a great quantity of blood. He scarcely reached home alive, and was then instantly despatched to Mendoza, where he was enabled to gratify his passion for natural history in a new and little-explored region, and by roughing it to regain health and strength.

For five years in this district White roamed about, sleeping amongst the snows, travelling on muleback, battered and tossed by wind and rain, dust and heat, until at last he returned home robust, and sought for a wife ready to accompany and aid him in future toil. He found her and married; and the next thing was to consider, as now he had contracted obligations, how to choose a profession that should first pay the expenses of his future explorations, and secondly occupy the minimum of time in preparation.

His first idea was medicine, which he had studied in Buenos Aires previously; but considering that all the dentists of Buenos Aires are rich men and that the teeth of Argentines are about the worst in the world, he fixed upon dentistry, which he could combine with natural history in his travels, wherein he was determined to exhaust the Argentine Republic.

White first tried the London schools; but the restrictions were so onerous, and the climate so bad, that he was forced to migrate to Philadelphia. Here, after his two years' course, he was on the point of attaining his qualification when a wave of malignant typhoid fever swept over the city and carried White away amidst its earliest victims, on the 29th of November last year, at the early age of 26 years.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The will of the late Cardinal McCloskey, of New York, is written on a sheet of foolscap. First, the Cardinal directs that all his just debts and funeral expense be paid as soon as possible after his death. Then he gives all his estate, real and personal, without reference to its extent or value, to the Most Rev. Michael A. Corrigan, Coadjutor-Archbishop; the Right Rev. John Loughlin, Bishop of Brooklyn; and the Right Rev. Francis M'Neirney, Bishop of Albany; to have and to hold as joint tenants, not tenants in common. He nominates the same three Prelates as executors. Although not stated in specific terms, it is understood that this bequest conveys all his property for the use of the Church. The will was made in September, 1882.

«I would rather be Mr Stead than any of his judges,» was, according to the *Times* reporter, the expression used in the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday by a «rev. gentleman,» when the editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The gentleman who thus boldly expressed himself is by no means alone in the judgment which he has formed upon the trial, and upon the circumstances that led to it. Technically, Mr. Stead was no doubt guilty; but we are of those who think that the justice of the case would have been met had he been discharged on formally entering into recognisances, to come up for sentence when called upon. With regard to the methods which he adopted, there is room for considerable divergence of opinion; but as to the motives which actuated him in his noble efforts to grapple with this frightful social evil there can be but one opinion. To his heroic conduct is due the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act; and although the provisions

of that Act are not being enforced by the authorities in our large cities, the numerous cases that have already come before the courts all over the kingdom show that parents and guardians have been aroused to a proper sense of the dangers and the temptations which beset girls of tender years, and to a realisation of their responsibility towards these innocent children. Mr. Stead may indeed have incurred the obloquy and calumny of the bad, and «the hasty and short-sighted censure of some good men;» and incidental evil may have accrued from his action. But he has earned the sympathy and the gratitude of the vast majority of all right-thinking men and women.

A few days ago there passed away from earth a man who once wielded a mighty power in Ireland. This power was conferred on James Hamilton, better known as the Duke of Abercorn, by the British Government. He owned immense estates in the Province of Ulster, which formerly belonged to the house of O'Neill, but were confiscated by Cromwell and William III. in their Irish wars. Hamilton was of Scotch extraction; an ancestor fought at the Boyne, and was rewarded for his services against the Irish by thousands of broad acres of which they were plundered by the Williamites. The late Duke was an extreme loyalist and closely allied with the Orange faction in the north. Besides holding other positions of emolument he was twice Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, but while occupying any position was never known to do a philanthropic or patriotic action. Outside the Orange camp his death will not be regretted.

The prevalence of strikes in Northern Italy is a source of serious consideration to the more thoughtful minds of Italy. In a recent number of the *Rassegna Nazionale* of Florence there is an interesting article on these strikes. Occurring, as they do, periodically, they constitute one of the most serious aspects of the formidable agrarian question. The principal cause of them is to be sought for, according to the *Rassegna*, in the frightful misery which weighs upon the peasants in certain provinces. This misery surpasses all imagining. Two years ago a deputy in the Chamber declared that «for the greater part of the agricultural population bread is an object of luxury.» Formerly the peasants endured such a state of things in silence. To-day, though not more wretched, they know their misery better and they revolt. Strikes are a preliminary symptom of the agitation which is working silently in the country places. It is quite certain that the agrarian question, if it be not resolved in a more or less satisfactory manner, is preparing a sad future for the welfare of Italy. And this danger ahead is largely the out come of the burdens imposed by «united» Italy on the people. A journal whose title, «The Socialist,» sufficiently denotes its character and politics, was sequestrated on its first appearance on Sunday, 1st November, and has not revived yet.

Cardinal Newman has a strong body of admirers within the walls of «old Trinity,» and one of them had the courage of his convictions, when, as auditor of the Theological, he addressed a distinguished audience on the occasion of the opening of the session, the other night. The Oxford movement, he said, did much for the outward worship of the Church, and brought about the revival of conventual life. «Those who know anything of the working of these institutions» (brotherhoods and sisterhoods), «their persistent and self-sacrificing efforts to grapple with the misery and poverty of the poor, the opportunity they gave to the many whose lives would otherwise be wasted, of leading good and beautiful lives, will be very slow to rejoice at their very slow development in Ireland.» So the young student went on, claiming for the Tractarian movement the credit of having brought back «one of the fundamental ideas of

religion—the idea of a world-wide Church." The Protestant Archbishop of Dublin—Lord Plunkett—was evidently much alarmed at the whole tone of the plucky address.

WIT AND HUMOUR.

De Kaggs—"There is a most peculiar odour, judge, that issues from a crevice in the bank near my house. I think it is natural gas." Judge—"Why don't you test it?" "I don't know of any convincing test." "Touch a lighted match to the crevice." "But it might explode and blow me up." "Well, do you want any more convincing proof than that?"

Gay old gentleman to boy, on twelfth birthday: "I hope you will improve in wisdom, knowledge, and virtue." Boy, politely returning compliment, totally unconscious of sarcasm, "The same to you, sir."

Customer (entering unexpectedly): "So, sir, I've caught you putting water in the milk." Milkman: "Yes—er—no; that is, sir, I'm only washing it. You don't suppose I'm going to serve my customers with dirty milk, do you?"

The fisherman and the shepherd must have a hard lot. They live by hook and crook.

Scarlet stationery has been introduced, but will not be popular. Who wants a letter red before it is written?

A «monster in human form» says that the only time a woman does not exaggerate is when she is talking of her own age.

A recent epitaph reads:—«Erected to the memory of John Phillips, who was accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brothers.»

"Musical instruments are now made of paper," said an exchange. That's nothing new. There's many a paper converted into an organ during a political campaign.

"Oh, Tommy, that was abominable in you to eat your sister's share of the cake." "Why," said Tommy, "didn't you always tell me, ma, that I am to take her part?"

Besides other labours, the women of Fiji have to do all the fishing. The male Fijians evidently don't wish to acquire a reputation for wild and thrilling exaggeration.

The following advertisement appeared in a Geneva journal:—"For the blind. Excellent pension, family life, good service, and delightful view of the Lake of Geneva."

A hat manufacturer says that the size of a man's head is always increased by excitement. We have noticed this too. It generally occurs the morning after the excitement.

When little Willie L. first heard the braying of a mule, he was greatly frightened; but, after thinking a minute, he smiled at his fear, saying, "Mamma, just hear that poor horse with the whooping cough?"

In some respects a man resembles a coin. He can do more good by being good than by appearing good when he is not good. This thought was engendered by receiving a leaden shilling in change.

"I beg pardon," he said, as he squeezed through the doorway and fell into a seat, "but how do you collect pay on this tram-car—by the mile, individual, hour, or what?" "By the ton, sir," kindly replied the conductor, as he reached out for double fare.

A man recently received a severe hurt in the face by the explosion of a bottle-necked cartridge which he was forcing into his gun. He is not the first man who has been injured by bottle-necked ware, and people who are in the habit should take a tumble and quit.

A little girl asked her father one day to taste a most delicious apple. What remained was ruefully inspected for a moment, when she asked: "Do you know, papa, how I can tell you are big without looking at you?" "I cannot say," was the reply. "I can tell by the bite you took out of my apple," was the crushing reply.

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HAVE REMOVED TO

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179--PIEDAD--179



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Como Corredor Oficial del Banco Hipotecario, pido a los señores que me han visto con anticipación, como así mismo a los que deseen hipotecar sus propiedades rurales ó urbanas, me remitan los Titulos, pues el día 12 del corriente, dicho Banco reabre sus operaciones con la Série G. de 7 o/o de interes, las que saldrán en circulación desde el 1º del proximo Agosto. Así mismo hago presente a mis numerosas relaciones que me hago cargo de toda clase de operaciones, relativas a dicho Banco, como a cancelaciones, transferencias, etc.

NATAL T. DE TORRES  
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NOTA

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A Good Assortment ALWAYS ON HAND AT  
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In addition to my order you already have please send me 500 lbs. more of the Glycerine Dip.—All the neighbors who have given it a trial speak most highly of it. I am pretty sure it will drive all other remedies out of the market, even in this district where adulterated Extracts of Tobacco have reigned supreme for some time. I cured my sheep nineteen times last year with tobacco and I am sure if I had used Glycerine Dip thrice I should have been better off.  
(Signed) FRED DASHWOOD

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N.B.—Any estanciero wishing to test the efficacy of this Dip for Scab, etc., C. P. Hayward will be pleased to show the simple process with the Especifico de Glicerina upon the sheep being supplied.

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88--MORENO--96

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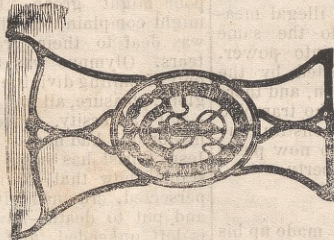
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First and Third class Passages to Brazilian Ports, New York, Antwerp, and towns in Great Britain. Reductions made in favour of Families and companies. First-class Return tickets, available for 12 months, at a reduction of one fourth.  
Prepaid Passages issued to those wishing to bring out friends.  
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Los Martes ... Rio de la Plata  
Los Jueves ... Saturno  
Los Sabados ... Olimpo  
Los Domingos ... Silex

PARA EL SALTO Y ESCALAS A LAS 10 A.M.

Los Martes, ... Vapor Olimpo  
Los Miércoles, ... Silex  
Los Jueves ... Cosmos  
Los Viernes, ... Rio de La Plata  
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TERMS.

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**THE SOUTHERN CROSS**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1885.

The folly of the Municipality in forming a grand boulevard at an enormous expense in the centre of the city while there are several streets in Buenos Aires unpaved and altogether unfit for man or beast to travel in can only be explained by the blind and stupid policy which that respectable body have always pursued. They remind one of the Indian Chief who adorns his upper story regardless of the rest of his body, or the schoolboy who contents himself with washing that portion of his face which is most exposed to the scrutiny of the pedagogue. The people in the suburbs pay rents and taxes as well as the dwellers in the central districts, nevertheless, they are not thought worthy of the benefits of civilization.

Mr. Gladstone's confession of the reason the Home Rule question could not have been previously settled conveys a striking lesson for Irishmen. He explains

that hitherto no one could say what the national sentiment of Ireland was, because, for instance, in the late Parliament there were three parties, one of Whigs, one of Tories, and the third Nationalists, none of whom could be considered repositories of the national trust, whereas in future he expects to see a united body at least eighty strong, which he cannot deny will represent all shades of popular opinion. This is the strongest condemnation that could be pronounced on the conduct of the Ulster Whigs, while it teaches our people the great lesson that if the national voice is to have any effect on Englishmen it must be unanimously spoken by an unbroken party. We can well afford just now to reserve our personal differences to be fought out in College Green.

President Roca, in his interview with Dr. Irigoyen, said that nothing could give him greater pleasure than to hand over the authority peacefully into the hands of the elect of the people. Then let him make good his words and prove his sincerity by insisting on the punishment of all who interfere with the freedom of election.

Sarmiento attributes all the political misfortunes of this country to the political inaction of the foreign residents. We want to know what would Sarmiento have the foreigners do? Are they to leave their business and families in order to mix themselves up in political squabbles from which they can hope to derive no benefit? Either the elections here can be carried on peacefully or they are not. If the former the good sense and wisdom of the native people ought to suffice to place the right man in office. If the latter, there is no remedy but revolution, and not even Sarmiento would ask the foreign population to take part in this alternative, for as sure as they do the native population would accuse them of intruding in the domestic affairs of this country. How can a man who has only resided here a few years be supposed to form a correct judgment in matters of government so as to justify him in rushing into revolution against the powers that be? Moreover there is not a single guarantee that some of those who now accuse the Government of illegal measure would not do the same when they come into power. Sarmiento was elected by the consent of the nation, and there never was a ruler who trampled more shamefully on constitutional rights than he who now poses as the defender of liberty.

So Gladstone has made up his mind to grant Home Rule to Ireland. In this Gladstone is simply accepting the inevitable, and so far he shows himself a wise man, for it is now a question whether Ireland shall have a government or whether England shall cease to have hers. By the telegram it would seem as if there were some difficulty with the royal family, as it appears that the «Grand Old Man» has repeatedly consulted them as to their opinion of his Home Rule scheme. We should not be at all surprised if they did kick against the goads. The Hanoverian family were never remarkable for common sense. William IV. and George IV. were little better than madmen, and George III. had to be tied down and bound in a straight waistcoat, at the thought that any of his loyal subjects should be allowed to worship God in a different way from himself. With regard to the split in the Liberal camp we do not set much value on it. It is Haves who tells the story, and the wish is father to the thought with him when he can chronicle anything unfavorable to Ireland. There may be half-a-dozen defections from the Liberal ranks, but they will be only a drop in the sea when Gladstone has the great Irish National Party at his back. On the whole, we are likely to have some lively times, and a good deal of fun in the next sessions of Parliament.

**CHRISTMAS.**

To-day is the Feast of the Nativity of Our Saviour and the hearts of young and old rejoice as the revolving year brings us again in presence of the thrice happy anniversary. The citizens and villagers, and the dwellers in the remote Pampa exult and bright faces are seen and joyful accents heard on all sides. «Christmas! Christmas!» the children exclaim, announcing by their joy the birth of the Son of God. We call to mind the words of the angel to the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem. «Fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.» and suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly army praising God and saying: «Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will.» How simple the announcement, how divine the prayer «Glory to God on high and on earth peace to men of good will;» how lowly the object which is proposed for the adoration of the shepherds. Yet the little child who comes into the world so poor and so humble, who is born in a stable, who sleeps in a manger, was destined to overthrow all the false gods of Rome. This child is the Lord of lords, Emanuel, the Son of the Most High, King of kings and emperors, and Master of worlds. At the time when the oracles announced the departure of the false gods the child born in Bethlehem was adored in the dungeons of the Eternal City, in the catacombs formed under the temples of Juptier and Mars and Venus, and not many centuries passed before the feast which we celebrate to-day was celebrated throughout the world. The feast of Christmas is the feast of all mankind, but it is especially the feast of the weak and lowly, the desolate, the despised, the outcast, and the orphan; all, in fact, whom the world excludes from the number of its favorites. Before the birth of Christ honors and respect were granted only to power and prosperity; temples were erected to good fortune, even though she took the shape of the usurer and the swindler. Before Christ, the poor might groan, the slave might complain, but the Pagan was deaf to their groans and tears. Olympus was the abode only of smiling divinities; riches, glory, pleasure, all had their god—but adversity, poverty, and misfortune had none. Now that Jesus Christ has been born in a stable—now that He has been persecuted, crowned with thorns, and put to death—now no grief is left unheeded, and mankind are consoled and illuminated with the divine rays of Faith, Hope, and Charity. From the birth of the Divine Son of Mary flow all the consolations of the Christian religion. From the hills of Bethlehem spring all the living waters which heal our wounds and relieve our sufferings. It is with reason then that the nations rejoice at the approach of this great festival, with its stars and its brilliantly illuminated Mass, its holy songs and watchings.

**THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE.**

We give elsewhere particulars of the conference held on Saturday evening at the house of Dr. Gorostiaga by the leaders of four different parties, with the view to a fusion. This step was absolutely necessary and should have been taken long ago. The official candidate is strong by the very nature of the position he occupies, and if there is any chance of competing successfully with him it can only be by the firm and combined union of all independent men in the nation. We, ourselves, recommended this course from the beginning, and we deprecated as strongly as we were able the bickerings and quarrels on personal grounds among different parties of the opposition. It was like the Jews carrying out to the utmost extreme their faction fights while

the Romans were battering the walls of their city. Juarez Celman is acknowledged by all who judge him fairly to be a man of mean capacity and one wholly unfitted to rule the nation, but supposing that he is a demi-god far beyond even the estimation of the hangers-on who support his candidature, he would still be objectionable, simply because he is the official choice; one who is supposed to be backed up by all the power of the executive government, and whose success would endorse a precedent which has hitherto been ruinous to the electoral liberty of the country. Under any other circumstances the resolution of the opposition leaders to appeal to the patriotism of Juarez Celman to resign his claim and to President Roca to induce him to do so, would be most absurd. Every citizen born in the country has a right to aspire to an office in the State, and the fact of Juarez Celman being connected by marriage with President Roca should not disqualify him for a post for which, by virtue of their nationality, all Argentines are eligible. The real objection to Juarez is that he is foisted on the country by the will of General Roca, without any transcendent merits of his own that would be likely to raise him to so lofty a position as that to which he aspires. We believe then that the opposition candidates are logical in asking Dr. Juarez Celman to resign, and they show their sincerity and patriotism by expressing themselves willing to do the same. At the same time, we are fully convinced that their arguments will not shake President Roca or Dr. Juarez one iota from their purpose. The former will reply that he has not interfered in the electoral campaign, and the latter will deny the charges of fraud and violence as his backers in the newspapers are doing, and insist on his right to test the public opinion of the country. It is unfortunate, too, that the course now taken by the fusionists recalls a disastrous epoch in Argentine political life. When Tejedor and Roca were candidates for the presidency the former proposed to do what the fusionists are now doing, with what result we all know. The success of General Roca in the campaign of 1880 will encourage him and his proteges to persevere in their endeavor. Be that as it may, it is the duty of the opposition candidates to try every legal resource to thwart the purpose of those who make light of the most sacred rights of the citizen and disregard the laws and the constitution. After all, the question of the elections is still in the hands of the people themselves. If they wish to shake off the incubus of official imposition they are strong enough; if, on the contrary, they bow their heads beneath the yoke it will only prove that whatever advancement this country may have made in other respects it is not yet sufficiently advanced in civilization to obtain the blessings of the franchise. A blessing, indeed, it is to those who know how to use it, but for those who do not it were better for them to live under a despotism than under a republican form of government. We shall only add that the fusionists, if they are in earnest, should at once agree on one man whom they would pledge themselves to support. United they will certainly form a powerful party. Divided they can be broken like the bundle of rods in the fable.

**PROCONSULS AND TETRARCHS.**

In the latter days of Roman republicanism it was usual to appoint those who aspired to the position of Consul to the government of some distant province before they reached the summit of their ambition, and when the Proconsul did not actually get the command of provinces in his own hands he might at any time exercise an arbitrary power by reminding those in authority that he would soon hold the reins of government. Something similar is occurring in this republic to-day. The official candidate to the presidency has no actual command allowed him in his

possession, but he exercises a public authority nevertheless, and his followers pay a sort of semi-worship to him which it is impossible to reconcile with the spirit of freedom fostered by republican institutions. The followers of Juarez Celman not only set him above all the men of the present day but they fancy that his brilliant achievements (not one of which is yet recorded) entitle him to honors only given to the heroes of the past, and assign him a niche in the temple of immortality. It is thus we hear that Juarez Celman's image is already displayed at the entrance of the University of Cordoba. We should not have noticed this incident, though it is hard to see what special claims Dr. Juarez Celman has to honors in a university, but it is specially worthy of note because the figure of the proconsul displaces that of a distinguished Argentine scholar, priest, and patriot, no less a man than Dean Funes. As all are aware, the name of Dean Funes is one of the most glorious in Argentine history. He held a foremost place amongst the ablest champions of Independence, and when the liberty of his country was secured he turned all his efforts to the improvement and education of the people among whom he resided. His «Historical Essays» are the best and most lucid exponents of the time of which he wrote. He spent a large fortune in maintaining the University of Cordoba, and he established there classes of mathematics and natural sciences. Dean Funes was himself for a time Rector of the University, and he was honored with the title of protector of the same establishment. So much is Corboba indebted to him that the city itself is sometimes called after his name—«The City of Dean Funes»—and yet this is the man whose image was sacrilegiously torn down from the walls where it was placed, in order to hang up that of Don Miguel Juarez Celman. It is a notable fact among certain South American «caudillos» that they envy the honors paid to the dead and take the first opportunity to rob them of the rewards paid to them by posterity. Rosas had his statue erected in the cathedral of Buenos Aires, Santos placed his own statue at the entrance to the Government House where that of Oribe used to be. The «Ilustre Americano», Guzman Blanco, has placed a statue of himself in all the plazas of Caracas, and now we have the Argentine Proconsul usurping the honors which a grateful people bestowed on a great citizen for services rendered. This is a specimen of the modesty and virtue of our republicanism.

In another part of the Republic Governor Winter has been giving us a proof of his appreciation of the Republican spirit. This individual is a species of Tetrarch in the distant territory of Patagonia, and like Herod he occasionally persecutes the holy and innocent. We have more than once noticed his outrageous slanders against the Salesian Fathers, who have undertaken without the hope of any earthly reward to establish Christian civilization among the benighted savages. Let us see what kind of civilization the Herod of Patagonia is trying to establish. Don Juan Bautista Romero is a schoolmaster in Col. Pringles, who like the Salesian Fathers, has been made the victim of Winter's tyranny. Unlike them, however, Romero is resolved to have recourse to the law in his own defense. His case is that he was arrested and imprisoned by Governor Winter, and retained in solitary confinement entirely against the laws of the country, which certify that the person accused must be tried by a judge duly authorized, and that no citizen can be detained in prison for more than twenty-four hours before some reason is assigned for his imprisonment. Governor Winter not only took the law into his own hands but tyrannically refused to listen to the man's appeal to the tribunals of the country. The will of the people has been grossly outraged in Cordoba, and the law has been trampled on in Col. Pringles. We shall see whether

the law and the popular voice will vindicate themselves, or whether both shall submit to be subject to the caprices of Proconsuls and Tetrarchs.

#### A PIECE OF ADVICE TO OUR CATHOLIC STUDENTS.

We deem it our duty to put forth the following suggestions to those students, both young and old, as to how they should occupy themselves during their vacation months.

They ought, above all things, to devote themselves to the reading of good and pious books—those books that will lead astray the mind and corrupt the heart ought never to be read. Irreligious or immoral reading does not conduce to knowledge, on the contrary, they are a source of frivolous superficialities. Our advice to them is, to peruse those Irish and Catholic authors, whose names are generally known and respected. Thus a great deal of time is spared and more advancement made. The perusal of eminent Catholic writers will teach them, not only what they ought to say, but also what they think.

Works of history, travel, art, science, &c., ought to be the source of their intellectual food. Their reading ought to be slow, attentive and reflective; with frequent interruptions to meditate on what they have read. An excellent rule to adopt, in their hours of leisure is to have recourse to such innocent amusement or employment as will not distract the tenor of their thoughts, or let them border on the sensual. They must never forget to refresh their memories upon the wholesome and moral truths that their religious instructors imparted to them during their school year. They ought to constantly bring them to their minds, and try and put them in practice. They ought to keep refreshing their memories upon certain points, whether it be in arithmetic, grammar, history, or in any other branch of knowledge, that has caused additional hours of toil in their solution. Of the importance of this latter rule too much cannot be said. The practise of boys refreshing their memories upon what they have learned in the various subjects of knowledge at school, one advocated by Froebel, Pestalozzi, and other great exponents of the practise and theory of teaching, is one that the writer of this article has always found to succeed.

Those pupils whose taste is more adapted to physical than to intellectual pursuits, ought to try and vary them with good and wholesome reading. The dissemination of cheap juvenile literature is the greatest curse that has ever visited this country, and as one very able theologian remarked "that it has sent many souls to hell." Good Catholic boys must be careful not to read such trash. Many other points at the present moment suggest themselves, but we shall content ourselves by simply saying that in whatever pursuit the pupils of our Catholic schools and colleges shall engage themselves, they ought not to forget to put in practice the many and wholesome moral instructions they have received from the hands of the many able and learned instructors attached to our various colleges and seminaries. Meanwhile we wish them all a pleasant and enjoyable time during their vacation months.

#### PROVINCIAL NEWS.

##### CORRIENTES.

Manuel Curuchet, an Argentine citizen, the editor of *El Heraldo* Asuncion, went to the port of that city on the 15th ult. with his friend Dr. Decond, who was about to embark on board the "Rio Uruguay." Curuchet was descending the Custom-house steps when D. Angel Peña, the secretary of the President of the Republic, suddenly began firing at him with a revolver. After eight or nine shots had been discharged a ball entered Curuchet's breast and he fell to the ground, but was able to draw out his own revolver and to fire some shots at Peña, who then fled.

It is feared that Curuchet's wound will prove fatal.

##### ROSARIO.

About 400 laborers have passed from the provinces of Cordoba and Santiago to the Esperanza colony for the harvest.

On the night of the 22nd there was a strong altercation between the commanders of the gendarmes and the watchmen; both called out their forces, and there would have been a serious fight but for the intervention of the chief of police.

Colonel Basualdo has been arrested for attacking the station-master at Villa Casilda.

The residents of San Lorenzo have forwarded to the Government a petition asking that the present Jefe Politico should not be removed from his post, as had been announced, to occupy another in the city.

##### SANTA FE.

In Santa Fe a new paper has appeared called *Los Comicios*, in place of *Los Principios*. It sustains Irigoyen and the Galvista party, and is edited by David Peña.

##### CATAMARCA.

A detachment of soldiers arrived and disembarked at San Pedro on the 23rd. Five carts were sent to receive them. They have come to keep order during the approaching elections.

The whole of the province is militarised.

##### SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO.

Captain Miranda's attorney has instituted criminal proceedings against *El Pais* for having published an article imputing that Miranda was the author of the murder of Garro.

The Government has issued a decree suspending the sale of 100 leagues of Treasury land denounced by C. Victor Roque.

The decree declares that until express authority has been given by the Legislature for the sale of large tracts of land, the alienation of the land will be made in accordance with the law of 1856, which declares that the lots shall not exceed six leagues each.

Apolonio Luque has forged the signature of Deputy Felipe Berdía to a document presented at the National Bank.

The forgery was discovered before money had been paid to Luque.

##### CORDOBA.

On the 15th ult. the writ of habeas corpus issued on behalf of Sres. Pizarro was presented to the Judge Garzon, but the Minister of the Interior presented at the same time an accusation against them for an attack upon the authorities. That morning they made their declarations before the Correctional Judge, being conducted from the barracks to his office by a soldier armed with a remington.

##### MONTEVIDEAN NEWS.

A Paysandu newspaper states that four Argentine citizens have been arrested by Lieut.-Colonel Osvaldo Rodriguez and taken from the Arroyo Malo to the Paseo de Toros to be sent to Montevideo.

At a private meeting of the Assembly it was resolved that the members of both chambers should attend the meeting on the 25th inst. in the character of electors, and that the President of the Assembly, Pedro Carve, should preside at the meeting, which will take place in the saloon of the Board of Education.

All the military chiefs, from lieutenant-colonels upwards, have been invited to attend the meeting.

General Santos has been suffering from a sore throat since Saturday.

The gale on Saturday afternoon did much damage both in the port and on shore.

The passengers by the "Rio Grande" were not permitted to land in consequence of three deaths having occurred on board from typhoid fever.

A telegram dated the 17th was received at Rio Grande from Rio de Janeiro stating that the ships anchored on the coast had been ordered to go farther out, in consequence of cholera having broken out on board one of them.

Rumors are in circulation that a conspiracy exists to attempt a revolution.

Two young men, Santiago and Francisco Bollo, were searched and examined by the jefe politico on board the "Saturno."

*La Tribuna Popular* says that the colonels have signed an agreement as to the attitude they will assume on the 25th.

The Chamber will present a list of names consisting of Dr. Francisco Vidal, A. Flangini, and Pedro Carve.

About 300 persons will take part in the meeting.

Thousands of persons attended the fetes at the Pocitos.

The recent rains have caused immense losses in the country.

General Santos is still confined to his bed.

It is now generally believed that Santos will have Vidal elected in order to escape the constitutional difficulty. Vidal is simply a tool of Santos, and was his predecessor in office. There is scarcely any doubt that he resigned owing to the pressure brought to bear on him by Santos, and he calculates that the same will occur again. Vidal will get into office and Santos will make things so hot for him that he will extort from him another resignation, and Santos will once more be elected and declared "Saviour of the Country."

The death is announced of Lieut.-general Felipe Fraga at the age of eighty, who did the State some service and fought for his country in the war of independence.

#### GENERAL ITEMS.

The "Elbe" reached Montevideo yesterday, and will be in this port to-day. We are not certain whether Dean Dillon is on board of her. In the list of passengers sent from Rio Janeiro his name was not given.

Assassination is becoming very common in Magdalena. Don Francisco Isasi, an inhabitant of that town, was treacherously murdered about midnight on Sunday. The murderer asked for money, which being refused, he shot poor Isasi. Some hours after the commissary arrived in a carriage guarded by a body of police, but there was no trace of the murderer. The following individuals have also been recently murdered in the same partido. Juan José Droen, Juan Machicoate, and Juan Lazarte. In no case have the murderers been brought to justice, though they are well-known in the district. The commissary always goes about with his body-guard, but he dares not arrest a single murderer.

Forty beggars were arrested on Monday in this city for the crime of asking for more. Some of the papers say they receive an entrance of about 120 m/n each per month.

Dr. Irigoyen waited on President Reza on Tuesday evening in fulfilment of his engagement to the members of the conference, and the President promised, as he has often done before, that he would not interfere in the coming elections. General Mitre has deputed Dr. Garcia in his place to wait on Juarez Celman and ask him to resign, which of course he will not do.

Mr. Alvear has postponed the opening of the boulevard until the 1st February.

It is expected that the statue of General Brown which is already placed on the pedestal, will be inaugurated on the 9th of February 1886. There are four inscriptions in brass; in front the name, Guillermo Brown, at the back "La nacion agradece" (a grateful nation), at the sides the dates of two of his most celebrated battles, February 9, 1827, and May 14, 1814.

The Chemical Analyst's office is ready to analyse any specimens of water, not less than two litres, sent for the purpose and taken from private wells and albiges. Particulars of the locality, depth of the well, etc., must be sent with the specimens. Only four analyses a day can be made, and the specimens will be taken in the order in which they are received.

We beg to welcome Mr. Henry Lynch back to the River Plate. We have not yet had the pleasure of seeing him, but we are told he is looking well. He has

been in Australia since he left Buenos Aires. His numerous friends here will be glad to hear of his return. Mr. John O'Rourke is also about to return to the River Plate.

The engineers of the Pacific Railway are surveying in the vicinity of Mr. John Browne's camp La Choza. It is expected that the line will be made to the right of Mr. Ham's estancia, and come into town by San Martin. In a few days the line from Mercedes to San Luis will be finished, and then the train will run from Mercedes in this province to Mercedes in San Luis.

It being supposed by Dr. Pasteur that "grano malo" is of the same character as carbuncle, and therefore curable by inoculation in the same manner as the latter disease, Messrs. Neild and Co., the proprietors of the estancia Las Cabezas in Gualegay, have obtained from Dr. Pasteur preparations of the virus which he uses for such inoculation, and they were about to use them on the animals attacked with the "grano malo" when they were stopped by the public authorities who feared that a new disease might be introduced into the country. Messrs. Neild have offered to make the experiments with such precautions that no danger of this kind could arise, but up to the present time the authorities have come to no decision on the subject.

At ten minutes past ten on Tuesday night a fire broke out in the building that used to be the Argentine Brewery, calle Coronel 225. The firemen soon arrived, and set to work to extinguish it with the water out of the albiges belonging to the establishment. The origin of the fire is unknown; it commenced in the cellar where sawdust and wood are stored, and it was feared that the other parts of the building, which is built of wood, might catch fire. Three firemen were nearly suffocated, but thanks to the activity of Colonel Coloma they were saved. In the said building Sres. Panelo and Santo Coloma were going to establish an oil factory, the machinery being expected every day.

According to the bills of entry the quantity of beef imported into the United Kingdom during October was 73,420 cwt. against 76,555 cwt. Queensland sent 1738 cwt against nil, New Zealand 808 cwt against 219, Canada 2716 cwt against 3852, the United States 64,872 cwt against 71,385, and the Argentine Republic nil against 104 cwt. The imports of mutton for the month were 44,999 cwt against 38,858, Holland sending 9349 cwt against 15,216, Victoria 3339 and New South Wales 1379 cwt respectively against nil, New Zealand 18,298 against 12,944, the United States 1032 cwt against 2076, and the Argentine Republic 10,971 against 5444 cwt.

Yesterday being Christmas Eve there was a children's fete in the Florida Gardens, organised by the Damas de Caridad. There was a Christmas tree laden with toys, which were distributed among the children. A select orchestra discoursed some very fine music.

We are requested to announce that the Funeral Mass for Mrs. Hire, of Pavon, which was announced to take place on the 29th inst., has been postponed owing to unexpected circumstances.

The distribution of premiums took place at Holy Cross College on Friday last. The Hon. Mr. Hanna, American Minister, presided, and Rev. Father Edmund and Brother John, C.P., Colonel Campos and several ladies, and gentlemen whose names we do not know, were present. The distribution took place in the outside patio, which was magnificently decorated with collegiate inscriptions and emblems, and with the flags of various nations. The prizes were handed to the successful competitors by the Hon. Mr. Hanna, who made a brilliant speech on the benefits of education, which was translated into Spanish by one of the teachers of the college. Dr. Kelly, in reading the report for the year, laid particular stress on the fact that since the college was established

scarcely a single boy had been taken ill. He referred to the improvements made in the college, and he hoped to be able to accommodate a much larger number of pupils next year. We think that Dr. Kelly deserves the highest congratulations for the results of the scholastic year which is now finished.

The masked balls will commence in the Politeama on New Year's Eve.

Several of the members of our high life society are going to spend the summer months in Montevideo notwithstanding the "curso forzoso."

We have received further particulars respecting the destruction of the San Nicolas mole which was almost completed. About 20 yards gave way; the breadth of the mole at the spot was 20 yards. By a providential occurrence the families on board the "Provedor" escaped an almost certain death. The captain, about ten minutes before the catastrophe took place, ordered the moorings to be loosened and the steamer made for the middle of the river. Nevertheless the sudden rising and agitation of the waters inflicted some injuries on the hull.

Mr. Hansen, accompanied by Mr. Petersen, of Patagonas, who went to Germany some eight months ago to arrange about German colonists for his concession on the Nanquen, arrived here on Sunday. He comes back with everything satisfactorily arranged and will proceed in a few days to Patagonas to conclude his business there.

There was a severe thunder and rain storm in the city on Saturday night. Many districts were flooded with water and the suburbs of the city and places which have not yet seen a paving-stone were quite impassable.

Such is the abundance of water in the camps that the wells in some of the western districts are nearly full to the surface.

General Sarmiento has asked for a concession of 16,000 hectares of Government lands on the banks of the Rio Negro, on the same condition as the heirs of the late Adolfo Alsina.

The Government has replied that the lands on the Rio Negro were only assigned to those who had fought in the campaign of 1879 against the Indians, and that as Sarmiento did not take part in that campaign he could not lay claim to any share in the concession. Indeed, it is funny to see Sarmiento asking concessions of land on the strength of his military prowess.

We very much regret to hear that Mrs. John B. Dowling met with an accident last week as she was about to enter the train at Mercedes for Buenos Aires. *El Oeste* states the fact, but does not give particulars how the accident occurred. We sincerely hope that it is nothing serious, and that this esteemed lady is before now quite recovered.

Last week, a cart drawn by seven horses was upset on the bridge "Vitel," near Chascomus; cart, horses and driver tumbled into the river. By great good luck the driver's life was saved. The cart was broken and the horses are unfit for further use.

The examinations commenced on Friday at the Anglo-Argentine College and terminated on Saturday. The following is a list of the students who have most distinguished themselves by their application, intelligence and good conduct:—Macedonio Fernandez, Albert Clifton Tucker, Arthur Muñoz, Charles Cidra, Patrick Joseph Allen, John Martin, Adolfo Fernandez, Hugué Martin, Federico Baraldo, Martin Ploere. The boys of the Anglo-Argentine College presented examinations at the National College and came off with flying colours. We beg to congratulate Mr. Magrath, the able director.

A banquet was given to Dr. Galvez, Minister of Santa-Fé, on Friday, at the Café del Paris, by the capitalists and estancieros of that province. Mr. Hanguet, the administrator of the Belgian estancias toasted "the guest of the evening," and eloquent speeches were delivered by Drs. Centeno, P. Llambi Campbell, Segui, J. Cullen, and Mr.

Mulhall. All praised Dr. Galvez and wished that his fame would go on increasing until he reached the summit of his ambition, which at present goes no farther than the governorship.

A black woman, named Eduvige, died last week in Chiviloy at the ripe age of 138 years, just double the span of life usually allotted to man upon earth.

*El Oeste* of Mercedes gives information of a law suit going on there in which the interests and reputation of more than one are concerned. It appears that D. Ramon R. de Escobar was recently married to Doña Victoriana Ayrala. The sons-in-law of this lady accuse Escobar of unfair dealings and wish to annul the marriage on the grounds that the bride is of unsound mind. Whether the charge be true or false Escobar has been arrested and is imprisoned in Mercedes gaol.

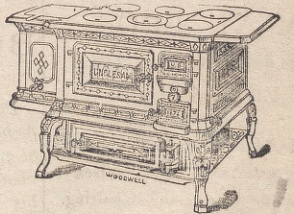
The leaders of the opposition parties, Dr. Irigoyen, Rocha, and Gorostiaga, and General Mitre had a conference on Saturday evening with a view to take measures to act in concert in the electoral campaign. They met at Dr. Gorostiaga's house, and after a very cordial interview it was agreed to request Dr. Juarez Celman to withdraw his candidature, they pledging themselves to do the same. 2. To come to an understanding for the appointment of a candidate who would satisfy the National aspirations. 3. To declare that the triumph of the popular party is assured, but that the leaders wish to give proof that they are not swayed by motives of personal ambition by thus appealing to the patriotism of their fellow-citizens. 4. In case their request be disregarded to carry on the struggle with the greatest energy. Dr. Irigoyen undertook to wait on President Roca and request him to use his influence with Dr. Celman for the sake of peace and order to resign his pretensions. Gen. Mitre undertook to interview Dr. Celman himself for the same purpose.

The E.P. of the province has approved of the contract between the municipality of Bahía Blanca and Sr. Mario Biggi for the installation of "aguas corrientes" in that place.

Dr. Cooper has come from England to succeed Dr. Hanly as resident physician and surgeon to the British Hospital.

The Provincial Government is revising the reports of the engineers Lavalle and Medici with regard to the canalisation of the rivers Salado and Vecino. The decree of the Government ordering the works to be commenced will soon be issued.

The large estancia Laguna Verde belonging to Don A. Roca, is reported to have been invaded by Indians and many peons killed. The authorities of Santiago are investigating the matter. No particulars of a reliable nature have yet been received.



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A NATURE PRAYER.

Oh, birds that sing such thankful psalms,  
 Rebuking human fretting,  
 Teach us your secret of content,  
 Your science of forgetting.  
 For every life has its ills—  
 You, too, have moments of sorrow—  
 Teach us, like you, to lay them by  
 And sing again to-morrow;  
 For gems of blackest jet may rest  
 Within a golden setting,  
 And he is wise who understands  
 The science of forgetting.

Oh, palms that bow before the gale  
 Until its peaceful ending,  
 Teach us your yielding, linked with  
 strength,  
 Your graceful art of bending;  
 For every tree must meet the storm,  
 Each heart encounter sorrow;  
 Teach us, like you, to bow, that we  
 May stand erect to-morrow;  
 For there is strength in humble  
 grace—  
 Its wise disciples shielding—  
 And he is strong who understands  
 The happy art of yielding.

Oh, brooks that laugh all night,  
 all day,  
 With voice of sweet seduction,  
 Teach us your art of laughing more  
 At every new obstruction;  
 For every life has eddies deep  
 And rapids fiercely dashing,  
 Sometimes through gloomy caverns  
 forced,  
 Sometimes in sunlight flashing;  
 Yet there is wisdom in your way.  
 Your laughing waves and wim-  
 ples;  
 Teach us your gospel built of  
 smiles,  
 The secret of your dimples.

Oh, oaks that stand in forest ranks,  
 Tall, strong, erect and stately,  
 Your branches arched in noblest  
 grace,  
 Your leaflets laughing lightly;  
 Teach us your firm and quiet  
 strength,  
 Your secrets of extraction  
 From slimy darkness in the soil  
 The grace of life and action;  
 For they are rich who understand  
 The secret of combining  
 The good deep hidden in the earth,  
 With that where suns are shining.

Oh, myriad forms of earth and air,  
 Of lake, and sea, and river,  
 Which makes our landscapes glad  
 and fair  
 To glorify the giver;  
 Teach us to learn the lessons hid  
 In each familiar feature,  
 The mystery which so perfectly  
 Each low and lofty creature;  
 For God is good, and life is sweet,  
 While suns are brightly shining,  
 To glad the glooms and thus rebuke  
 Our follies of repining.

Each night is followed by its day,  
 Each storm by fairer weather,  
 While all the works of nature sing  
 Their psalms of joy together.  
 Then learn, O heart, their songs of  
 love  
 Cease, soul, thy thankless sorrow;  
 For though the clouds be dark  
 to-day  
 The sun shall shine to-morrow  
 And learn well, from bird and tree and  
 rill,  
 The sins of dark resentment!  
 And know the greatest gift of God  
 Is faith and sweet contentment.

THE LEGACY OF THE CRIB.

A CHRISTMAS STORY FOR BOYS.

In an old woodland ruin there dwelt the child Louis with his father Diego. The latter, an unbeliever, caught at any flying theory likely to sustain his own darkened opinions regarding the future. To such a spirit, Death could only bring terror, and so it happened that one night Louis was awakened by a terrible cry.

The great round moon shone in the window, and showed his father's face, blanched with the agonies of the dying.

In great fear he groped down the long, dark stair.

He had gained a vast knowledge of God from the good Franciscan Pere, who on Sundays ascended the rocks there in the wilds with his cross and preached the faith.

He would go to the Pere now. So over the scarp hills he fled, returning with the priest, who hastened to the scene like one gifted with wings.

When, some days later, Diego died a repentant and happy death, the Pere turned to little Louis.

«Go,» he said kindly, «and seek among the people for work that you may live an industrious and independent life. If you do not succeed come back to me.»

So Louis struck out across the plains and cliffs to the borderlands, where the inhabitants were more prosperous. He went from house to workshop, and even among the colliers and fishermen, always in vain; when, at last, completely exhausted, he dragged his steps back to the Pere.

The latter took him in his arms, and laid him on his own miserable bed of straw.

«No matter,» he said, «about these disappointments, you were faithful to your father's soul, and you will reap a blessing.»

With these words in his ears the boy fell into a deep and peaceful slumber. He awoke at midnight. The cave was filled with a blaze of light. The Pere dwelt in its seclusion by choice, rather than that the poor people thereabouts should be left dependent on an occasional mission, and thus grow lethargic and indifferent in the faith. Louis saw him kneeling now before the cross, scourging with a knotted lash his bared shoulders. After awhile he gathered his robe about him, and, putting his scourge away, reached to a rope hanging near, and rang loud and tirelessly at the old bell his ingenuity had suspended from the cave. Presently in from the hills and starlight there flocked groups of gaunt, ill-clad natives, who, on bended knee and with bared heads, assisted at the midnight Mass.

When they had departed, the boy, lost in wonder, arose from his couch.

«Louis,» said the priest, softly, «Christ is born.» And over there, under the shadow of holly and palms, was the Crib laid in a stall.

«Like that He came into the world, in a manger,» he said, «and, Louis, people wonder why I am content in a cave.»

It was all a mystery to the neglected youth; but the Pere sat with him there, relating the wonderful story of the Magi, and the mysterious star of the shepherds aroused by the Glorias, of the Angels, of Joseph, the faithful Foster Father, who, despite the hardships attending the cold journey to Bethlehem, never wearied, and of Mary, gentle and uncomplaining, though the worldly inn-keepers shut her out from shelter that wild December night.

«And this Feast of this Nativity,» said the Pere, «is one prolific of gifts. You are alone in the world, Louis; let not this season go by without seeking a treasure at the Crib.»

«But why,» asked the boy, puzzled, «is it a feast of gifts?»

«Because,» answered his companion, softly, «our Eternal Father conferred upon the world the gift of His only Son.»

The boy became lost in thought. «I will ask for money then,» he said, presently.

«Alas,» was the answer, «money often hides God.»

«Will you tell me, Father, he said, «for what gifts shall I seek then?»

«Patience, obedience and honesty,» was the rejoinder. «More precious than money are they, for with them you can fight the world.»

Louis thought «patience, obedience and honesty,» very trifling things to ask for when others, seemingly more precious, were to be had, but the Pere said it, and that now was sufficient.

So he spent a long while at the Crib, asking over and over again for «patience, obedience and honesty.» Sometimes he, in imagination, knelt with the magi, sometimes with the Shepherds, and sometimes with Mary and Joseph.

Christmas over, he set out again by the advice of the Pere to look for work. Bartholdi, a merchant in a neighboring town had been advertising for a boy, but when Louis arrived on the scene he found that Ludwig, a sturdy shepherd lad, had already secured the place on trial.

Although disheartened he did not begrudge, but praised God secretly, that at least one boy had met that day with good fortune. So he traversed the town anew, but to return again wearied, fearful and disappointed. The Pere met him as before.

«Never mind,» he said as he bathed the swollen feet of the boy, «you were faithful to your father, and you will have a blessing.»

Meanwhile Ludwig had been assigned his duties, which to his astonishment consisted simply in opening and shutting a cellar door.

«An easy berth indeed,» thought he, as he betook himself to his task.

Occasionally, however, he noticed a catch in the door as if it were swollen, sometimes at the bottom, sometimes at the top, and once it caught so fast that although he pushed in the usual way it would not open. He worked at it for some time, it was drawing near noon, he was getting hungry, and at last after a series of vexations, he fuming with anger, gave it a violent kick, that not only sent the door flying open but himself sprawling at the feet of his employer.

«I dismiss you,» said the latter. «Here is your wages.»

The boy would fain expostulate but the great Bartholdi pointed sternly to the door, and ushered him out.

A day or so later little Louis ploughed his way through the blinding storm again, in search of work.

Passing the house of the merchant, he looked in curiously. Rumor had reached him that he was an infidel, and as he now saw Bartholdi approaching he held his breath in fear.

«Why are you not at work?» said the great man.

«Alas! there is none to be found,» answered Louis.

«Come to me on trial,» was the rejoinder, and the merchant passed on.

Louis did not rejoice to-day, as he would have done yesterday. The society of an infidel in that big house was a gloomy outlook. He hastened to the Pere. The Pere told him yes, and he went to work to Bartholdi, who sent him to the cellar door, as he had done with Ludwig.

Louis worked in wonder at this seemingly profitless occupation until it began to catch. Then, although his patience was sorely tried, he kept on, watching the «catch» with the scrutinizing eye of a little mechanic. At noon he had the door working free, the difficulty, by a stroke of ingenuity, he forever removed. Bartholdi took him aside.

«The place is yours,» he said with a cheerful countenance. «You are quite equal to it. And now listen. My inventor, Periwig Pike, is a man whose entire thoughts are so concentrated on his work that he has lost the knack of system. He never puts anything in place, and that is what I want you for, to pick things up after him. The cellar door was but a test of your patience. You will need all the patience you can command to see after Periwig. I must humor him, as he is indispensable to me. You understand?»

And so it came to pass that little Louis was ushered into the presence of a withered old man in a skull-cap, who took a great deal of snuff, and wore a big apron, and was completely bastarded with tiers of queer-looking instruments and sheets of metal.

«This is Louis, the new boy,» said Bartholdi.

«Find me my plumb,» said the old man, irascibly, and finished the sentence with a curse, as he tumbled a box of washers in his search.

«Praise be to Jesus,» whispered Louis, in reparation of the curse, and timidly asked what it was like.

«Like a blockhead,» snapped Periwig, from which scornful speech Louis gathered that he was not to get information here save through his own wits. So he went searching for the plumb, praying he might know it when he saw it. By the time he found it, Periwig stamped his foot for the saw, and not quite sure which of the two implements he needed first, Louis ran hither and thither greatly excited in his search for the saw until startled anew with a cry for an augur.

When all three were laid before him, Periwig tumbled down the screws from the shelf in a hunt for a roll of wire, and raved loudly because he could never find anything where he wanted it.

«A place for everything, and everything never in its place,» sighed Louis, as that night, when Periwig had gone to supper, he remained behind to bring order out of chaos.

Bartholdi, later, peered in at this workshop that had been such an eyesore to him, and was

greatly edified at finding hooks set up and everything arranged in alphabetical order.

The following day he despatched Louis on an errand.

«Pass the park, where the bears are,» he said, «in going, and come back by way of the boat race.»

Both these scenes were within range of the house, and no sooner had Louis gone than Bartholdi ascended to the great lookout of his mansion, and taking his telescope watched his progress. He saw him go by the park; he saw him halt as if the temptation to watch the tame bears was strong, then stride on rapidly like one conquering self. He watched him enter the scene of the errand and circle around by the boat race.

A dense mass lined the bridge; they were people watching the race. But passing them, on, on, was the little moving form of Louis, never once stopping to gaze, but keeping true to his task.

Bartholdi, with a satisfied look, closed his telescope and descended.

«You have done your errand, Louis?» he said, meeting him at the door.

«Yes, sir,» answered the boy, simply, and placed the roll of money in the merchant's hand, for which he had been sent.

«How is it,» he said, as they sat down, «that of the hundred or more boys I have had to deal with in my employ you alone possess the priceless gifts of patience, obedience, and honesty?»

«And do I really possess those gifts?» cried Louis, rising to his feet in joyful surprise.

«You do,» said the other, emphatically. «Tell me how you have obtained a legacy so remarkable in one of your years?»

«From the Crib of Bethlehem,» said the boy, softly.

And in a tearful tumult he related the whole story of the Franciscan Pere, and what he had told him of the Magi, the Shepherds, and the Christ-Child.

The infidel was silent. Louis grew fearful lest he had offended him. It was not so; he had merely sown a seed, which was amply proved on the following Christmas, when Bartholdi endowed a chapel for the good Pere, adopted Louis as his son, and became a pillar of the Faith.

CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND.

In no land under the heavens is Christmas celebrated with such fervor, joy and unity as in Ireland. Let every other day in the year witness a pall of mystery hanging over the land, on this great day it is lifted, and the heavenly anthem «Peace on earth to men of good will,» brings joy and gladness to all hearts.

The religious ceremony with which the festival is observed is most imposing.

It is a custom in most Catholic families to sit up till midnight on Christmas-Eve, in order to join in the devotions at that hour.

We agree with Gerald Griffin that «few ceremonies of religion have a more splendid and imposing effect than the morning Mass, which, in cities, is celebrated soon after the hour alluded to, and long before day-break.» On this eve a candle called the Christmas light (previously blessed), is lighted at sunset. Griffin alluded to it:

«The Christmas light is burning bright  
 In many a cottage pane,  
 And many a village rings to-night  
 With many a merry strain.»

It is considered a kind of impiety to touch snuff, or use this Christmas light for aught save religious purposes after. On Christmas day the Irish people exchange Christmas-boxes—any gift being termed a box—but deriving the title from little boxes of turned wood stained red, which are given to young people and dependents with a coin to rattle in it.

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

«Gladly the boy, with Christmas box in hand,  
 Throughout the town his devious route pur-sues;  
 And of his master's custom-implores  
 The yearly mite; often his cash he shakes,  
 The which perchance of coppers few consists.  
 Whose dulcet jingle fills his little soul with joy.»

The houses are decked with holly and branches interwoven with ivy to indicate, as it were, the ever-blooming joy with which the world is filled through the great mystery of the coming of our Saviour on earth.

The season on which the feast takes place in Ireland greatly enhances its charms. People assemble in towns and village. The days are dull and cold and the nights exceedingly long. In order to renew nature which seems to lie dead beneath its winding-sheet of snow Religion must lead her aid, and causes, if I may say so, flowers to bloom among the snows. It belongs only to puritanical austerity to banish the amusements which gladden at this season the family circle, for it is natural and reasonable to rejoice when we receive a benefit. Now, was there ever granted to us a greater favor than that which Christmas night brings us in its darkness? was there ever a more magnificent bounty shown by Heaven to men? On this night it let pass the King Whom the angels serve and adore. On this night a Father and a Brother is come to visit mankind—a Liberator to slaves—a friend to children, a Model to Kings, and a Vanquisher to death. Let us then rejoice in the Lord. Christmas is the great dawn of our deliverance. Jesus Christ is the Sun of Justice rising over the world to drive away the shades of death.

AN IDYLL OF LAUGHTER.

A really musical laugh is perhaps rarer than a really musical voice. The giggle, the snigger, the half-choked laugh are common enough; but how seldom do we hear that melodious sound, the laugh in its perfection. It should not be shrill, nor too loud, nor too long. It should not bear any double meaning, any hidden sarcasm in its mirth. It should not be so boisterous as to exhaust the laugher and deafen the listeners. There is the loud guffaw of the vulgar, and the laughter which appears likely to tear the laugher in pieces, causing him to wipe his eyes after the explosion is over. There is the laugh of embarrassment, when a shy person at a loss what to say next «remarks to he,» as Artemus Ward describes it. There is the schoolgirl's giggle; and the schoolboy's snigger, as he reflects on some recently perpetrated but still recollected piece of mischief. There is the chuckle of the successful man. All these laughs bear some family resemblance to each other; they all, in their degree, express sensations of pleasure. There are darker descriptions of laughter. There are laughs more cutting than the bitterest speeches, more alarming than the cruellest threats. Satirical laughter is most offensive. A laugh can convey contempt which words would fail to express. Is anyone proof against being annoyed by ridicule? Even a dog is sensible when he is laughed at, and resents the impertinence. Some animals are indeed quite as sensitive to derision as human beings. The laughter of the underbred who find open amusement in the minor troubles of their neighbors—say the ridicule lavished on sea-sick arrivals at a pier, or on hapless foreigners in an altercation with a cabman, or an old gentleman who falls down a slide—also ranks among «laughs offensive.» Then there is the laugh of incredulity. When Tom goes to his rich old uncle, full of glowing descriptions of the lady to whom he is engaged, or of the appointment which he expects to obtain, does the old gentleman damp his nephew's ardor by a long harangue? No, he only gives a dry laugh; and Tom's hopes of a cheque fall rapidly. Too rare laughers are just as unpopular as too ready ones. A teller of good stories never forgives the man who does not laugh at his jokes. Many persons have made their fortunes by laughing at judicious moments; applauding some poor jest, or becoming convulsed with mirth at a dull pun. To be duly appreciative of his patron's wit was an important part of the duty of a hanger-on. With what ready laughter are the schoolmaster's

witticisms received by his class? There is a story of a dramatic author, whose play had been accepted, being requested to make sundry alterations to suit the taste of the actors. Among other changes, the manager suggested that a «laugh» should be introduced at the conclusion of a speech of an out-going performer. «It would give him a better exit.» The author pleaded that to admit this alteration would spoil the whole dialogue, but the manager «was urgent still. «Think over it and do what you can, B—»'s position in the theatre demands it.» When laughs are thus prized, is it wonderful that persons who rarely use their risible muscles are unpopular?

YOUNG GENIUS.

The greatest captains of ancient and modern times, both conquered Italy at twenty-five. Youth, extreme youth, overthrew the Persian Empire. Don John, of Austria, won Lepanto at twenty-five, the greatest battle of modern times. Gustavus Adolphus, died at thirty-eight. Cortez was little more than thirty when he gazed upon the golden cupolas of Mexico. When Maurice of Saxony died at thirty-two, all Europe acknowledged the loss of the greatest captain and the profoundest statesman of the age. John de Medici was a cardinal at fifteen. He was Pope as Leo X. at thirty-seven. Luther robbed him of his richest province at thirty-five. Take Ignatius Loyola and John Wesley, they worked with young brains. Pascal wrote a great work at sixteen, and died at thirty-seven. That fatal thirty-seven, which reminds one of Byron. Raphael died at thirty-seven. Richelieu was secretary of state at thirty-eight. There are Bolingbroke and Pitt, both ministers before other men leave off cricket. Grotius was in practice and attorney-general at twenty-four. Acquaviva was general of the Jesuits, and colonized America before he was thirty-seven.

AN ALARMING DISEASE AFFECTING A NUMEROUS CLASS.

THE disease commences with a slight derangement of the stomach, but, if neglected, it in time involves the whole frame, embracing the kidneys, liver, pancreatic system, and the affected organs out a miserable existence until death gives relief from suffering. The disease is often mistaken for other complaints; but if the reader will ask himself the following questions, he will be able to determine whether he himself is one of the afflicted: Have I distressing pain, or difficulty in breathing after eating? Is there a dull, heavy feeling, attended by drowsiness? Have the eyes a yellow tinge? Does a thick, sticky mucus gather about the gums and teeth in the mornings, accompanied by a disagreeable taste? Is the tongue coated? Is there pain in the side and back? Is there a fullness about the right side as if the liver was enlarging? Is there costiveness? Is there vertigo or dizziness when rising suddenly from a horizontal position? Are the secretions from the kidneys scanty and highly coloured, with a deposit after standing? Does food soon ferment after eating, accompanied by flatulency or a belching of gas from the stomach? Is there frequent palpitation of the heart? These various symptoms may not be present at one time, but they torment the sufferer in turn as the dreadful disease progresses. If the case be one of long standing, there will be a dry, hacking cough, attended after a time by expectoration. In very advanced stages the skin assumes a dirty brownish appearance, and the hands and feet are covered with a cold, sticky perspiration. As the liver and kidneys become more and more diseased, rheumatic pains appear, and the usual treatment proves entirely unavailing against this latter agonizing disorder. The origin of this maldy is indigestion or dyspepsia, and a small quantity of the pro- per medicine will remove the disease if taken in its incipency. It is most important that the disease should be promptly and properly treated in its first stages, when a little medicine will affect a cure, and even when it has obtained a strong hold the correct remedy should be persevered in until every vestige of the disease is eradicated, until the appetite is returned, and the digestive organs restored to a healthy condition. The surest and most effective remedy of this distressing complaint is «Seigel's Curative Syrup,» a vegetable preparation sold by all chemists and medicine vendors throughout the world, and by the proprietors, A. J. White, Limited, 77, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.

TESTIMONIAL.

DEAR SIR,  
 By chance I obtained from a friend (Mr. Fred. Stearns) some of the Curative Syrup, and since the commencement of the New Year I have taken the medicine twice a day, and now, thank God, I am quite well. For three years I have suffered with a pain in the stomach, so much that I could not straighten myself or ride on horseback, and during that time I was under four doctors and got no relief. You are quite welcome to use my name, as it may benefit others. My son is also taking the medicine as he is suffering from the same complaint. I may say that on no account would I remain without this remedy and I will be glad to receive a box of the same.

JOHN BROWN,  
 Estancia Florida,  
 Estacion Altamirano F.C.S.  
 July 19, 1884.

COMMERCIAL.

December 23.

Gold	141.10
Series A	97
Series E	764
Series F	764
Series G	804
National Bank Shares	—

The wool-market is exceedingly dull. This may be owing to the usual indifference that takes place at the end of the year, and buyers are possibly waiting orders from Europe. Several consignees are sending all their wool into deposit. We may say that prices have not been lower than they are at present for the last fifteen years. Splendid wools are bought from \$90 to 100; good wool 75 to 80, and inferior as low as 60. There is scarcely any hope of a reaction in prices before the middle of January. Gold is down to 41.

The Custom House receipts for Saturday were \$62,643.03, and for the 16 working days of the present month \$1,151,530 m/n, being 329,003.84 less than the receipts for the same number of days of December 1884. From the beginning of the year to date the receipts amount to \$22,981.31, and for the same period last year \$21,465,536.94 m/n, showing a difference in favour of 1885 of \$1,515,526.37.

It is stated that in a few days the Mortgage Bank will issue its two new Series H and I. The former will be for 2,500,000 issued in La Plata and with the object to help the Government employes to build their own houses. The latter will be for 20,000,000 8 per cent and will be issued here.

The steamer "Montevideo" which went aground some six or seven days ago is considered as completely lost. She had on board 1500 bags of maize. The steamer "Rio Gualaguay" is also aground, but there are still hopes of saving her. The steamer "Phoenix," 13 tons register, has been bought by Mr. Lucas Gonzales for the sum of 9000 nats.

Dr. Gonnet, Provincial Minister of Public Works, is at present preparing a project which will be laid before the Legislature next week. Dr. Gonnet proposes to grant a guarantee of 6 per cent to any company with a capital of ten million dollars started in the province with the object of preserving and shipping frozen meat.

Reports of the harvest in Santa Fé are not at all cheering. The blight has committed terrible ravages in the lino crop. In Santa Fé and Entre Rios the yield will be 40 or 50 per cent under last year's, and the estimate in Buenos Aires is still lower. The worst of it is that there is a fall in price in the European market. It is feared that the wheat harvest, too, will be far below the average. The prices here are good owing to the scarcity, but with the arrivals of new wheat in the market we may expect that the price of wheat will come down.

Particulars of the purchase of the Ribes Line of steamers by the Platense Company have just come to hand. It appears the French company did everything in their power to arrange matters, but Mr. Ribes would not come to anything like a reasonable settlement. The shareholders of the French company then called a meeting and unanimously agreed to liquidate the company. However, owing to some arrangements made at home, this idea has been abandoned, and the company we believe will become an English one instead of French.

Messrs Andrew and Labra made a contract when the flax crop promised so well to deliver 4,000,000 ar. But owing to its failure the contract has fallen through, as it is simply an impossibility to deliver such a quantity. The news from France about flax is anything but encouraging, the price having fallen a franc per arroba.

Exchange in Santiago de Chili is quoted at 26 1/2 d.

An estanciero of 9 de Julio informs us that such is the superabundance of alfalfa this year the estancieros are hardly able to cut it down, and, owing to the frequent rains, cannot save it.

They therefore cut it by machinery and throw it over the fence to the cattle. It is a good sign to see the farmers growing so much «alfalfa.» There are no better or safer crops in this country than «alfalfa» and maize, and every farmer and estanciero in the country should have from 50 to 100 squares of «alfalfa.»—*The Standard.*

The "Matteo Bruzza," which was expected to sail from Montevideo on Sunday, did not sail until Tuesday on account of the bad weather.

The alteration in the running of the trains of the Central Argentine Railway will not take place till the 1st of February, simultaneously with the opening of the railway line from Buenos Aires to Rosario.

There are at present 1,500 immigrants at the Immigration Office waiting to be sent up the country, 500 of these are going to Santa Fé to-day.

On Monday, the Liebig Factory, Fray Bentos, began its faena, having made large purchases of cattle in anticipation.

The sale of 14 leagues of camp in the Rio Cuarto district and on the Pacific line of railway is reported for \$6500 m/n per league; brokers M. S. Costa and Mr. Dunselman.

In Bragado 245 squares of camp have been sold at 26 nacionales the square. Buyer Mr. M. Albizu, and a «chacra» wired-in, measuring 224 squares has also been sold for \$15,000 m/n. Buyer Sra. Rosa B. de Salinas.

The sale of half-a-league of good land in the Loberia is reported at \$21,400 m/n, and also 4 leagues of good land, partido Bolivar, for \$18,900 m/n per league.

On Monday, the sale was effected of some land in Barracas al Sud, belonging to Doña Maria Rosa de Escribano de Bonean. The area of the land is 50,173 square metres, and it has been sold to the Southern Railway Company for \$137,948.

The race horses of the Stud Buenos Aires are to be sold at auction on the 24th of January. The animals are Surplice, Escoces, Kettledrum, Diana, Figaro, Pincheira and Coati.

House property is being sold off very fast in this city. There were no less than 50 houses and sites up for auction on Sunday.

Messrs. Juan B. Luqui and Co. sold a house Avenida Montes de Oca No. 96 for \$7400 m/n; buyer T. Medrano.

Messrs. A. Bullrich and Co. sold the property Calle Viamonte 753, 8 x 33 for \$12,450 pesos; buyer Messrs. Verdon.

Messrs. A. Bullrich and Co. sold the property Calle Chacabuco No. 70 to 72, measuring 13 x 35 varas for the sum of \$38,500 m/n; buyer Eduardo Murphy.

Mr. Luis Godroy sold a house Calle Estados Unidos and Rincon for \$4500, a house Calle Pichincha 537 for \$4,300, various lots of land Calle Mejico and 14 de Noviembre at \$590 to 790 per lot; others Calle Cochabamba, Brown and Constitution at \$120 to 150 per vara front.

The sale of a lot of good mestiza wool on the estancia Tres Bonetes, Bahia Union, at \$2 m/n per arroba is reported.

Mr. Peter Murray of Suipacha sold his wool at 80 %, bellies and lamb's wool included.

Capones have been sold in San Pedro from 45 to 54 %; in Don Tomas Salas's graseria about 90,000 sheep have been boiled down. The Messrs. O'Toole of San Pedro sold their wool at 73 %, belly wool half price.

THE PLAZAS.

ONCE.

Wool	
Superior	400 90
Good	87
Bellies	40
Borrega	70
Hides	
Good camp	206
Matadero	200
Horse	58
Hair	175
Sheepskins	
Superior	25
Matadero	22
Desechos	19
Corderitos inf	17
Wheat	
Rivers	5 m/n

Maize	
Morcho, in grain	70
Yellow, in grain	63
CONSTITUCION.	
Wool	
Superior	114 402
Good	93
Regular	74
Porrega	80
Bellies	44
Hides	
Good camp	210
Sheepskins superior	30
Matadero	25
Interior	20
Corderitos	12
Horse Hides	60
Hair	186

BIRTHS.

On the 17th December, at the Estancia Caró, Colonia, B.O., the wife of Mr. Alfred Green, of a daughter.

On December 22nd, at 214 Calle Alsina, the wife of L. Colbourne, M.D., of a son.



DEATHS.

At the partido 25 de Mayo, John Gorry departed this life at the age of 24, native of King's County, Ireland. May he rest in peace.

At Carmen de Arco, on the 17th December, James, the beloved son of Mr. Michael O'Brien, aged 8 years. R.I.P.

MONTH'S MIND.

The MONTH'S MIND for the repose of the soul of the late Miss Annie McGuire will be celebrated in the Parish Church, Carmen de Arco, on the 14th of January next, at 10 o'clock a.m. (D.V.)

WANTED.

For the "Southern Cross" Office, a smart, intelligent BOY who can speak Spanish and English, and can write a good hand.

Apply at this office.

CAMP TO LET—Over 500 squares of splendid camp in the partido of the Monte. For terms apply to—  
"M.D." at this Office

CAMP TO RENT

TWO LEAGUES of Excellent Camp on the Pacific Line of Railway, in the immediate vicinity of Gainza. For further particulars apply to—

WILLIAM WHITE  
80 Piedad  
d15 1m

FOR SALE

Two flocks of fine SHEEP, and to be Rented Two PUESTOS with Houses and Corrals—

MICHAEL TYRRELL  
Mercedes  
n19 2m

FOR SALE

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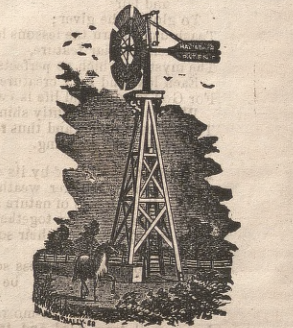


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