

ANECDOTES OF THOMAS A. EDISON. NOVEL WAY OF GETTING RID OF BORES.

Resists Attempts to Cure His Deafness—Sometimes Hears More than Is Supposed.

Thomas A. Edison is an excellent source of anecdotes. This is demonstrated in a book about him by Francis Arthur Jones which Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. are shortly to publish.

WHEN HE COULD HEAR.

At last the humorist of the party remarked to a companion in an ordinary tone of voice: "I guess he would hear if we asked him to take a drink."

"The inventor, who is temperate in the use of liquors, turned about, looked the young man squarely in the eye, and smilingly replied: "Yes, perhaps I should; but no, thank you, not to-day."

Edison has strong opinions regarding diet. He firmly believes that half the ills that flesh is heir to are due to incorrect and excessive eating.

"What is the eating hours in this year hotel?" he said to the clerk.

"Breakfast, the clerk answered, seven to eleven; lunch, eleven to three; dinner, three to eight; supper, eight to twelve."

"Jerusalem!" exclaimed the astonished farmer, "when am I going to get time to see the town?"

Visitors to the laboratory are sometimes so numerous that Mr. Edison will not grant an interview unless they are well known to him.

On one occasion a bona fide friend who had known him from childhood called at the laboratory with a companion, and was greatly offended when told that Mr. Edison was very busy and could not receive visitors.

"What!" said the caller, indignantly, "do you mean to say that Thomas Edison won't see me? Why, I have known him intimately all my life."

"Oh, no, I don't say he won't see you," replied the man, "but Mrs. Edison waited here for two hours this morning and had to go away without seeing him, and I don't suppose you know him any better than she does."

Occasionally when visitors are admitted they stay so long that they become nuisances. Edison once disposed of a party of unwelcome callers in an unusual way. In his experiments with explosives he has produced some so sensitive that a drop placed on a table would explode if any one shouted.

"You see," he said, by way of explanation, "the thing is in a state of very delicate equilibrium. It is a question depending upon surrounding conditions as to which it will do—remain a liquid or turn into gas. When this balance is about equal it takes very little to incline it toward a gaseous form, so that even the sound of the voice will produce the effect. And so would a heavy weight dropped on the floor."

While conducting his experiments in explosives he was visited one morning by a company of clergymen. The inventor treated them, as he treats every one, courteously, but as the day wore on and there was no sign of their going, he began to study how to get rid of them without offending them. He casually remarked that he was experimenting with very delicate explosives, and would be sorry if any of them were injured.

This had only the effect of increasing their interest. They got in the way and distracted him by foolish questions. He finally became nervous—and almost irritable. A method of eliminating them from the scene finally occurred to him. Taking some of the material with which he had been experimenting he put a drop or two where there was no danger of blowing a minister through the window. The clergymen watched his action with added interest, apparently feeling no uneasiness, and crowded around him. The inventor seated himself at his bench and again took up his experiments. Suddenly he jumped up shouting, "I have it!" at the same moment knocking a board from the table as if by accident. It fell to the floor with a crash. What followed was even more disastrous than Edison had intended.

EVEN EDISON WAS STARTLED. The bottles were broken, but several glass bottles were smashed, a piece of electrical apparatus was disabled, a table overturned and the ministers were frightened. They put their hands to their heads, fearful of something worse to follow.

"What happened?" one of them exclaimed. "Such explosions are constantly happening," replied Edison, calmly. "I'm glad to say that they haven't killed any one since the fall. You never can tell when one will happen, but I hope you will not be treated to another today."

The clergymen declared that it was all intensely interesting, but they would better not remain longer. Grabbing their hats, they hastily bade the inventor goodby and did what Edison had long been wishing them to do—left.

The faculty for remembering faces is especially well developed in Mr. Edison. An inci-

dent that exhibits this and amused Mr. Edison greatly happened recently. A certain great American factory, devoted to the manufacture of electrical appliances, attracts many visitors from all quarters of the globe. One engineer at the factory, who may be called "Steve," is frequently detailed to serve as guide, because of his fund of information and his lucid explanations. Recently he was assigned to conduct through the plant a guest from the West—a light haired little man. The visitor seemed duly impressed with all he saw, but made no comment. He was apparently drinking in and silently criticizing every word which young "Steve" uttered. That usually confident person grew nervous and suspicious.

"This fellow," he thought, "must be some smart electrician, and he is just taking all my statements with a huge grain of salt." At last, when they had returned to the office and "Steve" was feeling limp and tired, the little man held out his hand and said: "I am exceedingly obliged to you. I don't know much about the electrical trade. I am a barber. If you ever come to Chicago, look me up."

TOOK HIM FOR ANOTHER BARBER. "Steve" had recovered from this and was beginning to look and feel like himself once more, when he was again detailed to escort a visitor through the works. This man also was silent and uncommunicative. Consequently, "Steve" rather hastily concluded that he had another "barber" to entertain. The quiet visitor showed little surprise or appreciation of the many remarkable machines, and "Steve" was aggrieved. For the honor of the works he determined to develop a little enthusiasm in the taciturn visitor. He began to "color" his descriptions of the wonderful inventions for utilizing electricity. He pointed out a dynamo which he said was so powerful that it never had been and never could be operated to its full capacity, owing to the utter impossibility of controlling the current. He gave a dissertation on the incandescent lamp and its manufacture, asserting that its discovery was due to the accidental observation of a lightning flash playing on a two-pronged fork in a pickle bottle. Waxing eloquent he stretched out his right arm and exclaimed: "And so that estimable boon to mankind, the incandescent lamp, was born!"

At this moment the visitor stepped up to a workman who was winding coils, slapped him on the back, and said: "Hello, Dan!" The man thus addressed started, looked up, and his face flushed with surprise and pleasure as he grasped the outstretched hand.

"God bless my soul! It's my old boss!" he exclaimed. "Mr. Edison, how are you?" "Steve" staggered back and sat down on a casting. He tried to think it over; to recollect some of the stuff he had been telling, but his mind was a blur. One thing only stood out distinctly. He had told the "Wizard of Menlo Park," the inventor of the incandescent lamp, that it was the evolution of a pickle bottle and a two-pronged fork! Then he disappeared.

EDISON GETS EVEN. A week or two later he received from Mr. Edison a book on electrical wonders, written for juveniles, on the flyleaf of which was a pen drawing of a fork in a pickle bottle, and below the inscription: "And so that estimable boon to mankind, the incandescent lamp, was born!"

One of the qualifications of a good newspaper man is a little knowledge about everything. There are a few, however, who have not yet mastered all of the details of the phenomena and possibilities of electricity. Occasionally one of these receives an "assignment" to procure an interview with Mr. Edison. The "Wizard of Electricity" is always kindly disposed toward newspaper men, and when he discovered that one who had been sent to obtain an interview was having difficulty in understanding all of the technicalities of electrical science, he put his visitor at ease by remarking that he knew much more about electricity than many who call at the laboratory. Then he asked if he had ever told him the story about the freeman he had once met in Canada.

"In a certain Canadian town," said Mr. Edison, "where I was running a telegraph office in my youth, a new factory, with a fine engine house was being put up. I visited this factory one day to see the engine. The engineer was out, and the freeman, a new hand, showed me about. As we stood admiring the engine together, I said: "What horsepower has this engine?"

"The freeman gave a loud laugh. 'Horsepower!' he exclaimed. 'Why, man, don't you know that this machine goes by steam?'"

On one occasion Mr. Edison was asked by a visitor to name his principal inventions. With characteristic reluctance he replied: "Well, first and foremost the idea of the electric lighting station; then, let me see, what have I invented? Oh, there was the mimeograph and also the electric pen, and the carbon telephone and the incandescent lamp and its accessories, and the quadruplex telegraph and the automatic telegraph and the phonograph and the kinetoscope and—ah—and, I don't know, a whole lot of other things."

MEXICAN GOAT RAISING. Charles M. Freeman, consul at Durango, gives the following account of the present market conditions of the goat raising industry of the Mexican State of Durango: "The last year has, on account of the extended and severe drought, and the drought and the loss of the poorest in many years for those engaged in goat raising. For that reason a person contemplating an investment in that business in this state can buy goats, either fat or thin, at greatly reduced prices from the usual price. The average price in Mexican currency (1 of which is worth 20 cents American) is from \$1.50 to \$2.00. At present fat goats can be bought for \$2.75, and the best thin ones for \$2.00.

What hides are selling for \$2 a kilo (2.2 pounds). The usual price is about \$1.75. On account of the financial conditions prevailing in the United States, the demand for hides to which all goatskins are exported from this consular district, the price has dropped. Only one firm is buying. The lack of obtainable prices. The two conditions which breeders have had to meet, namely, the drought and the loss of the hide market, make an opportunity for a person contemplating an investment in the business.

What hides are paid \$10 a month and rations, the latter costing about \$7 more. Kids are dropped one each seven months and the average for a seven months is about thirteen hundred per cent over the usual price. The kids dropped 80 per cent are saved by careful handlers. Land suitable for breeding goats is not so far as can be learned, on the market for lease. There are several tracts of land in this vicinity which are called good goat land, but none containing 500,000 acres. In several years the tallow obtained from the goats killed pass all export duties. Tallow is worth 15 cents a kilo.

IN THE PIT. He was an excitable man, and was accompanied by his wife and baby to the pit of the theatre. At the end of the first act the baby began to cry, and he was asked to take the child out. But it wept to cry, and he was allowed to remain. Near the end of the second act it recommenced its discordant cries, and he was offered his money back to leave the theatre. He refused indignantly, but when in the third act the play began to pall and the baby was sleeping peacefully he whispered eagerly to his wife, "Look! I have a little idea to make my money!"—Dundee Advertiser.

A PARLIAMENTARY STRATEGY. It was at an informal session, after one of the regular meetings of the House of Commons, that the New Hampshire minister told some of his best stories. "There is one man in our chamber," he said, "who is a long-winded fellow, but he fires everybody out."

"At one time it was suggested by one of the deacons of the church that the extreme length of this good man's remarks at prayer meeting, we might make a five-minute limit. At the next meeting, we were cheering to us all to see that when the long-winded man rose to speak he held his open watch in his left hand."

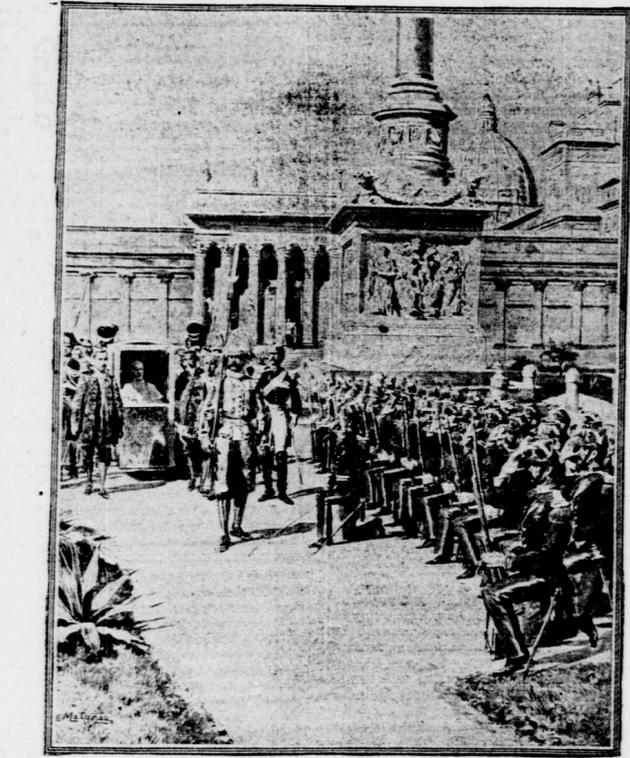
"When the limit was all but reached, he said: 'Finding my watch hands that I have only a few seconds left, in which to speak, and having much to say, I will throw the rest of my remarks into the form of a prayer.'—Youth's Companion.

THE ABORIGINAL PORTO RICANS.

SOME CHARACTERISTIC CUSTOMS RECALLED.

Work of Bureau of American Ethnology in Reproducing Life of Vanished Race.

It is narrated that when Christopher Columbus first visited the island afterward named Porto Rico the naked natives were in the habit of chanting a story when they performed one of their ceremonial dances which, in the light of history, is of especial interest. The tale which they told and expressed in this fashion was the prophecy of a "zemil," or god, made to the father of Guariouex, a cacique. Fasting for five days by way of penitence and chastising himself, he bowed before his household god and besought a glimpse of the future of his people. "Before many years there will come to the island complete silence, and told the children they might run out and play. Indeed, he would permit only one or two of the chief persons of the household to remain. The sick man was seated in the centre of the hut. Then the doctor took a couple of herbs and wrapped them up in the "web of an onion half a quarter long." This he bruised in his hands until it became a pulp. It was passed around and then swallowed by the patient as an emetic. Then a song was sung and a torch lighted and some "juice" taken, the kind of juice not being indicated in the records. The doctor next began a series of manipulations. Turning the patient around two or three times as if he should say, "Which way are you looking now?" he grabbed him by the legs and literally "pulled" them after feeling the thighs, the knees and the calves. Then he imitated the action of pulling something off the nether limbs. Going to the door, he pretended to blow something from his mouth into the outer air. "Be gone to the mountain, or the sea, or whither thou wilt," said he. Turning about, he clasped his hands together. Blowing upon his hands, he applied his lips to various parts of the body of the patient, sucking in his "blast" as he did so, as if drawing something out.



THE POPE IN HIS PALANQUIN PASSING THROUGH THE VATICAN AND THE GUARDIA PALATINA SALUTING.

Although the temporal power of the Pope ceased in 1870 his holiness still maintains a sovereign state within the Vatican, perhaps nowhere so strongly marked as in the existence of the guard, which is uniformed in scarlet trousers and blue tunics. The leading figure in front of the chair is that of one of the Swiss Guard, whose uniform in red, yellow and black was designed by Raphael. Behind are officers of the Noble Guard, in which the late Pope's nephew, Count Camillo Pecci, is an officer.

and certain men with long beards and bodies completely clothed. These strangers will sever men in twain with one stroke of their swords. They will bring fire and ashes, drive forth ancient gods and destroy the customary rites of the people. They will shed blood and carry into captivity." Thus spake the "zemil" to the progenitor of Guariouex.

The prophecy of the "zemil" has been so completely fulfilled that it is well-nigh impossible to paint a complete picture reproducing the life of these prehistoric dwellers of this American possession. Jesse Walter Fewkes, of the bureau of American ethnology, has been attempting to gather up the fragments and piece together a portrait of the people the eyes of Columbus and Ponce de Leon looked upon. The result has just been presented in the twenty-fifth annual report of the bureau of American ethnology.

Setting a fish to catch a fish was one of their methods of supplying their table. The eel-like sucking fish, the remora, doubtless attached to some kind of leash, was utilized. Poison served the purpose of a net when they wished to catch a large quantity of fish. The water of a pool was poisoned.

HOW WIVES WERE SECURED. The method of Jacob in earning his wives was followed by the poorer natives. When a cacique had made his choice of a wife he sent a present every day for a month to the bride's father. When the dowry agreed upon had been paid then the bride's hair was cut as a sign that she was a matron. The poorer persons, those who had difficulty in keeping a griddle on their waists, so to speak, they were so poverty stricken, and tried to get the dowry by becoming the servant of their prospective fathers-in-law. Sometimes the wives practised immolation upon the death of their lords by permitting themselves to be buried alive when the body was interred.

Whether salt was scarce or not is uncertain, but the method used in catching parrots would suggest that it was too scarce anyway to be sprinkled on birds' tails. A child ten or twelve years old bearing a tame parrot on his head would climb a tree. The hunters, entirely covered with leaves, would approach quietly. At the same time the boy would cause the parrot on his head to cry out shrilly. This would attract the attention of the parrots in the neighborhood and they would flock to their crying brother. Then the child would skillfully throw a running noose about the neck of one of the birds and throw it to the ground.

Cheancery, faith, superstition and, on the medicine man's part, an incentive to save the patient from death's grip all had their part in securing relief for the aching primitive Porto Rican. It was almost as much as the medicine man's life was worth not to effect a cure.

PREPARATION OF PHYSICIANS. When the doctor was called upon a case there was more to his preparation for going to the prospective patient's hut than picking up a medicine case and rushing out to his automobile. Before departing from his office he must take the soot from a smoked pot or some pounded charcoal and blacken his face. Then there were his patent pellets for jaundiced gentry to be prepared. As usual in the manufacture of patent medicines, there was something secret about the concoction which the Porto Rican doctor mixed. He took a few slivers of bone and a morsel of meat and wrapped these about with something which would hold them together. The whole lump was then inserted in his cheek beside his tongue. Ready for his task, he now sallied forth.

Upon arriving at the patient's home he offered

complete silence, and told the children they might run out and play. Indeed, he would permit only one or two of the chief persons of the household to remain. The sick man was seated in the centre of the hut. Then the doctor took a couple of herbs and wrapped them up in the "web of an onion half a quarter long." This he bruised in his hands until it became a pulp. It was passed around and then swallowed by the patient as an emetic. Then a song was sung and a torch lighted and some "juice" taken, the kind of juice not being indicated in the records. The doctor next began a series of manipulations. Turning the patient around two or three times as if he should say, "Which way are you looking now?" he grabbed him by the legs and literally "pulled" them after feeling the thighs, the knees and the calves. Then he imitated the action of pulling something off the nether limbs. Going to the door, he pretended to blow something from his mouth into the outer air. "Be gone to the mountain, or the sea, or whither thou wilt," said he. Turning about, he clasped his hands together. Blowing upon his hands, he applied his lips to various parts of the body of the patient, sucking in his "blast" as he did so, as if drawing something out.

Then he coughed and made a wry face as if he had swallowed something very bitter indeed and pulled from his mouth the collection of bones which he had previously inserted. "Take notice," said he; "you have eaten something which caused your distemper. See how I have taken it from your body. Your soul put it into you because you did not pray to him, or



PUNISHMENT FOR NON-SUCCESS. Woe betide the doctor if his patient died. The friends of the dead person, in order to discover if the physician had made any mistake in the treatment, would open a vein of the body, gather the juice of a certain herb and cut off some of the hair from the forehead of the corpse. Pulverizing the hair in some peculiar fashion, it was mixed with the juice of the herb. This concoction was presented to the mouth and the nostrils of the corpse, the question whether the doctor had pursued the right course or not being many times repeated until the "demon" replied in as clear tones as if the patient were alive. If the reply was that the doctor had not given proper treatment, the relatives seized the medicine man and gave him many blows with a stick, breaking his arms or legs.

According to all available accounts, the prehistoric Porto Ricans danced on the least provocation. They were born to the accompaniment of a dance, and when death claimed them a dance celebrated their departure from earth's scene. There were dances for success in war, for curing the sick, for inducing the rain to fall, for improving the crops. They danced when they reached manhood and womanhood, when boys had their hair cut, when they became warriors, when chiefs were made, when farms were cleared, when trees were cut for making a garden and building a house, and when a canoe was launched.

Dramatization played an important part in all the ceremonies and was especially prominent in war dances. In which were represented the motive of the war, the departure of the warriors, ambushes, the surprise of the enemy, combat, celebration of the victory and return of the war party accompanied with mortuary rites of a commemorative nature for the fallen.

THE ABORIGINAL DANCES. At various places on the islands of Porto Rico, Cuba and Hayti there are found level spaces inclosed by rings of stones. These are supposed by Mr. Fewkes to have been used as dance plazas. Descriptions of dances observed by Spaniards 350 years ago are preserved. A number of the writers gave detailed accounts of the natives of Hayti, adding that whatever is true of the aborigines of the islands holds also concerning those of Porto Rico. Much of the definite information regarding them has been secured in this way. The following is from a Spanish account 350 years old of a ceremony in honor of the earth goddess as it was observed in Hayti and which is supposed to have been similar to dances in the neighboring island of Porto Rico.

"When the cacique celebrated the festival in honor of his principal idol all the people attended the function. They decorated the idol very elaborately; the priests arranged themselves like a choir about the king, and the cacique sat at the entrance of the temple with a drum at his side. The men came painted black, red, blue and other colors or covered with branches and garlands of flowers and shells, wearing shell bracelets and little shells on their arms and rattles on their feet. The women also came with similar rattles, but naked, if they were maids, and not painted; if married, wearing only breechcloths. They approached dancing and singing to the sound of shells, and as they approached the cacique he saluted them with the drum. Having entered the temple they vomited, putting a small stick into their

throat in order to show to the idol that they had nothing evil in their stomachs. They seated themselves like tailors and prayed with a low voice. Then there approached many women bearing baskets of cakes on their heads and many roses, flowers and fragrant herbs. They formed a circle as they prayed and began to chant something like an old ballad in praise of the god. All rose to respond at the close of the ballad; they changed their tone and sang another song in praise of the 'cacique,' after which they offered the bread to the idol, kneeling."

GOLF AT SUMMERVILLE. Summerville, S. C., Feb. 1.—The first of a series of competitions on the Pine Forest Inn golf links took place last Monday. The match was handicap against bogie for one of the numerous cups presented for this season by the proprietors of the hotel. There was a large entry and much interest was displayed by both the golfers and the guests of the hotel. The handsome cup was won by T. W. Weeks, of Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.

Another competition was held Tuesday and was one of the most interesting ever held here. The disparity between the contestants was unusual, one weighing 270 pounds and the other 70 pounds. The competitors were W. H. Morgan, of Providence, R. I., and Harold Pond Kimball, of Rochester, N. Y. Mr. Morgan won by one hole. The match was played off scratch.

Another competition took place on Wednesday for the heavyweight championship of the club between Mr. Morgan and Miss Dietrich, of New York. Mr. Morgan giving Miss Dietrich two strokes a hole. The prize, a handsome silver cup, given by Mrs. C. W. Meyer, of New York, was won by Mr. Morgan by one hole. Mr. Morgan was also presented with a large tin cup, made especially for the occasion, which caused much amusement.

On Washington's Birthday two handicap cups will be contested for, and in the afternoon the ladies' sports will furnish entertainment for the guests.

Among the late arrivals at the Pine Forest Inn are Mr. and Mrs. Denny Brereton, Lake George, N. Y.; Dr. E. C. Brush, Miss Brush, Zanesville, O.; Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Stinson and daughter, Brooklyn; J. F. Ethington, Staunton, Va.; F. H. Lewis, Leeds, Ala.; T. W. Weeks, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.; Louis G. Lessig, Fottstown, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. T. Chase, Philadelphia; Mrs. W. T. Delaplaine, Louis T. Delaplaine, Wheeling, W. Va.; H. O. Sage and son, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Thomas, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Wm. Miller, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. W. D. Warren, Cincinnati, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Augustus W. Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herbert Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Orvis, New York; Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Howe, Boston.

Brooklyn Advertisements.

Sterling Piano Co. Announce Their Great Annual February Sale of Pianos Slightly Used

This is the big Winter event in the Piano business. It so far overshadows any like sale that there is no comparison. We need no introduction. You are accustomed to our way of doing things. Long ago you learned to KNOW that when the Sterling Piano Company announced a special sale it was special and the bargains were real. With every Piano we sell, whether of our own make or not, a guarantee that means something goes with it. An organization of 47 years' unexcelled reputation stands behind every Piano you buy here. Pianos we make bear our name; Pianos we take in exchange but are not our make we guarantee if we sell them. What more can be said?

This special sale embraces a remarkable offering of pianos at prices that are especially interesting, and which afford savings that are worthy of careful consideration at this time.

Most of these Pianos have been slightly used. We took them in exchange for OUR PLAYERPIANOS. Some are our factory samples, others have case designs which we are no longer manufacturing, and still others are the Pianos which we rented to studios and for concert work. All have sweet and velvety singing qualities—the first requirements of a satisfactory Piano—and case designs that are artistic and rich. All the woods popular in Piano cases.

Savings of \$50 to \$150 and Upward. Terms That Are Fair, Liberal and Attractive. Every Piano is plainly priced. Same price to all. Pay as you choose—cash or easy monthly payments, with no charge for interest or extras. If any Piano proves unsatisfactory it can be exchanged at our expense.

Table with piano models and prices. Columns include Original Price, Sale Price, and Original Price. Models listed include \$500 STERLING, \$300 HUNTINGTON, \$325 HUNTINGTON, \$450 STERLING, \$450 STERLING, \$450 STERLING, \$350 STERLING, \$350 STERLING, \$350 STERLING, \$325 STERLING, \$300 STERLING, \$450.00 BENT, \$375.00 BRADBURY, \$300.00 DECKER & SONS, \$350.00 BRADBURY, \$350.00 EMERSON, \$250.00 ROGERS BROS., \$275.00 SHERWOOD, \$225.00 RICHARDSON, \$350.00 BRADBURY, \$225.00 SWICK & KELSO, \$150.00 STERLING PARLOR ORGAN, \$90.00 ESTEX, \$60.00 GOLF AT SUMMERVILLE, \$80.00 CLOUGH & WARREN PARLOR ORGAN, \$25.00 PELOUBET & PELTON PARLOR ORGAN, \$20.00 A NECKLACE OF MAINE JEWELS, \$145.00 PACKARD PARLOR ORGAN, \$80.00 CLOUGH & WARREN PARLOR ORGAN, \$25.00 PELOUBET & PELTON PARLOR ORGAN, \$20.00 STILL AHEAD, \$100.00 CLOUGH & WARREN PARLOR ORGAN, \$25.00 PELOUBET & PELTON PARLOR ORGAN, \$20.00

Organs. Original Price. Sale Price. \$150.00 STERLING PARLOR ORGAN; hand carved; cabinet top, French plate mirror, music cabinet attached. \$90.00 ESTEX; two banks of keys; suitable for student, lodge room, small church or Sunday school. \$60.00

The Sterling Piano Co. 518-520 Fulton Street, corner Hanover Place, Brooklyn. OPEN SATURDAY EVENINGS

A NECKLACE OF MAINE JEWELS. Miss Ednor Cutting Hamlin, a Boston young lady of Bay State Road, a granddaughter of Lieutenant Colonel Augustus C. Hamlin, of Bangor, Me., and a great-niece of the late ex-President Hannibal Hamlin, is the proud possessor of the most valuable necklace in America and of the most valuable tourmaline para in the world. It is a necklace that is the envy of all the queens and princesses of Europe. This famous necklace is entirely made from the finest gems ever taken from the famous Hamlin mine at Mount Mica, Paris, Me., and includes the first green tourmaline gem ever found there, ninety years ago. The necklace is composed of all the vast range of colors found in the tourmaline—white, yellow, green, black, blue and red. Attached to a chain of gold are seventeen large tourmalines, ranging from 3 carats to 30 carats, arranged in two rows that they can be detached and others of different shades and sizes can be put in their places. In the set are thirty additional stones, many of them being mounted in the chief of diamonds and beryls. There are two earrings of pink and green tourmalines, set with beryls, also a cross earring of six of the finest tourmalines ever found, of white, green and blue and of various colors. Many of these stones were exhibited by General William B. Franklin, United States Commissioner to the Paris Exposition of 1889, and were also shown in the Tiffany display at Chicago in 1893. The necklace is valued at \$100,000. This noble wealth of 61 carats and will cut two stones of 100 carats each, worth in all probability about \$30 a carat, making the two gems worth \$20,000.—Kennebec Journal.

STILL AHEAD. "Willie" Collier, the comedian, was an irrepressible member of a barn storming combination which, some ten years ago, did the "tank" towns of the Middle West. The company had been doing a poor business for several weeks when certain town in Illinois was reached. Just before the curtain went up that night, Collier was asked at the curtain. "Well, answered Collier, 'there are some out there. But,' he added, impressively, 'we're still in the majority; old boy still in the majority!'—Harper's Weekly.

Highways IN FRANCE. The present road system of France was started by Napoleon I. No new roads of importance have been opened in some years, but the work of the engineers in the Department of Public Works of France is confined to keeping the roads in a state of high efficiency. France to its remote and inaccessible sections is so traversed with excellent roadways that there is now no necessity of adding many more lines of communication. The highways are the chief competitors of the railroads. The far reaching and splendidly maintained road system has distinctly favored the small landed proprietors and in their prosperity the country has been benefited. It is a noble in the hands of Loren B. Merrill, of Chicago, who has leased the mine for a series of years. This noble wealth of 61 carats and will cut two stones of 100 carats each, worth in all probability about \$30 a carat, making the two gems worth \$20,000.—Kennebec Journal.

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