Once Written by Alphonse Daudet Found in an Old Reader,

Once upon a time a little girl who hated "readers" because there was never any thing interesting to read in them, opened her brand-new fourth reader and discovered that, so far as one story was concerned, the book was an exception to the rule. That one story was called "How the Crickets Brought Good Fortune," and in a most fascinating, taking-it-for-granted-that you-knew-all-about-it way it began: "My friend Jacques stroiled into the bakeshop on the corner one Christmas eve, when—" There was no stopping when you had got thus far, Greedily and speedily the little girl devoured the all-too-few succeeding pages, and with a sigh of regret she laid the book down only when the very last period was reached. The story was really not about "my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom "my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom "my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom "my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom "my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom 'my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom 'my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom 'my friend Jacques." but a poor little boy in a thin blue blouse whom 'my friend Jacques, saw in the baker's wife asked him why he waited. "Oh, please," said the little boy, "I hear crickets and crickets bring good fortune. Oh, if you would just be good enough to let me take some of those crickets home, then they might bring us good fortune and my father would get well and my mother would read that the tower work so hard." The story went on to say that the about with a care. get well and my mother wouldn't have to work so hard." The story went on to say that the baker's wife at once gave to the little boy a fine lot of crickets housed in a paper box, which he carried off delightedly, in company with three long loaves instead of one, after which "my friend Jacques" and the baker's wife looked at each other for a minute. Then the baker's wife took down her ledger and crossed off a whole paye full of charges with "paid," while "my friend Jacques" took the little boy's address and went atraight to the house, where he made yet more clear that crickets do indeed bring good fortune. That was all, but the little tale was told with such grace, such art and, above all, with such sympathy, that it won the heart of the little girl as no other tale had ever done before. The name of the author was not given, nor was there any clue to his identity. None of the elders could place the story, the teachers knew it merely say that the baker's wife at once to the little boy a fine lot of crickgiven, nor was there any clue to his identity. None of the elders could place the story, the teachers knew it merely as a story in the fourth reader, to be commended for that reason alone. The little girl had to content herself therefore, with renaming her one boy doll "My Friend Jacques," while the story she tucked away in that corner of her memory where so many other cherished but now inexplicable things were stored, all labeled "Things that I mean to find out about when I grow up." The little girl had, it so happened, been "growing up," a good many years before she found out about the author of the story of my friend Jacques and the poor little boy in the thin blue blouse. She had read "Numa Roumestan" and "Kings in Exlle," and "L'Evangeliste" and "L'Evangeliste" and "L'Evangeliste" and "Tartarin," and ever so many others from the pen of Alphonse Daudet before she one day chanced to discover, bound in with some more pretentious tale the little story so dear to her childhood and which no one had been able even to tell her was a transiation. "How the Crickets Brought Good Fortune."—New York Sun.

A Pair of Gloves,

A Pair of Gloves.

First Assistant Postmaster-General

Health yesterday rendered a decision of
peculiar interest, especially to ladies.

Some days ago some one in Sioux City,
Ia., presumably a gentleman who had
best a wager, mailed an envelope containing a pair of gloves to Mrs. Sarah
D. Tucker residing in Worcester, Mass.

The packet reached its destination, but
one of the gloves was so badly torn one of the gloves was so badly torn that it was useless. The lady complained to the local postmasted and demanded that he at once go forth and purchase a new pair of gloves to replace those which had been damaged in transit. He naturally declined, but the recisient of the damaged gloves insisted cipient of the damaged gloves insisted that a new pair must be forthcoming

from some source.

To placate Mrs. Tucker, the Worcester postmaster said: "Well, madame, I will refer the whole matter to the post-office department at Washington, and there the responsibility for the damage will be located, and you will receive redress."

redress."

This statement mollified the rate woman, and the postmaster at Worcester wrote the fiirst assistant postmaster-general, explaining the case. The matter was as carefully and thoroughly looked into by the postoffice officials as though it had been the theft of a registered parcel containing a large sum of money.

money.

It was developed that the clerk at Sloux City, who feeds the machine used for the cancellation of stamps, grabbed up the envelope containing the gloves of Mrs. Tucker and forced the bulky envelope through the machine. The stamps were cancelled all right, but the cancellor amputated several fineers of ellor amputated several fingers of one of the gloves contained therein

First Assistant Postmaster-General Heath after sitting in judgment on the case has written a letter to the post-master at Sloux City calling upon him to assees his cancellation clerk the price of one pair of No. 7 "La Perle" tan gloves, and forward the same to Mrs. Tucker.

Queer Ground for Pension Claim

A curious pension claim has recently been entered. Pat Bane, "the Green County Giant," will be remembered by many people who have witnessed inau-gurations of presidents. Pat has been a familiar figure in Washington on those occasions. He is in reality a giant, standing seven feet four inches in his occasions. He is in reality a glant, standing seven feet four inches in his stocking feet, naturally a man to be singled out in great throngs of inauguraion week. He was a veteran of the civil war, and, as far as the records show, proved himself a man of valor. Now Representative Earnest F. Atcheson, whose constituent "The Green County Giant" is, has introduced a bill to give him a pension. The case is rather a peculiar one, for the pension office denied him any further reward for his mititary services. Pat's allment is rheumatism, and the ground on which he asks a pension is that because of his great size there were no uniforms in the service large enough to properly cloth him. From the consequent exposure he says he contracted his present rheumatism.—Washington Post.

BORING FOR CORAL.

Results of the Expeditions Sent Out From England.

Results of the Expeditions Sent Out From England.

The steamer Birksgate, which arrived on Saturday from the islands, brings further news from Fiji concerning the coral-boring expedition at Funafuti, in the Ellice group. News had been taken to Suva by H. M. S. Royalist of the progress made by the expedition after the departure of Prof. David in the John Williams. When Prof. David left Funafuti on Sept. 16, when the Royalist took to Suva a letter to Dr. Corney from G. Sweet, F. G. S., who is now the leader of the expedition, stating that the boring for the last 90 feet was chiefly in coral rock and that no sign of volcanic cork or rock other than coral had yet been met with in the bore. When the Rayolist arrived the expedition had consumed all their coal, but Commander Rason was enabled to supply sufficient coal to last them till the arrival of the steamed Archer, from which it was hoped and additional supply would be obtained.

Prof. David states that, the bore having already exceeded the depth for which Darwin stipulated in his classical work on coral reefs, and a good core having been obtained throughout, it may now be looked upon as a success. Information likely to be of considerable scientific value has been obtained, and he considers that the general evidences of ar appears strongly to confirm Darwin's theory that most of the coral atolis of the Pacific have been formed on areas of the earth's crust which have been undergoing a prolonged subsidence. A detailed report of the results obtained by the expedition will probably be incorporated in the report of the Royal socjety of London on the coral atoll of Funafuti, the earlier portion of which will be written by Prof. Sollas, F. R. S., the leader of the funafuti expedition last year. The bore at Funafut is lined throughout with the best artesian tubes, four inches in outside diameter. Every foot of the bore had to be lined throughout with the prevent fragments of coral rock and coral sand choking the bore. The work of boring has proved very difficult on acco which has caused such a jarring as to repeatedly break some of the strongest cast iron weels in the machinery. The diameter of the core obtained from the bore is two and one-half inches.—Sydney Herald.

Wandering Freight Cars

Wandering Freight Cars.

On December 25, 1896, Minneapolis and St Louis car No. 3,118 left Minneapolis with a load of flour destined to Montgomery, Ala. It went through to Montgomery with reasonable promptness, about eight days. Instead of returning the car via the same route received, the Atlanta and West Pointraliroad started it on a series of divisions, and it has not yet reached home; although at one time it got as far north as Peoria, Ill. There it was turned back, evidently with another load for the southern railway on September 28. Since that time the owners have not been able to locate it at all. It has made a trip to New York, Boston and Montreal, but was returned westward and southward via the same route until it reached the southern lines, since which time it has been wandering around among the southern states.

Auditor W. E. Lee of the Kanasa City, Watkins and Gulf railway adds another to the stock of curlous stories. K. C., W. and G. box car No. 2,028, left home loaded with long leaf yellow pine lumber, July 15, 1896, he says. It was consigned to South Bend, Ind. It would seem-that it had been two months in discharging original load at destination, as it was in possession of delivering line from July 21, 1896, to September 20, 1896, when it was returned to St. Louis, and there loaded with grain for Memphis. Upon arrival at Memphis it would appear that the load had been reconsigned to Macon, Ga., then loaded for Atlanta. After several switch movements it seems to have been successful in procuring a load for Pinners Point, Va., where it must have taken a month to unload, as it was in possession of delivering line from in possession of delivering line from over a month. The next load we have record of is to Louisville, Ga. Since then it seems to have been used principly in switching service, possibly with transfer freights. After reviewing records, I find from junction reports that the cat has been on 19 lines. It has been away from home 472 days, one line having it 72 days.

A Coffin for a Penny.

Coffins at a penny each would seem to be out of all possible proportions to profit, but nevertheless the Preston Union has accepted a contract for the Union has accepted a contract for the supply of these necessery but gruesome articles at this figure, and ranging from it to a fourpence. In spite of the lowness of the price the contractor has to bind himself to come up to a specified standard of quality.

The explanation of so one-sided a contract—for no coffin could ever be made even for fourpence—is to be found in the fact that the friends of the deceased have often club money to

deceased have often club money to draw, which they spend in a superior quality coffin instead of allowing their late friend to be sent to his long resting-place in one of inferior make.

The profit which the undertaker makes on this transaction is so large, that he is able to carry on what, at first sight, appears to be a ruinous trade—North British Gazette.

Why the Dog Was Afraid.

The men of a certain regiment last summer grumbled a good deal about the inferior food served out to them, particularly the meat, which was often times decidedly tainted.

One day a strange cur was prowling round the square, as the battalion was falling in for drill, and the colonel, on coming on parade, noticed the animal.

"Whose dog it that?" he inquired of a man on fatigue duty.

"I dunno, sir."

Suddenly the cur took to its heels and bolted frantically out of the square.

suddenly the cur took to its needs and bolted frantically out of the square. "Whatever's the matter with the animal?" remarked the colonel again. "I expect as how he smelt our rations, sir," said Tommy, with a sly smile, and the colonel passed on.— Scottish Leader.

VAGARIES OF LEARNING.

Eome Funny Answers Found on Ex amination Papers,

amination Papers.

A certain schoolteacher, whose sense of humor is developed to a remarkable degree, goes to the trouble occasionally of writing down for her own use some of the funniest answers which she finds in her examination papers. By especial favor a Syracuse Pest writer was allowed to use a few. Here they are:

"The stomach is the most diluted portion of the elementary canal."

"Hygiene is all that you can tell about that which is rasked."

"The doctrine of evolution began with the beginning of life, and grew higher and higher, until it regenerated into monkey. This process was slow so slow that neither the monkey not the man knew anything about it."

"A gerb is a name applied to a particular particle, tiny subbacterial organism, which, when demonstrated, causes disease."

"A germ is a tiny insect or bug some-

ganism, which, when demonstrated, causes disease."

"A germ is a tiny insect or bug sometimes found in diseases or organs, that is why diseases are contagious. It is so small that it can be seen only with a telescope. Then it appears like the head of a pin but it goes floating around into the atmosphere."

"Habeus corpus means you may have the head and I will take the body."
"Queen Elizabeth's reign was the reign of posterity."
"The germ theory of diseases is continually floating around in the air, and is very dangerous, especially when the atmosphere is unwholesome."

"William Pitt, the second son of the Earl of Chatham, Premier of England, entered life at a very early age, which

entered life at a very early age, which office he held at a very early period in life, the time when most men are just completing a professional education."

"A dowager is a widow without joints."

THE MERRY JESTER.

Gordon: What's worrying you?
Edwards: You know that girl—that
Miss Wilbur—I met at the seashore?
Gordon: Yes, I suppose she wants to
ignor the engagement now, doesn't she?
Edwards: No, by George, she insists
that she entered into it in good faith,
and I haven't saved enough even to buy
a dress suit. Curses on those funny
men!—Chicago Nows.

"A Pittsburg woman wants a divorce
because her husband kicks when she
goes through his pockets."

"Probably he's mad because she
doesn't find anything."—Cleveland
Plain Dealer.

"Samson," urged one of his advisers. "what's the use? Even if you should take that ass's jawbone and clean out the whole Philistine army you never could make Bob Ingersoll believe you did it."
"Nevertheless," replied Samson, grasping the weapon more firmly, "this jaw will outlive Bob Ingersoll's jaw in history."

And a moment later he sailed into the enemy with the result now known to everybody.—Chicago Tribune.

"As I came home in the shower," re-parked Mr. Murry Hill, "I saw Miss Homewood out with her rainy day cos-

tume on."

"Oh, tell me all about it," replied Mrs. Murry Hill, eagerly. "I am deeply interested in rainy day costumes."

"Well, I can't tell you very much, for I noticed nothing especially except her heliotrope stockings." — Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph. heliotrope stocki Chronicle Telegraph.

"This Klondike craze is going to help

"In what way?"

"After those fellows have survived an Alaskan Winter they wont be afraid to tackle Boston girls."—Chicago Record.

"That was your little boy I saw you

walking with yesterday, wasn't it?"
"No, that was my little girl."
"Then the person with the spectacles
was your eldest daughter?"
"No, that was my husband."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Boarder: This chicken soup seems to be rather weak.

Landlady: I don't see why; I told the cook how to make it, but perhaps she didn't catch the idea.

Boarder: Perhaps she didn't catch the chicken.—Chicago News.

He Was on His Knees,

He Was on His Knees,
A member of the House tells a story
on Senator Mason concerning a lady
who keeps a boarding house in Washington. The Senator boarded there for
awhile, as did the Representatives. The
lady belongs to one of the well-known
churches, and is very punctual in her
attendance on morning services. For
this reason she insists that her boarders
must be down easily for hyeaffast Suninis reason she insists that her polarders must be down early for breakfast Sunday morning. The Senator was not aware of this regulation and his first Sunday in the house came downstairs rather late.

"You are not on time this morning. Senator," said the lady gently, but

rather reprovingly.
"No, Madam. I spent a half hour on my knees this morning."

spoke up the boarding mistress "Hunting for a collar button that rolled upon the floor and under the bureau," declared the Senator, concluding his sentence.

He Learned.

There is one man in Washington who declares that if he can hereafter obtain information in any other way he will not ask questions. He is employed in one of the departments, and his duties consist mainly in ordering and buying furniture. While on his way to order a wire screen the other day, he met a vendor of rat-traps and other contrivances made of wire. As there are few places in the city where wire goods are made, he thought he had found a new factory. Stopping the man, he asked: "Where did you get those traps?" "Made 'em. Where did you suppose?" was the sullen reply.

"Where did you learn wire-working?"

ing?"
The rat-trap vendor looked at h questioner sharply, and promptly replied:

"Same place you did. Sing Sing." The laugh of the bystanders The laugh of the bystanders still dings in the inquisitive man's ears. CURIOUS FACTS

It requires half a day to sing the ational hymn of China.

Java is a native Malay word signify. g "the land of nutmegs."

A ton of oil has heen obtained from

the tongue of a single whale.

Lake Michigan signifies in the native tongue "a weir for fish."

The German Government propose to try to grow potatoes in Africa.

In only three cases out of ten the sight is equally good in each eye.

Steel billiard balls and aluminum wall paper are the latest evolutions in

Connecticut in the Indian form was Quinnitukut, meaning "the coun try of the long river."

Marseilies has a 107-year-old woman who still earns her living by

trade.

keeping a newspaper klosk.

Twelve million silk hats are made annually in the United Kingdom,

worth five million pounds. Egypt expresses the Hebrew for "the land of oppression," alluding to the bondage of the Israelites.

Africa traces its origin to the Phoenician afer, a black man, and the

Sanskrit ac, the earth, a country. Russia possesses at least one luxury, in a breed of dogs which are said to

be naturally quite unable to bark.

The dedication of the Grant Monument drew to New York the greatest crowd which the city had ever seen assembled.

Liszt's great skill with the piano was in part due to his immense indus-For years he practiced ten hours

The highest masts of sailing vessels are from 160 to 180 feet high, and spread from 60,000 to 100,000 square feet of canvas.

The Prince of Wales, it is stated, will not be represented at all in the racing world next season. Captain Carter, who sailed the Britannia, has received a letter from the Prince in-timating that his services will not be required next season.

Seekers after gold are often disap pointed. Seekers after health take Hood's Sarsaparilla and find it meets every expectation.

Spring Trade Shows an Early Activity.

Big Output of Pig Iron, Wool and Whea Strong and Business Large.

R. G. Dun & Co's weekly review of trade says :

"Business is pushing toward spring activity rather early. Events which have controlled are good buying of iron by the largest makers, the rise in cotton, with strength in goods, the great railway consolidation and the Cuban insurrection.

The output of pig iron February 1 was 229,823 tons weekly, the largest in the history of the business, but the reported buying of 130,000 tons Bessemer iron by the Carnegie company and 100.000 by another of the largest steel concerns, nevertheless means decision by the ablest manufacturers that the unprecedented output on pig will soon prove too small for the growing demand for finished pro-

Wool sales at the chief cities were only 5,303,200 pounds for the week, and 11,664,600 for two weeks, against 22,721,600 last year. Prices are still strong in spite of the general indifference of manufacturers who seem to have secured ample supplies. For the better grades of woolen goods an advance averaging 17.5 per cent. from last year is readily maintained. The opening of works idle for years, in opening of works fale for years, in spite of the heavy production already assured, is a striking feature in this, as in the iron and other industries, and implies heavier demands for products than are now met by the unprecedented output.

Wheat has been strong, with spot advancing two cents and May 2\frac{3}{2}c.

Business shown by bank clearings is again larger than ever before, 54.7 per cent. larger than last year for the week and for the month to date 44.3 per cent. larger than last year and

16.6 per cent. larger than in 1892.

Failures for the week have been worthy of you," | 295 in the United States against 267 last year, and forty-three in against sixty-one last year."

Actors. Singers. Speakers



Thousands of actors, public entertainors, singers, lecturers, preachers and readers are tormented with throat are tormented with throat organs being overtaxed become susceptible to he ad colds, influents, houseness, tickling in the throat, public event of the cold of th

hand ever the eyes, dry
throat, etc.; all these are
forerunners of Catarth,
as hma, Tonsilitis, and are but stepping stones to
more serious compilications if neglected.
DR. AGS EW'S OAT ARE neglected.
Dryowerful, painless, harmless and quick-acting, and
will cure all such troubless-relieves in 10 minutes.

"Il care all such troubles—relieves in o minutes.

"I can but proclaim Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Power a wonderful medicine, particularly for singers of public spackers. Myself and wife were both breats of Tonsilitis and Catarrh, and nover found bing to cenal this great genedy act outlet action rative qualities—It is a wonder worker. It recommend it to my brother professionals."

Emmett Fostell, Actor, New York City.—4 buried him under tons of debris.

by C. A. Kleim.

多本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本本 "A perfect type of the highest order of excellence in manufacture." Walter Baker & Co.'s BREAKFAST COCOA

> Absolutely Pure—Delicious—Nutritious Costs Less than One Cent a Cup.

DORCHESTER, MASS. Be sure that you get the genuine article, made at

....By.... WALTER BAKER & CO. Ltd. **多水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水水**

THE HOLIDAY SEASON

For Christmas, 1897, we have a large line of goods suitable for gifts to gentlemen. It includes

Meerchaum Pipes,

Beautiful designs in great variety.

Meerchaum Cigar Holders, Briarwood Pipes, Cigars, fine grades, in boxes of 25, 50 and 100

We also have a large assortment of CONFECTIONERY in nice boxes and in bulk. Sunday Schools preparing for Christmas festivals should get our prices

ALEXANDER BROTHERS & CO.

Bloomsburg Pa.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF

CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH,

YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT

H. BROWER'S

2nd Door above Court House. A large lot of Window Curtains in stock.

is reduced to \$1.00 a year.

The subscription price of DEMOREST'S

A YEAR FOR **DEMOREST'S** FAMILY MAGAZINE.

Demorest's Family Magazine is more than a Fashion Magazine, although gives the very latest home and foreign fashions each mouth; this is only one of its many valuable features. It has something for each member of the family, for every department of the household, and its varied contents are of the highest grade, making it, pre-eminently, THE FAMILY Magazine of THE World. It furnishes the best thoughts of the most interesting and most progressive writers of the day, and is abreast of the times in everything.

—Art, Literature, Science, Society Affairs, Fiction, Household Matters, Sports, etc.—a single number frequently containing from 200 to 300 fine engravings, making it the MOST COMPLETE AND MOST PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED of the Great Monthless.

DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE Fashion Department is in every way far shead of that con-

subscribers are entitled each month to patterns of the latest fashions in womans' atti-AT NO COST TO THEM other than that necessary for postage and wrapping.

NO BETTER CHRISTMAS GIFT

than a year's subscription to DEMOKEST'S MAGAZINE can be made. By subscribing AT ONCE you can get the magazine at the reduced price, and will also receive the handsome 25-cent Xmas Number with its beautiful panel picture supplement. Remit \$1.00 by money order, registered letter or check to the

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GREAT SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER FOR PROMPT SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ONLY \$1.75 FOR THE COLUMBIAN and Demorest's Family Magazine.

Send your subscriptions to this office.

Eats a Goose Every Day.

Charles Wurz, of South Bend, Ind., undertook three weeks ago to eat a goose a day until he put away thirty geese. He has already disposed of geese. He has already disposed of twenty-three geese. If he eats the remaining seven in seven days he will win \$200. If he fails he will lose a like amount to Charles Rose.

By the terms of the wager Wurz is allowed twenty-four hours for each bird. The geese, after being picked and cleaned, must weigh not less than six nor more than seven pounds. The eating must be done in the presence

eating must be done in the presence of appointed witnesses, fellow members of an Elk lodge.

Rose furnishes the geese. The breast is boiled, the wings and the legs are fried and the back is roasted brown. All, including the givend brown. All, including the gizzard, must be eaten.

n Opportunity You Now Have

of testing the curative effects of Ely's Cream Balm, the most positive cure for Catarrh known. Ask your drug-gist for a 10 cent trial size or send 10 cents, we will mail it. Full size 50c. ELY BROS.,

56 Warren St., N. Y. City. My son was afflicted with catarih.
induced him to try Ely's Cream Balm, and the disagreeable catarrhal smell all left him. He appears as well as any one.—J. C. Olmstead, Arcola, Ill.

Almost Buried Alive-

John Connors, of Hazleton, was buried alive for three hours in the Ebervale mine. He was making a place for a set of timbers when a heavy fall of top rock occurred which fellow workmen set to work at once and after three hours rescued the un fortunate man.

Luetgert Found Guilty.

The Jury Fixed the Penalty at Life Imprisen-

The jury in the case of Adolph Luetgert, at Chicago, tried for mur-dering his wife and boiling her remains in a sausage vat, last Thursday rendered a verdict of guilty and fixed the penalty at life imprisonment. This was Luetgert's second trial, the jury

having disagreed in the first case. AWFUL EXPERIENCE WITH HEART DISEASE.—That Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart works like magic, and cures is proven by the testimony of Mr. L. J. Law, Toronto, Can. "I was so sorely troubled with heart disease that I was unable for 18 months to he down in bed lest I smother. After taking one dose of Dr. Agnew's Heart Cure, I retired and slept soundly. I used one bottle and the trouble has

Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Important Pension Decision-

Among the pension decisions rendered by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Davis, was a case of considerable importance affecting the right to pension widows under the act of June 27, 1890. The claim is that of Luella M., widow of Nathan A. Sisson, late sergeant of Company A, Second Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry. In his decision the Assistant Secretary points out that the woman's own real and personal property is worth about \$0.000 and says that it is manifest that she is not without means of sup-port that her daily labor—a condition necessary in order to obtain pensions under the act of June, 1890.

