The Old Couple.

They sat in the sun together,
Till the day was almost done,
And then at its close an angel
Stepped over the threshold stone.

He folded their hands together,
He touched their eyelids with balm.
And their last breath floated upward
Like the close of a solemn psalm.

Like a bridal pair they traversed
The unseen, mystical road,
That leads to the Beautiful City,
Whose Builder and Maker is God.

Perhaps, in that miracle country,
They will give her lost youth back,
And the flowers of a vanished Spring-time
Shall bloom in the spirit's track.

One draught of the living waters
Shall restore his manhood's prime,
And eternal years shall measure
The love that outlives time.

But the shades they left behind them—
The wrinkles and silver hair—
Made sacred to us by the kisses
The angel imprinted there—

We'll hide away in the meadow
When the sun is low in the west,
Where the moonbeams cannot find them,
Nor the wind disturb their rest.

But we'll let no tell-tale tomb-stone,
With its age and date, arise
O'er the two who are old no longer
In their Father's house in the skies.

Farm, Garden and Household.

BAKED BUTTER PUDDING WITH APPLES.—Take a half pound of flour and the whites of two eggs, half a teaspoonful of baking powder, and one teaspoonful of salt. Rub the powder till smooth, mix it well with the flour, adding the salt, and as much milk as will make it a stiff batter, beat it until quite smooth, then add the remainder of the milk and the eggs, well beaten. Put some apples, cut as for a pie, into a buttered dish, pour the batter over, and bake it in a moderately hot oven. Damsons, currants, gooseberries or rhubarb, may be used in the same way.

CALVES.—Will you allow a farmer's daughter to give her cure for scour in calves? Take two quarts of milk from the cow; add one tea cup of boiled flaxseed; give this night and morning till the calf is better. Then let it run on the grass, giving it cold skimmed or thick milk; do not warm it, as this gives the scours. I give mine sweet milk till they are three weeks old, and then cold skimmed milk right out of the spring-house. Feed them separate, so that one will not get more than another. About three quarts is plenty for each one. I never have a calf sick or die in the winter. We turn them into the stock yard, turn them out to water, and put them back to a trough of boiled oats and bran.

QUANTITY OF MILK FROM COWS.—In the address before the Essex County Association, Mass., last year, by Mr. Howe, of Methuen, we find some interesting statements in regard to the quantity of milk usually produced by the cows in that county. He says the average in the county is estimated at 1800 quarts, but from the cows in Essex county not far from 2000 quarts each in a year. In his own herd of twenty cows, the average yielding has been 2000 to 2200 quarts of milk annually; varying with the quantity of pasturing and freedom from accidents to the stock. He sets the average price of milk at four and one-half cents per quart, making an average annual income for each of from $90 to $100. To offset this, the cost of two tons of hay, pasturing, grain, labor and interest on capital must be reckoned. —*New England Farmer.*

FOWLS AS AIDS.—A gentleman in Providence, R. I., raises perfect fruit in a one acre orchard, but he keeps thirty assistants. They are clothed in feathers and are of the Dominique persuasion. A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* calls attention to this suggestive fact, and in further proof of the advantage of the practice he cites the case of a competent English gardener who when he took charge of certain ornamental grounds, astonished the natives by introducing a hen and her brood. In explanation of this innovation, he stated that in first-class gardens abroad chickens and ducks are constantly kept, and prove very beneficial as destroyers of slugs, worms, and bugs. Fowls usually resort to one place to dust themselves, and their scratching depends upon the supply of food obtained without scratching. They do not work long in a place without a reward. They should be fed sometimes, and not be made to entirely depend upon insects.

HOW DAIRY STOCK RUNS DOWN.—Dairymen complain that they cannot afford to raise their calves, that it is cheaper to buy cows to replenish their stock than to raise them. This may be so when they look at the matter in the light of a present expenditure of dollars and cents. But it is questionable whether the rule holds good to the end, and whether the dairymen or indeed farmers generally, could not, by expending $50 in raising a calf until it becomes a cow, start it on its productive existence in an improved condition so as to make a profit on the investment. As it is true that an animal starved and stunted in its early life can never regain what has been lost, so it is true that one fed and encouraged in its period of growth may be made better and more productive throughout its life. If the present destruction of calves for the market is persisted in, the scarcity of good cows must increase, and the supply to which the dairymen look to replenish their stock must decrease, and as a consequence prices must advance. Further, as the best calves are taken for the knife and the poorest retained, another element is added to those which make up the sum of the deficiency.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

CUTTING WHEAT.—The safest general advice that I can give says a correspondent—as to the proper condition of ripeness of wheat for cutting—in instances where the owner has time and help so at his command, that he can govern the case, would be: select that time that will secure the crop as ripe as it can be and not have the grain shell in handling. By so doing, I think the greatest number of bushels will be secured at the least cost, and the least time will be required between cutting and housing, and thus the greatest safety against bad weather will be secured. I have seen so much wheat sprouted while curing in the shock, that it has become with me a very important point to get wheat into the barn as soon as practicable after it is cut; and to this end I do not cut as early as I would if I knew, as the men of California know, that there will be no rain during all harvest and threshing time, but I would in no case start the reaper so promptly that the kernel would shrink because of early cutting. After all that has been said, I must repeat the assertion, that nothing but actual knowledge derived from experience, can guide the grain raiser in forming his judgement as to when he should begin his harvest and how he shall conduct it, so as to best avoid the dangers of being either too soon or too late at this crisis in the business of the whole year.

AN ARTIST.—A Brooklyn contractor claims to be an "artist in marble." it is related of him that he once carved a sleeping lion in stone and took it to a fair for a premium. The day for distributing the honors arrived and the artist was promptly on hand. Prize after prize was awarded, and finally "statuary" was reached. The artist's eyes lit up with the glow of expectation as he leaned anxiously forward to hear these words: "James Mack—first premium for a beautiful sleeping bull pup in marble."

HONEY.—A Louisianian has invented a method of extracting bee honey from the comb by means of a centrifugal process, which accomplishes its work without breaking the comb further than uncapping the cells. The comb is then replaced in sliding compartments fitted to the hive, and the bees at once commence to refill the cells, thus saving the labor of constructing twenty pounds of comb, bee bread and wax, in order to preserve one pound of honey.

The American Institute.

The forty first annual exhibition of the American Institute will be opened in the Empire Rink, New York, which is now owned by the Institute, September 4, and will continue until November 13. The building has been thoroughly repaired throughout, and the Board of Managers have decided to open the department for massive machinery August 15, to give sufficient time for the erection of foundations and the making of necessary connections with motive power. The rest of the building will be ready August 26 for the reception of goods, and the managers hope that competitors will be prompt in placing their articles for exhibition. It is expected that the display of machinery will be larger than ever before, the space formerly devoted to this department having been extended. More efficient apparatus has been provided for testing machinery than last year.

All applications to enter goods for competition or examination must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be increased to $7.50 after the opening day. Applications for exhibition without examination require an entrance fee of $15. The department will be subdivided into groups, and any entry for more than one group will require an additional entrance fee. Exhibitors will receive a free ticket of admission. The managers will provide shafting, pulleys, gas and water pipes, and steam power; but permission to use these will not be granted except by direction of the Department Committees. Blank applications for space, pamphlets containing full details of the conditions of entry, and other information can be had by addressing the Corresponding Secretary of the American Institute, New York.

The articles exhibited will be classified in the following departments: First—Fine arts and education. Second—The dwelling. Third—Dress and handicraft. Fourth—Chemistry and mineralogy. Fifth—Engines and machinery. Sixth—intercommunication. Seventh—Agriculture and horticulture. The managers declare it essential that all who desire to exhibit should make early application; and as the applications thus far have been numerous, a large and interesting exhibition is expected.

Fattening Animals.

Numerous experiments have been made on geese, ducks, pigs, bees, &c., which go to prove that these animals accumulate much more fat than can be accounted for by the quantity present in the food. M. Flourens had the bears in the Jardin des Plantes fed exclusively on bread, and they become excessively fat. Bees confined to a diet of purified sugar continue to produce wax, which strictly belongs to the group of fats. But, whatever its source, the excessive use of non-nitrogenous food, conjoined with inactivity, frequently leads to the deposit of an inordinate amount of oleaginous matter. This fact is illustrated by numerous instances both among the lower animals and among men. At Strasbourg, the geese are fattened by shutting them up in darkened coops within a heated room, and stuffing them constantly with food. The high temperature lessens the escape of heat, and thus favors the process. Here all the conditions for insuring obesity are resorted to, viz., external heat, obscurity inactivity, and the cramming of the animals with fattening food. A still greater refinement for pandering to the appetite is resorted to by the Italians, who relish the fat of the ortolan. To procure this in perfection the natural habits of the bird were watched, and, it having been found that it only takes food at the rising of the sun, they cheat the birds by producing an artificial sunrise. To effect this, the ortolans are placed in dark, warm chamber which has but one aperture in the wall. Food being scattered over the floor, a lantern is placed at a certain hour in the opening, when the birds, misled by the dim light, at once commence feeding. The meal finished, the lantern is withdrawn and more food scattered about, when the ortolans sleep. Two or three hours having elapsed, and digestion being completed, the lantern is again made to throw its light into the apartment. The rising sun recalls the birds to the habit of again feeding, and they again sleep with returning darkness. This process is repeated several times in the twenty-four hours, and in a very short time the ortolan becomes literally a ball of fat, which, strung on a wick, is said to make an excellent lamp.—*The Popular Science Monthly.*

A CANINE MARTYR.—The following story is from the Nashville *Union:* When contumely is sought to be given a person the name of the dog is often used, and yet this brute most frequently of any other is man's best friend and faithful protector. Wednesday afternoon as Mrs. W. G Woodruff was in her yard near the race track she saw a mad dog making towards her, evidently desirous of making an attack. Being some distance from the house—too far, in fact, to reach the door before the mad dog could seize her, the affrighted lady thought of her own faithful dog, which she called to her assistance. Hearing the screams and call of her mistress, the dog, with an alacrity which seemed to spring from a consciousness of impending danger, bounded forward in time to attack the mad dog just as the infuriated beast was about to seize Mrs. Woodruff. Now ensued a conflict between the two dogs which lasted two or three minutes, enabling Mrs. Woodruff to get into her house and shut the door. It was doubtful which would prove the mastery, when a colored man came to the scene of conflict. No sooner had he neared the dogs than the rabid one attacked the colored man, who, having picked up a fence rail, defended himself as best he could. It was with difficulty he kept clear of the dog, which endeavored to spring upon him, but was finally felled to the ground and then killed by the colored man. Mrs. Woodruff's faithful animal was badly bitten and considerably worsted, though it had saved the life of its mistress. Afterwards this dog gave evidence of hydrophobia, when it was found necessary to kill the animal which had saved a human being from a horrid fate.

ATTEMPTED EXTORTION.—The burning of Chicago involved the loss of all the official records of title to real estate in Cook county, and last winter a law was passed by the Illinois Legislature for the relief of property holders, which provided for the purchase at a fair price of certain books and abstracts of title which were preserved from the flames, and are the property of private parties. These books comprise in all about two hundred volumes and belong to three firms who act as one party in their negotiations with the authorities. It appears that a fair price for these books, which tend to show a continuous chain of title to all the real estate in Cook county, according to the views of the owners is $750,000. The county Board is unable to see the matter in that light, but do not know what they can do about it. The *Tribune* proposes to call in a commission of disinterested parties, as in the case of the condemnation of land for public uses, to decide what would be a fair price for the records but does not say by what authority it would compell the abstract men to acquiese in the decision of such a commission.

A Chinaman dying left eleven sheep and three sons—and making a will, left one-half of his estate to his oldest boy, one-fourth to the next, and one sixth to the third son. They wished to divide without killing a sheep, but could not see how to do it; so they sent for a wise man. Sending to his own fold for a sheep, he put it in with eleven. Now take your half said he to the oldest, and he did so.—6, the second, take your fourth—3; the younger, take your one-sixth, and begone—2; and they all did so, when the wise man drove his own sheep home. Was the division according to the will?

The Miss Tomlinson who was stabbed by her father, in Brooklyn, in a fit of inebriate rage, because she kept company with a young doctor, saved from drowning, when she was but eleven years old, a grandson of the late President Van Buren.

A Visit to a Marble Quarry.

It had been said of Massachusetts that she owes a large share of her prosperity to her supplies of granite and ice. It might with equal truth be said of Vermont, that much of her material wealth consists in her apparently inexhaustible supplies of marble and slate.

When the Vermont quarries were first opened, it was the aim to obtain very white marble and a kind easily worked. Many of the quarries were near trap dikes, where the whitest marble lies, and the quarrying was greatly facilitated by numerous joints that occur, running parallel with the dikes, but time has proved that marble from such localities contains numerous hidden joints, which upon exposure disfigure the slab, and it often breaks at these joints. Now, beds of fine, close-grained, compact marble, are far the most valuable, but in order to reach such beds a good deal of capital and labor must be expended in removing the overlaying portions that have been injured by atmospheric and other causes. The Vermont quarries produce sound marble of good quality that finds a ready market all over the country.

What is termed "Vermont marble" is principally found in Rutland and Bennington Counties, the most extensive works in the State being at West Rutland. One quarry is roofed over, which prevents rain and snow from interfering with the work.

The beds of all these quarries are so compact, that the marble is obtained by channeling through the blocks. This is done by machines and by hand. To break these channeled blocks the marble is drilled, sometimes by a machine sometimes by hand. Then wedges are driven in. This is technically termed "gadding up." Blasting is resorted to, principally for "uncovering" — removing useless overlying material. The detached blocks are hoisted out of the quarry by derricks that are moved by machinery driven by horse-power. The sweep to which the horses are attached is connected with machinery in the building, which moves a wire rope running underground to the derrick. The waste material is hoisted out by the same means and removed to the "dump" in carts.

Until 1804 marble was not sawed in New England, but "sheets" were split off and worked smooth by the chisel. In that year was adopted the plan of ancient marble workers, and marble sawed with a smooth strip of iron with the help of sand and water, a method now universally adopted. In the Rutland mills the saws are worked by steam. They are set in "gangs," and adjusted to saw the blocks into slabs of the required thickness. They work down to the block as fast as cut by a regular feed-motion. The top is kept covered with sand, upon which water continually drips. When the block is sawed it is washed down by the aid of hose. If desired the slabs are turned flatwise, and sawed again to the required width. It takes about forty-eight hours to saw a five-ton block. The saws are of soft iron, and last to do the work upon about two blocks. The sorting and breaking up of the slabs is termed "coping." The "coper" nicks the two edges, and then breaks the slab across by a slight blow of the hammer. Down in the quarry blacksmiths are kept continually at work mending and sharpening the tools. —*Hearth and Home.*

The African as He Is.

Dr. Livingstone in a letter says: At present let me give a glimpse of the slave trade, to which the search and discovery most of the Nile fountains have brought me face to face. The whole traffic, whether by land or ocean, is a gross outrage on the common law of mankind. It is carried on from age to age, and in addition to the untold evils it inflicts, presents almost insurmountable obstacles to intercourse between different portions of the human family. This open sore in the world is partly owing to human cupidity, partly to the ignorance of the more civilized of mankind of the blight which lights chiefly on more degraded piracies on high seas. It was once as common as slave trading is now, but as it became thoroughly known, the whole civilized world rose against it.

In now trying to make Eastern African slave trade better known to Americans, I indulge the hope I am aiding on, though in a small degree, the good time coming yet when slavery as well as piracy will be chased from the world. Many have but a faint idea of the evils that trading in slaves inflicts on the victims of its atrocities. Most people imagine that negroes, after being brutalized by a long course of servitude, with but few of the ameliorating influences that elevate the more favored races, are fair average specimens of the African man. Our ideas are derived from slaves of the west coast, who have for ages been subject to domestic bondage and all the depressing agencies of a most unhealthy climate These have told most injuriously on their physical frames, while fraud and the rum trade have ruined their moral natures so as not to discriminate the difference of the monstrous injustice.

The main body of the population living free in the interior, under their own chiefs and laws, cultivating their own farms, catching fish in their own rivers, or fighting bravely with the grand old denizens of the forests, which in more recent continents, can only be reached in rocky strata or under perennial ice. Winwood Reade hit the truth when he said the ancient Egyptian, with his large, round, black eyes, full, luscious lips, and somewhat depressed nose, is far nearer the typical negro than the west coast African, who has been debased by the unhealthy land he lives in. The slaves generally, and especially those on the west coast, at Zanzibar, and elsewhere are extremely ugly. I have no prejudice against their color; indeed any one who lives long among them forgets they are black, and feels them to be but fellow men; but the low, retreating forehead, prognathous jaws, lark, heels, and other physical peculiarities common among slaves and West African negroes, always awaken some feelings of aversion in those, with which we view specimens of the Bill Sykes and "Bruiser" class in England. I would not utter a syllable calculated to press down either class more deeply in the mire in which it is already sunk, but I wish to point out that these are not typical Africans any more than typical Englishmen, and that the natives on nearly all the high lands of the interior continent are, as a rule, fair average specimens of humanity.

SANDSPOUTS IN NEVADA.—For several hours there were visible from Virginia City, Nevada, on Twenty-one mile Desert, five or six tall columns of sand, sucked up by as many whirlwinds. At sea, these would have been waterspouts, but upon the desert they were only what we call sandspouts. The columns appeared to be ten feet in diameter and one thousand feet in height. Although they waltzed about over the plain for two or three hours, they never came together or never lost their cylindrical form, and when they did go down they went down at once all falling together. These sandspouts, says a local paper, are well known to all old prospectors and seem to indicate a change of weather. We have frequently seen in the Forty mile Desert, east of the lower Sink of the Carson, not less than ten or fifteen of these tall sand columns moving about over the plains at the same time. It is seldom that they come together, but when they do they dart forward like two flushes of lightning, and an explosion like a heavy blast ends all, and the two columns of sand at once fall to the ground Those who have not been upon our great deserts and who have never witnessed these grand sandspouts or the wonderful mirages, have but little idea of the romantic grandeur of these apparently uninteresting wastes of sand.

A QUESTION.—According to the *Avenir* of Rennes, at one of the recent fairs held in Chateauneuf-sur-Cher, a farmer sold an ox to a butcher, who paid him the price agreed in bank bills. The animal, with a single stroke of the tongue, licked up the bank bills from the hand of his owner and swallowed them. The seller, therefore, refusing to deliver the ox, alleging that the buyer ought to bear the loss of the swallowed bills. The case, according to the *Avenir*, is yet to be decided.

The Coming Crops.

The July report of agriculture is now ready. The reports of corn represent 989 counties, including an area usually producing 700,000,000 bushels annually, and indicating an increase of 3 per cent. This is equivalent to more than three-fourths of 1,000,000 acres, and the total area in this great crop of the country, which nearly equals in extent the aggregate of all other tilled crops together, is probably about 25,000,000 acres.

The States in which an increase of acreage is reported are as follows: New Jersey, 2 per cent.; Pennsylvania, 2; South Carolina, 1; Georgia, 1; Alabama 3; Mississippi, 1; Louisiana, 8; Texas, 8; Arkansas, 4; West Virginia, 2; Kentucky, 2; Ohio, 2; Michigan, 10; Indiana, 1; Illinois, 2; Iowa, 1; Missouri, 4; Kansas, 28; Nebraska, 20; California, 1.

A diminution appears in Main of 4 per cent.; Vermont, 2; Massachusetts, 4; Rhode Island, 5; Connecticut, 6; New York, 1; Wisconsin, 4; Minnesota, 3. The area in the remaining States is reported the same as last year. Of the reports of 989 counties, 263 place the condition above 100; 413 below 100. Illinois is represented by 65 counties, of which 22 stand above the average and 23 below. Of 64 counties in Missouri, the condition of corn is above the average in 16 and below in 25. Of 36 counties in Kansas, 8 only send figures less than 100. In Iowa, where cool, cloudy weather generally prevailed in spring followed by changeable weather and in some sections heavy rains, only two reports of condition are above 100, and in Ohio, where the drought has been severe, but three reports of forty-five give figures higher than 100. The States making returns higher than 100 are: Vermont, 101; North Carolina, 101; Alabama, 110; Mississippi, 110; Louisiana, 119; Texas, 110; Kentucky, 103; California, 101.

Wheat—An improvement in the condition of wheat is reported from New York, Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, and to a slight degree in some other States; while a small decline is reported in Ohio and some of the Southern States. The average in the winter wheat States stand as follows: Connecticut, 94; New York, 78; New Jersey, 69; Pennsylvania, 69; Delaware, 75; Maryland, 57; Virginia, 99; North Carolina, 112; South Carolina, 103; Georgia, 102; Alabama, 110; Tennessee, 105; West Virginia, 95; Kentucky, 112; Ohio, 75; Indiana, 88; Missouri, 66.

Of the States producing almost exclusively spring wheat: Maine, 108; New Hampshire, 100; Vermont, 104; Wisconsin, 101; Minnesota, 101; Iowa, 108; Nebraska, 112; Oregon, 95; California, (which is not fully reported), 120 for early sown, and 112 for late. Kansas, spring, 95; winter, 60; Illinois, spring, 104; winter, 92; Michigan, spring, 93; winter, 81.

The average condition for the United States is almost exactly the same as in June, or 94-6 per cent. less than an average. The quality of the grain is uniformly superior in the Middle States. In Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri, and wherever inferior condition is reported the straw is short, but the heads are generally long and well-filled, the kernels plump and heavy. The quality of the Southern Wheat will probably prove as fine as any ever produced in that section in thrashing. The fulness of the heads in proportion to the quality of the straw causes the yield to exceed the expectation, and may go far to offset the small decrease in the reported condition. It is quite probable that the general excellence of the grain will make the present crop of equal value to that of last year. There has been almost entire exemption from rust and comparatively little complaint of insects. The Hessian fly is reported in several places, more numerously in the Ohio Valley, and the chinch bug has caused losses in many counties of Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan.

FRANKLIN'S INDEPENDENCE.—Soon after his establishment in Philadelphia, Franklin was waited upon by one of the wealthiest men of the city, who offered him an article for publication in his newspaper. The publisher glanced his eyes over the piece, and requested the gentleman to call on the morrow. On the following day the author called, and asked what was the decision upon his article. "Why sir," rejoined Franklin, "I am sorry to say that I think it grossly scurrilous and defamatory. I have concluded not to publish it." "Sir!" cried the gentleman, in amaze, "do you know what you are doing? Do you think what the influence of my self and my friends may be, either for or against you, as we choose to exert it?" "I have thought of it," said Franklin, with solemn earnestness. "On account of my poverty I hesitated, and tried to persuade myself that the publication of the article in the present issue of my paper would be pardonable. Last night, when my work was done, I bought a two-penny loaf, on which, with a mug of water, I made my evening's meal. Then I laid me down in my greatcoat, with a roll of paper for my pillow, and slept soundly until the break of day, when another two-penny loaf and mug of water afforded me a sufficient breakfast. And now, sir, since I live very comfortably in this manner, why should I prostitute my press to personal hatred or party passion and malice, for a more luxurious living?" The gentleman departed utterly unable to longer face the incorruptible man; but he did not become Franklin's enemy. On the contrary, his admiration for the sterling character and moral worth of the poor printer, led him to offer his devoted friendship, which was accepted, and which remained true to the end.

A MAN MOWED ALL TO PIECES.—The Indianapolis *News* says: William Hamilton, who lived near Tipton, was thrown across the cutter bar of a mowing machine by the giving way of a seat. The guards caught his right foot and jerked the whole body in front of the knives and he was mangled from feet to hips. The right foot was cut nearly in two, the right heel cut completely off, the calf cut to the bone in many places, and a huge gash cut in the right thigh. On the left side he lost a toe, and the heel and ankle were badly cut and two fingers were cut from the right hand. His right leg was amputated at the ankle, and a toe and two fingers taken from the left side. He died the same night.

NINE HOURS.—The great lock-out in the building trade which commenced in London a short time ago has terminated by a compromise between the masters builders and the workmen, which is substantially a triumph for the nine-hour movement. The master masons have made an arrangement by which hereafter nine hours are to constitute a day's work; but the reckoning is to be made by taking the average of the whole year, giving less than nine hours in winter and enough more than nine hours in summer to equalize the time. The carpenters agreed to abide by a code of working rules to be settled by a board composed of an equal number of employers and workmen.

UPHEAVAL OF THE SWEDISH COAST.—The rate of upheaval of the Swedish coast, a fact long known to geologists, is shown by a large block, ten feet high and fifteen feet broad, on the shore near Morup, which in September, 1846, was four feet above high-water mark, as is proved by an inscription to that effect. During the past summer this block was 120 feet from the shore, indicating a comparatively recent and rapid upheaval. The earliest records of this stone state that it was close to the water but not in it; so that it would appear that the upheaval commenced in the present century.

A HINT.—Time, night; several stars winking knowingly. Youth and maiden leaning over a gate and looking "only." Maiden, with enthusiasm, pointing a taper finger toward the zenith, exclaims, "Oh, Harry, isn't jewelry beautiful?"

Michael Hickey and Joseph Carlett, employed in making an excavation for a gas tank at Cleveland, Ohio, were buried by the caving of the earth, and smothered before they could be rescued.

Singular Ice Caves.

The landlord who could walk a few rods from his door, entering an opening in the side of a bluff, and find stored therein a quantity of clear, beautiful ice ready for use, without any of the trouble of securing, carting, storing, or the daily expense of buying, would no doubt think himself a lucky individual. Yet this is just precisely what Mr. Thomas Botsford of the Sam's Point Mountain House, Ulster County, New York, does daily, having for the past few weeks supplied himself with ice from the caves recently discovered in the side of the bluffs near his house.

It would seem that these caves have been comparatively unknown, even by the oldest denizens of the point, although far surpassing the famous caves above Ellenville in extent, capacity and beauty. The bluffs for a long distance south of the Point have been broken up by some mighty convulsions of nature, into a series of crevices, which penetrate them in every direction, forming numerous large caves, often several hundred feet in length and of unknown depth, with frequent openings in the top of the bluff. Owing to the rough nature of the ground, covered with huge rocks and trees, these caves are not readily accessible from below, but on the bluffs very easy provision could be made for affording excursion parties a sight of their wonders without any such rough clambering as we were compelled to undergo. In times, these caves will be considered one of the greatest wonders of the Point.

Beginning at a point several hundred yards south of the Mountain House, the party found a nearly perpendicular opening into the bluff down which streaming sunlight revealed gloomy and mysterious cavernous depths. This was descended with considerable difficulty, when, at a depth of 100 feet below the surface, the cave was found to open in several directions, extending one way in a gallery several hundred feet in length. The width was several feet, the walls rising perpendicularly nearly to the surface, where they close in, except at infrequent places, holding at times immense boulders in their rocky jaws. Into the depth and gloom of this gallery we followed our guide until further progress was barred by a deep pit extending down toward the bowels of the earth directly across the bottom of the cave. The streaming sunlight, however, showed an exit a few hundred feet distant. A pistol fired in this cavern sent the reverberating echoes rebounding along the rocky walls. From the deepest portion of the cave conversation was held with one of the party through a small opening in the top. A small quantity of ice was found in the cave. Two or three other large caves were explored without finding more ice. Finally an opening was found through which ascended a heavy mist, resembling smoke. A long and deep cavern was discovered, the floor of which was completely paved with thick ice, smooth and clear. Here a "slide" of several hundred feet was afforded, and large chunks of ice broken off and brought out of the cave. In another cave large masses of ice were found covered with snow, and the novel pleasure of a snow-ball in July enjoyed. Another cave had a trickling rill of ice water running through it, at which the exploring party stopped and refreshed themselves.

Language would fail to describe the wonders and beauties of these caves, in which we spent upward of two hours. Their extent, we believe, no human being at present has any knowledge of. The walls are in most cases smooth and perpendicular, with no hanging fragments apparently ready to fall at any breath on the heads of those who enter, as in the case with the "ice caves" above Ellenville. At places large chambers open in the rocks, affording opportunity for the immaginative to weave fancied resemblances to the homes of bandits.—*Port Jervis Gazette.*

The College Regatta.

The result of the college regatta at Springfield, says the *World*, will undoubtedly encourage boat-racing. The prestige of Harvard, notwithstanding the defeat of Harvard last year, was still so strong, that if either Harvard or Yale had won the race, the effect upon the smaller colleges would have been to dishearten them. The cost of equipping and furnishing a university crew is felt even by the large constituencies of Harvard and Yale, and in the smaller colleges, where the cost remains the same and there are fewer students to bear it, it becomes a real burden. It will not be undertaken unless there seems a fair chance of winning, and a victory by either Harvard or Yale this year would have made that chance seem small to the most sanguine undergraduate. But Yale, in a field of six, was a very bad sixth, not because the crew was a bad crew, but because the crew adhered to an exploded theory of rowing. And Harvard, although Harvard pulled a capital race and came in an excellent second, did not win. Next year's race is utterly uncertain, and next year's race will consequently not lack for contestants. If it is established that boating and boat-racing are to increase and prosper in our colleges we have to face the question whether the growth of boating and boat-racing is a good thing. And about this question we have very little doubt. It is true enough that study is the business of a student, and that whatever takes him from it is an injury to him. But in fact the hardest students are very often the best oarsmen. The members of the six crews which rowed at Springfield, as we are informed, much above the average in their classes, and more than one boat held the best men in their classes. If a student does not subordinate boating to its proper place it is not because it makes him less studious. The choice is not between boating and study, but between boating and other diversions, most of which offer no compensation at all for the time and money they cost. This cannot be said of boating. It is surely a good thing that a man should have a sound body whether or not he is able or anxious to enclose a sound mind in it.

BORROWING TROUBLE.—It is uncomfortably true that there is almost as much distress of mind experienced in the anticipation as in the realization of trouble. About half of our unhappy days are occasioned by our looking forward to the unhappiness of the other half. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." We need never take another job on credit. In borrowing trouble, natural laws are reversed; mere mole-hills of annoyance become mountains, when viewed at a distance ahead. Some persons never take actual comfort. In tranquil times the dread of a coming change is always in the way of their enjoyment. I know of one family that was forever expecting to move; consequently, neglecting to make a garden, repair the house, or permanently arrange the furniture. At the latest advices, this family had lived in the same house eleven years. If we take things as they come, we shall usually find that they come much better than we have any right to expect. Our anticipatory flags of distress may have been inviting compassion and flinging patches of darkness over many a bright scene for months, for us to find at last that we have been guilty of needlessly, we might almost say criminally, robbing ourselves and others of the happiness right fully belonging to us and to them. "Borrowing trouble" is sometimes only another name for selfishness; for the one borrowing trouble is seldom satisfied unless all within his or her influence are inveigled into the load. It is holding a dangerous serpent in our hearts, that grows with what it feeds upon. It is sinful, for it is an abiding distrust of God's goodness.

A FORT REDUCED BY LIGHTNING.—Fort Monarca, at Nuevitas, was struck by lightning. The powder magazine exploded instantaneously with the stroke, and seven artillerists of the garrison were killed. One of the rifled cannons was carried a distance of fifty yards from its embrasure. Fort Monarca was built in 1869 by the city of Nuevitas, and was presented to the Government in 1870.

He who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it.

Something About Rattlesnakes.

A Nashville Tenn., paper says that about the 10th of May last Drs. Cardwell and Westmoreland captured at Prospect, in the lower edge of Giles County, near the Alabama line, a rattlesnake four feet three inches long and five inches in circumference. When captured it had eight rattles and a button. Since that time it has been confined in a glass case; it has not partaken of one particle of food, though it has been tempted with mice and other small animals on which the reptile is accustomed to feed. The snake manifested no inconvenience from its confinement, nor did it lose any in size or bodily vitality. Its eyes continued to glisten like magnetic steel, and its lancinating fangs to protrude at the appearance of any one near the case. Dr. Cotton thought all the while it was a male. Though small mice and rats have been confined in the case with the snake until their own hunger urged them to bite at its scaly hide, the serpent refused to give them notice or to partake of food. On two or three occasions it has taken small quantities of water. On going into the back room one day recently, where the case is kept, it was discovered that the snake had given birth to four young snakes, and two hours later gave birth to three more, making seven in all. The young snakes make their appearance one at a time and in a coiled or striking position, their eyes glistening and their envenomed tongues continually darting out. The young ones are each from nine to fifteen inches in length, and in a state of perfect development. They are quick of motion and possess no ordinary spinal vitality, as they crawl readily to the top of the case and move with celerity across and around it from end to end. What is most singular and contrary to all the received notions concerning the reptile, each of these young snakes has a full button on the tail, which clearly refutes the idea that they have to be six months old before the formation of the button. The old snake was lying in her cage in a lethargic state, with some indications, as the doctor thought, of increasing the coiling family. The young snakes coil around her, and under and over her, and she seems to have for them the maternal affection of instinct. This snake has been in captivity near four months, yet during all that period she has partaken of not a morsel of food, and has brooded her seven young. As to exactly how long from inception the process of gestation or incubation has been going on, there is no means of ascertaining, as we can only date from her captivity. Dr. Cotton informs us that he once before kept in the same case a large-sized rattlesnake for three years and nine months, and that he studied closely its various moods and changes. This snake, he says, did not partake of a particle of food for the first nine months, and but little water. He then gave it mice, rats, &c., putting the same into the case alive, and it commenced devouring voraciously. It never would touch a tame mouse, or a dead one, fresh as it might be. When a young rat was put into the case it would plant its warning fang in some part of the limb or body, and then wait until it died from the thorough inoculation of the poison. When quite dead it would turn it over, take it head foremost and swallow it, evidently drawing nutriment from the poison its own fangs had infused. It shed its skin twice a year—each spring and autumn—a new rattle appearing at each shedding, which explodes the popular notion that but one rattle comes a year. The docter took the case and placed it in the sun. From the effects of the sun three young ones died. Two others became stupefied, but recovered their vitality on being removed to the shade.

THE LANDMARK OF JERUSALEM.—The "Dome of the Rock," which marks Jerusalem as that of the Capitol marks Washington, has no rival for beauty, hardly for sanctity. Believers in three great religions revere the spot where Solomon's Temple once stood; the Mohammedan, who only exalts Mecca a little higher; the Jew, who has no other actual sanctuary, and who expects to meet a reconciled Jehovah at that accepted shrine; and the Christian, who held it awhile through the Crusaders' valor, and is quietly coming into possession of it again. The blue-and-white Temple seems as a cloud resting for a moment over the altar of so many thousand years' sacrifice, by-and-by to melt away in the serene heavens. No structure that ever stood there could have been more graceful, none more sublime. It is strange that so charming a model has never been followed. Far inferior patterns have been servilely copied, but none has been attempted of this, whose perfection is said to have cost the artist his head, the sultan being determined the experiment should not be repeated. The recent explorations of English engineers, besides mapping out the whole area belonging to the ancient Court of the Gentiles—an area of one thousand by fifteen hundred feet—have proved all that was conjectured about the antiquity of the bevelled stones forming the outer wall. They certainly go back to Solomon, and are remarkable stone-work for that early day, though far inferior to the Egyptian masterpieces, where thousands of artisans spent their lives in decoration of a single tomb.

A FATAL DISEASE.—The strange and very fatal disease known as "Bright's disease" appears to be alarmingly on the increase in this country, and in the city of New York especially. It is only during the last three years that any accurate statistics have been filled respecting this disease, and these show, during that period, that the ratio of deaths from Bright's disease as compared with the total deaths from all other causes were: In New York City, 1 to 52; in Rochester, 1 to 73; and in Boston, 1 93. This shows a far greater proportion of the disease here than in the Old World, where the mortality returns for the same period gave: In London, 1 to 142; in Paris, only 1 to 266. Although physicians have hitherto been unable to discover any cure for this terrible malady, when once firmly established, they seem to have at least been able to trace it to its direct causes, and to have discovered that it is not only curable in its earlier stages, but might be avoided altogether by proper personal care. The causes of it are said to be the excessive use of alcoholic drinks, and in the very sudden climatic changes to which we are more subjected here than perhaps in any other quarter of the globe. It is at least of invaluable usefulness to possess these facts, if it only teaches the necessity of temperance in living, and the great care to be observed in being always warmly clad, and in being at all times prepared to resist the sudden chills and checks of perspiration to which we are so perpetually subjected in this climate, at all seasons of the year.

WHAT DRINKS COST.—In addition to the 62,314,627 gallons of home-made spirits, and 7,159,740 barrels of fermented liquors on which taxes were paid in 1871, we imported of wine 2,788,983 gallons, and 431,562 dozen bottles; of spirits 2,629,326 gallons, and 123,667 dozen bottles, and of malt liquors 832,421 gallons. Four millions out of the nine of wine cost only 29 cents per gallon, and three millions of them 32 cents per gallon; the small remainder, varied in price, from wine at 64 cents, and rum at 77 cents, to brandy at $1.64 per gallon The home-made articles averaged 60 cents per gallon for spirits, and 30 cents for beer, as these are the prices of our exports of the same articles. The cost of foreign importation was $12,428,980. If to this we add 38 millions of excise duty, and the first cost of the home-made articles, at the above prices, our total outlay for one year's stock of drinks will exceed 162 millions of dollars.—*New York Paper.*

A lady at Saratoga wore the other day a dinner dress consisting of a petticoat of rose de chine faille, and the court train of a delicate hair checked silk, trimmed with flounces and French lace. The corsage had a basque front and vest, en applique and postillion back, and the sleeves were half flowing, and trimmed with flounces and lace,

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The Protestant Episcopal church in the United States has fifty-three bishops, (six missionary), 29000 clergy, or one bishop for every fifty-five clergymen, 225,000 communicants, 24,500, Sunday-school teachers, 230,000 Sunday-school scholars, and contributes for church purposes $5,600,000.

Pimples and brown spots on the face, Eruptions, Blotches, Scrofulous Diseases, and all sores arising from impure blood, are cured by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. 609.

AN OLD STRUCTURE.—A man who has lately visited the grand pyramid of Cheops, wading in the sand fourteen hundred feet before he had passed one of its sides, and between five and six thousand feet before he had made the circuit, says, that taking one hundred city churches of the ordinary, width, and arranging them in a hollow square, twenty-five on a side, you would have scarcely the basement of the pyramid. Take another hundred and throw the material in the hollow square and it would not be full; pile on all the bricks and mortar in the city of New York, and the structure would not be so high and solid as the great work of man. One layer of bricks was long