St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. G. KENTZEL, Editor. COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1890. VOL. XV.—NO. 31.

THE PARABLE OF HAPPINESS.

A rich man's goodly son did go
Afar to find true happiness.
He tracked the treasures of the snow,
And unsearched. The stormy stress
Of hill-set seas, the peace of palm-set plain
He searched and eager searched; yet searched in vain.

The hundred battered battle gates
Of Thebes, the storied temple door
Of Delphi, oracle of fates
Or sacred shrine or holy store
Of healing things he saw; yet day by day
Grew care upon him like a mantle gray.

Still had he honors oft and great,
For goodly was his heart and keen
His wit and generous his state,
And much his eager eyes had seen.
Yet happiness came not; and over all
His ways and days there ever lay a pall.

And he grew fretted; came to feel
That fate had hounded him; he said:
"Ah! cursed of God!" His heart grew steel
And stone, and bitter grew his bread.
At last, outworn, he turned him, with a sigh,
To seek his childhood's home and cheerless die.

And there he sat him all apart,
A moody, selfish, sullen thing.
Yea, God had given him a heart
Far back. But he had sought to bring
True happiness unto himself alone;
So God instead hath given him a stone.

One day a child passed where he sat
'Mid his ancestral wood and moaned.
The barefoot thing did start thereat,
And startling, fell. He grudging groaned
Some selfish word, the while he stooped and bore
The bleeding waif to his own stately door.

And oh! the rising sun he knew
That day, and all his after days!
His pent soul widened till it grew
To reach, as reach the dear sun's rays,
All things that lay about before;
Nor walled he out for happiness once more.
—Joaquin Miller, in N. Y. Independent.

ABOUT JOINING.

A Little Logical Reasoning Upon Home Life.

Drawing a Lesson from the Plants and Trees—Why the Only Clubs John and I Have Joined Are Early Morning Clubs.

"John," said I, "are you and I to join the new club?"

"Do you know," said John, "that in some things vegetables have a decided advantage over us? They join nothing. Each tree has a spot that it belongs in, and it stays there, leaves out there, blossoms there and bears fruit there. It is never gadding about. If it moves, somebody must move it. If a maple tree stands in a grove it belongs to that grove, and has no notion of pulling up stakes and joining half a dozen more. There is nothing in the world that I envy more than this ability of the trees to stand still and keep to themselves. We think it must be horrible to be rooted down to one spot. We wish to have one root here, and another there, and another somewhere else. The fact is, I am tired out and fagged out with joining somebody, or something. No, indeed, we are not going into this new club. You can go, of course, if you will; but I intend to have my evenings to myself; and as for the days, they are already fully occupied."

"That is very queer, John," I said, "very queer, indeed. You do not mean you would rather be an apple tree than a man?"

"Oh, no, my dear, but I would much rather be a crab-apple tree than a club-man. Society has organized itself to destroy sociality. The aim of this club to which you refer is to study sociology. The object is well enough, and I do not doubt it will benefit some; but it will be a compulsory way of spending two evenings in a month, and that, you know, I am unwilling to be bound to do. Then there are the Rural Art Club, and the Browning Club, and the Historical Club, and the Farmers' Club, and none of these include our average human obligations as neighbors and friends."

John is very emphatic about some things, and one is that he shall have control of his own time, at least to a large degree. He is willing to fill his place as a neighbor and a citizen, but will not place himself under a formidable array of obligations to give up his nights to social affairs. He seems to have a growing aversion to the word club, and declares the very word an abomination, as its original meaning is a mass. "We are individuals nowadays," he says, "with individual tastes and individuality to build up. We left the mass in the middle ages." This is not an easy matter to see through sometimes, especially for us women. Social demands are among the most righteous, and our duty to help on co-operative affairs is clear enough. But of course there is a rational limit. I do not see that any one is the better or wiser for fagging out in a round of social improvement associations any more than in a race of butterfly parties.

"Our first duty is at home," John began again. "No one can be worth much to society who is not, first of all, a good home-maker and home-keeper. Men, especially, feel too little the home-making obligation. They leave it to the women. But in my estimation the man should have a full interest in all the minutiæ of home life. But there is another consideration. Home obligations are increasing. A home nowadays can and ought to be an epitome of the whole world. It takes in more, and need not go out so much. One may live inside his house walls, and live more widely than a man who one hundred years ago traveled continually. Look at these magazines and books and papers! What need of running about, or, if one do gad about, how can he digest all the material that goes to making a modern home? No, my dear, whatever other people do, let us stay at home more and make home larger and more inclusive."

"To be sure, John," I said, "I approve of your ideas concerning men; they should not be such foreigners. They visit their homes, but do not make them. I believe they go so far as to build houses and sleep in them; but they do not in general enter into the family life and the culture of the children. The clubs for men are a nuisance. If we have clubs, let them be for both husband and wife."

John shrugged his shoulders, but was too generous to say some things he might have said—that it is very easy for a woman also to be a foreigner, and leave home-building to servants. He only said: "There are a great many houses about, but there are not so many homes. Home first, and very largely first, should be our law; and after home society. Home allows of individual development better than any other possible association."

It was under the linden trees that we were sitting on a knoll overlooking the gardens of berries and flowers. A robin was sitting on her eggs, just over our heads, listening.

"But, you will observe," John began again, "that trees and plants, after all, are not so terribly tied down to one spot. Nearly all of them have some method of locomotion. Notice the way those strawberries run about—only they never let go of home, and the home life runs out through all the children. I believe, if nothing hindered, a strawberry could travel across a continent. Some of the trees, and the raspberries, and blackberries, and roses, and lilacs, travel by suckers. But the home instinct is strong there also; they do not go off from their own kin to join something else. What splendid family groups those plums make, if not interfered with? But all plants and trees have at least two ways of traveling—one by roots and the other by fruit and seed. The most wonderful work is done by seeds. I believe no naturalist has been able to solve the riddle of the sudden appearance of millions of plants of some weed or flower where none existed before. It is at least a great achievement for a plant to travel so expeditiously, and in such caravans. Dandelions and daisies break out like influenza. A clover meadow turns yellow or white in a single season. You need not wonder that I am willing to be quite like a tree in steadfastness. It is not a stupid life at all. Science tells us that animal and vegetable life was once all one; and after many ages of common functioning our sort of life rooted down and the other bowled off free and unconfined. There is very much to say of the charms of living after either manner. But there is such a thing as an extreme vegetable immobility, and such a thing, also, as an extreme animal instability. I like best the happy mean; and prefer, as I said, decidedly to be a quiet, beneficent, industrious tree to being an everlastingly rotating, excited, human animal, without roots or character. Look at that elm there on the front lawn! How superb! How beautiful! How true to a purpose! How happy, one may say! How individualized! It has fine instincts. It makes its own music. It has its own loom. It owns no end of machinery. It inherits the work of ages past as much as we do. It is unvexed by the winds of theology. It does not belong to the Browning Club. It is never troubled with insomnia nor any form of nervousness. Then, a tree gets a deal of very pleasant association. The children love an old apple tree as they love a dog. I envy the good times that leaning apple tree has had—boys in the limbs, and birds singing, and—well, my dear, I believe that apple tree saw us when we were younger, and had our poem all unwritten and our song unsung."

We have not joined the club yet. John is up in the morning with the birds, and the bees, and the sun; and the nestlings are up with him. "If you will have a morning club or two," he says, "I will join. The Robins' Club I have joined, and enjoy it immensely." But at night he insists on retirement and that the world shall let him alone. I am sure that American life will be more wholesome when we are more intimate with the trees, and, like them, are more deliberate, cool, steadfast and capable of rest.—Mary E. Spencer, in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

WILLIAM AT HOME.

How the German Emperor Maintains Order in His Household.

Julian Ralph, formerly one of the New York Sun's Washington correspondents and now in the harness for himself, personally conducting a weekly paper in New York called Chatter, tells an interesting story as it was related to him by a gentleman recently arrived from Berlin. The story shows that the same sort of human nature prevails under the royal roof which is supposed to prevail in the well-regulated but untitled family in the States. This is the substance of the story:

When Frederick died, William, the present Emperor, was with his family at a minor palace in Germany. One day the little chap of the family, who by reason of the death of Frederick was now Crown Prince, was out at play. The soldiers seeing him got up some sort of parade and made much ado over the young man. The now Emperor was in his study at work. The noise without disturbed him and he sent out to inquire what it was all about. The orderly returned with the information that it was the guard saluting the Crown Prince. The Emperor is said to have issued the order that the Crown Prince be not saluted again for the space of six weeks. The youngster's head, however, was turned, and one day he informed his governess that the Crown Prince didn't have to learn his lesson. The governess caused this information to be conveyed to the Emperor, who sent for the Prince, laid him over his knee, and administered a plain, democratic spanking. With every whack there was heard this monologue:

"You won't learn your lesson, eh? You are Crown Prince, eh? Well, I am the Emperor [whack]; I am the Emperor." [Whack, whack.]

Another story of royal spanking is recorded. The young Prince came upon the high silk hat of the chaplain to the household. He had seen gentlemen at the opera with crush hats. He took the chaplain's high silk and crushed it flat as a pancake. The Emperor heard of this and laid the young man over his knee and spanked him for that.

If this is the sort of stuff of which the Emperor is made the world will better understand how he called for the resignation of the Iron Chancellor.—Chicago Tribune.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM.

In accordance with what is understood to be a general wish, the groundwork of the Australian system is now published. Modifications have been made where it has been adopted. Party nominations have been substituted for or associated with that here described and party tickets put instead of those named in the law. Alphabetical order of names on tickets prevails in one State, while in another an officer is inside the rail to assist voters in fixing their tickets. Cards of instruction are by some editions of the law required to be posted at the voting places, and some even require specimen ballots to be shown the voters. Some laws allow the voter to substitute names for those on the official ballot, and one State permits him to write his ballot in full.

ABSTRACT OF THE LAW.

After the Governor's published proclamation of the officers to be elected, stating the time and places of registration and time and places of voting, naming for each county three registrars not of the same political faith, and for each precinct three judges and two clerks, no one of whom shall be of the same political faith, occurs in thirty days.

REGISTRATION.

The name, postoffice address, precinct, residence, and in cities street and number, of each voter, is taken down by the registrars, who make a voting list for each precinct in their county, and this registration county book must be complete and open to public inspection eighty days before election. Contests, trials and appeals to the courts are provided.

NOMINATION.

Thirty days before election all nominations must be on file with the Secretary of State. The nomination states the name, residence and postoffice address of the nominee, street and number if any, and also the office for which he is nominated, and the party or political principle which he represents, must be signed by five per cent of the registered voters, each affixing his name, postoffice, precinct, residence, street and number, and the registrars' certificate of conformity to their book must be attached, and the genuineness of the signatures must be attested by affidavits of one or more of the signers, said affidavits being attached. When so prepared, the nomination is entitled to be filed with the Secretary of State, who is clerk of the State Board of Control, and contests, withdrawals, trials, etc., are before said board duly provided for. But a man once having filed his nomination paper is up for the whole election and cannot withdraw except by a formal act and deed acknowledged before a public officer authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds. Decisions of the State Board of Control are subject to the supervision of the regularly constituted courts pursuant to the ordinary course of procedure. Nomination papers, when filed, remain public records and are preserved by the Secretary of State open to public inspection. Any registered voter can sign one nomination paper and no more for the same office.

BALLOT BOX.

The State Board of Control provides a box for each precinct, made partly of glass, so as at all times to expose its contents to public view, with a lock and key and an opening in top to fit the folded ballot.

BALLOTS.

The tickets are, like the boxes, provided at the expense of the State, and are so folded in marked creases that the face is completely concealed, and their width and thickness when folded is such as to enable voters to deposit them through opening in the top of the ballot box. The State Board of Control prepares the tickets from the nomination papers on file. Every ballot contains the names of all candidates whose nominations for the office specified in the ticket have been made and not withdrawn, with their residences and postoffice addresses, printed so as to enable each voter to designate by a mark in a square in a margin at the right of the name of each candidate his choice, which is done by marking all except the ones he favors. The tickets are printed in as many different forms as there are nominees, so that each nominee shall occupy each position in the column of names the same number of times as every other nominee. On the back and outside when folded is printed "Official State Ballot," followed in writing by the precinct for which the ballot is prepared and the date of the election, written by the State Board of Control, whose signatures or fac-similies thereof are appended.

DELIVERY OF TICKETS.

Three times as many tickets are prepared for each precinct as voters are registered, and are packed so that no two of the same form succeed each other in two packages for each precinct, sealed with the seal of the State and the State Board of Control's signature or fac simile thereof, indorsed with the number and precinct of the ballots inclosed. These are sent separately at different times ten days before election and by different methods to the county registrars, whose receipts are taken and filed by the Secretary of State, for said package containing said number of said precinct tickets for such election. Four days before the election the registrars deliver one package to the judges of the precinct, taking their similar receipt and hold said receipt and the other package. Powers are given registrars to deliver the extra package and to the State Board to duplicate packages on prescribed requisition showing theft or the loss of former packages.

STALLS AND SHELVES.

The judges of election in each precinct cause the polling place to be provided with a sufficient number of stalls and shelves (at least one for every seventy-five voters) where voters may conveniently mark their ballots and in the marking be screened from the observation of others, and a guard rail is so constructed and placed as that only such persons as are inside the rail can approach within six feet of the ballot box and of such stalls and shelves. The arrangement is such that neither the glass side of the ballot box nor the voter in the stall is hidden from view of those just outside the guard rail. Nothing but pen and ink and blotter is on each shelf. No person but the three judges, two clerks and enough voters to fill the stalls is admitted inside the rail.

OPENING THE POLLS.

At the opening of the polls in each precinct the seals of the package of ballots are publicly broken by the judges of election, and the ballots delivered to the clerks with the certified list of voters, and the box, being examined by said judges, is placed.

THE VOTING.

Any person desiring to vote gives his name and residence to one of the clerks, who thereupon announces the same in a loud and distinct voice, and if such name is found on the certified list by the other clerk, it is announced by him in the same manner, and the voter is allowed to enter the space inclosed by the guard rail, the first clerk handing him one and only one ticket, and pronouncing him "voted," and the name of the voter is immediately entered on the certified list as having voted.

DUTY OF JUDGES.

The judges of election keep order and suffer no one to remain behind the rail over four minutes or in a stall over two minutes, or to enter an occupied stall, or to remain behind the rail after putting his ticket in the box, or to return behind the rail after once leaving, or to go from behind the rail with a ticket.

DUTY OF VOTER.

On receipt of his ballot the voter forthwith, and without leaving the inclosed space, retires to a stall, and marks in the squares after the names of all except those he intends the ballot to favor, and before leaving the stall he folds his ballot, without displaying the marks there on, and keeping it so folded, exhibits the official endorsement on his ballot to the judges of election, who declare in an audible, distinct voice, whether the ballot is official or not; and if it be declared official, the voter thereupon at once deposits his ballot in the box.

UNUSED BALLOTS.

Tickets returned to the clerks by voters who, after receiving them on entering behind the rail yet refuse to put them in the box, are by the clerks sealed in envelopes, and with all tickets never distributed, are by the clerks returned to the judges and through them to the registrars, and by them to the State Board of Control, receipts passing as in sending them out.

DEFECTIVE BALLOTS.

Tickets not counted because the voter's marks fail to show his choice by reason of his leaving two or more names for the same office unmarked, or by reason of some other like thing, are preserved by the clerks in sealed envelopes and returned with the unused ballots.

ELECTION RETURNS.

The glass box is opened and contents counted in view of the public, where it stands in six feet of the rail, and the official returns certified to the State Board of Control, with the voted ballots in a sealed package.

PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

A person who applies to vote, but by blindness or other physical disability is unable to mark his ballot, may make his declaration of such disability under oath before one of the judges of election, who can administer the oath, and then, on request, have one or two of the election officers to mark it as he shall direct, without information from them, except to call over to him the names on the ticket, and they shall certify on the list that it was so marked by them according to his direction.

PROHIBITIONS.

No ballot except the official one is allowed to be deposited in the ballot box, and none but ballots prepared in accordance with the law will be counted. If the voter leaves unmarked more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or if for any reason it is impossible to determine the voter's choice for any office to be filled, his ballot as to that office is not to be counted.

SANCTION.

A voter is criminal, subject to fine and jail, if he marks his ballot with a distinguishing mark, or shows its face after he has marked it for deposit; and so is any person who interferes with a voter in making his ballot, or tries to find out how a voter marked his ballot, or hinders the voting of others, or removes or destroys any of the appliances or conveniences furnished to enable voters to prepare their ballots or otherwise violates any of the provisions of this act.

Any person is a felon, subject to not less than one year nor more than five years at hard labor, who falsely makes or wilfully defaces or destroys any nomination paper or part thereof, or any withdrawal, or signs a paper contrary to the law, or files a paper of nomination or withdrawal knowing the same or any part thereof to be falsely made, or suppresses any nomination paper or part thereof which has been filed, or falsely makes the official endorsement on any ballot, or imitates or attempts to imitate any official ballot, or destroys or defaces any ballot, or wilfully delays the delivery of ballots, or takes or removes a ballot outside the rail, or has one in his possession except as authorized in the law.

Any officer on whom duty is imposed by the statute is a felon, subject to fine of not over $5,000 and hard labor not over ten years, if he neglects his duty wilfully, or negligently performs it as to hinder the law, and if the neglect was not wilful he is still subject to a fine of $500 and imprisonment in jail for one year.—Jackson (Miss.) Commonwealth.

HEAT OF THE SUN.

It Is Neither Greater Nor Less Than It Was Ages Ago.

There seems to be sufficient reason for the belief that the heat at present emitted from the sun is neither greater nor less than that which our luminary used to dispense ages ago. Where the vine and the olive now grow, the vine and the olive were growing twenty centuries back. We must not, however, place too strong a reliance on the deduction from such a fact. Darwin has taught us how by natural selection an organism can preserve its adaptation notwithstanding the gradual change of the surrounding conditions. The facts, however, fail to show any grounds for imagining that there has been changes in the climates of the earth within historic times.

We have geological evidence as to the character of the climates which prevailed at a remote antiquity far earlier than any historical testimony. The records of the rocks show us unquestionaly that our globe has passed through many striking vicissitudes of heat and cold. Those records demonstrate that there have been periods during which some of the fairest regions of this globe were desolated by a frost so frightful that they became quickly cased in solid ice. There have also been periods when conditions of a precisely opposite character have prevailed. Those polar regions which are now the perennial abode of impenetrable ice have once enjoyed a succession of long and delightful summers, divided by winters remarkable alike for their brevity and their mildness. Arctic solitude, now so dismal and so barren, then nourished plants and animals that can only thrive under genial conditions of climate.

No doubt the question as to the origin of these great climatic changes which have so frequently occurred in the course of geological time presents many difficulties. Opinion is divided as to what the cause of these changes may have been. I do not now enter into this subject, because for our present purpose it suffices to note one very important conclusion. Those who are competent to offer an opinion on the question of the cause of the geological variations of climate are in substantial accord that the changes have not been due to any actual variations in the supply of heat emitted from the sun. In other words, there is not the slightest reason to believe that the sun itself has been either appreciably hotter or appreciably colder during geological times than it is at the present moment.—Good Words.

MADE A MISTAKE.

A Pupil Who Reflected Very Little Credit on His Instructor.

A few weeks ago a citizen called upon a well-known athlete and engaged him to give lessons in boxing, and after about a month the teacher said to his pupil:

"You are in good shape now, and you needn't be afraid to put up your hands with any of the boys."

Two days later the pupil returned with a pair of black eyes and a nose with the bark all off, and the instructor exclaimed:

"Great scots, man, but have you been in a fight?"

"Yes."

"And got licked?"

"Yes."

"How was it?"

"Why, there was a fellow I wanted to lick. That's what I came here and graduated for. I met him yesterday and sailed into him, or started to sail into him, when—"

"When his crowd pitched into you?"

"Oh, no. I found I hadn't the sand. Indeed, I tried to run away, and he hammered Halifax out of me. You are a nice man!"

"What about?"

"To take my money and then get me licked."

"Licked! Licked! Why, you rabbit, do you think learning how to box gives you sand? If you had only told me that you lacked grit and yet wanted to lick some one, I should have taken another tack. I should have taught you to sit on a high fence and punch him in the eye with a long fish pole as he went past."—Detroit Free Press.

When Tenderfeet Are Dangerous.

"The man to be feared for the trouble that he can make in a fight in the West is not the 'dead shot' who has killed a dozen men," said an old-timer from Arizona at the Midland last night; "but the young blood, a combination of the cowboy and the tenderfoot. The former is usually quick, cool and level-headed, and when he shoots he shoots to kill. The latter is in a hurry to get into a fight, and will never listen to reason or common sense. The moment he gets into trouble he thinks that his duty is to draw a revolver and commence shooting. He may possibly hit the man he is trying to kill. He is more likely to hit some one else. He is like the fool-friend that we are constantly praying to be delivered from. His capacity for mischief is unbounded, but his plans for getting out of a scrape are never well matured and are sure to fall through. I don't object to taking a hand in a fight when a lot of experienced men are on the ground, but when a lot of greenhorns commence shooting I don't object to hunting up a new location."—Kansas City Times.

How Timothy Grass Was Named.

Timothy or herd grass is the most common grass of continental Europe, growing wild throughout all that vast region between the Mediterranean sea on the south, and the North sea in the direction the name implies. It is not known exactly when it was first introduced into the United States, but this much is known, it takes its name from Timothy Hanson, a farmer of Maryland, who brought it into general notice as a hay grass, after he had cultivated it extensively for his own use for years. The botanical name for the grass is phleum pratense. It is a curious fact that although its native home is Europe, the United States is the first country in which it was grown, cut and cured for hay. Not longer ago than 1765 some timothy heads and seeds were taken to England and exhibited as curiosities.—St. Louis Republic.

HOME HINTS AND HELPS.

—Potato Pie: Cut any cold meat in inch square pieces; lay in a pie-dish with any cold gravy, or, if there is no gravy, add a sprinkle of cornstarch, and a little cold water. Cover the whole with a thick layer of mashed potatoes as a crust, and bake a rich brown.—Ladie's Home Journal.

—Strawberry Sauce: Beat two ounces of butter to a cream, adding gradually four ounces or a half-cupful of powdered sugar; then add twelve large strawberries, mash and beat till light. This sauce is for the dumplings, but can be used with any batter pudding.—Demorest.

—Cottage Cheese: Boil two chickens till tender; take out all the bones; chop the meat fine; season to your taste with salt, pepper and butter; pour in enough of the liquid they were boiled in to make it moist; put into whatever mold you wish, and when cold, turn out and cut into slices.—Christian at Work.

—Beans should be cooked in the water in which they are soaked. It is a mistake to drain them several times of their juices. Such a process is enough to rob any thing of its sweetness and flavor. They should be thoroughly done, but not boiled to pieces, and seasoned with butter, salt and pepper to the taste.

—Stewed Asparagus with Dressing: Boil in salted water until tender, drain and put on a platter. To two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, add one-half teaspoonful of sugar, a few cracker crumbs, a little grated nutmeg, and three tablespoonfuls of sweet milk or cream; heat and pour over the asparagus.—The Household.

—Pearled Wheat Molds: Put one cupful of pearled wheat into one quart of broiling water, add a little salt, and cook until the water is nearly evaporated; then gradually add one quart of hot milk, and cook over hot water two hours longer, or until it is very soft; stir it with a fork, add a little grated nutmeg and pour into cups that have been wet with cold water; set aside to become firm and cold, then turn them out, and serve with powdered sugar, cream and currant jelly.—Boston Herald.

—Broiled Salt Codfish: This is keenly appreciated sometimes by a capricious or a convalescing appetite. To prepare it take a piece of the thickest part of the fish and soak it twenty-four hours. Remove the bones then so far as can be and leave the fish in good-sized flakes, and broil in the frying-pan slightly buttered. Brown both sides, then add a small teacupful of real, or mock cream, a tablespoonful of butter, a little white pepper, and let it stew gently for a few moments.—Good Housekeeping.

—Beef Kidney: This is a very delicious way of serving beef kidney: Cut the kidney in thin slices not more than an eighth of an inch in thickness; cut out the center, which is tough and indigestible and gives it its rank taste. Soak in salt water for several hours, then parboil for five minutes. Put butter in a pan, and when very hot lay in the kidney, with a teaspoonful of finely-minced onion, salt, pepper, two tablespoonfuls of tomatoes, stewed and thickened, a minced gherkin and some celery salt; add enough of any kind of stock or gravy to cover it, thicken with a tablespoonful of flour wet with cold water, and simmer for ten minutes. Pour over toast.—American Agriculturist.

HOME-MADE SOAPS.

Recipes That Have Been Tested by Mrs. A. R. Parker.

There are few articles that enter into such general use in the household as soap, and as every kitchen affords abundant material for making it, if the housekeeper will see that it is saved, many dollars' expense will be saved every year. A large jar should be set in a convenient place in the kitchen or pantry, and all refuse grease, such as meat skins, bones, pot skimmings, burnt or rancid grease should be thrown in, and always kept carefully covered. When ready to use, unless the grease is all pure, it should be cleared, by putting in a kettle and adding a pint of water to every pound of grease, and boiling for one hour, stirring all the while, and skimming off the refuse matter, when it may be allowed to cool. The grease will form in a solid cake on the water, and can be readily removed.

Many very excelent modes of making soap are now in use; the old-fashioned "soft soap" of our grandmother's day is even yet preferred by many housekeepers, but it is not possible to make it when wood ashes can not be had, and the process, at best, is very troublesome and laborious. It is therefore best to use some of the excelent preparations that can be bought ready for use in soap making.

For the benefit of inexperienced housekeepers, we give the following recipes for making soap:

Soft Soap: Put to boil any quantity of lye, made from wood ashes desired, have it strong enough to bear an egg. When boiling, add three-quarters of a pound of clean grease to every gallon of lye; boil at first rapidly, then slowly, for two hours; when thick as jelly, take from the fire and let cool.

Cold Soap: Dissolve one can of pulverized lye in three and one-half pints of cold water, and set aside to cool. Melt five pounds and a half of clean grease in a kettle; when melted set off the fire, and allow to cool until lukewarm; pour the dissolved lye into it, and stir thoroughly until the mass thickens; set in the sun or a warm place for twenty-four hours, when the soap should be hard enough to cut into cakes.

Ox Gall Soap: Take one pint of beef's gall, cut it into ten pounds of hard soap and pour in one pint of boiling water. Let cool and cut in bars. This soap is used for washing delicate colors liable to fade, fine laces and silk stockings.

Toilet Soap: Cut into small pieces a pound and a half hard soap, dissolved in four quarts of rain water; ad an ounce of borax and four ounces of carbonate soda; melt over the fire, perfume, pour out to cool and cut in cakes.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

—Charlotte Perkins Stetson, the Boston writer and artist, is a granddaughter of Dr. Lyman Beecher.

—The oldest medical work, an Egyptian papyrus dating from 1,500 years or more before Christ, and containing prescriptions then old, has been translated by George Ebers, the German novelist.

—George Augustus Sala, the British journalist, is a man of small eyes, red cheeks and a sharp nose. He gets $10,000 a year for contributing four editorials a week to the London Telegraph.

—One of the latest Mexican bibliographical lists mentions no less than twelve thousand volumes, by three thousand native Mexican authors. The first book printed on this continent was published in Mexico.

—Mrs. Humphrey Ward, author of "Robert Elsmore," says that the belief of the founders of the new social and religious organization, of which she is the head, is that 'a simpler Christianity can be effectively taught that will both touch the heart and direct the will.'

—Mr. Gladstone is the largest book-buyer in London. As he desires to see every new publication of consequence on every subject, and wishes to read his own copy only, his enormous library has become a monumental collection of what Mr. Venus would describe as "the human warious."

—The late George H. Boker, the Philadelphia poet, was pronounced in his youth by N. P. Willis, who spoke with authority, to be the handsomest man in America. His intimate friend, Charles Godfrey Leland, says that the busts of Byron were remarkably like Boker, though Boker was the finer looking, and in figure much more imposing.

—Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes is compeled to relinquish all correspondence, except with intimate personal friends. "My sight is getting imperfect," he writes to a friend, "and the fatigue of writing is wearing upon me; and, although it will cost me an effort, I feel that, in justice to myself, I must throw off the load, which, at 'threescore and twenty,' is too much for my old shoulders."

—Longfellow is credited with the following remark by Mr. Butterworth, to whom it was made: "I wrote 'A Psalm of Life' in my early years merely as an expression of my own resolutions, views and feelings. I did not intend to publish it. I put it away for myself. I chanced to give it to the press, and it went over the world, and was even put into Japanese art."

—Mrs. General Grant has a girl's fondness for candy, and she always has a box on her writing-desk while engaged in writing. She is at her desk three or four hours daily now, being engaged in the preparation of memoirs and correspondence, in which she is assisted by her son Jesse, who came back from California, where he was engaged in mining and farming, for this especial purpose.

HUMOROUS.

—Street-Car Conductor (to Driver)—"I wonder what that man is running so hard for." Driver (looking back)—"Meb by the fool wants ter git on. G'lang."—New York Weekly.

—Thompson (after a dubious whiff)—"Didn't you say, Brown, that those cigars were two for a quarter?" Brown (puffing joyously)—"Yes. I'm smoking the twenty-cent one."—American Grocer.

—Philosopher—"Is marriage a failure, do you think?" Merchant—"On the contrary, I have known marriage to prevent a failure. A friend of mine married an heiress, and she saved him from insolvency."—Lowell Citizen.

—Johnson—"Well, doctor, how does your 'Sure Cure for Rheumatism' sell?" Dr. Lotion—"Splendidly, splendidly; but I haven't been able to get out much this spring to push it, my rheumatism is so bad."—West Shore.

—Fatal Use of Slang.—She—"How far is it from the sun to the earth, Mr. Goodcatch?" He—"Now you've got me, I must confess." She—"Oh, I'm so glad. I was afraid at one time that hateful Fan Smithers would get you."—Terre Haute Express.

—Lady (second floor front)—"What's this?" Messenger (from drug-store)—"Some 'Rough on Rats.'" Lady—"Gracious alive, I didn't order any." Messenger—"The man in the next room bought it and told me to bring it up and tell you to give it to the baby."—The Jester.

—At the Ladies' College.—Miss Joy—"Madame, Mr. Foster has come to take me for a drive. May I go?" "You know, Miss Joy, the rules of the college do not allow it unless you are engaged. Are you engaged to Mr. Foster?" Miss Joy (doubtfully)—"N-no; but if you will let me go, I shall be by the time we get back."

—Farmer's Wife—"Who is that horrible-looking man at the gate?" Tramp—"That's a friend of mine, mum." Farmer's Wife—"Well, he's the worst-looking thing I've seen in seventeen years." Tramp—"He ain't very pretty, mum, I'll admit; but between you and me he stands very high in our profession."—Harper's Weekly.

—Prosecuting Attorney—"What evidence have you to impugn the intelligence of this witness?" Defendant (blurting out)—"He once served on a jury." Defendant's Attorney (despairingly, to the court)—Your Honor, I feel it my duty to withdraw from this case. My client has killed himself."—Texas Siftings.

—Husband (to Wife)—"I've been out half the day trying to collect money, and I'm mad enough to break the furniture. It beats all how some men will put off and put off. A man who owes money and won't pay it isn't fit to associate—" Servant (opening the door)—"The butcher, sorr, is down-stairs with his bill." Husband—"Tell him to call again."—Photo.

—Finley—"And what's become of Peasley?" Bodkin—"Little Peasley, who always wrote such a beautiful hand? Oh, he's doing well, very well, indeed." Finley—"What's he driving at?" Bodkin—"He's over in England just coining money, writing autographs of eminent but defunct persons to sell to American collectors."—America.