SPRINGFIELD GLOBE-REPUBLIC

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OWEN, PIXLEY & CO.

Ohio Valley and Tennessee: Fair weather; generally warmer, variable winds, lower barometer.

One of the objects in selling Clothing and Furnishing Goods so much below prices named by competition is, to draw your attention; another is, to get your money. It's a fair way, isn't it? Your attention and our advantages makes business, even in a dull time.

How much Clothing would be sold outside if people knew what we are doing now, and have been doing every day since last spring? We attempt to tell each day, but find it impossible to keep pace with the many changes sufficient to detail.

Boys' Flannel and Union Waists are here probably more than any other place. A fully equipped Children's Department necessitates keeping all these little fancies. Little Tads' Velvet Caps and Overcoats to match, and other sorts that don't match; some more, some less. About the average among the fine qualities is $7.50, and from this farther either way by a quarter then any other pretentious Clothier in the city. Everything good and well thought of expect to find here at prices boiled down to hard-pan.

We are obliged to go down with prices. Times demand that we shall sell many things, even below ourselves. That is, underbidding our former prices, and we do it every day.

Take the Big Red Mittens into your mind a moment. We started in at the beginning of the season with a few less than a cord, 35c was the price, and competition followed. We then got sick of the company we were keeping and dropped to 30c, to thirty they came, and again we stepped down out of their reach, striking the 20 notch, and thanks we we're alone with the price and the Mitten trade. You don't all know it, but it's a fact. We've furnished many a so called "hand-me-down" to former merchant tailors' customers during the past year. The difference between forty and twenty-five is worth saving, at least our trade in these Fine Custom Suits seem to think so.

So with Fine Overcoats. What's the sense in leaving your measure and the promise to pay fifty or sixty dollars for a Fur Beaver Overcoat, when in our stock their equal may be found for $28.

Dog Skin Gloves, Fur Top, Wool Lined, 75c, $1, $1.25, all sizes, light and dark brown. There isn't a Dog Skin Glove in Springfield. It's an innocent name though. "Cape" Gloves, Wool Lined; "Cape" Mittens, all sizes. "Cape is an innocent name too.

Combination Gloves, Saranac Oil Tanned Buckskin Gloves, $1 for 75c, $1.25 for $1, $1.50 for $1.25.

Colorado Buckskin Glove 90c, California Buckskin 90c; two more off names for sheepskin.

Plymouth Buckskin Gloves, that are buckskin, $1, $1.25, $1.50, $1.75, $2. Genuine Indian Tanned Buckskin Mittens, Wax Thread Made, $1, extra $1.50.

Innocent Calf Palm Mittens 50c for 40c, 75c for 50c, $1 for 75c.

Here are thirteen Fancy Percale Shirts, some stripes and two white, terribly soiled, originally 75c, then 50c, now a quarter, each to close the lot. Sizes mostly 16 and 16½. Super stout, double heels and toes, heavy ribbed leg, 9 to 11 inch, Half Hose 20c; ask to see lot 137.

Moleskin Working Shirts, combining elegance, strength and warmth 75c and $1.00. Cheviot and other materials 25c, 40c, 50c, 75c.

OWEN, PIXLEY & CO.,

Manufacturers and One-Price Retailers at Wholesale Prices, 25 & 27 West Main Street, Springfield, Ohio.

PIANOS.

BEHNING

These Renowned Pianos are kept in all the different styles by

R. F. BRANDOM & CO.,

74 Kelly's Arcade.

SPRINGFIELD MARKETS.

CORRECTED BY CHAS. W. PAYNTER & CO.

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1885.

PROVISIONS.

BUTTER—20c retail.
EGGS—Good supply; 25c.
POULTRY—Good demand; chickens, young, 20a30c; old, 25a35c each.
APPLES—50ca$1 50 per bush.
POTATOES—35a50c per bush.
SWEET POTATOES—$1.50a2 00 per bush.
CABBAGE—Dull; 75c a $1.50 per bbl.
ONIONS—75c per bush.
SALT—Snow-flake brand, $1.30 per bbl.
COAL OIL—10a20c per gal.
LARD—8c.
MEATS—Sides, 9c; shoulders, 7c; hams, 10c.

WOOL.

Fine washed, 28a30c; unwashed, ⅓ off.

GROCERIES.

SUGARS—A large demand and prices low; granulated, 7c per lb; "A" white, 6⅞c per lb; extra C light, 6¼c per lb; yellow C, 5⅝c per lb; C, 5c per lb.
COFFEE—Market lower; Java, 20a30c per lb; Rio, golden, 18a20 per lb; Rio, prime green, 12½a15c per lb; Rio, common, 10c per lb.
SYRUPS—40a50a70c per gal.
MOLASSES—New Orleans, 60a80c per gal; sorghum 50c per gal.
RICE—Best Carolina, 8½c per lb.
OYSTERS—25c per qt.
DRIED APPLES—$ 1-3c per lb.
DRIED PEACHES—10c per lb.
CHICKENS—Dressed, $2.75 to $3.50 per dozen.
TURKEYS— " 8a10c per lb.
DUCKS— " $2 75a3 50 per doz.
RABBITS—$1 25a1 50 per doz.

DRIED FRUITS.

RAISINS—New 10a12½c per lb.
CURRANTS—New 7½c per lb.
APPLES—New 8½c pe. lb.
PEACHES—Halves 12½c; mixed 8½c per lb.
PRUNES—New 7½c per lb.

THE MAHDI.

Gen. Stewart Pushes on After the Prophet's Forces.

Metemneh, on the Nile, Occupied.

Fifty Below Zero on Mount Washington.

Accident to Slugger Sullivan.

General Stewart Pushing Things.

LONDON, January 22.—A report is current that General Stewart has occupied Metemneh. This lacks official confirmation, but it is generally believed, as Stewart pushed forward with the greater part of his forces immediately after the victory of Saturday near the Abuksalea well. It is highly probable also that all the rebels who have been stationed at Metemneh left that point to take part in Saturday's engagement, and it is thought unlikely that they rallied and made a stand at Metemneh so soon after.

Arabs to Co-Operate With the English.

KORTI, Egypt, January 22.—A Sheikh of the Kabbabish tribe came to Korti to-day. He had heard of the British victory. He promised General Wolsely to provide him a plenty of camels.

Congress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—SENATE.—The Chair laid before the Senate Mr. Plumb's resolution offered yesterday, requesting the President to advise the Senate as to his views of the present status of the lands known as the Oklahoma lands. Owing to Mr. Plumb's absence, Mr. Ingalls wished it to go over until to-morrow.

Mr. Vest offered a substitute for the resolution, providing that the secretary of the interior shall communicate with the authorities of the Creek and Seminole nations of Indians to ascertain upon what terms they will convey to the United States all their rights to the Oklahoma lands.

The matter was laid over until to-morrow and the inter-state commerce bill was taken up; after which eulogies were pronounced on the late Representative Evans, of South Carolina.

HOUSE.—Kelley, of Pennsylvania, reported a bill to authorize the establishment of exports by tobacco manufacturers and allowing drawbacks on the imported articles used in manufacturing the exported tobacco.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Indian appropriation bill, but no conclusion was reached.

Eulogistic speeches on the life and public services of Senator Anthony were presented, when the House, as a further mark of respect, adjourned.

Ohio Legislature.

COLUMBUS, January 21.—SENATE.—Bill passed: House bill allowing township treasurers 2 per cent.; amending game laws so that quail can be shot during November and December.

The Committee on Sanitary Laws and Regulations reported favorably, with a few minor amendments, on Mr. Lisle's House bill providing for the appointment of a superintendent of vital statistics and the creation of a State Board of Health. The bill has already passed the House.

HOUSE.—Bills passed: House bill providing for boards of arbitration to settle labor troubles, to be appointed by courts; House bill for two election precincts in wards of over 800; House bill for protective associations against horse thieves.

Bills introduced: Repealing the pharmacy law; restricting duties of railroad policemen; compelling sheriffs to pay partition funds to trustees; restoring records of Hamilton county; requiring public notice of appointment of administrators; for destroying arms carried unlawfully; making enlistments in the Ohio militia three instead of five years; authorizing probate judges to pardon boys in the Reform farm; authorizing court stenographers at a salary of $2,000 per year; Senate joint resolution to place William Allen's statue in the Capitol at Washington was adopted.

House bill for having all hangings at the penitentiary was killed.

Fifty Below Zero.

MOUNT WASHINGTON, N. H., January 22.—The thermometer this morning recorded 50 degrees below zero, one degree colder than the lowest temperature ever experienced before, which was 49 below in March, 1872. Probably no rougher weather was ever experienced than at the present moment, 9 a. m. A Northwest hurricane has been blowing at 100 miles an hour for the past twelve hours. Sleep is impossible during the night. The chimney of the signal station has been blown off, filling the house with gas and smoke. Two men are on the summit—P. J. Cahill and Alphonse Laundry.

The Slugger Back at Boston.

BOSTON, January 22.—John L. Sullivan returned from New York yesterday, and began a round of dissipation. The police report that he hired a span of horses for a drive, and that while on Beacon street the horses became frightened and as he was not in a condition to manage them ran away, throwing him from the carriage. Sullivan was severely cut about the head and received other injuries. The vehicle was smashed to atoms.

Couldn't Agree.

NEW YORK, January 22.—The jury in the trial of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Patton against Collis P. Huntington, in regard to Central Pacific stock, came into court to-day and stated that they were unable to agree. ey were discharged from further consideration of the case.

Advance in Nails.

PITTSBURG, January 22.—The Western Nail Association has advanced the card rate of nails to $2.15 per keg, with the usual discounts. This is an advance of about five per cent.

The Cold Weather.

CHICAGO, January 22.—Early this morning the mercury fell to 17 below zero in this city.

Provisions Against Cholera.

WASHINGTON, January 22.—In the House to-day the Committee on Public Health expressed its purpose to call for an appropriation of $25,000 at once, and $500,000, as needed, to be used by the National Board of Health in preventing the spread of cholera.

More Earthquakes in Spain.

MADRID, January 22.—Earthquake shocks were felt again yesterday at Malaga, Loja, Votez, and Almunecar. Some damage was done at latter places.

NEWS NOTES.

Sister Theresa, a niece of James G. Blaine, has just died.

The Baltimore Manufacturer's Record makes up a record of over 100,000 men who have been put to work in factories in this country since January 1, 1885.

Haines resigned the Speakership of the Illinois House, and Mr. Cronkite, Democrat, succeeded him, by general consent.

Mr. C. P. Huntington testified in Washington Wednesday that his profits in the Central Pacific were less than five millions.

The Agricultural bill reported Wednesday provides that the Commissioner of Agriculture may use such part of the appropriation for the Bureau of Animal Industry as he may think best, to prevent the spread of pleuro-pneumonia.

Col. John C. Spooner, of Hudson, is to be the new Senator from Wisconsin.

General Stewart has had a fierce fight with a portion of the Mahdi's men, whipping them and taking possession of the Abu Klea wells.

The famous Col. Barnaby, a distinguished author and a gallant soldier, was killed at Abu Klea.

The Weight of Children.

Pastor Malling-Hansen, the director of the Royal Deaf and Dumb asylum in Copenhagen, has published an interesting pamphlet on "The Periodicity of the Weight of Children." His observations, obtained by the daily weighing of the children under his care, are very interesting. According to his evidence the weight of children differs so largely from day to day that no trustworthy result can be obtained from weighing at long intervals. A child may be two pounds heavier at night than in the morning, and may be one and a half pounds lighter in the morning than the night before. Eating seems to have more influence on weight than exercise, bathing or occupation.

The ultimate increase in weight, corresponding to increase in growth, does not go on regularly throughout the year. There is a period of stoppage in the increase of weight with corresponding loss, from the beginning of May till past the middle of July, in which time the loss of weight may exceed double the average ultimate gain. During August, September, and October there is a very steady period of increase in weight, sometimes rising to five times more than the average increase. During the rest of the year the weight varies from less to more around the average figure of increase. During the summer holidays the increase in weight is twice the average, and in September and October even thrice. Besides the serious period of loss from May to July, there are at other times sudden stoppages in the increase of weight, sometimes followed by actual loss. These hindrances, lasting from six to fourteen days, are not made up for by extra periods of increase, and seem to indicate real damage, so that the actual increase of weight seems to take place during about the fifth part of the year, while the remaining time is occupied with loss and its replacement. There is a decided correspondence between the vacillation of temperature and accompanying vacillations in the weight of the child—increase of warmth and of weight and decrease of warmth and of weight go hand in hand. A decrease of 2 degrees of warmth in the temperature of the five days is accompanied by a ninefold decrease in the weight of a child, and 3 degrees more warmth by a thirteenfold increase in weight. The hindrance and loss of weight that accompany a decrease in the warmth of the temperature may go on even after the temperature has begun to rise, as if the loss depended on sickliness induced by the colder temperature.

A year that has had most changes of temperature is far more unfavorable to the normal increase of weight in a child than a more steady year, and a series of such unfavorable years will for many following years result in less strong children. The reason of the great period of loss from May to July, and the rapid increase during the autumn months, do not seem to depend on the conditions of warmth. The increase of weight in the children experimented on was always greater during the period when the moon was receding from the earth, and less during the period when the moon was approaching the earth. During the former period the children increased in weight twice as much as during the latter period. Pastor Malling-Hansen's inquiries are considered so important that the Danish government and the "Carlsberfond" have granted sums of money for the continuance and extension of such experiments.

How Celluloid Is Made.

A roll of paper is slowly unwound, and at the same time saturated with a mixture of five parts of sulphuric acid and two of nitric, which falls on the paper in a nice spray. This changes the cellulose of the paper into a fine pyroxyline (gun cotton). The excess of acid having been expelled by pressure, the paper is washed with plenty of water, until all traces of acid have been removed; it is then reduced to pulp, and passed on to the bleaching trough. Most of the water having been got rid of by means of a strainer, the pulp is mixed with from 20 to 40 per cent of its weight of camphor, and the mixture thoroughly triturated under millstones. The necessary coloring matter having been added in the form of powder, a second mixture and grinding follows. The finely divided pulp is then spread out in thin layers on slabs, and from twenty to twenty-five of these layers are placed in a hydraulic press, separated from one another by sheets of blotting-paper, and are subjected to a pressure of 140 atmospheres, until all traces of moisture have been got rid of. The plates thus obtained are broken up and soaked for twenty-four hours in alcohol. The matter is then passed between rollers heated to 140 to 150 degrees Fahrenheit, whence it issues in the form of elastic sheets.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

The first case of painting the town red in this country was when the earliest Aztec settlers from Mexico celebrated the completion of their first village this side of the Rio Grande with an orgie of red-berries, red-paint and red-eye. This should end all argument.

WIT AND HUMOR.

A rainy day picnic and a broken marriage engagement are in one respect alike—postponed on account of the wedder.—*Burdette.*

Since the discovery that chewing gum is good for dyspepsia Vassar College has taken rank as the leading hygienic institution of the country.

A scientific writer asks how to "diminish the frequency of storms." One good way is for him to come home earlier in the evenings, or stay away altogether.

Two barristers recently had a quarrel. The row became serious, and one called the other a jackass. He then went into court and referred to him as "my learned brother."

It is said that bleeding a partially-blind horse at the nose will restore him to sight. So much for the horse. To open a man's eyes you must bleed him in the pocket.

Many of the most charming women that a man meets in society are among the last women he would ever have the courage to marry, is the opinion of a bashful philosopher.

"We have struck smoother road, haven't we?" asked a passenger of a conductor on an Arkansas railroad. "No," replied the conductor, "we have only run off the track."

Small boy—"Mamma, I wish I had the moon." Mamma—"Why, what would you do with it?" Small boy (who has just demolished a toy balloon)—"Oh, I'd blow it up and bust it."

"A man with a large physique" advertises for a wife. "A man with a large physique," unless he is deficient in the upper story, ought to be able to get a wife without advertising for one.

"Ah, Miss De Smith, are you going to have a goose at dinner to-day?" "Yes, I hope so; you'll come, won't you?" But somehow neither of them felt very comfortable after that.—*Texas Siftings.*

In London the percentage of death among married men is larger than among single men. This is as it should be. A married man in London is more willing to die than a single man.—*Norristown Herald.*

Some genius has invented a pair of spectacles which enables the wearer to see behind as well as in front. If Mrs. Lot had worn one of these invaluable glasses that pillar of salt would never have seen the light.

Mr. Cleveland's most frequent visitors just now are newspaper editors. But anybody is at liberty to call upon the president-elect, and they merely drop in to pass the compliments of the day and tell him how to run a newspaper.

"Div ye ken whit they're sayin'?" asked a blushing Scotch lassie of her backward wooer. "No; whit is it?" "They're sayin' we're going to be married." "Are they? We'll cheat them," answered the laddie; and the blushes paled in the fair Caledonian's cheeks.

When Judge Gray, of the United States Supreme Bench, told a Massachusetts lawyer who was arguing a case before him, "the law is so and so," the lawyer quickly retorted: "It is the law now, sir, but it was not until you spoke." Judge Gray subsequently acknowledged his mistake in graceful terms.

Onion socials are all the rage and this is how they are worked: Six ladies take an onion with them into a room and one of them takes a bite of it. Then a young gentleman is admitted to the game, and if, after kissing them all, he fails to tell which of them bit the onion, why, then all the girls are to kiss him.

A Kansas editor makes the following announcement in his paper: "Last week when we were coming home from Topeka, we were held up by two road agents, who took all the money we had left. We hope, therefore, that our delinquent subscribers will pay their subscriptions promptly, as we are mighty hard up."

She was a book agent. She called in our office. She was very pretty and sweet, and we fell in love on the spot. "Sir, I am engaged——" "Oh, we are so sorry. When is it to be?" She blushed and modestly withdrew. She was new to the business, and would probably have told us what she was engaged in selling, only we had to act in self-defense.

We find the subjoined passage in the leading article of one of our foreign contemporaries: "The King of Siam only showed himself in public once a year. Any one beholding him for the first time was beheaded, and the second time impaled." We are naturally curious to know what might have happened to the man who looked at the King of Siam for the third time.

"Now, then," said a Sunday school teacher, who was trying to explain a miracle to her class, "how do you account for Peter being able to walk on the surface of the water?" "I know," said a little bright-eyed boy, whose father lost a limb at the siege of Vicksburg. "Well, how do you account for Peter walking on the water?" "He had cork legs and they wouldn't leave him sink!" said the little fellow triumphantly.

A gentleman, the son of a Liberal member of Parliament in England, was riding recently near Stratford-on-Avon when he overtook an agricultural laborer driving an empty cart. Thinking the opportunity favorable for soliciting the man's views on political matters, he asked him several questions, but found little encouragement. "Do you go in for politics about here?" he at last asked in despair. "No," said the man, "I be goin' for drain-pipes."

A California Sheriff started out in his buggy a few days ago to capture a desperado. On the way he met a man who asked for a ride. As they were riding together the Sheriff told the man his mission and offered him $5 if he would get the desperado drunk. The man consented, took the $5, and went off to perform his task. Next day the Sheriff wanted to kick himself when he learned that the man to whom he had given the money was the desperado himself, who probably got drunk in due form, but was careful to keep out of the Sheriff's way.

The funny editor of this paper is out—out of spirits, out of pocket, out of fun. In fact, we do not believe there is a funny idea left in his composition. He wrote a funny piece about our groceryman, and the next day we were informed that on account of the hard times our bills must be paid monthly in advance. The joke on our poultry-man's goose has cooked ours, and we now subsist on mutton, and the mention of the fact that now was the season to bear the market has destroyed the confidence of our butcher in our ability to pay.—*Walla Walla Watchman.*

A new man has just taken editorial charge off the Lockhart (Tex.) *Register*, and makes the following unique announcement: "I wish to state that I have not done this with a view of amassing a colossal fortune, for, having been engaged in teaching school for the last sixteen years, I have saved a pile, most of which I have invested in personal property in the shape of a 140-pound Texaness. I have been for a long time undecided whether to become a mule driver or an editor, and having at last made the important decision, I shall endeavor to convince every one that I would make a good M. D."

At Boulogne, during a royal reception some years ago, a number of English ladies, in their anxiety to see everything, pressed with such force against the soldiers who were keeping the line that the soldiers were forced to give way, and generally were, as policemen say, "hindered in the execution of their duty." The officer in command, observing the state of affairs, called out: "One roll of the drum; if they don't stand back kiss them all!" After the first sound of the drum the ladies took to flight. "If they had been French," said a Parisian journal, "they would have remained to a woman."

TRADE IN HUMAN HAIR.

Gathered From All Quarters of the Globe—Pure white Hair in Good Demand.

"The best quality of human hair comes from France, Germany, Sweden and Norway," said a large importer of human hair on Broadway to the query of the *Mail and Express* interviewer.

"Years ago the human hair trade was a bonanza almost to what few dealers there were in the business. Fine, luxuriant hair could be purchased from the possessor for a few beads or knick-knacks. Peddlers went about the country with gewgaws inducing women to part with their hair. Times have changed, and not a woman in any of the countries mentioned but requires a good round sum to sever her flowing locks to adorn other heads in different parts of the world."

"Well, how is the trade now?"

"Within the last fifteen years it has fallen off surprisingly. Then it was considered on the list as the third largest import trade in America, while now perhaps it ranks about the twentieth. The reason is obvious. The introduction of cheap hair from Italy and the Chinese refined hair has affected the sale of the genuine article. Now the hair that mostly comes from Italy is either cut after death or taken from hospital patients. It is then sent to Paris and carried through a process which is supposed to give it tone and vitality, but graveyard hair can never equal the excellent quality of the raw material taken from a flesh-and-blood scalp."

"How is the hair prepared for market after it is first cut from the head?"

"All hair obtained in Sweden, Norway, Italy, and sometimes Germany (although the latter country often prepares for market hair obtained there), is sent to Paris as raw material. There it undergoes the refining process. It is cleaned, washed, and dried, and then drawn through hot sand; so the article is as pure as can be. Now, when the raw material is sent here, it is simply washed in soda, and is ready for sale."

"What does the hair cost, obtained from the original wearer?"

"It depends on the length and color. All the way from $1 to $10 is the price paid for the raw material. We call it raw until it is cleaned and purified. Thirty-two inch hair retails here from $3 to $4 per ounce, being graded by the shades of color desired. Some hair easily sells for $10 and $100 per pound, if thirty-two or thirty inches long."

"What color in hair is highest priced?"

"Pure white hair is more sought after now than any color, and is worth its weight in gold. Indeed, it is more valuable than gold. It sells at $100 and $150 per ounce, and is extremely hard to get at that price. The reason of this is that pure white hair can rarely ever be found. Nearly all white hair turns to a yellowish tinge from exposure to the sun and weather. Ordinarily white hair has three different shades, beginning at the roots, and varying a little in the middle and the end. Hence the great difficulty experienced in getting pure white hair. I don't mean gray hair. Gray with us is mixed. Then, when white hair is colored you can tell it easily."

"What colors come after white in popularity?"

"The light or pale colors are always more in demand than dark shades. Light blonde, not reddish, and golden hair are the favorites after white. In Sweden light hair is mostly obtained, and is more expensive than in any other country. France furnishes dark and medium shades; Germany medium, and Italy generally dark. But of course all these countries furnish all colors, but those just mentioned predominate."

"Will the prepared human hair last as long as the raw material?"

"Prepared hair will last a lifetime; it never loses vitality. The raw hair is clogged up with oil and will soon become dead. The refined Chinese hair, which is generally mixed with the imported and sold for first quality, very soon rots. In order to refine it, acids are used, and the effect is deleterious. The Chinese hair is dirt cheap. Twenty-eight inches in length can be purchased at the rate of $8 per pound. The trashy Italian quality is about the same price. The prepared human hair, twenty-eight inches long, is worth $36 per pound, not counting the costly shaded grades."

"What is the matter with America that you can not buy the raw material here?"

"It is the variable climate here, I think, which seems to impede the growth of hair. Fact is, hair doesn't seem to grow long on American women, and the only reason that can be given is the strange freaks of the weather. Now, in Sweden the winters are long and severe, but not capricious in changes. The temperature remains equable and Swedish women take pride in cultivating a fine crop of hair for the hair-gatherer when he come around late in the spring. American women wouldn't sell their hair if they had it. Money is not an object with them, when it comes to looks. No hair is obtained from England for the reason it doesn't grow long in the foggy island. The hair from Italy is trashy, and there is no doubt that if the raw material was imported here direct, before being prepared in Paris, it might contain a germ of cholera, as a great deal of it is cut from patients in hospitals. Hair from Italy might be properly excluded with rags during a cholera epidemic."—*New York Mail and Express.*

It was almost midnight; the hands of the clock were toiling painfully around their circuit; the maiden yawned, and incidentally remarked that it was growing late, but the youth kept his seat.

"Miranda," he said at length, "I have made up my mind to ask you if you will be my wife."

"I don't know," she answered; "you seem to lack energy, and energy is an important thing in a young man who undertakes the responsibility of supporting a wife."

"Of course; but why do you think I lack energy?"

"Because there doesn't seem to be much go to you."

"Much go to me?"

"Not much go home, at least."

He understood her.—*Boston Courier.*

FIRE-PROOF INDIANS.

Picturesque Acts of Legerdemain Among the Southern Redskins.

Mr. John B. Sweet, who has recently been traveling in New Mexico and Arizona, gave an interesting and graphic sketch to a Denver *Tribune* reporter of the "Hashkawn dance," which he had witnessed at one of the Navajo agencies. It took place in a large corral, or inclosure of an irregularly circular form, about forty paces in diameter. Its fence, about eight feet high, was constructed of fresh juniper and pinion boughs. In the center was a conical pile of dry wood, about twelve feet high, which was to make the great central fire. Around this, a few feet from the fence, a dozen smaller fires were burning for the comfort and convenience of the spectators, who numbered about five hundred men, women, and children, gathered here from various parts of the Navajo country.

The fire dance was the most picturesque and startling of all. Some time before the dancer entered, I heard strange sounds mingled with the blowing of the buffalo horn. The sounds were much like the call of the sand-hill crane, and may, perhaps, be properly called "trumpeting," and they were made by the dancers constantly during the exercises. The noises continued to grow louder and come nearer, until we heard them at the opening in the east, and in a moment after men having no more clothing on than a breechclout entered. Every man bore a long, thick bundle of shredded cedar bark in each hand, except the leader, who carried four smaller fagots of the same material. Four times they all danced round the fire, waving their bundles of bark toward the flame; then they halted in the east; the leader advanced toward the central fire, lit one of his little fagots, and, trumpeting loudly, threw it over the fence of the corral in the east. He performed a similar act at the south, the west, and the north, but before the northern brand was thrown he lit with it the fagots of his comrades. As each brand disappeared over the fence, some of the spectators blew into their hands, and made a motion as if tossing some substance after the departing flame. When the fagots were all lit, the whole band began a wild race around the fire. At first they kept close together and spat upon one another some substance of supposed medicinal virtue. Soon they scattered and ran, apparently without concert, the rapid racing causing the brands to throw out long, brilliant streamers of flame over the naked hands and arms of the dancers. They then proceeded to apply the brands to their own nude bodies, and the bodies of their comrades in front of them—no man ever once turning around. At times the dancer struck the victim vigorous blows with his flaming wand; again he seized the flame as if it were a sponge, and, creeping close to the one pursued, rubbed the back of the latter for several moments as if he were bathing him.

In the meantime the sufferer would catch up with someone in front of him, and, in turn, bathe him in flame. At times when a dancer found no one in front of him he proceeded to "sponge" his own back, and might keep this up while making two or three circuits around the fire, or until he overtook someone else. At each application of the blaze the loud trumpeting was heard, and it often seemed as if a flock of a hundred cranes were winging their way overhead, southward through the darkness. If a brand became extinguished, it was lit again in the central fire; but when it was so far consumed as to be no longer held conveniently in the hand the dancer dropped it and rushed trumpeting out of the corral. Thus one by one they all departed, and the spectators stepped into the area, picked up the fascicles of the fallen fragments of bark, lit them, and bathed their hands in the flames as a charm against the evil effects of fire.

"Were they not blistered?" asked the reporter.

"They were not hurt in the least," was the answer. "I believe they were protected by a coating of earth or clay paint! That, however, did not make the effect any less strange. I have beheld many fire scenes on the stage, many acts of fire-eating and fire-handling by civilized jugglers, and many fire dances by other Indian tribes, but nothing quite comparable to this. The scenic accessories were unique. Demons scourging lost souls with the eternal fire could scarcely be pictured to look more awful."

A Rich Strike.

"Talkin' about awful exper'nces," remarked the tramp, "but you never heerd tell on a worser time than me an' Bent-Nosed Jack had last winter. Worsest thing wot ever was. 'Twas the talk of the road all summer, boss, an' me an' Jack was noted charakturs, we was."

"What was this experience?"

"Well, yer see, me an' Jack was pikin' around de railroad yards in Chicago one day last winter, lookin' fer busted cracker boxes or any other lay-out, when we got locked in a car. There was no gettin' out, an' so we made the best of it. The weather was awful cold, an' we was in that car when it got to San Francisco. Three whole weeks on de road."

"Incredible. You would have starved or frozen to death. If you're telling the truth you must have been mere skeletons when you were liberated."

"Starve! Freeze! Skeletons! Say, boss, you hain't very flip, is yer? You don't ketch on. In that car was a hull lot o' Armour's packed meats, a ton or two o' crackers an' cakes in boxes, a shipment of cigars, a dozen case o' champagny, nice lot o' McBriar whisky, candy boxes, nuts, raisins, some Milwaukee bottled, a hull lot o' overcoats, an' merchandise generally. But the boss thing was some o' these yer oil-heatin' stoves. We hadn't any oil, but ther was a barrel o' alcohol there, and that did all the same. We had a euchre deck, too, an' played seven-up for champagny by de bottle and cigars by de box. Skeleton, boss! The only skeleton we had on that trip was de stuff in de car when we got to Frisco. We was a week pickin' out that car, an' you kin bet it took fine work to git hid in it widout bein' seen. But it was the greatest lay ever known in de perfesh, an' me an' Bent-Nosed Jack made our reps, on it, we did. Why can't a feller strike a snap like that every winter!"—*Chicago Herald Train Talk.*

English authors are clamorously demanding of their publishers that their books shall go at once into the hands of the great public instead of being issued in high-cost volumes at first and finally appearing in cheap editions. They say a book grows stale nowadays before anybody save a millionaire can justify himself in buying it. The hour of the democracy has arrived, and it will utterly destroy the dear book system, which has hitherto chiefly benefited the circulating libraries at the expense of the authors.

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A Staid Community.

Among its sister communities, this village stands by itself, as peculiar as one can think, writes a correspondent from Thompsonville, Conn., to the Springfield *Republican*. An air of staidness and gravity hangs over it ordinarily, which marks its characteristics, conservative in politics, conservative in religion, and conservative in business. Its stern old Scotch and English settlers have comparatively few representatives among the citizens to-day. Indeed, of the old names found in the town's records, scarcely a fourth remain. But the old type of character is left in many cases. The town still has its Presbyterian churches, its stern and methodical business principles, and its deep-rooted, almost intolerant, political convictions, or, rather, beliefs. These men never bet their last penny on an election, or flame over its result; never peep about a business enterprise or exult in its success. No town in the state took its politics harder or quieter than did the republicans here in the last election. Many have not yet awakened from the dreamy stupor it occasioned. Go into their places of business. The air is heavy and full of mourning. You whisper your business, careful not to rasp any harrowed soul, not for fear there will be a burst of passion, but for the same reason one acts in a careful way at a funeral, make a mute bow and softly glide for the door. It was all this that gave some credit to the many stories of men staying away from church because their pastor did not vote their ticket; of merchants who were snubbed by customers for having a light in the window during a democrat parade; of mill hands who were discharged for crowing over a political opponent. Do you wish to know how business is getting on, then go to the next town and you will learn much quicker than to question our shop keepers, however civilly. A thorough earnestness in the simplest matters of life is a never-ceasing trait. The other and larger portion of the community that has supplanted in great part the old settlers is widely different, but has not yet blotted out the air of staidness that generally pervades the town.

Mark Twain and his wife are said to have jointly more than a million dollars, and yet Mark insists on going about the country telling how Huckleberry Finn had dead loads of fun scaring school girls with dead cats.

Matthew Arnold announces his intention of again visiting America next fall. Come on, Matthew.