head. 7. Last month. [Abbr.] 8. Certain bandages, 9. A letter. IRON MASK.

1436-A SHADOW.

A shadow on my pathway fell, From whence it came I could not tell; I noticed it with scarce a thought, And soon its presence was forgot.

Again it came, and touched my brow, It left a print—I see it now; It lingered in my shining hair. And left my locks all bianched and spare.

It followed me, so hard it pressed.

It bent my form—I longed for rest, But while I tarried—once so fleet— With viewless chains it bound my feet.

Then breathed a mist that dims my eves

Till all the distance hidden lies; But this I whisper you apart, It leaves untouched my sturdy heart.

And, better still, I've learned to know This clinging phantom is no foe, But one that forces needed rest On travelers adown life's West.

1437-NUMERICAL CHARADE.

2-2-4-5-8-9

Those who in metaphysics take delight, Of me discourse in way that's crudite; They'll tell you that your inmost self am Li That life itself is what I signify; In short, according to their lucid seeing, I am existence, soul, and living being.

1-7-6.8.

That all that brightly glitters is not gold Sounds like a chestnut, for it's stale and old; But to my substance this does not apply; It is too thin, and very thin am I. Do you catch on? O, how much slang I'm using!

1 to 9.

I'm so high-born, so proud and so polite, I shun the rabble and avoid their sight. High-toned I am, and yet in me you see Refined deportment in a high degree. I'm what the lowliest ones may have, as well As those that in palatial mansions dwell.

NELSONIAN.

1438-DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

Words of six letters.

1. To adhere to. 2. A kind of four-wheeled carriage. 3. A thin kind of cloth, made of wool and mixed with silk and cotton. 4. A metal. 5. Struck with the foot.

The initials name a color; the finals mean de-

fense; and the whole is a person guilty of four anguage. H. J. A.

1439-TRANSPOSITIONS.

First is what I'm writing now,
Though it may little merit show;
To second means to separate
As well as to discriminate;
In law it means to disunite,
And without doubt the law is right,
To third is sometimes understood
To aid and to supply with food.
NELSONIAN.

THE JANUARY COMPETITION.

Prize winners—1. Lottie Hughes, Apollo, Pa.

2. M. Culpepper, Braddock, Pa.
Roll of homor—Glass, Dr. Brown, Annie E.
Wilson, Geo, A. Parker, M. K. K., Inez Blair,
C. H. Lever, Lizzie L. Beatty, M. D. B., Charles
Bowers, Olive A. Klein, A. M. Power, Hattie
Bearce, D. V. K., F. P. Smith, Sir Guy, Agnes,
Helen C. Swoope, Minnie Jones, Annie E. Witson, S. M. Monroe, Robert Church.

ANSWERS.

using! I fear 'tis not instructive nor amusing.



IWRITTEN FOR THE DISPATOR. Although but ten years of age, little Louis had a very important duty to perform, He took the sole charge of a fine flock of sheep, belonging to his father, and every day led

them to and from the pasture, and tended them while grazing on the hillside. Louis was not discontented over his work; but found the hours spent in the meadow filled with pleasure. One side of the field was bordered by a clear brooklet, which took its course around the base of the hill, and on the other side was a cool, shady forest, in which grew wild roses, violets and other field flowers.

While Louis did not neglect his work, he found much time for play. The brook was a constant source of enjoyment to him. In it be would sail the ticy boats he had made, and on the banks he constructed, from the many pebbles, toy forts and mininture lighthouses as a guide for his ships out at sea, as he called the small stream. Whatever Louis read in the winter evenings, that he played in the summer time. And from ary twigs he found in the forest he built a wigwam, into which he would crawl and imagine himself to be a wild

powerless to protect themselves. Hastily they broke off the thorns from the many bushes growing near, and pricked the feet of their enemy, until he fled from the spot and cried for mercy; but the whole company of Dwarfs pursued him, until he came within sight of his father's house, then a voice cried: "You have asked a gift from us, and you will soon see that while we have not bestowed gold and silver upon you, we have given you something by which you will always remember us."

These words brought some comfort to Hans, and he thought: "Perhaps they have given to me, too, a beautiful voice, and I shall be taken as Louis was to the King's palace, and shall ride in fine chariots." But when bleeding and sore, Hans entered the house, and wished to tell of his visit to the Dwarfs, he found that his tongue had become large and thick, and it was with difficulty that he could talk at all. The people in the village soon knew of Hans' misfortune, and had but little pity for him, and thereafter he was always called "Stut-

tering Hans."

The gift of the Dwarfs was very valuable to Louis. The young shepherd was taken to the royal palace, where he gave such delight to the courtiers that the King declared that he must remain there, and never crawl and imagine himself to be a wild Indian, preparing for war with his enemies; then pretending to be shipwrecked on a lone island, he would build before his tent a fire, in the ashes of which he would roast corn

parents, he sought the rocks on the hillside,

those who had heard him. Then the Dwarfs

away with rich gifts.

Amusements.

taught the boy new songs, and sent him

One day when Louis went as usual to the

friends. He sang his sweetest songs; but no

ward, the boy sought the home of the

PAYSIE.

MINNIE SINGEAL

one answered. Although many times after-

Dwarfs, they never appeared to him again, or made their whereabouts known.

SOME ENIGMATICAL NUTS.

Puzzles for the Little Folks That Will Keep

Address communications for this departmen

1430-LITERATI.

1431-ENIGMA.

And mystery was in my name
In days of old long since gone by.
When witches through the air did fly,
When folks imagined that their homes
Were visited by sprites and gnomes,
That goblins, fairies, beings strange,

Then I was held a wondrous charm
To shield against impending harm.
Arranged like puzzlers "forms" my name
Would read in various ways the same—
Not like a "diamond" or a "square,"
But in a share tringrular.

Not like a "diamond" or a "square,"
But in a shape triangular.
Since Superstation's reign is o'er
I am a potent charm no more.
For Knowledge has my sphere invaded,
And I am now a thing degraded.
Yet still myself in mystery screening.
And meaning something without meaning,
NELSONIAN.

1432-DIAMOND.

1. A letter. 2. Possessed with rage. 3. Having a mane. 4. An instrument for confining in the lather the substance to be turned. 5. Trees of the East and West Indies. 6. Species of plans. 7. Diminished in value. 8. Consecrated. 2. Learned (Obs). 10. Affected with grief. 11. A letter.

Deliphing.

1433-ANAGRAM.

Pet was a hungry girl, no doubt; Her mother and her school were out, So to the pantry she inclined, To lunch on such as she could find. A mince ple stood within the corner,

A mince pie stood within the corner, And, emulating famed Jack Horner, She cut a piece, by no means small, Then more, and more; she ate it all! To find the word you scarce need try, If once you witness "Pet at Pie."

1434-CHARADE.

The master's face was clouded,

A frown swept o'er his brow. For three had disobeyed him And must be punished now.

And with a three he grasped it, With vigor born of anger Around two three he lashed it.

And then remorse seized on him, And in his failing health, He made a three to three And left him all his wealth.

1435-HALF SQUARE.

A one lay on the table

Had over earth unbounded rang

An ancient origin I claim,

E. R. CHADBOURN, Lewiston, Maine.

Their Brains Busy for Most of the Week

if They Solve Them Correctly-Home



HIS GIFT WAS A WONDERFILL VOICE

But of all the year the spring time was most pleasant to Louis. Then the birds would return and build their nests. And such chattering and chirping as they did!

All knew, but none feared the young shep-land the birds with a climb to all the birds and how his voice had charmed all palace, and how his voice had charmed all the birds are the birds and the birds are the birds. But of all the year the spring time was herd, who listened with delight to all the plans the little songsters were making, and who knew in what particular tree in the forest every nest was placed. Louis appointed himself protector of the birds, and ould not allow the larger ones to impose

mnon the smaller. One day Hans, a peighbor's son, while walking through the forest, discovered a robin redbreast's nest, and not caring for the sorrow he would cause the birds, took the little eggs and carried them away. But souls saw the cruel act and was so angry at the treatment of his little friends that he beat the boy with his fists and ordered him never again to come into his father's fields.

Louis' invorite resting place was on some great moss-covered rocks on the edge of the rest. From this place there was a wide view of the surrounding country, and here fell the last rays of the setting sun as it sank behind the hills. It was said that under these rocks the Dwarfs had their home, and the village people told many stories about them, how they always befriended those who treated them well, and punished those who made sport of them. One old woman said that when she was a young girl that the Dwar's often were seen walking on the hill, and sometimes had even came into the village. But Louis had spent so much time near the rocks, and had never yet seen the Dwar's, so he paid little heed to the stories thinking that they were invented only to

please the children. One evening, as the young shepherd was about to lead his sheep to the fold, he paused a few moments on the rocks and played soft and low on his flute. When he finished he was astonished to hear a silvery tinkle as if some one were playing on a harp. He listened and then heard a sweet voice singing. Between each verse an interlude was played, and Louis never moved until the song had ended. Then he crept to the edge of the rock, and peeping over he saw clow him on the soft moss the Dwarts of which he had heard so much. Some were leaning against the rock, while others lay their full length on the ground; but all eyes were turned upon the musician, who

was just putting away his tiny harp.
"Please, little men, sing again," cried "Please, little men, sing again," cried Louis, "I shall be very quiet and not dis-The Dwarfs smiled kindly at the boy, and then in answer to his request their voices rang out in chorus, sweet and clear, in the

evening air. Searcely waiting for the last words of the song, the luttle men clambered ever the rock, and dancing about the shep-herd boy, said: "Louis, Louis, we are going to make you a present. Guess what it "A bag of gold," replied the boy, think-

ing of the treasure caves under the rocks. "No no." shouted the Dwarfs, clapping their hands, "something better than that." And then the little fellows disappeared, leaving the boy to wonder at their words. That night, when Louis related to his father of his meeting with the Dwarfs, and sang the songs that he had heard them sing, he then knew that the Dwarts' gift to him was a wonderfully sweet voice. Everyone in the village wanted to hear Louis sing, and even the Count came in his royal coach and when he heard the boy's wenderful voice he was delighted and said: "The king

Then he took Louis away with him. When Hans, who had robbed the bird's nest, heard of Louis' good fortune, he thought: "I shall go to the rocks, and perhaps the Dwarfs will

For a long time Hans went every evening to the hillside, and at last was rewarded by hearing the sound of the little harp, and gained a glimpse of the Dwarfs. Without waiting for the music to cease, the rude boy reached over the rock and taking in his hand one of the little men, he cried: "Now I have you, and shall not let you go untily you promise to give me some eith but! you promise to give me some gift; but I want gold and jewels, such as you have stored away in your dark caves."

The Dwarf was very angry, and complied: "I shall not release you until you

Although the Dwarfs were so much smaller than their tormentor, they were not 5. A Roman magistrate. 6. Coverings for the

1420—Dogs incisors make indentations on book covers. [Dogs in scissors make in dentation s on book covers.]
1421—Housekeeping.
1422—Resource, recourse.
1422—I. Disc-our-age. 2 Rep-rob-ate. 3 Sup-tera-bun-dance. 4 Inn-ox-ious. 5 Pyre-thrum.
6. Ass-ass-ins. 7. Con-side-ration.
1424—Load-star.
1425—A book.
1426—H Y D R A
E T H I C H Y D R A E T H I C A P I S H K A N G E T A C K S 1427-Chaud-medley 1428-Caper, cape, cap. 1429-A river.

AN UNLUCKY GIFT.

There Is No Room for the Joker in Any Trade or Profession. New York Sun.]

"Do you really think to injures a man to

sion," said the heavy lawyer. "It would keep him out of our establishment," said the head of a shipping firm. "It would moss-covered rocks, he waited in vain for his prevent him from getting any church," said the preacher. "It would destroy all faith in his practical ability," said the drygoods in his practical ability," said the drygoods merchant. "It would not secure his appointment by the Board of Education as a teacher," said the makes of his teeth. Here is the explanament pedagogue. "It would never do in pedagogue. "It would never do in sharp teeth in the front of each jaw. It has said the manager of a main his practical ability," said the drygoods come dull by this coostant use? The finest merchant, "It would not secure his steel or the hardest flint would dull and pedagogue. "It would never our line," said the manager of a machine shop. "We could not give him any chine shop. "we could not give him any chine shop." said the banker. chief engineer. "It would not cause him to be trusted by big operators," said a Wall street broker. "It would destroy his prac-tice among patients," said the doctor. "We would be suspicious of his contracts." said the contractor. "He would not be likely to get promoted," said the policeman. "Not if he was a real genuine original fresh joker,"

> would ruin him for our service," said the undertaker. "So everybody is against us," groaned the

said the joke editor of a jocular weekly. "He could not wear my uniform," said the

SQUELCHING AN IDEA.

An Officer Illustrates a Valuable Truth With His Fist.

There were three or four young men mak-

ing considerable noise in a Russell street saloon the other day when a policeman who was off duty and in plain clothes entered the place. He heard them boasting of "doing un" this one and that one, and of being

"Who the deuce are you?" demanded the

"Well, a policeman and a philosopher. I heard you talk of clearing out the force. You would only get badly hurt if you attacked an officer. You are no fighter. You think you have sand, but you haven't. If you ever pitch into a man of your size it will be had for you."

that in the following year 11 imaginary days should be sort of sandwiched in between September 2 and September 14. will be bad for you."
"Don't you give me no chin," shouted the

man, as he jumped up.
"I am only telling you the truth. If you will step out into the yard with me I'll illustrate my meaning."

The other was willing enough, and out hey went, and he sailed into the officer. In two minutes he was a licked man, and so he said: "You see the idea? You are simply a fighter with your chin. You didn't know it before, and you might have been pounded

to death by some good man. As it is, I haven't hurt you much. Let this be a warning to you, and hereafter you keep quiet. Victoria's Blind Musician. A blind man who plays sacred music upon an accordion is just now perambulating the streets of Windsor. His affliction attracted some time ago the attention of the Queen, who, while taking a drive, saw him in the street, and compassionately gave him

"Blind from inflammation. Assisted Her Majesty the Queen." SHILOR'S CURE will immediately relieve croup, whooping cough and bronchitis. Sold by Jos. Fleming & Son. 412 Market st.

a donation. With an eve to business the

Overcoat and trouser material, of the best quality at Anderson's, 700 Smithfield street. Cutting and fitting the very best. Su FURNITURE packed, hauled and stored.

HAUGH & KEENAN, 33 Water street.

A SQUIRREL'S HOARD.

How the Boys Can Find Nuts in the Woods in Midwinter Time.

FAMILIES THAT ARE MODELS. Washington's Birthday as Recorded in the Old Family Bible.

EXPLANATION OF NEW STYLE DATES

IWRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.1

If a city boy were visiting his country cousin in midwinter, and the latter should say, "Let's go to the woods and get some nuts," the city youth would probably suspect an attempt to perpetrate a rural joke. But country boys are apt to know some things that city boys never dream of. Now if the two boys should tramp through the snow to the woods, say in a woodland district of Pennsylvania, the country boy would be on the lookout for an old oak or bickory tree. He might travel a consider-

able distance in the woods before finding one that would exactly suit his fancy. At last, however, he would stop at the root of a big tree, and walk around it. He would probably find a hole at the root on one side, caused by decay, and partly filled with rotten particles that had fallen from the inside. The boy would get down on his knees and begin to scoop out this stuff. If he were lucky he would soon astonish his city cousin by pulling out a handful of the rotted wood in which there would appear a number of big plump chestnuts. And, going farther, he might find a peck of chestnuts, hickory nuts, walnuts, or butternuts and there would not be either a wormeaten or a "deaf" one in the whole col-

lection. The nuts were hidden there by a pair of squirrels the preceding autumn, and a squirrel is such a perfect judge of nuts that a bad one never passes his inspection. Give a tame squirrel a walnut, for instance. The nut to you seems to be perfect. The squirrel may quickly drop it and say to you, in squirrel language, "Please give me a good one." Then break the discarded nut and you will learn what the squirrel knew at

once, that it was worthless. How Squirrels Spend Winter. Squirrels do not hibernate in winter. In the early days of our country they used to migrate to the South in autumn and come back in the spring. They would travel in vast armies, sometimes swimming wide rivers in their journeys, although they are not very good swimmers. But farms relatively, dense population and the omnipotent shotguns now oblige the few squirrels that are left to house up at home in winter. Hence they must lay in their winter supplies in autumn, and this they do by hoarding nuts in trunks of old trees. Sometimes a pair of squirrels, either mindful of the mischievous boy, or with some knowledge of the business maxim that "it's bad policy to put all your eggs in one basket," will divide their hoard among three or four trees. This winter provision the pair make not only for themselves, but

for their little ones as well. The squirrel is a model of marital and paternal affection. When a young pair mate nothing but death or enforced separation can part them. The squirrel husband never abandons his wife as a result of infatuation elsewhere, nor does the wife ever leave a note for her husband telling that she has "gone with a handsomer squirrel." The little squirrels are born late in the autumn, but they stay with the old folks till the following spring. By that time they are nearly full grown and are competent to take care of

ones. Keeping the Teeth Sharp.

Nearly everybody has seen the squirrel in the act of boring into a nut, but did you ever stop to think why his teeth don't beresponsible position," said the banker. space between the incisors and the molars, "We would not trust him here," said the thus giving free action to the cutters. The incisors, which are always growing as fast as they wear off, have a strange formation which keeps them always as sharp as knives. The enamel on the outside of the teeth is much harder than the ivory part and hence, as the teeth wear, the enam ways projects a little beyond the body of the tooth. This provision of nature makes it. unnecessary for the squirrel to use either a file or a grindstone in order to keep his cutnavy commander on his quarter deck. "It ting instruments in good order. would ruin him for our service," said the It seems cruel, of course, for boys to rob

squirrels of the food they have hoarded, but it is thoughtlessness rather than conscious joker, after hearing these opinions, "and yet I can get up a dime joke that would make some of them sick."

and yet cruelty that impels the average boy. And then again the farmer is not inclined to some of them sick." then again the farmer is not inclined to lavish much sympathy on the squirrel. When the little animals are numerous they make havoc in the farmer's cornfield. In Pennsylvania the squirrels used to be so destructive that rewards were offered by law for their heads, and in 1749 the State paid for the killing of 640,000 of them.

Eleven Days That Didn't Exist. To-day is the 22d of February, the anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

But how do we reconcile this date with the following record, copied from the Washington tamily Bible, still in possession of the family in Virginia? tough and full of sand, and selecting the most boastful of the lot he said:

"Young man, you have a wrong idea of things, and one which will lead you into trouble."

"Who the dance are you?" demanded the

The seeming discrepancy arises from the fact that the system of yearly time-keeping was officially changed in our country when Washington was a young man of 20 years. The British Parliament, in 1751, enacted Therefore, Washington went to sleep on the night of September 2, 1752, and woke the next morning to find the date-not September 3, but September 14.

In any library you can find an account of the change of what is called "old style" to "new style" in the earth's timekeeping, but it is difficult to find such an account that is clear and easily comprehended. If the earth would kindly make its trip around the sun in exactly 365 days, then there would be no trouble about this timekeeping, and he should have no need for "leap years" to help in keeping the account atraight. Of course, we can't reasonably blame the earth, for our grand little planet has to travel a good deal more than 1,000,000 miles a day in its long journey around the sun, nor we cannot consistently grumble about a few seconds, more or less, at the fluish. The exact time that it takes the earth to make a circuit around the sun is 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 49.62 seconds. If the time were just 365 days and 6 hours then the leap years would make the average just right, for the even ambulatory musician now bears upon his six hours in one year would ot course make breast a placard with the inscription, just one day in four years. The whole diffijust one day in four years. The whole diffi-culty springs, therefore, from the 11 seconds

and a fraction which are needed to make the even 36514 days in a year. The Julian and Gregorian Calendars. This whim of the earth for running into small fractions of time no doubt troubled the ancients, far back of the time of the Roman Empire. Anyway, we know that it bothered the wise men in the days of Julius Casar, and that the astron then warried over the matter until they adopted the Julian calendar, which was at the time believed to "fill the long-felt want." But it didn't. When Europe be-

gan to wake up from the long night that followed the downfall of the Roman Em-pire, it was found that the earthly timekeeping was very faulty. In the days of Pope Gregory XIII it was discovered that the equinoxes were getting out of place. While the Julian calendar made the March equinox fall on the 25th, the real time, in 1582, was found to be the 11th of March. All this came from the failure of Julius Cæsar's astronomers to get those odd seconds exactly right. So Gregory's astronomers tackled the problem, and the result

was the Gregorian calendar, which we use

at this day.

In order to get things right to start with, the change of 11 days was made, as noted herein regarding Washington's Birthday. The new calendar went into effect very soon in Catholic countries, but England did not adopt it until the era of Washington, and Russia still clings to the old style. The Russia still clings to the old style. The present calendar has a sort of leap year addendum, which brings the troublesome seconds within the closest possible bounds. It provides that certain leap years shall be "skipped"—February having only 28 days at a regular leap year period. This applies only to even hundred years, and to only part of them. This is the plan: Only years of the even hundred that, will divide by our

of the even hundred that will divide by four without a remainder, after first having cancelled the two naughts, shall be leap years. Thus 1600 was a leap year, but 1700 and 1800 were not leap years, nor will 1900 be a leap year. You will have to wait eight years for a leap year, between 1896 and 1904. J. H. WEBB.

COMPETENT TO TESTIFY.

Conception of the Punishment for Wrong Doing Entertained by a Boy.

Pall Mall Budget, 1 A good story is told by Mr. Montaigu Williams in his book concerning an argument that took place as to whether or not a certain boy of very tender years was old enough to be sworn as a witness. At the suggestion of one of the counsel engaged in the case he was interrogated by the Judge, when the following colloquy took place: "Now, my little man," said the Judge "do you know what will become of you if you tell an untruth?"

"Hell fire," said the boy, without moving.
"Well, and what will become of you," continued his lordship, "if you play truant and de not go to school?"
"Hell fire," said the boy.

"What if you don't like your brothers and "Hell fire," again said the boy.
"What if you stay out late when your mother sends you on an errand?"
"Hell fire."

"Hell fire." His lordship ran through a long list of faults, some of them of a very slight description; but the penalty was always the same-'Hell fire.' At the end of this examination the learned

"What if you spill the milk?"

counsel said: "My lord, I hardly think this little boy sufficiently intelligent or instructed for his evidence to be admissible."

"Indeed!" exclaimed the Judge. "Well, now, I entirely differ from you. He seems a very good little boy, and if he grows up in his present belief, and thinks the direst punishment will be visited upon him for every fault he may commit, he will probably make a much better man than you or I." The boy was sworn.

WATTERSON AND HILL

A Contrast Between the Two Men Suggested by Recent Events. Joe Howard in New York Press. 1

There is no more unique personality in our country than Henry Watterson. Watterson's start was humble. He was a piano player of some merit. He is the editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal. His face is familiar not alone to the readers of the themselves. The squirrel nest is itself an evidence of the love of the old ones for their tend the great national conventious, as well be known as a joker?"

"It would bring him to failure in this line of business," said the wholesale importer. "It would ruin him in our profession" said the heavy lawyer "It would to be softest materials the happy pair cau find, and the female will even pluck bits of her own fur with which to give the finishing touches to the dainty home for her little degree of independence of though makes

him plways an interesting speaker. Some years ago when Governo: Hill was a guest in Ned Stokes' Fenwick Hall in Connecticu . Henry Watterson was there also, as were a number of men prominent in affairs, all of whom went through the Sonni in Stokes' yacht. The contrast between Hill and Watterson was marked. Hill did everything with mathematical precision. It was evident that every movement was studied every expression prethought. Watterson, on the other hand, was rugged, enthusiastic, earnest and outspoken, saying what he meant and not caring much whether school kept or not.

INITIATING THE GERMANS.

The Experiment of the English System of Cheap Coffee Houses in Berlin. Pall Mall Budget, ] It was in order to see whether the English

system of cheap coffee houses on a large scale would be successful in Germany that some establishments under the name of "people's coffee and dining halls" were opened at Berlin just two years ago. At the end of the first year the directors of the company, all the profits of which, beyond a moderate interest to the shareholders, go to swell the comforts of the halls, were able to register a decided success, and the returns f the second year are still more favorable. From the statistics of the latest report it appears that such of the Berliners as avail themselves of the halls have not yet learned to appreciate our national cup that cheers, but not inebriates. They adhere stolidly to their own "cup of comfort," as the German women of the working classes call the women of the working classes call the beverage which is sometimes coffee by courtesy only. Two hundred and eleven cups of tea were sold during 1890 at the coffee halls (price ½d) as against 306,547 cups of coffee, 38,869 glasses of milk, 101,-163 of beer, at one of the company's halls;

COFFEE KILLS GERMS. The Bacilli of Typhoid Fever, Cholera, Etc.

Succumb to Its Power.

and 62,000 eigars and 26,000 eigarettes con

tributed their incense to the mixed atmos

Illustrated News of the World. ? Coffee has disinfectant properties. Only recently a certain Dr. Luderitz has studied in detail the germ-killing action of coffee infusion. Using by no means strong infusions, he showed that a certain harmless micrococcus germ dies in a 10 per cent coffee solution in from three to five days. The bacillus of typhoid fever perished in from one to three days under coffee influence. and the cholera bacillus in from three to four hours. The germ of anthrax or splenic fever died in from two to three hours; but the spores of young forms of the latter germ perished in from two to four

weeks only.

These latter results speak well for the power of coffee as a germieide, for anthrax power of cones as a germicide, for anthrax germs and spores are by no means easy to cotch or kill. Possibly after these revelations coffee, administered internally, may be utilized as a remedy for germsproduced diseases. As it is, its virtues as a reviver and "pick-me-up" have long been appreciated outside the medical world.

Tolstol on Tobacco.

On the subject of tobacco, it is interesting to note that Count Tolstol ascribes the smoking of it, as well as the drinking of wine, 'simply and solely to the desire to drown the warning voice of conscience." The smoker, it seems, tends to become a "stolid, quiescent and stagnant" being, both "intel-lectually and morally." What a curious description of Thomas Carlyle, to take one obvious instance !

BACK TO PAGAN DAYS.

The Cornish Fancy Flies and Brings Its Folk-Lore and Legends.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE.

The Remances of Taking Sunday and the Mazard Fair at Praze.

ROUGH USAGES FOR SHREWISH WIVES

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.) BODMIN, CORNWALL, Feb. 9 .- Everywhere behind the coasts of Cornwall are footsteps of the giants; relies of pagan life, remains of Cyclopean builders in huge monolith, cromlech and caire, a noble field for the student of antiquity, while the student of men will find inhabiting this region a race of sturdy folk, old as the Phonicians, almost as isolate as those of Connaught, proud of their Arthurian blood, strong in noble toil, grudging of innovation, loyal in life and friendships, and holding with brave tenacity to the folk-lore and all legends, forgivable superstitions and customs which link their workaday lives to the dimmest pagan days into which a loyal and loving Cornish fancy may soar.

They are fisher folk, the bravest and most daring known to the sea-swept shores of the British Isles. They are miners, the sturdiest and most manly in all the world that bring riches from the earth's depths. They are peasant farmers, who have wrong from British landlordism, through tremendou independence, something like shining home and ample comfort. They are all Cornish-men, whose united roar, as in the old ballad,

And will they scorn Tre, Pol and Pan, And shall Trelawney die? Then twenty thousand Cornish men Will know the reason why—

have more than once modified the purposes of English Parliaments and changed the policies of English Kings. Prideful Proof of Their Antiquity.

Their superstitions are innumerable and outlandish; though, so far as I can judge, they in no wise lessen or abate Cornish re-ligious zeal and loyalty. They neither hinder nor detract from devout lives. But, as nearly as I can define them, they are a transfused and not unwelcome heredity of paganistic myths to which a simple and far from intellectual people cling as a prideful proof of their own extreme antiquity.

Out of this half-fairy, half black art mythology of Cornwall have come numberless curious Cornish customs, which all the telegraphs, all the railways, all the newspapers, and indeed all the vigorous Wes-leyan Methodism, of England, have so far been unable to "lay" or dispel, or even modify in any marked degree. Miners will pound a church bench to splinters from their glorious fervor at "prayer meeting," and in an hour thereafter go on tipto to their all-night's labor in the "shift," from 3,000 to 5,000 feet "below grass," zance or ancient St. Ives, will experience and exhibit equal spiritual and physical elation at prayer or class meeting, and, at the turn of the tide the same night, as they brave death along a lee shore in the howl-ing Atlantic, calmly throw a companion overboard, who might, by even whistling a bar of "How Vain is All Beneath the Skies!" tempt the malevolent attentions of every bucha-boo and fury of the sea.

The Peasant's Pagan Sacrifice. So, too, the peasant farmers will hasten so, too, the peasant farmers will nasten back from church service to engage in the pagan sacrifice by fire of a bull calf, that their berds may be relieved from "fairy strokes" and the various and vagarous powers of witches. While villagers of all faiths and works will walk pine times loved parson, to guard against the possi-bility of ill luck.

These superstitions are but a hint of the thousands that exist among Cornish people. most general method being to employ boys to sand their doorsteps. The American custom of "watching the old year out and the Cornish folk in "watching" all night for the arrival of May Day. Immediately after midnight it is ushered in with a great marital destinies of all Cornwall marital destinies of all Cornwall musical instruments. One of the most rigidly preserved of Cornish customs is that the mother of a newly-christened child must bestow a gift, of proportionate value to her means and position, upon the first person she may meet upon the road after the cere-

mony of christening. The Small Boy's Tribute. At St. Ives and other Western towns of Cornwall processions of uproarious boys on Shrove Tuesday march through the streets banging at doors with stones tied to strong cords, the meantime demanding.

Give me a pancake, now-now-now.
Or I'll souse in your door with a row-tow-tow Pancakes or ha'pennies are invariably bestowed. Apple trees are "blessed" by some on July 25, St. James' Day, and by others at Christmas time. A paniul of cider con-taining broken rousted apples is carried into the orchard. Each member of the fan ily then takes a cup of the cider, drinks a portion, and casting the remainder upon the tree amid the shouts of companions, "gives health" to the tree with.

Health to the good apple tree! Well to bear, pocketfuls, hatfuls, Peckfuls, bushel bagfuls!

This nature-worship, which has so prominent a part in the customs of ancient Europe, is in many other ways kept permanently alive in Cornwall. The general Mayday festivities do not materially differ from those in other parts of England. But the older fires of Baal still burn brightly along the entire Cornish coast, on the eve of June 24. These midsummer tire festals, though corrupted by long usage, are undoubtedly of Druidic origin, and bear every evidence o remaining a lasting relic of the pagan Irish Beaiting, of whose extraordinary celebra-tions at Taillten (now Telltown) near Tars, efore the introduction of Christianity is Erin, there are preserved the most exact and fascinating records. All of the idolatrous features of these orgies, such as the fire or deal for the cure of disease, and leaping through head high flames to preserve from evil during the succeeding year, have been eliminated; but not so long ago that those yet living have forgotten ther Superstitions in the Flame.

The scenes now witnessed at Penzance and other West Cornwalls towns, are chiefly interesting from a certain awe which the huge bonfires always compel among the peasantry and the exultant torch dancing, occasionally and the exultant torch dancing, occasionally almost reaching a species of frenzy, which may always be observed. Analagous to this, and singularly indicative of the preservation of medieval rites, are the Petertide fires, which always flame from the circling shores of Mount's Bay, above Marazion and Penzance, and are challenged by responsive flames wreathing the castellated head of somber St. Michael's Mount.

Of the more modern and wholly quaint and innocent customs of Cornwall a few pleasant illustrations may be cited. The fish-wives of ancient St. Ives are an incorrigible lot. Should you visit the town at the height of pilenard fishing, and enter the dark cellars where hundreds of women and girls are engaged in "bulking," or salting the fish, scores of grinning Amazons will

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oil which has drained from the piles of curing fish. This is called "wiping the shoe," and if you do not respond with tribute of at least a half-crown for luck of the "fair maids that feed and clothe the poor," that is, the pilchard fishes, your sub-sequent "hustling" by these savory wenches will certainly cost you a new suit of clothing. The same custom, save that the daub-ing is done with "miners clay," prevails within the mines, where the stranger is expected to pay something for his initiation into their weird mysteries.

Fate of Shrewish Wives. Cornwall is not blessed in being an exception to other regions in the matter of shrewish wives; and Cornish shrews are the jost eloquent of all women in their profusion and exuberance of bitter household curses and spite al nicknames. In many parts of Cornwall, where the "woman that owns" Jack or Jan has become sufficiently notorious as a scold, the neighbors organize what they call a "stang courant," proceed to the house of the termagent and scatter wheat chaff upon her door sill. This hint usually suffices; but if it prove insufficient to bridle her tongue, then "riding the stang" is resorted to. This consists of constructing an effigy of the scold, mounting it on a deal board or pole, and exhibiting it in front of the woman's cottage to the lugubrious accompaniment of bells and horns.

The delightful custom of "harvest-home" suppers, which unfortunately is dying out among American farmers, is universa! in Cornwall. There is also a custom of very ancient origin of celebrating the finishing of work in any particular harvest field, especially in completing the labor of "stooking," or "shocking," the sheaves of grain into "arrismows." The custom is called "crying the neck," and consists in elevating a small sheaf of the best heads of grain three times in the air, among the barvesters, who thereipon cry at the top of their voices, "The neck!" finally changing this shout to "We yen! we yen!"-meaning "we end" the harvesting of this field. This is followed by good deal of boisterous though harmless ollity, to which the lips of maidens pay tribute in proportion to their lack of physi-

cal prowess. The Furry-Day of Helston.

Two other curious and interesting cus-toms should not be omitted. These are the annual "Furry-day" of Helston and "Tak-ing Sunday," with its attendant peculiar-ities, at Clowance Park, in Clowan parish. The origin of the Cornish Furry-day is unquestionably found in the "Floralia" anciently observed by the Romans on the fourth of the calends of May. It is annually celebrated throughout Cornwall by little home and neighborhood parties, and at Helston, from time immemorial, as a faction of the calendary festivity peculiar to that place, on the 8th day of May. Long before daylight happy groups of lads and lasses start in every direction for the country lanes and hedges singing,

For we were up as soon as any day, O,
And for to fetch the summer home,
The summer and the May, O,
For summer is a-come, O,
And winter is a-gone, O!

or a dozen other ballads of similar import, the refram of which is,

On the eighth of May, The Flora-day, We all set off a-dancing! And indeed do they. At every farm house

there are mad rushes of these merry-makers fearing to give affront by honest noise from their hob-nailed boots to the "buccas," or "knockers," those elves of the mines whom they sacredly believe control their good or all luck at all mine labor. Fisherman of Whitesand, Marazion, Penwith all precious budsand blooms of spring. with all precious buds and blooms of spring. Garlanded with these, the floral troopers re-turn to Helston, when the festivities of the day really begin. The old town is fairly embedded in spring blossoms and garlands. This completed, all classes join in a universal carnival of daucing.

Hunting a Life Partner.

"Taking Sunday" in Clowan parish is Praging Sunday in Clowan parisn is not only the precursor of Mazard Fair at Prage, but also of numberless life-long joys and pathetic miseries. In Clowance Park, on the noted St. Aubyn's estate, is a magnificent mall, bordered with some of the noblest beech trees in all England. On the afternoon of the Sunday two weeks before Mazard Fair—which derives its name from mazard-cherry fair annually held at Praze in the latter part of June, when tons of this around a churchyard at midnight to have luseious fruit are disposed of by the farmers certainty of every-day avoidance of the devil, and will, on all occasions, lift their hats sooner to a dreaded magpie than a bepromenading in Clowance Park mail. They sometimes come from a distance of 10 and 20

Cornish young men resort here to choose thousands that exist among Cormsn people.

From time immemorial, "a man must take the new year in" to all habitations; that is, the new year in" to all habitations; that is, pledged for Mazard be "taken." that is, pledged for Mazard Fair day. Many an exultant or broken fair day. good luck will only come to woman where a man or boy has first entered the house on New Year's Day, and all Cornish women will so manage matters; the simplest and most general method being to employ boys most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come, the Cornish lad walks miles for the most general method being to employ boys come to woman where a man or boy has first entered the house on heart returns home that night, successful in its secretly-cherished hope, or stinging from both the most general method being to employ boys come the complex to the most general method being to employ boys come the complex to the most general method being to employ boys come the complex to the most general method being to employ boys come the most general method being to employ boys come to man and the most general method being to employ boys come to man and the most general method being to employ boys come to man and the most general method being to employ boys come to man and the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ boys come to make the most general method being to employ be most general method being to girl he has chosen on "Taking Sunday" and together they tramp away to Praze. The New Year in," has almost a prototype among experiences of these thousands of young Cornish folk in "watching" all night for folk are in the main the same as at uproar of songs, general hilarity, and an especial profusion of all manner of shrill thing to the Cornish maiden to be chosen or "taken" at Clowance Park, but her whole fate hangs upon a parcel of cookies and almonds at Praze. These constitute the "ierin," or pledge of betrothal, and it is as-serted that half of the women of Corwall have been married through this curious troth. If the maiden's "pairdner" buy her one pound of ginger cookies and a half pound of almonds and she accept the same. the two are as sacredly betrothed as though bans had been read from the pulpit, EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

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