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## Mamie's Ring.

Johnny Higgins gave it to me—  
Johnny's dead you know:  
Got run over by an engine  
Most a year ago.  
"With a week afore it happened  
Johnny says: "Look here,  
Mamie, here's a ring I bought you—  
Play it's gold, my dear."  
"Wear it on your 'engagement finger,"  
Johnny says to me.  
Then his face got red and smiling—  
"It's a pledge," says he;  
"When we both get big," he whispered,  
"Stoopin' to nothin'."  
"Like as not there'll be a weddin';  
Won't there, Mamie dear?"  
Now he's gone I can't help thinkin'  
"Some in the night  
That he ain't so far off, neither,  
Thro' his own care and heedful  
And it worries me as dreadful  
That this precious thing  
Won't stay bright for all my rubbin'—  
Poor dear little ring!"  
Johnny's hands was most times dirty.  
And his face was, too;  
But his eyes was clear and honest,  
"Lorin'—like and true,  
There's so many boys that's wicked,  
Why should Johnny die?  
Keeps me winkin' 'desp'r't sometimes,  
So as not to cry.  
When I heard he'd been runned over  
I went quick to see;  
Got there just in time to hear him  
Askin' after me:  
Only just in time to kiss him,  
He looked up and smiled,  
Then he closed his eyes as peaceful  
As a sleepin' child.  
"Taint no use—I can't help cryin';  
Oh, I loved him so!"  
Johnny dear—my boy—my darlin'—  
Oh, how could he go?  
I pray some time I'll get to heaven;  
If I do I'll bring  
(So's he'll know his little Mamie)  
Johnny's 'engagement ring.

## THREE DAYS UNDERGROUND.

The sun on Friday, April 2, had risen brightly on the mine village of Carbonifer, and the dull and dismal March days, with their raw, rainy, inclement weather, looked a long way back since the genial sunshine had brightened our dispositions and dried our roads.

The miners had struck the previous day, and the inside workings and breakers are deserted, except by the engineers and firemen. We—that is, the superintendent, the "inside boss," and mine engineer or surveyor—had decided to take advantage of the cessation of work and make a trip inside, in order particularly to look at one of the "breasts," in which a "roll" had been met, and in general to view the appearance of the mine to see that none of the doors had been left open by which the inside air would be vitiated; for our mines were not free from fire-damp; to observe the miners, for a party of mine there had been indications of a "squeeze"; and also to notice the workings of our two-inch steam-pumps, which were strained to their utmost—working as they were under the high pressure of ninety pounds of steam—to keep the mines clear of water.

On the day before, out of curiosity, I had measured the stream they were throwing, and found to my astonishment that their combined outputs amounted to 3,000 gallons per minute.

As our tramp was to be an extended one, over the whole of the mine, which in one direction was driven for more than a mile, and had labyrinthine passages that would have sadly puzzled any one not acquainted with the workings, we took our dinner along in the little buckets that miners carry, and also a bottle of oil for the supply of our lamps.

The day previous had been somewhat an idle one with me, and, knowing the course our trip was to take, I amused myself by taking a little sketch from the larger map of the vicinity of the particular "breast" we intended visiting. I thought nothing of it at the time; but afterwards, as will be seen, it became of the greatest importance.

We took a walk through the breaker and the outside workings before we went inside. There were the eight boilers working at a pressure of ninety pounds of steam, and trembling with the mighty force within them; but of their safety we felt no fear, as they had a few days before been examined by the inspector and pronounced safe to a pressure of 140 pounds to a square inch.

A loud hissing sound, like the rush of waters, caused us to turn suddenly, but it was only the steam blowing through the safety-valve. At last, our examination being completed, we lighted our lamps, climbed into the cage, and gave the engineer the signal to lower us down the shaft slowly.

The descent in a shaft is a very peculiar feeling to those who have never experienced it. We have all felt the odd sensation in the back and breast when using a forty-foot pole ewing. The feeling there is difficult to describe, but may be said to be as though the breath in your body, instead of making its natural exit, was going from the back of the lungs to the front, and thence out through the breast-bone.

So with the sensation in descending a shaft. Here it is not only the breath that appears to be leaving you, but the blood, bones, and brain all seem to be trying to escape through the roots of the hair; a capillary sensation which is anything but pleasant.

We made the descent of 357 feet in two and one-half minutes, and arrived safely at the bottom of the shaft.

The working of our mine had been begun on the most scientific principles, but several layers of hard rock had made the shaft extremely costly; and the circumstances of the company were somewhat straitened when we had reached the coal vein of which we were in search.

It is generally customary to have a "sump," or chamber for holding water, at the bottom of the shaft, so that in case anything should happen to the

pumps there will be a reservoir for the mine water to flow into, and which will require some time to fill before the tracks are overflowed and work stopped; but just below the coal, when the sump was begun, a bed of iron pyrites was met, on which the best cast-steel drills made no impression; and, after a week of utterly futile work, the design of making a sump was abandoned, and a slight roll occurring at some little distance from the bottom of the shaft, the coal was mined therefrom and the cavity thus made was used as a sump, although it only held a few thousand gallons of water.

We started on our tramp after examining the two steam-pumps and noting the number of strokes per minute they were making. The mines were very wet, and little drippers falling from the roof trickled down our backs, causing very unpleasant sensations.

We did not find much to complain about in the workings till we came to the point where the squeeze had manifested itself. Here stout timbers of one foot and a half in diameter had been bent into a bow-like form by the pressure of thousands of tons of superincumbent rock, and the crush was only beginning to make itself manifest. The practiced eye of the superintendent, aided by his measuring judgment, noted the points where extra strength was required, and he gave his orders to the "mine boss," who carefully marked them.

We now retraced our footsteps, and turning into another gangway, reached the "breast" in which the roll had occurred. The pitch, or slope, of the coal-vein was steep, nearly forty-five degrees, which may be compared to the slant of the roof of an old-fashioned house, and we made our way with difficulty up the narrow man-way, on which steps had been cut in the rock. The lower part of the "breast" was filled with coal which had not been drawn out for several days, being left for the miners to obtain a foothold while "bearing in" on the solid coal above them.

The man-way was a tortuous passage, with barely room for one to crawl through; but, after a little trouble, we reached the face of the "breast," and began our observations on the roll. There was no mistaking the fact of its being a "roll"; the top rock had descended and the bottom raised till but three inches of coal were left, and that was so shelly that it could easily be crumbled between the fingers.

The superintendent took out his little pocket-compass from its velvet-lined case, and, after pointing it delicately between his fingers and noting the course of the roll, stated his opinion that it would be met with in the next "breast," about five feet higher up the pitch than it was in this. We now prepared to descend, which was suggested that we might as well eat our lunch here, where it was dry, instead of going into the gangway, where we would find a difficulty in getting a convenient seat. In this we acquiesced, making ourselves as comfortable as we could upon lumps of coal, and the inside workings, which just then a sharp, cracking noise was heard, which brought us all to our feet; and, following it almost instantly, the roof was seen at a little distance to sway and then to fall, making a draft of air which instantly extinguished our lamps and left us standing, for a moment, in the dark, with the light, heavy echo reverberated till it was lost in the recesses of the mine. We were, as I said, stupefied for the moment, but soon recovered our speech and senses and anxiously inquired of each other if any one had been hurt.

I answered that I was all right, and asked where the "inside boss" was, for I had not heard his voice. The superintendent said he was standing by him when the fall came; so we produced matches, lighted our lamps, and looked about us. At a glance we could see the "roll" forming in the "breast," with a cut in his forehead, the dark blotches of coal-dirt on his face, and, looking terribly with the waxy color of the skin, rendered far more ghastly and deathlike by the yellow gleam of the lamps.

It was evident that we were fastened in by the fall of coal; but that did not concern us greatly, as it was well known that we were inside, and men would soon be sent in search of us. But what were we to do with the stunned man, for by this time we had ascertained that he breathed faintly. Though neither of us had the advantage of a medical education, we knew what to do in a case of this sort, and dampening our handkerchiefs from a little drifter, we laved his temples, and soon had the satisfaction of observing the return of his faculties.

After we had explained the situation to him, which he slowly comprehended, we took counsel as to what were the best means of escaping from our underground prison.

Though we felt certain that it could not be long before parties would be in search of us, yet it was agreed that we should not remain idle, but endeavor to cut our way out into some other chamber of the mine. Picks and shovels were lying around where the miners the preceding evening had left them, and each taking one of these in hand, we proceeded to tap lightly the coal, in order to determine if possible by the sound where the nearest pillar stood, and, therefore, where we would have the best chance to get through.

While we were engaged in this sounding the walls of our prison, a distant rumble was heard which caused us to stop short in our labor and look at each other with blanched faces.

Our thoughts ran on but one thing—the timbers in another part of the mine must have given way and blocked us out completely.

We now waited motionless for the gust of air which always follows a fall, but as our lamps gave not the slightest flicker, we were entirely at a loss to account for it.

So puzzled by this collection of mishaps, and wondering how soon they would come in search of us, we continued our tapping on the side of the "breast"; but it always gave back the same ringing sound, and that was no guide whatever.

Just then the wick of my lamp need-

ing trimming, I searched in my pockets for a knife, and, feeling a piece of paper, took it out and found that it was the sketch of that portion of the mine. We felt that this little drawing was our salvation, for without it we would have been working blindly. After a close examination of it, we determined just where to start, in order to cut into an air-hole, which was thirty feet away, through solid coal.

After having decided upon the spot, we began work immediately. Only one could work at a time, and as we were each to work fifteen minutes, in order to tell when the time would be up, the superintendent looked at his watch.

The hands pointed to a little after twelve. He said, "I thought it was later, but the mine was almost that when we began our dinner."

The boss responded, "Is it noon, or night?"

"Noon, of course," answered the superintendent.

We thought for a time by way of determining, when the boss said: "Have you a watch-key?" "Yes."

"Then wind up your watch and you can tell." The superintendent did so, and found that his watch was almost run down.

We looked at each other in silence. Could it be that we had been there twelve hours, and no help come to us? It must be.

It seemed strange that we had not yet felt the pangs of hunger; but now, our attention being called to the fact that we had eaten nothing all day, we turned toward our dinner-cans with a good appetite. We were sparingly, however, for the reason that the period of our imprisonment seemed very uncertain. No thirst was felt because of the dampness of the air in the mine. Thus reinvigorated, we started again at our work, and ere long had the satisfaction of seeing the water had made about ten feet of progress.

While I was resting and waiting my turn with the pick, I heard a confused squealing in the lower part of the "breast." We stopped work and looked in that direction, and saw, to our astonishment, rats in great numbers, making their way through the interstices of the loose coal.

We thought at first that they had in some way ascertained our condition, and intended making a raid on us *en masse*, but a moment's observation dispelled this idea, for they appeared oiled and frightened, and, instead of showing fight, sought seclusion under lumps of coal.

For a moment the superintendent looked thoughtful, then gave, then, in utter agony muttered: "The water is rising—we're lost!"

We stared at each other in mute despair. What the thoughts of the rest were I cannot tell, but my own life and actions went into a panorama before my mental vision. Sins of omission and commission passed by in a torrent, and my offences magnified themselves, and their blackness and size overshadowed the good acts I had done, blotting them out completely.

The superintendent, thinking audibly, murmured, "My wife, my child!" and we heard a deep sigh from the boss. We turned to look at the latter, and as we did so he fell on his face, the blood gushing from under the bandage in a stream. Hurriedly lifting him we tried to stand up, but my own life and mine no matter how tightly, the blood oozed through the handkerchief. The condensed air of the chamber forced it from his body, and his face, which had been livid, became pallid and wax-like, and his pulse ceased to beat.

He was dead!

The superintendent looked at his watch. It had stopped. He shook it and found that it had run down. Had another twenty-four hours passed? It was impossible, this death in life. Was there no hope for us?

We refilled our lamps, exhausted the oil in the bottle, and with brains reeling and blood gushing from our finger ends, again attacked the coal.

Hark! Was not that a sound? We listened and heard it again, and I rapped back vigorously. It had chanced that, for some time previously, I had been trying to learn telegraphy on the Morse instrument, of the operator at our office, and I suppose that, unknowingly, I, in my tapping, had made use of their signal of "attention." The same familiar tap—tap—tap—tap—tap my instructor must be among those outside.

I rapped: "Is there any hope for us?" He answered: "We'll try to save you; raincloud burst over the shaft deluging it with water, and one of the boilers shortly afterward exploded, blowing up the engine house." "How did you get in?" I asked. "We are in an air-hole which communicates with the surface." "What time is it?" "Three o'clock, Sunday morning."

"We had been inside over two days! Would we escape?"

A short silence, and he rapped: "How far above the water are you working?" I turned to look. It was within five feet of us. The condensed air was exhausting our strength; our lamps gave a final flicker and burnt out; I reached down for water to bathe my throbbing temples and felt something soft resisting. It was the body of the Boss. I drew back with a shudder. A rat crawled up my leg; it made my blood curdle.

I put my hand towards the water again and felt several rats floating; the air, with a pressure of at least three atmospheres, had killed them.

And now we heard the sound of picks and bars on the other side. They had sent outside for help. It re-inspired us and we worked for life.

The water was within three feet of us. They soon signalled from the other side that they were going to blast. We awaited the shock and could almost hear the fizzing of the fuse.

"Cra—sh!"—the thunder nearly deafened me.

I called the superintendent by name. No answer. I put out my hand to feel him; he was breathing faintly. I reached down for water to the water and sprinkled it on his face. He heaved a sigh which, light though it was, sounded like a deep groan in the thick, heavy atmosphere.

I heard the tap—tap—tap—tap—tap

of "attention," and tried to answer, but had not enough strength. My face felt suffused with blood, and I could hear the pulsations of my heart. They seemed to become more rapid, faster—faster—faster, and I counted no more.

I can indistinctly remember, however, a more violent crash, and being violently forced through a narrow aperture.

When I recovered my senses and recollection I was in bed, with my gray-haired mother bending over me and asking how I felt. I tried to move, but shooting pains went through my whole body. I looked at my hands; they were covered with strips of plaster.

I was about to interrogate my mother, when the telegraph operator stepped in, and, seeing that I was convalescent, began, without questioning (he always was rather garrulous), to acquaint me with the particulars.

"You see," he said, "we did not miss you till after the hurry and confusion incident to the explosion—by which the fireman was killed and the engineer badly hurt—was over. Then, in the evening, when all three of you were missed, they started in search of you. I was away, and did not return till the evening of Saturday, when I at once ordered a re-search as far as we were able, for the water was not over all the manways. We supposed that you must have taken refuge in the farther end of the mine, and we went as far as the water would allow us, and were just giving up the search, when I recollected the air-way, where we found you and afterwards heard your picks. You remember the conversation by telegraph?"

I nodded, though I could not indistinctly recall it.

"Well, then," he continued, "we got as large a force as we could to work, made a blast, and afterwards heard the noise of your water. Then the workers worked vigorously, and when we thought we had gone far enough, put in a slight blast, which broke a hole, through which a gust of air and water came, shooting you and the superintendent violently into the water in the air-way, and extinguishing our lamps. We brought you to the surface as soon as possible, carried you with trouble through the crowd—for there must have been nearly five thousand people on the ground, as the news spread, and our conversation through the coal had been in every paper in the Union. Intense interest had been excited, and many telegrams were sent away from here."

I asked about the superintendent.

"He is able to walk around, but has no remembrance of anything which occurred in those three days." "And the mining-boss?" "Poor fellow!—he was not hurt, but his eyes were injured in view of my window. He weighed but 125 pounds when we found him—he must have lost twenty pounds of blood."

I am now twenty years older than when this happened, but should I live fifty more, the remembrance would be as distinct to me as now of my Three Days Underground.

## Josh Billings' Spice Box.

Most every one lvs to listen 2 slander, but there ain't but few but what denie the author of it.

Without munny, without friends, and without impudence, iz about az low down in this world az any man can get, and keep virtuous.

After a man has passed the age of 57, about awl that he can find to talk about is that there ain't but few but what denie the author of it.

There is nothing that a man is so certain of as he is ov what he sees, and yet there is nothing after all that deceives him oftener.

There is a man who is always ready to wop old friends for no ones.

The dog that will follow every body ain't worth a kuss.

When I play whist I always like a phool for a partner, for they do hold such good hands.

I have had people set down bi mi side and kindly undertake to explain something to me of great importance, and after talking 34 minutes by the watch, I not only didn't know what they had been trying to tell but had forgot a good deal that I knew before.

There is but little that iz new under the sun, and what iz ain't good for 'nuch.

I can't tell exactly what's the matter ov me, but I am awluz just a little shy ov the woman who wears her hair cut short.

The great mistake that many people make is to think that they was made before the world was instead ov since.

## The Men Who Do Not Succeed.

I confess that increasing years bring with them an increasing respect for men who have not succeeded in life, as those words are commonly used. Heaven is said to be the place for those who have not succeeded here: and it is sure that celestial grace does not thrive and bloom in the hot blaze of worldly prosperity. All success sometimes arises from superabundance of qualities in themselves good—from a conscience too sensitive, a taste too fastidious, a self-forgetfulness too romantic, a modesty too retiring. I will not go so far as to say with the living-poet, that "the world knows nothing of its great men," but there are forms of greatness, or at least excellence, which "die and make no sign"; there are martyrs that miss the palm, but not the stake; heroes without laurels, and conquerors without triumphs.

The negroes of McLennan county, Texas, recently passed resolutions more proper in meaning than in language. They declare that they "have a desire to live where peace and plenty lays at every door, and hopes to see the time come when the lion shall lay down with the lamb in perfect peace." They also register their intention to "indorse good men for representatives, caring nothing of what profession they are, or what party they are, so they are good men."

## The Steer and the Cat.

A correspondent in Onondaga county has sent us, says the New York Tribune, editorially, an account of a wholly novel and extremely valuable invention for the education of working cattle. An intelligent young farmer in that county recently went out to try a three-yoke team of steers. The high steer in the middle yoke lay down right in front of Mr. Jones's house, and nothing which could at first be devised was of any use at all. All the appliances with which the agricultural interests are already familiar were exhaustively experimented with upon that steer. Mr. Jones himself came to help, and between them they got the steer out of yoke, so that he should not strangle himself, but he only lay down the flatter for all that. He became as fat as a comic newspaper. "Confound him!" said the irate owner, "I'd like to drag a cat across him!" "The very thing," exclaimed the neighborly Jones. "I've got the biggest cat you ever saw." In less than a few minutes Jones was back from his house, bringing with a large, fine-looking Thomas cat, well known to possess a powerful and cultivated voice. In more than usual compass and unsurpassed timbre. The cat was put on at the shoulders of the steer and drawn steadily and carefully backward and downward. The steer kicked some, but he did not get up, although the cat seemed to know very well what he was doing there for.

Again the cat was planted well forward and drawn aft, but the steer paid him no manner of attention, and this or something else aroused the wrath of the cat, for, just as he was putting in his claws for the third drag, he gave tongue—it was a fair cry, but not in his best and loudest music. The effect was marvelous and will be of great value, for the steer not only sprang to his feet with unexpected agility, but his tail was as stiff as his horns as he dashed wildly away homeward. No trouble at all with him since that, and the owners of a balky yoke have only to begin a vocal imitation of that tom cat, and the strength of the yoke and chain is tested instantly. We do not think that any attention need be paid to objections to this operation based on the plea that it is an operation based on the idea of the "cat in the hat" superstition. It is rather to be regarded in the light of a musical triumph. We have never heard of any extensive employment of the cat as an incentive to exertion, except in the navy, and even there the most important element of success seems to have been the cat in the stomach. A series of careful experiments with refractory mules would be very interesting, the prospect of a favorable result being very encouraging with a race who have so great an ear for music.

## During a Fire.

The New York Times in a review of the Fall River mill fire, and after noticing the means of escape offered says—

At first sight, one would say that all possible means of escape had been provided. Probably this was what the firemen of the Granite Mill thought about it. But the inquest shows that the fire-ladders on the walls were scarcely used at all; that the elevator was soon stopped with the machinery, and that the destruction of the only stairway was the cause of a panic that drove the poor creatures out at the windows or by the fact of a disastrous fire in Center street, in this city, not long since, when several persons were burned to death, though an iron ladder reaching nearly to the ground was within easy reach.

This element of danger, then, may as well be taken into account by mill owners and builders. It is all very well to say that the means of escape were ample had there been no panic. There was a panic, and, therefore, the means were not ample. A panic is precisely the thing that must be provided for.

One stairway inclosed in a tower was not enough for the three hundred operatives of the Granite Mill. Sad experience has shown that the other and extraneous provision for egress are next to useless. In the best mills, we are told, three stairways are built for each, and fire-escapes are fixed at each seven-foot-five feet of wall. Men may use these latter—women and children scarcely escape by them.

## Mystery of the Lakes.

Lake Erie is only sixty or seventy feet deep; but Lake Ontario, which is 592 feet deep, is 230 feet below the tide level of ocean, or as low as most parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and the bottoms of Lake Huron, Michigan and Superior, although the surface is much higher, are all from their vast depth, on a level with the bottom of Ontario. Now, as the discharge through the River Detroit after allowing for the probable portion carried off by evaporation, does not appear by any means equal to the quantity of water which flows into the lake, it has been conjectured that a subterranean river may run from Lake Superior, by the Huron, to Lake Ontario. This conjecture is not improbable, and accounts for the singular fact that salmon and herring are caught in all the lakes communicating with the St. Lawrence, but no others. As the Falls of Niagara must have always existed it would puzzle the naturalists to say how these fish got into the upper lakes without some such subterranean river; moreover, any periodical obstruction of the river would furnish a not improbable solution of the mysterious flux and reflux of the lakes.

It is a German boast that no American, Irishman or Englishman can sell lager and make it pay.

## An Authority on Hydrophobia.

Dr. Liantard, who has translated into English an essay on hydrophobia by M. Boulay, says that M. Boulay's experience and standing have rendered him an authority upon all veterinary matters, and that his paper on hydrophobia was delivered and discussed at the Sorbonne. In this lecture M. Boulay says the best protection is gained from knowledge of the earliest manifestations of the disease. Its nature is unknown; it is transmissible, but only by inoculation, and that by a bite. The saliva of the dog and the cat is the most virulent, and is so from the moment that the first symptoms show. At first the dog is quiet, and taciturn—seeking rest but finding none; the agitation increases with the disorder, and sometimes amounts to hallucination in the animal. Through all of this the dog is submissive to his master, and the obedience sometimes remains until death. All are cautioned to beware of sick dogs, and those that are restless and too suddenly affectionate. Madness is not always, though usually, accompanied by dread of water, and usually the diseased dog has no appetite. A depraved appetite is a pretty sure indication. It leads to tearing carpets, biting wood, etc. Sometimes the muscles of the jaw are paralyzed, and no dog's mouth should be explored for the cause, not even when he seems to be removing some object from his mouth. A hoarse, low, prolonged bark is another; though there is a dumb rabies. The nervous sensibility is weakened; the sight of another animal of the same species produces a paroxysm, and other animals share this, but in the dog it expresses the secret fact finally. Sometimes the afflicted dog deserts, and if he does so his caresses are to be avoided when he returns. A long time may elapse between inoculation and manifestation.

When the rabies is fully developed the dog is excited and ferocious, with spells of insensibility; other dogs fear the mad dog, escaped, at first runs naturally, attacking any life he encounters, then staggers, exhausted, and is not dangerous unless provoked. He dies from slow paralysis and asphyxia. If foreign matters, like wood, glass, iron and rags are in the stomach, after death it is safe to believe that the animal was mad. A rabid cat is more dangerous and ferocious, but the cat is less liable to hydrophobia than the dog, and usually runs away.

In five years 320 persons were bitten in forty-nine French departments, and 129 of these persons died, while 124 escaped disease, and sixty-eight results were not known. A majority of those bitten were children, as were a majority of those surviving. Of these, eighty-nine cases occurred in the spring, seventy-four in summer, sixty-four in the autumn and seventy-five in the winter. A series of careful experiments with refractory mules would be very interesting, the prospect of a favorable result being very encouraging with a race who have so great an ear for music.

## The Beverages of the Day.

Through a recent convert to the temperance cause, the ingredients of which some of the spirituous and malt liquors, so-called, are composed, are given to the public, to wit:

Bourbon or rye whiskey is manufactured from high wines, commonly called fusel oil whiskey, made to-day and drunk three days after. It also contains vinegar, syrup, oil of bourbon, French coloring, bluestone, and other poisonous chemicals. It costs 80 cents a gallon, and retails for 85¢ to \$1 a gallon.

Cognac brandy is made from French or Cologne spirits, burnt sugar, oil of cognac, vinegar, bluestone, Jamaica rum, honey, and aloes. It costs \$2 a gallon, and retails from 80 to \$10 a gallon.

Irish or Scotch whiskey is made from Canada highwines, or new distilled whiskey, one week old, salted with saltpetre, essence of oil or Scotch or Irish whiskey, fusel oil, syrup, bluestone, St. Croix rum, some imported Irish or Scotch whiskey for flavor. It costs \$1.50 and retails for 80¢ a gallon.

What sells for the best Holland gin is made from French spirits, water, oil of juniper, syrup, white wine vinegar, bluestone, New England rum, peach pits, with some imported gin for flavor.

Old Tom gin is made from the same ingredients, but double syrup is added to make it sweeter. It costs 1.25 a gallon, and retails for 80¢. It is also bottled as a medicine, and sold for the kidney disease.

Jamaica and St. Croix rum is made of double refined highwines, French coloring, oil of rum, fusel oil, vinegar, bluestone, burnt sugar, molasses syrup, with some imported Jamaica, Cuba, or St. Croix rum for flavor, alum, aloes, and prune juice.

Stock and porter is diluted with oil of vitriol, strychnine, and aqua fortis to make it keep. New ale is diluted with oil of vitriol and damaged molasses. Lager beer contains a little malt, plenty of water, some inferior hops, rosin, tar, saleratus, soda, with four different chemicals to make it keep after brewing.

A singular death occurred recently in Butler county, Ohio. Two men had engaged in a fight, a week before, and one bit the other's eyebrow nearly off. A day or two after the wounded man complained of "feeling sick all over." He grew rapidly worse, and almost immediately after drinking a glass of water, fell dead. After death his body turned yellow, and black spots appeared on various portions of it.

## Blackmailing.

In June last a woman in collusion with a young man named Samuel B. Murdoch visited the residence of Hon. Fernando Wood, in Washington, professedly to procure his influence in obtaining her an office, but as facts subsequently showed, she was concerned in an effort to blackmail him. Mr. Wood promptly had the parties arrested, proved their guilt, and the jury pronounced a verdict of guilty. If inconvicted persons upon whom blackmailers operate have the courage to act upon the lesson taught them by Mr. Wood they would suffer less than they do.

"Woman is a delusion, madam!" exclaimed a crusty old bachelor to a witty young lady. "And man is always hugging some delusion or other," was the quick retort.

## Fowl Writing.

Luoy Hooper writes from Paris to the Philadelphia Press: "The greatest curiosity in the Jardin d'Acclimation is the singular fowl fattening machine, which has been in operation for a short time, but which is a great success. Imagine the top of a round tea-table divided off into sections, with a partition between each section and a board in front with a half-moon-shaped aperture in it. In each of these sections a unhappy duck or chicken is confined by a chain to each leg, and under each is fitted a tray, which receives all the dirt and is emptied daily. Through the centre of this structure goes a round post, and there is a series of such tea-table tops to the roof of the building, each with its ducks and its imprisoned fowls. At stated intervals a man comes round with a somewhat complicated machine fitted with a kind of thin gruel, and fitted with a pipe at the end of a long India-rubber tube. He introduces this pipe into a pedal throat of a duck, and draws down a pedal with his foot, and a certain quantity of food is forced through the tube into the creature's craw, a disk above showing exactly what amount of force he is to use and how much food passes. This process is gone through with each fowl twice a day for ducks and three for chickens. Two weeks suffice to fatten a duck, but three are necessary for a chicken. Apart from the necessary confinement of the birds the process does not seem to be at all a cruel one, as the amount of food forced down their throats is not excessive. The ducks which I saw fed did not seem to suffer in the least, and in fact when they saw the man approach most of them became clamorous for immediate attention, and plucked at his clothes as he passed, with eager beaks.

What They Were.

Time was when Iceland was inhabited by a race of men that in their native strength matched the elements by which they were surrounded. Were there storms? they were storm-kings. It was of such a race that Fenouque wrote when he gave to the world his *Leche de l'Isleland*. It was by one of this noble race—a sea-rover, named Naddod—a island was discovered in 860. It was by such men, led by Ingolf, a Norwegian Viking, that the island was first colonized in 874—a thousand years ago. These haughty men had fled from Norway to seek a new home. They met on the island of Thingvall, and all executive power was vested in a President chosen by the assembly. They had a regular code of jurisprudence, and among them the institution of trial by jury was for the first time fully developed. Senor Castelar, in a recent address to the assembly, the Althing, met on the plain of Thingvall, and all executive power was vested in a President chosen by the assembly. 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