The Egyptian Desert.

The moment we leave the banks of the Nile, we enter a world entirely strange and new—a waterless land, without rivers, creeks, rivulets, or springs; nothing but scanty and more or less brackish wells, at long intervals; and in the mountainous regions, some natural rocky reservoirs, where the rare rain water collects in the brief and uncertain rainy season. When the writer crossed the Eastern Desert in the fall of 1873, there had been no rain for three years; so that the first thing to be provided in starting was a supply of water sufficient to last from the Nile to the first well, and then from each well to the next. In carrying the water, the natives employ exclusively goat and ox skins. When a goat is killed, they cut off his head and legs at the hocks and knees; and after splitting the skin a short way down his breast, turn him out of his jacket by pulling it off like a stocking. After the hide is cured, the legs are tightly tied up, leaving only the neck open; and thus a large bottle is formed capable of holding from six to ten gallons according to the size of the defunct goat. These water-skins, called *girbehs*, after a few days' use, keep the water very sweet. In the excessive heat of the desert, however, they lose a great quantity of their contents by evaporation. Military trains, in addition, are supplied with flattened zinc barrels, whose shape is adapted for hanging to the pack-saddles. These have screw stoppers, which prevent all leakage and evaporation. The water carried in the *gi. behs* in the sun, gets quite warm, and that in the zinc barrels almost boils. As soon, therefore, as the traveler gets to camp, a portion of water is poured out into open skins and hung on tripods in the shade; then, in the course of half an hour it becomes drinkable, and by midnight is as cold as fresh spring-water.

As a consequence, water in the desert is a very precious possession; for should the traveler find that the well on which he relied has gone dry, it may mean death to him in one of its cruelest forms. In that waterless land, therefore, even the pious Arab abstains from his religious ablutions before prayer, his law permitting him in such a case to wash his hands and feet with sand. As a rule, the water found in the scattered wells is very bad.

The first thing on arriving at a well is to taste its water, and every one takes a sip, rolling it in his mouth and testing it, as epicures do rare wines. Great is the joy if it is pronounced "sweet water;" but when the guides say "not good," you know it is a strong solution of Epsom salts. The Arabs divide their deserts into two kinds. What they call wilderness, being diversified by valleys or water-courses, where their flocks can wander and find pasture. The second is the *atmour*, or desert proper, consisting of hard gravel, diversified by zones of deep sands, rocky belts, and rugged defiles. It is absolutely and entirely destitute of all vegetation. Not a tree, not a bush, not a blade of grass relieves the eyes, which are painfully affected by the fierce reflection of the sunlight upon the yellow sand. No shade whatever is to be found, unless it is cast by some great rock. These *atmours*, generally nine or ten days' journey across, are like oceans, which you may traverse on your four-footed ship, but where you may not tarry, and where caravans cross each other like vessels on the ocean.

Here is a picture of a desert journey with its terrible privations and experiences. It is now May, 1875. The sun is shining vertically over our heads. We are on the west of the Nile, on the desolate *atmours* which seperate the river from the hardly less barren plains of Kordofan. A more parched, blasted, and blighted country than it is at this period, cannot be conceived. It is the end of the dry season, and half of the rare wells are exhausted; and those which are not, furnished only a scanty supply of brackish water at temperatures of eighty degrees or more. The deeper the walls, the warmer the water. The marshes are perfectly terrible, and yet it is worse to halt during the day than to keep moving; for under the tents the heat redoubles as in a hothouse, making it impossible to rest or sleep. Thus we march from earliest dawn often till night; for we must make the distance between the wells before our water gives out. On the burning sand the sun beats down with a fierceness which cannot be described. The barrel of your gun, the stirrup of your saddle, blister your hand and your foot. The thermometer rises to a hundred and fifty degrees in the sun; and in spite of the protection of your white helmet, a heavy silk scarf over it, and the umbrella you carry, your skin peels off in blisters, and your brain almost boils in your skull.

Things Worth Knowing.

That boiling water will remove tea stains and many fruit stains; pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent it from spreading over the fabric. That ripe tomatoes will remove ink and other stains from white cloth; also from the hands. That a teaspoonful of turpentine, boiled with white clothes, will aid the whitening process. That boiled starch is much improved by the addition of a little spermaceti or a little salt, or both, or a little gum arabic dissolved. That beeswax and salt will make flat-irons as clean and smooth as glass; tie a lump of wax in a rag, and keep it for that purpose; when the irons are hot, rub them with the wax rag, then scour with a paper or rag sprinkled with salt. That kerosene will soften boots or shoes which have been hardened by water, and render them as pliable as when new. That kerosene will make tin tea-kettles as bright as new; saturate a woolen rag and rub with it; it will also remove stains from clean varnished furniture.

FARM AND GARDEN.

ERGOT IN GRASS—An investigation in New York, in order to ascertain the cause of frequent diseases among neat cattle in winter time, has been examining various grasses, and finds that *ergot* not infrequently exists among them. "June grass" (*poa pratensis*) he says, when allowed to remain uncut until late in the season, contains no inconsiderable quantity. Similar grasses, especially the well-known "Whitetop," (*Dauthonia Spicata*) is often made poisonous by its presence. This grass is bad enough its best estate, having so small a quantity of phosphoric acid as to be incapable of supporting life for a long period, but when to its innutritious substance is added a poison, the result of feeding it is disease and death. The ergot is a sort of accumulative poison, taking possession of the system and gradually but surely bringing disease.

This *dauthonia* is very prevalent on exhausted soils, where no nutritious feed can grow, because the soil has no material of which to manufacture nutritious products. Hence the truthfulness of the remark of the unlettered countryman who said he had found that manure would kill whitetop "deader'n thunder."

Soils producing this variety of grass generally need an application dissolved bone, or fine ground bone meal, powdered Charleston rock, bone black, or something that will supply the wanting element, phosphoric acid. Hence our well made superphosphates are profitable when applied to such soils. But ground bone would be more economical, for that contains a higher per cent of the needed material, and is usually cheaper per ton.

If the farmer would have healthy animals, those that have smooth coats in the spring time, those that will not eat up his fences and gnaw down his barns, let him feed such substances as possess phosphoric acid in abundance, either hay or other fodder grown on phosphated land, or the raw material as it exists in powdered bone.

POULTRY MANURE.—Poultry manure is by far the most valuable fertilizer produced on farms. Fowls eat concentrated food that is rich and nitrogen and phosphorus, and their droppings partake of the nature of the food they devour. Grain, the seeds of small plants, meat, and insect produce, when decomposed by the action of the digestive apparatus, richer fertilizing material than grass, hay, and straw. Besides, birds void their urine in a solid form, and combined with the excrement, that is usually solid. As a consequence it is not liable to be wasted if the manure is rightly cared for. Poultry manure is about as valuable as the best Peruvian guano. To make it of the highest value as a fertilizer, however, it must be stored, and applied to the ground with care. Exposed to the weather it will be dissolved by rain and carried off. Placed in large heaps it heats and the ammonia is driven off and lost. Applied to the soil in too liberal quantities, especially when fresh, it is liable to destroy the vitality of seeds and to kill delicate plants. It should be stored in a dry place and in comparatively small lots so it will not be injured by moisture and not ferment. It is better to mix it with dried peat, road dust, or some other substance that will aid in keeping it dry and tend to arrest fermentation. The best results attend its use when it is well beaten up and very thoroughly mixed with these substances before it is applied to the soil. Lime and ashes should be kept from it, as they would act upon it in such a manner as to liberate ammonia.

PERIODICAL OPTHALMIA, OR MOON BLINDNESS.—This disease, to which horses are subject, is caused by constitutional disposition, or by the pungent vapors which fill the air of unclean stables. It appears as a bluish cloud in the center of the eye, the corner which gradually thickens, and an increasing inflammation of the whole organ until the horse is unable to see, when the inflammation is resolved into a free discharge, the film disappears, and temporary relief is obtained for three or four weeks more. Each attack is worse than the preceding one, until a cataract is formed and permanent blindness occurs. The treatment is to remove the causes, to avoid any irritating circumstances, to give a full dose of salts, twelve to sixteen ounces, (two ounce doses are useless,) and when the fever is relieved to maintain good health by the best of feeding, not using much corn, but more bran and linseed, and by strengthening the eyes by cold bathing and the occasional use of a lotion of one grain of sulphate of zinc in one ounce of rain-water, a little of which should be put in the eyes.

PACKING SOFT FRUITS.—The London Journal of Horticulture says quite as much pleasure has been felt upon being informed of the satisfactory condition of soft fruits after a journey, as in winning a well-contested prize at a flower show. The plan which has proved perfectly successful, and which is now invariably followed whenever fruit is sent by rail, is to wrap each bunch of grapes or fruit of other kinds in soft tissue paper, surrounding it with a slight padding of wheat bran as the fruit is placed side by side in the box. The paper is put upon the fruit in plain folds, and not twisted into hard corners, which may press into the fruit and spoil it. Much care is taken to have each fruit thoroughly enveloped in bran, which is also settled into as compact a mass as possible by slightly jarring each box upon the packing bench after the first layer is put in, and when it is quite full a sheet of paper is put upon the bran and the hinged lid closed by hooks and eyelets of copper wire, and securely corded. If this excellent old method is only done correctly all risk of failure is avoided.

BREAKING HORSES.—The wild horse, as well as others, at the Falkland Islands, are often broken in by tying them with a raw-hide halter to a post, and leaving them for several days without food or water. After long ineffectual struggles to break loose, the animals become entirely convinced of the absolute power over them of the halter, and in future become cowed and docile directly a halter or lasso is over their heads. The wild horses when broken in, are very tame and quiet to ride.

I was astonished at the facility with which the Falkland Island horse obey the rein. There is no necessity as a rule, to make them feel the bit at all, in order to turn them. Merely laying the part of the reins close to the hand against that side of the neck from which they are wanted to turn is sufficient. Well-broken horses can be turned round and in a circle by this means by a gentle touch on the neck only.

It is considered by M. Perisse that it is almost certain that the ancient Egyptians and Phœnicians used steel, if, indeed, they did not make it.

DOMESTIC.

HOW TO MAKE A POULTICE.—Dr. Brunton gives the following useful hints on this subject: The common practice of making poultices by mixing linseed meal with hot water and applying it directly to the skin is quite wrong, because if we do not wish to burn the patient we must wait until a great portion of the heat has been lost. The proper method is to make a flannel bag, the size of the poultice required, to fill this with the linseed poultice, as hot as it can possible be made, and put between this and the skin a second flannel, so there shall be at least two thicknesses of flannel between the skin and the poultice itself. Above the poultice should be placed more flannel, or a piece of cotton wool, to prevent it from getting cold. By this method we are able to apply the linseed meal boiling hot, without burning the patient, and the heat, gradually diffusing through the flannel, affords a grateful sense of relief, which cannot be obtained by other means. There are few ways in which such marked relief is given to abdominal pain, as by the application of a poultice in this manner.

HOME-MADE CANDY.—All children are fond of candy, and if pure a moderate amount is not injurious. In these days of adulteration, that made at home is safest to give them. It is a simple matter to make chocolate caramels; all that is needed is one cup of sweet milk, one cup of molasses, half a cup of sugar, half a cup of grated chocolate, a piece of butter the size of a walnut; stir constantly and let it boil until it is thick, then turn it out on to buttered plates; when it begins to stiffen, mark it in squares, so that it will break readily when cold. Cocoanut caramels are made of two cups of grated cocoanut, one cup of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of flour, the whites of three eggs beaten stiff; bake on a buttered paper in a quick oven. Nice white candy is easily made. Take one quart of granulated sugar, one pint of water; two tablespoonfuls of vinegar; boil just as you do molasses candy, but do not stir it; you can tell when it is done by trying it in cold water. Pull it as if it were molasses candy; have a dish near by with some vanilla in it, and work in enough to flavor it as you pull; put it in a cold room, and the next day you will have delicious candy.

BAKED HAM.—Lay the ham in a large pan, cover it with plenty of cold water. Let it soak over night. Rub it often next morning and cut off all the hard, black, scrappy parts. Put it into a hard enough boiler, cover it with plenty of cold water and let it heat gradually. Keep it steadily boiling once it begins. Remove the coarse scum from the water. A good-sized ham should boil five hours slowly. Try it with a knitting needle to see if it is done. Remove it from the boiler, skin it and put it back in the water to get cold. It reabsorbs some of the juice from the water, and all remains of boiled meats and poultry should be set aside for next day in liquor they were cooked in, to prevent their getting dry. Put your well-boiled ham in the oven to brown. Let the outer fat begin to crisp a little; stick in a few cloves over it and then cover either with fine bread crumbs or with a thick layer of brown sugar. This ought to make a fine glaze.

Mrs. Partington Says.

Don't take any of the quack rostrums, as they are regimental to the human cistern; but put your trust in Hop Bitters, which will cure general dilapidation, costive habits and all comic diseases. They saved Isaac from a severe extract of tripod fever. They are the *ne plus unum* of medicine.

CRAMPS.—When the cramp is in the *calves of the leg*, draw up the foot strongly toward the shin bone and in a few seconds the cramp will disappear. When they are in the *thighs or arms* tie a towel, cord or handkerchief around the limb, just above the cramped part and then rub this part with the naked hand alone or using some stimulating liniment like spirits of camphor, or red peppered whisky. The preparation may also be rubbed upon the *neck* when cramps attack this part. Cramps in the *stomach* may be checked by first strongly rubbing and kneading over the stomach and then rubbing upon and around the pit of the stomach; a mixture of equal parts of sweet oil or linseed oil, essence of peppermint, laudanum and spirits of camphor.

BRIDE'S CAKE.—Two cups of sugar, one-half cup of butter, the whites of five eggs beaten to a stiff froth, one cup cold water: Mix well together; then add three cups of flour into which one teaspoon of soda and two of cream of tartar have been stirred; beat briskly for two minutes; flavor with almond and bake in a quick oven; frost the top.

ANGEL PUDDING.—Two ounces of butter, half a pint of milk, two eggs, lemon; melt the butter and mix with the sugar, then eggs, milk and flour; mix well and bake in small patty pans until nicely browned; sift a little powdered sugar over each pudding and serve with slices of lemon. Send to the table on a dish covered with a serviette.

THE CREAM FOR THE INSIDE OF THE PIE.—One and one half cups milk, when boiling add seven teaspoons corn-starch wet with cold milk; let it scald a moment, then add two well beaten eggs; sweeten to taste, and flavor with lemon or vanilla. Split the cake when cold, spread them with the cream, and put together again like jelly cake.

HOT SLAW.—Cut the cabbage fine and in long pieces, but do not chop it—use a sharp knife. Boil for thirty minutes in enough water to cover it over, season with one teaspoon of flour, stir in one egg and put in one large teaspoonful of sour cream, with pepper and salt. This is for two quarts of raw cut cabbage.

HICCUP OR HICCOUGH, may frequently be relieved by drinking a glass of cold water; by taking snuff in order to sneeze; by holding the breath as long as possible; by some person pressing upon the collar bones of the patient as hard as he can, or by drinking a small teaspoonful of dill seed.

HEARTBURN.—Take one draught of the following mixture: A teaspoonful of saleratus, chalk and magnesia in a half tumbler of warm water. Heartburn is caused by acidity of the stomach, and after being relieved will continue to return until the stomach is strengthened. Patients should be particularly careful not to overfeed themselves or drink excessive quantities of wines.

WIT AND HUMOR.

"IT is a great thing to see the spiritual truth that all nature symbolises," said she.

"So it is," said he.

"And yet enjoyment is darkened by a terrible shadow," said she.

"Hay?" he inquired.

"A terrible shadow," she repeated, "that casts a depressing reflection upon the most exuberant soul."

"Yes," replied he, "I've felt it, when I've been short on spare ribs."

"On what?" she anxiously inquired.

"On spare ribs."

"But you should be philosophical, you should imitate Pythagoras."

"Who was he?"

"He was a philosopher, an anti epicurean, but he did not go so far as the stoics."

"Where did they go?" asked the Board of Trade man, and, gazing at him in amazement, his wild Western way began to dawn upon the culchawed mind of the Boston girl, and she said:

"Take me to ma-ma."

[Nashville Daily News.]

Terrible.

Such is the term Mr. C. W. Purcell, of the National Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., applies to his sufferings. He says: "I for one, wish to speak a word of praise for St. Jacob's Oil. I suffered with a pain in my shoulder and arm for some six months and at times it was terrible. One bottle of St. Jacob's Oil, however, cured me thoroughly.

THE other day a genuine tramp with a stomach yearning for a picked-up meal undertook to enter a yard on Winter street. A large, fierce dog stood at the gate to give him a hostile welcome, and after vainly trying to propitiate the animal the tramp called to a lad of ten who was making a kite on the veranda.

"Hey, sonny!"

"Yes, I'm hay," was the reply.

"Say, bub, call off yer dog."

"No use—no use," replied the lad. "Even if you got in here ma's waiting at the kitchen door with a kettle of hot water, Sarah's working the telephone to git the police, and I'm here to holler "Murder!" and wake up the whole street!"

Two boys from Lexington, Kentucky recently succeeded in making a parrot talk through a telephone. The parrot didn't understand where the "Pretty Polly" that he heard came from, but he replied "Polly wants a cracker" in such a loud voice that the boy at the distant end of the line heard it distinctly. The parrot's cage was suspended over the instrument, so that his head was near the ear and mouthpieces.

[Harrisburg, (Pa.) Independent.]

For five years, says Mr. J. Echter, this city, I have been afflicted with rheumatism, and for two years have had a sore on my leg the size of a silver dollar, which nothing would heal. St. Jacob's Oil cured the rheumatism and healed the sore.

REV. MR. PIPER was once called upon to marry a man to his fourth wife. As he approached the couple, he said: "Please to rise." The man wriggled about his chair a moment and finally spoke:—"We've usually sot!"

"THERE, that explains where my clothes line went to," exclaimed an Iowa woman, as she found her husband hanging in the stable.

"RULER ruin," as the boy said when he threw the teacher's ferule into the stove.

THE man who waxes strong every day—The shoemaker.

A CLOSE shave—Two per cent. per month.

Vegetine.

Six Bottles Every Spring.

SICK HEADACHE.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 10, 1878.

H. R. STEVENS, Boston:

DEAR SIR,—I had been troubled with Sick Headache as often as once a week for twenty years up to March, 1872, when I thought I would try Vegetine. I took six bottles and have been troubled but very little since. I have recommended Vegetine to others with the same good results. I take a half dozen bottles every spring which keeps me all right through the year. By so doing it cleanses my blood and fortifies my system against disease for the year.

Yours very resp'y,
S. J. SHERMAN,
Dispensing Druggist, 424 Nicolet AV.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 11, 1878.

H. R. STEVENS, Boston:

Everybody goes for Vegetine. It sells like hot cakes. CROSSMAN & PLUMMER, Druggists, Cor. Nicolet Av. and Second St.

Gives Me Rest and a Good Appetite.

MANSFIELD, OHIO, Dec. 14, 1878.

H. R. STEVENS, Boston:

DEAR SIR,—I have been afflicted with Rheumatism for twenty years. I heard a great deal about Vegetine, and was recommended by a physician of this city to take the Vegetine. I was so that I could not walk. Also had a terrible swelling in the leg, and I was cured by the Vegetine. Before taking Vegetine I was restless, and could not sleep. Since taking it, it has given me rest and a good appetite. I can highly recommend it for what it has done for me. MISS E. A. VANTILBURG, Short St.

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SMALL POX is alarming! increasing; vaccinate before it is too late. No fear of innoculation, virus guaranteed from healthy Durham calves. Price by mail, double points, 25 cents, 5 for a dollar. Full directions. I. H. NELSON, Chemist, Livonia Station, N. Y.

AMUSEMENT OR PROFIT.—Ivory Enamel Photos. Instructions mailed for $1. Transforms photo to beautiful Ivorytype. Easily learned and money made teaching others. Usual price from teacher, $5. **Novelty Co.**, 13th st. and Gould Avenue, Newark, N. J.

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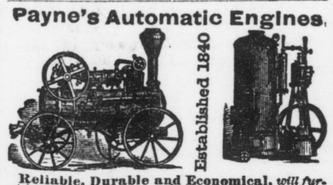

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It will at all times and under all circumstances act in harmony with the laws that govern the female system.

For the cure of Kidney Complaints of either sex this Compound is unsurpassed.

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND is prepared at 233 and 235 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass. Price $1. Six bottles for $5. Sent by mail in the form of pills, also in the form of lozenges, on receipt of price, $1 per box for either. Mrs. Pinkham freely answers all letters of inquiry. Send for pamphlet. Address as above. *Mention this Paper.*

No family should be without LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S LIVER PILLS. They cure constipation, biliousness, and torpidity of the liver. 25 cents per box.

☞ Sold by all Druggists. ☜

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Eugene B. Stork, of Junction City, Kansas, says, Kidney-Wort cured him after regular Physicians had been trying for four years.

Mrs. John Arnall, of Washington, Ohio, says her boy was given up to die by four prominent physicians and that he was afterwards cured by Kidney-Wort.

M. M. B. Goodwin, an editor in Chardon, Ohio, says he was not expected to live, being bloated beyond belief, but Kidney-Wort cured him.

Anna L. Jarrett of South Salem, N. Y., says that seven years suffering from kidney troubles and other complications was ended by the use of Kidney-Wort.

John B. Lawrence of Jackson, Tenn., suffered for years from liver and kidney troubles and after taking "barrels of other medicines," Kidney-Wort made him well.

Michael Coto of Montgomery Center, Vt., suffered eight years with kidney difficulty and was unable to work. Kidney-Wort made him "well as ever."

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(A Medicine, not a Drink.)

CONTAINS

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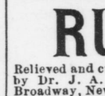

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JOHN JONES was aroused by his wife at daybreak, and his attention called to a noise in the cellar.

"John," said she "get right up. It's burglars."

"Alas! I fear not," srid John sadly.

"Fear not!" yelled his wife. 'What would be worse than robbers, thieves, or perhaps murderers?"

"Sh-h-h!" said John; "I will investigate."

Drawing on his clothes, he hastened down stairs. When he returned, with lagging step and sad face, he said:

"Alas! alas! my worst are realized. We are undone."

"Gracious! are they murderers?" yelled the wife.

"Murderers? Alas, no! The water pipe is frozen, and they are—they are plumbers."

And nothing but the sobs of the family broke the stillness of the bedchamber.

Two Organs

Regulate first the stomach, second the liver: especially the first, so as to perform their functions perfectly and you will remove at least nineteen twentieths of all the ills that mankind is heir to, in this or any other climate. Hop Bitters is the only thing that will give perfectly healthy natural action to these two organs.

ADVERTISEMENTS for "stationary engineers" frequently appear in the papers. We suppose a stationary engineer is one who remains at his post even after the boiler blows up, and has lots of nice notices in the newspapers to support his widow and children with after he's picked out of the ruins.

THOUSANDS of ladies have found sudden relief from all their woes by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, the great remedy for diseases peculiar to females. Send to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass., for pamphlets.

"MAKE a minute of that duel, Mr. Shearer," said the chief to the news editor. "Can't do it," replied the sub-altern. "Why not?" "'Cause there's only two seconds in it." (Verdict of accidental death, caused by increase of salary.)

TOMMY is crying bitterly. "What," says his sympathizing sister, "have they done to you?" "Nothing." "Did your nurse scold you?" "No." 'What then is the matter?" "I just feel that I'm going to be bad to-day, that's all."

VEGETINE is nourishing and strengthening; purifies the blood; regulates the bowels; quiets the nervous system: acts directly upon the secretions, and arouses the whole system to action.

PATRICK, full private in the Fifty-second Regiment, failing to make the running with his comrades, pursued by the enemy's cavalry, when they took shelter behind a wall, ensconced himself behind a tree stump.

AUNT—Why, George! Give me that cigar! Nephew—Not much; I haven't the slightest objections to your smoking, but you must buy your own cigars.

SOLID men admire the beautiful, and this accounts in some measure for the thousands upon thousands of bottles of Carboline, the deodorized petroleum hair renewer and dressing, which have been sold yearly since its invention by Messrs. Kennedy & Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa.

As the pen is bent, the paper is ink lined.

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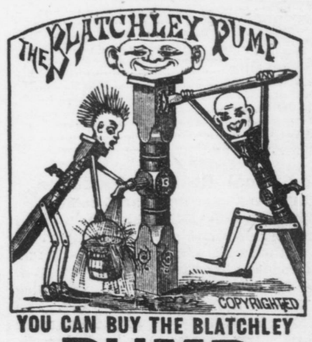

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