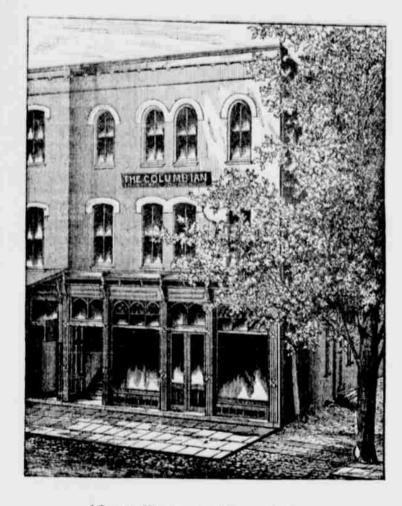
THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

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KNOW, DO NOT GUESS.

ELI PERKINS'S NEW BOOK

IT IS A LIVELY ONE AND IS NAMED "THIRTY YEARS OF WIT."

A Few Quotations From It -The Popular flumorist Says That He Has Been Telling Good and Bad Stories for 30 Years and More.

The ever young Eli Perkins informs the public that he has been for 30 years telling and hearing good stories, and in his new volume, "Thirty Years of Wit" he gives the best of those that he has heard and of those that he has told.

"When I asked Bill Arp one day if he really killed many Yankees," says Mr. Perkins, he said :

"'Well, I don't want to boast about myself, but I killed as many of them as they did of me."

"Mr. David Welcher tells me," says Eli Perkins, "that Mark Twain, when in a good humor, told nim the story of his courtship, and how he won his beautiful and wealthy wife. She was a Miss Langdon, of Elmira. When Mark first met her he was not so distinguished as now ; his origin was humble, and for some years of his life he had been a pilot on the Missis poi River. The future Mrs. Clemens was a woman of position and fortune; her father a judge, and doubtless expected 'family' and social importance in his son in law. Clemens, however, became interested in his daughter, and after a while proposed but was rejected.

"'Well.' he said to the lady, 'I didn't much believe you'd have me, but I thought I'd try.'

"After a while he 'tried' again, with the same result, and then remarked, with his celebrated drawl. 'I think a great deal more of you than if you'd said "Yes," but it's hard to bear.' A third time he met with better fortune, and then came to the most difficult part of his task-to address the old gentleman. "Judge,' he said to the dignified mil lionaire, 'have you seen anything going on between Miss Lizzie and me?

"'What? what?' exclaimed the judge, rather sharply, apparently not understanding the situation, yet doubtless get-ging a glimpse of it from the inquiry. "'Have you seen anything going on be-

tween Miss Lizzie and me?"

"'No, indeed,' replied the magnate sternly. 'No, sir, I have not.' "'Well, look sharp and you will,' said the author of 'Innocents Abroad,' and that's the way he asked the judicial luminary for his daughter's hand."

Eli Perkins asked the Rev. "Sam" Jones

"'Do they ever answer back to you from the audience when you talk so savagely?" "Yes, often. Every now and then a

burnt sinner will squeal. Sometimes they get a good joke on me too. One day, in St. Louis,' continued the preaches, laughing, 'an awful funny thing hap-pened. I had been attacking the gamblers and drunkards for an hour, and 1 said a drunkard was lower than a dog.

"'Just then a shabby, blear eyed man arose tremblingly and started to leave the church.

""Stop! young man, "Isaid. "Stop!" "The young man stood still, with a thousand eyes on him. "" If you'd rather go to hell than hear

me preach just go on!" ""Well," replied the man, after a pause, "I believe I'd rather." And out

GAMBLING IN LIVES.

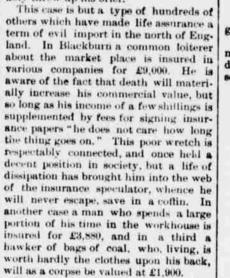
PECULIAR METHODS OF INSURANCE IN ENGLAND.

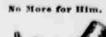
Miserable Wrecks of Humanity Whose Death Is Made a Source of Profit Tricks of a Knavish Trade Somtimes the Gamblers Get Disappoint. The Pall Mall Budget, of London, stathat the revelations made in the courof an action against an insurance com pany at the present Manchester assizhave forced into the public notice as hideous a traffic in human life as ever disgraced a civilized country. Gambling in lives has in many Lancashing towns, but chiefly in Blackburn, long been a lucrative occupation.

The insurance companies are hoodwinked and defrauded, and the miserable victims of conspiracy are, by means not actually criminal, shuffed out of Last tract said "and Lo, he was cast life. Husbands insure their wives, wives their husbands, children their parents. Any one who is believed to be "within measurable distance" of the grave is fair game for the speculator. He scans his neighbor as a valuer scans a houseful of furniture. Let but the symptoms of consumption

or any other fatal disease appear, and he makes instructing advances to secure a policy on the doomed one's life. Of course his victims are as a rule selected from the very dregs of humanity-the drunken, diseased, and feeble-who for the sake of prospective drinks readily sign the "bit o' paper," and thenceforward have the path to the grave smoothed and facilitated by the creatures who fatten upon them.

The case heard at the Manchester assizes differs in no essential respect from a hundred others. The victim in that case was a wretched old hostler, or hanger on, of a public house. He had not a copper in the world to call his own; but he had something much more valuable to others; he had unequivocal symptoms of speedy decease. Forthwith he was honored with the anxious attentions of the harpies. Glowing reports were made to the insurance companies of his prospects of reaching a patriarchal age; and in the end the poor old fellow, trembling on the brink of eternity, bore the burden of 20 policies with a total value of £1,700. Happily, one of the insurance companies had the courage to fight the conspiracy by disputing the claim, and were victorious. Indeed, the barrister engaged for the plaintiff, when he saw the sort of case he was put up to champion, honorably threw up his brief.







Missionary-Won't you take a tract. my friend?

Whoop La (the Pawnee)-Not much! out. "-Judge.

> Here's the Chance. If Europe is in stanger Of survive since her rya And other grains are failing, Tosave her we will try. Let her week Usela Samuel of find his Sunday yest Press money in his porket And we will do the root. -Philadelphia Press

An Old Bachelor's Excuse.

"You were never married, I believe?" "No, I was never married." "That's a little singular, isn't it?" "No, not at all. You see, the first time

I fell in love I said to myself, 'I'll marry her or none."" "Why didn't you marry her, then ?"

"Well, you see, after I had become better acquainted with her I said to myself, 'I'll marry none 'rather than her.' Since that I've got along very well with none. "-Texas Siftings.

Dreadful.

Oh, when will my heart find a cure for the

smart That Cupid has left with his mischlevous dart? For my pretty typewritter has said she will be A simple amanuensister to me. -Judge.

Tempus Fugit.

Marvin (somewhat absentminded)-Why, Spatts, you don't seem a day older than when I saw you last.

Spatts-Perhaps not. You saw me this morning. Marvin-Did I? How time flies, to be

sure.-Puck.

Rather Careless.

Polly-So you are really and truly engaged-how did it come about? Patsy-Well, papa said he didn't care, mamma said she didn't care, Jack said he didn't care, and I'm sure I didn't care,



A PRIZE ESSAY.

A Small Boy Discusses a Great Sub-Ject.

The Deckertown (N. J.) Independent, in awarding prizes for the best essay on "The Local Newspaper," gives the following, whose anthor is a young school boy of Newton, Addison P. Rosenkrans. It is certainly a meritorious production. and would do credit to a college man:

The first English newspaper was published in Louises in 1022, and the first one in this country was issued at Boston, in 1620. Now their number is untold, and their power

is as great as the territories in which they cir-

culato, Wherever elvilization exists their influence is folt.

But we are to write particularly of the local

acwapaper. It educates society. Man is a social being All are bound together by ties of interest and

sympaths

A have being of the actions of a community makes each eithern a vital force of society. This can only be supplied by the beal news-paper, which not only gives events converging that affect the interest and character of the community, but it receives and gives informa-tion from all poritons of the world, relating what others are thinking and dong in social, mainess, educational, political and religious eire es. It molds public opinion, which sweeps like a

flowd wereything that obstructs its pathway, and is found in the feelings and reason of men who are guided and governed by a true knowledge of public issues

It we are a good government by publishing and criticising the official acts of these holding perittene of public trust.

positions of public trust. It gives warning by exposing the follies, vices and wroardoing of persons as so many beacon lights to turn others from the rocks on which they have been slipwreated. It makes history by recording the achieve-ments of the past and local current events of every kind, and preserving them in durable form for the benefit of posterity. It is useful to binsiness. It studies the condi-tion of all classes, and states accurately every occurrence and every sign which affects trade. Producers and dealers through its advertis-

Producers and dealers through its advertis-ing colourns find purchasers for their goods, and consumers learn where to get what they vish

It aids and elevates the poor. Its triffing cost puts it within reach of all, and it brings to those who cannot get daily papers and periodi-cals, on account of their expense, a knowledge of public affairs and provides them with readng matter both interesting and instructive.

It caches moral principles. By its constant warfare against crime, igno-rance and oppression, and its advocacy of truth, virtue and intelligence, it is the chief agent in the improvement of public movals and in the advancement of the people in virtuous knowl-edge.

It Is Indispensable.

In olden times newspapers were considred valuable to readers only for their news, and advertisements were mere incidental surplusage, inserted by merchants as a sort of charity to help fill up the paper, and rarely attracted attention. Today the newspaper is indispensable, not only to the merchant but to the shoppers of the family as the universally accepted medium of attracting business.

Advertisements are no longer the regulation musty affairs they used to be They are among the most artistic and attractive features of the popular newspaper, and the frugal housewife scans the fresh business announcements of each day or week as carefully as the dealer or speculator scans the produce or money market. Those business houses who patronize the newspapers are the ones who secure the bulk of trade. The carefully edited, compact, fresh, complete, cheap and neatly printed newspaper is the popular favorite, and the only channel through which the public can be reached, either for business or sentiment.

The Local Newspaper. The public have little appreciation of the value of well conducted local newspapers. Their offices of beneficence to the community are so common that they are unnoted, but none the less no town or city can advance without its newspapers are in the forefront of advancement. They are the life of the community. They must lead in every effort to invite capital, enlarge industries and enthuse the people in the use of their advantages. The local newspaper is the one newspaper that should command the patronage of the community. If only one journal can be taken in a family it should be the one published at home. There is now little excuse for any person of ordimary intelligence not taking a city daily with the local newspapers, since the best can be had for a nominal cost: but there should ever be the heartiest accord and sympathy between the local newspaper and the community .- Pailadelphia Lunes,

THE WORLD ALMANAC.



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Arters Arterio d'uro Arterio d	Partnerse Athenes, For Structure as For Assessment Configuration For Assessment Configuration For Assessment Configuration Former Thing, Former Thing, Forme	Liberts inne. A for instanting a series. Marine in the provide liberty. Marine in the provide liberty. Marine in the second	
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he went.""

"I was talking one day." says Eli Perkins, "with Mr. Depew about demand and supply. I said the price of any commodity is always controlled by the demand and supply.

"'Not always, Eli,' said Mr. Depew; 'demand and supply don't always govern prices. Business tact sometimes governs them.

"'When,' I asked, 'did an instance ever occur when the price did not depend on demand and supply?

"'Well,' said Mr. Depew, 'the other day I steppe i up to a German butcher, and out of curiosity asked :

"" What's the price of sausages?"

"" Dwenty cents a bound," he said. "" You asked 25 this morning," I replied.

"" Ya, dot vas ven I had some. Now I ain't got none I sells him for dwenty cends. Dot makes me a repudation for selling cheab and I don'd lose not lings. "'You see,' said Depew, laughing, "I didn't want any sausage, and the man didn't have any; no demand or supply, and still the price of sausage went down. After telling us no end of funny stories Eli Perkins says: "Any one can write humor who will sit down and write the honest truth. There is no imagination in humor, while wit is all imagination."

"I have known a kind of half sad huour," said Eli Perkins, "where two earnest people misconstrue each other's thoughts. I once heard of a dialogue batween a sweet, dear old elorgyman in Arkanesas and an illiterate parishioner, which illustrates this idea.

"-Your children have all turned out well, I reckon," sai ! the clergy more as he sat down to dinner with the purishioner he had not seen in church for asveral YORES.

""Well, yes, all but Bill, poor feller," "Druck licker, I reckon, said the clor- more flian £40 above what he will regyman sorrowfulty

Oh, not never drunk no lick r, but) hain't amounted to nothin'. Bill was deceived, an' it mint him."

church, maybe ?

"'Yes, an' a mighty had love affair." "ghe deceived him, chY

"Formbly! Termbly ?

rich a mother ?

"On, no, sho married him; married. him? I guess the did."

"But, confidentially, what was the cause of your son's grief and ruln?

"Well, you see, Brother Munson, she was a widder, and lat on she was well off, but she wa'n't. W'y, she wa'n't able to get Bill a decent suit o' clothes the week airter they wuz married. Poor Bill has gone ragged ever since the weddin'. Poor boy, he's lost all confidence in wimmen, Bill has.""

Many of the mirerable beings thus traded upon are totally unconscious of the enormous sums which are involved when they "sign a bit o' paper" for a "friend" and a drink. In one instance, a poor sickly weaver, who is insured in one office alone for £1,000, when asked whether he knew the amount of his insurance replied. "Well, nobbut a few pounds. 20 or 30, happen." He admitted that he had never paid the premiums, and that he did not know the person who had acted as referee. Further investigation showed that the policy had been effected by an intermediary, who, in consideration of a portion of the commission, had served to conceal the identity of the insurer.

Gambling in lives, like gambling in stocks or on the turf, not infrequently involves loss to the gambler. Some of the wrecks of humanity who are the special objects of the solicitude of the speculator display a most unexpected tenacity to their thread of life. With one foot in the grave, they yet manage to keep the other out for an unconscionable time. Even the constant supply of neat brandy with which their patrons indulge them with the view of assisting them speedily to a better world is often ineffectual. Nay, it seems only to increase the vitality of the remaining leg. One typical case will

suffice as an instance, A certain feeble and apparently moribund old fellow has been the subject of very particular attention from the speculating fraternity, who have insured him wholesale. His signature to policies has been eagerly sought after, and he has reveiled in unlimited supplies of spirits for years. He has, however, proved himself an uncommonly tough morsel for his patrons. Racked by cough, afflicted with rhoumatism, he yet "lags superfluous on the stage," and not a few policies on his life have been allowed to lapse. One speculator above has paid

there into a million of the Do do los the wonder will be that these complianting agricult the function com-"Love affair? Married out of the protes are possible. The system, however, is very site pla. The succumbers and In fearme with the more as every a ray insurvive agents, from whom they could a partion of the common ion the com-"Ettimed his spiritual life and he mar- public allow on new policies, They act row multipearly death, induce him or her to be incured. This done, the rost is may, for with the agent cooperating with him the spoon ator has thus difficulty in

"What are you crying about, my little man ?" "Jimmy O'Brien licked me first, an' then father licked me for letting Jimmy lick me, an' then Jimmy licked me again

for telling father, an' now I suppose I shall catch it again from father. "-Life,

Brief but Expressive. He owned a gun - in it he blew-The gun went off, and he did, too.

Joy Among the Germa.

First Tubercular Bacillus-I see by the papers that a new germicide has been discovered.

-Judge.

Second Tubercular Bacillus-Good enough! I hope it will be as nutritious as Dr. Koch's.-Epoch.

Why Not !

Elderly but Well Preserved Widow (in business)-This is an employment agency, is it not ?

Manager-It is, ma'am. What can I do for you?

I want a bright, active, capable young man for a typewriter.-Chicago Tribune.

Beyond His Power,

A man may dolve with muscle or brain: May strungle for power or sirive for sain; May clumb to the minnacled heights of remo-Or, by trauble o'erwhelmed, be forever cast

May down himself the lord of creation. Sorlety's the strength of the nation; But there's one thing for certain a woman can

That's beyond his skill-blte a thread in two!

A New Industry,

"Jones put his parrot in the enge with his owl the other day." "What was the rout?"

"He got enough feathers for a new featherbod. "-Judge.

Time to Grow on Appetite. "Let's so into this restaurant and get

something to ent." "Dur Du not hungey."

"Thus's no matter; you will be before you get any dang,"-

They 511 Do 16.

She pulpied him a unurball case, Suithe, "how yery nice." And stored it in the attic, where it makes a home for mices. -Cloub Review.

No Turning Back. Teacher-For what was Lot's wife Dicky Boy-For keeps.-Puck.

Readers Should Discriminate.

And so Mr. ---- doesn't like some of the things he reads in this newspaper? Neither do we. But he is at liberty to pick out what he doesn't like and leave the rest for some one who is less fastidions. Does he know what they call the man who sat down at a first class hotel dinner, and beginning at the first item on the bill of fare tried to eat every dish mentioned thereon? This newspaper presents a varied bill of fare every week. but there is no law compelling you to devour every portion of it. Just put adde what you don't relish and say nothing about it. And don't swear at the sditor. It's both wicked and foolish.-Exclusion

Buy a Hen.

Too post in Linn h in paper. Well, but his dispessful condition. Buy a act, feed her on crumbs and was o from in Alternation and the will be again enough to pay for a y at's solverigned a then What her up hand began have will pay first a set to the paper will be clear pullt. Repeat this price is pour after your still you will see how many it is to juy for your house paper,-Digonier

The plyane of The Lend r would be excellent if it was not for the fain that. the set of ber who don's takes paper don't have have to set the line - Wallewron Independent.

Re Found Their Consciences.

"Our next is on " wrate the eliter of a collisionary, "will be even lingly interesting, as it will contain in mamoa of all our d diaquent inbeciders," But when the time came to send out the next issue it was discovered that there were no delinquent subscribers. They had all paid up! such is the power of the press.

A.

It's a mistake to suppose that the social tion is the king of beasts.

cerve where the hardy old fellow's final

conditions whatevar.

as the should shill , and after the dong an in most of the violities prosperator a

hoolwinking the company and palating

upon it a life which, were the true facts made known, would be accepted on no

turned into a pillar of sait?