## The Lorest Republican.

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Lobsters.

Of all the crustaceans, lobsters are the

nost important and the most in demand.

paler spots and clouds. Without any warmth in their bodies, and even with-

their shell and stomach every year, these

ing roof move eight sprawling feet, four

on each side, pushing forward the un-wieldy war engine, like the Roman legion under the shelter of the battering-ram.

The two great claws of the lobster form

its instruments of provision and weapons

of defense, and by opening like a pair of

specks on each side, which are projectile

or retractile at will. The mouth, like

that of insects, opens lengthwise of the

body, not crosswise, as with men and the higher races of animals. It has two teeth for the mastication of its food, but three more in the stomach. Before the point-

ed nose the long, wire-like feeders or horns are stretched out, that seem to aid

the dimness of its sight. The tail, a six-jointed instrument, is the great locomo-

tive by which it is raised and propelled through the water. Beneath this we see lodged the spawn in great abundance.

When the young lobster leaves its parent it seeks refuge in small clefts of the rocks

or crevices at the bottom of the sea,

where it passes the earliest days of its

of the shell, but on the fourth it loses its

matatory organs, and is, therefore, no

onger able to swim on the surface of the

water, but falls to the bottom, lying tor-

oid and motionless, where it remains for

the future; according, however, to its increase in size it gains courage to ap-proach the shore, which it had left at its

issail the young embryos in the deep sea

is enormous. Thousands of all kinds of fish, mollusks and crustacea are pursuing it continually to destroy it. The very changing of the shell causes great rav-

ages at these periods, as the young lob-sters have to undergo a crisis which ap-

pears to be a necessary condition to their rapid growth. In fact, every young lob-ster loses and remakes its crusty shell

from eight to ten times the first year, five

to seven the second, three to four the

third and from two to three the fourth

The number of enemies which

\$1.50 Per Annum.

NIHILISM.

Rise and Progress of the Powerful Russian Secret Order-The Object of the Nihillists and the Oath They Take.

When alive, their general color is a bluish-black, beautifully variegated with The New York Herald has printed : valuable contribution to the literature of Nihilism, which goes to show that this out red blood circulating through their veins, they are wonderfully voracious. formidable agency of revolution is not so They even devour each other, and may recent in its origin as has been generally be said to eat themselves; for changing supposed. On the other hand, it would appear from the Herald's compilation of remains are generally the first morsel to facts that this enemy of the Russian gov-ernment is already half a century old,

though never so active as now. The first secret society was formed in 1825, and was organized with the distinctive purpose of substituting constitutional government for personal despotism. It was not long before it came in collision with the government, and on the 10th of December of that year hundreds paid the enalty of revolution with their blood in the streets of St. Petersburg, while all the members of the society who were known were either hanged or banished to Siberia. The fearful revenge of the government, however, only scotched it. It next came to the surface in London, where an organ called the Bell was established by the revolutionist Hertzen, who advocated the destruction of every member of the royal family, the titled aristocracy, and the priests, the equal division of landed property and popular representation. Notwithstanding the efforts of the government to prevent it. his paper gained wide circulation in Russia, and sympathizers with his doctrine appeared in all ranks of society. New organizations were formed advocating his ideas, and two papers appeared in Russia—the Sovremeinnik and the Ruscoic Slowo-which was devoted to a more liberal form of government. They did not last long, however, as their principal existence in a vagabond state, for a period of from thirty to forty days. During this time it undergoes four different changes writers were speedily sent to Siberia. Between 1858 and 1870 the press had more immunity, and the new movement rapidly gained ground, and women engaged in it even more zealously than the men, not only working as missionaries in the cause of a more liberal government, but demanding for themselves the same rights as men. Wealthy women engaged in menial work. Princesses taught peas-

> studied the professions, especially that of medicine, and on the marriage question they took the radical ground of ignoring it altogether and becoming wives without any formality of ceremony. The term "Nihilist" was first applied to them in 1864 by a writer who taunted them with believing in nothing. They accepted the epithet and have retained it ever since. The movement made its rapid growth since 1870, and in the past nine years has spread into the army, official circles, the hurch, the school and universities, and all classes of men and women, the latter as a rule being enthusiastic to a degree that treads on fanaticism. The young zirls in the schools are often the zealous missionaries in the work of Nihilistic reform. Speaking of the details of the organiza-tion, the *Herald* states that its members are organized into circles, and as soon as a circle numbers sixty members it is sub-

They taught the schools and

divided into ten circles of six persons each. Each circle has an agent who colects regular contributions from the members, which are applied to the purchase of arms and the spread of ideas. Membership is not easily obtained. A candidate has to bring recommendations of trustworthiness, and, after these have been investigated, he is voted for in full meetng. It only requires two votes to reject him, and if satisfactory evidence of disqualification is presented, one vote will do the work. The oath which is taken s one of unusual severity. The candidate swears as follows: "I, A. B., do solemnly, before the altar of my mother country, promise and swear that I will never disclose, under penalty of death, any of the secrets of the

Russian National Secret Society, before any agent of the tyrannical Russian government, having the Czar at its head, or any one whom I do not actually know to be a member of this society; that I will sacrifice my life and all that s sacred to me in the struggle against the bloodthirsty tyrants and oppressors of the Russian people; that I will obey and execute every unanimous decision of the circle, without hesitation, being ready to sacrifice my life, and regardless of any personal danger I may encounter in so doing. I know that we must be ready to fight in the name of the liberty of the Russian people when the moment of arising shall arrive and the grand sign be given calling all to arms. I do solemnly swear that I will resist, in case of an attempt to arrest me or any member of the society by the government agents, with whatever weapon is at my disposal at the moment, without fear or regard for personal consequences; that I will not recommend any new member without the knowledge that he is a true friend of the oppressed Russian people; that from the moment I become a member of this 'Secret National Russian Society' I regard myself as the sworn enemy to the Russian despotical government and begin to act against it by every means I can command."

#### His Specialty.

There was a feller, writes Little John ny, wich wanted to marry a ole mans dotter, and she wanted to marry him, so he went to ast her father mite he hav her for his whife. The ole man he sed: don't never sea you doin anything; wot

The feller he spoke up fore he that and sed he was a dockter. Then the ole man he sed a other time: "Well, thats a mity honorable pefession, but you

don't pear to have much practis."

The feller he sed: "No, I ain't got no ustom yet, thats a fack, but thats cos

I haint had a chance for to show my strong pints. Ime a speahlist, and I only treat folks wich has got a particular disease; no use wastin my time on any

The ole man he sed wat was his spesh-The feller he schratchet his hed a wile, and then he sed: "Ole age.

At last accounts the Chilian army had the Bolivian army down and was itting on him .- Boston Post.

'How many years have I been taking

born, I was going to say.' "And I can't play a page without my for. If I only had some sort of carpenter's

"Well, I should like to know what you want that for in taking care of hens," said

"I should think it would be of about as much use as embroidery," said Emily. Marcia always was so impracticable! sighed her mother.

What is it you want to do, Marcia?" asked Philip-Tom's classmate, who spent half his time at the place.

"Just to make boxes and roosts and hutches for my hens, so as to keep them wholesome and happy, you know.
"Wholesome and happy!" said

"Why, yes, mamma," said Bessie. "I should think there was really sense in that, if there is any sense in having the things at all. If their water is clean, they'll drink

more, and if everything is to their henmind, of course they'll lay more.' "Marcia, I am ashamed of you," said her mother. "I must beg to hear no more

such conversation." "Now, Mrs. Thurston," said Phil, "I'm sure I saw you laughing. And as for me, I'm going to make those boxes with March.

I'm just as good a carpenter as Noah." And so Phil went down the garden with Marcia, and there were days upon days of hammering and sawing and fitting; and Tom was going about full of mischief, and Emily had her sewing under the apple trees near by, and Bessie came down to bring a freshly-baked tart or some hot gin-

And I'm sure it's just like picnicking,' said Marcia. "You ought to be obliged to me for making such a pleasant occasion. And I am awfully sorry that we're almost through." And as she uttered the last sentence, Philip happening to glance down at her in that moment from the ladder where he was standing, her face suddenly flamed up as if a torch had been held before it, and she turned and hid its color over a box of old nails that she and Tom- an age ago that seemed now-had taken at school in exchange for pins, meaning to sell them to the junk-man, but diverted from their purpose by one of Mrs. Thurston's methods

"Mamma was always the enemy of enter-prise," said Tom, when they found the box. "I suppose it's the oil of birch that has kept

these nails from getting rusty."

But as soon as Marcia could slip away from all that merry racket she flew down to the foot of the orchard, and cast herself and cried to break her heart. That one glares in Philip's face, that swift instant, had served to turn the whole earth on a pivot to another issue of life. It had, inleed, held up a torch before her, it had showed her that of which she was unconscious before, and now she knew that she loved Philip Masters, and she knew that he loved Bessie, and the world was one dead

The hens were not fed that night, and nobody carried the eggs in; it was only when the moon set that, her skirts dripping with dew, Marcia stole in herself, with her

ogs, and crept away to bed. It was a long fight that Marcia had with her heart on that September night. She rose early in the morning, and gave the hens into Bridget's charge, looked into her mother's room, and told her she was going to see Aunt Brown; and as that good lady, now that she could no longer whip her children, generally allowed them their way, no objection was made; and Marcia found herself, after a couple of hours, in the arms of her old counselor and friend, to whom, albeit, she never breathed a word of her trouble. A day of Aunt Brown, Marcia used to say, set her up in virture for half a year, and now she took seven of them. Seven days' counsel with an old angel ought to make an angel of me. But nothing will ever do that."

Yet when she went home there was some thing different in Marcia's face from anything that had ever been there before; and if nobody paid enough heed to observe it, nevertheless the fact that the hoyden girl had vanished, and a grave and active wo-man had taken her place—a woman who never allowed herself to be still long enough to think. She asked for no more dresses she never put a ribbon near her; she brushed the kink out of her hair as well as she could, and said to herself that it was of no use for her to try and look anything but a fright, with one eye hunting up the other the way hers was-an allusion to a slight cast in her eye that was not all unbecoming on the whole; of course nobody would think of falling in love with a Cyclops, and of course nobody could help loving such a rose and lily piece of beauty as Bess. She was sure, she thought, she was glad that Bess was happy; but, for all that, she cried sadly about it. Yet after any of these secret sadly about it. crying spells she fought her battle with her-self all the more furiously; and although it wrong her heart, she would insist upon talking about Philip, and suffer Bessie to sing his praises on every occasion that offered, in fear and trembling all the while lest voice or face surrendered, and took all his small kindnesses as a matter of course.

The winter wore away at last, and Marcia might have felt her trouble in their behalf, her self-denial, and the money, or rather the eggs, that she had spent, all repaid in the glossy look of her hens, with their red combs and their nests full of eggs. Those who are in search of anything can always find it, and she had secured, in one way and another, eggs of many of the choicest breeds, the hatchings had all turned out well, and the result was a great flock of some of the finest-looking birds in the country, among which a troop of black Polanders went about shaking their full white crests, and hardly able to see out of their eyes. "I'm sure they're fine," said Marcia. "And as I'm never going to marry, and shall have to by passion. earn my living in some way, I'll earn it this way." And she then announced that

But they had done with opposing Marcia, in the matter of hens, in that house. "They "How many years? Ever since you were treat me with the silent contempt I de serve," she said, lightly. But she bribed Tom to h lp her manufacture a set of coops, notes, nor then so that the composer wouldn't bribed him with a promise that Bessie run away if he heard me. So what is the should make him a box of cookies to take Now I have found just what I'm fit away with him; for he had begun his study of medicine, while Phil, who thought the learned professions already full, was looking in vain for something to do in which to glut their new system. They are always in harness, heavily armed to the teeth; seven-jointed is the cunningly forged mail of their back. Beneath this protectstart himself in life. " Poor fellow!" thought Marcia over and over again, "if he only could get something to do, then the engagement could be announced, and by-and-bye they could be married." It seemed as though she herself would be easier when it was all over. But there was no prospect of it, and Phil's outlook was dark enough at present. She meant to ask him, at some favorable time, why he didn't go out to Colorado, and, after he had made a home scissors they have great strength, and take a firm hold. Between the two claws lies the animal's head, very small, with two eyes like two black, horny there, send for Bessie. She fancied that, after all, the best thing for her would be not to be obliged to witness their happiness at

But when Marcia had emptied the better part of her hennery into the great poultry show, she felt it necessary to go and look after her interests there, and she sold enough of the common stock at home to pay the expenses of herself and Bessie in the city. Her mother burst into tears with the thought of the vulgar pursuits of her daughters; and they left Emily wiping her mother's

It was a fine thing, that show, as Marcia said, trusting Bessie could make out what she said in the riot of the chanticleers, each rivalling his unseen opponent. "Just bear the rumpus those roosters keep up!" she cried. And what with the cackling of the goese, the quacking of the ducks, the gobbling of the turkeys, the clatter of the guinea-fowl, the cooing of the pigeons, and the screams of the peacocks, the rumpus was that of Pandemonium itself. But, except for the unsightly coops, it was rather a beautiful Pandemonium—the huge Brah-mas with their fluff of snowy feathers like so many arctic owls, the jet and shining Creve-cours, the silver-spangled Hamburgs fine as silk-clad court ladies, the Cochins with the gloss of dark green enamel on the blackness of their plumes, the superb red Game, the crested, ruffed and bearded Sultans and the little Bantams more important than the whole. Marcia felt all the glory of a connoisseur and the wealth of a producer, as she moved through the place, and recognized her own, and listened to the clarion calls about her.

She found a seat for Bessie at Iast, and then went to see the secretary. "Phil will be sure to be here," she said to herself, "so ong as he knew Bess was coming. He'll find her, and keep her from being lonely." As she came back with a radiant face after As she came back with a radiant lace and a half hour's interview, she saw that her prophecy was fulfilled—Phil was there sitchange the animal losses its usual strength and vigor, lying torpid and strength and vigor, lying torpid and its before casting its merry as she could, she started to put her face close down between theirs in order to tell her news, and so it came about that she heard Phil saying: "Ah, if I only had some ort of business, so that I could speak without disgracing myself!"

'Speak any way, Phil," answered Bessie putting Marcia in mind of Priscilla and John Alden, in spite of herself. The little hen-woman drew back and waited half a minute before she touched

them on the shoulders.

"Come with me, Phil," she said; and she led him down the lower corner of the hall, where, the peacocks having rested from their screaming, it was a trifle less noisy than any where else. "I heard what you said, Phil," she contrived to say directly, "and I have a proposition to make to you. See here"—as he turned to her with a stare of utter amazement in his handsome eyes. "Look at this list of premiums-I've taken twenty. And every one of my birds is sold, some at ten and some at fifteen dollars a pair, just as the secretary chose. What do you think of that for wealth?" she cried, What do gayly. "My receipts and my orders from propose to sell out my hen business to you. ou can double it; you're a man, and can do twice as well as I could; and you can have, anyway, in spite of accidents, a good income of fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars a year, with everybody buying your rare breeds and coming after your choice eggs, you know. And you can pay me in

the course of your life, and you can marry Bess to-morrow." Then there was silence a moment, while she looked at the gorgeous illumination of the azure on the peacock's breast, and feared that Phil would hear her heart beating.

"Marcia," said he, presently, getting hold of her hand somehow, "you are certainly the most ineffable little goose in this hall. What in the world do you suppose I want to marry Bess for? It's you I am in love with !"-Harper's Bazar.

### Words of Wisdom.

What cannot be required is not to be Attention to small things is the econ-

omy of virtue. Truth is often wounded, but never dain outright. The scales of justice are for the weight

of the transgressor. Men may bend to virtue, but virtue cannot bend to men. Witticisms are never agreeable which are injurious to others.

Flattery is like your shadow; it makes reputation. you neither larger nor smaller. A needy man, who gives costly dinners,

pays large sums to be laughed at From the ordinary manner of spending the time we may judge of any man's Strength of mind depends upon so

oriety, for this keeps reason unclouded There is no less grandeur in supporting great evils than in performing great

shell, striking its claws against each other, every limb seems to tremble. Then the body swells in an unusual man-ner, and the shell begins to divide-it

seems turned inside out, the stomach coming away with its shell. In like manner the claws are disengaged, the lobster casting them off much as a person would kick off a boot too big for him. several hours it now continues enfeebled and motionless, but in two days the new skin becomes hardened, and witain fortyeight hours the shell is perfectly formed and hard, like the one cast off. Below in his native element the lobster reaches the

age of twenty years, and loses a foot or claw without feeling the loss, for he well knows it will grow again.

The Dignity of Bells. With what strange and solemn memories have bells yet extant been associated! The long green bell in the leaning tower of Pisa, said to date back to the thirteenth century, which has rung for ages as the sad processions of criminals have passed over the bridge to executhis poultry show will be only a little less than one thousand dollars. Now, Phil —you're listening?—if you don't feel the wretched Ugolino, starved to death ashamed of it (and Parsure you won't, if at the bottom of the tower, had at you really want to marry dear Bessie), I length ceased to breathe. The great Carolus at Antwerp, which first rung in 1467, when Charles the Bold entered the city; the storm-bell in Strasburg cathedral, which still warns the traveler of the tempest seen from afar sweeping over the Vosges; the small bell Horrida, the tocsin, 1316, covered with mildew. which hangs high up in Notre Dame at Antwerp, and is never rung, by reason of its age and infirmities; the gate bell in many an old fortified town, that still sounds at the shutting and opening of he city portals; the curfew, which, rom time immemorial, has rung, over the flats of Cambridge and the fens of Ely, and still greets the ears of the reshmen, reminding him of the time when the neighborhood was one waste of perilous and poisonous marshes; the old Tourney bells, which from their city belfry greets the silent, colossal five towers of the grandest church in Belgium, and strike the ear of the traveler as he hurries along the high road from Lille, almost before the beacon-light on the summit of the belfry salutes his eyes and these are chance specimens that arise in my memory at random .- Good Words.

## Lukens' " Pith and Point,"

Be very slow to make acquaintance with a fast young man. Misery creeps into the shade, but

craves for the sunshine. A seaman never finds as many flaws in the wind as prejudice does in a man's

For sail or to rent-A spread or canvas on a vessel.

How few are those who think enough of themselves to command the respect of all that know them. "There's a hitch in the matter," as the

fellow remarked when he tied his horse

tion."-New York News.

to an awning post. You don't necessarily require a breathing spell to determine the orthography of such words as "bellows" or "respiraRates of Advertising.

One Square (1 inch,) one insertion - \$! One Square one month - - 3 one month - - 3 00 three months - 6 00 one year - - 10 00 Two Squares, one year .

Legal notices at established rates. Marriage and death notices, gratis.
All bills for yearly advertisements collected quarterly. Temporary advertisements must be paid for in advance.
Job work, Cash on Delivery.

Earth-Weary.

The earth is fair-its fertile valleys lie As glad as if beneath a Tusean sky; Scarce lisp the breezes as they slowly pass And kiss the reaching boughs and springing

The birds sing sweetly in the sheltered shade-All nature smiles in summer's sunny glow-All things rejoice in what our God hath made-And man alone would foller knowledge

The strong ship strains its moarings to go

And breast the billows of life's bounding sea, That stretches out to immensity ! And thus, man's soul, weighed down to sordid

earth, Struggles and strives from fetters to be free And heavenward reaches out eternally !

-Luther G. R

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The oddest verse in existence-the Uni-verse

A ticklish thing-A shad-bone half way down your gullet.

The Grecian ladies counted their age from their marriage, not from their A lawyer goes into court when he

sues for the hand of a young lady .-Picayune. Forty-four towns in Ohio and thirtynine in Iowa are named after the Father

of the Country. There is an anti-mourning society in London, the members agreeing not to wear black as a commemoration of

Tobacco is largely cultivated in Russia, and the seed used on the plantations is from the United States and from Tur-It is certainly very odd that the Chinese and Japanese both should have

such an antipathy to partaking of cows milk as food. "Madam," said a tramp on Cottage Hill, "would you give me an old pair of pants, for I'm starvin' to death."-Norristown Herald.

The Chinese frequently condemn a prisoner to be kept awake until he dies. A criminal under such circumstances

lives nine or ten days! Rattlesnakes seem to abound in Southern Oregon. Three men recently went to the mountains, where dens of these

snakes were known to exist in large numbers, and in a short time killed 700 of them. A bright boy was walking along the street with his mother, and observing a

man with a peculiar hitch in his gait approaching, he drolly exclaimed: Look there, mamma; see how poor man stutters with his feet!" A kiss," said young Charles, "is a noun, we

But tell me, my dear, is it proper or com Lovely Mary blushed deep and exclaimed:

"Why, I vow,
I think that a kiss is both proper and com-

In Ceylon they have an old usage among them to recover their debts, which is this: They will sometimes go to the house of their debtor with the leaves of neungala, a certain plant which s rank poison, and threaten him that they will eat that plant and destroy themselves unless he will pay him what he owes. The debtor is much afraid of this, and rather than the other should poison himself, will sometimes sell a child to pay the debt. Not that the one is tender of the life of the other, but out of care for himself; for if the person dies of the poison, the other, for whose sake the other poisoned himself, must pay a ransom for his own life. By this means, also, they will sometimes threaten to revenge themselves on those with whom they have any contest, and do it, too. And upon the same intent they will also jump down a steep place, or hang or make away with themselves, that so they might bring their adversary to great danger.

How They Eat in Sweden. An exchange gives the following ac-count of how they eat in Sweden: The

nabit of lunching in the very presence of dinner, or going to a side table and ext-ing your fill of anchovies, raw herrings, smoked beef and cold eel pie while dinner is on the very table, still prevails, and is hardly conducive to health. It is said that the habit of taking "a sup," as the Swedes call it, arose from the scarcity of delicacies. It was hard to get enough of any one nice thing to make a meal of so you were first delicately invendeed off to the brandy table, as it is called, and then allowed to sit down to dinner. The practice is universal in Sweden. Private houses, hotels and boarding houses all feed you on preliminary scraps, and woe be to you if you innocently turn away from the proffered luncheon! You fare like an ascetic and feed yourself on odors. The ordinary routine of dining seems in Sweden to be in wild confusion. Soup sometimes ends instead of beginning the dinner. Iced soups and cold fish are dainties to the Scandinavian palate. Much of the soup is nauseously sweet, flavored with cherries, raspberries and gooseberries, often with macaroon cakes and spikes of cinnamon floating wildly about in it. This is eaten as a sort of dessert, and is cold and often beautifully clear. Everything is blue, green, yellow and black. Strange combinations of ice cream heaped over delicious apple tarts or strange dishes of berry juice, boiled down and mixed with farina, sugar and almonds, then cooled, molded and turned out into basins of cream, to be eaten with crushed sugar and wine, appear at the end of the dinner. The Swedes share with the Danes and Arabs a passionate fondness for sweetmeats. Everything is slightly sweet; even green peas are sugared, as well as the innumerable tea and coffee cakes, so that long before the unhappy tourist has finished his tour he is a hopeless dyspeptic or a raging Swedophobe.

The Everlasting Memorial. Up and away like the dew of the morning, That soars from the earth to its home in the

So let me steal away, gently and lovingly, Only remembered by what I have done.

My name, and my place, and my tomb all for-

The brief race of time well and patiently run, So let me pass away, peacefully, silently, Only remembered by what I have done.

Gladly away from this toll would I hasten, Up to the crown that for me has been won; Unthought of by man in rewards or in praises, Only remembered by what I have done.

Up and away, like the odors of sunset, That sweeten the twilight as evening comes

So be my life-a thing felt but not noticed-And I but remembered by what I have done. Yes, like the fragrance that wanders in fresh-

When the flowers that it came from are closed up and gone,

So would I be to this world's weary dwellers Only remembered by what I have done. I need not be missed, if my life has been bearing (As its summer and autumn move silently on)

The bloom, and the fruit, and the seed of its season: I shall still be remembered by what I have done.

Needs there the praise of the love-written re-The name, and the epitaph graved on the

The things we have lived for-let them be our We ourselves but remembered by what we

have done.

by the resper,

I need not be missed if another succeed me To reap down the fields which in spring I He who plowed and who sowed is not missed

He is only remembered by what he has done; Not myself, but the truth that in life I have spoken,

Not myself, but the seed that in life I have

Shali pass on to ages-all about me forgotten Save the truth I have spoken, the things I So let my living be-so be my dying;

So let my name lie, unblazoned, unknown. Unpraised and unmissed, I shall still be remembered; Yes, but remembered by what I have done.

# THE POULTRY SHOW.

-Horatio Bonar.

They were two forlorn chickens that landed at the foot of the garden, where the river ran, fast wedged in a cake of ice, with hardly any feathers, and with both feet frozen. Marcia took them in and wrapped their poor claws in oil and wool, and fed them in a basket, and gave them the air on fine days by walking abroad with the basket on her arm, till, as she went by, the neighbors were wont to speak of her as the poul-

But Marcia was sublimely indifferent to neighbors, considering that they existed only for the purpose of "borrowing," and being much more fond of dumb animals of humanity, going about half the time followed by her pets-a bird in her hair, a parrot on her finger, cats purring round her feet and dogs bounding in her path. She heartily agreed with somebody who says a dog is a perpetual baby in the house, never growing up, never telling tales. Of course her brothers and her superior elder sisters, and all her cousins and their confidential friends, thought Marcia's last fancy was the worst of all. "Those ridicuchickens!" was becoming a family watchword. But their condition on that cake of ice, as they floated farther and farther away from the barnyard that was home, had rather touched poor Marcia's heart, and she would have given them her own breakfast, and have gone without every day herself, rather than not have fed them. Although the means at home were limited, still they were not so much so that the chickens needed to go unfed; but the fact of Marcia's temper getting fired early in the affair, although she said nothing, determined her to make those chickens pay for what they had; and when, one day, she brought in a dozen great pearly eggs and laid them in triumph on her mother's lap, she felt that she had said a great deal.

But, those eggs bestowed, she a lowed her mother no more. Great ideas had entered her head. She came home one day from a long walk with a black Spanish hen in her arms, for which she had contracted a debt to be paid in her Houdin eggs. When, some six weeks afterward, a dozen curious little gallinaceous specimens were running about the yard, Marcia watched them with intense curiosity, and for weeks, if not months, to come, seemed to be holding her breath. Not an egg of her Houdin hens, however, did she allow to be taken for pudding or cake; one basketful of them went to buying a pair of young brown Leghorns, another basketful was found to have purchasing power equal to securing a pair of white bantams, and then the Houdin hen, whose inclinations had been seriously tampered with, insisted upon raising a family of her own. But Marcia felt very well equipped, and she added only some patience to her stock in trade just then. At four months old her brown Leghorn pullet laid an egg, and on that same day she brought one of her twelve chickens into the house in a rapture-it was a black chicken with a huge white top-knot. My fortune's made!" said Marcia.

"There are no fowl like these in all this part of the country. It's a black Poland read about them in the library book ! "I declare, Marcia," mouned her mother,

"I believe you're insane about these miserable birds. You have no time or thought she was going to contribute to the poultry deeds .- Livy.

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for anything else. And here is all your show in the city, and waited for some oppo-