The Hou[ma] Courier.

Devoted to Politics, Agriculture, Home Interests [and] the Material Development of Louisiana.

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GENERAL ITEMS

Professor William Hyde Appleton has declined the Presidency of Swarthmore College.

The golden wedding of Dr. Norvin Green and his wife was celebrated at Louisville, Ky.

Three more victims of explosion at Hutsonville, Ill., died, swelling the number of victims to six.

The lease of the Wisconsin Central was formally ratified at New York by the Northern Pacific directors.

The Rev. C. Reimensnyder, brother-in-law of the Hon. A. G. Thurman, died at Lancaster Pa., aged 71 years.

Business failures for the week number 206, against 243 last week, and 222 in the corresponding period of 1889

Six boys, ranging in age from 11 to 19 years were killed by the caving in of a sand bank near Vernon, Texas.

The strike of the Joliet quarrymen was settled, the men being conceded an advance from $1.50 to $1.75 a day.

Reports from 300 Minnesota farmers, published, were to the effect that the crop outlook in the State is excellent.

Schweinfurth has preached an alleged sermon, predicting the speedy and total destruction of the City of Rockford.

Robert Garrett, it is said, will leave Baltimore next month for an European trip. His health is said to be much improved.

A cyclone Friday night at Garrettville, Tenn., destroyed Milton College, all the churches and 200 houses. The victims need aid.

On account of the recent severe storms, the wrecking crew at work on the David at South Chicago abandoned the vessel as a total wreck.

The Cosipuiriachic Reduction Works fifteen miles from Chihuahua, Mexico, were destroyed by fire on Sunday, the loss being $2,000,000.

An explosion in the mine at Nanticoke, Pa., resulted in the death of three men. Six others were wounded, four of them in a dangerous manner.

The text-book bill, known as the district purchase and county uniformity measure, was ordered engrossed by the Iowa house, by a vote of 55 to 43.

Miss Lelia J. Robinson, the first woman lawyer admitted to the Massachusetts bar, was married Wednesday to Eli B. Sawtelle a Boston business man.

Mrs Carrie Young, aged 40, an invalid, was slowly roasted to death at Paterson, N. J., her clothing catching fire from a lamp she was carrying.

Fifty-one kegs and twenty-five cases of beer were emptied Wednesday into the streets of Farmington and De Lassus, Mo., by the female crusaders.

The directors of the C. C. Washburn Mill Company, of Minneapolis, Minn., have, it is said, decided to sell the mills at the first favorable opportunity.

The steamer China made her last trip from Hong Kong in twenty days, including the stop at Yokohama, beating the best previous record by two days.

Formal invitations have been issued to citizens and organized bodies to attend the dedication of the Garfield memorial at Cleveland on the 30th of May next.

At the opening of the land office at Chamberlain, S. D., one half of the settlers were unable to file their claims, owing to the great number present.

It is stated that Premier Greenway and Attorney General Martin, of Manitoba, have resigned, and that Col. McMillen will be called to form a new cabinet.

The Mackey syndicate has sold to the "Big Four" an interest in the Cincinnati, Wabash and Michigan road, thereby securing a close alliance with Vanderbilt lines.

Boston capitalists are organizing a syndicate to build twenty iron steamships, which will be put into commission as soon as the Farquhar tonnage bill passes congress.

It is said that farmers of Woodford county, Illinois, are much alarmed by the outbreak of hog cholera. Albert Heinrich has lost a drove of 100 valuable swine by the disease.

At a meeting in Dover the Kent County (Delaware) Grange appointed a committee to consider what branch of cultivation shall be substituted the present year for the peach crop.

Owing to the disaster that has befallen Louisville, the meeting of the American Society of Microscopists has been changed from that city to Detroit. The date is August 12-15 next.

New York's Grant Monument Association has decided to erect a structure which will afford room not only for the sepulchre of General Grant and wife, but also for a memorial hall.

In the District Court at St. Paul last Tuesday Judge Kelly rendered judgment for $31,444 in favor of John V. Farwell & Co., of Chicago, and against the St. Paul Trust Company.

Six of the leading white-lead manufactories of New York have formed a combination under the name of the National Lead and Oil Company, with an aggregate capital of $1,000,000.

The slab from Mount Calvary, which is to form the corner-stone of Dr. Talmage's new tabernacle, has arrived at Brooklyn. Legend says that the Savior stepped on it while on His way to be crucified.

Adjutant General Vance reported to Governor Fifer that on account of the damage done by the cyclone of March 27, contributions will be gladly received at Metropolis and Grand Tower, Ill.

Fifteen passengers were more or less injured by the plunging down an embankment near St. Charles, Mo., of five of the six cars of the Wabash fast express train but it is thought that none will die.

Governor Godell, of New Hampshire, being incapacitated by ill health, the council has summoned the President of the Senate, D. Arthur Taggart, to discharge the duties of the gubernatorial office.

Articles incorporating the Cass street, Lake View and Evanston railroad, with a capital of $6,000,000, were filed at Springfield. It is proposed to begin the line at Wabash avenue and Madison street, Chicago.

The Requisites of a Husband.

A certain pretty little girl, with great big, serious blue eyes, was telling her companion on the street car why she was going to marry George. "You see, Mamie," she said, "George is awfully good looking; he always sends me flowers when we go to the theatre; he never seems to be so shockingly busy, don't you know; he's got plenty of money, and he does just like I tell him." Prospective husbands there is a catalogue of the requisites.—*Memphis Times*

What is better than a promising young man? A paying one.

Education and Despotism.

In every age of the world education and enlightenment have been the foes of despotic government. The establishment of institutions of learning from the time of the ancient Greeks down to the present day has ever materially interfered with the conduct of government in which the people had no part and in which the incontrovertable will of one man alone was the law.

Our readers will perhaps remember that a few weeks ago, in view of the many things incident to his present position, which must be exceedingly unpleasant, we advised the Czar of Russia to go out of the "autocrat business" entirely, and give his people a written constitution, which should be the supreme law instead of his *ipse dixit*.

More than ever are we confirmed in this opinion when we read that nearly 600 (almost the entire number) of the students of one of the principal universities of Russia, located at Moscow, are under arrest, which means that without the formality of a trial they will be hurried off to the inhospitable clime of Siberia, there to drag out a miserable existence until the hand of death shall have come to their rescue.

As popular education is the corner stone upon which the fabric of free government can alone be reared, so also are ignorance and superstition necessary to the continuance of a despotism. As well might the Czar of all the Russias arm his bitterest foes with appliances of the most approved pattern for waging war as to establish universities within his dominions. If he would sit securely upon his throne, he must silence the voice of the press and close the doors of all the institutions of learning within the vast territory over which he would reign with undisputed authority. We doubt if it is not now too late to adopt this heroic method. Already has the thirst for knowledge become a part of the very existence of the Russian youth, and this will be quenched only when he surrenders up his individual existence. In our opinion, before another generation shall have been numbered with those that have gone before, the throne of the most despotic of all despots will have crumbled into the dust and the experiment of a free government will have been tried, but with what success we dare not prophecy. The millions who for so many centuries have submitted to the worst despotism the world ever saw would seem to be illy qualified to assume the task of self-government, and we may prepare ourselves to witness scenes of anarchy unparalleled in the history of the past.—*Ex.*

Fruit Tree Culture.

PLANTING, FERTILIZING, PRUNING, ETC.

Our section of country, as yet, is in its infancy as regards the planting, fertilizing pruning and cultivation of fruit trees. It is evident to our mind that the past year's experience has benefitted every one in Southwest Louisiana in fruit culture. One fact has been demonstrated, we think, to the satisfaction of every one is the planting of fruit trees of every variety on perfectly drained soil [illegible] is the first thing to be looked af[ter] [illegible] you determine to plant an orc[hard.] The drainage should be perfect, an[d if] tile is used, so much the better, as it [has] a tendency to give warmth to the soil to the depth of the tile. The next thing is the cultivation and fertilization. The cultivation should be principally to keep down weeds; a growth of peas that will shade the land during the months of July and August is a good crop to grow in a young orchard, as it serves to shade the land, and at the same time acts as a mulch and a fertilizer. As winter approaches, everything should be done to stop growth. Whatever fertilizer is used should be used in spring after the blooming of the trees. The less growth during the winter months, the less liable is the tree to be injured in any way by cold.

During the cold weather we had on the first of March showed that the new, tender growth made in orange trees was nipped by the frost and trees that by various causes were not in this rapid state of growth was comparatively uninjured. Trees situated on the north side of houses or under trees where the warm sunshine did not reach them, and had not started growth, were found to be injured less than those in the open sunshine.

This lesson learned by our people should figure up in valuation many thousands of dollars. A hillside facing the south, giving a southern exposure has been thought by many to be the very place on which to plant an orchard especially peaches.

From this spring's experience we are taught to believe that the Southern exposure gives earlier blooming, and the earlier blooming increases the liability to injury both to trees and fruit. We believe that the peach and orange especially should be pruned so that the limbs will shade well the body of the tree. This, too, will have a tendency to keep back early growth, as the sun, not striking the body of the tree, the sap will not be forced to flow so early.

We believe (judging from fruit that has been exhibited here, and to our knowledge, grown almost without attention) if the proper precautions were taken here in planting, fertilizing, and pruning trees, and the proper attention given to the protection of fruit from insects, there is no place in the South can compare with Southwest Louisiana in fruits.

In Europe, the principal supply of sugar is derived from beets, the annual production of beet sugar being now 700,000 tons. Besides this a large quantity of beet molasses is produced, a portion of which is distilled and a coarse sort of whisky made. The stuff remaining in retort yields potassium salts, which are used as fertilizers. Sugar, spirits and potash have heretofore been the chief products manufactured from beets; but Vincent has succeeded in realizing from the refuse that remains after the beet-molasses distillation a combustible, gaseous body, which is easily condensed into the liquid form, and is called chloride of methyl. This liquid, obtained as stated from beets, is used in the preparation of some of the aniline colors, but is now especially valuable as a refrigerating agent. By its rapid evaporation a temperature of 55° C., or 67° F., below zero may be maintained, which is far below the freezing point of mercury (which freezes at 39° F. below zero). Prof. Huxley says that by this means, mercury may be frozen by the pound. For the manufacture of ice, this new beet-root promises to become of much importance.—*Scientific American.*

Get the best! Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers are the best. They taste good. They are safe. They are sure.

Our little boy, six years old, was sent to school last week for the first time, and on his return home he asked his papa, "Who taught the first man his letters?"—*American Hebrew.*

How the Creole Pony Works.

A GOOD STORY IN WHICH AN IMMIGRANT FIGURES.

"Well, it's so, for pa said so," were the words caught by a newspaper man who was prowling around our city a few days ago. How easy it is for the average boy to quote what "pa" says. Good or bad, it goes, and he sticks to it because pa says it's so.

Johnny Jimply was writing to one of his playmates living in the cold regions of the North, and after growing eloquent in his boyish way over the delightful country of Southwest Louisiana, and giving some of the incidents and accidents of Lake Charles winter life, he abruptly went off, boy like, into family matters, and would have made a bad break if his mother had not from early childhood taught him to show up copy before placing it in the mails. The whole truth of Jimply's story cannot be told in a nutshell, so to begin with we will have to go back [illegible] three winters.

It will be remembered by many that about three winters ago the first winter tourists of any consequence came to Southwest Louisiana, and a number stopped at Lake Charles, some boarding, others taking rooms or renting houses. After spending the first winter and procuring a taste of the climate, it was not at all hard for them to renew their visit the next winter; in fact, some of them did not go back when summer came on, and even suggested this as good a summer as a winter resort. Jimply, as the story goes, was one of the fortunates, or unfortunates, who went North in the summer. After spending the second winter it was decided by the family to have a cozy Southern home where the family could come and enjoy the invigorating gulf breeze in winter. This being settled, the family decided to have a buggy and horse, so they could enjoy riding around through the prairie. The next day Jimply's pa went around to Capt. ——'s (who, by the way, has always been quite a favorite with the Northern people), and after the usual jokes and a look among the Captain's large stock of buggies, one was found of size and price to fit the family, and a purchase was made. The next thing in order was to procure a horse that would fit the buggy. This was rather a hard undertaking, but Captain Jimply finally made a purchase of one of the Creole variety, for the enormous sum of twenty dollars. The buggy was rolled out from the shed, the Creole was backed up between the shafts, and by means of a punch the harness was soon reduced to fitting dimensions. Then came the tug of war. "First four forward"—"change over"—"all hands around"—"set to your partner"—"swing corners"—up Kirby street, a straight shoot to the prairie. "Now you're safe; let 'er have the lines."

There was nothing unusual in this, and the whole affair attracted the attention of perhaps only a dozen men, but Captain Jimply was very much affected. "Let 'er go." Yes, he seemed bent on getting away and out of sight as quickly as possible. Kirby street was soon left in the distance, and the great open prairie where now stands the Lake Charles College, and around which are many miles of streets graded, was soon the seat of [illegible] unseen by eye save the sleek Creole cow's. One hour passed, and to use Capt. Jimply's own words, "it seemed like a day." The same unbroken gait, a good gallop, held to a circle of large dimensions by a stiff bit and a tight rein. Toward nightfall mind, as usual, mastered the situation. The Captain says toward nightfall he suddenly became conscious of the fact that the pretended driver needed breaking as much as the horse and as he became conscious of the fact before the horse did, he became master of the situation, and never did a man drive more proudly the finest steed in Iowa than he did as he turned down Pujo street in search of a home.

The family met the Captain at the gate and remonstrated with him for bringing such a looking animal home, but he had just passed through a trying ordeal. He told the family he felt like they did about it. He wouldn't have old Judge ——, of ——, to see him driving that sheep around through the streets for fifty dollars. "But lemme tell you, Sooky, this Creole pony didn't cost me but twenty dollars, and he can gallop all day in the buggy and never get tired; and then the best part of it is that when we go home in June we can just turn her out on the prairie, and there she will stay till we come back next fall and won't cost us a red cent."

There was a great deal of economy in this while the family would be North and a promise of a great deal of comfort while here. So the decision was finally made by the whole family that the proper thing had been done, and Fannie was taken into the family as a kind of a pet.

In course of time June arrived, and the family, after giving Fannie a good feed of oats, which they had taught her to eat, turned her out on the prairie and then took their departure for their Northern home. The winter being warm, the family remained until past mid-winter before returning to their Southern home. They did return, however, and found to their surprise they were the owners of two horses instead of one. Fannie had a fine colt following her over the prairie, and it is this latter clause that the young Jimply wished so much to relate to his little friend up North, but which was cut short by mamma's examination of the letter. Never mind, but it will get there just the same—*The American.*

Shaking Down a Dwelling.

EFFECT ON HOUSES OF THE VIBRATION CAUSED BY PASSING TRAINS.

The examination of a house built about six years ago on one of the uptown streets, between Fourth and Madison avenues, shows how sensitive a structure can be to the effects of vibration when its component parts are small and the structure is unprovided with safeguards against this unusual agent.

The serious injury about to be described can only be attributed to vibration, because the the house—a five story double flat—was well built of bricks and fair mortor, with a brown stone ashlar front, the whole having a rubble foundation resting on sound rock, and interior brick piers supporting the timber girders, which carried the main stud partitions, in the usual manner. It is then reasonable to suppose that had the structure not been subjected to unusual forces differently applied to its foundation, the settlement would have shown the following evidence of unequal settlement and strain.

Commencing the examination in the cellar, the foundation wall evinces no sign of exterior fracture, but it is depressed in several places from front to rear, showing that the bed on which it rests has been displaced. The eastern wall next to Fourth avenue is about six inches lower on the footing in the center of its length than the west wall, and the piers supporting the partitions are bent about two inches in the height, about five feet six inches, seemingly from the pressure of the beams as they subsided with the eastern foundation wall. The floor concrete, however, is unbroken round the piers, though it is broken at the wall and sunken in many places throughout the entire surface.

The consequences of this [illegible] shown throughout the partition walls [illegible] at right angles to the eastern wall, and on all door jambs and window frames. Having settled so much at the foundation [illegible] follows that all square openings a[re thr]own out by pulling down the eastern side [t]o a more or less degree in each; for instance, some are 1¼ inches out of square, some 1¾ or an inch, and so on. Needless to say, the doors and sashes have all been pieced and cut to suit and fit into the deserted shape of the openings. All the joints are open, and it is a fortunate circumstance the walls settled plumb, or the doors and sashes would have required more [illegible].

The plaster is in a worse condition, being parted at the junctions and traversed over by large cracks running diagonally from the top eastern side to the [illegible] the western side. [illegible] settlement shown, that the pictures mold in the dining room is bent into a curve, and the floors are sagged to such an extent that when a table is placed against the west wall a ball of wool will roll off its top to the floor.

Summed up, the building is in a poor condition and shows too early dilapidation. As to the cause of this, it is evidently attributable, as stated before, to vibration communicated, in this case, by the frequent trains on Fourth avenue and by the concusion in blasting out cellars on the adjoining street. The perceptible effect of the vibration caused by the trains varies with their different speeds and weights, but it is always so noticeable that a glass of water placed on the floor when the train is passing will raise a wavelet on the surface of the water, and the heavier trains often rattle the ashes in their frames This vibration is felt all along the avenue, and the buildings suffer more or less.—*The Manufacturer and Builder.*

Young Man, Go South!

Within the past five or six years the growth of the South has been so great that newspapers, publicists and others have changed the famous saying of the founder of the New [York Tri]bune, and advised young men to [go Sou]thward instead of Westward, says the [M]anufacturers' Record.

When Mr. Greely made his famous remark the West w[as a gr]eat undeveloped empire. It contained thousands upon thousands of square miles of rich virgin soil, such as the world had not dreamed of. When the truth became known and the richness of the soil was questioned, people poured into this great empire in a way that cast the famous '49 stampede to California in the shade. These immigrants included not only farmers, but farm hands, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, store keepers, journalists, teachers; in short, representatives of every sort and kind of employment. More than this, there was room for every one of these immigrants. A new empire was to be built up from the very foundations. Villages, towns and cities sprang up with such rapidity that there was room and employment for everybody.

In the South the ca[se is] different. The undeveloped resources of the South are not only greater than those of the West, but much more varied. The foundations for a great empire are already laid, however. What is needed now is the superstructure, and the material required for this is of a different nature from that required for the foundations. A few years ago a young man could go West and find an opening in almost any kind of work. The demand for workers exceeded the supply. In the South, on the other hand, the supply of unskilled labor is still equal to the demand, but skilled labor is wanted.

If a man has a trade—if he is a good farmer, miner, blacksmith, carpenter or machinist, or skilled in any one branch of labor or work—he will find an opening awaiting him. If he has a little money laid by he can take that with him and reap as substantial benefits as ever he could have reaped in the West. If the young man who contemplates striking out boldly into the world will stop and consider the foundations upon which the North, the West and the South are built, he will see at a glance which section offers the most inviting field for his energies.

The Human Eye.

Science gives us interesting details about what the human eye has been and what it has become. The Vedas of India, which are the most ancient written documents, attest that at times most remote but still recorded in history, only two colors were known—black and red. A very long time elapsed before the eye could perceive the color yellow, and a still longer time before green could be distinguished; and it is remarkable that in the most ancient language the term which designated yellow insensibly passed to the signification of green. The Greeks had, according to the generally received opinion, the perception of colors very highly developed, and yet authors of a more recent date assure us that in the time of Alexander the Great the Greek painters knew but four colors, viz, white, black, red and yellow.

The words to designate blue and violet were wanting to the Greeks in the most ancient times of their history, they calling these colors gray and black. It is thus the colors in the rainbow were only distinguished gradually, and the great Aristotle only knew four of them. It is a well known fact that when the colors of the prism are photographed there remains outside the limit of the blue and violet in the spectrum a distinct impression which our eyes do not recognize as a color. Physiologists tell us that it is reasonable to suppose that as the color organ becomes highly developed, and even before the human eye becomes perfect, this outside band will evolve into a color perfectly discernable.—*Chicago Times.*

The Mole's Eye.

Carl Hess, the German naturalist, has proved by minute microscopical investigation that the eye of the mole is perfectly capable of seeing, and that it is not short sighted, as another naturalist (Kadyi) would have us believe. Hess maintains that, in spite of its minute dimensions—1 millimetre by 0.0 millimetre—the eye of this little creature possesses all the necessary properties for seeing that the most developed eye does—that it is, indeed, as well suited for seeing as the eye of any other mammal, and that in the matter of refraction it does not differ from the normal eye.—*Ex.*

"Does the captain say whether we shall break the record or not?" "Yes. He says the record of the boiler must go." "How lovely!"—*Munsey's Weekly.*

A man in a West Virginia city goes about with a hand-cart, distributing daily newspapers. He must be the "Wheeling Intelligencer."—*Lowell Courier.*

AN ARIZONA SAND STORM.

EXPERIENCE OF PASSENGERS ON A TRAIN OVERTAKEN BY ONE.

It was a sad and delapidated looking lot of passengers that arrived at Dearborn street depot. Sorry a spectacle as they presented, the cars upon which they came were a still sorrier. They looked as though the train had been through a gigantic sand blast, and such proved to be really the fact. "You see," said an elderly man, who had had on this journey his first—and he hopes his last—experience with an Arizona sand storm, "you see the outside of our coaches, how dusty, dirty, scratched, rent and torn they are. You have been inside and observed how greasy, splotched, worn and torn the upholstery is. We had been going along swimmingly, most of us bound for Chicago and all happy in the prospect of meeting and shaking hands with our friends [illegible], when we encountered that vile sand storm. [illegible] day had been cloudless, with not a [single] ugly spot in view. In our train were three Pullman cars, five passenger coaches and three other cars. We had formed acquaintances, one car with another, and decided that never had so large a company been so happy in having come up with so many congenial spirits.

"We had passed in the morning through a long and broad field of sage brush. Although the wind was high, and howled as though it were celebrating the discovery of America and all the important events that have since happened, we cared nothing for it, because we were forging ahead, and the wind's frolic made no impression on our progress.

A SEMI-TROPICAL CLIMATE.

"We were in Arizona; at an altitude of about 6000 feet the thermometer registered about 12° below zero, and the urbane porter was comforting us with the reflection that in a very few hours we should go on down grade and be in a semi tropical climate, when, as we were crossing the Canon Diablo, that infernal storm burst upon us. Have you ever seen that red sand of the great American desert? It is as fine as extra superfine flour and more penetrating than the best directed shot from a ten-inch gun of modern pattern. Now we are in a clear, blue sky, the sun shining joyously down upon the earth.

"Then—and then means less than one-half a second afterward—we are in the midst of a cloud of sand, which with infinite impudence and without knocking, forces entrance everywhere. Pullman cars have double windows, and all these are fast. In a trice the ventilators are closed tight, and the porter and conductor stand with cocked revolvers to shoot the first man, friend or foe, who seeks to enter. A surgeon is on the car, and he at once calls out in stentorian tones that every passenger shall envelop his or her head with a sheet or towel.

"It is the hour of 1 in the afternoon. In a trice we pass from light to darkness. The engineer afterward declared that he was unable to see the bell on his engine or his smokestack, and consequently he pulled up at a full stop within a quarter of a mile of Winslow station. He can push his engine through snow, even though it be piled up a foot or more on the track, but his experience has taught him that if sand be piled up, though but an inch or two above the rail, his entire train will be ditched. He is aware that a train is likely to butt into his and that a western bound train is likely to telescope him in front. But he realizes also that the switch ahead may be displaced. Hence his halt. Ding, dong, dong, ding! goes his bell, and thus it keeps up unremittingly.

"There is not much talking. The most optimistic or our party once in a while essay a pleasantry, but the individual who attempts it grows pale and retires within himself. I cannot describe the situation, nor could you do so had you been there. Later on, after the storm had passed, we were told at Winslow by those who had been there since the town had had its being that that section was visited about once a month by a simoon, but that it was exceptional for such a storm to endure for more than an hour. Yet we struck that storm at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and it did not subside until one-half hour after 6. During that time the blast struck on the corner of our rear coaches and kept them continually rocking, each of them being lifted up to the utmost limit of the car springs, and dropped back again heavily upon the axles. Not one of us dared expose eyes, nose or mouth one second but we kept our visages concealed by sheets, blankets, towels or a triple supply of handkerchiefs. It was awfully discouraging, I can assure you. If a fellow was minded to talk he could not be heard, because all the rest had their ears so muffled up that they could not have heard thunder when at its best, or an entire broadside from a full rigged ship.

"I died a dozen times in that six hours of waiting. I can never possibly suffer as I then endured agony.

"It is a physiological fact that such a wall of sand makes short the supply of oxygen, even out of doors. But we were shut up tight and close within a car. We breathed over and over again the same supply of air. It got closer and closer, and our lungs got weaker and weaker.

"Sand? You don't know what that brief query means. Why, my dear fellow, it crowded in everywhere. I give you my word of honor that when the wind fell, as it did at sunset, there were six inches of red sand on a level inside our coach. There were eight inches on a level in the vestibule on the outside. All the passengers constituted themselves deputy porters and assisted in clearing away the sand. Later on the porter let down the bunks, and bless my soul! we were worse off than ever. Down rained the sand from the inside of the upper bunk arrangement, so that our last estate was worse than the first.

"Every suit of clothes and every lady's dress was ruined. Every bit of plush upholstery was ruined. Every car, passenger and sleeper, must go to the factory for repairs. Every suit of clothes must be turned over to the scourer for cleansing. I am on my way to the Turkish bath for a twenty-four hours' stay. We have slept in sand, walked over sand, wallowed in sand since that noon. We have eaten sand at way stations. Our throats are sore, our lips are raw, our eyes are bloodshot. We literally passed through the valley of the shadow of death, and cannot forget that six hours' stay in the day's darkness and gloom, though we lived a dozen centuries. It is impossible to exaggerate. He would be blessed or cursed with a superlative exalted imagination who could conceive a tithe of our sufferings. Just think of us! Our faces hidden in sheets and blankets hour by hour, not knowing what moment would be our last. We were more than half asphyxiated Not one of us has been able to eat one-half a square meal since. That infernal sand not only penetrated the plush cloth, the sheets, towels and handkerchief, but it also settled down in the pores of our skins, and we shall be infernally lucky if we get rid of it after a score of thorough baths."

Co-Education.

Olive Thorne Miller says in *Harper's Bazar*: In my judgment, it is a good thing for a little girl to attend a school where boys are also sent. I believe heartily and fully in co-education. The Creator, who placed boys and girls together in families, where the association of brothers and sisters is mutually helpful, knew what was best for humanity. Wherever the experiment has been squarely and squarely tried, results show that school work can be carried on by classes of both sexes with an absence of silly self-consciousness, without premature precocity, and to the advantage of both girls and boys.

If you want to see sickly sentimentality, an absurd ideal of "the gentleman," utterly false notions of love and marriage and life generally, go to a girls' seminary, where daughters and sisters are [illegible] guarded as though their brothers were [illegible] seeking whom they might devour. Also, if you want to see [im]morality, bad habits, lowmindedness, [and] disrespect for women, go to a boys' school, where the same policy is observed. Take note also of another point: This system of isolation keeps the young people's thoughts upon each other, leads, therefore, to clandestine correspondence and evils of many kinds.

On the contrary, let them work together. There is no sentimental halo about the classmate who misses in his lessons, who blunders in his examples. There is no disrespect and scorn of "girls" from a youth who sees them well able to hold their own, and to stand beside if not above him in intellectual exercises. Beside this, it works in another way almost as valuable; girls are broadened in their outlook on life, and boys are refined and civilized in their manners. Both learn the true, the honest, the natural way of looking at each other, and are prepared to enter life together as they should and must. Believe me! the Creator, who shows wisdom in the smallest atom that lives, did not blunder when He put boys and girls together into the arms of one mother, to come up under one roof.

The Blacksmith's Apron.

WHY IT IS ALWAYS SLIT, AND GENERALLY FRINGED ALL AROUND THE BOTTOM.

Every one knows that a blacksmith wears a leather apron, and must have noticed that this apron is slit and often fringed at the bottom. As an English legend, it is related that, once upon a time, Alfred the Great called all the trades together to appoint a trades king. He declared that he would make that man king who could best get on without the help of others for the longest period. He made a feast and asked a workman from each trade to come and bring a specimen of his work and the tools used in making it. The blacksmith brought a hammer and a horseshoe; the tailor brought his shears and a new coat; the baker his peel and a loaf; the shoemaker his awl and a new pair of shoes; the carpenter his saw and a nice box; the butcher his chop[per] an[d] [illegible], and the mason his chisel [and] a [carved] stone. The tailor's coat was of such surpassing beauty that all the guests declared themselves beaten; and the horseshoe, the bread, the shoes, the box, the meat and the carved stone were all thrown aside. The tailor was pronounced trades king by Alfred, and was duly installed. The blacksmith was angry, and declared that he would do no more work while the tailor was king, and actually shut up his shop and disappeared.

One day as King Alfred was riding along, his horse cast a shoe, and he was the first to need the services of a blacksmith, but he could not get into the shop. Then all the other tradesmen, including the tailor, tried to shoe the king's horse; but each one not only failed, but broke his tools, and could not carry on his proper business till they were mended.

King Alfred and the tradesmen then broke open the shop and tried to use the blacksmith's tools. The king tried to shoe his horse, the tailor to mend his shears, and each one endeavored to repair his tools.

About this time the blacksmith walked in, looking very angry. The king, however, made a humble bow and said: "I was wrong to be led as ray by the gaudy color of a coat, and I now revoke my decision, and declare the blacksmith king." All the trades, except the deposed tailor, begged the smith to mend their tools. So he shod the king's horse, and mended the tools of all who had asked him; but, in order to show his magnanimity, he made the tailor a brand new pair of shears.

The tailor, however did not reciprocate the blacksmith's kindness, but, while the others were singing, crawled under the table and slit the blacksmith's leathern apron, and cut the lower edge into a regular fringe. From that day no true blacksmith has ever thought of wearing an apron that was not slit and fringed at the bottom.—*Electrical Review.*

Not Good for Shingles.

Parson Brown, who loves a joke, though it be at his own expense, is fond of relating his experience in circulating a subscription paper for the purpose of raising funds to shingle a church. Among others he called on a merchant who [wa]s a liberal man where the subject is praiseworthy. In the present instance he subscribed $5. Shortly afterward the parson called to collect the amount, but the merchant, having had occasion to pay out all his money that day, informed the clergyman of the fact and invited him to call again. This did not exactly accord with the parson's views. Looking around the store he discovered a kit of mackerel which he thought might easily be converted into cash.

"How much for mackerel?" he asked.

"Five dollars a kit," replied the merchant.

"Well, if you have no objection, I'll take that kit for your subscription."

"All right, parson," said the merchant, heartily. "You're welcome to anything in the store to the amount of $5; but though mackerel are famous for making a man dry, I wouldn't shingle my church with them if I were you."—*Lewiston Journal.*

Fresh Facts About the Gulf Stream.

Many theories have prevailed in regard to the source of the mysterious current known as the Gulf stream. As reported in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* an attache of a United States coast survey steamer, which has spent two years in tracing this stream, now claims that facts have been established that knock in the head all the old notions of its origin. The most interesting of these are, first, that the true source or beginning of the Gulf stream is at a point between Fowey Rocks, Fla., and the Gun Bay on the coast of the Bahamas And, second, that the moon affects the Gulf stream, and that the current is controlled absolutely and arbitrarily by that body.

The Virtues of Apples.

THEIR MEDICINAL VALUE AND SOME OF THE TROUBLES WHICH THEY AID.

Chemically the apple is composed of vegetable fiber, albumen, sugar, gum, chlorophyll, malic acid, gallic acid, lime and much water. Furthermore, the German analysts say that the apple contains a larger percentage of phosphorus than any other fruit or vegetable. This phosphorus is admirable adapted for renewing the essential nervous matter, lethicin, of the brain and spinal cord. It is, perhaps, for the same reason, rudely understood, that old Scandinavian traditions represent the apple as the food of the gods, who, when they felt themselves to be growing feeble and infirm, resorted to this fruit for renewing their powers of mind and body. Also, the acids of the apple are of signal use for men of sedentary habits, whose livers are sluggish in action; these acids serving to eliminate from the body noxious matters which, if retained, would make the brain heavy and dull, or bring about jaundice or skin eruptions and other allied troubles.

Some such an experience must have led to our custom of taking apple sauce with roast pork, rich goose and like dishes. The malic acid of ripe apples, either raw or cooked, will neutralize any excess of chalky matter engendered by eating too much meat. It is also the fact that such fresh fruits as the apple, the pear and the plum, when taken ripe and without sugar, diminish acidity in the stomach rather than provoke it. Their vegetable salts and juices are converted into alkaline carbonates, which tend to counteract acidity.

A good, ripe, raw apple is one of the easiest of vegetable substances for the stomach to deal with, the whole process of its digestion being completed in eighty-five minutes. Gefrard found that the "pulps of roasted apples mixed in a wine quart of faire water, and labored together until it comes to be as apples and ale—which we call lambswool—never faileth in certain diseases of the raines, which myself hath often proved, and gained thereby both crowns and credit." "The paring of an apple, cut somewhat thick, and the inside whereof is laid to hot, burning or running eyes at night, when the party goes to bed, and is tied or bound to the same, doth help in the trouble very speedily, and contrary to expectation an excellent secret."

A poultice made of rotten apples is of very common use in Lincolnshire for the ure of weak or rheumatic eyes. Likewise in the Hotel des Invalides at Paris, an apple poultice is used commonly for inflamed eyes, the apple being roasted and its pulp applied over the eyes without any intervening substance. Long ago it was said apples are easily and speedily digested, and a modern maxim teaches that "If you eat an apple going to bed, the doctor then will beg his bread."—*London Hospital.*

"Before we take up the collection this morning," remarked the good pastor as he looked mildly over the congregation, "I wish to say that we have in the church treasury already two quarts of nickles that appear to have been punched through and afterwards plugged with lead. These coins, I am informed, will not buy stamps, groceries or fuel, and conductors on street cars refuse to take them. The choir will sing, 'O land of rest, for thee I sigh.'"—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Spider-Web Telephone.

While a gentleman was watching some spiders last summer, it occurred to him to try what effect a tuning fork would have on the insects. He suspected that they would regard the sound just as they were in the habit of regarding the sound of a fly. And sure enough they did. He selected a large, ugly spider, that had been feasting on flies for two months. The spider was at one edge of the web. Sounding the fork, he touched a thread at the other side of the web, and watched the result. Mr. Spider had the buzzing sound conveyed to him over his telephone wires, but how was he to know on which particular wire the sound was traveling? He ran to the center of the web very quickly, and felt all around until he touched the thread against the other end of which the fork was sounding. Then taking another thread along, just as a man would take an extra piece of rope, he ran out to the fork and sprang upon it. But he retreated a little way, and looked at the fork. He was puzzled. He had expected to find a buzzing fly. He got on the fork again, and danced with delight. He had caught the sound of the fly, and it was music to him.—*Harper's Young People.*

Why Thread Is Numbered.

Every seamstress, whether she wants No. 30 or 60 or 120 thread, knows from the number, just what size the thread will be, and what kind of sewing it can be used for; but how the numbers came to be numbered just what they are, and just what they mean, not one person in 1000 knows, yet it is a very simple matter to explain, providing you only know the points and how to elucidate them. When 840 yards of yarn weigh 7000 grains, a pound of cotton, the thread makers mark it No. 1. If 1680 yards weigh a pound, it is marked as No. 2. For No. 50 yarn it would take 50 multiplied by 840 to weigh a pound. This is the whole explanation of the yard measurement as used by the cotton spool manufacturers. The early manufactured thread was of three, instead of six cord, the number being derived from the number of yards to the pound, just as it is to-day. No. 60 yarn made No. 60 thread, though in point of fact the actual caliber of No. 60 thread would equal No. 20 yarn, being made of three No 20 strands being twisted together.—*St. Louis Republic.*

The Voyage of Life.

Life is beset by evils and changes on every side. From birth to manhood and from manhood until old age eternal vigilance is the price of good health. There is one remedy that has saved many a rickety, headaching, blood poisoned, dyspeptic mortal to a life of usefulness and robust health. It is known as Dr. Bull's Sarsaparilla and it is a Sarsaparilla that is a Sarsaparilla. Not a thousand doses of molasses and water for a dollar, but a concentrated essence of the best virtues of sarsaparilla and other alterative herbs. It heals, it cures where other sarsaparilla and blood remedies have no more effect than so much stagnant water. If your system craves an alterative, if you value life you do yourself a great injustice if you fail to try this excellent remedy. Demand it of your druggist and take no other.—*Sidney Times.*

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