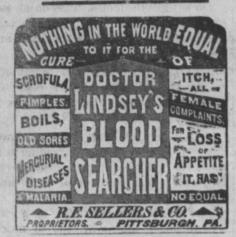
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THE CENTRE REPORTER.

CENTRE HALL, PA., July 18, 1883.

Longfellow's Queer Visitors.

During the centennial year, says Prof.
Boyesen in the Christan Union, we were sitting together, one beautiful afternoon, on his piazza, smoking and talking. While we were in the midst of our conversation I observed two men and two women coming toward us across the lawn. They were obviously New England country folks returning from the centennial exhibition. The men had the slow, deliberate, rustic walk, and were dressed in ill-fitting black broad-cloth, the very look of which made one perspire. The women, who were leading the way, had an appearance of pluck and enterprise, as if they were determined to conquer the modest diffidence of their companions. Mr. Longfellow was sitting with his back to the street, and did not observe them until they were within a yard of the piazza. He looked a little surprised, but arose and saluted the intruders with his wonted courtesy.

"Be you the poet Longfellow?" asked one of the women, in a voice that was incredibly unmelodious.

"Yes, I am Mr. Longfellow," he an-

There was an awkward pause, during which the visitors stared at the poet with unabashed glances, as if he had been a centennial relic on exhibition. "Now how old a man might you be?" queried the other female, abruptly.
"I am sixty-nine years old, madam."

"Pears to me you look consid'ably older," said one of the men, looking up sideways to Mr. Longfellow's face with a critical air. "My looks may belie me. I am no older."

I could not but wonder at the extreme urbanity with which he answered these blunt questions, showing no annoyance in his face and no resentment. And when finally, at their request, he conducted the party through his house, he submitted, with the same gentle courtesy, to a cross-examination regarding his family and personal affairs which would have tried the patience of archangel Gabriel. When at the end of half an hour he returned, apologizing for his absence, I made a remark which was perhaps a little disrespectful to his late

"They meant no disrespect to me by their questions," he answered, with that beautiful gentleness which was so characteristic of his manner. "It is perfectly proper, where they come from, to in-terest one's self in the personal affairs

of every body." "But it must be a great inconvenience to you," I observed, "to be so frequently disturbed by such excursionists."

"Well, during the present year I admit it has been a little trying. Nevertheless, I always dislike sending a man or woman away who has come out here house. Of course I have to do it occasionally, but it is always disagreeable to me needlessly to disappoint any one. Those women whom you saw are a good, stanch New England type, and I like them in spite of their lack of tact and their abrupt manners. They are good for the purpose of seeing me or my house. Of course I have to do it occasionally, but it is always disagreeable to hard-working women, who make good with good mothers. And working women and make good will be sent for a line not kept in stock, wives and good mothers. And yet, the other day, I was greatly amused at one of the same class who came here with a large basket-whether she had any the most perfect Force-Feed that she had read 'Evangeline' from beginning to end, 'and,' she added, 'there ben't many folks can say that.' I am convinced now that she had no intencion whatever of being rude to me; she was merely awkward and nervous, and said what the did not ascertain—apparently for the purpose of telling me that she had read 'Evangeline' from beginning to end, 'and,' she added, 'there ben't many folks can say that.' I am convinced now that she had no intention whatever of being rude to me; she was merely awkward and nervous, and asked her if she had found the reading of 'Evangeline' such a dreadful task. The question seemed to surprise her; she grew embarrassed, and showed plainly that she had no recollection of having said any thing uncomplimentary."

It was, as far as I can remember, on the same occasion that Mr. Longfellow told me of a young man from some-where in New England, who wrote to him, saying that he was in love with a young lady whose name was given, and a description of whose appearance was also subjoined. The writer had been devoting himself for a long time to the task of winning this young lady's affection, but she had so far given him no encouragement; and he had arrived at the conclusion that "nothing but poetry would fetch her." Now, would Mr. Longfellow, whom he understood to be a poet, write some suitable stuff for him that would appeal to the young lady's heart, and would he first let him know how much he charged for a poem of this kind? Whether Mr. Longfellow burlesqued a little this incident in relating it I am unable to say; but from the gravity of of his manner, and still more from his temperamental inaptness for burles-que exaggeration. I concluded that the incident had occurred exactly as he reported it.

How Miss Amateur Acted. Miss Amateur took part in some private theatricals and was cast to the part of a society lady. "How did I do?" she asked her dear friend after the performance. "You did splendidly!" formance. "You did splendidly!" replied the dear friend, with animation. "You acted just like a lady who had been used to the best of society all your life—quiet refined, you know. I don't see how you could do it. You're a born actress. That's what everybody said. You didn't appear one bit like yourself." Of course, Miss Amateur is deslighted, but she doesn't look it.—Boston Transcript.

Teacher: 'Define the word excavate." Scholar: "It means to hollow out." Teacher; "Construct a sentence in which the word is properly used." Scholar: "The baby excavates when it gets hurt."

JOY.

Curts is my name, Pittsburg my home,
And I'm a hearty boy;
In every place where I may roam,
I'll sing with youthful joy:
Sin r praises of that wondrous cure,
Perma pure and appare

Peruna, pure and sweet,
Which made me rich instead of poor,
And placed me on my feet.

Unreliable Physicians.

"But for the skill and watchfulness of Dr. Bender, our apothecagy," said an official of the Philadelphia Alms House recently to the Board of Guardians of the Poor, "fatal results would often follow upon the carelessness or ignorance of our resident physicians. Within a short time, little more than a year, he has detected and held back over 100 ernas detected and held back over 100 erroneous prescriptions, twenty-five of which, had the medicine been administered according to the directions, would have proven fatal. One young doctor, appointed by one of the most careful members of our heard has within members of our board, has, within a few months, written four prescriptions, which, but for Dr. Bender's knowledge, would have killed his patients. I question whether, in appointing such men, we are not rendering ourselves liable for damages in case the city's poor should die at their hands. There is not another city asylum in the country in which such a system as ours prevails. Guardians have sent their appointees to the staff for examination, and have then elected them regardless of the results of the test. For years the residents have owed their positions not to merit, but to political or personal favoritism. The medical staff, while yielding a tacit approval, have been practically without a voice in the selection. Our resident physicians have deteriorated from year

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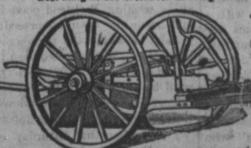
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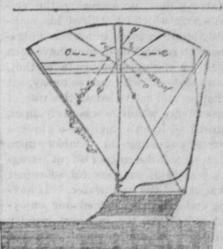
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