

## About People

—President Carnot has four children, one daughter and three sons.

—The famous Chinese giant, Chang, died at Bournemouth, England, on November 5.

—The Hon. Charles Francis Adams is to remove from Quincy, Mass., where his family has had its home for six generations.

—Rosa Bonheur says, in defense of her male attire, that she would have missed all chances of success had she had to bear the weight of the skirts in fashion thirty-six years ago.

—Geronimo, the once powerful and cruel Indian chieftain of the West, is now a quiet and peaceful prisoner at Mount Vernon Barracks, an army post upon the Alabama River, a short distance above Mobile.

—Alexander Beckwell, a negro who died in New Orleans lately at the age of one hundred years, was said to be of royal African blood. He was enticed away from his home in Africa while a boy by slave-traders, and sold to a Virginia planter, whose name he took.

—Professor Charles Eliot Norton, of Harvard, says of a report that he was to accept a professorship in the University of Chicago: "It has grown out of my saying to Dr. James that if I were a younger man I should like to cast my lot with a city like Chicago. I like Chicago. I like the spirit, the civic power, of the place."

—Mrs. Annie F. Brown, who died the other day in Quincy, Ill., left \$40,000 to the Louisiana State Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. While visiting in New Orleans some years ago, Mrs. Brown saw a colored man brutally beating his horse. She became interested, and with a friend bought the decrepit animal from its owner and had him humanely killed. Her interest in the Louisiana State Society dates from that day.

—Among some interesting experiences which Mr. Hamo Thorneycroft, the sculptor, tells in this month's "Strand Magazine," is the story that when he was modeling the Gordon Memorial, being anxious to obtain a personal description of the famous soldier, he asked Sir Henry Gordon for some information. "My brother," Sir Henry replied, "was a fine soldierly fellow, stalwart, well set-up, and erect, like this," and Sir Henry pulled himself up. The sculptor then asked a fellow-officer of Gordon's. "Oh, was the reply, "rather humpbacked, like this," and he, too, illustrated his meaning. Having thus obtained "the two widest opinions as to a man's appearance that he ever heard," Mr. Thorneycroft wisely decided to rely on photographs.

### A Bishop on Sermons

One does not look to a prelate for frank fun, but the Bishop of Wakefield, unasked, has vouchsafed some genuine humor on the subject of preaching. He has clearly made a study of the art, and he divides the modern sermon into seven species. Thus we have:

"The Sesquipedalian: big words hiding little thoughts.

"The Wishy-Washy: no explanation required.

"The Pyrotechnic: blazing with brilliant metaphors and illustrations, and finishing with a faint odor of gunpowder.

"The Anecdotic: teeming with stories—some of them good enough once, but gone bad by keeping.

"The Flowery: in which rhyme is of more importance than reason.

"The Mellifluous: with calm, unbroken flow.

"The Paregoric: against which the powers of wakefulness fail; like a roll of ribbon, so much alike at all points that a yard can be cut off anywhere." Who does not know each and all of these? This is a form of pastoral which congregations, as a rule, will not disapprove.

In connection with this severe episcopal utterance, there is a story on the other side going the ecclesiastical round. A clergyman prepared to preach two Sundays since, and gave out as his text, "The devil, like a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour." In the same breath, before beginning his discourse, he continued: "My friends, you will probably have heard that the Bishop of Manchester has announced his intention of visiting

every church in his diocese, and consequently we may very shortly expect to see him among us."

### Testing his Ability

It is said that the late Mr. Spurgeon was in the habit of testing the ability and self-possession of the theological students under his care and instruction by sending them up into the pulpit with a sealed envelope in their hands, containing the text of the sermon or address each one was to deliver on the spur of the moment. On one of these occasions, the student, on opening the paper, found this subject and direction given him: "Apply the story of Zaccheus to your own circumstances and your call to the ministry." And the student promptly delivered himself in the following way:

"My brethren, the subject on which I have to address you to-day is a comparison between Zaccheus and as to my qualifications. Well, the first thing we read about Zaccheus is that he was small of stature; and I never felt so small as I do now. In the second place, we read that he was up in a tree, which is very much my position now. And, thirdly, we read that Zaccheus made haste to come down; and in this I gladly and promptly follow his example."—*Presbyterian Banner.*

### An Effective Cure

A preacher's righteous soul was sadly vexed by the talking and giggling of some of the junior members of his congregation. Breaking off in the middle of his discourse, he looked straight at his tormentors and said:

"Some years ago there happened to sit right in front of the pulpit a young man who was perpetually laughing, and talking, and making silly faces. I stopped short and took him severely to task. At the close of the service a gentleman stepped up to me and said:

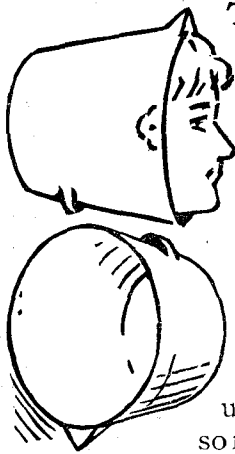
"Sir, you made a great mistake; that young man is an idiot."

"Since that time I have not ventured to reprimand any persons who behave themselves indecorously in church, lest I should repeat the same mistake and inflict censure upon an idiot."

There was exemplary silence during the rest of the service.—*Ueber Land und Meer.*

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The Best Thing in Milk Pails is Pearlina. You get them cleaner, and with less work and fuss, than with anything else you can use. It saves so much that it's

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## An Interesting Conference

During the past week there has been held in the United Charities Building, Fourth Avenue and Twenty-second Street, New York, one of the most interesting conferences of the year, under the auspices of the State Charities Aid. Particular interest centered on Wednesday evening's discussions, as the subject was "The Condition of the Tenement-House Children in their own Homes." The Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society of New York gave the history of that Association, confining his remarks principally to the work done in the schools and in the homes by the teachers and visitors of the Children's Aid Society. He convinced the most skeptical of the necessity of such an organization as the Children's Aid Society in cities where there must always be fluctuations in the income of the laborer, from the point of necessities to bare sustenance, as well as among the more destitute families who are the habitual receivers of charity. Dr. Stanton Coit, head worker of the University Settlement of New York City, made the distinction, which the public are slow to recognize, that to class all children in our tenement-house districts as the children of the poor, representing them as paupers, criminals, or waifs, is unscientific, and, because unscientific, untrue. The children who stand in need of the direct ministrations of organizations—such as the children brought under the care and administration of the Children's Aid Society and such beneficent organizations as the St. John's Guild—are largely from families who are accustomed to more or less assistance in maintaining their homes and supporting their families, and who leave the guidance of their families, to an alarming degree, to these organizations.

Above them are a far greater number of children whose lives have never been touched by the too often soul-destroying effect of administered charity, and of these children Dr. Coit spoke with an intelligence that very few are able to bring to the subject. He demanded that, to keep these children where they are and give them the ability to develop to something better, the city should give, not charity, but opportunity—opportunity for cleanliness, for recreation, for education. He made a strong plea, strong because so logical, for more freedom for the teachers in our public schools, so that they might accomplish a greater work, if they were spared from the making of reports and other unnecessary detail work.

The work of the Home Library Association of Boston, which is one of the departments of work of the Children's Aid Society, was presented by Mr. Birtwell, the originator. The plan of this Home Library is so simple and its opportunities so great that one wonders that the scheme was never thought of before. Briefly, the plan is to put in a tenement-house home, where it will be welcomed and cared for, a small bookcase, with doors that will lock. In this bookcase are placed fifteen popular children's books, to remain until the little library circle of ten have exhausted that library, when the books are to be removed and fifteen new ones put on the shelves. The librarian goes at a stated time to distribute the books, and his or her opportunity comes then, not only in guiding the young readers in their choice of books, but in learning the limitations of their lives. Mr. Birtwell gave several striking instances of the ramifications of the work accomplished through the libraries. Such were the discovery of men who were going about the neighborhood collecting money for policy-playing (this was brought to the attention of the Society for the Prevention of Vice, and that species of business is no longer practiced); the discovery of a child of peculiar ability in certain directions, and the placing of him under the right educational influences; of sudden emergencies where the lending of money carried a family over difficulty. From these little circles have grown circles of the Penny Provident Fund, and last year, just among the children connected with these Home Libraries, \$800 was deposited in the Penny Provident Fund. From the Home Libraries have also grown amusement circles, and games have been added to the libraries, and the children are instructed in their use. Violations of the health laws of

the city of Boston have been brought to the attention of the librarians, and landlords who have violated these laws have found it safer to obey them, because of the weekly visits of intelligent men and women to the houses occupied by their tenants. Dr. Coit aptly said that each Home Library was a neighborhood guild. Lend a Hand circles have been formed, and everything that sympathy, interest, and intelligence could devise has been brought to bear on the lives of the ten families represented by the readers of the Home Libraries.

—There never was a man to whom ostentation and self-advertisement were more distasteful than the Rev. Thomas Mozley, the famous editorial writer of the London "Times." There is a story told of him to the effect that when he was in treaty for the publication of one of his early books, his publisher, who only knew of him as the quiet country clergyman, and was doubtful as to his literary capacity, asked whether he had ever written anything for publication before. "Yes," replied Mozley, "two volumes of sermons"—the publisher's face dropped—"and about 7,000 leaders for the 'Times.'"

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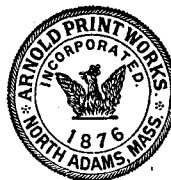


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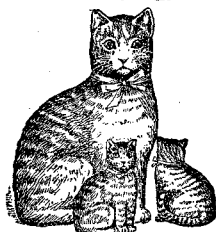
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