

# THE FREE PRESS.

GRANGEVILLE, IDAHO.

## NERVOUS COUGH.

An Affliction Whose True Nature is Not Universally Understood.

One may have a hard, dry and violent cough, and yet the lungs, bronchial tubes and larynx be in a perfectly normal condition.

Says Flint: "In most of the cases of this kind which I have seen, the cough has a peculiar barking tone, and the pitch has been low, showing that the glottis was dilated at the instant of coughing. In some cases, however, the tone is shrill and the quality of the sound croupal, showing spasm of the glottis. In a case recently under observation, the cough consisted of a single, short, hoarse bark, often repeated several times a minute. It is sometimes in paroxysms, having a resemblance to those of whooping cough. The peculiar sound of the cough, together with its frequent recurrence, and sometimes its violence, renders it distressing to those whose sympathies are excited, and annoying to others."

It is mostly confined to females of hysterical tendencies. It may be induced by involuntary irritation. A school for girls was once broken up by it. The slightest change of temperature excites it, as do also penetrating odors. It is constantly attended by sneezing and sniffling.

Shadewald, who has recently given it special attention, found it could be produced by gently touching a certain point within the nostrils. This point is the termination of one of the filaments of the trigeminal (or trifacial) nerve, and it is to its irritation that Shadewald regards this cough as due. Hence he calls it the trigeminal cough.

It bears a striking resemblance to nervous asthma, and the latter is now thought to be the most pronounced form of trigeminal cough, with its seat within the nostrils. Ramifications of the trigeminal go to the pharynx (the back part of the mouth), and also to a portion of the ear, and hence this cough may sometimes be due to trigeminal irritation in these parts, but it is most frequently met with from irritation of the nerve within the nostrils.

Of course no treatment directed to the throat or lungs will be of any avail, and its persistence against all ordinary remedies may cause the gravest fears. But the peculiar barking tone of the cough and a certain nervous character of the patient may suggest its real nature. The medical attendant should at once suspect its trigeminal origin, if he fails to find any organic explanation of it. All treatment should be directed to the nasal nerve, and the main object should be to lessen its undue excitability.

Galvanism is warmly recommended. Cauterization is often effectual, and so, for a time is a slight bleeding of the parts. The copious secretion to which iodine of potassium, administered internally, gives rise is helpful, by washing out the irritating particles. In lighter cases, this and the inhaling of vapor are often sufficient.—*Youth's Companion.*

## NEW YORK FASHIONS.

The Very Select Styles in Elegant Lace Boas and Straw Bonnets.

The new lace boas are both useful and ornamental, and black and cream lace are alike useful in their manufacture. The lace is arranged in such a way that it forms a rouleau corresponding in size and shape to the fur boa. Most of these are about two and a half yards in length, and are tied with ribbons a few inches below the chin. Ready-made, these novelties are expensive, but a lady of taste can easily construct one at about one-third the cost of those sold in the shops. Very expensive lace for their make is to be eschewed, because, when soiled, the boa must be discarded. They are charming adjuncts to summer toilets, and give a finish to any pretty summer dress worn out of doors. Moreover, the boa will be a protection for the throat when driving, coming out of church, or on any occasion where one feels the need of slight extra clothing.

Small dark straw princess bonnets, with the brims edged with a pulling of velvet, and a high coronet above, of hawthorn blossoms, lilacs, hedge roses, clover heads, snowballs, Jacque buds and other fine French flowers, are favorite head coverings, with tailor-made costumes of dove-gray albatross, mauve cashmere, silk-dotted veils and the like. These are charming. The many light-wool fabrics for the tailor-made dresses are uncommonly elegant this season, and if artistically cut, which is a *sine qua non*, they are the perfection of summer wear. Emphasis must be given by repetition to what has before been said, that there is no street gown in which a woman looks better dressed than a costume of this description, when perfectly fitted, adding grace to a rounded form and roundness to a slender one, as many dressy additions have been made to these bodices of these gowns, which at first were too severe and unadorned to prove becoming to all figures.

It is now quite the fashion to make up semi-transparent muslins over light foundations of batiste or saten. These look very dressy, more especially if a few knots of colored rib are added, and if the hat be trimmed with flowers to correspond. Dark blue and golden brown rough-and-ready straw hats are generally worn with such gowns. Pink and pale lilac India muslins are exhibited with tiny flowers scattered over their surface, which are to be made up over foundations of plain pink or mauve. Black velvet ribbon is more used upon dresses of this sort than the quantities of lace that loaded them last year.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

—Rev. J. Benson Hamilton, of New York, illustrates his sermons by means of a black-board at the rear of the pulpit. He is drawing large audiences.—*N. Y. Times.*

## HOME AND FARM.

—More than half the diseases so prevalent among farm horses are due to improper attention to the common laws of sanitation.—*Exchange.*

—The advice to put a cow before calving on short rations to prevent milk fever is bad. The food should be regular, not forced.—*Western Rural.*

—A farmer who had considerable experience with breeding live stock, says that three colts can be grown on the same feed that is required for two calves.—*Chicago Tribune.*

—Milk Lemonade: Dissolve in one quart of boiling water one and one-half cups of loaf sugar, add one-half pint of lemon juice, and lastly, one and one-half pints of boiling milk.—*Boston Budget.*

—Corn and potatoes may often be top-dressed to advantage for planting, providing fine manure is used. The cultivation of these crops during the season will mix the manure with the soil much more perfectly than it could be if plowed under.—*Prairie Farmer.*

—The American Agriculturist says that "buckwheat is one of the most valuable grains both for human food and for feeding animals. It is only slightly inferior to rye in nutritious matter, having much the same character as a food, and containing very nearly as much nutriment as oats."

—One of the meanest of mean weeds is plantain. It can not be eradicated completely except by measures equivalent to wearing out, root, leaf and branch; then seeds are left in the soil to make repetition of the process necessary before extermination of the pest is effected.—*Cincinnati Times.*

—A contributor to the Boston Transcript gives the following remedy for salt rheum in the hands. Prepare a strong infusion of yellow dock root and take a wineglassful at night and morning. An infusion of the leaves of the beech tree, used as a lotion, will give relief. I have known of three severe cases to have been cured by this simple remedy. In my own case I took the yellow dock for three months.

—You should keep a disused coal-oil barrel full of the strongest lye, into which to drop every bone that comes from your table, or else pack them in alternate layers with unslacked lime. They will become so brittle that you may have them broken fine and spread them broadcast; and the lye, if you have used that, can be diluted with many times its bulk of water and be applied wherever potash would be serviceable. This liquid, or soap-suds, is the surest possible dressing for cauliflower and cabbage.—*N. Y. Telegram.*

—Milk Soup: Take four large potatoes, peeled and cut in quarters, one onion cut up, put them into two quarts of boiling water, with two ounces of butter, one-fourth ounce salt or pepper to taste; boil till done to a mash; strain through a colander, and rub the vegetables through with a wooden spoon; return the pulp and soup to the saucepan, add one pint of milk and put it on the fire to boil; when it boils, sprinkle in by degrees three tablespoonfuls of crushed tapioca, stirring well all the time. Boil frequently for fifteen minutes, and serve in a hot soup plate.—*Albany Journal.*

## NATURE'S ECONOMY.

Wonderfully Displayed in the Construction of the Human Frame.

We may see glimpses of the great system of general regulation which guards nature from overdrawing her accounts in connection with the arrangement of living things. Not only in beings of high degree, but in animals of low estate, do we meet with illustrations of the economy of power and the saving of needless expenditures of force and energy which dame nature practices. The study of human anatomy, which, of course, is one in many points with the comparative science as applied to lower life, reveals not a few instructive examples of this saving tendency in life's ways. The human head, for example, is nicely balanced on the spine. Compared with heads of lower type, this equipoise forms a prominent feature of man's estate. The head mass of dog, horse or elephant requires to be tied on, as it were, to the spine. Ligaments and muscular arrangements of complex nature perform their part in securing that the front extremity of these forms should be safely adjusted. But in man there is an absence of effort apparent in Nature's ways of securing the desired end. The erect posture, too, is adjusted and arranged for on principles of neat economy. The type of body is the same as in lower life. Humanity appears before us as a modification, an evolution, but in no sense a new creation. Man rises from his "forelegs"—arms being identical, he is remarked, with the anterior pair of limbs in lower life—and speedily there ensues an adaptation of means to ends, and all in the direction of the economical conversion of the lower to the higher type of being. The head becomes balanced and not secured, as we have seen, and thus a saving of muscular power is entailed. Adjustments of bones and joints take place, and the muscles of one aspect—say the front—of the body, counterbalance the action of those of the other aspect, the back; and between the two diverging tendencies the equilibrium is maintained practically without effort. So also in the petty details of the work nature has not been unmindful of her "saving clause."

We see this latter fact illustrated in the disposition of the arrangements of foot and heel. One may legitimately announce that man owes much to his heel; but the truth is, he owes a great deal of his mental comfort and physical economy to his heels. The heel bone has become especially prominent in man when compared with lower forms of quadruped life. It projects far behind the mass of foot and leg, and thus forms a stable fulcrum of support whereon the body may rest. Here, again, economy of ways and means is illustrated.—*Longman's Magazine.*

—An anti-tobacco reformer has found that of the seventy-six United States Senators fourteen chew tobacco, and fifty-eight use it in one form or another, while of the 325 members of the House only a few abstain wholly from tobacco.

## AMATEUR ELOCUTION.

The Reader of "Ole Joe" Relates Her Experience Before the Public.

Every audience has to be won over, and an amateur does not always have the time or chance. I find my own frame of mind more or less reflected by the audience, in the shape of coldness, if I am tired or nervous. Constant habit and practice and knowledge of stage methods enables a professional to play a part evenly and well, however little he may fancy it; but I find I must feel the beauty of the lines or the lesson they teach to do good work, and at any rate, after reciting or acting I feel discouraged and disappointed. The theatrical managers and professionals have always treated me with unvarying courtesy and kindness, and even encouragement. The success of recitation naturally depends much on the choice of the piece, and I rarely decide upon my selection until the last moment, when I am on the spot and have made my estimate of the general character of the audience. Our judgment on a question of this sort is anything but infallible, and at times, when trusting to my own instincts, I have arrived at very unfortunate results. But if a piece touches me and I feel its pathos, it is very natural to suppose it will affect others in the same way if properly interpreted. I am only a beginner, however, and my experiences are almost all experiments.

I find it far easier to interest an audience by a story with a moral than by something abstract, however superior the versification of the latter may be, and I have generally found country audiences more appreciative of serious pieces than those in the city. City people want something gayer and more amusing, that will not make them think. Nor am I ashamed to confess that my most enthusiastic and generous critics have been workmen and shop-girls and newsboys. For if they have had fewer advantages in education and refining associations than those in a more fortunate position, their wits have been sharpened by practical trials and adversity, and the absence of affectation in themselves makes them quick to see through false sentiment and appreciate what is true.

An increasing fondness for the art, and the pleasure of contributing through it to some very worthy objects, have stimulated me to continue performing, notwithstanding much misconception and much that is annoying; more than once my inclination has been strong to give it all up; for after a failure or an unsatisfactory performance you have no chance to retrieve yourself for perhaps six months or a year. But in these things our natures are perhaps a little stronger than we are.

However hard and intelligently an amateur may study, it is impossible for him to acquire the stage-cast that the habit of appearing in front of a foot-light gives a professional, making him appear to better advantage than an amateur who has possibly better natural gifts. If along with the emotions we are attempting to describe, we convey to the audience half of the nervous and rickety feeling we really have, then we must make our audiences indeed uncomfortable. But I am speaking for myself only, as there are other amateurs with far more experience, and, I am sure, much greater ability to express it than I.—*Cora Urquhart Potter, in Lippincott's Magazine.*

## GOLD IN ALASKA.

Enthusiastic Reports Which Should Be Taken With a Grain of Allowance.

The whole of Alaska Territory is more or less a gold field needing capital to develop it, quartz of low grade, but in immense quantities, being found on every hand. The Treadwell mine on Douglas Island, almost opposite the camp, is an example of this. They have the largest quartz-mill in the United States, viz.: One hundred and twenty stamps working night and day, and averaging over fifty thousand dollars per month. There are rich diggings, both placer and quartz, four miles from Juneau in the basin, but owing to its inaccessibility and the lack of water and capital invested to bring it in, they are not worked to one-tenth of their capacity. There are good diggings almost in the town on Gold creek, but the same obstacles render them valueless and idle.

The Yukon river excitement has broken out with increased vigor. Hughes, the explorer, started for the new diggings, closely followed by at least a dozen different parties of explorers and prospectors. Hughes is the man who returned to Juneau last fall with sixty-two ounces fine as the product of eleven days' work. From latest information the new find is located on Stewart river, in the Northwestern Territory. There are rumors of a large party of Montanians who have started for it from Benton, Montana, but they will never reach it that way.

There is only one route: from Frisco to Portland, from Portland to Juneau City via steamer Idaho, from Juneau to Chilcoot, thence by portage over the divide to the lakes. There they build flat-boats and glide peacefully down the chain of lakes to the river and the mines. Miners' wages here are four to five dollars per day. Carpenters have more work than they can do at five dollars per day, as over twenty new buildings are going up and more are having the foundations laid. A new town has been started on Douglas Island, directly opposite Juneau, keeping three small ferries running. I would advise no man to start here without money, as, although provisions, etc., are cheap, yet it takes money to outfit and to pack said outfit over the divide, but a man with a capital of two hundred dollars can make the Yukon country with ease, and from all reports, and the undisputed fact of the gold being brought out from there by Hughes and party, it will be his own fault if he don't make a profitable investment.—*San Francisco Examiner.*

—An English magazine writer makes bold to say that table manners are best "disclosed" by observing how one eats asparagus, oranges, artichokes and grapes.

## OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—A newspaper man who settled in Ohio several years ago, glories in the Buckeye State and calls a pair of twin at his house regular Buckeyetems.

—William Maguire, a slater of Portland, Me., fell from a scaffold forty feet high, struck on his hip on a board ledge, and then walked home.

—A Tallahassee (Fla.) merchant, who began business over three years ago, has not been absent from his store a single day, often having his midday meal sent to him.

—Buffaloes in this country have become so scarce that a commission has been sent out from the capital to secure a specimen before Nimrods complete their work of devastation.—*Washington Post.*

—About four thousand barrels of flour were under water in Montreal, but only a small part of it was injured, because a thin coating of paste forms around the outside of the pack-ages and the great bulk of the flour remains sweet and dry within.—*Montreal Witness.*

—Accounts begin to come in of girls who kill themselves jumping the rope. The eleven-year-old daughter of Andrew Boserup, of Louisville, has just died after matching herself against some playmates at a picnic. She jumped until she brought on heart palpitation that could not be controlled.

—The riot gun is a New York weapon capable of discharging six rounds of buckshot in four seconds. It can be loaded quick as a flash. Each round consists of nine buckshot capable of penetrating nearly two inches of wood at a distance of one hundred yards. The charge is widely scattered.—*N. Y. Times.*

—The noble red men who have already gathered at Niagara Falls this season to engage in the sale of Indian relics are said to take a great interest in the Irish Home Rule movement. One of them was recently heard to remark, "Begorra, Misher Gladstone's a mighty fine mon."—*Norristown Herald.*

—A lilliputian horse that walks a narrow plank in a circus stationed at New Lisbon, Conn., recently slipped and fell into the net. Without floundering or making any fuss he waited until the net was lowered to the ground. Then he walked off, went up on the platform again, and safely crossed the plank.—*Hartford Courant.*

—A code of signals has been arranged for the use of transatlantic steamers to warn one another of the presence of ice. By the adoption of this code a steamer approaching the ice region can quickly ascertain from any vessel which has crossed the Newfoundland banks just where ice was seen, and what kind of ice (whether heavy pack, icebergs, or light field ice).—*N. Y. Times.*

—There is a cave about four miles from Houston, Tex., about one hundred feet long, sixty feet broad, and from four to sixteen feet in height, where numberless bats roost by day. It is said that there are so many that it takes them nearly an hour to get into the cave each morning, and in the rush hundreds are killed. It is proposed to form a company to collect and utilize batkins.

—Considerable importance is attached by papers on the Pacific coast to the recent discovery of feldspar and pegmatite in San Diego County, Cal. These two materials are the ingredients of fine porcelain, and, as they have not hitherto been found in this country in suitable quality and quantity for manufacturing purposes, it is thought San Diego has a bonanza in the production of first-class ceramics.

—On a recent night the garden of Joseph Texter, in Fetterman, Pa., was visited by a severe frost, that destroyed his early vegetables, blistered his fruit trees, and froze his grapevines. Gardens lying near, and some adjoining his and quite as exposed, were not injured in the least. The reporter who tells of this suggestively says: "Mr. Texter is an honest citizen, has no bad habits, and is a moral person."—*Pittsburgh Post.*

—A doctor at Portland, Ore., took too much electricity while practicing what he called magnetic healing, and now he is suffering from paralysis of the lower extremities. He used to wear shoes with plates in the soles of them, and stand on metallic plates underneath which there was an electric battery, and as the current passed through him he transmitted it to his patients by the laying on of hands, claiming, of course, the power was within himself and not from a battery.

—It has been the custom of the New Orleans daily newspaper publishers to take back from the retailers the unsold copies of their papers. This has been stopped recently because the publishers found that they were being robbed. Several dealers had established routes on which they rented the papers at reduced rates instead of selling them. They delivered the papers in the morning, gathered them up in the evening, and returned them as unsold copies.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—A noted physician claims to be able, as a result of recent experiments, to change the nature, pitch, intensity and extent of the voice by the aid of different inhalations. A few inspirations of alcoholic vapor impart a decided hoarseness, some vapors weaken the voice, while others strengthen it to such an extent that it acquires new notes, high and low. If the same effects are produced upon people generally, this curious discovery must prove of great practical value to public speakers, singers and all who use the voice considerably.—*Chicago Times.*

—A few years ago a society of eminent Frenchmen discussed the question: "What language would a child naturally speak if never taught?" Twenty different results were predicted. To test the matter two infants were procured and isolated with a deaf and dumb woman, who lived alone in the Alps, surrounded with her sheep and chickens. After six years the children and the nurse were brought before the savants, who were on tiptoe of expectation as to the result. When, lo! not a word could either of them utter, but most perfectly could they imitate the crowing of the cock, the cackling of a hen and the bleating of sheep.

## AN UNPLEASANT DUTY.

People Who Dislike Very Much to Refuse Kind Invitations.

Few people like to refuse invitations. To write a refusal with facts at command deprives the act of any suspicion of ungraciousness; but the facts are not always forthcoming, or are, perhaps, of too private a nature to be made public property, hence, in writing refusals and excuses, a certain knowledge of letter writing is all-important to novices in the art of saying the right thing. But with regard to refusals, the most decidedly disagreeable to write are those in answer to invitations asked for through a third person. People have various reasons for declining general invitations besides the all-sufficient one of a "prior engagement."

"Mrs. A—very much regrets that a prior engagement prevents her having the pleasure of accepting Mrs. B—'s kind invitation," is the usual formula in the conventional world; but, if these ladies were on more friendly terms with each other, Mrs. A— would probably write in the first person when pleading a prior engagement. It is an open question whether the nature of the engagement should be stated or not. Even intimate friends often confine themselves to the statement of the bare fact only that a prior engagement exists; others, on the contrary, state the nature of the engagement, and there is no doubt that in so doing a compliment is conveyed, the refusal softened and any sense of disappointment allayed. When a prior engagement can not be made the basis of a refusal, then the refusal must rest on the other lines, and how to avoid giving annoyance or offense is so perplexing that the acceptance of an unwelcome invitation is often preferable.

Ill health or a severe cold are excuses that can not be challenged; if neither of these impediments can be advanced politeness must fall back upon another resource, and this is exactly what politeness finds a difficulty in doing. And thus it is easier on the spur of the moment to create an engagement for the day named in the invitation, than to seek helplessly for a further excuse. The excuse of "a prior engagement" is adopted by many in the same sense which "not at home" is in every-day use, signifying in the one case not to accept an invitation, as in the other an intention not to admit visitors. But it is not every one who ventures to take this latitude, considering that it is not a straightforward course, preferring to make a sacrifice of inclination rather than thus evade an unwelcome invitation. As a general rule, few invitations are declined, save under imperative circumstances, which means indisposition, illness or family bereavement or unavoidable absence from home.—*N. Y. Telegram.*

## ROMAN BOOK-MAKING.

Stenographic Contractions Used by the Expert Book-Writers of Ancient Rome.

It is stated that, notwithstanding the Romans had not printing-presses, books were at that time produced much more quickly and in larger numbers than most modern works. Paper was used which was almost woven out of the fiber of the Egyptian papyrus, which grows to a height of ten feet, and which has given its name to paper. A Roman residing in Egypt assures us that the yield of his paper manufactory would be sufficient to support any army, and whole ship-loads of paper were sent from Egypt to Rome. Before books of any description were reproduced in large numbers, they were read mostly in private circles, or publicly, so that the author could adopt suggestions for the improvement of his work. Wealthy Romans used to own a large number of slaves for all kinds of service, which rendered labor cheap, as they cost nothing in many cases, and had only to be supported. They were mostly prisoners of war, the pick of nations, and often more cultivated (especially the Greeks) than their masters. They were consequently also employed in the education of Roman boys. The works of authors were dictated to a number of slaves, women also being employed for that purpose. Even among freemen and liberated slaves the desire to obtain employment became so great that hundreds of willing hands could be had for writing books at a very low rate of wages. The instruction imparted in the workshops of Roman publishers necessitated a regular course of training, which was to teach the apprentices an easy and elegant handwriting. If a publisher had at his disposal say a hundred writers, and reckoning the working day at ten hours, a document which took an hour to write would be multiplied in the course of a day to a thousand copies. The writers became in time expert to such a degree that they combined quickness with elegance. It must also be added that in cases where speed was the first consideration, the use of stenographic contractions became general, and we possess illustrations of their employment in the old manuscripts still in existence. We are also informed that both readers and copyists were instructed and trained, the former in the solution, the latter in the application, of contractions. Their object was to copy work as quickly as possible, the use of full words being only resorted to for the best works. The above brief account demonstrates to us the fact that the Romans made the nearest approach to the invention of printing, although they never attained to it. The movable stamps of iron or other metals used by the Romans for marking earthenware vessels and other utensils also prove this. But the art of rapid writing, which was perfected by them to an unusual degree, counteracted a further development, while the number of slaves and other willing hands at disposal, by which means the most astonishing results were obtained, operated in the same direction.—*Stenographic Journal of Switzerland.*

—An honest rancher was in Pioche the other day. He offered to swap his eighteen-year-old boy, who smoked cigarettes, to any person for a dog, and finding no takers at that, even up, he offered five dollars to boot, but even then couldn't make a trade.—*Chicago Herald.*

## BILL NYE TURNS ASTRONOMER.

A Hobtail Comet Unworthy to Bear His Name.

"Dr. Corner, proprietor of Corner's ne plus ultra kidney cures, Jasperville, N. J.: DEAR SIR: I write to say that last night I was so fortunate as to discover a new comet for which you were kind enough to offer a prize of \$100 last year. As soon as I read your offer I immediately began to scan the heavens. I presume that there isn't a square foot of the whole sky that I haven't been over during that time in search of comets. In January, on the early morning of the second, I think, while going home, after assisting in the ceremonies of ushering in the new year, I discovered a comet of great magnitude, but on the following evening, when I attempted to put my hand on it and classify it and draw on you for its prize money, I found that it had evaded me. I now agree with my wife that it was an optical illusion of the first magnitude.

Last week, however, I succeeded in running down a large red comet which had never been used before. It was situated in the constellation of Cassiopeia, about due west of the M-theatist church; as you look out of my barn door on a clear night.

Its appearance is that of a large nebulous body with a central condensation and no tail. This is the only drawback to my discovery. I am sorry to come to you with a tailless comet. At or long nights of study and worry I dislike to come to you, Doc, bringing a hobtail comet. I will, therefore, throw off \$10 from the amount you offered. Send me postal note for \$90, Doc, and the comet is yours. You will find it where I have said if you are careful to observe my directions.

Had this comet been a success, with a tail to it, I would have been glad to bestow my name upon it, never having put my name on a comet; but I would prefer not to name a mutilated comet after myself. A man works too hard to win a deathless name to a my sea it put on a nebulous and shabby hobtail comet, with no record. I have had wit-out mining claims named for me, and my brief but contiguous cognomen will be found here and there throughout the American herd book; but when I plaster it on a heavenly body I want it to be attached to a good one.

I am on the eve of discovering another comet, however, to which I will not be ashamed to attach my name. I have only partially discovered it at this time, but, as Herschel would say, there is a hen on. I got a brief view of this comet last night, but before I could secure it, name it and draw on you for the \$100 it was gone. As the bank will be closed to-night at the time the discovery will no doubt be made, I have taken the liberty to draw on you to-day at sight. If I do not succeed in discovering the comet in time for June delivery I will return the money to you.



Nye Discovering Comets for a Livelihood.

My first comet was discovered in the early evening. It is not a brilliant comet, but rather inferior to its appearance. Its motions, also, are erratic and at times aimless. It has an elongated orbit, with a large hole in it. I hope that this will make no difference, however, as it is no fault of mine. I will agree that it shall not occur again.

I hope some day to discover a comet with a parabola to it. I have found a place where one of these had been the day before and dragged its parabola across the milky way. What prize do you offer for a comet with a parabola? Also, what will you give me for a small comet in good condition, with a perihelion to it?

I found a light comet last year, but had not completed the discovery and filed on it before it disappeared for the night. I learned the next day that it was a comet with a large orbit, and that it would not again return for 3,000 years. The discovery was a bona fide one, however, and if you will advance the amount of the prize, it will be of great pecuniary advantage to me, and if it does not return on time as I have said, I will refund the money to you or your heirs with pleasure. This comet had a long, heavy mane and tail, and seemed to be feeling first rate. Its orbit turned from me when I discovered it, but when I looked at it again I saw that it was turned this way. When I next looked at it it was gone. Should any other astronomer find this comet and report it to you, I wish you would tell him that it belongs to me. It is about the medium height, is a good roaster, and wears its tail at an angle of about forty-five degrees when in motion.

I would rather discover comets for a livelihood than to do anything else, if it did not keep me from my family so much.

Do you prefer a comet with a nucleus, or can you use one with a parabolic orbit to better advantage? Could you use a poem on the presidential nuptials? I often write little poems of this character while waiting behind a tree for a comet to come down past me for a drink. I also have a double-barrel shotgun in good order and the right to a small chestnut comet of about the tenth magnitude, both of which I would like to dispose of.

In answering this letter please pin the check to the upper left hand corner of your manuscript. Write plainly on one side only, with your indorsement on the other. I can not promise to return manuscripts. Please write as soon as possible and tell me whether you wish me to continue my discoveries or not.

Should there be anything I could do for you or for science, let me know and I will give you inside figures and cut rates on comets, microbes, or anything else in my line.

Please write your name and post-office address plainly and tell the cashier to sign his name plainly at the bottom of the check. Yours with a telescope in each eye and a comet cork screw in each hand.—Bill Nye in Boston Globe.

## Easier than a Political Job.

"Well, Pat, what are you doing now?" "Shure, an' I play in the band anyhow." "What instrument do you handle?" "Faith, an' I bla the big drum." "Isn't it pretty hard work?" "Ah, no. I jist hold the drum up, an' another feller duz all of the poundin'."—*Detroit Free Press.*

## A Mrs. A Taking Example.

A Mrs. A takes the spider writes exhibit 43: "I thank God for Grover Cleveland. He example has aroused the method of Massachusetts. Last evening I received my first offer of marriage."—*Albany Evening Journal.*