

The Elk County Advocate.

HENRY A. PARSONS, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

NIL DESPERANDUM.

Two Dollars per Annum.

VOL. VIII.

RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1878.

NO. 12.

The Regular Season.

Whack! Crack! Whack!
The old familiar sound;
The parlor carpet astride the fence
Is being beaten around.
Crash! Dash! Smash!
From parlor and kitchen and hall;
A yelp from Tommy, a yell from Joe—
'Twas only a mirror—that's all.
Mop! Scrub! Wash!
A painter on every hand;
Hangers of paper in every room,
And plumbers increasing the band.
Growl! Howl! Groat!
The dishes mixed up with the chairs.
The sofa upset and pictures smashed,
And wife down side with her caresses.
Bread! Cake! Tea!
Anything, most, will do;
Plates are sticky, and knives are gone—
In color the butter is blue.
Rip! Bang! Stam!
Oh! when will it ever be o'er?
When can we go to bed?
A bed not made on the floor?
Ouch! Rub! Dan!
Paint from ceiling to base;
The wh- o-washers coming at early dawn,
To make a-a-a-hotel of the place!
Doze! Dream! Wake!
And then fall asleep again
To dream that cholera came at last,
With solemn funeral train.
Once every year—
Rip things up and tear—
Smash! crash! bang!
Growl! snarl! glare!
—M. Quad, in Detroit Free Press.

MR. DELMAYNE'S WARD.

"Something must be done," said Mrs. Charles Delmayne, decisively, "the girl is getting more reckless every day."
"What can be done?" asked Mr. Richard Delmayne, looking helplessly at his sister-in-law, "we cannot shut her up in a convent."
"No, but we can find her a husband and get her comfortably settled."
"She will be so young."
"But she will be nineteen in May, and I married at that age. It is a great pity that you were so late to receive her into your household, Richard. Guardianship over a girl like Dorothea, was a great responsibility for a bachelor to assume."
"I suppose so," was the reply; "but I could not refuse the dying request of an old friend."
"At first, I entertained hopes that she would improve by remaining with us," said Mrs. Delmayne, plaintively; "but, as I remarked before, she is wilder than ever. I am kept in a perpetual state of nervous excitement, for I never know what madcap prank she will play next. I thought if I disengaged myself, and she should don a suit of Dick's pastime, skating on the pond the evening they had that skating party, but this last prank is still worse, if possible."
Mrs. Delmayne folded her plump, white hands and settled herself comfortably in a luxurious easy chair, and prepared to enjoy her favorite pastime, which consisted of retailing Dorothea's misdeeds.
"You know Squire Vonsonby has been looking for a wife for a year or two—now he is quite wealthy, is respectfully connected, and would be a very suitable match for Dorothea."
"Squire Vonsonby?" gasped Richard, in amazement, "he is old enough to be her grandfather, and has a married daughter who is considerably older than Dorothea."
"Well," replied his sister-in-law, "Dorothea needs a guardian, who is steady and sober-minded, and she is slightly headstrong. Besides, Mr. Vonsonby looks full ten years younger than his real age. In my opinion it would have been a very suitable match. But it is all over now," she added, with a sigh, "he will never enter this house again."
In answer to Richard's look of inquiry, Mrs. Delmayne continued:
"I invited Mr. Vonsonby to tea last evening—I had my household duties to attend to after tea was over, so I left Dorothea to entertain our guest. She must have neglected him shamefully, for the poor man fell asleep, and the little hussy seized the opportunity to play one of her ridiculous pranks; she actually had the audacity, and Mrs. Delmayne lowered her voice to an impressive whisper, "actually had the audacity to remove his wig and substitute an old red wig that she found among some rubbish in the garret. The poor man did not discover the trick until he had become the laughing-stock of the community. Dick happened to hear about it this morning, and I considered it my duty to inform you of the affair, as you were absent at the time."
"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Richard. "I can imagine how ridiculous he looked strutting along in his pompous manner."
"I am certainly astonished at you, Richard," said Mrs. Delmayne, severely, "I sincerely hope you do not uphold the girl in her disgraceful actions?"
"I shall of course reprove her," he replied. "Dot will improve as she grows older, I have no doubt—she is merry and thoughtless now, but I think she will develop into a splendid woman."
Mrs. Delmayne cast an uneasy look at her brother-in-law's face as she left the room. She had a reason for wishing Dot safely disposed of; she was fearful that Richard might fall in love with his fascinating ward, and that would never do, for if he were to marry it would dash Mrs. Delmayne's hopes to the ground. She had secretly determined that her son, Dick—his uncle's namesake—should be his heir. Besides, her brother-in-law's elegant residence made a very comfortable home for herself and fatherless boy, and madame had no intention of losing it, hence she made the most of Dot's mischievous escapades.
Just as madame's silver skirts rustled up the stairs the hall door flew open and light footstep danced along the passage.
"Dot! Dot!" called Mr. Delmayne. The appellation exactly suited the young girl who entered. A dainty form, a dark, piquant face, lit up with a pair of black eyes which sparkled with mischief.
"Well, Guardy," she said, with a saucy smile, which revealed a dimple in

each soft pink cheek. "What—is it a lecture?"
"Yes, Dot," replied Mr. Delmayne, gravely, "I really must lecture you. Your conduct to Mr. Vonsonby was extremely unadvisable."
"I don't care, Guardy," cried Dot, defiantly, "I can't bear old Vonsonby, and I am confident that Mrs. Delmayne invited him here to make love to me, so I resolved to frustrate her kind intentions. She left me to entertain him all the evening, and I was just dying to finish 'Jane Eyre.' Well, I gave him the last number of Scribner's and the Monthly Review, and hoped he would entertain himself; but no—he wanted me to play a game of cribbage. I hate cribbage, so I told him I never played the game without staking a small sum of money, just to make it interesting."
"Oh, Dot!"
"I looked horrified at the idea of gambling, and asked for some music, so I sat down to the piano and made as much noise as possible. He said the sort of music was very edifying, but it made his head ache, and he inquired if I could favor him with 'Annie Laurie.' I complied by playing 'Yankee Doodle' with variations, for I knew he could not distinguish the difference. Just as I was playing the last bar I was startled by a prolonged snore—he had actually gone to sleep with his head hanging over the chair, his wig awry, and his mouth wide open! Now, Guardy, you must admit that was too much for flesh and blood to endure, and I don't profess to be a saint."
"Not by any means," assented her guardian.
"Well," continued Dot, "a happy thought struck me. I ran softly up stairs and got an old red wig that Dick used to wear when he belonged to the Amateur Dramatic Club. Then I carefully removed Mr. Vonsonby's nicely dressed black wig, and substituted the red one. I had to stuff my handkerchief into my mouth to keep from laughing. You can't imagine how comical he looked."
"Well, I waited for him to finish his nap until my patience was exhausted, and then I went to the piano and gave an awful thump with both hands. He gave a sudden start and straightened up. I gravely inquired how he liked the piece."
"Charming! charming!" he replied, with enthusiasm. "I always admired Annie Laurie."
Just at that moment he happened to glance at the clock and finding it later than he expected he jumped up in great haste.
"I declare," he said, "I had no idea it was so late; how awfully the time has passed in your fascinating society; but I must tear myself away, for I have an engagement at eight o'clock."
"Then he bade me adieu, pulled on his overcoat in a great hurry, seized his hat and rushed down the street."
"But he never saw me, did he?" asked Dot, with those fierce red lips around his countenance, and Dot broke into peals of laughter at the recollection.
"Dot," said Mr. Delmayne, looking sternly at his mischievous ward; "I don't know what to do with you; I believe I may as well give you the responsibility from my hands. Mrs. Delmayne thinks you are old enough to marry, and—"
"The old dot!" interrupted Dot.
"Dot," said Mr. Delmayne, sternly, "I cannot allow you to apply such an epithet to my sister-in-law."
"Your sister-in-law?" cried Dot, innocently, "why, I was speaking of old Tabby."
Mr. Delmayne adroitly converted a smile into a yawn.
"Yes," he continued, "I must certainly find a nice young husband for you."
"I am perfectly willing," replied Dot, composedly, "but who is to be the lucky man? Let me see," she continued, reflectively, "there's my French dancing master, he pressed my hand quite warmly the last time he was here, and he has beautiful eyes, and such a love of a mustache," she added, enthusiastically.
"The jackanapes, he shall never darken these doors again," muttered Mr. Delmayne, between his teeth.
"Then there is Whitney's head clerk, I am sure he admires me."
"Well," continued Dot, "there is the German music teacher at the seminary, he is a jolly old bear, but then," she added, thoughtfully, "he is a widower with five children; I don't know as I should be capable of taking that position."
"I should think not, decidedly," acquiesced her guardian, with a smile.
"Well," cried Dot, with a despairing expression on her saucy face, "I don't know what can be done—unless you marry me yourself."
Then, suddenly realizing the enormity of her heedless speech, she darted from the room.
"Marry her myself," mused Mr. Richard Delmayne, "it is not a bad idea. I wonder that it never entered my stupid brain, for I believe I am fond of the little monkey after all, and how desolate the house would be without the sunshine of her presence."
"Not quite nineteen," he continued, thoughtfully, "I am just double her age and I fear I am too old to sulk her youthful fancy; but nevertheless, I will try my fate."
The bell roused Mr. Delmayne from his reflection. I must mention this subject to Helen, he thought, when I have an opportunity.
"Marry that forward little chit," cried madame, in dismay, as Richard thus ruthlessly demolished her castle in the air. "Why, Richard, you must be crazy! A man of your years to think of marrying, when you have a comfortable home, and a sister to attend to your wants. If you take this step, Richard," she continued, "I am confident you will regret it. I think you will see a vast difference with that careless, ignorant child at the head of your household, for I shall not remain to be dominated over by a saucy, independent girl."
Mr. Delmayne made no reply to his sister-in-law's determination would not break his heart.
Dot stood by the window in the deep-

ening twilight, awaiting her guardian, who had been absent several days looking after some property in New York.
Suddenly Dot was aroused from the reverie into which had fallen by a well-known step, and she ran eagerly to the door to admit her guardian.
"Well, puss, what have you been doing during my absence?" asked Mr. Delmayne, as he seated himself before the glowing grate and warmed his chilled fingers.
"Oh, dear!" cried Dot, "I have been shockingly bad. I can't remember one-half the wickedness I have committed. You must apply to madame for the details, she has a long black list of misdemeanors ready for your private ear; but, Guardy, did you succeed in finding a husband for me?"
"Yes," answered Mr. Delmayne, composedly, "but whether you will be suited, remains to be seen."
"I suppose I shall be compelled to marry him whether I will or no," rejoined Dot, merrily.
"Not by any means," answered the guardian, gravely.
"Oh, that is decidedly commonplace—you are not at all like the cruel guardians in stories, who compel their wretched wards to wed the one they choose for them. I am quite disappointed."
"Oh, very well, said Mr. Delmayne, "I will do so with pleasure. The person I have chosen will, I am sure, strive to make you happy; but remember there is to be no appeal from my decision."
"It is really going to be romantic after all," cried Dot, clapping her hands; "but when am I to be presented to my fate? Now if he had only sent his photograph, the affair would be complete."
"I believe I have it," said Mr. Delmayne, coolly producing his pocket-book.
Dot glanced curiously at the *carte de visite* which he passed to her, and beheld the handsome face of her guardian.
"Well," said Mr. Delmayne, drawing his ward to his side, and trying to look into her downcast eyes, "I have chosen you for forty to fifty bushels to the acre; it should be applied to the surface and not ploughed under immediately, as it has a natural tendency to sink rapidly in the soil, and as it acts more efficiently when mixed with the soil near the surface, I will give you an eighth of an acre of fine silted sandy soil; and I will do little or no good upon low, wet, undrained lands."
"Farm Journal."
"FLOWER SEEDS.—This is the season for planting flower seeds in the house, hence the following directions are opportune: Sow on rich and light soil, covering very fine seeds, such as lobelia, with a layer of fine sand. If the seeds are sandy soil, water with a fine sprinkler often and a little at a time, keeping the soil moist, but not wet. If the temperature of the room is above fifty degrees Fahrenheit, the seeds will grow long, slender and weakly. When the plants are four good-sized leaves, carefully transplant them without breaking the rootlets, and when an inch high transplant again. Coarser seeds require covering deeper, but in no case more than from one-fourth to one-half an inch."
"RECIPES."
"BUTTER SCOTCH CANDY.—One cup of molasses, one of sugar, and one-half a cup of butter. Mix then together, and cook until it will stiffen when dropped into water. When done pour in pans and let it cool."
"RICE CAKE.—One-quarter pound of ground rice, one-quarter pound of white sugar, five eggs. Beat all together till it froths; then pour into a tin lined with buttered paper. Bake in a quick oven for three-quarters of an hour. Lemon flavoring may be used."
"BAKED FISH.—After cleaning, salt the fish for about an hour, then wash it. Make a dressing of bread crumbs, salt and pepper, summer savory and a piece of butter the size of a walnut. Then put in a pan and sprinkle with flour; press on a little butter, pepper, salt and about a pint of water. Bake an hour and a half."
"SOUP OF GREEN PEAS.—Boil three quarts of shelled peas in two quarts of water. Mix three ounces of butter with flour until quite smooth; add a little salt, black pepper, and a dust of Cayenne pepper, and stir into the boiling peas until the whole boils again, and you will have a cheap and wholesome summer dish."
"A RELISH FOR BREAKFAST.—Take one cup of a pint of fresh cheese, cut in thin slices, put in a frying-pan, turning a cup of sweet milk over it; add one-fourth teaspoonful dry mustard, a pinch of salt and pepper, and a piece of butter about the size of a butternut; stir the mixture all the time. Roll three sugar crackers very fine and sprinkle in a bowl with oil at once into a warm dish; send to table immediately."
"A NICE AND HANDSOME SALAD.—Select two good heads of lettuce, split them in half, then wash them in cold water and shake them dry in a napkin; lay them in a salad-bowl, cut lengthwise some well-cooked red beets, and lay them between the heads of lettuce; boil three eggs, very hard; remove the whites from the yolks, and cut up the whites into fine shreds, and scatter over the salad, then cut up some squares of the beet and scatter over; of the yolks make the sauce, by rubbing very smoothly the yolk with a spoon; add a little Cayenne, salt, a large spoonful of dry mustard, add a teaspoonful of pulverized white sugar; mix these latter together in a basin, with a spoon. When slowly add two large spoonfuls of olive-oil, and when a smooth paste, add three spoonfuls of the best vinegar. The sauce must be served with the salad."
"A FRENCH CANADIAN FISHERMAN, in passing along the bank of the Ottawa, near its confluence with the St. Lawrence, discovered the body of a large seal close to the shore. On pulling it out of the water he found that the head of the seal was stuck fast in the mouth of a large muskallonge, which would have weighed about fifty pounds. Both seal and fish, as a matter of course, were dead. It is supposed that the seal attempted to capture the muskallonge, but was met with a fierce resistance."

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Bees Stings.
Mr. J. D. Hyatt, President of the New York Microscopical Society, gave an account of his investigations on the subject of stings. These studies have extended over a period of eight years, but only recently have some obscure points been made out. The general form of the stinging organ of the honey bee is well known by microscopists. It consists of a horny sheath, within which are two stings, and these, when in use, are thrust out. There is a poison bag which discharges its contents into the sheath. This is a point well known, but it appears that the precise method by which the fluid makes its way from the sheath into the wound has not heretofore been properly explained. According to the generally accepted explanation the poison is supposed to flow in a channel formed between the two piercers or stings, and in this way make its way into the wound. Mr. Hyatt advances another hypothesis, and believes he has positive proof that he is right, having dissected and examined upwards of a thousand stings.
On examining a properly prepared sting from a honey bee, he notices first that the piercers are very sharp, and barbed for some distance from the end, there being nine barbs pointing upward on each one. These barbs are gracefully curved, and it can easily be seen that when once they find their way into the flesh it would be difficult to withdraw them. This explains why the honey bee sting still remains in the flesh, while the stings of other insects, with finer barbs, are withdrawn.
A more careful observation indicates that the stings are tubes. There appears to be a channel running through the length of each one, having branches which terminate in the notches just above the barbs. After careful study of these channels, many of which were found to contain air or water after mounting, and were thus proved to be veritable channels, the question arose as to their use. The natural inference would be that they were ducts for the poison, but there could be found no possible connection between the poison gland and these channels, for, as already stated, the poison flows into the sheath.
After long and patient investigation the explanation of the stings was as follows: At the back part of the sting these channels open into the sheath, and just in front of that opening, attached to the stings, is a sort of valve which projects into the sheath. When, in the operation of stinging, the piercers are thrust out, they force the valve open, so as to close the front of the sheath, for which purpose they are admirably adapted, and the poison thus confined within the sheath makes its way out through these openings in the stings. Whence once introduced, the operation seems very simple. There are objections to the common explanation. Cross sections of the stings show that the walls are quite thin, but strengthened in some places by internal deposits. The form of the stings is such that no channel can be formed between them to conduct the poison.
Tea Raising.
The experiment of tea growing in this country is one of the most interesting ever tried. Being successful in every way, the time has come to go beyond the experiment and cultivate it on a large scale. In the Southern States, many people have raised tea successfully. It is a hardy shrub, like a thorny evergreen. The ordinary height of the tea bush is from three to six feet, and we are told the wild growth reaches fifteen or twenty feet—in fact, a tree ten inches in diameter. Tea is raised from small nuts or seeds. Three or four of these are dropped into a hole and covered with earth two or three inches deep. The seeds must be successful in every way, the time has come to go beyond the experiment and cultivate it on a large scale. In the Southern States, many people have raised tea successfully. It is a hardy shrub, like a thorny evergreen. 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