Old Age.

On the whole I think we old folks had better give up the idea of taking pleasure altogether; but happiness is not denied us, and in some respects is easier of attainment than when we were young. There are at least no false joys. Unless a man is a born fool he knows, after fifty, the worthlessness of all pretense. He does not wear tight boots or cultivate the nobility. He is content with his own position, and has learnt that an ounce of comfort is worth a pound of swelldom. He has no more illusions, at all events of the material kind. He knows what he likes, and sticks to it. He has no curiosities about strange sherries. He is quite sure as to whether the sea agrees with him, and that moving after dinner does not. He may not "know himself" in a philosophical sense, but he is admirably posted up in that subject for all practical purposes. The accuracy of his views in this direction does not necessarily imply selfishness or even egotism; it is merely the fruit of long experience. Of course there are old men who think of nothing but themselves; but if you consult their contemporaries you will find that the habit began with them some time ago. Selfish or not, old age is certainly inclined to be tender hearted as regards little children; I don't mean rude, mischievous brats, whom nobody really likes but their mothers, but nice children. I have seen the tenderest friendships existing between April and November, the overtures for which have always come, of course, from the latter, from the six with the nought to the six without it; and I am inclined to think that children's happiness is shared by old people more than by those less mature. This not, as some cynic may say, because we ourselves are nearing second childhood; it arises from the far-back recollection of our own youth (itself sufficient to inspire tenderness), and from the reflection, born of the fullness of our years, that it is well for these little ones to gather the roses while they may. On the other hand, we do not "go a-wooing in our boys" with quite the gusto that has been imputed to us; it reminds us of our own vanished pleasures; and besides, it generally ends in our having to make them (what, by the by, they seldom make for us) an allowance. Next to the young, as the years creep upon ourselves, we love and admire what is old. As a rule, though there are rare exceptions—Victor Hugo—like old men, who hail every new invention as heaven-born, and behold in every gleam of promise the Sunrise—there are no such true conservatives as we old men. Change is abhorrent to us, even to the finding of our slippers on one side of the fireplace instead of the other. We cling to old customs and old manners, to old books, old servants, and old friends. These last fit us like old boots, and are as welcome, and, if lost (for they are never worn out), are as difficult to replace. Never did the great London sage give a wiser piece of advice to us than to make friends with younger men, lest, being suffered by the cruel kindness of fate to survive our contemporaries, we should find ourselves without friends at all. Old men have parts to play as regards their juniors, if they will. Some of us have power, some influence, some riches, and all of us who have not misused our lives some sympathy with those who need it. To us come the young with their confidences, their aspirations, their requests, that for various reasons cannot be made to those on whom they have nearer claims, The young inventor brings his project, the maiden her tender secret, the bashful poet his lay. At the lowest we can encourage them, and put our experience at their service. If such help as we can render cannot be called a pleasure, it is only because the satisfaction we derive from it is so serene and lofty as to merit a higher name.—*Anon.*

Perforating Power of Roots.

It is indeed wonderful how easily the roots of plants and trees bore through hard, impacted soils in search of nourishment. They use for this purpose a sort of awl, of immense power, situated at the end of the roots, and capable, with the aid of the other root machinery, of thrusting aside heavy weights and getting through almost any obstructions. Yet the awl consists only of a mass of microscopic absorbent cells formed in vegetable mucus—the fluid in which vital action is first set up. The roots of the elm and the maple will bore through the hardest soil of walls or streets, enter drains, twine about water-pipes and penetrate through the seams of stone and brick structures. The roots of some plants have been known to pass through eighteen inches of solid brick-work and make their appearance in a wine-cellar below. Plants have a vast power in overcoming obstacles when foraging for food. They are like a hungry animal which no fences can restrain when there is food beyond. The movements of roots in soils proceed on certain principles of utility in connection with the welfare of the plant. Some need much more moisture than others, and the roots will drive through rocks to obtain it; others need silicious food, and will penetrate through a clay bank to reach the desired foraging ground. The urgency with which nature drives plants and animals in pursuit of food is almost irresistible.

The Whistling Tree.

In Nubia and the Soudan groves a species of acacia are ascribed as existing, whose scientific appellation, as well as the popular name, is derived from a peculiar sound emitted by the branches when swayed by the wind. The Arabic name is the "soffa," or pipe, and the specific name of fistula, also meaning a pipe, has been given to it for the same reason which prompted the natives to give it its local designation. The tree is infested with insects whose eggs are deposited in the young shoots and extremities of the branches. A sort of gall-like excrescence about an inch in diameter is produced at the base of these shoots, and when the larva has emerged from this nidus, it leaves a small circular hole, the action of the wind in which causes it to produce a whistling sound like that produced by a flute or by blowing any hollow pipe. When the wind is violent, the noise caused by thousands of these natural flutes in a grove of acacias is most remarkable. The description given by Dr. Schweinfurth of these bladder-like galls leaves it uncertain whether they are true gall-nuts or whether they are the secretion of a species of lac insects. The valuable Indian lac insect thrives on two or three species of acacia, while one variety (the A. Arabica) also produces a pod or gall-nut, which is useful for tanning. In either case, these natural "whistles" of the whistling tree would form a valuable article of commerce if they could be easily and regularly collected and exported.

Oddities of Chinese Chronology.

The ancient belief of Chinese writers was, that there had been before the time of Confucius a period of 2,267,000 and some odd years, when the powers of Heaven and Earth first united to produce man as the possessor of the soil of China. However, from the time of the Emperor Yaou, upward of 2,000 years before Christ, the Chinese had two different years—a civil year, which was regulated by the moon, and an astronomical year, which was solar. The civil year consisted in general of twelve months or lunations, but occasionally a thirteenth was added, in order to preserve its correspondence with the solar year. Even at that early period the solar or astronomical year consisted of 365¼ days, like our Julian year, and it was arranged in the same manner, a day being intercalated every fourth year. At the instance of the Jesuit Schall, the Chinese in the seventeenth century adopted the European method of dividing the day into twenty-four hours, each hour into sixty minutes, each minute into sixty seconds. The civil day begins at midnight and ends at the midnight following. Since the year 163 before Christ the Chinese writers have adopted the practice of dating the year from the accession of the reigning emperor. An emperor on succeeding to the throne gives his name to the years of his reign. He ordains, for example, that they shall be called Ta-te. In consequence of this imperial mandate the following year is called the first Ta-te, and the years suceeding the second, third, and so on to the end of the chapter, until it suits the "Great Pure" or "Great Bright" to ordain that the years shall be called by some other appellation. The periods thus formed are called by the Chinese Nien-hao. According to this method of dating the years a new era begins with every reign, and the years corresponding to a Chinese date, can only be discovered when the inquirer has before him a catalogue of the Nien-hao, with their relation to the years of the Christian era. —*Inter Ocean.*

He Kissed the Governor's Wife.

Senator Vance is a tall, broad-shouldered, handsome man of fifty-four years. He has a large, pleasant, open face, a bright, fun-loving eye, and luxuriant hair, and mustache of iron gray. He is a very popular man among his fellow Senators, and can tell more good stories than any of them. He likes a joke, and North Carolina is full of the evidences of his propensities in this direction. One day, when he was Governor of the State, it is said that he was riding on horseback along a road about ten miles from the capital when a stranger overtook him. The two men fell into conversation, and the stranger told Vance he had been to Raleigh to see the Governor, and that he had called at his house, but that he was not at home.

"Did you see the Governor's wife?" said Vance.

"Yes," was the reply.

"And did you not kiss her?"

The man, very much astonished, replied: "No, but she was very pretty, and I should have liked nothing better."

"Well, I've kissed her," continued Vance, "and I never meet her but that I do so." And thereupon, after enjoying the man's astonishment for a moment, he told him that he was the Governor.—*Washington letter.*

Not a Cold Day in Wall Street.

Demetrius, the son of Aro, accosted Crœsus, the well-known Wall street speculator, one fine morning, as follows: "There be pratings here and there, O Crœsus, that the recent disasters in financial circles have jeopardized your fortune. Tell me, if so be, I may deny these rumors."

"Young man," quoth the Lydian millionaire, "how blows the wind today?"

"'Tis southerly," replied the son of Aro.

"And the thermometer—how stands it up against your drug-store window?" asked the famous speculator.

"I do bethink me," answered Demetrius, "it showeth 106 degrees in the shade."

"'Tis well," said Crœsus, with a bitter smile, "Know then, O son of Aro, that when the wind is southerly and the thermometer points to the upper side of zero, the conditions are unfavorable to Crœsus' getting left."—*Chicago News.*

A Senator's Daily Bread.

When Senator Palmer goes to New York and stops at the Fifth Avenue Hotel he always carries a loaf of graham bread in his satchel. Before going to his meals he cuts a couple of slices from the loaf and puts them in his pocket. At the table he pulls the bread out and has always something before him he can eat. In his house at Detroit he has a mill constructed on purpose to grind the flour for this bread and at home he will never eat bread made from flour ground at any other mill. When he first came to Washington he was invited to so many dinner parties and was obliged to eat so much that he was distressed and sick most of the time. At a dinner party later in the season, however, he happened to notice that Senater Mahone skipped every other course and only barely tasted of the dishes he took. He profited by this suggestion, and since then when invited to dine he keeps his jaws in motion, but only nibbles at his food. —*Boston Courier.*

THE strawberry was introduced into England from Flanders in 1530.

Colors in Leaves and Flowers.

All common leaves contain pigment, known to chemists as chlorophyl, from which they derive their ordinary color. The cells of the leaf are stored with this pigment, while their transparent walls give them that superficial sheen which we notice so distinctly in the glossy foliage of the laurel and the bright fronds of the hart's-tongue fern. But very slight chemical changes in the composition of leaves suffice to give them a different color, which is not surprising when we recollect that color is nothing more than light, reflected in greater or less proportions of its constituent waves. The fashionable pelargoniums, coleuses, and begonias, or the dark sedums which are employed to form the quaint carpet-gardens so much in vogue, show us how easily the green coloring matter can be replaced by various shades of purple, red, and brown. These changes seem on the whole to be connected with some deficient nutrition of the foliage. It would appear that the normal and healthy pigment is a rich green; but that, as the leaf fades and dies, it passes through successive stages of orange, pink, and russet.

The autumn tints of the forest, the crimson hues of the Virginia creeper, and the transitory colors of a dying plant, all show us these passing *nuances*. If a single leaf, or even a particular spot upon a leaf, is insufficiently supplied with nutriment, its first symptom of ill-health is a tendency to paleness or jaundiced yellowishness. If an insect turns some portion of it into a gall-nut or a blight, the tips assume a beautiful pink hue. In short, any constitutional weakness in the leaf brings about changes in its contained pigments which result in an altered mode of reflecting light. Or, to put the same fact in another way, any change in the composition of the pigments is apt to be accompanied by a change in their color. Now, the ends of long branches are naturally the least nurtured portions of a plant, and the young leaves formed at such spots have a great tendency to assume a brown or pinky hue. Furthermore, these spots are exactly the places where flowers are formed; flowers being, as we saw above, mere collections of aborted leaves, destined to fulfill the functions of parents for future generations at the point where the vigorous growth of the original plant is beginning to fail.

Nothing can be more natural, therefore, than that the flower leaves should show an original tendency to exhibit the brilliant hues, a tendency which would of course be strengthened by natural selection if it gave the plant and its descendants any superiority over others in the struggle for life. It should be remembered, too, that the flower differs from the leaf in the fact that it is not self-supporting. The green portions of a plant are its mouths and stomach; they are perpetually engaged in assimilating from the air and the water those elements which are fitted for its growth. But the flower is a purely expensive structure; it does not feed itself; it is fed by other portions of the plant. It uses up, in the act of growing and expanding, energies derived from the food which has been stored up by the chlorophyl elsewhere. Accordingly, we might expect its pigment to present that less energetic, more worn-out form which produces the brighter hues of autumn and the pink tips of a growing bough. From whatever point of view we regard it, we see that a flower is naturally supplied with some coloring matter less active than that green substance which forms the assimilative agency in common leaves. It is easy, therefore, to guess how certain plants may have acquired the first tinge of color around their organs of fructification, and thus have attracted the eyes of insects by their superior brilliancy.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Our Country as Compared with Others.

The United States as compared with other leading countries of the world rates as follows:

Age: United States, dating from the declaration of independence, 108 years; United Kingdom of Great Britain, dating from William the Conqueror, 800 years; France, dating from Charlemagne, 1,100 years; Germany, dating from Charlemagne, 1,100 years; Russia, dating from Peter the Great, 350 years; Austria, dating from Charlemagne, 1,100 years.

Population: United States, 55,000,000; Great Britain, 34,505,000; France, 37,166,000; Germany, 45,367,000; Russia, 82,400,000; Austria, 39,175,000.

Wealth: United States, $55,000,000,000; Great Britain, $45,000,000,000; Germany, $25,000,000,000; Russia, $2,000,000,000; Austria, $2,000,000,000.

Debt: United States, $1,800,000,000; Great Britain, $3,800,000,000; France, $4,000,000,000; Germany, $900,000,000; Russia, $2,000,000,000; Austria, $2,000,000,000.

Expenses: United States, $257,000,000; Great Britain, $415,000,000; France, $650,000,000; Germany, $150,000,000; Russia, $600,000,000; Austria, $370,000,000.

Productions: United States—Agriculture, $7,500,000,000; manufactures, $5,000,000,000. Great Britain—Agriculture, $1,200,000,000; manufactures, $4,000,000,000. France—Agriculture, $2,000,000,000; manufactures, $2,500,000,000. Germany—Agriculture, $1,800,000,000; manufactures, $2,200,000,000. Russia—Agriculture, $2,000,000,000; manufactures, $1,300,000,000. Austria—Agriculture, $1,000,000,000; manufactures, $1,500,000,000.

THE passion-flower was first discovered by the Spaniards in the South American forests. Their vivid imaginations saw in this pale, starry, dreamy-looking flower the twelve apostles, the rays of glory, and all the symbols of our Savior's passion. A lack of either faith or imagination blinds the vast majority of eyes to these wonderful types, but it is still greatly venerated in Catholic countries.

IN the manufacture of perfumery, Nice consumes annually 190 tons of orange blossoms, and Nice and Cannes, together, consume over 20 tons of violets. A single manufacturer in the latter city uses every year 140,000 pounds of acacia blossoms, the same quantity of rose leaves, and from 8,000 to 32,000 pounds each of violets tuberoses, rosemary, mint, lemons, citron, etc.

The Popular Magazine.

The late Mr. James T. Fields, while conducting the *Atlantic Monthly*, on one occasion remarked that he could make his magazine so good that nobody would read it. This statement involved no paradox. Almost any author, who has attained to some degree of eminence, will, though perhaps reluctantly, acknowledge that in order to produce books that will "sell" he has been under the necessity of "writing down" to the level of the appreciative capacities of the great majority of the reading public. A magazine whose every number may be relied upon for containing two or three popular stories enters a large circle of buyers who would never be at the pains to cut the leaves of an article devoted to literary criticism or abstruse questions of science. Let two or three pages of "wit and humor" be added, still larger becomes the circle of reading patrons, for few are the capacities below the appreciation of a joke. In addition, let but comic and miscellaneous illustrations be introduced, and all that prevents the universal circulation of such a magazine is the competition of rival magazines of the same sort. Everybody, from the elegant lady in the parlor to the scullery-girl in the kitchen, looks at pictures. For this not even a knowledge of the alphabet is required.—*Cor. New York Times.*

Company Shops.

Mr. M. M. Shoffner, Postmaster and Justice of the Peace, Company Shops, Alamance Co., N. C., writes he has used St. Jacobs Oil for rheumatism, cuts, swelled ankles and knees, pains in the back, and sore throat. One or two applications in each case has always cured, and he believes the Great German Remedy is the best in the world. "As long as I can get it" he adds, "I never intend to be without it."

A Botanical Usurper.

A curious instance of the invasion of a country by a plant of foreign origin is seen in the history of the mango in Jamaica. In 1782 specimens of the cinnamon, jack-fruit, and mango were sent to the Botanic Garden of the island. There the cinnamon was carefully fostered, but proved to be difficult of culture in the island; while the mango, which was neglected, became in eleven years as common as the orange, spreading over lowlands and mountains, from the sea-level to 5,000 feet elevation. On the abolition of slavery, immense tracts of land, especially coffee plantations, relapsed into a state of nature, and the mango being a favorite fruit with the blacks, its stones were flung everywhere, giving rise to groves along the roadside and around the settlements; and the fruit of these again, rolling down hill, give rise to forests in the valleys. The effect of this spread of the mango has been to cover hundreds of thousands of acres, and to ameliorate the climate of what were dry and barren districts.

The Daily Scourge of Thousands

Of our fellow countrymen and women, dyspepsia, may be permanently stayed by the use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which, with certainty and rapidity, initiates a reform in the action of a weak or disordered stomach. It promotes secretion of gastric juice, which, in the chemistry of the stomach, acts the part of a solvent; removes those twin obstacles to tranquillity in the digestive region, biliousness and constipation, and remedies heartburn, flatulence, sour or bitter eructations, distension of the abdomen and other symptoms to which sufferers from indigestion are subject. Dyspepsia begets sleeplessness, causes vertigo, and produces chronic irritability. These sympathetic evidences of its existence disappear through the influence of this inimitable medicine. Debilitating maladies which entail loss of strength and flesh are counteracted by it, and it is the finest known specific for fever and ague and malarial ailments in general. Kidney troubles, uterine debility, and rheumatism are relieved by it.

WHY is a woman deformed when she is mending her stockings? Because her hands are where her feet should be.

Come, Gentle Spring,

and bring malaria, dyspepsia, biliousness, torpidity of liver, and a train of kindred maladies. Fortunately Kidney-Wort is at hand. It may be had of the nearest druggist, and will purify the system, correct the stomach and bowels, stimulate the liver and kidneys to healthy action, remove all poisonous humors and make you feel like a new man. As a spring medicine, tonic, and blood purifier, it has no equal.

CAN anybody give us the address of the man whose name is Legion?—*Rochester Post-Express.*

☞ GET THE BEST DYES.—The Diamond Dyes for family use have no equals. All popular colors easily dyed fast and beautiful. Only 10c. a package at druggist's. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. Sample Card, 32 colors, and book of directions for 2c. stamp.

A Sad Case.

First Female Sympathizer—"It is too bad. That poor man will have to be hanged. They can't get a respite, and the death watch has already been set over him."

Second Female Sympathizer—"The death watch! How awful it sounds."

"Yes; what can we do now except send him some more bouquets?"

"Yes, poor man; we must keep his cell decorated with flowers. You see, most murderers have wives to come and comfort them in the last terrible days, but this poor man has none."

"True, very true. It was his wife that he killed, poor fellow!"—*Philadelphia Call.*

MANY who long suffered from urinary and digestive diseases, causing nervousness, weakness, and debility, after trying bitters, kidney medicines, iron medicines, etc., without benefit, have found permanent relief in from one to three bottles of Dr. Guysott's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla, the only perfect blood purifier and strengthener. Hundreds of letters to the proprietors have testified to its superiority over the many pretended cures so largely advertised by means of bogus certificates that are bought and paid for.

THE dancing skeleton at the Dime Museum is not an illusion. It is a bony-fied thing.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Horsford's Acid Phosphate

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Dr. Jos. Holt, New Orleans, La., says: "I have frequently found it of excellent service in cases of debility, loss of appetite, and in convalescence from exhaustive illness, and particularly of service in treatment of women and children.

THE mosquito's auger is an appropriation bill.

THAT wonderful catholicon known as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has given the lady a world-wide reputation for doing good. It is a living spring of health and strength.

THE riches which always take to themselves wings—ost-riches.

"ROUGH ON RATS." Clears out rats, mice, flies, roaches, bed-bugs, ants, vermin, chipmunks. 15c.

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A comparatively large number of the cases which Drs. Starkey & Palen, of 1109 Girard street, Philadelphia, are so successfully treating with Compound Oxygen are what are known as abandoned or "desperate" cases—many of them a class which no physician of any school would undertake to cure. They are, in fact, *such as have run the gauntlet of experiment within the regular schools of medicine and quackery without, until between diseases and drugs the patient is reduced to the saddest and most deplorable condition.* No treatment can be subjected to a severer test. Write for information in regard to its nature and action.

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J. W. Graham, Wholesale Druggist, of Austin, Tex., writes: "I have been handling Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs for the past year, and have found it one of the most salable medicines I have ever had in my house for coughs, colds, and even consumption, always giving entire satisfaction. Please send me another gross."

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H. W. HOYT, Proprietor.

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FOR DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, depression of spirits, and general debility in their various forms; also, as a preventive against fever and ague, and other intermittent fevers, the "Ferro-Phosphorated Elixir of Calisaya," made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., of New York, and sold by all druggists, is the best tonic; and for patients recovering from fever or other sickness it has no equal.

MESSRS. ELY BROS., Druggists, Owego, N.Y. —Inclosed please find money for four bottles of Cream Balm. I tried it on a man who could not smell at all. After using your balm for six days could smell everything.—J. C. MATHEWS, Salem, N. C. [Price 50 cents.]

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ELY'S CREAM BALM cured me of Catarrh of many years' standing—restored my sense of smell. For a cold in the head it works like magic.—R. H. SHERWOOD, National State Bank, Elizabeth, N. J. [Easy to use. See adv.]

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IF a cough disturbs your sleep, one dose of Piso's Cure will give you a night's rest.

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TONIC

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Mr. Simeon Tietsell, formerly of Rondout, N.Y., had been treated for seven years by various physicians for what they called Stricture of the Urethra, without benefit. He finally consulted Dr. David Kennedy, of Rondout, N.Y., who found his trouble to be Urinary Calculi, or Stones in the Bladder. The Doctor at once removed the foreign bodies with the knife, and then gave his great kidney and liver medicine, FAVORITE REMEDY, to prevent their reformation. The entire treatment was eminently successful, and Mr. Tietsell's recovery was rapid and complete.

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Such a remedial agent exists in that old Reliable Family Remedy,

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It was the first and is the only permanent Pain Reliever.

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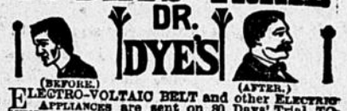

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