

A Snake Geranium.

SEMI-HORROR IN THE VEGETABLE WORLD AS SEEN IN GEORGIA.

"A snake geranium!" "Yes that is what I call it," said the doctor.

I stepped down to examine the flower. It was a geranium, but it was not a geranium as we know it.

"You know something of botany," said the doctor, "how do you classify it?" "It is not to be classified," I answered.

"It is a monstrosity. There is nothing like it. It is poisonous!" "I think so," was the reply, "the old African who found it called it a 'pizen plant' but I renamed it."

"I had seen nearly everything worth seeing in the floral world, but this singular plant blooming unnoticed in an obscure corner of a country doctor's garden amazed me beyond expression.

From the first sickening odor of the flower had been terribly oppressive. In fact, it had prevented a close examination. Suddenly my brain seemed benumbed, a cold chill seized me, and with a face of deadly pallor, I reeled and would have fallen to the ground but for the doctor's strong arm.

"I was half sick, or rather in a dazed, half stupefied state, for days after my return to town. One evening a negro called at my house with a note from my friend, the doctor, and a covered basket. The messenger was gone before I could read the note. I glanced at the paper and then opened the basket. I did not know whether to laugh or to weep. Comfortably fixed in a big jar the snake geranium gave a flirty twist and snapped its wicked eyes in my face!

To have this floral horror in my house was out of the question, and yet I was proud of the monster. I made a servant carry it to a sunny nook in the back yard. She returned with chattering teeth. "De lawd hab muses!" she exclaimed, "dat ting's alive. Hit'll bite, sho's yer yawn!"

I did not contradict her. In fact, I agreed with her. Sometimes I carried my friends to see my pet. I invariably had the satisfaction of hearing them swear, and generally I had to send them home in a carriage. One whiff of the snake geranium was enough to make a tottering wreck of the strongest man.

A little girl next door took a wonderful fancy to the flower. Frequently she came over when I was absent and spent an hour at a time fondling the plant and looking at it. Of all the persons who saw it she was the only one not affected by its peculiar odor.

He Wielded a Red-Hot Pen.

Said a commercial traveler to a Chicago Herald reporter: My business calls me a good deal to Colorado and New Mexico, and I have many acquaintances and friends out there.

One of my friends is a little fellow named McDermott, editor of a mining newspaper. He is not much bigger than a pin of gold, but he has tremendous nerve. He is as quick as lightning with his gun, and is not afraid of the best man that walks. He was telling me of one experience he had a few months ago. A big, tough fellow walked into his sanctum one evening and announced that he had come to do up the editor. He had a six-shooter in his hand, and advanced with it cocked. It happened that my friend had just sent his revolver out to be repaired, and he was without a weapon.

He tried to palaver with the desperado and talk him out of his passion in order to gain time. But the more he talked the fiercer the caller became. Suspecting that the editor was unarmed, he took fiendish delight in holding his victim covered with his revolver, and telling him he had only sixty minutes to live.

My friend, however, was working at a lively rate all this time, and when he talked he held his pen in the flame of the gas jet over his desk. Without the desperado suspecting what he was up to, he succeeded in getting the pen red-hot—it took only two seconds—and then he made a jump for his assailant so suddenly and with such cat-like quickness that the desperado, taken off his guard by the supposition that the editor was unarmed, could fire a shot, the little man had thrown one arm around the big fellow's neck, and was jabbing his red-hot pen into his chest at the rate of 200 strokes to the minute.

Imagine the wounds that big, sharp, red-hot pen must have made, held securely in a strong celluloid holder, driven by the arm of a man fighting for his life. Think of the suffering the desperado must have endured in the few brief seconds before his agony ended in his escape, and caused him to throw the revolver to the door as a token that he gave up the battle. That ruffian—he was drunk at that occasion—is now one of the best friends the little editor has, though his face is badly scarred from the blow of the pen.

My friend now hangs a pen still covered with blood stains in his whole length, and over it is a placard written in the blood that was formed upon it just after the battle: "The pen is mightier than the six-shooter."

Admiral Bouquet de la Grye has made to the Academie des Sciences at Paris a report which the London Times epitomizes as a series of experiments instituted by the Prince of Monaco, designed to test the velocity of currents in the North Atlantic, by means of light water-tight caskets or vessels launched into the sea at a considerable distance from the land.

Some such launches of the Azores in 1882 were made, and the results of the tests which indicated a daily rate of motion of from two to four miles. Later observations indicate a quicker rate of movement. Of 500 launches in deep sea off Cape Finisterre, 12 arrived at the French coast a little before noon after an interval of three days and an average daily rate of travel of about six miles. Some of them were of glass, some of copper. The glass ones, floating on the surface, were exposed more to the buffeting of the waves as well as to the influence of the currents; so that it may not be easy to determine how far the various factors may have contributed to the actual movement. The Prince carried out also a multitude of observations to determine the temperature of the ocean at different depths in various localities.

In the Bay of Biscay, at the depth of 150 meters, the temperature of the water was lower than at the corresponding depth of the Portuguese coast. One of the circumstances which invest with special interest these inquiries into the difference of temperature of the deep sea in different localities is that they help to explain the differences of the fishes and marine plants, and also give a clue to the migrations of fishes—e. g. sardines, which are known to have changed their haunts within living memory.

Tattoo Custom. A current article on the subject says that in former times in the vicinity of Los Angeles, California, every chief caused the tattooed marks upon his face to be re-produced upon trees or poles which now mark the boundaries of his land; and, as these marks were well known to neighboring chiefs, they were a sufficient warning that trespassers would be punished. A custom akin to this prevails in Australia, where the tattooed designs upon the face of a native are engraved upon the bark of trees near his grave.

KASKINE.

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A POWERFUL TONIC that the most delicate stomach will bear.

A SPECIFIC FOR MALARIA, RHEUMATISM, NEURVOS PROSTRATION, and all other diseases.

FOR COLDS KASKINE HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE ALMOST A SPECIFIC. It is a powerful tonic, and is a most valuable remedy for all the ailments mentioned above.

Dr. L. Lancel's Asthma and Catarrh Remedy. Having struggled years between life and death with asthma and catarrh, treated by eminent physicians, and receiving no benefit, I was induced to try this remedy.

Oh! My Back, My Back! RELIEVED IN ONE MINUTE. I have been suffering from backache and rheumatism for several years, and have tried every remedy without success.

Established FAY'S MANILLA ROOFING. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

DO YOU KNOW IT? WINCHESTER'S HYPOPHOSPHITE OF LIME is a powerful tonic and a most valuable remedy for all the ailments mentioned above.

PEARL TOP ARE NOT! Ask for the Pearl Top. It is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

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Working Classes Attention. We are now prepared to furnish all classes with employment. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

LANDS FOR SALE. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

WANTED—WOMAN Active and Intelligent in own locality.

Representing established business in own locality. Representing established business in own locality.

Life of Beecher. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Hires' Root Beer. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Deafness. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Mason & Hamlin Organs. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Get the Best HOP PLASTERS. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

The American Magazine. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Cure for the Deaf. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Do you know it? This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Johnston's Kalsomine. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

DRY DOPPEL'S BORAX SOAP. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

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SCOTT'S EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL.

And Hypophosphites of Lime & Soda. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

Almost as Palatable as Milk. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

For all ailments. This is the best and most durable roofing material for all buildings.

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Food for Thought.

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.

A pig's tail is of no more use to the pig than the letter 'p' is to pneumonia.

Wealth attracts both butterflies and buzzards. Poverty is sure death to both.

The universal bone of contention is the jawbone. Haven't you found it so yourself?

The man who was wrapped up in his own thoughts found himself too warm for comfort.

Any young statesman, who has ever been in the dog-days of heart is on the money question.

People call it "putting up" at a hotel, because there is so much that they have to put up with.

Earnestness is the best gift of mental power and self-denial of heart in the cause of many men never becoming great.

Infidelity gains the victory when it wrestles with hypocrisy or with superstition, but never when its antagonist is reason.

Did you ever notice how surprised you were when you put your foot on the next stair-step and found there wasn't any?

They who are possessed of talents and knowledge, fitting them to serve their fellow-citizens, ought not to bury their gifts.

It is a strange desire to seek power and to lose liberty; or to seek power over others, and lose power over a man.

A man of charity, that is not woven with threads of gold, is not recognized by the individual who never had a setback.

Love is like a painter, who is drawing the portrait of a friend having a glimpse in one eye, would picture only the other side of his face.

A Chinaman has just published a book in which he says: "Woman does not require study to make herself perfect; she is born perfect."

Never was a sincere word uttered by a man, who was not in the ground; there is some heart always to greet and accept it unexpectedly.

A man's heart grows cold if he does not keep it warm by living in it, and a censorious man is one who ordinarily lives out of his own heart.

A woman doing a man's job as much about voting as men do about making a cradle, yet there are more women who want to vote than there are men who want to make cradles.

It is said that a man could easily carry \$400,000,000 if he had the money in ten-thousand dollar bills. It is worth while for every man to know this, so as to be prepared for an emergency.

CASTORIA for Infants and Children. Castoria cures Croup, Constipation, Colic, Diarrhea, Indigestion, Kills Worms, gives sleep, and promotes all the best of health.

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PENNY GOODS A SPECIALTY. FINE CUT CHEWING TOBACCO. Sole agents of the following brands of Cigars.

PERRINE'S PURE MALT WHISKY. BOTTLED from selected barley malt and guaranteed to be chemically pure and free from injurious and other adulterants.

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