PERSONS AND THINGS.

CASTLE GARDEN officials say that the Mormon immigration has fallen off to twelve or fifteen hundred a year.

THE Brooklyn insane asylum is overcrowded. The number of inmates during the past year aggregated 4,215.

SLADE, the Maori pugilist, was recently "knocked out" in a fight with George McDonald at Salt Lake City, Utah.

AT a congress of the bicycle clubs of Germany, held in Berlin recently, there was a procession of six hundred wheelmen.

THE lumbermen at *Fairfield, Me.,* expect to cut upward of twenty-five million feet of lumber during the coming winter.

ALL travelers to Mount Hood this season say there never was so little snow on the mountain; the weather has been so warm.

A PIGEON owned in Brooklyn, N. Y., made the flight from Montgomery, Ala., 875 miles, in ten days, beating all previous records.

In the 5-cent savings banks of Charleston, S. C., the colored people have $124,-936 35 on deposit. The largest depositor has $6,000 to his credit.

THEY have a rug at Cottage City, N. J., made in the year 691, or 1,195 years ago. It is a pretty old relic, and was obtained from the mosque of Mecca.

THE longest drought that ever occured in this country is said to have taken place in 1762, when no rain fell from the 1st of May to the 1st of September.

A PARTY of explorers claim to have discovered near Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, a pyramid with a base of 4,350 square feet and a height of 750 feet. The celebrated Cheops is but half as large.

THE latest foreign mail brings information of the death of another of Pasteur's patients. He was a boy aged 34, named Bergeron Cladice. He was bitten by a mad dog on the 14th of June last, and was at once taken to Paris by his parents to be treated by M. Pasteur. He underwent the ten inoculations. The first symptoms showed themselves on the 12th, and he died on the 15th ult.

NOTWITHSTANDING occasional assertions of the decrease of crime in Egypt, statistics for the first six months of 1886 give 1,700 crimes committed, against 1,400 in the first six months of 1885. The number of murders is 70, against 50; but this is still enormous compared with ten years ago. Thefts with aggravated circumstances have increased 70 per cent.

THE German emperor, after having been dieted for years, is now permitted to eat what he likes and when he likes. What he likes is shell fish, and the intervals between the imperial meals do not exceed two hours. It is a significant commentary on the change of regime that his majesty declares that he has not felt so well for years, though his doctors are in terror whenever he orders a lobster.

A CURIOUS case of revenue collection is reported from Germany. On the occasion of the recent music festival at Kellinghusen, near Hamburg, an artist had, besides the floral and other ornamental ons of the locomotive drawing the extra train from Altona, placed on it two boards, bearing in large letters the words "Song Festival to Kellinghusen." These boards the frontier revenue officers seized upon, exacting the payment of a duty thereon as "painted wood."

PRINCE NAPOLEON (Plon-Plon) was recently visiting the Vatican galler es in Rome, and he used every effort to induce one of the papal officers to allow him to remain hidden in some nook while the pope passed through the galleries in going to his apartments. The prince, however, was treated as any other tourist would be, and was obliged to get out. It is said "he went off in a huff," but it is probable the pope was not particular as to the manner of his going.

PRINCE BISMARCK had a good time at Gastein, whence he has just journeyed to Berlin. The other day some persons who were firing at a target were honored with the chancellor's company. He was still in black and wore a high beaver hat, and thus was in contrast with those around him, for they had on Tyrolese low-crowned hats with feathers. H s big bloodhound was with h m. He fired twice with a pistol at the long range target, four hundred yards away, and hit it once. Then he saw a new repeating rifle put to his shoulder at the effect and said: "It is getting worse for the cavalry every year. Still," he added, "it takes a good deal of lead to kill a man."

A CURIOUS incident is related by *The Boston Courier* as having occurred on the French steamer Bourgogne not long since. Among the passengers com'ng from Paris was the Viscountess de Costlogon, formerly Miss Georgy Blake, who came to visit her family in Boston. She had been gone on board when she discovered an old friend in the person of one of the cabin stewards. In explanation of his present occupation he told her that all the money of himself and family had been swallowed up; that he was obliged to work for h's living, and, failing to find more profitable or congen'al employment, he had been compelled to accept service with the Compagnie Transatlantique.

THE eminent surgeon and naturalist, Mr. George Busk, died recently in London in the 78th year of his age. Mr. Busk became a member of the College of Surgeons in 1830 and, on the institution of the grade of fellowship in 1843, was one of those selected to receive it. He was elected a member of council in 1863, and was chosen president of the college in 1871. He was a fellow and had been twice vice president of the Royal society, and was also a fellow of the Linnæan, the Geological and the Zoological societies. Mr. Busk was the translator of some important German works on histology, and at the time of his death had just completed a considerable report on the zoophytes found during the expedition of the Challenger

HOW STELLA MADE "HIT."

If I had been caught in such a situation by any one but John Benton I should have been terribly annoyed. There I was, sitting on the floor of the nursery, with hair tumbled, my face red and sticky with candy and a great rent across the front of my overskirt, where it had been caught by a nail a few minutes before during a fierce blindman's-buff scrimmage. My little sister Alice was having a birthday party, and, of course, I had to assist in entertaining the guests. There were just twelve, seven boys and five girls. Supper was over (everybody was too excited to sit long at the table) and we all retired to the nursery at the top of the house, where there were no restrictions as to noise, and where the seven boys exercised their shouting franchise to the utmost, assisted in a more subdued way by the five girls, the youngest a wee thing of four years who had insisted on sharing her stick of candy with me.

When John Benton tapped at the door I said, "come in," carelessly, supposing it was a servant.

"I beg your pardon, Miss Latour. They said I should find you here. But perhaps I have made a mistake."

"Not at all, Mr. Benton," said I as I scrambled to my feet. "We are pleased to see you. Sit down on—on the piano stool. The chairs have been taken into the other room. We have been playing blind-man's-buff."

"I—I received this invitation," went on Mr. Benton, taking an envelope from his pocket and reading from the gilt-edged card within. "Miss Latour requests the pleasure of your company on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at five o'clock."

I looked reproachfully at my seven-year-old sister Alice. She had sent one of her printed invitations, in which the printer had neglected to insert the name "Alice," to John Benton, and the proof-reader had failed to find it and had inserted that I was the Miss Latour. So he had come, without even sending an acceptance to herald his appearance in full dress, with a great expanse of white shirt bosom, white necktie, and —yes I am sure of it—his hair crimped. A nice contrast to my torn dress and disheveled hair.

"Well, I am glad you have come, though I suppose this is not exactly the kind of gathering you expected to find, is it?"

"I did not care much what I said to John Benton. Ever since I had met him at the Bergeron's ball three years ago, when he insisted on dancing with me three times in the course of the evening and declared to me and many of my brothers all declared he was in love with me, but was too bashful to tell me. I often met him, and though I am sure I am not a vain or conceited personage, I could not help seeing that he was never at ease in my presence. Not that he was backward where men were concerned. My brother Will came to me to the Oil Exchange one morning, and the first thing I saw was John Benton, with his hat on the back of his head, his coat-sleeves rolled up, one hand and shaking the other, holding some paper in the face of a savage looking man, now and then giving it the top of his voice in the most defiant manner. Will said the savage-looking man was a bear, and Mr. Benton was a bull, which seemed very complimentary of me, and came and stuttered and stayed with me for ten minutes. Will told me afterwards that in that ten minutes the market dropped nearly a cent, and Mr. Benton lost a thousand dollars.

But it was evident Mr. Benton was not thinking about the market as he walked over to the piano-stool in his dress-coat and white necktie, and sat there, with one of the most sheepish smiles I ever saw on a young man's face.

"Now, Lou, you must sit down on the floor again, or we can play forfeits," said my tyrannical sister Alice. "And you, too, Mr. Benton. Come on."

John Benton blushed and looked at me.

"We shall have to obey. I am afraid, Mr. Benton," I said. "But you can sit on the piano-stool, if you prefer it."

"Oh, but I don't Miss Latour. Allow me to help you to—to sit down."

And he actually tried to make a courtly proceeding of depositing me on the floor, as if it could be anything but ridiculous, however it was effected.

Then he sat down himself, with little Stella, the four-year-old miss, between us, and the game of forfeits went on. Most of the penalties were in the shape of kisses, and I felt nervous until it came my turn to be asked the forfeits over the head of a particular friend of hers, a girl of her own age, and it was the duty of the latter to say: "What shall be required of the owner of the article. There was my handkerchief! I am ashamed to say that my heart beat quickly when Alice repeated the familiar nursery jargon: "Heavy, heavy, what hangs o'er," etc., and it fairly jumped when Alice, with a mischievous glance at Mr. Benton and myself, stooped and whispered to her friend. Then she went on with the question: "What shall be done with the owner?"

Clear-cut and distinct came the answer: "She shall kiss Mr. Benton."

"Oh, it's Lou—it's Lou!" shouted Alice, amidst the tempest of laughter Mr. Benton sat looking straight before him, with a crimson face, while he fumbled with his white necktie until the bow was under his left ear.

There was a silence, as everybody except Mr. Benton looked at me to see the operation performed, when a small, baby voice at my side said: "I'll tiss him for you, Lou."

So Stella climbed up to Mr. Benton's neck, with one of her hands on his white shirt bosom, and, as she said herself, "kissed him right on the mout, and it tickled awful."

I did not want to play forfeits any longer; it was too dangerous; so I proposed that we should all sing.

"Yes, I tan sing," said Stella. "I know lots of songs."

She did not feel at all abashed over the fact that she had left a rather sticky impression of her fingers on Mr. Benton's starched shirt bosom, and as for him, he seemed to feel flattered, at the evident preference for him.

I sat down at the piano and played accompaniments for school songs, while the children gathered around me and bawled the words into my ears with the excruciating flat intonation peculiar to young untra ned voices.

Mr. Benton was sitting near the window, with little Stella on his knee, apparently enjoying the noise, and with his eyes fixed on me in a blank stare of admiration, that I could not help seeing whenever my face was half-turned in his direction.

"Now let us sing a song all by myself," said Stella.

Mr. Benton looked inquiringly at me and I said:

"Yes, Stella, let's hear you sing all by yourself."

So she commenced, deliberately, "Little bir-r-die, on—the—tree! (a long breath) on—the—tree! (another long breath) on—the tree!"

Then she stopped, and with a haughty disregard of the desires or opinions of her audience that would have been worthy of a petted prima donnas, turned carelessly around on Mr. Benton's knee and looked out of the window, while we gambled for pleasures.

"Oh, loot—at the big birdie on the tree out of the window," she said, suddenly, pointing, and swerved toward me when I knew a tall poplar grew close to the house.

Mr. Benton was apparently startled by this evidence of Stella's keen vision for I saw him jump as his eye followed the direction of her finger. He controlled himself at once, however, as he replied quickly:

"I guess that is the shadow of a cloud in the moonlight and not a birdie, Stella."

"No," she persisted; "I saw a birdie on the tree."

He put her down, and she ran over to me. I took her on my lap. I heard the door close, and I saw that John Benton had disappeared.

"That is rather unceremonious. I wonder whether he is coming back," I thought. "Well, I do not care whether he does or not," as I made up my mind that the festivities could proceed without him.

I sat Stella on the end of the piano and played a lively polka for the children, with Stella's assistance, she drumming on two or three keys in the bass at intervals, with a wierd, if not harmonious effect.

"I want another more tandy," announced Stella, imperiously.

"I shall have to go down stairs for it, Stella. It is all in the dining room," I said.

"Well, do down 'tairs. I'll be good."

Of course I had to go. I left Stella in Alice's charge and ran swiftly down the stairs. The nursery was on the third floor. I do not know what induced me to open the door of my parents' bedroom as I passed it. I did so, however. It was quite dark, save a narrow bar of moonlight forcing its way through the poplar just outside the window.

I glanced carelessly into the gloom, with my hand on the handle of the door, and was about to continue my journey to the dining-room when I felt a draught from the open window and saw something white gleaming in the moonlight for an instant and then disappear.

"What is that," I thought, as an indescribable feeling of terror passed over me and left me shivering. "It looked like a hand."

There was not a sound to be heard in the room save the rustling of the curtains as the light wintry breeze blew them from the window, but I was certain someone was there.

What a set of fools we girls are!

Surely a man climbing in through the window! Yes, I was not mistaken. My eyes had become accustomed to the darkness by this time, and I could see the outlines of his figure clearly defined against the window.

In that terrible moment all I had ever heard or read about burglars and their desperate actions when brought to bay, passed through my mind. I recollected one of Poe's tales of horror, more or less improbable, wherein a young girl had successfully outwitted expert midnight thieves, and captured them alone and unaided.

The man, with his round head covered by some kind of closely-fitting cap, was cautiously creeping through the long room, and I remembered hearing my brother Will say the day before that it was a favorite plan of thieves in robbing a house to get up on the roof and enter by the skylight, the porch or tree, while the family were gathered in the lower rooms in the early evening.

I could not move! There was no light in the hall outside the room, and I could not be seen by the intruder as I stood hand on the door-handle, watching him, and listening in a dreamy way to the noise of the children in the nursery overhead.

He was in the room this time, and I noticed that his footsteps were noiseless, as if he had no shoes on, as he moved across the bar of moonlight toward the bureau where mamma always kept her jewelry. I saw a round patch of bright yellow light fall on the keyhole of the top drawer, and then heard a noise like rattling. The thief was picking the lock!

If I could only scream, or call for Will!

The drawer opened; the man was fumbling at its contents, when—crash! The yellow patch of light disappeared, and a loud oath, a word, I saw the man fall, another man holding him! Then a pistol shot rang through the room, and echoed up and down the stairs, and the house was flooded with light. Somebody had touched the electric button down stairs and lighted the gas.

For a few seconds my eyes were so dazzled that I could not see anything. Then I saw two men rolling on the floor in a desperate struggle, while a pistol lay half out of sight under the man underneath, with his closely-fitting plush cap, was scowling at me, as he tried to release himself, and I thought I could see the word, "Police," on his thin lips and short, turned-up nose so plainly that I should have been in favor of hanging him on the spot.

But who was the other man, holding the thief with a grip of iron, as each tugged and writhed in the attempt to subdue the other? Why, that was the bow of a white necktie at the back of his neck! That was a frock-coat with the tails spread out, like the wings of an eagle, or I was much mistaken!

In the battle just as Will and my father reached the room the pistol had passed me, the combatants rolled over, and a very red face, which, however, was anything but sheepish now, was turned toward me. The face of—John Benton!

Will had the thief by the arm in a few moments, and John Benton lay panting on the floor.

Then it was that I saw a great red stain on the white shirt bosom.

It was blood!

Somehow I forgot all about the thief, Will, my father—everything, as I threw myself down by the side of John Benton and pressed my handkerchief over the stain.

"John! John! What is it? Where are you hurt? Oh, father, he is killed!" I screamed. "What shall I do?"

I will never believe again that John Benton was a sheepish fool, for he just put one of his hands on the back of my head, pulled my face down to his, and whispered:

"Do just what you are doing now, and as you have commenced to call me John, do it all the rest of your life, and let me call you Lou."

Then there was a sudden disturbance! The thief had broken away from Will! The poplar tree shook violently, and Will said, as he put his head out of the window:

"Well, let the rascal go! It will save a good deal of trouble. Ah! there is his pal, who was on guard. They are both running as if the whole detective force were at their heels."

Then, turning to John: "How are you hurt, Mr. Benton? You don't look as if it were serious."

"It is not serious," said John, sitting up. "That fellow cut his hand in some way while opening the drawer, and he rubbed the blood all over my shirt; that's all."

I bit my lip and gave John a look that should have frozen him. It did not have the proper effect, however, for he followed me upstairs to the nursery, where the racket of play had rendered the children oblivious of the disturbance below. As he took Stella on his knee he said:

"Do you know, Stella, you made a tremendous hit with your song? You must sing Birdie on a Tree' for us again. Will you?"

"Yes, I will sing it for you, but you must tiss Lou for me now. She has diven me lots and lots of tandy, and she is awfully dood."

"Yes, I think so," said John. "And I'll tiss her for you."

And he actually did it.

Moreover, he says now that it is his privilege, and I suppose, under the circumstances, he is right.

An Incident of Antietam.

David Eckert, of the Thirtieth Ohio, writes to the Washington Tribune an incident of Burnside's advance across the Antietam Creek. He says: After crossing Antietam Creek our lines were formed and we got orders to "forward, left oblique, march," to a stone fence about 500 yards to the front, the left of the regiment being compelled to cross the road at a cornfield. When we reached the stone fence we had no support on our left, and the rebs were swing around our regiment and if there ever was a hotter place than that cornfield just then I never found it and I trust I never shall. With rebels in front and rear we had but little show. We got orders to get out of that if we could. Instead of going back obliquely, as I went in, I took straight up the corn rows and passed out in rear of the rebel line. Lieut. Rees Furby, of our regiment, was killed at the stone fence, and as I turned to the rear I saw him lying cold in death, but still clinging to his sword and shield