

Liquid Excrement. How strange we overlook the value of the liquid excrement of our animals! A cow, under ordinary feeding, furnished in a year 20,000 pounds of solid excrement, and about 8,000 pounds of liquid. The comparative value of the two is not slightly in favor of the solid. The statement has been verified as truth, over and over again. The urine of herbivorous animals holds nearly all the secretions of the body which are capable of producing the rich nitrogenous compounds so essential as forcing or leaf forming agents in the growth of plants. The solid holds the phosphoric acid, the soda, principally; but the liquid, holding nitrogen, potash and soda, is needed in forming the stalk and leaves. The two forms of plant nutrient should never be separated or allowed to be wasted by neglect. The farmer who saved all the urine of his animals, doubtless his manure is more potent every year. Good seasoned peat is of immense service to farmers, when used as an absorbent, and the stall for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a wide passage in the rear, with generous passage room for peat, to be used daily with the excrement.—Boston Journal of Chemistry.

JAPANESE GROCER SHOPS.—The grocers of Japan are neither more nor less than tea-shops. All along the public roads, at frequent distances, are planted pleasant tea-houses. They "tea," according to a correspondent, when they must stop by the wayside, and in such little cups of tea, one could drink the contents of twenty of them, and then want more. Pretty tea-girls stand by the entrance, and (their teeth not yet blackened) with pretty ways and countenances, so fascinating that tea even without sugar or milk becomes agreeable. On pretty lacquered water-cans the tea-girls hand you tiny little cups with a mouthful in them, and you squat down on the nice clean mats, if you squat you, and you sip, and you sip and sip this mouthful of hot tea, as if the god's nectar was going down your throat in infinitesimal drops of microscopic invisibility. The keeper of a Japan tea-house picks out as pretty a place for the tea-house as he or she can get, the keeper chooses, if possible, a view of the Bay of Yedo, along which the most of the way here runs the Tōkaid. The grand tea-house is cut up into numerous little rooms, with papers partitions between to part them, running on slides, but all removable at will, so that the whole is one grand room. Cakes and sweets are brought in with the tea, all put on the clean matted floor (there are no seats), and all squat or stretch out on the floor.

SOMETHING ABOUT BABIES.—Talk about babies! We always loved a baby—not any of your sour, suspicious squalling specimen, but of bright, rosy dimpled thing full of fun and frolic, running over with play and of such a confiding, unsuspecting disposition as not to go to anybody. What can be more refreshing, in this busy, tireless world, than an occasional romp with a baby? A letting down as it were of the chord mind until it vibrates in unison with the baby's and then holding a confidential chat, in real baby vernacular. Then to have a complete white chubby arms thrown about your neck, and a pair of rosy lips, fresh as rosebuds ere the dew has left them, presented for a kiss. The man who can think of it without a softening of the heart and a watering of the mouth, is no better than the swine before whom the penitent weeps, and we hope he may never be blessed with a baby—or if he is, let him be a kicking, pugilistic baby, one skilled in the art of gouging, who takes delight in running his thumb into your eye, and is always trying to obtain a lock of your hair by a more summary and unceremonious process than clipping.

Not one of the hundred girls belonging to the St. Louis Normal School wear anything in the shape of chignons or waterfalls, or dresses made of any other materials than calico. They are plenty of girls in town who would give a calico lawn if they were obliged to attend such a school.

The father of Miss Clara Louise Kellogg was, while at Wesleyan University, well known as a remarkable flutist and singer, and her mother was employed as organist and singer at the Episcopal Church in Middletown, Connecticut, for many years.

A Vermont paper epitomizes the question of ministerial support by saying that in the Green Mountain State "not a few heroic, self-denying men are compelled to such shifts as impair their usefulness and success in the struggle to make it mathematically clear that one and one makes three."

A Franklin (Ind.) paper says: The woods here are swarming with wild pigeons, and sportsmen have been and are bringing them down by the hundred. The root is said to extend over eight miles of woods. At the roost, men and boys kill them with clubs, to save ammunition.

Rowland Hill made a good remark upon hearing the use of the letter H discussed, as to whether it were a letter or not. If it were not, he said it would be a very serious affair for him, for it would make him "H" all the days of his life.

Swift justice was meted out to a man named McCallis in Philadelphia last week. He had committed an assault with the intent of robbing, and in seventeen hours thereafter he was committed to the Penitentiary for seventeen years.

A man must not keep his hat on at a place of amusement, because it will inconvenience those behind him; but the lady can pile the Tower of Babylon on her head, if she chooses, and no one dares to object.

How many unfortunate have fallen in war! said a spinster to a veteran general thereafter he was committed to the Penitentiary for seventeen years.

Sir Walter Scott said that the battle of Waterloo created in the British empire 15,000 widows. A sad commentary upon a victory.

A Western lawyer includes in his bill against his client: "For waking up in the night and thinking about your case, five dollars."

Punch once called the victim of a Southampton railroad accident, broken English.

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