FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Kitchen Garden.

The care of hot-beds and cold-frames, and sowing of seeds for early plants, will be the work in Northern gardens. Manure should be turned over often, and made fine before applying; it is difficult to sow seeds in a soil where the manure is coarse, as it will impede the rake or seed-sower.

Asparagus beds that were covered with manure in the fall, should have the coarse litter raked off, and the fine forked in early, before the plants start.

Do not plant beans before the soil gets warm, as the cold, damp soil will rot the seeds.

Sow beets early and thickly, so that the thinnings may be used as spinach. Frosts do but little harm.

Sow cabbage in the hot bed for medium early, and set out plants from the cold-frame in well manured soil; moderately moist and strong soil is much better than a light, sandy one.

Set out cauliflower plants from the cold-frame the same as cabbages, and give them a rich place. They must be either an early or a late crop, our strong sun being injurious to their growth.

Sow celery seeds in hot-bed if early plants are wanted, or in the open ground.

Corn will not stand frost, or damp, cold soil; do not plant before the ground is dry and warm.

Cucumbers may be started in pots or squares of sod in the hot-bed, and set out when the weather has become suitable, or if one has hand-frames, a few hills may be planted for extra early.

Sow grass or peppergrass for use as a salad. If the black "flea" is abundant, it is of no use to try it.

Egg plant seeds may yet be sown in hot-bed. Do not set plants in the open ground until it is thoroughly warmed. Look out for the "potato beetle," which attacks these plants even in preference to the potato, and will soon destroy them if not hand picked.

Kohl-rabi is seldom seem in gardens; its culture is as easy as that of turnips, and no one who has tried it will fail to have it every year. It should always grow quickly, and be eaten while young.

Sow leeks the same as onions. When large enough, thin to six or eight inches in the row, and set out the thinnings at the same distance.

Set out lettuce plants from the cold-frame in rich, warm soil, and sow seeds for second crop.—*Agriculturist.*

The Fruit Garden.

Let every person who has a bit of ground plant one grapevine at least this spring, as with a little care in training and pruning for two or three years, it will seldom fail to produce an abundance of fruit. The soil for grapes should not be rich with stable manure, but use ground bones, or wood ashes. The first year allow only one shoot to grow, and in the fall cut this back to two or three buds; the next season allow only two of these to grow. The first year a vine bears, only allow two bunches to each shoot, as more will exhaust the vine. There are many other ways of training, and the vine can be adapted to the locality.

Dwarf trees which require any pruning should be attended to now, before the buds start; avoid cutting off any large branches until June, when they may be taken off with safety; cover the wounds with shellac varnish or melted grafting wax.

The roots of blackberries spread so fast and far that where it is possible they should be planted in a spot a little aside from the rest of the garden, so that they will not interfere with the growth of other plants. Provide strong stakes to which to tie the canes, and do not allow them to grow more than five feet high, with lateral branches cut back to eighteen inches. Set from six to eight feet apart, each way.

Set raspberries in rows from four to six feet apart, and three to five feet in the row. One of the best ways to support them is by a strong wire stretched along the line of the row and fastened securely to well braced posts at each end; provide a support of some sort at distances of fifteen to twenty feet apart to keep the wire from sagging where the rows are long. As the canes grow to the top of the wire, tie them to it in fan shape, cutting them off at the height of four feet, and laterals at eighteen inches; four canes at most to a stool, and less even the first year, are enough, if the plants are weak.

The easiest way to have a supply of strawberries is to renew the bed. Make new beds, setting the plants in rows three feet apart and one foot in the rows. In small gardens the plants may be set closer, with the runners cut off as fast as they appear; and if the soil is well enriched every year, the bed will bear abundance for four or five years.—*Agriculturist.*

Hints About Meat.

The leg of mutton is the most profitable joint, containing most solid meat. The neck is an extravagant joint, half the weight consisting of bone and fat. The shoulder has also much waste in bone. The breast does well for kitchen dinner, nicely stuffed; it is much cheaper than the other joints. Sirloins and ribs of meat are very extravagant joints, from the weight of bone. The roasting side of the round part of the buttock, and the part called the "topside," are the most profitable family eating. The mouse buttock is used for stewing; shin is used for soup, or stewing. The quantity of butcher's meat consumed in a family is, on an average, three-quarters of a pound a day for each person; but when the family consists of women and children, half a pound per day is about the quantity consumed one with another, independent of hams, bacon, poultry, fish, and game.

Meat should be wiped with a dry, clean cloth as soon as it comes from the butcher's; fly-blows, if found in it, cut out, and in some loins the long pipe that runs by the bone should be taken out, as it soon taints; the kernels also should be removed from beef. Never receive bruised joints. Meat will keep good for a long time in cold weather, and, if frozen through, may be kept for months. Frozen meat must be thawed before it is cooked by plunging it into cold water, or placing it before the fire before setting it down to roast. It will never be dressed through if this precaution is not taken, not even when twice cooked. Pepper is a preventive of decay, in a degree; it is well, therefore, to pepper hung joints. Powdered charcoal is still more remarkable in its effect. It will not only keep the meat over which it is sprinkled good, but will remove the taint from already decaying flesh. A piece of charcoal boiled in the water with "high" meat or fowls will render it or them quite sweet. A piece of charcoal, or powdered charcoal, should be kept in every larder. Hams, after being smoked, may be kept for any length of time packed in powdered charcoal.

The Sheep Pelts.

It is more profitable to pull the wool from sheep pelts than to sell the pelts. Prepare a board three feet wide and three or four feet in length, with one smooth side; spread a pelt on the smooth side of the board, flesh side up. Have mixed some lime and water, about the consistency of good, rich cream (lime mixture such as is suitable for plastering or laying brick will do, but you must use a little more of the latter). Wood ashes mixed with water, as with lime, will start the wool quicker, but it frequently eats into the skin, and makes it so tender that the skin will tear in pulling. Spread a thin layer or coating of lime mixture all over the flesh side, then fold the flesh sides together carefully, and roll up and lay in a moderately warm place from six to twelve hours; the wool will then be ready to pull. Then place the board at an angle of forty-five degrees, unroll the pelt, scrape off the lime, and lay the flesh side upon the board, holding the neck in one hand, and with the other slide or push the wool off in a whole fleece, which can be easily and nicely done in ten minutes. Then roll it up the same as if shorn wool. Put the fleeces separately in a dry, airy place for six or eight days, to let the moisture escape that is natural to lately shorn wool, as well as that absorbed from the lime moisture. Last year we had a similar lot of wool to that we now have, and sent it to a wool manufacturer. Their sorter valued it at forty-five cents per pound. Calling such wool worth thirty-five cents this year, we got for the wool of each pelt $1.92½, or $1.17½ more than the highest price the pelts would have brought.

Possibilities of Corn Culture.

In an essay read by H. C. Haskell, of Deerfield, Mass., we find the following: The results of a series of experiments, by members of the Elmira farmers' club, seem to hint at the possibilities of the case. In one experiment, the yield of corn from a single grain was twenty-four ounces, equivalent to a bushel from thirty seven grains. At this rate of production for an entire acre, allowing to each grain four square feet of soil, would give 294 bushels of shelled corn. In another experiment, the yield from a single grain was thirty-one and one-half ounces, which would give a bushel from twenty grains or 398 bushels per acre. In another, the yield was thirty-seven and one-half ounces, or a bushel from twenty-four grains, or 453 bushels per acre.

The most successful experiment of the series was the yield of forty-three and one half ounces, which is at the rate of a bushel from twenty-one grains or 500 bushels per acre. What has been done, can be done again. What one grain of corn has been made to produce, every grain of 10,000 like it, allowing a reasonable margin for accidents, may be made to produce. As yet we have scarcely begun to realize the possibilities of high farming.

How to Catch Rats.

Set a small steel spring-trap on a board a foot square, and with a pencil mark the outlines of the trap. Cut away the wood between the marks so as to let the trap down into the board flush with the surface. This is a permanent arrangement, not absolutely necessary but very convenient, because easily kept covered. Now set the trap in the receptacle prepared for it, and cover it with bran, putting a little meal or flour directly over the pan. If the rats succeed in getting the bait without springing the trap, glue some pumpkin seeds upon the pan and bait as before. Do not be discouraged if you do not catch any the first week. Old rats are very shy of all artificial arrangements of a suspicious nature; but as familiarty breeds contempt, they will be pretty sure to be caught in the end. I never fail to rid my cellar of rats in this way.

Chicken Jelly.

Boil a pair of chickens until you can pull the meat from the bones; remove all the meat and allow the bones to boil half an hour longer; stand this in a cool place and it will become jellied; the next day cut the meat into small pieces, melt the jelly and throw it in; then add two tablespoonfuls of Worcestershire sauce, two of walnut sauce, one tablespoonful of salt, a pinch of powdered mace, cloves, and allspice; slice ten hard boiled eggs and two lemons, line a large bowl, or form, with these slices, then pour in the mixture and let it stand in a cool place (but not to freeze). The water should just cover the chickens when put to boil. This is a very ornamental dish, and will keep for a long while.

Fashions in Silks.

GROS GRAINS FOR COSTUMES.—Plain solid colors, says the *Bazar*, will prevail in gros grains, as they have always done. The reps are of medium size, and the gros grain has the soft finish necessary for drapery, instead of falling into stiff, heavy folds. The fancy is for rich dark colors for costumes, and the list of shades is not long, nor does it show any novelties, since the object is to return to old-time subdued yet positive colors. Here is seal brown, myrtle green, marine blue, mud color, and various gray shades, such as stone color, caoutchouc, Coomassie, Bilbos, etc.

SILKS FOR EVENING DRESSES.—The shades for evening silks are ciel glace, which is a very lustrous shimmering blue, *sourire* (a smile), rose-tinted lavender, sea foam green, and every shade that has a yellow hue, such as cream, *paille* or straw color, *chair* or flesh, Isabel, buff, canary, etc. With these plain gros grains are imported two fabrics or corresponding shades from which to choose overdresses, viz.: brocaded silk and brocaded Chambery gauze. Three shades of white double faille are shown for bridal dresses. These are blanc mat, or dead white; blanc rose, with faint rosy tints; and blanc creme, or the rich cream white like that of syringas and orange blossoms. Double faille has double twisted chain in the grain, making very rich looking reps, yet retaining the desired softness.

LIGHT TAFFETA SILKS.—The pretty light taffeta silks for making simple suits for the spring show new effects in checks and stripes. Thus there are silver gray grounds barred with black and white—a very stylish design. The old contrasts of white with dark brown, blue, or black are also repeated. From twenty-five to thirty yards of these silks are required for a very simple dress, as they are only nineteen or twenty inches wide, and cost $1 a yard.

One Customer in Fifteen Years.

On the old stage route from Bangor to Ellsworth there was a long stretch of dense forest, through which travelers used to prefer to pass by daylight, as there was not a house to be seen in a twelve hours' ride. Many years ago a Yankee named Osgood thought it a good plan to open a half-way house of entertainment in the woods, and so bought a tract of land there and made a clearing. But everybody went by as before. At last a tin peddler got caught in a storm, and put up at the Osgood House. On calling for his bill the next morning, he was told that the charge would be $25. The peddler demurred, but was told that it was impossible to maintain a public house at ordinary rates, with only one customer in fifteen years. Convinced by this reasoning, the peddler made no further objection to the bill, but craved the privilege of paying it in tin ware, which was granted. Before the next caller arrived the house was closed. This story must be true, for Osgood tells it himself.

To Secure an Adjournment.

The gentleman from Louisville, Kentucky, is entitled to a patent for a new method of bringing about an easy and quick adjournment of the Kentucky House even in the midst of the most persistent filibustering resistance. After many abortive attempts had been made, about ten minutes after the clock had struck two P. M. he sent one of the pages out and procured a large piece of middling meat, which he proceeded to broil on the coals in one of the large, projecting fireplaces of the House. Soon the dinner suggesting odors of that broiling meat began to spread through the House and salute the olfactories of bat tling but hungry members, and in less than five minutes another motion to adourn was made and carried like a shot.

Two Friends.

A few years ago there resided at the Mission San Jose, in Alameda county, Cal., two young ladies, between whom, although not of kin, a strong friendship existed. They were married at the same time and by the same service. They then took up their residences, one at Haywards and the other at Alvarado. In the course of time they gave birth to children on the same day, the birth of one child preceding that of the other by two hours. Three weeks later both children died on the same day, the eldest just two hours before the other. Three weeks after the death of the children both mothers died on the same day.

SERVED RIGHT.—A would-be swell, wishing for an excuse to speak to a beautiful lady in the street with whom he was unacquainted, drew his nice white cambric handkerchief from his pocket as he approached her, and inquired if she hadn't dropped it. The lady glanced at the handkerchief, nodded assent, took it, thanked him, and marched on, leaving the exquisite to be laughed by his companions.

Don't Leave the Farm.

Come, boys, I have something to tell you,
Come near, I would whisper it low,
You are thinking of leaving the homestead,
Don't be in a hurry to go!
The city has many attractions,
But think of the vices and sins,
When once in the vortex of fashion,
How soon the course downward begins.

You talk of the mines of the Black Hills,
They're wealthy in gold without doubt,
But ah! there's gold on the farm, boys,
If only you'll shovel it out;
The mercantile trade is a hazard,
The goods are first high and then low;
Better stick to the farm a while longer,
Don't be in a hurry to go.

The great busy West has inducements,
And so has the busiest mart,
But wealth wasn't made in a day, boys,
Don't be in a hurry to start.
The bankers and brokers are wealthy,
They take in their million or so,
Ah, think of the fraud and deception
Don't be in a hurry to go.

The farm is the safest and surest,
The orchards are loaded to-day,
You're free as the air of the mountain
And "monarch of all you survey."
Better stay on the farm a while longer,
Though profits come in rather slow,
Remember you're nothing to risk, boys,
Don't be in a hurry to go!

"DICK, THE RAT."

The Ways of Rat Catching—Toner Tells How he Makes a Living by it—How he Works a Hotel.

The New York *Times* has been interviewing a professional rat catcher, and the following is the result of its investigations:

Taking a stout canvas bag from under the table, he produced an ordinary pair of tongs. "This," said Toner, "is what I catch them with. You see I have the inside of the end of these tongs made like a rasp. Now, there's another improvement of mine. If you have an ordinary pair of tongs, and grab a stout rat by the tail, he'll wiggle away, but if ye catch him with these, he's bound to go in the hole."

"What else do you use?"

"Well, only a dark lantern and a bag. Sometimes I sprinkle stuff on the floor to make them come out of their holes. The stuff is a trade secret, and attracts the rats by its smell. It's the same as flies and molasses."

"Where do you catch the most rats?"

"Slaughter houses and granaries. I often make a good bag in hotels. One night I got 350 rats in the Astor House kitchen!"

"How do you charge for your services?"

"Well, me and my assistant gets $5 each every night we work and our board. And when we work in private houses we sometimes charge $15 for every hundred rats we catch."

"What do you do with the rats?"

"Sell them, of course. Merchants and brokers has fancy terriers they want to train to kill rats, and if there's a rating match comes off we furnish the rats. Good rats is worth $20 a hundred."

"I suppose you have a considerable number of customers?"

"Oh, nearly all the big hotels, breweries, saloons, and slaughter houses in the State. You see, traps and poison can't drive them out. Rats breed so fast that you can't catch them quick enough, and if you poison them why they die in their holes."

"Well, how do you catch them?"

"I go into the cellar, or wherever the rats are, with John. He holds the bag and I take the dark lantern and the tongs. We have rubbers on and step light. The rats run around and I squeak like one. Then they come close to us, and I throw open the slide of the lantern. The rats get confused and run into the light, and I grab them and put them in the bag. When there's no more, I go out and leave the place be for a couple of hours, or another day, and then I go at them again. But the best way to know is to see me work. Me and John is going to clean out a hotel to-night, and if you come along you can take a hand in. I'll leave here at twelve o'clock." The reporter accepted the proposition, and on returning at midnight, found Toner and his partner in waiting. Cassidy carried the bag and tools, and jumping on a car, the party were soon conveyed to their destination, a prominent hotel. The night clerk, on being informed by Toner of his business, ordered him to be shown to the servants' hall, where the head waiter, a couple of cooks, and several grooms were waiting to see the rat catchers. These persons regarded Toner and his companion with the utmost awe and respect. One of the English grooms gave a graphic description of several ratting matches he had seen at Jimmy Shaw's, in Windmill street, near the Haymarket, and Toner gravely assented to the statement that Jimmy Shaw's Jacko was the best ratter ever put into a pit. Toner next asked for the key of the kitchen. This having been given him, he opened the closets and store-room doors, and sprinkling a few spoonfuls of odorous fluid in the center of the kitchen he retired, locking the door after him and putting the key in his pocket, remarking at the same time to the head cook: "If any of the folks up stairs wants vittles cooked now, they've got to go without 'em." Having uttered this declaration of authority, Toner resumed his seat in the servants' hall, and spent the following hour in drinking and smoking.

At length, he remarked: "I guess we'll go to work," and lit his dark lantern. With the lantern in his left hand and the tongs in his right, Dick led the way, Cassidy following next with the bag, and the reporter bringing up the rear. "Step light," said Dick, as he unlocked the kitchen door. The patter of the rats on the floor could be heard plainly. With a little instrument he had in his mouth, he imitated the "squeak-squeak" to perfection. The next moment he threw back the slide of the lantern and Cassidy held the bag open. The circle of light on the floor seemed fairly swarming with rats. As quick as lightning Dick seized them with the tongs and dropped them into the bag. The rats dashed round in the circle of light, and seemed afraid to stir beyond it. They were quickly snatched up until no more remained on the floor. "That's not so bad," said Cassidy, giving the bag a shake: "There's a hundred and twenty, Dick." Toner replied: "There's one got away over in that corner, there, I heard him." And he walked rapidly to a portion of the kitchen where there was a huge chopping bench. Sure enough, there was the rat; Dick threw the glare of the lantern right on the rat, blinded him, and hauled him out with the tongs. "I guess that's all," said Dick. "Now you see how it's done."

Noticing that Cassidy kept swinging the bag about, the reporter asked what that was done for. "Oh," said Dick, "that's to keep the rats from eating their way out, and I'll tell you a good story about that. One cold night I was taking a hundred rats to a broker's house for a rat bait, when a 'copper' stopped me in the street and asked me what I had in the bag. I had my collar up over my face and an old cap on, and he took me for a burglar. I said I hadn't got anything, but kept shaking the bag. Well, this policeman wanted to catch a burglar bad, so he necked me and took me to the station. A certain captain, I ain't going to mention his name, was behind the desk, and he says: 'Who've ye got there, Connors?' and the cop says: 'I guess he's a burglar.' 'So he is,' says the captain, 'his picture is in the gallery,' and he came out from behind the desk to have a good look at me. 'What stuff have you got in that bag.' 'You can look for yourself,' says I, and I gave him the bag. He dropped it on the floor, and you ought to see his face when them rats ran all over the station house. 'Who are you,' says he. 'I'm Dick the Rat,' says I. 'You get out of here, quick,' says he, and so I did. Well, good night, young fellow. I'm going out to Newark to-morrow to work a brewery."

Mantillas of lace and cream tulle are much worn at evening amusements.

A THIEF BY TRADE.

Designed for a Priest but Graduated as a Confirmed Felon.

Of the many oily-tongued rascals and thieves who have been run to cover in this city, says the Kansas City *Times*, Philip Watt, who was arrested for complicity in the Leavenworth robbery, is the king. He is a man about thirty years of age, weighs one hundred and sixty pounds, and stands six feet and an inch in his stocking feet. He has a good head, crowned by a growth of sandy hair, and from beneath his dark eyebrows look out as foxy a pair of gray eyes as ever a person looked upon.

A reporter paid a visit to the county jail, and ensconced in cell No. 3 on the left hand tier this man was found.

"Do you want to be interviewed?"

"Well, I don't mind, but I tell you, to begin with, that I won't tell you anything that will in the least possible manner criminate me. What do you want to know?"

"I would like a history of your life," answered the scribe.

"Well, get out your note book and I will commence."

The man then, with as few words as possible, gave the following account of his life:

"I was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1845, and lived there until I was nearly four years old. My father then removed to Fort Laramie, and I lived in that place until he had served his time out in the regular army. At ten years of age my father and mother moved to Leavenworth, where my younger days were passed. It had been my father's wish that I should become a Catholic priest, and my early education all tended toward that thing. In Leavenworth I attended St. Mary's College, and was under special charge of the bishop of that place. At fifteen years of age I was sent to the Jesuit college in St. Louis to complete my education. While there I came to the conclusion that I was not cut out for a priest, and jumped the institution.

"On coming back to Leavenworth, I made the acquaintance of a number of bad characters, and when once on the road down hill a person goes fast, and in a short time I was the leader of the gang. I have been arrested scores of times, and have seen the inside of nearly every jail in the West. The first time I was sent to the penitentiary was for obtaining $400 from the American Express company. I was caught, but handed the 'swag' to a 'pal,' and while serving my time in the jail had the use of the money. I was sixteen months in jail at Independence, and was at last sentenced for three years. After serving eighteen months I was pardoned out, through the exertions of my counsel, the Hon. Henry P. White. I was good for a time after my release, but the detectives would not let me alone, and kept hounding me from one place to another. At last I made up my mind to go back to the old business, and at Omaha I 'confidenced' a jeweler named Hubberman out of $700 worth of jewelry. I was arrested on suspicion the same night, but, as usual, got away with the 'swag.' Was sent up for three years, but, as the case in Missouri, was pardoned out after having served half my sentence.

"Money and political influence had a good deal to do with my getting out. On the books it was registered as 'executive clemency,' but I tell you money will do most anything. With it I will make the Missouri river run up stream, or get out of any prison in America. I think this is the worst apology for a jail that I ever was in, and I have been in most all of them. I have often thought of being a better man, but have never been given a chance. The detectives do more to encourage crime than to suppress it. If a man was a thousand miles away, in any honest business, and one of them should see him they would give him away in a minute. I have never had any inducements held out to me to be a better man. The world is all against me, and I might as well be crooked as straight. When I die it will be some satisfaction to some, that I leave the world a squeezed lemon. Public opinion is against me, and it is a law higher and mightier than any jury I have ever been brought before."

"You are suspected of having had a hand in the Wyandotte bank robbery."

"Yes, I know it. A couple of greenhorns were down here this morning and measured my feet and size. I was sure they were Kansas 'grays.'"

"You can tell a Kansas official, then?"

"Oh, yes. Most all of them are of my stripe, and will steal whenever they get a chance. Tom Speers, now, is a gentleman, and always treated me like a human being."

"You are sure you were not in Wyandotte on the night of the robbery?"

The man looked at the reporter about fifteen seconds, and then said, without appearing to have heard the question:

"I wonder how much they would give me to get back that $1,500. I guess it would go a long way toward getting me out of this scrape."

"Do you think you will get out of this?"

"Yes, I do. I am innocent, and, like Micawber, am waiting for something to turn up to my advantage."

"Do you think if you got out of this scrape you can do better?"

"No, I cannot, and shan't try. When I get out I shall go back to the old business, and keep at it until I am gray."

A West Point Story.

Gen. George A. Custer, in his "War Memories," says that he spent sixty-six of the usual holiday Saturdays during his four years at West Point on extra guard duty for breaking the strict rules of the institution. He was officer of the guard on one of these days, and "had begun my tour at the usual hour in the morning, and everything passed off satisfactorily in connection with the discharge of my new responsibilities, until just at dusk I heard a commotion near the guard tents. Upon hastening to the scene of the disturbance, which by the way was at a considerable distance from the main camp, I found two cadets engaged in a personal dispute, which threatened to result in blows. Quite a group of cadets, as friends and spectators, had formed about the two bellicose disputants. I had hardly time to take in the situation when the two principals of the group engaged in a regular set-to, and began belaboring each other vigorously with their fists. Some of their more prudent friends rushed forward and attempted to separate the two contestants. My duty as officer of the guard was plain and simple. I should have arrested the two combatants and sent them to the guard tents for violating the peace and the regulations of the academy. But the instincts of the boy prevailed over the obligation of the officer of the guard. I pushed my way through the surrounding line of cadets, dashed back those who were interfering in the struggle, and called out loudly: 'Stand back, boys; let's have a fair fight.'"

Too Big a "Boo."

After a most ridiculous and extravagant plea by a young lawyer in a trivial case, an older lawyer, who had a way of saying quaint things, remarked, in opening the opposing side of the case, that his friend's elaborate plea reminded him of the experience of a neighbor of his, who was once engaged in breaking a colt, and the story he told of it was like this:

The colt breaker made his young son hide in the bush, while he himself was to mount the animal and put him at his top speed to the hiding place, and then the boy was to rush suddenly out and shout "Boo!" the idea being to prove how well the colt would stand the scare. Everything was done according to programme, but the result was altogether too much of a scare for the colt, who kicked up his heels and put down his head, and the old man was thrown over it far into the road on his head.

Clearing the dust from his loosened teeth he made for the boy with the switch he had cut to drive the colt, and with rage began to dress the astonished young man down, shouting: "What did you do that for? What did you do that for?"

"But, father," said the crying boy, "you told me to holler 'boo!'"

"Yes," said the old man, "but dang it, it was altogether too big a 'boo' for so small a colt."

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

Freight rates from Chicago east have been reduced.....The government of Servia has determined to levy a forced loan of $10 a head. .....South Carolina sends her delegates to the national Republican convention unpledged. ..... An iron oil tank at Bear Creek station, Pa., was struck by lightning and instantly became a mass of flames, which spread to two neighboring tanks and the three were totally destroyed with their contents of forty-five thousand barrels of oil, involving a loss of nearly $100,000. A twenty-five-thousand-barrel tank was also struck by lightning and set on fire at Beaver Pipe station, but was extinguished by the use of steam ....Three men were buried beneath an old wall in Philadelphia, and when rescued one was dead and the others seriously injured.....A fire in St. Johns, Canada, destroyed a brick block residence and storehouse, valued at $70,000..... Four men were instantly killed and five others seriously and perhaps fatally injured by a fire-damp explosion in the Nesquehoning mine, near Allentown, Pa.....Twenty thousand colliers are on strike in South Yorkshire, Eng., against a fifteen per cent. reduction of wages. .... The immigration from Ireland for 1876, it is estimated, will be the smallest since 1851. .....Five dwellings, with numerous barns and outbuildings, were blown down at Creston, Ia., during the prevalence of a heavy gale. Loss, $10,000.

An engagement between Turkish troops and one thousand insurgents took place near Kjevace, and the insurgents were defeated with a loss of three hundred men.....The plague is on the increase in Bagdad ..... A battle was fought in the vicinity of Constantine, Algiers, between French troops and five thousand insurgents, in which the latter were completely routed, suffering a loss of six hundred killed and wounded, including their leader..... The high court of justice of Greece has sentenced the minister of ecclesiastical affairs to be imprisoned for one year, debarred from political privileges for threeyears, and to pay the poor-house $10,000 which he was convicted of receiving as a bribe. A former minister of justice was also sentenced to ten months' imprisonment for corruption, and the archbishops have been fined double the amounts they were convicted of receiving as bribes.....Virginia's Republican delegates are all in favor of Blaine, and about three-fourths of South Carolina's are understood to have the same preference. .....Germantown, a suburb of Louisville, was struck by a hurricane, which caused a great deal of damage and the death of Michael and John Meffert, father and son.....Gen. John McDonald, of the St. Louis whisky ring, was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of $5,000. W. O. Avery was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and $1,000 fine.

A. T. Stewart's will, which was made in 1873, gave his friend and legal adviser, Judge Hilton, the sum of $1,000,000, and the balance of the immense estate to the widow, with the exception of a few small legacies to faithful servants and employees. No money was left for public charity, but in a letter to his wife he expresses the hope that she will carry out his plans for the welfare of his fellow-men, and requests that each of his employees who has served him twenty years shall have $1,000, and those who have served ten years $500.....It is reported that the shah of Persia has sent a force of troops to Mesched, a city in northeastern Persia, whence they will wage war against Merv. If the shah succeeds he may be expected to take possession of Merv before Russia can annex it ..... Richard Kenyon, tax collector of Amboy, Oswego county, N. Y., is a defaulter to an amount ranging from $2,000 to $3,000..... A bronze figure of Abraham Lincoln, bought by subscriptions from colored people, was unveiled in Washington by President Grant. Frederick Douglass made the address..... St. Mary's county, Md., has had a shake by an earthquake ..... Baby farming in Montreal is being looked into, and it is found that of 719 foundlings consigned to the Gray Nun hospital, last year, only eighty-eight survived.....Several houses and barns were burned at Mechanicsburg, Pa., by an incendiary fire, aggregating a loss of $40,000. .....The old Greeley mansion at Chappaqua, N. Y., was destroyed by fire.

Holmes' boot shop in Westborough, Mass., was burned to the ground. The loss is from $50,000 to $60,000.....Great anxiety is felt for the safety of the schooner Katie, which left Fort Mulgrave, N. S., for Boston with sixty-five passengers ..... James D. Eads, engineer of the improvements at the mouth of the Mississippi, informs the South Pass Jetty company that the jetties show the least depth of water to be fifteen and one-half feet clear. A depth of twenty-two feet extends one mile and three-quarters..... Wm. Cullen Bryant, of New York, ex-President Woolsey, of Connecticut, ex-Gov. Bullock, of Massachusetts, Horace White, of Illinois, and Carl Schurz, of Missouri, have called for a conference of prominent men to be held in New York city May 15th, to consult about procuring the election of men of high character to the chief offices in the country.....A Russian corvette, while entering the Piræus lately, foundered, and all on board were drowned.....No further disturbances are apprehended in Malacca..... Dom Pedro, emperor of Brazil, arrived safely in New York and declined all public attentions. ....Mrs. A. T. Stewart, for the sum of $1,000,000, has transferred all the property left by her husband, excepting only the real estate in New York city, to Judge Hilton, who, with Mr. Stewart's old partner, Mr. Libby, will carry out all the dead merchant's enterprises under the old name.....There are 84,200 buildings in New York city, of which 67,156 are dwellings, 8,293 stores and 425 churches.....Six suicides were committed in or about New York city in one day.....John McNamara shot his betrothed, Ellen M. Callinan, through the heart in Corning, N. Y., in a fit of jealousy.

The drought is severe throughout Cuba, and is ruining the growing corn and crops. In the Vuelta Abajo region the tobacco crop is in a bad condition ..... Theodore Garren, of Hutchinson Station, N. J., next neighbor to Jacob Young, who was found in his house murdered on April 4th, hanged himself a few days ago, leaving a letter stating that although he was suspected of the murder he was innocent of the crime.....The barge Keystone, with $10,000 worth of Centennial goods from Albany, struck the bridge at that place and sunk.....The Porte complains to the great powers that Servia is aiding the insurgents. .....Rioting took place in the streets of Limerick between Home Rulers and Nationals. Over one hundred persons were wounded—forty seriously and six fatally.....The college known as Emerson Institute, in Mobile, and used for the education of colored people, was destroyed by fire.....The Louisiana supreme court has decided the issue of $2,500,000 of bonds to the Mobile and Chattanooga railroad to be unconstitutional.....Eight steamers have arrived at St. Johns, N. F., from the seal fishery, having on board 81,000 seals.....The towboat Dictator was dashed against a bridge at Bannibal, Mo., by the swift current, and striking amidships was broken in two and sunk. Nine persons went down with her..... A terrible epidemic has broken out near Soochow, China, and already has depopulated several small villages.....Insurrections have broken out in the districts of Kivor-ying and Shau-see, China, and are quite extensive..... Ex-Secretary Belknap appeared before the Senate high court of impeachment, and on the House managers preferring the charges, Mr. Belknap offered an affidavit setting forth that as he had ceased to be an officer of the United States, the court had no jurisdiction in the case. The managers asked for time to answer Mr. Belknap, and the court was adjourned for a few days.

In answer to the appeals of Mr. Moody for money to carry on the religious work in New York, over $100,000 were raised at an afternoon meeting, and in the evening $100,000 more were collected.....England refuses to give up the forger Winslow unless this government agrees to try him only on the charge for which he is extradited.....The insurgents defeated the Turks in a sanguinary battle near Nicsic, and the losses were heavy on both sides. The insurgents also captured all the provisions sent by the Turks from Ragusa to Trebinge.....The ship Victory, from Shields, England, for San Francisco, has been lost at sea with captain and sixteen of the crew..... President Grant has vetoed the bill reducing the salary of the President after March 4, 1877.....The steamboat Chauncey Vibbard ran from New York to Albany in six hours and twenty minutes—being the fastest time on record.....Secretary Bristow has issued orders to his subordinates to redeem with silver coin all amounts of fractional currency which may be presented in sums varying from $5 to $100. ..... Unless navigation opens early some of the inhabitants of Gaspe, East New Brunswick, in the Dominion, will die of starvation, as the stock is all gone and much suffering already prevails.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

The Business of General Interest Transacted.

SENATE.

The bill fixing the rate of postage on third-class mail matter, after several amendments, passed.

Mr. Mitchell (Rep.), of Oregon, from the committee on privileges and elections, to which committee was referred the question as to the proper amount of compensation to be paid to P. B. S. Pinchback, late a contestant for a seat from the State of Louisiana, reported a resolution to pay Mr. Pinchback a sum equal to the compensation and mileage of a senator from the beginning of the term for which he was a contestant to the termination of the contest by the Senate. Ordered to be printed and lie on the table.

Mr. Conkling (Rep.), of New York, presented the petitions of citizens against the passage of any bill allowing an American register to foreign-built vessels. Referred to the committee on commerce.

Mr. Sherman (Rep.), of Ohio, from the committee on finance, reported favorably on the Senate bill to amend the laws relating to the legal tender of silver coin. Placed on the calendar. The bill will provide for the coinage of a silver dollar of 412 8-10 grains of standard silver, to be a legal tender for any amount not exceeding $20 in one payment, except for customs dues and interest on the public debt. The legal tender power of the trade dollar is totally abolished. The other existing silver coins are to remain a legal tender for the amounts now fixed by law. The bill allows holders of bullion to exchange it at market value for the new dollars at their face value, or for United States notes at par. The proposed limitation of the issue of the silver dollars to $50,000,000 has not yet been incorporated in the bill.

Mr. Morrill (Rep.), of Maine, called up the House bill making appropriations to supply the deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and for prior years. Various amendments proposed, appropriating $160,000, were agreed to, and the bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE.

The bill to supply the deficiency in the printing bureau of the Treasury department, and for the issue of additional silver coin in place of the fractional currency, was taken up, the question being on the Senate amendment to strike out the third section, known as "the Reagan amendment," making silver dollars legal tender to the amount of $20, and lesser coins legal tender to the amount of $25. The amendment was concurred in without division, as were the other amendments. The bill thus reduced to the first and second sections (which supply the deficiency in the printing bureau and directs the issue of subsidiary silver coin) now goes to the President for his signature.

The House took up the Deficiency bill, and Mr. Wells (Dem.), of Missouri, who had charge of the bill, made explanations as to the bill. The bill was amended in various minor particulars, and passed.

Mr. McCrary (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced the following bills, which were referred: To create a sinking fund for the liquidation of the government bonds advanced to the Union Pacific railroad company; also in relation to the cancellation of mortgages.

The debate on the Hallet Kilbourn case was proceeded with. The resolution offered by Mr. Lynde (Rep.), of Wisconsin, directing the sergeant-at-arms to make a return to the writ, and to produce Mr. Kilbourn before the court, was adopted—yeas, 165; nays, 75.

The House took up the report of the election committee on the Alabama contested election case of Bromberg against Haralson. The report being unanimous against the claim of the contestant, Bromberg, and declaring the sitting member, Haralson, entitled to the seat. The report was agreed to.

A Genuine Move.

Mr. William Einer, a farmer from Mifflin county, Pa., passed through New Lisbon, Indiana, with his family, horses, wagon and private residence, and, because of the novelty of the scene, the attention of many persons was attracted, and the little house drew large crowds about it, whose curiosity led them to give it a superficial inspection. Mr. Einer has purchased some property in Iowa, and has resolved to settle there. Being a man of economical habits, he has determined to use his own motive power rather than call the railroad companies to his assistance. He accordingly constructed a little dwelling on the top of his wagon, the building being one story high, about fifteen feet long and five or six wide. It contains windows, doors and various modern improvements. It is built of light poplar boards, battened and painted straw color. Mr. Einer's family comprises his wife and one or two children, who look very comfortable in their home. They eat all their meals there, do their cooking on a little stove which they have, and are not bothered a great deal by the gaze of the inquiring public. Mr. Einer drives three horses and owns two dogs, which keep their places under the wagon. He has already traveled 310 miles in this way, rather likes the mode and intends to continue his journey in the same way until he comes to the end of it.

He Was Delayed.

A Detroit lady purchased a jacket at a Woodward avenue store the other day, and the clerk said he would send it right home inside of half an hour. In about four hours a package boy appeared with the garment, and the impatient lady exclaimed:

"You boys are the greatest nuisance in town. I suppose you stopped to play marbles or hunt up a lost dog!"

"Indeed, I didn't," he replied. "I went up home to change hats, and ma she had to try on the jacket and parade before the glass. Then Katy she put it on to make a call, and when she got back ma was determined to walk over on Woodward avenue to show it off, and I got here as quick as ever I could."

The Most Cruel of Stepmothers.

A sentence of six months' imprisonment has been passed at Birmingham, England, on a woman named Hawkins, for cruelty to her stepson, aged eleven. Since her marriage to the boy's father, eighteen months ago, she had habitually beaten and starved the boy. He had often been seen picking crusts off dust heaps, and eating potato peelings and cabbage leaves. One morning he was sent to school with little breakfast, had no dinner, and on returning home at six o'clock he helped himself to some bread in his stepmother's absence. Learning this afterward, she stripped him and struck him about thirty times on the back until it was a mass of bruises.

School Children's Eyes.

The effects of school life upon the eyes of the children seems to be somewhat pernicious, especially where the desks in a schoolroom are badly arranged as to light. The superintendent of schools at Cincinnati reports that in June last a distinguished oculist made an examination in the schools of the eyes of 1,264 children, and discovered that in the district schools 13.27 per cent. were near sighted; in the intermediate schools, 13.8; and in the normal and high schools, 22.75 per cent. From observation in New York and in Europe, similar results are reported. It is evident, therefore, that school life induces and increases near-sightedness.

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