#### TIMELY TOPICS.

New York city is to have a "Ladies' Co-operative Dress Association," the object of which is to establish a co-operative store stocked with ladies' and operative store stocked with ladies and children's dress goods, millinery, etc. The capital stock is fixed at \$250,000, of which \$100,000 have already been subscribed. There is a similar institution in England, which was incorporated in 1877, and has proved so great a success that, at the present time, it is impossible to purchase any of the stock.

H. M. Stanley brought home-from Africa the skulls of two animals called "sokos," which had been caten by an affable chief with whom he hobnobbed one day, and Prof. Huxley at once pronounced them to be human. But Central America has now come forward with the susmetu, and so far as subscriptions go at present this animal would appear to come as near ourselves as the soko, for the other natives of its forests whom we call men and women call the susmetu human.

A tax of five cents for every soldier at the post having been imposed by the council of administration upon the post traders at Fort Dodge, Kansas, the ques-tion of its legality was recently submittion of its legality was recently submit-ted to the attorney-general, who de-cides that it is in accordance with law, as the act of 1876 makes post traders subject in all respects to army regula-tions. The tax is levied to aid in sup-porting "camp charities." He also de-cides that post traders confining their business strictly within the limits of the army are not subject to taxation by State, Territorial or county authorities.

The absence of Chinese women in the East has compelled the males to intermarry with the whites. There are in New York city at the present time nearly three hundred Chinamen who have white wives. They are mainly Spanish and Irish women, the Mongolians preferring the latter on account of their skill in domestic labor. This intermarriage of races commenced about six years ago. Consequently a young China-Celtic generation is springing up, the oldest member of whom is about five years of age. years of age.

It is stated on no less an authority than that of the lord chancellor of Eng-000,000—could be paid in less than six years with the money thrown away in a sea of ale, wine and brandy. It is rather a starting exhibit of the prevalent human drought, and suggests a col-lation of similar data 'n this country, with an eye to helping Dr. Crosby's arguments by the logic of stern facts.

The Hudson river tunnel has been excavated a distance of more than fifty feet. All that can be seen of the work is a small frame building at the foot of Fitteenth street, Jersey City, surrounded by piles of earth and bricks. This shed by piles of earth and bricks. This shed covers the shaft. The men are working at a depth of sixty feet under the river. There are three shifts of ten men each, each shift working eight hours. The men are admitted to the tunnel through air locks. Thirty-five feet of the iron framework have been put in place, and the work of putting in the brick lining, which is to be three feet thick, was commenced recently. In May the shaft on the New York side will be sunk near the foot of Leroy street.

When Washington was on his way to Red Bank just 100 years ago he slept one night at Chew's Landing, a village which is also in New Jersey. Next morning he was surprised to find that half the inhabitants had formed themselves into a delegation to ask of him a contribution toward a new Episcopal church. He not only gave the contribution but signed the church book, and so did Carroll of Carrollton. The book has been religiously preserved in the vestry, and every governor of New Jersey has for many years given something to keep the building in order. Now, however, it is to be torn down and a commonplace brick church erected. When Washington was on his way to

A young man named E mer Sever-nce, who was working at Smith & arter's camp, at Princeton, Minn., bet Carter's camp, at Princeton, Minn., bet one of his companions a quarter that he could place a dipper of cold water on the stove and hold his finger in the dipper until the water began to boil. The wager was accepted. Severance held his finger in the dipper quite a while, but was obliged to withdraw it before the water had reached a boiling point, hence he lost his bet. On examination it was found that the finger was completely found that the finger was completely cooked; it pained Severance so that he was obliged to quit work and come to town for medical treatment. The prob-ability was that the finger would have to be amoutated.

Some remarkable statements were made by a prominent physician before the class of the college of physicians and surgeons at Buffalo the other day. He announced that one-fifth of all mankind die of consumption alone, and one-third of all from the ravages of tubercles upon the bodily organs, including the lungs. Comparing this mortality with that from yellow fever during the epidemic of 1878, he said that it "would require 450 years of such epidemics of yellow fever to equal the devastation wrought by consumption in a single generation in this country alone, and 750 years of such work to equal the mortality caused by tubercles in one generation in this country." These statements are appalling, but they are made by a man who has devoted the study of a life-time to the subject.

Dr. Willard Parker, an eminent physician and surgeon of New York, regards our system of caring for the insane as radically wrong. The institutions are Too much care and responsitoo large. Too much care and responsibility are placed upon one man. It is a physical impossibility for him to consult the peculiarities of each of several hundred patients, whose cases differentirely from one another. Each case should be distinctly studied. He has, besides, to superintend and manage the institution and the grounds, to be farmer, treasurer, etc. "As well expect the captain of one of our large steamers to act also as stoker and cook." The buildings are too magnificent. They should be inexpensive, so that when the wards become saturated with disease they may be destroyed and others erected. Some occupation should be provided adapted to the patients' occuditions. Dr. Parker maintains that

insanity is not diminishing in this country, as under proper treatment it ought to be.

The discovery has recently been made in the southeastern districts of Russia th 'tigers, long unknown in those parts have found their way there. Some peasants of Golot-Ubani, in the district of Tiflis, recently noticed quite unusual depredations among their flocks and herds, which they ascribed to the ravages of wolves and bears. Finding a fresh track of a large animal quite unknown to them in the snow only recently fallen near the village, twelve of them pursued it into the mountains armed with hatchets. On their march they were surprised by a terrible roar, and at the same moment a huge tiger, measuring between five and six feet in length, bounded out of a cave in the rock and struck down three men before they knew what they were about. The snow lying deep and soft, and therefore giving way under them, fortunately saved them. One other peasant rushed up just in time and clove the animal's skull in two. The tiger in his death struggle, however, gave his slayer a few ngly scratches.

Minnie Karell's fight with a burglar in her room deserves to be immortalized. She is a slight girl only eighteen years of age, and tends her ather's bakery in New York. She was awakened at an early hour in the morning by a man standing over her bed, and was told by the burglar that if she screamed he would kill her. Nothing daunted Minnie screamed and at once struck the burglar in the face with all her might. Quite a tussie now ensued, the burglar trying to escape from Minnie's grasp, and she trying to hold him until her father and the worknen from below could come to her assistance. But the robber broke away from her and made his exit from a window, not, however, until Minnie had recognized him as John Oates, a resident of the next block. When the police came they found Minnie's bureau ransacked and all her best clothes gone; but fortunately they met a man named Rogers in the street carrying a bundle of female wearing apparel and arrested him. The clothing proved to be Minnie's. They next went in search of Oates and found him at a wake next door to the bakery, coolly smoking his pipe and condoling with the besearch of Oates and found him at a wake next door to the bakery, coolly smoking his pipe and condoling with the be-reaved family. Minnie gets her heroism from her mother, who is dead. She used to tell Minnie always to tight when she got in trouble; and the old lady acted upon this principle, for she her-self used to take a club to all who came to the bakery and didn't conduct them-selves with propriety. selves with propriety.

Mrs. Gov. Lew Wallace finds in New Mexico what she calls a "subtle Spanish essence" pervading everything. Even the names of the commonest persons she meets are poetic. She says in the Independent:

"Perfectio (perfection), a worthless peon in Navaho blanket, sweeps the sidewalk; Benito (the good), a shambling Mexican boy, watching his chance for a spring at the spoons, brings the daily mail; Mariposa (butterfly), the siliest of Slowboys, pushes the baby wagon; while Angellus, an angel whose form has lost its original brightness, lazily watches her. Three old witches, were baptized Feliciana, the happy; Rosita, little Rose; Hermosa, the beautiful." Mrs. Wallace adds that most of the people she meets have Indian blood in their veins, and not a few are a mixture of Spanish, African and Indian. Here is a picture of a Santa Fe woman: "Quiet out of reach of the shady trees, in the fiercest blaze of the sun, sitting on a fragment of the Rocky mountains is a statuesque figure, which might represent the oldest, the most furious of the Furies. It is Blandina, the fair one, the soft one, of Santa Fe. Her face, like one of her own foothills, is worn into gutters and seams. Not like them so molded by the action of water, but by exposure to sharp sunlight and withering wind, destructive to beauty, which make even young persons appear old. Her skin is a parchment, which looks as though it might date back to—I was about to say the flood, but that would imply that at some prehistoric era she had felt the sanitary influence of a shower bath."

## Curiosities of Yucatan.

Curiosities of Yucatan.

A correspondent writes as follows while in a vessel off Merida, Yucatan: The sailboats that came off for lard and lager beer were an object of interest to travelers. On one of them, tied by a cord to the mast, was a queer little domestic animal that looked at first like an extraordinary cat. It proved to be a little anteater, and when brought on board the steamer began at once to search every nook and cranny with its long, industrious nose for insects. We were told that these animals are domesticated in Yucatan, being kept to clear dwellings of the multitudinous insects that infest the country. The chief obect that attracted attention, however, was one of those great light brown beetles that are worn as iewelry. It was tethered to the left ispel of a Mexican's coat by a little chain fastened to a gold band. This is the kind of bug that caused such a sensation when it appeared as an ornament in a lady's hair at a reception in London. When the gold bands are set in diamonds the bug makes a very showy ornament, and lives about six months after being chained, luxuriating on a diet of water administered a drop at a time. It is perfectly harmless. The natives find them in the woods, and bring them to port to sell to strangers. port to sell to strangers.

## The Museum of the Pharaohs.

The Museum of the Pharaohs.

"Every visitor of Egypt," says the Alexandria correspondent of the London Times, "knows the Boulak museum. It is the best history that exists of the Pharaohs, with their twenty five dynasties, and the Persians and Greeks who followed them. Statues, pictures, ornaments and writings are all there to tell the story. But the locale is small and damp, and changes were projected last summer which required the closing of the museum for a time, and the packing away of all the valuables in cases until the alterations were completed. They were all completed. All the valuables were deposited in a neighboring warehouse under what seemed proper guardianship; but fobbers, the other day broke in through the roof, and they must have been robbers of a certain rark of intellect, for some eighty or one hundred scarabees of great value pecuniarily, and impossible to replace, as they related to the early dynastics, were abstracted, although they were things of no apparent worth to an ignorant person."

### FOR THE PAIR SEX.

Fashion Notes.

Very dark colors continue stylish. The ulster is the leading spring wrap New dress buttons all come in two

Spanish lace is the fancy of the mo-

Diminutive patterns in brocaded ma-terials are among recent importations. Mummy cloth, much improved, will be among the fashionable spring goods. Gilt and silver balls, both plain and cetted, form the heads of fancy pins for

the hair. Yellow, red and brilliant dark colors are mingled with the faint fade colors in new goods.

Small sunflowers, from one-third to half the natural size, are popular as corsage boquets. Beaded passementeries will be largely

used for trimming silks and satins used in costumes and wraps for spring. Dragons, bees, butterflies and birds in indefinite forms appear among the palm leaves and other Eastern designs of lately imported spring goods.

Violet is a fashionable color this spring, and that in all its shades, from the color of an iris to the soft hues of the Parmese violet and the Persian lilac.

The long overdress, which has re-cently been revived, is nothing but a gracefully draped princess polonaise, which requires only a flounce to com-plete the costume.

Fashionable faise fronts of waved or curled hair cover the whole crown of the head, coming low on the forehead and fastened beneath the knot with a small shell comb on each side.

Dresses are still made with scant skirts bridled across the front and draped up behind. In the make of bodices there is more variety, but the basque waist prevails in the new spring costumes.

The latest novelty in the way of making up velvet is to have the dress composed of a perfectly plain corsage, plain cont sleeves and a plain demitrained skirt without flounces, tablier or overables.

skirt.

A clever new idea in kid gloves is the Foster glove, in which the fastening is by a cord laced around hooks, like those on a gentleman's laced shoe. The glove may be laced in a twinkling, and the fastening adapts itself to any sized wrist, while all annoyance from bursting buttons or torn button-holes is obviated.

#### Feminine Superstitions.

White specks on the nails are indica-

White specks on the nails are indicative of good fortune.
When a woman enters a room she should be obliged to sit down, if only for a moment, as she otherwise takes away the children's sleep with her.
To rock the cradle when empty is injurious to the child.
To eat while a bell is tolling for a funeral causes toothache.
The crowing of a hen indicates approaching disaster.
Drawing on a stocking inside out, causes matters to go wrong during the day.

By bending the head to the hollow of

the arm the initial letter of one's future spouse is represented.

When children play soldier on the roadside it forbodes the approach of war.

A child grows proud if suffered to look into the mirror while less than twelve months old.

twelve months old.

Before moving into a new house first

send in bread and a new broom.

Whoever sneezes at an early hour either hears some news or receives some present the same day.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## Accomplished Ladies' Maids.

Ladies' maids in society must be accomplished to judge from an advertisement in a Roman paper. A young lady is wanted for that island who must be is wanted for that island who must be from twenty to thirty years of age; disengaged, and of distinguished education; very skillful with the needle and in making up fine things. She must be of sympathetic turn, of elegant figure and possess linen and good clothes, good enough for going out with and attending her young mistress. She must send her photograph to a signor in Rome, who will personally inspect those young ladies who present themselves to compete for the situation. A young lady of these accomplishments, beauty and good clothes would not long keep a situation as ladies' maid in America. She would soon be asked by the impressible American youth to resign her position as lady's maid to become the mistress of his heart and home.

## Curious Facts.

the "horse-cars" are drawn by mules, and these mules all come from Ken-

tucky.

Among the ancients a beverage was prepared for newly married people composed of honey and water; hence the

posed of honey and water; hence the saying—honeymoon.

It was Buffon who proved that burning-glasses were capable of consuming substances. This first was considered fabulous previous to his day.

The thirty thousand deaf mutes in the United States have for their accommo-

United States have for their accommodation fifty places of worship, where services are conducted in the sign lan-

guage.
In the Boston art museum is the body

guage.

In the Boston art museum is the body of an Egyptian lady of high rank, which ies enclosed in a glass case. It is enveloped in the cartonage or inner case, elosely fitting the body, a false face covering her face, which was gilded originally, some fragments of the gold leaf still remaining.

Among the plants of Guinea is the cannon-ball tree. It grows to the height of sixty feet, and bears a flower which looks like a cannon ball and is very fragmant, whence its name.

The pagodas of China are religious temples, and never used as domestic dwellings. They are frequently ornamented with bells at every corner of their numerous roofs, sometimes to the number of 150, which are kept perpetually 'ringing by every sweep of the wind. They are also decorated with an equal number of the gayest lantorns, shedding a brilliant illumination in the night time.

Between 17,000 and 20,000 alligator skins are tanned yearly, which are consumed by boot and shoe manufacturers in every portion of the United States, as well as exported to London and Hamburg. The alligators formerly came almost entirely from Louisiana, and New Orleans was the great center of the business. The Florida swamps and morasses are now the harvest fields, and Jacksonville, in that State, the great depot.

### THE UNHAPPY CEAR.

A Graphic Pen and Ink Sketch of Alex

The feeling which comes uppermost in the mind of any one who sees the ezar for the first time is one of sincere pity. He is a large, ox-eyed man, evidently of good intentions, but with a look of sadness and perplexity in him. His voice, harsh as the grinding of a coffee-mill out of order, for an affection of the throat, under which he has long suffered, renders speech painful to him. He would have made a very amiable private gentleman, and could have got far more ease and amusement out of life if he had handed all the botheration of government over to his brother Constantine, who has a taste for that sort of nonsense. ment over to his brother Constantine, who has a taste for that sort of nonsense. He himself could hardly have wanted to reign. It was the Schouvaloffs, the Lamberts, the Bariatinskys, the Adlerbergs, the Dolgouroukys and some others who desired he should be a firm ruler of men. They were forever goading and coaxing him by turns, as beef is driven to market for those who wish to roast it. They must often had a difficult task, for his ponderous majesty (good easy man) is slothful and heavy-witted by nature. He must have been frequently unable to understand even what was wanted of him. He is subject to melancholy periods of hypocondriasis, during which existence seems but a dreary blank to him. He is haunted by fears of sudden death and by the dread of assassination. At these times he moons about on apparently solitary walks with a large dog but the dread of assassination. At these times he moons about on apparently solitary walks with a large dog, but there is always a policeman handy to keep the sacrilegious from approaching him. When well he devotes much of his time to tailoring, changing his costume with much stolid perseverance, and he likes to be attended by a hump-backed privy councilor, who acts as foil to his fine figure and sets it off, for he is a well-built man, tail and straight, though rather too German in the rotundthough rather too German in the rotund-ity of certain of his curves. His father, Nicholas, who was in many respects a notable sovereign, had

him very carefully brought up, and foreseeing that he would want support, perhaps devotion, in after life, to coun-teract his apathy, surrounded him with

perhaps devotion, in after life, to counteract his apathy, surrounded him with some select young men who could be relied upon. This little band of cronies have hung together ever since. They have lived with and on the emperor without interruption from the time of his accession until now. He provides for their wants; they dip their fingers into his purse whenever they are so minded.

He is a loosely-hung emperor, more like the good fellow of a free and easy than the despotic master of millions, when in the midst of these his familiars. He has been known to sit in his shirtsleeves, astraddle on a chair, hob-a-nobbing with them.

The late Count Strogonoff, who was a preux chevalier and a very high-pacing person generally, once broke in upon the party thus employed. The emperor looked at him with those unutterably mournful eyes of his and held out a champagne-glass to be refilled from a bottle which stood by. The old soldier drew himself up and answered sternly: "Let those who love you less than I do perform that service." The czar showed no sign of displeasure, but within a few months Strogonoff was deprived of his offices, though he was nearly connected with the imperial family, his son having married the Grand Duchess Marie.

When his majesty is in humor he plays a good deal of cards with his own chums, and it is rather a good thing for these gentlemen, for when any of them is in want the czar will lose to him the sum of which he stands in need, as a delicate way of giving it, and this method of bestowing substantial favor is perfectly well understood among them.

The czar is a good shot, and bas done some grand things on bears. He some-

them.

The czar is a good shot, and has done some grand things on bears. He sometimes wears a pelisse which once covered a fine bear he brought low with his own hands, and it has been so exquisitely dressed that it is valued at about \$10,000, which is even more than is ever paid either for the sable or the black fox. He can ride, too, though not in the English fashion, and he would be puzzled by a sharp burst across the country. Lately his physicians have recommended him to walk. His personal deportment is excellent. He stands and marches well. He shows to advantage in uniform, though for several years he has willingly clothed himself in mufti. His manners are those of a gentleman, and there is something extremely sympathetic about him. He produces the impression that one would like to know him better, if only he were not an emperor. It is this unfortunate circumstance which takes the amiability out of him, sets him upon his dignity, and gives a certain funniness to his aspect. His father really could be dignified, but In London, on the Surreyside, most of the "horse-cars" are drawn by mules, and these mules all come from Kennervousness in his proceedings upon great occasions which reminds one of a drum-major or fugleman of Landwehr

Formerly the emperor, as might have een expected from one of his lethargic

than an autocrat.

Formerly the emperor, as might have been expected from one of his lethargic temperaments, was averse to moving about; latterly he has been troubled by a perpetual restlessness. He lives very plainly, and his table is sparsely served. A beefsteak for breakfast, a roast gelinotte and salid for his dinner form the staple of his fare. His appetite is not robust and he sleeps badly.

The first fault of his reign was the common blunder of heirs apparent when they come into power. He had been much courted by the discontented, and he made far too much haste to undo all the work of his father. He was emotional, pitiful, generous, all in a headlong, precipitate way. When he resolved suddenly to abolish seridom several of his genera s and nobles threw themselves bodily at his fret, and besought him to manage so great a chance very gingerly. It was no use: he gave everything he had to give, knocked down the great farmers general or taxes like so many nine-pins, upset monopolies for the discreet sale of vodki, closed the free port of the Black sea according to the latest principles of political economy, dashed off the shack-les from the press and laughed at newspapers. There was a caricature published in St. Petersburg shortly after his accession which represented him as a droschky driver in the state that droschky drivers usually are after dinner. His hat was pulled over his eyes, and his horses were galloping wildly on the road to "Reform." Behind him was the Grand Duke Constantine, saying: "Gently, brother. I am the tare." Still the emperor laughed; he laughed too when a piece was played in the court theater exposing the corruption of his officials, and a very fine piece it was. Then somebody shot at him, and shattered his nerves forever. He

fell into a sort of panic, trying hastily to undo all he had done. He had new gyves put on writers; he ordered some awful cruelties in Poland. He tried to win back his sulky nobles. It was all in vain, and now he is thoroughly flustered and frightened right out of his senses. His only chance of peace and happiness would be abdication and a year's yachting without newspapers. At present he is worried into a fever every morning by a summary of all the unpleasant things which have been printed about him for the last twenty-four hours throughout Europe. It is prepared by a special precise writer appointed for the purpose; his majesty pointed for the purpose; his majesty the search him to the last twenty-point hours throughout surpose; his majesty the had a search him to the search him to the had a search him to the him to the had a search him to the him t four hours throughout Europe. It is prepared by a special precise writer appointed for the purpose; his majesty takes care that it shall spare him no pang of this self-inflicted torture, for he will not trust a professional diplomatist to do it lest he should gloss over the truth and endeavor to make things pleasant for promotion's sake. A Baron Herder, a connection of Stieglitz, the banker, not long ago pergitty. glitz, the banker, not long ago per-formed this delicate service, and per-haps does so still. The King of Yvetot was a happy monarch; the Emperor of Russia is not. Surely, times must be strangely altered.—London Truth.

Bob Ingersoil on Stingy Men.

I despise a stingy man. I don't see how it is possible for a man to die worth \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000, in a city ful. of want, when he meets almost every day the withered hand of beggary and the white lips of famine. How a man can withstand all that and hold in the clutch of his hand \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000, is past my comprehension, I do not see how he can do it. I should not think he could do it any more than he could keep a pile of lumber when hundreds and thousands were drowning in the sea. Do you know I have known men who would trust their wives with their hearts and their home but not with their pocketbooks—not with a dollar. When I see a man of that kind, I always think he knows which is most valuable. Think of making your wife a beggar! Think of her asking you every day for a dollar or two dellars or to humbly beg for fifty cents. What Ind you do with that dollar I gave you? Think of having a wife that is afraid of you! What kind ef children do you expect to have with a beggar and a coward for a mother? Oh, I tell you, if you Bob Ingersoll on Stingy Men. Think of having a wife that is afraid of you! What kind of children do you expect to have with a beggar and a coward for a mother? Oh, I tell you, if you have but a dollar in the world and you have got to spend it, spend it like a king; spend it as though it were a dry leaf and you the owner of unbounded forests. That's the way to spend it. I had rather be a beggar and spend my jast dollar like a king, than to be a king and spend my money like a beggar. If it's get to go, let it go. Get the best you can for your family—and look as well as you can yourself When you used to go courting, how nice you looked! Ah, your eye was bright, your step was light, and you just put on the very best you could. Do you know that it is insufferable egotism in you to suppose that a woman is going to love you always, looking as bad as you can. Think of it! Any weman on earth will be true to you forever when you do your level best.

## What Puzzled the Millers.

What Puzzled the Millers.

The Minneapolis Tribune relates an amusing incident that happened in the Palisade mill of that city, January 1. The proprietors went to the expense of purchasing a new water wheel, with which to propel the machinery of the Palisade. They reluctantly shut the mill down for a couple of weeks for the purpose of putting this new wheel in, feeling satisfied that the increased power obtained from it would more than repay them for the loss of time. Without stopping to consider the matter of rights and lefts, as applied to water wheels, the work progressed until, on New Year's morning, it was complete, and, with a great sigh of relief, they prepared for business, and turned on the water. Imagine their consternation when all the machinery of the mill began to re volve—backward! Everything moved in just the opposite direction from what it had ever done before, or was intended to do. The stores turned ba kward, the elevators ran downward, instead of upward, and—well, the proprietors thought that New Year's might have a bad effect on them, and turned the mill or themselves wrong side up. The partners, after careful examinations, assured each other that none of them were standing on their heads! Then partners, after careful examinations, as-sured each other that none of them were standing on their heads! Then they strolled out upon the platform and took a look at the mill building. That was right side up! But the machinery persisted in running the wrong way, from basement to attic, and threatened to reverse the natural order of things by converting flour into wheat They at first thought of going to the lunatic asylum in a body; but, fortunately, their millwright was suddenly struck with an idea! They shut the gates, he with an idea They shut the gates took a squint at the new wheel, and the mystery was explained! It was a "left hand" wheel, and had been thought-lessly set as a right.

# An Absent Minded Man.

An Absent Minded Man.

Perhaps not all of our readers who were familiar with the late Silas K. Stow were aware of his extreme absent-mindedness. He once telegraphed and wrote to the St. Nicholas hotel, where he last stopped, to "hold his night-shirt until called for." That night upon retiring he was disgusted to find that he had failed to take it off before dressing in the morning. Mr. Stow was a lover of a good horse, and whenever he heard of one within a certain circuit around Troy he was uneasy until he had passed his judgment on the animal. On one occasion he started to look over a promising colt that was owned about ten miles in the country. Arriving at his destination he looked around for a good hitching place. Observing the weighted box at the end of the picturesque sweep with which the well was rigged, he tied his spirited animal the weighted box at the end of the picturesque sweep with which the well was rigged, he tied his spirited animal to it, and then turning around he deliberately proceeded to lower the "old oaken bucket" into the "rystal spring below. He failed to discover the cause of the tremendous power required to touch bottom until he saw his horse on his hind legs pawing the air. It was a long time atter the occurrence that the secret of his broken harness and wagon leaked out.—Troy Times.

"I wish you would keep your mouth shut!" exclaimed Hollemout, the dentist, suddenly losing patience with his patient's predilection for talking. "All right," said the latter, suiting the action to the word. And then Hollemout asked him if he would be so kind as to open it again long enough for him (Hollemout) to get his finger ou'. You never do know how to please some men.

## FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

This work is often done, apparently, for no other purpose than to do some sort of perfunctory work in hacking up the trees. Trees should be pruned and thinned out, and so, with axe in hand, the owner goes over them and butchers them miserably. The rough wounds inflicted do not heal, but rot begins, and in a short time the trees are useless, if not dead. How rare is it to come across a good-looking old orchard, venerable with age, but yet trim, neat and sound in limb and trunk. Fruit trees exist in Europe that are historical in their age, and in this country there are trees from which the old Indian tribes gathered fruit before they were crowded from the banks of the beautiful Delaware. But now, an orchard thirty years old is a ruin, and unless trees are planted every few years, a farmer must buy his fruit. Much of this is due to the rough pruning the trees undergo, and more to the continual cropping of the orchards. Perhaps something of it is owing to the root gratting which does not seem to produce long-lived trees, top-grafted trees seeming to be more vigorous than others. But bad pruning has much to answer for. One cannot prune by system. Each tree must be studied separately and in regard to some definite principles. For instance, pruning is intended to relieve the tree of useless or superabundant wood; to take away less important branches studied separately and in regard to some definite principles. For instance, pruning is intended to relieve the tree of useless or superabundant wood; to take away less important branches that crowd and press upon others; to reduce the quantity of bearing wood, and so preserve the vitality and balance of the tree; lastly, to remove disfigured, blighted and diseased wood. Now, with these rules in mind, let one examine carefully each tree before he cuts away a twig, and note where and what he should cut away, and then mind how he cuts. No axe should be used about a tree except to cut it down when it cumbers the ground. A sharp, fine-toothed, long, narrow-bladed saw is the proper pruning implement. A sharp knife with a curving blade that makes a draw-cut, and a pot of shellac varnish should go with the saw. Everything that is removed should be cut close to the main wood, trimmed smoothly with the knife, and the wound covered with the varnish. The varnish is shellac dissolved in alcohol. This leaves a water and air proof covering over the ground. The work may be begun now and continued as opportunity offers. There need then be no hurry. Young trees should be put in training now for future pruning. Three or four main limbs only should be left, so as to balance the head. All in-growing shoots should be removed close to the main branch, so that no bud is left to sprout. Each main side limb may lork into two or three subbranches, spreading fan-like around the central limb, if there is one. The subbranches should be encouraged to start low, so that a low, round, compact, spreading head may be produced. Much may he done in forming the head hy branches should be encouraged to start low, so that a low, round, compact, spreading head may be produced. Much may be done in forming the head by tying down or hanging weights upon limbs that are inclined to wander from the way they should go, so that when they are old they will not depart from it. "As the tree is bent the tree is inclined," and a piece of hempawist will soon bring a crooked young tree into a regular and handsome form.

SHAPE CAKES,—Beat the yolks of four eggs and then the whites to a froth. Then add a quart of flour and a quart of milk. To be baked in small shape tins previ-

To be baked in small shape tins previously greased.

OMELET —A dish made according to the recipe given below is called by the Poultry Yard an omelet: Three pounds of beef, chopped fine; three eggs, beaten together; six erackers, rolled fine; one tablespoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of pepper, one tablespoonful of melted butter, sage to the taste, mix well and make like a loaf of bread; put a little water and bits of butter into the pan; invert another pan over it; baste the omelet occasionally; bake an hour and a quarter, and when cold slice very thin.

PUDDING.—One quart milk, four eggs one cup bread crumbs, one-half cup jam, one-half cup sugar. Butter a pudding-dish; sprinkle the bottom with bread-crumbs; pour over these one half cup jam; cover this with the rest of the crumbs. Heat the milk till near boiling, take it from the fire and add gradually the beaten yolks, whites and sugar; heat this until it begins to thicken; put it spoonful by spoonful upon the layer of crumbs. Bake until well set and brown. Eat cold with cream.

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—The best buck wheat cakes are made with an addition

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—The best buck wheat cakes are made with an addition of commeal flour and oatmeal flour to the buckwheat, in this proportion: Six cupfuls of buckwheat, three cupfuls of catmeal down wiff this complete. atmeal flour, or if this cannot be ob tained, substitute Graham flour in its place, and one cupful of cornmeal flour; to this add a dessert spoon evenly filled with salt, two taolespoonfuls of molasses, and lukewarm water sufficient to form a batter; stir through the flour well four teaspoonfuls of baking powder before wetting; but these cakes are much better raised over night with weast.

Tea leaves, used for keeping down the dust when sweeping carpets, are apt stain light colors; salt is the best in winter and new mown hay in summer.

Buttermilk is excellent for cleaning sponges. Steep the sponge in the milk for some hours, then squeeze it out and wash it in cold water. Lemon juice is also good.

For the earache, toast an onion thoroughly, take the heart out, put it into a piece of flannel and insert it into the ear, having previously put a few drops of hot water into the ear.

For soft corns dip a piece of linen cloth in turpentine and wrap it round the toe on which the corn is situated, night and morning. The relief will be immediate, and, after a few days, the corn will disappear.

The white of an egg, into which a piece of alum about the size of a walnut has been stewed until it forms a jelly, is a capital remedy for sprains. It should be laid over the sprain upon a piece of lint and be changed as often as it becomes dry.

"There's something about your daughter," Mr. Waughop said, reflectively, "there's something about your daughter—" "Yes," said old Mr. Thistlepod, "there is. I had noticed it mysell. It comes every evening about eight o'clock, and it doesn't get away usually till about two o'clock. And some of these nights I am going to lift it all the way from the front parlor to the side gate and see what there is in it "