FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Medical Hints.

To Stop Bleeding.—It is said that the bleeding from a wound on man or beast may be stopped by a mixture of wheat flour and common salt, in equal parts, bound on with a cloth. If the bleeding be profuse, use a large quantity, say from one to three pints. It may be left on for hours, or even days, if necessary.

The Teeth.—Decay of the teeth is really caused by their being dissolved by acids generated in the mouth by the decomposition of small particles of food. It is clear, therefore, that the only method of preventing this is to apply the brush immediately after every meal. Soap is the best substance to use on the brush, though it is advisable occasionally to use a rather rough powder of some kind to keep the teeth in brilliant polish.

Remedy for Croup.—Spirits of turpentine is a sovereign remedy for croup. Saturate a piece of flannel with it, and place it on the throat and chest, and send for your family physician. If the case be very urgent, and the child in great distress, and the distance to the doctor's residence very great, drop three drops of the turpentine on a lump of sugar, and give it internally. Or a good emetic of blood-root, or lobelia, or both combined, should be given. Every family should keep a bottle of spirits of turpentine in the house.

Catarrh.—Although a catarrh of itself is not to be classed with the dangerous diseases, it is always troublesome, and if the bronchiæ become affected a favorable termination, especially with aged persons, is not always certain. A remedy for this affection, as suggested by Dr. Hager, is as follows: Five parts of carbolic acid, six of aqua ammonia (specific gravity 0.960), ten of distilled water, and fifteen of alcohol, are to be mixed together in a wide-mouthed bottle, half filled with cotton or asbestos, and snuffed up from time to time from the bottle. After a thorough trial of his prescription, Dr. Brand states that it shortens the first stage of the disease, prevents the second, and alleviates all the symptoms. He prefers, however, to apply it by inhalation through the mouth as well as the nose, by pouring a few drops on porous paper and holding it in the hollow of the hand before the face, with the eyes closed.

A New Counter-Irritant.—A new kind of mustard-plaster has been invented which promises to be superior to the old-fashioned sort. It is known as the Omphalic mustard-plaster, and the mustard is laid on sheets of a thin fabric in spots of about the size of a dime, so that any desired number can be applied. It is only necessary to dip in water and lay the plaster on where desired. It is claimed that the disposition of the mustard in spots is the best way of applying this counter-irritant, as its effects are a copy of the results of natural efforts which generally appear as spots or pustules—a rather fanciful idea. The other claim is better—that the skin is irritated only in patches, and that the process of irritation can be continued longer without unpleasant results in consequence of patches of undisturbed skin being left to execute the healing process. This method of making plaster has also been applied in the Omphalic fly-blister.

All About Eggs.

Mr. De La Vergne, of New York, by invitation, addressed the convention of butter and egg dealers in Chicago. He had been in the egg business since a boy, and had had a large experience in packing and handling. He felt the need of improving the quality of eggs, and how it could be done was an important question. He did not believe it necessary to take eggs from the nest with a spoon, but at all events, they should be handled with great care, and kept in a tight, dry place. He would make three grades of eggs, and, to maintain their grade, no time should be lost in getting them from the producer to the consumer. The production was not always good, but, on the contrary, he believed what are called fresh eggs were often imperfect, which he thought was the result of imperfect feeding of the fowls. Great care was necessary in securing straw for packing purposes. The straw should be provided a year in advance, and ought to be clean, dry, and bright. He had often received eggs seriously damaged by being packed in damp straw. When the straw and eggs were what they should be, care should be taken in heading the barrels, which should be of uniform style. The breaking of a few eggs on top often spoiled the entire barrel. No time should be lost in shipping, and no care spared, and, above all things, the packages should never be held for speculation. He believed if eggs reached the New York market in a uniform, good condition, that the price would be twelve per cent. higher than it now is.

The liming or preserving of eggs had become a great feature in the trade. The preserving of eggs did not advance their worth, or make a bad egg good. The packing process with limed eggs, he thought, should be much the same as with fresh eggs. One of the advantages of the preserving process was that eggs could be saved in the summer months, when they are cheap, for winter use in bakeries, etc. It gave to dealers cheap eggs, for which there was a certain demand.

In answer to a question as to his opinion of fruit-house eggs, he said that it was not favorable.

Farm Hints and Helps.

Unleached wood ashes will benefit a lawn if used as a top-dressing.

There is no advantage to be gained by putting lime in a hill of corn. If the soil needs lime, apply it broadcast to the entire surface.

When the mane of the horse comes out, or has come out, apply to such parts powdered charcoal, one ounce; olive oil, one pint; pyroligneous acid, five ounces; common salt, one ounce. Mix and rub on daily.

Currants can be grown from cuttings planted this spring. Make the cuttings a foot long; cut out the buds of that portion placed under ground, insert in good soil, leaving three to five buds above the surface, and you will have no difficulty in propagating all the currants you will need for family use.

Harrowing wheat in spring is beneficial. The harrowing may be repeated two or three times at intervals of a few days until the wheat is twelve inches high. The smoothing harrow, with the teeth inclined backwards, should be used. This implement does not injure the plants, while it pulverizes the soil effectually. Broadcast or drilled wheat may be harrowed equally easy, and the wheat drilled as easily across as with the rows.

No farmer who pays any attention to the collection of home-made manure—and what farmer deserves the name who does not attend to this important matter?—should be without a barrel or two of ground land-plaster to sprinkle over his manure heaps from time to time, to prevent the evaporation of their ammonia. The cost of plaster is very trifling, and is compensated five fold by preventing the waste of manures from evaporation.

Massachusetts Dairymen's Association.

Dr. Noah Cressy of the Agricultural College explained the mysteries of "horn ail," the symptoms of which were shown to include about all the ills that cattle flesh is heir to, whether they have any horns or not. They cover especially all the varieties of puerperal fever. He showed that the nearest approach of any reality to this fabulous disease is in cases of nasal catarrh, when the inflammation which originates in the nasal sinuses sometimes extends to the cavities in the horn pith. S. R. Lewis, of Chenango county, New York, discoursed of the manufacture of butter and skim cheese. His mode is essentially that of the Specdsville creamery. His experience goes to show that when it can be churned and salted without breaking the grain, butter made from sweet cream can be kept any reasonable length of time by being properly cared for; that one of the greatest obstacles to long keeping consists in breaking the grain so much as to give it a salvy appearance.

THE VINELAND SHOOTING.

An Interview with Landis at the County Jail--The Story of His Wrongs--Carruth's Attacks Caused the Insanity of Landis' Wife.

I have just had a long interview with Mr. Landis, says a correspondent of the New York *Herald*. The prisoner has a small cell in the women's department of the jail, but during the interview he was alternately pacing up and down the corridor for exercise or reclining on the floor on some shawls and a pillow. He was very courteous and gentlemanly and perfectly willing to talk to the *Herald* representative, although he has refused to see every other journalist. In a conversation of an hour and a half he gave a detailed history of the events leading to the shooting.

After stating that ever since Carruth has been editor of the *Independent* his assaults upon him (Landis) have been merciless, Mr. Landis said: "As long as Carruth confined his attacks to me I felt like a general in battle, who knows that if he can stand pounding he will tire out the enemy; and I knew that if I could not outlive his scurrility I did not deserve to succeed; but when he began to attack my wife and children it was a far different matter. Not only was it my duty to protect them at all hazards, but my wife is of a very excitable nature; insanity is in her blood, and these allusions to her actually drove her mad. Copies of these articles were thrust under the door or thrown into the window, spite of all precautions, and she finally became so violent that she was dangerous, and I had often to call the servants to help me hold her. On the day before Carruth's last article appeared I urged Dr. Lane to give her an anodyne. She talked continually of the articles in the *Independent*. She was *enceinte*, and there was a certainty, this the doctor assured her, that her reason would be permanently overthrown unless the excitement was removed. He said that if he gave her an opiate it would endanger her life, and the only remedy was to remove the exciting cause. She had often been insane for a week at a time, after a slanderous article in the *Independent*. On the morning of the shooting I went to my office early, leaving her a little quieter than she had been. At half-past nine o'clock I returned home and found her in a state of violent and dangerous excitement, with the slip from the *Independent* in her hand. Some one had sent it to her. I do not know who. I never could keep them out of the house. She showed it to me. I saw her condition. I remembered the doctor's words. I knew the danger to her reason and her life. I saw the folly of the efforts I had made for years to keep these articles from her knowledge. I became desperate. I ran up stairs to my library and locked the door.

I ran to a desk and seized a pistol which I kept there. I placed the muzzle to my head and pulled the trigger. The cartridge did not explode. Then it flashed across me that I was doing what would seem cowardly suicide. I saw that I was killing the injured man instead of the aggressor, and I remembered that the doctor had said that the exciting cause must be removed or my wife would become incurably insane. I knew that man would never cease his persecution as long as he lived. I dropped the pistol, and picked up an English revolver I had purchased in Europe.

I went straight to Carruth's office and asked for him. There was no one in the editorial room and in the adjoining one they told me he was out and sent a boy after him. I walked up and down the little room until Carruth came in, which was after about two minutes waiting. I did not wait ten minutes, as they say. When he came I showed him the slip and said: "Mr. Carruth, did you write that?" He replied: "I did, and I have done it before," or "I will do it again." I do not remember exactly which. I was perfectly cool and collected, and I remember distinctly all that occurred before the shooting. We both spoke quietly, but Carruth's manner was insulting. He stood near me with his hand in his breast. I thought he had a pistol. I have often heard that he always went armed. I believed he was then, and I believe it now. I said: "Will you promise not to attack my wife in future?" He answered immediately: "No." "Defend yourself, then," I cried, and presented the pistol. I remember following him through a door and seeing him fall, but have no remembrance of being in the printing office. I thought I shot him in the hall.

The all was an excited whirl; I remember nothing more until I woke up in Mr. House's office, with Mr. Dickson stroking my head. I remember that my first words were, "Have I shot Carruth?" They answered "Yes." "Is he dead?" I asked. "No," I was told. Then my executive habit came back to me, and I said: "Telegraph to Philadelphia at once for Dr. McClintock to come." I asked what time it was. They told me twelve o'clock. I cannot recall those two hours. I remember there was a crowd and I was put in carriage and driven over here, after it happened, and ever since my wife has been calm. She is either stunned by this great trouble, or she feels that a nightmare is lifted from her in the cessation of those cruel attacks. Dr. McClintock could not come to attend Carruth, but he sent Dr. Gross, a most eminent surgeon. Through the providence of God a more fitting man could not have been chosen. He came twenty-four hours after the shooting, and was the first one to take any active measures to save the wounded man. The other surgeon had been bathing and nursing him, but he performed an operation. I hope he may save Carruth's life, and if he does I shall have been the means, in sending this surgeon to him; for without his attention he would have died.

In reply to a question as to why he did not cowhide the editor, instead of resorting to these violent measures, Mr. Landis replied: "Sir, I had often thought of that, but I could not. I have only one arm. My right arm is disabled from a severance of the muscle after a fall from a carriage ten years ago. I could not lift five pounds with it. I have thought of hiring a man to cowhide this fellow, but that would look cowardly and would have made him still more vindictive. I had no remedy at law. The libel law in this State is very lax. Under it you can only recover when a man charges you directly with an indictable offense, mentioning you by name; and at civil law you can only get redress when you can prove explicitly and specially the extent to which you have been injured. How could I do this? Carruth was too clever a man to get within the law. I have consulted the most eminent lawers of the State without success, and I had a standing engagement with a lawyer here to examine the *Independent* every week to see if none of his attacks came within the law. I was discouraged, I was in despair. My wife's reason and her life itself depended upon the cessation of this cruelty.

"When I went to Carruth's office I was certain there would be a fight and I was prepared to die myself. I am no fighter. I did not wear arms as I believe he did, and I was willing to die in an effort to save my wife in a struggle with him. I did not go to shoot him down without giving him a chance to defend himself. If I had intended that I should have killed him before he reached the second room. I should have fired before I spoke. I said to him and he said to me just what I have told you. There was not a shadow of truth in the article of that morning, and when he said that he would continue his persecution of her I knew of but one course to take, and I fired. I was cool up to that time, but all is confused after that. I do not remember standing over the body and saying what is attributed to me. I do not like to speak harshly of Carruth now, but he was like the creatures told of in the German legend, who lived by sucking the blood of innocent women and children. He represents no more the profession of journalism than he belongs to the order of 'gentlemen or honest men.'"

There are only five States in the Union where the governor receives a salary of but $1,000. These are Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Louisiana and Indiana pay $8,000, and Pennsylvania $10,000.

A Boy's Appeal.

Daniel Webster and his brother Ezekiel, when both were young, had set a trap and captured a woodchuck. It was late in the evening when the boys discovered their game, and as they desired to see the animal alive, they managed to release it from the trap, placing it in a box until morning. The boys consulted, and concluding that the young folks of the neighborhood would like to see the show, postponed the execution of the creature until afternoon. This gave Daniel time for reflection (Daniel never did say anything without reflection). Quite likely he was impressed with the sentiment of the little girls of his acquaintance; but let this be as it may, for reasons best known to ourselves it must not be mentioned.

When the time came to dispatch the criminal, the boys disagreed about the matter—Ezekiel wanting it killed, while Daniel desired its liberation. The case was referred to the father. The old gentleman, becoming interested, said to the boys: "We will hold a court. The woodchuck shall be the prisoner; Ezekiel, State's attorney, shall make the opening speech; Daniel, counsel for the defense, shall make the closing speech; myself, the judge." This being agreed to, the box containing the prisoner was brought and placed in front of the court, who was seated upon a log of wood. The elder brother made a strong appeal, declaring the prisoner a foe to mankind; that he had depredated upon the property of man; had stolen and carried off vegetables from the garden; that self-preservation was the first and strongest instinct in nature; that not only man, but all beings created were justifiable in slaying their enemies; that this universal law ran through the whole chain of nature; that the prisoner merited his fate, and certainly ought to die. Daniel then arose, and, pointing his finger towards the prisoner, addressed the court: "My opponent accuses the prisoner of being an enemy to mankind, and of being guilty of the crime of larceny. Both of these accusations are quite impossible, and only show a misunderstanding and misrepresentation of terms. My opponent has failed to prove in what respect the prisoner is an enemy to the race, and it is utterly impossible that he should have been guilty of the crime my opponent alleges, because he knows no human law but obeys a higher law—that of the Maker of the universe. The prisoner only took of the vegetables what was needed to sustain life, and instead of violating, obeyed a higher law than that made by man." He proceeded to argue that the prisoner had a right with man to the products of the earth, being created by the same hand and supplied from the same source; moreover, that it was a wicked, selfish, cowardly act to take the life of a wounded prisoner, and was so considered by all the civilized nations of the earth. Growing pathetic, he continued to urge that the trembling, bleeding, helpless prisoner had already suffered more than death, and that life was a small boon to grant to one of God's creatures under the circumstances—but before Daniel had closed his speech, the judge arose, and with tears trickling down his cheeks and quavering voice, roared out: "Zeke, you let that woodchuck go!"

A Singular Cure.

The following is related by the Augusta, (Me.) *Journal*: A young man in the town of Vassalboro, in this county, was suffering in the last stages of consumption, the disease which had insidiously and stealthily brought him to the verge of the grave. For several weeks he had been entirely prostrate and unable to speak, even to articulate a syllable. He became so oppressed for breath that he compelled his attendants to raise the windows in his room, put out the fires and resort to every means to obtain fresh air. The young man died. Friendly hands prepared the poor, emaciated body for the burial; but just as the attending friends were arranging the remains for the casket, there appeared unmistakable evidences of returning life in what seemed to them an inanimate mass of clay, and it was discovered that the heart had begun again its slow and measured palpitations, the pulse throbbed and the young man arose from the death shrouds, opened his mouth and spoke in clear and distinct words to those who stood appalled in the death chamber. There was no huskiness in his voice; he appeared lively and active, said he felt not the slightest pain, but, to use his own language, "I feel just as well as I ever did." At his request the neighbors were all called in, who crowded the house for hours. He told this startled assemblage of his friends and neighbors that, as he died all things seemed dark, but only for an instant; his eyes suddenly opened to a new world, the real heaven, which had been so many times in his thoughts and had given him so much comfort in his last weeks of pain and sorrow. He stood upon an eminence which overlooked a vast and beautiful plain; the magnificent plain stretched farther than his enlarged vision could penetrate, and he described it in language which, to his moral auditors, seemed extravagant in the extreme. But the revivified life of the young man was not to continue long. Before night he again resigned himself to death. The body was kept a reasonable length of time and buried, the funeral being largely attended.

Butter in the United States.

The committee on statistics of the Butter and Eggs Dealers' Association of Chicago reported in reference to the estimated consumption of butter in the United States. The report stated that it was estimated that 5,000,000 of the population consumed one pound of butter each per week; 10,000,000 half a pound each: 10,000,000 a quarter of a pound each. This was for table-use alone, and it was estimated that one-third more might be added for culinary purposes. This would give a total of about 1,387,000,000. The exports from Canada and the United States are about 15,000,000, making a total product accredited to the United States of $1,402,000,000, which at an average value of thirty cents per pound, gave the sum $420,600,000 as the aggregate value of this product. In the manufacture of butter the milk is used of over fifty-four per cent. of the milch cows in the United States, which are estimated to number over 13,000,000. With regard to the quality of butter, there was less uniformity of grade than of State. But little butter from Western creameries sold on a level with State butter. The amount of Western butter sent to the New York market had been so small that it had been found necessary to quote it separately. "Western" butter ranged from three to five cents below creamery butter, and firsts, which formed a large proportion, but not the bulk, of the Western crop that found its way here, were still another five or six cents lower. The average quality of Western butter had been very much improved during the past few years, and to what extent it was possible to further raise its standard was a question for the earnest and constant consideration of the dairymen of the great West. The committee recommended the adoption, so far as possible, of the Eastern creamery and dairy system, and suggested that measures should be taken to secure from the railroad companies better facilities for the transportation of dairy products from the West.

English Farms.

Farms are getting larger and the rural population relatively less in Great Britain. From 1861 to 1871, the farm laborers decreased in England seventeen per cent., and in Scotland twelve. For this there are several specific reasons. In England and Scotland the improvements in agricultural machinery have lessened the hands required and also enlarged the area of farms by steam machinery. In both countries, too, the immense activity in manufactures of the last twenty years has given wages, which to the plowman, seems captivating. In Scotland a good many small holdings have been added to the dense forests, and the accumulating wealth by manufacturers and merchants has led to the purchase of land wherever it could be got, as the symbol and support of social and political dignity.

THE AMERICAN ABROAD.

What a London Journal Says of the Man as it Finds Him.

The London *Times* once said of him: "Wherever you see an American, he is going over the ground as fast as he can. In Europe he is a pale and breathless sight-seer, always in rapid transition, as if a ghost were pursuing him; insatiably accumulating stages, as if his life depended on the sum total at the end of the week. He carries the fever of business into the tour; and reckoning up grand sights per score in his mental ledger, he becomes a capitalist in arches, waterfalls, glaciers, old columns, Roman relics, lakes, passes, galleries, statues, and hotels of fable. In his own country he thinks nothing of packing up all his goods, wife, and children, and setting off to-morrow morning for some swamp two thousand miles off, on the Missouri or Mississippi, where everything whatever, even the rising of the sun, you would think from the looks of the scene, has to take place for the first time. He stays until he has converted the swamp or forest into a fruitful field, and then sets off with his wagonload again to some place as distant from his last home as from his preceding, to renew his battle with nature, to cut down and build, and create a fresh world for culture."

With all our vanity, energy, and unrest, we are not a dull, cheerless people. Sour-faced fellows, yellow and dyspeptic, are to be met with in our cars and streets; but they are not the type of the American, for he is as ready for a laugh as for a speculation, as fond of a joke as of an office. Wherever the American goes in his tireless round of observation and traffic—whether he breaks the seal which for ages had closed Japan to the world, or wanders through Africa after Livingstone, or roams for gold at the head waters of the Amazon, or for diamonds in Arizona, or among the Black Hills reservations, or at the Cape in Africa, or stands with Kane and Hall on the shores of some newly found sea of the poles, or whether more nearly at home he leaves his trail on every mountain pass, his ax stroke in every forest; whether

"He's whistling round St. Mary's falls
Upon his loaded train,
Or leaving on the pictured rocks
His fresh tobacco stain,"

he is leaving the rudiments of an empire, the muscle and mind, and the invincible good nature and sense of the humorous, by which he is enabled to mingle with all, and to rule as he mingles.

Wherever he goes he exaggerates his country, his position, his ability; and his humor takes the same size. If he does not enjoy the fun made at his own dilation, he is the cause of its enjoyment by others. What with the great sea-serpents, moon hoaxes, spirit rappings, Shakerism, Barnum's shows, women's rights, free love, cannon concerts, big organs, much-married Mormonism, and other quackeries and extravagances, if we are not ourselves amused, we export amusement in large quantities. An English reviewer says: "America is determined to keep us amused; we are never left long without a startling novelty from the almighty republic."

The Situation To-Day.

One of the causes of the dishonor now cast on manual, and especially agricultural, labor, the New York *Herald* tells us, is traceable to the education of our young. The academician is trained for the college or the university, and the collegian is trained with aspirations for the learned professions, the bar, the pulpit, politics, medicine or science. They feel that it would be a waste of talent and a desecration of genius to step from the university hall to the plow, the loom or the anvil. Hence the crowded professions, in which hundreds are reduced to the starvation point and from which hundreds are annually forced to seek for bread by recourse to new and adventurous occupations. As it has been so forcibly said, the same recoiling from hand labor leads thousands to rush into unremunerative and precarious clerkships and paltry commercial enterprises for which there is no demand, while the soil of the earth is left half tilled and its mines unopened.

In conjunction with these false allurements from the slow but sure paths of agricultural and mining industry the civilization of the century has added another disturbance of labor. The fascinations of the large cities, their excitements and their luxuries, have attracted thither thousands who are useless and dangerous because idle elements of society. One of our city contemporaries has strikingly remarked that there were many men who would not leave New York for scarcely any pecuniary inducement, and multitudes who preferred scanty wages here to a sufficiency elsewhere. It is safe to say that if one-half of the young and able-bodied men now engaged in non-productive commercial ventures and who overcrowd the mercantile and professional vocations should turn their toil and talent to tillage and mining, the whole aspect of affairs in the country would be speedily changed for the better. In time of war the hardy and the young go to the front, and so in a national situation like the present the same classes must do the actual battle with the rough forces of nature, leaving to the starving women and poor industrious girls the minor and lighter crafts, which are now too much monopolized by robust boys and stalwart men.

A Spirit Photograph.

This singular story is told by the Milwaukee (Wis.) *Wisconsin*: There are two library desks in the show rooms of Matthews Brothers, which have been repeatedly photographed, and no matter in what light, or from what point of view the photographs have been taken, there is always on the left hand glass pane of the left hand book shelf (surmounting the desk), what a spiritualist would call a spirit picture. The shelving, which in other parts of the desk comes out with tolerable distinctness, is here dim and shadowy, and on the side where—according to the sunlight as thrown on the parts of the furniture—the shade ought to be, something light and gauzy, like fine white garments or bed clothing, is thrown into relief, the graceful head of a female finishing off the picture. It is the body coverings that are brought into the strong light. The head is in shadow, and fades into indistinctness, but the parting of the hair, the eyebrows, and outlines of the nose and mouth are plainly visible. The under part of the chin is in deep shade, as the picture of a natural person would be. The female might be imagined to be a corpse in neighbor Griffin's store, beautifully laid out in a casket, the head being just above the angle with the body of a person reclining on the back with a pillow under the head. The picture is a curious one, and has been handed around considerably among citizens of an inquisitive turn of mind.

Causes of Insanity.

The thirty-second annual report of the New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, N. Y., is published. An army of suffering men and women marches down the vista of these thirty-two years. Eleven thousand three hundred and ninety-nine have been admitted. Out of these doors, recovered to reason and to their place among men, have gone 4,280, and 1,732 improved. At the date to which the report is made up, November 30, 1874, there were in the asylum 572 patients, the percentage of recovered and improved being forty-eight. Out of 2,193 cases only eighty-three men were in the asylum from "business perplexities."

And out of 1,863 women, eleven. In this very interesting and very important table, it is shown that ill health gave insanity to 335 men and 445 women; that intemperance thus wrecked 306 men, and, to their honor, only thirteen women; sixty-seven men and thirty-three women went down through excessive labor and exposure. About an equal proportion—seven men and eight women—were "frightened out of their wits." Insanity came to one man and fourteen women by the old, old road of "disappointment in love." Eight women and one man became insane from opium eating. Domestic troubles, a word full of meaning, brought insanity to forty-three men and 124 women.

Up the Ocklawaha.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Bulletin* writes as follows of a voyage up the Ocklawaha river, Florida: "As soon as breakfast was disposed of, we immediately mounted to the top of the cabin and about the pilot-house. The sun was now fairly up, and the thermometer stood about seventy degrees. I was quietly smoking and dodging tree branches, when suddenly the rifle and both barrels of the shot gun were discharged, making the dense wood ring with a startling echo. In an instant I had turned, grasped the revolver, and caught sight of our first alligator. I quickly fired two shots at the ugly reptile, making five in all, when he quietly dropped into the water unhurt. The alligator had 'the laugh on us,' for, although we struck him, not one shot penetrated his coat of mail. Exclamations of surprise among the sanguinary sports-men were now in order. All day long, with only an intermission for dinner, we banged away at alligators, paroquets, limpkins, white cranes, cardinal birds, jocees, loons, herons, water or snake turkeys, buzzards, cormorants, whooping cranes, turtles, wild turkeys, white curlew, and several species of ducks, constituting such sport as I never before witnessed. The endless swamps which line the river on both sides are almost impenetrable with the thickest wood, comprising water oaks, swamp cypress, wild orange, palmettos, ash, maple, scrub palmettos, and other species of which I do not know the names, many of them being partly or wholly covered with parasites, in the form of air plants, mistletoe ferns long moss, running vines, etc., forming a scene, with the narrow river, that must be seen to be comprehended thoroughly. In many places the 'river' is barely wide enough to let the boat pass through, and the turns are often complete at right angles, or even parallel with the course you have come. You cannot proceed for a single eighth of a mile at any time without making a sharp turn. The complexity of angles and double angles can be better understood by explaining that it is but forty miles in a direct line across the country from Palatka to Silver Springs, our objective point, while it is 135 miles by the river."

The First Fruits.

The earliest consignments of strawberries in the market centers of the United States are from Savannah, and usually sell from $1.50 down to $1 a quart, cheapening as the spring days lengthen. The importations of peaches come somewhat in the same order as those of strawberries—that is, first from Savannah, next from Charleston, then from Norfolk, then from the ports of Delaware, and finally, in the fall season, from the rich flats of New Jersey—each succeeding week opening a new source of supply further to the North. This year even the Southern States have experienced climatic severity, and the usual date of the receipt of fruits will be deferred, and at present it is only the wealthy or the extravagant who can indulge in the luxury of fruit. It is related by a New York paper that on the 10th day of March, an order was filled for one quart of strawberries at $13, and two ripe peaches at $10, for a wedding breakfast. There is something like a revival of Midas and the golden touch in the story, for the fruit may be said to have been literally worth its weight in gold.

The United States Postal Law.

In the New Jersey Senate Mr. Hill offered the following: *Whereas* while Congress has imposed on the people of the country additional high rates of postage, it is to be regretted that they have also in part re-enacted the "franking privilege," thus granting free use of the mails and privileges to a favored few at the expense of the many; therefore, be it

Resolved (House of Assembly concurring), That postage reform might not go backward, as is the case in the enacting of this new law, justice and equity alike demand that the law of June 23, 1874, regulating the postage on transient newpapers, etc., be restored by repealing the amendments to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill increasing double rates of postage, and that on the assembling of Congress in December next we do recommend and respectfully ask that this be done.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their influence for the repeal of the law.

How to Break off Bad Habits.

Understand the reasons why the habit is injurious. Study the subject until there is no lingering doubt in your mind. Avoid the places, the persons and the thoughts that lead to the temptation. Frequent the places, associate with the persons, indulge in the thoughts that lead away from temptation. Keep busy; idleness is the strength of bad habits. Do not give up the struggle when you have broken your resolution once, twice—a thousand times. That only shows how much need there is for you to strive. When you have broken your resolutions just think the matter over, and endeaver to understand why it is you failed, so that you may be on your guard against a recurrence of the same circumstances. Do not think it is an easy thing that you have undertaken. It is a folly to expect to break off a bad habit in a day which may have been gathering long year

A Cosy Retreat.

A raid was made on the illicit distillers in Southwest Virginia several weeks ago, and a number of them captured. One offender, with a romantic turn of mind, had discovered a commodious cave, through which meandered a crystal stream of water. Above it was a large hollow tree, with a number of large limbs reaching out from the parent stem. The enterprising manufacturer of the ardent spirits had managed to convert this hollow tree into a chimney, through which the smoke from the distillery passed in indistinct clouds, being diffusey in unnoticed quantities to the limbs and out into the air. He had all the paraphernalia of a first-class distillery, and was quietly squeezing the juice from the cereals secluded and apart from the vulgar, prying, meddlesome outside world, when officious myrmidons of the law interfered with his pastime.

Freezing to Death.

During the famous retreat of the French army from Moscow the warning was repeated thousands of times by the officers to the staggering soldiers; but the terrible fascination to stop, if but for one moment, and rest, was too powerful to resist in a vast number of instances, and whole armycorps found a frigid grave upon the surface of the frozen snow. Alison, the historian, relates his own experience as to the cold. Desiring to understand the matter fully, he tried the experiment of sitting down in his open garden when the thermometer was six degrees below zero, at night, and so quickly did the drowsiness come stealing over him, that he declared he wondered how a single man of Napoleon's army, in that awful retreat, had been able to resist the treacherous influence.

Tweed and Alpaca Suits.

Pretty and inexpensive suits for early spring are being made of the gray tweeds that sell for twenty-five cents a yard. The overskirt is of the empress shape, trimmed with many rows of machine stiching and with another shade of gray, or perhaps plaid or stripes. The basque has similar trimming down the front and back. The skirt may be either black or gray. Alpaca and fine black mohairs are made up in the same style, and finished with very fine knife plaitings.

The conspicuous triumph of Messrs. George Steck & Co., of New York, at the Vienna World's Fair in 1873, at which their pianos obtained the highest award—the only gold medal—has begun to yield them substantial fruits. The increased popularity of the Steck instruments is noticeable not only in New York, where their excellence has long been acknowledged, but throughout the country, and more especially in those communities that lay special claim to a cultivated musical taste.—*New York Independent.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad.

A conspiracy to assassinate General Cabrera, who recently abandoned the Carlist cause, has been frustrated.....Don Carlos, of Spain, has issued a decree calling into military service all males in the Navarrese province over eighteen years of age.....A fatal explosion occurred in a coal mine near Charleroi, Belgium, and many lives were lost.....Governor Kellogg has called an extra session of the Louisiana Legislature, to carry out the compromise and to attend to needed legislation.....General Ord has received instructions to expel the parties now in the Black Hills, arrest and confine the leaders at the nearest military posts, burn the wagons and destroy outfits.....The United States Supreme Court has decided, in case 195, Burke vs. Child, that claims for lobby services are not founded in good morals and cannot be maintained in the courts.....Joseph Brown, convicted of the murder of Daniel S. and Annetta Kreamer and Mrs. Wachemer, in February, 1872, was hanged at Pottsville, Pa. .....Eight or nine manufactories in Philadelphia are closed on account of the weavers' strike.....The cotton masters of North Lancashire, England, resolved on a general lock-out unless the operatives of Pickering's mill, in Blackburn, who are now on strike, return to work unconditionally.

The Attorney-General of Pennsylvania has expressed an opinion that Good Friday continues to be a legal holiday under the act of 1869, which was not repealed by the act of 1873.....The New York State Assembly passed a resolution authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission to investigate the canal matter, reserving for the Legislature the appointment by the Speaker and Lieutenant-Governor of a joint legislative committee of investigation.....The German government contemplates an amendment of the law in regard to the Jesuits, so as to make it operative against other religious orders.....General Campos has defeated the Carlists again at Huguet, near Bidaura. The Carlists contemplate an attack on Puycerda.....Fourteen of the finest sugar plantations in the neighborhood of Sagua La Grande, Cuba, have been destroyed by incendiaries....There is another revolution in Bolivia.....A meeting was held in Boston to take steps looking to the organization of another expedition to the Black Hills. It proposed to make the party five hundred men.....The press of New Orleans approve of the action of Governor Kellogg in calling an extra session of the Legislature.....It is reported from Tocoma, W. T., that the steamer Ruby in crossing Puget sound from Seattle to Port Madison went down with all on board in a gale. The Phelps dramatic troupe were among the passengers. The report lacks confirmation.

Twenty Communist prisoners have escaped from New Caledonia, the French penal colony. .....The body of a man found in New York harbor proved to be that of a lighthous keeper who, while intoxicated, thought he could swim across the ocean and attempted the feat.....A steamer from Liverpool took out seventy destitute children for Nova Scotia. .....A man named George Pemberton has been arrested in Boston for the murder of Mrs. Bingham. The circumstantial evidence against him is very strong. He has been recognized as the man who sold the murdered woman's rings, and a pearl-handled knife belonging to the victim was found in his possession. He denies all knowledge of the crime; but the evidence seems to be accumulating against him. The man Pemberton has already been several times in prison for robbery and other offenses.....A report from the United States bureau of statistics says the exports of the country for the fiscal year 1874 were, in value, $553,929,342, and $66,544,393 specie. The imports at the same time were $562,115,907 in value and $15,253,804 in specie.....In 1874 the number of vessels carrying the American flag which entered the United States from foreign ports was 11,765; vessels carrying foreign flags 18,791.....The total number of immigrants who arrived in the United States during the twelve months ended December 31, 1874, was 260,814, of whom 159,936 were males, and 100,878 females. Under fifteen years, 51,691; fifteen, and under forty, 172,113; forty years of age and upwards, 37,010; died on the voyage; 129. Of the total arrivals, there were from England, 43,396; Ireland, 47,688; Germany, 56,927; Quebec and Ontario, 23,744; balance from 144 other countries.

General Custer will shortly leave for the Black Hills in command of a strong expedition consisting of cavalry, infantry and a battery of Gatling guns.....In the Rhode Island Democratic State Convention Charles R. Cutler, of Warren, was nominated for Governor; John B. Pearce was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor; Charles E. Gorman for Attorney-General, and Philip Rider, of Newport, for Treasurer.....Mexican marauders raided Neuces county, Texas. They burnt the post-office, robbed several stores, and took a number of prisoners. In a fight between them and a force of Texans, it is said that two of the latter were killed.....The railroad depot and telegraph offices at Locust Gap, Pa., were burned by laborers and miners on a strike.... J. W. Steventon has been arrested at Harrisburg, Pa., charged with inhuman treatment of his wife and the brutal outrage of their daughter, aged fifteen.....The first case under the new Civil Rights bill was decided in Chicago. Two colored men brought suit against a restaurant keeper for refusing to serve them like other guests. The defense set up a plea that a restaurant is not a hotel, and does not come within the meaning of the act, and the case was dismissed.

In answer to a question from M. de Lafayette, the Duke Decazes stated in the French Assembly that the Philadelphia Centennial exhibition project has his entire sympathy, and measures would be taken to promote it in every possible way..... In the case of A. C. Buell, charged with libeling ex-Senator Zach Chandler, Judge Dillon, of the United States Circuit at St. Louis, discharged the defendant. .....The United States Secretery of War has been directed to have the new evidence in the case of Gen. Fitz-John Porter examined and a synopsis prepared and reported to the President for his information, with a view to a decision on General Porter's application for a new trial.....United States Treasurer F. E. Spinner has resigned. He was appointed in 1861 and has held the position since that time. .....The United States Supreme Court decided that the fourteenth amendment to the constitution does not confer on women the right to vote.....Wilbur F. Story, editor of the Chicago *Times*, has been sent to prison for ten days for contempt of court in having published articles reflecting on the grand jury of Cook county, Ill.....A mass meeting, to protest against the further imprisonment of the Tichborne claimant, was held in Hyde Park, London, and Messrs. Kenealy, Whailey and Onslow addressed the meeting.....Greenwood cemetery, Brooklyn, has a surplus of $1,000,000, and the city government is trying to tax it.....Thirteen of the Newfoundland fishermen who were swept away on the ice early in March have perished. They went out to visit a vessel, and before they could reach the shore the ice parted and they were swept to sea. Seven perished from the cold the first night. The rest were taken off by a schooner.....The contractors are now hard at work on the Centennial buildings in Philadelphia. In a short time an army of men will be engaged in the construction of the various buildings.....The Spanish government refuses to allow the Duke de Montpensier to return to Spain, in order to keep ex-Queen Isabella out of the country. As it cannot admit the one without the other it excludes both.

James Reese, aged fourteen, was caught between the rolls in Lochiel Rolling Mills in Harrisburg, Pa., and instantly killed.....The Canadian Premier denies that United States contractors have control of the Canadian Pacific railway.....The standing committee of the Diocese of Connecticut have refused consent to the consecration of Drs. Jagger and De Koven....Three boys of Philmont ate wild turnips, mistaking them for artichokes, and died shortly afterward ..A young woman had her scalp torn off by a flax picking machine in New York and death ensued....One of the leaders of the recent raid by Mexicans into Texas was lynched in Corpus Christi....The Portuguese government has accepted the invitation to participate in the Centennial exhibition....In the Civil Rights case against Robbins, clerk of the steamboat Seminole at New Orleans, for refusing a cabin passage to Louis Chevalier and wife, the United States commissioner held Robbins in $100 bail for trial in the United States Circuit Court....The operatives of the cotton mills of Great Falls, N. H., have decided not to work any more until their wages are put back to the same scale as before the reduction, several weeks ago.

New Guinea.

New Guinea is a land of which the world knows but little. From a lecture before us we see that it is the third largest island in the world. New Guinea ends in a huge fork, cut up into numerous islands. The islands rise boldly from the sea, and on some of them mountains rise to about 8,000 feet. The country is highly cultivated, and produces sugar-cane, sago, Indian corn and other cereals. The grass grows twelve feet high. The country is well wooded. There are good harbors. Gold is plentifully dispersed. The great Louisiade reefs were thought to have formed an impenetrable barrier between Australia and northe