

A WALKING delegate never gets corns from excessive pedestrianism.

ACCORDING to Lord Dunraven, England has yachts valued at \$50,000,000 in service, and their manning gives employment to 6,000 or 7,000 men.

It is now claimed that Mayor Washburne of Chicago, smokes so many cigarettes that the price of cabbage has gone up \$16 per ton in the Windy City.

In several New York theaters the ladies remove their hats during the performance, and the innovation is so pleasing that many of the male spectators forget to go out to see the usual man.

It is said that the best passport through the Kurdish Mountains is a letter from Dr. Cochrane, of the American Board of Missions in Persia. On its production the Kurds immediately show the way.

SINCE it was announced that Baron Hirsch was the richest and most generous man in the world, his mail comes to him in bushel baskets, each filled with appeals for help. Fortunately the Baron never reads any letters.

WILLIAM F. RUTHERFORD of Rutherford, Vt., in cutting down a hickory tree found a lock of red hair plugged into the wood. He left the tree severely alone. He was afraid that if he looked further he might find the woman.

A REV. JENKINS JONES emerges from the obscurity his gracious presence adorns and declares that smoking is worse than drinking. Contemplation of the statement leads to wonder that Mr. Jones ever thought it worth his while to emerge.

Poor Ferdinand de Lesseps is broken down both in body and mind. What a sad ending for Le Grand Francois! But mental alienation saves him from knowledge of his utter downfall, and his friends must pray that his earthly career shall end with a return of sanity.

The fate of an 11-year-old boy in Washington, who has just shot his aged and innocent grandfather for a burglar, is particularly melancholy. It recalls the circumstance that somebody is always shooting an esteemed relative in this fashion and suggests wonder that nobody ever pots a genuine cracksmen.

COUNT TOLSTOI has learned a little reason and justice and has at last been persuaded to settle his estates on his wife and children. Up to this time he had absolutely refused to do this, contending that as all land belonged to the public at large his property ought to be divided among his poorer neighbors.

The Cross of the Order of St. Olaf was instituted by Oscar I. of Sweden, to recompence those who had performed exceptional miscellaneous service to the world. It is a costly affair, being made of gold, with diamond settings. It will be conferred on M. Pasteur on his approaching birthday anniversary.

The delicate French gentlemen who have been caught with dirty hands in connection with the Panama Canal swindle complain that they are actually compelled to endure the same hardships in their incarceration than ordinary, vulgar, common people, charged with similar offences, are subjected to. This is doubtless very hard on them, but when a man of culture who has been carefully reared turns swindler he places himself on the level of the common thief and is entitled to the same and no other treatment.

The Russian Government has issued a ukase or decree requiring Jewish artisans to reside where official boards of trade exist. As these official boards of trade exist in only about 10 per cent. of the towns of Russia, this latest edict will bear particularly hard upon those unfortunate people. The object of the Russian authorities is sufficiently apparent; and the result cannot but be another exodus, with all its consequent misery on the frontier and elsewhere.

THE silver hairs and the furrowed brow and the tottering steps must all come ere we fully realize the unwelcome truth, that in all our schemes and prospects of enjoyment distance alone has lent enchantment to the view, that under the fairest pleasures there have ever lurked insidious thorns, and that the gorgeous shapes that have floated before us in golden magnificence have been but monster soap-bubbles which the breath of air shattered into annihilation.

WHEN our descendants learn that on a fashionable race track in one of our principal cities the judges allowed a favorite racer to receive his usual hypodermic injection of morphine, to prevent him from sulking in the contest of speed, they will exclaim that the civilization of this country was very artificial. Up to date it has

been supposed that the morphine craze was confined to human beings, and that brutes were too sensible to avail themselves of its dangerous intoxication. But now it seems likely to have the "morphine horse fiend, and who knows but racers will take to drink, and prize cattle go mad on whisky and cocaine?"

The frosty Athens of the New England shore has just been treated to a remarkable spectacle, which testifies at once to the tendency of even the severest miffs to indulge in an occasional frolic, and to the advent in society of the craze for eccentric dancing. Bostonian upper circles have, in short, lent their prettiest girls and friskiest young matrons, their gilded dudes and the irreproachable aristocracy of their "cadets" to the production of a "pageant" full of dancing and masquerading, in a theater and in the full blaze of the footlights.

The shades of the early Puritans must have veiled their eyes—if shades have eyes—in horror when this "fête de siècle" performance was made evident to their spiritual apprehension.

ACCORDING to those kind gentlemen who make so much money by running steamers of foreign ownership between Europe and America, there are no more immigrants.

The 2,263 people who came over on the Stuttgart, according to them, were either citizens of the United States, or else foreign tourists, who, for economy's sake, came over in the steamer's steerage view the country, and perhaps to go back and write books describing it to their friends in the old world. The steamer agents are only sure of one thing, that they are not immigrants. Have not the steamship companies resolved that they will bring no more immigrants? And have they not simultaneously gone on to Washington to argue before Congress against suspending immigration? Do they not know what is best for us as well as what is best for themselves?

Up to a very recent date it has been considered the proper thing to say, when something new in the electrical line was spoken of, "we have not yet begun to know anything about this wonderful fluid;" but of late the experts, or those who regard themselves as such, have gotten into the habit of stigmatizing this profound observation as a "chestnut." There are indications, however, that the "chestnut" is not a very mouldy one. Heretofore almost all electrical business has been done on the assumption that when the fluid once got into the bosom of the earth it ceased to have any power for good. It is claimed now that the use of earth circuits by the trolley companies in Brooklyn has seriously embarrassed the working of the Atlantic cables as well as of telephones using the earth circuit. It has been found, also, that lead pipes underground are carried by the electric current to such an extent as to endanger the purity of the water by introducing salts of lead; and in Boston an ingenious mechanic managed by connecting two underground pipes to get sufficient current to run a small motor. These are evils that can undoubtedly be remedied; but they are calculated to give a new lease of life to the trite saying that we do not yet begin to know anything about electricity.

Types of Beauty.

The ideas of beauty is wholly relative, and varies with places and times, says the "Popular Science Monthly." "Artists make the beauty to consist in certain proportions of the skeleton and in the symmetry of the muscular development. We might, perhaps, be more definite by saying that to be handsome at rest and in motion the man ought to present the traits of health and moderate strength, and in addition to be in possession of his means of locomotion and of natural defence.

This view of beauty originates in the consideration that there is a necessary relation between vigor, skill, agility and the outer form of the body at rest and in motion. This defined, the type of beauty, in a given race or medium, is an ideal which we seek to revive by physical education.

It follows that a man specially devoted to any exercise cannot be handsome. This may be said of all the professions that localize muscular work in a restricted region of the body. There are, however, some sports which have the advantage of exercising equally the upper and lower limbs; such, for example, as wrestling, French boxing, swimming, and canoeing with two oars and a sliding seat.

A good gymnastic includes complete exercises, and incomplete or unsymmetrical exercises, under such a condition as that they shall correct one another, and that the work shall bear upon the lower and upper limbs.

Cotton Growing in Southern Russia.

Cotton culture in South Russia, which was initiated some time ago by the Minister of Imperial Domains, is now giving promising results. The earlier attempts failed through the ignorance of the cultivators, but since the Kherson School of Agriculture took the matter up the propagation of American cotton seed has proved entirely successful.—London News.

The sky, unlike man, is most cheerful when bluest.

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

MANY LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE FOWLS.

Surprising Frequency of Allusions to Birds in the Scriptures and Always to Teach an Important Lesson—Ornithology Is Surely a Divine Science.

God Among the Birds.

Dr. Talmage having preached on the "Astronomy of the Bible; or, God among the Stars" and the "Chronology of the Bible; or, God among the Centuries," discoursed on the "Ornithology of the Bible; or, God among the Birds." The text was Matthew vi, 26, "Behold the fowls of the air."

There is silence now in all our January forests, except as the winds whistle through the bare branches. Our north woods are deserted concert halls.

The organ lofts in the temple of nature are hibernating. Trees which were full of carol and chirp and chant are now waiting for the coming back of rich plumes and warbling voices, solo, duets, quartets, cantatas and Te Deums. But the Bible is full of birds at all seasons, and prophets and patriarchs and apostles and evangelists and Christ Himself employ them for moral and religious purposes.

My text is an extract from the sermon on the mount, and perhaps it was at a moment when a flock of birds flew past that Christ waved His hand toward them and said, "Behold the fowls of the air!" And so, in this course of sermons on God everywhere, I preach to you this third sermon concerning the Ornithology of the Bible; or, God Among the Birds.

Most of the other sciences you may study or not study as you please. Use your own judgment; exercise your own taste. But about this science of ornithology we have no option. The divine command is positive when it says in my text, "Behold the fowls of the air!" That is, study their habits. Examine their colors. Notice their speed. See the hand of God in their construction. It is easy for me to obey the command of the text, for I was brought up among this race of wings and from boyhood heard their matins at sunrise and their vespers at sunset.

Their nests have been to me a fascination, and my satisfaction is I never robbed one of them any more than I would steal a child from a cradle, for a bird is a child of the sky, and its nest is the cradle. They are almost human, for they have their loves and hates, affinities and antipathies, understand joy and grief, have conjugal and maternal instincts, wage wars and entertain jealousies, have a language of their own and powers of association. Thank God for birds and skies full of them. It is useless to expect to understand the Bible unless we study natural history.

Five hundred and ninety-three times does the Bible allude to the facts of natural history, and I do not wonder that it makes so many allusions ornithological.

The skies and the caverns of Palestine are friendly to the winged creatures, and so many fly and roost and hatch in that region that inspired writers do not have far to go to get ornithological illustrations of divine truth. There are over forty species of birds recognized in the Scriptures. Oh, what a variety of wings

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and bitter and cormorant among a city's ruins.

Jeremiah, describing the cruelty of parents toward children, compares them to the ostrich, who leaves its eggs in the sand unguarded, for crying, "The daughter of my people is becoming like the ostriches of the wilderness." Among the provisions piled on Solomon's bountiful table the Bible speaks of "fatted fowl."

The Israelites in the desert got tired of manna, and they had quails—quails for breakfast, quails for dinner, quails for supper, and they died of quails.

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WHAT LOW TARIFF DID

GAVE THE COUNTRY UNRIVALLED PROSPERITY.

Great Revenues Produced by the Low Ad Valorem Tariffs of 1846 and 1857—Why Farmers Are Unsatisfied—The Potato Tax—Wages in Germany.

Specific and Ad Valorem Duties.

Apparently, indirect taxation is fastened to this country for some time to come. An income tax may be levied by our next Congress to enable us to meet our enormous expenditures without increasing any duties, but the bulk of our revenue will continue to come from duties on imports. It is therefore well to consider whether our next tariff bill should be based upon specific or ad valorem duties.

In most of our high and protective tariff bills specific duties have predominated. This is particularly true of the McKinley bill. In the proposed Mills bill, and in most low and non-protective tariff bills, ad valorem duties were the rule. In the Walker bill, in force from 1846 to 1857, and in the so-called "free-trade" bill, in force from 1857 to 1861, all duties were ad valorem.

Protectionists and makers of high-tariff bills naturally turn to specific duties as an easy way of increasing duties on the sly. Thus nearly all of the numerous "jobs" in the McKinley bill were perpetrated by means of specific duties. Nobody except a few interested persons supposed that when the ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. on pearl buttons was increased by a specific duty of 2 cents per line, the increase would amount to much; yet the increase amounted to from 200 to 2,000 per cent., making the actual duty in some cases as high as 400 per cent.