

and comfort themselves with a loud boo-hoo, and they will feel a hundred per cent better afterwards. In accordance with the above, the crying of children should not be too greatly discouraged. If it be systematically suppressed, the result will be St. Vitus' Dance, epileptic fits, or other diseases of the nervous system.

**THE COMMERCE OF THE WORLD.**—In 1855 the foreign commerce of Great Britain, France, United States, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Russia in Europe, Italy, Spain, Netherlands and Sweden, was estimated at £348,340,000. In seventeen years it more than doubled itself, being in 1872, valued at £1,855,200,000. Great Britain stands at the top of the list with £268,400,000 in 1855, and £609,600,000 in 1872; France comes next with £150,300,000 and £285,800,000; the United States third, with £107,340,000 and £232,800,000, or a little over double, whereas during the period mentioned its population increased from 27,000,000 to 41,000,000, while that of France only increased from 35,000,000 to 36,000,000, and that of England from 27,000,000 to 32,000,000. The total increase in commerce during the seventeen years was 118.5 per cent.

**THE GREAT CATHEDRALS OF EUROPE.**—The following are the principal European churches, and the number they can contain, allowing four persons to every square yard:—"St. Peter's, at Rome, 54,000; Milan Cathedral, 37,000; St. Paul's, at Rome, 32,000; St. Paul's, London, 25,600; St. Petronia, at Bologna, 24,400; Florence Cathedral, 24,300; Antwerp Cathedral, 24,000; St. Sophia's, Constantinople, 23,000; St. John Lateran, 22,900; Notre Dame, at Paris, 21,000; in addition to which there is the Cathedral at Pisa, St. Dominic's, at Bologna, St. Stephen's, at Vienna, St. Peter's, at Bologna, Cathedral at Vienna, and St. Mark's, at Venice, ranging from the first at 13,000 to the latter at 7,000. Bologna, with a population of 69,000, possesses three churches capable of seating three-fourths of the entire inhabitants.

**LARGE CITIES.**—The only three cities on the globe positively known to contain over one million of inhabitants are London, Paris, and New York (including Brooklyn), the reported population of Yeddo, Pekin, and other heathen centres having proved to be widely exaggerated. Berlin, St. Petersburg, Naples, and Vienna do not differ very widely in population, though the Prussian capital is growing more rapidly than any of the other cities, and is probably the largest by at least 40,000 or 50,000.

**DIFFERENT ALPHABETS.**—The Sandwich Island alphabet has 12 letters; the Burmese, 19; the Italian, 20; the Bengalese, 21; the Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldean, Samaritan, and Latin, 21 each; the French, 23; the Greek, 24; the German, Dutch, and English, 26; the Irish, 17; the Spanish and Sclavonic, 27 each; the Arabic, 28; the Persian and Coptic, 32; the Georgian, 35; the Armenian, 38; the Russian, 41; the Muscovite, 43; the Sanscrit and Japanese, 50; and the Tartarian, 202.

**THE JAPANESE PRESS.**—Newspaper writing among other foreign fashions, has taken root in Japan, and promises to flourish so amazingly that the government has thought it necessary to publish rules for its due regulation. Editors are informed that such subjects as "extraordinary natural occurrences, fires, war, prices, produce, trades, births, deaths and marriages, official notifications, literature, manufactures, amusements, clothing, land and houses, translation of foreign writings, miscellaneous foreign news, and other important public matter," will be admissible in their columns. But they are "forbidden to disturb or demoralize the minds of the people by attacking the constitution of the government, or by discussing the laws, or by casting obstacles in the way of the working of the national institutions by the persistent advocacy of foreign ideas." Further, having in view probably some of the enactments which have recently been passed, they are warned against "appending uncalled-for remarks to the laws, etc., which are published in the papers," and even "moral teachings" must not be introduced in such a way as to injure or obstruct the government. Unpopular ministers are protected by rule 15, which provides that "editors must not take upon themselves to publish remarks upon officials during their term of office, or upon their official conduct, or upon anything, however trifling, which is connected with our foreign intercourse;" and many suspected persons will doubtless feel grateful to the Home Secretary for the clause forbidding writers "to denounce a man for crimes on the face of groundless rumors." The remaining rules have reference to the publication and

registration of the papers, and the responsibilities of editors, who are told that they will be called upon "to give explanations in regard to any matter upon which it may be found necessary to question them."

**ORIGIN OF THE WORD WEDDING.**—When the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain, the patriarchal system was in full force. The father was absolute master of his own family; he sold his daughter in marriage, his son in slavery. When St. Augustine landed in the island, the maiden was a simple article of property, her price fixed at so many head of cattle. The primitive mode of procuring a wife was this: When a youth had fixed his choice upon a maiden, he went with a band of friends and carried her off, probably with her own secret connivance. The relations follow in hot pursuit, a feud between the families ensued, and was only appeased by the lover agreeing to pay the value fixed upon by the father for retaining possession of the maid, he giving a "wed," or security, for his performance of the contract—hence the word wedding. The custom of stealing the bride is as ancient as the Spartans, and is still kept up in Brittany, where it forms one of the ceremonies of wedding festivities. The bargain made, the amount of the "morning gift" settled upon, the contracting parties took each other by the hand and pronounced themselves man and wife; the ring was placed on the first finger of the left hand, and the father, having received the purchase money, delivered his daughter over to her husband. The transfer of authority was made by a symbolic gift. The father delivered the bride's shoe to the bridegroom and the latter touched her over the head with it—a ceremony which took its origin in the custom of placing the foot on the neck of a slave, and was typical of a wife's subjection to her husband—a ceremony still preserved in the custom of "throwing the shoe." The day after the wedding the bridegroom gave the "morning gift"—supposed to be voluntary, but according to the value stipulated. It was general among the Teuton race, and often estates were thus bestowed. When Athelstan's sister, Eadgirth, married the Emperor Otho, his morning gift was the city of Magdeburg.

**JUDGE SEWARD.**—Judge S. gave his son 1000 dollars, and told him to go to college and graduate. The son returned at the end of the Freshman year without a dollar, and with several bad habits. About the close of the vacation the Judge said to his son:—"Well William, are you going to college this year?" "Have no money, father." "But I gave you 1000 dollars to graduate on." "That's all gone, father." "Very well my son, I gave you all I could afford to give you; you can't stay here; you must now pave your way in the world." A new light broke out on the young man. He accommodated himself to the situation; he left home, made his way through the college, and graduated at the head of his class—studied law, became Governor of the State of New York, entered the Cabinet of the President of the United States, and made a record for himself that will not die soon, being none other than William H. Seward.

**A PATRIOTIC POLITICIAN.**—The following story may not be the "newest," but it is good: A Revolutionary soldier was running for Congress, and his opponent was a young man who had "never been to the wars," and it was the custom of the old Revolutionary to tell of the hardships he had endured. Said he:—"Fellow-citizens—I have fought and bled for my country. I helped to whip the British and the Indians. I have slept on the field of battle with no other covering than the canopy of heaven. I have walked on the frozen ground till every footstep was marked with blood—" Just about this time one of the sovereigns, who had become greatly interested in his tale of sufferings, walked up in front of the speaker, wiped his tears from his eyes with the extremity of his coat-tail, and interrupted him with—"Did you say you had fought the British and Indians?" "Yes, sir." "Did you say you slept on the ground while serving your country, without any kiver?" "I did." "Did you say your feet kivered the ground you walked over with blood?" "Yes," replied the speaker exultingly. "Well, then," said the tearful sovereign, as he gave a sigh of emotion, "guess I'll vote for t'other fellow, for I'll be blamed if you ain't done enough for your country."

The Liberal party, sobered by their late defeat, are adopting measures for organising and consolidating their strength. Besides the City Club, which has already enrolled 800 members, a new West End Liberal Club is projected, under the most powerful auspices, to promote more intimate intercourse.

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