

It would be well to heed, at this season, the following general statistics given by Charles Dickens in one of his papers in *All the Year Round*. "The first Napoleon caused more deaths than all the earthquakes since the days of Noah; the cupidity of ship-owners and the supineness of sailors have lost more ships and lives than all the storms that ever blew; the filthy state of our towns sends more souls to Hades than all put together. Plague, pestilence, war and famine yield to DIRT.

Trying a Hammock.—A Danbury man read of the delights of a siesta in a hammock in the tropics. The natural tendency of the Danbury mind is towards inquiry. The question was whether the enjoyment was in the tropics or in the hammock. Profound deliberation produced the conclusion that practical demonstration would evolve superior results to theory. Not having any tropics he commenced with a hammock. He "slung it" in the barn so his wife couldn't see it. It looked nice swaying gently, with the centre about five feet from the ground. He thought the pleasure must be in the hammock. He placed one hand in the middle and vaulted for it, as he would have jumped on a bench. The hammock stood from under and the barn floor received him. Nothing but the inward satisfaction that no one saw the performance induced him to try again. This time he used both hands and spread the hammock wide apart. When he jumped, his hands crossed and he was yanked forty different ways and the hammock spilled him bottom side up. Then he began to think the enjoyment was not all in the hammock. Then he got a chair and crawled into the middle of the darn thing and the sides closed on him. Then he shifted himself just a little and the hammock contracted to the width of Clark's six cord cotton and twisted him off with his dinner against the back of the chair and his disturbed digestion took the hammock and "slung it" into the pig pen and he unmanfully resolved that the delight was in the tropics.—*Danbury News.*

Ticketed to a Different Station.—Some years ago a new church at Lockport, N. Y., belonging to the Presbyterian society of which the Rev. C. Winsor, D. D., has long been the very popular pastor, was to be dedicated. A large number of divines of that denomination from Rochester and vicinity having been invited, left that city by railroad, grouped in and forming a large share of the occupants of a car, in the early evening, exhorting to arrive at Lockport in time to enjoy a comfortable night's rest. Among the party was the distinguished Samuel Hanson Cox, D. D., then Chancellor of Ingham University, at Le Roy. It being midwinter and intensely cold and an unusually heavy body of snow being upon the ground, a furious wind and snow storm setting in, the train had not proceeded many miles before it became blockaded in the snow with a part of the train off the track and so cold and tempestuous was the night, the train, though every possible effort was made, did not succeed in getting extricated until morning.

When on the wing again the conductor made his round to look after tickets and coming among the reverends was impelled to refer to the discomforts and perils of the night and also having a vivid impression of the same, exclaimed: "I tell you what, gentlemen, we came very near going to h—last night."

Dr. Cox equal to the occasion and expression, quickly and instantly replied: "You doubtless speak for yourself, sir; but as for me and my friends here, we are ticketed to a different station."

An artist who had painted a portrait for a gentleman noted for his frequent and copious libations, invited the gentleman's friends to see it. One of them, who was rather near-sighted, approaching it too closely, the artist, in alarm, exclaimed, "Don't touch it; it isn't dry!" "No use looking at it, then," replied the gentleman, "it can't be my friend."

A Street Car Idyl.—Queen of all hearts, we saw them come with languid steps aboard the car and soon their voices' silvery hum sounds clear above the rattling rattle.

While we gazed, with downcast eyes, at eyebrows arched and fingers taper and heard with ill-concealed surprise each charmer praise her favorite paper. What could they know of "leaders" learned, these politicians so enchanting? And yet, whichever way we turned, we heard them on this subject ranting.

The *Transcript* they condemned unheard, the *Democrat* with scorn was blamed, but the *Review*, they both averred, was the best paper could be named. "If you," the laughing Zephrine cried, "would save your patience, time and trouble—take a *Review*, the weekly size and neatly fold it four times double—"

We reached our crossing here and left, amazed beyond the least description, of power of speech almost bereft—what was the rest of that prescription?

The success of flying machines is truly astonishing. A Mr. Folger, up in Michigan, recently constructed one, went to the top of the barn, "lit out" and went with such rapidity that he lost his consciousness for half an hour, when he found himself but a few feet from the barn. He thinks he could not have been entirely unconscious, otherwise he would not have returned to the barn, where he picked himself up.

The mean old curmudgeons who comprise the Common Council of Zanesville, Ohio, have passed an ordinance prohibiting boys from bathing in the city reservoir.

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