The Bedford Gazette.

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THE TWO NEIGHBORS.

There were two men who were neighbors, and each of them had a wife and several little children who depended upon them for support.

Now, one of these men was greatly troubled, saying, "If I die, or even if I fall sick, what will become of my wife and children."

The same thought came also to the other father, but he left it go again, whispering to himself, "God, who knows all his creautures, and who watches over them, will watch over me, also, and over my wife and children." And this man lived in peace, while the other knew neither rest nor joy.

One day, when the latter, sad and cast down by reason of this fear, was working in the fields, he saw some birds fly into the bush, come out, and then return thither. He approached it and saw two nests, side by side, and in each were several little birds, newly hatched and still featherless. When he had returned to his work, he raised his eyes from time to time and looked at the old birds going backward and forward and carrying food to their young ones. Presently, just as one of the mother birds was returning with something in her beak, a hawk seized and carried her away, in spite of her struggles and piteous cries. At this sight the man felt more troubled than before, for he thought, "The death of the mother is the death of the little ones. Mine have only me; what will become of them if I fail them?" And all the day he was very sad, and when night came it brought him no relief.

The next day, on returning to the field, he said, "I will see how these poor little birds are; doubtless several of them have already perished." So he went towards the bush and looked into the nest; there he saw the birds, and not one of them seemed to have suffered from the loss of its mother. He was exceedingly astonished, and hid himself to see what would happen.

After a little while he heard a faint cry, and he perceived the bird of the other nest bringing with haste the food she had found, and this she divided between her own and the motherless little ones. There was enough for all.

The man who had mistrusted God, told to his neighbor what he had seen, and the latter answered him, "Why art thou troubled? God never forsakes his children. His love has secrets that we know not of. Let us believe, hope, and love, then we may go on our journey in peace. If I die before you, you will be a father to my children; if you die before me, I will be a father to yours. Or, if we both die while they are of tender age, their father will be our Father who is in heaven."

THE FRIGHTFUL PUNISHMENT OF SILENCE.—Mr. James Greenwood has published in London a frightful account of the silence system, which is in operation at the Halloway Model Prison in London:

It is an offense for a prisoner to speak one word, and he is never addressed except in whispers, so that he may be in the prison for two years without hearing the natural sound of a human voice. The effect of this is so terrible on the mind that prisoners will speak out in desperation, at the risk of any punishment, rather than endure the horrible silence.

The prisoners never see one another, but remain in perpetual solitude. One poor wretch, driven to desperation by nine month's solitude and silence, recklessly broke out in Mr. Greenwood's presence, in these words: "For God's sake, Governor, put me in another cell! Put me somewhere else! I have counted the bricks in the cell I am in, till my eyes ache!"

The request of the tortured wretch was refused.

There is a fine hole in each cell, and as the warders wear shoes of Indian rubber soles, the prisoners can never be sure he is alone.

Those condemned to the treadmill have to ascend twelve hundred steps every alternate twenty minutes for six hours. And this in a place so hot and close that prisoners often lose in prespiration three stones in as many months. Every day the prisoners are taken to a chapel so arranged that they can see no one save the chaplain, and him only through an iron grating, and this is the order of devotion observed: "Warders are constantly on the watch, lest for a single instant they, through the whole of the service, depart from the rigid rule of 'eye right.' They must look steadfastly at the preacher, must raise and lower their prayer-book with the elbows squared, and all at once, like soldiers.—They may not scrape their feet without having afterward to explain the movement. They may scarcely wink an eye, or sigh, without danger of rebuke or punishment." God help them, poor wretches!

THE last Congress passed an act incorporating a National Insurance Company. This was a wise proceeding. Most of our Life Insurance Companies have been State organizations, and although nearly all of them are good and worthy of patronage, there has been something wanting in the fact that they were not national. A Company that isues policies all over the country and invests its premiums in legal securities, becomes as much a national institution as the sub-Treaury, especially when it is under the management of men like Mr. Jay Cooke, who have a world-wide reputation for business enterprise, honor and sagacity. The National Life Insurance Company adopted new features which make it the most attractive as well as safest in the United States. An advertisement is published in another column, and our readers cannot do better than to study this scheme carefully, and in the interest of prudence put a policy upon their lives.

A VERIFIED PROPHECY—PREDICTION OF CALHOUN.

In 1837, John C. Calhoun, whose perspicuity was so wonderful that his prophecies have become history, thus addressed the Senate of the United States:

"Be assured that emancipation itself would not satisfy these fanatics; that gained, the next step would be to raise the negroes to a social and political equality with the whites; and that being effected, we would soon find the present condition of the two races reversed. I speak with full knowledge and a thorough examination of the subject, and for once see my way clearly. One thing alarms me—the eager pursuit of gain which overspreads the land, and which absorbs every faculty of the mind and every feeling of the heart. Of all passions, avarice is the most blind and compromising—the last to see, and the first to yield to pander. I dare not hope that anything I can say will arouse the South to a due sense of danger, I fear it is beyond the power of mortal voice to awake it in time from the fatal security into which it has fallen."

But that fiat of fate, steeped in the blood of thousands, has come upon us with a curse more dreadful than the locusts and frogs of Egypt. So much of the prophecy, then, has been fulfilled. The social and political equality of whites and blacks stares us in the face. It may be forced upon us; but has avarice so absorbed "every faculty of the mind and every feeling of the heart," that Virginians, for paltry pelf, should don their own robes of disgrace, that they should help reverse the proud motto of the glorious Old Dominion, and lick the tyrant's foot which oppresses her fair neck? Can her sons have so degenerated as, with voluntary hand, to place this stigma upon her fair old name? If our conquerors have the power to force a "republican constitution" upon us, with its damning principle of social and political equality, they have neither the power nor the right to compel us to degrade ourselves by voting for it.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

LOVE AT SIGHT.—On Monday of last week a young Californian, about twenty-five years of age, happening east on business, visited Lowell for the purpose of sight-seeing, stopping at the American House. He seemed a young man of property, wore diamond rings and other costly jewelry, representing himself as the owner of a large stock farm and other property at San Jose, California and gave his name as James Welch. He stated that his partner in business was about returning from the east with a newly wedded wife and intimated that but for some disappointment he might have done the same. His story coming to the ears of a young lady of twenty years employed as a seamstress at the American House, jocosely remarked, inasmuch as she had been disappointed in a similar manner, the relatives of one whom she had pligted her faith preventing the marriage, her heart beat in sympathy with that of the Californian, and the sorrow of both might be assured in matrimony. Her friends, thinking it all a joke, which they would carry further, arranged an introduction between the two, which took place at the American House last Wednesday morning, they never having spoken to each other before. On the day following (Thursday) they were married at four o'clock in the afternoon, by the Rev. Dr. Edson, and three quarters of an hour later were on the way to New York. On Saturday last they took the steamer for San Francisco. The bride wrote to her friends when at New York that she was well pleased with her choice, and that her husband and herself had arranged a visit East next year.—*Lowell Courier.*

NOT NECESSARY.—A good anecdote is told of a lady residing in Lancaster, Ohio, which will do to repeat. The lady delighted in the healthful and exhilerating exercise of horseback riding, and on one occasion her husband purchased and presented her a magnificent riding horse, just such a steed as suited the lady's fancy to a T. A saddle was of course next demanded, and in a day or two the lady called at a saddler's shop for the purchase of the article. After looking at the different styles, and inquiring the various prices, she at length gave an order to the gentlemanly proprietor for a large saddle, which was to be ready on a certain day. After giving the order the lady remained in the shop a few minutes, in a kind of undecided state of mind, as if there was something else she wished and had forgotten. The proprietor at length inquired if there was anything else she wanted. "Oh, no," said the lady, "there's nothing else I want, but ain't you going to measure me?" The proprietor, with a broad grin, informed her that no measure was necessary in the case, and the lady departed.

ANNEXATION TO HAYTI AND SAN DOMINGO.—Butler, Banks, and other benighted and besotted lunatics in Washington, are proposing to annex the niggers of Hayti and the Mongrels of San Domingo, and profess to regard such annexation as "manifest destiny," and merely a matter of time. But, like all their "statesmanship" for the last eight years, they put the cart before the horse, and lie to the people. Instead of annexing Hayti and San Domingo to the United States, they should say they desire to annex the United States to Hayti and San Domingo, for that is exactly the thing they have all been at work at since Lincoln's election in 1860. The United States were composed of white people, but Abe Lincoln & Co., have sacrificed a million of lives to "reform" this, and adopt the Mongrelism of San Domingo, and therefore, we repeat, they lie to the country when they talk of annexing Hayti, &c., to the United States, as they in fact, are annexing us to Hayti.

DOESTICK'S ON THE GRECIAN BEND.

I now behold the fair daughters of my country deliberately striving by night and by day to deform and distort their lithe and graceful figers, and convert themselves into a sort of human camel, or rather, into an Australian kangaroo.

The other day Mary Magee my country cousin came to visit us. When I came home, at evening, I was glad to see Mary, but I observed something queer about her. She walked with a crook in her back, and I thought the poor girl had been washing perhaps the day before, and she had got a lame back. I felt sorry for her, and so went out and bought one of Sticktight's Poor man's Plasters. When I got home, I called her to one side and said, Mary if you'll get Maria Lemantha (my country cousin) to put that on your back to night when you go to bed, it will take the soreness out of your bones before morning. It will draw pretty hard and smartsome, but I guess you can stand it for the night, and you'd better stand almost anything rather than have that back crooked.—I am truly sorry to see you afflicted so but this plaster will be certain to cure you. It's called Poor MAN'S plaster, but I'm positive it will do for a poor GIRL, just as well.

Who would believe the ungrateful return for my trouble? Mary threw the plaster in my face, (where it stuck so fast that it pulled out one whisker by the roots) burst into tears and ran up stairs sobbing out that she was never so insulted in her life. Pretty Mary Lemantha came down stairs and began to give me Hail Columbia in the scolding way; and I'll tell you when that girl goes in for a good square jaw she can't be beat by anything that wears black hair.

She told me that I had insulted her friend and abused her, and she was going to leave and go right home. I tried to find out what all the row was about, and explained to Miss Lemantha I wanted to do Mary Magee a kindness, and had offered her the plaster to take the 'crick' out of her back.

"Crick! said Lemantha, in her most vicious and spiteful way, "CRICK!" You must be a fool, that's no crick—that's the Grecian Bend.

"Well," said I, "whatever you may call it, Mary Magee has got it bad; but I'm sure that plaster would cure it before to-morrow morning."

At last, after a long series of scolding on Lemantha's part the whole thing came out. The Grecian Bend is not a deformity to be pitied, it is a fashion to be followed.

Can anything be imagined more hideous? Just think of graceful well made woman making a Grecian Bender of herself, by crooking her spine, humping her shoulders, and strapping herself into the shape of a dromedary as near as she can!

WEDDED BLISS.—
God bless our wives;
They fill our hives
With little bees and honey!
They ease life's shocks,
And mend our socks,
But—don't they spend the money?

When we are sick
They heal us quick—
That is, if they love us;
If not, we die,
And yet they cry,
With just one eye,
And wink the other on the sly,
At some young man above us.

The importation of rags from the Mediterranean, hides from Brazil, and other commodities from the tropics, is known to bring the germs of disease, chiefly fever which are sometimes very afflicting and fatal. Ayer's Ague Cure stimulates the Liver to excrete these germs from the system as effectually as it does the miasmatic poison of our Ague districts. Consequently it affords invaluable protection to stevedores and others whose occupations expose them to these dangerous infections; and we hope to render them a valuable service in giving them this information.—*New York Dispatch.*

A "DISTANT RELATIVE."—"You have lost some of your friends, I see," said a traveler to a negro whom he met on the road.

"Yes, massa."

"Was it a near or distant relative?"

"Well, purty distant—'bout twenty-four mile," was the reply.

It was wittily, but somewhat ungallantly said that a woman is the very reverse of her mirror,—the one reflects without talking, the other talks without reflecting.

HOUSE AND FARM.

Watering Horses.—Horses should never be kept so long without water that they will drink largely when they get it. Give it to them often, and they will never injure themselves with it. Nothing is more common than to hitch a team to the plough, and make them work half a day without a drop. What man would submit to such treatment? If the plough is started at seven in the morning, water should be given again before ten, and again in the afternoon by four o'clock. Even if half an hour is thus consumed, more work will be done in a day. The objection that horses on the road should not be "loaded with water," is not valid. A horse weighing 1,200 pounds will not be much encumbered additionally by twenty pounds of water, while the distension will give him additional strength. Every farmer knows that when he himself undertakes to lift a large log or heavy stone, he can do more by first inflating himself with air, and not unfrequently he loses a button or two from his pantaloons in the operation. Some degree of inflation by water will add to a horse's strength in a similar manner. In driving a horse on the road at a natural gait of nine or ten miles an hour, I have frequently had occasions to observe that he was laboring with perspiration until I left him drink freely, when he ceased to sweat and evidently traveled more freely. Don't be afraid to give your horse water; the danger is in making them abstain too long, in which case care is needed.—*Country Gentleman.*

February Work.—Plenty of money will help a farmer over difficulties that beset poorer men. It not only "makes the mare go," but it makes many other things go, and run right smoothly. Poor men may have just as smart mares, and just as smooth-running wheels as their richer neighbors, with a little more work and with well laid plans for their work. Plans save time, and "time is money." As the spring approaches, our arrangements naturally become more definite, and planning more or less for the autumn or winter ahead, we ought, nevertheless, to begin to think especially about the first work to be done in the spring.

Hog Cholera.—A writer in the *Stock Journal* recommends the following as a preventative of this disease: Flowers of sulphur, six pounds; sulphate of iron, six ounces; cinchora, pulverized, a pound. Mix well together in a large mortar; afterwards give a table-spoonful to each animal mixed with a few potato peelings and cornmeal, three times a day. Continue this for one week, keeping the animal in a clean, warm, dry place, and not allowing too many together.

Cows.—Those whose calves are to be raised, should be dried off fully six weeks before calving; others, especially young cows, ought to be milked close to their time of coming in, and dried clean, if possible, just before the new milk springs; feed well; separate any that show the least sickness, or are off their feed. Card well as often as twice a week, if not daily, and give access to salt.

Manure.—There is an immense saving of labor in hauling out manure in the winter while good sledding lasts, but there is also great waste exposing animal manure not well composted. Haul out composts only. Let no fresh manure lie in heaps about the barn or yard, but work it over and mix it, spreading it out and keeping it from heating. Cut all straw for bedding 10 inches to a foot long.

Working Animals.—Feed well at all events, and bring all working stock to the spring in good condition. Spring-poor cattle are a burning disgrace to any farmer. Use the card and brush freely, and feed a little grain or oil meal. Keep salt always where oxen and other cattle can get it, and see they are regularly watered.

Sheep.—Ewes, near yeaning, should have warm and roomy pens, and both pens and yards dry and well littered; they should also have some spots of dry, hard ground, or boards to lie upon.—Such spots are equally acceptable to fattening sheep. Give food, water and salt regularly.

To Remove Old Putty.—Old putty, it is said, however hard and indurated, may be easily removed by running a red hot iron over it, when it can be cut off with a knife almost as easily as green putty. To those who have plant houses, &c.; and even for the purpose of reglaizing house windows, this will be worth trying.

Seeds.—Look out in advance for the best possible selection of seeds for spring use. Send for catalogues of field and garden seeds from responsible dealers, and by exchange or purchase secure from friends any novelties worth trying.

Buildings.—Make use of warm days to clean and ventilate the cellars of both house and barn, unless the walls are so cold that the warm moist air makes them damper. Painting and repairing may be done in milder weather.

Flax seed occasionally given to horses, or cattle, will make them shed their old hair—and whether old or young soon get sleek and fat. It is the only thing which will fatten old horses.

Sure Cure for Bots in Horses.—Take half a pint each of vinegar, soft-soap, and molasses, shake well together, and pour down the animal's throat while the mixture is foaming.

Implements.—Overhaul all sorts of tools and implements; paint them and make any needed repairs; paint and repair wagons and carts, ready for work.