

## THE LIME KILN CLUB.

### Brother Gardner is Imposed Upon by a Fakir.

When the sound of the triangle had called the meeting to order, Brother Gardner arose and said that Prof. Bumbo Jones, the colored Henry Clay of the south, was waiting to deliver a lecture before the club on "Why Ar' Dis Thus?" There was no telling how it would pan out, but he thought the club might chance it, and therefore ordered the reception committee to show the gentleman in. Samuel Shin who has had a cold in the head for the last eleven years, was relegated to the back seats, and the hall had just grown quiet when the Clayful lecturer was introduced in one time and three motions. Like all great philosophers, his shoes were down at the heel, his elbows frayed, his knees out of true, and his general appearance proved a carelessness on his part as to whether he got up right-end first or not in the morning. He was received with enthusiastic applause, during which Deacon Baker manager to give Elder Toots a vigorous kick and lay to accident. As he bowed his applause two buttons were heard to strike the wall behind him, and his collar made a determined effort to rise above his ears.

"My frens," began the honorable in a voice rich with anticipation of the coming chicken season, "we go to bed at night. If we hev no company we go to bed 'long 'bout half-past nine o'clock. If we hev a soiree on hand it may be two hours later. If I ax you what you go to bed for you answer, to sleep. What do you sleep fur? You reply dat it is bekase natur' intended you to. Yes, but why did she? You can't tell. You tumble into bed an' lay dar on your backs an' snooze an' snore an' dream of de lucky numbers in polley, an' when mawnin' comes you fall out, an' kick de dog an' jaw de chillen, an' wish you was rich and didn't hev to go to work. (Yells of applause.) Natur' meant dat you should lie down in sleep to give de body a rest—to let all de muscles relax, de nerves grow quiet, de brain cease its tremendous efforts fur awhile. My world-renowned tonic, which can be had in de ante-room after dis meetin' adjourns at two bits a bottle, every bottle warranted to hold half a pint, will bring about dis happy result. No cure, no pay."

The orator paused here to imbibe a glass of water, and a puzzled look crept into Brother Gardner's face. He was observed to make a signal to Giveadam Jones, and that individual nodded as if he understood it.

"We hev de backache," continued the orator, "de backache, de colic, pains in de chest, fits of melancholy, bad dreams, sudden desiah to jump off de tower of de city hall. We hev stich tydings, an' we nebber stop to inquer de reason. We jist go right 'long sufferin', layin' our sad condishun to Jay Gould, Vanderbilt, an' de Standard Oil Company, an' rebber supposin' dar is a sartain 'cheep cure right at hand. (Sensation.) My frens, I has de proud satisfackshun to tell you dat I am de inventor, proprietor, an' sole agent on dis globe fur de 'Wellington Cholera Preventative an' Lightnin' Co'n Remover,' an' arter dis meetin' is over, my remedy kin be had by any of de gentlen present at de usual price of two bits a box—warranted purely vegetable, or money refunded." (High old applause.)

As the speaker stopped to take another pint of water there was a broad grin on almost every face, and this was increased by the uneasy movements of Brother Gardner. It was plain to be seen that he had been taken in and done for again, and that he was arranging some sort of programme with Giveadam Jones, who has long held the position of Bogardus Kicker to the club.

"My frens," pathetically continued the honorable, after the water had been put away behind his nankeen vest, "you is walkin' along de street, an' an' suddenly taken wid a crick in de back, an' can't go on down to de bank and draw out \$50. You git up in de mawnin' feelin' slumpy. You don't keer two cents whether you hev qual on toast or turkey on sweet-cake for breakfast. You wake up in de night wid a cole sweat startin' out, a violent heatin' of de heart, an' a fear in your soul dat a band of anarchists is hidden under de bed to take your life. On sartain occasions you sot down wid a piece of chalk a' a shingle to figger up how much a yar it will cost you to rent forty possifible boxes at \$4 each. You is stuck. De figgers dance away from you. Your eyes blur and you jump up in alarm if de dog howls in de back yard. You go right along jist de same, however, nebber stoppin' to inquer into de natural causes, an' de first thing you know your frens an' gathered around your bedside to see you expire. (Decided sensation all over the hall.) My frens, it gives me de utmos' pleasure to be able to inform you on dis aniferous occasion dat I am de sole owner of what is called "De Wellington Cure-All Plaster," which I warrant to be composed of sixteen different roots an' de best Norf Carolina tar. Dese plasters sell at twenty cents each, or six for a dollar, and de President of dis United States has had one on de small of his back when he entered de White House fur de first time. Arter dis meetin' is ambuscaded I shall be mon's happy to see you all in de ante-room, an' I—"

At this point Giveadam Jones interrupted the speaker to say that a man wanted to see him outside on very important business.

"Exactly," replied the honorable, "my frens, I will refiah fur a moment an' ascertain his business. My address is only half concluded."

He retired in good order, smiling and bowing, as he passed down the aisle, but he never came back. Two minutes later his voice was heard saying:

"Boy, be keerful whar you put dat fut of yours! I doan' low nobody to fool wid me!"

And a little later:

"I nebber skipped a town yit, an' I won't begin now."

Then Paradise Hall jarred and vibrated, and the plaster fell in spots and the stove door swung wide open. Something bumped on the stairs and fell "kersquash" into the alley, followed by a racket as if a dray horse was galloping for his life. In three or four minutes Giveadam Jones returned, the right leg of his trousers split to the knee, and his breath coming hard, and as he sat down Brother Gardner arose and said:

"My frens, de difference between a philosopher an' a fakir is sometimes so powerful fine dat de best of men are deceived. It's my opinyon dat we got hold of de wrong animal, but dere's no great harm dun. I reckon he won't bodder us no more, an' perhaps he has let us a few grains of wheat among de chaff. We will now annunciate homewards."

### Variety in Spectacles.

Within the past few years very great improvements have been made in spectacles. Formerly, when one desired to see objects a long way off, one pair of glasses was necessary, and to read or examine objects close at hand another kind was required. Latterly, glasses are made in two sections, the upper being for distance and the lower portion for nearby work. The lower halves are set into the upper in nearly a half circle. This enables the wearer to use the eyes directly in front and toward the sides. Glasses cut in half, in straight pieces, are much less agreeable than those with the curved lower sections. The use of glasses is becoming so general that it is no unusual thing to see scores of children in a school wearing them. The importance of properly fitted glasses cannot be over-estimated. Eminent authorities declare that many cases of nervousness, nervous prostration, insomnia, a general breaking up of the health and insanity are directly traceable to ill-fitting glasses. This being the case, it behooves those who wear these necessary aids to see that they are exactly suited to their peculiar condition.

### Building Material.

Experiments have lately been made in Vienna to determine the efficiency of various building materials in resisting fire, and especially the protection afforded by these to iron work. For this purpose an iron column was constructed, consisting of two channel bars 5½x2½ inches, braced together by lattice work and having placed in the spaces between them various alloys melting at temperatures between 150 and 1,650 degrees F., this being surrounded by brickwork in mortar, forming a pier some eighteen inches square. This column was loaded with sufficient weight to cause a stress of three and a quarter tons per square inch on the iron work, and placed in a brick chamber 12x8 feet in plan and 11½ feet high. Fuel was distributed over the floor of this chamber to a depth of three feet, fired for two and one-half hours and then extinguished. The next day, when the heat had sufficiently subsided to allow an examination, it was found that although the edges of the brickwork were crumbled to the extent of one and a half inches, the iron column was unharmed, and only the test bar fusing at 150 F., showed any signs of melting.

### Man in Sheep's Clothing.

Aesop's fable of the ass who clothed himself in the lion's skin so that he might go into the den of beasts with fitting eclat was evidently read to some purpose by a Parisian thief who presumably had a classical education. He procured a sheepskin, and wrapping it nicely about him, crawled into one of the slaughter houses. Some policemen who were on guard were assumed to see a sheep endeavoring to gain admittance to this place, and they observed the sheep closely. They were rewarded very soon by the appearance of a man's hand under the fleece. This interested them so greatly that they carefully followed the sham animal and saw him stop at the pen that enclosed the real article and pick out the two fattest of the flock. Still keeping on his disguise, the thief was about to make off with his prey when the officers stepped up and took away the fleece.

At the police station the man said that he had carried on this unique occupation for quite a long time, and made a good thing out of it by selling the meat to the various butchers.

### Botanical Clock.

Among the curiosities which have been found in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, lately explored by naturalists, is a botanical clock. It is a flower somewhat resembling in its habits the chamelion, although more methodical. In the morning it is white, at noon it is red, and at night blue, and the alternations of color are so regular that the time of day can be told from the tint of the flower. It has been suggested that if it could be acclimated in a temperate zone it would be a very useful flower in public parks.

### Blind Cyclists.

Cycling is one of the amusements at the National Institute for the Blind in France. A species of home trainer is used, the wheels of which are so arranged that the actual speed is indicated on a dial, so that races are held, and some of the inmates have established records. The machines also give audible signals at various speeds.

## GOLD HOARDS.

### RUSSIA HAS STORED AWAY \$630,000,000 OF THE METAL.

India Contains Vast Quantities of the Yellow Metal—Hoarding Gold in China—Interesting Figures.

Russia has been for ever so long a hoarder of gold, withdrawing from circulation not only the product of her own mines, but also the foreign coin and gold bars imported into the country. Hardly any gold leaves Russia, while she receives annually from outside \$80,000,000 to \$90,000,000 worth of it. That she has got together a gigantic heap of specie by draining the channels of the monetary circulation of the world, The Treasury of the Czar, according to the New York Journal, now contains about \$630,000,000 in gold.

It is not known why Russia has adopted this policy of hoarding. Perhaps it may have been for the purpose of improving her credit and financial standing among the powers. If so, the plan has been successful. It has been contended by other authorities that the gold is a war fund.

The hoarding of gold, which signifies its withdrawal from circulation, hinders the flow of the world's commerce and is an injury to the latter. It would be an immense benefit to all mankind if the stores of the yellow metal now held by individuals in India could be made available for general use. Ever since the dawn of history that country has been gathering gold and hiding it away. Phly, who died in 79 A. D., complained that India drew from the great Roman Empire not less than \$2,700,000 in gold and silver yearly. A Frenchman named Bernier in 1699, writing a report to his government from Delhi, said that "the gold and silver of the world, after circulating for some time, finally flowed to India, as into an abyss from which there is no return." It was estimated by Dr. Soetbeer that during the half century period from 1885 India hoarded \$1,500,000,000 of silver and gold—nearly one-third of the total amount of coinage in circulation in the world.

Treasures of almost incalculable value are possessed by many Indian princes. Recently the Maharajah of Burdwan died, and the stock of gold and silver left by him was so large that no member of the family could make an accurate estimate of it. A report made to the British Government by a secret agent stated that on the estate of the defunct potentate were a number of treasure houses one of them containing three rooms. The largest of these three rooms was forty-eight feet long and was filled with ornaments of gold and silver, plates and cups, washing bowls, jugs, etc.—all of precious metals. The other two rooms were full of bags and boxes of gold mohurs and silver rupees. The doors of this and other treasure houses had been bricked up for nobody knows how long. According to a custom for the Burdwan Raj family, all these valuables were in the custody of the Maharajah's wife, the vaults being attached to her apartments, but none of them was allowed to be opened save in the presence of the master. One vault was filled with ornaments belonging to different gods of the family.

The natives of India commonly bury their hoards, and among the poorer classes a favorite hiding place is a hole dug beneath the bed. Discussed wells are sometimes employed for the same purpose. It is undoubtedly a fact that many hoards thus deposited are lost forever. It is estimated that in the Bombay Presidency alone \$50,000,000 worth of British sovereigns are treasured up, because they bear the sign of St. George and the dragon, and are valued on religious grounds. India is a very religious country, and the gods take up immense quantities of gold, silver and precious stones. The temples contain vast amounts of the yellow and white metals.

It is said that there is a huge amount of hoarded gold at Peking. The Chinese officials commonly make large fortunes out of their places, corruption in that country being the almost universal rule. They are afraid to put their money into banks, because their superiors would discover its existence and confiscate the whole of it. So they buy gold bars and secret them. Consequently, gold always commands a considerable premium at Peking.

Meanwhile, thanks to newly discovered fields and improved methods of mining, the gold production of the world is steadily growing, and will progressively increase for some years to come. The yield for 1895 has been the greatest in history, probably exceeding \$200,000,000. The United States alone produced about \$50,000,000 of this total, an increase of \$11,000,000 over 1894.

It is estimated that the world's annual consumption of gold in the arts, chiefly in the manufacture of jewelry, is somewhere between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000. Probably about \$1,500,000 worth of gold coin of the United States is melted yearly for such employment. This government makes fine gold bars of five ounces and upward for use of jewelers and other manufacturers. Similar bars are turned out by private refiners. Of such bars \$10,000,000 worth are bought and used in this country every twelve months.

A French authority has figured that at the end of three centuries from now the cemeteries of the United States will contain gold to the value of \$150,000,000, represented by tooth fillings. Every year the Americans have \$300,000 worth of the yellow metal pounded into cavities in their teeth. All of this is buried with them when they die. Some day, perhaps, companies will be organized to mine the cemeteries and recover the gold secreted in the jaws of dead ancestors.

## Housewives Should Know.

That if the refrigerator is not in use during the winter it should be given three or four good scaldings and scrubbing during the season.

That every scrap of tissue paper that comes into the house should be saved for wiping looking glasses. It gives a peculiar lustre to the glass.

That oyster shells should be washed and kept on hand, as two or three boiled in the teakettle once a week will prevent the formation of iron-rust.

That when a baked potato is done it should be wrapped in a towel and pressed until it bursts open. The potato will always be mealy in this way.

That hard water may be rendered soft and rival distilled water by dropping a two-ounce phial into the kettle. The impurities will adhere to the bottom.

That the whites of two eggs beaten to a froth may be eaten by a person with delicate stomach just before retiring. The yolks are less easily digested.

That in long spells of damp weather the jellies should be inspected, as a very little dampness in the place in which the jellies are kept will often spoil them.

That canned tomatoes are very convenient, but that the constant smothering of every dish in canned tomatoes amounts to an abuse as practised in American kitchens.

That all worn-out cotton garments should be washed and cut out into convenient pieces for use in scrubbing or about the kitchen. Old under flannels make good kitchen floor rags.

That all the ashes made by the fires in the house should be sprinkled and sifted to save half burnt coal, which can be used in the kitchen range, especially when a slow fire is wanted.

That when a filter is introduced into the household it is a duty to see that the water is always used, and not the water from the faucet, in tea and coffee as well as for cooking and drinking purposes.

That to lessen a coal fire press it from the top so as to make the mass more compact, giving less room for air. To revive it, lay on small pieces tenderly, and add larger pieces of coal when needed to replenish.

That only the very best olive oil should be used for frying and cooking. According to a recent cooking lecture, the oil used for frying may be strained and kept for use again. If it has been scorched it must be thrown away.

That in preparing bits of stale bread for breading chops, croquettes, and cutlets, the best way is to pass the dried and crushed crumbs through a sieve. Put the finest into a jar, and keep the rest for stuffing and baking macaroni.

That fresh milk coming from healthy, well-fed cows, and kept in clean vessels, is always neutral, that is, when tried with red or blue litmus paper, would leave both unchanged. Any milk which reddens blue litmus paper should be rejected.

### Struggles With Adversity.

The French painter, Bastien Lepage, who died recently, was pursued by unmerciful disaster through his youth in his efforts to study art, says an exchange. His mother worked in the fields to keep that sickly boy at school. At fifteen he went to Paris alone, starved for seven years, painted without success, but still painted. He had just finished a picture to send to the salon when Paris was besieged, and he rushed, with his comrades, to the trenches.

On the first day a shell fell into his studio and destroyed his picture and another shell fell at his feet, wounding him. He was carried home, and lay ill and idle for two years. Then he returned to Paris and, reduced to absolute want, painted cheap fans in order to earn a living.

One day a manufacturer of some patent medicine ordered a picture from him to illustrate its virtues. Lepage, who was sincere, gave his best work to the advertisement. He painted a landscape in the April sunlight; the leaves of tender green quivered in the breeze; a group of beautiful girls gathered round the fountain from which the elixir of youth sprang in a bubbling stream. Lepage believed there was real merit in it.

"Let me offer it to the salon," he said to his patron.

The manufacturer was delighted. "But first paint a rainbow arching over the fountain," he said, "with the name of my medicine upon it." Lepage refused. "Then I will not pay you a sou for the picture!" The price of his picture meant bread for months, and the painter had long needed bread. The chance of admission to the salon was small. He hesitated. Then he silenced his hunger and carried the canvas to the salon. It was admitted. Its great success insured Lepage a place in public recognition, and his later work a place among the greatest living artists.

### An Improved Racing Sulky.

A new idea in racing sulky has been invented by Eben N. Higley, of Somersworth, N. H., which is designed to overcome the tendency to upset while being drawn quickly around the curves of a racing track. The device consists of the combination with the frame or body of a pair of wheels mounted on short independent transversely pivoted axles, with connected levers arranged on opposite sides of the seat, and adapted to be operated by the contact of the body of the driver therewith as he leans over to one side. By this means the wheels are placed at an angle with the body of the wagon.

Magneto-electro machines first were made in Paris in 1832; in London in 1834.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

There will be no further effort on the part of the War Department to enlist Indians, as the red men have proved a failure as soldiers.

Recorder Goff, of New York, thinks that a law should be passed declaring people who go on to New York to buy green goods, felons. He thinks the receiver is as bad as the thief.

Tennessee began with the new year a new policy toward the State prisoners. She will employ them on public works or in the State coal mines, instead of letting them out to contractors.

The Chicago Inter Ocean calls attention to the fact that no other State has followed the example of New York in dealing with suicide as a crime, and punishing unsuccessful attempts to commit self murder.

Harper's Weekly is informed that in Nevada there is a toboggan slide which starts in an ice palace up in the mountains and descends into an orange grove. A slide down hill in life does not usually have such conditions, for the temperature of the world is apt to lower with the fall.

Great Britain's home dominion of England proper is smaller in area than our territory of New Mexico. And yet Englishmen rule over about 12,000,000 square miles of the earth's surface and over nearly 400,000,000 of its inhabitants. Great Britain possesses nearly a fourth part of the earth's land, and about a third part of its inhabitants.

Railway building reached in the United States last year a lower point than in any of the last twenty years; indeed, in only two years since 1865 has so small a mileage been built. The records for 1895 show only 1,782 miles of track laid. A moderate revival of railway building may be looked for, as the needs of many localities for greater transportation facilities must be met.

Some earnest men with money are going to dig for gold in Buckingham County, Va., and a gold nugget, weighing thirty-one pounds, and worth \$9,000, was discovered the other day in Montgomery County, N.C. A gold boom is predicted in both these places, but Wall street still remains the great gold-bearing centre of the Eastern States. A great deal of it is taken out of pockets.

In the past forty years 2,253,000 men have lost their lives in various conflicts. In the Crimean war 750,000 men were killed. In the Italian war of 1859 the loss was 45,000. In our civil war 800,000 men, North and South, fell on the field of battle. In the Austro-Prussian war 48,000 perished; in the Franco-German struggle, 215,000; in the Franco-Russian war, 250,000, to say nothing of the men killed in many less notable conflicts.

When forest fires made thousands homeless in Wisconsin and Minnesota in the fall of 1894, the Sultan of Turkey sent \$1,320 to relieve the sufferers. By the time the contribution arrived it was not needed, and the Sultan directed the amount to be turned over to the Mayor of New York, to be distributed to the poor. The Mayor thought it appropriate to give it to the Turkish subjects resident in the city, and as these are all Armenians it has come to pass that the Sultan's gift has gone to aid people of the very race he is so strenuously persecuting at home. He must wish he had his money back.

This is the queer will of a Philadelphia man who died the other day: "I will and direct that a plain coffin be used for my interment, and not a casket; that I shall be buried in my own suit of clothes, and not in one made for the occasion; that the interment shall be private, after the funeral services, on the same day, or the day after the funeral services, and that not more than three carriages shall be used to attend such interment. I further request the Rev. John T. Swindells and Rev. N. B. Durrell shall be invited to speak at my funeral, and that for such services they shall each be paid the sum of \$5."

Rev. W. B. Mattison, of Owasso, Mich., tells a good story of his own expense. Last September he was called upon to marry a couple, the groom being seventy years of age and the bride much younger. At the conclusion of the ceremony the groom handed the minister \$20. Several weeks later Mr. Mattison was informed that owing to the excitement of the occasion the aged bridegroom was somewhat rattled and had mistaken the \$20 for \$5, and demanded a rebate of \$15. The reverend gentleman sent his check for the required amount to correct the error, but this was not sufficient. It seems, in the old man's third venture, three months were all that was required to exhaust the glamor of matrimony, and life with him had become once more simply a matter of business. Consequently, he demanded that the minister pay him interest on the \$15. The request was immediately complied with, and a second check was drawn for the sum of 15 cents, and when the voucher was returned a few days ago the minister caused it to be framed, and it now hangs in his study.

John D. Rockefeller's latest scheme is to cut the top off a mountain. Millionaires have a way of fixing things to suit themselves, but this is the first time one of that interesting class has undertaken to give nature a lesson. Mr. Rockefeller is the owner of a baronial estate back of Tarrytown, N. Y.—1,000 acres—which he will convert into a huge park at an expense of no one knows how much. On this estate is Kykuit Mountain. From its summit can be viewed a scenic panorama that is not likely to pall on the vision even of the man of many millions. Mr. Rockefeller made up his mind that this was the place for his baronial resi-

dence. But Kykuit Mountain had not been laid out for a residence site. Its summit was too sharp. So it was decided to cut the top off, and a small army of men are hard at work now performing that singular operation. Nowhere could be found a finer illustration of the potency of wealth. Here is a man using his gold to give the lie to tradition—welding it into a sword wherewith to shave the crests off "the everlasting hills." Mohammed, who ruled millions of men, was compelled to go to the mountain. Rockefeller, who owns millions of dollars, compels the mountain to descend to his chosen level.

When a new Czar is crowned from five to six hundred thousand of his subjects from all parts of the Empire assemble at Moscow, deputations being sent from all the provinces, and representatives from every tribe within his immense domain; from Siberia and Central Asia, and from the Pacific to the Arctic Sea. Among them are Poles, Finlanders, Laplanders, Cossacks, Circassians, Georgians, Bashkirs, Turks, Tcherkesses, Abassians, Kalmucks, Tartars, Karapapaks, Daghistanis, Armenians, Kurds and a multitude of wandering peoples in the heart of Asia, forming a concourse of more than fifty nations which recognize the rule of the great white Czar throned beside the Neva, and which bring him on his coronation their tokens of allegiance. More than fifty languages, and twice that number of dialects are spoken in Russia, and the newly crowned ruler receives congratulations from all of them, the representatives, according to usage, addressing him in their respective tribal tongues. The pageant is made as gorgeous and spectacular as possible, in order to impress upon the representatives of their distant and scattered peoples a sense of the grandeur and power of their ruler, and it is without doubt the most magnificent performance of the kind now to be seen in the world. It costs on an average four or five millions of public money besides the private outlay, which may represent an equal amount.

### New Orleans in Danger.

Within the last few months there has come to the notice of Major Quinn, in charge of the Lighthouse district, a condition which, in the course of two hundred years, if continued, would result in the complete wiping out of the city of New Orleans. This scientific fact is simply that the bottom of the gulf is slowly sinking and the level of the gulf is rising each year. Tide gauges and observations show that within twelve years the level of the gulf has risen one foot. When the Eads Jetties were built it was decided to establish a tide gauge and a level stick to keep a daily record of the tides. During the month of July 1894, and last July, Major Quinn suspected that the delta was gradually subsiding, and during these two months tide gauges were placed in deep water. From the continuous record kept on these observations, he was able to make comparison, and thus discovered that since 1875, when the levels were made, the delta had subsided exactly one foot. These gauges and the tide levels were placed in position in 1875, and verified in 1877. Between that date and 1890 the level went down one foot, but within the last five years the tides have been stationary or nearly so. The sinking of the bottoms or rising of the gulf has been a gradual affair, and is spasmodic, as it were. Some years there would be no change, and again there was a very great change. The effect of this decline will be to prolong the deep water channel and drive the bay farther out to sea.

### The National Game of China.

The common Chinese name for dominoes is kwat p'ai, or "bone tablets," a name which, although they are now generally made of wood, points to their original material. They are also called nga p'ai, "ivory tablets," and sometimes tim tsz' p'ai, "dotted tablets." They are now made of teak wood, or an imitation of teak wood, of bamboo, bone, or ivory, or of bone and wood conjoined, like common European dominoes. Two sizes exist, a large kind of teak, peculiar to Kwantung and Southern China, in which the pieces measure about 2½ in. long and ¾ in. wide, and ¾ in. thick, and a smaller kind of bone or bamboo, about an inch long by ¾ in. wide and ½ in. thick. The distinctive peculiarity of Chinese dominoes does not lie, however, in their form or material, but in their marks. They differ from the European game in the absence of the blanks, a set comprising twenty-one different pieces, formed by the permutations of two dice. In the common form of Chinese dominoes, as ordinarily sold, eleven of the twelve pieces are duplicated, making thirty-two pieces in the complete set. The duplication of these pieces constitutes the chief problem presented by the game.

### Warriors Enjoy a Joke.

General McAlpin always relishes his little joke, and he always has a good stock on hand. Now, Captain A. A. Yates, of Schenectady, is another great joker, and is never so happy as when propounding an apparently unanswerable conundrum. The Captain's friends know this, and never lose an opportunity of firing conundrums at him. The other day Captain Yates called at general headquarters, and had the following launched on him by General McAlpin:

"Why is Police Commissioner Roosevelt like a tailor?"

"Aunt" pondered and puzzled, and finally reluctantly gave it up.

"Why, that is the easiest of the easiest," said the General. "Because he made the saloonkeepers close."