The Democrat.

BRONSON & CARR, Publishers.

MANCHESTER, - - IOWA.

The pump trust has been organized with everything right up to the handle.

Some nations seem to think that that open door in China is an illimitable cow pasture.

China may yet have to live in a shanty boat if she doesn't quit leasing her land to foreign powers.

In Cuba every other man must be a colonel. That's a result of having an army of 48,000 with 25,000 officers.

Under the new law it seems to be actually becoming fashionable to go into bankruptcy, especially among theatrical people.

When the Kaiser now goes on board the admiral's ship in his navy every Jack tar will recognize the Emperor at once. His will be the only mustache on board.

Warships deteriorate more by being put out of commission than when kept in service. This is on the principle often observed among men who are spoiling for a fight.

A progressive dinner party is the latest fad. Weary Willie, Dusty Roads and Flowery Fields were the originators of the game, but it never became really popular until society took it up.

Do what they will with automobiles, the horse that is driven out of business by them will perchance take his revenge in the form of beef, and do his best kicking in the stomachs of his evicters.

The New York Tribune is authority for the statement that spitting in public places is actually on the decrease in that city. This seems to show that it does sometimes pay to interfere with what other people seem to consider their rights.

The so-called endurance sport, six-day bicycle races, has been prohibited in New York. Among the bills passed by the Legislature of the State was one making it a misdemeanor for the proprietor, occupant or lessee of a place where bicycle races are held to allow a contestant to continue in a race for a longer time than fifteen hours during twenty-four hours.

Bismarck, in speaking about those people who are always complaining of the behavior of the police, said: "I am reminded of the story of the police commissioner of Hanover. A wealthy man complained to him that the policemen were unnecessarily abrupt in addressing the public. 'Well, you see,' said the commissioner, 'I've advertised for society men to join the force, but I can't get them!'"

If the law enabled every person injured or the heirs of every person killed by fire or in attempting to escape from fire in a public inn or hotel to collect a considerable fixed sum by a prompt and approximately summary process, the precautions against fires and against fatal consequences from them would be made very much more effective. The vigilance and ingenuity of the innkeeper would be far more effective than any official supervision.

Even Italy makes demands upon China. This is probably to get a new market for macaroni. The flowery kingdom must get into European ways and absorb the goods of foreign devils or there will be the devil to pay. England has forced her to buy opium. France has absinthe for sale, Germany wants the Mongolian to soak in innocuous beer, and the United States will sell him cigarettes. The heathen Chinee is certainly up against a demoralizing game when he attacks occidental civilization.

The popular idea of the upper-class Frenchwoman is that she is exceedingly fond of dress and style, and the devoted slave of the latest fashions. The serious side of her nature is not so well known. How many readers are aware, for instance, that among the Frenchwomen of the better class there is an order numbering eighty thousand members, whose aim is the alleviation of suffering and the general uplifting of their unfortunate neighbors? It is said that more than one hundred thousand Frenchwomen are trained and ready to go on the battlefield as nurses or "emergency sisters," in the event of war.

The Mennonites select pastors by lot, and the ceremonies by which the selection is made are conducted with great deliberation and solemnity. The people meet in church, and after preliminary religious services, a committee retires to an anteroom. A Bible for each candidate for the pastoral office is procured, and into one of the sacred volumes a slip of white paper is inserted. The books are intermingled and placed on a table, when each candidate advances, selects a Bible and seats himself. The Bibles are then examined by the bishop, and the possessor of the one in which the slip of paper is found becomes the apparently predestined pastor. Ordination follows; the congregation unite in praise and thanksgiving, satisfied and happy in the belief that the choice is by Divine appointment.

It appears that the young dancing woman in an Eastern city who embellished the announcement of her public entertainment by a long list of names of very distinguished "patronesses" did not go to the trouble of asking the "patronesses'" permission. Some of the patronesses have publicly objected, and as the announcements said rather more about them than about the entertainment it seems that they have some right to feel aggrieved. It is difficult to see what the "patronesses" have to do with this or a great many other enterprises which they are said to be patronizing, anyway. Possibly it is a comfort to some people who buy tickets to the entertainment to know that they are patronizing a show which also enjoys the patronage of some very wealthy women; but it is difficult to see how it makes the show any better.

The eminent scientist, Prof. Koch, of Berlin, who has achieved much fame and brought great blessings to humanity by running down microbes to their native lair, has departed for the Orient and the tropics on a still hunt for the origin of malaria. Naturally it occurred to so clever a man as the professor to look for the origin of malaria among the Malays, from whom it unquestionably derives its name, and we have no doubt that in a few weeks or months we shall hear that the bacilli are in full retreat, seeking refuge in the dense jungles or in the caves of ocean. When the professor succeeded in capturing the cholera bacillus fifteen years ago he discovered that it was a comma, and he is inclined to believe that the same description will be applicable to the malaria bacillus. This, however, is vigorously disputed by scientists living in the low and marshy districts of the Middle West, who maintain that malaria is not a comma, but a period, and who steadily contend that the only way of destroying the bacilli is to drown them out with whisky and quinine at the ratio of 16 to 1. On account of the popularity of this life-renewing remedy the efforts of the professor to stamp out malaria are surveyed with hostility in malarial selections. Many excellent verses have been written in delineation of that phase of human suffering commonly termed "fever and ager," and we remember reading last fall a very beautiful contribution from a poet, beginning "The chill of yester e'en is with me still," thereby disproving the popular theory that a chill returns every other or third day. Lord Byron's famous poem, "The Prisoner with a Chill On," is much inquired for in literary circles in the swamp lands, and fairly divides patronage with "Chilled Harold's Pilgrimage." Naturally Prof. Koch's investigations will excite a degree of curiosity, but we advise him in advance that he cannot sell any malaria lymph in the part of the world of which we write. Its people are conservative and never desert a tried and faithful household remedy for any new-fangled medicines.

The effort to provide homes in this country and Canada for the Russian sect called the Doukhobors, of whom the total number is about 10,000, gives prominence to one of the most curious religious bodies that are to be found anywhere in the world. The real title of the body is the Universal Brotherhood Christians, and it was first heard of in 1750. The leaders trace their origin to the English quakers, although there are now remaining few traces of the parent religion. They are described as "peaceable, simple and devout, and they live the communal life." At one time they numbered more than 20,000, but persecutions and efforts to repress them in Russia have reduced their number about one-half. Their form of belief is peculiar and strange. They deny the existence of a personal God, and their doctrine of the Trinity is that Memory is God the Father, Reason is God the Son and Will is God the Holy Ghost. They believe in the immortality of the soul, but hold that an infant is soulless and that it does not possess a soul until the fifteenth or sixteenth year of its life. They deny human authority over them and denounce the forcing of one man to do the bidding of another, but they are in no sense revolutionists and their only resistance to the government is their refusal to take up arms in its behalf. Their domestic affairs are as anomalous as their faith. Their family ties are based entirely upon mutual love and affection, but their marriages, or unions, are binding upon neither husband nor wife. They have been most inhumanly persecuted in Russia. In August, 1799, the entire body was banished to Siberia under a ukase that provided that they should be kept for life at hard labor "and that they should never have the chains removed from their hands and feet." In 1832 they were permitted to colonize a Siberian farm, but in 1839 their farm was seized and the able-bodied men were all forced into the army. In 1860 they were permitted to return to Russia, and about 15,000 of them came back, but they were driven from one part of the country to the other and were finally removed to the Caucasus. About two years ago they were given permission to emigrate at their own expense, and the cost of this movement was, by the efforts of Count Tolstoi, contributed by the English Quakers. A colony of about 1,100 was sent to Cyprus and another body is to be sent to Western Canada. In this country there is a committee which has taken up the cause of these refugees, at the head of which is William D. Howells, the novelist, of New York. Jane Addams, of Chicago is also an active member of this board.

KIPLING'S "BLUE ROSES."

How a Little Washington Girl Discovered Them for Him.

There is a pretty little story told of Kipling and a tiny Washington girl 5 years old, which shows that, although Mr. Kipling may not be always "interviewable" to grown folks, he is to the little ones. The little girl heard her mother reading aloud the three verses of "Blue Roses," a chapter heading in "The Light That Failed," running:

Roses red and roses white,
Plucked I for my love's delight;
She would none of all my posies—
Bade me gather her blue roses.

Half the world I wandered through,
Seeking where such flowers grew;
Half the world unto my quest—
Answered but with laugh and jest.

It may be beyond the grave
She shall find what she would have,
Oh, 'twas but an idle quest—
Roses white and red are best.

The idea seemed to impress the child, though she said nothing at the time. One afternoon when her mother took her downtown shopping Gloria suddenly discovered on a counter a little china tray painted with blue roses and forget-me-nots.

"Why, there are some blue roses," she cried, "and Mr. Rudyard Kipling couldn't find any where he lives. Buy them for him, mamma, and tell him we have blue roses in Washington. Let me write him a letter and send it, too." So the following letter was sent to Mr. Kipling:

Gloria Point, March 8, 1896.

Dear Mr. Rudyard Kipling—I send you some "blue roses" and forget-me-nots. I didn't have to wander the world half through to find these little blue roses on the little white dish. I haven't "eaten your bread and salt nor drunk your water and wine," but I know your verses and I like them. I am a little girl 5 years old, and I live in Tennallytown, D. C., and my name is GLORIA JOHN HUNT.

P. S.—My sister "Ferginia" wrote this for me, but I told her what to say.

Mr. Kipling's answer was:

Naulakha, Waite, Vt., March 15, 1896.

My Dear Miss Hunt—Your very nice little present of "Blue Roses" has just come to me, and I write at once to thank you for it. I am going to use it for a pen tray, as I have not got one, and it will live between a Burmese idol who sits on my penwiper and a little figure of an Arab who nods his head when he isn't doing duty as a paper weight.

I am glad you find it so easy to come by blue roses. They are a kind of flower that grows scarcer as one grows older, but forget-me-nots are always in fashion. With ever so many thanks, believe me, my dear Miss Hunt, yours very sincerely,

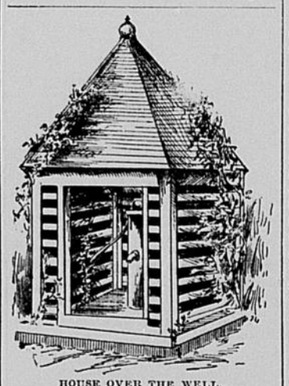
RUDYARD KIPLING.

—Washington Post.

"Come and dine with us to-morrow," said the old fellow who had made his money and wanted to push his way into society. "Sorry," replied the elegant man, "I can't; I'm going to see 'Hamlet.'" "That's all right," said the hospitable old gentleman; "bring him with you."—Tit-Bits.

Attractive Well House.

Few realize the amount of heat that goes down into a well of water through the platform that surrounds the pump. It can be partially realized by going up into a close attic under the roof some hot day. As a matter of fact, closed air spaces beneath boarding that is exposed to the bright sun become fearfully heated, and in the case of wells this heat is soon transmitted to the water. A double platform with an air space between will help greatly, but best of all is a summer house, or regular closed well house, built over the platform, and this in turn covered with vines. Not only will such a little house serve an excellent purpose in keeping the well cool, but it will be an ornament to the place as well, and, as a "summer house," may be a most agreeable place to spend an hour on a hot day. Woodbine is one of the best vines to use in covering such a house, as it provides abundant shade very quickly and is hardy even in the coldest climates. A few little things like this done about the farm each year will soon greatly improve the looks of the farm surroundings, and will decidedly increase the comforts of farm life. A suggestion for such a house is given herewith.



HOUSE OVER THE WELL.

Woodchopping in Spring.

It is too hard work to do much chopping after warm weather comes, while in zero weather the exercise of swinging the ax and bringing down the tree is rather a delight than otherwise. But after the sap starts in the trees it is easier to chop or split them than in midwinter. A very knotty and tough tree may therefore be left standing until nature has filled it full of sap, though the wood will dry out slowly. If beech wood is cut while full of sap it must be kept under shelter, for if exposed to rains water will soak in as fast as the sap dries out. Spring is the worst time of year to cut wood and have it kept wet, and the abundance of sap it contains is probably the reason. Most timber will keep best if cut in July or August while the tree is in leaf. The leaves continue to evaporate moisture after the tree is down, and this soon makes the wood dry.

Cutting Potatoes Made Easy.

The preparation of no farm seed causes more trouble than that of the potato crop. It is a slow, tedious task and must be done by hand. This is usually done by placing the potato upon a board and cutting it in the size desired. Now this task may be greatly alleviated by the use of a device that is not new. It is simplicity itself, consisting only of a plank, a, ten or twelve inches in width and two feet in length, and a knife, b, driven in one end equally distant from either side. This is placed upon a box, or stool, and the operator sits astride it. At his right is placed a basket, c, containing the whole potatoes, and in front, just under the knife, is another basket, d, to receive them when cut. The potatoes are cut by being pressed against the knife, one at a time. At first the person cutting them need exercise a little care to prevent his fingers being cut, but with a little practice there will be no danger, and he can cut an amount of potatoes in an hour that would be impossible for him to cut in twice that time in the old way.—A. R. B., in American Agriculturist.

FOR CUTTING POTATOES.

Outdoor Nests.

Of course in winter nests are made in the henhouse. Hens are not apt to be broody in cold weather, and the short time the hen is laying her daily egg does not cause vermin to breed in it. But so soon as warm days tempt the fowls out of doors they should be encouraged to nest outside. About this time too fowls will become broody, and if allowed to nest in the henhouse they will inevitably fill it with vermin. If the outdoor nest is made on the ground the moisture arising from the soil will keep the shell in good condition for the chick when hatched to pick its way through. Most hens if allowed any range will steal their nests, and generally bring off a larger hatch of chicks than those for which the poltry keeper has carefully set the eggs.

The Woodpecker Man's Ally.

One of the birds which winters in our northern climates is the woodpecker, which finds its favorite food as easily in cold weather as in warm. It is not often seen except by those who go into the forests and evergreen swamps, where it takes refuge during the severest weather. Its sharp peck, peck on the trunk of a partly decayed tree is generally rewarded by a taste of the grub that did the mischief, and which the woodpecker greedily devours. The woodpecker is a daring pillager on the cherry trees when this fruit is ripe. But after his good work in destroying injurious grubs during winter nobody should refuse him a few cherries.

Regrafting Young Orchards.

It sometimes happens that the farmer finds even before his orchard gets to bearing that a large part of the trees are of varieties that will not give him much profit. Regrafting to better sorts is a very laborious and expensive process if the trees have grown to nearly bearing size, because so many grafts must be set to make an even head. A few sprouts may be left below the grafts to draw the sap, but they must be cut away as soon as the grafts get to growing. A better way is to take a few years to do the grafting, putting in two or three grafts each spring, until the entire head is changed. So much cutting away of the top wood will cause many sprouts to start. These must be destroyed as fast as they appear, rubbing them off while the green shoot can be removed with the thumb and finger.

Get Garden Plants Out Early.

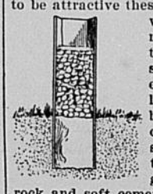
Procure a lot of old fruit cans from the dump pile near town, throw them on the fire and when the solder is melted, straighten them out. With a knife cut them in two lengthwise about the middle, fasten a piece of hardwood 2½ inches square to the work bench, and then with a light wooden mallet bend these pieces of tin into squares around this wood. They then form square boxes without top or bottom. Prepare the hotbeds, as usual, then cover the top with boxes placed side by side and fill with good garden mold. Plant seed so that there will be one growing plant in each box. When they are large enough to be set into the field, the plants can be taken up with a trowel, box and all, and a lot of them set on a board, the whole carried to the field, when the boxes can be slipped off and the plant with the soil about the roots undisturbed set in the open ground. Growth will continue without being checked by transplanting. Store the boxes in a barrel until next year. For melons or cucumbers put about three seeds in each box, and after they are started, thin to two seeds and set two boxes in each hill when taken to the field. The advantage of this plan is that a large number of plants can be started in a light hotbed or cold frame, where they can be protected from frost and can be transferred to the open field without checking growth. — Orange Judd Farmer.

Potato Scab.

For treating seed potatoes with corrosive sublimate solution to prevent scab, make a basket as follows: Take three strong iron hoops, 17 inches in diameter, with holes punched every 3 inches. Inside of these fasten common laths, 28 inches long, with small bolts. Place the bottom hoop 1 inch from end of laths; make the bottom from a 1-inch board sawed circular, 16 inches in diameter, and fasten to the end of the laths with nails. Bore several holes in this bottom. Make a bail from a strong piece of wire and fasten to top hoop. Suspend by a rope passing through pulley overhead. When filled with potatoes it can be easily raised and lowered into a 50-gallon kerosene barrel containing the solution. Raise from the barrel and allow to drain for a short time, when they can be emptied into the potato boxes. By this method none of the solution is wasted, and it is a short cut compared with the old way of tying a sack over the barrel and draining the solution from the potatoes.

Building Stone Piers.

Country places are much improved by entrance posts of cobble stones, but to be attractive these must be laid up with great exactness. Excavate to the frost line, and set up in the square excavation a box-like structure of boards, one side coming only to the surface. Fill in to the top of the ground with loose rock and soft cement—soft enough to run into all the crevices between the stones. From the ground up the stones should be laid up carefully in cement, the sides of the box permitting the stones to be pushed out to make an exactly even surface. When the top is reached the three boards can be sawed off at the surface of the ground, leaving the bottom of the pier encased, which will keep the frost from getting any lifting power on the stones. It will lift the boards rather than the stones. When the boards are removed from the portion above ground, carefully dig out the loose cement from between the faces of the stones.—New England Homestead.



Oatmeal for Young Chickens.

Laying hens cannot profitably be fed with whole oats because they have too large a proportion of hull and are too chaffy to digest well. But oat meal that has had its hull sifted out of it and has been mixed with pressed curdled milk makes an excellent feed for young chickens. Another good way to feed oat meal is to mix with water and bake it, breaking the hard pieces small enough so that the chicks can swallow them. These feeds supply all that is needed to make chickens grow thriftily, and there will be few sickly chickens if oatmeal prepared in either way is made a part of their diet. If variety is needed feed some whole wheat or rye. Whole grain or meal which has been baked until it is hard is better than any soft food for fowls at any age.

Care of Work Horse.

Break to lead when young, never put a halter on that may be broken, as a break may spoil the colt. Feed grain as soon as possible. Break to drive early. Never work until 4 years old. In breaking a colt, always hitch with a steady, strong horse. Always have the harness fit well, especially the collar. A work horse should have daily two pounds of live weight, and eighteen pounds of this should be grain. It is a mistake to feed as much hay as most farmers do. Water before and after feeding. Keep the teeth in good shape, as all the reward and pleasure that many of our farm horses receive is what they eat, and we should see that this process is not painful.

Alfalfa for Hogs.

Hogs will get in fine condition on alfalfa without other feed, and it is said by some that they can be made fat enough for market on that alone, but the quality of meat is poor, the fat too soft and the taste unpleasant. Besides, the shrinkage during shipment is said to be considerable. To obtain a good quality of meat, if for no other reason, they should be put on a full feed of grain before being marketed.

Repelling Borers.

One gallon of coal tar, two pounds beeswax and two pounds tallow melted and mixed with flour of sulphur and air slacked lime to make it the consistency of paste. This mixture is to be spread on strips of burlap and wrapped around trunk of tree about two or three inches under surface of ground and about same distance above ground.

For Fighting Cabbage Worms.

F. S. White, of Iowa, suggests a pool or shallow vessel of sweetened water poisoned with strychnine. During dry weather the moths which lay the eggs that hatch into worms, will sip the water and great numbers of them will die. Where only a few cabbages are grown the worms can be picked off.—Orange Judd Farmer.

DEVOTED TO CHARITY

BARONESS HIRSCH, WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY.

Was the Friend of the Poor, and Spent Many Millions in Philanthropic Enterprises—Some of This Noble Woman's Many Beneficences.

One of the world's greatest philanthropists and one whose demise will be mourned by millions of Christians and Hebrews passed away at Paris in the death of Baroness Hirsch. The benevolent undertakings of this amiable woman and of her husband will bear fruit for many generations.

It is rarely that a husband and wife can be found who have entered into the spirit of a great work with such thorough harmony as did Baron and Baroness Hirsch. Through the later lifetime of the Baron, and until he died on April 21, 1896, his wife was his best helper and adviser. Indeed, she was a thorough partner in his work, for much of her own personal inheritance of $20,000,000 was devoted to charitable purposes. Since the death of the Baron she had carried on the work of putting into execution his plans, and had in many ways added to their scope and made them more effective.

Baroness Hirsch was a member of the family of Bischoffsheim, with which Baron de Hirsch had been associated in many business operations. She was a daughter of a member of the great banking firm of Bischoffsheim & Goldschmidt, which was long a power in European financial circles. It was in 1883, when the Baron gave up the business of making money and retired from the active management of his railroad and other enterprises, that he married Miss Bischoffsheim. Her own fortune, large though it was, was only a small factor as compared with his, and it was separately invested and used for separate purposes.

BARONESS HIRSCH.

The Baroness was a strong, sympathetic and self-reliant woman. While her benevolence did not at all points coincide with those of her husband, in the most important matters the two were as one. Considering how fully the lives of the two were bound up in these various undertakings for the good of humanity, it can be truly said that the biographies of these two people from 1883 to the dates of their deaths can be written from their charities and from them only. What great means they had to support them in their work is well known. The Baron's fortune, when he stopped building new railways from central Europe to the far east, was considered the only private fortune in Europe that approached that of the Rothschilds, and was estimated at about $200,000,000.

Some Great Benefactions.

After the Baron's death the Baroness retained active connection with the various European charities, which she, with her husband, founded, but became better known than ever in America through the extension of her benevolence for the special benefit of the Jewish poor of New York. The work took three phases. First, there was the development of the Baron Hirsch trade schools, which were planned on unique lines, and have already done untold good in New York. Second, there was the Claire Hirsch Home for Working Girls, an institution which has recently been copied in other American cities, including Chicago. Lastly, there was a new Baroness Hirsch fund of $1,000,000 created for the removal of the unfortunates from the New York Ghetto, and the transplanting of them in suburbs and agricultural communities, where their hard labor and willing work would accomplish good both for themselves and for the industrial community.

The Working Girls' Home had perhaps the stamp of the Baroness' individuality most fully impressed upon it. The idea arose from letters which the Baroness received in Paris in regard to the sufferings and wretched surroundings of Jewish working girls in New York City. After much thought she hit upon the right plan, to her mind, and at once made arrangements, through her American agent, to carry it out. She provided funds for the erection of a fine building as a home on 63d street, between 2d and 3d avenues, immediately back of the Hirsch Trade Schools, and added $15,000 a year for running expenses. Before this building was erected she provided a temporary home on a smaller scale, so that there would be no delay in having the work begun. The plan was to give girls the benefits of a home, with pleasant and elevating surroundings, at the least possible expense to the inmates. Not a charity, but a place where poor girls could get the worth of their money and more, too, was desired. Arrangements are made so that girls out of employment can do housework for their board and room, and at the same time get good training in domestic matters.

Other Beneficences.

Still more interesting from a sociological point of view is the work of actually ameliorating the condition of tenement life in the New York Ghetto. The baroness provided first of all for careful investigation of the conditions by an expert, Dr. Milton Reltzenstein. Here, as usual, direction and control were provided for the poor Hebrews instead of degrading, direct charity. Through the fund provided by the Baroness the way has been made easy for small manufacturers, once in tenement rooms in the Ghetto, to secure sites and buildings in villages and towns near New York, and easy for their work people to secure homes near by. Model tenements and model workshops are also in the program of this work.

Among the Baroness' many gifts to charity in Europe was a donation of 2,000,000 francs to the Pasteur Institute in Paris; a similar sum to found an asylum for the employes of the railroads of Turkey, in which her husband had vast interests, and large endowments for hospitals in London and Paris and other European capitals.

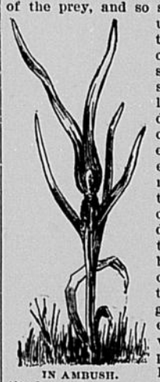
How many millions the Baroness expended in charities will never be known, for a considerable share of her benefactions were private. She despised notoriety and only when unavoidable was her name associated with her beneficences.

The only son of Baron and Baroness Hirsch died several years ago and they afterward adopted two boys. In her will the Baroness leaves several million pounds sterling to charity.

DECEPTIONS IN NATURE.

How the Grass-Spider Treacherously Lies in Wait.

Animals that hunt often disguise themselves, in order to avoid the notice of the prey, and so steal unobserved upon their victims. This method of hunting or stalking is pursued by the intelligent grass spider. All spiders, of course, have eight legs, four on each side; but in most of the class the various pairs of legs are evenly distributed, so as to lie about the body in a rough circle or something like it. The grass spider, however has his own views on this important matter. His form and attitude are quite peculiar. He lies in wait for his prey on the open, crouched against a stem of grass, with his two front pairs of legs extended before him, and his back pair behind, in an arrangement which is rather linear than circular. This position makes him almost invisible—much more invisible in real life than you see him in the drawing; for if he were represented as inconspicuous as he looks, you would say there was no spider there at all, only a naked grass stem. Flies come near, never suspecting the presence of their hereditary foe; as soon as they are close to him, the grass spider rushes out with a dash and secures them. His jaws are among the most terrible in all his terrible race; they are large and wide-spreading, with two rows of teeth on either side, and a pair of long fangs of truly formidable proportions. In other ways, also, this particular spider is a clever fellow, for he lives near water; but when the rains are heavy and there is likely to be a flood, he shifts his quarters higher up the ground, and so escapes impending inundation.



IN AMBUSH.

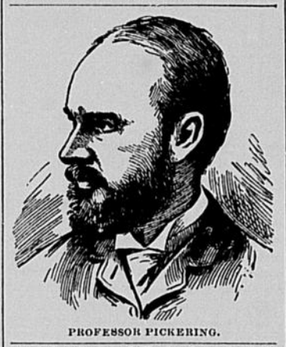
Deceptions and false pretenses of this sort are somewhat less common among plants than among animals; but still, they occur, and that not infrequently. As a good illustration among plants, look at the grass of parnassus, that bog-herd, with glossy-green leaves and pure white blossoms. The deception is managed in this disgraceful fashion. Inside each petal lies a curious ten or twelve-fingered organ, which is in reality an abortive stamen. The ten-fingered stamen bears at its tip a number of translucent yellow drops, which look like pure nectar. But they are nothing of the kind. They glisten like drops; but they are mere glassy imitations; and they are put there with intent to deceive, in order to attract flies and other insects, which come to quaff the supposed nectar, and so unwittingly fertilize the seeds, while they are muddling about perplexed among the pretended honey-glands, without getting paid one sip for their toil and trouble.

CASES OF PARNASSUS.

FOUND A SATURN SATELLITE.

How Prof. William Henry Pickering Has Lately Distinguished Himself.

Prof. William Henry Pickering, who has just distinguished himself by discovering a new satellite of Saturn (or rather of bringing to light an old unknown one), belongs to a family of astronomers and has in every way served only to add to the fame already achieved by his relatives. He is a native of Boston and is only 41 years old. He was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1879 and for six years thereafter was an instructor in physics in that big school. He began his practical work in astronomy by observing his first total eclipse at Denver in 1878. In 1887 he became connected with the Harvard observatory, and he has conducted the affairs of that institution with much skill and success. He established several plants in far-off places for watching the stars and planets, and his work in stellar photography has been of especial value. He has established stations at great heights on mountains, including that at Arequipa, in Peru.



PROFESSOR PICKERING.

Irish Love-Making.

A writer in Macmillan's Magazine, treating of "Love-Making in Ireland," relates the following anecdote:

A bashful lover wished to make a proposal of marriage, but his courage failed him, and he induced his sister to become an intermediary, he remaining outside the half-closed door, hidden, but within earshot, to learn the result.

It was not favorable. The fair one saucily tossed her head, and replied:

"Indeed, now, if I'm good enough to be married, I'm good enough to be axed!"

Hearing this, the anxious swain thrust his head inside the door, and said, beseechingly:

"Norah, darlin', will ye do what Maggie axed ye?"

THE STATE OF IOWA.

OCCURRENCES DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Baby Is Scalded to Death with Coffee—Decorah Financier Gets Five Years in the Penitentiary—Clerk Confesses Robbery of His Employer.

The 4-year-old daughter of George Robinson was accidentally scalded to death at Fort Dodge by her father, who spilled boiling coffee over the child's head. The family was sitting at the supper table when the father reached over the child's head for the coffee pot, which was on the stove near by. Just as the coffee pot was over the child's head the handle broke and the boiling contents were spilled over her head, neck and shoulders. One side of the child was scalded clear to the waist and she died a few hours afterward in fearful agony.

Banker Easton Is Sentenced.

The motion for a new trial in the case of J. H. Easton of Decorah, convicted of fraudulent banking, was submitted without argument at West Union, and it was promptly overruled by Judge Hobson. Easton was then sentenced to five years in the penitentiary, but was allowed to continue at liberty under an appeal bond of $10,000. It is understood that the case will be appealed on the ground that the District Court was without jurisdiction in the matter, owing to the fact that Easton conducted a national bank.

Clerk Robs His Employer.

A young lady entering Foster's drug store in Cedar Rapids the other morning found Claude Lytle, the clerk, in the prescription room, bound and gagged. He said he had been robbed by two men at the point of revolvers. Later in the day he acknowledged doing the work himself. He returned the money.

Robbed by Two Strangers.

Claus Fink, residing at Crystal, was called to the door recently and when he opened it two men entered armed with clubs and demanded all the money he had. They secured $88 from a bureau they ransacked.

Many Horses Burn to Death.

The livery barn of Ottie Snyder, valued at $25,000, was burned at Muscatine. Fifty horses were in the barn, one-half of which were saved. Insurance about $8,000.

Brief State Happenings.

Elliott is reported to have a population of 500.

The creamery at Superior is again in operation.

The park at Richland will be improved somewhat.

Keokuk paid out over $20,000 on its streets last year.

Mr. Lamborne has been appointed postmaster at Osgood.

The Hornick fire department has a chemical fire engine.

The total tax levy at Centerville amounts to 71 mills.

The hotel at Weston that was burned last July, is being rebuilt.

Only one Irishman was sent to the Anamosa penitentiary last year.

The President has appointed E. A. Snyder postmaster at Iowa Falls.

A company of the National Guard has been mustered in at Fort Dodge.

The union depot at Des Moines was dedicated and opened the other day.

The body of an infant was found in a pile of railroad ties near Fairfield.

A postoffice has been established at Elk, with John L. Brown as postmaster.

The postoffice at Springer has been discontinued. Mail goes to Teeterville.

Two school districts in Howard County have elected women as sub-directors.

The schools at Mondamin were closed for two weeks on account of measles.

The dates for the street fair in Waterloo have been changed to Sept. 5 to 9.

The contract will be let in Davenport soon for stone to macadamize the river front.

All the incandescent globes were stolen from the Clarinda opera house one night recently.

Three hundred and thirty-three tramps slept in the police station in Clinton during March.

The salary of the postmaster at Emmetsburg has been raised from $1,800 to $1,900 a year.

The police of Mason City raided the Kibling restaurant, but found only a small quantity of liquor.

A large amount of last year's corn crop still remains ungathered in certain portions of the State.

The Jefferson County Telephone Company has been granted a franchise by the town of Brighton.

A carload of coal has been received at Crescent for the local market, which is the first in its history.

The Lost Creek mines at Oskaloosa suffered considerable damage from fire, caused by a defective flue.

The total tax collections at the office of Polk County treasurer during March amounted to $332,000.

Dr. Henry F. Ewers, a leading physician of Burlington, is dead as the result of an apoplectic stroke.

Mrs. James O. Peterson of Osgood was found dead in her bed. She had retired in her usual good health.

The School Board of Sigourney has decided to call for a vote to issue bonds to build a $5,500 school house.

Gen. James A. Guest of Burlington has resumed his rank as brigadier general of the Iowa National Guard.

John T. Miller, one of the oldest and best-known pioneers of Hardin County, died on his farm near Iowa Falls.

Some persons entered the barn of Thomas Faith of Missouri Valley and drove off a fine team of horses. No clew.

A defective flue in the Nichols & Lorton nursery at Davenport started a fire resulting in a loss of about $10,000.

The new town in Denmark township will be called Ringsted. A company is being formed to start a bank there.

The cold storage and ice house at the Polk County poor farm were destroyed by fire. Loss between $200 and $300.

A deal has been consummated in Burlington by which the largest and oldest broom factory in Iowa changes hands.

In a quarrel at Wymore over the ownership of a pig, John With struck and fatally injured A. Koenig with a singletree.

Mrs. Grant Lynn, residing at Okoboji Lake, committed suicide by hanging. Mental abberation is given as the cause.

Judge Woolson in the Federal Court at Des Moines objects to the use of typewritten petitions in bankruptcy cases in place of regular blanks.

The electric light company of Iowa city has commenced to rebuild its plant at Coralville, which was destroyed by fire lately. The new plant when completed will cost about $30,000.

The case of C. E. Hall vs. the Rock Island Railroad, in Des Moines, in which the plaintiff asked $32,000 damages for injuries received, was settled by the defendants paying $9,000 cash.

According to the superintendent's report over 3,000 pupils are attending the public schools in Clinton

The Aetna Savings Bank has filed articles of incorporation in Des Moines, with a capital stock of $10,000.

Through a number of boys attempting to smoke cigarettes, a barn in Oskaloosa containing a team of Shetland ponies and some harness and a vehicle were burned. Loss about $600, no insurance.

"Bill" Cumberledge was captured at Fort Madison and has been taken to Chandler, Okla. He is charged there with a murder, three postoffice robberies, one bank robbery, highway robbery and several promiscuous shooting scrapes.

Mechanicsville will have electric lights.

An opera house is projected at Garrison.

DeWitt is to have a pearl button factory.

Heron Lake will have a telephone exchange.

Garner has granted an electric light franchise.

Buckhorn is to have a co-operative creamery.

Farmers at Corn Hill are just finishing picking corn.

Seymour has voted for a $10,000 electric light bond issue.

The Quakers at Lynnville are preparing to build a church.

There are 167 pupils enrolled at the schools of Oxford.

Work has been commenced on the U. B. Church at Garwin.

The Catholic church at Bailey district has been dedicated.

The new bank firm at East Peru will build a brick block.

A fine new brick creamery is to be built this year in Orchard.

The proposition for a water system at Preston was defeated.

Floyd has been incorporated as a town at an election held recently.

The contracts have been let for the Y. M. C. A. building at Keokuk.

The new Methodist Episcopal Church at Lisbon has been dedicated.

In the vicinity of Moore hogs are succumbing to some fatal malady.

The M. E. Church at Rosehill, near Monticello, has been completed.

A stock company has been formed at Wayland to erect an opera house.

The business blocks which were burned at Creston recently will be rebuilt.

J. W. Frye's residence in Yarmouth suffered a loss by fire of about $500.

The election at Nora Springs for a water system carried by a large majority.

G. Ellsworth of Eden was thrown from his buggy while intoxicated and killed.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church at Ireton will erect a building to cost $2,000.

An elevator company has been organized in Mason City with a capital of $25,000.

Harry Beale of Montour became violently insane and had to be removed to an asylum.

The election at Libertyville for a new $2,000 school house carried by a small majority.

The B., C. R. & N. will replace one of the wooden bridges at Walker with a new steel one.

The young son of John Anderson of Hampton fell from a hay loft and cracked his skull.

Arrangements have been made to connect Blue Earth City and Belle Plaine with telephone.

Work has been commenced on the new railroad bridge at Denison for the Boyer Valley Railroad.

The Street Railway Company at Burlington has agreed to make the West Burlington extension.

C. E. Schlabach, ex-county superintendent of schools of Clinton County, died at his home in DeWitt.

The First National Bank of Marshalltown has had plans prepared for a new $15,000 bank building.

Some of the pearl button factories at Muscatine have increased their employes' wages fifteen per cent.

The contract has been let at Fort Madison for the erection of St. Mary's school building, to cost $17,763.

The report of the Rock Rapids electric light plant owned by the city, for the past year is highly satisfactory.

A telephone will be erected between Creston and Thayer, to connect with the Des Moines and Osceola line.

William Sands, an old resident of Wapello County, was found dead in his bed at his home near Blandensburg.

Iowa Falls has granted a franchise for a public heating plant to the Electric Light and Power Company of that city.

A Burlington express train struck Geo. W. Wilson, north of Keokuk, and injured him so badly that he died an hour later.

Fire at Hudson destroyed the Corry livery barn and a barn of Dr. Sage's. Loss about $1,400, with about $700 insurance.

The Toledo Telephone Company will run a line to Marshalltown, making connections at Montour, LeGrand and Quarry.

John Black of Trenton, while working with an old revolver, accidentally shot himself in the hand, not knowing it was loaded.

The ruins of the old Illinois Central depot at Centerville have been torn down preparatory to building a new $4,000 brick depot.

The Floyd County Agricultural and Mechanical Association will reincorporate this year, their twenty-year franchise having expired.

A delivery wagon driven by Harry Pate in Des Moines was struck by a train and almost totally destroyed. The driver was severely injured.

Mrs. Anthony Griffin, residing near Monmouth, was thrown from a wagon, the wheels passing over her body, injuring her internally.

The Supervisors of Woodbury County have decided to sell $150,000 of funding bonds to take up a like amount of its floating indebtedness.

The postoffice at Sperry was robbed a few nights ago of a quantity of stamps. The store in which it was located also lost considerable goods.

Mrs. Kesselring of Coon Rapids sued a saloonkeeper for $3,000 damages for making her husband a drunkard and the jury awarded the plaintiff $2,500.

O. E. Countryman, a saloonkeeper of Anamosa, has been sued by Alta McCormick for $3,000 damages, for selling liquor to her husband, making him unfit for work.

The Mineral Valley Co-operative Cheese Company, whose factory at Johnsontown burned down recently, has decided not to rebuild. The corporation will liquidate its affairs.

Ed Dosh was recently installed as Mayor of Guthrie Center and he fixes the penalty of a plain drunk at $100 fine and in default of payment thirty days' work on the streets, board and lodging at the county jail. This will reduce the professionals to twelve drunks a year. One victim is already working out his time under this edict, and others are looking on with amazement at possibilities.

Thomas Hardie, leader in educational and Masonic circles in the Northwest, died at Dubuque, aged 80. He was secretary of Dubuque Board of Education for forty years and a resident of Iowa