The Columbian.

The Columbian.

COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT, STAR OF THE NORTH, and COLUMBIAN, Consolidated.]

Issued Weekly, every Friday Morning, at BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA CO., Pa.

AT TWO DOLLARS per year. To subscribers out of the county the terms are strictly in advance.

☞ No paper discontinued except at the option of the publishers, until all arrearages are paid, but long continued credits will not be given.

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The Jobbing Department of the COLUMBIAN is very complete, and our Job Printing will compare favorably with that of the large cities. All work done on short notice, neatly and at moderate prices.

G. E. ELWELL, J. K. BITTENBENDER, } Proprietors.

BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1885.

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	1W	2W	3W	6W	1Y
One inch	$2 00	$3 50	$3 00	$5 00	$8 00
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One column	20 00	25 00	30 00	50 00	100 00

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Office in Nat's Building.

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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
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AND
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.
BLOOMSBURG, PA
Office over Moyer Bros. Drug Store.

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Attorneys-at-Law.
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Now is your time to buy good first-class Clothing, such as our stock is composed of, at the lowest figures known to us for years past.

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"Kidney-Wort cured me of chronic Liver Disease after I prayed to die." Henry Ward, late Co. C, 5th Nat. Guard, N. Y.

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"Kidney-Wort made me sound in liver and kidneys after years of unsuccessful doctoring. Its worth is incalculable." Sam'l Hodges, Williamstown, West Va.

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"Kidney-Wort causes easy evacuations and cured me after 15 years use of other medicines." Nelson Fairchild, St. Albans, Vt.

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"Kidney-Wort cured me after I was given up to die by physicians and I had suffered thirty years." Elbridge Malcolm, West Bath, Maine.

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THE BLOOD CLEANSER.

The Science of Life. Only $1
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Address the Peabody Medical Institute, or Dr. W. H. Parker, No. 4 Bulfinch Street, Boston, Mass., who may be consulted on all diseases requiring skill and experience, chronic and obstinate diseases and that have baffled the skill of all other physicians a specialty. Such treated successfully without an instance of failure. Mention this paper.
dec. 12-4w d

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for Infants and Children.

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An absolute cure for Rheumatism, Sprains, Pain in the Back, Burns, Galls, &c. An Instantaneous Pain-relieving and Healing Remedy.

A Question.

When you are old and I am old,
And passion's fires are burned to embers,
And life is as a tale that's told,
And only worth what love remembers,

If we should meet—two quiet folk—
And change opinions of the weather,
Could word or look again provoke
The heart and eyes to speak together.

The heart benumbed with so much ache,
The eyes bedimmed with so much crying?
Do buds long blighted ever break,
And green the vine already dying?

What hand of skill shall draw the line
'Twixt sordid love and holier passion?
What art shall fix the unfailing sign,
And bring it's reading into fashion?

What is the meaning of it all,
The chastening woe, the vanished sweetness,
If dark oblivion's night shall fall
Forever on its incompleteness?

When you are dead and I am dead,
Our faces lost, our names unspoken,
Shall then the mystery be read?
Can heaven bind what earth has broken?

In clearer light and fairer day,
With finer sense the impulse proving,
Unfettered of this hindering clay,
Oh what must be the joy of loving!

Half A Loaf.

"Half a loaf is better than no bread, Charlie." Little Mabel Castleton said this wistfully, her eyes, as she spoke, wandering to the cradle, where two curly heads were lying.

"But when one has had the whole loaf, May, one does not exactly relish the half rations you mention," said Charlie, moodily. But his eyes followed his wife's to the cosy nest of the twin babies.

"It is a bad time of the year to be out of a situation," said Mabel, after a long silence, "and many whom we know are idle. It would not be very easy to find employment now."

"You really think I had better remain with Mr. Mifflin?"

"I do. Tell me what Mr. Mifflin said to you."

"The substance of what he said was simply this: Business is so very dull that he is obliged to curtail his expenses and he must discharge some of his clerks. I have been with him ten years, and he was pleased to say that I am very useful to him, and he is very unwilling to part with me. But he can give me but half my present salary, though he promises to raise it when business prospects brighten. I don't know what to do. We are none too rich at my present salary."

"Yet you have saved something each month. Beside, dear, we have not tried to be economical. There are many ways in which I could save."

"And make a perfect slave of yourself."

"Not a bit of it. I have plenty of leisure time, now that May and Bella can amuse each other. Come, Charlie accept Mr. Mifflin's offer. You may hear of something better, even if you remain there; but don't throw yourself out of a situation in the dead of Winter, for my sake and the children's."

The last argument conquered. Charlie knew too well that it would be useless to look for a new situation, for the whole town was echoing Mr. Mifflin's cry of hard times. The small nest egg in the bank would soon melt away when it became the sole support of four, and so, kissing Mabel, he promised to follow her advice. But it cost her pride a very sore wrench.

He had entered the employment of his present employer at seventeen, and slowly, steadily gaining favor by dint of faithfully performing every duty, he had won his way to the desk of head clerk. Not until he had acquired this position and the handsome salary accompanying it would he ask Mabel to become his wife, furnishing a pretty cottage home from his savings, and giving her a thoroughly comfortable income for household expenses. He was not extravagant, but it pleased him to see his wife well-dressed, to give her an efficient servant, to have his twin girls ever presentable, his table well appointed. All this had been easy enough upon his salary, and there had been something added for three years to the little bank fund.

But to do this upon half the present income was simply impossible. House rent must be paid, and the sum remaining each month would have to be carefully calculated to meet all the expenses, leaving but little for pleasure or extravagance in dress.

"Then what would Will say?"

Will Castleton was Charlie's cousin, who had been his life long companion. Together they had left the schoolroom for a business position. Will entering the grain store of Harvey & Russell at the same time Charlie had taken the place in Mr. Mifflin's dry goods store. Shoulder to shoulder the young men had worked their way till this financial crisis had brought all business men into temporary difficulties of greater or less magnitude.

Will had expressed the warmest indignation at the proposal made his cousin, strongly advising him to throw up his situation and "see how old Mifflin would get along without him." And Charlie, before seeing Mabel, was ready to follow his advice.

He knew that Will would think him mean to remain upon half salary, and yet Mabel was right. Half a loaf was better than no bread.

And while Charlie Castleton was thus weighing the pros and cons of his decision, Mr. Mifflin was listening to the counsel of his old friend and chum, the senior partner of the firm that had been Gardner & Mifflin, and who, though he had retired years before, was still the friend and frequent advisor of his former partner.

"It is a mistake, Mifflin," he said. "You had better send young Castleton about his business and engage an entirely new book-keeper. You will find that half pay means half service, mark my word."

"But I might search C—— from end to end and not find a clerk competent to take his place."

"Then pay him full salary,"

"I cannot do it unless I reduce the number of salesmen, and then I am short-handed now. There is but one way to keep my head above water. You see Clark's failure involves me very heavily, and—"

And the worried man of business entered into explanations of his difficulties not necessary to repeat here.

It touched Charlie Castleton very deeply when entering the counting-house to announce his determination to remain in his old position to see the face of his employer brighten. And as Charlie spoke the large eyes grew brighter, and he smiled pleasantly as he said,—

"Thank you, Charlie. It would have caused me serious embarrassment to lose you, and I am heartily glad that you will stay. I trust you will not long be obliged to take a small salary but circumstances compel me to economize."

You have been a kind employer to me for ten years," replied Charlie, "and if I am really of any more value to you than another would be in my place I will not desert you."

And looking into the careworn face that trouble was marking more deeply than age, Charlie resolved to serve Mr. Mifflin more faithfully in his perplexities than in his more prosperous days.

It was not long before the old gentleman felt the sympathy of his young clerk and looked to him as he never did before, for advice as well as for service. He admitted him to confidential relations, explained to him the difficulties caused by the failure of other firms, some heavily indebted to the firm of Joel Mifflin, others upon whom he had depended for goods obtained upon credit.

Day by day as the hard, trying winter wore away the two friends grew faster, and so far from lessening his work Charlie found himself willingly lifting some of his employer's burdens upon his own shoulders.

He gave more time to business, and he was gaining an insight into it, of which an opportunity had never been given him.

And Mabel, at home, was bravely taking her share of the diminished loaf with a smiling face and a cheerful heart. As far as might be she kept from Charlie a knowledge of her domestic economies, but some of them were apparent.

The woman whose competent aid demanded high wages was dismissed, and a half-grown girl was engaged to mind the babies while Mabel cooked and washed and ironed and sewed, meeting difficulties with a courageous heart. She had never been a drone in the world's hive having been a busy little dressmaker before Charlie Castleton won her heart and took her to preside over his pretty home.

But for three years of her married life she had been much petted, and there were many pleasures to be put aside, many dollars well weighed before they were spent.

It was with a heart full of pardonable triumph that the young couple at the end of the year of reduced pay found they were still out of debt and had not touched the nest egg in the bank.

"You see, Charlie, we made the half loaf go round," said Mabel, as they went carefully over the year's expense book.

"There are no crumbs," he said, with a rather weary face.

"Never mind that; it was a great deal better than idleness."

"You are right; and there was more than that, Mabel. I have been able to help M. Mifflin more than I could have done in our old relations to each other. His perplexities made him long for some one to whom he could speak confidentially, and when the ice was once broken he took me fully into his confidence. I could often suggest a way out of a difficulty that had not occured to him, and even when I was out of actual use to him it was a relief to pour out his troubles to some one who was in full sympathy with him."

"But you have worked very hard, Charlie. I never saw you so tired as you often have been this year, and your face is more careworn than it has ever been before."

"Well, it is some comfort to know that business prospects are growing brighter. By closest economy Mr. Mifflin has managed to meet the obligations he was afraid would ruin him, and there is a good lookout for the coming year."

"Will he give you a whole loaf yet, Charlie?"

"Not yet, I think. Never mind. We will not despond yet."

"Despond! I guess not. I am going to have some of these crumbs you were speaking of next year. I have learned some valuable lessons in saving which I mean to make use of."

The second year was certainly not an easy one to Mabel. A wee baby, in addition to three-years-old twins, kept the mothers hands busy, while there was no decrease in the household work. Many articles of clothing and housekeeping, too, that lasted well one year, were past service in the second, and it was not easy to replace them.

Often Mabel feared the saving for a "rainy day" must be broken in upon, but she kept all such fears shut up in her own heart and always had a bright word of cheer for tired Charlie when he came home at night.

She never told him that the late breakfast that she had planned to let the babies sleep while he ate his early one, comprised none of the tempting dishes of his own meal, but was litterly bread and milk six mornings out of the seven. She never let him know that the reason she suggested his lunch down town, to save the long walk home, was really to save the price of that meal toward the dinner, the dainty little parcel he carried never cost the price of a regular meal for them all.

She did not tell him that she was cutting up her old dresses to clothe the twin girls, and sewing busily every leisure moment to keep all the little ones tidy.

And yet there came a day in June, when six months of the second year were almost gone, when she spent last dollar of the week's money while the week was but half gone. Charlie had given her, long before, some signed checks to meet such an emergency, but it was her pride to think that not one of them had been presented at the bank.

She took one from the desk where they had lain so long and spread it before her, calculating with puckers on her pretty face how small a sum she could stretch over the necessary expenses.

"I hate to begin," she said, half aloud; "if once we break in upon that money it will melt away like snow before the sun,"

There was no alternative but debt, and Mabel knew that Charlie would never be willing to owe any man a cent while he had a cent with which to pay him. So, with a great sigh, she dipped the pen in the ink to fill out the blank check. Before it touched the paper, however, she paused, listening. There was a step in the hall that was not that of the nurse or her charges, a voice ringing out full and clear, calling,—

"Mabel! Where are you, May?"

"Here in my room," she answered.

"Oh, Charlie, what is it?"

For the face at the door was so radiant that all traces of care seemed to have slipped from it forever.

"Good news, May! And yet—perhaps I should feel sorrow, too, only I did not know him."

"What are you talking about?"

"Did you read this morning's paper?"

"Yes."

"Did you notice the death of Amos Gardner?"

"No; is that the Mr. Gardner who used to be Mr. Mifflin's partner before you went into the store?"

"Yes; he was a batchelor, and he has left his whole estate to Mr. Mifflin except a few legacies. The store will be closed till after the funeral; so we have a three days' holiday May."

"I am glad you will be able to rest."

"But that is not all. Do you guess the rest?"

"You are to have your old salary again."

"More than that. Mr. Mifflin took me to his house this morning and told me all his plans. He will enlarge his business, and take on his old salesmen who are willing to come. He has given me permission to offer a position to Will Castleton, who has been nearly a year out of employment because he would not accept your theory of 'half a loaf, being 'better than no bread.'"

"I know. Poor Will! I am afraid that Maria had a worse year than ours has been, Charlie."

"Nor is that all, May."

"More good news still?"

"More still. Mr. Gardner, Mr. Mifflin says, did me some injustice some time by supposing that I would proportion my work to the decrease in my salary. To atone for this he has left me five thousand dollars."

"Oh Charlie!"

"Hold on, little woman; he also advised Mr. Mifflin in their last interview, to reward me for my faithful, disinterested devotion to him in his late difficulties by taking me as a partner in the business."

"Charlie! Oh, my Charlie! I must either laugh or cry," said Mabel almost hysterically.

"Laugh, then, by all means! The new firm of Mifflin & Castleton must not be christened in tears, even happy ones. Hurrah! who says after this that half a loaf is no better than no bread?"

THE CARMANS SMART HORSE.

A gentleman travelling through Ireland with a very stout companion had occassion to hire a jaunting-car, and, having agreed with the driver for half a crown, stepped back to the inn where he was staying and called his fat friend. The driver, as soon as he caught a glimpse of the enormous dimensions of his "fare," walked up to the head of his horse, and holding up the tattered lappets of a worn-out jacket, said: "Whist, sir, get up as lightly as ye can, will ye?" "What, is your beast skittish?" asked the gentleman. "No, sir," said Pat, with an inimitably shrewd leer, "but if he saw the big gentleman he'd most likely say, 'Whist, Pat, but it ought to be five shillings.'"

SOME CURIOUS LOCKS AND KEYS.

In the middle ages locks for church and cathedral doors were often rare specimens of art metal work. Elaborate scrolls, the images of saints, and other ambitious efforts of the true artisan of those days, entered into the design of locks which were really an ornament to the magnificent doors and cabinets of those times. A design for the escutcheon surrounding the keyhole frequently had the figures of two guardian angels with outspread wings.

Locks of very curious construction, known as "Apostles locks," were also common in mediæval times. These locks had on the front the figure of one of the Apostles, and on touching the hand of the figure the bolt flew back. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth one Mark Scalist, a smith, constructed a lock consisting of eleven pieces of iron, steel and brass, all of which, with a pipe key, weighed only two grains of gold. The great inventor, the Marquis of Worcester, who flourished in the reign of King Charles I., devised a lock containing a steel barb, which was perfectly harmless so long as the right key was used, but if a wrong key was inserted the barb sprang through the keyhole, and "caught the hand of the intruder as a trap catches a fox." It is said that while the inventor was experimenting with this curious lock he was scarcely nimble enough in removing his hand, and was caught in his own trap.

At Willenhall, in Staffordshire, which is the great seat of the lock trade, silver padlocks the sides of which are much smaller than a three-penny piece are still made, and are quite perfect in their mechanism. Locks containing single bells, and even chimes, which sound an alarm when tampered with by a false key, are among the modern curiosities of the trade. Common padlocks are largely made for the natives of India and Africa at Walsall. A lock and key complete are sold by the maker for a half penny, and merchants abroad state that many of the natives string these locks together so as to form necklets, and wear them as "charms."

VALUE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

"Chambers Journal" tells the story of a barrister who has owed professional success to the mere lucky, or let us say providential, hazard which sent him out on a trip to China. Having lived three or four years in chambers without getting a brief, he was almost destitute, when a friend of his, who was in the tea-trade, offered him a free passage to Shanghai and back on condition of his transacting some piece of business there. On the passage out the barrister had many conversations with the captain, who chanced to have lately given evidence at Westminster in a lawsuit, which was of great importance to the shipping interest. But he had been disgusted with the "stupidity," as he called it, of the judge and counsel in the case, when talking of maritime and commercial customs and he exclaimed,—

"Why don't some of those lawyers, who mean to speak in shipping cases, study our ways a little? 'Twouldn't hurt 'em!"

These words struck the young barrister, who, after thinking the matter over for a few days, resolved to live at sea for a little while. On his return to England, he sought for a situation as a purser or secretary on board one of the great ocean steamers, and in this capacity made several trips. Then he successively tried expeditions on board whalers, vessels engaged in the cod and herring fisheries, etc.; in fact, he led a sailor's life for more than three years, picking up a full acquaintance with the manners, customs, grievances, and wants, of those who had their business in the great waters. On going back to the bar, he almost at once got briefs in the Admiralty Court; and becoming known to solicitors as an expert on shipping questions, his professional fortune was made.

A NOVEL INDUSTRY.

Since crocodiles and alligators have supplied leather merchants and manufacturers with their skins, in order to satisfy a freak of fashion, they have been hunted and destroyed to such a degree that American traders are casting anxious glances towards the once happy hunting grounds on the Mississippi, from which the cuirassed game is rapidly vanishing. The practical Yankee, however, is not to be eaten by either crocodiles or alligators, and where once the crocodile frolicked in freedom it is now kept in inclosures, where it grows and multiplies apace. Crocodile farms are becoming common. The largest animals are killed and skinned, their flesh being used to feed their hungry descendents. That these breeding places are of no mean dimensions is shown by the fact that the owners of one of them supplied a tanner at St. Louis during the current year with no less than 5,000 alligator skins.

Sarah Bernhardt has succeeded in scoring a psychological success by persuading her physician and immediate friends that she is dying of a broken heart, thus proving incontestably that she has one.

ADULTERATIONS.

Tennysson says that chalk and alum and plaster are sold to the poor for bread, and that the vitriol madness flashes up in the ruffian's brain till the lthy highway rings with the yell of rampled wife, and he might have gone further and told of numerous adulterations both in food and drink. Mustard is adulterated with sulphate of lime, naphthaline yellow, and dark flour. Black pepper is reduced with charcoal, buckwheat chaff, mustard bean, ground cocoanut, and dried potatoes; cayenne pepper with corn meal colored with Venetian red; allspice or pimento with cocoa shells; cloves with clove stems and cocoa shells; mace with corn meal; cinnamon and cassia with ground crackers, stale bread, and biscuits baked and ground; ginger with corn meal, cayenne peper, and turmeric cream tartar is adulterated with terra albe and corn flour. To know that cream tartar is pure take a half teaspoonful of it and put it in a tumbler with hot water. If pure, it will all dissolve without sediment.

To detect adulterations in milk, a recent lecturer says that the lactometer is useless, and plays into the hands rather of the fraudulent dairyman than of the consumer. Fat being lighter than water, a rich milk might appear watered by test, and tricks of the milk trade might thus be fostered by its use. The importance of purity in milk could not be overestimated, but the only method known by which it could be satisfactorily tested was complete analysis. The testing of butter is also somewhat complicated. A simple yet infallible test for alum in the flour is as follows: On a portion of adulterated flour being placed in a small quantity of chloroform, the flour floats, while the alum or other mineral matter sinks to the bottom. In a similar way alum in bread may be instantly detected by placing a small piece of the suspected loaf in a solution of logwood and carbonate of ammonia; if alum be present the bread will turn blue.

CHINESE CHILD VENDERS.

In Nankin and Ka-ting children from six to twelve years of age are sold by tens of thousands. Not hired out or transferred—but sold for a small sum in cash, in consideration of which the progenitor, by a tacit understanding, renounces all parental rights, even the right of inquiring into the fate of his offspring. The purchasing trader may be the middle man of a well-to-do childless couple, or the agent of a wholesale tea planter, or a coolie breeder, raising and training slaves for a foreign market. For the equivalent of $15 any commission peddler will undertake to "adopt" the same number of young Mongols in the name of any employer, and at very short notice. The authorities might object to a formal and public purchase, but the meaning of the adopting transaction is well understood and connived at. It is a lesser evil, and few parents ask any questions. Rather than see their children starve they will resign them to any fate—with one exception. The orthodox Buddhists seem to have evinced occasional scruples in delivering up their youngsters to the proselytizing missionaries, whom they suspect of all sorts of damnable practices. But even such scruples can be readily outweighed by a few extra dollars.

BALKY IN DOUBLE HARNESS.

The habit of balking in double harness can generally be easily overcome by means of a cord one-fourth of an inch in diameter and sixteen feet in length, an iron ring about 1½ inches in diameter and a piece of strong twine some two feet in length. Fasten the ring securely by means of the twine to the back strap, then double the cord, placing the loop formed by the centre under the balky horse's tail like a crupper. Cross the cord, and pass both ends through the ring attached to the back strap. Carry them forward and pass them through that terret ring on the saddle of the harness which is next to the balky candidate's mate, then cary them through the hame ring of the kind horse and fasten them, leaving a little slack, but not sufficient to allow the balky horse to settle into the breeching of the harness. After completing this arrangement, step back, take the reins and start slowly. Of course the balky one will attempt to hang back, but the sensation produced by the cord will divert his attention in a very short time, and before he realizes what he is doing he will put his shoulder to the collar and help draw the load. This is much better than whipping, and a few lessons will generally effect a permanent cure.

TEA LEAVES FOR VARNISHED PAINT.

Save the spent tea leaves for a few days, then steep them in a tin pail or pan for half an hour; strain through a sieve, and use the tea for all varnished paints. It requires very little elbow polish, as the tea acts a strong detergent, cleansing the paint from all impurities, and making it equal to new. It cleans windows, sashes and oil-cloths; indeed, any varnished surface is improved by its application. It washes window panes and mirrors much better than water, and is excellent for cleaning black walnut. It will not do towash unvarnished paints with it.

IRISH SUPERSTITIONS.

The belief in luck is deep and strong and the happy possessor of good luck is always on the watch not to lose it, for nothing is easier than, unconsciously, to make over to some one else the benefits of it. The luck of a whole household may be lost by a careless housewife who lends anything on Monday morning. Some mothers even refuse their married children a turf to light the fire with on the first morning of the week, and carefully place a new turf on the fire for each lighted one lent on other days. To give away milk without first putting in it a pinch of salt is fatal to the prosperity of a dairy, and to part with a homeless dog or any animal that has sought protection also gives away luck. One odd belief is, that though some people are unfortunate in all their own concerns, they have the power of benefiting everyone they come in contact with; they are described as "sonsy;" the pig that is fattened in order to pay the rent due to them always prospers, the wages paid by them go far, their slightest gift is valuable, whilst those of a grudger only bring disaster; and there is something Eastern in the importance attached to gifts and their givers in this way. The peasantry can at once recognize anyone with the priceless blessing of luck by an open and cheerful expression, and, in fact, a good heart goes with good luck.

It is common for one person to put spells upon another, and to influence those at a great distance; thus, if any of the friends or children be traveling on Friday, the Irish mother does not brush or comb her hair on that day, or else they would surely wander and lose their way. Some people do not wash on Friday as a cure for toothache, and many wear little bits of folded paper sewn in their clothes as charms against the same affliction. There are spells and charms for other illnesses, and half the old women wear blessed rings of brass to preserve them from rheumatism.

Inumerable are the means employed by young girls to pierce the darkness of their future as to marriage, but no efforts toward meeting their fate appear to be made by men. It ought to be remarked that pious people speak very sternly against these rites, as many of them—such as the one where girls throw a ball of wool down an old quarry and wait till it is held in the darkness—distinctly raise the Evil One.

CABINET DEFECTIONS.

The diary of Mr. Adams shows that, while he never complained to his Cabinet that they had deserted him, he felt bitterly disappointed that he was not the choice of the politicians and of the people for re-election. He would not, however, even write a few pleasant words of thanks (when asked to do so) to an editor who supported him; neither would he appoint to or remove from office any one because of an individual preference for or against himself. Distinguished politicians from different sections of the country, who would call on him while sojourning at Washington, would be treated with glacial frigidity, and perhaps be unceremoniously dismissed, that he might take a solitary walk or ride on horseback. Gen. Jackson was meanwhile being brought before the public, under the direction of Aaron Burr, Martin Van Buren and Edward Livingston, as a "man of the people." They had persuaded him to resign his seat in the Senate of the United States, where he might have made political mistakes, and retire to his farm in Tennessee, while they flooded the country with accounts of his military exploits and his social good qualities. Daniel Webster told Samuel Breck, as the latter records in his diary, that he knew more than fifty members of Congress who had expended and pledged all they were worth in setting up presses and employing other means to forward Jackson's election.

FOSSILS FOR BALLASTING.

Some years ago a most interesting "find" of fossils was made at the Portland stone quarries. They were of high scientific value, and it was decided to send them to Yale College for preservation and study. They were accordingly loaded upon a flat car at Middletown and sent on their way via Berlin—a car-load of them. It was at that time that the fine stone bridge of the Consolidated Road was being built across the Farmington River at Windsor. After the arch of the bridge was set, the space was filled in on top with quantities of broken trap rock from the company's quarries in Meriden. This broken stone at just this time was being drawn to Windsor by the cars for this purpose. The conductor of one train discovered the car-load of fossils side-tracked at Berlin, and felt sure at once that it was a lot of ballast for the Windsor bridge, which had been accidentally left behind. With commendable zeal he fastened to it at once and drew it on to the bridge. There the rare fossils were dumped with the other stones, and there to-day they lie in the solid flooring of the massive bridge.

Items of Interest.

The earliest English ballad is supposed to be the "Cuckoo Song."

Sassafras oil, which is used for flavoring soap and soda water, costs $4 a gallon.

New York has 500 photograph galleries within three miles of Union square. Forty years ago there was only one daguerrotype saloon in the city.

Tom Thumb took to drinking and also to stock gambling, and when he died his fortune of $100,000, made in the show business, had dwindled down to about $16,000.

The greatest tea drinker in England is Mr. Gladstone, the greatest in France M. Clemenceau, and in America Mr. Boucicault. The latter carries while travelling a flask of tea as others do of cognac.

A deep cave has been found to exist under the town of Blankston, Iowa, by a farmer who was sinking an artesian well. Three unsuccessful attempts were made to sink the well, but each time the drill sunk into the cave.

The United States army that conquered in Mexico consisted in round numbers of 100,000 men, and the entire loss did not exceed 20 per cent, leaving 80,000 men of the average age of twenty-eight years to be discharged in 1817.

The late Duke of Buccleuch spent money on his estates with a liberal hand, and also gave freely to general charities. During a long life he had an annual income of about $1,250,000, and yet the left less than $4,500,000 in personality.

There have been five presidential widowers in the White House, Jefferson, Jackson, Van Buren, Tyler and Arthur. One was a bachelor, and Harrison never had the wife there at all. Andrew Johnson's wife was an invalid and his daughters did the honors.

Oliver Cromwell was no less than forty-three years of age when he first embraced the military profession; and by force of genius, without any master, he soon became an excellent officer; though perhaps he never reached the fame of a consummate commander.

After much experimenting, Dr. Richardson has found a satisfactory means of causing painless death, and has introduced it into the Home for Lost Dogs in London. The animals to be killed are placed in a chamber charged with a mixture of carbonic oxide and chloroform vapor, when they tranquilly fall asleep and wake no more.

In the year 1800, the canal connecting the Cooper River with the Santee River, South Carolina, twenty-two miles in length, was completed, and boats passed through it. It cost $600,000, a sum, it was said, seven times greater than the amount the province had sold for seventy-two years before

Pavements made of brick impregnated at a high temperature with asphalt are found more durable for wear than granite or compressed asphalt. By driving out the air and water the bricks take up fifteen or twenty per cent. of bitumen; they are then put endways on concrete bed with hot tar.

Charles Dunsler, a blacksmith of Leesville, Ohio, has made a clock, mostly with blacksmith's tools, which has excited considerable comment in his neighborhood. It is principally of steel, and in a glass case so the movement can be seen, and give the time in eleven cities, striking the hours and quarters, and is seven feet high.

The Mississippi Valley produces about one-half the cotton crop of the United States, two-thirds the grain, nearly all the sugar, and a considerable portion of the hay, potatoes, tobacco, rice, flax, hemp, beans, peas, millet, etc., of the dairy, orchard, forest and market-garden products, besides most of the petroleum and a great deal of the iron, steel and other minerals.

Native cooks in the East Indies claim value in the following method of distinguishing the edible fungus mushroom from the poisonous varieties that resemble it. A silver coin is thrown into water which boils the mushrooms. If the metal retains its color the mushrooms are pronounced safe, but if it turns black with a coating of rust the plants are condemned.

Two gentlemen hired a large store in Kansas City and succeeded in getting about $15,000 worth of dry goods consigned to them. Then the doors were closed and people's curiosity was satisfied by seeing a bit of crape on the outside, supposed to be on account of the death of a daughter of one of the proprietors. Finally, however, a creditor became impatient, and the store was broken into and found empty.