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IN THE DARK. BY DONALD FREEMAN. This is my little sweetheart. She has her eyes and her cheeks as red as the roses in my garden. And warm as my toes when I saw her last. When she smiled at me and held me fast.

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Until within a few years past there has been in the possession of a prominent family down the Chemung river, from Elmira to a few miles, an object which passes a history of its own, the skull of a human being. It was put to rather a strange usage, as it had been rigged up for a chipmunk's cage and set on a bolt near the door. Out and in through the holes ran the little animal, grinning at the by-standers from the mouth and munching its corn and nuts while watching from the nose. Right in the centre of the forehead of the skull was a small bullet-hole. When Sullivan's army passed through this valley an adopted son of the Indian Complanter, named Watt Baldwin, preceded it as a scout, as he was thoroughly posted to Indian warfare, and knew the country as well as he knew his own dooryard.

As the summer is approaching, and the time of mating draws near, it may be well to call the attention of house keepers to the fact that there is a right way to put down Canton matting, it is the almost universal practice to put it down wrong. Most persons cut the lengths and then lay the breadths in their proper places on the floor, proceed to drive a vast number of tacks up and down the edges. This method serves the purpose of keeping the covering very tight on the floor, but it injures the boards and ruins the matting. Every tack breaks one straw, and perhaps more.

These Canton mattings are made on boats, where they are woven in short pieces about two yards long. These short pieces are afterwards tacked together on the shore in lengths of about forty yards. It is easy to see where the tacks are, and pieces are joined, and the first thing to be done, after the matting is laid in place across and across on the wrong side, to keep the joints from opening. Then saw the breadths together, and tack it to the floor in the same manner you treat a carpet. Matting made in this way will last fully twice as long as where they are tacked in every breadth.

According to M. Beaudouin, if a quantity of dry sand is placed in a box of thin sheet iron, or even in a canvas bag, and subjected to a slight compression, it forms a mass capable of resisting a pressure of sixty tons, without breaking or even straining the envelope. This sand, however, remains perfectly divisible, so that if a small hole be made in the bag it flows slowly, and with so little force that a small piece of paper passed over the opening will check the flow even with steam pressure upon it. Beaudouin thinks this discovery may be utilized for building purposes since the filled boxes need merely be held in a place by a framework, while being very thick, they would form a protection for dwellings against variations in temperature. Such walls, moreover, would be fire proof. It is also suggested that for lowering heavy buildings, which, by a change of street levels, have been left too high above the roadway, the sandbags could be placed beneath, and the weight of the building gradually escape, thus letting the sand slowly settle down.

A BALTIMORE paper says: A short, stubby fellow, with his hat on one side of his head, and his pants pulled up, walked over half dozen baskets of fruit lying around loose. "Well, how much are they a dozen?" "Eighteen cents." "Yes, sir, eighteen cents." "Opened, of course, if you want them opened?" "Well, sir, I'm one not shucked." "One! What do you want of one oyster?"

THE REAL WASTE among well-to-do farmers, says a contemporary, is the throwing away of house slops, and in allowing the liquid excrement of the house to be lost. It is better to advise to save every drop of the liquids of the house and barn, than to urge them to pile up huge heaps of inert substances to be used as fertilizer. A heap of dry manure or peat, which in itself has no special value, may be used advantageously to absorb the valuable liquids of the house and barn, and in this way a farmer may largely increase his manurial resources without incurring great expense.

YESTERDAY as an old citizen of Detroit was walking a "To Rest" card on a vacant house, a pedestrian halted and remarked that "how was not the right way to spend your money?" "How would you spend it in Detroit?" asked the old citizen, scowling savagely. "Fifteen years," was the reply. "Well, I've lived here for thirty," continued the old man, "and guess I know how to spend it as well as you do."

A HARDWARE merchant yesterday observed a boy looking sharply at some tools, and he asked: "What, if I should present you with a box, would you go home and make garden?" "No, sir," promptly replied the boy; "I'd sell it to the man living next door to you and buy some circus tickets."

RENTS IN NEW YORK are 25 per cent lower than they were last year, and almost as low as they were before the war.

WHEN A Florida Indian is likely to die, his friends place him in an alligator can take him in, and thus save burial expenses.

How many of those spelling misuses have you spelled their mothers at the wash-tub.

This line fits the bill.