We could never have loved the earth so well if we had no childhood in it. .... Our delight in the sunshine on the deep-bladed grass today might be no more than the faint perception of wearied souls, if it were not for the sunshine and the grass in the far-off years which still live in us, and transform our perception into love—George Eliot.

PLYMOUTH ROCK'S CRACK.

Its Origin Involves a Unique and Ridiculous Bit of History.

Plymouth has been called the cradle of New England. It is on the coast, thirty-eight miles south of Boston, and is a thriving and prosperous New England town, with good schools and churches, and town hall, and shops of all kinds, and comfortable homes.

On the flat strip of land that runs for miles up and down the shore of the bay, the diminutive white houses of the fishermen are crowded close together. In the centre of the same flat land-strip, flanked on both sides by the fishermen's homes, is a large, open square forty yards from the water-front. Here stands Plymouth Rock, the first sight of which gives one a mental shock, for, no doubt, fancy has pictured an immense boulder rising grandly out of the sea; but, instead, the visitor sees only an oblong, irregularly-shaped, gray sandstone rock twelve feet in length and five feet in width at the widest point, and two at the narrowest. Across one part runs a large crack which gives to Plymouth Rock a highly artificial appearance. The origin of this crack is a bit of unique history, and bears evidence to the early differences that at times divided the inhabitants into two factions.

For a long time there waged spirited and bitter wrangling between the opposing parties, and it even settled down upon the much-cherished Plymouth Rock, which one party declared ought to be removed to a more worthy position in the town square, and the other wranglers protested it should not be moved an inch from its position, even though they had to guard it with their pikes and guns.

Finally, the stronger faction drew up their forces around Plymouth Rock, and in attempting to move it up the hill split it asunder, which seemed a bad omen for those who had attempted such a thing, until an ardent Whig leader flourished his sword, and by an eloquent appeal to the other zealous Whigs convinced them that they should not swerve from their plan of carrying the rock to a place in the town square.

"The portion that first fell to the ground belongs to us," he cried; "and that we will transport with all care and diligence to its proper home."

Twenty yoke of oxen drew the Whig section of Plymouth Rock up the hill, amid the shouts of the throng that pushed forward around the liberty pole which was to mark the new site. The ceremony of dedicating the rock in its new position was very impressive, and the people stood with bared heads, and in reverent tones chanted their high-pitched psalms in token of thanksgiving.

In the town square this part of Plymouth Rock remained for more than half a century, when a committee of the council resolved to move it back to its original position, and join it, as best they could, to the other half. Accordingly, in 1834, on the morning of the Fourth of July, the Plymouth Rock had been re-united in all seriousness to its long-estranged portion, and the union made complete by a mixture of cement and mortar.

Today four granite columns support a canopy of granite that offers Plymouth Rock an indifferent protection against the rain and the sun, and serves to keep back, in some measure, the thousands of sight-seers that come to Plymouth with only one object in view, namely, to press up around the iron bars, and to gaze through them at the revered rock, on which they see the single inscription, cut in the middle of its face in long, plain figures, "1620."

The rock is surrounded by a high iron railing composed of alternate boat hooks and harpoons, and inscribed with the illustrious names of the forty men who drew up the Pilgrims' compact on board the Mayflower that November day as they sighted the coast that henceforth was to be their home.—From Cornelia Hickman's "A Visit to Plymouth Rock," in St. Nicholas.

The worst part of any trouble is waiting for it.

The radius of a man's life wil depend on its center.

No man ever broke his own back with his brother's burden.

One never knows a man any better by tearing him mto pieces.

The honors you confer o nthe unworthy only sink them in deeper disgrace.

NEW YEAR'S CALLS

A New Drink to Replace the Old Time "Apple-Jack."

Twenty-five years ago the custom of making New Year's calls was a delightful one for all concerned, until some of the boys got more "egg-nog" or "apple-jack" than they could successfully carry.

Then the ladies tried to be charitable and the gentlemen tried to be as chivalrous as ever and stand up at the same time.

If anyone thinks there has not been considerable improvement made in the last quarter of a century in the use of alcoholic beverages, let him stop to consider, among other things, the fact that the old custom of New Year's calls and the genteel tippling is nearly obsolete.

The custom of calling on one's friends, however, at the beginning of the new year, is a good habit, and another good habit to start at that time is the use of well-made Postum instead of coffee or spirits.

A Staten Island doctor has a sensible daughter who has set Postum before her guests as a good thing to drink at Yule Tide, and a good way to begin the New Year. Her father writes:

"My daughter and I have used Postum for some time past and we feel sure it contains wholesome food material.

"I shall not only recommend it to my patients, but my daughter will be most pleased to give a demonstration of Postum to our Christmas and New Year's callers." Read "The Road to Wellville," in pgks. "There's a reason."

The production of stone to the value of $63,798,000 in the United States last year makes the importations of the so-called precious kind small by comparison.

The Louisville Courier-Journal says: Monocles are to be tabooed in London. To wear glaasses and look intellectual is still good form, but it will no longer be fashionable to wear one glass and look half-witted.

An English critic having said that Henry James "gropes his way through the English language like a blind man tapping with a stick," the London Globe rejoins that he might do worse, that his methods at least are "better than those of some other novelists who dance through the language as if they were doing a cake walk."

The Commoner observes: A Sidney (Ia.) man was recently sentenced to the penitentiary for one year for stealing two cherry pies. Men who have stolen railroads, coal lands, timber lands and millions of money are still "captains of finance" and "defenders of national honor." If there is any moral to this it is, "Don't be so foolish as to steal mere pies."

All this talk against parcels post, as is proposed by the granges and other farm organizations, sums up, the American Cultivator thinks, about as suggested by former Postmaster-General Wanamaker, who declared that there are four reasons why we cannot have parcels post in the United States, and the reasons named were the four leading express companies.

The new Vreeland law requires that manufacturers of gold and silver be truthfully stamped, and provides for imposing penalties in case false stamps are used. As a result of the United States having had no Federal stamping law, the products of American factories lack standing in foreign countries. After the Vreeland law becomes operative, it is expected that American manufacturers will be better abe to invade foreign markets. The leading manufacturing jewelers indorse the law.

San Bernardino and Redlands school officials are taking concerted action to stamp out fraternities existing in the public schools, adopting the most stringent measures. This aggressive action is the result of the conduct of the societies, one of which in persuading the wife of Professor Cyrus Rector, a science teacher at the High school, to be initiated, blindfolded her, put a halter around her head, tied her by a rope to the back of a hay wagon and led her in broad daylight through the streets of Rialto.

Senator Foraker's declaration in favor of the nomination of United States senators by popular vote at the party primaries is of large importance, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. Foraker has been a conservative of the strictest sect. His present position therefore implies a recognition of the growing strength of the demand for the direct election of senators by the people, and presages a possible surrender on the part of other senators whose long service, like Foraker's, has tended to make them jealous of any change in the present system.

The "chain" or "snowball" letter nuisance has received recognition both by British postal experts and at the hands of the late postal congress. These letters, as most persons know, are started by some one who sends out, say, a group of ten, each recipient being asked to send out ten more, and so on—in geometrical progression. The result is a nuisance to many private individuals as well as to the postal authorities. Reports upon the matter made by Mr. Henniker Heaton to the postal congress led to a decision that hereafter "chain letters" insufficiently prepaid will not be returned to the writers, as is the case with ordinary letters, but will be thrown into the dead letter office.

In all of our greater commercial panics it will be found that the fundamental cause of trouble was what Wall street nowadays describes in the familiar phrase, "discounting the future," maintains A. D. Noyes in The Atlantic. That is to say, a period of real and genuine prosperity, with promises, afterward invariably fulfilled, of vastly greater prosperity, led to the capitalizing of industry and the incurring of debt on the basis of what was expected in the future. When this process had gone to a certain extent, a situation was created in which any accident of the moment, any failure of an agricultural crop, any disturbance in a foreign market which had been a profitable customer, even in some cases an unexpected war, with its interruption to industry, would only upset all expectations of the immediate future, but would leave an entire community with demand liabilities which it could not meet.

Asphyxiated Trees.

Several trees in Northernhay, Exeter, have been poisoned. Examination showed that a gas main, laid in an asphalt path, was leaking, and the gas had polluted the soil.—London Chronicle.

Habitual brooders hatch out only the buzzards of despair.

Many a life that is short in years is long in its reach.

Hatred always hurts the hater most of all.

You lose force with men as soon as you lose faith in them.

Only the smile that is rooted bears fruits of refreshing.

When riches get into the heart they are sure to make it poor.

The custom that prevails in Greece of carrying a body to the grave in a coffin which allows the face to be visible is said to have originated when the Turks dominated the land.

Disappointments will make us conversant with the noble part of our nature. It wil chasten us and prepare us to meet accidents on higher ground the next time. As Hannibal taught the Romans the art of war, so is all misfortune only a stepping stone to fortune.—Thoreau.

He who can put his soul into a necktie seldom has any heart for the needy.

Loce measures life by its chances to give itself away.

He want worth who dares not praise a foe.—Dryden.