

Matrimonial Problems.

The problem that now disturbs the town of Brewster's, in Putnam County, N. Y., is, who is Mary E. Knox's husband. It is strange that there should be any doubt who is a woman's husband, but there is one in this case, and a very perplexing one.

Miss Knox says that Mr. John A. Merritt, who is several years her junior, had courted her long and successfully, though not with the approval of his parents. This fall he urged her to marry him at once. She consented, and he being short of cash she furnished \$20, which she borrowed of her mother, and the twin, on the 8th of this month, started after a parson, who married them.

Johnny then drove her home, bade her good by, told her to keep the marriage a secret, and drove on to his father's house. Since then she has neither seen Johnny nor heard from him, and he now denies that he ever married her. This is her story, and the parson, the Rev. Mr. Dean, though he remembers having performed a marriage ceremony that evening, is not certain about the identity of the parties.

The apparent motions of the moon will be more irregular in 1877 than usual. The north node is now near the Vernal Equinox; so that she will swing back and forth through about fifty-six degrees of declination each lunar month.

We have another case of disputed marriage from this State. The Rev. Dr. Stratton, of Rochester, on the 22d of September, 1875, married two persons signified to him as Annie Bourne and Cassius D. Worrill, in the presence of a witness who signed the marriage certificate. Now, when the woman claims the man as her husband, the man swears that he was never married to her.

He says that, tired out by the importunities of two of her relations, he was induced a year ago to promise to marry Miss Bourne within a year. On the day named he went to Rochester with her and her brother-in-law named Williams. He got under the influence of liquor and fell asleep.

When he awoke Miss Bourne was sitting with him, and the Williamses were just entering the room. When the year came to an end he didn't wish to fulfill his promise to marry the woman, but she confronted him with the marriage certificate, claimed him as her husband, and demanded support. Worrill says some one must have personated him in the ceremony.

His story is not probable on its face. Miss Bourne, for her part, says that the marriage took place; that Worrill was the man she married; that he stipulated with her that the marriage should be kept secret until the end of the year, when he would have settled up his father's estate; and that now, when the year is up, he turns her over to his lawyer, and drives her to the law to get her rights.

Astronomical—1877.

The following are some of the principal astronomical phenomena of the year 1877. The times given are Chicago mean-time; and the appearance is that presented to an observer in this city, unless otherwise stated:

Table with columns for Month, Day, Hour, and Event. Lists astronomical events for 1877, including equinoxes, solstices, and eclipses.

The year is a very barren one in regard to eclipses, in this region. There will be five, as follows: A total eclipse of the moon, Feb. 27, at 1 h. 19 m. p. m.; below the horizon of the United States.

A partial eclipse of the sun, March 14, at 10 h. 17 m. p. m.; visible in Western Asia.

A partial eclipse of the sun, Aug. 8, at 10 h. 42 m. p. m.; visible in Alaska, Kamtschatka, the North Pacific Ocean and the Arctic Ocean.

A total eclipse of the moon, Aug. 23, at 5 h. 16 m. p. m.; partially visible in the Eastern and Southern States.

A partial eclipse of the sun, Sept. 7, at 8.04 a. m.; visible in all that part of South America situated in more than fifteen degrees of south latitude, and extending nearly to the South Pole.

The times given above are the instants of conjunction or opposition in right ascension.

Vulcan—Will be looked for on the face of the sun March 22, by many astronomers. M. Le Verrier having announced that a transit of the planet (V) is possible on that day.

Mercury—Will be visible near the following dates of his greatest elongation from the sun: In the West, near sunset; Jan. 10 (19 deg.); May 3 (21 deg.); Aug. 31 (27 deg.); Dec. 25 (20 deg.).

Venus—Will be a morning star, rising before the sun, till May 6, the date of her superior conjunction; and will be an evening star, setting after the sun, during the remainder of the year.

Mars—Will rise before the sun from the beginning of the year till the evening of Sept. 5, when he will be in opposition to the sun, southing at midnight. After that date he will set after the sun in the evening.

Jupiter—Will rise before the sun during the first half of the year. In January he will be over the tail of Scorpio. March 12 about two degrees south of Mu in Sagittarius; in April stationary; and near 28 two degrees south from Mu in Sagittarius.

Saturn—Will be in the Constellation Aquarius during the year; but not a conspicuous object the first four months, being too close to the sun; the date of conjunction is Feb. 28. After that time he will rise before the sun till Sept. 9, when he will be on the meridian at midnight, and after that he will be visible in the evening sky.

Death of a Noted Morphinist. Jack Lynch, familiarly known as "Deaf Jack," who had been confined to his room for several weeks, died Tuesday evening at 3 o'clock, at Mr. Patterson's residence, on West Skiddy Street.

Deaf Jack was, in some respects, a remarkable character. In 1864 he was stabbed in the neck in an affray in Colorado, and took morphine to allay his sufferings. It soon developed into a habit, and he continued to increase the dose until finally he could not keep it on his stomach. He then resorted to injecting it under the skin, and before he died he would consume in this way the enormous quantity of fifty-two bottles a month!

To PRESERVE EGGS.—Apply with a brush a solution of gum arabic to the shells, or immerse the eggs therein; let them dry, and afterward pack in dry charcoal dust; this prevents them being affected by any alteration of temperature, and preserves them for a very long while.

A Clock in the Sky at Night.

There are some old churches in England which have clocks showing the time with only one hand—the hour hand. I dare say that it will seem very strange to active and busy minds in America that such clocks as these should still continue in existence.

The first step toward a knowledge of the stars should be the recognition of the pole-star, because the pole of the heavens being the point round which all the stars are seemingly carried, so soon as we know the stars around the pole we have a center, so to speak, from which we can pass to other groups until we know them all. Once known, the pole-star can always be found by the learner, supposing he observes the heavens always from the same station; for it lies always in the same position (or so nearly so that the change can scarcely be noticed).

But to find the pole-star, it is well to begin with the dipper. This well marked group includes two stars which are called the "pointers," because they point to the pole-star. The dipper is so conspicuous and well marked a group that it is easily learned and can not easily be forgotten.

At a reunion on Thanksgiving-Day of the family of one of the old residents, in which there are four solid sons and one solid daughter, three average daughters-in-law, and a medium-sized son-in-law, with grandchildren enough to make the number up to fifteen the following statistics were taken:

United weight before dinner..... 1,262 Pounds. United weight after dinner..... 1,273 Net gain..... 11 Greatest gain of any person..... 4 1/2 Smallest gain of any person..... 1 1/2 Greatest weight before dinner..... 183 1/2 Greatest weight after dinner..... 189 1/2 Smallest weight before dinner..... 28 1/2 Smallest weight after dinner..... 28 1/2

The dinner was pretty thoroughly settled by a half-hour's ride perpendicularly upon the hay-rack, which, we believe, was prescribed by the medicine-man of the family, and fully indorsed by all.—Clinton (Mass.) Courant.

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SEASONABLE RECIPES.

Muffins.—1 pint sweet milk, 3 eggs, 2 tablespoons melted butter, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 teaspoons cream-tartar; batter as stiff as for buckwheat cakes. Puffed.—1 quart sifted flour, in which rub 2 teaspoons cream-tartar; butter, size of an egg; 2 teaspoons powdered sugar, 2 eggs beaten; mix very smooth and add 1 pint milk and 1 teaspoon soda dissolved in a little boiling water. Bake immediately.

Lemon Pudding.—1 small cup butter, 2 full cups sugar; mix very smooth, adding the grated rind of 2 lemons, yolks of 6 eggs, juices of the lemons; 6 small Boston crackers dissolved in 1 pint milk; bake. Make meringue of the 6 whites beaten stiff and 6 tablespoons powdered sugar. Spread on pudding and brown in oven.

Blanc-mange.—1 quart of milk. Prepare a handful of Irish moss by carefully washing and getting out the stones. Put this into the milk and allow it to boil till it is of the consistence of thin starch. Strain this into a dish or mold, and set it to cool. Serve with cream and sugar for sauce.

Cream Pies.—3 eggs, 1 cup of sugar, 4 cup of cold water or milk, 1 measure each of bread-powder, 1 1/2 cups of flour; when cold cut and add cream as follows: heat 1/2 pint of milk, then add 1 egg, 1 tablespoonful of flour, 1 tablespoonful of sugar beaten together; stir until it thickens; flavor with lemon. This makes two pies. It will be found a very nice dessert for a late Sunday dinner.

Indian-meal Pound-cake.—Sift 1 pint of yellow corn-meal and 1/2 pint wheat flour—into which you have first put a full spoonful of baking-powder and a small spoonful of salt, 1 grated nutmeg, 1 tablespoonful of ground cinnamon. Put 1/4 of a pound of granulated sugar and 1/2 pound of butter together. Beat 8 eggs very light, and add to the butter and sugar, alternately, with the meal—little at a time—and 1/2 cup of milk, and have your dish or pan well buttered; bake in a moderate oven. Takes a long time to bake.

Baked Apple Dumplings.—1 pint of flour, 1 tablespoonful lard and butter mixed, 1 cup of milk, 1/2 teaspoonful of soda dissolved in hot water, 1/2 of cream-tartar, a pinch of salt. Chop the shortening into the flour; after you have sifted this and the cream-tartar together, put in the soda and wet up quickly with the milk—just stiff enough to roll into a paste less than half an inch thick. Cut into squares, and lay in the center of each a tart apple, pared and cored; bring the corners of the square neatly together, and pinch slightly. Bake in a moderate oven; eat with hot, sweet sauce.

Measuring Their Capacity. At a reunion on Thanksgiving-Day of the family of one of the old residents, in which there are four solid sons and one solid daughter, three average daughters-in-law, and a medium-sized son-in-law, with grandchildren enough to make the number up to fifteen the following statistics were taken:

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