

## Matches.

Few people who use half a box of matches a day are disposed to think much on the subject of their rights, and rest content with the fact they exist. Fifty years have not yet passed since the most elementary match in its present form was invented, and in Vienna the other day they celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their invention by three Austrians, to whom, of course, that honor was assigned. In England in 1822 matches had not reached their present shape, but had only reached the stage of "lucifers." The modern generation has had sight of all these gradual evolutions, and they are only known to those who have the misfortune to be the survivors of those benighted and unenlightened days. In the time of Fox and Burke, and up to the beginning of the present century, the flint and steel and tinder stage had not passed, though Dr. Johnson and others were more than ready to be content with the primitive operation. About the beginning of the century, however, matters began to improve, and long brimstone matches came into use to supply the place of the tinder. These were pieces of wood about six inches long, tipped with sulphur, and caught fire easily from the spark of the flint. It would be difficult to obtain a specimen of them nowadays. No museum seems to interest itself in preserving these, only social curiosities, and they are only looked upon as such, and sought after in some technical exhibition of the match trade. It was not, however, until 1825 that matters began to improve, when an elaborate apparatus, called a "Lucifer," was invented. This consisted of an open bottle containing sulphuric acid, soaked in fibrous asbestos, and hence no difficulty with our consciences. That is a view, however, with which fashion has nothing to do. It is a simple, and does not involve considerations of a theological nature. Because Eve is initiated in relation to her hair, it does not follow—that is to say, it is not logically necessary—that the harvest time should be justified as a punishment for her sin. It is possible to sport red hair and yet not be Eve, just as it is possible to be Eve and yet grow hair of midnight darkness—or to be Adam and yet be distinctly bald-headed.

## A Red Hair Boy.

There are unmistakable signs in the sky of fashion that a boom in red hair is gathering for a decent upon us—the sort of red hair which is orange hued and too utterly Milesian, but that other and softer kind, suggestive of very ripe corn "and the waving harvest fields which makes the crimson tinge so beautiful." How this happy golden mean, this peculiar red with the dash of pensive modulation in it, so to say, is to be achieved in all cases, we are not advised, but in due time, no doubt, some subtle alchemy of dyeing, or some and reasonably cheap. It is not to be expected, of course, that such a change from the various prevailing puffed, coiled and ringletted shades to one common symphony in ripe corn red, as it were, can be effected all at once, or without many accidents and a good deal of "off color" exasperation, but in this as in all other reforms we must be content with gradual progress. Red hair, like the poet instinct or the faculty of guessing the weight of hogs, is a gift of nature, and not to be counterfeited on the impulse of the moment.

The boy of historical significance, this aspiration in the direction of redness over other fast colors in hair has the amplex warrant. It has been tolerably well settled that red hair runs clear back to Eve, and that its original sin, though it is a punishment, is also the uncomfortable fact that for her hair there would have been no foolishness about the forbidden fruit, and hence no difficulty with our consciences. That is a view, however, with which fashion has nothing to do. It is a simple, and does not involve considerations of a theological nature. Because Eve is initiated in relation to her hair, it does not follow—that is to say, it is not logically necessary—that the harvest time should be justified as a punishment for her sin. It is possible to sport red hair and yet not be Eve, just as it is possible to be Eve and yet grow hair of midnight darkness—or to be Adam and yet be distinctly bald-headed.

## Compensation from any moneys derived from the Treasury of the United States.

No person shall, in any room or building occupied by any person or employee of the United States, receive any contribution of money, or any other thing of value, for any political purpose whatever. No officer or employee of the United States mentioned in this act shall discharge, or promote, or in any manner discharge the official rank or compensation of any other officer or employee, or promise or threaten so to do, for giving or withholding or neglecting to make any contribution of any money or other valuable thing for any political purpose. No officer, clerk or other person in the service of the United States, directly or indirectly, give or hand over to any other officer, clerk or person in the service of the United States, or to any Senator or member of the House of Representatives, or territorial delegate or other person acting for such Senator, member or delegate, any money or other thing of value, or any contribution of money, or to be applied to the promotion of any political object whatever. The last section provides that any person who shall be guilty of violating any provision of the four foregoing sections shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and shall be convicted thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by both fine and imprisonment both, in the discretion of the court.

## The Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, December 27.—The following are the essential provisions of the bill to regulate and improve the civil service as passed by the Senate to-day: The bill provides for the appointment by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate, of three persons (at a salary of \$3,000 each and traveling expenses), not more than two of whom shall be members of the same party, as civil service commissioners, and said three commissioners shall constitute the United States Civil Service Commission. These commissioners shall aid the President in making suitable rules for carrying the act into effect. The rules shall provide for open, fair and practical competitive examinations, and that applicants who pass highest shall be selected for appointment. Appointments in the executive departments at Washington shall be apportioned among the several States, etc. There shall be a period of probation in case of appointments, and promotions shall be made from lower to higher grades on the basis of merit and competition. No person in the public service is for that reason under any obligation to contribute to any political fund, or to render any political service, and he will not be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so, and that no person in said service has any right to use his official authority or influence to coerce the political action of any person or body. There shall be non-competitive examinations in all proper cases before the commission, when competent persons do not compete after notice has been given of the existence of the vacancy, under such rules as may be prescribed by the commissioners as to the manner of giving notice, competition may be found practicable. Any divergence from the rules laid down shall be reported by the commissioners, and they shall give their reasons therefor to the President for transmission to Congress. The commissioners may appoint a chief examiner, at a salary of \$3,000 a year and traveling expenses; also, a secretary, at a salary of \$1,500 a year; also, a stenographer when necessary, and a messenger.

## Why He Didn't Take It.

Not long ago an old pioneer, who had lived in the days of the early colonists, was boasting of the good old times. "Why, sir," said he, "I was once offered a league of land for a pair of old boots. " "Didn't you take it?" said the party he was talking to. "No, sir." "No account land, I reckon?" "Why, bless your dear heart, sir, it was the best piece of land out there. Grass five feet high, clear stream of water running through it, and an undeveloped silver mine in the corner." "And why the deuce didn't you make the trade?" "Because," said the old man, in a sad and regretful tone of voice, "because I didn't have the boots."

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Cures all diseases of the Stomach, Liver, Bowels, Kidneys Skin and Blood. Millions testify to its efficacy in healing the above named diseases, and pronounce it to be the BEST REMEDY KNOWN TO MAN. Guaranteed to Cure Dyspepsia. AGENTS WANTED. Laboratory, 77 West 31 street, New York City. Druggists sell it.

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SOMERSET & CAMBRIA RAILROAD	
On and after June 12, trains will run as follows:	
UPWARD	DOWNWARD
7:30 A. M.	7:30 A. M.
11:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.
3:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
7:30 P. M.	7:30 P. M.

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Lightest Running Shuttle Machine  
Self-Threading Shuttle,  
Automatic Bobbin Winder

**PARKER'S GINGER TONIC**  
A Superior Health and Strength Restorer.  
It is a medicine of the highest quality, and is guaranteed to cure all diseases of the blood, and to restore the system to its normal condition.

**Back Ache**  
POSITIVELY CURED BY Benson's Capcine Porous Plasters.

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Coughs, Colds, Consumption, Bronchitis, Rheumatism, Neuralgia.

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