Ah, no! Ah, no! It is the souls pass by
Their lot to run from earth to God's high place,
Pursued by each black ain that death let fly
From their and flesh, to break them in their cha

Ah, no; Ah, no! It is repentant tears
By those let fall who make their direful flight,
And drop by dop the anguish of their fears
Comes down around us all the awful night.

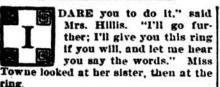
They say that in the lightning flash, and roar Of clashing clouds, the tempest is about; And draw their chairs the glowing hearth before, The casement close to shut the danger out.

Ah, no! The doors of Paradise, they swing A moment open for a soul night spent,
Then come together till the thunder's ring
Leave us half-blinded by God's element.

-Dora Sigerson Shorter.

HER LEAP YEAR RIGHTS

By M. W.



Really!" she said, excitedly, and as the other nodded, she lifted her evebrows, "I must say that Danny would feel flattered if he could realize to what length of sacrifice you would go to get him in the family. I'll take you up on it, though."

"Yes you will?" jeered Mrs. Hollis. "Why, my dear, think of how you would spoil the nicest man that either of us know. He will never believe it is a fake. Even if you marry, he will that made you snatch at that nettle of man's prerogative with the advantage of the year. It will literally feather his heels with vanity, and he'll parade like a gamecock. Besides, if he should accept-what then?"

"I wish he would-almost." returned the girl, and added with asperity. "I believe that you are crawfishing on that ring."

"No, I'm not." Mrs. Hillis assu. ded a superior air. "I'll give you half an hour after they come up. I'll hide behind that curtain and watch his face. Positively, I think that it will be the richest thing. And Louise, you must make him believe that you mean it. Be serious, or no ring. Bert is going to take Middleton into the library, so that will give you and Danforth a clear field for a little while."

"But if he took me up on it," objected her sister.

"There isn't a nicer fellow living. I've tried hard enough to throw some sentiment into your chumminess and you've both failed me. If I thought that you cared anything for him, I should dissuade you; but it's only a joke, and won't matter."

Miss Towne rose quickly and motioned toward the curtains, as the and of men's voices neared the libra ry, and, with the upward wave of the hand that wore the coveted ring, Mrs. Hillis swished behind the curtain into hiding, taking with her a little silver

Miss Towne settled back in her deep chair as a tall, angular man entered the room. He had vivid electric blue eyes that were deep set under a very canopy of a brow, a high sharply defined nose, and an alert, whimsical manner.

"Things all nicely settled now, Danmy?" she asked, smiling up at him charmingly.

"Beautifully, beautifully," he answered enthusiastically. "I knew we would catch Middleton if we could get one of Mrs. Hillis' dinners into him. By the way, what did you mean by saying that you were going away?" "That I am, of course," returned the girl, easily.

"Oh, I call that too bad. Here I've just come home after six months of wishing I was here, and you spring this on me the first thing. I'd planned some of our old jolly reads and walks together. I even made a point of getting back in the spring on purpose. Unsay those cruel words."

As Miss Towne laughed at the absurd intonation he lent to his speech there came the clear tinkle of a bell from the window.

"Hullo, central, don't ring off yet,"

be said. "What's that?" "Our er-er-burglar aların," sald

Miss Towne, dropping her eyes. "When do you go?" he continued. sitting down with his back to the cur-

tains. Turning in their direction as the bell jingled faintly again, he added, "That must be out of order." "It is," admitted the girl. "Oh, I

leave day after to-morrow. I shall be gone for about four months." "That's nice, very nice. You'll be

again. Well! It can't be helped, I suppose." "I suppose not. It is too bad.

though." As she spoke a hand was extended between the curtains tantalizingly holding the ring.

"What a remarkable face! Is it a new wrinkle of yours or just incipient? You think that Louise is a talented ac-If it occurs again I shall suspect the destination that you have shrouded

so far in mystery." "I was-I thought I was going to sneeze." Miss Towne explained with a

nervous giggle. Danforth turned to look at the curtained window, and as his gaze came back to her he caught her in the act of shaking a plump fist apparently at

his bead. "Well, really! If you're going to get violent-" he said, after an embarrassing contemplative stare, during which she turned scarlet, fidgeted, and

"The sneeze, of course, Took you in the hand," he finished, as she hesitated. "More effective and less noisy than the old-fashioned methods. But," he added, with an air of concern, "It's a trifle incomprehensible until one is used to it."

"How silly." commented Miss Towne, meeting his eyes with affected scorn. As they both laughed repressively the bell sounded with a muffled clack. The girl staved over his head in the direction of the noise, which he had not noticed.

"Yes, I noticed that it was getting a bit thin," he said, regretfully. "But what is this sort of absent treatment for the scalp. I wouldn't rub it in think that it is a wild love for him If I were you. Besides, whatever your intentions, your conduct is strongly susceptible to explanation. In plain English, what is the matter?"

Miss Towne glanced at the hand that flashed wickedly between the folds of the draperies.

"This is leap year, you know," she began desperately, and stopped.

"Let me also add to this wild but attractive conversation," he began, with a chuckle, "Columbus discovered America in 1492. Now your turn. One of your chief charms has been your unexpectedness. I've never seen you in better form. You are doing nobly. Don't give way."

Miss Towne covered her face with her hands. After a bit, in which she struggled for composure and won the battle, she wiped the tears of mirth florists estimating that from 1,000,000 from her eyes and began again. "This is leap year, and-and I am go-

ing to take my rights." "Bravo! Bravo!" he cried, languidly. There spoke the right American

spirit." willing smile. "I shall lose my courage cents each; smilax, thirty cents a yard; to-to-to-that is"-she stood up and moved toward the window.

ing her, with the ready appreciation according to size and composition: corners of his mobile mouth.

"Danny," she said, with frank seriousness. "We've been awfully good friends for four years. I don't love you, but I like you better than all the love in the world. You are so fine and straight and-and white. I think I would have asked you—Aunt Cora died last December and left me two thousand a year, so it isn't as if I was asking you to support me. If you hadn't a penny in the world I'd share what I had with you. Jordan and the others are rich, but I don't care for that. Danny, stop looking at me that way. Oh! this is too hard. Why don't you help me?"

"Do you mean what you are saying?" be asked sternly, laying a hand on her shoulder. "I am sorry-" he began in answer to her nod. His eyes roved beyond her, then he suddenly swung on his heel and paced to the end of the room and came back to where she stood with scarlet cheeks

and compressed lips. "There's a girl that I thought of for a long time, but until this last trip"he spoke gently, looking away from her-"I have not felt able financially to speak. I am quite honest, you see. I intend to speak shortly to her, so I want-I thank you for the regard in which you say you-why don't you help me out?"

"I understand," said Miss Towne in a thin, bloodless voice. "I truly hope that she will be as kind as you want her to be. You don't think-oh, of course you will think that I am a fool. I wish I hadn't done this. I wish I hadn't."

"I wish you hadn't," echoed Danforth, looking at her with inscrutable

eyes. "I've spoiled everything, all our good times, our friendship, our-Mildred." she called sharply and swept back the here just in time to wish me good-by curtain. "Give me that ring. I've earned it. Tell Mr. Danforth-tell him, and let him in on the laugh, too." Mrs. Hillis dropped the ring in her palm and looked quizzically into her sister's eyes.

"It was perfectly fine," she said. with the utmost enthusiasm. "Don't tress?"

"He'll never believe it was acting." said Miss Towne, with her eyes upon the ring. "The curtains were not quite to the floor, and-" Danforth caught his lip between his teath and laughed. Both women glanced up at him. In Miss Towne's face the color came and went, and her eyes dropped before the

disquieting mockery of his look. "Oh, pshaw!" exclaimed Mrs. Hills.

"Foozled it myself." "Let's see the cause of all this." Danforth said in a coldly impersonal tone. Miss Towne extended her hand ance with the Mussulsmans law, the laughed. "Perhaps you will elucidate and he took it, noticing that it trem-

to see the ring that I bought for-I picked it up in Florence." He searched in at least three pockets, and finally brought out a box and opened it. "It's

Mrs. Hillis gasped and Miss Towne looked at it dully. "Lucky girl," she said, with frigid airiness, and walked away.

"I wish that you'd put it on. I'd like to see how it would look and fit before I ask her to wear it. It's to be

hers in any-contingency. Please." With raised eyebrows and an expression of utter indifference. Miss Towns withdrew her implied negative and put on the jewel.

"It's too big, unless-it's too big for my finger at any rate, and I suppose her hand is smaller than mine." Danforth stood, looking alternately from the girl's hand to her face. Then

he turned to Mrs. Hillis. "Do you mind my troubling you? 1 wish that you would see how things are going in the library. Thanks." As she kissed her finger tips to him

he wheeled on Miss Towne. "Now." he said, "let's start right. That liking that you have, for in-

stance; could it stand the weight of that ring?" "Danny, what!" She lifted her clear brewn eyes to his. He saw her lips

tremble. "Is it all right, dear?" he asked, "I was—this previousness of yours has quite upset the speech I have had ready a long while. I don't know where I stand with you, but-"

"My rights, Dan. Will you marry me?" she cried, with a little laugh. Then she fitted her head on his shoulder, in an exquisitely comfortable way.-New York Commercial Adver-

The City Flower Trade.

"People outside the trade have no conception of the enormous basiness that is annually done in plants and cut flowers in this city," said a leading Madison avenue florist. "On the principal main and cross-town thoroughfares between Fulton street and 135th street there are more than 200 large florist concerns, each of which pays a rent of from \$1000 to \$7000 a year and does a business of from \$5,-000 to \$50,000 annually. The capital invested in land, greenhouses and stock in this city and vicinity is about \$15,000,000

"The number of plants and flowers sold includes 500,000 violets, 300,000 roses, 1,200,000 carnations, 500,000 lilies of the valley, 60,000 miscellaneous plants, 100,000 bushels of ferns, 1000 cases of holly, 5000 cases of mistletoe, 200 cases of Princess pine, 500,-000 yards of garlands and 800,000 wreaths

"During the holiday season and through the month of January the assortment of flowers in the New York market embraces fifteen choice varieties of roses, six varieties of camellias, several varieties of carnations, orchids and violets in abundance, heliotrope, hyacinths, mignonette, primroses, azalias, forget-me-nots, the sweet elysium, etc. The amount of smilax used here is enormous, some to 1,5000,000 feet of this beautiful vine are made up yearly in this city.

"The general average of prices at the present time is for cut roses \$1 a dozen, except for choice specimens, which command fifty cents, or even a "Oh, hush!" she said, with an un-dollar each; calla lillies, twenty-five heliotrope, carnations, bourardia and other small flowers, about fifty cents "Well," he inquired, rising and fac- a dozen; hand bouquets from \$2 to \$25, of an expected jest quivering at the table designs from \$5 to \$100; funeral designs from \$3 to \$150. -New York Press.

An Adirondack Thief.

At a certain Adirondack cottage last season something disturbed things frequently. A jar of butter, set under the house to keep cool, was broken into; a tub of beef in process of corning was robbed; a jar of suet on the back plazza was tipped over, broken, and some of the fat eaten, and many other depredations of like character committed. Several times the robber had been seen in the evening by the ladies of the family, and to them he looked so big that the male contingent determined to watch for the thief and stop his thieving. Opportunity came one moonlit night

Seen through a window and stretched over a pall in the shadow, the animal looked big as a half bushel. But he could not be shot just there, and so the broken jar of suct was placed in the moonlight in range of an open window, and, gun in hand, the avenger waited. He did not have to wait long. Quietly and with great dignity, as though entirely within his rights, Mr. Coon came out of the woods again-right along the path to the house-and stopped to regale himself with the suet, so easily found in its new place. Accounts were squared when the shotgun spoke .-- Forest and Stream.

Our Debt to Asia.

It is noteworthy that out of Asia came our alphabet and our Arabic numerals. The compass we owe to the Chinese, who knew the magnetic needle as early as the second century, A. D. Gunpowder originally came out of Asia, and so did the art of printing and the manufacture of paper. The Chinese invented movable types in the middle of the eleventh century, 350 years before Gutenberg. They also made siks long before Europe, and porcelain that has never been equaled by Europe. Truly, Asia is the cradle of the race. On the original ideas of the Persians, the Arabians, the Hindoos, and the Chinese our modern society has been built .- Portland Or gonian.

Foreign Customs. Dolls are displayed in the cottage windows of Servia. They are intended as a sign to wayfarers that a marriageable daughter dwells in the

An imperial irade has been published at Constantinople, in which married Turkish women are commanded to discard all brilliant ornaments, such as necklaces and bangles, when appearing in public. They must be dressed with decorum and in accordordinance says, in default of which the the psychology of these-shall I call bled. "Very charming. Quite worth husbands of women so offending will them-seizures?" the jest. By the way, would you like be visited with punishment

HIDDEN TREASURES OF DAME NATURE

Parthe Which Command High Prices. .

ECRETED somewhere in th: earth-perhaps in the reader's garden-are metals of many kinds, which are called "the rare metals," because so far they have been found only in trifling quantities. They must be present somewhere in large quantities, and it is only a

case of search and you will find. Altogether there are thirty to forty of these rare earths which fetch a big price in the market. Many of them are bought merely for museums or scientific experiment; but others are very valuable substances commercially.

Uranium, for instance, from which the magic element radium has been separated, is worth, when chemically pure, over £180 per pound. A ton of ten per cent, ore would fetch between £50 and £60.

THE PARENT OF RADIUM.

Uranium is very valuable in the manufacture of gun-metal for heavy cannon and armor plate. It gives a beautiful fluorescent green hue to glassware and a fine velvety black to porcelain.

As every one is aware, this precious metal is found in Cornwall pitchblende. How is any one to recognize it when found? That is not an easy matter. But there should be no great difficulty in recognizing many of the rare metals, Each responds, of course, to tests peculiar to itself, and one of the tests for a uranium compound is that, when mixed with a little borax and microcosmic salt, and placed in the familiar lowish-green on cooling.

incandescent light are thorium and for the horns the cowboy throws cerium, or, rather, their oxides-thoria Then, as the rope settles, he twitches and ceria. Cerium was discovered a it taut, tosses the slack to one side or century ago (1803), and yet it is still the flying steer and runs his horse rare. It is twice as dear as uranium. past him on the other side. In a mo Thorium, an iron-gray metal, was found in 1828. Both are much sought for, with the result that the latter has the ground-hard. Like a flash the fallen in price during the last ten years rider runs to his victim. Hoppins from £36 to only a few shillings per pound.

LOOK FOR ZIRCONIUM.

A curious thing in connection with these metals is that the brilliant white knots it about a forefoot and their incandescent light which they give when mixed is not natural to either of them alone. Either of them separately give a yellowish light of very little power. Cerium has other uses. In medicine it is a cure for hysteria and seasickness. And it is also used in the development of analine black.

Another very valuable and very rare metal used for lighting purposes is zirconium. This was discovered 115 stand treat, and the champions tel' years ago, yet no one has yet had the good fortune to find such a deposit as would make him a millionaire. It is present in several strange-named minerals, such as endiciyte, polymignite, byacinth, etc. One valuable property of this rare metal is that very intense heat does not destroy it. Hence it When it was discovered recently in is used to make the cylinders of the Drummond light for lighthouses, being made to glow by the tremendous heat of the oxyhydrogen flame. The cylinder remains as good as ever, after months of use. Metallic zirconium is worth about ten shillings per gramme. One ton of it would bring to its owner over half a million of money. But some of the natural compounds of zirconia are splendid gems worth £2 per

carat, or £300 per ounce. Then there is molybdenum, which forms a most remarkable compound with both steel and nickel. Molybdenum nickel-steel cannot be beaten for hardness, and yet at the same time it is exceedingly ductile, and a fine alloy for wire drawing. Large cranks of great strength are made of it, propellor shafts, heavy guns, rifle barrels, boilers for torpedo boats, and armor-piercing shells. It is, or was some time ago, worth £9 per pound weight.

Vanadium, another scarce metal, has also the curious property of hardening steel, and it is much used in armor plate. So small a quantity as one pound, added to 200 pounds of steel. increases its strength from seven tons and a half to thirteen tons per square inch.

SOFT, BUT PRECIOUS.

Thallium, discovered by Sif William Crookes, was up to a very recent date priced at the rate of £31,000 per ton. It is very soft, and can be cut with a knife. One of its curious properties is that it makes a mark on paper like a lead pencil, which is blue at first, then the rose as a people's flower. If indeed turns yellow, and in a day or two fades

away altogether. A metal whose supply has never yet equalled the demand, although it was discovered nearly two centuries ago-1735-is platinum. Only about four tons and a half was found in the year 1900, chiefly in Russia, and it was sold at the rate of £145,000 per ton. The value of platinum arises from its resistance to heat and acids. It does not melt until a temperature of 3150 degrees Fahrenheit is reached, and is therefore most useful in making chemical apparatus-such as crucibles, foil and wire. New Zealand, New South Wales and British Columbia are good hunting grounds for this treasure.

A few of the other rare elements which are turned to useful account are palladium, fridium, gallium, lithium and menachin or titanium.

Lithium, the lightest of all metals (only about half the weight of water). is a well-known cure for gout. Palladium, about as hard as steel,

is very valuable in the mechanism of watches, as it does not rust in damp GALLIUM PAYS BEST OF ALL.

Iridium, an extremely hard, steelto the ounce, and one of these is taken ings or none."

and attached to the pen with silver solder, then split and ground to shape. Iridium is worth about £200,000 per

ton, and palladium about £300,000. Gallium, so soft that it melts in the hand, makes a much better mirror than quicksilver, but as the price is £4,230,-000 per ton, gallium mirrors are rare than the metal itself.

Besides the foregoing hidden treas ures there are many more for which no use has yet been found, but which are very valuable as scientific curios ities. - Answers.

ROPING STEERS IN ARIZONA. The Rough-Riding Cattle-"Tiers" of the Far West a Revelation.

To those who have seen the Western cowboy only in the sawdust ring of a Wild West show, the gathering of the rough-riding steer-tiers of Arizona and New Mexico are a revelation. On his own pet horse in his native sunshine and dust, hot foot after a mountair steer, the "sure-enough" cowboy cre ates a sensation. He strikes one as being very real, intensely natural, and the shrill yells from the crowded grant stand indicate that he is appreciatedat home. There is not such an exhibit of "chaps and taps," gold braid and silver mountings, as you see in Madisor Square Garden, but there is a whole lot of genuine hard riding. It is "whoop-la" from the Jump. A wild steer is pushed from the

chutes at one end of the inclosure rushed across the line and down the field. After him thunders the cowboy swinging his riata. When he crosser the line a flag drops and his time be gins. When he has tied his steer his time ends. The man who makes the best time wins the contest. There are a thousand chances in steer tying -a mean steer, a bad start, a broker rope, a quick turn, seen too late-al these make the contest a "gamble." And yet the best man generally wins Theoretically, luck is an impersona thing; In steer tying the best ropers are generally lucky Any man who misses his first throw

loses his chance for first place unless the whole field is unlucky. So it is blowpipe flame, it forms a green head with one intent eagerness that the cow in the inner flame, and a yellow head boy rises in his stirrups for the firs: in the outer flame, which becomes yell cast. No use to catch them by the neck or legs-experience has shown Some of the metals used in making that the best hold is the horns-and ment the steer's head is jerked down his hind feet gathered up, and he hit: astride the prostrate steer he plants knee in the heaving flank and lift: the hind leg into the air. While the steer kicks and struggles the cowbox seizes the tying rope from his waist wraps it about the hind feet. A Jerk brings the three feet together. There is a swift tightening of knots and he throws his hands into the air. "Tied!"

After the contest there are im promptu horse races, flag picking, and then a general clatter and stampede for town. There, about feed corrals and saloons, the contests of the day are talked over, the winners of bets how it was done.-Leslie's Weekly.

Clock Centuries Old.

A clock which, it is telieved, was used in the days of Columbus, has lately come into the possession of Emil Kuchnel, of Manchester, N. H the garret of a house it was si to be of little value. The face is of wood and the figures representing the hours of the day were cut into the wood by a jackknife or some such in strument. The ancient timepiece was given to Chas. Wolf, who, in turn, pre sented it to Mr. Kuehnel, who had it cleaned up. On the upper part of the wooden face of the clock a profile of Columbus has been carved in the wood, while on the lower part "Anno, 1492," is neatly carved. Two bottles are used as weights. On either side of the clock the queer weights are at tached to a cord, which runs over a little wooden cog wheel in the clock One bottle is heavier than the other and as the weight carries the other bottle up, the cog wheel over which the cord runs moves two other cog wheels, the hour hand of the clock is ing attached to one of them,

The Land of Flowers. The sale of cut roses in the United States amounts to about \$6,000,000 a year: carnations, \$4,000,000; violets \$700,000, and chrysanthemums—a short eason crop-8700,000. The annual production is estimated at \$100,000,000 each for roses and carnations and \$50, 000,000 for violets. This statement shows the great superiority of the car nation in two important points. It can be produced and sold more cheaply than the rose, and its keeping qualities are very much greater. The carnation will never have as much sentiment as the rose, but it is destined to outstrip it has not already done so.-Country Life in America.

A Nice Sort of Band. The Paris police have just been suc essful in arresting the chiefs of an association of malefactors calling themselves the "Joyeux Monte en l'Air" band, or the "Happy up in the air band," from their custom of going about Paris on the tops of omnibuses The chiefs are all young men and bear tattoo marks on their chests rep resenting a dagger set in a branch of laurel leaves. Every member of the association, it is said, took an oath on a dagger, which was handed him for the purpose, that within eight days he would "baptize" his dagger by wettir it in the blood of a "burgeois,"

Willing to Take a Chance. A pious citizen has a fifteen-year-old

son who does not promise to be exactly a "chip off the old block." Not long ago the father discovered to his sorrow that his boy and several others of the neighborhood had a habit of matching nickels. The wrathful parent led the erring lad to the time-honored attic. where hangs a certain strap. The boy didn't have any agreeable impression like metal, is used for watch and com- of what was to come, and, on the pass bearings, knife edges of delicate ground that it is only the first plunge balances, and as pen points. Some! that counts, he called out: "Say, dad! three to six thousand small grains go I'll go you heads or tails for two lick-

STRANGE TRIBES OF BORGU. From Whom, It Was Beasted, No Vehite

Man Ever Escaped. In a description of the kingdoms Nigeria Lady Lugard, wife of Mi Frederick Lugard, High Commissioner for Northern Nigeria, said that the reigning chiefs were of the semi-Arab race of the Foulahs, or Fulani, and what the great Mogul of Delhi was to the India of Clive's day such was the Great Foulah of Sokoto to the Nigeria of four years ago.

The Fulani was a striking people dark in complexion, but of the distinguished features, small hands and fine, rather aristocratic carriage of the Arabs on the Mediterranean coast. They were of the Mohammedan religion, and were held by those who knew them to be naturally endowed with the characteristice which fitted them for rule. Their theory of justice was good, though their practice was bad; their scheme of taxation was most elaborate and was carried even into a system of death duties, which left little for an English Chancellor of the Exchequer to improve. The caravan trade across the desert, which was already old when the Arab historian, El Bekri, wrote of the country a thousand years ago, and which then supplied the ports of southern Europe with the leather known to us as morocco leather, and with many other articles of luxury which English people of that day had not yet learned to use, continued and paid its tolls to the Fulani.

The Fulani had come to be the ruling people, but the Haussa, who were also for the most part Mohammedan. formed a very important industrial and commercial portion of the population. The cotton cloth of Kano was famous through the world of Africa long before the Fulani had made their appearance as a governing race in history. Iron smelting and smith's work were spoken of in an Arabic manuscript, not yet properly translated, which carried them back to the mythical ancestry of the founders of Kano, Weaving, dyeing, tanning, brass work, leather work were among the local industries, and trade in these as well as in the raw materials with which the country abounds is largely carried on by the Haussa people.

Alluding to the condition of the country before the transfer to the Crown, Lady Lugard said that Borgu. the westernmost province of Nigeria. when her husband first entered the country boasted that no white man ever came out of it alive. In connection with the occupation of Borgu her husband had curious adventures, and on one occasion put his life absolutely in the hands of Kiama, the King, who had, he knew, been plotting to kill him only a few days before. The upshot was that the King became his fast friend, and having advised him never again to trust a Borgu man as he had trusted him, had shown bimself ever since worthy of trust. He still sent yearly offerings to his "friend," and Borgu gives them no trouble. In addition to the Fulani and Haussa races, who spoke either Arabic or Haussa, the country teemed with local tribes having each their own habits and their own language. Haussa was the first language which the English officer learned, but he had to learn many others if he wished to make himself fully understood by the native peoples with whom he had to deal.

Many of the tribes were pagans, and it was not very long since some were cannibals. One tribe was reported to have tails. There was an other which would appear to justify the Greek legend of the Amazons; all their public fighting was done by women, and their public offices were also filled by women. She was told, but could not youch for the accuracy of any of these statements, that in that tribe the women were physically larger and stronger than the men. In the worst of the pagan regions civilized trade was not at present possible. In Borgu the people claimed that they had never been conquered by the Fulant, and they had traditions of a religion which would appear to be Christian.

Speaking of the slave trade, Lady Lugard said that at the time of the transfer the principal currency of Nigeria was in slaves. Large sums of money were reckoned not in pounds, but in slaves; public tribute was paid in slaves, and all labor was slave labor. The result of the slave trade was seen in depopulation. Where Barth described in 1854 a population of 50,000,000 there were probably not more to-day than 10,000 000 or 12,000, 000. Yet so wedded were the Fulmi rulers to the system that when, on the assumption of power by the British Government, the Emir of Banichi was remonstrated with and asked to give pledges of abstaining from slave raiding for the future, his reply was, "Can you stop a cat from mousing? When I die I shall be found with a slave in my mouth."-London Times.

When the Ink Flies. When Speaker Cannon takes his pen In hand to sign a few bills everybody moves away from his immediate vicin ity, so as to be sure to be beyond reach. of the ink shower he is sure to dis tribute. In five minutes the murble rostrum at which he sits looks like the back of a coach dog. Cannon is at ways much afraid of blotting the document awaiting his signature, so he shakes the pen vigorously before put ting it to work. On days when the speaker has much of this work to do Asher Hinds, the parliamentary clerk, who sits beside him, wears what he ralls his "signing trousers," which garments are about as much solied as they

Mikado's Bird. A live eagle was captured recently

by one of the torpedo boats blockading Port Arthur and presented to the Mikado. It was probably a specimen of the large spotted eagle, which is common on the Liaotung promontory When these birds of prey are tired of the Mongolian lands they go down to meet the geese. Some remain near Shankaikwan for the wild fown, but most follow the enormous flocks which converge on Mukden. The Lialishan, south of Port Arthur, was long an eagle preserve, where birds were netted and sent to Pekin as part of the Manchurian tribute.

OUR BUDGET OF HUMOR.

The Wife No One Wants. There was a young lady at Bingham.
Who knew many songs, and cou'd sing 'em;
But she couldn't mend hose.
And she wouldn't wash clothes.
Or help her old mother to wring 'em.

Wise Man. Guest tin cheap restaurant)-"Here. waiter! This food is vile, and I don't propose to pay for it. Where's the Waiter-"He's gone home to lunch,

sir."-Philadelphia Ledger.

An Exceptional Case. Smith-"You wouldn't take Rocksley for a self-made man, would you?" Rogers-"I should say not! Why, he uses good English and doesn't weigh more than one hundred and eighty pounds!"-Town Topics.

Taking Chances.

"That land," said the city nephew, is valued at \$800 a front foot."

"Thunderation!" exclaimed the old farmer, hastily moving back on to the sidewalk. "An' I stood on it most five minutes! Do you reckon they'll charge me rent?"-Chicago Post.

"I dislike to keep you in after school," said the teacher "Aren't you sorry you were naughty and have to "No'm," replied Johnny. 'Pie-face

is waitin' out there to lick me."-Iudianapolis Sun. Aunt Mary "Nora, you're a cruel

child. Let that cat go at once." Nora (banging the cat)-"But she's been naughty, Aunty, an' I'm punishin' her. I told her it was for her owr good, an' it hurt me more'n it hurt er."- Prooklyn Life.

Judge's Regret

"Your Honor," said the young law yer, "I demand justice for my client," "I'd be only too glad to accommo date you," answered the Judge, "but as the law won't allow me to give him more than six months I am practically helpless." -Chicago News.

Proper Reverence. Mamma-"Now, Willie Jones likes to go to Sunday school, I'm sare." Tommy-"I guess he does, the way

he talks about it." Mamma-"Why, what does he say?" Tommy-"He calls it Sabbath school,"—Philadelphia Press,



You say you don't know Mr. Rock

very well." "Only slightly. Let me see, I be lieve we were engaged once."-Ne♥

York American.

Man's Modesty. "Do you believe," she asked, "that \$ genius can possibly be a good hus band?"

"Well," he modestly replied. " would prefer not to answer that question. But my wife ought to be able to tell you."-Chicago Record-Herald

The Next Best Thing. "I thought she was determined never

to marry any man whose ancestors had not come over in the Maytlower! "Yes, but she changed her mind when she met this fellow whose an cestors went to California in a prairie schooner."-Chicago Record Herald.

Parental Wisdom. "I shouldn't think the Smiths would name their new baby 'John'- there are so many John Smiths."

"That's a good thing one way. It his name ever gets in the police reports' folks won't know whether it's he or some other John Smith."-

The Girls That Buy 'Em. American Girl "We haven't beer over long, you know. I suppose your people always lived here?"

Augustus "We came to England

with the Normans, don't you know." American Girl-"Oh, indeed, the Nor mans! I'm afraid I don't know them." At School in the Philippines.

Tom Bieler recently went from Kan sas to the Philippines. At Bahol lo visited a village school. "When I stepped into the school room," says Bieler, "all the children jumped up on their feet and said Good afternoon.' I asked the teacher if it was recess, but he said it wasn't The pupils talked loud and ran around the room where they pleased. Where one of them read he would holler as loud as he could. While I was in the toom a dog and a goat came in, but no one paid any attention to them The teacher said a dog fight in the room would cause them to quit any

thing and watch the fight."-Eureks (Kan.) Messenger. The Iron Sands of Java.

A curious sight on the coast of Java is a long stretch of shore, about twenty-nine miles in length, where the sand is filled with particles of magnetic fron. In some places it is said that the surface sand contains eighty per cent, of iron. It can be smelted, and a company has been formed to exploit he deposits.