County Correspondence.

DELHI.

Last Wednesday, Dec. 20th, was the the 56th birthday of George O. White, and to commemorate the event a number of his friends gathered at his hospitable home on that day to help him celebrate the event. An elaborate dinner was served the guests, and happy reminiscence and social intercourse made the time pass pleasantly. Mr. White has been a resident of this place since early boyhood, and by his own exertions, with the help of a devoted and refined wife, has gained a goodly competence and is now enjoying the well-earned fruits of his labors. No man stands in higher esteem among his friends and neighbors than Mr. White; his word is his bond; honest and straightforward in all his dealings, he has made friends of all who know him, and all of whom unite in wishing him many as happy returns of the day as that just passed.

H. H. Porter and family spent Christmas wiih relatives at Strawberry Point.

Miss Lizzie Fraser has gone to Melford, Iowa, to spend her vacation.

Mrs. Perry Haight is on the sick list.

Miss Eliza Burton is home from Dulnth, Minn., to spend the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Blanchard and H. H. Porter and family spent last Thursday at Fred Durey's.

Alex Hackbarth was in Chicago last week.

Mrs. J. W. Corbin was in Manchester Wednesday.

Miss Dorothy Barnes of Strawberry Point is assisting in L. M. Barnes' store.

J. B. Thompson of Manchester, was a guest at G. O. White's last Wednesday

Eddie Byerly has gone to Nebraska.

Mrs. Rinker of Ionia, Mich., is visiting her sister, O. J. Jamison.

Irene Stone is on the sick list.

Mrs. Harry Brockman and son Dale, of Sioux City, Mrs. Chas. Simons and two children, Joe and Hazel, and Mrs. Tom Patterson, of Des Moines, arrived Saturday to spend the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jakelin.

Mr. E. C. Perkins and wife were in Manchester Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Winistofer are the parents of a son, born Thursday, December 21, 1905.

Orman Hartman is home from Tipton for Christmas.

Mike Connolly is in Dorchester, Wisconsin.

G. L. Bowman went to Nebraska last week.

Albert Meister went to Phillipe, Wisconsin, last week on business.

Bert Pulver, August Natchman, Billy Wilson and Charlie Lister went to Danbury, Neb., last week.

Guy Smith and wife went to Kansas last week to make that state their home in the future.

L. Schnittjer attended the fat stock show in Chicago last week.

Josie Stack of Peosta, is visiting friends here.

The M. E. Sunday School had a Christmas tree at the church Saturday evening. A fine program was given before the gifts were distributed.

H. L. Stone and wife spent Christmas at Edgewood.

Miss Ruby Whillock went to her home in Strawberry Point to spend Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Blanchard and Dale went to Winthrop to spend Christmas day.

Miss Florence Babcock went to Iowa City to spend her vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Jamison, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Towlestin and children, and Mrs. Rinker spent Christmas at L. Jamison's in Ryan.

Dr. Clark of Atlantic, Iowa, is a guest of friends at this place.

LAMONT.

Santa Claus reached Lamont all right.

Wm. Rule sr. has spent the past few days in Colorado.

Several from here attended the funeral of Mrs. Fred Hahn at Aurora Friday.

George Hewitt is here visiting his mother and sisters.

George Darham has improved his store by putting in a gas lighting plant.

Miss Ada Lake went to Waterloo Dec. 18 to assist in caring for that brand new master Tyrrel.

Miss Hazel Kenyon entertained her girl friends at a birthday party Dec. 17.

George Foster is here from Waterloo for a week's visit.

Earl Platt has gone to Cumberland, Wisconsin.

Geo. Blackburn, Deck Cowles, Ned Hoyt, Fred Retz and O. G. Meyers attended the Fat Stock Show in Chicago last week.

Mrs. J. D. Thompson entertained the W. R. C. in a very becoming way last week, her mother, Mrs. L. F. Colomy, being a member of the order and the guest of honor.

Mr. Chas. Hall and wife of Oelwein and Mr. Austin Hall and wife of Maynard visited their aunt, Mrs. Colomey, at the J. D. Thompson home Sunday December 18.

Christmas night—masquerade ball make your own comments.

Dr. R. A. Greenvault, D. of D. S. is spending holiday week at his home in Springville, Iowa.

Edward Baumback and wife of Nashua, are spending holiday week in Lamont at his parental home.

Mrs. L. F. Colomey departed for Fredonia, Kansas, Dec. 19, to make her future home with her son, who lost his wife a short time ago.

W. B. and Chas. Weston have been enjoying a visit from their sister, Mrs. Peck and husband of Zion City, Ill. The Peck family are moving to Mexico.

Dr. G. N. Thompson is entertaining his nephew, W. S. Canfield of Rockford, Ill., a very promising young lawyer.

The Lamont Woman's Club will meet with Mrs. Leona Seward Friday December 29.

Our M. E. Sunday School rendered a fine Xmas eve program Sunday night.

Our Free Baptist visited the M. E. or Regular Baptist churches Xmas eve.

Our Regular Baptists' listened to their beloved pastor H. P. Langridge farewell sermon Xmas eve.

Rev. W. E. Ross united a couple of Aurora's young people in marriage at the M. E. parsonage Dec. 21 evening viz Wm. Taylor and Miss Lillian Matteson.

BAILEY'S FORD.

Lonnie Grapes spent Sunday of last week at the home of his sister, Mrs. D. Blanchard.

Mrs. H. B. Hersey was a Manchester caller Monday of last week.

Roy and Avis Grommon and Elvira Hartman were in Manchester Tuesday of last week.

Mr. C. M. Lillibridge and wife and family of Manchester visited at the home of Mrs. R. E. Grommon Monday of last week.

Mrs. J. W. Hartman was a Delhi caller last Wednesday.

Mrs. R. E. Grommon and son, Clair, were in Manchester last Wednesday.

G. B. Davis had business in Manchester last Thursday.

Lonnie, Myrtle and Nellie Grapes were in Manchester last Wednesday.

Harry Conner was a business caller in Delhi last Wednesday.

Mr. Wm. Kaster and wife were Manchester callers last Wednesday.

Dale Blanchard spent Thursday with his friend, Roy Grommon.

Tillman Grapes had business in Manchester last Thursday.

Orman Hartman of Tipton, is visiting his parents, Mr. J. W. Hartman and wife.

Mr. I. N. Ritchey and wife were in Manchester last Friday.

The Christmas exercises at the Clark school were well attended last Friday evening.

Mrs. Mable Havens visited with her parents, Mr. Tillman Grapes and wife part of last week.

Alvah Downs is on the sick list.

DYERSVILLE.

Jos. Sumner, of New Vienna, was a Sunday visitor in Dyersville.

Mis Cecelia Schaeizle, of New Vienna, was the guest of the Joe Roehrig family Saturday.

Jos. Prentrice and son, Roy, of Colesburg, were business visitors here Saturday.

Mr. Frank Rubly and wife, of Festina, Iowa, were in this city Tuesday en route to Petersburg to visit relatives.

Mr. Henry Kramer and wife and Mrs. Clem Kramer were Great Western passengers to the Key city Tuesday morning.

Gerhard Schneider and Jos. Osterhaus were down from Petersburg Saturday transacting business.

Joe and George Mescher, of New Vienna, were passengers from this city to Chicago Monday afternoon.

John Krapfl left Monday night on a business trip to MacCook, Nebraska.

Henry Lammers, of Petersburg, marketed a fine bunch of hogs here on Tuesday.

John Naber and wife, of New Vienna, were among the many Christmas shoppers here Tuesday.

Dr. E. F. Mueller and sister, Miss Eugenia, visited their brother, Dr. J. A. Mueller and family at New Vienna Sunday.

John Boeckenstedt and sister, Miss Rose, of New Vienna, were summoned to Washington, Iowa, Monday evening on account of the serious illness of their sister, Mrs. Joseph Linck.

Among some of the Petersburg visitors here Tuesday were: Nic, Ed and Will Budden, John Wessel, A. Koelker, A. Nefzgen, Joe Woerdehoff and Anton Milenkamp. The latter two named gentlemen left on the afternoon train for Chicago to attend the Stock show.

Mrs. Rubly and granddaughter, Miss Mary Callahan, went to Oelwein Sunday afternoon, where they will remain for some time at the home of the former's daughter, Mrs. Henry Luthmers.—News Letter.

RYAN.

Paul Norris, of Dennison, Iowa, arrived yesterday morning on a visit to his cousin, Willie Swindle.

Pat Behan and T. J. McElliott arrived home yesterday from Dubuque for their holiday vacation.

J. W. and Alex Robinson left Tuesday evening to attend the Fat Stock Show in Chicago.

A bright baby boy was born last Friday to Mr. and Mrs. P. F. McElliott. The father is rather tall tall but it seems he has grown several inches since the happy event.

T. J. King is engaged in building a barn on the farm he has recently purchased of the Hoyt Bros. He expects to have a residence and other buildings ready for his tenant in the spring.

The Misses Mary Waddick, Ida McCloud, Grace Beaton, Ella Lyness, Maggie Dolphin, Anna Summers, Nora Behan and Julia Duggan attended the teacher's meeting at Earlville Saturday.

John Berne, an Independence capitalist was here Monday looking over the grounds with a view toward erecting a large grain elevator. The prospects looked bright to him but he didn't decide as to whether he would build. Ryan has as good a grain territory as any town in this section and an institution of this kind would be welcomed by our citizens.

James Dolphin, who has been assistant cashier of the Ryan State Bank for several years past, has been offered a position as book-keeper in the Citizens National Bank at Cedar Rapids and will assume his new duties the first of the year. This is one of the strongest financial institutions in the Parlor City and they have recently moved to a handsome new building and increased their stock to $200,000. "Jim" as he is commonly called is an honest and industrious young fellow, a quick accountant and has hosts of friends here who hope that this new position will be the stepping stone to something higher.

O. M. Wright, the popular mail carrier on route No. 2 stole a march on his friends last evening and was quietly married to Miss Emma Warrell at the home of her mother at Almira, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Howie of the Golden church. Ollie is a good whole souled fellow of frugal and industrious habits and enjoys the esteem and respect of everybody. The bride is a talented young lady of charming manners and has for some time been one of Delaware County's most successful school teachers. The happy couple have hosts of friends in Ryan and vicinity who will hasten to extend congratulations. The Reporter joins with them in wishing them an aboundance of happiness.—Ryan Reporter.

EDGEWOOD.

Miss Verda Hill has returned home from Chicago where she has been working.

George Hindall has bought out Kramer's Meat Market and takes possession the first of March.

Miss Zella Smith is at home enjoying a two weeks vacation from college duties at Fayette.

Misses Leora and Lottie Breed closed their schools last Friday for one week's vacation during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Law Alcorn of Hayfield, Ia., came Wednesday night and remained over Christmas visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Alcorn and other relatives.

Mrs. R. J. Bixby spent several days last week with her daughter, Miss Angie, who is attending school at Lenox.

Loren Platt is spending a couple of weeks with his brother Arza, at Wray, Colorado.

Messrs Kirk and Storey and daughters left last week for a pleasure trip through Texas.

H. Weir and family, who have been visiting for some time past with relatives around Edgewood, have returned to their home at Enid, Oklahoma.

Len and Lyle Fisher and Jay Durfey returned from Chicago last Saturday morning where they had been taking in the Stock show.

EARLVILLE.

Prof. Ribble is spending his vacation at the home of his parents in the southern part of the state.

Mr. Heinz left Monday morning to spend Xmas with home folks in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Staehle of Burt, Iowa, with their little daughter Marjorie, spent Christmas with Mrs. Staehle's mother.

John Trowbridge of Chicago, arrived here Sunday morning enroute to Colesburg.

Herman Phillipp of Oelwein, spent Christmas with relatives here and in Delhi.

Carl Sandhagen, a former Earlville boy, spent Christmas with friends in town. He is employed at the Wales hotel in Dubuque.

Mr. Will Strock of Dyersville was in town Monday.

Miss Marie Ginner of Chicago, spent Christmas with her uncle, F. Werkmeister and family.

Henry Staehle was an over Sunday visitor with friends at Mendota, Ill.

Mrs. Hogan of Hopkinton, transacted business in town Saturday.

W. L. Bender left for Chicago Tuesday.

Frank Matthews of Greeley, was in town Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Hackbarth, of Davenport, are the guests of relatives this week.

Mr. John Stangel of Cedar Rapids, was the guest of friends in town Tuesday.

The students from the various colleges are home for the holidays. Emma Laxon, Glena Dumm, Saina Dittmer, Lenox; Erma Laxon, Clyde Murley, Fayette; Ray Millen, Grace Young, Cora Robinson, Epworth; Roy Klaus, Charles City.

Early Autograph Hunters.

A certain Atossa in early Roman days seems to have been the mother of autograph collectors. Cicero had a collection, which must have been a fine one, for he speaks of it with particular pride. The fever, even in those far back days, was contagious. Pliny speaks of Pompeius Secundus, at whose house he had seen autographs of Cicero, Augustus, Virgil and the Gracchi, and his own collection was valued at $15,000 of our money. Then came the inrush of barbarians, and we do not again meet with the collector until the beginning of the sixteenth century, when he reappears in the person of a Bohemian squire, who kept a book to record his exploits in the chase and enriched it with the signatures of his great hunter friends.

When Death Cools His Sting.

There is a curious superstition in Jamaica that if a death occurs in the house all the water in it is poisoned at once and must be thrown away, the reason given being that "death" cools his "sting" after destroying life in the first water he finds, and as no one can tell—death being invisible—what jar he may choose it is safest to throw it all away. Careful people to save trouble even carry all water out of the house immediately before a death is expected.

Already Well Made.

"Miss Deepley does make some of the most inapt quotations," remarked Bragg.

"Yes?" queried Newitt. "What, for instance?"

"Well, last night I remarked that I always avoided political discussion because I didn't want to make a fool of myself, and she said, 'One cannot paint the lily or gild refined gold.'"—Philadelphia Press.

She Paid on the Investment.

"Here," complained the aggrieved father, "I have spent nearly $15,000 on that girl's education, and now she goes and marries a $2,500 a year clerk."

"Well," said the friend of the family, "isn't that all of 15 per cent on your investment? What more do you want?"

Telegraph Operators' Signs.

Telegraph operators always have personal signs which they place on all messages they send or receive. Usually they use two of their initials or take two letters from their names. For instance, James Black will probably use "JB" as his sign. In many cases, however, they choose their signs in peculiar ways.

"We once had a man working here who signed 'KE' because he had taken the Keeley cure," said a Kansas City chief operator. "He afterward went back to drinking and then used 'BZ,' deriving it from 'booze.' Another fellow signed 'PS' because he used to say he received a poor salary. A woman operator we had here used to sign 'HK,' her initials, until one day her beau jilted her and married another girl. After that she signed 'BH,' which, we understood, meant 'broken heart.' In an eastern office where I once worked there was a hoodoo sign. It was 'KQ.' The first man who used it there was killed by a train, the next one went crazy and the third died of typhoid fever. After that nobody in the office dared use the hoodoo sign. The story about its being a Jonah traveled over the country, and today you'll find very few operators signing 'KQ.'"

American Exuberance.

A prominent English statesman who visited this country a few years ago was talking with friends about the national characteristics of Americans and gave it as his opinion that the westerner is the most truly humorous of the citizens of the United States.

"Why," said the Briton in explanation, "a relative of mine who frequently visits the States for purposes of sport tells me that he was entranced by the reply made to him by the proprietor of a hotel in Nebraska when he asked if there were any quail in the vicinity.

"'Quail!' exclaimed the proprietor. 'I should say so! Why, they've got to be a regular nuisance round here. My cook complains that she can't throw a piece of toast out of the window without four or five fat quail fighting to see which shall get on it!'"—Woman's Home Companion.

The Antiquity of Football.

If it is not the oldest game in the world football is not far from it. But it has never been a game in which puny nations played. The Greek game was originally called phenindа, or feinting, later it was called episkyrus, epikoinos, and lastly harpaston, under which name it came to resemble football. The Roman game was follis and was less rough. There was a center runner in harpaston, around whom the game was fought out. One side was given the ball; the other side chose a center. The side with the ball stood some distance back from a line on which the center runner was posted, and at signal the ball was thrown past the middle man. Players could be held back from securing the ball in any way, though the Greek youths had no rush formation, never seeming to have learned the value of team work.—Outing.

Acute Sense of Hearing.

"Yes," said the prosperous lawyer in speaking to a friend, "I had a long wait before I got any practice, but I am certainly satisfied now with my profession and its emoluments.

"The early days, the waiting for clients, was hard, though. Why, do you know that I got so after awhile that when I heard a footstep on the stairs I could tell ninety-nine times out of a hundred whether or not the person was coming to my office?"

"Well, that is strange," replied his friend. "Your sense of hearing must have been very acute."

"Not so much that," replied the lawyer. "You see, I made up my mind that they were not coming to my office, and ninety-nine times out of a hundred I was right."

A Suggestive Sermon.

The Rev. Dr. Howard, chaplain to Princess Augusta, was so fond of good living that he ran into debt with many of the tradesmen in his parish. It was in their special interests that he one day preached from the text, "Have patience, and I will pay you all." He spoke at great length on the virtues of patience and then proceeded, "I now come to the second part of my discourse, which is, 'and I will pay you all,' but that I shall defer to a future occasion."—London Standard.

The Satan of the Greeks.

The Greek conception of the evil one, whom they call Yama, makes that personage one of the most satanic of the whole evil tribe. According to their ideas of him, he is 240 miles high and the hairs on his body stand out like palm trees on a mountain side. He punishes the doomed being submitted to his charge by putting them in beds of boiling oil, sawing their bodies in two, pouring molten lead in their ears and such other little pranks as pulling out their tongues, toe and finger nails and gouging out their eyes. He is a heartless old fiend of the most fiendish kind and has many other exquisite little tortures laid up for the helpless wretch consigned to his "chamber of horrors."

The Cent Is Not Small.

With the exception of the English penny, the cent is the largest minimum unit of money in the civilized world. Roughly speaking, our cent is worth 2 kopecks, 2 cents Mexican, Chinese and East Indian, 2 atts or milliemes. It is two and a half times larger than the cent of the Netherlands or the kreutzer. There are 4 ples, ore, or pfennige to the cent or 5 bani, centesimi, lepta, heller, pennia, centimes or stotinki. A cent is worth 10 paras Turkish or 10 Japanese rin, 11 cash Chinese or 50 paras Servian. What the trolley car conductors of Servia say when tendered a five cent fare in paras would probably not be fit to print.

Madison's Mint Julep Bet.

Among the trees at the edge of the lawn on the right hand side of the house as you face the mountains James Madison built an icehouse. This was in 1809, and it was the first icehouse in Orange county, Va. Ice in summer! His servants were incredulous. And he bet his overseer an iced mint julep on the Fourth of July, against which the latter wagered a wild turkey. Of course Madison won the turkey.—Country Life In America.

The Common Mistake.

"Bliggins says that when he went to school he was one of the brightest boys in his class."

"Yes," answered the sporting man; "that's where so many of us fall down—getting out of our class."—Washington Star.

A Vast Difference.

She—Mr. Riche says very bitter things about those lazy sons of his, but his wife is always making excuses for them. He—Yes, she makes excuses, but he has to make allowances for them. That's what angers him.

The Right of Way.

In the early days of western railway building, days not so long gone by as to be out of memory, there were many exciting races between rival roads for the possession of important mountain passes. Such a race, says the World's Work, was that between the Santa Fe and the Rio Grande roads for the right of way through Raton pass to New Mexico and the southwest.

Engineers and construction gangs worked in mad haste to get to it ahead of their rivals. The victory fell to the chief of the Santa Fe. When the Rio Grande cohorts arrived they found him alone in one of the big gorges, shovel in hand, slicing earth from an 8,000 foot hill.

"What are you doing here?" they asked.

"Constructing a railroad," he replied. He turned another shovelful of dirt, dropped the tool and hitched up his heavy cartridge belt.

"Any one who interferes with the Santa Fe does it at his own risk," he said quietly.

First the Rio Grande men laughed, and then they raged, and then they turned and went away. Their road was cut off from the south forever.

A Bath In Bubbles.

"To take a bath at Tiflis, in Russian Caucasia, is to court a never to be forgotten experience," says one who knows. "The masseur who presides over the toilet of his patrons is a weird looking figure. His head is shaved, a rag is twisted around his waist, and his feet are dyed a beautiful red. You are seized by this individual, rubbed, pushed face downward on a marble slab, find his feet in your spine and his hands upon your shoulders. Then he grinds his feet up and down your back. They are round your neck, on your head—everywhere! Then he vaults lightly off, and in a moment, from a linen bag filled with soap, he has squeezed clouds of perfumed bubbles, and you are hidden in them from head to foot as completely as if you had fallen into a snowdrift. You are not absolutely bruised, but you are clean."—Kansas City Journal.

Wonders of the Eye.

Viewed as an optical instrument, the human eye may well be called perfect, for it is an apparatus contained in a globe less than an inch in diameter, in which is produced an image practically perfect in form and color and which can be accurately adjusted almost instantly for every distance from five inches to infinity, which is movable in every direction, has an area small enough for the detection of the most minute details and at the same time large enough for the appreciation of large objects, and which enables us to see all shades of color and to estimate distance, solidity, and, to some extent, the consistency of objects, and yet this wonderful instrument, perhaps the most varied in its capabilities of any part of the body, is persistently misused and neglected. Is it any wonder that some day nature resents this treatment and leaves the offenders in total and perpetual blindness?

The Name of China.

We speak of China and the Chinese, little thinking that the natives of the Flowery Kingdom never hear those terms until after leaving the place of their birth or coming in contact with some traveler. They have many names by which they designate themselves and the land which they inhabit, but Chinese and China are not among the number. The most ancient name of China is Tienhia, which signifies "beneath the sky." Since the present ruling house took control of the empire in 1650 the name of Tatsingkwoh has been applied to the kingdom as a whole and Chungkwoh to that portion known to American readers as the Middle Kingdom.

Still Had a Little Pride.

"What is this man charged with?" asked the police justice.

"Stealing a dog, your honor," said the officer.

"Well, sir, what have you got to say for yourself?"

"Your honor," answered the prisoner, drawing a grimy coat sleeve across his nose, "if you'll make it embezzlement I'll plead guilty. I may be a thief, but I've got feelings,"—Chicago Tribune.

Why Men Wear Mustaches.

The Gaulois of Paris has been investigating that grave question, "Why do men wear mustaches?" About 100 men answered the question. Six replied that it was too much trouble to shave, one declared that it was to hide his teeth, another that his long nose, without it, gave him a bad appearance, and three that it avoided colds. Three others maintained that it improved the air they breathed, and seven were of the opinion that a mustache was necessary to health. Seventeen men were content to state that they did it to please themselves, while only two said it was to please their wives. About sixty gave the reason that women do not like clean shaven men.

The Office Dignified.

A Greek named Epaminondas was condemned by his enemies to fill an office much beneath him, which consisted in cleaning the streets and clearing away refuse. He declared that he would make them see that not only does the task show what the man is, but also the man shows what the task is, and he raised the office to a great dignity, teaching that no honest work need degrade the worker, but an honest worker can dignify the work.

True Courage.

True courage is cool and calm. The bravest of men have the least of a brutal, bullying insolence and in the very time of danger are found the most serene, pleasant and free. Rage, we know, can make a coward forget himself and fight, but what is done in fury and anger can never be placed to the account of courage.—Lord Shaftesbury.

Keeping Out of Danger.

Lady Frederick Cavendish once told a story in illustration of the prevailing ignorance in certain classes in England. A poor woman in discussing the propriety of washing her child's head said: "I know better than to do that. I've heard enough of water on the brain."

Retaliation.

Mrs. Jawback—Just like a man! The idea of losing your temper and swearing at your razor because it's dull! Mr. Jawback—Well, I've got a right to. Didn't the razor lose its temper first?—Cleveland Leader.

An Arab Proverb.

When you have done any one a favor throw into the sea the remembrance of it, and if the fishes devour it God will remember it.

Fashion is gentility running away from vulgarity and afraid of being overtaken by it. It is a sign the two things are not far asunder.—Hazlitt.

Wordsworth's "Joke."

A rare old book, called "The Living Authors of England," published in 1818, commences with a study of Wordsworth, in which is recorded what is said to be the only joke the poet ever made. At a friend's house after dinner, it appears, the conversation turned upon wit and humor. Thomas Moore, who was present, told some anecdotes of Sheridan, whereupon Wordsworth observed that he did not consider himself a witty poet. "Indeed," he said, "I do not think I was ever witty but once in my life."

Being pressed to tell the company what this special drollery was, the poet said, with some hesitation: "Well, I will tell you. I was standing some time ago at the entrance of my cottage at Rydal Mount when a man accosted me with the question, 'Pray, sir, have you seen my wife pass by?' whereupon I answered, 'Why, my good friend, I didn't know till this moment that you had a wife!'"

The company stared and upon realizing that this was all there was to the poet's joke burst into a roar of laughter, which Wordsworth smilingly accepted as a genuine compliment to the brilliancy of his wit.—Harper's Weekly.

He Had References.

In her book "A Southern Girl in '61" Mrs. D. Giraud Wright tells a capital story about General John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky. He was invited by a certain lady of rank in London to luncheon. The lady had just advertised for a footman. Mistaking the hour, General Breckinridge reached the house before the appointed time and by some accident was ushered into Lady Blank's presence without being announced. The day was in June. Owing to the heat the blinds were drawn, letting in subdued light. Lady Blank, glancing at the advancing figure, to the astonishment of the visitor, greeted him thus: "Have you a reference from your last place?" The general took in the situation instantly and, with a twinkle in his eye, unobserved by the hostess, answered respectfully, "Yes, my lady." "What were your duties?" was the next query. "Well, my lady, in the last three places I held I was vice president of the United States, major general in the Confederate army and secretary of war of the Confederate States of America."

When Lincoln Had Few Friends.

In 1864 Lincoln was of all men the least commended by the Republicans in congress. On one occasion an editor visiting Washington asked Senator Thaddeus Stevens to introduce him to some members of congress who were favorable to Lincoln's re-election. Stevens led him to the desk of Mr. Arnold of Illinois. "There," said he, "is the only Lincoln member of congress that I know!" Stevens himself regarded Lincoln as incompetent and weak. Henry Wilson (afterward vice president) spoke of him as politically a failure. Greeley had a low opinion of his ability. His personal friends, such as Washburn, Raymond and Thurlow Weed, believed his re-election an impossibility. Even Lincoln himself at one time doubted it.—H. T. Peck in Bookman.

The Lord's Prayer.

The question having arisen as to whether the English version of the Lord's Prayer is a true reproduction of the original as found in Matthew, a native Greek scholar proceeds to answer it. He deals with the petitions in order, translates each word with all the shades of meaning of the original and then presents the whole in this form:

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name—thy dominion come—thy (fixed) purpose be done, as in heaven, so, too, on earth. Give us this day our mere (or simple) bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors theirs, and let us not fall into a tempter's snare, but deliver us from the evil one."

Very Lively.

A London paper relates that a crowd of sightseers scurrying across the road from the Strand caused a partial block in the traffic. The lagging of a particularly pompous old gentleman roused the ire of a held up cabby. "Now, then, hurry up there, can't yer?" he shouted.

"Am I not hurrying, cabman?" was the mild expostulation.

"'Urryin'?" snorted cabby, with a flick of his whip. "You're a-jumpin' about like a bit o' stickin' plaster!"

A Diplomatic Answer.

Admiral Drake when a lad at the beginning of his first engagement was observed to shake and tremble very much and, being rallied upon it, observed with a presence of mind, or, at all events, of humor, in which even Nelson was lacking, "My flesh trembles at the anticipation of the many and great dangers into which my resolute and undaunted head will lead me."

First Treaty of Portsmouth.

The first treaty of Portsmouth, N. H., was signed July 11, 1713, the contracting parties being belligerent Indians and the whites. The news of the treaty of Utrecht, which ended Queen Anne's war, reached the city Oct. 20, 1712. The Indians desired a treaty, and it was formally signed on the above date.

Conceit.

Conceit is essential to rapid advancement—not overconceit, but conceit in reasonable volume. The conceit of youth becomes the assurance of old age. If you're master of your conceit, you have back of you a slave of unlimited assistance. If conceit is your master, you're doomed to failure. But don't cultivate self conceit. It's a lusty plant. Give it half a chance and it will outgrow your self respect.—N. C. Fowler, Jr., in "Gumption."

Diagnosis.

"I regret to say," remarked the young physician, "that you have peristaltic neurilemma. The symptoms are unmistakable."

"Dear me!" exclaimed the astonished patient. "What in the world is peristaltic neurilemma, doctor?"

"It is, sir, the disease from which you are suffering," answered the young M. D. haughtily.—Chicago News.

Natural Enough.

Jolkley—I once heard a man say that he would rather be an ex-convict than anything else he could think of. Polkley—The idea! How eccentric! Jolkley—Not at all. The man was in the penitentiary at the time.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Reasonable Request.

Lawyer—Your honor, I want an interpreter for my client. Judge—What language does he speak? Lawyer—He's a railroad brakeman.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

His Treasure.

The Count (who has had a little tiff with his fiancee, the heiress)—But, my treasure— The Heiress—Your treasure? Your investment, you mean.

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