

About People

—In his reminiscences of Dickens, G. A. Sala says that the novelist had an almost morbid fondness for talking to police officials and entertaining them at his home.

—Miss Braddon has written her fifty-two novels on a plan very different from "the spur of the moment" practice popularly supposed to indicate true genius. She sits down at her desk every morning at nine o'clock, and there she stays until her "stint" of about 8,000 words is completed.

—The Rev. Dr. William Henry Furness, of Philadelphia, is the oldest surviving graduate of Harvard College, the Harvard Divinity School, and the Boston Latin School. He was born in Boston ninety-one years ago, and was graduated from Harvard College in 1820. He alone of his class lives to-day.

—Mr. G. F. Watts, the English artist, has just finished a portrait of George Meredith, the novelist. Mr. Watts, it is said, has painted more celebrated men than any other artist, except, perhaps, Signor Angeli, with his gallery of royalties; and his latest work is called a fitting companion for any of the others.

—Though forty-five years old, England's great cricketer, W. G. Grace, is maintaining his reputation by excellent work with the bat this season. Up to the present time he has scored 778 runs in first-class matches, with an average of 45. Such a record would be noteworthy in a younger player, and in the veteran who has been guarding a wicket almost for a generation it is extraordinary.

—Ex-President MacMahon has lately celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday, receiving telegrams of congratulation on the occasion from the King of Italy, the Archduke Joseph, and many Continental generals and statesmen. He is described as a lively old man, and until his recent attack of influenza had never known what illness was. At La Forêt he leads the life of a country gentleman, and rises at an early hour every morning to look after his horses.

—The oldest man and woman in Pennsylvania, and probably in the United States, according to their own figures, are Mary McDonald, aged 128, and John Gibson, aged 121, both inmates of the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons in Philadelphia. Mary McDonald declares that she remembers George Washington perfectly, who patted her on the head one day for her attention to the comfort of the Continental soldiers quartered at Valley Forge, near the home of Reese Howell, her master, where General Washington was a frequent visitor.

—Phillips Brooks in his numerous visits to England endeared himself to the congregation of the little London Church of St. Margaret, near Westminster Abbey. Canon Farrar, who is now vicar of St. Margaret's, has announced that a memorial to the preacher will be put up there. It will consist of three panels of stained glass, representing the command, "Feed My Sheep." The church will also send a subscription of \$1,000 to the Harvard memorial building fund, of which Louis Dyer, formerly a Professor of Greek at Harvard, but now resident at Balliol College, Oxford, is Secretary in England.

American Institute of Christian Sociology

Among those acquainted with the important work of the Christian Social Union in the United States and Canada under the presidency of the Rt. Rev. F. D. Huntington, and with Professor R. T. Ely as Secretary, the inquiry has often arisen, Why should this line of organized Christian activity be confined to the Episcopalian denomination? There is certainly a need among all Christian people for a more definite association of effort in the application of Christianity to the social and industrial problems of the day.

The powerful societies of young people uniting all denominations in the land, and holding their annual assemblies of thousands of delegates, afford an unequalled opportunity for organized sociological study and practice. With a view to uniting Christians of all denomina-

tions and associations into a working body for the promotion of work in sociology, arrangements have been made for a meeting at Chautauqua, July 19 and 20, in order to form a proposed American Institute of Christian Sociology. Among those interested in this movement are Bishop Vincent, the Rev. Washington Gladden, Professor R. T. Ely, the Rev. Dr. Herron, the Rev. Sidney Strong, the Rev. James Brand. An invitation is extended to others who are in accord with the principles of the Christian Social Union, and who would like to see those principles extended to other denominations and Christian associations, to meet together at that time to adopt a constitution, select officers, and outline the work. The principles of the Episcopalian union which serve as the starting-point for the new Institute are the following:

1. To claim for the Christian law the ultimate authority to rule social practice.
2. To study in common how to apply the moral truths and principles of Christianity to the social and economic difficulties of the present time.
3. To present Christ in practical life as the Living Master and King, the enemy of wrong and selfishness, the power of righteousness and love.

The "preliminary propositions" of the Oxford University Branch of the English Christian Social Union state precisely the direction which the American Institute may first take. They are:

1. "There is a social question. Something wants doing." (Prince Bismarck.)
2. "It is the urgent duty of the Church to study this question."
3. "It is most essential to have some clear and precise knowledge of the economic facts under consideration."

The introduction of courses of reading and study and conference into local churches and religious societies is indicated as the leading work of the proposed Institute. Connected with this is an organized effort to bring the matter into theological seminaries. The Christian Social Union in England issues a valuable quarterly, and the branch in the United States has printed useful bibliographies, and has just begun the publication of a quarterly bulletin. The American Institute will naturally adopt a similar line of work. So apparent is the need for an interdenominational society of this sort that the plan has received enthusiastic support wherever it has been broached. It is desired now that public announcement may be made in order to enlist as wide co-operation as is possible consistent with effective organization. C.

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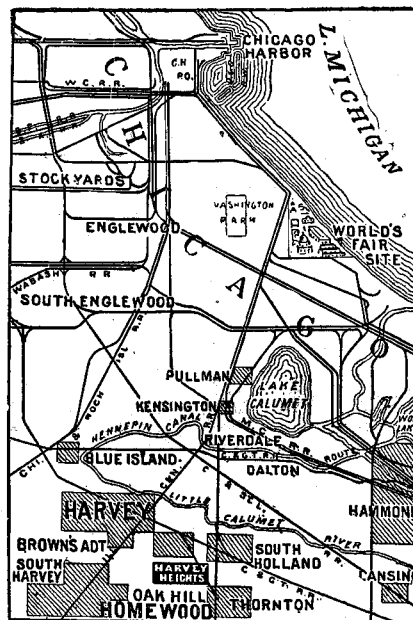
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Bits of Fun

The Greenland newsboys who cry "Ere's yer Arrangagliotio Natinginnavnik Sysarammas Sivik," have well-developed lungs.—*Californian Magazine*.

The time appears to be at hand when a man who is referred to as silver-haired will regard it as an attempt to depreciate him.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

Teacher—What is the meaning of self-control? Boy—It's when a teacher gets mad and feels like giving a boy a black mark and doesn't.—*Good News*.

In a French School.—Teacher—What is the matter, boys? You are all covered with mud? Pupils—Oh, sir, we've only been playing the Panama Canal game.—*Journal Amusant*.

A notice on a door in Albany, Wash., reads: "I have gone to the mines. Where are you going?" Some one wrote underneath: "To the poorhouse. I have been to the mines."—*Evening Post*.

Quill—Why is it that you have no women writers on the "Bugle"? Screed—Because the managing editor always tells a beginner to keep his eyes and ears open and his mouth shut.—*Kate Field's Washington*.

A boarder at Kennebunkport writes us that she went to the circulating library and asked if they had the "Letters of Jane Welsh Carlyle," and received the reply: "You will get 'em at the post-office."—*Boston Transcript*.

Foreigner—Well, by Jove! don't tell me again that you Americans are not foreign-worshippers. Townsman—Why so? Foreigner (pointing to the Worth monument)—Look there! The idea of raising a monument to a French milliner—bah!—*Life*.

"No," she said, stating her case to a divorce lawyer, "I never did love him. I married him because he kept a confectioner's shop, with ices, and he basely deceived me three months later by selling out and going into another business."—*Drake's Magazine*.

In a small village in the south of Scotland, an elder in the parish church was one day reproving an old woman, who was rather the worse of liquor, by saying, "Sarah, don't you know that you should fly from the tempter?" Sarah (not too well pleased)—"Flee yersel'. Elder—Oh, Sarah, I have flown. Sarah—Aweel, I think ye'll be nane the waur o' anither flutter."—*Scottish-American*.

Herr Krupp

The "Westminster Gazette" the other day, in describing the opening of the Krupp Pavilion at Chicago, spoke of Herr "von" Krupp. "Allow me to point out," writes a German correspondent, "that there is no such person. The head of the gigantic establishment in Essen (Rhenish Prussia) is, like his great father, the 'gun-king,' before him, plain Herr Krupp, and devoutly hopes to be allowed to remain so. And thereby hangs a tale. Here it is:

"At the very commencement of his brief reign, the Emperor Frederick III. determined to manifest his recognition of industry and development by raising some leading representatives to the peerage. Naturally the name of Krupp, who employs on an average something like 17,000 or 18,000 men, was the first to be put on the list. The father was dead; let the son and successor be honored. When semi-official information reached Herr Krupp, he at once took train to Berlin and requested an audience of the Prince-Chancellor. Bismarck received him with his usual bonhomie, but flatly refused to delete Krupp's name from the list, for this was the errand on which the iron-master had come to Berlin. 'My father,' said Krupp, 'gloried in being the son of a workman, and never would as much as listen to a proposal to accept titular and hereditary distinction. I cannot be untrue to his principles, particularly when my year of mourning has not even expired.'

"This special plea—the plea of *Pietät*, of respectful memory—Bismarck thought might be urged without wounding the feelings of the young Emperor, who might otherwise think his kindly intentions slighted. 'Come to dinner to-night,' he said, 'and you shall hear the result. I am just on the point of driving out to Charlottenburg, and will do what I can.' That night Herr Krupp was told that he was at liberty to remain Herr Krupp, and that the Kaiser sent him all good wishes. 'He looked surprised at first,' said Bismarck, 'almost vexed; then he seemed to see the situation in a new light, and nodded assent. At last he wrote on his note-book, "Krupp mag wohl Recht haben; ich wünsche ihm alles Gute," i. e., 'I dare say Krupp is right; he has my best wishes.'"—*Westminster Gazette*.

Ignoramuses

Sensible people sometimes make very odd mistakes, which a little reflection would have enabled them to avoid, while people who are not sensible take very startling views of things generally. At the Centennial Exhibition two country girls stood before a copy of the Flemish artist Paul Potter's great masterpiece, and one of them read from her catalogue, "The Young Bull, after Potter."

"Yes," said the other, "there's the bull, but where's Potter?"

"Don't you see him," asked her companion, pointing to the figure of the herdsman, "behind the tree?"

Two others were admiring a statuette of Andromeda, which was labeled "executed in terra-cotta." "Where is Terra Cotta?" asked one of them, with probably some vague idea of Terra del Fuego.

"I'm sure I do not know," was the reply, "but I pity the poor girl, wherever it is."

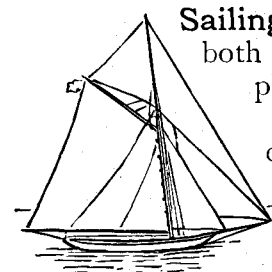
A man, after gazing at a photograph of the Three Graces, exclaimed: "What fools women are! Those girls have not got money enough to buy themselves clothes, yet they spend the little they have in having their photograph taken."

Two boatmen on the Ohio River were talking about the cold weather and of a certain severe winter. "It was just awful," said one of them. "At Cincinnati the river was froze tight, and the thermometer went down to twenty degrees below Cairo."

"Below which?" asked his puzzled companion.

"Below Cairo, you blubber-head! You see, when it freezes at Cairo it must be pretty cold—so they say so many degrees below Cairo."

But light was bursting in upon the other. "No, they do not!" he exclaimed, eagerly. "You've got it all wrong—its so many degrees below *Nero*. I do not know what it means, but that's what they say when it's dreadful cold."—*Harper's Young People*.



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