FIRESIDE FRAGMENTS.

pen giving the final polish to **before putting** away for the sum-**ix the blacking** with a little ke-**instead of** water, to prevent rust.

oast with Gravy: Soften toast by **g in hot salted** water. In any kind **vy grate a** little cheese, put the **n a platter,** pour the gravy over **it in a hot** oven five minutes and

own Bread: Take two cups of sour **half a cup** of molasses, two tea-**s of saleratus,** two cups of meal, **up of flour** and one teaspoon of **rease a two-**quart basin, put the **in and steam** it two and one-half **; it is splendid.**—Farm and Home.

little powdered potash thrown in-**holes will drive** the rodents away **re so annoying** in cellar or kitch-**yenne pepper** will have the same **on rats and** cockroaches, and a **will never** gnaw through a piece **ton sprinkled** with cayenne that is **d in his hole.**

Marion Harland advises those who **what grocers** catalogue as canned **, to always** open the cans some **before cooking** the contents and **y into an** open bowl, set in cool **. This** removes the close, airless, **y taste. Drain** the liquor from peas **beans, cover** with fresh cold water, **let them soak** for two hours. It **ens them** wonderfully.

Medium sized potatoes will cook in **an hour, if** they are large it is well **t them lengthwise.** This vegetable **ld always be** put into boiling water. **oiling is the** method of cooking.) **till well done,** turn the water off. **y drop of it,** and then set them over **dre for a few** minutes, uncovered, to **what moisture** remains evaporate in **m.**

Browned Mince of Beef: Take some **ains of cold** roast beef, mince very **and mix with** it a quarter as much **hed potato; season** well with pepper, **mustard and** catsup; add one cup **gravy, work** altogether, and make **hot in a saucepan.** Pile upon a **, cover with** fine bread crumbs, and **vn quickly in** the oven. It is much **roved by putting** bits of butter over **top as it begins** to brown. Serve in **dish it is** baked in.—Leeds Mercury.

Crystalized Fruits and Nuts: Boil **cup of granulated** sugar with a large **-half cup of** boiling water. Try as **candy, and** when it is brittle, take **n the fire and** put in a saucepan of **ling water** and, while boiling, be **e do not stir** it, or afterward. Oranges **divided into** eights, and immersed; **laga grapes** are wiped and dipped **arately. Filberts** and English wal-**s are strung** upon a thread, and **er dipping** are suspended by the **ead to dry.**—Detroit Free Press.

-Fig Pudding. Beat two eggs until **ht, add one** cup of milk, two of sifted **ur with a** heaping teaspoonful of bak-**powder and** half as much salt. Beat **til very smooth,** and add half a pound **chopped** figs, floured. Put into a **eased mold** and boil or steam two **urs. Eat** with a sauce made by **ipping together** one large tablespoon-**l of butter,** one heaping coffee cup of **wdered sugar** and one egg. Cran-**rries may** be used instead of the figs, **unes will** also make a delightful **dding.**—American Agriculturist.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

nts for the Household and Suggestions to Practical Housewives.

A small box filled with lime and placed **a shelf in a** panty or closet will ab-**rb dampness** and keep the air in the **oset dry and** sweet.

When you are mending gloves slip a **olished pecan** nut into the fingers and **e how easily** you can mend it without **urting the** shape of the glove. As the **rface is** highly polished a nut is very **asily managed,** and you can have **o idea, until** you try it, how convenient **ne is in** mending.

A Turkish towel joined in bag fashion **nd shirred** over a dress steel that is ar-**anged to form** a circle makes a very **retty bag for** soiled collars, etc. The **ringe is allowed** to hang below the shir-**ing on the** outside, and the bag is sus-**ended by** wide ribbons, which may **atch or contrast** with the colors in the **owel.**

If you are so fortunate as to possess **n open fire-**place, gather for it all the **pine cones** and twigs and sprigs and **edar you** can lay your hands on, and **ry them.** In the long winter evenings **hrow them** on the blazing logs, and **hey will** make such a cheery sparkle **and pervade** the room with a delicious **woody odor** that will delight you.

A new process for burning coal with-**out smoke** has lately been discovered. **It consists** in sprinkling water contain-**ing a special** preparation of resin over **the coal,** and the result is that there is **no smoke,** and the glow is as intense a-**coke. An** authority vouches for the **fact that** it works admirably, and in its **fire is a** remarkable improvement on **coke.**

For a luxuriant growth of green in **winter,** put some lumps of charcoal in **the bottom** of a suitable vessel, a hya-**cinth glass** will answer, and fill it with **water.** Put in thrifty slips of ivy or **tradescantia.** If sand is used place the **stems firm**ly in it. As the water evap-**orates fill** with fresh. A beautiful effect **is produced** by simply placing a handful **of the** heads of wheat in a vase of water. —**Boston** Commonwealth.

How the Post-Office Has Grown.

From the seventy-five post-offices over **which** Postmaster General Benjamin **Franklin** presided, the number has **grown** to 58,999 in 1889. In 1874 the **number** was 34,300, and the gross rev-**enue,** $26,500,000. The gross revenue for **1889 is** $57,175,611. The 58,999 offices at **present** in existence are divided as fol-**lows:** First class, 102; second class, 517; **third** class, 2,043; fourth class, 57,176. **The grand** total of employes at present **in the** postal service is 150,935. The **total** expenditure of the department for **the fiscal** year, ending June 30, 1889: **Revenue,** $56,148,014.92; total actual and **estimated** expenditures and liabilities, **$62,491,**198.35; deficiency in revenue, **$6,342,**183.43. The estimated revenue **for the** fiscal year to end June 30, 1890, **is $60,**618,850.87.—Mechanical News.

WIT AND WISDOM.

—It takes almost superhuman strength to hang on when you begin at the top of the ladder.—Milwaukee Journal.

—The man who depends upon wages will get rich sooner than the man who depends upon wagers.—Boston Herald.

—Many a young man who sows his wild oats trusts to the grasshopper of forgetfulness to destroy the crop.—Texas Siftings.

—It is better to lose a jest than a friend, to miss an opportunity of saying a "good thing" than to make an enemy. —N. Y. Ledger.

—When a man admires a woman who can argue, you can depend upon it that the woman is some other man's wife.—Atchison Globe.

—He is happy whose circumstances suit his temper; but he is more excellent who can suit his temper to any circumstances.—Hume.

—If there is ever a time when it's a blessing for a man to be blind, it is when he is in love. He can't see what a fool he makes of himself.—Binghamton Republican.

—Have you learned the lesson of yesterday or the infinite meaning of to-day? It has duties of its own; they can not be left until to-morrow. To-morrow will bring its own work.

—In private conversation between friends the wisest men very often talk like the weakest; for, indeed, the talking of a friend is nothing else but thinking aloud.—Addison.

—Men and women, to lead worthy lives, must have a just respect for themselves. Whatever tends to realize and to strengthen these promotes human welfare.—N. Y. Ledger.

—A sure cure of poverty, about which we are hearing a good deal, is primarily a cure of character. In free countries, certainly, most of the poverty we find is the near result of a weak intellectual, or weak moral, character, or both.

—If we live on the surface all the time, our experiences must all be superficial. It is only by going down among the roots of things that we gain a knowledge and power such as we need.—United Presbyterian.

—"One thing," says Lucy Larcom, "we are at last beginning to understand, which our ancestors evidently had not learned: that it is far more needful for theologians to become as little children, than for little children to become theologians."

—There is no gain in finish or polish in and of itself. Polish and finish presuppose something that is worthy of being thus brought into prominence. He who essays to write with finish, or to speak with polish, without having in mind a thought or a fact which is worthy of being brought out even in roughest guise, and which possesses him because of its intrinsic or its practical value, is likely to fail of his purpose, and his purpose is surely worthy of failure only.—S. S. Times

THE BIXBY PAPERS.

Plain Living and High Thinking Are Good Enough for Mr. B.

"We've got to watch the corners mighty closely this year and retrench in every direction possible," said Mr. Bixby the other morning after a breakfast of porterhouse steak, Mocha coffee, honey and rolls, "and I think, my dear, we'd better have a little plainer table hereafter. I never did believe in this thing of putting so much money into one's stomach in the way of rich and expensive food. Plain living and high thinking ought to be our motto, so we'd better have a plainer table after this."

"All right," replied Mrs. Bixby, "I am quite willing." And when Bixby came home to dinner he sat down to dried beef in a milk batter, boiled potatoes and a dessert of boiled rice.

"Harriet Amanda Bixby!" he said sternly, "what in thunder does *this* mean? Do you suppose I am going to work like a slave and then be fed on such fodder as this? Not much I won't."

"You said this morning that you believed in plain living and high—"

"Plain fiddlesticks! People who want to make starved jackasses of themselves on that tom-fool principle can *do* it! I believe in good living. Its about all the comfort a man gets in this life anyhow. I'm going down to the hotel for my dinner now, and it'll cost me a dollar and a half, and I'll take all my meals there if you ever try to come your plain living and high thinking dodge on *me* again!"

A French Deputy's Eccetricity.

H. Thivrier, a workingman, elected as such to the present Chamber of Deputies in France, wears all the time in public the blouse, which is the badge of a laborer in that country. M. Thivrier began work in the coal mines at Commentoy, France, when twelve years old, and for twenty years remained in them, handling the pick. Afterward he became a vine grower and dealer in wines. He is a socialist, but not a communist, "for having," as a French paper puts it, "acquired his capital by his own hard work, he can not easily understand how that capital should belong to all the world." Through all his career he has stuck to his workingman's blouse, and it was largely upon the strength of that peculiarity that he was elected a Deputy. He is said to be a man of unusual intelligence and a good speaker. When he came to Paris to take his seat his blouse, which he wore not only at the Chamber, but at receptions and all other functions which he attended, made him at once famous.—Chicago Herald.

A MAN seldom realizes what "ashes to ashes" means until he has to sift some when the wind is blowing great guns.—Elmira Star.

CHEMISTS are seldom henpecked husbands. They have too much experience with retorts.—Burlington Free Press.

THE fashionable woman in the forties is not generally ambitious to discover a new wrinkle.—Binghamton Leader.

SOME men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some are United States Senators.—Washington Star.

THE revolver and the bank cashier are alike, they never go off unless they are loaded.—Washington Star.

A DEAD-BEAT can generally stand a loan, even if he can't support himself.—Binghamton Republican.

ISN'T it rather remarkable that "the oldest inhabitant" is never a woman?—Washington Star.

THERE are no good liars, though some of them are very skillful and talented.—N. O. Picayune.

DEAD men tell no tales, but the ones who write their obituaries often do.—Elmira Star.

THE stuttering man can never make a pronounced success.—Davenport Citizen.

ONE rule for Lent—Never allow your umbrella to be permanently borrowed.

A GEOLOGIST ought to be a good stratagist.—Yonkers Gazette.

ASKING.

"He stole from my bodice a rose,
My cheek was it's color the while;
But, ah! the sly rogue! He well knows,
Had he asked it, I must have said no."

"Yes, I remember that occasion. I was young then. I am not old now. I had not a pain nor an ache. My blood was pure and my cheeks showed its crimson. I was happy and healthy. But now, woe is me! I do not see a well day. I have these distressing dragging-down pains, this constant weakness, and I feel all the time worn and weary."

For all such sufferers, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a panacea of inestimable value.

As an invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system. For overworked, "worn-out," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequaled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic. Contains no alcohol to inebriate; no syrup or sugar to derange digestion; a legitimate *medicine*, not a *beverage*.

As a soothing and strengthing nervine, "Favorite Prescription" is unequaled and is invaluable in allaying and subduing nervous excitability, exhaustion, prostration, hysteria, spasms and other distressing, nervous symptoms, commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

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