LOYAL WOMAN'S WORK

The Household, Conversation Club, Puzzles, etc.

The Happy Household.

BOUNCING BETTIE'S BUDGET.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: I have read with great pleasure the discussions of the C. C., but have never taken any part; but I am willing to let Indians, Negroes, Chinamen, and tight lacing girls have their own way. My complaint is not of them, but I have some friends who are the pinks of perfection in every way but one, and that is, they pinch my house plants. With an "Oh, isn't this sweet!" "How nice this smells!" "Jack, do smell this!" "Is this one sweet?" giving at each exclamation a pluck at my cherished plants, nearly pulling them up by the roots, while I stand by looking on in despair, for my plants are assuming an appearance as bad as though they had been through the war. I wish every one that reads this would never pick another plant. With this I send a few hints.

Baked Pears.—Pears are delicious baked by placing a dozen nice ones in a dripping pan, adding a pint of water and teacupful of sugar. Bake until they can be pierced with a fork, and serve with the strup that forms in cooking.

Corning Beef.—Pack the meat closely in a nice barrel and cover with a brine made strong enough to float a potato as large as two eggs; dissolve the salt thoroughly and pour over until the meat is covered with brine. Place a board on the meat and add a weight heavy enough to keep it well under the brine. On the fourth day add a teaspoonful of saltpeter sprinkled over the meat. The brine need never be boiled over.

SCRAP-BOOKS FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS.

Take six pieces muslin 10 inches wide by 18 long, sew them through the center so as to form a book. Paste pictures, bright letters and easy words, so that the muslin cannot be seen. Cover the backs with a large picture. Any one that can draw can cover the leaves with white paper and draw pictures on them. These will be both instructive and amusing. Will some one kindly send through the H. H. directions for making shells adhere to wood. —Bouncing Bettie.

MILDRED'S FRUIT CAKE.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: In response to request I send you a recipe for fruit cake, but have none for angels' food.

Fruit Cake.—Stir to a cream one pound each of brown sugar and butter, then the whites and yelks of 10 eggs beaten to a froth separately; add two wineglasses of brandy and one of wine. Mix or sift thoroughly one pound of flour with two teaspoonfuls of baking power, stirring into the dough and when ready for baking, add two pounds of seeded raisins, two of currants, one of citron, one-fourth of a pound of almonds blanched, and one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg.—Mildred B. Armentrout.

A PENNSYLVANIA GIRL'S RECIPES.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: I enjoy reading the Happy Household column so much that I want to send a few recipes.

Cocoanut Cup Cake.—One cupful of butter, two of sugar, three of flour, whites of four eggs, one cupful of milk, one large teaspoonful of baking powder or one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda, one-half small cocoanut grated and stirred in at the last. Bake in a loaf.

Angels' Food.—Dissolve one-half box gelatine in one quart of milk, beat together yelks of three eggs, one cupful of sugar, and juice of one lemon; stir into gelatine and milk, and let it barely come to a boil; flavor with Royal Extract Vanilla. When nearly cold, whip whites of eggs to stiff froth and stir through custard. Pour into molds and set away to cool.—Cora Kerstetter, Augustaville, Pa.

Editor's Chat.

Questions heretofore answered in the Curious Corner and Bible Brigade cannot, for the present, be reproduced. Our contributors must try something new.

If G. W. B. will learn the use of capitals his request will be granted.

Mrs. H. S. Rich, Jessup, Iowa, would remind a "Sure Searcher" that it was the Lord and not Job who asked the question, "Hath the rain a father?" See chapter 38.

J. P. must send on his illustrated rebus before an answer can be given.

In reply to J. B. M., will say the Club welcomes all contributions within the rules.

Nancy N. Moore, Energetic, W. Va., refers A. Forbes to 1st Chron., 2:13-16, and 2d Sam., 17:25, to prove that David's mother's name was Nahash. But the Editor would explain that the opinion of the best Bible scholars, sustained by the traditions of the Rabbis, is that Nahash was but another name for Jesse, the father of David. Nahash is a masculine name.

Cora Kerstetter's recipe for angels' food is not what is generally known by that name. Angels' food is a name applied to a very delicate white sponge cake. Who of the H. H. or C. C. will respond?

If Alva Jones will visit Toledo, O., he will see a pin factory in successful operation—the only one of the kind (Mr. Fontaine being of the company) which sticks the pins, folds the papers and prints the labels, turning out a complete paper every few moments.

Pleasant greetings are acknowledged from good friends of THE TRIBUNE, as follows: Carrie E. Bird, Belfast, Me.; Arabie A. Farley, Osceola, N. Y.; Eloise C. Bernard (daughter 29th U. S. Art. veteran), 624 East Gorham street, Madison, Wis.; Frank S. Brown (son of 139th Pa), Brown's, Beaver Co., Pa.; John Cameron, Loomis, Delaware Co., N. Y.; Lee S. Reading, Hammond, Ind.

Emma Hayhurst, Berryville, Carroll Co., Ark., sends the names of Harry, Willie, Frank, Otto, Ohio, Ted, Rupert, Norman, and Norville, from which Mabel Granger may select for her baby brother, and adds: "My papa was in Co. H, 2d Cal. Cav., and was discharged at Camp Douglas, Utah Ter., for amputation of toes from freezing at Bear River fight with Indians Jan. 27, 1863. Gen. P. Edward Connor commanding. He takes the Toledo *Blade*, *Inter Ocean*, and Kansas City *Times*, but likes THE TRIBUNE best, and could not do without it."

Conversation Club.

HONOR ROLL—BEST LETTERS.

First Honor—

Second Honor—Lottie L. Richardson, West Acton, Mass.; Dede S. Wilson, Chelsea, Iowa; O. H. McQuary, Greenfield, Ill.

PAUL REVERE'S RIDE.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: I saw this question in THE TRIBUNE: "Who is meant in Longfellow's poem of 'Paul Revere's Ride,' in these lines—

"'And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket ball.'"

In reply I would say that the first man wounded at the North Bridge was Luther Blanchard, a rifer in the Acton company. The first volley killed Capt. Isaac Davis (for whom our G.A.R. Post is named) and Abner Hosmer, both belonging to Acton. In the merciless pursuit of the British by the Provincials an encounter took place between James Hayward, of Acton, and a British soldier. Hayward, on going around a house for a drink of water, saw his antagonist coming through the house on the same errand. The Briton drew up his gun, remarking, "You are a dead man!" "And so are you!" answered Hayward. Both fired, and both fell mortally wounded.

I am the daughter of James E. Richardson, who served from May, 1861, to the close of the war. Three months' service, Co. B, 6th Mass.; then 6th N. H., and badly wounded at Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864. Returning to the front, but unable to act hardtack, he was assigned to the V. R. C. He is a devoted friend of THE TRIBUNE, as the many subscribers sent testify. Wishing THE TRIBUNE success in its noble work, I am, truly, yours,—Lottie S. Richardson, West Acton, Mass.

THE MORMON-CHINESE QUESTION—AFFIRMATIVE.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: I affirm that the Mormons are more dangerous to civil liberty in the United States than the Chinese, because they (the Mormons) conspire together to disobey the laws of this country, while the Chinese do not. Which is the worse of the two, then—a few "Celestials," who get happy once in awhile and find their way to the calaboose, or a set of people who, having established the great evil called polygamy, combine their efforts to carry out their views regardless of the laws of this Government and the laws of God, the Creator of all things? The Mormons are more dangerous to religious liberty in the United States than the Chinese. Where is the white man or woman who is in danger of being led off by the "heathen Chinee" to worship an image made of wood or stone? But the Mormons are a people who, living in an enlightened land, devise a scheme to satisfy the lusts of an evil heart by bringing men and women down almost to a level with the brute creation, and having the hardihood to clothe their pet scheme with the name of religion, claiming a direct revelation from the Father in Heaven, directing their infamous practices. And now we see them doing everything in their power to advance their false doctrines and seeking to evade all legislation by Congress looking to the destruction of this twin relic of barbarism called polygamy.—Silas M. Henderson, Concord, Ill.

DOWN IN TENNESSEE.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: In answer to various inquiries regarding Tennessee, its climate, soil, sources of wealth, etc., I will give a few facts which will answer the most important questions.

The average annual temperature is 60°. It snows here, to be sure; but no very deep snow, and it does not lay on the ground long at a time. The Winters are not extremely cold, nor the Summers oppressively hot. East Tennessee is free from contagious diseases, except the mild epidemics of measles, whooping cough, etc. Middle and West Tennessee have a highly productive soil, and the larger valleys and mountain slopes of East Tennessee are very fertile. The State has over 5,000 square miles of coal lands, and 28 Counties in which inexhaustible beds of iron ore, copper, zinc, and manganese are also found.

Tennessee was admitted into the Union in 1796, with a population of over 75,000. She was the last State to withdraw from the Union in 1861, and the first one to resume its full Federal relations after the war closed, being readmitted to representation in Congress in 1866.

John H. Pierce asks: "Does THE TRIBUNE follow the example of other papers in furnishing its writers with stationery supplies?" No; but I wish "other papers" would follow the example of THE TRIBUNE in giving a liberal space for young people to use in the improvement of their talents, leaving nothing to insure the publication of their letters except the merits of the article. Greeting to the Club. Have been ill with lung trouble, or would write.—Joe F. Dyer, Box 32, Whitesburg, Tenn.

CLUB WHISPERS.

Think the C. C. is just splendid, and wish father could ascertain the address of comrades of Co. D, 1st Ohio, who were in the battle of Stone River. It would help him get a much-needed pension. We have lived in Boston since the war. Father's name is Orrin I. Brown.—Mabel E. Brown, Boston, Mass.

Am delighted with the C. C. and would consider myself a member. Father served three years, and was a prisoner 14 months; he is so crippled as to go some of the time on crutches. How we should honor our dear parents for sacrificing so much for our sake.—Rosa McWilliams, Verdella, Mo.

The Editor of Loyal Woman's Work must respectfully decline numerous poems and other contributions, for which THE TRIBUNE has no space.

Comrade Frank H. Singer, Co. A, 5th W. Va. Cav., now of Johnstown, Pa., in answering the Egg Puzzle, kindly adds: "I would not be without THE TRIBUNE if it cost $5 per year, and there are many more old vets in this place that are of the same opinion."

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is just the paper to extend loyalty throughout the land. Father served in Co. H, 7th Ky. Cav., and my heart fills with admiration when I hear of the brave deeds of our gallant soldiers.—O. H. McQuary, Greenfield, Ill.

I just want to say "good morning" and be classed among the family, as my father was a veteran and Colonel of the 28th Iowa. Now, will some one in the Club favor me with the words of "Better Bide a Wee," a Scotch song.—Dede L. Wilson, Chelsea, Iowa.

I noticed in THE TRIBUNE of Dec. 17 the longest words, so-called. What do you think of this Indian chief's name? Mamma says, in her school days, it was one of the scholars' pastimes to see which could spell and pronounce every syllable of this word the fastest: Cys-ne-cris-ne-pro-van-tim-tam-tyre-lyre-fame-well-mack-esquire.—Aloni E. Loomis, Dundee, Ill.

The soldier has no friend if THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is not one. It grows better every week, and so says father, who served in Co. C, 17th Iowa, and was a prisoner at Florence, Milien and Andersonville. —Geo. W. Barnett, Eddyville, Iowa.

I experience great pleasure reading THE TRIBUNE. Father served in the 1st N. Y. Cav. in all the Virginia campaigns; was a scout on McClellan's staff in the seven days' fight; went with Hunter up the Valley; was captured, and started for Andersonville, but escaped by jumping from the train, and made his way to Grant's headquarters.—A. E. Sweet, Sedalia, Mo.

The Curious Corner.

[Answers to questions will not be published within two or three weeks after questions appear. So all will have a chance to send replies, and receive honorable mention with number answered.]

Patient Gleaners: John Lansdon, Bethany, Ill., 3; Alvin G. Weeks, Newport, Me., 2; H. M. Pierson, Woodville, N. Y.; Bert Lee, Middletown, N. Y., 1; Jennie Ford, Lansingville, N. Y., 1; Jennie Young, Burnside, Conn., 2; David T. Williams, Mineral Ridge, Trumbull Co., O., 3; Clara G. Darke, San Luis Obispo, Cal., 13; Josie W. Grant, Chester, N. J., 2; John; Tommy Marshall, Economy, Ind., 5; Ida L. Barr, Brecksville, O., 5.

The first census of the United States was taken in 1710. Population, 3,121,217.

Coal was first discovered on the Mauch Chunk Mountain, Pa., in 1791, near the Lehigh River, by a hunter.

Ethan Allen had 83 men when he commanded Fort Ticonderoga.

Seventy men constituted a company of minute men in the Revolution.

A sponge belongs to the animal kingdom.

1. When and where were the first watches made? —Howard M. Gonder, Waynesboro, Pa.

2. Where in the United States are pins manufactured?—Alvah Jones, Lynnville, Ind.

3. Who was President when Texas was admitted into the Union?—Alvin E. Loomis, Dundee, Ill.

4. What railroad before the war proved to be a greater success than any railroad ever operated in the United States, but on which station agents were not allowed to sell return tickets?—S. Pennell, Co. D, 6th Ohio Cav.

5. What was the sum paid for Florida? 6. What commanders, one British, the other American, were killed in the same battle and were buried side by side?—John Lansdon, Bethany, Ill.

7. Who was known as "Old Bullion," and why? 8. Who was Ichabod Crane? 9. What clergyman wore the first silk gown in America?—Meda Plympton, Pa.

BIBLE BRIGADE.

Sure Searchers: A. C. Mitchell, Bethany, Ill., 1; Bert Lee, Middletown, N. Y., 3; Mary Dawn Petty, North Dorset, Vt., 3; Nellie York, Blandinsville, Ill., 1; Lucretia Miles, Vincennes, Ind., 1; Ida S. Barr, Brecksville, O., 4; S. H. Barnett, Rynson's Station, Pa., 7; M. Lou Walker, Parkwood, Pa., 2; Tommy Marshall, Economy, Ind., 3; Elmer Hutchinson, Arlington, Ind., 1; Eddie L. Green, Greenwich, Conn., 9; Josie W. Grant, Chester, N. J., 4; Giles Grimes, Mantera, Ill., 4; Alvin G. Weeks, Newport, Me., 3; Howard M. Gonder, 5.

Noah was 600 years old when he began to build the Ark. (Gen., 7:6.)

Cornelius, the Roman, worshipped Peter. (Acts, 10:16.)

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James, 1:27.)

Our Lord will bring His holy angels at his second coming. (Matt., 25:31; Mark., 8:38, and so on.)

The Righteous will be blessed at the Judgment. They will eat of the Tree of Life and enter the holy city. (Rev., 22:14.)

Moses was slow of speech. (Ex., 4:10.)

Moses was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, but no man ever saw his grave. (Deut., 34:6.)

1. Who said we are free born?—Lou Walker, Parkwood, Pa.

2. How long was Noah building the ark?—J. A. Wells, Endicott, Neb.

3. How many times is the word Jehovah found in the Bible?—David T. Williams, Mineral Ridge, O.

4. Where in the Bible do you read, "Lay your hand upon your mouth?

5. Where is town clerk found?

6. Do angels have wings? Give references.—N. B. Blanton, Hazleton, Kan.

7. When did Omar and the Saracens take Jerusalem, and how long did they hold it?—E. P. Golden, Co. C, 2d N. Y. Cav.

8. Who in the Bible was said to be tender eyed? —C. F. Engle, Mifflin, O.

9. What did God first give man to eat? When were they permitted to eat flesh?—Eliza J. Watts, Croton, Iowa.

10. What was the first miracle of our Lord?—Cora Kerstetter.

11. Who was the daughter of a King, sister of a King and mother-in-law of a King?—S. H. Barnett, Ryerson Station, Pa.

BRAIN-RACKERS

From Our Young Contributors.

[TO CONTRIBUTORS: In sending answers name No. of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE in which the puzzle is found. Answers of guessers may be forwarded within a week after receiving this TRIBUNE. Do not make numerical enigmas of your own names. Answers must accompany all puzzles forwarded.

PUZZLE SOLVERS AND THEIR NUMBERS.

Marry Dawn Petty, North Dorset, Vt., 9; Walter J. Dale, Ann Arbor, Mich., 3; Mabel E. Betz, Ashland, W. T., 9; Lizzie Burrow, Oakland, Iowa, 7; W. F. Cox, Pittsburg, Kan., 10; Hary J. Peck, Mooreville, O., 4; Jennie Young, Burnside, Conn., 5; N. E. Curry, Hope, Dak., 5; Jennie Ford, Lansingville, N. Y., 4; Annie R. Alchorn, Fall River, Mass., 7; O. H. McQuary, Greenfield, Ill., 2; Alvin G. Weeks, Newport, Me., 5; Charles A. Gray, White Heath, Ill., 1; Ernest C. Littlefield, Lincoln, Me., 6; Charles H. Harrington, Dayton, O., 6; H. M. Pierson, Woodville, N. Y., 2; J. B. Mesny, 3124 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Ill., 4; Bert Lee, Middletown, N. Y., 3; John Lansden, Bethany, Ill., 2; O. B. Miller, Stoneham, Mass., 1; E. P. Golden, 2d N. Y. Cav.; Howard M. Gonder, Waynesboro, Pa., 3; John Sanders, Bethany, Ill., 5; Jacob P. Hills, Trenton, N. J., 2; S. Pennell, Co. D, 6th O. Cav., Girard, O.; Lee S. Redding, Hammond, Ind., 2; James E. Alger, Swampscott, Mass., 9; Tommy Marshall, Economy, Ind., 20. (two numbers THRUNE); M. Lou Walker, Parkwood, Pa.; Alva Johns, Lynnville, Ind., 2; Nelson Zook, Bethany, Ill., 2; Ida S. Barr, Brecksville, O., 2; Rosa McWilliams, Verdella, Mo., 1; A. C. Mitchell, Bethany, Ill., 5; James Tyler, Whitewater, Wis; Alma L. Olds, Carleton, Ore., 2.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN TRIBUNE DEC. 31.

Rebus—Connaught (C on naught).

Conundrums—1. One you can shut up, the other you can't. 2. His foot. 3. Because you can track him by the holes in the ground. 4. When she was rocking Ham (Rockingham.) 5. A riddle-book. 6. When it rains cats and dogs. 7. Bolster—lobster. 8. When it is ground. 9. Because everyone should have one of his own and not borrow from his neighbor.

An Ancient Poet—Shakspere.

A Noted Writer—Harriet Beecher Stowe.

A Puzzle—Seventy cents. One of the widows was the mother of the other two.

Decapitations—1. Want, ant. 2. Coat, oat. 3. Hand, and.

Enigma—I. Motherwell. 2. Swift. 3. Longfellow.

An Old Adage—Money is the root of evil.

A British General—Cornwallis.

CURTAILMENTS—ADDITIONS.

1. Curtail a tree and leave a polated instrument.

2. Curtail an iron used to stir the fire and leave a small bag.

3. Curtail appointment and leave a small animal. —Howard M. Gonder, Waynesboro, Pa.

Addition: Add to a grain a partition and to a partition a verb, and find the name of a British General.—Mary Dawn Petty, North Dorset, Vt.

INVERTED PYRAMID.

Across.

1. To enter again.
2. A process for preserving fruits.
3. A girl's name.
4. A novel.

Down.

1. A consonant.
2. A boy's name.
3. A period of time.
4. A number.
5. A number.
6. An affix to change a verb to a noun.
7. A consonant.

—Ella S. North, Hope, D. T.

HIDDEN AMERICAN CITIES.

1. To peruse; a string.
2. A gate; to discmbark.
3. Remote; to proceed.
4. To cover with thin coat of metal; applied to fashionable circles.
5. To keep busy; part of the head.

—U. E. Curry, Hope, D. T.

CONUNDRUMS, NEW AND OLD.

1. How many apples did Adam and Eve eat in the Garden of Eden?—S. E. Fox.

2. What will make more noise under a gate than a pig?—Eda Seymour.

3. What is lengthened by being cut at both ends? —Lillian Van Horn.

4. What roof covers the nearest tenant?

5. Why is kissing a girl like eating soup with a fork?—Polly Tio, Dickenson Center, N. Y.

6. Why is a negro's mouth like a book?

7. I have not got it and I don't want it, but if I had it I would not take all the world for it?

—Elic Tio, Dickenson Center, N. Y.

A DIAMOND ALL MAY POSSESS.

I am indispensable to every loyal household. To ascertain what I am take two A's, one B, one E, two I's, one L, three N's, one O, one R, two Y's, one U. What am I?—Chas. Smith, Keyport, N. Y.

MATHEMATICAL PUZZLE.

A country woman carrying eggs to a garrison had three guards to pass; she sold at the first, half the number she had and half an egg more; at the second, half of what remained and half an egg more; at the third, half of the remainder and half an egg more. When she arrived at the market place she had 35 eggs. How many had she at first? —O. J. Baer, Montmorenci, Ind.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My I is in home, but not in street;
2 is in hands, but not in feet;
3 is in poverty, but not in riches;
4 is in gypsies, but not in witches;
5 is in idleness, but not in work;
6 is in Indians, but not in Turk;
7 is in England, but not in Spain;
8 is in loss, but not in gain;
9 is in stone, but not in wood.
My whole can be found, if you try to be good.
—Jacob P. Hills, Trenton, N. J.

BIBLICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 18 letters:
My 4, 10, 18, 13, an ancient;
1, 11, 12, 7, a period of time;
14, 16, 15, 5, to work;
10, 8, 18, 7, a lovely place;
5, 2, 15, 7, gaunt;
6, 3, 12, to give assent;
17, 9, 13, 10, an instrument;
4, 1, 14, 10, 5, delicious.
My whole is found in the Bible.
—Harry J. Peck, Monroeville, O.

BENNIE'S ENIGMA.

My I is in man, but not in lady;
2 is in eating, but not in drinking;
3 is in cat, but not in dog;
4 is in cold, but not in heat;
5 is in anecdote, but not in story.
My whole is the name of a sacred city.
—Bennie Housel (12), Nichols, N. Y.

HISTORICAL ENIGMA.

My I is in Savage Station, but not in Cedar Creek;
2 is in Wilderness, but not in Vicksburg;
3 is in Winchester, but not in Cold Harbor;
4 is in Antietam, but not in Fredericksburg;
5 is in Gettysburg, but not in Fisher's Hill;
6 is in Chancellorsville, but not in Bull Run;
7 is in Gaines's Mill, but not in White Oak Swamp.
—Harry Blair (9), Eyota, Minn.

SUNDAY MEDITATION.

Practical Duties Taught by a Study of the International Sunday School Lesson Appointed for Jan. 31. Dan., 1: 8-21.

[One reading these notes should first carefully study the paragraph from the Holy Scriptures as indicated above.]

The prophetic part of the Old Testament reaches from the Book of Isaiah to that of Malachi. There are 16 such books. The first four, viz., Isa., Jer., Lam., and Eze., are known as the Greater Prophecies; the last 12 as the Lesser Prophecies. The Book of Daniel is the first of the dozen Minor Prophets.

Daniel was of the first company of the Kingdom of Judah to be taken captive. The time at which he was seized and borne off from Jerusalem to Babylon gives date to what is known as the Captivity of Judah, viz., B. C. 604. Nebuchadnezzar made many captives. It had been prophecied by Isaiah the Judahites should be thus punished. (2 Ki., 20:18; Is., 39:7.) Daniel was but a boy when made a prisoner of war, being less than 14 years old. It was hard for one so young to be carried away from home and country. Nebuchadnezzar ordered the most promising of the Jewish captives to be put into a college and prepared to be of service in the royal court. Dan., 1:4, furnishes an ideal of the personal appearance of the young Hebrew captive. Plato tells us the age of students entering the royal schools in Persia was about 14. The course of study covered three years. Xenophon gives the age of 17 as that at which young men arrived when entering on the position of attendants on the King. Daniel would soon graduate and be in readiness for regal service.

During the events of the lesson Jehoiakim was King of Judah.

We find ourselves in Babylon, 500 miles east of Jerusalem. It was the capital of Chaldea, 14 miles square, surrounded by a wall 300 feet high and 80 feet wide. From the wall rose 250 towers; 100 gates gave ingress and egress. Walls and buildings were made of brick manufactured from clay at hand, while bitumen served for mortar.

To this city the captives from Jerusalem were taken. Among them was Daniel. The King of Babylon needed court attendants. He wanted men of ability. Such could be found among the Chaldean youth. He, however, had apprehensions that young men from the leading families of his own kingdom might, in their ambition, prove troublesome to him. He judged it best to raise up as royal attendants the noblest, ablest, wisest of his foreign subjects. Such would not be so likely to become factious or rebellious. He had a school for training such, so that they might become familiar with the Babylonian language, literature, history and customs. Four were chosen from the Jewish captives—Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Nebuchadnezzar was anxious the students at his political school should have the best of preparation, not only of mind but of body. He ordered his servants (eunuchs) to provide them with bills of fare corresponding to his own *menu*. He wished them to have royal provisions and beverages. Such food and drink were therefore served to Daniel. But he utterly refused to partake of either. The Jews were very particular as to diet. This was a result of instructions given by the Lawgiver of Heaven through his Prophet Moses. Certain kinds of food were forbidden, e. g., that of swine. Then animals the flesh of which could be eaten must be killed in a prescribed form, and hence Jews had and have their own butchers. Greatest care was taken to have all blood thoroughly washed off the meat. (Deu., 12:23-25.) The Prophet Ezekiel was conscientious as to his food. (4:13-14.) So was Peter. (Acts, 10:14.) The custom of offering sacrifices by the heathen to their gods made the matter still more complex. If one ate viands or drank beverages on which pagan priests had asked a heathen blessing, or which had been borne from idolatrous altars to the dining room, he would be practically joining in the worship of such pagan deities. Daniel could not thus even indirectly give countenance to heathen devotion. (Hos., 9:3, 4; Acts, 15:20.) It seems also that Daniel might have objected to a dietary so rich as that of the court. He foresaw effeminacy in luxuriance.

While Daniel was firm he was courteous. Before declining outright he kindly requested the lord chamberlain to permit him to eat more plain diet. It is well to try to prevent any unpleasantness.

Daniel saw that to observe Nebuchadnezzar's requirement was to disobey God, to compromise the true religion, to be disloyal to his own nation. Though so kindly in manner as to win the love and favor of the eunuchs (servants) of the King, yet he was so determinate in matters of conscience that nothing could move nor intimidate him.

When the chief officer having in charge the dietary of the college expresses fears of being beheaded if the students fail to maintain good health and fine appearance, Daniel proposes a test. Instead of rich meats and wines, he suggests a trial for 10 days on pulse and water, assuring Melzar the Jewish captives would be better off in flesh and strength than they who followed the royal diet. By pulse we mean beans, peas, vegetables, herbs, as contrasted with a diet of flesh, game, fish. The four Jewish captives were permitted to use a vegetarian's bill of fare. At the end of 10 days Melzar was pleased with the result. The Hebrew youths were more ruddy, fresh and healthful in appearance than they who followed the heathen *menu*. Afterward Melzar granted Daniel and his three companions privilege to have their chosen dishes. After the three years had passed, (V. 5,) the four graduates, Daniel and his three fellow-captives, were presented to Nebuchadnezzar. The King found they excelled all the rest of the school. He hence selected them as his special advisers. They even surpassed in wisdom and understanding the professional and experienced magi. The scientists and philosophers, called in the lesson magicians and astrologers, were outdone 10 times over by the four young men from Jerusalem. It was well indeed for Babylon that one so learned, good, kind, courteous, firm, far-seeing as Daniel was preserved in life so long. He lived all through the 70 years of captivity; dying, probably, 85 years old. He was taken captive at about the time Nebuchadnezzar became King, 604 B. C., and lived during the 43 years reign of this Babylonian ruler. Then Daniel lived on during the reigns of Belshazzar, Darius, and three years of the reign of Cyrus, dying at about 500 B. C.

Catarrh and Bronchitis Cured.

A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, Catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dr. J. Flynn & Co., 117 East 15th St., New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

OUR RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

CULTIVATION OF CORN.

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to say a few words about corn and its cultivation through the medium of the agricultural department of your truly excellent paper. There is no doubt many readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE who are growing this great staple are or ought to be interested in the improvement of the quality and quantity of the corn crop. Truly, Corn is King. The corn crop of the United States is thousands of millions of bushels yearly; indeed, the corn crop of youthful Iowa alone is estimated at hundreds of millions of bushels. There is no doubt that the corn crop of Iowa has been greatly overestimated for the year 1884,—at least one hundred millions of bushels,—as both the quality and quantity of the corn crop of Iowa for the year 1884 is below the average.

Twenty-five years ago it was thought impossible to grow corn in Iowa, but to-day we are growing the finest corn in the world. This great result has been brought about not by chance, but by selecting and planting early varieties of corn. At the same time the corn crop of Iowa and, in fact, the whole country, can be increased fully 50 per cent. both in quality and quantity. This can be done without increasing the acreage, and the only way to bring about this gratifying result is by planting none but good, reliable seed of early, hardy varieties. Doubtful seed is dear at any price, and it is poor economy to plant it. There are thousands of farmers who plant poor seed because it is cheap. They will cheerfully pay from $50 to $100 for a pig and from $500 to $800 for a calf to improve their herds, but are not willing to go to a little extra trouble and expense to improve and increase the best-paying crop on the farm. Good, reliable seed is the first step towards a good crop. Pure-bred, reliable and acclimated seed is just as essential to grow a good crop of corn from as pure-bred animals to improve your herds. Thorough cultivation in the early stages of growth is the next important step towards a good crop of corn. From the time the seed germinates until the plant attains a growth of from two to three feet high it should be thoroughly cultivated, but in high latitudes, where the season is short, deep cultivation should not be continued, as deep cultivation after a certain stage of growth will make the crop late. Late and deep cultivation will increase the size of the stalk, but in doubtful seasons will endanger the crop by making it late and liable to be spoiled by early frost, but shallow or surface cultivation can be continued with profit until the stalk has attained its full growth. Every intelligent farmer knows by experience that it is utterly impossible to grow a good crop of corn and a big crop of rag weeds at the same time and on the same piece of land. Again, corn being a semi-tropical plant, should be encouraged to grow rapidly to insure maturity, more especially in high latitudes where the season is short. Again, it is always best to procure seed as far north as corn will mature. It is a well-demonstrated fact that northern-grown corn that is fully matured is best for seed purposes. Corn can be taken from north to south any distance for seed purposes, and will be followed with good results. On the other hand, planting southern-grown corn in northern latitudes is always followed by failure. Again, northern-grown corn being richer in oil will produce a stronger, more vigorous and hardy plant. The loss to Iowa alone in the year 1882 and 1883 was millions of dollars by planting southern or Nebraska seed. Again, late and large southern corn has a tendency to grow large, barren stalks when planted in higher latitudes. Indeed, all large varieties of corn have a characteristic of growing barren stalks, and those that are not barren grow a small ear very high up on the stalk; on the other hand, corn of northern origin and growth has a characteristic of growing a short, stocky stalk, with the ear well down on the stalk, and every stalk producing at least one good ear. All intelligent farmers will agree with me when I say large barren stalks are not profitable; they impoverish the soil without giving any return. The writer has spent many years in experimenting and growing corn in a small way, and he finds the only way to improve corn is by selection and cultivation. Always bear in mind not to plant poor seed. Plant none but good seed; plant at the proper time; plant no more than can be properly cultivated, and you will be both pleased and benefited by the result.—A. L. GODDARD, Fort Atkinson, Iowa.

LEAVES FOR FERTILIZING.

Very few farmers are fully aware of the value of forest leaves as a fertilizing element, and also as a substitute for straw as bedding. In localities where leaves can be obtained the thrifty farmer should not fail to avail himself of them. An article in a recent number of the *New England Farmer* gives a very good exposition of the subject, as follows:

"The special value of leaves for fertilizing purposes lies in the fact that they combine in themselves all the mineral constituents of plants in proper proportion. Through the laws of adaptation they nourish growing plants without the disadvantages arising from an excess or deficiency of one or more ingredients. Every particle that is found in a leaf is capable, when decayed, of entering into new combinations and again arising into a tree for the purpose of contributing to the production of more leaves and flowers and fruit. It is patent that the less we rob the soil of the perishing members of vegetation which furnish the means of annually renewing its fertility the better it will be for future growths.

"Leaves contain the carbon, or humus, together with the alkaline substances essential to the support of growing plants. When dry they are said to contain about six pounds of inorganic matter, suitable for plant food, in every 100 pounds. This is inclosed in a vegetable tissue, which rapidly decays, and during decomposition various gases are evolved which further supply the want of growing plants. All other manures are more expensive. Leaves cost only the gathering, usually a light and pleasant work. They constitute a perfectly safe manure. They may be applied to plants, or when decomposed may be brought into contact with seeds without any danger of injury. Applied to the roots of trees or growing plants in the form of a mulch, leaves are valuable in preventing the rapid evaporation of the moisture in the soil, holding it in reserve for the use of trees or plants, while by their slow decay they are constantly supplying their fertilizing elements.

"The greatest value of leaves is probably found in their use and mechanical influence when incorporated with tenacious or stiff, clayey soils, in rendering them porous, holding them open to the air and the showers, keeping them in a more fitting state for the free admission of moisture to the roots of the plants, as well as to the general promotion of various crops. In Scotland leaves are allowed three or four years to perfectly decompose, occasionally being turned. Here this would be regarded as impracticable. But, though bulky in proportion to their weight, leaves should be utilized wherever they are available, for the reasons indicated. Even their very bulk and lightness, in certain cases and for some purposes, give them a special value."

Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute.

This widely celebrated institution, located at Buffalo, N. Y., is organized with a full staff of eighteen experienced and skillful Physicians and Surgeons, constituting the most complete organization of medical and surgical skill in America, for the treatment of all chronic diseases, whether requiring medical or surgical means for their cure. Marvelous success has been achieved in the cure of all nasal, throat and lung diseases, liver and kidney diseases, diseases of the digestive organs, bladder diseases, diseases peculiar to women, blood taints and skin diseases, rheumatism, neuralgia, nervous debility, paralysis, epilepsy (fits), spermatorrhea, impotency and kindred affections. Thousands are cured at their homes through correspondence. The cures of the worst ruptures, pile tumors, varicocele, hydrocele and strictures are guaranteed, with only a short residence at the institution. Send 10 cents in stamps for the Invalids' Guide-Book (168 pages), which gives all particulars. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

FITS.—All Fits stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. No Fits after first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and $2.00 trial bottle free to Fit cases. Send to Dr. Kline, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Mention The National Tribune.

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

Replies to Questions on a Variety of Interesting Subjects.

[*To Correspondents.*—Write questions on a separate sheet of paper, give full name and address, and mark it "Correspondents' Column." No attention will be paid to communications that are not accompanied with full name and address of writer. Our readers are requested to inclose a stamp for reply to their inquiries. Postal cards will be replied to by mail *only*. Replies by mail will ordinarily be made within a week, and if in this column within three weeks.]

S. C., Mt. Pleasant, Pa.—1. Can an attorney charge a fee, or anything, for services rendered in the prosecution of a pension claim, when he is not the attorney of record, but merely assists in getting the evidence to complete said claim? 2. In case a soldier's pension was restored last August, '85, and the voucher for same was mailed to claimant at said time, but was directed wrong, and claimant did not get it, but voucher was returned by U. S. Pension Agent to the Commissioner of Pensions, what steps should claimant take to obtain the voucher for his money, after having written several times to the Commissioner of Pensions, giving his correct post-office address? *Answer.* 1. The Pension Office will not allow him any fee. 2. The Commissioner of Pensions is the only person who can remedy the error. You should write him again on the subject.

Troy, Neb.—Does a man's residence on a homestead or pre-emption begin when he commences to build, or orther work on the place, or does he have to actually reside on the land before his time is counted in proving up? *Answer.* The period of continuous residence and cultivation begins to run at the date of actual settlement.

E. A. K., Glen Wild, N. Y.—I enlisted Aug. 8, 1862, was examined by a Board of Government Surgeons, passed as a sound, able-bodied man, and accepted into the service as such; was discharged at Fatmouth, Va., on Surgeon's certificate of disability, Feb. 9, 1863; was drafted June 10, 1864; was examined by Examining Surgeon King at Easton, Pa.; was held in the service until the close of the war. Applied for pension in 1879 for spinal disease, the result of typhoid fever; had said fever in first service. Pension was rejected on the ground that the alleged spinal disease is the result of chronic rheumatism, which existed prior to the enlistment, as shown by Surgeon's certificate of discharge. Said Surgeon was a total stranger to me before I enlisted. I had always lived in York State until the Spring of 1852. 1. Why is it the Commissioner of Pensions should hold to that evidence as sufficient to rebut the evidence of 20 or more competent men who knew me prior to the war? 2. Would not my being drafted and held as such, be sufficient evidence to show that I didn't have chronic rheumatism prior to first service