

The Mayor,
The Exchange and Mart.

25, WILKINSON-STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

in Aug 1871
W. & A. G. & Co.

[The body of the document contains several columns of extremely faint, illegible text, likely representing a list of names or a detailed account.]

With the

of the

[The bottom section of the document contains several columns of extremely faint, illegible text, continuing the list or account.]

certain in its result as was that of the historical Frenchman who succeeded in keeping a horse upon one straw per day."—ED.]

BINOCLAR GLASS.—I want a binocular glass suitable for the theatre or as a field glass. Who are the best makers, and what should be the cost of a good one in leather case or other cheap material? What is the meaning of "achromatic lenses," and of "sunshades," as I see them offered for sale in *The Bazaar* at times possessing these qualifications?—IGNORAMUS.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Will any subscriber oblige me with the name or names of any sick and burial friendly society other than the Hearts of Oak or Foresters? I already belong to the Hearts of Oak, and wish to join another society where the contributions would not have to be sent to a public-house.—A. M.

TRAINING FOR ROWING AND RIDING.—I should feel obliged if any reader could inform me as to the method rowing men and jockeys adopt in order to reduce their weight, and the regimen prescribed for them?—STARBOARD BOWMAN.

OUT-DOOR GAMES.—Will some one tell me of some amusing out-door games for grown up boys and girls? I know the game of the duck and kissing in the ring.—ROSBUD.

ANSWERS.

HOTEL AT COBLENTZ.—I can highly recommend "Philo" the Anchor Hotel at Coblenz facing the Rhine. The prices are moderate, and the landlord, Herr Praug, most obliging.—CHILPERIC.

FORTNIGHT ON THE CONTINENT—HOLLAND.—I can recommend Newcastle-on-Tyne a very pleasant little summer trip, coasting about the sum mentioned in Holland, starting from Harwich per steamer and visiting Rotterdam, the Hague (a remarkably pretty clean town, with the seaside place of Scheveningen), where I recommend the hotel Paulz facing the theatre, then to Syden, where you can pay a visit to the university, and the same day go on to Haarlem, worth visiting for its marvellous organ, which however is not done justice to by the performer, at least was not when I was there. Amsterdam is well worth a visit, it is quaint and picturesque, and the Jews quarter seems to take you back several centuries. There are many good hotels there. Utrecht is remarkably pretty, charming gardens well laid out surround the town. The Dutch think much of Arnhem, one of the first towns on the Rhine, on account of its possessing some small elevations they call hills, in contradiction to the prevailing flatness, but I confess to being disappointed in the place, and not thinking it much worth a visit. This trip can be done in a fortnight, one in Belgium would be taken for about the same money.—CHILPERIC.

RAMSGATE—HOTEL.—The "King of the Cannibal Islands" will find every comfort and great cleanliness at Tonbridge's, the Red Lion Hotel, 1, Harbour-street, Ramsgate. I have myself spent a fortnight the last two years at his house, so can recommend from experience. He will find the charges very moderate, and every civility paid him. The hotel (a small one) faces the fruit market, is within three minutes walk of the sea and its beautiful sands, five minutes from London and Chatham or South Eastern Railway. I should think "The King" could have his fortnights pleasures well on £10 10s. He will find lots to amuse him in the mornings on the sands, pretty drives, rows, or walks to Margate, Broadstairs, Pegwell Bay, &c., in the afternoon, music in the evening. Good concerts sometimes take place at the Granville. For others he must take train to Margate, which is conveniently near.—G. R. H.

LADIES' SADDLES.—In reply to query by "X," as to whether Landgen's ladies' saddles are better for horses' backs than those of other makers, I beg to say I have had one in use for the last two years, and though I have ridden many horses during that period, I have seldom had one my saddle did not fit well.—L.

HAY FEVER.—Glycerine rubbed into the nostrils, as far as the little finger will reach, and sniffed up night and morning, and two or three times a day, is the best remedy for hay fever. It smother the infusoria and allays the irritation they occasion. I discovered this last year, and have enjoyed two seasons of almost perfect immunity, though for thirty years previously I had been a martyr to this curious visitation, as regularly as the season came round.—M. E. T.

The Canary Book.—Part I. General Management. Contains every information as to Cages and Cage Making, Breeding and Management, Mule Breeding, Diseases and their Treatment, Moulting, and many other subjects of great value. With illustrations of the best Cages, Feeding Cages for the same, Nests, &c., and Estimates of prize breeds of Norwich, Belgian, and London Fancy Canaries. Price, in paper, 2s. by post 2s. 3d. Part II. Exhibition Canaries, in the press. By E. L. Wallace, Editor of the Avian Department of *The Country*.—Office, 22, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

The Library.

THE LITERARY WORLD.

(FROM OUR LITERARY CORRESPONDENT.)

There are few healthy minds to which narratives of travel in wild countries, and sport among dangerous animals, are not attractive. Most of us have still enough of the hunter instinct of primitive man in us to enjoy the "rapture of the strife" with creatures who are formidable enough to get the best of it frequently, even against the deadly weapons and skill of civilised man, and perhaps Englishmen have the instinct of the hunter in stronger relief than any other people, whether savage or civilised. They endure hardships and encounter perils which savages, however well rewarded, cannot always be brought to face, and they certainly write the best books upon the subject. The Hon. W. H. Drummond's "Large Game and Natural History of South and South-East Africa" (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas), is one of the most interesting books of its class we have ever read. The author does not pretend to be a naturalist, but he has just that intelligent acquaintance with the principles of natural history which enables him to apply close and accurate powers of observation profitably to the habits and characteristics of animals in their resorts, which none but the hunter penetrates, and the professed naturalist may learn much from this kind of observation. Skins and bones are valuable in their way, but a skeleton is not a life history such as may be gathered from these pages. All the great game has in turn attracted the author's attention. The elephant, rhinoceros, lion, hippopotamus, eland, zebra, giraffe, leopard, wolf, &c., have not only fallen to his rifle, but have been closely studied as living representatives of the African fauna. His remarks upon sport, and the manner of approaching game, will be particularly interesting to sportsmen, and the incidents of adventure are by no means few and far between. When we add that the style is pleasant, and marked by no small descriptive powers, we shall have said enough to warrant our estimate of the book as one of the best of a class of literature which has already engaged some of the ablest pens.

Mr. Darwin's extremely unconscious method of work is backed up by the utmost patience and industry. Hence it is that not even his earliest works are out of date, in spite of the rapid advance of inquiry in every direction. Whenever there appears to be the least necessity for a revision of one of these he straightway sets about the task, and brings the work up to the present level of knowledge. The "Origin of Species" has reached its sixteenth thousand, the "Naturalists' Voyage Round the World" its twelfth thousand, and "The Descent of Man" its tenth thousand. And when it is remembered that all these have been brought out in five or six European languages, the immense influence they have exercised upon the scientific thought of the time will be at once apparent. For the last ten years, or, perhaps, more, he has been engaged in collecting all the information obtainable upon the physiology of carnivorous plants belonging to the order *Drosera*, supplemented by his own exhaustive observations and experiments, and has published the result in a beautifully illustrated volume, entitled, "Insectivorous Plants" (Murray). In looking over the work we cannot but be struck with the extremely careful manner in which the conclusions of others have been tested, and, in some important cases, to the utter discredit of their "marvellous" statements. For instance, a Mrs. Treat published in the *American Naturalist* an account of an experiment in which she pinned a living fly at a very short distance from *D. filiformis*, and declared that after about an hour and a half the tentacles on the leaf bent towards and inclosed it. Mr. Darwin, on the contrary, finds that actual contact is invariably necessary to the action of the tentacles. It had also been supposed that inorganic substances had scarcely any effect upon the plant, but the author finds that the minutest particles of glass, cotton hair, certain chemicals, &c., excited contraction, though drops of water had no effect whatever. Some idea of the delicacy of the experiments made may be gathered from the fact that particles of the inorganic matters mentioned above, weighing as little as the $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a grain were applied to the plant, and always produced sensible contraction though the duration of it was short, and even the $\frac{1}{1000000}$ of a grain of phosphate of ammonia was sufficient to excite the peculiar action of the tentacles. The salts of sodium always excited contraction, but did not poison the plant; while most of the salts of potassium did not excite it and did poison it. The poison of the cobra is dried and sent to this country in a form somewhat resembling gum

Arabic, as the reader probably knows, and when a small portion of this was applied to the plant it occasioned vigorous contraction of the leaf, but had no effect on its life, though the same quantity would probably have been fatal to the strongest man. The idea of poisoning a plant is a strange one, but the organisation of this order of plants has a good deal in common with members of the animal kingdom. We have seen that the most deadly organic poison known, that of the cobra, is resisted, while salts of potassium are fatal to sundews. One of the most singular features of the order is the possession of small glands, situated at the end of the tentacles, which enclose the insect in the leaf, enabling it to perform the functions of digestion and assimilation. Albuminised substances brought into contact with these glands, excite the secretions, which, according to Professor Frankland's analysis, has a strong chemical resemblance to pepsine, and behaves in the same manner in dissolving animal matter. That the plant feeds upon the insects it entraps there can now be no doubt whatever, and its life is thus maintained. But it appears capable of taking only a limited amount of such nourishment, and if overfed dies. Perhaps the few points indicated here after a hasty glance at the work, will be sufficient to show how interesting is the subject dealt with. We shall, perhaps, return to it on a future occasion.

The wheel of fortune turns rapidly in America, and it would appear from the history of some of her prominent men that the more erratic its revolutions the more likely the right side is to come uppermost at last. General William T. Sherman, whose "Memoirs" (by himself) have just been published by Messrs. King and Co., got astride of the wheel, and it whirled him through the professions of soldier, storekeeper, surveyor, banker, lawyer, and back again to that of soldier, which was his lucky turn, for he had no success in any of the others; and a careful examination of his book will convince most readers that there never was so clear an example of circumstances making the man. He had the biggest battalions, unlimited war material, the best of the stuff in the way of men, and splendid opportunities. Under the circumstances there is nothing to excuse the tone of blatant self-glorification manifest throughout these two volumes. It is indeed inconceivable to any intelligence not saturated with the sense of "bigness" prevalent in a certain class of American minds, that the North should have taken so much credit to itself for a triumph gained by the process of devastation and demolition, and violation of all human rights which General Sherman looks back upon exultingly, especially when the Federal forces were always two to one, and often ten to one, of the Confederate. Had the Prussians or French done one tithe of the wanton damage to the enemy's country which Sherman did in the "March to the sea," or had Bismark telegraphed anything like the vulgar and brutal message "I can make this march, and make Georgia howl," and "I propose to ruin Georgia and bring up on the seashore," and carried it out to the letter, leaving the land behind him a wilderness, Europe would have execrated his memory. Those who did not watch the progress of the contest closely saw nothing of the annihilation of vaunted Republican principles of Federal Generals; but General Sherman recalls to mind and vindicates the historical truth that there is no despotism like that which affects to consider political equality an eternal principle. General Sherman truckles to bad feeling, bad taste, and ignorance. He revives animosities which should be forgotten, he speaks of himself and his doings in a manner calculated to disparage by inference the high qualities and services of other men, and he peppers his language with slang, and raises many a horse laugh for the edification of the groundlings. Of his abilities as a soldier we leave soldiers to judge, and, while not denying him a certain rough power of dealing with crude materials and using them promptly, military men will probably come to the conclusion that General William T. Sherman would have out a very different figure in the presence of experienced tacticians backed by moderate resources.

We have recently had occasion to congratulate the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge on taking a step in the higher secular education of the young, which cannot fail to be a valuable addition to its labours in the cause of religion. The society has now ready, in addition to the manual on "Zoology," by Professor Newton, the following manuals of elementary science:—"Chemistry," by Professor Bernays; "Physiology," by F. Le Gros Clark; and "Geology," by the Rev. T. G. Bonney; and "Mineralogy," "Physics," and "Botany" in preparation.

It is announced that Mrs. Lynn Linton's new novel will be begun in next month's *Cornhill Magazine*.

Messrs. Murray have in the press a volume with the significant title "Rome, and the Newest Fashions in Religion," which will contain some