Hard Times.

Where'er you may roam you will hear men talking about the hard times, and predicting that we are to have a very bad business year.

But then it is a consoling reflection that the time was never known that moneyed men didn't groan about the financial outlook.

Let a couple of banks break, and the merchant who has been doing a prosperous business begins to wear his face long, and to tell his clerks that he has been a heavy looser, as a prelude to tearing down the salaries.

Therefore, it is not well to listen to the song of the bondholder, because business will be brisk, anyway.

The baker will never fail, because people will never stop eating bread.

The barber will never fail, because the lonesome people want to be talked to and cheered up.

The bank will never fail, because the washerman must have a place to deposit her savings.

We might go on and make a list of facts to prove that business must keep up; but we will not do it. We will simply point out a few signs which go to prove that times are not flush.

The times may be adjudged hard—

When a man shovels the snow off his sidewalk—

When the Niagara hackman pawns his watch to get food and drink—

When a man wears a full beard to save the expense of being shaved—

When Charles Francis Adams matches himself against a refrigerator—

When the aged beau dyes his hair and side whiskers with stove blacking—

When the merchant-prince carries his provisions home from the market—

When a woman is willing to cover a summer hat with velvet to last through the winter—

When the man with a short reach is always to be found closest to the free lunch counter—

When you see a plumber wearing Arctic overshoes to conceal the breaks in a pair of Oxford ties—

When the dude cannot change his scarf eight times a day, and have on a louder one every time—

When the poet puts on advertising terminus on a love lyric, and sells it to a tooth-powder establishment—

When a man feels in his vest to satisfy a creditor, and then says in an offhand way: "I'll just send you a check to-morrow"—

When a man makes his calls in full dress, saying that he has just been dining, when in reality his other clothes are not fit to be seen in.—*Puck.*

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. MRS WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

Dreadful Mistake.

'There has been a mistake—a dreadful mistake,' she said as she called at the chief clerk's window in the postoffice yesterday.

'What is the matter ma'am?'

'Why, I called here on Saturday for a letter.'

'And I hope you got one.'

'Yes sir. My husband is in Buffalo, you know, and I've been expecting a letter from him every day for a fortnight. He was to send me some money you know, and I was on my last shilling when I got that letter.'

'Well?'

'Well, sir, I hurried right home and opened the letter and out fell a dollar bill. Just think of a loving husband sending his loving wife a dollar bill with which to run the house and preserve her station in society for a whole month!'

'But you put the money in your pocket and burned the letter.'

'Oh, no, sir! I threw the bill into the fire and set out to read the letter. It started off with: 'Dear Madam,' and then I began to suspect something, as my husband always calls me his angel. And then it went on to say: 'So you want a bangle eh? Well, take the enclosed and jingle down town and bangle your old head off and be hanged to you!'

'Well?'

'Well, I looked down at the signature, and it was signed 'Slouch.' Then I saw, sir, that it couldn't be from my husband at all, for it was written from Chicago, while he is in Buffalo. It was addressed to my name, but it couldn't have been for me.'

The clerk received the letter and carefully scanned the envelope, and she handed him a dollar with the remark:

'Put it in the letter, sir, and write on the envelope: 'Opened by mistake—dreadful mistake—but the opener won't give it away.' If you can think of anything else to sooth the poor woman, put it on, too.'

'Yes, I will.'

'For I know exactly how she'll feel about it, and I know if my husband should tell me to bangle my old head off and jingle around I wouldn't have any one know it for a million dollars. Dear me! but I'm so sorry, and it was such a mistake—dreadful mistake.'

Just now there seems to be a fancy among fashionable people to use owls—stuffed owls—as ornaments to set on the tops of bookcases or other suitable places. Common owls stuffed sell at $3 to $8 each, white owls at $15 to $20. A dealer in Boston says: "I have been cleaned out of owls entirely, the demand has been so large of late, and I have several unfilled orders from Chicago still on hand."

Taught Him Politeness.

The pay train stopped at Willow Bend to pay the railroad hands and to liquidate claims for cattle on the track in that section. A gaunt, hungry-looking granger stepped up to the smart young man who was dispensing the cash in the rear end of the car.

"Got my name on your books, Mister?"

"How should I know unless you tell me your name?"

"Kerrect you are. You have got the edge on me there. Well, my name is Rufus McConkey."

"Yes," said the young man, referring to his books; "Mr. McConkey, I have got you down for a hog."

"Have me down for a hog, have you? Well, I'll have you down for a half an hour, and I'll be on top of you makin' it sortin excitin' to you, if you don't revise that expression. Now, say after me: 'Colonel McConkey, School Trustee, Fourth District—Your name, sir, is on this here list as a boney fider creditor of the L. and G. N. Railroad; which the amount are ten dollars, the yally of one spotted Berkshire hog; said amount of ten dollars it do me proud to hand to you. Won't you have a cigar, Colonel?' "

The smart young assistant paymaster repeated after Mr. McConkey word for word, handed Mr. McConkey the ten dollars and then gave him a cigar. Colonel McConkey put the hammer of his six-shooter back to half-cock and then strode out muttering: "Some city chaps think they're smart, but they'll find they has to come out on the peraries to learn perliteness an' grammar."—*Austin Siftings.*

Wolves.

The excessive coldness of the weather and heavy snow storms are reported ta have driven herds of wolvds from the Carpathian mountains into the cultivated districts, where they have in some cases spread terror among the people. At Homonna, in North Hungary, a pack of 120 wolves entering the village while the inhabitants were at church, and were not driven out until a squadron of Uhlans attacked them with swords and carbines.

From a single grain of wheat planted in 1881, says the Grass Valley (Cal.) "Record," grew twenty-two stalks, each bearing a full head. These yielded 860 grains, 760 of which were planted the next year, producing one fifth of a bushel of splendid wheat. This was planted last spring, yielding seventeen bushels, making 1,020 pounds of wheat from one grain in three years.

There seems to be a little vein of humor in President Cleveland with all his gravity and seriousness. "You are the first Democratic President I ever saw," remarked a visitor to the President-elect. "I am the first I ever saw myself," was the smiling reply.

'Do you know why you and George remind me of two shades of one color?' asked a young lady of a companion, who had been engaged for a good many years. 'No,' was the reply. 'I'll tell you then; it's because you don't match.'

When you can't say anything in particular in praise of a man you can always fall back on: "A few years ago he was mentioned as a candidate for the county office." This rounds him off in good shape.

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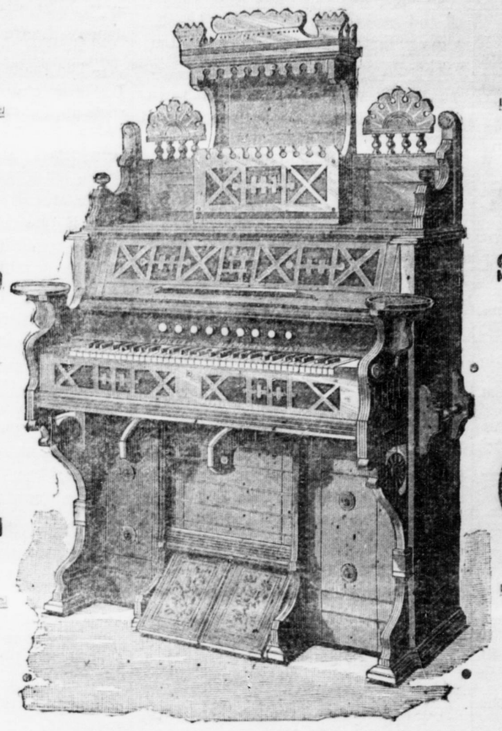

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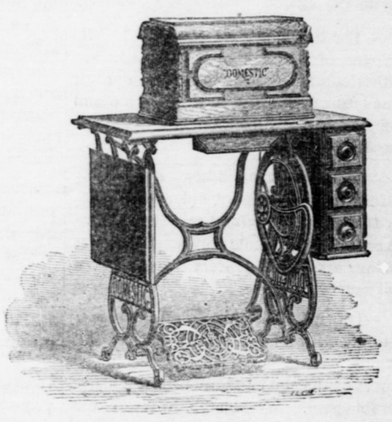

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