Popping and Flopping.

How They Referred a Question of Marriage to Providence.

In the days when Congressman John D. Long, of Mass., went a courting, his inamorata was not entirely free from the tinge of superstition which possessed almost everybody, that is, she didn't care to spill the salt, or sit with thirteen at the table, and all such innocent diversions. Withal, she was the most charming and cultured of ladies. Well, after John had burned the old man's authracite for the usual two years and escorted the young lady to the conventional number of husking bees and phantom parties, he mustered up courage (he was awful bashful in those days) to get down on his hunkers and pop the question.

"Do tell, John," said the fair one. "So you want me to wed?"

"You bet!" said the future legislator.

"Wa'al, neow, John, splicin' is one of the solmnest things that one kin dew—'

"It needs two," interposed the embryo husband.

"And so," she continued, "it hadn't oughter be entered into without some consideration. I love you, John, but I want to know whether the Lord sanctions it." Here John began to murmur something about the Lord's business. "So, John, I'm going to open the good book and decide by the verse my eye lights on whether it's right or not.'

"Oh pshaw!" said John; "that's all in your eye."

"But that's the way John Wesley used to decide things, John."

"But I'm not asking John Wesley. I'm asking you, dear," said John. "But go ahead."

"That depends," muttered John, sotto voice.

After some little search the old family Bible was hunted up, but as it was night and they could not find the hoe to remove the accumulated dust, they were again in a quandary. At last John picked up a volume of selected poems, and proposed that she use that. At first she demurred but eventually gave in. If John ever did any praying in his life he did it then.

Solemnly she opened the book, and with a murmured invocation cast her eyes upon the page, and read:

"Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little Long."

"Oh, John!" screamed the maiden, falling into tears. "Oh, John, it cannot be! I'm sorry! Providence is against it. You're not very big. John and see, it mentions your very name. Oh, dear!"

"But," said John, "it don't say anything about what women want, and you're not a man."

"No, John."

"And you do want this little Long!"

"Yes, dear."

"Then that settles it! Man don't want me, but you do. Q. E. D. What could be plainer? Come kiss me, darling," said the sophistical lover.

"Oh, no, John! it means that we must not wed. I know it does! Oh, dear!"

"Oh, bother!" said John excitedly.

"Let me see the confounded book. Eureka! You were altogether to previous, my dear. Listen to the next line. I go by the book every time:

"'Tis not with me exactly so,
But 'tis so in the song.'

There, if that don't mean that Providence means that you must marry me I shall take an other course in English."

"Oh John!"

And they flopped.

The Monroe Doctrine.

People often read about "the Monroe doctrine" without knowing exactly what the phrase means. The following extract from President Monroe's seventh annual message delivered to Congress December 2, 1823, give rise to the phrase:

"The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparations for our defense. With the movements of this hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately concerned, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defense of our own, which have been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relation existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies of dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. But with the governments which have declared their independence we have, on great consideration and just principles, acknowledged we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.'

An Elegant Store.

A Music House that Would do Cred it to Any City.

In our search for happenings in the city we noticed an unusual commotion about Third and Cumberland streets, and on investigation found it to be the removal of J. H. Kurzenknabe & Sons, with their immense stock of musical goods, from their former quarters to the large, and elegantly fitted store room at 1202 North Third street. The success of these gentlemen in the music business is simply astonishing and forcibly impresses the lesson of what pluck and grit with a thorough knowledge of the business will do. Five daily and seventeen weekly pape s run their regular advertisements and to use their language "it pays to advertise." In pianos those gentlemen have so far handled for their leading instrument the celebrated 'Baus." Forty-two of these were sold during last year, and the firm contract to sell fifty of the same during 1885. A number of Billings & Richmond, a very superior low price instrument were sold, and now the Messrs. Kurzenknabe have made a great hit, by adding the elegant piano of the well-known house of Geo. Steck & Co., a piano that needs no introduction to Harrisburg musicians. In organs the "United States" is their favorite. It sells on sight. The noted 'Ithaca" is another of their elegant organs, and the "Paul & Hamilton" of late so prominently noticed by the musical exchanges for its many excellencies is pushing to the very front. Their stock of violins, guitars, banjos, flutes, clarionets, cornets, accordians, harmonicas, is certainly the largest and finest in the city. In strings a glance at this case shows thirty-five different kinds, and all of the finest grade. The line of stools and covers is immense, while in sheet music, by actual inventory, they have eleven thousand three hundred pieces, and not an unsalable one among the lot. Church and Sunday school music books, eighty-three different kinds. Instruction books of all varieties and sixty-three kinds of the cheaper musical publications are to be found on their shelves. The French decorative art department is the most complete outside of the larger cities. An elegant stock of fancy goods completes their display and on to-morrow [Monday] evening, March 30, their grand opening takes place. Souveniers to the value of fifty cents each will be presented to every lady and gentleman visiting the store. A fine orchestra will enliven the occasion, and a brass band will pay a visit during the evening.—*Harrisburg Sunday Telegram.*

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.

Swift Retribution.

'Officer, you say this man was drunk on the street, whooping and yelling and using slang and quoting bad poetry to the passers-by?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Ten days.'

'But, yer honor, *I'm* a poet, and *I* don't want to be sent up.'

'A poet?'

'Yes, sir. *I'm* the boss poet of this country, *I* am. My works have the largest circulation. Everybody, whether heeled or broke, tony or way down, has my poetry in their house.'

'What do you write?'

'Yer honor, *I'm* the gentleman what gits up the poetry on the comic valentines for a big publishing house.'

'Oh, you are. Well, that alters the case. Did *I* say ten days? We'll call it six months then.'

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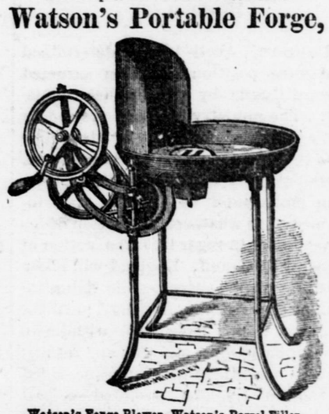

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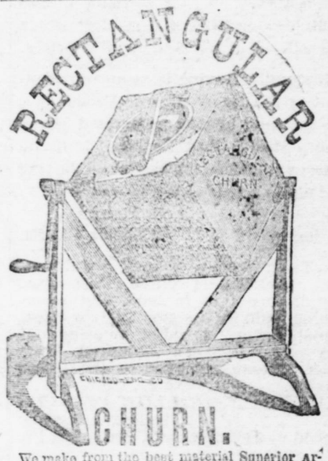

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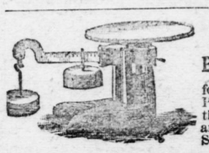

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