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BIRMINGHAM. - - - MICHIGAN.

CURRENT TOPICS.

It is reported that "Bob" Ingersoll recently lost $100,000 in Mexican mines. He doesn't deny it, but says if he did, he won't whine about it, and ask somebody to pass the contribution box.

The enacting clause of the bonded whisky bill was stricken out by a large majority, and the bill has now been placed on the shelf to condole with the bill placing Gen. Grant on the retired list.

As if to be revenged for all the pretty compliments (?) paid him by the press of the country, Dr. Mary Walker announces that she is going to write a book. The subject has not been mentioned, but it is safe to say, that in point of excellence and literary ability, it will be the equal of the reminiscences of John Brown, recently published by Mrs. Westlake Scott, well known to Queen Victoria. In some things Dr. Mary reminds one of Artemus Ward's kangaroo, as she certainly is an "unusual little cuss."

The latest Boston cult is called the "mind cure." The theory of this cure is that there is really no such thing as disease. An experience on one of the disciples of the new art, as she relates it, is that the little son of her laundress had epileptic fits, that she put her hand on the boy, talked to him long and kindly and said: "Now you are not going to have any more of these. You must believe in me and I will cure you." The attacks diminished, only one or two appearing after that, and for weeks the child has been entirely free from them.

There is a schoolmaster in the Scottish Highlands who is in cordial sympathy with the opponents of corporal punishment for school children. He does not believe in "walloping." His holiness, mild, soothing treatment. So he keeps a bottle of castor oil on his table, and greases the faces of refractory pupils in extreme cases pouring a little down their throats. It might be well for other teachers to inquire into the efficacy of this treatment with a view to the substitution of castor oil for oil of birch, or what is sometimes known as "strap-oil."

A bill has been introduced in the Assembly at Albany, N. Y., prohibiting the sale or exposure of indecent publications devoted to criminal and police news and reading matter of any character tending to corrupt the morals of the young. This is a step in the right direction, and the reader should have the earnest support of every member of the Assembly, and then when it does become a law let the good work already begun be supplemented by effective work in the homes and schools. The extent to which this vile literature is circulated is becoming alarmingly great, and the need for decisive action more and more apparent.

At a meeting of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance, the committee to whom was referred the subject of the Scott act agitation, reported that they found the time had arrived for concerted action in the line of prohibition, and recommended that immediate action be taken by the Alliance to secure the passage of the Scott act in twenty-nine counties in Ontario. The Alliance issues a circular in accordance with the action asking for the suppression of the liquor traffic throughout the Dominion. The vigor with which the Alliance has taken hold of the matter insures the speedy consummation of their plans.

Communications with the inhabitants of the "Undiscovered Country" seemed to be all the rage in the Buckeye state until a few days ago. Then an ambulatory "professor" found his way into Marion Township and engaged a school-house in which to hold his seances. The "professor" was his own door-keeper and when he had got all the quarters that were likely to come he disappeared behind the curtain that shrouded the mysteries. When his audience got tired of waiting they investigated and found the medium had departed by the medium of a back window. This incident, it is feared, will greatly tend to skepticism in the back townships of Ohio.

Moral suasion is well enough in some things, and no doubt great and lasting good has been done through its agency. But when that fails its most earnest advocates seldom hesitate to resort to more effective measures. In Canton, Kansas, man who had not the fear of prohibition before his eyes, and who had turned a deaf ear to the entreaties of the temperance women of the town, opened a saloon, and assumed a most defiant attitude on the temperance question. He had things all his own way for three days, when a row took place in his saloon, and he was shot by a constable, and the next day women raided his saloon and poured every drop of liquor into the street. The man was not dangerously wounded, but has come to the conclusion that prohibition in that town is a well established principle, and when he recovers will seek "new fields and pastures green."

"Two Cents' Worth."

Ratchet.

One of our well-known Washington lawyers is the teacher of a Sunday-school class. Do not smile, gentle reader. Tho' strange, 'tis true, and stranger yet, but just as true, it is not a class of young ladies. They are boys.

One Sunday not long since, this legal luminary was expounding to his scholars that portion of the Scriptures which says, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." In order to illustrate more fully how a very small substance could affect a great mass, and expecting that some one would answer "only a little," he said:

"Now, boys, how much yeast does your mother put in a great pauful of dough when she makes bread?"

Before he had time to wink the irrepressible of his class shouted out with equal force and brevity:

"Two cents' worth!"

MICHIGAN NEWS.

TELLING TESTIMONY

Taken in the Crouch Examination Both Sides Testify.

IMPORTANT TESTIMONY

was brought out at the examination on the 20th. The attendance was about as usual and the interest has not abated. The first witness called by the prosecution was H. J. Crouch, who was sworn. Live in Detroit; am section five, seven miles from Jackson. Know Eden Shaw. Have known him for about 15 years. Know the reputation she has for truth and veracity and it is good.

Mrs. Nancy Myers sworn. Have lived in Horton nine years. Know Nettie Smith, she was at our house in November or December. Was asked to take care of her baby. Mrs. Snyder said the doctor told her she was over-heated and she asked him what to do, and he said he had her. Nettie said she did not know of this baby being born of the room before that time or since.

Cross examined by Mr. Wilson: I attended to this before she was delivered. Was brought on as a witness. The days I was present during the time of her confinement were my husband's birthday, I am not much of a talker, but I talk when I think it is right. I first told this last Sunday.

Andrew Myers, sworn. Have lived on Horton years. Saw Miss Nettie Snyder at our house after the murder, and a conversation took place in which she said she was over-heated, bloom was scattered with blood the morning after the murder, and she was afraid she was bleeding at the nose, and in a conversation from me, asked whether she had anything she should tell the truth about. Mrs. Myers Fly sworn. Live in Jackson, live first door north of Crouch's.

Cross-examined: Have resided in Jackson about 15 years. Left home to entertain a friend, and on returning found a child in the house. Was asked to take care of it. Did not want to take it. Nettie Smith said that is the child I left with you. Nettie Smith's office.

Nettie Smith, recalled for further direct examination: Was at Myers' on the day of the murder. Was in the house all morning. Saw Mrs. Myers fly sweep the bloom off the door step. Saw Nettie Smith at an upper window. Saw Mrs. Nettie Smith at an upper window. Saw Mrs. Nettie Smith at an upper window. Saw Mrs.