The custom of April-fooling is a very old one, it having been long practised by the Hindoos. During their festival of Hull, which ends on the first day of April, the people send each other on fools' errands, and play all manner of tricks, just as is done in many other lands. The Scotch country people take delight in sending off some simple fellow with a sealed letter, containing only the words: "This is the first of April, hunt the gowk another mile," The first receiver tells the bearer that the message is for some other acquaintance, who does the same, and so on with the next, and the poor fellow is sent from one person to the other, often tramping for many miles before anyone is good-natured enough to explain the joke. This is called "hunting the gowk," a word which, strictly speaking means a cuckoo, but is used, at season. to signify a fool. Dean swift, the famous Irish writer, says in his journal, under the date March 31, 1713, that he and two friends, a lady and a gentleman, spent the entire evening in"contriving a lie for to-morrow," and it is a great pity that they could not have found some more sensible manner of passing their time. The "lie" agreed on was, that a man named Noble, who had just been hanged, had come to life again, and the story probably caused great excitement. One of the divisions of a London hospital (some three hundred years ago), was known as "Abram's Ward." Its inmates, infirm, simple, old men were allowed to go out and visit their friends every first of April ; the sight of one of these poor "Abrams," as they were called, always excited compassion in the beholders. and many a penny was dropped into his hands as he hobbled through the streets. One April Fools' day, some idle vagabonds disguised themselves as Abrams, and went about begging from morning till night, thus reaping a rich harvest-This imposture was repeated year after, year, until a law was passed to prevent it, and from this circumstance it was that the word Sham Abram came to be used for impostor. In France it is said. " nobleman and his wife once owed their escape from prison to the fondness of the people for April-fooling. Francis, Duke of Lorraine, and his wife, who were imprisoned at Nantes, planned a flight, and disguised themselves as laborers; the duke carrying a hod on his shoulder, and the duchess a basket of rubbish on her back. Early one morning (it chanced to be the first of April), they left the prison and realized the the street sifely, but suddealy a woman passing them recognized their faces, and ran to the sentry of the prison gate, saying that two prisoners were escaping. The man called to the other guards, who, however, thought that a trick was being played on them, and cried out April fool! or rather April-fish (poisson d' Avril), as the French have it. A by-stander repeated the words laughingly, and they were caught up by the crowd and passed from mouth to mouth until the street rang with merriment, while the fugitives slipped away with merriment, while the fugitives slipped away unnoticed and their friends, who conveyed them to a place of safety. A little later in the day, the governor was told of the trick that had been played on the sentry, and fearing that all was not right, sent at once to the prison, only to find that the birds had indeed flown.

SAVING THE BULKY CROPS .- After the wheat has been thrashed the straw is stacked in the barnyard and the stock turned in to eat a portion while trampling a large proportion in the mud. The hay is carefully stored in the barn loft, while the cornstalks remain in the shocks and are left in the fields to topple over and become wasted. Every pound of hay saved is a pound gained, and with more care of the straw and stalks the hay will winter a large number of cattle. The straw is considered of but little value, yet the the farm can be impoverished by selling off the straw. Of inorganic matter 1000 pounds of wheat contain less than a pound of lime, but little over two pounds of potash, and not as much as a pound of phosphoric acid, though containing largely of starch and nitrogen. The straw contains in its composition nearly three times as much lime as the grain, and three times as much phosphoric acid. These proportions are seemingly small, but they amount to a large quantity where hundreds of tons of straw are grown, Over 50 pounds of ash exist in 1000 pounds of straw, which is more than double the amount of ash in the grain. and in feeding value the wheat is well worth being cared for, as four tons of straw are equal to one ton of the best

VEAL LOAF. - Chop three pounds of uncooked veat very fine, add to it half a pound of lean bam, also chopped, mix and then add two eggs well beaten, a half teaspoonful of black or white pepper, same quantity of powdered sage, ground cloves and alispice, one cup of bread crumbs, one level teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of onlon juice. Now mix all these ingredients well together and press it tightly into a square mold. A bread pan will answer perfectly well. Now turn it out carefully on a baking pan, brush it over with beaten egg, and bake in a slow oven for two hours, basting three or four times while baking, with a tablespoonful of butter melted in a half cup of boiling water. Serve coud, cut in very thin slices.

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Will you heed the warning. The signal perhaps of the sure approach of that more terrible disease, Consumption. Ask yourselves if you can afford for the sake of saving 50 cents, to run the risk and do nothing for it. We know from experience that Shiloh's Cure will Cure your Cough. It never fails. This explains why more than a Million Bottles were sold the past year. It relieves Croup and Whooping Cough at once. Mothers do not be without it. For Lame Back, Side or Chest, use Shilohs' Porous Plaster. Soldby Dr. T. J Davison.

WHEN Lawyer Henkle, of Washangton, had first to reply to Lawyer Belva Lockwood in the district court, he referred to her as "my learned sieterin-law."

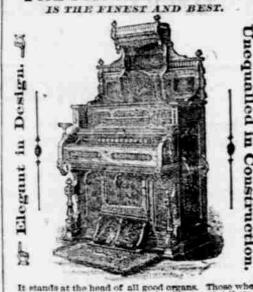




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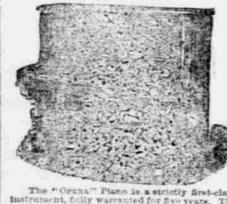
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A Warning to Maidens.

The man I wed," the young girl said. "Must be a noble cavaller, Fit for romance with shield and lance, A noble heart, devoid of fear." A year or two, that quickly flew, Had changed the maiden's will in part, "The man I wed," this time she said, "Must be a man of loving heart."

Her beauty grew, men sought to woo And win the way ward little witch. She tossed her head, and proudly said : "The man I marry must be rich." ears came and went; on riches bent,

She scorped the true hearts at her feet. Her heart was steeled; she would not yield The dream of wealth was all too sweet. So time sped on. Her mouth had gone, And still her maiden hand was free, She hung her head at last and said : "I wonder who will marry me ?"

The Tropical Town of St. Pierre.

We are ashore in St. Pierre, the quaintest, queerest, and prettiest withal among the West Indian cities ; all stoneflagged, with very narrow streets, wooden awnings, iron balconies, and peaked roofs of red tile pierced by gabled dormers. Most of the buildings are painted in a clear pale yellow tone, which contrasts delightfully with the burning blue ribbon of tropical sky above; and no street is absolutely level. Nearly all of them climb hills, descend into hollows, curve, twist, describe sudden and amazing angles. There is everywhere a continuous chant of running water, pouring through the deep gutters contrived between the paved thoroughfare and the absurd little sidewalks varying in wict's from one to three feet. The architecture is very old; it is seventeenth century probably; and it reminds one a great deal of that characterizing the artiquated French quarter of New Otleans. But one must imagine New Orleans idealized by artistic conception, made intensely tropical. and projected audacionaly upon the side of a huge volcanic hill. All the tints, the forms, the vistas, would seem to have been especially selected or designed for aquarelle studies, just to please the whim of some extravagant artist. No ruin was ever more picturesque than these living streets in their perfect solidity and undilapidated quaintness, The windows are frameless openings without glass; some have iron bars; all have heavy wooden shutters with movable slats, through which light and air can enter as through Venetian blinds. These are usually painted green or bright bluish-gray.

A commercial traveler the story of himself. It was in his early traveling days; in fact he had been taken out of the office to make his first trip on the route of the regular traveler, who was sick. He visited two or three cities on his route, not meeting with much success, which he attributed to the fact that two or three other salesmen carrysing the same line of goods were just ahead of him.

Being afraid the house would be dissatisfied, and a little doubtful of his own ability, he telegraphed his em-

'Better call me in. There are three ival salesmen chead of me." Instead of calling him in, the head of

the house telegraphed : 'Push ahead. There is a bundred other fellows behind you.'

So he went ahead, satisfied that he could at least hold his own with the fellows that were behind, with the result that he made such a good trip that he was kept on the road, and his salary increased. He said the idea that there were lots of fellows following served to stimulate him, and he determined to go ahead and push things to the best of his ability, and he succeeded.

How Bees are Shipped.

"Handle with care?" is a frequent sign attached to freight, and though not always closely adhered to, there is one instance where the letter and spirit of the request is fully observed. Such is the case in the handling of bees with the above placard attached to a box or hive of honey makers. The hanlidng of bees is a delicate business, and by experts tiey are sold by the swarm and ent to different parts of the country.

A swarm is composed of one Italian queen, around which a large number of drones and workers cluster. This mass of bees is shipped in boxes, one end being covered with wire gause to give the bees air. They are also shipped in hives, the top of the hive being removed from its place and attached to the bottom. For the top of the hive a wire gauze is substituted and is always placed up ward. In case the swarm is small a block of wood is bored and in the hole the bees are placed and are imprisoned by strips of wire which cover the open

Food for Feathered Pets.

To make food for singing birds, knead together three pounds of split peas, ground or beaten to flour, one and a half pounds of fine crumbs of bread. the same quantity of coarse sugar, the raw yolks of six eggs and six ounces of fresh butter. Put about a third of the mixture at a time in a frying pan over a gentle fire, and stir it until a little browned, but not burned. When the other two parts are done and all cold, add to the whole six ounces of maw seed and six pourds of bruised hemp seed, separated from the husks. Mix together, and it will be found excellent food for thrushes, robins, larks, linnets, canaries, finches and most other singing birds, preserving them in both song and feather.

THERE is a Scandinavian tradition to the effect that kissing was first introduced into England by Rowena, the beautiful daughter of Hengist. Again of NATURAL WOOD. WOOD STAINS. in Cromwell's time, when the banished Cavendish visited a French nobleman at his own chateau, the mistress of the house, at the head of her maidens, thus greeted him : "Forasmuch as ye be an Englishman, whose custom it is in your country to kiss all the ladies and gentlewomen without offense; and although it be not so here in this realm, yet will I delphia. Al- be so bold as to kiss you, and so shall all my matdens,"

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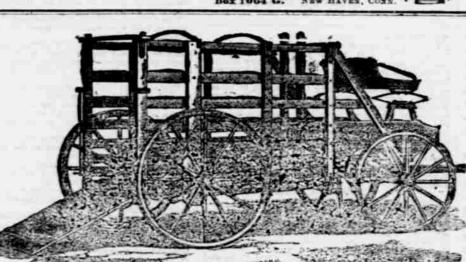
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The Water Snake.

One of the greatest enemies of the fishes of our inland waters, in the common Water Snake, Tropidonotus sipedon. Not only will it capture and swallow our native fishes, but it is also destructive to cultivated species, such as young carp, bass, and even gold-fish. The water snake is not particular as to the situation of its dwelling place, for I have found them in and about the smallest brooks and ponds, to the largest rivers. The places where they are found to be the most numerous, however, are about partly submerged piles of broken rocks, or stone walls full of crevices. It is in such places that they pass the winter in great numbers, sometimes in clusters of hundreds together. They appear to congregate from all parts of the neighborhood. If it is possible to find them in their winter quarters, it is the best way to destroy them there, for they are then in a semi-torpid state, huddled together in a mass, and can be easily killed. In the early spring, after their winter nap, they may sometimes be seen sunning themseles in clusters upon low bushes overhanging the water, but if approached, are apt to drop into the water and escape.

I was at one time with some friends fishing for "gudgeons" at the Relay, near Baitimore. We had caught quite a string of fish, and had them submerged in a shady spot between the rocks. A shower suddenly coming up, we took shelter under the bridge, where we rev mained for about half an hour. I noticed that this shower brought out from their hiding places, great numbers of water snakes and we also perceived that they were at our string of fish, and seemed argry at our approach. Two snakes darted out into the deep water when we drew up the string. We found that several of the gudgeons had been pulled spart by the snakes, and in two instances the head only remained attached to the string. I have a note of a water snake killed in the Schuyikill River, which had a seven-inch catfish in its stomach. Prof. Allen says he saw one killed near Cambridge, Mass., that had in its mouth a pickeral a foot in length. In a creek near Baltimore, I once saw a water snake in pursuit of an eel, nearly as large as himself, but whether the snake proved the victor I am unable to state, as they disappeared

in deep water. Although I am opposed to the indiscriminate slaughter of snakes, some of which are really beneficial to the agriculturist, I have no sympathy for the water snake. Kill every one you can, and thereby receive thanks from every one who delights in the sport of fishing. Unfortunately, the water snake is very prolific, the female producin from fifteen to thirty, and over at a birth. The young are born alive generally, in Pennsylvania, during the month of August. The specimen from which I made my drawing, was a distictly marked individual. Sometimes the dark spots or bands are wanting, the color being almost uniform brown. In the New England States, it is found almost black in color, and this form has been wrongly considered a distinct species. The water snake grows from three to five feet in length. It is a robust snake, and a bold and graceful swimmer. Its bite is perfectly harmless, amounting to merely a few slight scratches.

Material for a Dust-Bath.

The dust bath is the toilet of the hen, With it she cleans her body and feathers, rids herself of vermin, and delights in the enjoyment it affords. In winter, however, when the ground is frozen hard, it sometimes becomes a difficult matter to provide the hens with a dust-bath, especially if there are several flocks. Now is the time to lay in a supply of dirt for that purpose. The dirt should be fine and well sifted, in order that it may be more completely adapted to the purposes intended. Wood ashes are unsuitable, owing to the caustic properties of the potash, which creates sores on the skin should the weather be damp. Finely sifted coal ashes entirely free from admixture of wood ashes, are excellent, but a full supply is not always obtained. The cheapest and easiest mode is to lay in a supply of dirt, either from the road or the field, but it should be perfectly dry, and stored in a dry place, or it cannot be used when the necessities arise. In winter a box one yard square and six inches deep, filled within an inch of the top with the dirt, is just what the hens will appreciate. The dirt may remain in the box as long as it is dry and clean but should be removed at least once a week. By sprinkling a few drops of a solution of acid in the dust-bath any unpleasant odors may be removed, and the dirt rendered more acceptable.

An economical dish is made as follows: Wash a calf's liver, remove the skin and cut off the white fat from the under side ; lard the upper side with fat salt pork, brown in baking pan two tablespoonfuls of flour in hot butter or dripping, place the liver in the pan and let it brown on both sides, add one carrot cut in half, one onion in which six cloves have been stuck, one bay leaf and the rind of a lemon, pour three cupfuls WANTED-Live Canvassers in every county in the United States to sell FOX SPATENT RE-VERSIBLE SAD IRON, which combines two Sad Irons, Polisher, Fluter, &c., one iron doing the work of an eatire set of ordinary irons. Is self-heating by gas or alcohol lamp. DOES AWAY WITH HOT KITCHENS. Price moderate. A large and lasting income insured of water or broth in the pan and bake over the liver, garnish with round slices of lemon, and serve. The following "fried herbs" are served with the liver: Four handfuls of young spinach, two of young lettuce and two handfuls of parsley, well washed and drained, chop fine and add one handful of young onions, well minced, put them in a saucepan with an ounce of butter and some pepper and salt, cover the pan and put on the fire, shaking it until it boils then set it back and let it simmer until E want SALESMEN everywhere, local and traveling, to sell our goods. Will pay good salary and all expenses. Write for terms at once, and straveling the new set it back and let it simmer until the herbs are tender; garnish the liver with them.

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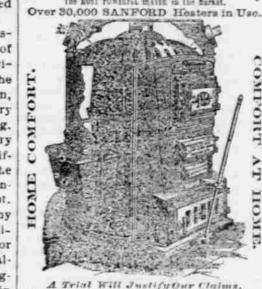
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Business is like a clock. When ga

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Farming is one of the best of om-

Many a singer is ambitiously read-

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has to go to a shoemaker to get has

Palace cars are no longer to be mitopolized by man. Horses, cattle at Thousands of the best \$38.00 Gold Watch ever made are selleven fowls now ride in them. To for poultry are thus described in a late Inisis the Best, Cheapest, Most Convenient, issue of the American Cultivator: 08 donly co-operative System of selling watches, and American Lever him Winders, stalning overy seential to accuracy and durative, and have, in addition, numerous patented of the latest improvements in the this portation of poultry is a patent said car on the Lackawana railroad, desp ed for the conveyance of live fowl. To car is two feet higher than the endant freight car, contains 116 comparisment each four feet square, in a series of eight necks, with an isle running through THEREYSTONE WATCH CLUB CO. crosswise and another lengthwise. I capacity of the car is from 3,500 to 4 P. O. Bog 928. Philm. Pn.
We refer to may Commercial Agency. WANTED. 500 fowls according to the season of the year. By a system of drop-decks the fowls are loaded and unloaded at the Clubs Constantly Ferming. Join Now and Save Money. bottom of the car, the sides of which are of strong wire netting, in which aft the doors of the several compartment On the top of the car in the center is a water tank large enough to supply afull load on a journey of 2,000 miles. Each compartment is supplied on three sides with abundant food and water, by system of troughs and hose that is easily worked on the inside, no matter how great a speed the train may be going at

neath the car. A Queer Cat Story.

The food is carried in a box or tank be-

A correspondent tells a story about favorite cat that spends a good deal of ber time in a cosy old armchait. He owner last May put four hen eggs into the chair by way of seeing what post would do with them in order to make her bed more comfortable. Strange at it may appear, puss took kindly to ill eggs and in due time hatched four fire chickens. For weeks ofter the chick ens were hatched she licked them all over every day with her tongue, carelled and fondled with them as much as if they had been her own kittens. When ever the chickens strayed from the nursery she carried them back in her mouth as if they had been made of the finest of glass,

Care of Horses.

Remember that one of the most inportant points in the care for farm horses is to feed regularly, if 505 drive your horse until mid-afternoon before he gets his noon meal you may expect a lank looking saimal the next day. A thorough rubbing and currying is as essential to the well being of a horse as a feed. It is an old saying that a good grooming is equal to fost quarts of cats. The horse might think not more than half true, but unless your animals are at pasture or where they can rub and roll themselves research cathes on a second of the A. A. Second of the second of the country.