

living 20 miles from one of the Doukhobor villages wanted a girl for a servant. A young girl went to her on trial for a month, but at the end of the period she promptly returned to her home. Her employer came after her, wishing to keep her, but on no account would the girl go. Urged to give a reason, at first she only replied that she "could not," but finally she said: "I cannot go back; my mistress did not love me." This little story throws a flood of light on the servant-girl problem. It is love that the Doukhobors want in life and which they freely give. It was love that prevented them from learning to kill their fellows in the Russian army, and it was their too great love that made the Russian government force its best subjects to leave their native land. It will be Russia's loss and Canada's gain. If they can only teach us on this continent the folly and sin of war, the joy of loving even one's enemies, and the impossibility of doing it with bombshells, their long pilgrimage and their years of hardship will not have been in vain.—Ernest H. Crosby, in *The Christian Herald*.

THE OLDEST OF LIVING THINGS.

Clifford Pinchot, the forester of the department of agriculture, has compiled a pamphlet on the big trees of California, which has just been issued from the government printing office. It is handsomely illustrated with a number of fine pictures of the great trees, showing their size as compared with that of other conifers. Mr. Pinchot presents the following salient facts regarding the big trees:

"The dimensions of the big tree are unequaled. Its age makes it the oldest living thing. The majestic beauty of the big tree is unique and world-renowned. It exists only in ten isolated groves on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains and nowhere else in the world. The Mariposa grove is the only one of consequence which is completely protected. Most of the scattered groves of big trees are privately owned and are, therefore, in danger of destruction. Lumbering is rapidly sweeping them off. Forty mills and logging companies are now at work wholly or in part upon big tree timber. The southern groves show some reproduction, through which there is some hope of perpetuating these groves. In the northern groves the species hardly holds its own. The big tree and the smaller coast redwood represent a surviving prehistoric genus of trees once widely distributed over the globe.

Mr. Pinchot says that before the glacial period the genus of big trees, called sequoia, flourished widely in the temperate zones of three continents, and Europe, Asia and America each had its share. But when the ice fields moved down out of the north the luxuriant vegetation of the age declined, and one after another the different kinds gave way until only the big trees and the redwood survived. These trees have come down to us through the vicissitudes of many centuries, solely because of its superb qualifications. Its bark is often two feet thick and almost noncombustible. The oldest specimens felled are still sound at heart and fungus is an enemy unknown to it. Yet the big trees have not increased their range since the glacial period, and have just managed to hold their own on the little strip of country where the climate is locally favorable.

The finest of all groves, the Calaveras grove, with the biggest and tallest trees, came into the possession of a lumberman on April 1, 1900; in short, the majority of the big trees of California, certainly the best of them, are owned by the people who have every right and, in many cases, every intention of cutting them down for lumber. Many of the notable trees in Calaveras grove are 300 feet in height and 20 to 23 feet in diameter. The Stanislaus, or South Calaveras grove, contains 1,380 big trees. The Mariposa grove has 125 trees over 40 feet in circumference.—*Chicago Chronicle*.

AN UP-TO-DATE JOKE FROM PUNCH OF OCTOBER 17, 1900.

Hostess—What do you think of our game pie, Mr. Brigson? We rather pride ourselves on it, you know.

Brigson (nervously anxious to please)—Oh, thank you, it's very nice indeed, what there is of it. What I mean to say is, there's plenty of it—such as it is! (Awful pause.)

Mrs. Brown—I always thought the British would win in the long run.

Mrs. Smith—So did I; I said right along that all they needed was tact.—Puck.

"You ought to take down that sign! You sold me some of those 'fresh mixed nuts' the other day," the indignant customer said, "and they are not fresh mixed nuts at all. When I took them home I found they were all old and strong."

"Nevertheless, ma'am," replied the man who kept the establishment, "that sign is a-going to stay right where it

is. I mix those nuts fresh every few days, ma'am."—*Chicago Tribune*.

Visitor—Ah! What a picture of innocence that child is!

Mother—Dear me! I hadn't noticed! Gertrude, what have you been doing?—Puck.

England cannot well complain of French enthusiasm for Kruger. In times past she gave warm welcome to the exiles of Poland, feted Kossuth, glorified Garibaldi after his failure to capture Rome, sheltered and aided the exiles from France after the coup d'etat of 1851 and gave hospitality to the men who later attempted the life of Napoleon III. with an infernal machine. England has sympathized, in fact, with all kinds of liberators except those who have tried to liberate their countries from herself.—*N. Y. World*.

"Oh, pa!"

"What is it, little Fred?"

"Why, pa, jes' now, out on th' avenue, I seen a autermobeel have a fit!"—Puck.

The world tends more and more in these piping times to divide itself between those who own Standard Oil stock and those who don't. It is not an equal division, and it grows less equal every day as more and more of the earth passes under the Standard Oil dominion.—*Life*.

"Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good!" exclaimed Mrs. Fret. "I know better. The things I worry about don't happen."—Puck.

BOOK NOTICES.

A plan for abolishing the use of money is proposed and elaborated in "Business Without Money" (Chicago: The Cooperative Press, 370 Dearborn St.) by William Henry Van Ornum, Ph. D. The plan requires for realization neither political action nor great organization, but can be started upon a small scale. Dealers in

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commodities—for example, a department store—are to offer to the manufacturers from whom they buy, not money but a credit at the store, subject to checks payable in goods or services. These credits, it is assumed, will be available to the manufacturers in purchasing materials and paying laborers, because they will reach the hands of persons desirous of buying at the department store, where they are redeemable. With only one business house doing this the friction might, of course, be very great; but with every addition to the number it would diminish and the checks become more and more generally acceptable in facilitating exchanges. To the reader of Dr. Van Ornum's book who happens to be familiar with the impulses that move men in trade, the plan proposed will not appear to be feasible. But as the author has set on foot a practical demonstration, experience may prove in this case, as it has so often done before, that what appears to be visionary in anticipation is in the highest degree useful in realization. If business should come to be generally done in this way, there is really no reason for supposing that the plan would not work more smoothly than existing methods. It involves nothing but an extension of the clearing house principle. But the author's governing idea, that when in operation it would abolish interest, derives its only plausibility from the erroneous assumption of all projectors of similar innovations, that interest is a premium for the use of money. The plan is at best but an improvement in the mechanism of trade, whereby trade operations are made easier. It cannot, therefore, abolish interest, except as interest is attributable to difficulties in trading. Neither can it contribute to the betterment of society except as other labor-saving devices do—by its influence upon production. Looked at in the most favorable light, it would enhance only productive power. It would not tend in the least degree to make distribution more equitable.

"The Philippines" (Chicago: Donohue Bros.) is the authorized translation by David J. Doherty, A. M., M. D., of Chicago, of Blumentritt's account of the ethnographical, historical and political conditions of the Philippines. Blumentritt stands high in Germany as a teacher of ethnology, and he has spent many years among the Filipinos. The translation is intended as a contribution, from a non-partisan source, to the literature of the presidential campaign, but it is of permanent interest and value to students of the Philippine question.

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