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Selected Poetry.

THE HOMES OF THE POOR.

BY MARTIN F. TUPPER.

The halls of the rich have been famous in song,
Ever since flattery fawned upon wealth;
Feigning, to palaces only belong
Honor and virtue, contentment and health;
But the glad tidings from heaven to earth
Tell of true wealth in Humility's store;
Jewels of purity, patience and worth,
Blest above gold in the homes of the poor.

Yes, the well favor'd in fortune and rank
Wisely will covet such riches untold,
While the good giver they heartily thank
For the talents of honor and gold;
Wisely such jewels of price will they seek,
Cherishing good as the real Koh-i-noor,
And from the diligent, modest and meek,
Learn to be rich in the home of the poor.

Yet are those homes overclouded with night,
Poverty's sisters are Care and Disease;
And the hard wrestler in life's uphill fight
Faints in the battle, and dies by degrees!
Then let his neighbor stand forth in his strength,
Like the Samaritan, swift to procure
Comfort and balm for his struggles at length,
Pouring in peace on the homes of the poor.

Cleanliness, healthiness, water and light,
Rent within reason, and temperate rules,
Work and fair wages, (Humanity's right.)
Libraries, hospitals, churches and schools—
Thus let us help the good brother in need,
Dropping a treasure at Industry's door,
Glad by God's favor to lighten indeed
The burdens of life in the homes of the poor.

Oh! there is much to be done, and that soon;
Classes are standing asunder, aloof;
Hasten, Benevolence, with the free boon,
Falling as sunshine on Misery's roof!
Hasten good stewards of a bountiful Lord,
Greatly to imitate him ever more,
Binding together, in blessed accord,
The halls of the rich with the homes of the poor.

N. YORK GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Access to an Open Polar Sea Along a North American Meridian.

A PAPER BY DR. E. K. KANE, LIEUT. U. S. N.

From the New York Daily Times.

The usual Monthly Meeting of the New York Geographical and Statistical Society, on Tuesday Evening, 14th inst., was held in the Chapel of the University, for the purpose of accommodating a numerous and most respectable attendance of our citizens, who were attracted to hear Dr. KANE read a paper on the above interesting subject. At 7½ o'clock, the Doctor, accompanied by Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT and Rev. Dr. HAWKS entered.

Hon. Mr BANCROFT presided, by request of the Society, and with a few remarks on the objects of this second expedition fitted out by the liberality of their philanthropic, Vice-President HENRY GRINNELL, introduced Dr. KANE. After the applause which greeted him ceased, the learned Doctor introduced the subject of his discourse, by observing that the North Pole was regarded, even by Geographers, with that mysterious awe which enveloped the inaccessible and unknown. He then proceeded to explain the position of the North Pole, as shut out from us by a zone of ice, which formed a permanent barrier. He traced the efforts of early and recent navigators to make a passage through, illustrating their course from accurate maps and charts. He called attention to a remarkable feature in the ice coast line—a marked indentation as high as lat. 80°, and 70° East long., known as the old "Fishing Bight." After following the immense investing body throughout its entire circuit, the Doctor proceeded to show the strong presumption in favor of the existence of a North Polar Sea, or Polynya, (a Russian term, implying an open space.) He then said, with the sources of supply, it was evident that this surcharged basin must have an outlet, and pointed out three—Behring's Straits, the Estuaries of Hudson and Baffin's Bays, and the Greenland Sea. He showed the Southward flow of ice and water, which, in the Spitzbergen Straits, flowed very strong, and carried the vessels attempting to stem it, back. All the facts went to prove that the Polar Basin was not only the seat of an active supply and discharge, but of an intestine circulation, independent of either; while the inter-communication of whales between the Atlantic and Pacific, shown by MAURY, proved directly that the two oceans were united.

The Doctor proceeded to adduce experiments of the temperature of water, and other facts in support of the theory of a Polar open sea.

But, if any point between 75° and 80°—a range sufficiently wide to exclude all the theories—be regarded as the seat of the greatest intensity of cold, we may perhaps infer the state of the polar sea from the known temperatures of other regions equally distant with it from this supposed centre; though, as the lines of latitude do not correspond with those of temperature, this must be done with caution.

I have been engaged for some time in tracing out this class of deductions, and I find that they point to some interesting conclusions as to the fluidity of the region about the Pole, and its attendant mildness of the weather.

Thus, for instance, at Cherle Island, surrounded by moving waters, but situated in as high a latitude as Melville Island, the sea of the greatest observed mean annual cold, the temperature was found so mild throughout the entire Arctic Winter, that rain fell there upon Christmas day.

2. BARENTZ, a most honest and reliable authority, speaks of the increasing warmth as he left the land to the North of 77°. The whalers North of Spitzbergen confirm the saying of the Early Dutch, that the "Fisherman's Bight" is as pleasant as the sea of Amsterdam.

3. Fge.leminde and Rittenback, two little Danish and Esquimaux settlements, on the West coast of Greenland, in latitude 70°, with a climate influenced by adjacent land masses, but, nevertheless, not completely ice-bound, have a mean annual temperature of —, and are in the iso thermal curve (Summer curve) of 50; giving us a vegetation of coarse grasses and a few cruciferæ.

4. In West Lapland, as high as 70°, barley has been, and I believe is still grown, though here is its highest Northern limit. If 80° be our centre of minimum cold, the Pole at 90° is at the same distance from it as this West Lapland limit of the growth of barley.

So, with a little more sun, a few weeks longer, they might grow grain against the North Pole!

But there are other arguments based upon known facts, facts popularly recognized, and direct in their inductive bearings, upon an open sea.

The migrations of animal life! At the utmost limits of Northern travel attained by man, hordes of animals of various kinds have been observed to be travelling still further.

The Arctic Zone, though not rich in species, is teeming with individual life. Among birds, the swimmers, drawing their subsistence from open water, are predominant; the great families of duck (Anatinæ auks (Alcenæ,) and procellarine birds (Procellarinæ,) throng the seas, and passages of the far North, and even incubate in regions of unknown Northernness.

The eider duck has been traced to breeding grounds as high as 78° in Baffins Bay; and in conjunction with the Brent goose, seen by us in Wellington Channel, the loon and little auk passes in great flights to the Northern waters beyond. The mammals of the sea, the huge cetacea in the three great families, Belenedæ, Delphinedæ, Phocidæ, represented by the whales; the Narwhal and Beluga; the tusky walrus, all pass in *schools*, towards the Northern waters. I have seen the white whale (Delphinapterus Beluga,) passing up Wellington Channel to the north, for nearly four successive days, and that too while all around us was a sea of broken ice.

So with the quadrupeds of this region. The equatorial range of the Polar Bear (U. Maritimus) is misconceived by our Geographical Zoologists. It is further to the North than we have yet reached; and the powerful beasts informs us of the character of the accompanying life upon which he preys.

The Ruminating animals, whose food must be a vegetation, obey the same impulse or instinct of far Northern travel. The Reindeer, (Cerous Tarandus,) although proved by my friend, Lieut. McCLINTOCK, to winter sometimes in the Parry group, outside of the zone of woods, comes down from the North in herds as startling as those described by the Siberian travelers, "a moving forest of antlers."

The whalers of North Baffin's Bay, as high as 75°, shoot them in numbers, and the Esquimaux of Whale Sound, 77°, are clothed with their furs.

The lecturer then mentioned that the polar drift ice came first from the North. The breaking up, the thaw of the ice plain did not commence in our so called warmer South, but in regions to the North of those yet attained. In addition to this we had the observations of actual travel.

To penetrate the icy annulus and make the "North-West passage" had been favored dreams since the early days of ocean navigation; yet up to this moment, complete failure had at ended every attempt. But the question of access to the Arctic Pole, the penetration to this open sea, is now brought against us, not as in the days of HUDSON, and SCORESBY, and PARRY, a curious problem for scientific inquiry, but as an object claiming philanthropic effort and appealing thus to the sympathies of the whole civilized world,—the rescue of Sir JOHN FRANKLIN and his followers.

The recent discoveries by the united squadrons of DEHAVEN and PENNY, of FRANKLIN's first winter quarters at the mouth of Wellington Channel, aided by the complete proofs since obtained that he did not proceed to the East or West, render it beyond conjecture certain, that he passed up Wellington Channel to the North.

Here we have lost him, and save the lonely records upon the tomb stones of his dead, for seven years he has been lost to the world. To assign his exact position is impossible; we only know that he has traveled up this land-locked channel, seeking the objects of his enterprise to the North and West. That he or some of his party are yet in existence, this is not the place to argue. Let the question rest upon the opinions of those, who have visited this region, are at least better qualified to judge of its resources, than those who have formed their opinions by the fireside.

After speaking of the unsuccessful journeys of PENNY, GOODIER, MASON and SUTHERLAND, and giving some reason for entertaining but faint hopes of success from the present expedition under Sir E. BELCHER, Dr. KANE said: It is to announce another plan of search I am now before you, and as the access to the open sea forms the characteristic features, I have given you the preceding physical characteristic of the region, in order to enable you to weigh properly its merits and demerits. It is in recognition of the important office which American Geographers can perform towards promoting its utility and success, that I have made the Society the first recipient of the details and outlines of my plan.

HENRY GRINNELL, the first President, and now a Vice-President of this Society, has done me the honor of placing at my disposition his vessel, the *Advance*, and the Secretary of the Navy has assigned me to "special duty" for the conduct of the Expedition.

My plan of search is based upon the probable extension of the land masses of Greenland to the far north—a view yet to be verified by travel, but sustained by the *analogies* of Physical Geography. Greenland, though looked upon by GIESEKE as a congeries of islands, cemented by interior glaciers is in fact a peninsula, and follows the general law which have been recognized since the days of FOSTER, as belonging to Peninsulas with a Southern bend. Its abrupt truncated termination at Scoresby Hook is as marked as that which is found at the Capes Good Hope and Horn of the two great Continents—the Comorin of Peninsular India Cape, south-east of Australia, or the Gibraltar of Southern Spain.

Analogies of general contour, which also liken it to Southern Peninsulas, are even more striking.—The island group, for instance, seen to the East of these Southern points, answering to the Falkland Islands, Madagascar, Ceylon, New Zealand, the Bahamas of Florida and the Balearics, off the coast of Spain are represented by Iceland, off the coast of Greenland. It has been observed that all great Peninsulas, too, have an excavation or bend inwards on their western side—a "concave inflection" towards the interior. Thus South America between Lima and Valdavia—Africa, in the Gulf of Guinea—India, in Cambaye, and Australia in the Bay of Nuges, are followed, in Greenland, by the great excavation of Disco. Analogies of the same sort offer when we consider those more important features of relief so popularly, yet so profoundly, treated by Professor GUYOT.

Believing then in such an extension of Greenland, and feeling that the search for Sir JOHN FRANKLIN is best promoted by a course which will lead directly to the open sea. Feeling, too, that the approximation of the meridians would make access to the west as easy from Northern Greenland as from Wellington Channel, and access to the east far more easy. Feeling too that the highest protruding headland will be most likely to afford some trace of the lost party, I am led to propose and attempt this line of search.

Greenland was lined by a couple of lateral ranges of mountains, resembling the Shawls of India. The culmination of these strongly indicate their extension to a region far to the north. The law of the gradual decline of meridianial chains is universal, and give presumptive evidence of his position.—Admitting such an extension of the land masses of Greenland to the north, we have the following inducements for exploration and research:

1. Terra firma as the basis of our operations, obviating the accidents characteristic of ice travel.

2. A due Northern line, which throwing aside the influences of terrestrial radiation would lead soonest to the open sea, should such exist.

3. The benefit of the fan like abutment of land, on the north face of Greenland, to check the ice in the course of its southern or equatorial drift; thus obviating the drawback of PARRY in his attempts to reach the Pole by the Spitzbergen sea.

4. Animal life to sustain travelling parties.

5 The co-operation of the Esquimaux settlements of Greenlanders, having been found as high as Whale Sound, and probably extending still further along the coast. The point I would endeavor to attain, would be the highest attainable point of Baffin's Bay, from, if possible, the sound known as Smith's Sound, advocated by Baron Wrangell, as the most eligible site for reaching the North Pole.

As a point of departure, this is two hundred and twenty miles to the north of Beechy Island—the starting point of Sir Edward Belcehr—and seventy north of the utmost limits seen or recorded in Wellington Channel.

The party should consist of some thirty men, with a couple of launches, sledges, dogs, and gutta-percha boats. The provisions will be Pemmican—a preparation of dried meat, packed in cases, impregnable to the appetite of the Polar bear.

We shall leave the United States in time to reach the Bay at the earliest season of navigation The brig furnished by Mr. Grinnell for this purpose, is admirably strengthened and fully equipped to meet the peculiar trials of the service. After reaching the settlement of Uppernavik, we take in a supply of Equimaux dogs, and a few picked men to take charge of the sledges.

We then enter the ice of Melville Bay, and if successful in its penetration, hasten to Smith's Sound, forcing our vessel to the utmost navigable point, and there securing her for the winter. The operations of search, however, are not to be suspended. Active exercise is the best saleguard against the scurvy; and, although the darkness of Winter will not be in our favor, I am convinced that with the exception, perhaps, solsticial period of maxium obscurity, we can push forward our provision depots by sledge and launch, and thus prepare for the final efforts of our search.

In this I am strengthened by the valuable opinion of my friend, Mr. Murdaugh, late the Sailing Master of the *Advance*. He has advocated this very Sound as a basis of land operations. And the recent journey of Wm. KENNEDY, commanding Lady Franklain's last Expedition, shows that the Fall and Winter should no longer be regarded as lost months.

The sledges which constitute so important a feature of our Expedition, and upon which not only our success but our safety will depend, are to be constructed with extreme care. Each sledge will carry the blanket, bags and furs of six men, together with a measured allowance of Pemmican. A light tent of Indian Rubber cloth of a new pattern, will be added, but for our nightly halt the main dependence will be snow houses of Esquimaux. It is almost incredible, in the face of what obstacles, to what extent a well organized sledge party can advance. The relative importance of every ounce of weight can be calculated, and the system of advanced depots of provisions organized admirably.

Alcohol or tallow is the only fuel, and the entire cooking apparatus which is more for thawing snow for tea-water than for heating food—can be carried in a little bag. Lieut McClintock, of Commander Austen's expedition, traveled thus 800 miles; the collective journeys of the expedition equalled several thousand, and Baron Wrangell made, by dogs, 1,533 miles in 74 days, and this over a fast frozen ocean.

But the greatest sledge journey upon record is that of my friend, Mr. Kennedy, who accomplished nearly 1,400 miles, most of it in mid winter, without returning upon his track to avail himself of deposited provisions. His only food—and we may here learn a practical lesson of the traveler to avoid unnecessary baggage—was Pemmican, and his only shelter the *Snow House*.

It is my intention to cover each sledge with a gutta percha boat—a contrivance which the experience of the English has shown to be perfectly profitable. Thus equipped, we follow the tread of the coast, seeking the *open water*.

Once there, if such a reward awaits us, we launch our little boats, and bidding God speed us, embark upon its waters. [Applause.]

In conclusion, Dr. KANE remarked that the resources of those whose philanthropy had fitted out the expedition, should be scrupulously appropriated to the single object of search. But it was not merely a voyage of rescue. It appealed to the highest interests of scientific inquiry—but to Physical Geography especially. He therefore asked them for such co-operation as was due to the character of their learned body, and the importance of the interests which it assumed to take under its charge.

Dr. KANE sat down amid continued applauses.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT MEN.—Tasso's conversation was neither gay nor brilliant.

Dante was either taciturn or satirical.

Butler was silent or biting.

Hogarth and Swift were very absent minded in company.

Milton was unsociable, and even irritable when pressed into conversation.

Kirwan, though copious and eloquent in public addresses, was meagre and dull in colloquial discourse.

Virgil was heavy in conversation.

Chaucer's silence was more agreeable than his conversation.

Dryden's conversation was slow and dull, his humor saturnine and reserved.

Descartet was silent in mixed company.

Corneille in conversation was so insipid that he never failed in wearying. He did not speak correctly that language of which he was such a master.

Ben Johnson used to sit silent in company and suck his wines and his humors.

Southey was stiff, sedate, and wrapped up in ascestism.

Addison was good company with his intimate friends, but in mixed company he preserved his dignity by a stiff and reserved silence.

Junius was so modest that he could scarcely speak upon the most common subject without a suffusion of blushes.

Fox in conversation never flagged; his animation and variety were inexhaustible.

Dr. Bently was loquacious.

Grotius was talkative.

Goldsmith wrote like an angel, and talked like poor Poll.

Burke was eminently entertaining, enthusiastic and entertaining in conversation.

Curran was a convivial deity: he soared into every region and was at home in all.

Dr. Birch dreaded a pen as he did a torpedo; but he could talk like running water.

Dr. Johnson wrote monotonously and ponderously, but in conversation his words were close and sinewy; and if his pistol missed fire, he knocked down his antagonist with the butt of it.

Coleridge, in conversation, was full of acuteness and originality.

Leigh Hunt has been well termed the philosopher of Hope, and likened to a pleasant stream in conversation.

Mr. Carlyle doubts, objects, and constantly demurs.

Fisher Ames was a powerful and effective orator, and not the less distinguished in the social circle. He possessed a fluent language, a vivid fancy and a well stored memory.

La Fontain appeared heavy, coarse and stupid; he could not speak and describe what he had just seen, but then he was certainly the model of poetry.

AN AFFECTIONATE SPIRIT.—We sometimes meet with men who seem to think that any indulgence in an affectionate feeling is weakness. They will return from a journey and greet their families with a distant dignity, and move among their children with the cold and lofty splendor of an Iceberg surrounded by its broken fragments. There is hardly a more unnatural sight on earth, than any one of those families without a heart. A father had better extinguish the boy's eyes than to take away his heart. Who that has experienced the joys of friendship, and knows the worth of sympathy and affection, would not rather lose all that is beautiful in nature's scenery than to be robbed of the hidden treasures of his heart? Who would not rather bury his wife than bury his love for her? Who would not rather follow his wife to the grave than to entomb his parental affection? Cherish then your heart's best affections. Indulge in the warm and gushing emotions of filial, parental and fraternal love. Think it not a weakness. God is love; love everybody, and everything that is lovely.—Teach your children to love; to love the rose, the robin; to love their parents and their God. Let it be the studied object of their domestic culture to give them warm hearts, ardent affections. Bind your whole family together by these strong cords You cannot make them too numerous. You cannot make them too strong. Religion is love—love to God—love to all men.

HOW TO KEEP POOR.—Buy two glasses of ale every day, at five cents each, amounting in one year to $36,00, smoke three cigars, one after each meal, counting up in the course of the year to $54 75; keep a big dog which will consume at least $15 worth of provisions, and a cat $5 more. Altogether this amounts to the snug little sum of $110 25—sufficient to buy six barrels of flour, one barrel of sugar, one sack of coffee, a good coat, a respectable dress, besides a frock for the baby, and a half dozen pair of shoes—more or less. Just think of it. *Star of the North.*

MODESTY.—A beautiful flower, that flourishes only in secret places.

Women and her Pet Luxury.

The SHAWL is the pet article of dress. From a time remote beyond computation, the sheep of Cashmere have been cherished on the hills, and the goats of Thibit on their plains, and the camels of Tartary on their steppes, to furnish materials for the choicest shawls. From time immemorial, the patterns which we know so well have been handed down as a half sacred tradition through a Hindoo ancestry, which puts even Welsh pedigrees to shame. For thousands of years have the bright dyes, which are the despair of our sciences and art been glittering in India looms, in those primitive pits under the palm tree where the whimsical patterns grow, like the wild flower springing from the soil. For thousands of years have eastern potentates made presents of shawls to distingcished strangers, together with diamonds and pearls.

At this day when an Eastern Prince sends gifts to European sovereigns, there are shawls to the value of thousands of pounds, together with jewels, perfumes, wild beasts and valuable horses, just as was done in the days of the Pharaohs, as the paintings on Egyptian tombs show us this day. And the subjects of sovereigns have as much liking for shawls as any queen. At the Russian court, the ladies judge one another by their shawls as by their diamonds. In France the bridgroom wins favor by a judicious gift of this kind. In Cairo and Damascus, the gift of a shawl will cause almost as much heart burning in harem as the introduction of a new wife. In England, the daugliter of the house spends the whole of her first quarter's allowance in the purchase of a shawl. The Paris grisette and the London dressmaker go to their work with a little shawl pinned neatly at the waist. The old gin drinker covers her rags with the remnant of the shawl of better days. The farmer's daughter buys a white cotton shawl, with a gay border, for her wedding; and it washes and dyes until, having wrapped all her babies in turn, it is finally dyed black to signalize her widowhood.

The maiden-aunt, growing elderly, takes to wearing a shawl in the house in mid-winter; and old granny woul! no more think of going without it at any season than without her cap. When son or grandson comes home from travel, far or near, her present is a new shawl, which she puts on with deep consideration; parting with the old one with a sigh. The Manchester or Birmingham factory girls buys a gay shawl on credit, wears it on Sundays, puts in pawn on Monday morning, and takes it out again on Saturday night, for another Sunday's wear, and so on, until she has wasted money that would have bought her a good wardrobe. Thus, from China round the world to Oregon, and from the queen down to the pauper, is the shawl the symbol of the woman's taste and condition. Whence come all these shawls? For it is clear that the supply which arrives from Asia, over bleak continents and wide oceans, can be only for the rich and great. Some of the shawls from Bokhara sell, in the market of the Russian frontier, for two thousand four hundred pounds. Whence come the hundred thousand shawls that the women of Great Britain purchase every year?

Some of the richest that our ladies wear are from Lyons: and the French taste is so highly esteemed that our principal manufacturers go to Lyons once or twice a year for specimens and patterns. Some of our greatest ladies of all, even the queen and certain duchesses and countesses offer to our chief manufacturers a sight of their treasures from India, the Cashmere and other *shawls*, from a patriotic desire for the improvement of our English patterns From these the manufacturers of Norwich and Paisley devise such beautiful things that, but for the unaccountable and unrivalled superiority of the orientals in the production of this particular article, we should be all satisfaction and admiration. The common cotton shawls continually lessening in number, worn by women of the working classes, are made at Manchester, and wherever the cotton manufacture is instituted. In order to study the production of British shawls in perfection, one should visit the Norwich and Paisley manufactories

If any article of dress could be immutable, it would be the shawl, designed for eternity in the unchanging East; copied from patterns that are the heirloom of a castle, and woven by fatalists, to be worn by adorers of the ancient garments who resent the idea of the smallest change. Yet has the day arrived which exhibits the manufacture of three distinct kinds of shawls in Paisley. There is the genuine woven shawl with its Asiatic patterns, and here is that which is called a shawl for convenience, but which has nothing Asiatic about it; the tartan—which name is given not only to the checks of divers colors, which magnify so much to the Scottish eye, but to any kind of mixed or mottled colors and fabric—woven in squares or lengths to cover the shoulders. The third kind is quite modern; the showy, slight and elegantly printed shawl, derived from Lyons, and now daily rising in favor. The woven kind is the oldest in Paisley. The tartan kind was introduced from Sterlingshire—without injury to Sterling hire—which makes as many as ever, but to the great benefit of Paisley. The printed kind has been made about six years, and it is by far the greatest and most expanding manufacture. The most devoted worshipers of the genuine shawl can hardly wonder at this, considering the love of change that is inherent in ladies who dress well, and the difference of cost. A genuine shawl lasts a quarter of a lifetime.

A SHARP-WIT.—A Indiana paper says, that during a trial in Lawrenceport, a young lad who was called as a witness was asked if he knew what was the obligation of an oath; and where he would go if he told a lie? He said he supposed "he would go where all the lawyers went to!"

PURPOSE.—Purpose is the edge and point of character; it is the superscription of the letter of talent. Character without it is blunt and torpid; genius without it is bullion, splendid and uncirculated.

Manufacture of Gold Pens.

The gold for pens is rolled into thin strips, about the thirty-second part of an inch in thickness; in this state it is black on the surface, and looks like brass; the first operation is cutting it into stubs—short pieces pointed and angular at one end, and cut square off at the other; this is done in the die. The stubs are then run through a machine, and each point is intended for the reception of the real pen points. The next operation is pointing the stubs; the substance used for points is rhodium, a hard, brittle metal like steel, unoxidizable. It is to this metal we wish to direct particular attention.

There are various qualities of it, some worth 12, 20, 30 and 40 dollars per ounce, and Mr. Morton told us he had paid even $42, for a superior quality. It is found in the ores of platinum, associated with irridium, osmium and palladium. Irridium is used by some for the points of gold pens, but rhodium is the dearest and best. All of this metal used in the United States comes from the Russian or Russian mines, but Mr. Morton assured us that there were plenty of it in California, and he had *seen some* which had been brought from that gold land. It is also found there, pure, associated with sands, and requiring no chemical manipulation for for its separation, as in the platina ores of the Ural. Our gold seekers in California should direct their attention to this metal, as it is far more valuable than gold; it is of a white glassy steel color, and in minute roundish particles like sand; the round globular particles are the best for pens: in fact, out of one ounce of this metal perhaps not one seventieth of the granules can be used; the rest are rejected. A fine particle of rhodium is soldered on the indented point, of each stub of gold—the solder is mostly composed of gold, for unless it is good, ink soon corrodes it, and the rhodium point drops off; this is the case with poor pens made by indifferent makers.

After the pen is pointed, it is rolled out between rollers with indents in them to save the points, until the stubs are drawn out to its proper length and correct thinness; the rolling also makes the gold elastic. Many suppose that gold pens can be re-pointed, and we actually had one re-pointed ourselves seven years ago, by getting it exchanged for a new one; we paid the full price, feeling conscious, at that time, that our old pen had really a new point put upon it. But old pens cannot be re-pointed, for the heat employed to solder on the point, renders the gold as plastic as a piece of tin; the heat changes the relative position of the crystals of the metal—thrusts them out, as it were, and the gold requires rolling or hammering afterwards to give its elasticity—that spring so requisite for pens; this is the reason why old pens cannot be re pointed. Some makers do not hammer their pens after being rolled; they are never so good. After being rolled they are cut to the proper form in a finishing die, then stamped with the name of the maker, and afterwards turned up to the rounding quill form—This is done in the establishment above named in a new and ingenious machine, invented by Mr. Morton, which makes a superior pen. After this, the point is slit with a thin soft copper disc revolving with great velocity; the great speed makes the soft disc cut the hard metal rhodium; the gold is slit with another machine, therefore to make a slit in each pen, it has to undergo two operations. The point is next ground on a copper wheel revolving at a high velocity; this is a very delicate operation, and a good artist gets high wages. After this the pens are "stoned out," that is, they are ground down on the inside and out by fine Water of Ayr stones, by hand, on a bench alongside of a tub of water; the stones are long, thin, roundish slips, and the pens have to be operated so as to make one part more thin than another, to give them the proper spring; they are then polished on swift revolving copper rollers, and afterwards finished with fine powder and soft chamois skin. Thus to make a gold pen it undergoes twelve operations: inferior pens can be made with less labor, but they soon develope their true characteristics.—*Scientific American.*

CLASSIC JOKE.—The following venerable and classic joke passes a "ceaseless round," in the newspapers:

A physician took a young student to see a patient who was confined to his bed: "Sir," said the physician to the sick man, "you have been imprudent, you have eaten oysters."

The patient admitted that he had. Returning home, the student asked the doctor how he discovered that the man had eaten oysters?

"Why," replied the doctor, "I saw two shells under the bed."

A few days after the student was sent to visit the same patient. He soon returned, however, saying that he had been kicked out of the house, for telling the patient he had been imprudent—he had eaten horseflesh.

"Horseflesh, you young fool what do you mean?" cried the doctor.

"Because, sir, I saw a saddle and a pair of spurrups under the bed."

A recent writer asserts that the less a man knows the wider he carries his mouth open. He says, "It is as impossible for an ignoramus to keep his jaws closed as it is for a sick oyster to keep his shell shut."

Never argue with any but men of sense and temper. Never offer advice, but where there is some probability of its being followed.

Always do as the sun does—look at the bright side of everything. For while it is just as cheap, it is three times as good for digestion.

The strongest string yet known, is said to be a string of onions.

Different sounds will travel with different velocity—a call to dinner will run over ten acre lot in a moment, while a summons to return to work takes from five to ten minutes.