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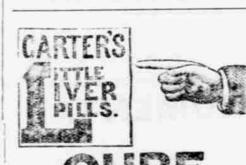
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A MUSICAL MARYEL.

Blind Tom, the Pianist, and His Wonderful Talent.

The Discovery of His Kemarkable Gift and Its Development-Eccentricities of the Sightless Master of the Piano.

The recent death of Gen. Bethune, the original owner of the musical negro dave boy known as "Blind Tom," has troused much public curiosity as to the disappearance of Tom from view. The best information I have been able to obtain is that he is passing the closing days of his life in a lunatic asylum, his ragaries having taken on too dangerous form to admit of his going freely about as heretofore.

Tom was born in Muscogee county, Ga., says a writer in Kate Field's Washington. His father's name was Mingo, and his mother was called by her owner Aunt Charity. While he was still a boy, and supposed to be a mere idiot as well as sightless, he used to conecal himself in his master's house, and after midnight creep into the parors and play the same airs with which his young mistress had entertained her guests a few hours before, eing cautious to suppress his notes by solding his foot on the soft pedal. He was soon detected, however, and reprinanded. A milder view was taken of its shortcomings when his master discovered that the boy's gift might be urned to profitable account; meanvitile, the children of the household. elighted with his marvelous powers. and not hesitated to defy the discipline of their elders and encourage him to play for them on the sly.

Besides being a remarkable player of ther people's music. Tom was a composer himself. He was near enough to ne of the battlefields of the civil war to catch the sounds from it, and these he wove into a piece which his manager entitled, for popular effect: "The Battle of Manassas." In it the piano is made to imitate the music of the fifes nd druins, the charges of the cavalry, he thunders of a battery, the grouns of the wounded and dying, and all the acidents of a great fight so faithfully One of the feats which Tom was ac astomed to perform in public to the unazement of his audiences was the mitation of any piece of music performed in his hearing by a stranger, some of these pieces made so great an procession on him that he exceled there in his mind for a long period and then could reproduce them at will. A story which seems somewhat apoeryphal was told me by a teacher of music in a young ladies' seminary in Maryland, representing Tom as having carried in is memory for twenty-one years, note or note, a German waltz which had been played before him by my informant in order to test his ability and which. as far as known, he never attempted again during all that period. When I angrested that there was a possibility of Tom's having heard, the same piece played by other hands in the interval and thus kept his memory refreshed. the professor assured me that this could not be so, because before playing it to Tom he had rewritten the waltz, adapting it from its original German form to me which contained a number of variations and fancy touches of his own. Tom reproduced all these incidentals

with absolute faithfulness. The theory that Tom must be of a gentle disposition because so given to music would be very misleading. Sound, rather than harmony, was what appealed to his intellect, such as it was, and his reproductions were governed by the rules of accuracy rather than inspired by artistic genius. It used to be said of him that the crying of a child afforded him keen delight, and when he could not draw forth as much sound as he wanted from his young companions by ordinary processes, he would bite and pinch them for the purpose of hearing their shricks of pain. As he matured he developed a powerful bone frame and great muscular strength, which he exerted to the serious discomfiture of anybody who opposed his wishes. If kept away from a piano when he wanted to play, he would bang his head against the wall and throw chairs around the room. Once, while staying at a hotel on one of his concert tours, he insisted on playing a loud piece of music in the middle of the night, regardless of the comfort of the other guests. His agent

attempted to check him, but was seized by Tom and thrown out of the m with great violence. On another asion in Washington he was visited by a man whose presence was distaste ul to him, and he manifested his dislke by pitching the poor fellow down-

Possibly Tom's present seclusion has other reasons behind it besides his inceasing eccentricities. The legal congol of his time and services has been or some years the subject of litigation in the courts. Gen, Bethune turned the care of the boy over to his son at one time, and the son's will daimed her husband's rights after the after's death. I believe the case has never been finally settled, and it may be that one or the other party to the controversy has thought it wise to keep Tom out of sight until his fate can be

decided. An Old Japanese Bank. Japan has a banking house that has been in business without a break for over three hundred years. It began with Yechigo No Kami, an impoverished feudal noble of the province of Ise who broke away from the traditions of his easte and went into the liquor trade, manufacturing saki from rice. One of his sons established a bank, which two centuries ago was removed to Table, the present capital, and from the name of the principal at the time took the name by which it is now known. of the Mitsui bank. Like the Roths childs, the whole family is engaged in the business, a marked feature of which is that the capital belongs to all in common, while no one member can claim a separate share. The most competent individual is chosen president. The bank has now over thirty branches, and is the largest private

bank in Japan. -Gladys-"I have a note from Charlie protesting against my treatment of him." Clare-"Papa was right then." Gladys-"What do you mean?" Clare-"He said Charlie's notes were always Rochester, N. Y. | going to protest."

FOUL AIR AS A GERM GARDEN.

Good Sanitation a Prime Necessity as a Defense Against Disease Germs. The development of the germs so fatal to humanity when taken into the system is an effort of nature to destroy and really eat up effete matter. The grub and maggot, disgusting as they are, are true seavencers, and if sufficient time be allowed them they will reduce to innocuous dust the most poisonous of animal and vegetable matter. We regard the creatures with abhorrence because of their occupation; but they are laboring, albeit unconsciously, in the interest of higher forms of life. When disease-generating matter has passed through the digretive canal of the papa-it is no longer infections. In the undrained and filthy portions of a city the foul matter is constantly accumulating far beyond the corrective powers of unaided nature. Deadly gases are east off from festering heaps, vapors charged with microscopic germs which batch fearful ailments in that weak mechanism, man's body. But even where the system is not directly affected by germ diseases, the influence of the foul gases-why, we do not fully understand as yet-tends to lower vitality to such a degree that the subject is always in good condition to take a fever of the typhoid class, scaraltina, diphtheria, etc., Prof. Alessi's experiments, says an exchange, show that a person who has lived in foul air for a considerable time will get any one of the fatal germ diseases much more readily than one who has breathed pure air and only absorbs the germs by accident. Prof. Alessi has proved that the same is true with animals. He placed a number of dogs, pigs, etc., in such a situation that they were compelled to live, for some weeks, in an atmosphere saturated with the noxious vapors from garbage heaps. These he inoculated with the typhoid bacillus, at the same time inoculating a similar number of animals which had been brought direct from the pure air of the rural district. The first lot died, some of them in thirty-six hours, with unmistakable typhoid symptoms, while not one of the second lot was affected. It was observed, however, that when the rural animals began to breathe the ted air they began at once to show lost their liveliness and grew glassyeyed, and though they continued to cat, they became poor in flesh. There is a grim significance in these facts which should teach us a lesson that good sanitation is a prime necessity. not only as a defense against direct assaults of germ disease, but also against the lowering of the physical powers which opens the system not only to the bacillus but to all the other

focs which lie in wait to destroy life. TRAVEL IN OLD TIMES.

How Some Snowbound Coachers Beguiled the Time with Cock Lights. Of course the railways have done away with much of the difficulties of travel in snow time. When a train is snowed up now there are no such in conveniences as happened in the east of the mail coaches. There is delay but there is generally enough to eat and drink, plenty of companiouship, and a nuch larger area to live and breathe in. A friend of mine, much my senior however, once told me what occurred to him in a snowstorm between Edin burgh and London. He was a mer chant of great position and quite above the temptation to exaggerate matters like a mere story teller, and his narrative impressed me the more according ly. Three times on their way south both outside and inside passengers had to get on the coach and push the wheels through the drifted snow, and when crossing Shap Fells the bleakest spot on the road) they got stuck, James Payn writes in the London Illustrated. After fruitless endeavor to move the conch the guard rode off with the mailbags and the passengers were left to their fate. There was known to be an inn at Shap if they could only get there, and after many hours they contrived to do so. Fortunately there were no women passengers, or it is possible they would have succumbed. They were shut up . I that inn for eight days, during which they had no communication, either north or south, with the outside world, 'And I suppose," I said, "you had no books?" "Books! Think of books at Shap in those days! No, not even a rack of eards." "What did you do with vourselves?" "Well," said my respectable friend, "it seems queer to say so at this time of day, but the place was famous for its game cocks and we had cock fighting from morning to night. That is what they did for eight days instead of telling stories to one another as would have been the case in a Christ-

WHY THE TRAMP WEPT.

But the Lady Who Dropped the Bottle Said Never a Word.

A large crowd of spectators, the majority of whom were women, were standing in front of a show window on Broadway one day, says a New York exchange, watching the movements of a muscalar young man, who was busily engaged in demonstrating the useful qualities of a new exercising apparatus. While the eyes of the crowd were fixed on the graceful bendings and twistings of the exhibitor, there was a sharp report, as though something fragile had fallen upon the sidewalk. The woman from whose hand the package had failen, and who was a picture of respectability, stooped and picked up the paper, which was dripping wet, and, easting one despairing glance at it, dropped it quietly in the entter and hastened up Broadway, as though she had an important engagement which demanded her immediate attention. In the meantime the contents of the package had been spreading over the sidewalk, and as the odor of good old insinuated itself into the nostrils of the crowd a broad grin spread over the faces of everyone except an old tramp who sat down on the edge of the gutter and wept bitterly at the sad sight of such a waste of good material.

KANSAS PHILOSOPHY.

Don't give a lecture with your char-Some people's idea of getting ready

for company is to make a marble cake and open a can of peaches. A woman imagines she has given proof of her affection for a man when the tells him she dreamed of him. CONSIDER the lilies; how much toiling a man has to do before he can buy one; -Atchison Globe.

WEIGHT OF THE WORLD.

How It Is Calculated by an English Professor.

Figures Which Are Bewildering in Their Immensity - The Scientific Gentleman Is Doubtless Safe from Contradiction.

When Newton set himself to find the law by which an apple falls to the earth and the planets revolve at varying speeds along their orbits be constructed a formula which would explain these phenomena, says the London Graphic. He laid it down as a law that the force with which the earth attracts the apple or the apple the earth, or the planets one another, is equal to the mass of the one multiplied by the mass of the other, and divided by the square of the distance between themthe whole multiplied by a constant called G. G is the Newtonian constant of gravitation. It is of all the constants the most important to physical science; it is a constant for the more accurate determination of which Prof. Boys, who lectured upon it recently at the London institute, has been willing to spend five years of the most arduous and minute observation. It is one hundred years since Rev. Mr. Mitchell first devised an instrument by which it would be possible to obtain, by actual observation, the attraction which two bodies have for one another.

Cavendish improved upon Mitchell's observations, Cornu carried it on. Prof. Boys has, so to speak, carried it two decimal places further. Now let us consider how it would be possible to ascertain, by observation, the attraction which two bodies have for one another. If Prof. Boys were to hang a couple of fifty-pound lead balls by two fibers he would find it as impossible to measure the inclination of the two fibers to one another as to weigh a sunbeam. But there is a possible way of measuring the attraction, and Prof. Boys has made it more possible-or, let us say, more practical-by the employment of quartz fibers to suspend some of the balls he uses. He uses in all four balls-two gold balls, a quarter of an inch in diameter, weighing forty or fifty grains, and two lead balls four and a half inches in diameter, and weighing each sixteen Lounds.

"Now, suppose these four balls in

their first position suspended in one plane. The two little gold balls are suspended by quartz fibers on either side of an oblong mirror, to which they are attached. If any force were to pull one gold ball a little way forward, and at the same time to pull the other little gold ball a little way back, it is obvious that a twist, an oscillation, would be imparted to the tiny mirror Now so beautifully is this mirror, with its gold balls, hung on its tube, that a force equal to the hundred-millionth part of a grain will set it swinging. With this degree of sensitiveness attained, we begin to get near some means of measuring influences upon it. The influence we can measure is that of the two lead balls. We imagined them to be, in the first instance, in the same perpendicular plane as the little gold balls. Suppose we move them contemporaneously and coequally, so that one lead ball moves in front of one gold ball and the other lead ball moves, exactly in the same way, behind the other gold ball. If the hanging of the mirror and its gold balls is delicate enough it is obvious then that the force exerted by the attraction between the gold balls and the lead balls will give the mirror to which the gold balls are

attached a little twist and will set it oscillating. The instrument is delicate enough. Seated eighty feet away the observer can time it. He therefore can measure the force which the lead balls and the gold balls exert upon one another; he can measure the distance which the balls are apart; he can measure the balls. Therefore, knowing the force, the masses and the distance between them, he can determine the great constant G, and, knowing G, he can determine the specific gravity of the earth; he can find its weight. Prof. Boys. after years of experiment, has found the specific gravity of the earth to be 5,527. Before this time we were content to regard it as 5.5. He has taken five years or more to establish beyond controversy these other two decimals. People with a taste for large figures may be interested to hear that, taking this as a basis, the weight of the world may be taken as 5,882,000,000,000,000,-

000,000 tops. That, as far as the present writer is concerned, is the most lucid explanation which can be given of Prof. Boys method. But it has left untold the extraordinary minuteness of the observations and the sensitiveness of his instruments. The instrument which contains the system of gold and lead balls is put in the corner of an underground crypt in Oxford. There is too much tremor of the earth in London. It is boxed up in a thick octagonal wooden box. It is separated from the observer by a series of felt curtains. He sits eighty feet away and examines its movements by means of a telescope through slits in the felt curtains and in the wooden box, and in the metal tubes holding the gold ball system.

The mirror reflects a nine-foot scale with 5,000 divisions placed behind the observer's head. In order to avoid creating currents of air, Prof. Boys has the scale illuminated only by a little traveling lamp. In order to avoid tremors of earth he works at dead of night, for a train shunting a mile away will move that tiny mirror; and once an earthquake in Transylvania, on the other side of Europe, was marked by it. And then as to the measurements the distance of the lead balls from one another is calculated by micrometer and microscope to the 300th part of an inch, the distance of the gold ball quartz fibers in the 10,000th part of an inch, and a force equal to the millionth of a grain would be sufficient to send the reflection of the mirror right off the

-"This servant you have now seems very nice and quiet." "Oh, yes; she doesn't even disturb the dust when cleaning up a room."-Inter Ocean. -Not the Peruvian Kind .- He had just come from the dog show: "Ugh! The horrible bark!" he exclaimed. "It's ringing in my head yet!" . "What? Quinine?" "No. Canine."

WINTER IN THE SIERRAS. Twenty Feet of Snow-Drifts Higher Than

the Houses. Julian Ralph, writing in Harper's Weekly, thus recounts some of his recent experiences in the snow regions of

the Sierras:

"Tired of the cars, which were then tied up at Emigrant Gap, I left them under a great snowshed, and plunged down a steep hillside into the village below, which was but faintly indicated by a few chimneys that here and there broke through the beautiful undulating blanket that lay high and thick upon the mountains, the knolls and valleys all around me. The trees, cumbered with deep white snow upon every projection, rested their middle branches upon the soft bedding of snow, so that they looked dwarfed and misshapen. In places great granite bowlders sat in hollow wells scooped out by the wind, and on the tops of such stones rested nightcaps of snow that were taller than the rocks themselves. Drifts rose in cork-screw shapes that ended in fantastic curls upon their tops. The way to some of the houses was by tunnels, but looking straight down from above them there could only be seen a little white-walled shaft opposite the door, as if a hole had been dug there to let in breath to the people indoors. The snow had banked against the houses up to the roof-line, and then had mounted upon itself and grown in weight and depth until there was danger that the roofs would be crushed in. That was why I saw men on Norwegian snow-shoes walking over their own roofs and stopping there to shovel snow into battlemented walls beside them. Thus they walled their houses in each day, only to find them submerged on the morrow, as the snow continued to

My short walk to the nearest tavern was a chain of lively adventures. Safe inside the tavern door, I saw a row of Norwegian snowshoes dripping against the wall. I found that upon them the villagers travel in the winter, and that without them they would be jailed in their homes. Canadian net-work shoes would not serve. The snow is too fine and dry. Therefore the shoe in use is a board four inches wide and from nine to a dozen feet long. The women go shopping and visiting upon them. The doctors travel twenty-five miles at a time upon them on their rounds. The girls coast upon the roofs and smaller knolls upon them. The venturesome young men actually race down the mountain sides upon them at twenty miles an hour, and even jump ravines and leap over cabins and houses with these shoes in the course of their wagers and their dangerous fun.

That and nightly dances in the snowbound villages are all the fun the people get. There is too much winter in the Sierras for carnival frolics such as are had in Canada. Winter on these California terraces is too severe to be trifled with or turned into the basis of a long roll of sports. In the larger towns the people dig tunnels from house to house and house to store, and at one station I went into supper by way of a tunnel from the cars to the depot restaurant. I saw no horses or sleighs, but ! was told that when the snow depths cease to deepen and the trails are pressed hard down, horses are often used. When they step aside from the trails and sink all but out of sight, their owners find that they tire of struggling and desire to resign themselves to death. Then the plan is to choke them with a slip-noose around their necks when they fight so frantically for breath that they can be led back to the trail. It sometimes happens that a horse that sinks beside the trail slips down through the snow upon the roof of a buried house. Then there is great danger that he will continue downward through the shingles and into some

one's parlor or bedroom. In all the United States there is no other winter and no other snowfall like this. Five years ago it lay twentythree feet on the level in these mountains.

INTERESTING SCRAPS.

According to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, there has been but one mad dog in New York city for twenty-eight years.

HENRY AVERY, of Springfield, Mass has a complete set of New England almanaes. The one for 1780 contains a sketch of George Washington.

Scores of Quaker families in southern Pennsylvania have preserved the marriage certificates of their ancestors for many generations, signed, as is the Quaker custom, by all the guests at the ceremony. AMERICANS that know Italy come

back with painful memory of the Italian eigar, and especially of the sc-ealled 'Virginia." This last is now produced by Italian eigarmakers of New York city and sold at eight or ten dollars per thousand.

ONLY two New York clubs are above fifty years old and of these one, the New York club, is only a few days past its half century. When a club reaches such an age it ceases publishing its necrology entire, and contents itself with the mortuary record of a single As authority on bridge architecture

says that the longest bridge in the world (not taking into consideration the famous Lake Ponchartrain trestle work) is the Saratova bridge across the Volga, length 4,872 feet.

Revenge After Twenty Years. He was asking the old man for his daughter in marriage. He was talking tremblingly, hesitatingly, says the Springfield Union, as you read of in

story books, and the scene was full of color, so far as an irate father and a nerveless young man could make it. It came the old man's turn to speak, and as he began his face was white with cassion and his voice shook with excitement. "You want to marry my daughter?" he said. "Ah, now is the time for my revenge. Twenty years ago your father crippled me in a stock deal and I swore to be revenged. And now my time has come." He paused for breath, and the aspirant for the maiden's hand was about to beat a hasty retreat in the face of supposed defeat, when the father broke forth again: "Yes, sir, I swore to be revenged, and now I'll strike the father through the son. Want my daughter eh? Well, take her, and may she prove as expensive to you as she has to me. The old man dropped into his chair, worn out with the excitement of his plot, and the young man fainted.

MYTHICAL FORTUNES.

Improbable Stories of Great English Legacies.

An Old Letter That Reveals the Scurritous Scheme Employed by Sharks in This Country for Duping Credulous Americans.

nense English estates which belong to American heirs suggest republication of an opinion written by Judah P. Benhicago Herald. Following is the great awyer's letter: "Lamb Building, Temple, London, Feb. 3, 1869.—Editor New Orleans

Some recent romantic tales about im-

your columns to send a word of warning

practiced in the United States? "Since my call to the English bar from Louisiana and other parts of the union, written by persons, many of whom are educated and intelligent. making inquiries relative to estates represented as existing in this country unclaimed and awaiting the appearance of heirs residing in America. In every is stance that has come to my knowledge the statements are false. and evidently made for the purpose of defrauding parties out of sums, large or small, under pretext of paying the costs of records, copies, etc., said to be necessary for the assertion of the pre-

ample. A banker by the name of James Wood died in Gloucester in the year 1836, leaving a fortune of about \$800,000. His will was the subject of fifty, about three thousand pounds. A much litigation, but finally decided to great number of rabbits were slain be valid, and the estate was ordered to be divided among the legatees under a decision of the house of lords in 1847. Anyone desirous of having particulars | pleasure of the participants. of the litigation can trace it through the different charts, as follows: L. In the prerogative court of Canterbury (Canterbury) reported in 2 Curteiss, p. 82. 2. On appeal to the privy council in 2 Moore's Privy Council Cases. in the case entitled 'The Corporation of Gioneester vs. Osborne, 1 'House of | hundreds might be around you. They Lords Cases, p. 272. Although his estate has thus been finally settled and distributed for more than twenty years, I do not at all exaggerate in stating that not a month passes without my receiving one or more letters from persons who are approached by some pretended agent of some imaginary great firm of London solicitors engaged in seeking heirs of the great intestate banker, James Wood, whose fortune. amounting to £10,000,000, is lying in the Bank of England awaiting a claimant

"The usual mode of proceeding adopt-

ed is to propose to undertake the busi ness free of expense, the proposer to receiver only a share of what may be recovered. This seems so reasonable that in most cases the dupe readily swallows the bait. A short time after ward he is informed that all inquirie and researches have resulted favorably. and that nothing is wanted to insure success except the cost of a few copies of records and other papers, and that the proposer, having already incurred great expense in conducting the necessary inquiries and researches, is left without resources at the very moment when a few pounds would suffice to secure the fruits of his labors and expenditure. Many are the victims from whom sums varying from £20 to £500 have been thus extracted, and the number of persons engaged in this system must be very great, and the sums received by them very considerable, if at all in proportion to the number of letters received here on the subject. Many thousands of pounds are known to have been expended by those who could ill afford to bear the loss in the pursuit of the great Jennings estate; and some of those who have spent money in this way have actually been deluded into writing to me their convictions that they were entitled to dislodge the pres ent duke of Marlborough from the Blenheim castle, by virtue of their descent from the famous Duchess Sarah Jennings. Most of the persons who are auped are ignorant on two points, which, in nearly every instance, would satisfy them at once of the utter folly of the hopes they indulge. The first is that an alien cannot be an heir in England when there is no will and that he cannot take real estate even if left to him by will. The second is that in England estates devolve upon the eldest son alone, and on his eldest son in succession, and are not divided in shares among all children as in Louisiana and other states. Yet nothing is more common than for persons to assert beirship to the supposed shares of younger brothers and sisters, or to claim as natives of the United States heirship to Englishmen who had left no wills.

"In the hope that this exposure will be of some use to my fellow citizens, in whose welfare I retain the deepest interest, and may protect them to some extent from the sharpers who are plundering them, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant. "J. P. BENJAMIN."

ABOUT BOATS.

In all particulars, save size, the Vene tian gondola, the Siamese barge and the old Scandinavian Viking ship are very

Ar Portsmouth, the Majestic, sister ship to the Magnificent, has just been launched. It holds the record for speed in construction, having taken five days | less than a year to build. THE hay barges on the Swiss lakes,

much alike

sailboats, with tall brown sails stand- away to another hammock, but the ing very high to eatch fickle winds, are | crowd follows. Then, in desperation, among the most picturesque of craft. Miss Dora Wells is owner and purser of the Puget sound steamship | reside in company with rattlesnakes Delta, which runs from Whatcom to and African crocodiles. No sooner do the San Juan islands and Victoria. B. C., tri-weekly. Miss Wells collects fares, makes contracts for freight, and

Queer Chinese Beliefs.

The Chinese believe that the water from melted hail-stones is poisonous and that the rain which falls on certain feast days is a sure cure for ague and malarial fever. They once believed that they could whip the Japanese, but this notion has been thrashed out of them.

also assists in navigating her steamer.

HUNTING THE JACKRABBIT. Story of a Famous Day's Sport in a Col-

orado Town.

When the special train bringing the visiting hunters reached Lamar there was a brass band at the station, and the brass band was there when they left. The merchants closed their stores and the people threw open their houses for the entertainment of their guests. After the hunt began the irregular discharge of the rifles in the sand hills around Lamar reminded one of picket firing. When a large party of gunners found a stretch of prairie where the rabbits were thick the reamin twenty-six years ago, says the port of the guns sounded like a general engagement. Though the rabbit hunt is a fixed annual event in Lamar, and rabbits are killed by thousands, there seems to be no decrease in the number. Times: Will you permit me through | They multiply so rapidly during the summer months that it becomes necesto the public against a scheme of sary to make some such organized atswindling which is now extensively | tack on them, for they are becoming as great a nuisance as they are in Australia. The rabbits breed on the grassy hundreds of letters have reached me | plains above the canals, where they stay until their forage fails them. Then they gather in the alfalfa fields, which accounts for their being so numerous at this season of the year, says Harper's

At the beginning of the hunt the wagons began coming in at four o'clock, and continued until nine at night, with heaping loads of the slain furry enemies of the farmer. The cleaners began their work with the first wagon load, and worked bravely, but the odds were against them, and they were soon half buried in the mass of rabbits awaiting preparation for shipment. At the "One claim may be selected as an ex- first day's hunt fully two thousand were killed. No wagon brought in fewer than one hundred rabbits, and one went as high as four hundred and which were not brought in. All records were broken at this hunt, and not a single accident occurred to mar the

When the spring comes and the fresh green grass comes up the jack-rabbits appear in large numbers and begin to nibble on the bark of the young fruit trees and the vines. Whole orchards are destroyed by them. If you were to walk through a large vineyard you might not see one rabbit, although secrete themselves very cleverly in the grass, and, being so nearly the color of the ground, are hard to detect. They lie close, with their large ears flat upon their backs, until disturbed, and one can almost walk over them before they will move.

ORIGIN OF TICKET SCALPING.

Started in Wheeling, W. Va., a Quarter of a Century Ago. Campbell Hubbard, a nail traveler, of Wheeling, recently said to a Globe-Democrat man: "I have just been reading the decision of Judge Nash, at Dallas, in the ticket broker case under he new Texas law, intended to do away with the scalpers' business. It strikes me as being an exceedingly clear and a forceful exposition of the subject matter involved in the Traxler prosecution. It is closely in line with decisions in favor of the scalpers in Minnesota, Illinois and Pennsylvania The gravamen of these decisions is that an unused railway ticket, or an unused portion of a ticket, is legitimate property, and any law which interferes with

its disposition by sale is contrary to public policy, if not in direct conflict with the constitution of the United States. This decision of Judge Nash will help the scalpers, not only down in Texas, but all over the country. The extent to which the ticket brokers help the weak roads against the strong ones is but little realized, and without their aid many of the lines would go under. It is their method of cutting rates secretly to stimulate business, and the brokers are really regular agents of these companies. By the bye, perhaps you don't know that the scalper business originated in my town-Wheeling. It was about twenty-five years ago. We had a couple of bright young fellows there-Upton W. Dorsey and another chap named Frank. They took a notion to speculate on a small scale in tickets of the Baltimore & Ohio, and the first scalping transaction that ever occurred in the history of railroading took place there in Wheeling. The Baltimore & Ohio company made a big fight upon it, and the case went to the supreme court of the United States. The result was that the supreme court handed down its famous decision to the effect that when a man buys a ticket for so many miles of transportation he is entitled to travel those miles, regardless of the limit dates stamped upon the ticket by the company's agents. From that time on the scalper's business flourished, and spread with amazing rapidity all over the country. It is now as safe and as

A SAD ATTEMPT. The Usual Fate of the Letter-Writer at a

legitimate a line of business as banking

or insurance or manufacturing, and is,

moreover, a mighty help to the travel-

ing public."

Did you ever try to write a letter at summer hotel? If you have you probably will never make a second attempt. The exercise you get mentally is nothing to the pedestrian feats that con indulge in.

You can't write in your room, because it's too warm there, and, besides, you don't want to lose a moment of outdoor fun. So you make a peneil and pad and hammock combination. You start with: "My dearest dear," and by that time you are surrounded by a huge crowd who come to assure you that a rumor that ice-cream was to be served at dinner had been rowed by women standing, and the proven false. Gradually you sneak you plunge into a dense wood, where you are sure panthers and polar bears you get that peneil fixed than you hear something like this wafted over your

> "You are heartless. You know I "Te-he-he! I don't believe it. I suppose you've said the same thing to every other girl nere."

"I swear I haven't! I care for no one but you. I love-Then you experience a queer feeling and tramp off with the thought that two wooden dummies or a pair of cigar store signs would spoon at a summer

resort. - Chicago Record.