The Elk County Advocate.

HENRY A. PARSONS, Jr., Editor and Publisher. NIL DESPERANDUM. Two Dollars per Annum.

VOL. IX. RIDGWAY, ELK COUNTY, PA., THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1879. NO. 17.

Let Bygones be Bygones.

Let bygones be bygones; if bygones were clouded
By aught that occasioned a pang of regret,
Oh, let them in darkest oblivion be shrouded;
'Tis wise and 'tis kind to forgive and forget.

Let bygones be bygones, and good be extracted
From ill over which it is a folly to fret;
The wisest of mortals have foolishly acted—
The kindest are those who forgive and forget.

Let bygones be bygones; oh, cherish no longer
The thought that the sun of affection has set;
Eclipsed for a moment, its rays will be stronger
If you, like a Christian, forgive and forget.

Let bygones be bygones; your heart will be lighter
When kindness of yours with reception has met;
The flame of your love will be purer and brighter
If, God-like, you strive to forgive and forget.

Let bygones be bygones; oh, purge out the leaven
Of malice, and try an example to set
To others, who, craving the mercy of heaven,
Are sadly too slow to forgive and forget.

Let bygones be bygones; remember how deeply
To Heaven's forbearance we all are in debt;
They value God's infinite goodness too cheaply
To heed not the precept, "Forgive and forget."

—*Chambers' Journal.*

My Strange Fellow-Passenger.

"Yes," said the old doctor, assenting to a remark I had just made. "I've had a good many strange experiences in my time, and I think I may call mine rather an eventful life.

"Forty years ago last June," he resumed, after a moment of thoughtful silence, "I graduated with high honors, and received a hospital appointment, which would furnish me with employment for the next five years, and enable me to obtain a practical knowledge of medicine before setting up for myself.

"My duties did not begin, however, before the first of August, and as I was a little worn out by the heat and by hard study, I was glad to be able to spend the intervening six weeks with my mother in the country.

"I left Philadelphia one day at noon, by the stage that was to convey me to the town where she lived. We were to travel until late in the evening, when we were to stop for the night at a little public house on the road, resuming our journey by the mail-coach at six the next morning.

"There were two other passengers besides myself, a young man who had secured the box-seat which I had expected to get, and a lady who sat inside with me.

"We drove along merrily enough, in good humor with ourselves and each other, and had placed about a mile between us and the town, when, as I looked out of the window, I saw, standing by the roadside, a man with a carpet-bag in one hand, who was beckoning to the driver with the other. We presently came up with him.

"'Inside or outside, sir?' asked the driver, as he dismounted.

"'Inside; inside, of course,' was the reply, a little irascibly, I thought, as the new-comer placed his feet upon the step.

"'Yer pay in advance, sir, beggin' yer pardon,' reminded the driver, detaining him and touching his hat.

"The old gentleman—he was elderly, and to all appearance a gentleman—seemed further irritated by the delay. He asked the amount, however, paid it at once, and took his seat beside me, bestowing his carpet-bag under his feet, and evincing great satisfaction as we started again.

"I had feared we were to have a disagreeable addition to our party, judging from first impressions; but when, after a while, the man joined in conversation with us, we found him remarkably intelligent and affable.

"Before he had talked a great while I discovered he had led rather a nomadic life. Europe, South America, East India, seemed equally familiar to him. Without being garrulous, he had so many charming incidents to relate of life in many lands, that he contrived to entertain us most delightfully.

"I judged he was traveling on important business, he seemed so jealous of any attention. When we stopped to allow the "box-seat" passenger to alight, and again at three o'clock, when we halted for dinner, I noticed he became restless and anxious.

"At dinner, his manner was constrained. He ate little, and talked less, consulted his watch frequently, and finally excused himself before we had half finished the meal, and left the room.

"When we resumed our seats in the stage, we found him there before us. He was seated in his old place, with his head drawn back in an uncomfortable corner, effectually shielding him from observation. Indeed, I had handed the lady in before she discovered him, and she gave a little cry of surprise.

"'I hope I haven't startled you, madam,' he said. 'I had no appetite for dinner, so I thought I might as well wait here as in the house.'

"'These delays are rather annoying when one is anxious to get on,' I remarked.

"'Yes, sir; yes,' he replied with a light sigh. 'It is highly important, too, that I should lose no time on the way.'

"He then changed the subject, with the ease of a man of the world, and our conversation became general. He was certainly very pleasant. After five o'clock, when the 'lady inside' as the driver called her, left us to ourselves, our *tete-a-tete* was especially agreeable.

"Just at dark, we drew up in front of the little inn which was to furnish us with our night's lodging

"The proprietor came out to meet us, and with many apologies regretted that he had but one spare room to offer us.

"There was a wedding in the neighborhood that evening, and a party from town had driven down early in the afternoon and engaged all his apartments except this one chamber.

"But if you two gentlemen don't object sharing the same room for a couple of hours—you'll have to rise early to take the mail coach—I think I can make you very comfortable. There are two clean beds in the room, and—'

"'I'm sure I'll not object,' I interrupted, turning to my fellow-traveler.

"He hesitated an instant, and then said, 'Well, sir, I'm agreed if you are;' then, with an almost solemn tone, 'Remember, sir, the proposal came from you, and if fate should—'

"The astonishment expressed, no doubt, upon my face at this peculiar address, caused him to stop. Then he laughed pleasantly, and resuming his usual manner, said, 'Excuse me, but my mind, just now, is so occupied with affairs very important to me that I'm afraid my attention sometimes wanders. You are very kind to offer me half of your room. I accept with many thanks.' And we passed into the tavern, where a good supper was awaiting us.

"There were no other guests at the table. 'All gone to the wedding,' the landlord said.

"We did not regret in the least having the house to ourselves, and supper being concluded, we went to the wide front porch, where we spent the evening in pleasant talk.

"I gave my companion a sketch of my life for the past three or four years. He reciprocated by telling me about his family—his wife, and his lovely daughter, who was very dear to him.

"'She is a good girl, and a very pretty girl, too; everybody says so. Stay—I've her miniature in my carpet-bag, and my wife's too. I'll show them to you.'

"He rose from his seat, when a sudden thought seemed to strike him, and he resumed his chair, saying, 'I'd forgotten. They have taken my carpet-bag up stairs to the room. You can see them at bedtime.'

"About eleven, we rose to go to our room. My companion preceded me. I sought the landlord to ask that I should be called at half-past four, so that I might dress and breakfast at my leisure, before taking the coach again.

"I lingered, chatting, for ten minutes or so with 'mine host.' When at last I entered the bed-chamber, I found my room-mate had made good use of his time, and was already in bed, with the coverlet drawn up to his very ears, as if it had been December instead of June. Making no comment, however, I was soon occupying the second couch, which stood in a recess in the inner extremity of the room, on one side of the great fireplace.

"I did not sleep well. I had a teasing dream, which recurred again and again. It seemed to me that some one was moving about the room with eyes fixed on me. Once I thought this figure approached my bed, and a hand touched me.

"I roused with a start. When my eyes became accustomed to the darkness, I saw the old gentleman looking out of the window by his bedside.

"He said he had been disturbed, and he supposed the wedding guests were just returning. Gay voices outside, presently followed by footsteps ascending the stairs, and mutual good-nights exchanged, corroborated this conjecture.

"Soon all became quiet, and I again fell asleep, and was again disturbed. This time I was sure that there were stealthy feet creeping around the room, and that a hoarse voice was muttering. I listened, and distinctly heard the words, 'The will of Fate.' I called out:

"'Who is there?"

"No answer followed. The muttering ceased. I heard the feet creeping away toward the other bed. I could not stand the suspense, and sprang up and lighted the candle in an instant.

"There was no person in the room but the old gentleman, who was sitting up in bed, looking startled.

"'Did you hear that noise? Were you walking about?" I asked.

"'Walking about?" he replied. 'I am only just this moment awake. I heard you call out, and I roused to see what was the matter.'

"'I'm sure I heard footsteps and voices, too, in this room!'

"'Voices in the room! You're surely mistaken.'

"'*I'm not* mistaken!' I repeated, testily. 'Why, I could even distinguish words. Something was said about the "will of Fate."'

"He laughed confusedly as he replied, 'I'm afraid I've been talking in my sleep again. My friends say I'm addicted to that bad habit, and I suppose I say all sorts of things. I think it is very likely you heard me; and as to the footsteps, perhaps our friends next door have been restless.'

"I listened, but could hear no sound.

"This explanation did not satisfy me. I looked at my watch. It was just two o'clock.

"'It is very strange, but those steps were in this room,' I said. 'I will let the candle burn for the rest of the night. It will be daylight, now, in an hour and a half, and I, for one, shall be glad to see it. If I believed in ghosts, I should think this room was haunted.' I lay down again, determined, if possible, not to go to sleep.

"The noises were not repeated. Silence pervaded the house, unbroken, except by the breathing of the old gentleman, who, it was evident, was now sleeping soundly. He was not frightened; that was certain.

"I mused on these things for some time. Those strange words, 'the will of fate,' what did they mean? Just then it occurred to me that my fellow-passenger had used such an expression the evening before, when I first offered to share my room with him. 'He must have been talking in his sleep, after all. I'm a fool to think so much about it.'

"I tossed and tumbled, and again consulted my watch.

"'Only twenty minutes of three! Oh, that morning would come!'

"I glanced across the room, and fancied for an instant that I saw my companion's eyes wide open, watching me; but when I sat up in bed to satisfy myself about it, he seemed to be sound asleep.

"By this time, I began to be ashamed of myself. The house was so quiet it seemed absurd to be keeping vigil. Nature began to assert her claims, too, and settling back on my pillow again, I presently lost consciousness.

"When I awoke again, it was broad daylight. My fellow-traveler was already dressed, and stood with his back to me by the open window near the dressing-table. I was about to say, 'Good morning,' when I heard him mutter to himself—

"'It's the will of fate. There's no resisting it. I call on you all to witness'—extending one hand, as if appealing to an assembled company—'I am only an unthinking agent in this matter. His blood be on fate's head, not mine. I've enlisted in her service, and I'm bound to obey orders.'

"Filled with a vague alarm, I started into a sitting posture, the better to catch the import of his words. At that moment he turned, gazed at me an instant, then advanced toward me. There was a pistol in his hand.

"He approached with the pistol leveled at me, his eyes burning like coals of fire. Otherwise his manner was quiet, and his voice low and muffled.

"'Come, sir,' he said, shortly, 'prepare for death! Fate, whom I serve, commands me to slay you at the rising of the sun. You have just five minutes in which to make your peace with Heaven: then you must die!'

"The pistol was what was then called a 'pepper-box,' the prototype of the whole modern arsenal of revolving weapons. As he held it toward me, I could distinctly see the balls at the end of the chambers; and I realized that the man who held the weapon of death was a maniac. If I made the least movement toward the door, my young life would be the forfeit.

"What should I do?"

"Like a flash of light came the thought: 'The landlord will be coming presently to rouse you. Try to keep your wits about you, and gain a little time.'

"'Are you praying?" said the madman.

"'I'm thinking,' I replied, as quietly as I could, fixing my eyes upon his livid countenance, 'that is very harsh treatment to offer a man who has done nothing worse to you than to give you a share of his room.'

"'Can't help it, sir; must obey orders.'

"'Do you know,' I said, trying to control my voice, 'that you've deceived me? You didn't tell me, yesterday, about your being an agent of Fate, or I should have been better prepared; but you allowed me to believe you to be a gentleman, traveling on ordinary business or for pleasure; so I offered you a bed in my room; and in return, you take my life! To say the least, you have not behaved like a gentleman.'

"He looked a little troubled. 'Deceived is a strong word, sir,' he began.

"'I can call it nothing else,' I returned, still speaking as quietly as I could; and what is more, sir, when a man deceives me about one thing, I'm very apt to distrust any other statement he may make to me. I doubt, now, whether you were ever in the East at all; I doubt whether you were ever married; I doubt if you have a daughter. Why, I remember how you said, last evening, you'd show me her miniature; but you didn't produce it. I don't believe now you've such a thing in your possession.'

"'I have! I swear I have it here in my carpet-bag!' he said, letting his hand which held the revolver fall to his side in his earnestness.

"'Well,' said I, nonchalantly, 'I'll believe you when I see the picture, not before.'

"He laid the pistol down on the foot of my bed, and strode across the room. You may believe I lost no time in securing the weapon.

"Just then footsteps sounded in the passage outside. The landlord was coming at last. I sprang to the door, and pointed the pistol at my late would-be executioner, who had turned, and was looking at his empty hands in consternation.

"'You stir another step,' I cried, 'it will be your last step!"

"I then opened the door and admitted the astonished host, who looked perfectly aghast as I tried to explain to him what had occurred. I was excited almost to frenzy, while my companion, well-dressed, bland and self-possessed, expressed the greatest amazement at my story, which he denied in every particular.

"'Just look at his appearance,' he said. 'Contrast his manner with mine, and tell me which of us looks like the madman. You heard him outside, just now, landlord, threaten to shoot me. He has the pistol in his hand now. Is it likely that, if it belonged to me, I would give it into his possession? The man is perfectly insane—has been acting like a lunatic ever since he awakened this morning.'

"'At this unexpected turn of affairs, I was so nonplussed that, in an excited manner, I endeavored to show the deceit of the fellow, moving the pistol in my excited gesticulations.

"'Help, help! Murder, murder!' screamed the man, in apparent terror.

"'Help, help! Murder, murder!' echoed the wretched landlord, who clutched at the other's arm, and dragged him toward the door, vociferating, 'Help!' There's a crazy man up stairs!'

"I don't know how I should have convinced the landlord of my sanity if unexpected help had not arrived soon after, in the shape of two stout, burly keepers from an insane asylum in Philadelphia, who pounced at once upon the old gentleman as their legitimate property, and handcuffed him in the twinkling of an eye.

"They had most opportunely arrived by the mail-coach during the altercation up stairs.

"It seemed that the old gentleman had formerly been an actor (I could well believe it), but was possessed with a homicidal mania, and had been pronounced incurable. As soon as his escape from the asylum was discovered, it at once occurred to the keepers to inquire for him at the different coach offices in the city.

"No such person being booked as a passenger, they were thrown off the track, and were searching the city and its environs, when they were put upon the right track by a countryman who had seen him waiting on the roadside to take the stage.

"They had just time to send off two men by the mail-coach, which left Philadelphia at ten, and which arrived at the inn just in time to rescue me from a distressing dilemma.

"How the maniac obtained possession of a loaded revolver they could not conjecture, and he obstinately refused to tell.

"However, as you may imagine, I did not concern myself a great deal with that question. I hurried on with my clothes, ate what breakfast I could, and left the house by that blessed mail-coach at six o'clock, thankful enough that I was able to pursue my journey uninjured.—*Youth's Companion.*

Probably the oldest timber in the world which has been subjected to the use of man is that which is found in the ancient temples of Egypt. It is found as dowel-pins in connection with stone-work which is known to be at least 4,000 years old. These dowels appear to be of tamarisk, or chittim-wood, of which the ark is said to have been constructed, a sacred tree in Egypt, and now very rarely found in the valley of the Nile.

A San Francisco genius named Howland has invented a machine that will tell to within a small amount the quantity of gold a person has about him. He spent $8,000 in experimenting, and is now so poor that the machine will not act within a mile of his own pocket.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Carrot Culture.

The carrot prefers a light, sandy loam of medium fertility. A good coat of manure, applied to the soil the previous year, will prove of advantage; but if it is manured the same season it should be with guano after the crop is up.

As a Garden Crop.—For garden culture the earliest crop should be sown as soon as the ground is fit to work. Late crops for winter use can be sown any time before the middle of June. The seed should be soaked a couple of days in water; and immediately afterward mixed with a small quantity of ashes or plaster. This will prevent the seed from adhering together and it can then be sown more evenly. Sow in rows fifteen inches apart and cover the seed with about half an inch of soil. Later, the young plants should be thinned to three inches apart in the row. Cultivate diligently, and remove all weeds from the rows. The carrot crop is one of those crops that are irrevocably damaged if the weeds are allowed to get the start. The Early Horn and Atringham are among the best varieties for cooking purposes. For winter use, carrots are most conveniently kept in a cellar, packed in dry sand.

As a Field Crop.—But the carrot is more extensively cultivated as a field crop for food for cattle and horses. For this purpose the Long Orange and Large White Belgian are the best. In good soil these may attain a size of twelve inches long and three inches thick, and give a yield of from 1,200 to 1,400 bushels to the acre. The land, which though light must not suffer from lack of moisture, should be thoroughly pulverized by deep plowing and repeated harrowing. Soak the seed and mix it with ashes or plaster as before, and sow it from the middle of May to the first of June, in rows two feet apart with a seed-drill, taking care that it does not clog in the hopper. Hoe the crop as soon as the rows can be seen, and when a couple of inches high, the plants should be thinned to six or seven inches apart. After this, the horse-cultivator should go through the plat at least once a fortnight, as long as the crop is growing. In the fall, when the roots are taken up, they should be allowed to dry in the sun for a couple of days after the tops are cut off, before they are put up for winter use. They may be stored in a cellar, out-of-doors, or in pits, like potatoes and turnips, but having a greater tendency to decay than these, when put together in large quantities, they should be placed in small heaps only.

A crop of carrots is somewhat more expensive to raise than a crop of turnips, but for winter and spring feed, both for horses and cattle, they are said to be better than any other root crop. Fed in moderate quantities, they strengthen the digestive organs of the animals and help to assimilate other food eaten in connection with them. Experienced dairymen have maintained that carrots, fed to milch cows, not only increase the flow of milk, but that they impart a flavor to the milk similar to that from green pasturage, and that the butter from cows fed on the Orange varieties acquires a color like summer butter. The following analysis gives the composition of carrots:

Water	87.5
Albumen and casein	0.6
Sugar	5.4
Fat	1.2
Gum	1.0
Woody fiber	3.3
Ash	1.0
	100.00

—*Rural New Yorker.*

House-top Gardening.

A really serious effort is being made to establish house-top gardening in our city, says a New York letter. All the sanitary objections which have been made to it at one time or another have been easily waved aside by our skillful inventors in styles of roofing. Having seen these blossoming upper surfaces arranged in Europe with many pleasant consequences, it is impossible not to look forward to the possibility of their general uses with eagerness. It is proposed to have one part of the roof glassed over, and the other part covered with a wire netting to keep the mischievous sparrow from despoiling the tender vegetation, and also to prevent a heedless foot from treading upon nothing at all over the eaves. A summer evening, with easy garden chairs, tea-trays, with glasses and unmentionable delicacies of cooling liquids standing in readiness upon them, are said to be as certain a luxury awaiting the future New Yorker as is a new moon once a month or a Black Friday once in a dozen years.

Of course, the garden summit to a home will protect scuttles down which the burglar lately finds an easy and undisturbed opportunity to enter a house. Incredible as it may appear, in our own block nine huge trunks were lifted up through this necessary aperture to a neighboring roof, where every article of value in a whole family wardrobe for summer uses was removed unnoticed and carried away, nobody has yet learned where, and the trunks themselves were left to be returned to the attic, to be again refilled with costly marketable fineries for future roof burglars.

A Relish for Farm Stock.

The importance of an occasional relish of salt and wood ashes for all kinds of stock, says the New York *World*, cannot be too highly appreciated. The most convenient form in which these materials are offered, according to feeders of wide experience, is in a solid mass, which admits of diligent licking on the part of the animal without gaining more of the mixture than is desirable. In order to mix these ingredients so that a solid mass may be formed, take salt and pure wood ashes in the proportion of pound for pound, with water sufficient to hold the mixture together. To preserve the mixture in a solid state place it in troughs or boxes sheltered sufficiently to keep rain and snow from reaching it and converting it into an alkaline pickle. These troughs with their tempting contents prove efficient as baits for alluring animals, turned out on long runs during the day, home at night.

When cattle chew leather, wood and old bones, remember that it indicates a lack of phosphate of lime in their food, which is required to supply bone material. A teaspoonful of bone meal given daily with their grain will correct the habit and supply the deficiency which induces it. If the disposition to eat bones is indulged in when cows are on grass, the deficiency evidently exists in the soil, and the pasture will be greatly benefited by a top dressing of bone dust. Two or three hundred pounds to the acre, sown broadcast, will repay attending expenses in a better yield and quality of milk and butter.

Leaves in Cookery.

An English writer, speaking of the culinary uses for leaves, says that one of the most useful and harmless of all leaves for flavoring is that of the common syringa. When cucumbers are scarce these are a perfect substitute in salads, where that flavor is desired. Again the young leaves of the cucumber itself have a wonderful similarity in taste to that fruit. Carrot tops may be used, and a prodigious waste is suffered in not using the external leaves and blanched footstalks of the celery plant. The young leaves of the gooseberry added to bottled fruit give a fresher flavor and a greener color to pies and tarts. The leaves of the flowering currant give a sort of intermediate flavor between black currants and red. Orange, citron and lemon leaves impart a flavoring equal to that of the fruit and rind combined, and somewhat different from both. A few leaves added to pies, or boiled in the milk, used to bake with rice, or formed into crusts or paste, impart an admirable "bouquet." An infusion can be made of either the green or dry leaves, and a tea or tablespoonful used. Peach leaves give the flavor of bitter almonds.

Mulching Trees.

During warm weather the mulching of young trees is a decided advantage to their growth, particularly the first season after planting. Many young trees have, after planting, started out well, and as soon as the warm dry season came, withered up and died, whereas if they had been mulched they would have prospered finely. Mulching is done by placing a layer of coarse manure from three to six inches deep, extending one or two feet further in each direction than the roots. This protects the earth about the roots against drying or baking with wind and sun, retains to it the requisite moisture and obviates all occasion for a practice generally of injurious effects—the watering of newly-planted trees. In case it is not convenient to get manure, cut down grass, weeds, etc., and put about the trees, placing flat stones or boards on top to keep it from blowing away.—*Exchange.*

Exciting Scenes at a Hotel Fire.

Some of the exciting scenes which took place during the fatal fire at Hagerstown, Md., are described in the columns of the New York *Herald*: The fire broke out in the front part of the Washington Hotel under the stairway on the second floor, and when discovered it had gained considerable headway. A commercial traveler was first awakened by the smoke and he gave the alarm. Mrs. Middlekauff and a servant girl were soon aroused from their beds and they ran through the house kicking at the doors of the sleeping-rooms and crying "Fire!" As the news of the conflagration spread there was the greatest excitement among the inmates, who rushed about in all directions to make their escape from the rapidly burning building. The front way of egress for those on the third and fourth floors had been cut off by the fire, and those on the second floor found it dangerous to escape in that direction. Mrs. Middlekauff did invaluable service in saving the lives of the inmates. Three times she visited the upper floors, and was prevented at a dangerous moment from going on the fourth mission. She also conducted the guests to the rear building of the hotel, when many made their escape down the stairway. Many others were not so fortunate. Some jumped from the windows, sustaining injuries, and others were seriously burned in their efforts to get to the outside. Thomas Troxell was specially warned of the fire, but he appeared to be indifferent, showing no disposition to hurry when he received the news. A few hours after the fire his body was found in a mangled condition and burned beyond recognition. The body lay among the rubbish of the stairway of the ladies' entrance. Troxell, who was in Hagerstown attending court, had evidently tried to make his escape by the front way.

S. H. Dorsey, a young man, rescued Mrs. Patterson and child from the third floor at the peril of his life. The stairway was enveloped in flames, and he dashed forward, receiving a number of burns about the head during his ascent. The woman and child were uninjured, their rescuer removing them from the building by the back way. While the fire was in progress a bundle of bedclothing was found in an alley adjoining the burning hotel. Investigation disclosed a man who had wrapped the clothing about him and jumped from one of the upper stories. He was not seriously hurt.

Did he Get a "Raise."

No barber knoweth whom he may shave, and the man who rushes into a shop and drops into a barber-chair, without seeing who occupies the next chair to the right or left may get badly left, as a case proved yesterday. A solid old citizen in the wholesale trade was taking it easy, his face covered with lather, when in came a young man who flung off his coat, bounced into a chair, and called out:

"Hurry up, now, for I must get back to the store before old Blank does or he will raise Ned! Hang him, he won't even give a man time to die!"

The solid citizen turned his face to glance at the other, and the barber noticed a reddening of his face.

"Going on a vacation this summer?" asked the barber who was preparing to shave the young man.

"Vacation! How the deuce can I get away from old Blank? And if I could he pays such a stingy, contemptible salary that I couldn't afford even a ride on the ferryboat!"

"Why don't you ask him for a raise?" queried the barber.

"Why don't I ask for the hand of his freckle-nosed daughter. He'd discharge me in a minute, though he's making money and can afford it. If the old hyena would have a stroke of apoplexy the junior partner might do something, but such chaps always live to be a hundred years old."

Conversation ceased here, the solid man got out of his chair, took a brushing and sat down, and when the clerk arose from his chair and turned around snow-balls would have looked black beside his face. He tried to bow and speak, but something wouldn't let him, and when he started to put on his coat he held it tails up and collar down. He was still struggling with it when the solid man rose up, looked around and walked out, saying never a word. The barbers wet the young man's head and held cologne to his nose, but he walked sideways when he went out and there was an uncertain wobble to his knees. In applying for the vacant position today state what shop you shave at.—*Detroit Free Press.*

TIMELY TOPICS.

In many parts of Germany the roads are lined along the entire distance with rows of poplars, or of apple trees, the branches of which latter bend beneath the weight of fruit. A fine of three shillings is the penalty for plucking the fruit, consequently it is permitted to ripen, and the owners of the community reap the benefit of the foresight in planting shade trees at once beautiful and profitable.

Horse races were introduced into the Grecian games 648 years B. C., and 152 years later, or B. C. 496, a race called the "Calpe," for mares only, was also introduced into their sports. The date of the introduction of racing in England is unknown. In this country the first racing is believed to have taken place almost simultaneously in both Virginia and Maryland, about the year 1750; but the first race for a public stake was on Long Island, in 1818, against time, by a horse called "Boston Blue," for $1,000.

The value of California's products is given in these figures from the San Francisco *Journal of Commerce*: "We have a wheat crop which will reach at least twenty millions of cental. We will have a wool crop of forty-five to fifty million pounds. Our vintage will yield not less than eight million gallons of wine and brandy. Ten million cental of barley will be raised, and two million cental of corn. The south will yield four million pounds of honey. Our gold and silver yield will not fall short of twenty million dollars. Our fruit and raisin crop will sell for at least three millions of dollars. Quicksilver, coal and copper will yield moderately, if not in their wonted abundance."

Peculiar and infrequent crimes are brought to light occasionally in the New York police courts. A woman was recently sentenced to twenty days' imprisonment for unmercifully flogging her twelve-year-old niece, and the child was given over to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. On the same day, in another court, a woman received four months in the penitentiary for throwing kerosene over her husband's body, lighting a match and then trying to set fire to the oil. Husband and wife had not lived happily together for years. One evening he came home, found her slightly intoxicated and the two had some words. Just as the man was retiring his wife threw the oil over him, but was frustrated in her diabolical attempt and arrested.

The reported exploits of Mlle. Sophie von Herzfeld and several other ladies during the recent Nihilist *emeute* at Kieff, add one more instance to the long list of female revolutionists in Russia. During the tumult which dethroned Peter III., in 1763, in favor of Catharine II., Countess Dashkoff rode at the head of the Preobrajenski regiment in male attire, with pistols at her saddle-bow. Several ladies of rank took part in the conspiracy formed against Alexander I. in 1824-5. Among the political prisoners banished to Siberia by Nicholas in 1831, was the celebrated Princess Trubetskoi. One of the principal leaders of the Polish insurrection of 1863 was accompanied everywhere by his young wife, who made herself conspicuous in every skirmish by her reckless bravery. The attempt made by Vera Sassulitch upon the life of the ex-Minister of Police, Gen. Trepoff, is still fresh in every one's memory, and two young ladies of good family were found among the workers of the Nihilist printing press recently seized in St. Petersburg.

In the New York postoffice a force of six men is employed solely in correcting blunders of the people who write letters, and the skill which these men display in deciphering "blind" addresses is surprising. The postmaster gives the following list of a few of the many postoffices in the United States bearing the same name: There are eighteen Brooklyns, twenty Williamsburgs, five Baltimores, ten Bangors, twelve Bostons, sixteen Buffalos, seventeen Burlingtons, seventeen Charlestons, four Chicagos, eight Cincinnatis, ten Clevelands, twenty-five Daytons, fifteen Louisvilles, fifteen Lowells, three Milwaukees, fourteen Nashvilles, seven Philadelphias, fifteen Quinceys, twenty-two Richmonds, twelve St. Pauls, seven Toledos, thirty Washingtons, twenty-five Springfields, thirteen Wilmingtons, five Omahas. This list might be extended to more than 250 different and familiar names. One Saturday afternoon recently after the heavy mails had been dispatched, no less than 4,000 misdirected letters were found in the office in the scattering and supplementary mail matter.

Evading the Customs Duty.

An amusing anecdote on this subject was lately told at a public dinner by M. Ferdinand Duval, Prefect of the Seine. He said that the octroi men of Paris, who levy the municipal barrier dues, are a most vigilant set of fellows, but that, having boasted of their merits, he (the prefect) had been caught. A friend of his, living at St. Cloud, had made a small bet that he would introduce a pig into Paris, in his brougham, without the octroi men detecting it. M. Duval took the bet, and strict orders were given at all the gates of Paris to look out for the brougham of the friend in question. Within less than a week, however, the prefect received eighty centimes, amount of duty leviable on a pig, and a request to come and assure himself that the quadruped had been successfully smuggled in. It turned out that the pig, killed and scalded, had been dressed up in women's clothes, and had been driven into Paris seated triumphantly on the box beside the coachman.

The Bludgeon and Dagger Fans.

Some "fans" are not fans at all. The "steel fan" is simply a bar of metal, shaped and painted to resemble an ordinary closed fan, and carried sometimes as a life preserver, sometimes by the swell mobsmen and rowdies of China, to be used at close quarters, with murderous effect. Of the same species is the well-known "dagger fan," which consists of an elegant imitation in lacquer of a common folding fan, but is really a sheath maintaining within its fair exterior a deadly blade, short and sharp, like a Malay *kris*. This dagger fan was invented by the Japanese, and its importation into China has always been strictly forbidden. Great numbers have, however, been successfully introduced into Canton, Foochow and other large maritime cities, and they are now even manufactured by the enterprising natives of the first-mentioned port.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

An upstart—Beginning to prosper.

Always best when rare—Family broils.

Philadelphia is to have a school for silk culture.

Minnesota millers are now shipping direct to Europe.

The increase of the population of the United States is 1,000,000 a year,

It is 3,322 miles across the continent from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

The total amount of lumber cut last year is set down at 4,334,216,000 feet.

A three cent stamp becomes a sent stamp after you have mailed your letter.

"Good buy," as the overjoyed salesman said when the liberal customer turned to go.

The flaming circus advertisement is apparent once more throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Scientific men generally believe that the bed of the Pacific Ocean was once above water, and inhabited by men.

In the Arctic regions, when the thermometer is below zero, say thirty degrees, people can converse a mile apart.

An ambitious young writer having asked, "What magazine will give me the highest position quickest?" was told: "A powder magazine, if you contribute a fiery article."

A correspondent in a Baltimore paper says that in a case of terrible burning, followed by lockjaw, which came under his observation, the patient was cured by the application of dog fat.

Mme. Catacazy, wife of the Russian Minister at Washington, during Grant's administration, is dead. She had the reputation of being the handsomest women at the national capital.

"Father," said a cobbler's lad, as he was pegging away at an old shoe, "they say that trout bite good now." "Well, well," replied the old gentleman, "you stick to your work and they won't bite you!"

Any one who wants a printing-press has now the chance of purchasing the one which Napoleon carried with him to Moscow, and which fell into the hands of the Russians during his retreat. It is now at St. Petersburg, and the owner offers to sell it for 1,000 roubles—about $730.

Delaware and Rhode Island are the sleeve buttons of the Western Hemisphere.—*New York Herald.* And Kentucky furnishes the studs.—*Boston Post.* And New York furnishes the rings.—*Albany Argus.* And Missouri the Vest.—*Chicago Newspaper Union.* And Washington the Schurz.

Ossehasonlito Irodalomtortenelmi Lapok is the title of a little fortnightly journal published in Kolozsvar, Hungary, whose columns contain original articles in French, German, English, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Norse, Swedish and Magyar. Often the poems are followed by translations into several languages.

A father said to an old acquaintance who came to condole with him on the unmanageableness of his two sons, who had committed a burglary in the next town and had been sentenced to prison: "It is pretty rough on me to have them both go to once, but there is one thing to it—when it comes night now, you know where them boys be."

The daily circulation of the most popular newspaper in the City of Mexico, with a population of 200,000, does not exceed 2,000 copies. All the newspapers in the republic aggregate a consumption of only about 800 reams a month; a quantity that many single mills in the United States could supply, and yet not run a fourth of the time.

A Prince's Mistake.

Prince Peter of Oldenburg has just had a somewhat exciting experience. He is at the head of the imperial Russian colleges for girls and is very diligent in performing his duties. He lately decided to see for himself whether there were any grounds for the numerous complaints of the poor food furnished at the Smoling Convent, where 800 girls are educated. Proceeding to the institution just before the usual dinner hour, he avoided the main entrance, and walked straight toward the kitchen. At its door he met two soldiers carrying a huge steaming caldron. "Halt!" he called out, "put that kettle down." The soldiers, of course, obeyed. "Bring me a spoon," added the prince. The spoon was at once produced, but one of the soldiers ventured to begin a stammering remonstrance. "Hold your tongue," cried the prince; "take off the lid. I insist on tasting it." No further objection was raised, and his highness took a large spoonful. "You call this soup!" he exclaimed; "why, it is dirty water!" "It is, your highness," replied the soldier; "we have just been cleaning out the laundry."

A "Cluck" and Six Kittens.

Mr. Parvin, of West Leesport, has a "cluck" which tenderly cares for six kittens about three weeks old. The cluck had been deprived of a brood of young chickens, and feeling the loss very keenly she no doubt considered the taking charge of the kittens a just compensation. The kittens seem to take them to her call, and will nestle under her wings and feathers like little chickens. No one is allowed to approach, not even the cat herself, while the hen has charge, but she seems satisfied when the kittens occasionally creep out and go over to the mother cat in the next corner. This is indeed a great curiosity. Quite a number of persons have watched with great interest the old hen caring for the kittens. She "clucks" and calls them, plays with them and scratches and endeavors to find for them. The kittens jump about the old hen and make a big fuss with their two-footed, feather-tailed mammy.—*Reading (Pa.) Eagle.*

Delicacy of the Mint Scales.

The fine gold-weighing scales made in Philadelphia for the New Orleans mint are marvels of mechanical invention and accurate workmanship. The larger of the two has a capacity of ten thousand ounces troy, or about six hundred and eighty-six pounds avoirdupois, and, when loaded to its full weight, will show a variation of one-thousandth part of an ounce, or the millionth part of its weighing capacity. Another pair of scales is the one intended for weighing gold only. It has bearings composed of the finest agates, which have been ground with wonderful precision So delicate is this machine that it will give the precise weight of a human hair, and is susceptible to the slightest atmospheric changes. Millions of dollars' worth of precious metals will be weighed annually upon these scales.—*New Orleans Times.*