

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Any one having an old calendar of 1897 may successfully utilize it for this year, as 1898 is an exact reproduction, holidays and all. This will not again occur until 1945.

The six cases of poverty, as defined in a recent lecture by Professor Franklin H. Giddings, of Columbia University, are refusal to work, lack of employment, struggle to rise, unequal distribution of accident, wrong public policy and sentimental charity. Any reader whose income is inadequate is invited to consider this list and determine which cause fits his own case.

State insurance has assumed enormous proportions in Germany. Workmen, including agricultural laborers to the number of 18,000,000 were thus protected in 1897, and for 381,000 accidents among these men the sum of 16,000,000 marks was paid out. Provision is also made for ill-health and old-age.

Old people who have lost their teeth and do not care about wearing false ones find a difficulty in eating their food. The result is the invention by a Frenchman of a chewing apparatus. This is held in one hand and a fork in the other. A piece of meat, or whatever is to be eaten, is placed between the blades, which are opened and closed three or four times, and by this means the food is reduced to a state of pulp.

Heretofore American girls have found it a comparatively simple matter to buy titles, but the American men have been compelled to remain plain, unadorned citizens, without handies to their names. All this is to be changed to a bill which the Italian Government proposes to submit to Parliament becomes a law. According to the provisions of this, anyone desiring to become a prince may secure that title by planking down \$8,000. Five thousand dollars will purchase the title of marquis, \$4,000 the title of count, while the titles of baron will be sold in lots at \$1,000 each.

In this country there are almost twice as many women who follow the profession of teaching as there are men, and the disparity is said to be on the increase. In Prussia, out of 68,000 teachers only 9,000 are women, and in the German Empire there are 135,300 teachers and something like 10,000,000 pupils. There are about 140,000 teachers in France, 100,000 more women than men. Great Britain follows with only 1,000,000 teachers so far as known, although the most ordinary reader of English novels will feel that she can count up half that many as having been 'friendless governess' in the books she has read, says an observant critic.

A lightning calculator of greater interest than most of his kind, is Diamandi, a native of Pylaros, one of the Greek Islands. Lamandi works through the medium of the eye. After a mere glance at a blackboard on which 30 groups of figures are written, he can repeat them in any order and deal with them by any arithmetical process. It is said that he never makes an error in calculations involving billions, and he can extract square or cube roots with marvellous rapidity and accuracy. An eminent German specialist declared the other day that all these ready-reckoners were idiots. This is not the case with Diamandi, who writes poetry and novels in the intervals of business, and shows considerable intellectual capacity.

There was to have been a wedding near McKee, Ky., the other day, the contracting parties being Mr. Ed Lunsford and Miss Bettie Hayes. The prospective bridegroom procured the license and hastened to the home of the would-be bride, hoping to carry out his plans and have the ceremony performed before the unsuspecting parents learned of it, but to his surprise, he was met at the door by the girl's father, who, with a 45-calibre Colt's in his hand, completely upset the young Lochinvar's dream by firing two shots under his feet and threatening to kill him unless he left, never to set his foot on the premises again. Lunsford next day returned his license to the County Clerk's office, "not executed."

Only seven years ago, about the time of the Baring panic, the first part of what is now Oklahoma was thrown open to settlement. Two years later, in the midst of the panic of 1893, the Cherokee Outlet was added, and the throngs of settlers who rushed there to get a last slice of Uncle Sam's farms revealed the land hunger of the people. Oklahoma now embraces about half of what is known on the map as the Indian Territory. The tribes still retain the other half. But the Oklahoma half of the coming State already contains 275,000 people, or more than Montana, Wyoming and Idaho combined. It is assessed for \$32,000,000. Real value, \$100,000,000. Last year it produced 20,000,000 bushels of wheat and 120,000 bales of cotton. It was settled during the depression and the people are not in debt.

A rival of California in fruit-growing in a small way is Arizona, the favored section of the territory as to soil and climate being the Salt River Valley. This valley produced 3,500 boxes of oranges, lemons, grape-fruit, and tangerines last year, about doubling its production of 1896. There are 800 acres planted in oranges in the Salt River Valley thus far, and the success which has attended the industry will result in the planting of many new groves this spring. Of the 800 acres, about 500 acres are now in bearing, and the others will soon begin to produce. The varieties of oranges grown are about equally divided between the Washington navel and seedlings. There the fruit ripens earlier, as a rule, by two or three weeks than it does in California, and Arizona or-

anges have often been the first to reach the Eastern market. It is frequently the case that they are placed on the Thanksgiving table of the remotest Eastern city by the Arizona shipper.

Georgia has a new prison law, which it hopes will abate some of the evils of its convict system, which in recent years have made it a reproach all over the world. Under the present lease, soon to expire, the State receives \$25,000 a year for its convicts. It is expected that under the new ordinance it will receive from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The prisoners number, all told, 2,000. Under the new system the women, boys, girls and incapables are to be put on a farm and cared for by the State, only the able-bodied being leased out to labor, and these being in the care of guards appointed by the State. It is expected that, with competent commissioners, there will be no convict-camp scandals, and the new appointees have gone about their work with such intelligence and earnestness as to lead to the belief that the people of Georgia will not soon again be annoyed by the charge that the State's convicts are treated cruelly.

According to recent statistical returns, the total number of women over the age of eighteen employed in factories and workshops in the British Islands is a little over a million, of which about 11 per cent. belong to trades unions. Most of these have a membership in common with the men, but there are some separate women's unions, organized, officered and conducted exclusively by female members, among these are the Felt Hat Trimmers, and Wool Formers' Association, with 2,486 members; the Female Cigarmakers' Protective Union, with a few other associations, with a membership of a little over a thousand, and a few other associations, with a still smaller list of members. The great bulk of the women workers are included in the mixed unions, showing a disposition to work out her industrial, like her other problems, in company with the men, rather than separate from them—a token that the working British female is endowed with sound and discriminating judgment and knows perfectly well on which side her bread is buttered.

DWARF LIFE IN AFRICA.

Peculiar Customs and Thrifty Habits of the Little People.

African dwarfs, writes o. them as follows in the Independent: Most of these people are smaller than their Bakoko and Mabeysa neighbors, but not as small as the dwarf women are sometimes married into these tribes. They deserve the name dwarf more from the similarity of their habits to the true dwarf further inland. They live a wandering, Indianlike life, hunting. They have nets 120 feet long and three or four feet high, a number of which they stretch across the bush, and the men, women and children drive the game into these nets. They are experts in trapping, too. They do not stay in one place long enough to plant, so they trade their game to their agricultural neighbors for vegetable food. These Mabeysa head men have a certain kind of ownership over them, sometimes furnishing them with powder and guns and nets, and a very little cloth, for their game during the time they are in that community. When not successful in the hunt they must depend upon the wild plants, nuts, honey, which they know so well how to find. They often have a feast and more often a famine.

Their sheds are from 15 to 50 feet long, the roof touching the ground on the side and being about four and a half feet high on the other side. When there are high trees the roofs are made of the bark of one, four or five feet in diameter, and often do not have time to crack and leak before the dwarfs want to move. Under these sheds are the pole beds, supported by forked sticks four or five inches from the ground. There is a space left for a fire between every two beds. If they have any boxes or small tin trunks, they keep them hid in the bush; there is nothing to be seen unless they have a pot or bowl or basket, a net or gun, or a native ax; no man is rich enough to possess all of these. They can move all of their possessions on fifteen minutes' notice, maybe living here today and two miles away to-morrow. Three moves do not equal one fire with them. For amusement a man goes through violent forms of exercise, trying to move as many of the muscles in his body at one time as possible, and calling, beating on sticks and their drums during the performance. They seem to believe in one supreme being who is good and kind, but, of course, have no definite knowledge of him.

They fear the spirits of the departed and are said to move at once from a place where one of their number died. They fear and try to appease many evil spirits, one of which takes a dreadful form for his punishment. Among the Mabeysa I know of but one blind man; yet it is a rule to find one blind man in a community of from fifteen to twenty dwarfs and sometimes as many as three blind ones, made blind some night by the agent of this evil spirit as a punishment for some offense.

The Depths of Submissiveness.

The fact that Dr. Creighton, the Lord Bishop of London, rolled and smoked nineteen cigarettes the other day while talking with a newspaper man, recalls the story of the big, burly Bishop and the little curate in the compartment of a railway car. "You will not mind my smoking, will you?" said his lordship. "Not if your lordship doesn't mind my being sick," submissively replied the little curate.—Argonaut.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

TWO LITTLE GIRLS.

The lazy little girl that shivers all day in the sultry house at her listless play, With a dreadful pain in her head, She never, never knows how nice and warm, Is the rosy little girl that, out in the storm, Goes skipping about with her sled.

A FACT ABOUT GLASS.

A glass plate will return to its exact original form after being kept under pressure in a bent condition for twenty-five years. Glass is the most perfect elastic substance in existence. Steel ranks next.

THE LOBSTER.

The common lobster is found in great abundance on our coasts, usually in the clear rocky waters. The fishermen take great numbers of lobsters in baskets made on the same principle as those used for the capture of the crab. The powerful tail of the lobster enables them to spring through a great distance if alarmed, and they have been seen to pass nearly thirty feet. They direct their course with wonderful accuracy and can throw themselves through apertures hardly larger than the size of their bodies; of course, they spring tail foremost. The grasp of the lobster's claw is so tight that to break off the claws is often the only method of discouraging its hold.

The so-called lady-fingers of the lobster are its breathing apparatus.

LITTLE LIGHTS.

Sometimes children think they are too small to do any good; they must wait until they are grown, or at least until they are as big as the older brother or sister.

I read something the other day that made me think the smallest might be helpful.

Did you ever see a glow-worm? Perhaps not, but it is a little worm, about half an inch long, which shines with a light, as fire-flies do. I dare say you have seen fire-flies some evening when you have happened to be riding out. What I read the other day was about the good one of these little glow-worms did.

There had been a battle, and some of the men were fleeing from the enemy. Pretty soon they lost their way. They had with them a little instrument called a compass, which would have shown them the way, only it was so dark they could not see which way the needle pointed. They did not dare carry a light for fear the enemy would see it and follow them. Just then one of the men noticed a little glow-worm shining in the grass. He picked it up and put it on the compass, and there was just light enough to show which way the needle pointed. Then the men knew which way their home was. They were very glad, and went on until they got home.

Don't you think these men thought a little glow-worm could do good? And cannot a little child do as much as a glow-worm? Bright, sunny smiles, pleasant words, and helpful deeds are a child's way of shining, and they make all the household happy.

THE DUCK THAT TAUGHT SCHOOL.

Dollikins fell asleep one morning at the kindergarten. She had been watching Miss Laura draw pictures of animals on the black-board. The sunshine came in at the window; and the room was very warm, and Dollikins's head dropped lower and lower till it lay on the table before her, and she was fast asleep.

Then she thought that, instead of Miss Laura, there sat in the chair behind the desk a big white duck. She had a cap on her head, and spectacles on her beak; and she looked so funny that Dollikins giggled a little, softly.

"Silence!" said the duck, sternly. Then she turned to the school. "Put away your work," she said, "and we will all go out to the pond, and take a swimming lesson. Little children should learn to swim just as little ducks do." She climbed down from her chair, and waddled out of the door and into the sunshine and across the fields to the pond. And all the children went after her, laughing and shouting and clapping their hands. Then splash! went the big white duck into the water. And splash! went little Tommy Toodles after her. And then it was Dollikins's turn.

"Come on!" cried the duck. "Just turn your toes in, and spread your wings, and jump!"

So Dollikins shut her eyes, and jumped; and there she was in the kindergarten, with her head on the table in front of her, and Miss Laura smiling down at her.

"But where is the duck?" asked Dollikins.

"I think you have been asleep, dear," said Miss Laura.

AUNT LE'NORA.

"Ten-cent carriage for a quarter! Ten-cent carriage for a quarter!" In the babble of gruff hackmen's voices, the shrill, childish cry rose distinctly. The gray lady with the pleasant face smiled when she heard it. The voice was so sweet, and it said such funny things! She took up her shawl-strap and the little brown "grip," and followed it.

"Ten-cent carriage for a quarter! Ten-cent carriage for a quarter!" Scattered on the imperative little voice above the din.

"Oh, here you are!" the gray lady cried. "Well, I would like to go to Axminster Street, if you please."

"Yes'm," said the voice's owner,

promptly, a soft, indignant surprise. "Why, that's the streets I live on, too!"

Hebustled about busily a minute. Then he suddenly stopped, and inspected his "fare" with grave suspicion.

"I'm 'fraid you won't 'fit," he said despondently.

The gray lady glanced at the tiny dog-cart and still tinier pony, and laughed all over her sweet face.

"Oh, yes," she hurried to say reassuringly, "you can make me fit. I can be squeezed beautifully."

"You see," the driver confided to her, confidentially, as they clattered away, "I was hoping you'd be a real slim, up 'n' down passenger; but I guess it's all right. You fit quite nicely, I think."

"Is this the first time you've driven a hack?" questioned the gray lady, with interest.

"Yes'm, but 'tisn't a hack. It's a ten-cent carriage."

They drove on a little way without talking. The gray lady, looking down at the little, heated, anxious face, saw that it was pondering gravely.

"Do you think it's too much to ask, a quarter is, I mean?" the driver asked suddenly. "You see, I never drove a ten-cent carriage before; and so I haven't had much experience."

"I don't think it's one cent too much to ask," the gray lady said emphatically.

"Case, if so, you know, you needn't pay but fifteen cents. I'm real sorry I can't take you for nothing, but I'm earning money to send to my Aunt Le'nora. I want to see her dreadfully, and she was coming night away; but she's got an equinocal fit—a real bad one; and now I'm 'fraid she can't come. I asked papa what cured equinocal fits, and he said nothing 'cept money would. So I'm earning it to send. I do want to see Aunt Le'nora so!"

The gray lady arms-felt as though they wanted to hug the driver, but they didn't. He faced as all aquiver with a queer, bright look.

"You see, I never 've seen Aunt Le'nora since I was born," ran on the explanatory little voice. "Ank when you've never seen folks, it makes you want to harder. She's a beautiful auntie, and sends matings and writes to me."

They were turning into Axminster Street, and the driver waved his whip toward one of the houses.

"That's my house," he volunteered cheerfully.

"Let's stop there," the gray lady said quickly.

And—of all the wonderful, beautiful things!—the gray lady that got into the tiny, ten-cent carriage got out of it—Aunt Le'nora!

"See how quickly you cured me!" she cried, hugging the astonished driver, and slipping a big, round, shiny fare into his pocket.

How Japanese Was.

Japan is a long way off, and this charming story of how courtships are carried on among the elite of the society of the land of the rising sun has not yet been confirmed by travelers, yet it is pretty enough to be true. In certain districts in houses wherein reside one or more daughters of a marriageable age, an empty flower pot, of an ornamental character, is encircled by a string and suspended from a window or veranda by three chairs.

The Julietts of Japan are, of course, attractive, and the Romeo as anxious as those of other lands. But instead of serenades by moonlight and other delicate ways of making an impression it is etiquette for the Japanese lover to approach the dwelling of his lady bearing some choice plant in hand, which he boldly, but, let us hope, reverently, proceeds to plant in the empty vase.

This takes place when he is fully assured that both mother and daughter are at home. Neither of course, is at as conscious that the young man is taking such liberty with the flower pot outside their window. This act of placing a pretty plant in the empty flower pot is equivalent to a formal proposal to the young lady who dwells within.

The youthful gardener, having settled his plant to his mind, in trees, and the lady is free to act as she pleases. If he is the right man she takes every care of the gift, waters it and tends it carefully with her own hands, that all the world may see the donor is accepted as a suitor.

But if he is not a favorite, or if the stern parents object, the poor plant is torn from the vase and the next morning lies limp and withered on the veranda or on the path below.

Eating Before Going to Bed.

A writer in Italia Termale quoted by the National Druggist, is not much in favor of the theory that late suppers are injurious. "He declares, in fact," says the latter paper, "that many persons who remain thin and weakly, in spite of all precautions in regard to habit, etc., owe the fact largely to habitual abstemiousness at night. He says, very truly, that physiology teaches us that, in sleeping as in waking, there is a perpetual waste going on in the tissues of the body, and it seems but logical that nourishment should be continuous as well. The digestion of food taken at the dinner time, or in the early evening, is finished, as a usual early, before or by bedtime, yet the activity of processes of assimilation, when one retires with an empty stomach, the result of this activity is sleeplessness, and an undue wasting of the system. "All other creatures," says the writer, "outside of man, are governed by a natural instinct, which leads those having a stomach to eat before lying down for the night."

CASUAL CRUISERS.

CONVERSION OF OUR MERCHANT MARINE INTO WARSHIPS.

Thirty-three Gulls Be Used as Unarmored Cruisers—How Big Ocean Liners Would Look in War Paint.

In addition to the 50 regular cruisers of the United States Navy, says the Washington Star, there are some 30 odd vessels now employed in the merchant service which could be rapidly converted into cruisers and which should be taken into account in estimating the naval strength of the country. These ships would be unarmored and would carry a comparatively light complement of guns. It would be impossible for them to fight even a small warship, and they would not be expected to do so. Their special work would be to prey on the enemy's commerce and to capture unarmed merchant vessels. For this they would be admirably adapted by their high speed and light armament.

In the Naval Department, where an exact list of these vessels is filed, they are officially known as auxiliary or casual cruisers. Last year, when Congress was considering the bill appropriating \$50,000 for providing an armament for this auxiliary fleet, the chief of the bureau of ordnance reported 33 vessels as available for this kind of service.

Of these 33 are on the Atlantic coast and nine on the Pacific. Together they call for 46 six-inch, 27 five-inch and 104 four-inch rapid-fire rifles, 53 six-pounders, eight one-pounders and 112 machine guns, or a total armament of 251 guns of all classes.

The largest and best-known of these are the four American line steamships—the New York, Paris, St. Louis and St. Paul. It is interesting to note the transformation which one of these big passenger steamers would have to undergo in order to fit her for the work of an auxiliary cruiser. Just what changes would probably be made in converting one of these peaceful ocean liners into a warship was pointed out by Mr. G. C. Griscom, Jr., of the International Navigation Company, in a talk with the writer the other day. Most persons will probably be surprised to learn how much of the build and fitness of an unarmored cruiser, these big passenger boats now contain.

"There seems to be a general impression," said Mr. Griscom, "that some kind of a contract or agreement exists between the United States Government and the International Navigation Company by which the latter are to turn over their boats to the service of the United States whenever needed. There is no such agreement, because it is unnecessary. The United States has a perfect right to demand the property or services of any other of its citizens, and it could undoubtedly do so, with proper indemnification, should occasion arise."

"What was done by the Government when the postal subsidy act for the encouragement of American shipping was passed was to demand that, in consideration for the privileges granted by that act, certain plans should be followed in the construction of the vessels that were to benefit by it. These requirements were, roughly, that the rudder and steering apparatus of the steamship should be under water, and that the vital parts of the ship should, so far as possible, be below the water line, where they would be less liable to injury from cannon shot."

"The plans for the American line steamers were inspected and approved by an officer of the Government when the boats were built, and they satisfy these requirements. If you look at the New York you will see four white marks at regular intervals along each of her sides. Directly above these white marks, on the steamer's promenade deck, are the places where six-inch guns would be located were she to be armed. You will notice, too, that the deck supports at these points are strengthened by an additional column. On the deck at this point is a round steel cap covering a manhole, intended for the passage of ammunition from below."

"These are the only marks indicating to the uninitiated any preparation for the placing of cannon; but there are other provisions. The deck platform and supports are strengthened at this point by additional girders and cross beams, so as to sustain the weight of guns and carriages. There are also arrangements for the mounting of the smaller machine guns. Practically the only thing necessary to equip these vessels for use in war would be to run the gun carriages on board and mount the guns on them. There would probably be some alterations in their internal arrangements to provide quarters for seamen and marines, but those could be made within a very few days."

"Last year, when the English steamship Majestic was detailed to attend the naval celebration of the Queen's jubilee, she arrived in Liverpool on Wednesday afternoon; on Saturday she sailed for Southampton, fully fitted out as an unarmored cruiser. The whole equipment had been placed on board and put in position within three days. I see no reason why the New York or Paris could not be fitted out within the same length of time, assuming that the guns were ready to be put on board."

"The theory of an unarmored cruiser is that she shall be fast enough to run away from any war ship and strong enough to overpower any merchant vessel. I think that our boats fully satisfy these requirements. You remember that when the Columbia made the trip across the Atlantic at a speed of about eighteen knots for the whole voyage it was hailed as a remarkable achievement. It was—for a warship. But our ships cross the ocean, year in and

year out, in the course of their regular business at an ordinary speed of about 20 knots. No war-vessel in existence, unless it was one of the small torpedo-boat catchers, could overhaul them. Of course, a single shot from a modern battleship would go through their sides, but I think it would take more than one to destroy them, because, as I have said, they were laid down on lines intended to guard against that."

PETS OF ONE HOUSEHOLD.

Among Them is a Shetland Pony That Has the Run of the House.

Billie Johnson is the only pony in the world who is a household pet. Billie is an imported Shetland pony which Henry D. Johnson of South Bend, Ind., bought fifteen years ago for his son Harry. When the latter was a baby, Billie now boasts of seventeen years, but he is as frolicsome as a colt. He has all the privileges usually enjoyed by a favorite hound, except that he has never warmed himself by the fire-side or slept on the spare bed. But Billie comes into the house, prancing gaily up seven stairs, the click of his small hoofs being like hail on a garret roof. Naturally he is the banner member of the circus troupe which holds high carnival in the children's bedroom. It is their chief recreation in stormy weather, and the pony, dogs, cats, pigeons and babies furnish a fascinating program.

As Billie is only forty-eight inches high, he easily stands on a chair on an ordinary chair, with his front feet dangling against his breast like the hands of a lackadaisical lady. Kisses his master, and plays the corpse to perfection. When the babies are in the basket saddle he steps softly, evidently appreciating the helplessness of his precious load. But when the older boys get upon his back he jumps, kicks and frolics like a stiff-legged broncho, enjoying the fun as keenly as his riders. He readily became the foundation of an animal pyramid, lying flat on the ground, while Sir Eldrid, a splendid St. Bernard, lies atop of him. The capstones are Penny and Dot, two tiny blooded black and tan, weighing twenty-five ounces each. Billie and Sir Eldrid sleep in the same stall, and when turned out in the same pasture, the two frolic together like playful puppies.

Mr. Johnson has a passion for pets, and raised the famous St. Bernard, Major McKinley, one largest dog ever known, which was owned by Gen. Joseph Torrence of Chicago. He keeps a large flock of homing pigeons, some of which have flown 500 miles.

During Mr. Johnson's recent illness in a Chicago hospital two of the pigeons were kept busy bringing messages from the invalid. They made the eight of eighty-six miles in an hour and fifteen minutes. When he first took the pair to Chicago, the male bird was five hours and a half returning home and his mate only a little over an hour, which was considered strange, as he was the faster bird. Mr. Johnson watched him the next time, he was set free, and saw him circle for about ten minutes, and then come back to a neighboring chimney and run his head up and down as birds do when looking for something. Mr. Johnson then knew that he was waiting for his companion. Mr. Johnson's sons are away at school and have a cage of pigeons with them. It is a very sweet and sentimental fashion of sending letters, and although Mr. Johnson's private messengers distance Uncle Sam in speed they do not pose as competitors in the United States mail service.—Indianapolis Journal.

The "Tares" of Scriptures.

A circular just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture is devoted to "The cultivated vetches." Perhaps everyone doesn't know what a vetch is. The plants described in the Department's circular are all natives of the Old World, and among them are the "hairy vetch" or "sand vetch," the "spring vetch" or "tares," the "winter vetch" and the "kidney vetch."

Tares have been cultivated in Europe for upward of twenty centuries. They were cultivated by the Romans and esteemed by them as a valuable fodder crop. The result of their introduction into the United States, however, has not been satisfactory, and it has been found that clovers and field peas render better results.

The kidney vetch has not given good results. The winter vetch has proved of value in the Southern States, but the hairy vetch has given the best results of all, and the circular says that it is "one of the most promising fodder crops which has been brought into the United States in recent years and by some is considered especially valuable for light, sandy soils."—New York Sun.

A Rising Family.

Bangor, Me., has an eight-cornered house, a house shaped like a piece of pie, a house with no front door, and a half house (one side having been burned off); but the queerest dwelling in all Maine is in the town of Dennyville, Washington county. It was built about six years ago by a poor man, who was obliged to go to the edge of the woods, where land was cheap, for his lot, and utilized the trunks of four big spruce trees, that formed a square of sixteen feet, for the corner posts. Pretty soon the poor man went west to make his fortune, leaving his family behind in the queer house. In five years he returned as poor as when he left. He found that in the meantime his family had risen in the world. The four living corner posts had just grown up about four feet and carried the house with them. It is a good, sound house, but unless the trees stop growing the man will soon need a fire escape ladder instead of the plank steps that now lead up to the door.