A QUEER DROVE.

How the Fur Seals of the Behring Sea are Corralled and Driven to the Killing Grounds.

The method followed by the natives of St. Paul's and St. George's islands, off the Alaska coasts, in capturing the fur seals, is curious. During the summer season the seals frequent the shores of these islands and gather on the beach in vast numbers. The younger male or bull seals are the only ones that are killed, and they are found assembled by themselves away from the breeeding rookeries. The natives go down to the beach in the early morning and quietly surround a group of 100 or more seals, getting between them and the water. The seals are then alarmed with shouts and cries, and terrified, flee inland along the only way left open. They are driven in this way to the killing place near the village on the shores of the island. Driving them is a very easy thing, although it takes them some time to accomplish the distance; but they blunder along, stimulated by the cries of their captors. The old bull seals that may be in the drove are apt to show fight, but if they do they are allowed to drop out of the crowd, as their skins are worthless. The young ones are as easy to drive as a flock of sheep.

The seals, when finally driven upon the flats between the east landing and the village, and almost under the windows of the dwellings, are herded there until cool and rested. The drives are usually made very early in the morning, at the first breaking of day, which is 1.30 to 2 o'clock of June and July of these latitudes. They arrive and cool off on the slaughtering grounds, so that by 6 or 7 o'clock, after breakfast, the able-bodied male population turn out from the village and go down to engage in the work of slaughter. The men are dressed in their ordinary working garb of thick flannel shirts, stout cassimere or canvas pants, over which the "tarbossa" boots are drawn. If it rains, they wear their "kamlaikas" made of the intestines and throats of the sea lion and fur seal. Thus dressed they are armed with a club, a stout oaken or hickory bludgeon, which have been made particularly for the purpose at New London, Conn., and imported here for this special service. These sealing clubs are about five or six feet in length, three inches in diameter at their heads, and the thickness of a man's forearm where they are grasped by the hands. Each native also has his stabbing knife, his skinning knife and his whetstone. These are laid upon the grass convenient, when the work of driving or knocking the seals down is in progress. This is all the apparatus which they have for killing and skinning.

When the men gather for work they are under the control of their chosen foremen or chiefs; usually on St. Paul, divided into two working parties at the village, and a sub-party at northeast point, where another salt house and slaughtering field is established.

At the signal of the chief the work of the day begins by the men stepping into the drove, corraled on the flats, and driving out from it 100 or 150 seals at a time, make what they call a pod, which they surround in a circle, huddling the seals one on another, as they narrow it down, until they are directly within reach and under their clubs. Then the chief, after he has cast his experienced eye over the struggling, writhing kauticle in the center, passes the word that such and such a seal is bitten, and that such and such a seal is too young, and that such and such a seal is too old. The attention of his men being called to these points, he gives the word strike, and instantly the heavy clubs come down all around, and every one that is eligible is stretched out stunned and motionless in less time, really, than I take to tell it. Those seals spared by the chief now struggle from under and over the bodies of their insensible companions and pass, hustled off by the natives, back to sea. Then the carcasses are skinned, and the pelts prepared for shipment.

The common or popular notion in regard to seal skins is that they are worn by those animals just as they appear when offered for sale; that the fur seals swim about, exposing the soft coat with which our ladies of fashion so delight to cover their tender forms during inclement winter. This is a very great mistake. Few skins are less attractive than the seal skin when it is taken from the creature. The fur is not visible; it is concealed entirely by a coat of stiff overhair, dull, gray, brown and grizzled. It takes three of them to make a lady's sacque and boa. Fitting them for the market is a tedious, costly process, requiring great skill.

As the summer wanes the seals forsake the islands, and old and young take to the sea, and it is supposed spend their intervening months, until next season, on the fishing banks of the North Pacific.

Some New Arithmetic.

A merchant bought four barrels of sugar, seven barrels of molasses and two barrels of meal. Find what per cent. of barrels he mixed with his coffee?

A beggar met two boys; one gave him seven cents and the other gave him eight cents. Find the name of the third boy who hit him in the ear with a snow-ball?

If one insect has six legs and another insect has seven, how many hornets does it take to lift a boy out of the old man Sabin's orchard?

In one field there are eight sheep; in another field there are seven horses. How many men will it require to properly conduct a village dog-fight?

A county officer on a salary of $800 per year purchased two horses for $1,600; a carriage for $400; a set of silver for $200; four silk dresses for his wife at $60 each, and played poker to the tune of $180. How much did he save out of his year's salary, and what is the county going to do about it?

If a young man owns a little cane, a rat-and-tan dog, a pair of lavender pants, three flash neckties, a frail mustache and a flirtation handkerchief, what will it cost to board six idiots at a first-class hotel for a year?

A bureau weighing sixty-eight pounds is to be carried up a flight of stairs twelve feet high. What little power must be exerted to the square foot to get it half way up?

A bureau weighing sixty-eight pounds has been tugged half-way up a flight of stairs twelve feet high. How fast must the old man travel to get to the foot of the stairs and take his boots off before the old thing smashes him?

Among the players in a poker-room are three merchants, two alderman, four clerks, two lawyers, one butcher and one grocer. A raid is made by the police and all are captured. Find how many of them "dropped in to see about selling the poker man a horse."

A plumber is called upon to mend a leak in a water pipe. He sends an employe who surveys the leak; another who courts the servant-girl; a third who has forgotten his accordion; a fourth to look after the other three. He sends a bill for $4.12. At this rate, how long will it take the plumber to secure a mortgage on the City Hall?

A asks B for a loan of $5 until Saturday. Six months later B reminds A that he has not returned that "V" yet. A denies that he ever borrowed a red cent of B, and offers to punch his head for insulting him. Find what B loses.

A tramp gets two kicks at one house, a cold pancake at another, and a bite from a dog at a third. How long will it take him to get into the Work-house for sixty days?

Thirteen Mexicans cross the Rio Grande into the United States on a pleasure excursion. They conclude to invest in a drove of Texas cattle. Three-fifths of the number meet with accidents and remain permanently on this side, while another fifth feel hurt about something. What is the exact number of those who got home without feeling any thing in particular?—*M. Quad.*

An exchange thinks no shares pays so well as plow-shares. This may be correct, but most people who hold plow shares would be willing to trade them off for bank shares.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

A Journalist Visits the Greatest Financial Institution in the World.

In his notes on his recent English tour, Howard Carroll, the New York journalist, says: Thanks, too, to one of these same policemen we may cross safely through the mass of whirling and rumbling and rattling carriages from the Royal Exchange, and "merchants' walks," and the house of "Lloyds" to "the old lady in Threadneedle street," so called by her London children, and known to other people as the Bank of England. Until some other corporation can boast a capital greater than £14,550,000 perhaps they may be permitted to call their favorite, as they do now, "the richest old lady in the world." The bank is a low, long structure, which covers eight acres of ground, and in which there are employed a thousand persons, managers, clerks, messengers and porters, whose combined salaries amount to about £225,000 a year. It is a private corporation or business, not a department of the government, as many people suppose. It has existed for nearly 200 years, having been founded in 1691 by a shrewd Scotchman named William Patterson. As now arranged, the business of the concern is managed by a governor, deputy governor, and a board of directors consisting of twenty-four members. Of these eight go out of office annually, but they may be and generally are re-elected term after term. It is stipulated that the governor must be a proprietor of the bank stock to the amount of £4,000, and that the deputy governor and directors shall own stock to the value of £3,000 and £2,000, respectively. So well is the bank managed that the dividend upon the stock is seldom less than seven per cent., a high rate in England, and one share of the par value of £100 can usually find ready sale for £200. Aside from its privilege of issuing notes payable on demand—crisp, fresh, beautiful notes they are, and good in all parts of the civilized world—the Bank of England has from the government the no additional advantage of being allowed to manage the national debt. To secure the note issue, as may be stated by the way, there is never less than £15,000,000, and sometimes as high as £25,000,000, in gold bars and silver, besides other securities, in the bank vault. Every bar of the gold weighs sixteen pounds and is worth about £800. To protect this great treasure at night a company of militia is employed. For the management of the national debt, which now amounts to £800,000,000, the bank receives £200,000 a year, a comparatively small commission when it is remembered that out of it must be paid the expenses of keeping the many accounts connected with the colossal debt, the paying of dividends to its holders, the collection of the income tax levied upon it, and the transfer of stock.

And all this vast business, in addition to the other affairs of the bank, is conducted with so much system and care that losses or error are almost unknown. In the paying office, the telling-room and the rotunda, millions upon milions are handled every day, great heaps of gold are shoveled about as though it was so much sand, and piles upon piles of bank-notes are counted and sorted about with the rapidity of the wind. Yet so well trained are the clerks, and so delicate the weighing machinery, that a light coin or a false note is never passed into the bank. That nothing is stolen from it is due in great measure to the vigilance and fidelity of those quiet-looking beadles who all day long sit so silently at the doors. As we pass out they are sleepy and listless apparently as when we went in, but let a suspicious character or a professional thief enter, and their eyes will never leave him till he is in the street again. In short it is no exaggeration to say that the Bank of England is the most carefully watched and guarded money institution in the world.

A Lesson in Humility.

I don't know as it is much of a story, but the telling of it one hot May day brightened us all up in a wonderful manner.

We were discussing a wedding we had attended that morning, and were criticising the appearance of the bride, when Aunt Gratia, who had been busy at her sewing, asked:

'Did you ever hear of a wedding where no one looked at the bride?"

"Such a thing would not be likely to happen, unless it was at an asylum for the blind, only patients admitted," said Mabel.

"It might have been the couple who were married under the window in stormy weather," said Vira.

"We never heard of such a thing. Did you, Aunt Gratia? Was it a real wedding, or is it only a conundrum?"

"The wedding to which I refer was in a church, and the seats were all filled, for it was a general invitation. It was a floral wedding. Being the seventeenth of June there was no lack of material, and as the Sabbath-school scholars took the matter of decoration in hand, there were plenty of helpers. The huge wooden ark of the country meeting-house was transformed into a bower of beauty. The girls were all dressed in white gowns looped up with roses, and the boys wore roses in the buttonholes of their vests. Every guest carried a bouquet, the old people and all, and children scattered flowers in the brides's pathway as she walked from her childhood's home near by the church. There had never been such a display in that town before, and it wasn't done for style at all, but just because everyone loved the minister's daughter and wanted to have a finger in her marriage pie; but after all this parade no one looked at the bride."

Aunt Gratia smiled, and went on complacently with her sewing, while we all broke in afresh:

"Did a sudden darkness cover the land?"

"Perhaps there was a prevailing eyedisterper at the time."

"Did some fun-loving youngsters throw pepper in the eyes of the guests?"

"Oh, I know! Something happened at the very church door to prevent the ceremony being performed. How romantic!"

"Wrong, all of you," said Aunt Gratia. "It was as perfect a June day as ever slipped into the abyss of time. Every one was open-eyed with eager expectancy. And the ceremony came off according to the programme. I know, for I was there myself and heard every word."

"Oh, Aunt Gratia! how can you be so tantalizing?"

"Do tell us, aunt, we give it up."

So the dear old lady, having threaded her needle, took up the story again.

"When the bridal party were entering the church, and the organ was playing a wedding march, a low, clear, childish voice piped up:

"Oh, do just look at that mouse right on the pulpit cushion!"

"Everybody heard it and looked; and everybody felt obliged to keep watch, for they all knew the silly little bride was mortally afraid of a mouse, and they imagined the consternation should the bright-eyed nibbler jump or fall upon her bare white shoulders and arms as she stood there almost exactly beneath him. The little thing behaved with all possible decorum, however, in spite of their forebodings, and after the holy words had been spoken which made the young couple one for life, the music struck up and the mouse ran back along the railing and into his hole in the platform."

"Oh, dear me!"

"How funny; and you saw it, aunt?"

"No, I didn't; I had something more important to attend to."

"Oh, Aunt Gratia, it was your own wedding, was it not?"

"Yes, dears; and it was a lesson in humility to me that I have always remembered; for there, when I had every reason to consider myself the center of attraction, and was as self-conscious as possible, I found afterward in this most important event of my life I was entirely eclipsed in the eyes of all my acquaintances by a tiny long-tailed mouse."

Chicago has the largest Hebrew population of any other city of equal numbers in the world.

Life in China.

Family ties, blood-relationship, and filial respect and affection are strong in China. The father is not held responsible for his son's debts, but the son is responsible for the debts of his father. He is bound to support his father, if necessary, until he gets married and has a family of his own to support. If he abuses his father—and even should the latter become dissipated and seem to deserve it—the law punishes him, and not only is he punished, but his neighbors living on all sides of him are fined, for not interfering and preventing the ill treatment.

There are no newspapers in China. Every town has its market, and two markets are held daily—morning and evening. All events of importance are bulletined in the market-place every day at the expense of the municipality.

There is no mail system in China. If a man wishes to write to a friend in a distant place, he must wait until he finds some one going to that place, and intrust his letter to him for delivery. In such service there is no surety of the letter reaching its destination. This is realized by Chinamen in this country, who get only a very few of the letters sent them by their friends, while their letters in turn frequently miscarry.

There are no liquor saloons in China. The people drink spirits made from rice, as well as gin, and, among the wealthy, wines, liquors, brandies, etc., are used; but this use of spirits is mostly during meal time. Tippling is unknown in China. If a man wants to drink, he can buy his liquor at the grocery store and take it to his house for use. No license to sell is required. Any dealer can sell it freely. During my stay of eleven months in that country, says a writer, I did not see an intoxicated person.

Rice, meats of various kinds, poultry, and fish, are the staple food. A man can live on fifteen cents a day in China—twelve for meats and three for rice. All classes use rice, which is the main article of food in the kingdom.

There is no such thing as courting among young people in China. The bride and bridegroom never see each other until they are about to become man and wife. Their courting is all done by their parents. Let us suppose that you have a son and I a daughter of marriageable age, and we are friends. You tell me that you want to get your son married, and ask if I am willing to give my daughter to him. I say yes, I have seen your son and like him, but you have not seen my daughter. But you hire a female broker to go and inspect my daughter, which she does for a consideration. Indeed, this is a regular business, and many make a good living out of it. She visits my house, sees and talks with my daughter, finds that her feet are so small that she can hardly walk—that absurd custom of deforming the feet is still very prevalent in China—and returns and makes a most flattering report. Then you and I come together, and I give you a written paper embodying my consent to the union, while you, in like manner, signify your approval, and give me the paper signed by you, and the engagement is completed. You then cause a great number of sweet cakes to be sent to my daughter from your son, and these are given around to our friends as an announcement of the betrothal of our daughter. The marriage itself may not take place for a month, six months or a year after the engagement, according to agreement. There is no religious ceremony of marriage in China. A friend of the bridegroom's family—usually a man of respectability and position—is chosen, who reads the marriage ceremony from a book, which binds the couple; who, before that time, had been strangers to one another, to live together during life. It is rare indeed that these marriages turn out unhappily.

Recognizing the Criminals.

While in their earlier days the Australian colonies were far from a paradise to the incorrigible convict, that period was, on the other hand, the golden age of British convict life to those who had the sense to recognize their opportunities. To-day a man emerges from the great penal servitude prisons of Milbank, Dartmoor or Portland with the world all before him, but very far from being able to choose what he will do in it. In fact, unless the Prisoners' Aid society comes to his assistance, he is in great danger, however well intentioned, of relapsing into crime from sheer want. But the ticket-of-leave man thirty years ago found an active demand for his services. A comfortable maintenance was within reach of all, while many obtained considerable and some even great wealth. But to a "lifer," however successful, there was a forbidden paradise. He must not return "home." This prohibition became, some thirty years ago, intensely bitter in the otherwise sweetened cup of a notorious criminal. All the joys of life became as nothing when this was denied him. He offered the government to pay $500,000 fine for a remission of his sentence, but was informed that the government did not sell pardons. At length, so intense became his longing to revisit former scenes, that he started for home without leave. Over twenty years had elapsed, and he felt convinced that no one who would "peach" would recognize him, and findin[illegible] one seemed to do so he grew [illegible] resolved to "have his fling." S[illegible]ent down to the Ascot races [illegible] touche and four. By some mischa[illegible] his postilions made a blunder and got into the way of the royal cortege just as it was coming at the course. The gray-haired inspector of police rode up to set matters straight, and his eyes met those of the ex-convict with that glance of recognition which says: "I've seen you before, old boy, and under very unpleasant circumstances, too." He was, in fact, the very constable who, five and twenty years before, had arrested him. The ex-convict did not stay to see the races, and was back at Sydney to report himself, as he had to do once a year in due time. The case has been recalled by the excellent memory of Judge Benedict, of New York, who, equally to the surprise of the secret service officers and of the prisoner, recognized Daniel Rossa, convicted for counterfeiting, as one of a gang convicted before him for the same offense seventeen years ago, when $30,000 of counterfeit was captured.

A Bottle's Long Voyage.

In the autumn of 1879, the young son of M. de Bille, the Danish minister to the United States, on a voyage from Copenhagen to the Sandwich Islands, threw overboard in the Atlantic ocean a bottle containing a message to his brother-in-law, an officer in the Danish navy, then stationed at St. Thomas. The bottle—an ordinary soda-water bottle, tightly corked—was set adrift in the latitude of the Cape Verde Islands, with no idea, of course, that it would reach its destination. The experiment being the mere fancy of an idle moment, it was forgotten before the voyage was over. Two years had passed when last October, the Danish consul at Puerto Plata, San Domingo, Mr. G. A. Zeller, walking one day in his garden on the sea-shore, observed a bottle thrown up on the beach by the surf. He picked it up and found that it contained a message, the writing of which could still be read, though it was much faded. Mr. Zeller is a German and could not read it himself, but understood the language well enough to know that it was Danish. Accordingly he sent the bottle and its contents to the editor of a newspaper at St. Thomas who happened to know the officer to whom the letter was addressed, and who had not long since returned to Denmark. He sent it to his address in Copenhagen, where it arrived a few weeks ago. The bottle had been carried by the Gulf Stream across the ocean to the West Indian islands, about 2 500 miles.

Said the leader of the train-robbers as he boarded the Pullman car: "Don't disturb the passengers, but seize the porter. He's got all the money in the crowd by this time!"

WELL-KNOWN PHRASES.

How the Following are Said to Have Originated.

HURRAH.—This word, which is so frequently shouted, in this country especially, originated among the Eastern nations, where it was used as a war-cry, from the belief that every man who died in battle for his country went to heaven. It is derived from the Slavonic word, "Hurraj," which means "to Paradise."

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING ME?—This oft-repeated expression—indicative of disbelief—which has been added to the vocabulary of slang, has no less a source than the Bible. It may be found in the thirty-eighth chapter of Genesis.

A CAT MAY LOOK AT A KING.—This saying is said to have the following origin: When Charles II. was fleeing, in disguise, from England to France, he was sitting on deck directing the course of the vessel, when one of the sailors filling his pipe near by, blew some of the tobacco in his face. The master of the ship ordered the marine to go further away from the "gentleman," when he, grumblingly, replied, quite ignorant as to the quality of the passenger: "A cat may look at a king."

"SWEET BY-AND-BY."—This popular hymn was the work of two men—Joseph P. Webster, now dead, who composed the music, and Dr. F. S. Bennett, at the present time a resident of Richmond, Ill., the author of the verses. The two wrote a hymn-book in 1874, and "The Sweet By-and-By" was one of the pieces jointly produced for it. The suggestion came from a chance remark by Webster, who was habitually despondent, that all would be well "by-and by." Bennett at once made the rhymes, and Webster brought the music out of a fiddle, which was his customary aid in composition. The hymn-book had its day, and is forgotten; but this one tune is put into every new publication of the kind, and has a sale of about 10,000 copies a year in sheet form. Dr. Bennett says that he and Webster were not orthodox Christians when the hymn was written, and that he is now even a less believer.

AS DEAD AS A HERRING.—This expression has a simple origin. The herring, which when fat is called a "bloater," dies immediately upon its removal from the sea. It wants air, and can live only in salt water; where as eels live a long time after leaving its native element. Swimming so near the surface, as it does, the herring requires much air, and the gills when dry cannot perform their function—that of breathing.

GROG.—Admiral Vernon, the same after whom Mount Vernon was named—was the first to require his men to drink their spirits mixed with water. In bad weather he was in the habit of walking the deck in a rough grogram cloak, and hence had obtained the name of "Old Grog" in the service. Such was the name applied to rum and water.

LIMBO OR LIMBUS.—[Lat. "Limbus," a border.] A region supposed by some of the old scholastic theologians to lie on the edge or confines of hell. Here, it was thought, the souls of just men, not admitted into heaven or into purgatory, remained to await the general resurrection. Such were the patriarchs and other pious ancients who died before the birth of Christ. Hence the "limbo" was called "limbus patrum." According to some of the schoolmen there was also a "limbus puerporum" or "infantum," a similar place allotted to the souls of infants dying unbaptized. To these were added, in popular opinion, a "limbus fatuorum," or fool's paradise, the receptacle of all vanity and nonsense.

JACK KETCH.—A hangman or executioner, commonly so called from one John Ketch, a wretch who lived in the time of James II., and made himself universally odious by the butchery of many brave and noble victims, particularly those sentenced to death by the infamous Jeffreys during the "Bloody Assizes."

HALCYON DAYS.—Halcyone was the wife of Celyx, and the latter having met his death by drowning, Halcyone cast herself into the sea with the dead body, and both were transformed into the kingfisher bird. The animal lays its eggs on rocks near the sea in calm mid-winter, and the "halcyon days" are therefore seven days before and after the winter solstice.

A BONE TO PICK.—It was an old marriage custom in Sicily for the bride's father to give the bridegroom a bone, saying: "Pick this in order to show how you can manage a wife, which is more difficult than picking a bone." This is a common explanation; but the practice of throwing bones to dogs is a more natural method of accounting for the saying.

A Train Robber's Confession.

The confession of John Land, the Missouri train robber, is in substance that he is a well-digger by trade. He was approached by two men who proposed the train robbing to him. He thus continues:

"As near as I can judge, it was a little after 8 o'clock when got up, took down my rifle, and, slipping out in my sock-feet, got away without rousing any of the family. Upon arriving at the cut I gave the signal agreed upon. It was answered, and I stepped forward and was met by Jesse James. All the members of the old gang were there—six of them—and Armstrong and Deerduff, whom I knew before, and who had joined the regular gang a short time before; but I was the only one of the neighborhood boys who had got there. Shortly after Creed Chapman and John Bugler gave the signal and came in; following them came John Mott alone. Pretty soon the train was heard coming, and Jesse said: 'Boys, we who are older hands at the business will stop the train, go through the cars, and get what there is there. You fellows run along the outside and fire fifteen or twenty apiece to scare the passengers.' Jesse stood upon a pile of rocks on the track swinging a lantern, and the train came to a stop within a few feet of the obstruction. Captain John Bulger and myself stood on the south side of the track, while John Mott and two others were on the other side. The first thing they did was to break into the express car. We all had our white masks, and as I began at once to fire, and the excitement rose, I did not notice who it was who went into the cars. Before we had been long at work I saw a man come from the train with a lantern and start to run east. John Bulger called out: "Look there, what does that mean?" Creed Chapman at once fired at him, followed by Bulger. I took the third shot. Just then some one called out from the train, 'Don't shoot him, he is going to flag the freight.' After the men in the cars got through they came to the head of the engine and were joined by those of the north side, and then all of them came over and joined us on the south side. We all started off together, went through the wire fence, and went due south for some distance, when we were halted by Jesse James, who said: 'Boys, it is death to any man who gives this away. Go to your homes as though nothing had happened, and meet me on the east fork of the Blue next Wednesday night—one week from that night—and we will divide equally.' We then separated, and I went home and to bed without disturbing the family."

Beginning with the robbery of the Liberty bank in 1866, this band has plundered fourteen banks, as many railroad trains, the cashier's office of the Kansas City fair grounds in broad day, and numerous stages. No less than twenty detectives and suspected neighbors have been assassinated. This record has not been made, however, without the loss of fourteen lives on the part of the outlaws, and the imprisonment of about twelve more. Frank James and Cummings are the only ones left at large.

A doctor at Richmond says that if people will take a bath in hot whisky and rock salt twice a year they will never catch a Cold. Until somebody has tried this new remedy we would say:—stick to the old and reliable Dr. Ball's Cough Syrup.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

A Weak-Kneed Colt.

Weakness of the knees in a young horse after having been driven a few miles is due to the back tendons being overworked. These either lose their proper tension or become contracted, causing the knees in either case to tremble and give way. The remedy is to apply stimulating and astringent lotions from the knee downward on the back of the leg, and to let the colt rest for a few weeks; a laced bandage on the leg below the knee might be useful.

A Useful Table.

To aid farmers in arriving at accuracy in estimating the amount of land under cultivation, the following table is given:

5 yards wide by 968	yards long	contains	1 acre.
10 yards wide by 484	yards long	contains	1 acre.
20 yards wide by 242	yards long	contains	1 acre.
40 yards wide by 121	yards long	contains	1 acre.
80 yards wide by 60½	yards long	contains	1 acre.
70 yards wide by 69⅓	yards long	contains	1 acre.
220 feet wide by 198	feet long	contains	1 acre.
440 feet wide by 99	feet long	contains	1 acre.
110 feet wide by 369	feet long	contains	1 acre.
60 feet wide by 726	feet long	contains	1 acre.
120 feet wide by 363	feet long	contains	1 acre.
240 feet wide by 181½	feet long	contains	1 acre.

Purifying Rooms.

To purify a room, set a pitcher of water in the apartment, and in a few hours it will have absorbed all the respired gases in the room, the air of which will have become purer, but the water utterly filthy. The colder the water is, the greater the capacity to contain these gases. At ordinary temperature a pail of water will absorb a pint of carbonic acid gas and several pints of ammonia. The capacity is nearly doubled by reducing the water to the temperature of ice. Hence, water kept in a room awhile is unfit for use. For the same reason water from a pump should always be pumped out in the morning before any of it is used. Impure water is more injurious than impure air.

Roots for Cows.

In Europe, says the *American Cultivator*, the carrot is grown to a great extent for feeding cattle in the winter months. Roots of some kind are fed the winter through to cows. An Iowa raiser of Jersey cows says he is accustomed to feed carrots, of which he usually raised six hundred bushels per acre. Carrots increase the flow of milk and improve the appearance and quality of the butter. Beets are preferable to carrots for increasing the flow of milk; the milk, however, which is produced from beets is not as good for butter. The breeder mentioned above has found it difficult to raise his calves on clear Jersey milk, and advises the feeding of that which has been skimmed.

How to Plant a Tree.

To those unacquainted with tree-planting the process seems very much of a mystery. Yet there are but a few things necessary to success. A tree should be taken out of the ground with all the roots possible. If many roots are cut off in digging, there must be a corresponding thinning of the branches as a compensation. The roots must not be allowed to dry. A tree with its roots exposed to a drying air can no more live than can a fish out of water. The next thing is the planting. The hole should be large enough to take in the roots as they were before. Good fresh soil should be on hand—not fresh manure, that is injurious—and the soil pressed and trod in very firmly around the tree. This firm treading brings the soil and the roots close together at once, and the small roots soon commence to draw a supply of moisture from the ground. After planting, a mulching of leaves, manure, or similar material may be placed around the tree to its advantage. After this the tree should grow.

Garden Seasoning for Food.

Many people have the idea that a finely flavored dish must cost a great deal; that is a mistake. If you have untainted meat or sound vegetable, or even Indian meal, to begin with, you can make it delicious with proper seasoning. One reason that French cooking is much nicer than any other is that it is seasoned with a great variety of herbs and spices; these cost very little. If you would buy a few cents worth at a time, you would soon have a good assortment. The best kinds are sage, thyme, sweet marjoram, tarragon, mint, sweet basil, parsley, bay leaves, cloves, mace, celery seed and onions. If you will plant the seed of any of these first seven mentioned, in little boxes on your window sill, or in a sunny spot in your yard, you can raise all you need. Gather and dry as follows: Parsley and tarragon should be dried in June and July, just before flowering; mint in June or July; thyme, majoram and savory in July and August; basil and sage in August and September. All herbs should be gathered in the sunshine and dried by artificial heat. Their flavor is best preserved by keeping them in air tight tin cans, or in tightly corked glass bottles.

Chicks in the Garden.

It is a very excellent practice to place newly-hatched broods in an inclosed garden that the older folks do not have access to. Confine the mother hen in a coop, which may be placed in the shade of any small fruit tree or bush. As chicks require soft and delicate food at first it is difficult to feed them if their coops are placed where the rest of the flock can pillage freely. The London Gardener's Chronicle speaks of the valuable service of little chickens in the garden as follows: They run about, doing no harm, their little bodies and feet leave no impression on the soil; they do not scratch, seem never dissatisfied, but find pleasure only in the pursuits of food or in basking in a warm corner in the sun's rays. While in this stage of infantile innocence the little creatures can in the garden perform a vast amount of good. Their little eyes spy out and little bills gather myriads of insects that are not easily visible to the human eye. Perhaps owing to the very minute nature of the food they gather, arising from their characteristic voracity, they are almost always roaming about and doing useful work. Meanwhile the clucking and anxious mother may be kept secure in a bottomed coop, which, removed here and there in the garden, will allow the chickens to enjoy fresh feeding each day.

When to Cut Grass.

Some of the correspondents of the New England Homestead are going for Superintendent Sanborn of the College Farm for claiming that grass should not be cut until it is in bloom in a very sharp way. One of them says:—"After reading Professor Sanborn's writings I must say that I am very much astonished that any practical farmer, and certainly a professor in a State college, should advocate the cutting of grass in bloom, or a few days subsequently. I have had fifty years' experience in cutting and feeding hay. Many seasons much of it was cut too late. Our present crop gives the best satisfaction of any I ever fed, and four-fifths of it was cut in June. From my experience I am satisfied that 1,500 pounds of timothy cut one week previous to bloom will make more butter, beef or mutton than 2,000 pounds one week subsequent to bloom. Nine tons are cut too late where one is cut too early. There was an article in the Homestead, I think two years ago last summer, purporting to be the experiments of a German chemist with grass, claiming that if cut while green 88 per cent was nutriment; when in blossom, 62 per cent.; and when seed is fully formed or ripe, thirty-one per cent. nutriment. I am no chemist, but think that article worth more than any other I ever read. If that is near a fair representation of the value of grass in the different stages, Professor Sanborn is advocating the waste of millions in the Middle and Eastern States, and I hope he will repent and be converted from the error of his ways.

Permanence of Manures.

At a late meeting of the Elmira (N. Y.) Farmers' Club, reported by the Husbandman, the discussion turned upon the length of time during which a coating of manure will benefit successive crops. One speaker said that it was impossible to say how much of a heavy covering of manure is taken up by any single crop. The benefits are sometimes distributed over several years. The uncertain element in computing the value of manure is this distribution through successive crops. Besides, there is something to be credited to the action of manure in releasing fertility latent before its application—the changed condition that permits crops to appropriate what was already in the soil, but not available without manure. Sometimes an application of manure shows plainly through several succeeding crops. As a rule, he doubted if a good dressing is more than one-third appropriated by the next grain crop. Another said that cabbage would take all the elements contained in a dressing of manure, and the next speaker declared that though it might take all the elements it could appropriate, there would be something left for wheat or oats or corn—elements that cabbage cannot use. The best crop of wheat he ever raised was on land that came into his possession after it had been used steadily for oats so long that the crop had run down to twenty-two bushels to the acre. He fitted that land for wheat, and got forty-four bushels. The oats had exhausted elements that went into their composition, but without manure there was something left for wheat. W. S. Carpenter, a member of the club, says: "Manuring heavily is like eating a great deal. I take a great deal of food, but to balance the account I must work a great deal. If I fail to do that, there is a penalty—sickness. I may eat and work, but, without work, very moderate eatings is better than full indulgence. So with land—if manured heavily it must turn off big crops or the farmer who pays the cost will get sick. Give me manure and I will try to get good crops, but I have to try without full supply, for manure cannot be bought at such rates as will leave profit in grain crops. Now I must say that my opinions have changed somewhat about the ways of using manure to get most profit out of it, but I have a rule that I can stand by; get the manure in the soil, no matter how, so it gets in the earth with a little covering. Once in the soil it is safe; there is nothing to lose. Pile and rot, handle and expose it, and there is waste—waste, besides labor lost. I would rather have two loads raw, than rotted in to one load yes, one and a half loads raw than two rotted into one. For my use the soil will take care of all the value when the raw manure is put into it, and it will extract the fertilizing elements, no matter how raw the manure when it goes in. I do not accept the theory that raw manure is not good for wheat. No doubt fine manure is better, but even wheat will stand raw manure in the soil, and if it doesn't take all there is in it, the next crop will get something. I do not believe any single grain crop will exhaust a heavy dressing of manure. Tobacco may do it, so far as the elements it appropriates are concerned, but even after that crop something would be left to support a succeeding grain crop—and tobacco is more exhausting to the land than anything else we raise.

Recipes.

TRIPE.—To prepare tripe for the table you should order it the day before you wish to serve it; scrape it thoroughly, wash it in several waters until it is perfectly tender; let it drain in a platter all night. Next day cut it in small pieces and fry in hot lard after having rolled the pieces in flour. To serve with this, make a rich, brown gravy, using a little of the lard in which the tripe was fried. If for breakfast, send baked potatoes, fried apples, and tomatoes with it; the tomatoes may be canned ones, cooked, and with thin slices of toasted bread put in the bottom of the dish.

HOE CAKE.—Scald one quart of corn, make with just enough hot water to make a thick batter; stir in two large spoonfuls of butter; beat this a little before mixing it with the butter so it will rise readily; add half a teaspoonful of salt. This should be baked at least three-quarters of an hour; butter the tins well in which it is baked; serve hot.

STUFFED TOMATOES.—Choose a dozen large, round tomatoes, cut them off smooth at the stem end, take out the seed and pulp; take a pound of lean steak and two slices of bacon; chop them fine with the inside of the tomatoes; season with a finely-chopped onion fried, a dessertspoonful of salt, half a teaspoonful of white pepper, as much cayenne pepper as you can take on the end of a knife, and a tablespoonful of finely-chopped parsely; add four rolled crackers, and if too stiff, thin with stock, water or cold gravy; fill the tomatoes with this force meat, packing tight; sift cracker crumbs over the top and bake for an hour in a moderate oven.

CREAM CAKES.—Water, two and one-half cupfuls; flour, two cupfuls; butter, one cupful; five eggs; boil the butter and water together; stir in the flour while boiling; after it is cool add the eggs, well beaten; put a large spoonful in muffin rings, and bake twenty minutes in a hot oven. The cream for them is made in this way: Put over the fire one cupful of milk and not quite one cupful of sugar; one egg mixed with three teaspoonfuls of cornstarch and one tablespoonful of butter; when cool, add vanilla to the taste; boil a few minutes only; open the cakes and fill them with this cream. They are easily made and are delicious

Many Months on a Desert Island.

Papers brought by the Cape mail steamer Baltimore Castle state that the American corvette Marion, Commander Terry, arrived at Cape Town from Heard's Island, bringing the survivors of the crew of the American bark Trinity, thirty-three in number, who were wrecked at Heard's Island in October, 1880. The Trinity, Captain John L. Williams, sailed from New London, Conn., on June 1, 1880, bound on a whaling and sealing voyage in the Southern ocean, and arrived at Heard's Island on October 2, 1880. The bark anchored on the island, which is uninhabited, and is situated in latitude fifty-three degrees south, longitude seventy-three degrees east. Until October 17 all went well, but on that day, during a heavy gale, the bark dragged into four fathoms of water. The anchors had to be slipped and the vessel was beached in order to save the lives of the crew. At the time the weather was intensely cold, and while the crew were being landed seven of them had their limbs badly frost-bitten. With this exception the landing was effected without accident. The same night the Trinity floated off and was blown to sea, since which time no trace of her has been found. From October 17, 1880, the shipwrecked crew, numbering thirty-five originally, remained on the island until they were rescued. Fortunately, in landing, the crew managed to save some three months' supply of provisions from the wreck. This, supplemented by sea-elephant, penguin flesh, and penguin eggs, with some sea cabbage, formed the diet of the crew. On landing the captain and crew found some small wooden huts, which had been placed there by various whalers who occasionally visit the place in search of sea-elephants. These huts formed a most welcome shelter. During the sixteen months of their enforced captivity the sailors were engaged in hunting sea-elephants. In the winter season, and, in fact, during most of the year, the men suffered much from the intense cold, and on January 30, 1881, two of the crew, named Bernard Kelly and George Watson, while out hunting and when crossing a glacier, were overcome by the cold and were frozen to death. On the 15th of February, about 5 P. M., the forlorn crew sighted a ship standing along the coast. Signals were made to her by means of blankets, and the steamer which proved to be the Marion, at once made for the shore. Early next morning the wrecked mariners were transferred to her. Heard's Island is a bleak island of volcanic origin, and is about thirty miles long by three miles wide.—*London Times.*

A Modern Witch.

In this age of intelligence, and beneath the shadow of half a dozen school-houses and churches, one would hardly suppose that there is superstition enough to lead people to regard the sham mummery and clumsy antics of an old woman as being those of a witch. But such is the fact. There is now living in an alley running into Liberty street a woman who professes to be endowed with supernatural power and whose conduct is as gross as it is grotesque. She never enters her own house without leaping backward and forward over the sill of her door, and when she goes into a neighbor's house she does the same thing. She is constantly engaged in incantation when not employed at her ordinary work, and whispers ominously of her power to spread or stay disease. Absurd as these things are, they have produced singular effects on some of the neighbors. A woman living next door to the witch actually believes that her children are more or less affected by her influence, as they have had all the diseases common to children, while other children in the same neighborhood, whom the witch likes, go unharmed. These ridiculous beliefs and fears are producing considerable excitement, and the witch enjoys her reputation. She anathematizes and blesses such as incur her disfavor or favor, and revels in the fact that she is feared by the ignorant.—*Harrisburg (Pa.) Telegraph.*

Twenty Years a Sufferer.

R. V. PIERCE, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.: *Dear Sir*—Twenty years ago I was shipwrecked on the Atlantic ocean, and the cold and exposure caused a large abscess to form on each leg, which kept continually discharging. After spending hundreds of dollars, with no benefit, I tried your "Golden Medical Discovery" and now, in less than three months after taking the first bottle, I am thankful to say I am completely cured, and for the first time in ten years can put my left he