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TOWANDA:

Saturday Morning, June 4, 1853.

Selected Poetry.

SPRING.

A bursting into greenness,
A waking as from sleep,
A twitter and a warble,
That make the pulses leap;
A sense of renovation,
Of freshness and of health,
A casting off of ould fear,
A carelessness of wealth.
A watching as in childhood,
For the flowers that one by one
Open their golden petals
To woo the fitful sun;
A flash, a flash, a gurgle,
A wish to shout and sing,
As filled with hope and gladness,
We hail the vernal Spring.

Correspondence.

The Railroad to the State Line.

[For the Bradford Reporter.]

HARRISBURG, May 25, 1853.
The application filed in the Supreme Court, praying for an injunction against the city of Philadelphia, to restrain it from subscribing to the stock of the Philadelphia, Easton and Water Gap Railroad Company, will be argued before the Supreme Court on the second Monday of June next.

As the point in this case is to test the power of the Legislature to grant to municipal corporations the right to subscribe to the stock of Railroad Companies, by which means, by the way, many of the largest roads in the country have been built, great interest is naturally manifested to know the result. It is understood that several of the most eminent legal counsel in the State are engaged in the cause, so that we may expect the arguments to cover the whole ground of the relative power and jurisdiction of the Legislature and the Supreme Court. If municipal subscriptions be pronounced unconstitutional, various lines of Railroad, now in progress of construction in different parts of the State, will have to be abandoned; though it is said that a company, named in the proceedings which were herein mentioned, will not be prostrated, even should the city of Philadelphia be enjoined from making a subscription to its stock. This will be good news to your readers, who are interested in the speedy construction of a Railroad reaching from Philadelphia, via Mauch Chunk, Pottsville and Reading, to Waverly; there to connect with the New York and Erie Railroad, as authorized by the Charter of the Philadelphia, Easton and Water Gap Railroad Company, whose engineers are now in the North Branch valley making the necessary surveys, under the instructions of the President to the Chief Engineer, Thos. Chatter, and his several employees, were all framed by the President of the company—THOMAS S. FERNON, and the original copies, in his hand writing, are now in the bill books of the Senate and House of Representatives. We refer to this fact, because we propose giving a brief sketch of the origin, development and progress of the company, and to illustrate how much may be accomplished by individual perseverance and determination.

It appears that in the indulgence of an absorbing propensity for Rail Road reading and study, during the recess of the Legislature for several years, Mr. Fernon became familiar with the various rail-road projects of the country, as developed in the plans and schemes of the different cities. As a consequence, he was not long in arriving at the conclusion that Philadelphia remained asleep much longer, while New York was awake and at work, the trade of Northern Pennsylvania would be transferred, in bulk, from the Delaware River Wharves to the Hudson River docks—that with the Erie Railroad along the north margin of the Keystone State, and two other independent lines—the Morris and Essex, and the New Jersey Central, stretching across New Jersey, the first to the Delaware Water Gap, and the latter to the Lehigh River, each in a direct route to an Anthracite coal field, New York City was marching straight for the conquest of the Keystone valley to drain them of their mineral treasures. In the Summer of 1851, Mr. Fernon called personally on Merchants interested in the trade of the Lehigh, North Branch and Upper Delaware valleys, and urged them to offset the schemes of New York by a direct road. Failing to obtain their cooperation, even though it was then known that by July, 1852, the Central New Jersey Road would be opened to Easton, to carry the trade of the Lehigh region to New York City, Mr. Fernon determined to get up a charter for a direct road "on his own hook," and accordingly prepared a paragraph which appeared in the "Pennsylvanian" in the month of July, 1851, announcing that at the next session of the Legislature, application would be made for a charter to authorize a direct Railroad leading northward from Philadelphia. John C. James, Esq., of the firm of James, Kent, Santee & Co., North Third street, was applied to several times, for a list of names, which he furnished, and which, with others, were inserted as Commissioners in the bill incorporating the Company, which was read in place by Mr. Fernon, in the Senate, on the 7th day of January, 1852. Meantime, while this bill was pending in the Legislature, a new movement was started in Philadelphia, by the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, in favor of their branch road to extend from Trenton along the Delaware River to Belvidere. The newspapers were filled with articles urging subscriptions to the stock of the "Belvidere Delaware Railroad Company." Maps showing its route, duly colored with red and blue lines were posted in editors' rooms and merchants' counting houses. In the excitement thus raised by the types and the agents of a powerful company, a public meeting was held in the Eagle Hotel, North

Third street, on Wednesday, February 18, 1852, "to obtain subscriptions to the residue of the stock and to recure the speedy completion of the road."
The movement on the part of the Camden and Amboy Company to substitute their circumlocutory branch road in lieu of Mr. Fernon's proposed direct road—although they left him alone and wholly without encouragement or counsel, did not deter him from urging the passage of his bill, which was approved the 8th day of April, 1852. The Supplement authorizing municipal subscriptions to the stock of the company was approved the 6th day of May, 1852.

The charter being obtained, Mr. Fernon took the newspaper field in the midst of these untoward aspects, without a single ally or friend, and in a series of articles advocated a direct Northern Road as the only means of saving to Philadelphia the trade of the Eastern and Northern countries. On the 8th day of June, 1852, the Commissioners named in the act of incorporation, held a meeting in the Eagle Hotel, North Third street, Philadelphia, at which the charter was read and explained by Mr. Fernon. This meeting was attended by responsible and influential gentlemen from counties interested in the proposed road, and by merchants interested in the northern trade, who, participating together in the proceedings, produced a mutual confidence that the road could and should be built—Having at that meeting for the first time committed themselves to the enterprise, new and zealous friends were enlisted each day by the merchants, who, thenceforward, worked manfully and efficiently in its behalf and gave it a solid financial basis.

On the 1st day of July, 1852, the subscription books were opened, and on the 16th day of August the company was organized under its Letters Patent. The first Engineer corps was organized in July, 1852, and a second corps in December of the same year.

On the 22d of February, 1853, Mr. Fernon gave instructions to the Chief Engineer to send a corps to locate a line up the Lehigh river and over to Pottsville in the Wyoming valley; and another corps to locate a line from the point where the main line approached the Lehigh river to, and through the Delaware Water Gap; thus taking possession of the ground on diverging routes, to be used afterward as circumstances should dictate.

And having succeeded in obtaining a right to extend the North Branch valley to the State line, Mr. Fernon under date of April 16th, gave instructions to the Chief Engineer to hold a corps in readiness to be transferred to the North Branch valley immediately after the adjournment of the Legislature.

You now have this Corps among you locating the road which seems to constitute the *ultima thule* of the President of the Company, who certainly succeeded in keeping his plans a profound secret until his legislative aim was accomplished, and the members had departed for their homes. The wisdom of his precaution will be appreciated by those initiated into the risks of legislation.

It appears to have been the policy of Mr. Fernon, knowing the cautious nature of the Philadelphia—first, to impress them with the necessity of a direct road to the Lehigh. Once on the banks of the Rubicon, the next step was to cross it, and by diverging lines extend northward to the Water Gap and Wyoming valley. Arrived at the North Branch, the prospect opens still farther on, till the State line is reached, and where connections may be made with lines spreading away to Canada, and Lakes Ontario and Erie. These three links together form Mr. Fernon's great Northern chain cable line.

Philadelphia need never make a road beyond Waverly, at the State line; because there are interests in Western New York that will build converging lines to connect with her road at that point. What place so fitting for the roads of the Keystone and Empire States to meet and clasp each other, as at the border line?

Whether the branch to the Water Gap on the Delaware will be built or not, will of course depend upon the prospects of business to be met at that point, and the opportunity to be gained by such a branch to "head off" the Belvidere Branch of the Camden and Amboy Company. The great route for Philadelphia, and which from the first was the pet measure of Mr. Fernon, is up the Lehigh and North Branch to the State line; and if he did not, from the first, avow it, he had good reason to hold his peace, for there is not always "wisdom in a multitude of counsel!" Diplomatic tact has its use as well in Rail Roads as in politics.

It is no trifling matter to raise money to start a Railroad in Philadelphia; but when once public attention is awakened, and her honor and interest are committed to a work, she never falters, but goes on advancing, step by step, till the work is finished.

Mr. Fernon in his Company has the best Board of Directors of any corporation in Philadelphia—They are (the whole twelve) gentlemen of large private fortune, and could with their own means build the road all the way to the New York State line!

The Engineering Department too, has from the first been in sale and competent hands, and throughout its entire organization it is emphatically "a strong team" company.

Then, even though it be a late day for Philadelphia to turn her face towards the north, the north must remember that it has always had some friends in Philadelphia. Among these Mr. Fernon always ranked in and out of the Legislature—and hence the northern people should aid him in his project, so that he may more readily and successfully keep the gaze of Philadelphia fixed on the great northern route, which will place the Quaker City 50 miles nearer to Dunkirk, Buffalo and Canada, than New York can place herself by her shortest and best routes.

A NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA.

New York, Wednesday, May 25, 1853.

Ma Estroon:—If there is any truth in the old proverb, we are enjoying the most "charming" weather, for I have never seen it present a greater variety than during the past week. One day hot,

the next cold, one pleasant, the next rainy, it seems next to impossible to form any conclusion when settled weather will appear. It is now very disagreeable, raining, although very warm, checking business and throwing discomfort over the entire city.

Our city has presented but few attractions during the past week, and my news budget is, consequently, rather smaller than usual; yet we are consoled with the reflection that there is less than usual to cause distress, or even anxiety in the minds of your readers.

On Friday last, the *North Star*, the steam yacht built by Cornelius Vanderbilt, started for Europe with her enterprising owner, his sons, daughters, and Physician, and Rev. J. O. Choules, of Newport, as her only passengers. Your readers may not be aware that this magnificent vessel, measuring about 2000 tons, has been built expressly for a pleasure trip, and that she is built, manned, and run solely at Mr. Vanderbilt's expense, carrying not one other person than those named above. She will visit every principal port in Europe, from St. Petersburg to Constantinople, remaining a sufficient length of time in each to allow her passengers to visit every thing in its vicinity that is worth looking at. Whatever may be thought of the prudence and modesty of such a course, it will be admitted by all that Mr. Vanderbilt's steamer will throw no discredit on the American mechanics, while our institutions will need no further confirmation that which enables a man in the prime of life, (who started as a hand on one of our North River sloops,) to take such a trip, in such a style, at his own expense, and without any indiscreet expenditure of his permanent capital.

Our Crystal Palace is rapidly approaching completion, and attracts great attention from the crowds who congregate around it every pleasant day. The goods are coming in from abroad, in great quantities, and there is no longer any doubt of the exceeding richness of the display. The British contributions are on their way in the frigate *Leander*; and a commission of five distinguished gentlemen, headed by the Earl of Ellesmere, and Sir Charles Syell are on their way, per the steam ship of war *Basiskant*, to examine and report to the British government on the exhibition. There has been considerable decline in the stock in consequence of the delay in opening; and it is feared that the disappointment will affect the financial success of the enterprise.

By the arrival of the *Africa*, on Wednesday, and the *Franklin and Europa* yesterday, we have ten days news from Europe.

The parliament was engaged in a discussion of the financial measures proposed by the government and in several votes on parliamentary questions, the ministry were well sustained. There is, therefore, no doubt of the triumph and adoption of the proposed measures. Meetings had been held in London to express sympathy with Koorul, at which Lord Dudley Stuart, Mr. Cobden, M. P. Douglas Gerrold, and other notables participated. Several astounding disclosures of the corruption of the late ministry had been brought to light, and a bill had been introduced into the commons disfranchising the employers of the Admiralty and Ordnance Department.

The Crystal Palace at Dublin was opened on the 12th inst., and the Architect knighted. Mrs. Stowe and her party had been formally welcomed by a large party of the aristocracy, at Stafford House, where she received the celebrated address from the women of England. From Paris we learn that the Empress recovers very slowly from the effects of her recent misadventure. The re-establishment of the death penalty for political offences has been agreed on in the council of State. A vision of the different branches of the Bourbon family is again talked of. The troubles in Turkey have been disposed of satisfactorily to Russia. In London the money market is easy, Cotton was not in demand.

An unfavorable change in the weather had given strength to the grain market and prices had slightly advanced. Provisions all were more animated. Throughout the whole of Europe, although there is no positive outbreak reported, there are evidences of a deeply seated opposition to the powers, which sooner or later will break loose and overwhelm the whole system of monarchy, and all its accompaniments.

The Union, the *Crescent* City and the *Uncle Sam* have supplied us with two weeks' advices from California, but they possess little general interest.—Business was exceedingly dull, and the prices of many articles of merchandise, has suffered still further depreciation. The mining news was very favorable, and every appearance of continued success was apparent to the diggers. The Captain of the *Independence*, lost on the coast below San Francisco, had been exonerated from all blame.

In our city money is rather easy, and business very dull. Wall street is nearly deserted and stocks are quite depressed. Breadstuffs are steady at \$4.44 to \$4.69 for State; \$4.56 to \$4.81 for Western; \$4.69 to \$4.81 for Ohio; extra brands still higher. Southern \$4.87 to \$6.87; Rye flour was in demand at \$9.76 to \$4.25; Corn meal quiet, at \$3 to \$3.35; Wheat break and firm at \$1.30 for white Genesee; Oats dull and heavy at 37 to 50; Corn active at 62 to 64 for white; 69 to 70 for yellow; Pork is dull at \$13 for prime \$15.50 to \$15.62 for mess; Beef was easier at \$5 to \$5.50 for prime; \$6.75 to \$10.25 for mess; Butter and Cheese are steady.

Never despire a man because his employment is mean, or his clothing is bad. The bee is an insect that is not very pleasing to the sight, yet its hive affords an abundance of honey.

If you wish to read a rogue, look at his eye—If you wish to understand a blockhead, examine his conduct. Stars of little brilliancy are seen not by looking at, but from them.

The population of Japan is guessed to be fifty millions.

THE MUTE WITNESS; OR THE DOG AND THE ASSASSIN.

From the French of Heffrain.

While traveling in 1787, through the beautiful city of Leipzig, I observed about half a league from the gate of the town a few rods from the highway, a wheel and a bone of a chained corpse exposed to the gaze of every passer.

The following is the history of the criminal, as I learned it from the lips of the judge who conducted the trial, and condemned him to be broken alive.

A German butcher being benighted in the midst of a forest lost his way, and while endeavoring to gain the road was attacked by three highwaymen. He was on horseback and accompanied by a large dog. One of the robbers seized the horse by the bridle while the two others dragged the butcher from the saddle and felled him. The dog leaped immediately upon one of them and strangled him; but the others wounded "the animal so severely that he rushed into the thicket, uttering most fearful howls. The butcher, who by this time had disengaged himself from the grasp of the second robber, drew his knife and killed him. But at the same moment he received a shot from the third, he who had just wounded the dog, and falling, was despatched by the thief, who found upon him a large sum in gold, a silver watch and a few other articles of value. He plundered the corpse, leaped upon the horse and fled.

The next morning, two wood cutters happening in that path, were surprised to find three dead bodies and a large dog, who seemed to guard them.—They examined them and endeavored to restore life, but in vain.

One of them dressed the wounds of the dog, gave him some food, and sought some water for him, while the other hastened to the nearest village to inform the magistrate of the discovery. The officer, accompanied by several attendants, was soon on the spot; a surgeon examined the wounds of the three bodies; they drew up a verbal process and interred them.

The dog had dragged himself, in the course of the night, when all was quiet, to the corpse of his master, where he was found the next morning. He all-wed his new friend to dress his wounds, and as if foreseeing that he must consent to live that he might one day avenge the murdered, he eat and drank, but would not leave the spot.

He looked on quietly as they dug the grave and allowed them to bury the bodies; but as soon as the dirt was replaced, he stretched himself upon it, howled mournfully, and resisted all the efforts of the bystanders to induce him to move. He snapped at all who came near him, except the woodman, who had tended him. He bore his carresses, but no sooner did the man attempt to take his paw to remove him from the grave, than he gnashed his teeth and would have wounded him severely, if he had not quickly fled. Every one admired the fidelity of the dog, and when the woodman offered to carry him food and drink every day, that he might not perish, the magistrate proposed taking up a collection to remunerate the man, who was poor and the father of a large family. With difficulty he was induced to accept the money, but he finally did, and from that moment burdened himself with the care of his new pensioner.

The details of this horrible event were published in the principal journals of the country. J. Meyer a brother of the butcher, reading some time afterward the advertisement of the magistrate, hastened instantly to his presence, saying he had fears which he believed now only too well founded, that his brother had fallen into the hands of robbers, as he had left home with a large sum in gold for the purchase of bees, and had not been heard from.—His suspicions were only too sadly confirmed when the magistrate related to him the singular conduct of a dog which he described. M. Meyer accompanied by the officer, and several others, repaired to the grave. As soon as the dog perceived his master's brother, he howled, lapped his hands, and evinced other numerous demonstrations of joy. By different parts of his dress, M. Meyer recognised the body of his brother when they discovered it. The absence of the gold and watch, the wounds of the butcher and his dog, those of the two other bodies, together with the disappearance of the horse, convinced the magistrate and the witness that the deceased had not only been assailed by the two, but also by one or several others, who had fled with the horse and plunder.

Having obtained permission, M. Meyer removed his brother's corpse to his native village and interred it in the adjoining cemetery. The faithful dog followed the body, by degrees became attached to his new master.

Every effort was made by the most diligent search and offer of immense rewards, to discover the assassin. But in vain; the horrible tragedy remained an enigma.

Two years had passed away, and all hopes of solving the mystery vanished, when M. Meyer received a letter urging him to "repair without delay to Leipzig to close the eyes of his maternal uncle, who desired to see him before he died. He immediately hastened thither accompanied by his brother's dog, who was his companion at all times. He arrived too late. His relative had deceased the previous evening, bequeathing him a large fortune. He found the city crowded, it being the season of the great fair held regularly here twice a year.

While walking one morning on the public square attended as usual by his dog, he was astonished to behold the animal suddenly rush forward like a flash. He dashed through the crowd, and leaped furiously upon an elegantly dressed young man, who was seated in the centre of the square, upon an elevated platform erected for the use of those spectators who desired more conveniently to witness the show. He held him by the throat with so firm a grasp that he would soon have strangled him had not assistance been easily rendered. They immediately chained the dog, thinking of course he must be mad, strove to kill him. M. Meyer

rushed through the crowd, and arrived in time to rescue his faithful friend, calling eagerly in the meantime upon the bystanders to arrest the man, for he believed his dog recognized in him the murderer of his brother.

Before he had time to explain himself, the young man profiting by the tumult escaped. For some moments they thought Meyer himself was mad, and he had great difficulty in persuading those who had bound the dog, that the faithful creature was not in the least dangerous, and begged earnestly of them to release him that he might pursue the assassin. He spoke in so convincing a manner that his hearers finally felt persuaded of the truth of his assertions, and restored the dog to his freedom, who joyously bounded to his master, leaping about him a few times and then hastened away.

"He divided the crowd and was soon upon his enemy's track. The police, which on these occasions is very active and prompt, were immediately informed of this extraordinary event, and a number of officers were soon in pursuit. The dog became in a few moments the object of public curiosity, and every one drew back to give him room. Business was suspended, and the crowd collected in groups conversing of nought but the dog, and the murder which had been committed two years before.

After a half hour's expectation, a general rush indicated that the search was over. The man had stretched himself upon the ground, under the heavy folds of a double tent, and believed himself hidden. But in spite of his fancied security, the avenger had tracked him and leaping upon him he bit him, tore his garments, and would have killed him upon the spot, had not assistance rushed to his rescue.

He was immediately arrested, and led with M. Meyer and the dog, then carefully bound, before the judge who hardly knew what to think of so extraordinary an affair. Meyer related all that had happened in a years before, and insisted upon the imprisonment of the man, declaring that he was the murderer of his brother, for his dog could not be deceived.

During all this time it was almost impossible to hold the animal, who seemed determined to attack the prisoner. Upon interrogating the latter, the judge was not satisfied with his replies, and ordered him to be searched. There was found upon him a large sum in gold, some jewels and five watches, four of them gold and very valuable, while the fifth was an old silver one, of but little consequence. As soon as Meyer saw the last, he declared it to be the same that his brother wore the day he left home, and the description of his watch published months previously, corroborated his assertions. The robber had never dared expose it, for fear it would lead to his detection, as he was well aware it had been described very minutely in all the principal journals of Germany.

In short, after the most minute and convincing legal proceedings of eight months, the murderer was condemned to be broken alive and his corpse to remain chained upon the wheel as an example to others. On the night preceding his execution he confessed amongst other crimes, what till then he always denied, that he was the murderer of Meyer's brother. He gave them all the details above related, and declared that he always believed that the accused dog died of his wounds. "Had it not been for him," he repeated several times, "I should not have been here. Nothing else could have discovered me, for I had killed the horse and buried him with all that he wore."

He expired on the wheel, and his was the corpse which I beheld before entering the city of Leipzig.

OVEN DOING IT.—A well known Methodist minister, who was travelling on horseback through the State of Massachusetts, stopped one noon on a sultry summer's day at a cottage by the roadside, and requested some refreshments for himself and beast. This was readily granted by the worthy New England dame, so the parson dismounted, and having seen his horse well cared for entered the cottage and partook of the refreshment which was so cheerfully prepared for him. For some time past there had been no rain, and the country around literally parched up. The minister entered into conversation with the old lady, and remarked about the dryness of the season. "Yes," she replied "unless we have rain soon, all my beet cabbage, and cucumbers will be good for nothing, and I think all the ministers ought to pray for rain." The worthy divine informed her that he was a minister, and that he would be happy to comply with her wish.

He accordingly knelt down and prayed fervently that the gates of Heaven might be opened, that showers might descend and refresh the earth. He then arose from his knees, and having kindly thanked his hostess, bade her good day, mounted his horse and departed. But he had not been gone more than an hour when clouds began to gather and a tremendous shower of hail and rain descended, and with such force as to wash the contents of the old lady's garden clear out of the ground— "There!" said she, "that is always the way with those tarral Methodists, they never undertake to do anything but they always over do it."

CHANGES AND TRANSFORMATIONS.—Science instructs us that all the changes and transformations which are going on every where in the natural world, are designed for wise and beneficent purposes. They achieve something for the better. The bread that nourishes us was originally derived from rocks crumbled down into the dust of the earth, and transmitted from the soil to the plant, and by the plant to the grain.

Man only changes for the worse. But, he proceeds with a fair, good tendency, when taking his initiate from an obscure and lowly estate, he advances from the manger to the Mount; from Bethlehem to Jerusalem; and from his Cross to his Crown.

"It strikes me very forcibly that we are going to have a thunder shower," as the man said when he got severely checked by lightning.

An Uneasy Predicament.

We were the witness of a very ludicrous incident which occurred in this city a few days since, for relating which we crave the indulgence of the gentleman directly concerned—deeming it too good a joke to be lost.

While sitting at our desk and laboring assiduously, with pen, scissors and paste, to make out a readable paper for our patrons, we were suddenly "frightened out of our propriety" by the hasty entrance of a gentleman, exclaiming "For God's sake, help me to see what is the matter! I've got some dreadful thing—scorpion or tarantula—in the leg of my pantaloons! Quick—quick—help me!"

We instantly rose from our chair, half frightened ourselves. Our friend had broken in so suddenly a door unexpectedly upon us, and was so wonderfully agitated, that we knew not whether he was indeed in his senses or not. We looked at him with a sort of surprise mixed with dread, and hardly knew whether to speak with, or seize and confine him for a madman. The latter we came near attempting. There he stood, quivering and pale, with one hand tightly grasped upon a part of his pantaloons just in the hollow of the knee.

"What's the matter?" asked we at last.
"The matter!" he exclaimed, "oh, help me! I've got something here which just run up my leg! Some infernal scorpion, or lizard, I expect! Oh, I can't let go, I must hold it. Oh, there!" he shrieked, "I felt it move just then! Oh, these pants without straps! I'll never wear another pair open at the bottom so long as I live. Ah, there I feel it again!"

"Feel what?" we inquired, standing at the same time at a respectful distance from the gentleman; we had just been reading our *Corpus Christi* correspondent's letter about snakes, lizards, tarantulas, and began to imagine some deadly insect or reptile in the leg of our friend's unmentionables, as they are sometimes called.

"I don't know what it is," answered the gentleman; "help me to see what it is! I was just passing that pile of rubbish there in front of your office, and let it clatter up my leg as quick as lightning!"—and he clutched his fist more tightly. If it had been the neck of an anaconda, we believe it would have squeezed it to a jelly.

By this time two or three of the newboys had come in; the clerks and packing boys hearing the outcry, stopped working, and editors and all hands stood around the sufferer with looks of mingled sympathy and alarm.

"Bring a chair, Fritz," said we, "and let the gentleman be seated."

"Oh, I can't sit," said the gentleman; "I can't bend my knee—if I do it will bite or sting me; no, I can't sit."
"Certainly you can sit," said we; "keep your leg straight out, and we'll see what it is you have got."

"Well, let me give it one more hard squeeze; I'll crush it to death," said he, and again he put the force of an iron vice upon the thing. If it had any life left, this last effort must have killed it. He then cautiously seized himself, holding his leg stiff as a poker. A sharp knife was procured; the pants were cut open carefully, making a hole large enough to admit a hand; the gentleman put on a thick glove, and slowly inserted his hand, but he discovered nothing. We were all looking on in almost breathless silence to see the monstrous thing, whatever it might be; each ready to scamper out of harm's way should it be alive; when suddenly the gentleman became, if possible, more agitated than ever.

"By heavens!" he exclaimed, "it's inside my drawers. It's alive, too, I feel it!—quick!—give me the knife again!" Another incision was made—and in! the gentleman's gloved hand once more, and lo! it came his wife's stocking!

How this stocking ever got there we are unable to say; but there it certainly was; and such a laugh followed, we haven't heard for many a day. Our friend, we know, has told the joke himself, and most pardon us for doing so. Though this is about a stocking we assure our readers it is no yarn.—N. O. Piquette.

An old Dutch lady at a religious meeting, became very much concerned for her soul, and went about sighing and sobbing, and would not be comforted. Upon being asked by the minister what the matter was, she replied, "that she couldn't pray in English, and she was afraid the Lord couldn't understand Dutch."

HEN LAW.—An exchange gives the following as the best rule for being rid of neighbors' hens in your garden. It will be seen to deviate from the doctrine of the moral sensationists: "1. On the appearance of hens in the garden, give the owner notice. 2. On their second appearance, kill them and throw the bodies over the fence of the owner. 3. On all subsequent appearance of Hens, through the season, kill and eat them!"

REMARKABLE RELIC.—Cardinal Wiseman of London, during a recent tour on the continent, secured a lock containing a lock of hair recorded to have been taken from the head of Sampson by Dalila, and was also shown the scissors with which she cut it, in one of the blades of which was distinctly marked "Sheffield!"

A young widow was asked why she was going to take another husband so soon after the death of the first. "O, la," said she, "I do it to prevent fretting myself to death, on account of dead Tom!"

Don't dispute against facts well established, merely because there is something unaccountable in them. That the world should be created out of nothing is nothing to us inconceivable; but not therefore to be doubted.

They are agitating in New York, the question of building a hotel for Invalids—to be something between an ordinary Hotel and a Hospital.

Love and religion are always like the sun.