

The 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.

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NATURAL INTERPRETATION.

A True Story of the Contribution Man.
We told you Polly was the best.
Her mind quite to prepare,
Of what the people did at church,
And what would happen there.
Of how the good folk sang the hymns,
Then listened all devout,
On through the sermon and the prayer,
But one thing we left out.
And when she saw good Deacon Gray
Come tipping down the aisle,
Politely holding out the plate,
A sweet, inquiring smile
Passed from her lips even to her eyes,
But to be nearer drew,
She settled what 'twas all about,
And all her duty knew.
"A thy hand was swift out thrust,
Then suddenly withdrew,
And half in whisper, half aloud
She waited as he passed on."
"I only got a dime, mamma,
I didn't know he comes back,
Do you suppose when he comes back,
He'll let me try once more?"
—Louise M. Hodgkins, in Union Signal.

A LOFTY ENCOUNTER.

An Exciting and Novel Scene on a Narrow Mountain Trail.



HE canyon through which the Stinking Water river winds its sinuous and troubled course is walled with magnificent cliffs, many of which arise in a sheer, unbroken ascent hundreds of feet from the edge of the river to their very brows. Others are belted at various portions of their height by shelving "logs," barely wide enough in the narrowest places for the denizens of mountains to tread with their sure feet.

What tragic encounters may have taken place between the grizzlies, the cougars, the black bears, elk and mountain sheep which might have chanced to meet in these narrow and dizzy trails we must leave to the imagination of versatile Nimrod to depict, but I chanced to be the helpless witness of an encounter which was as fierce and exciting as it was strange and novel.

It was in December last on the south fork of the Stinking Water river, Wyo., in what is generally known as the Shoshone country, in company with a party of jolly young civil and mining engineers, who were running a reconnaissance through that section.

The day was beautifully clear, and along the wind-sheltered and sunny side of the canyon close down by the edge of the river, along which our trail wound, it was delightfully warm and pleasant. The cliffs on the opposite side were magnificent, both in height and coloring, and we were enjoying the sublimity of the scene as only true reconnoiters "to the major born" can enjoy the glories of the Rockies, when, through my glass, with which I was scanning the prospect ahead of us, I saw a horse suddenly emerge into view around the curve of a cliff. A second horse and a pedestrian followed.

The trail which they were on was at least five hundred feet above the bottom of the canyon, and after a slight jog the cliff again rose in another terrace which reached, in an unbroken face, for the remainder of its sheer height.

"Where?" whistled our guide, who was in advance. "That's about as ticklish a trail as there is along the whole Stinking Water. I'm dare-devil enough, but I was allus willin' to leave th' full right 'o' way over that trail 't' grizzlies an' injuns. An' I don't b'lieve they're over-partial to it. The feller must be in a rarin' old hurry 't' get home."

"I should think so," responded another of the party. "What if he should meet a grizzly up there? It would be rather embarrassing, eh?"

"Yes; especially as the fellow has strapped his gun onto the back of his forward horse," I interrupted, noticing through my glass this fact, which had escaped the naked eyes of the other observers.

At this they all whipped out their glasses and focused them upon the two



THE HORSE MADE A DIVE FOR THE ELK. Pack horses and the man who were slowly moving along the trail, which was so narrow that they looked like figures in a pantomime of which the face of the cliff was the background.

"See!"
"Look at that!"
These exclamations came almost simultaneously from the lips of the various members of the party, as we saw a huge elk suddenly appear in the trail where it curved around the further end of the cliff.

We jerked our eyes to a standstill, and with raised observation glasses watched the outcome of the collision. "At this season the elk are right on their nerve. I'll bet 't' that old buck'll show fight," calmly observed our guide. "Well, you take it cool," impatiently snapped one of the boys.

CURING IDIOCY.

An Operation to Give the Brain Room to Expand.
A distinguished New York physician has discovered that children born with inferior brain capacity, and showing decided predisposition to idiosyncrasy, can be cured by a surgical operation upon the skull. There are six soft spots known to physicians upon the cranium of a child. The anterior one, which is the largest, is situated where the coronal and sagittal sutures meet, and remains open some time after birth. These spots are called fontanelles, and at the age of eighteen months become solid bone, like other parts of the skull. The problem, therefore, was to decrease the thickness of the skull in certain parts, so that it could expand and thus afford greater brain activity. An experiment has recently been made on a child in the New York Juvenile asyrum at Mount Vernon, and there is every evidence that complete success has been attained.

Little Harry Thatcher's father and mother died within a month of each other four years ago, when Harry was a year old. He wasn't very bright when taken to the asylum, and developed into a stupid idiot. He did not grow fast, and the left eye is no larger than an ordinary child's. He could not do any member anything or eat any solid food. It looked as if Harry was doomed. Then the doctor decided upon a wonderful operation, which will make Harry famous in all the medical journals after awhile. He determined to cut pieces out of Harry's skull, to give the child's brain a chance to grow. The operation was performed with the most successful. It is always extremely dangerous to open the skull, but that was the only chance for the child.

The doctor used his brain electrical boring and cutting apparatus, besides knives and saws. The left side of Harry's head was shaved. The child's organs of speech were affected, and as the brain matter which controls them are on the left side, the surgeon operated there. The head was washed with soap and then a solution of bichloride of mercury, the strongest of all antiseptics. Then the boy was ready for the knife. Either was administered, and the moment Harry was under its influence the surgeon made a rapid cut through the middle of the scalp. Then he made transverse cuts over the frontal and back bone of the skull. The flap of scalp was thrown back, leaving the skull bare. From this point on the surgeon had need of all his skill.

He decided at the last moment not to use the electrical instruments. The bone was so hard as he anticipated, and so he could work to better advantage with his hands. On the left side, just above the eyebrow, he placed a cylindrical saw, which is used like a bit; with which the skull was first perforated. The trepan cut out a button of bone just a half inch in diameter. Back six inches from the first opening, and near the occipital bone or the posterior segment, another button was extracted. The doctor then decided to remove a part of the skull with a punch capable of taking out a slice a half inch long and three-eighths of an inch wide. The doctor inserted this punch into the opening made by the trepan. It cut out the bone smoothly and sharply, and the doctor made the opening the width of two incisions. From one opening to the other he cut away the bone, making a smooth, even trench six inches long and three-eighths of an inch wide, laying bare the fibrous membrane of the brain. The trench ran along the middle of the junction of the two side bones at the top of the head. This channel was no sooner opened than the surgeon made two transverse ones of the same width, but about two inches long. One passed through the frontal bone and the other on the posterior segment over the left parietal bone half way to the occipital. This opening along had to be made with the greatest care for it would be dangerous to cut the membrane, or even bruise it, for fear of inflammation. Then, too, in the cavities directly underneath the seams are myriads of blood-vessels, and the least disturbance would cause hemorrhage. And, above all, not a moment must be wasted. Each second added to the danger. The surgeon placed his hand on the skull as fast as his hands could sever the bone. When he had finished the cutting the wound was washed. Then the scalp was drawn back into place and stitched. The compress about the head was removed. The whole operation was performed in twenty-five minutes. Harry was playing out of doors in five days.—Once a Week.

Whether the forward rush which the buck next made toward the man was intended as an attack, or simply as an attempt to crowd past the horse, we could not tell; but he made a bold and desperate charge.

"Now, look ter yer standin', Mr. Man!" exclaimed the guide.

I expected that the next moment would reveal the horrible spectacle of the man plunging down the precipice as his courageous horse had done a few seconds before.

"But again we had miscalculated on 'horse grit,' as the guide characterized it.

As the elk had almost succeeded in crowding past in front of the horse, which was butted into the crevice of the rock, the head of the cayouse was suddenly visible above the precipice of the man plunging down the precipice a few seconds before.

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For a moment the animal hung by its rear feet, pawing furiously with its fore hoofs to regain its lost footing. But its struggle was short, and after a brief suspense its powers gave out and it fell backward down the steep slope.

We fired a gun to attract the attention of the man, who remained in his position until we arrived within hailing distance, when we learned where his cabin was located and agreed to gather up the contents of his pack, at the foot of the cliff, if it contained anything not ruined in the fall.

The horse which had saved his life had become sufficiently calmed by the controlled, and the prospector remained his dangerous journey along the narrow trail. It is safe to say that thereafter he left it to the mountain animals and took the safer and longer trail along the bottom of the canyon.

The elk had been incensed in his fall sufficiently to cause a free flow of blood, and we feasted upon flesh which was perhaps all the more tender for its bruising.

HOUSEHOLD BREVITIES.

—Soaking calico previous to the first washing in a strong solution of either salt or alum is an excellent method of preserving the color.

—After exercise of any kind never ride in an open carriage or near the windows of a car for a moment; it is dangerous to health or even life.

—Breakfast Muffins.—Take two eggs, two spoonfuls of new yeast and a little salt; mix a little warm new milk and water into a quart of flour; beat all well together and let stand for five; bake the muffins for about twenty minutes, until of a light brown, and just before serving toast slightly on both sides, but not in the middle; then notch around the center and pull open with your fingers and add butter.—N. Y. World.

—Apple Dumpling.—Take a bright, round tin pan (say three pint), fill half full of apples (cut in small pieces), a little water. Make a cream-of-tartar biscuit dough, soft enough to pour over the apples. Cover with a round tin that is the same depth and will fit over the edge. Let it cook on top of the stove, not directly over the fire. Serve at once when the cover is removed, with a sauce of butter and sugar as preferred.

—Good Housekeeping.

—Rubber Foot-Feet.—If a man has a corn, says the India Rubber World, it can be removed, but if he is suffering from rubber foot-feet no chiropodist can help him, and the only thing to prescribe is liberal bathing of the feet and removal of the cause. Rubbers should only be worn to keep wet out, and they should be removed the moment the wearer gets indoors. Failure to note this gives a man wet feet in a far worse sense than if he had waded through mud ankle deep.

—A nice way of frying eggs is in sweet olive oil. Put about two tablespoonfuls of oil in a hot spider. When the oil is thoroughly heated break in one egg and then another, being careful that they do not touch. By the time the second egg is broken the first one will be ready to fold. Let it cook for a moment while you fold the second one. Repeat this process till all the eggs needed are cooked. Season each egg with salt and pepper, and serve them on a hot platter. If you want eggs fried hard they must be cooked rather longer than this.

—Apple Pie.—Line a common pie tin, after it has been sprinkled with flour, with the crust. Fill the tin with apples well over the edges of the tin. Don't have the lower crust too thin. Fill the pan half full of apples cut in eighths, or even quarters. Sprinkle over a teaspoonful of sugar. (No fruit pie is good that does not contain sufficient acid to admit of one teaspoon of sugar.) Flavor with nutmeg or cinnamon, as taste may suggest. Put over the upper crust gently. Do not press it down at the edges. Pierce a few places with knife or fork. Bake well, in a slow oven, and you have a "pie fit for a king."—Ohio Farmer.

—Clam Soup.—One can of clams drained from the liquor. Chop the clams very fine and set them aside; strain the liquor to free from sediment. Fry half an onion in an ounce of butter; add a little chopped celery, a blade of mace, a salted anchovy, six whole peppers and a pint of soup stock. Let it boil slowly half an hour, then strain into a saucepan, add the clams and the liquor, and boil slowly about fifteen minutes; add salt and cayenne. Boil one-half pint of cream and add it to the soup. Mix a small teaspoonful of corn starch in a little cold milk; add to the soup. Pour into a hot tureen and serve.—Ladies' Home Journal.

TABLE DAINTIES.
Two-thirds Vodka that are Simple and Easily Prepared.

The good housekeeper, who looks on the outer world as a pitfall, and on home as the only safe place, relies largely on the delicacies of the table to bring people home and to keep them there afterwards. And so, also, does many another woman who has no such poor opinion of the outer world. In accordance with this precautionary wisdom, she feels it necessary not only to have sweet sauces and honeyed dainties for every-day use, but to establish a sort of sinking-fund in the matter of supplies, that she may be always ready with a special dram to make upon her capacity there for the sake of company.

—Woe betide her, then, if she has let the summer days go by without filling her preserve-jars, either because of the heat or through too fond reliance on the supply of early fall fruit, which any untoward accident, either of rain or drought, may bring to naught!

—Delicious mackerel, by-the-way, a useful variety of fish in Mexico, where the choicest salads is made out of the flower of the pumpkin vine; and our housewife need not despise a preserve made in the same way as that of the melon, from the large cucumber lying out to ripen its seeds in the sun. Meanwhile, in all the pastures, and everywhere along the country waysides, less each year a treasure in the shape of the wild-rose hips, which, treated like any other fruit, bruised and strained, boil down into an toothsome jam as one wants, while having withal a flavor of the unknown, and if spiced with cinnamon or cassia, suggesting the rich rose pastes of Turkish harems and the Arabian Nights, and certain strange confections to be had in the streets of Cairo or Damascus. Possibilities of creamy marmalades, moreover, when the transparently thin shredded peels that has lain all night in salt and water is boiled with the allied seedless pulp and their combined weight in sugar, she has with her every day till March.

Hot buttered biscuit and sweetmeats may be unwholesome, but they are nice. A tea table which offers them, and only them, is always inviting, and our housekeeper's point is to have the tea table temptation. A white cloth, such as there is sparkling, such table service as, fresh tea, and hot good bread and butter, and preserves in their glass dishes, like jewels set in jewels, make a little banquet to which the king himself needs to bring only appetite, and to which, if it is the customary thing, tired husband and always famished children look for sure refreshment.—Harper's Bazar.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

TRAPPING CROWS.
Galen Wilson Describes His Trap and Tells Some Good Hints.
It is an easy task to prevent crows deprecatory upon the corn field. An outfit for the purpose is a four sheet piece of board, three eggs and a steel trap. The boards are nailed together as shown in the sketch. Place the box in the corn field after planting, put one egg on top, one on the ground in front, make a nest in the back end of the box as a hen would, and put the third egg in it in such a manner as a crow may see it when he takes the one on the ground; then set the trap in the opening, which should be so narrow that a crow cannot pass without stepping into the trap. The jaws of the trap should be wound with rags so it will not break the bird's leg. The trap and chain are to be nicely covered with dry grass. It would be just as well to place the box against a fence or stump, and put an egg on top of this instead of on the box. Crows are proverbially cunning, but their appetite for eggs is so keen that in these cases they seem to lose all discretion and willfully "put their foot into it." When caught, a crow will make a great outcry, and this will bring others from miles around to see what the trouble is. Then release the bird, and all will give that field a wide berth for that season. I know this to be feasible and effective, for I have caught them in this manner in as many different seasons.

It may please by readers to be told the story of these three captured crows, "as black as any crow can be." I tied the first one to a tree on the corn field with a cord knotted around his leg many times, and then watched him. He picked at the knot almost continuously, and finally untied it and released himself on the second day. The next one caught and after his numerous friends had made sufficient "circus" about him, I tied a red rag two feet long about his neck and then let him go. He flew to the nearest woods. Others saw him in this predicament and that produced another "circus." There were scores of them, and finally all moved off out of sight and hearing. Some days later, a paper-printed thirty miles away reported that a crow with a red rag tied to his neck had been seen in that vicinity, and that he created great commotion among all local avifauna. I did not consider my transaction wicked, for, unlike some human beings, crows never forsake a fellow-crow when in trouble, but all "lend a hand" to relieve him, and which they, without doubt, finally accomplished in this instance.

In the third case, I had gone a long distance to collect a note of an Irish farmer. Calling upon him, he had to drive a three or four hours' journey to borrow the necessary sum, and I remained at his house. His son informed me that the crows were pulling their corn badly. I called for a trap and three eggs. Taking these to the field, I made a nest-box of flat stones, set the trap and returned to the house. In an hour or two there was a great crowd upon in the corn field. The son brought the crow to the house and exhibited to the father on his return. Presently the old gentleman called a daughter into an adjoining room to count the money, for the crowd read and he could not. The door was carelessly left a little ajar, and I heard him say: "Bridget, when you hear him the mornin' take the note and a receipt, too, for any Yankee that can catch a crow in a stale trap is the devil."—Galen Wilson, in Country Gentleman.

SHEEP SHEARINGS.
SHEEP that are kept in a good, vigorous, thrifty condition are not so liable to become infested with ticks.

A THOROUGH understanding with each other would just be worth thousands of dollars to the wool growers of the country.

Be careful and tag all the sheep and especially the ewes that are suckling lambs before turning out in the pastures.

SHIELLED corn, wheat bran and meal makes one of the very best rations that can be made up for fattening sheep.

WHEN sheep are to be fattened for market they should be separated from the stock sheep so that they can be fed to themselves.—Live Stock Indicator.

Re-seeding Old Meadows.
In our climate permanent meadows cannot be maintained. We have not the moisture of the British Islands, which keeps the grass green and prevents the droughts which destroy the roots of the hardest grasses after two or three years. Heavy manuring will keep the meadows a little longer, but even with the manure it will not be so good as a meadow newly seeded. The profit of a cultivated crop after a well-fertilized meadow is plowed under is greater than its value for grass. Hence, the expense of re-seeding is only the cost of the clover and grass seed necessary for it, which rarely amounts to more than \$1.50 per acre.—Colman's Rural World.

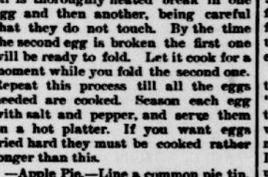
How to Teach the Word "When."
I teach the word "when" by a hitting arrangement which is a simple one, it consists of a straight bit with a small cord attached to the ring. Bring this over his head as though I were a bride and pull it gently back on his neck. Of course he will refuse to give up to it at first, but work by degrees. Keep him checked only a few minutes at a time, but repeat the operation until he will give to the bit, which he will do in twenty or thirty minutes. Now fasten a cord to the ring of the bit, stand in front of him and say: "Come here," pull him gently and if he refuses to obey touch him lightly with the whip around the foreleg. He will soon follow you and just as soon as he will give to the piece on the bridle and say: "When." Continue this kind of treatment for some little time and it will pay you well the doing it.—J. W. Smith, in Troy Times.

POOR ROAD SYSTEMS.

Matches in the Location and Management of Cattle and Horses.
As a general thing, the country roads on this continent have been so badly located that to build costly pavements upon the present lines, and previously provide elaborate systems of drainage, would be a dreadful waste of money. As it is ordinarily beyond the means of country people to do more than improve the present condition of their roads, this is the task that they should undertake as soon as soon as possible. In beginning such a task, the first step to be taken, in my opinion, is to stop doing that which has generally been the custom in this country—that is, working the roads. Working the roads, as it is generally practiced in this country, consists in calling out in each road district a gang of men who "work out" their road tax under an overseer elected by the people. The labor done is worse than thrown away, for it is rare indeed for either the overseer or the men under him to have any clear comprehension of what is needed. Fortunately for the well-being of the roads, these men do not work very hard, but rather choose to regard the few days on the road as a kind of holiday outing, a picnic frolic, and a means of getting rid of a certain amount of tax. If they really were to work with all their might they would make the roads almost as impassable in the summer as they now are in the late winter and early spring. With some kind of a glimmering idea that ditches on each side of a road are good to have, they plow up these ditches, together with the sod that grows down into them, and pile all of this muck in the middle of the road. This material, it may be said, has the most excellent fertilizing value, and if it were put upon the fields instead of in the roads it would amply repay the farmers who carted it away. But in the road it is a sand and an immediate hindrance to travel. Luckily, the friendly spring rains usually wash it back into the ditches, where it stays until some more tax is to be "worked out." When these rains are not sufficiently heavy and continuous, impediments that have been deliberately placed in the roads, the consequences are very dusty roads during all the dry season.

In some neighborhoods a little more ambitious than those generally to be found, they mend the roads by placing gravel and broken stone upon them. Then the overseers say that they are maintaining the roads without thought of draining the road-bed, to put broken stone or gravel upon it is merely a waste of money and labor, and the ambitious neighborhoods so doing prove in the end no wiser than those who cover their roads with muck. But it is within the means of every neighborhood in the United States to materially improve their roads at once—improve them so much that where the traffic is not extremely heavy and continuous, the roads will be in tolerable order nine months in the year, and very much better than at present, even when the frost is coming out of the ground at the beginning of spring. And this can be done in three or four or five years without spending one penny more than is now spent in the hurtful methods mentioned.—Harper's Weekly.

CISTERN FOR BARN.
It is Far Better to Locate It Above Instead of Under Ground.
Where it is desired to have a cistern at the barn, it is better to locate it above and not under ground. The accompanying illustration, engraved after a sketch from L. D. Snook, will give an idea of this. There will be no need of a pump nor any exertion to fill the trough. It is economy to connect the cistern wall at the same time that the outer and foundation walls of the building are laid, but the wall may be built of stone, or brick laid in water-lime mortar after the building is finished. For a hundred-barrel cistern



the two outer walls should be one foot thick, but the inner wall resting against the basement need not be over eight inches in thickness. The bottom of the cistern is filled with stones, or well packed earth, to the depth of eighteen inches, as indicated by the dotted lines at B, and the whole is thoroughly plastered with cement mortar. The inlet pipe may be placed at A, as indicated in the engraving, while the outlet pipe is near one corner, and is provided with a stopcock. The watering trough is seen at C. An overflow pipe can be located at any point within two inches of the top of the cistern and should have one-third greater capacity than the inlet pipe, thus preventing all danger from overflowing. The top of the cistern may be covered over with boards, if desired. If necessary, pipes can be laid from the cistern to any part of the basement and other watering places established.—American Agriculturist.

How to Teach the Word "When."
I teach the word "when" by a hitting arrangement which is a simple one, it consists of a straight bit with a small cord attached to the ring. Bring this over his head as though I were a bride and pull it gently back on his neck. Of course he will refuse to give up to it at first, but work by degrees. Keep him checked only a few minutes at a time, but repeat the operation until he will give to the bit, which he will do in twenty or thirty minutes. Now fasten a cord to the ring of the bit, stand in front of him and say: "Come here," pull him gently and if he refuses to obey touch him lightly with the whip around the foreleg. He will soon follow you and just as soon as he will give to the piece on the bridle and say: "When." Continue this kind of treatment for some little time and it will pay you well the doing it.—J. W. Smith, in Troy Times.

When a hen becomes excessively fat she is useless as a layer, and if she is an old hen she will remain fat on and little food. Such hens should be sent to market, unless they become broody. When they may be used as sitters. When incubating, and fed but little meal daily, they will come off in a condition that will fit them for laying as soon as they leave their chicks; but unless fat hens are broody get rid of them.—Farm and Fireside.

STREET WAIFS.

Many Thousands of Homeless Children in Our Cities.
In the city of New York there are ten of thousands of children who spend the greater part of their lives on the streets; and these streets are invariably the worst in the city.

In one sense these children are better off even in such streets than they are in the houses that they live in, for these houses are wretched tenements, ventilated badly or not at all, and nurseries of diphtheria and other diseases. These children are in the streets for the most part because of the poverty of their parents, and the poverty of their parents is due to the fact that they are in the streets for the most part because of the poverty of their parents, and the poverty of their parents is due to the fact that they are in the streets for the most part because of the poverty of their parents.

Prof. Washburn submitted a minute description of an extraordinary fossil. The latter was discovered during the past summer solidly embedded in a cliff of white sandstone, a deposit undoubtedly of the tertiary age, and owing to its compact surroundings was preserved almost entirely and intact. An expert examination and careful historical and geological research, so far as the society is able to go, leads to the supposition, not yet, however, a confirmed or indisputable belief, that the skeleton belongs to the long extinct genus Dinotherium, a quadruped of gigantic proportions, and of which only fragments have heretofore been found; also, that the tusk found in Stillwater in 1858, while excavating the sand on the present site of the First Presbyterian church, was a portion of the same genus of prehistoric monster. As to this isolated tusk, however, its incomplete or scanty, loose covering had permitted its disintegration to such an extent that only portions of the same had been preserved. The tusk or horn was originally, it would appear, some four feet in length and at least six inches in diameter at the base.

A portion of this relic is now in the collection of the State Historical society

at St. Paul, and is pronounced as being ivory equal in all respects, except the changes produced by ages of time, to that taken from the tusk of our day. The Brown's creek mastodonic remains are evidently those of a member of the order carnivora, judging from the structure and size of the teeth, the incisors being sharp almost to a point, while the molars are also trenchant and well adapted to the crushing of bones. The animal in size was some twelve feet in length, measuring from the proboscis to the termination of the vertebral column. The tail, as nearly as can be estimated, was some five feet in length. The skeleton itself is seven feet nine inches high at the shoulders and six feet five inches at the rump or hips, while the head is exactly three feet four inches in length, with a low, flat mugwumpian skull and powerful jaws.

The single tusk is three feet long, and six inches in diameter, the diameter at the tip being about five inches. The tip, instead of being pointed, as is usual with coracinate animals, is blunt and also hollow, forming a tube or cylinder and suggesting a choke-bore gun. The inner surface shows in places marks of erosion effected by repeated and forcible contact with some flinty substance, the ivory being worn in parallel grooves to the depth of a full quarter inch. Prof. Washburn is of the opinion that the horn or tusk was employed in the killing of the animal's prey, though not in the way of thrusting or impaling the object of attack, and here comes his plausible theory, which, if sustained, contributes to zoological knowledge a hitherto unsuspected fact, at once astounding and interesting—the fact that there once existed a genus of animals whose instinct and physical make-up led them to anticipate in a crude way the modern practice among mankind of using explosives or compressed air for hurling projectiles.

This tusk, he contends, was employed for firing projectiles through the air. He says that the animal had a proboscis with which to gather stones of suitable size and to place them in the hollow of his natural tube; that there was an exterior opening at the base of the tusk for the admittance of air, and that the creature possessed sufficient lung power for the expulsion of air to propel the projectile through the tube with enough force to such a distance as to easily overcome and kill his prey. In fact he was a dead shot. The professor believes, moreover, the dinotherium shows a certificate that the beast comes from a fighting family, three of his ribs having been broken at some time and afterwards reunited by nature. The tibia (bone of the right foreleg) had also been fractured, and, like the ribs, repaired by natural forces.

Except as before mentioned, the tusk shows but little wear. The skeleton head is perfect, except that two teeth are missing. The size and formation of the leg bones show that the animal was one of great strength and agility and capable of rapid motion. Whether or not the toes were armed with claws he mentions, especially the Brown's creek and Cornelius lake. Tempting offers have recently been made the society to allow the placing of the skeleton on public and miscellaneous exhibition, but have thus far been declined.—St. Paul Globe.

ITS TUSK A GUN.
An Animal Which Shot Stones From Its Nostril at Its Enemies.
The members of Paleontological society at Stillwater, Minn., composed of the pundits of the locality, held their latest and probably most instructive meeting in the vestry of the Episcopalian church in that city recently.

Prof. Washburn submitted a minute description of an extraordinary fossil. The latter was discovered during the past summer solidly embedded in a cliff of white sandstone, a deposit undoubtedly of the tertiary age, and owing to its compact surroundings was preserved almost entirely and intact. An expert examination and careful historical and geological research, so far as the society is able to go, leads to the supposition, not yet, however, a confirmed or indisputable belief, that the skeleton belongs to the long extinct genus Dinotherium, a quadruped of gigantic proportions, and of which only fragments have heretofore been found; also, that the tusk found in Stillwater in 1858, while excavating the sand on the present site of the First Presbyterian church, was a portion of the same genus of prehistoric monster. As to this isolated tusk, however, its incomplete or scanty, loose covering had permitted its disintegration to such an extent that only portions of the same had been preserved. The tusk or horn was originally, it would appear, some four feet in length and at least six inches in diameter at the base.

A portion of this relic is now in the collection of the State Historical society

at St. Paul, and is pronounced as being ivory equal in all respects, except the changes produced by ages of time, to that taken from the tusk of our day. The Brown's creek mastodonic remains are evidently those of a member of the order carnivora, judging from the structure and size of the teeth, the incisors being sharp almost to a point, while the molars are also trenchant and well adapted to the crushing of bones. The animal in size was some twelve feet in length, measuring from the proboscis to the termination of the vertebral column. The tail, as nearly as can be estimated, was some five feet in length. The skeleton itself is seven feet nine inches high at the shoulders and six feet five inches at the rump or hips, while the head is exactly three feet four inches in length, with a low, flat mugwumpian skull and powerful jaws.

The single tusk is three feet long, and six inches in diameter, the diameter at the tip being about five inches. The tip, instead of being pointed, as is usual with coracinate animals, is blunt and also hollow, forming a tube or cylinder and suggesting a choke-bore gun. The inner surface shows in places marks of erosion effected by repeated and forcible contact with some flinty substance, the ivory being worn in parallel grooves to the depth of a full quarter inch. Prof. Washburn is of the opinion that the horn or tusk was employed in the killing of the animal's prey, though not in the way of thrusting or impaling the object of attack, and here comes his plausible theory, which, if sustained, contributes to zoological knowledge a hitherto unsuspected fact, at once astounding and interesting—the fact that there once existed a genus of animals whose instinct and physical make-up led them to anticipate in a crude way the modern practice among mankind of using explosives or compressed air for hurling projectiles.