LETTERS FROM INTERIOR TOWNS.

What Has Been Going On in the County of Alameda.

Items of Interest From Niles, Irvington and Centerville—Products of Hillside Farming—The Rainfall.

The rainfall this past storm has been 1.64 inches, and for the season 2.15 inches. Last year at this date the rainfall had been 7.94 inches. However, the ground has been moistened enough to set the plows at work. The hills to the east of town look like a mighty bit of patchwork in browns, a clump of trees occasionally, with their soft green tints blending into the browns. Of the 200 acres on these perpendicular hills about fifty were cultivated last year, and a few more may be found available for cultivation this season. Peas and potatoes were the crops planted, and the net returns were over $100 an acre. For many years Niles gardeners have sent the earliest peas and potatoes to market, usually at holiday time, but they did not last year, because the heavy rains washed away their first seeding, and on account of the long-continued rains they could not plant again until late, and they will not this year, because the amount of rainfall has not been enough to start the seeds, which are only beginning to sprout now. The Portuguese, who are among the best gardeners in the world, are the only people who work the hillsides, usually on shares for the American owner. They plow before the rains and begin to plant upon the first indication of rain, and manage to make the crops come in one after the other all winter. Hammond and Tumbull & Beebe are busy digging their nursery stock and getting it in shape at their depots near the station. These firms buy their stock of the nurseries, dig up and bind the trees into bundles about a foot in diameter, and "heel" them in at their grounds, that is open trenches, deep enough to hold the roots and cover them with soil. When they are sold it is an easy matter to dig up these labeled packages, bind them in tules and send them off. At one of the nurseries near town more than fifty teams and 150 men are busily employed. It is quite interesting to notice the fashion (as it were) in trees; one year pears will be in such demand that prices will go way up, and the next year not a pear can be sold. About three years ago French prunes were so dull they could not be sold, and were dug up by nurserymen and burned to make room for other stock. This year they are in such demand that prune trees one year old are selling this early in the season for 30 cents a tree, and dormant buds from 10 to 15 cents—unprecedented prices.

The tules used to wrap trees in for shipping form quite a source of income to farmers who live on the edge of the lagoon, where they grow in abundance. They are cut, half dried, bound into bundles about fifteen feet long and two feet in diameter, and are sold readily to the different nurseries here and in Oakland.

By a mistake of the writer last week, in considering the cost of different materials to be used in spraying fruit trees, the sentence read: "That the cost of using the potash and soda, or insecticide wash, was the same—from 8 to 10 cents a tree—aside from the labor." It should have read: "Including the labor—as the cost of the material is only from 3 to 5 cents a tree, and the labor necessary usually as much again."

The ladies of the Guild, young and old, are as busy as can be, preparing for their bazaar, which will be given Friday evening, December 19th. Booths with fancy goods and candies will be presided over by the young ladies in dainty costumes, a genuine New England dinner will be served by old-fashioned people, and a musical and dramatic entertainment will follow later in the evening.

The portieres which were stolen from the church last week have been recovered.

Rev. F. H. Maar had an attack of the prevailing influenza last week, and Rev. J. H. Hendry of Riverside officiated Sunday in his stead.

The foundation for the parsonage has been laid.

The thermometer is kept pretty busy these days, dancing up and down from 36° or 37° at 7 o'clock in the morning to about 65° at noon, and again to the smaller figure at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Spare Minute Circle gave Mr. Edward Ellsworth, who has just returned from the East, a surprise on last Saturday evening. The evening was spent with songs, games and recitations. Refreshments were served at 11 o'clock, and the guests departed for home.

Several new orchards are to be planted in this vicinity this winter.

The school term closed Friday afternoon with interesting exercises by the pupils of both rooms. The next term opens January 5th. Mr. Loree and Miss Baker will both return as teachers. Within five years the number of children attending school has more than doubled, the number in attendance then being 37, the number now 89; the number of children of school age in the district then was 86, now 115.

The roads are now in a most perfect condition.

Loring Pickering and family have returned to San Francisco for the winter.

Lorin Hunt, brother of our townsman, R. H. Hunt, won the medal at the University field day for throwing the shot.

The San Joaquin marsh is a favorite resort, for all of our famous goose or duck hunters, Messrs. John, Joe, Eph and Henry Tyson, Judge Ogden of Oak, and Masters Harry Greene and Robbie Tyson have returned, and despite the couple of days of rain brought back big bags of game and report having had a glorious time.

Dec. 13, 1890. MRS. L. E. THANE.

CENTERVILLE.

An Air of Business Prosperity—The Late Mrs. W. F. B. Lynch.

Editor Morning Call: Quite an air of business prosperity pervades Centerville nowadays. Our merchants are anticipating a brisk holiday trade and stocking up accordingly, roads are being scraped and leveled, and considerable building, repairing, etc., is going on. There is quite a demand of late for houses to rent, and some of our owners of town lots should put up a few cottages to let. They would not long remain vacant if the constant inquiry for houses in town is any criterion of the need of the hour.

Socially our village has been rather quiet this week, the bazaar on Friday of last week being the most recent festivity of note. The result of this affair is most gratifying to the ladies having it in charge, as about $160 was netted.

About a dozen friends assembled for luncheon Tuesday, at Mrs. C. H. Allen's, in honor of her friend, Mrs. Dickson. The occasion was a most enjoyable one. The guests were: Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Frank Jarvis, Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Daw, Mrs. Howard Overacker, Mrs. C. A. Plummer, Mrs. Edwards of East Oakland, Mrs. J. A. Bunting, Mrs. H. E. Mosher, Mrs. W. R. Hunt, Miss Jarvis and Miss Knapp.

Rev. T. G. Crump is circulating for signatures a petition for the passage of a Sunday law and another for a law forbidding the sale of tobacco to juveniles. Whatever one may think of the advisability of the State enforcing Sunday observance, the last-named petition should find many signers, for the juvenile cigarette fiend is a public nuisance in this part of the country, and any means, legislative or otherwise (short of cutting off his head), that will tend to his suppression ought to receive encouragement.

The funeral of Mrs. W. F. B. Lynch took place from the Centerville Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, December 6th. The church was decorated, by loving hands, with flowers and vines, and a large number gathered on this sad occasion to do honor to the memory of her who, during her long residence among us, was a general favorite. Hers had been a rich life, full of years and good works. Mrs. Lynch was born near Pittsburg, Pa., March 9, 1823. Her maiden name was Jackson. When 12 years old she, with her parents, removed to Butler County, Ohio. In 1849 she was married to W. F. B. Lynch, with whom she lived happily for nearly forty-two years.

In 1864 Mr. and Mrs. Lynch, with their children and a party of friends, crossed the plains from the Mississippi to Nevada, by mule team. It is a singular coincidence that the last time she appeared in public was a few days before her death, when she attended, at the Presbyterian Church, in San Leandro, a lecture by her husband, entitled "By Mule Team Across the Continent."

Mrs. Lynch was even then suffering from a severe cold, which was destined within a very few days to be the means of her release from the cares of this world to the bright blessings of the next. She died on December 4th at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. F. Ebers, in San Leandro. Preliminary services were held at the house in San Leandro, and were conducted by Revs. Ross and Cherry of that place. The remains were then sent by train to Decoto, and thence carried to Centerville, where, as before stated, the funeral took place from the little old church, where for twenty years she was a constant attendant and devoted Christian worker. The service here was interesting and impressive. Rev. Joel Gilfillan officiated, assisted by Messrs. Ross and Cherry. Mr. Gilfillan delivered a most impressive address from the text, "She is not dead, but sleepth," concluding with Miss Priest's beautiful poem, "Over the River," which had always been one of Mrs. Lynch's favorites. Interment took place in the Presbyterian Cemetery, within a stone's throw of the sacred edifice where she had so long worshiped, where her husband had so long been pastor, and where her children had all been received into membership.

Mrs. Lynch leaves to mourn her loss besides a host of life-long friends, her husband, Rev. W. F. B. Lynch, a daughter, Mrs. Ebers of San Leandro, and three sons, Professor H. W., who now resides at the old homestead in Centerville, Dr. W. F., a practicing physician of Walnut Creek, and Oscar J., a druggist, now of Astoria, Oregon.

The following tribute to her memory is from the pen of one whom years of close acquaintance has given an intimate knowledge of Mrs. Lynch's character:

It is needless to attempt an extended analysis of the character of one so well known to many friends. She was large-hearted, generous and unselfish—she was more that that—she was a sincere Christian of the noblest type. Those who knew her best loved her most.

The remains were borne to the grave by George W. Patterson, W. Crocker, Dr. J. T. Fare, Charles A. Plummer, Edward Niehaus and Howard Overacker. The pall-bearers at San Leandro were: Andrew Jones, D. B. Gray, L. C. Morehouse, A. B. Woodworth, George Downey, F. D. Moran, C. Miller, and George Kinsell.

Centerville, Dec. 13, 1890.

IRVINGTON.

The Pot-Hunters at Work—Accidents—A Branch of the Farmers' Alliance.

Editor Morning Call: Everybody about here who owns a gun and can beg, borrow or steal a good dog is off hunting just now, whenever opportunity offers. The 4:30 train every Saturday brings down its quota of city sportsmen, and the report of their various weapons is a familiar sound these crisp, sunshiny, frosty mornings. It would be a capital idea if a winter hunting resort could be established up at this end of the county. Within a mile of town the big lagoon is black with canvasbacks. There are rail to be had for the shooting at the landing, teal among the tules, and quail and deer in the hills. From the tule-pond, near town, to the bay, runs a little stream in which all last winter the boys used to fish from the bridge, "with spools of thread for fishing-lines and bended pins for hooks," and if the lagoon were cleaned out and stocked it would be as good a field as any disciple of Izaak Walton could wish. All that is needed is a little enterprise and enthusiasm, and a grand undertaking of this sort would speedily be carried out. The Irvington Gun Club has not done much as an organization this year, but after the holidays they will get together and, if the Sunday pot-hunters from the city leave anything for them, will secure one or two of the marshes near town to shoot over. These self-same pot-hunters did a deal of tall grumbling last year, because the different clubs secured the best grounds and put up trespass notices. Wild game, they declared, belonged to the Creator and the fellow who got the first shot at it. Possibly, but when Tom, Dick and Harry, who know as much about hunting as they do of the nebular theory, took to leaving their ribbon and notion counters o' Saturday nights and borrowing fowling pieces to rush off to the happy hunting grounds of the State to spend Sunday in making the aforesaid pieces go "pop, pop, pop," all day long, with no appreciable result, save the frightening away of all the desirable game and a general disturbance of the public peace, genuine hunters and local sportsmen were forced to do something to protect their rights and the game, hence the various gun clubs and their private marshes.

Two quite serious accidents occurred here during the last week, both curiously enough, while the victims were taking gymnastic exercise. On Saturday, Charlie Nisson, at the college, broke an arm while playing on the swinging rings, and on the following Monday Tad Chadbourne also sustained a fracture of an arm by a fall from the turning bar in the public school-yard. Dr. Walshe attended both cases and the boys are doing well.

Miss Minnie Ford returned home Tuesday from a visit of several months at the East. She encountered some very severe weather while in Chicago, and is heartily glad to get back to a decent climate.

A branch of the Farmers' Alliance was organized here last week by J. B. Rigdon, State Organizer. G. W. Krafts of Mission San Jose is President, and C. C. Chase of Irvington Secretary. The idea of the alliance does not present itself with any great force to our citizens, and Mr. Rigdon has not as yet succeeded in getting them to enthuse very strongly over it. In fact, his first attempt at organization was a failure, while a second attempt only resulted in nine members from Irvington and the Mission. These nine, however, have organized and will all doubtless hold together. It is, however, a uncertain factor in coming politics, and there are many of our Democratic creedists who think they see in the movement a coming and great upheaval. Whether the alliance does, indeed, hold the key to the political situation, as its adherents profess, remains for the future to show.

We have now an early train to San Francisco, which will enable our business residents to put in a full day in the city. The new train goes down from Irvington at 6:15 in the morning, returning at 7:30 in the evening. This will prove a great convenience to many of our people.

The recent rain did a great deal of good in this section, and plowing, grape-pruning and the general work of preparing for next year's crops is going on briskly. The outlook is very favorable, and the present season may be termed pre-eminently "the winter of our content."

Irvington, Dec. 12, 1890. C. C.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

At the beginning of the fourteenth century the library of Louis IX contained only four classical authors, and that of Oxford in 1300 consisted of "a few tracts kept in chests."

A concern in an Eastern city advertised that every person who paid in $448 could draw out $1000 six months after making his last payment. Apparent as the swindle was to all persons of sense, the agency collected $15,000 before skipping out.

Professor Charles Richet states in the Progress Medical that fifteen grains of sulphate of quinine, administered two hours, or four hours at the most, before embarking, will completely free even sensitive subjects from the horrors of seasickness.

This is the latest from Paris: Sealskin is the proper material for the overcoats of the Italian greyhounds, toy terriers and all the short-haired, charming pets of swelldom. Poodles and fluffy powder-puff dogs are considered more elegant in cloth coats.

Two young girls in Abbeyville County, N. C., have made two bales of cotton apiece this year, and besides that have supported themselves for some time by their beautiful machine work. They do this regardless of their father's aid, who is a wealthy farmer.

In a late trial in Binghamton, N. Y., every juror on the panel who claimed not to have read of the case was challenged off, leaving twelve men who had read and discussed it, and court, lawyers and public are agreed that it was one of the fairest verdicts ever rendered by a jury.

They are having good times in Kansas. "It took five bushels of corn to get into a circus in Kansas in the autumn of 1880," says the Wichita Eagle. "This autumn you can get into the main tent, stay to the concert, go to the side show and get a picture of the Circassian beauty, all for one bushel."

William Chamberlain, a Chicago youth, on Sunday morning successfully fought off a desperate burglar by bombarding him with jars of raspberry jam. He finished the fusillade with a bottle of catsup. The robber escaped, leaving no clew except a trail of jam and catsup that reached to the gate.

There may be an Indian war dance at Calvin, Mich., while the half-breeds are waiting for the return of an Indian called Long Chief. He went among them with a fairy tale about Government money they were to receive, and assessed each person with mixed blood 75 cents for the interest he was taking in the matter. He secured 100 assessments.

While dredging on the oyster beds near New London an oysterman brought up something which at first looked like a lifeless sea-serpent covered with immense scales, but on examination it turned out to be a strip of hose, seven feet long and three inches in diameter, completely hidden by the bivalves which had become fastened to it. By actual count there were over 1000 oysters on that piece of hose.

A freight train on a Washington railroad pulled a derailed car from one station to another, a distance of six miles, and over a long trestle, apparently without the knowledge of the trainmen. The wheels of the derailed truck had cut up the ties the entire distance in a most frightful manner. In some instances the spikes were laid bare, and in other instances they were drawn up from the ties.

A duel was recently witnessed between an old gray rat and a weasel which lasted nearly an hour and resulted in the annihilation of the former. The rat fought with great pluck and determination, but his antagonist was too much for him and drew blood at every bite: while the rat, which displayed the most activity, rushing in again and again, failed to make much impression upon the yielding hide of the weasel. After the death of the rat the weasel was too exhausted to leave the spot, and the stick of the spectator made short work of him.

STOP THAT CONSTANT HACKING, by removing the irritation in the throat and subduing any inflammation that may exist there by using Dr. D. Jaynes' Expectorant, a long-established remedy for Throat and Lung troubles of fifty years' popularity.

SEA AND SHORE.

Prospects Are Good for Raising the Wrecked Undine.

Quick Passages Made by Vessels From the Islands—The British Ship Viscount Ordered to Portland, Oregon.

Captain Leland of the steamer Bonita which arrived yesterday from Hueneme reports: On December 12th at 9:30 o'clock in the evening, in the latitude of Ventura ten miles off, sighted a light, supposed to be a steamer's headlight; on nearing it proved to be the sloop Ariel of Santa Barbara hooked on to the sunken steam yacht Undine. The prospects were good for raising the Undine on the following morning and towing her to Santa Barbara.

The steamer Corona, Captain Hannah, arrived yesterday nineteen and a half hours from Eureka, bringing sixty-six cabin and fifteen steerage passengers. Among the former were Colonel Benyard and Major Heuer, United States Engineers, who have been inspecting the harbor improvements at Eureka. Among the cargo brought by the steamer were 11,688 feet lumber, 541 boxes apples, 132 boxes fresh fish and a large quantity of butter.

RETURNED IN BALLAST.

By the steamer Corona word was received that the schooner Oceana Vance arrived at Eureka on Friday after a passage of 65 days from Sydney, N. S. W. The schooner left Eureka for Sydney on June 20th with a cargo of 387,481 feet of lumber and arrived at her destination after a passage of 64 days. It was intended that she should return with a cargo of coal, but owing to a strike among the miners she was unable to obtain any, and after waiting 47 days was forced to return in ballast.

The steamer Mexico, Captain Von Helms, arrived yesterday, 9 days from Guaymas, bringing 8 cabin and 28 steerage passengers. Among her cargo were 4 bales fish-fins, 18 bales Damiana, 60 sacks Tarote bark, 473 boxes oranges, 21 live turtles, 134 bars bullion, value $129,906; 4 boxes Mexican coin, $8400, and 19 sacks coin, $7560.

MADE QUICK PASSAGE.

The British ship Clackmannanshire, Captain Couper, arrived in port yesterday afternoon after a quick passage of 128 days from London with a cargo of general merchandise for Girvin, Baldwin & Eyre. Among her cargo are 599 tons of scrap-iron, 5000 barrels Portland cement, 50 barrels Stockholm tar and 200 cases Hungarian water.

The brig Percy Edward, Captain Anderson, arrived yesterday after a very quick passage of 25 days from the Marquesas, with a cargo of general merchandise for A. Crawford & Co. Among her cargo are 115 tons copra, 137 bales cotton, 57 bales fungus, 9210 cocoanuts, 3 bales wool and 800 oranges.

The brig W. G. Irwin made the passage up from Honolulu in the quick time of 11 days, and the J. D. Spreckels came up from Kahului in 13½ days.

ORDERED TO PORTLAND.

The British ship Viscount, Captain Hay, which left Callao for this port about two months ago, consigned to Meyer, Wilson & Co., was spoken off Point Reyes on Saturday night by the tug Vigilant, and from her received orders to proceed to Portland, Oregon. There the Viscount will load wheat for Europe.

The weather was hazy at Point Lobos yesterday, and the wind light from the northeast until noon, when it hauled to the northwest. The barometer read: 8 o'clock in the morning, 30.25; noon, 30.25; 5 o'clock in the evening, 30.22.

THE ALAMEDA DELAYED.

The steamer Alameda, which should have sailed on Saturday for Honolulu and the colonies, did not get away until dusk last evening, being delayed by the late arrival of the English mails. She carried a large list of passengers, including Phil Archibald, Ike Weir and "Reddy" Green, who are bound for Sydney. Among the passengers for Honolulu are Dr. L. C. Lane and wife. The Alameda will touch at Apia, Samoa, to land Chamberlain de Cedercrantz, the new Chief Justice of Samoa, and Lieutenant Ulfsparre, his secretary.

The ferry-steamer Newark is now receiving extensive repairs at Long Wharf, Oakland, and having her ends so shaped as to permit of her landing at the broad-gauge slips on the other side. When the work is completed the steamer will be placed on the route from Oakland pier to this side, and the Piedmont will be laid off for thorough repairs. The Piedmont has never been on the ways since she first went on the line. When she is repaired the Oakland will be laid off.

A TRIAL TRIP.

The new tug Katy O'Neal, built by the Atlas Iron Works, made a trial trip on the bay yesterday, which was successful in every respect. She left La Rue's Wharf at 10 o'clock in the morning with a party of invited guests and returned to her dock at 5 o'clock in the evening.

J. G. Downie, formerly of the Pomona, has succeeded Mr. Hower, as purser on the Corona. If he will jot down on his passenger list the total of cabin as well as steerage passengers he will save the marine reporters considerable counting.

Bendixsen, the Eureka shipbuilder, expects to launch his fifth and last vessel this year a few days after Christmas. This will credit Eureka with the building of six vessels for the year 1890.

MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS.

The ship Oriental came down from Port Costa yesterday and anchored in the stream.

The Blue Jacket and the Inchkeith towed to sea.

The bark George F. Manson will go to Long Bridge to-day.

The General Butler docked at Third street.

The W. G. Irwin docked at Folsom No. 1 on arrival.

The bark Embleton has again sailed for her destination, having left Montevideo December 3d for Puget Sound. This vessel left Ardrossan on her present trip 523 days ago, and, if there be no further drawbacks, will reach this Coast in about 600 days from the time of her departure from Scotland. There is a superstition that she will never reach her destination, because of her many misfortunes.

JUDGMENT SEATS.

Subject of a Sermon at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

Life, said Dr. Easton in his discourse last evening at Calvary Presbyterian Church on "The Judgment Seats of Time," is enveloped in mystery. Looking down upon the life of man, whether considered as an individual or as a part of the whole society of humanity, we find that existence is made up of a series of planes, and as we ascend we notice a corresponding increase of power and responsibility. Man was created with reason and endowed with judgment, therefore he is held accountable to himself and to others with whom he associates for his conduct. The consciousness of personal responsibility is felt and makes itself manifest everywhere and at all times. Human tribunals are organized among men. It is but one step from these courts to higher judgment seats of religion. Natural religion is the organizer of all tribunals and enters largely into the order of the universe, to which belongs society and all its institutions. Another tribunal has arisen in the course of events which has greater power to-day than ever before. This is the court of human reason. The right of private judgment has been born of human reason and is wielding a power that will wipe out traditions and repeal laws that have for ages been considered wise. This is public sentiment. It has but to frown on traditions and they perish, scoff at laws and they are abolished. There was once a law on our statute books which permitted slavery. The case was tried before the court of human reason.

The pool-room and saloon must go before the same judge. They are doomed. The day is not far distant when these evils will get their death blow at the hand of public sentiment.

THE WHITE CAPS.

They Appear to Be as Bold and Defiant as Ever in Indiana.

In spite of a most stringent law passed by the last Legislature the Indiana White Caps appear as bold and defiant as ever. During the past week the Knights of the Switch have been active in Harrison County and the result of their raids is found in the lacerated backs of a number of men and women who had been so unfortunate as to come under their displeasure. On the night of the 1st the raiders of the night called at the house of an aged pair named Mewer, in the rugged hills of Heth Township, at midnight, and taking them from their beds bound them to a convenient sapling near at hand and lashed them with hickory switches until their backs were a mass of bruises. After the flogging they were released and warned that if they were not out of the county within ten days the consequences would be exceedingly painful. The old couple, who were charged with petty thieving and immorality, have since packed up their small belongings and left. In Washington Township, of the same county, the gang paid a visit a few nights ago to the house of David Lowe, and jerking him from his bed, administered such severe punishment to him that it was feared for awhile he would die. Leaving Lowe's house the same gang went to the residence of Fielding Rickard. Upon being refused admission, they broke the door down with a heavy rail, and dragging Rickard, shrieking and cursing, from the house, tied him to a neighboring tree, where fifty lashes were laid on his bare back. Rickard was charged with indolence, immorality and general worthlessness. From Rickard's the night-riders went to the house of a half demented preacher living near, and dragging him from his bed beat him nearly to death.

Only a few weeks ago one Thomas P. Neely of Heth Township, Harrison County, was taken from his bed and flogged by the night-hawks. By a peculiarity in his walk the victim recognized Bufford Watson as one of the men plying the switches, and, meeting him a few days later on the streets of Mauckport, became involved in a fight in which the White Cap was stabbed and seriously wounded. The last Legislature of Indiana passed very stringent laws against White Capping, and within a few days a member of a gang from one of the interior counties of the State was convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment, but in the counties in the southern part of the State no fear appears to exist among the regulators of any legal consequences that may come, and they pursue their raids whenever a necessity for such action becomes apparent to them.—Louisville (Ky.) special to Globe-Democrat.

MIDSHIPMAN AND MONKEY.

An Incident in the Early Career of Captain Schley of the Baltimore.

A naval officer recently told a story of Captain Schley, the commander of the crack cruiser Baltimore, the officer who led the attack upon the forts of Corea when we had trouble with that country, and the man who so brilliantly conducted the Greely relief expedition.

The first Japanese embassy that came to this country was sent home in the United States frigate Niagara. This country being desirous of opening up trade with Japan paid every attention to the members of the embassy while they were here, and the splendid Niagara was specially fitted out to take them home. Temporary quarters were fitted up sumptuously for them aft on the spar deck. They were given to understand that the ship and her officers and crew were at their command. The voyage was pleasant and all was well until Cape Town was left. A stop of several days was made there. When the Niagara hove up her anchor and resumed her voyage there was an additional member of the embassy contingent. He was a tame baboon and had been bought by one of the chiefest of the Japanese passengers. He was an "amoosin' cuss" withal, but very free and uncleanly in his habits. He took liberties with the quarter deck that brought upon his head many an anathema from the officers of the ship and her crew, for there is one thing that every one on board a man-of-war takes particular pride in, and that is in having his floating home as clean as ever was the kitchen of thrifty housewife.

Captain Schley was then a midshipman and was on the Niagara. He was about 16 years of age, high-hearted and very prankstome. He chafed so much under the restraint of man-of-war discipline, and so often broke out of bounds, that it was freely predicted that, while his career in the service might be a very breezy and exhilarating one, it would also be brief. One bright morning the Niagara was heeling along in the Indian Ocean with a favorable thirteen-knot breeze bellying her sails and singing through her rigging. The decks had been washed down and had dried. They were as spotless as bridal linen. Midshipman Schley was proud of the watch on deck. There came from the embassy quarters the diplomatic baboon. He offended as he had so often offended before. Schley could not stand it. He stood by a slush bucket on the lee side. He called the simian to him and caressed him with his hand. He then took a handful of tallow and dipping it into the liquid grease in the bucket, made the baboon's tail thoroughly lubricous.

There was something in Schley's eye which showed that he was working a scheme of revenge and destruction. With a rope's end he gave the baboon three or four smart blows. The ugly brute immediately took to the rigging, amid which he had so often sported before. Schley followed him for a few feet. The baboon reached the height of the main yard, to which he sprung. He ran nimbly out to the yard-arm and then made the mistake of his life. Wrapping his tail around the foot rope he swung head downward, within inches below him but blue water. But the prehensile function of his tail had been destroyed by the lubricating that Schley had given it. As a consequence the brute, with a wild yell, plunged into the Indian Ocean and was seen no more.

Schley's excuse to the captain of the ship for what he had done was that he could not have prevented the disagreeable passenger from committing suicide even if he had had orders to that effect. With a stern face and a twinkling eye the captain told the lad to go and sin no more.—N. Y. Sun.

SOMETHING TO LAUGH AT.

"What becomes of the wicked humorists when they die?" "They go into the roasted chestnut business, I fancy."—N. Y. Herald.

* * *

After the performance.—She—I wonder why Henry Irving grasps his necktie so often? He—Oh, he choke his emotion, I suppose!—Puck Me Up.

* * *

Mabel—I don't agree with you at all. Algernon—On the contrary, my dear, you agree with me better than anything else in the world.—Boston Courier.

* * *

Sanso—How did the police manage to put down the students' riot? Rodd—They threw a foot-ball among the boys and they immediately began to maul each other to death.—N. Y. Herald.

* * *

A Linguist: Merchant—Can you manage to make yourself understood when French or Spanish customers come to the store?"

Would-be clerk—Certainly, if they know how to talk English.—Texas Siftings.

* * *

Dashaway—The other night I went to an amateur theatrical performance, and then I went home and had a terrible dream.

Cleverton—What did you dream?

Dashaway—I dreamt I went to it again.—N. Y. Sun.

* * *

She—That was such a funny story you told me yesterday about a donkey, Mr. Griggs. He—Do you think so? She—Yes, indeed! After this, whenever I see a donkey it will remind me of you!—Munsey's Weekly.

* * *

Editor—Versification is a gift, is it not? Popular verse-writer—It certainly is. A proper appre— Editor—Thanks. I had intended paying for your verses, but as they are a gift I will remember you in prayers instead.—Texas Siftings.

* * *

Ella—Why, you haven't said a word about my being married! Perhaps you haven't heard of it? Kate—Oh, yes, I heard of it several days ago, but then, you know, I didn't think it was quite fair to twit you of it before folks.—Boston Transcript.

* * *

Pulpit Announcements.—Editor's wife (to husband just returned from church)—You are late. You must have had a longer sermon than usual. Editor—No; there was about the ordinary amount of news matter and editorial, but there was an unusual rush of advertisements.—Peterborough (Ont.) Review.

* * *

Loving wife—Now that you are ruined, Henry, I will disclose my secret. For years I have been saving up, and now (pouring a shining heap of gold into his hat) this may tide you over. Husband—Oh, my darling, how did you manage to do it? Wife—Easy enough. Every time you said a mean thing to me I put 10 cents into a box.—N. Y. Sun.

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Amos Taylor struck a pocket in his claim near Clarksburg, Sacramento County, recently, and took out $2700 in coarse gold.

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BEAR YE BRAVELY

At this right festive yule and that ye may do so in all harmony we bid ye to our most excellent show of ye hat.

AN WE SPEAK YE FALSE BESHREW US.

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