## THE OLD FRIENDS.

The old friends, the old friends We loved when we were young, With sunshine on their faces, And music on their tongue! The bees are in the almond flower, The birds renew their strain: But the old friends, once lost to us, Can never come again.

The old friends, the old friendst Their brow is lined with care; They've farrows in the faded cheek, And silver in the hair: But to me they are the old friends still. In youth and bloom the same, As when we drove the flying ball. Or shouted in the game.

The old men, the old men, How slow they creep along ! How naughtily we scoffed at them In days when we were young! Their prosing and their dozing, Their prate of times gone by Their shiver like an aspen leaf If but a breath went by,

But we, we are the old men now, Our blood is faint and chill; We cannot lesp the mighty brook, Or climb the break-neck hil. We maunder down the shortest cuts. We rest on stick or st le, And the young men half-ashamed to laugh Yet pass us wi b a . mile.

But the young men, the young m n, Their strength is fair to see; Their straight ba k. and the springy strlde, The eye as falcon free; The shout above the frolic wind, As up the hill they go; But, though so high above us now, They soon shall be as low.

O weary, weary drag the years As life draws near the end: And sadly, sadly fall the tears For loss of love and friend. But we'll not doubt there's good about In all of human kind; So here's a health before we go, To those we leave behind,

-[Spectator.

# FOUND IN A CORT POCKET.

BY FLORA HAINES LOUGHEAD.

The 30th of May was raw and chill in Aurora, a small village in the edge of the Northern pineries. The sun had hidden behind a mass of gray clouds, and a keen blast off the great lake swept over the country, like a parting taunt from the long tarrying, furious winter, that lurks in all men. which had just taken leave. A sharp frost had visited the garden the night before, and the meagre bounty of bud and blossom that they yielded for the men and women, had sought him and under warm, human touch

All things partook of the dismal influence of the day and weather. The somtook on new dignity and gloom. Houses fallen heroes were wrapped in sad tomed to silence painful memories.

Aurora and her outlying districts had sent three companies to the war. Barely a dozen old soldiers gathered to join the of the spiritual.

John Sexton was one of the younger men among the veterans, yet when he stepped to the door that morning and viewed the sky and faced the bitter wind, he went to a cedar chest and took himself. "Soon her eyesight will be- habit sometimes of saving life." from it a garment that had laid there unhole in the right sleeve, which hung empty by his side.

The procession formed at the head of the main street, before the old church in the narrow avenues of the village of the held. Many memories clustered about sifting down through the delicate green saw the rush of volunteers, amid the cheers of men and the sobs of women. graves, and kissing the purple violets and shell pink anemones that crept ist relates the following remarkable incheers of men and the sobs of women. beardless boy with a man's heart, kindled northern spring lifted the pall from each to wnich grows a large kind of covolvuwith a patriotic fire. Within the same gray walls, at the parting supper given pathy to neighbor. The tragedy and veranda, and to my surprise I noticed to his regiment the night before it marched, he had asked Hettie Plympton put aside, and valor and glory became my leg. I remained in that position and to be his wife some day, and she, half the topies of the howr. laughing and half weeping, had told him epaulets she would marry him. And he turbed him and aroused in him a sense told my wife of this discovery we deternad gone away proud and confident. The of anxiety and discomfort that he did mined to make further experiments. epaulets had seemed so easy to win, the not attempt to analyze. Toiling up the When we went out into the veranda the chances of failure or disaster so vague steep ascent Mehitable Plympton had tendrils had turned their heads back to and remote. Then had come the hard ball that cut short his career.

Her face had been the first he had seen the signs of failing youth in her keep and acted exactly as you might fancy a on his return. Descending from the car, pace with his own increasing infirmities, very slow snake would act if he wanted maimed, feeble, wasted by long sickness. Beyond this he had never looked until to reach anything. The upper tendrils his head reeling from the exhaustion of now, the journey, kind hands assisting him to bank beside the path, insisting that he themselves till they touched the pole, and the platform, he had caught sight of her, should go on. He noted her panting in a few hours were twisted right around tent on him with an expression that he against a tree, and a nameless foreboding light, and excepting the faculty of sight. could not then understand, but that he had afterwards construed into a shrink- A comrade observed his depression the tendrils could be aware that the pole addressing him had been placed there. ing horror of the wreck he had become.

A comrade observed his depression and approached him, addressing him cordially, touching the scorched hole in his sleeve, in mute recognition of its imquaintances, the majority with words of hearty sympathy on their lips; a few down the pocket lapel on the breast of moved only by idle curiosity to see how his old military coat. A paper rustled foully the accidents of fortune had plunin the pocket.

frail thread of life had snapped in the worn. tension of the first few months after he

had gone to the front. drawn from him, calmly penciling some would come to light.
memoranda in a little silk-bound book He drew out a coup church festival, or was taking down the some binding. Across these was pendate of an engagement she had made for ciled a message: a boat-ride or dance, bitterly contrasting her life of pleasure with the heavy burden of care and perplexity that had demore to me than all the epaulets in the is still better.—[Brooklyn Citlzen. scended upon him. Yet a few seconds later there had been a moment, a strange, bewildering moment, when she had paused before him, looking into his eyes had. What did it mean? When had

He took his place with his comrades vices were forgotten during the rest of the replaced by one of perfect humility, his year, became the centre of regard. John voice was a prayer.
Sexton saw Miss Mehitable Plympton on "Hetty, I have just found this. I the steps, lifted his hat courteously, albeit somewhat awkwardly, with his left you forgive me?" forming on her forehead, between her and purity and faith kept guard over feet that he had discovered about the corners of her eyes two years before were decidedly deepening. Thus he determined the desired with the girlish beauty that she on her pretty face as for a score of years whose eyes lost their tired, strained look sions when he encountered her; and he figure straightened and he seemed to rewondered if she had observed the small new his lost estate of youth. bald spot on the crown of his head, or had laid hold of him.

ation of the vanishing charms of her who her. had once been his ideal of all womanly worth and loveliness. It may have been in unconscious revenge for the manner in which she had treated him. It may your promise to-night?" have been to prove to himself that his heart was hardened against her. It may they turned homeward, but the radiance have merely been the innate savagery of the setting sun was in their faces. -

Marching along the weary road to the cemetery he recalled the rest. In those days of his weakness and despair, others, day seemed to visibly revive and freshen endeavored to cheer him. She had never When they met at the house of a pitiate the physical man for the audacity of demeanor that in no wise detracted

ing of her youthful bloom.

The graveyard was on a little knoll Herald. crowned with maples which were just beginning to leave. As they moved up which the memorial service had been dead the sun broke through the clouds that old frame church. John Sexton re- foliage and pendulous clusters of seed Plants," is of opinion that many plants called some of these. The first call for pods, heightening the brilliant colors of may be said to have sight, and the inrecruits had been made there. He heard the national flags that mark the soldiers vestigations of other famed botanists again the fiery, impetuous speeches, and graves, and kissing the purple violets have confirmed him. An Indian botan-He had been among the first to enlist, a tribute. The warmth and rejoicing of a with one foot against a large pillar, near

foully the accidents of fortune had plunin the pocket.

'Well," she replied, with a gesture
toward the wood pile. "suppose you beson had fallen on the battlefield cried with a smile in recognition of the serwith a smile in recognition of the ser-

over him, in place of the mother whose vice in which the old coat had been

"If they were, I'm afraid their value would be gone," returned Sexton lightly, In the midst of all this tumult he had idly thrusting his hands into the pockets again a glimpse of Hetty, her gaze with- and wondering what relic of army days

He drew out a couple of tiny, crumthat she carried, and he had wondered if pled sheets, gilded on three edges, a she were making note of some finery that jagged line on the fourth showing she intended to wear at the next party or where they had been hastily torn from

"I will marry you to-night, if you

again with that mute, beseeching look she written it? How did it come there? striving to speak, her trembling voice | He remained standing still, bewildered, dying away in broken utterances. One stupefied, while the others moved on. instant she had put up her little hand to Why did that scene at the railroad rearrange some trifling disorder in his station on the day of his return from the dress, as a loving woman might have South, come back so clearly, the vision done for her disabled hero; in the next of the young girl writing in her little she had slipped away, out of his life for- book; her light touch on his breast as she had stood before him?

It was well for Hetty Plympton that behind the wheezy string band that led the place where she had sat down to rest the procession, preceded only by the was a bypath, removed from the main high dignitaries of the village and the avenue. John Sexton would not have carriage in which rode the orator of the hesitated or delayed his errand if there day. Citizens were grouped on the steps | had been a thousand people about her. of the church, watching the line form, and awaiting their own carriages. For He held out scraps of paper to her. The an instant the old soldiers, whose ser- stern look that had become his habit was

hand, receiving an icy nod in return. He | Can love and joy find resurrection, full regarded her calmly and critically. She and perfect, when they have been enwas really a well-preserved woman for tombed for a quarter of a century? Aye, her age, but there was a new wrinkle if clean hands have laid them them away eyebrows, and her hair was getting de- them. Swift came the awakening, cidedly gray on the temples. The crow's gathering force and strength from all the liberately remarked the ravages of time was as one transfigured to her old lover, he had invariably done on the rare occa- and recovered their old fire, while his

Yet they accepted their happiness revthe slight limp that told that rheumatism erently, as becomes those who receive a precious gift long withheld.

John Sexton could scarcely have told With a low cry Hetty laid her head on why he made this cold-blooded examin-

"Sweetheart," he said, "your pledge has been slow to reach me. The day has been long and lonely. Will you keep

The shadows were lengthening when Brooklyn Daily Times.

## One of Bismarck's Habits.

Once when Bismarck was a cavalry ofmutual friend she had treated him with ficer he was standing with some other a frigor that taught him only too well officers on a bridge over a lake. As he bre forest that encompassed the town the changed relation that he, cripple, oc- was about to give an order his groom, cupied toward her. Other problems con- Hildebrand, rode one of the horses to and fields, which a month before had been robed in an enchanted mantle of less, useless man, dependent upon a horse lost footing, and Hildebrand, glistening white, and which a month brother's bounty, and barely tolerated as clinging to the animal, disappeared hence would be gracious with vines and a member of the household by his with it in the water. Before the other flowers, stood forth upon the landscape brother's wife. He could perform no officers could collect their senses Bisin naked ugliness. The men and women active labor, was incapacitated for a marck had cast off his sword and his who had gathered to do honor to their trade, and had not the means to fit him- uniform and had throw himself in the self for a learned profession. He drifted lake to save his servant. By good forretrospect, looking again into open about from one light vocation to an- tune he seized him, but the man clung graves or living over anew periods of other, filling each indifferently, more to him so closely in his death agony that this fashionable color, and nearly every heart-breaking suspense that had ended and more oppressed with a sense of he had to dive before he could loose in tidings of woe. Even the veterans, who in a grim school had learned lessons of fortitude and cheer, were singularly a capacity for industry that he could with him, and brought him safe depressed, and forgot the jests and gay find no means to apply. He taught him-badinage with which they were accus-self to write, and to write rapidly and The next day the servant was as well as well, with his left hand, and the govern- ever. But the little town that had witment for which he had sacrificed so nessed the brave rescue was in great much at length took pity on him and commotion. They petitioned the supergave him a place in the Land Office of intendent, who obtained for the young procession this day. Some of the sorry remnant had gone further west in search with few friends and no intimates, he danger." And now on great occasions, of health or fortune. Others were shut ed the life of a recluse. Miss Mehita- the well-known Prussian safety medal shoulder-can york Post. to venture out. Of those who answered the roll call the majority were ailing or Years had silenced her girlish gayety mous creator of united Germany. Busingers and muffled to the case to pro infirm and muffled to the ears to pro- and left her a certain gravity and severity marck, it is said, is prouder of his first medal than of all the rest put together. from the esteem in which she was held. One day in the plenitude of Bismarck's Sexton watched this development as dis- power a noble minister approached the passionately as he had witnessed the fad- premier, and with a tinge of satire asked him the meaning of this modest decora-"She has rounded 40 now," he said to tion. He at once replied: "I am in the gin to fail. When she puts on spec- diplomatist lowered his eyes before the disturbed for years—a blue overcoat, soiled and faded, and with a scorched acid."

tacles her temper will begin to grow reproving look which accompanied Bismarck's lightly spoken words.—[Chicago

# Plants Which Can See.

Darwin, in his book on "Movement in woe of the great conflict were resolutely that they were visibly turning toward in less than an hour the tendrils had laid John Sexton remained silent and pre- themselves over my leg. This was in the that when he came back wearing his occupied. A slight incident had disearly morning, and when at breakfast I stumbled, and his arm had saved her the railing in disgust. We got a pole discipline of the camp, the long, forced from falling. How thin and wasted the marches, the carnage of battle, the rifle hand that clung to him for a moment; twelve inches from the nearest spray of how slight the weight he had sustained! convolvulus. In ten minutes they began He recalled how he had come back. With grim satisfaction he had watched to curve themselves in that direction, She had seated herself on the bent down and the side ones curved

> "What do you want?" she asked through a small opening in the doorway. "I'm lookin' fur a square meal."

FOR THE LADIES.

THE SWISS BELT.

The Swiss belt of ribbon is very much liked and rivals the Empire folds in effectiveness. It has been described by us already, but we would here repeat that it consists of five rows of ribbon, of which the upper and lower are pointed and the intermediate ones run straight; at the back or side or along the middle rosettes or butterfly bows are added. Some prefer the windmill bow, and if a

WOMAN'S TRUE BEAUTIFIER. A physician, who is a specialist in nervous diseases, says that women should sleep at least nine hours at night and one hour in the daytime. Perhaps you say it is quite impossible for you to few times you try it, but keep up the practice and soon your eyes will close every day at a certain time and you will be drawing in great draughts of nature's own invigorator-sleep .- [New York

## SPEAKING LIKENESSES.

"When a girl comes in and insists on ton photographer, "you can be sure she She has quarreled, perhaps, and she means to convey by the picture that she of "May," as she is familiarly known to is sorry. Very few girls will say that all of the old salts. they are sorry, but they will go to an will be softened, he will say something, and then they can have it over."- Buffalo Commercial.

## THREE CORNERED HATS.

Three-cornered Louis XV, hats promise the head, and an effect verging on the ridiculous is produced when this requisite angle has been disregarded. A Louis XV. hat fresh from the hands of a Parisian artiste was delightfully suggestive of the season and expressive of rainbow tints. The shape was of maize amour straw, trimmed with mauve ribbons. On either side of the point in front nestled two little bunches of pink and mauve primroses with green leaves, and the same flowers were arranged in a

## BLACK HATS THE MODE.

In millinery, black hats for the moment dominate the mode. Some attractive black chip hats are trimmed with a fine imitation of old point lace variously arranged on brim and crown. Yellow flowers, also petunia-color blooms, are effective additions to such hats. Flowers which have no counterparts in nature are seen among new artificial blossoms, and conspicuously noticeable are roses which present the many novel tones of reddish purple observable in the cinnaria species. They show a wide range of shades in woman, be her complexion what it may, can find a becoming tint in that range, especially when combined or intermixed with lace. Tuscan hats, after a period of banishment, are once more acceptable. They are frequently trimmed with color to match, but this is very trying. It is better to employ chestnut-brown, dahlia, or black, which colors tone down the vivid yellow in the straw. Large picture hats of Leghorn will be well worn with the black satin gowns and full shoulder-capes now popular. - New

# A WOMAN ASTRONOMER.

A recent issue of the Paris Figaro devotes half a column to an enthusiastic account of a young American girl named Klumpke, who has won for herself recognition as one of the most learned astronomers and most indefatigable and successful observers in France. Five years ago she was received as a pupil in the Observatoire. Since then a few other women have been allowed to join the work carried on in that world famous institution, but she was the first to whom the doors were opened, and for a long time she was the only one. Even yet she alone has the right to call herself an astronomer, for the others are only her assistants, attending to photographic measurements and other mechanical work incident to the preparation of a great map of the sky soon to be issued.

Miss Klumpke's labors are of quite a and intelligence have won for her a color. highly privileged position. One of the two great equatorials is reserved exclusively for her use, and every day at noon. in the evening or at dawn, she has full the huge dome she manœuvres a telescope more than twenty feet long, and for hours at a time studies the sun, the moon or the stars. Her especial duty is to record the movements of the planets and to search for new comets and nebulæ, while a man in the western tower, using a similar instruments, makes, for the sake of securing something like absolute accuracy, observations of the same

Miss Klumpke is tall and slender and hardly looks her twenty-four years. She has long auburn hair and dreamy eyes, half hidden behind the mathematician's inevitable eyeglasses. Notwithstanding the Teuton ism of her name, she comes of a family that has long been resident in California. She is not the only member of it who has won distincpeen exhibited at the National Academy of a doctor. -[New York Commercial and thin the latter style is more becom-

A WOMAN'S SAILOR EXCHANGE.

"The greatest hustler in Maine." That is what the citizens of Rockland call Mrs. Mary Ranlett, who, alone and unaided, carries on an enormous traffic in sailors; real live sailors of all colors, nationalities and stations in life.

Mrs. Ranlett looked the bustling, vivacious business woman that she is. Tall, good looking, with brown hair and hazel eyes, partially obscured by sweeping lashes, she is the last person one would expect to see driving through the streets perched high on the swinging seat of a common truck wagon with a bronzed and bearded tar on either side of her and the rear end of the wagon packed two deep with more of the same

Mrs. Ranlett's peculiar business has grown tremendously in the last few years, and at present is one of the institutions of Rockland. Her establishment is on sleep, even though you lie down, in day-light. Possibly you will not the first town, and consists of three large wooden buildings of ancient architecture, whose exterior shows the wear and tear of many

It is a royal welcome that is given to whoever enters the door. At almost any time of the day and night there may be seen lounging about the door of this peculiar "home" groups of old sailors in costumes of inconceivable hues and descriptions, their cracked, weather-beaten a certain pose or expression," says a Bos- lips encircling the stems of black forecastle pipes, and a look of contentment is getting up a picture for a certain man. on their bronzed and seared faces which is directly attributable to the attentions

Mrs. Ranlett's "office" is in a sunny, elaborate trouble and expense to get a pleasant corner of the largest building, picture representing them looking and is simply a little 7x9, low-studded mournfully into space or glancing appealingly in a sort of 'Oh, please don't patterned paper, blackened with lamp be cross with me' way. Their idea is to | and tobacco smoke. Here is where the put the picture up in some conspicuous | rough old captains of schooners, sloops place where he will see it. His heart and barks come in to leave their orders to six, eight or ten, sailors, according for the size of their vessel.

"When do you wish them delivered?" asks Mary, nonchalantly, as though selling a bill of goods, as she stands behind the desk with her order book in her hand. About one hour and a half to be a success this season. But let before the time the men are ordered for those who wear them be careful how Mary rings a big bell in her "boarding they put them on. The success of a house," and the crowd of forty or fifty tricornered hat depends much on the old sailors come trooping down stairs to precise angle at which it is placed on the office, where their hostess selects the ordered number and orders them to report in fifteen minutes.

At the appointed time, and not a minute later, for they know the discipline of their "boss," the half-dozen salts come tramping downstairs with their earthly belongings slung in handkerchiefs over their shoulders or carried in

black, shiny oilskin bags. In front of the door stands the "jibbogan," or truck wagon, drawn by a diminutive white horse which looks algarland round the crown .- [Chicago | together too small for the load of brawny sailors who clamber in behind. Mary is on the seat, and drawing up the rusty reins and cracking her crackless whip she urges the rawboned but plucky animal with sundry "git ups" and "go langs" toward the wharf, where her customer's vessel lies .- [New York Advertiser.

FASHION NOTES.

Fancy waists are made of plain and broche changeable silk; also of cotton figured goods and white lawn. Fichu-shaped corset covers in white

and colored nainsook. Many Japanese screens in new effects for cosey corners are seen.

Cotton crepons have green, lavender and blue designs. Do not wear a veil with a lace edge. Bearded ladies the only exception.

Ready-made berthas, of lace, are rimmed with satin ribbon. White serge seaside suits, are trimmed

with yellow satin ribbon. Do not wear a navy blue veil on a cold

Tiny velvet or cloth collarettes just covering the shoulders are fashionable. Fichus of lace or silk and lace are worn in the mantilla style. Net-top laces have point de Gene edges

for cotton gowns. Blue an I cream storm serge is suitable

for yachting and boating dresses. Do not wear a mourning veil so long that it will tire the neck. Veils can be so draped as to lessen their weight.

There seems to be almost a rage for violets as hat trimmings, and they are frequently used so profusely as to compose nearly the whole hat. Violets and mimosa are a favorite combination.

The Toreador is the newest veil, made in Russian net, with a border having pendant balls; and a novelty in pocket handkerchiefs has bands of colored foulard, with pins' points let in between the lace edge and the insertion. A new and fashionable stuff is whip-

cord, a sort of diagonal sergelike madifferent kind, and consist entirely of terial, very suitable for present wear. original observation and research. Al- The colorings are charming. All the ready a bachelor of science, and soon to newest shades are to be had in it, and be admitted to the doctorate, her zeal this year so very much depends upon

Some very sensible women, regardful of the rights and comforts of others, are making a decided effort to banish the bonnet from entertainments, Light charge of the eastern tower. Alone in hoods of silk or some lace wrap is to be recommended, in place of the bonnet or hat. This is a move in the right direction, and should have the most enthusiastic support from all sensible persons.

The plaided basket wools, plaid braids and galloons, plaid veils and plaid straw hats, and the boa-ruches of box-plaited plaid ribbon all will be made much of in the traveling costumes of young women. Plaid neck scarfs will be worn tied in a knot and ends, making a bow that looks like a Frenchman's mustache. Great white cuffs and collars and white chemisettes will tone over-bright effects. Plain linen fichu collars are as large as

shoulder capes. With regard to strings there is also a positive mandate this season. Young matrons wear satin about two inches tion. Anna Klumpke, her sister, is an artist of merit, particularly noted as a miniaturist, and some of her work has little on one side. Others preserve the of Design in New York. Another sister, old order of fashion and use stick pins Mme. Dejerine, is a doctor and the wife on the hair. Where the neck is long

Soft tinted wools and American silks are employed for present use blouses and shirt waists, and among useful garments are hemstitched black surah waists or those of black satin made with full puffed sleeves, with bretelles, collar and the forearm of the sleeves trimmed with jetted gimp.

Diamonds and pearls are giving way for ordinary wear to less expensive stones. The aquamarine, chrysoprase and topaz are specially popular. The settings are plain, but substantial. This is a muchto-be-commended fashion. Precious stones have their place in full dress. These others are much more appropriate for more ordinary wear.

There is a small, plain parasol with a short handle which comes in cases puffed and ruffled. There are also twenty-sixinch handles and plain silk shades in all the neutral colors, only one tint being used. These have long, slim handles of natural wood, and wrapped up are hardly larger than a cane. Cases in the same color go with them. The bachelor girl will welcome this style of new sun umbrella.

#### AROUND THE HOUSE.

GOOD DEODORIZERS .- Boiled vinegar and myrrh are good deodorizers.

To Test Water. - To test suspected water, fill a clean pint bottle nearly full of the water to be tested, and dissolve into it half a teaspoonful of loaf or granulated sugar. Cork the bottle and keep in a warm place for two days. If the water becomes cloudy or milky within forty-eight hours, it is unfit for domestic

ADVICE As TO TOWELS .- Have them of good size. They are more satisfactory and wear longer than the curtailed sort. Shall our towels be damask or huckaback? This is also a matter of taste. And it is a matter of complexion. Huckaback and Turkish are desirable for bath use. But for the face use damask. With that you may rub the skin without producing a battered-up feeling that is certainly not advisible for the complexion. It is well to persistently rub the face, but it is never improved by scouring. Get the "new" out of your towels before putting them to use. It is indeed treating a guest ill to offer to him a towel with the "store" starch upon it. Let the family take the " new " off your "company" linen. This may be hard on the household, but the wiping guest will love you more than if you permitted him to assist at the job. Iron your towels on both sides. They are more agreeable to use when smoothly laundered, and when so polished give a tinge of thoroughness to your housekeeping. Housekeepers know the advantages of a roller and a long piece of crash in places where frequent washing of the hands is done. There should be one in the kitchen and another in the bathroom. If the children have a wash closet off their playroom, provide that with a roller and a "round" of crash. You may then feel sure that the linen in use in that room isn't hung on the floor. Don't buy cotton towels. They are a delusion and a source of rage. They are all right for etcetera uses, such as pinning on a kitchen chair back or placing on the top of a back hall stand. But they are a flat failure when put to toilet use. Don't attempt cotton dish towels. Use your old linen in the kitchen and buy new linen crash

# Wooden Money.

Wooden money, in the shape of Ex chequer tallies, was, prior to the estab-lishment of the Bank of England in 1694, current in this country. was the name given to the notched sticks formerly in use in England for keeping the accounts in the Exchequer. They were square rods of hazel or willow, inscribed on one side with notches indicating the sum for which the tally was an acknowledgment, and on two other sides with the same sum in Roman characters. When the transaction was completed the tally recording it was split lengthwise, so that each section contained half of each notch and one of the written sides. One half, called the tally or check, was given to the person for whose service it was intended, the other half, called the counter tally, was retained in the Exchequer until its corresponding tally should be brought in by the person who had last given value for it. It thus become a current token representing cash. After the establishment of the Bank of England, Government payments were made through its agency. The use of tallies in the Exchequer was abolished by Statute 28, George III. The old tallies were, by the Act 4 and 5, William IV., ordered to be destroyed, and it was burning them that caused the conflagration by which the old Houses of Parliament were demolished .- [Tit-Bits.

# When the World Falls to Pleces.

The leading English scientists, Jones, Hilton, et al., are figuring on the probabilities of the earth finally collapsing as a result of the modern craze for tapping nature's great gas retorts. They argue that the earth is a huge balloon held up, in part, at least, by heat and internal gases, and that when nature's great gas main is eventually exhausted the earth's crust may fall in and break into millions of fragments! Ugh! The very thought of such a calamity is startling. They argue that the steady belching forth of millions of feet of gas every hour of the day and night is surely causing a great vacuum somewhere not far beneath the surface, and that sooner or later the thin archway of earth-crust will give way. Then will occur the grand climax of all earthly calamities.

# Our Early Newspapers,

The dates of the first issuing of newspapers in the original thirtoen States are as follows: In Massachusetts, 1704; Pennsylvania, 1719; New York, 1725; Maryland, 1728; South Carolina, 1732 (the first newspaper issued south of the Potomac); Rhode Island, 1732; Virginia, 1736; Connecticut, 1755; North Carolina, 1755; New Hampshire, 1756; Delaware, 1761. The number of newspapers in the colonies at the breaking out of the war for independence in 1775, was only thirty-seven, whose total weekly circulation did not exceed 4,000 copies.