A Woman Dumb of her own Will. We were overtaken by darkness last eve ning, writes an Iowa correspondent, while still distant from our stopping place. We were fortunate, however, in finding a refuge at a farm house, where there was ample accommodation, and where we found a -"sensation." The family consisted of the husband, wife and several children, and a description of the father and children might apply to any other farmer's family, but there was something in the appearance of the wife that strongly attracted us. She moved quickly about preparing the evening meal and I noticed that while the children seemed to look to her for direction, conveyed by a look, or a scarcely perceptible gesture, no word passed between them, while they talked freely with one another. We wondered whether she was deaf and dumb. But no, that could not be the case. for when her little, prattling four-year old boy asked her to take his rubber baby, and told her "It had been having a hundred and free teef, and six croups, and a couple of fevers, and had a bad cold, and he was afraid it was going to be sick," I observed a faint wintry smile dawn upon her face as she stroked the little fellow's sunny curls. So, of course, she could hear.

We were entertained with great kindness, and departed the next morning as much puzzled as ever regarding our quiet hostess. But as we drove away we were overtaken by one of the neighbors, who gave us this explanation : Some five years ago the good woman had lost two children by searlet fever, and she grieved sorely and would not be comforted. While in this despairing state she was persuaded to attend a protracted meeting. The effect upon her mind was distressing. She felt she had committed the unpardonable sin ; that the words of her mouth had not been "acceptable in His sight," and so she registered a vow that she never again would utter syllable, and she never has. For more than five years she has maintained unbroken silence, and the two younger children have never heard their mother's voice. Neighbors and friends have sought to convince her that her rash vow, made in a discussed state of mind, was not binding upon her, but their efforts wers fruitless, and she goes on her quiet way, leaving no duty undone, but showing her love and sympathy by looks and acts, but never by a word. Her husband treats her with the tenderest consideration, and evidently loves and respects her. and respects her.

#### The Coal Miners.

Dispatches received at Pottsville, from all the districts in the Schuylkill, region represent that at the meetings of the miners held all had deeided to strike ; rejecting the \$2.25 basis ; demanding a minimum basis of \$2.50 on contract work and \$2.75 for day work, and in some instances demanding higher gates.

The men are very determined, the basis question having been thoroughly discussed, and they are better prepared for a strike now than/ever before. There is much difference of opinion among leading coal operators as to how long the strike will continue and what length of time it will be able to stand out, many believing that it will continue to the middle of April or the first of May, and some think a compromise may be effected by the 17th of the present month, the time given finally whether they will accept or reject the proposition.

### How to Select a Postmaster.

. The postmaster at Manassas, Va., havned his position was asked by the



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department to recommend a suitable person as his successor. Being unwilling to recommend any one without testing the desire of the people he ordered an election for the purpose. The voting was without reference to party lines, and there were very few of the wives and daughters of the prominent citizens of the village that did not improve the first chance Virginia ladies over had to exercise the right of suffrage. The result of the election was very much as anticipated. A larger vote was polled than was ever cast at any presidential or state contest, and of the 828 votes cast, a yonug lady by the name of Pine received 303 to her male opponent's 25.

137" A man sauntered into an apothecary shop in Portland, Me., the other morning, and after spending a few moments looking into the showcases, and turning a piece of toothpick several times in his mouth startled the clerk with the question : " What's good to cure poisoning ?" "What kind of poisoning?" asked the clerk. "Well, laudanum poisoning." says the stranger. "You see, the old woman took a couple of teaspoonfuls of laudanum, and I kinder thought I'd better drop into a pill shop and see what's good for her" (all this in a drawling voice). "Here, John," shouted the clerk, " put up a strong emetic as quick as you can, and you, air, take it home, give it to your wife, follow it up with strong coffee, and call a doctor." "A doctor !" says the man, taking the medicine, "she don't waste no money on doctors, not if I know it."

135" A gentleman living in the suburbs of Terre Haute, bought a bag of nails and placed it on his horse for a saddle. No sooner had he mounted than both the man and beast discovered the uncomfortable situation. The horse reached home riderless, and the gentleman walked home with somewhat more comfort than he had ridden. Both were considerably irritated.

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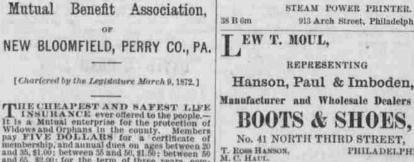
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