MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

How to Get Along—Walk.

"Coughing Hoss" is the Indian name for locomotive.

A robin in Detroit has been taught to whistle Yankee Doodle.

The Connecticut Legislature has a rule limiting prayers to forty minutes.

A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself. Insure in the Mutual Life, of Chicago.

The reason we dont hear of girls giving the mitten now a days—they don't learn to knit.

Insure your Life in the Washington Insurance Company, of New York, to the amount of the mortgage on your house.

An attorney observed to a brother in court that he thought whiskers very unprofessional. "You are right," replied his friend; "a lawyer cannot be too barefaced."

One of the handsomest cottages in Newport is built upon a rock, and has an iron band which goes entirely across the roof of the house and fastens it down securely.

A Providence merchant saves his umbrellas by cutting a small piece out of the handle, which he carries in his pocket-book ready to prove property at any time.

By a blunder, the people of Worcester, Mass., have been ordered by the city authorities to renumber their houses with Roman numerals. The *Spy* shudders at the thought of CCCCXLIX over its own door.

The nomenclature of Massachusetts towns has improved with time. Dudley's name in its greener years was Chargoggagoggmanchoggagogg. Marlboro's had even more liquid melody in those days, Ogguionikongquamesut.

Butterflies have been found flying at sea, six hundred miles from land. Their buoyancy is great, and the muscular effort of flying must be small, while the wind drives them forward rapidly over great distances.

A Canton, Ill., farmer, says: "I was going out past my corn-crib the other morning when I observed a large rat carrying a full-sized ear of corn in his mouth, with head erect. At the same time his tail was wrapped around another, and an extra large ear, which he was dragging behind him."

There were recently thirty-nine inmates of the Illinois State Penitentiary who are under eighteen years of age—thirty-two white and seven colored. Six were sentenced for buglary and larceny; fifteen for burglary; nine for larceny; two for rape; two for assault with intent to kill; two for forgery; three for robbery.

A Russian nobleman, who received his degrees from the Universities of St. Petersburg and Heidelberg, as a thorough student of jurisprudence, and who can read, write, and speak the Russian, German, French, Italian, English, Latin, and Greek languages, advertises in Hartford for a situation as coachman.

For a specimen of logical consecution of ideas we venture to commend this, from a schoolboy's composition: "Tobacco was invented by a man named Walter Raleigh. When the people first saw him smoking they thought he was a steamboat, and, as they had never seen a steamboat, they were frightened."

In the execution of a recent deed by a man and his wife the wife was taken aside, before the acknowledgement was made, by a commissioner, who, in the usual form, asked, "Do you execute this deed freely, and without any fear or compromise of your husband?" "Fear of my husband!" exclaimed the wife, "I've had five husbands, and never was afraid of any of them!"

Black bass have got into the Connecticut river accidentally. Two ponds, with outlets leading to the river at points widely apart, which had been stocked with black bass at private cost, were carried away by a flood some two years ago, and the fish swept into the Connecticut, where they have quietly domesticated themselves. Last year they hatched a large quantity of young, and this year have reappeared on their spawning ground.

"John Rouse, why wilt thou do so?" said Thomas Hazard, one of New Bedford's substantial Quaker merchants sixty years ago, to Johnny Rouse, a negro in his employ, whom he found before a magistrate, not for the first time, charged with stealing. "Why wilt thou do so, thou foolish man? thou always gets caught." "Why Massa Hazard," says Johnny, "I don't get caught half the time."

On the streets of Norfolk, Va., on a recent Sunday, a little girl six or seven years old was seen leading her drunken father homeward. Resisting the efforts of all other persons to take him home, he was perfectly passive in the hands of his child. After getting her father to the steps, the little child threw her arms around his neck and kissed him. All who witnessed the scene and the action were affected—some to tears.

A gentleman whose love of order was largely developed had a clerk in his employ whose habits about the office were any thing but orderly. Nothing under his hand had a fixed locality, and every thing was at odds and ends. This carelessness brought out a reproof from the employer, who, after a general lecture on the subject of malarrangements, quoted the old precept, and said, "Sir, you should have a place for every thing." "I have, sir," replied the janior, "a great many places for every thing."

The Bedford *News* says: "A Lawrence County man planted a tree in front of his house and named it after his wife. Soon the tree died, and the wife lived but a day or two after. Now you would be surprised at the number of men that are planting trees in front of their domiciles and naming them after their respective, if not respected, wives—and the sickliest looking trees that can be found, too—trees that, with the tenderest care, cannot possibly live more than two weeks. The women see through it, and have resolved not to die!"

A novel experiment was tried in New Jersey recently, in the case of a boy who was drowned in Pen Horn Creek while bathing. Two Canadians, seeing men dragging the creek for the body, approached, and told them they would try an experiment. Accordingly, a number of bottles were filled with quicklime, tightly corked, and thrown into the creek. In about an hour one of the bottles burst with a great noise, and soon the body rose. The Canadians could not explain the theory further than by saying that, when a bottle floats directly over a corpse, it will explode, and the body will rise.

Parents and teachers may learn a valuable lesson from a remark once made by the Duke of Gloucester, the third son of the Prince of Wales, father of George III. He was a dull child, and his mother used to cause him great distress at times by jeering him on account of his dullness, in the presence of his brothers and sisters. On one particular occasion she told them to laugh at the fool. The sensitive child held down its head and said nothing, upon which the Princess changed her tone, and accused him of sulkiness. "No," he said, "I was not sulky; I was only thinking." "And pray what were you thinking of?" inquired the Princess, with increasing scorn in her manner. "I was thinking," said the poor child, "how I should feel if I had a son as unhappy as you make me."

For ten years Thomas Day was a tailor in Boston. Twenty years ago he retired from business on account of failing health. For two or three years past he has suffered much from spells of dizziness, and a few days since a surgeon discovered and extracted from his body a common-sized needle, with double thread four inches in length attached. As Mr. Day had used no needle of the kind for twenty years, he (the surgeon) supposed he must have swallowed it anterior to that period, and is of the opinion that the working of the needle and thread through the system caused the dizziness with which Mr. Day has been afflicted. The Boston *Traveller*, which tells this story, adds that since the operation Mr. Day feels greatly relieved and is improving in health.

A Portland (Maine) paper tells how an "expert" identified a forged signature. The witness testified that his name as appearing to one of a number of notes was a forgery, while the ablest experts declared that they could see no difference in the signatures. The witness persisted that the one he designated was a forgery. Careful tests were applied, the notes were shuffled and dealt to him, but he instantly picked out the fraudulent paper. The notes were then overlaid in such manner as to show only the attested names, and without a moment's hesitation he drew out the same paper. Every test which the ingenuity of the lawyers could devise was applied, with the same result, and the case went to the jury. After the case was closed, one of the counsel gave the papers a careful examination, when it was found that the disowned signature had been punctured with a pin between the letters, but the mark was so exceedingly small that it had escaped a score of prying eyes;-yet to the witness' experienced vision it was as plain as a pike-staff."

The Manufacture of Matches.

The making of the splint is the first step. The reader, no doubt, has wondered how these are made all exactly of one size. Of old they were split by hand, but now they have to be made by machinery, and an odd contrivance is resorted to. We may say, at the outset, however, that the wood must be perfectly dry to burn, consequently the blocks out of which they are made are first desicated by being stoved at a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Nothing but the best quality of pine wood, as free as possible from knots, is employed. Planks of this kind are cut into blocks eleven inches long by about four and a half inches wide. These pieces of wood which, when thoroughly dried, are taken to the cutting machine. This is an apparatus having an iron bed, through which projects thirty lancets, one-eighth of an inch apart; these lancets, as the end passes over the bed, project an eighth of an inch in depth, and score or cut the wood to that depth; this is done by one motion forward of the block of wood. The motion backward moves a knife which cuts the block horizontally, in the direction of the fiber, an eighth of an inch in thickness; and by so doing liberates, say, thirty splints, that had been previously been scored longitudinally. As fast as the machine can work, say eighty times in a minute, splints an eighth of an inch square are being detached, and fall down into a receptacle, until the whole block is consumed.

The next process is to collect the splints in bundles of six dozen each. This is done by men who take the splints lying irregularly as they do, and by a clever knack, acquired by practice, placing them with a shake parallel. So nicely do these men judge the number, that they rarely have to add to the original handful they have seized. These they place in a semicircular cradle with a piece of string lying at the bottom, and at once tie them up in bundles; if they doubt whether they have enough, they apply a circular spring of metal, which guages them properly. They are now tied up, knocked flat on either end so as to insure the splints lying in equal lengths, and are then again dried for several hours in a hot stove. As the wood, even if ignited by the chemical preparation with which they are tipped, would not burn readily, they are dipped in a preparation of sulphur; in some cases wax is used instead of sulphur, but with a similar motive. By means of a frame with holes, each individual splint is fixed by the end just like the bristles of a brush. This is done by a very ingenious machine which is difficult to describe, and would be still more difficult for the reader to understand. So adjusted, the splints are ready to be dipped. The igniting mixture is made of a small portion of phosphorus, chlorate of potash, ground glass to harden to compound, and crocus to color, or any other pigment that may be approved. This mixture is spread with a spatula on a hot plate to an even depth of about an eight of an inch. The small amount of phosphorus in this compound is observable. If more were added, in this moist country, its power of absorbing moisture would tend to make the match hang fire. This is a merciful arrangement to the workmen, for where, as in Germany, the proportion of phosphorus is much larger, the workmen are subject to a terrible disease, which we shall refer to presently. The whole composition is fixed on the top of the splint, in the case of the common lucifer, by the addition of a little glue. The splints thus tipped are placed in a current of air to dry them, and the other end of the bundle is coated in the same manner. This process is called "frame dipping;" half a dozen workmen can dip 20,000,000 matches in a day. A million seems a number that is beyond the mind to count comfortably; but by the rapid processes adapted in the these large manufactories twenty times that number are actually handled.

There is another method of dipping, by which only the end of the match receives any composition. This plan is performed more expeditiously. The dipping composition has a large proportion of phosphorus in it. Matches so made are preferred by some people, but they are apt to get damp. In this country, where but a small proportion of phosphorus is used, the terrible disease, necrosis of the jaw, is scarcely known. But in Vienna, which is the seat of many large match manufactories, the disease is very common. The action of phosphorus is in this wise: Wherever there is a decayed tooth the fumes of the phosphorus find admittance and gradually destroy the tooth, making their way to the bone of the jaw, which is attacked in the most virulent manner.—*Cassell's Magazine.*

Food for Thinkers and Workers.

Those who expect to think should not eat much food which simply produces warmth and fat, such as ham, fat pork, white bread, butter, rice, tapioca, and starch. These contain very little phosphatic food, being chiefly carbonaceous. Prof. Agassiz says, "fish enters largely into the requisition of the human system. It is a kind of food which refreshes the system, especially after intellectual fatigue. There is no other article of food that supplies the waste of the head so thoroughly as fish diet. Fish contains phosphorus to a large extent, a chemical element which the brain requires for growth and life. He would not say that the exclusive use of fish would make a blockhead a wise man, but that the brain would not be wanting in one of its essential elements." Man cannot, however, live on fish alone, because most fish are not fat enough to furnish the heat-producing element in sufficient quantity. The amount of phosphate or brain-supporting food contained in the flesh of animals is in proportion to the activity of that animal; those of great activity, such as the canary-bird, for instance, secures food which feeds brain, nerve and muscle, but does not produce fat. The flesh of the trout, the pickerel or salmon imparts more mental and physical vigor to the eator than the flesh of comparatively dormant fish, like the eel and flounder. The flesh of wild animals, such as the bison, deer or boar, promotes activity in the eater more than the stall fed ox, sheep, or hog. Wild game generally is considered better food, especially for the convalescent, than the fattened domestic turkey or goose. Barley, oats and wheat, ground without bolting, furnish food for brain; but lawyers, ministers, and students eat the white, superfine, or bolted wheat bread, and go to sleep. That which would fatten a pig, and give him no desire to exercise or to think is eaten by the learned and refined of the human race, who look in pity upon the poor peasant following the plow, because he is obliged to eat his brown loaf; which brown loaf and cheap fish and wild game contain the incitement to brainwork, in which poems, orations, and art are conceived and nursed. The proper food for laboring men—we mean those who have to exercise muscular strength chiefly—should be that which contains the greatest amount of nitrogen. Among these articles barley and cheese stand high. The red flesh of the ox or sheep are the leading articles. Men who train prize-fighters seem to understand much better than others how to build up physical strength and endurance. When their battle and their race is ended, they lay aside their unbolted bread and fruit, lean beef and mutton, and fall into their old habits of liquor-drinking and of eating starch-bearing articles, such as rice, fine bread, pudding with fat meat and butter, and they soon become as fat and lazy as these carbonaceous articles can make them.—*Phrenological Journal.*

Cure for Corns.

The *Journal of Applied Chemistry* says: "Soak the feet in warm water, then, with a sharp instrument, pare off as much of the corn as can be done without pain, and bind up the part affected with a piece of linen or muslin thoroughly saturated with sperm oil, or, what is better, the oil which floats upon the surface of the pickle of herring or mackerel. After three or four days the dressing may be removed, and the remaining dead cuticle removed by scraping, when the new skin will be found to be of a soft and healthy texture, and less liable to the formation of a new corn than before. We have the recipe from a source which we cannot well doubt, and publish it for the benefit of many suffering readers."

The pain occasioned by corns may be greatly alleviated by the following preparation: Into an ounce phial ask a druggist to put two drams of muriatic acid and six drams of rose water. With this mixture wet the corns night and morning for three days. Soak the feet every evening in warm water, without soap. Put one-third of the acid into the water, and, with a little picking, the corn will be dissolved.—*Jessie Piessie.*

There are nine cities in Germany and two in Italy which possess Lincoln streets.

Philadelphia is to sprinkle her streets with salted water.

—Ear rings are now made to imitate gold-fish globes.

Extracts from Mark Twain's Autobiography.

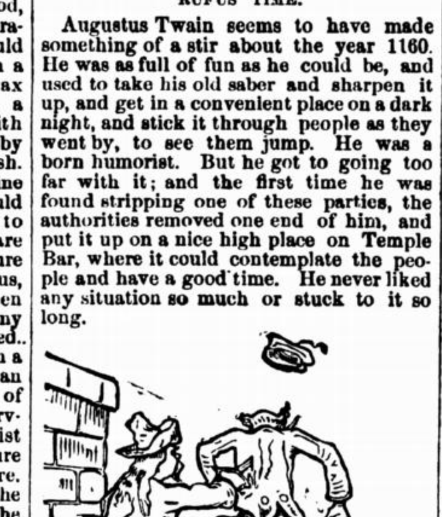
Ours is a noble old house, and stretches a long way back into antiquity. The earliest ancestor the Twains have any record of was a friend of the family by the name of Higgins.

THE LATE MR. HIGGINS.

Arthour Twain was a man of considerable note—a solicitor on the highway in William Rufus' time. At about the age of thirty he went to one of those fine old English places of resort called Newgate, to see about something, and never returned again. While there he died suddenly.

A SOLICITOR ON THE HIGHWAY IN WM. RUFUS' TIME.

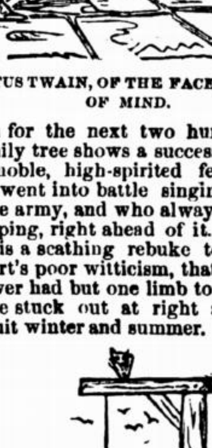
Augustus Twain seems to have made something of a stir about the year 1160. He was as full of fun as he could be, and used to take his old saber and sharpen it up, and get in a convenient place on a dark night, and stick it through people as they went by, to see them jump. He was a born humorist. But he got to going too far with it; and the first time he was found stripping one of these parties, the authorities removed one end of him, and put it up on a nice high place on Temple Bar, where it could contemplate the people and have a good time. He never liked any situation so much or stuck to it so long.



AUGUSTUS TWAIN, OF THE FACETIOUS TURN OF MIND.

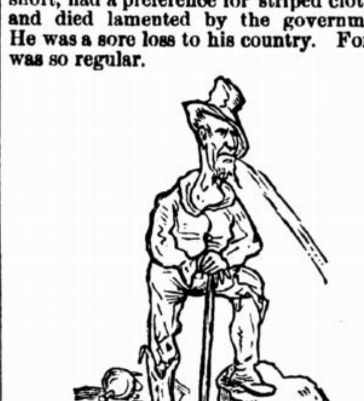
Then for the next two hundred years the family tree shows a succession of soldiers—noble, high-spirited fellows, who always went into battle singing, right behind the army, and who always went out a-whooping, right ahead of it.

This is a scathing rebuke to old dead Froissart's poor witticism, that our family tree never had but one limb to it, and that that one stuck out at right angles, and bore fruit winter and summer.



OUR FAMILY TREE.

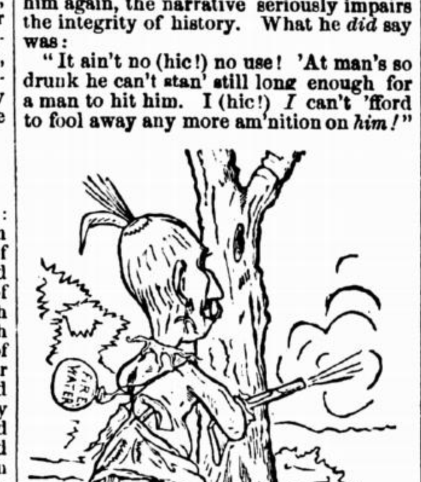
Early in the fifteenth century we have Beau Twain, called "the Scholar." He wrote a beautiful, beautiful hand. Any he could imitate anybody's hand so closeld that it was enough to make a person laugh his head off to see it. He had infinite sport with his talent. But by and by he took a contract to break stone for a road, and the roughness of the work spoiled his hand. Still, he enjoyed life all the time he was in the stone business, which, with inconsiderable intervals, was some forty-two years. In fact, he died in harness. During all those long years he gave such satisfaction that he never was through with one contract a week till government gave him another. He was a perfect pet. And he was always a favorite with his fellow-artists, and was a conspicuous member of their benevolent secret society, called the Chain Gang. He always wore his hair short, had a preference for striped clothes, and died lamented by the government. He was a sore loss to his country. For he was so regular.



A GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR.

Pah-go-to-wah-wah-puk-ke-te-kee-wis (Mighty-Hunter-with-a-Hog-eye) Twain adorned the middle of the eighteenth century, and aided Gen. Braddock with all his heart to resist the oppressor Washington. It was this ancestor who fired seventeen times at our Washington from behind a tree. So far the beautiful romantic narrative in the moral story-books is correct; but when that narrative goes on to say that at the seventeenth round the awe-stricken savage said solemnly that that man was being reserved by the Great Spirit for some mighty mission, and he dared not lift his sacrilegious rifle against him again, the narrative seriously impairs the integrity of history. What he *did* say was:

"It ain't no (hic!) no use! 'At man's so drunk he can't stan' still long enough for a man to hit him. I (hic!) *I* can't 'fford to fool away any more am'nition on *him!*"



MIGHTY-HUNTER-WITH-A-HOG EYE IN THE ACT OF FIRING AT GENERAL WASHINGTON.

The Boston *Advertiser* says: "A wealthy gentleman, seventy-five years old, residing in one of our suburban towns, recently offered to settle $20,000 on any young lady, a resident of the town, who would become his wife. He desired, he said, some one to ride with him, spend his money, and take care of him in his old age. Strange to say, although the place is noted for the beauty and accomplishments of its lady residents, no one could be found willing to take the chances of even becoming a rich young widow."

Increasing the Height of Rooms.

It is frequently desirable to raise the roof of a dwelling house a few feet higher than it was originally built, for the purpose of making sleeping rooms in the attic story, or to render the rooms that are quite too low, more pleasant and airy. But many builders dare not attempt such a job, unless they take the roof entirely down, for fear that they may get a deadfall trap on stilts, when they have lifted the roof from its original foundation. It will be found a comparatively easy job to raise the roof of an ordinary building one foot, or six feet, with perfect safety, provided a workman will operate understandingly. Let us assume, for example, that it is desired to raise the roof of a dwelling house, or the roof of one wing, which is thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. If the lower ends of the rafters rest on plates six inches square, or larger, it will be better to elevate the plates with the roof, by cutting openings through the side walls about six feet from each end, to receive sticks of timber extending across the building beneath the plates. If the building has been erected with a balloon frame, there should be three sticks of square timber, one near each end, and one near the middle. Let these timbers be blocked up close to the under side of the plates. The ends of these sticks need not extend beyond the outside of the plates, so as to interfere with the cornice. If there are no collar leaves secured to the rafters, the plates must be fastened, temporarily, to the timbers, to prevent their spreading as soon as the roof is lifted. The next step will be to set a screw near the end of each stick of timber, on a foundation that will not topple or sway as soon as it receives the superincumbent pressure of the roof. If strong iron jack screws cannot be obtained conveniently, three two-inch wooden bench screws will elevate one side of a large or small roof with perfect safety. The writer has frequently lifted the corner of a thirty by forty foot barn with a pair of two and one-eighth inch wooden screws. As soon as the timbers are secured in their proper places, and the screws are set to lift one side, remove a board just below the cornice, and saw off all the studs on both sides of the building. Let all the studs at the gable end be sawed in two at a point nearly in a horizontal line with the plates, and let the gable end walls and windows rise bodily with the roof. Now, let the screws be all worked together, blocking up every inch as fast as the roof rises. After one side has been elevated six inches, remove the screws to the opposite side, and elevate it about one foot, keeping the timbers beneath the plates and well blocked as fast as the roof rises.

In case there should be a chimney resting on a closet, or on the collar beams supported by a partition, procure another wooden screw, and set it beneath the chimney. Four wooden screws will usually cost no more than the proprietors of jackscrews are accustomed to charge for the use of a set of screws while performing such a job. If the screws are placed on the foundation so as to elevate the roof perpendicularly, by raising one side six inches, then the opposite side one foot, and, after this, lifting each side alternately one foot, there will be no difficulty in carrying up the roof in a perpendicular direction, to any desired height, provided the screws and the blocking are supported by a broad foundation of blocks that will not rock. Before removing the screws, see that the blocking is so secure that the roof cannot slip, in case the screws are not set perpendicularly on the opposite side. As the roof is lifted, let a plumb-line be frequently employed to determine whether it is not being carried in any direction away from a perpendicular line. In case the entire roof is one inch or more too far to the north, let the north side be lifted one foot higher than the opposite side, and be blocked up; then set the screws under the opposite side inclining about one inch per foot in height. By this means, the roof can be carried in any desired direction, the distance of half an inch or two inches. If the screws are always set perpendicularly, the roof will rise in the right direction. If, for example, the plates beneath the roof to be raised were four feet from the chamber floor, in lieu of square blocks, make a strong platform for each screw to rest on, by placing four pieces of scantling, two feet long, on the ends, for corner posts, and nailing stays from the top of one to the lower end of the another. Then, let the scantling stand on strong planks resting on the floor. A crib can then be carried up, on the tops of the corner posts, with pieces of plank, or studs or boards, and the foundation will not topple. As soon as the roof has been elevated to the desired hight on one side, let the space in the side wall be filled by nailing pieces of studs to the sides of the pieces attached to the plates, and the sides of the studs beneath. Then lift the opposite side of the roof, and secure pieces of studs to the sides of any timbers that have been sawed in two. If studs, when lapped together, be nailed firmly, the side wall will be about as strong as if the studs were of one entire piece of timber. Should there be partitions extending from the floor to the roof, tear away the base boards and saw off the studs near the floor; and let another screw be employed to carry up such portions of the structure, or let a self-acting lever, with a weight at the farther end, hold the partition wall up to the desired position as the roof is rising.—*Technologist.*

A Word of Entreaty.

The incarnation of self sacrifice finds its embodiment in the souls and bodies of farmers' wives, and especially such as are mothers. We refer now to the almost universal disposition among them to convert themselves into absolute drudges, simply for the sake of saving a few dollars, which they believe will advance the happiness and welfare of those they love. Thousands of women go down to early graves every year, victims to this deplorable misapprehension of results, of how they may best serve those they wish to serve.

At this season of the year, when the hard and earnest work of farm-life opens and asserts its demands, and country women are deciding for themselves the question, we beg leave to put in an earnest entreaty in behalf of the children. For their sakes, consider that your life and health are more to them to the very last moment of your life, than any amount of money you may be able to lay up for their use. We write from a sad and profound experience. Our own mother, a proud, ambitious woman, with a delicacy of constitution too often characterizing our country women, full of nerve and with a great force of character, found herself at the early age of thirty-eight "just ready to begin to enjoy life," as she sadly expressed it, obliged to relinquish it—to leave the comfortable home she had toiled so hard to win and adorn, and to know that her children were soon to be motherless. Although a very little girl then, it made an impression that subsequent years have only confirmed. Over work, the impulse of which was *love and ambition for her children*, killed her. How gladly would each and all of us, part with every dollar that has come to us, from the basis of her toils, if by so doing we could have our mother! The mistake she made, although so palpable to us now, she saw only when too late.

We well remember one day, during the time when she was rapidly nearing the limit of her life here, of a conversation she had with a friend, in which she deplored her mistaken love, and hoped her own daughters would never do as she had done. It was only the old story of half the mothers who go to heaven a great many years before they ought—working, consciously beyond her strength, for "only *this* once," but doing it not only once, but again and again, until the last possibility was exhausted.

Oh, wives and mothers, be wise before it is too late! Live so as to enjoy *every day* of your life. Ten years hence, or even to-morrow, you may die. Live so that your presence will gladden the lives of your dear ones, more than anything your hands can win for them. Don't think you serve them wisely or lovingly by sacrificing your health with a view to "economy, "which is never economy, but the rankest extravagance. What if the farm be notpaid for this year, or next, or even next? There is not much to fear so long as you retain your health; but *every thing* to fear if you lose it.

So, if your best judgment tells you that you shall need help this coming summer, follow your judgment in the matter. Aside from the children, and what you owe to them in caring for your health, you owe equally as much t yourself. You have a right to life andohappiness, if you are a woman. So many women act as if they were of secondary importance, simply because of their being women, and married ones, that their action provokes comment, if nothing more.

On the subject of "Help" we have hitherto had somewhat to say, so that we have now only to suggest male domestics where females cannot be procured. An active boy from ten to fifteen years of age will lighten the labors of a house almost, if not quite, as much as a full grown domestic. Such can always be had, if not in the country the city swarms with them, and benevolent societies are always ready to supply the demand.

It is customary with many women to leave the decision of such matters with their husbands, or the "men folks." It would be safe and pleasant to do so if the "men folks" were only what they should be, instead of being, oftentimes, thoughtless, careless, and selfish. We have known men to be "bright and shining lights in the church," carry a pious face from Sunday morning until Sunday night, and assume all the phases of conventional piety, while, at the same time, their wives or daughters, or both, were actually *working themselves to death* under the approving smile of their master! The physical health of horses and cattle were intelligently regarded, but, then, the loss of a wife is a "dispensation of Providence," and the consolation that comes in the shape of another is cheerfully accepted of at the end of a year.

So, as long as such men exist, it is neither safe nor advisable to always abide by the decision of the "head of the house," unless half of it at least, grows on your own neck. The exercise of any faculty or quality strengthens and develops it; and so long as the Creator, in his wisdom, endowed women as well as men with the quality of judgment, why should they not exercise it, at least in their own behalf.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Damp Dwellings.

As a general rule, it may be laid down that there is no auxiliary so powerful in diminishing the amount of such moisture as cannot be actually shut out from any part of a building, as a free circulation of air. It is to be remembered that the atmosphere is almost always in such a state that when it comes into contact with free moisture it will absorb some of it. Let, therefore, openings communicating with the cavities and vacant spaces of a house be freely provided. The hollow space in a roof, the space between floor and ceiling, and the hollow under a floor, should all enjoy a free circulation of air. It is even desirable, in building hollow walls, to attempt to promote a circulation of air in the cavity, and in all these cases it should be remembered that two openings are requisite to each hollow in order to give much hope of a current or change of air. Where there is no ventilation under the lowest floor of a house, the joists and timbers will soon begin to decay. This may be accelerated by covering the floor with oil cloth or kamptulicon or similar non-porous coverings. Ivy or creepers against external walls, and even trees growing close to them, tend to promote moisture by cutting off circulation of air.

The failure of any portion of the arrangements for water-supply or drainage will be pretty sure to lead to damp. As general rules, no drain should ever be permitted to pass under any part of a dwelling-house; and when this cannot be prevented, the drain should be so laid without being covered up with earth, that every part of it which is under the floor of the house can be reached at once. The water pipes, on the other hand, should be kept well within the house for warmth's sake, and, where they leave it, should be at a level of not less than three feet at the least below the surface, for protection against frost. Whenever practicable, water pipes should be left where they can be seen and got at. Iron is preferable to lead for their material, and the arrangements should always include the means of shutting off water supplies in very frosty weather.

It only remains to suggest to those persons who unfortunately find themselves in a damp house which they cannot leave, that they ought to use as many remedies as they can, rather than only one at a time; that, as far as possible, what is done should be done in dry weather; and that the repairs or remedies attempted should be carried out with good materials and labor, in the most thorough way possible, and under vigilant supervision. Damp is most insidious, finds its way in at very small and very out-of-the-way inlets, and when once established seems very loth to be disturbed. Those who build for themselves will, we hope, not overlook the very just importance of the simple precautions necessary to keep their houses dry; but we should be especially gratified if these observations induce some of our readers who rent houses to bestow some little pains in ascertaining, before they take a house, if these precautions have been attended to or not. It is wise to try to select a wet day for looking over a house, for if the day be fine, and the weather dry, damp spots as well as many other defects may be easily overlooked. Let the intending tenant look for the existing of damp courses, dry areas, and ventilation under floors; let him avoid a ground floor that is not a little raised above the earth outside, unless he is sure there is a good cavity under it well ventilated. Bricks that are manifestly porous, or which change color very much when rain falls, parapets with no copings, walls where the pointing is not thoroughly sound, eaves without gutters, and the like, are to be looked upon with great distrust; and an unsound roof or ill-arranged gutters (of which, by-the-bye, few non professional persons can form a good opinion) ought to be looked upon with as much disfavor as a dining-room of the wrong shape, or a drawing-room that looks gloomy. In one word, in choosing a house in which a man intends himself and his family to live, he should look out for the indications of damp as pointing out the presence of one of the most serious enemies to his comfort, if not to the continuance of their life, which he can have to encounter.—*London Tool Journal.*

Fecundity of Weed Plants.

Few persons are aware of the astonishing fecundity of most of the pernicious weeds which infest our farms.

In some countries, where large landed estates are held by single individuals, and whose incomes are very large, the most pains-taking investigations have been made in order to learn what a single weed plant is capable of doing in the way of propagating itself. We have before us some of the results of these careful investigations, and from which we learn that a single coltsfoot produces from 4,000 to 22,500 seeds! The wild mustard, 8,000 seeds from a single plant! The chamomile, 40,000; the Mayweed, 45,000; the burdock, 24,000; the red poppy, 50,000; the wild parsley, 6,000.

All farmers have noticed the fine gossamer which surrounds the thistle seed which is borne up by the wind and carried aloof like a tiny car. In this way, from a single plant, 10,000 seeds have floated away on downy wings. Then there are weeds whose seed pods burst open with a violence, like the common garden balsam, so as to scatter the seeds to a distance, where they will propagate new plantations of their kind. On the other hand, some plants have seeds supplied with delicate hooks to fasten in the soil; others, again, propagate slyly under the earth, as the crow garlic, which produces 700 offshoots a year

The *Irish Gazette* states that the nodding poppy or cockle plant has lessened the wheat crop in that country by at least a tenth part of its value, and that "the weeds of Ireland cost nearly *six millions* a year!"

In England experiments have been recently made to ascertain the influence which weeds have upon the growing crop. In one instance several acres were sowed; one acre was measured and not a weed disturbed in it, the other six were carefully weeded; the unweeded acre produced eighteen bushels and the weeded acres averaged twenty-two and a half bushels per acre. In another instance the unweeded acre produced thirteen bushels of barley, and the weeded twenty-eight bushels. A third, with oats, produced seventeen bushels, and the weeded acre thirty seven bushels.

Any reform in this matter, to be worthy of the name, will be futile until we can purchase pure seeds with which to sow our fields. The fault in this particular is sometimes with the farmer himself. He foolishly desires to purchase cheap seeds and finds some seedsmen willing to oblige him. Seeds are thus mixed often for purposes of fraud.

In an examination made and reported to the *Croydon Farmers' Club*, England, it was found that as many as 1,920,000 plantain seeds were contained in a single bushel of red clover.

In other experiments, in a bushel of rye grass there were detected no less than 204,800 weed seeds. In a bushel of clover seed, 312,000; of linseed, 304,600; and all this was irrespective of dirt and particles of stone, which make cheap seed by far the dearest.

Let us urge, then, again and again, upon farmers, the importance of extirpating the weeds upon their own lands. It is useless for one to keep his fields clean while his neighbor's fields are foul and constantly resowing all the land within half a mile of him.—*N E. Farmer.*

A tailor at Richmond, Va., has prosecuted a sewing girl for the value of a button he had previously given her.

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

The *Rural New Yorker* gives its preference to drill planting of corn over planting in hills.

Cutworms.—A table spoonful of saltpeter dissolved in a pail of water, is said to be a death dose to cutworms. Sprinkle around the plant a little of the wash every evening, until the plants are strong and out of danger.

Two correspondents of the *Country Gentleman* recommends, as a remedy for cows kicking when being milked, tying a small rope round the cow's body just forward of the hips, drawing it moderately tight.

To Can Pie-Plant.—Prepare it as you would for pies. Then put in a preserving kettle, allowing one teaspoonful of sugar for each quart of pie-plant. Pour in one-half pint of water, and let it come to a good boil. Have your jars ready and seal tightly.

Dr. Halford, Professor of Anatomy in Melbourne University, believes that he has found an antidote to the bites of poisonous reptiles in injecting ammonia into the blood of animals bitten. His experiment with dogs, rabbits, fowls, and men have proved eminently successful.

A Central New York correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* has a short-horn cow, 14 years old, which gave 24 quarts of milk on May 16. He believes in keeping cows in good condition, and says this cow has never seen the day, since she was two weeks old, that she was not fit for the butcher.

Intemperance.—Strong drink has a tendency to banish reason, destroy health and blight the prospects of men. It will give an unsteady gait, a trembling hand, a red nose, and a bloated face. The winebibber has his eyes full of rheum, and his head full of confusion, his strength impaired, and his thirst perpetual.—*London Journal.*

A Simple Cure for Sore Throat.—A well informed friend sends us the following: Take the whites of two eggs and beat them in with two spoonfuls of white sugar; grate in a little nutmeg, and then add a pint of lukewarm water. Stir well and drink often. Repeat the prescription if necessary. Our friend thinks it will cure the most obstinate case of hoarseness in a short time.—*Exchange.*

To Renovate Feather Beds.—If there is no steam renovator at hand, put the beds out in the first heavy, drenching rain that falls. Let them become thoroughly wet, and turn them several times. Then dry them in the sun, and when one side is perfectly dry, beat it with sticks to lighten up the feathers, and turn up the other side to dry, either placing boards under it, or placing the beds on the piazza roof, if one is at hand.

Milking should be performed at regular hours, not varying fifteen minutes one day from the other. No talking or laughing should be permitted at the time, and it should be done as speedily as possible. See that those who milk the cows can control themselves, govern their passions, speak low and kindly almost under any provocation, and soon the cows will learn that they are not going to be abused and will submit to the operation.

The unpleasant odor produced by perspiration is frequently the source of vexation to persons who are subject to it. Nothing is simpler than to remove this odor more effectually than by the application of such costly perfumes and ungents as are in use. It is only necessary to procure some of the compound spirits of ammonia, and place about two tablespoonsful in a basin of water. Washing the face, hands and arms, with this, leaves the skin as sweet and clean as one could wish. The wash is perfectly harmless, and very cheap. It is recommended on the authority of an experienced physician.—*Exchange.*

According to various statements collected by the *Scientific American*, the modern habit of much traveling does not tend to diminish longevity or induce any particular diseases. Statistics have been gathered in France and England which seem to prove this conclusively, and it is not supposed that the result is very different in this country, though information is still wanting. Railway accidents are more common with us, and yet the loss of life by railroads is less in proportion than by any other means of conveyance. As for an Englishman, according to one of their authorities, his risk of death by hanging is 130 times greater than that of perishing on a railway.

Soiling Food.

It has been my habit for thirty years to annually grow corn for soiling dairy cows, at the rate of one acre to ten cows. I plant early, so that it will mature and be ready the first of August. I deem it unfit to feed till it is fully in blossom, and forming ears, when it is found to be sweetest, and contains more saccharine matter. The ground is marked for rows, three feet apart, running north and south, to admit the sun's rays to strike the ground between them. The seed is planted in hills, eighteen inches apart in the row, with six to ten seeds in a hill, and tilled like any corn crop. The evergreen sweet corn is preferable to other varieties, as it remains green and succulent longer.

The advantages of planting in rows and hills are, that the plant grows rapidly on good ground, and requires all the influence of sun, heat, light and air that can be given it, to perfect its physical growth. Being in rows gives opportunity to move the ground by cultivation, and freer access to those elements than when sown broadcast or in drills. Corn, like other plants, is most nutritious when it is making its master effort to produce its fruit; then it will make the most and best quality of milk.

The advantages of soiling in August and September are, that it relieves pastures from being grazed too close in a season of slow growth, and gives opportunity for them to recuperate for fall grazing; keeps up a good flow of milk through the season of flies and grasshoppers, and makes better butter and cheese than any other forage, except the flower of grass feed, which is an exception to any other forage I have ever used. My usual custom and best success has been in turning the sward late in the fall, and drawing on from twenty to thirty loads of manure to the acre; the after-sward is well dragged to get loose dirt to mix with the manure.

When ready to plant, I spread the manure and pulverize it well with the soil. I plant and till well, like any other corn crop. The result is that forty to sixty pounds of this fodder, fed alone, per day, on experiment, makes thirty pounds of milk and three pounds of cheese, or one and a quarter pounds of butter. Thus a product of from twelve to eighteen hundred pounds of cheese is obtained, or from five hundred to seven hundred and fifty pounds of butter from one acre of ground.—*American Dairymen's Association Report.*

Flowers and Children.

In an article in the May number of *Art* on the influence of toys in educating and forming the tastes of children, Blanchard Jerrold writes charmingly on the subject of flowers. He says:

"I would have flowers crowded in the school room windows of the very young. I would build broad open balconies for the baby scholars; where, during every daylight moment of fair weather, they might have fresh air, and bits of beauty flowering under their inquiring eyes. I would have the Pouponniere of Brussels copied, making elementary education begin;—not when a child has been already erected into a little monster by bad parents and evil surroundings; but in its protracted cradle, in the first shaking of its rattle, and the first pointing of its fingers to pictures and plants. We should—or our children would—see the good results of such cradle teaching; of æsthetics thrown into the alphabet, into the toy-shop, the playground, and the adornments of the school room. For the child that is alive to the simplest lessons and beauties of the field, that can delight in striving to imitate—if only with straw or paper—a beautiful form placed before it, is far on the way to a higher education, even should subsequent events prove untoward in its path, than the creature of dull, uniformed sight in fancy, who may be kept well at school under good masters. A feeling for the beautiful, a delight in it, which is at present almost unknown in England, is that which we shall strive after, not in art academies but in infant schools and nurseries. The roughest Dutch doll is the Venus di Medici to the child that nurses it. We give the ugly thing to the child, and so make for ourselves the after difficulty of proving that dolly is ugly. The remark applies to nearly all toys; certainly to all that are English.

—The colored population of Iowa is reported to have increased from 1,104 in 1860 to 5,762 in 1870; in Ohio from 36,664 to 63,261; in Illinois from 7,628 to 28,671; and in Kansas from 627 to 17,108. Contrariwise, Kentucky shows a decrease of from 236,167 to 222 210. The total increase of the race for the decade is given at about ten per cent.—less than half the old rate.

A New Swindling Dodge.

For about a week past a few rough-looking sharpers from New York have been operating in this vicinity, swindling the farmers by what is known as the cloth dodge. They went around by twos, and played their game in the following manner: One of these two would go to a house and offer for sale a piece of cloth at a very low price. If he sold the cloth there his pal would reach the house soon after he left it, and ask the inmates whether a man had sold them any cloth. When the cloth was shown to the second comer, he would instantly claim it, saying that it had been stolen from him, and the purchasers, to avoid being implicated in any trouble, would of course surrender the cloth, and lose what they had paid for it. It is said that these sharpers made Newburg their headquarters, but carefully refrained from practicing their little game here. Police Officer Andrews has been watching them, not liking their looks, but not being able to bring anything directly against them until to day. But they left town for New York last night, leaving, it is said, some unpaid bills behind them. If exchanges will refer to the "dark ways" of this gang of New York gentlemen, who live by their wits, at other people's expense, farmers in other sections may be put on their guard against the swindlers.—*Newburg Journal.*

Races that Become Extinct—Steamboat races on the Mississippi.

Prussing's White Wine Vinegar is a most superb article for table use. Warranted pure.

Toothache proceeds from ague in the face, operating upon the exposed nerve of a decayed tooth. Rub the gum thoroughly with the finger, wet with *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment*; heat the face well, and lay a flannel wet with the liniment on the face; also put a little of the liniment into the cavity of the tooth on cotton.

SYMPTOMS ·F CATARRH.

Indisposition to exercise, difficulty of thinking or reasoning or concentrating the mind upon any subject, lassitude, lack of ambition or energy, discharge falling into throat, sometimes profuse, watery, acrid, thick and tenacious, mucous, purulent, offensive, etc. In others a dryness, dry, watery, weak or inflamed eyes, ringing in ears, deafness, hawking and coughing to clear throat, ulcerations, death and decay of bones, scabs from ulcers, constant desire to clear nose and throat, voice altered, nasal twang, offensive breath, impaired or total deprivation of sense of smell and taste, dizziness, mental depression, loss of appetite, indigestion, dyspepsia, enlarged tonsils, tickling cough, difficulty in speaking plainly, general debility, idiocy and insanity.

All the above symptoms are *common* to the disease in some of its stages or complications, yet thousands of cases annually terminate in consumption or insanity and end in the grave without ever having manifested one-third of the symptoms above enumerated.

No disease is more common or less understood by physicians. The proprietor of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy will pay $500 reward for a case of catarrh which he cannot cure. Sold by druggists, or send sixty cents to R. V. Pierce, M. D., 133 Seneca street, Buffalo, N. Y., for it. A pamphlet free. Beware of counterfeits and worthless imitations. Remember that the genuine has the words "R V. Pierce, M. D., Sole Proprietor, Buffalo, N. Y.," printed upon the wrapper; also has Dr. Pierce's portrait, name and address on his private government stamp upon each package. 572

Gently does it. Without pain or irritation, Dr. Walker's Vinegar Bitters relieve the constipated bowels, at the same time so thoroughly toning their inner membrane and restoring their mechanical action, that it seems as if they had been reorganized on an improved plan! Yet the result is solely due to nature, reinforced and sustained by the best vegetable alterative and tonic that ever passed the lips of the sick and suffering.

The system frequently gets out of order, and should be at once regulated, else other troubles will ensue; when physic is needed take *Parson's Purgative Pills*; they are a safe, wholesome and natural medicine.

"The Excelsior Choir," edited and published by Carl Bund. This musical monthly is filled with new music of a high order, and is ust what is needed in every choir. Endorsed by leading professors and teachers; replete with gems; beautifully printed; gives an anthem, or set piece, *in each number.* Commenced in April, 1871. If you want it for a year, send twenty-five cents to "Carl Bund, care of Root & Cady, Chicago," and get all who sing in your choir to do the same.

Wood's Household Magazine.—"Ellen"—a story for parents—by Mrs. M. A. E. Ripley, is the title of the one hundred dollar prize story in the June number of this excellent dollar monthly. Several interesting stories, sketches, poems, etc., make up the other contents of this number. This magazine is only $1.00 per year; 10 cents for single number. Valuable premiums for subscribers. S. S. Wood & Co., Newburgh, N. Y.

Godey's Lady's Book.—"The Music Lesson"—a steel plate—graces the July number, along with a colored fashion-plate, containing six beautiful designs of dresses; also extension sheet with its large number of late fashions in dress and lingerie articles; a page of children's fashions; an interesting wood engraving of "The Peddler." There are an unusual number of designs for fancy work given, among which will be found, in front of the book, five designs for making up and ornamenting a portfolio cover for manuscripts, drawings, etc. Godey has presented his patrons this month with a novel slipper pattern. The ease with which it can be worked gives promise of its becoming a fashionable slipper for gentlemen.

Valuable Hints.

A regular habit of body is absolutely essential to physical health and clearness of intellect. Nor is this all. Beauty of person cannot co-exist with an unnatural condition of the bowels. A free passage of the refuse matter of the system through these natural waste pipes, is as necessary to the purity of the body as the free passage of the offal of a city through its sewers is necessary to the health of its inhabitants.

Indigestion is the primary cause of most of the diseases of the discharging organs, and one of its most common results is constipation. This complaint, besides being dangerous in itself, has many disagreeable concomitants—such as an unpleasant breath, a sallow skin, contaminating blood and bile, hemorrhoids, headache, loss of memory and general debility.

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters remove all these evils by removing their immediate cause in the digestive organs, and regulating the action of the intestines. The combination of properties in this celebrated preparation is one of its chief merits. It is not merely a stimulant or a tonic, or an antibilious agent, or a nervine, or a blood depurent, or a cathartic, but all these curative elements judiciously blended in one powerful restorative. It lends activity and vigor to the inert and enervated stomach, relieves the alimentary canal of its obstructions, and gives tone to the membrane which lines it, gently stimulates the liver, braces the nerves, and cheers the animal spirits. No other remedy possesses such a variety of hygienic virtues. It is to these characteristics that it owes its prestige as a household medicine. Experience has proved that it is as harmless as it is efficacious, and hence it is as popular with the weaker sex as with the stronger.

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters are sold in bottles only, and the trade-mark, blown in the glass and engraved on the label, is the test of genuineness. Beware of counterfeits.

Dr. S. O. Richardson's Sherry Wine Bitters—A pharmaceutical preparation, by a regularly educated physician, is one of the most pleasant and valuable tonics of the day. Persons recovering from protracted illness, or those who at this particular season of the year are subject to jaundice, habitual constipation, or any disease arising from a disordered stomach, liver or bowels, will find in the Sherry Wine Bitters a friend more to be desired than gold. Sold by all Druggists.

PLEASE

Read the Following Letter!

Mount Vernon, Ill., April 29, 1871.

Messrs. J. N. Harris & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio:

Gentlemen—I heard one of my customers speak in such high terms of Allen's Lung Balsam to-day, that I thought I would write to you the substance of his statement: He says his mother, who is now *sixty years of age*, had suffered with consumption for several years, and has been under the care of *all our best physicians*, but never received any permanent benefit; then she resorted to most every kind of Cough and Lung Balsam that could be procured for her, *but all to no avail.* She still grew worse, until she was confined to her bed; and when she was seized with a paroxysm of coughing she would *lose the power of respiration*, and they were compelled to resort to various means to restore breathing; and while she coughed so hard she could not expectorate anything, and the family and friends had given up all hopes of her recovery. Her son noticed the advertisement of Allen's Lung Balsam in the *Christian Advocate*, and they thought they would procure and try it. They commenced giving her the balsam at 5 o'clock p. m., as directed, a dose every hour until midnight; then she took another spell of coughing, and expectorated a mouthful of dark, yellow matter, which was something she had not been able to do for some time. They continued to give her the Balsam until morning, and then she began to expectorate freely, and within two hours she had expectorated three pints of mucus matter, which gave her immediate relief; and since that time she has continued to improve. She now sits up all day, and can walk about the house and take considerable out-door exercise. Her son bought more of the Balsam to-day, and he is recommending it very highly to every one. Very respectfully,

A. C. JOHNSON, Druggist.

Was there ever greater proof of merit than the case this letter refers to?

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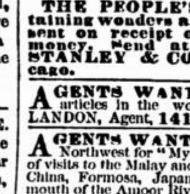

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