Gettin' close to springtime-know it by the The sun is streamin', in the middle of th

Know it by the river that is lazy'in along. An' the mockin' birds a-primpin' o' their

feathers for a song ! acttin' close to springtime-know it by the signs:

Hear it in the whisper o' the maples an' the pines: Feel it in the blow o' the breezes, singin'

See it in the daisies that are dreamin' at my feet!

Gettin' close to springtime; hope she'll come to stay;

Got a million kisses for the red lips o' the May!

Wearyin' to meet her-list'nin' all the time

For the tinkle of her footsteps-her roses

an' her rhyme! -[Frank L. Stanton, in Atlanta Consti-

## ROMANCE OF A HELMET.

"But uncle, I love my cousin!"

'Get out!'

with some other girl.'

"Give her to me." "Don't bother me!"

"It will be my death!" "Nonsense! you'll console yourself

Prav-My uncle, whose back had been toward me, whirled round, his face red fist down upon the counter with a

heavy thump. "Never!" he cried; "never! Do you hear what I say?'

And as I looked at him beseechingly and with joined hands he went

"A pretty husband you look like! to the other. without a sou, and dreaming of going into housekeeping! A nice mess I raising our heads. should make of it by giving you my daughter! It's no use your insisting. You know that when I have said 'No,' nothing under the sun can make me say 'Yes'!"

I ceased to make any further appeal. I knew my uncle-about as headself with giving vent to a deep sigh, and then went on with furbishing of from point to hilt.

This memorable conversation took it from being lowered. place, in fact, in the shop of my maternal uncle, a well-known dealer in have got out of order," said my uncle; antiquities and ojects d'art, 53 Rue des Claquettes, at the sign of the has been thoroughly cleaned and

of curiosities.

The walls were hung with Marseilles and old Rouen china, facing not daring to raise my eyes to his. and dilapidated as to their gilding; proverb should prove true. then, here and there, in glass cases

fortune. Held in esteem by all, a bewildering whirl. municipal councillor, impressed by

Cross." But my uncle was not only a love.

I digressed:

Without paying any attention to the sighs which exhaled from my of the previous evening. bosom while scouring the rust from my long, two-handed sword, my uncle, magnifying glass in hand, was en- enough-put it down," said my gaged in the examination of a lot of uncle. medals which he had purchased that morning. Suddenly he raised his gathering. I could not do better head; 5 o'clock was striking.

"The Council!" he cried. august word it made a mouthful; for the great morion and turned and exa pin he would have saluted it bare- amined it on all sides. headed. But, this time, after a mo-

preme relief: ting that I have to go to the railway latched the gorget-piece about his station to get the consignment of which I was advised this morning." Rising from his seat and laying

down his glasses he called out: "Rose, give me my cane and hat!" Then, turning toward me, he added, in a lower tone, and speaking very

quickly: versation. If you think you can ing like a pagan!
make me say 'yes.' try-but I don't I could contain myself no longer, make me say 'yes,' try-but I don't think you'll succeed. Meanwhile, not a word to Rose, or by St. Barthelemy, my patron of happy memory,

I'll instantly kick you out of doors!' At that moment Rose appeared with my uncle's cane and hat, which she handed to him. He kissed her on the forehead; then, giving me a last but a squent look, hurried from

I went on scouring my doublehanded sword. Rose came quietly idiot!" he cried.

toward me. "What is the matter with my angry with you.'

black, her look so kind, her mouth so laughed. rosy, her teeth so white that I told her and his rough refusal. I could not He was not there; I determined to nobody like timid persons for display- ness afterward!" ing courage under certain circumstances.

were as red as those of cherries in choice of means. May.

I checked myself. "Are you angry with me?" I asked, tremblingly.

with me, Rose?" that, my heart seething with audaci- hand of my cousin Rose!

ty, my head on fire, I cried: 'Rose, I swear it! I will be your elongated visor came not an angry husband!"

looked at me sadly I added: "Oh! I ships! well know that my uncle is selfwilled, but I will be more self-willed I ask of you," I added, "not only still, and he must be forced to say will I not help you off with your hel-'yes,' I will force him to say it!" "But how?" asked Rose.

Ah! how? That was exactly the cipal Council! difficulty. But no matter; I would find a way to surmount it!

At that moment a heavy step resounded in the street. Instinctively we moved away from each other; I to bursting, and brought his closed returned to my double-handed sword, and Rose, to keep herself in counte- neighbors.' nance, set to dusting with a corner of faded red velvet case.

My uncle entered. Surprised at finding us together, he stopped short | body is coming!" and looked sharply at us, from one

We each went on rubbing without

'Here, take this," said my uncle, handing me a bulky parcel from under his arm. "A splendid purchase, you'll sued from durance, red as a poppy.

The subject did not interest me in the least.

I opened the parcel, and from the strong an old fellow as could be found enveloping paper emerged a steel helin a day's search. I contented my- met-but not an ordinary helmet, oh, no !-a superb, a monumental morion, with gorget and pointed visor of a big double-handed sword, rusty strange form. The visor was raised, and I tried to discover what prevented

"It will not go down-the hinges "but it's a superb piece, and when it 'Maltese Cross''-a perfect museum | touched up will look well-that shall

be your to-morrow's job."
"Very good, uncle," I murmured,

ancient cuirasses, sabres and mus- That night, on reaching my room, kets and picture frames; below these I at once went to bed. I was eager raised his head and thenwere ranged old cabinets, coffers of to be alone and able to think at my all sorts and statues of saints, one- ease. Night brings counsel, it is armed or one-legged for the most part, said, and I had great need that the

But, after lying awake for an hour hermetically sealed and locked, there without receiving any assistance, I the same. were knickknacks in infinite variety | fell off to sleep and till next morning -lachrymatories, tiny urns, rings, did nothing but dream the oddest precious stones, fragments of mar- dreams. I saw Rose on her way to ble, bracelets, crosses, necklaces, church in a strange bridal costume, a models and miniature ivory statu- fourteenth century cap, three feet ettes, the yellow tints of which, in high, on her head, but looking pret- Come here, you." the sun took momentarily a flesh-like | tier than ever; then suddenly the scene changed to moonlight, in which Time out of mind the shop had be- innumerable helmets and pieces of longed to the Cornuberts. It passed old china were dancing a wild taranregularly from father to son, and my dola, while my uncle, clad in comuncle-his neighbors said-could not plete armor and with a formidable but be the possessor of a nice little halberd in his hand, conducted the

The next day-ah, the next day !the importance and gravity of his I was no nearer. In vain, with clenched office, short, fat, highly choleric and teeth, I scoured the immense helmet headstrong, but at bottom not in the brought by my uncle the previous least degree an unkind sort of man- evening-scoured it with such fury as such was my uncle Cornubert, my almost to break the iron; not an idea all I ask." only living male relative, who as came to me. The helmet shone like soon as I left school elevated me to a sun; my uncle sat smoking his pipe ear: the dignity of chief and only clerk and watching me; but I could think give me his daughter.

At 3 o'clock Rose went into the two.' dealer in antiquities and a municipal | country, whence she was not to return councillor-he was yet more, and until dinner time, in the evening. On above all, the father of my cousin the threshold she could only make a little wife. And if ever you past Rose, with whom I was naturally in sign to me with her hand; my uncle along the Rue des Claquettes, No. 58, had not left us alone for a single in-To come back to the point at which stant. He was not easy in his mind; I'll show you my uncle's helmet, he had not forgotten our conversation | the French.

I went on rubbing at my helmet. "You have made it quite bright

I put it down. The storm was

than allow it to blow over. But suddenly, as if undertaken by When my uncle pronounced that a strange fancy, my uncle took up

"A handsome piece of armor, there ment's consideration, he tapped his is no doubt about it; but it must forehead and added, in a tone of su-preme relief: have weighed pretty heavily on its wearer's shoulders," he muttered; "No, the sitting does not take place and, urged by I know not what debefore to-morrow-and I am forget- mon, he clapped it on his head and

neck. Struck almost speechless, I watched what he was doing-thinking only how ugly he looked.

Suddenly there was a sharp sound -as if a spring had snapped-and-crack!-down fell the visor; and there was my uncle, with his head in "As to you, don't forget our con- an iron cage, gesticulating and swear-

> and burst into a roar of laughter, for my uncle, stumpy, fat and rubicund, presented an irresistibly comic appearance.

"The hinges! the hinges, fool!" he

Threateningly, he came toward

I could not see his face, but I felt that it was red to bursting.

"When you have done laughing,

But the helmet swayed so oddly on his shoulders, his voice came from it father?" she asked; "he seems to be in such strange tones, that the morhe gesticulated, the more he yelled I looked at her-her eyes were so and threatened me, the louder I

At that moment the clock of the all-my love, my suit to her father, Hotel de Ville striking 5, was heard. "The Municipal Council!" murhelp it-after all, it was his fault! mured my uncle, in a stifled voice. "Quick! help me off with this beast brave his anger. Besides, there is of a machine! We'll settle our busi-

But suddenly, likewise, an ideawild, extraordinary idea-came into My cousin said nothing; she only my head; but, then, whoever is madheld down her eyes, while her cheeks der than a lover? Besides, I had no

"No!" I replied. My uncle fell back two paces in terror-and again the enormous helmet "Are you angry | wobbled on his shoulders.

"No," I repeated, firmly, "I'll not She held out to me her hand. On help you out unless you give me the From the depths of the strangely

exclamation, but a veritable roar. I And as she shook her head and had "done it!"-I had burned my 'If you do not consent to do what

met, but I will call in all your neighbors and then go and find the Muni-

'You'll end your days on the scaffold!" cried my uncle.

"The hand of Rose!" I repeated. "You told me that it would only be by force that you would be made to say 'yes'-say it, or I will call in the

The clock was still striking; my her apron a little statuette in its uncle raised his arms as if to curse

"Decide at once," I cried, "some-'Well, then - yes!" murmured my uncle. "But make haste!"

"On your word of honor?" "On my word of honor!" The visor gave way, the gorgetpiece also, and my uncle's head is-Just in time. The chemist at the

corner, a colleague in the Municipal Council, entered his shop. 'Are you coming?" he asked; they will be beginning the business

without us. 'I'm coming," replied my uncle. And without looking at me he took up his hat and cane and walked out.

The next moment all my hopes had vanished. My uncle would surely not forgive me. At dinner time I took my place at

table on his right hand, in low spirits, ate little and said nothing. "It will come with the dessert," I

Rose looked at me, and I avoided meeting her eyes. As I had expected, dessert over, my uncle lit his pipe, 'Rose-come here!"

Rose went to him. Do you know what that fellow

there asked me to do vesterday?' I trembled like a leaf, and Rose did

"To give him your hand," he added. Do you love him?' Rose cast down her eyes. "Very well," continued my uncle,

on this side the case is complete. I approached him. "Here I am, uncle," and, in a

whisper, I added, quickly: "Yorgive He burst into a hearty laugh.

"Marry her, then, donkey-since you love her, and I give her to you!" "Ah!-uncle!" "Ah!-dear papa!"

And Rose and I threw ourselves into his arms. "Very good! very good!" he cried,

wiping his eyes. "Be happy; that's And in turn he whispered in my

"I should have given her to you all and shop man of the "Maltese of nothing, no way of forcing him to the same, you big goose; but-keep the story of the helmet between us

> I give you my word that I have never told it but to Rose, my dear at the place of honor in the old shop, I could see that by his face. No doubt | which we would never sell .- [From

## **Drilling for the Kaiser**

One of the most useful as it certainly is one of the most interesting, of all the exercises in the German army is the swimming and diving drill as it is practiced at the military swimming baths during the summer months. It is compulsory only on the pioneers, but privates of all arms are encouraged to practice it by small money prizes and prospective promo-The diving takes place from a considerable height. The men taking part in it are clothed in uniforms of the oldest and least valuable description, and accoutred with "dummy" kits of precisely similar size and weight to their ordinary equipments.

Under the direction of the military swimming-master the men mount the steps leading to the diving-platform in rotation, and at the word of command each takes "a header down below." After a more or less prolonged interval the pioneer private 'bobs up serenely" and generally (contrary to the expectation of the uninitiated stranger), without having lost his helmet or rifle and without having disarranged his accoutrements, strikes out across the bath for the landingstage. The pioneers are also instructed in the towing of piles, stakes, baulks of timber and trunks of trees into position for bridge construction.

-[Chicago Post. The Roman Catholic Church is esti-mated to have twelve million adherents in America.

THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Statistics -- Consoling News -- Henry Explains -- Her First Dinner, Etc.,

STATISTICS.

The man who takes pleasure in discussing labor questions got on the subject of pauper labor.

"I find by recent statistics," he said, "that a weaver in Germany gets 60 cents a day; farm hands in Belgium 40 cents; a thrasher in Turkey 40 cents-

"Gosh!" exclaimed a sporty young man interrupting the talker, "a thrasher in Florida gets 50,000 times that much. 'Rah for Corbett!"-[Detroit Free Press.

CONSOLING NEWS.

"Have you any tidings yet of my lost son?" asked the distracted mother of the chief of police. "We have discovered, madam, that

he enlisted for the Brazilian war.' "Thank heaven for that!" she exclaimed. "I was afraid he had rushed into some danger."-[Judge.

HENRY EXPLAINS.

She was waiting for him, Gathering her brows like gathering [Chicago Tribune. storm.

Nursing her wrath to keep it warm. And when he entered the room she

"This is a nice time of night to-"I-er-hic-know I'm late," he discussion on female beauty.'

"And what had you to do with that?" demanded the ireful wife. "More'n any one there. I was the one-er-who had the most beautiful wife an'-er-'course the best au-

thority on female beauty, an-"Why don't you take off your overcoat, Henry? Let me get your slippers for you. It's awful cold outside :

I think you must be half froze.' Half a minute later Henry was safely ensconced in his easy chair with his wife at his feet putting on his slippers.-[New York Press.

HER FIRST DINNER.

candy counter. Young Husband-Say, darling, what a peculiar flavor this stewed were the proprietor of this establishsteak has.

Young Wife (diffidently)-I really cannot account for it. Indeed, in order to take away the bad taste of the onions I scalded them myself in | chance," he answered. eau de cologne.

NOT SO SIMPLE.

Fred-My dear Miss Clementina, you have no idea how exquisitely beautiful you are. Clementina-You must take me

for a fool .- [Town Topics. COMPLIMENT.

Mrs. Hyanmyty-"I have had my house elegantly refurnished." Mrs. Jeallus-"And you did it so quickly, too. All since that auction | the world for a man to convince his sale at the Goldfed's mansion."-

Chicago Record. OPPRESSION AGAIN.

Dusty Rhodes-Did you hear of dat scheme in de new tariff bill to prevent a feller from bringin' in over \$250 worth of clothing free?

Wandering Willy - Yes : it's schemes like dat which makes me disgusted wid dis country. De idea of not permittin' us to bring over all de clothes we needs from Londonexcuse me, cull, till I touch dis bloke for de price. - [Raymond's Monthly.

TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

Mabel - Terribly disagreeable weather we have been having. Madge-I thought it rather pleas-

Mabel-But I have a perfect dream of a suit for wet and sloppy days, and I have no chance to wear it .-[Puck.

NOT ENOUGH.

Pike-These tests of the new battle ships are all right so far as they go; but they don't go far enough. Dyke-What would you like to

have done? Pike-Well; if they'd fire at the latest ships with the latest guns, we'd have some idea what they could

stand.-[Puck. RENEWING OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

"By the way, you remember Miss pets. Krellinger, whom so many of the boys went wild over, don't you?' Yes, and I used to think she was

a girl who deserved a good husband." 'Well, I married her.' "You? You astonish me."-[Chicago Tribune.

KNEW HOW IT OUGHT TO TASTE. Mrs. Gilfoyle-This can't be genuine mineral water. Mr. Gilfoyle-Why?

Mrs. Gilfoyle-It doesn't taste hor-

ribly enough .- [Truth. NEEDED ASSISTANCE.

Billy Baredues-I've made a bet of hundred dollars with Jack Chummles that if I propose to you, you'll refuse me. Now, if you do refuse me, I'll divide with you. Miss Bondstock-And supposing I

should accept you? Billy Baredues-Then I'm afraid I shall have to call on you to help me pay the bet .- [Harper's Bazar.

DISAPPOINTED.

proposed? Penelope—Yes.

because you were angry?

Raymond's Monthly.

THE HORRID MAN!

Young Woman-Now. Mr. Fewords, don't you think my picture deserves a hunging?

Young Man-I think electrocution is preferable .- [Judge.

ENGAGING.

She-I consider Mr. Carter a very engaging man. He-Yes, that was said of him last summer, when he was engaged to four girls at once.- [Raymond's Monthly.

NOTHING TO CROW ABOUT. "The sun never sets on England's

dominions," remarked the boasting "England reminds me of an old

hen," responded the Yankee. "Why?" demanded the Britisher, angrily. A hen's sun never sets, either.'

HAD SUFFICIENT. Host (to native of Hawaii he has been entertaining at dinner)-May

-[Life.

Hawaiian-Thanks; I have already eaten two .- [Hallo.

offer you a toothpick?

THE USUAL DIFFICULTY. How are you getting along learning to write shorthand? 'First rate. I can take down a speech with perfect ease. All I have to learn now is to read my notes."-

IN FOR A GOOD TIME.

Vegetarian-Where are the blue goggles? His Wife-Here they are. What

do you want of them? 'I want to wear them. Now tie hastily interrupted. "but I couldn't this scarf about my neck, clear up help it, my dear. Club had-er-big to my ears. Pull my hat down over my eyes. That's right. Now help me on with this old overcoat I dug out of the attic. I'm going to the butcher's to buy a porterhouse steak."- Chicago Tribune.

A HORRIBLE THOUGHT.

Weary Wiggins-I am glad I was not born a society man. Tired Traddles-Why?

Weary Wiggins-Because if I were I'd be in de swim.- [Truth. HE GOT HIS REWARD. It was in a large department store

that a gilded youth drifted up to the "Do you know," he said, to the pretty young woman in charge, "if I

ment, I should dismiss you.' Why?" she asked indignantly. "In order to give the candy a And she gave him a pound and a quarter of seventy-five-cent-candy for

GRATIFIED. I cannot sing the old songs, They heard the maiden say, And then the guests with one accord Arose and said "Hooray!"

-[Washington Star.

fifty cents.-[Detroit Free Press.

THE ONLY WAY. Watts-It is the easiest thing in wife that she has the wrong side of

an argument. Potts-What? Watts-Fact. I can make my wife take back everything she has said by giving her \$10 .- [Indianapolis Jour

HER MIND UNCHANGED.

She-This is so sudden! He-How firm you women are in you said when I proposed two years ago.-[Chicago Record.

MINDFUL OF THE RUSH.

Jess-I wish the football player would ask me for the next dance. Bess-Why? Jess-I have a premonition that

the call for supper is about due .-[Puck. HE WANTED TO KNOW.

'Are you the proprietor of this waited for his order until he became Yes, sir. What can I do for you?' "You can give me some informa-

that you can bring in a bill for lodg-NO INTERRUPTIONS LIKELY. Tired Housekeeper-There! The house is as neat as a new pin at last. I am going to take a nap. Try not to disturb me with your play, my

Little Brother-What shall I do if any one calls? Little Sister-No need to bother

A Story of General Thomas.

things are clean !- [Good News.

eral George H. Thomas, the hero of Chickamauga, was related the other evening by Rev. Russell H. Conwell. He told it to illustrate how the valor of obscure soldiers goes to swell the fame of the great generals. "I sat next to General Thomas in a Tennessee train shortly after the battle of Lookout Mountain," declared Dr. Conwell, "when a crowd of soldiers on the platform began cheering for 'the hero of Lookout Mountain.' 'Stop that confounded noise!' indignantly demanded Thomas of his adjutant. I don't know whether these men are in earnest and making a mistake or whether they are guying me. The fact is, if I had had my way the Perdita-Did he kiss you when he battle would not have been fought. When I heard of the proposed attack it seemed exceedingly foolhardy and Perdita-You declined him, then, I ordered the plan abandoned; but, in spite of me, while I was protest-Penelope-Mercy no! I declined ing the men had stormed and caphim because I was disappointed .- tured those battlements above the clouds .- Philadelphia Record.

A CURIOUS INQUIRY.

Do Men's Faces Grow to Resemble

Those of Other Animals. There is a very curious point connected with the more pronounced animal faces-namely, those in charge of animals grow to be like them. Thus, a hostler in charge of tramway horses has himself a fine Roman-nosed horse type of head, growing day by day more like his horses. Men in charge of cattle on the farm become essentially bovine, and in Shropshire it has often been remarked that the sheep-breeders resemble their own rams. I cannot explain these singularities, which, however, are wholly or partly true.

The sheep type of man is not indicative of great intelligence, and it is usually found in remote agricultural districts. The bulldog characters in man denote courage without refinement, but in the case of a lady-ridiculously like her favorite pug dog-with nez retrousse, the refinement was not wanting. The Esquimaux, or Lapps, in the water, are so like seals that a man has been shot in error, the wistful expression of countenance being common to both, as the head only appears at the surface of the water. I have seen a comfortable looking bear man in the train, and a wizened, bat-faced old woman once in Brittany.

These are examples that might easily be multiplied a hundredfold were it not for the monotony of reiteration. It is not without interest to remark that there is a work extant, dating a couple of hundred years back, which deals with this very subject. The writer was a Professor at Padua; the treatise is in Italian, or possibly Latin, and many curious woodcuts illustrate the work, giving the various facial angles of man and beast, according to strict measure-

ment. For my part, I do not profess to explain the strange resemblance between man and the inferior brute creation; it is enough to note the fact. Were it a Buddhist priest commenting on these things, he might explain the tenets of transmigration of souls. At Colombo I once observed a yellowrobed priest leave the footpath in order to avoid crushing the life out of some venomous ants crossing the road. It would have been a sin for him to kill any living thing, for "who knows," he would say, "what immortal spirits might be imprisoned in

each lowly body?" Such a one might build a pretty theory upon the subject of these casual resemblances between man and beast, fish and bird. Each existence might be the foreshadowing of the one to come, or the reflection of one which had passed away. The series of lives, he would argue, exhibit the evolution of the spirit working out a certain destiny through untold ages, gradually approaching that refinement of spiritual existence when the contemplation of the Nirvana should be assured to each spirit entity realms of eternal bliss. Retrogression in this scheme. I presume, would mean extinction when the atoms of matter are lost in the whirl of astral dust .- [Pall Mall Gazette.

## Microbes Carried by Bullets.

Some interesting experiments were latlely made by Dr. Mesmer, says the London News, by way of solving the question whether or not rifle bullets are liable to carry infection with them your convictions. That's just what in their course of entry into the body. He made his trial with bullets which had been infected with germs of a particular kind, and the infected bullets were shot into tin boxes from distances varying from 225 to 250 metres -a metre being nearly 3 feet 3 3-4 inches. Inside the boxes were placed gelatine peptone in sterilized or germless condition, so that whatever germ developments were found in the peptone (which is a great growing medium for microbes) would be presumed to restaurant?" said the man who had have come from the bullets. The tracks of the bullets through the gelatine were duly scrutinized, with the result that in each case germ growth took place corresponding to the particular microbes with which the bultion. I want to know whether you have told the waiter to stay away so lets had been respectively infected. In another series of investigations ing against me."-[Washington Star. ] the bullets were made to pass through infected flannel before penetrating the gelatine, the bullets being of the ordinary kind. Here, again, microbic growths appeared in the gelatine. showing that the flannel had yielded up its microbes to the bullets as they traversed it. If non-infected and ordinary bullets were used, the gelatine developed only the ordinary germ life, such as the air contains. The bullet about that. No one ever calls when is, therefore, a germ carrier of very decided kind, and it is also clear that if clothing is penetrated by a bullet prior to its entrance into the tissues, the missile will be liable to carry into A new anecdote concerning Gen- the wound it makes the bacteria resident on the clothes.

## Profit in Muskrats.

A new means of earning a livelihood has been opened up to the citizens of Buffalo, N. Y. The Buffalo Enquirer says: During the recent South Buffalo flood two young men in that part of the city caught not less than fifty good-sized muskrats. The pelts of the animals are worth about twenty-five or thirty cents each, and the boys reaped quite a

THE Hartford Journal protests that men who pay no attention to "shuc the door" signs in winter invariably close the door in hot weather. THE Hummel family, of Brooklyn,

are still advertising in the New York Herald for their sisters, who disappeared twenty-two years ago. There is nothing so perennial as hope.