It was too bad, just after these nice rains had filled the cistern up so finely, too. It had been perfectly empty, and Mr. Millikens had just got it cleaned and fixed up in time for the welcome showers which filled it with an abundance of nice pure water. And the next morning Mr. Millikens delivered his family a touching lecture on the bles-sings of water, and in his beautiful and vivid imagery, he quite surpassed the Davidson fountain. And then when he stopped the car at Maple street night before last and walked rapidly to his happy home, how do you suppose he felt when his staring children met him at the gate and yelled in excited chorus:

"Oh pa, pa, pa, Mrs. Muggridgers' cat went and fell down our cistern and drowned !"

Mr. Millikens always did hate that cat of the Muggridgers'. A great brindled monster, with only one eye and the hair scalded off its tail, it had killed more little chickens in the Millikens' coops than there are rats in Iowa, and many a time and oft, she had found her way into the Millikens' cellar and filled her bloated form with cream and sirloin steaks. And Mr. Millikens could not remember the number of times he had sprained his arm and nearly threw his shoulder out of joint in hurling bricks at that cat, which would sit on the back fence, singing serenades and winking placidly at him with its lone eye, and wondering what all the racket was about. That cat had been the chairman of the anti-midnight district central committee for three years, and had attended more caucuses and called more conventions in Millikens' back yard than it had hairs on its back. It had made the summer nights a burden to Millikens all its life, and now it had drowned itself in his cistern

thing like this. If it had been a decent kind of a cat, he said, as he pulled off his coat, tucked his trousers in his boots and began the painful labor of emptying the cistern with a bucket, he might have stood it to get the cat out, and go on using the water: but that one-eyed, rat-tailed, hideous, serenade screecher, faugh! The disgusting thing, he would never use the cistern again; he would fill it up as soon as he got the water out, and would dig another one Dog gone the cat, he said. He toiled manfully on, and the water grew lower with terrible slowness. He felt the bucket strike the hody of the floating cat several times, but he hadn't hauled it up yet. He kept on tugging at the bucket rope till his arms ached. And his back. And his legs. And his

No, he snappishly told Mrs. Millikens in answer to her tenth summons, that he wasn't coming to supper till he had emptied this cistern. He didn't care if it was spoiling. What? Well, let the flies eat everything up, he didn't care; he could eat the flies, he reckoned (sarcastically), couldn't he? Hey! Well, he didn't care if it didn't care. he didn't care if it did take him a week, he was going to keep at it till it was emptied. Dog gone the cat, he wished it was Muggridger himself that was in

the cistern. Blast a cat, anyhow.

How he did haul water, and splash his clothes and sweat and swear, and how the neighbor's wives hung over the front fence and talked glibly to Mrs. Millikens about the catastrophe, and how he wished they were all in with the cat. And Mrs. Muggrider came and hung over the fence and wept, and told wonderful stories of that cat's sagacity and its affection for children. "Affections for my chickens," Millikens muttered. And the women talked and jabbered, and pitied Mrs. Muggrider more than if it had been one of the children that had been drowned. Millikens toiled on, his face very hot at being made the focus of so many eyes. Dog gone the dog-gonned cat to thunder, he said, with considerable asperity. How he did hate cats, he

The cistern was getting pretty low now. The sun had gone down behind the western hills, in a glory of peaceful splendor, and the ruddy tints of the dy-ing day touched the clouds and sky with a serene, solemn beauty, almost too ethereal to hang over a world tainted with the blight of sin and one-eyed cats. The noisy prattlers at the front fence felt the hallowed influence of the hour, and Silence laid her fingers on their lips. Only Milliken's stertorous breathing and the plash, plash of the bucket broke the oppressive silence. Thank heaven, Millikens sighed, it is nearly empty. " Mian-ow-ow-oow!"

A weird, unearthly shrick that curdled the blood in the bravest heart, and made Millikens drop bucket, rope and every-thing down into the cistern. He stood up and glared in speechless amazement at Muggridger's cat, perched on the back fence, which winked pleasantly at him with its lone eye, and went on calling the names of the delegates. There wasn't a damp hair on it. When Milli-kens could speak, he called his children and savagely demanded what they meant by telling him that lie about the cat.

Well, pa," they said, "we thought it fell down the cistern, anyhow; but we couldn't see very well just where it did go, and maybe it only run around the

There was weeping and wailing in Millikens' house that night, but long after the sobbing children had found a place they could lie on without howling, the voice of Muggridger's cat was dis-tinctly heard closing the debate, which had been unusually long and stormy, in an eloquent argument against the ad-mission of violin strings free of duty. Millikens heard every word of it, and he pounded his pillow and flopped over to a

new position.
"Dog gone that cat!" he said.—Burtington Hawkeye.

Alphabet of Short Rules. Attend well to your business, Be punctual in your payments. Consider well before you promise. Dare to do right. Envy no man. Faithfully perform your duty. Go not in the path of vice. Have respect for your character, In everything be just. Judge mercifully of others' faults. Know threal Know thyself. Lie not, for any consideration. Make few acquaintances. Never profess what you do not practice. Occupy your time in usefulness, Postpone nothing you can do now. Quarrel not with your neighbors. Save something against a day of trouble.
Treat everybody with kindness.
Use yourself to moderation.
Vilify nobody's reputation.
Watchfully guard against idleness.
Xamine your conduct carefully.
Yield to superior judgment.
Zealonsky pursue the right path

ealously pursue the right path.

—Christian Standard.

Washington's Only Sister.

be celebrated for her spelling than any-thing else. We quote the following let-ter from the article: "JULY 5th, 1796.

"My DEAR BROTHER I received your Letters of the 26th and 29th of June, the day after I wrote to you I was attack with the ague and fever which has lasted ever since I had never been clear of a fever since, I Expected your comeing threw Baltemore that you would ascer-tain Mr. Parkes fortune thoe I believe he would not tell anything fals on the Occation, Harriot's Brother Wrote her a letter from Baltemore and likewise one to Mr. Parks congratulateing them on their Intended Union which he sayes he makes no dout will be a very happy one, Lawrence was here at the time that Mr. Parks firs spoke to Harriot on the subject and I beg'd of him to make all the inquire he could but never hard from on the earth's surface was to be found him until the letter I have mentioned there, in the plug, cut up or shredded; quired and was well Pleas'd, when Mr, Parks ask'd my consent I told him I had nothing to say to it that you ware the Person to be appli'd to, I have never concern'd myself with it I think Harriot is Old Enougf now to make choice for trace the whole evolution of the race, Best caracter of any young Person that I

Disfirmish your self,
"I am much obliged to you for your invitasion to Mount Vernon but it is utterly It was a piece of demoniacal spite out of my Power to get up, I believe I work. You couldn't make Millikens work. You couldn't make Millikens believe otherwise; there was a terrible, flewlish intelligence in that and in Tenn [word left out] ing a pull at his Schiedam, Mynheer extract the poison. flendish intelligence in that cat, and its desire to torment Millikens had been and the best of them carri'd of and from formance of his obsequies. In the first greater than its love of life. Ever that day to this I have not har'd a word place, his coffin was to be thoroughly since Millikens had scalded the hair off of him that was the forth charriot Hors its tail he had been expecting somethat I had lost in Fredericks you may to the forth of July in Town but I think

Washington concludes me your "Affectionate sister

"BETTY LEWIS. "P. S.—I fear that you will hardly make out this as I have a violent Headake and a horrid caugh-I believe Harriot is distressed to know how she is to some unforescen occurrence the matches be Provided with things for a Weding Dress,'

This was probably the aged sister's last letter to her brother; for she entered into rest early in March, 1797, tier portrait, taken in her youth, represents her as a tall, handsome woman, with brown hair and eyes—her head held proudly erect and her full lips firmly, almost haughtily compressed, as if she had just issued some positive command to her army of tall sons.

Genius on a Tramp.

A wonderful piano-player with a romantic history is exciting the musicians of Bridgeport. About two weeks ago a shabby tramp entered a well-known music-store on Main street, and asked for permission to use a piano for a short time. The proprietor refused at first, but afterward consented because the nan's manners were much better than his clothes. The tramp sat down and rlayed a diment composition with great case and brilliancy. The pity and contempt of his listeners were at once changed to admiration. Friends sprang around him, and they are trying to get him once more on his feet. His history, as told by the Farmer, is as follows: He belongs to a titled German family, and had for his godmother and patroness and had for his godmother and patroness no less a personage than the Queen of Wurtemburg. He received a university education, and became a lawyer. He was at one time consul to Paris from Wurtemburg, and moved in the highest circles of the capital when Napoleon and Eugenie were on the throne. The cause of his fall from all this high cause of his fall from all this high estate was dissipation of the wildest kind. As a result of his wild and reckless courses, he lost his official position and standing in society, and not only squandered the income from his family estate as fast as it came to him, but, in order to raise money, sold his claim to what should be due him for twenty-seven years ahead. When he had exhausted his resources at home he came to this country and engaged in some Kind of business or occupation in New York. His ignorance of the language, or the dishonesty of his associates, or both, caused him to fail, however, and left him utterly destitute. It was then that he started out from New York on the tramp, picking up an odd job now and then on the road, but growing all the while more ragged and wretched. His aimless tramping journey had brought him so far as Bridgeport on the morning when he passed the musicstore, and was irresistibly impelled, by a sight of the pianos, to go in and ask to be allowed to play.—New Haven Palladium.

The Force of Habit. Among the conspirators shot the other

day for scheming the massacre of the president and his ministers in Guatemala was a young student, by name Rafael Segara, whose skill in forgery is represented as having been surprising. He had forged the signatures of the president and general-in-chief to various fraudulent documents and orders re-quired for carrying the plot into execution. On being arrested he was brought before the president, and pleaded in de-fence of his acts that he was without a father, and absent from his mother, and that by promises of promotion under the new regime and of large sums of money he had been induced to commit the forgeries in question. The president requested him to give a proof of his talent, which he did by immediately writing an order with the name of the president so exactly imitated that were president so exactly imitated that even the president himself declared that unless he had seen it written he could not have told that it was not his own. Thinking that a youth possessed of such gifts might ultimately become a useful member of society and a good servant of the Republic, the president told him that he would give him a full pardon, and, further, would, if he wished it, assist him in his career by giving him employment under the government. Segura who thanked the president for his gura, who thanked the president for his

The King of Smokers,

Mrs. Betty Lewis, Washington's only sister, is described, in Scribner's Megateriate, as a woman of many virtues, and well beloved of her famous brother. In the future, however, she is now likely and the famous brother. In the future, however, she is now likely and the famous brother. In the future, however, she is now likely and the famous brother. In the future, however, she is now likely and the famous brother. In the future, however, she is now likely and the famous brother. In the famous brother, and the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother, is described, in Scribner's Megateriate and the famous brother. In the famous brother, and the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother, and the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother, and the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother is the famous brother is the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother is the famous brother is the famous brother is the famous brother. In the famous brother is the fam the future, however, she is mor likely to tinction in the great nation of puffers must require almost superhuman powers and a love for the Indian weed that passes human understanding. But Van Klaes was ever superior to the emergency. It took no effort on his part to gain the smoky crown and wear it while he lived. He did not even die young, as we might have anticipated from immoderate use of the weed, but both enjoyed life and smoking until after he

had passed his eighty-first birthday.

During the long vista of smoking years in which he reveled in his pipe, Van Klaes consumed four tons of tobacco, well wetted down by 590,000 quarts of ale which he drank, not to mention Schiedam schnapps and other national

In Mynheer's house was a sumptuous apartment, entirely devoted to pipes and tobacco. Every variety of weed grown on the earth's surface was to be found here and concluded from that he had Inquired and was well Pleas'd, when Mr, grouped about in tasteful display. But, above all, Mynheer's pipes first riveted the visitor's eye. In this choice collecher self, and if thay are not happy I be- from the clumsy bowl and thick stem of lieve it will be her one falt, he bars the Sir Walter Raleigh's clay to the carved meerschaum from Trebizond, In this temple of tobacco the veteran

"I now my Dear Brother have to thank you for your good intention of sending me a mule if you had any to spear, but had no write to Expect you to lips with a drink of alc. It is said that his last reflecting breath was borne from his lifeless body on a cloud of smoke.

A few hours before his death Van

ginia, is a black color, resembling, since
it has been polished, a piece of gutta his lifeless body on a cloud of smoke.

that day to this I have not har'd a word place, his coffin was to be thoroughly lined with the tops, bottoms and sides of boxes that had contained his favorite Believe I had no great Parsiallity for the Place, Harriot is Better and is gone out Dutch golden leaf was to be placed at his feet. Most important of all, his she looks brdly.

"My Love to you and my Sister A firm conviction that his soul was not going to dwell in those latitudes where fire is sure to be close at hand, caused Mynheer to direct his executor to place a box of matches by his side, and, with great foresight, he also desired that a flint and steel should be added, as by might dampen before they would be

> Having thus attended to his personal wants in the next world, Van Klaes desired that the smokers in the neighborhood should be invited to his funeral, each one to be presented with ten pounds of tobacco and two pipes stamped with an attempt on the part of some Japanese the name and arms of Van Klaes, together with the date of the donor's demise. These guests were to be admonished to keep their pipes lighted during service and to scatter ashes on the coffin as it was being consigned to it that does not appear on the surface. -

> mother earth.
>
> The poor of the vicinity who observed The poor of the vicinity who observed these instructions faithfully were to be presented on the anniversary of Mynheer's death with ten pounds of tobacco and a firkin of ale apiece. After these items were arranged to his liking Mynheer smoked his last breath, constant to

come with the heat that they are rendered insensible. Fresh air is constantly supplied. There are cooling-off rooms or boxes provided in the mines, where the temperature of the air is kept down by compressed air, and these places af-ford some relief. It is so hot that men often get their skins blistered as bad as if it had been done by scalding steam. Very often the iron tools are so hot that they cannot be touched without burning the hands. The work in several mines is carried on to a great disadvantage on account of the recalcitrancy of the heat.

How Artemus Ward Wrote. A friend of Artemus Ward, who was with him on the Cleveland *Plaindealer* for some time, says he used to be incessantly whittling his chair and desk. His manner of writing was as peculiar as everything else about the man. His mission in life seemed to be to hunt up funny things. When he found them, out of his own head or elsewhere, he himself enjoyed them better than any one else has a twiting when the one else. As he sat writing, when the funny ideas struck him, he would laugh with a guffaw which seemed to shake him from his heels upward. He sat in his gura, who thanked the president for his generosity, made the most earnest assurances of good conduct in future. The first use, however, he made of his liberty was to forge an order for the release of Rhodas, one of the principal offenders—an order which only by the merest accident failed to effect its purpose. This was too much for the president, and Segura, being sentenced to death by the military tribunal, was shot with the other conspirators on the 7th of November.

arm-chair, always with his left leg swung over the arm of his chair. When the joke came he used to pound the table with his fist, slap the long, thin leg that hung over the chair, and explode with his associates in the office at once. He loved sympathy as if he had been a woman, and seemed to stand as much in need of it. He wrote rather rapidly, and writing seemed to come easy to him. He laughed nearly all the time he was writing. arm-chair, always with his left leg swung

was, and ordered the removal of the animal outside the city limits which was done. Its owner tied the horse in the timber, and the next morning on going to the place found it had died. In removing the rabid animal, Wilkerson received a severe bite on the back, directly between the shoulder blades. The wound was very painful, and gave him no little trouble as well as anxiety. He called on Dr. Hughes, and stated the facts to him. That gentleman applied a mad-stone he has, and it stuck fast. The operation was repeated six times, the stone sticking each time. Wilkerson, when bitten, had on a thick coat, and it seemed almost impossible for any of the saliva to have reached his body, yet such seems to have been the case, the stone sticking fast each time it was applied. The doctor then applied it to a knifecut on the body of the unfortunate man, but it refused to stick. The man expressed himself as feeling greatly relieved of pain by the application of the stone, and the process will be continued. While Dr. Hughes does not claim that it possesses all the virtues attributed to it, yet he is willing to let any one thus afflicted come and use it free of charge. This stone is said to be a most excellent one of its kind, and has never failed to cure those to whom it has been applied. It was left to Dr. Hughes by Dr. P. C. Venerable, of Mecklenburg, Va., who used it successfully for forty years.

Japanese Holidays.

The Japanese are supposed to have no days of rest, and a religious day of rest they certainly have not. The shops are never closed except for a day or two at the new year, and such a thing as a close holiday like the English Sabbath is totally unkows to them. The government officers, however, have regular rest days, called "ichi-roku," one-six. The first, sixih, eleventh, sixteenth, twenty-first and twenty-sixth of the month are the holidays, and these days are observed by all the officials and up-per classes. According to the Japan Mail, however, it is the intention of her majesty the empress to observe Sunday as the rest day in lieu of the ichi-roku. When the Japanese altered the calendar from the lunar to the Julian it was said that this change was to have been also introduced; but nothing more was heard of it, and subsequently there was authorities to induce foreigners in their employ to keep ichi-roku instead of Sunday, but in this they failed. We do not think that necessarily the change on the part of the empress has anything in Celestial Empire.

sheer's death with ten pounds of tobacco and a firkin of ale apiece. After these items were arranged to his liking Mynheer smoked his last breath, constant to the last, and certainly deserving to be immortalized as the "greatest smoker since the flood."

The Comstock Mines.

A correspondent writes about the celebrated Comstock mines in Virginia city, Nev., as follows: The demand for timber and fuel for the Comstock mines is immense, and from the base to the summit of the Sierras the pine forests are being rapidly demaded. The cost of the timber which is put underground to prevent the mines from caving in its \$17,000 a day, or \$8,200,000 a year. The demand of the bonauzas alone is some 2,200,000 feet a month. The timber used is transported over a narrow, gauge railroad running from Glenbrook to the summit of the Sierras, 1,500 feet above the level of Lake Tahoe. The road is 91 miles in length, with an abrupt, tortuous grade of from 120 to 165 feet to the mile. It passes through a tunnel cut out of the solid rock 500 feet in length. Ou reaching the summit the timber is placed and sent on 168 vay and rungead percinos of the mountains to Carson City in the valley. Often a day's run in the flume is 500,000 feet in length, over level is \$12,000 a day. The cost of the candles used in the flume is 500,000 feet in length, over level is \$12,000 a day. The cost of the candles used in the flume is 500,000 feet in length. Ou reaching the summit the timber is placed and sent on 168 vay and rungead percinos of the mountains to Carson City in the valley. Often a day's run in the flume is 500,000 feet in length, over level is \$12,000 a day. The cost of fivewood is \$8,000 day, or \$25,560,000 a year.

The expenses of milling are \$16,000 a day. The cost of fivewood is \$86,000 day, or \$25,560,000 a year.

The heat in the lower levels of the Comstock mines up to a tleast \$70,000 a day, or \$25,560,000 a year.

The heat in the lower levels of the constock mines in perfectly intense, and it is a wonder how men can endure it but they do

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A Mad-Stone.

The Dallas (Texas) Herald says:
The Herald recently made mention of a mad horse, the property of C. J. Wilkerson, which he, as well as several horse doctors, contended was not mad. Dr. Cornelius, the health officer, thought it was, and ordered the removal of the

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