$VOL.\ VI.$

RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1876.

NO. 31.

Naming the Chickens.

There were two little chickens hatched out by one hen

And the owner of both was our little boy Ben So he set him to work as soon as they came, To make them a house and find them a name As for building a house, Benny knew very

That he couldn't do that; but his big brother

Must be handy at tools, for he'd been to col Where boys are supposed to learn all sorts of

knowledge. Phil was very good natured, and soon his small brother

Had a nice cozy home for his chicks and their And a happier boy in the country just then Could not have been found than our dear little

But a name for his pets it was harder to

At least just as suited exactly his mind; No mother of twins was ever more baunted With trouble to find just the ones that she

There were plenty of names, no doubt about But a name that would do for a dog or a cat

Would not answer for chickens so pretty as Or e'se our dear boy was not easy to please.

Those two tiny chickens looked just like each other: To name them so young would be only

bother. But with one in each hand, said queer little "I want this one a rooster and that one a

Benny knew them apart by a little brown On the head of the one that the other had

They grow up like magic, each fat feathered One at length was named Peggy and the other

named Diek. Benny watched them so closely not a feather could grow

In the dress of those chickens that he did not And he taught them so well they would march at command,

Fly up on his shoulder, or eat from his hand. But a funny thing happened concerning their

Rushing into the Louse one day, Benny ex-"Oh! mether! Oh! Phil! such a blunder

there's been, For Peggy's the coceter and Dick is the hen!

A WOMAN'S WHIM.

Santa Croz, California, is called the Long Braties of the Pacific. pretty place, with the quaintold town o Monterey lying off in the distance. One lovely moonlight night a party of people sat on the versuda of one of the princi pal hotels, discussing plans for making a pleasure trip the next day. They had come to the seaside in search of health they said, and found love as well, for every lady, with a single exception, had

a gentleman by her side. The lady who sat alone was the handsomest as well as the haughtiest of the group, and appeared to be vexed.

I will not consent to it." she said, it an irritated tone. "Just because you know I dislike the man, you all seem determined to force his society upon "But, Miss Winstanly," said Mr.

Radeliffe, "there is no other gentleman who can be your cavalier." "I see that," she interrupted, with a sneer, "but don't distress yourself about There's no necessity for my going.

so I shall remain at the hotel." "No, no," arose from the lips eighteen people. "We won't go without you," said Miss Stevens. "Do be amiable for this

It's our last party, and don't break it up. "Grandfather" Sanderson next took the word; he was called grandfather because, although but twenty-six years

old, a fewgray bairs already appeared in his raven locks. "I can't see for the life of me," he said, "why you should object so strongly to George Blake. He is frank, up

right and open handed." Also smells of the sawdust," replied Miss Winstanly, with a most provoking carl of the lip.

Exclamations of reprobation from every one, for the gentleman under dis-

cassion was a universal favorite. " Come now, Kate," said Emily Lytle "that's ungenerous. I've understood that he was born a-in-that class of he availed himself of the first favorable she would marry such a fellow.

opportunity to leave it. He merits respect and not contempt." There was such a murmur of approbation at this little speech, that even the proud and fastidious Kate felt somewhat ishamed and hung her head.

"The only amends you can make for his partner for the day." No; no. Apart from his former

disgraceful life, I detest the man," replied Kate, "Then," said Sanderson, "you must be punished for showing such bad taste.

We'll have a show of hands. Attention, ladies and gentlemen. All those in favor of Miss Winstanly being escorted by Mr. Blake to-morrow will please raise their hands. Every soul did so with the exception

of Kate herself, who rose instantly and hurried away, blushing with confusion "She's dead in love with him," lisped

little Nannie Peters.
"And so is he with her, and would be at her feet in a moment if she didn't treat him so outrageously," remarked a

young fellow who not yet spoken.

Quoth Emily Lytle: "He's as good
as she is, every bit, if he once did turn somersaults in a circus for a living. Everybody knows that Mr. Winstanly made his money by "— A loud buzz in-

terrupted her revelation.

Sanderson loquitur: "One of the first rules of our society, Miss Lytle, is

point of breaking it."
"I'm sure it's no slander, but the truth," pouted Emily. "There are plenty of girls as handsome as she is

Chorus of ladies : " Plenty-plentyshoals of them." It was pretty Lelia David's turn to

that he might have for the asking."

speak. "It seems to me that in a small, nineteenth century sort of way, this is cuite a Benedict and Beatries case. Two people affect to hate each other, and yet are longing to rush into each other's arms, and here are we all, friends of

must ride with him to morrow; but how ere we to get him to believe she has onsented willingly?"

her rich voice rolled out on the balmy air, the ex-athlete strolled up to the merry party on the piazza, and like them "Impertment clown!" she shricked.

loved so well. The song ceased, and after moment's grasped her around the waist, and with pause she began a duet, expecting, no almost superhuman strength lifted her sung with her, would take it up out-ide.
Instead of which he nudged Blake, who immediately, as if irresistibly, began in a round, rich voice, the like of which the disdainful maid had never heard before,

when the rest of the party came galbut supposed it was Sanderson, or one of the rest. How exquisitely their voices blended; only hers was untrained, while his had all the culture of an opera. When the rest of the party came, they found the retired athlete in a dead faint on the edge of the canyon, and Miss while his had all the culture of an opera.

such a voice. Every one enjoyed the singing, and the pain had caused him to lose con-was especially amused at the thought sciousness. Being only a few miles or whole heart in united melody with

years of age, his exceedingly fair com-plex on and light brown bair made him Where did such a low fellow erself the next morning, as she drow on her riding gloves.

He was over six feet tall, and might mve been just a trifle heavy for the groud beauty and belle, Miss Winstan- overflowed all barriers and she gentleman, though of low birth and ron fortune. Ten years prior to the alitornia with a circus troupe; he was ed company. man" of the company. He vaulted with the rest, but his specialty was firing cannon off his breast, lifting a dozen nen at once, and other immense weights. He was of an old circus family, and ever thought to leave "the profesand to his joy and surprise, by one of those sudden rises in stocks possible only to California, he made almost a fortune without as much trouble as turning a andspring would have given him. This acky stroke determined him to retire rom the sawdust, and he soon devel ed a business talent which, in a few ears, made him a prominent and influutial man in Frisco, while his character as a man, and his exceedingly polished manners, won him the respect of every body except the wayward beauty on whom he had set his heart. It remained for her to drag up and taunt him with the old trade, never alluded to by any-body now, except as a bit of personal

istory, and never to his discredit. When, the morning after the conver-sation on the balcony, the party of wenty assembled, sunrise was tinging

the red woods and the wild flowers.

They were soon in the saddle. As Kate glanced disdainfully at her companion, her heart fairly ached as she hought that he was too handsome for a man, and if he had been anything but a ow circus creature, even a respectable ife and of course cannot be blamed, as hod carrier-but she would die before

And he thought, she looks more like goddess than a mere woman. I would lay my body down under her foot, and let her crush my life out, if she would

but smile on me. She had on previous occasions snub-"The only amends you can make for bed him so terribly, that they rode a being so hard on him is to consent to be long time in silence before he ventured to begin a conversation with her; but when they reached the crest of the hills overlooking Santa Cruz, and he glanced across the bay, and saw the fleecy, sun tinted clouds hovering over the Monterey range, an exclamation of delight esed him, and he said with enthusiasm: Look, look, Miss Winstanly! is not that a picture painted by God's own

hand?" "Oh, yes," she replied, in an ungracious and contemptuous tone; "but I never gush—it is not 'good form."

The insolence of the spoiled beauty stung him to the very heart's core, and the pangs of despised love and sudden anger caused him to forget himself, and he retorted with restrained passion:

"Miss Winstanly, be pleased to remember that if I have by my presence again placed it in your power to insult

me, it was at your request."

They had trotted along until they reached the beautiful stream-in other countries it would be called a riverwhich heads at the Big Trees and flows down the canyon to the sea. The preci-

no slander allowed.' You are on the insult you?" inquired the provoking girl, her anger rising at the sight of his.
"By presuming to dictate to me what 'good form' is. But for my former life,

you would not dare do it."
"Dare, indeed!" she echoed, the red blood dyeing her cheeks, "how dare you say I requested your presence?"
It was a lovers' quarrel and a hot

one. In her excitement she dragged so at the reins that her horse reared. Blake instantly seized the bridle,

In rearing, her horse had turned so that she did not see the danger in which both parties, continually plotting and planning to throw them together. I wouldn't be surprised any time to bear him say: 'Against my will, I'm sent to bid you come to supper.'"

Radeliffe rejoined: "According to the rules which we twenty many and the rules which we take the danger in which she stood. She was on the canyon's precipitous brink, and below ran the cutting him across the hands; "how dare you toneh my lines? You have lured me to leave the rest of the party the rules which we twenty men and behind, in order that you might get me women undertook to observe when we alone in your power, but I am not afraid all met here for mutual amusement, she of you, take that!" and in her fury she struck him again. Between the two the restive animal was half maddened, for Blake was dragging him forward and "That's easy enough," replied Grandfather Sanderson. "I'll hatch up something for the occasion; but don't any of
the rest of you say a word—for he's so
sensitive that he half suspects why she
sensitive that he half suspects why she
spite of his herculean strength, the horse
treats him so unvisible and the sensitive that he half suspects why she treats him so uppishly, and the first word would make him fly the track."

"H—sh!" said every one. In the adjoining parlor Kate had struck the first chords of a popular song, and as

stened spell-bound to the tones he but he paid no heed to her screams; her foot free, he instantly let go the reins, loubt, that Sam Williams, who usually from the maddened beast and flung her

When the rest of the party came gal on the edge of the canyon, and Miss Winstanly in like plight lying some singer. Indeed, many of his hearers distance from him, but not within sey-wondered if ever he had been a profes- eral feet of the frightful precipice. The sional singer as well as athlete, and young lady was soon restored and thought what a loss to the public was proved to be unhart; not so Mr. Blake. proved to be unhart; not so Mr. Blake. The horse had trampled on his foot and hat Kate was unconsciously pouring out | from Santa Cruz aid was soon procured, and he was carried back to the hotel a very sick and badly bruised man.

the man she protessed to despise.

Did she? Of all that group of young men, California's finest, freshest sons, George Blake was beyond cavil the Adenis. Although in reality thirty-two she realized the true cause of his grabbing the lines had been to save her from lock years younger. There was not a inc on the broad, white forehead, nor a crow foot around the limpid violet her life, gratitude to him for preserving certain death, her heart was filled with me and re et such heavenly eyes?" Kate asked womandy insolence and rage. She had actually beaten him as he was trying to drag her away from the chasm. In her agony and penitance she opened her heart to Emily Lytle, and confessed that ing, but for everything else his pro-cortions were splendid. All that the that he had saved her life her passion y, arged against him was true, except to tell him so. Nearly all of the gay hat he was "low." Nature made him party left Santa Cruz a fortnight after George's secident, but Radeliffe, his bosom friend, remained to nurse him pening of this story Blake had come to and Miss Lytle staid to keep her befroth-

> Blake's foot was crushed and it would be a long time before he could be removed to San Francisco. Kate resolved that she would not leave

until she had an opportunity of asking George's forgiveness. At last, reports were brought to her that he was improv sion," but having some money when he ing, was able to talk and at length to sit reached the Pacific slope, he was seized in an arm-chair, but he never alluded to with the mania for dabbling in stocks, the accident, nor mentioned Miss Winstanly's name.

Day after day she plied Emily with

questions, and a flerce despair seized her when she comprehended that she had lost him-and through her own pride. That was all swept away by her new born love and humility. She was so abject in her remorse and sorrow, that to obtain a smile from the despised "clown as she had called him, she would gladly have turned circus rider hercelf.

One day she crept to his door. It was losed against her, but she could hear Emily's voice and Radeliffe's talking with Blake. She alone was shut out from paradise, but she had deserved and must bear it. In a fit of silent tears she sunk down on her knees and offered up a prayer that she might yet obtain his forgiveness; suddenly the door pened and Emily came out, shutting it quickly after her when she saw the crouching girl. "Why! what's this?" the inquired, astonished. you mean, Kate, by cronching around on all fours like this?"

"Ob, Emily," sobbed the wretched "I am perfectly miserable! I eauty. must, I will go in and see him! It was all my fault! Do you think he will ever

forgive me? 'I don't know, I'm sure," said Emily, dryly; "I wouldn't in his place. I'd be venged; but you can go in and see. Kate sprung up overjoyed. Emily grasped her arm, saying: "But mind you don't taunt him about his past any more. He's proved himself a gentleman, and above all remember it was only because he was an athlete that he which have fallen under his observastrong man could have saved your She opened the door and called Radcliffe out. They strolled off to-gether, while Kate glided into the room and flung herself at the feet of the ex-

athlete. He took his revenge, for when he got well he married her, - Illustrated Weekly.

HER NAME.-When Mrs. Van Auken installed a Chinaman in her kitchen, she asked: "What is your name, sir?"
"Oh! my namee Ah Sin Foo." "But I can't remember all that lingo, my man. I'll call you Jimmy." welle. Now, whachee namee I callee you?" asked Ah Sin, looking up in sweet simplicity. "Well, my name Mrs. Van Auken; call me that." "Oh me can no 'member Missee Yanne

Anecdote of Jerome Bonaparte. He was one day, he said, absolutely in want of twenty-five louis, his purse be-ing empty, although General Murat, governor of Paris, and who was very fond of him, often assisted him with his; but this time the latter resource failed him; and the quarter's sllowance which be received from the consul had been spent in advance. What was he to do? To whom address himself? to his other brothers? they were absent. Joseph and Louis commanded regiments at a distance; Lucien was on an embassy to

Lisbon or Madrid.

As to his mother, she could not see any reason for giving money to a young scapegrace like him, whom she loved nead to pay a visit to a hely man, his uncle Fesch (become a cardinal). He presents himself, and is well received by this worthy relation, at whose house a

ardinal entering another room; he folows him thither, draws into a corner his dear uncle, whom he had already so often wheedled out of money, and reother is immovable, and refuses flatly. Cardinal Fesch, it was well known, was cartain Posch, it was well known, was a lover of pictures; now the room in which they were formed the commencement of his fine gallery, which has become so remarkable for its fore, has caused its being dumped off on collection of the masterpieces of all

When Jerome heard this positive re-usal, he turned abruptly round. 'Sea," said he, "there is a rascal who eems to be laughing at the affront I have received. I will be revenged."
At the same time he draws his saber and lirects the point against the face of a ne old man (painted by Van Dyck), whose eyes he threatened to cut out. It may be imagined what a fright the cardinal was in at seeing him ready to transpierce a masterpiece. He attempts to stay his arm; but the young man will not hear reason till the twenty-five ouis have been promised him. The aule capitulates, peace is made, and they

About Oysters. The annually increasing scarcity of ments: When Napoleon Bonaparte, English oysters has caused, in late then a thin, yellow visaged youth, was The annually increasing scarcity of cars, the springing up of a large ex-sort business in the New York trade, young artillery officer perceived, with and this now extends its supply of great the quick intuition of genius, that the nantities to France and Germany, as whole plan of operations was a blunder, rell as Albion. The people of the con-ment seem to appreciate the superi-town the forte should be taken on the rity of the American oyster much high ground which commanded the har-nove readily than do the English, who bor, which would compel the English to nove readily than do the English, who bor, which would compel the English to magine generally that nothing is so fine withdraw their fleet and render the city the small, copper flavored things untenable. Being admitted to a council English oysters. But Briton's eccentricity of taste is, at on a map to the Hauteur de Grasse, on the not greater than that of those who | which Fort Equillette was situated, the night in the little Ostend oysters, even when they are what, in mutton, would be called "high." A great deal of "seed" is shipped from New York California for replanting near San Francisco. Curiously enough, the native California oysters are very smallcarcely larger than a silver quarter of cation of the town in his lively way of dollar; but the Eastern oysters, translanted into the water where these idiculously small things grow, increase in size and piumpness much more rapidly than they would East. It is said, owever, that they do not spawn there, and live only three years. The "seed for them costs from twenty five to forty cents per bushel, and is transported in frigerator cars across the continent, Much of it goes from York bay, producing a hardy, dark meated oyster of moderately good flavor; but the best obtained from the East river beds.

Old oystermen say that there are now at least five times as many oysters enten annually in New York as there were twenty years ago, and the supply is in- tion. reasing more rapidly than the demand, owing to the intelligent care applied to the cultivation. Several millions of dol-lars are invested in the business, almost exclusively for the benefit of New York. and over forty thousand persons are directly concerned in it. The oyster cansing business is almost monopolized by Baitimore.

Caustie Ammonia in Rheumatism.

Judging from his article in a recent erman periodical, the Clinic thinks reply. that Dr. Franz Zeller is an enthusiast in the administration of caustic ammonia n rheumatism. For several years be ed been a sufferer from severe museuar theumatism in the right shoulder; be had taken all the anti-rheumatic "What do remedies, with but little alleviation, when he began to reason that in rhenmatism as in gout there may be a uric acid diathesis. He thought that liquor aumonia, on account of its rapid volatilization, would be the remedy most it's the Turks." readily absorbed and the most prompt in action. In almost the same moment in which he tock one drop, diluted with water, he felt a complete relief from the ain, which had lasted for ten hours, and he was now able to move freely the arm which an instant before he could scarcebear to have touched. The remedy, claims, has proved a positive cure in all recent cases of muscular theumatism was able to hold your horse until he tion. If e cites numerous cases in which could wrench you from the saddle and relief, as instantaneous as his own, was oss you out of danger. No other than experienced. He also observed its effects in several cases of acute articular rheulife. So go in and humble yourself to matism, in two of which six drops suffleed to subdue the pain and swelling within a period of twenty-four hours. By this time he is probably afar off, un-In one case of chronic rheumatism of a finger joint, which had lasted for over half a year, the simple administration of the ammonia completely dispelled the inflammation and pain in the joint within two days. Dr. Zeller believes the effect due to the ammonia acting as a nervine directly upon the nerves.

Western lawyer, and regarding it as rather a desperate claim, told the attorconic epistle : "Dear Sir-1 have suc-

Coal Dust as Fuel.

The use of dust and pea coal has been thoroughly tried at the Ocean mills, Newburyport, Mass., for the past year and a half, with the following result : For years they have kept an actual account with scales of every barrow of coal wheeled into the fireroom, and the average weekly consumption shows forty tons of broken coal on 18,000 pounds of cloth, average costing \$7 per ton, or \$280 per week, which makes the cost of fuel per pound of cloth over one and a half cents; under the present arrange. half cents; under the present arrange-ment, the weekly consumption is only force, by well devised arrangements, ment, the weekly consumption is only thirty-six tons of pea and dust on 20,000 pounds of cloth, costing \$3.50 per ton, any reason for giving money to a young scapegrace like him, whom she loved tenderly, but whose morals she was more anytous for than his prodigality. What could be think of? It came into his lead to pays visit to a hely man, his lead to pays a visit to a hely man, his light by steam and the could be contained. For a lookertirely by steam, and the cost of one and a half cents per pound in burning large coal does not vary from the cost of other presents himself, and is well received by this worthy relation, at whose house a numerous party is assembled. He is invited to dimer; after dimer they passed into the saloon to take coffee.

At this moment Jerome watches the assed into the saloon to take coffee.

At this moment Jerome watches the on any of the above since the arrangement was put in; and the gates are as perfect as new. This one item almost pays the expenses of the arrangement. The labor is not near as hard on the firenests the same favor again; but the ther is immovable, and refuses flatly under entire control. Again, if steam is drawn down rapidly, as in dyeworks,

fore, has caused its being dumped off on to the dirt piles at the mines at a much greater cost than if loaded into cars; and the accumulation at the shipping ports has been of such inconvenience that thousands upon thousands of tons have been dumped under the docks to get rid of it. Much of the pea coal has en thrown, also, upon the dirt piles, all of which will now be carefully saved, and shipped to market, the present arrangement developing more steam from one ton than we got from the same quantity of any larger sized coal.

What Indiana Will Do.

The New York Herald, in a lengthy editorial, declares that the Presidential contest will be governed in no slight degree by the election in Indiana in October. It wids, to strengthen its statetown the forts should be taken on the of war he urged this view, and pointing impulsive youth exclaimed: "There is Toulon!" A stupid old general who A stupid old general who could not see the merits of the plan whispered to the officer at his elbow, The young man does not seem very strong in his geography," supposing that Bonaparte had misconceived the lo pointing out the position which would ake it untenable. In the present siege of the White Honsethe October election in Indiana is the Fort Egnillette. We suppose there is no politician on either le who is so stupid that he does not erecive this, or who would fancy that it is either a geographical or a chronoegical blunder to say that the Presidenil election is likely to be decided in the State of Indiana on the second Tuesday in October.

The Indiana State election will accordingly, the Herald adds, be the central oint of interest until its result is known. Both parties are exerting themselves there with the energy of despera-

Centrad clery.

We find an amusing squib in a Paris onroal which is not a bad commentary on the contradictory reports from the at of war in the East. men are seated in the Cafe Anglais, Paris, njoying their coffee and cigars, and reading the morning papers.

"Certainly, sir, it's the Turks who re victorious," says one to the other.
"Oh, no; it's the Servians," is the

'I assure you, sir, you are mistaken here, just cast your eye over my paper. "It's the Servians, sir; just look over mine.

The gentlemen exchanged journals, nd after attentively perusing the dis patches from the seat of war, the dia gue is resumed : You are right, sir; it is the Servions who have triumphed.'

" Dear me! no sir; on the contrary,

An Odd Genius. An odd genius, in the shape of a rich German, arrived in Chicago from Germany. He had about him \$30,000 in bonds, and about \$300 for traveling expenses. His baggage consisted of an mmense oaken door, two bashels of beech nuts, and two or three big oak chests. He said he was going to San Francisco, where he intended to build a house to fit the door he had, and which was bored through and through with worm holes. He had what a Chicago paper, with singular frankness, calls the good luck to fall into honest hands.' scious of the great risk he ran in touching at the Phoenix City.

Shot by a Hen.

Faucy a man shot by a hen! Yet such an accident occurred near Cobham, England, the residence of Mr. Leith. The farm bailiff, Mr. Heal, laid a loaded A SASASIOUS COLLECTOR .- Horace gun on the top of a bin in the stable, Greeley used to tell this story: He and to his great surprise he heard it side of a window pane, and the flying raids, and are particularly lively just once sent a claim for collection to a some time afterward go off. The gun particles of dust lighting upon this now, my dear." said Jones to his wife, was fired by a fowl which got on the he if he collected it he might reserve half the amount for his fee. In due time half the amount for his fee. In due time was in the stable at the time. The suffered by received the following lafter was attended by Dr. Webb, who galleries, if the men let a drop of perselves. I hate to be broken of my rest, pice was sheer and steep.

Auken. Too big piecee namee. I callee

Goeded in collecting my half of that The poor old man had been employed scoop up the black in and about where on the estate for upward of thirty years. It lodges, and take it out of the house, at once.

The Case of Koster.

We called attention the other day, says the N w York Tribune, to a scene which lately took place in Dayton, Ohio, at a hanging. Quite as remarkable a one occurred in Philadelphia at a futhe next day should contain a minute aggregate, they amounted to \$11,000, account of the funeral ceremonies? The boy was a prize fighter, and his claim to notice the fact that he had been pumy years. A second table shows the aggregate. neled to death. The curious multitude sould see the "blackened, bloated face," urrounded by wreaths and crosses of unmortelles, and the "hands stripped fiesh," holding an inscription which stified that the dead lad was now safe in the arms of Jesus; safe on His ontle breast."

After all there is nothing in the horrible comedy to wonder it. The crowd which surrounded Koster's dead body was a crowd which would form itself to cheer a great deed or jeer at a hanging. It was the great nureasoning majority which runs hither and thither on the streets for the excitement which other men find in the theater, in social life, or in whisky-the multitude that eighteen uturies ago strewed palm branches in the Master's way and mocked him on the cross. We have no fault to find with the crowd any more than with any other brainless creature which can be "led here or there to its own unfo-How it has been whistled in this ie, and by whom, it is not hard to iscover. The full particulars of this Vector and Koster fight, and of every other could to f equal magnitude, were reported in detail in newspapers which rofess to guide public opinion. The ead lad's father, when put upon the tand, swore that his son "was a good y; neither drank, gambled, nor had by other bad vices; but that he had een inveigled into fighting last fall, and after he was beaten was so laughed in the papers that he said he must fight again. He came to kiss his mother good-bye before going out to meet Weedon; he said he must do it, not for know whether the changes of the moon money, but satisfaction."

Indian Runners. A correspondent in the Bioux country This system of Indian runners writest portant news is to be carried an Indian o, mounts one of the flectest of their othing for himself but his arrows and blankets, and will in the manner indipassing over from sixty to one hundred niles in each twenty-four hours. When ome direct, are usually to be relied apon. The runner who brings great news is feasted from one topee to another, and it is not until the story begins to grow old that he lets loose his order to keep up the interest in him as he bearer of great news. There are always volunteers, and frequently two or wee will start for the same point, but he one that gets in last is bound to tell the biggest story, if he has to deny the statements of his rivals or cut his story out of the whole cloth in order to do so. Hence the conflicting reports.

Family Fire Escape.

An Euglish inventor has patented a contrivance for escaping from the upper stories of a building while the lower portion is wrapped in flames. The mahine is a flexible canvas shoot, strongly fixed to au iron rim, which forms its mouth, and is so adjusted as to admit of ready access to the bag. A strong irou stanchion, adjusted to the rim, adlamaness. mits of its being fixed to a window; the shoot is then allowed to gently drop, and is seized by some one outside. The person descending has merely to stretch nees and elbows out, by which means the rapidity of transit can be regulated and in a few seconds he is deposited safely on the ground. In case excess of nervousness should prevent any one from following the inventor's directions, teo rapid descent can be prevented by the person at the bottom of the shoot twisting it for some distance, and gradually unfolding the twist as the occupant

The Danger of Lampblack.

Within two years there have been three shoeshops lost in Massachusetts from lampblack. A hand damp with perspiration, a drop of water, a bit of grease, or a sprinkle of oil will create the composition that will start lampblack aglow like charcoal. In lampblack factories, while precaution is taken to prevent fires, a rainy day or a sharp frosty day will start a dampness upon the increate the spark, which, communicating trigger, and the contents entered the to this pile, sends a glow of fire with was obliged to remove one of his eyes. spiration fall into a pile they instantly

Municipal Taxation.

Daniel L. Harris of Springfield con-tributed a paper, on "Municipal Ex-travagance," to the Social Science Con-Mr. Harris has brought a great variety of facts to the illustration of his subject, taken from the experience of the most prominent cities in Massachusetts. These facts and figures he has arranged in tables which are a valuable contribution to the subject of municipal reform. Some of the striking facts disclosed by these tables are that at the outbreak of the war it. 1861 the actual cost of managing the municipal concerns of the cities of Massachusetts, except Boston, and including the payment of county and State taxes, averaged only \$5.94 per capita; secondly, that in 1865 their expenses had risen to \$11.08, and that in 1875 they had become no less than \$17.11 per capita. In 1861 the combined funded debt of all the cities gate valuation, amount of taxes, and amoun of the funded debt of fifteen of the most prominent cities of the Union. The developments of the table, says Mr. Harris, are simply astounding. Behold New York city submitting to an annual tax of more than \$34 per capita, and at the same time struggling to carry an amount of debt averaging \$126 for every man, woman and child of the popula-tion. Most of these cities, it seems, are taxed for current annual expenses far be-yond the entire net earnings of their re-spective population. Mr. Harris con-cindes that the average net earnings or accumulations of all the individuals of city do not exceed \$10 per capita, and that the proper annual tax for defraying the cost of managing all the affairs of a city is \$8 per capita. The question how the people have met the high faxes of the last ten years, Mr. Harris answers by showing that from 1862 down to a very recent period, there was a steady inflation in the market value of all propcity, and especially of real estate in the cities. This inflation was due to derangement of the currency. All this is changing now, and contraction is fairly under way. Henceforth the local taxes, when paid, must be paid out of the current et earnings, or accumulations of the some legitimate tax per capita, which bitained before the war, is quite as acayy a burden as the people are able

Moonstruck.

so, why. He also asks whether lunatics are influenced by lanar changes, and, if not, why they are thus called. In regard to the first of these points, that paper says, modern men of science are ems to be little understood. If im- about unanimous in denying that the moon influences anything but the tides. eges himself with meat, takes a short | The popular impression from time immemorial has been to the opposite. posites, and rushes along like the wind | From this impression madmen derived estil his horse requires feed, when he their name. Whatever may be the fact ods a few times while hishorse satisfies in regard to the moon having anything is bunger from the luxurious meadows, to do with insanity, the writer can affirm when the ride is renewed. The runner that he has seen one case, at least, where eds nothing for his pony and takes a man became a raving moniac at the fall of the moon, recovering his senses when exhaustion had put an end to his cated ride two or three days and nights, wild demonstrations, and continuing in apparent soundness of mind until a few days before the full he experienced prethe nearest camp is reached his story is taken up by other Iudians, and in like He was a person of intelligence, and manner carried in every direction. The | well off pecuniarily, and was a voluntary speed with which the news travels de inmate of an asylum, being free to go in ends upon its importance, but in this and out except during this week or so of way the Indians often beat the tele-graph, and their first reports, if they reason. We state the case as it was, leaving its explanation to psychologists and physiologists. There is a wide spread belief that the moon's rays are inimical to health. This, we think, has been prorounced a superstition by men magination and adds to the original in of science. We are not prepared to dis puts their verdict; get an instance that is well authenticated seems to justify doubt in their infallibility. Some forty years ago, in an Eastern State, two little girls, cousins, occupied the same bed. They retired in apparent health, but woke in the morning dead lame. One was never able to walk afterward, while the other, after using iron supports to her ankles for a few years with partial success was compelled to give up all attempts at locomotion. There was no cause that could be ascribed for this double visitation with any plausibility, except that the moon was very bright on the unlucky night, and that its rays shone full on the bed where the girls lay. It was always believed that they were "moonstruck;" if they were not no one could assign a reason for their

On Account of his Family.

The other morning a hungry looking man was bothering the melon dealers at a Detroit market to find a five cent melon. One of the dealers became annoyed at the stranger's persistency, and salled out:

"Why don't you invest fifteen or twenty cents in a nice melon and take it

"I will at once tell you why I don't,"
was the soft reply. "I should kinder
hate to take a melon home and sit down and eat up all before my wife and children. Seems to me it would look kinder hoggish not to give them all a piece around, and so I will buy one and eat it

here." "And I hope the seeds will choke you!" shouted the dealer. "But they won't. I am always very

careful to spit 'em out !"

CONSIDERATE. - "Considering that the mosquitoes are making their fall lively just don't you think it would be a good idea to bring the baby's crib into our and baby can sleep all day, you know.