

It is beginning to become fashionable to build pianos into the walls of new residences. If the fashion will take the quirk of making it the cellar wall, there will be few protests from the generality of mankind.

WHENEVER a hen lays an egg, so set up is she in self-glorification as to feel that the whole universe must be summoned to take note of the momentous event. Joshua commanding the sun to stand still in the heavens till he had got through with his little local fight was modesty itself to the hen's private consciousness.

THERE are prospects of a change in the base-ball world. The showpaw twirler of great renown will probably hereafter receive less salary than a bank president. The prizefighter is still able to earn more in an hour than a minister of the gospel can in ten years. Perhaps reform will next strike a balance between pugilism and the pulpit.

ONE of the murderers just now attracting attention on the Pacific coast first hit a sleeping boy with a hatchet, then threw him overboard, and finally shot him in the water. The murderer's confession is several hours old, but as yet the waves of sympathy do not seem to be surging in his direction. The supply of murderers possibly is overtaxing the supply of sympathy.

ONE good service performed by the cholera has been figured out, and every one ought to be willing to give the scourge its due. It is claimed that its presence makes a European war impossible, as nothing spreads this disease as an army does and nothing destroys the efficiency of an army as cholera does. Until it disappears the war cloud must remain in abeyance.

THE fact has been made known that Cream, the prisoner recently hanged in London, was guilty of more than murder. The day before his execution a guard asked him if he had swept out his cell. He replied that he had only swept out the dust, as to sweep out the cell would be impossible. The grim look that settled then upon the face of the guard was not dissipated until the drop fell.

It was the famous Knight of La Mancha who told the wandering Sancho Panza that when he saw him in some battle cleft asunder he should proceed to take up softly that part of his body which had fallen to the ground, and with the greatest nicety, before the blood was congealed, place it upon the other part that remained in the saddle, taking special care that the parts tallied exactly. Then Sancho was to give the dismembered knight two draughts of the balsam of Fierabras, and instantly his body would become as sound as an apple. This is the kind of balsam that the surgeons now use on the foot ball field, with like results.

YOUNG men are coming to the front in every department of business, in politics and in literature. They do not at first gain the ripened reputation that is conceded on all sides to the older men whom they supersede. But as they do the work better than the old men the reputation is only a question of time. The only way for an old man to hold his own with the new comers is to be as young in heart as they, and if possible even younger. Having then the experience which only age can give, and a heart as young as the youngest, they need not fear the supersede until they voluntarily drop their work, because no longer physically able to do it. Keep the heart young, and there will be no trouble in keeping pace with the thoughts and feelings of successive generations of younger men and women.

THE great advantage of electrical power at present is that it can be stored. Neither steam nor water power in their old-time form can be kept for any length of time without entire loss. Steam becomes cold water when the fire goes down. As for water-power, there is a familiar song which utters what used to be thought almost a truism, "You cannot run the mill with the water gone." That used to be the case, but now it is any longer. Water power in the form of electricity and it can continue to run the mill, even after the stream has reached the ocean, and may be there used again to store electricity from the power of the tides. The possibilities of this new electric power are among the things that might well make a man wish to live a hundred years hence, or, like Benjamin Franklin, wish to revisit earth a hundred years after his death, as Franklin expressed a wish to do.

This fact that young men have little chance in Canada as compared with older men is said to be the chief reason why so many Canadian young men leave for the states. Is not something like this the fact on most farms? Does it not explain why so many young men seek other work than the farm provides as soon as they are of legal age, if not before. In the city the boy can get a place, earn money, and get to some part of it at least, as he pleases. Would it not be better for farmers if they allowed their boys at home the same chance

HORROR IN A COLLIERY.

FIFTY ENGLISH MINERS LOSE THEIR LIVES.

Fire Added to the Terrible Disaster and Prevented Rescuers From Doing Much Work.

Fifty Were Killed. A fearful explosion occurred at the Bamfurlong colliery, Wigan, England, and not less than 50 lives have been lost. The men went to their work as usual after the colliery had been inspected in the usual way. They had not been at work long when a terrible explosion shook the earth for a great distance and a cloud of smoke shot up through the shaft into the air. A multitude of people rushed toward the mine and the greatest excitement prevailed. Steps were immediately taken to ascertain the full extent of the disaster, and a crowd of volunteers promptly offered to explore the pit.

It was known that 100 men were imprisoned in the mine and the demon fire soon added to the awful calamity and hindered the work of the rescuers. Nevertheless they proceeded through all danger and during the day brought 30 men to the surface alive, but in an exhausted condition. Twenty bodies were also brought up. The flames then spread to the engine house and destroyed it, thereby cutting off the pumping of air into the terrible cavern.

The rescue parties reported finding the bodies of the men in twos and threes along the main roads, face down, where they had fallen in an attempt to reach the surface. A number working near the entrance did reach the open air in safety, but of the 100 men employed in the mine at least 50 were killed. Several miners, who were just alive when found, died on their way to the surface, or shortly after being taken from the car. One rescue party reached the surface half suffocated by the heat and smoke caused by fresh outbreaks of the fire.

The rescued miners believe that the explosion was caused by sparks from the engine house, which is said to have caught fire a few minutes before the explosion. Men were sent through the mines warning the laborers and many of those nearest the shaft escaped. The miners who worked further from the shaft tried to rush through fire and smoke and were suffocated in the effort.

Wants Gatling Gun—Geological Survey.

In his biennial report, which will be out next month, Adjutant General Farrar will recommend that a permanent location be secured for the state troops' annual encampment, although he will not recommend any particular spot. He will also recommend that a company of artillery be organized as an auxiliary to the state militia. He is a great admirer of the Gatling gun, and will suggest that two should be obtained and 100 men drilled in their use.

Gov. Winans intends, among other things, in his farewell message to the legislature, to call attention to the mismanagement of the state board of geographical survey. It has transpired that during the 30 years of its existence the board has an annual appropriation of some \$8,000, and that during that time a good account has not been kept either of its work or its expenditures. The board has made a comprehensive report upon the matter and Gov. Winans will make some important recommendations as to the work of the board. The report will be presented to the coming legislature.

Marrried Three Times in Three Days.

John Souci, a young clothing clerk, and Miss Florence Compton, daughter of James P. Compton, a wealthy hardware merchant of Medina, N. Y., eloped to Lyndonville, N. Y., and were married by the Methodist clergyman there. They returned next day and announced their wedding. The parents of Miss Compton were not satisfied and compelled the couple to be married that evening at the Compton residence by Rev. Lester, the Presbyterian clergyman of Medina. The groom's family, who are Catholics, wanted the couple married by their priest, Rev. Fr. McNab. The third nuptial ceremony of this interesting pair took place. These three marriages occurred in three days. The groom is 30 and the bride 18 years of age. The couple are living with the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Compton refusing to receive them.

An Enormous Gold Find.

The greatest gold fever ever known is on in Arizona now. Men are quitting their work on railroads and telegraph operators are leaving their offices for the grand rush to the new placer grounds in San Juan river. Every team has been taken and fabulous prices are being offered for horses or any other means of transportation to the mines, which are 175 miles from the Atlantic & Pacific railroad. Prominent officials of the road have caught the fever and a party of 10 left Canon Diablo for the scene. One morning one man washed out \$700, and in a day and a half another man washed out \$2,500. Excitement is so intense that men interfering with business in adjoining towns.

265,760 Deaths from Cholera in Russia.

Final official statistics of the cholera epidemic in Russia have been issued. According to these figures, there have been 130,417 deaths from European and 135,343 deaths from Asiatic cholera, making a total of 265,760 deaths. Four leaders of the cholera riots have been sentenced by a court-martial to death. Eight of them were sentenced to imprisonment and condemned to hard labor, 30 to detention in the house of correction and 40 to prison without hard labor.

Suicide at Hastings.

Martin Devitt, proprietor of one of the bakeries in Hastings committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. He had been drinking some of the late and became despondent. He was lecturing from Grand Rapids. He leaves a widow and two small children.

Destroyed the Sumpter, S. C. A house during a performance. No lives were lost.

J. H. Cole, circuit court commissioner of Lapeer county, has been selected for executive clerk by Gov.-elect Rich.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

held a Social Meeting at Jackson Which is Largely Attended.

Between 500 and 600 locomotive engineers met in Jackson for a jubilee meeting behind closed doors. Grand Chief J. M. Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was present and engineers within a radius of 100 miles were there to greet him. Excursion trains were run from Fort Wayne, Ind., Port Huron and Bay City. It was rumored that there was a big grievance to be made but Chief Arthur denied this and said the gathering was only a social union. Chief Arthur said: "Our order has never been in a more flourishing condition. Since April 1, the close of the fiscal year, 11 new divisions have been formed. During the year of 1900, I have never seen a more prosperous state of affairs than at present. Grievances have, of course, arisen at different times, but these have all been amicably adjusted and all of the 35,000 of us are now happy." In the evening the grand chief addressed a meeting held by the Ladies' Auxiliary Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Unofficially it was learned that the World's Fair traffic was discussed at length by the brotherhood. The engineers want a new scale of wages to be in vogue at that time, and a meeting with railway officials to adjust the matter will be soon held.

NEARLY 40 YEARS IN BED.

The Remarkable Case of a Woman Stricken With Paralysis When Nine Years Old.

Rose Donohue has just died at Pawtucket, R. I., aged 47. She was stricken with paralysis at the age of nine and for 38 years had not left the little crib in which her three feet of body reposed, nor during that time had there been an apparent growth in the limbs, shoulders or trunk. After a time her feet became locked, one on top of the other, and knit together so that the right foot, which was beneath the left, could hardly be seen. Nevertheless her head grew as rapidly to its proper proportions as that of a person who enjoyed good physical health. Her hands were painless and the four fingers on her right hand and the three on her left were boneless bits of flesh six inches long. Her memory was remarkably clear and her eyes beamed with brightness and intelligence. She was a constant reader of religious works and remembered everything which she read and would repeat it from memory. She devoted all of her time to reading works of eminent Catholics and in prayer.

Cleveland at the Fair.

President-elect Grover Cleveland will be asked to make a speech on May 1, at the exposition. At the close of the speech, if he accepts the invitation, Mr. Cleveland will touch an electric button, starting the 14,000 horse-power plant over in Machinery Hall that is to run all the whirring wheels of the World's Fair. This was decided by the committee on ceremonies. The other exercises will consist of the reading of a poem by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes and a prayer. It is intended to have the ceremonies of the briefest character. The executive committee of the World's Fair expressed a desire to do away with all ceremonies at the May opening, but the plan outlined by the ceremonies committee will probably be followed.

Charles Dostie, 13 years old, of South Monterey, near Allegan, accidentally discharged his shotgun while hunting. The charge entered the stomach. The lad expired almost instantly.

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various goods like Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc. in Detroit and Chicago.

New York.

Table with market prices for various goods like Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc. in New York.

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW.

New York, December 10.—R. G. Don & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The shipment of more than \$2,000,000 of gold to Europe early last week has caused some natural apprehension in speculative markets. It is true that the gold is demanded by Austria under such circumstances that an exceptional premium is paid for it, but neither Austria nor any other country could draw gold from the United States in present unless there were heavy sales of American securities by foreigners. The export of breadstuffs, cotton, provisions, cattle and petroleum in November amounted to \$73,602,392, indicating aggregate exports of about \$23,000,000 per month and an excess of merchandise exports over imports not less than \$20,000,000. At the same time silver has been going abroad in large amounts. It is clear that unless securities had been moved this way in unusual amount gold could not be taken abroad in the settlement of international exchanges. But the conditions of domestic trade are decidedly healthy and the approaching close of the financial year shows a business, both foreign and domestic, than has ever been known before. The business failures occurring throughout the country during the past seven days number 34. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 35.

There are 12 candidates for the office of postmaster at Marcellus.

A shingle jointer at Cousins' mill at Bay City flew into a thousand pieces. Peter Sney had the left side of his face torn away and his jaw broken by flying pieces of iron. John Shaw was also slightly hurt.

Wm. Lonsberry, a young boy of Brady township, Saginaw county, was locked up on a charge of truancy. He says he'd rather go to the reform school than go to his home, where he claims to be ill-treated. Neighbors, with whom he has been staying, give him an excellent character.

THE FARM AND HOME.

THE CONTAMINATION OF COUNTRY WELLS.

What Does Your Drinking Water Contain?—Sweet and Sour Milk for Pigs—Broad Tires—Farm Notes—Home Hints.

Contamination of Wells. A scientific experiment of great interest and importance has been made in Europe to demonstrate from what distance impurities can be carried by percolation through the soil from a distant point upon its surface to a well from which a family's supply of water is obtained. A salt of lithium, which can readily be detected in water, was sown upon a plot of ground 450 feet from a well—a matter of 27 rods. The water from the well was daily examined, and on the 18th day the unmistakable presence of lithium was apparent in the water. Now 37 rods is a long distance from a well as one counts distances about his house, and yet in less than three weeks a substance from the surface of the ground had been washed into the soil and had been carried along the sloping natural drain pipes, if one may so speak of them, that exist in the soil, and had thus found its way into the water of the well.

There is an impression prevalent in some quarters that even though impurities may exist upon the surface of the earth about one's premises, that all drainage from them soaks directly down into the soil, and is therefore rendered harmless. The experiment just mentioned shows how utterly untenable is this idea, says the Country Gentleman, and ought to set those who are earnest thought whose wells, springs or other sources of water supply are within a possible area of pollution. To understand how such pollution as has been mentioned is possible, a knowledge of the geological structure of soils from the surface down to great depths is of importance. The soil of the earth, it is to be remembered, has been formed by the disintegration of rock formations, which most commonly existed in the form of layers, laid down either in a horizontal or an inclined position. It is also to be remembered that the layers differed greatly in character, which causes the layers of soil formed from them to differ also greatly in character. A layer of sandstone may have overlain a layer of shell, so that as a result of disintegration we get a layer of sandy soil underlain by a subsoil of clay. Many of these layers are light and porous, and allow water and solid matter in solution to pass readily down through them. When, however, this water, laden, perhaps with impurities, reaches a layer more or less impervious it is either held there if the impervious layer forms somewhat of a basin or spreads out in all directions if the layer is horizontal, or flows along its surface in one direction if the impervious layer is at an inclined—as it is quite sure to be, as level formations are comparatively rare. Only investigation by cutting deeply through the soil will show the exact nature of the formations underlying the region about one's house, but there are some surface indications that give considerable light on the condition of things below the top of the ground. Sloping ground very commonly indicates a bending down of the layers or strata of which the soil is composed, where the drainage from the stable could by no possible means get to the well, while any drainage from the house would naturally be drawn off towards the barn. In the case where buildings are on level ground, there are few, if any, surface indications of what may be the dangerous condition of the soil that is shown below the surface. There all the drainage that soaks into the ground about the barn and house will naturally settle in the direction of the well, provided one of the strata be somewhat impervious to water. The danger of such a situation must be apparent, especially in the light of the results obtained in the lithium experiment. A depression between two elevations of ground indicates a basin like formation of the strata, which, if an impervious stratum is present, may carry the drainage of the basin into any well that may be situated in it.

Farm Hints.

Generally a medium sized horse is the best for the farmer. The best results are secured by combining the plow and pasture. Parents that are greatly dissimilar in their breed and shape should never be mated to breed. The real test of a good milk cow is her performance after the first two or three months in milk. If stock are matured and fully developed before breeding they bring more and better offspring. The milking should be done as quietly, gently and rapidly as possible, but always milk clean. The best kind of stock for the farmer to keep is that which suits him, his farm and his market the best. In no way can land be improved faster than by judicious pasturing, or more readily injured if carelessly done. With the Western farmer at least, whatever else may engage his attention the live-stock must receive its share. The comfort of the cows in winter is a very important item, especially if they are expected to give milk regularly.

Home Hints.

To prevent red napkins or towels with colored borders from fading add a little borax to the water in which they are washed. It is better to keep baked pastry in an cupboard rather than a refrigerator, as it would be apt to get damp and heavy in the latter place. Finger bowls are not generally used at ordinary luncheons but if fruit is part of the meal they are undoubtedly required, and it is proper to use them. To keep jellies from moulding cover them over with pulverized sugar to the depth of a quarter of an inch. They will keep for years if this is done. Tin vessels will be sure to rust and become worthless in a few weeks if they are not set on the stove or in the sun to become thoroughly dry after washing. Boiled puddings are always the best when eaten directly after they are taken up; but if you have any left after dinner is over it can be sliced and set in the oven to heat the next day, and will be good with hot sauce. A handy recipe for curing hams is this: Take four quarts of salt, four pounds of brown sugar dissolved in water. Pack 100-weight of hams closely together and pour this pickle over them, let them remain 10 days and then smoke. A piece of beef weighing ten pounds requires two hours to roast. Allow ten minutes to every pound over or under this weight. The second cut of the sirloin, the second cut of the ribs and the back of the rump are considered the best parts of beef for roasting.

Sweet and Sour Milk for Pigs.

Nature feeds the pig on sweet milk, feeds it warm and feeds it often. Nature, therefore, teaches the value of sweet milk fed to pigs. She enforces the same lessons on the growth of the calf and every other animal. No mother who is compelled to feed her child out of a bottle, would ever think of giving it milk that was in the least soured or even "blink," says the Western Farm Journal. Let some of our readers may not understand the word "blink" we might here remark that it is, we suppose a Scotch-Irish word, designating a degree of acidity that is barely perceptible, being in fact, the very first stages of acidity. She knows that the result would be indigestion, and if the weather conditions were right, pain to the child; trouble to the mother, and possibly a spail of sickness. Nevertheless there is a feeling among farmers that there is something to be gained by souring feed for hogs. They maintain that there is nothing that will put a "shine" on the skin of a hog equal to corn soaked day after day in the same water. It is an also well

known fact that in the summer season nature demands acids. In a very hot day, the fountain in the city, where clean, ice-cold buttermilk is served fresh from the churn, will have more patrons than a beer saloon. We have a suspicion that acidity means serious damage to the young, that there is a stage when the kind of acidity we get in buttermilk—bonny elabber—and elabbered milk is healthful. The experiment station of Vermont has recently been making experiments which seem to show there is more value in the lactic acid of buttermilk than we have been suspecting, and we suspect that, as in so many other cases, there is an atom at least of truth in the position taken by the farmers as to the value of acids in aiding the digestion of pigs. In this experiment it is maintained that where pigs are fed on elabbered milk as against sweet milk the gain on the elabbered milk was 1.80 pounds per day, while on the sweet milk a gain of .97 pounds only was made per day. The experimenter also claims that recent experiments in Germany show that lactic acid, like many of the vegetable acids is an aid to digestion and has real feeding value. This is another of the points that needs to be gone into carefully by our experiment stations. We want to ascertain the truth and the whole truth that may be underlying the beliefs of farmers on this and every other question.

Broad Tires Make Good Roads.

The narrow tire in general use should be taxed out of existence for heavy hauling, either by increased tolls or county tax. They damage the roads over which they travel with heavy loads 100 per cent more than moving double the amount of freight would do if broad tires were used. The general Turnpike act, which is still in force in England, regulates the weight to be carried by the width of the tires used on wagons, carts, etc. A wagon with a 9 inch tire is allowed to carry 6½ tons, those with a 6 inch tire 4½ tons and those with 4½ inch tire 4½ tons. Overweight is charged by the turnpikes when the loads are above statutory limit. If this plan was adopted, requiring heavy loads to be carried on broad tires, the turnpikes and non-macadamized roads would last much longer. In the absence of legislative enactment, if the turnpike companies would allow wagons using broad tires a reduction in tolls, or charge no toll at all, this concession would induce the use of broad tires instead of the narrow ones. Another suggestion has been presented—that of increasing the length of the front axle so as to prevent the wheels from tracking. This would allow a wider wagon box, as it could be built to within two inches of the rear wheels. It would facilitate turning and would prevent collisions which would be more apt to occur if the rear axle was lengthened.—Industrial American.

Carson's Night Watch.

THE OLD HUNTER'S ENCOUNTER WITH A GRIZZLY. Lieutenant Lazelle's Scare and Lucky Shot—He Was a Greenhorn, But a Number One Fighter—Caught Napping.

Kit Carson was at one time engaged in scouting and prospecting for the military and often scouted in company with a single companion, being furnished by the government with a horse, arms and provisions. It was while on one of his trips across the desolate and trackless solitudes along the eastern breaks of the Rocky mountains in company with a second lieutenant by the name of Lazelle, a fresh recruit from West Point, that he experienced one of the most perilous adventures of his whole frontier life. They had provided themselves with sufficient supplies for a week's scout for the purpose of locating the rendezvous of a roving band of Apache marauders. After being out three days they had reached a point probably 100 miles from Santa Fe and in one of the most desolate and inhospitable parts of that uninviting wilderness. About two hours before sundown they discovered a small spring, the stream which soon lost itself in a small pool twenty steps away. They came suddenly upon a small band of antelope among the cañon near the spring and killing they soon prepared a sumptuous supper off the broiled steaks and having secured their horses by their strong forty-foot stake ropes they turned in quite comfortably for the night. Lieutenant Lazelle, being wholly inexperienced in such a life and unacquainted with the nature and habits of wild beasts, seemed to feel quite at ease and unconcerned about the night disturbances. Many of the most ferocious animals of the wilderness do not venture out for water till dark. Carson, well acquainted with the dangers of their position, proposed that one should stand guard while the other slept each two hours alternately, and informed Lazelle that they would probably witness the most stirring scene of their lives toward the middle of the night as that seemed to be a great resort for ferocious beasts for water and prey. Lazelle readily consented to stand sentinel on the first watch, and not realizing the true nature of the danger of the situation he was anxious, and in fact eager for something to "turn up" to drive away the monotony of the dull tramp they had so far.

But the arduous ride of twelve hours without water or food was too much for his untutored nerves he had unconsciously fallen asleep soon after entering upon his watch, and was harder to arouse than the indomitable Carson, who had been so accustomed to sleep with one eye open that the unusual sound which soon broke in on their slumbers aroused him to a full realization of their peril. The full moon was just peering over the opposite wall of the cañon and lit up the whole valley. Kit's practiced eye was quick to take in the situation, and as forewarned is forearmed he was always ready at a moment's warning to enter upon the most deadly fray. The horses were in a perfect state of frenzy, snorting and plunging in the greatest desperation to free themselves from their fastenings and the hungry squaws which had beset them in force. Kit charged upon the tigers with such desperate energy, discharging his carbina the report of which sounded down the valley like a small cannon, that he scared the beasts away for a time.

On looking around for his companion he was nowhere to be seen, and he was beginning to feel some alarm when to his surprise, the lieutenant called out from the top of a large cactus "Kit did you kill anything?" Carson told him no, but he would soon be compelled to kill something or be killed as he heard the roar of an approaching grizzly, and the safest place for him was on the ground, as the bear would break that gasp stalk with one desperate grasp. Lazelle was soon at his side performing the nimrod act in grand style. The approach of the grizzly seemed to be the signal for the departure of all other beasts and the field was soon cleared of all other dangers and left to the monster of the cañon. He was not long in putting in an appearance to the great consternation of the lieutenant, and Kit said he felt crowded to the wall colder than ever before. It so happened that they had placed themselves between their horses and the approaching beast, which somewhat quieted the poor beasts' apprehensions and they became less restive. The lieutenant seemed thoroughly panic-stricken, but seeing no chance of escape he suddenly braced up to the inevitable contest and actually advanced to meet the monster. This maneuver had the effect of stopping the advance of the bear and he seemed about to change his tactics, when a rather hasty shot from Lazelle brought on an immediate engagement. The shot took effect in the forearm of the bear, shivering the bone and crippling him in such a manner that Carson was quick to perceive the advantages and, aiming at the other forearm at close quarters he placed his ball so well that the animal was made powerless and lunged and rolled about on the grass in a furious rage. He was then in their power and it was an easy matter to finish their work. The remainder of the night was spent by ordering the whole brigade on guard. He had confronted many like perils in broad daylight with an unflinching front, says the Philadelphia Times, but he wished to be delivered from a night contest with a grizzly.