

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

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Legal advertisements ten cents per line each insertion.  
Marriages and death notices gratis.  
All bills for yearly advertisements collected quarterly. Temporary advertisements must be paid in advance.  
Job work—cash on delivery.

The railroads of this country have killed only 5823 persons during the past twelve months and injured 24,309.

The Chicago Sun avers that the erection of electric light plants is of such common occurrence in the South as to cease to be of general interest.

There are more social clubs in Denver, Col., asserts the New York World, than in any other city of the country, notwithstanding the fact that Philadelphia has been called the city of homes.

Steps have been taken to establish in St. Petersburg, Russia, a society for the insurance of crops against climatic mishaps. The Agricultural Society of the metropolis has initiated the movement.

An international beauty show was opened at Rome, Italy, lately, with imposing ceremonies, but the beauty not being up to the standard, the ladies were savagely hissed, and the exhibition had to be abandoned.

The National Horse Breeder thinks people who are talking about the coming of the two-minute trotter will be interested in learning that to trot a mile in the time named a horse must get over the ground at the rate of forty-four feet in a second, which is a trifle fast for a trotting gait.

"The business tact of women has again been demonstrated," says the New York Sun, "in the matter of taking the census. Women who were appointed as enumerators are said to have done their work better and more carefully than the males. When another census comes to be taken the women will have a better chance."

The Hartford (Conn.) Times remarks: Horses don't last long in New York city. The pavements are very trying to their feet. Some give out in six months, while others last as many years. The average life of a street-car horse is about two years. Many partially disabled animals find their way into the country, and often recover and become of good service on farms.

It is noted by the New York Sun as something remarkable that a Maryland colored man dreamed he was to die the next day, and sure enough he died. "When a Pacific Islander wants to die, he sits down and dies himself. Just naturally dies by force of will. He is more likely to be three days about it than one day. Then one of the difficulties in bringing African slaves to the coast is that they will turn their tongues back into their throats and go off like lambs."

The Tonquin pirate who recently cleaned up \$50,000 as ransom for the release of the three captive Frenchmen has, observes the San Francisco Chronicle, evidently become enamored of the lucrative business. He now offers a standing reward of \$100 to the native who will deliver a Frenchman into his hands or \$20 to one who will warn him that troops are approaching. In a country where a couple works the whole year round for \$5 this noble reward ought to insure the enterprising pirate a rush of business until he has made living in the interior of Tonquin too expensive for the European.

The Boston Cultivator believes that "men of purely scientific training are of less assistance in practical affairs than their education would suggest. The man of science has little faith in new methods or new inventions. He is seldom an originator. His knowledge is that of tradition. He frequently scouts at new ideas as impracticable, because they are not recognized in books. The inventor seldom travels in the same road with the scientist. The inventor needs to leave the beaten path and press on to the unexplored forest of possibilities. He is often handicapped if he endeavors to conform to rules already laid down by pure science. Few college-bred men have proved inventors. Original thought, bold action, patient persistence, knowledge of nature's laws are prime factors in the successful career of the inventor."

The Philadelphia Press enumerates these instances to prove that modern commerce has curious effects on price and on the lives of animals: Camphor has gone up in this country from sixty to ninety cents a pound because it is wanted in Europe for smokeless powders. Rubber has advanced from fifty-five to ninety cents a pound because so much of it is wanted in electrical operations. Copper, besides being wanted in telegraph, telephone and electric light wires, has advanced because sulphate of copper has been found to be the only sure cure for phylloxera. Young male elephants are being hunted out in Africa because their tusks make billiard balls, and this, faster than any other demand, is likely to extinguish the elephant. The fancy for alligator leather is making alligators extinct; the muskrats multiply and honeycomb the levees, and hence a great Mississippi flood.

## MEMORIES.

When twilight's hush is drawing nigh  
And tawny the blue shadows lie,  
Fond memories cluster thick and fast  
Around the dear old buried past;  
'Tis then I dream of rosy hours,  
Faith, hope and love in wooded bowers,  
And merry voices low and sweet,  
And converse fraught with joy complete.  
Still brighter visions round me lie,  
When song birds brown are carolling,  
How that we pledged our hearts' pure vows  
Beneath the apple's crimson boughs,  
And strolled the meadows through and through  
For clovers red and violet blue,  
And smiling, laughing lily bells,  
The pride of moss-entangled dells.  
These vanished years they come and go,  
Like spectres gliding to and fro,  
Across my weary, songless path  
That lies along life's aftermath;  
But soon, beyond the sun-kissed hills,  
When freed from earthly cares and ills,  
I'll meet the loved and brave of yore,  
And yearn the perfect past no more.  
—Philadelphia Telephone.

## THE LINEMAN.

BY EDMA A. OFFER.  
"The lineman's coming!" shouted Sammy.  
"Yes, sir, it's the lineman!" cried little Molly, in wild glee.  
And their Aunt Eunice, who had come to the door quickly and with heightened color, saw Sammy's bare legs and Molly's red stockings flying down the road.  
"What is it, Eunice?" said Eunice's brother's wife, Mrs. Abner Lane.  
"Th children saw the lineman, Mr. Miles," said Eunice, rather faintly.  
"Do tell!" said Eunice, smiling.  
The lineman lived in the next State, when he was not on the road. Two or three times a year he and his associates passed through Ridgeville, inspecting the telegraph wires, and repairing them if need be, and he always put up at Abner Lane's.

He was an old friend now; Fiducia put out her best preserves for him, Abner talked politics with him, and Eunice—Eunice put on her best dresses and rickracked aprons for him, and with them a sweetly-welcoming manner.  
It was more than remoted that the young man put up at Abner Lane's because of Abner's pretty sister, Eunice. The lineman arrived, with Molly on his shoulder and Sammy grasping his coat tail.  
"Real glad to see you, Mr. Miles—real glad!" said Fiducia, warmly.  
"Eunice!"

Then Eunice came and shook hands, with a conventional observation—no matter what, since it was faintly uttered, and since the lineman grew red to his biclure hair and struggled ineffectually over his reply.  
"Abner'll be pleased enough," said Fiducia. "Much work to be done here, you find?"  
"Considerable," said the lineman, getting his anxious blue eyes as far up as Eunice's collar-button. "Stoke's at work already, down street."  
"Have you shot any more wild turkeys down home?" said Sammy, between his knees.  
"How's that little girl that had measles and whooping-cough together?" said Molly.  
"Real glad I made that raised cake yesterday? I recollect how you like it, Mr. Miles," said Eunice.  
Among all of which the lineman contrived to murmur: "Miss Lane, you're well!" and Eugene to admit that she was. Indeed, she looked so, with her bright dark eyes and raised color.

Abner came just before supper. He was not alone. The tall, stout, black-haired, frod-faced man who followed him appeared to fill the doorway solidly.  
"Surprises don't come singly!" cried Fiducia.  
"Silas Baldwin!" Mr. Miles, Mr. Baldwin! A sort of cousin of mine," Fiducia explained to the lineman.  
Mr. Baldwin sent a great laugh into the room apropos of nothing, kissed Fiducia, and took Eunice by both hands.  
"Blooming as ever!" he said, with blunt gallantry.  
Abner was glad to see the lineman.  
"You generally get around with the ground-hog, don't you?" he said, not poetically, but heartily, as he helped the lineman to ham and eggs.  
"Before I'd stand being coupled with a ground-hog!" said Mr. Baldwin jovially.  
"He was one of those humorously jolly persons who make irresistible jokes, keep a roomful of people in good spirits, and carry all before them without an effort. All the Lanes liked him."  
All. And for that reason the lineman did not like him.

Mr. Baldwin—who, it seemed, lived five miles away, and had run over for the fun of it—next to Eunice, and had a familiar and proprietary air.  
"You get handsomer every day, Eunice," he avowed. "Don't know what you're coming to." The lineman had thought so, but would he have dared to say it to Eunice? Never! "Now, I'm getting old—old and fat. Too fat to be real captivating."  
The lineman agreed with him. But did Eunice?  
"How are you getting along over there in your bachelor's hall?" Abner inquired.  
"Oh, I'm lonesome as a dog," said Mr. Baldwin, emphatically. "Lonesome!"  
He handed Eunice the biscuits, looking at her. The lineman grew red and white by turns.  
"Possess your soul in patience," said Abner, jocularly.  
The lineman could only stare. He had hoped that Abner liked him, and liked the thought of him in a certain connection. Ah, he had hoped that Eunice did, too. Now he was all at sea. Eunice, he was racked by sharp fears. For it was Eunice who most bewildered him.

Why had she so confident, so familiar a manner with Fiducia's cousin, Mr. Baldwin—laughing at his joke and replying to his sallies?  
With the lineman Eunice had always been shy, as the lineman had been with her. There was an explanation. Some

secret understanding, then, was between her and Fiducia's fat cousin.  
"Got the new cider-mill done yet?" said Mr. Baldwin, shoving back his chair. "Supposing you and I take a walk down that way, Eunice? Come, get your bunnet!"  
The lineman's heart thumped, and the color rose in his boyishly fair face in impotently rebellious misery. He lifted piteous blue eyes to Eunice.  
She returned his look like a sympathizing angel—though she was somebody else's angel—she said, with dropped eyes:  
"Won't you go, too, Mr. Miles?"  
"Go long!" said Abner.  
But Mr. Baldwin stood tall and black and all-pervading and formidable. He was taking Eunice's shawl from the lounge and putting it—yes, putting it around her, with some bold pleasantness.  
The lineman had got timidly to his feet, but he sat down again, a little pale.

"I'm feeling kind of tired," he murmured. "I guess I won't."  
And Eunice and Fiducia's cousin went off together, the tones of his jubilant, heavy voice floating back.  
"Real good, jolly feller, Silas is," said Fiducia, picking up the dishes. "Now ain't he?"  
"Seems so," said the lineman, mechanically.  
"Yes," said Fiducia. "Good luck hasn't spoiled him. He's made out of that grocery over there—well, goodness knows how much; but I guess he's rich!"  
Yes, Mr. Baldwin wore the air of prosperity; the lineman had noted it, and Ah—he was a lineman.  
"Yes, we think considerable of Silas," Fiducia concluded. "Eunice, now—he and Eunice are real cronies."  
"So they be," said the lineman, huskily.

Once, somewhere back in that brightly hopeful past of which nothing now remained but cold ashes, he had felt certain that Fiducia favored him.  
Nobody favored him now; he supposed the truth was that nobody ever did. He was forlorn, miserable, sick at heart. He had not fully known the depth of his affectionate, big heart till now; and now he had guessed it only to feel that sudden death—saw from lightning or an explosion—would be quite welcome.  
Everybody was not against him. Sammy and Molly were sitting on his lap, and pulling his chin hither and thither and chattering; and while Abner did the barn chores and Fiducia washed the dishes, the lineman told interesting anecdotes to the children in a forced and hollow way. But escaping at last, he put on his hat and wandered out in the early dusk.  
He felt that to witness the serene return of Eunice and the fat grocer would be more than he could calmly endure at present.

He walked up the street; Eunice and Fiducia's cousin had gone down.  
The edge of the spring evening was pleasant itself. The cherry trees made white clouds in the air; the yards he passed gave forth flowery odors; a robin poured out its cheery evening call.  
In another mood the lineman, who was warmly appreciative, would have thrilled with happiness; but with his sad, honest blue eyes on a far tree top, he lagged along without a clear realization of anything.  
He found himself presently at the spot where Stokes had commenced work that afternoon. His ladder was leaning against the high pole, and his portable tool-box, on wheels, was standing near it.  
It was locked, but the lineman had a key, and rather aimlessly he unlocked it.  
The condition of the pole and the tools lying ready in the box made clear the amount of work Stokes had done, and what he intended doing next.

His colleague reflected. He had as great a dread of going back to Abner Lane's and encountering Eunice and his rival as his manly heart had ever known.  
If he found something to keep him—if he could tell them he had been at work—he might stay here till pitch dark and then go back and go to bed, and get the repairs finished to-morrow and leave Ridgeville to-morrow night—Ridgeville till his next trip and Eunice forever.

Yes. With something remarkably like a sob in his throat, the young lineman put on Stokes' spiked "climbers," filled his pockets with hammer and nails and glass insulators, and climbed the ladder.  
He was not feeling very clear-headed, somehow or other, and it was getting dark. What was the matter with the "climbers?" They did not seem to "bite."  
But he left the ladder and mounted the pole. Even before he had held the possibility of falling in head dread, which his muscular agility, however, rendered most remote; but now he felt as though a fatal tumble would be rather pleasant than otherwise. The lineman was in a desperate mood.  
What next occurred, though, was not the result of recklessness. How did it happen? The lineman could not have told them then or after.

He neared the lowest crosspiece and threw his right leg over it. The grasp of his hands might have been unwittingly a weak one, for the lowering of his body as he hoisted his leg overpowered it.  
His hands slipped, with a stinging sensation, and his head began to reel. He was falling—falling in awful truth, as he had once seemed to fall in a nightmare; and in half a minute he lay senseless and motionless on the green grass of the roadside.  
It was to the lineman like the scheme of a sarcastic fate that the first sound he should hear, on regaining consciousness, should be the loud voice of Mr. Baldwin.  
"Hello!" Fiducia's cousin was shouting. "Just as I told you! He's coming to already, chigger as you please!"  
"You call that chigger?" Fiducia's agitated tones demanded.  
She was rubbing the lineman's forehead

with camphor. He saw that the lamp on the table was lighted.  
"Wal, he ain't hurt bad; that's the point," said Abner. "It's that tunk on his head knocked him under."  
"He'll come round," said Mr. Baldwin, cheerfully. "You've been kept over for half an hour," he remarked to the lineman. "You can be thankful you are here. A man going along there in a wagon saw you lying there dead—that's what he reckoned—and picked you up and brought you back, knowing this was where you was putting up. Land alive! You might a laid there all night. Eunice! I do believe that girl's a saveling. Eunice, march yourself here! Your feller's all right—right as a trigger!"  
Fiducia remonstrated; but Eunice came.  
That was all the lineman was conscious of.

Was it-by preconception? Abner and Fiducia and Mr. Baldwin somehow got out of the room—Fiducia gracefully, Abner awkwardly, the fat grocer lumberingly; and the lineman was alone with Eunice.  
In spite of his jarred lameness he sat up—sat up and groped for Eunice's hands. Yes, Eunice had been crying.  
"Eunice," said the lineman, "let me hold your hand just this moment, while I—I tell you. It was my own fault getting my head bumped, and I deserved it. I was just a coward, Eunice. I wasn't man enough to face what I knew I'd have to face. I didn't want to come back here and see you—and him together. I didn't feel as though I could stan' it. So I went to working on that pole and fell down, just as I'd ought to. There! I wish you well, Eunice. He's a good man and he's rich, and—and you'll be happy. I know you will. There, I won't say no more. I was kind of desperate, Eunice; but I wasn't trying to kill myself. No, I—I'll live right along!"  
Though she was crying again, Eunice did not take her hands away. They seemed to nestle in the lineman's.

"What do you mean?" she cried, half indignantly. "Do you mean Silas Baldwin?"  
"Why, yes," the lineman stammered.  
"Silas Baldwin?" said Eunice, with amazed eyes on the lineman's upturned face. "I've known him all my life. He's about forty, Silas is, and he's a married man, but his wife's off visiting her folks in Illinois. He runs over here oftener now 't he's all alone."  
Then Eunice removed her hands to wipe her tears.  
"Wal," the lineman gasped, dazed, humiliated, strangely happy, "I've been a ternal fool!"  
The lineman got well, though it was discovered that he had fractured one of his ribs. He said he was glad of it; he took it for a judgment upon him. Besides, being nursed to recovery by Eunice was far from being an unpleasant state of affairs.

He and Eunice were married as soon as ever he was able to be, and Sammy and Molly, in high feather, stood up with them.  
The tall, silver lamp, presented by Fiducia's cousin, Silas Baldwin, and his wife, was the finest of the wedding presents by all odds.—Saturday Night.

### Stanley's Wooting.

The story of Stanley's wooing is gradually being disclosed. He first met Miss Tennant when last in England, and for awhile was received with the same coolness which usually characterized the lady's reception of attentions from gentlemen. But the indomitable courage, energy and wonderful powers of description possessed by the explorer gradually won the heart of one who possessed similar traits in so marked a degree, and when Stanley managed to pluck up sufficient courage to propose she faintly with mingled delight and excitement. She promised to wait until he returned from his next African trip, and insisted that their engagement should be kept secret.

The letters which have passed between "Stanley Africanus" and Miss Tennant, if they ever see the light of publication—love-letters of eminent persons are now included in the printer's prey—will be truly curious stories, for no doubt the explorer told more to his lady love than he will ever confess elsewhere of the awful tribulations of his march through the African swamps and forests. His brother explorers were aware of their commander's love story, and many a tree in the strange lands visited has "Dolly" deeply cut into the bark. The natives used to think it the sign of the white chief's fetish and often prostrated themselves before it. In one of his letters Stanley wrote such a harrowing account of the suffering of his hand, and gave such a vivid picture of the death of a gigantic negro slowly swallowed by a huge serpent that Miss Tennant swooned after reading it.—Commercial Advertiser.

### Smuggling Jewels From Mexico.

Commenting upon evidence in a recent smuggling case tried in San Antonio, Texas, District Attorney Evans told his experience in the trial of men charged with bringing goods across the border without having paid duty.  
"The Government," he said, "might as well abolish the duty on jewelry and precious stones, so far as its value along the Mexican border is concerned. Great quantities of such are brought into this country, but it is very seldom that duty is paid upon them. Of course, the smaller an article is the easier it is to escape detection. Fine jewelry and precious stones are safely smuggled on this account, and quite a number of the smugglers are known to the Custom-house officials, who, however cannot be detected."  
"Men and women almost known to have jewelry in their possession are stopped and searched, but nothing dutiable is revealed. A thousand dollars' worth of precious stones might be hidden under a plaster. False pockets in clothes and wearing apparel are common. I do not believe that as many precious stones as formerly are brought from Mexico, but there is plenty of Mexican jewelry smuggled into the United States."  
—Chicago Herald.

## SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

The average speed of elevators is 22 1/2 feet per minute.  
Carriages to be run by gasoline will soon be seen in London.  
Lithographic stone and lead are being found at Marble Falls, Texas.  
Plumbago in large quantities has been found near Hoffman's Mills and High Bridge, Hunterton, N. J.  
An electrical fan, to keep up a lively circulation of air in cars lighted by electricity, has been invented.  
Two new cotton mills have just been projected in South Carolina, one of them to be operated by water power.

A London genius has invented a hot water apparatus to warm piano keys, so that dainty fingers may not be chilled.  
Wood pulp is now being used as the basis of a plastic compound to serve as a substitute for lime mortar in covering and finishing walls.  
Lead poisoning among Jacquard weavers in a Swiss factory has been traced to dust from leaden weights used to carry the thread of the yarn.  
An improved barometer which indicates the instant of each lightning flash and the beginning and duration of a thunder clap is on exhibition in London.

English experts having found that forced draught is straining the boilers to an alarming extent are now turning their attention to improving the natural draught.  
Rich and plentiful deposits of tin and silver have just been discovered in Cherokee County, east of Canton, just forty miles from Atlanta, Ga. The tin ore, as does the silver, assays very rich.  
A Swedish inventor named Thornisen has made a quick-drying gum which can discharge twenty-four shots a minute. At tests made recently a target, six inches long and six inches wide was hit by every shot.

The adjustable steam dock at Key West, Fla., has been finished, but so far the contractors have not found a suitable vessel for docking, and as this was part of the contract final payment has been withheld.  
The Pennsylvania Railroad is experimenting with a shaking grate on its freight engines, and the result is said to be satisfactory. An engine equipped with a grate ran over five days without clogging, and the fire continued brisk. No blower was needed.  
From a report of the meeting of the Berlin Anthropological Society it is gathered that the cat is called in Chinese "Mao," which seems an excellent onomatopoeic word. The cat is also called "Woman's Slave," which goes to show that the celestial old maids are as fond of their furry friend as their European sisters.

In China soapstone is largely used in preserving structures built of sandstone and other stones liable to crumble from the effect of atmosphere; and the covering with powdered soapstone in the form of paint, on some of the obelisks in that country, composed of stone liable to atmospheric deterioration has been the means of preserving them intact for hundreds of years.  
The use of nitro-glycerine in cases of emergency instead of alcohol is recommended by an English physician. A drop on the tongue rouses a fainting man, and it may restore life in case of apparent death, as from drowning. It has quickly relieved headache, heart pains and asthma, and strengthened weak pulses in fevers. It should only be used under advice of a physician.

A locomotive working under a pressure of 140 to 165 pounds to the square inch may move a railway train at a velocity of sixty miles per hour, which one is apt to think of as a wonderful speed. But it is slow compared with the rate of motion of the projectile from a modern great gun. Such projectile flies at the rate of 1265 miles per hour, impelled by a pressure of 35,000 to 40,000 pounds per square inch.

### A Frolie of Fashion.

A prominent dealer in leather, from London, says that never before was there such a craze in London for queer leather as at the present time. He says also:  
"All kinds of skins, from the tough, thick hide of an elephant to the thinner, tender frogs, are pressed into service to meet the demands of the fashionable. Some of our shops are stocked with a supply of fancy articles that are made from the skins of all sorts of beasts, reptiles and fishes. These singular objects are exhibited in the windows, where their appearance proves a great attraction to the crowds. Made up into various articles are yellow pelican skins, lion and panther skins, buffalo skins, fish skins, monkey skins, and the coverings of almost every living thing known. They are tanned and sometimes dyed with different colors. I think it looks hideous to see a pretty girl walking along the streets swinging a porte-manteau made of the scaly skin of a boa-constrictor. But it's fashion, you know, and reminds one of the old story of beauty and the beast."  
—Commercial Advertiser.

### Famous Old Giants.

At all times and in all countries, says the Irish Times, kings and nobles had a fancy for including among their retainers either a giant or a dwarf, sometimes both. Frederick the Great had his corps of gigantic grenadiers; and in the Tower of London may be seen a lance and some enormous armor of sixteenth century work, which, doubtless, belonged to some giant, knight or trooper of the king's body guard. James I. had attached to his person a porter named Walter Parsons, commonly called the Staffordshire giant, a handsome, brave, and strong young man, who had begun life as a farmer. His height was seven feet, seven inches, and his portrait exists, engraved by Glover. Parsons lived on into the reign of Charles I., and was succeeded by another giant, William Evans, two inches taller than his predecessor.

## WONDERS OF FIREWORKS.

### JAPANESE LEAD THE WORLD IN MAKING PYROTECHNICS.

Families That Have Done Nothing Else for a Hundred Years—Balloons of Many Kinds.  
The use of fireworks of all kinds becomes more universal every year in this country. Exhibitions are common at the winter resorts in the South, while in the North fireworks are used at toboggan and snowshoe carnivals and by summer excursionists. All the firecrackers used in this country come from China. They are shipped in sailing vessels that land at New York.  
Although we surprise the Oriental races in our knowledge of chemistry and mechanics we have never been able to compete with them in practical pyrotechnics. In this field they have developed skill that is well nigh miraculous, and are as much our masters today as they were at the time of the invention or introduction of gunpowder in Europe. Long before that event the Chinese were enjoying firecrackers, from those no larger than a match to the monstrous ones which weigh five pounds apiece—bombs, Roman candles and Bengal lights. At the same time the Japanese were developing their wonderful system of day fireworks into a fine art.  
Of the two races the Chinese were by long odds the first in point of time. Their annals show that the familiar firecracker was known to the people of the Flowery Kingdom at least 1150 B. C. On the other hand there is no direct proof that the Japanese were able to manufacture fireworks of any sort prior to 1040 A. D., some twenty-one centuries afterwards.

But the Chinese seemed satisfied with what little progress they made in the early age, and have never gone beyond what they then accomplished. The Japanese, on the contrary, have kept up experiment and research to the present moment.  
In discussing the remarkable success of their countrymen in this industrial art a member of the Japanese Embassy at Washington said recently: "The secret of our prosperity is not as simple as might be supposed. In the first place we have a trade system something like the guilds of Europe. A good firework maker brings up one or more of his sons to follow him in his profession, and teaches them every little trick or discovery he has made or that has been handed down to him by his ancestors. There are many families at home that have been firework makers for more than a century."  
The balloons are always of moderate size, but the great majority being about six and a half feet in length. They are made of a strong and durable tissue paper, are printed in colors and usually retouched with the brush by the artisans of the East before they are allowed to leave the workshop. So far as shapes are concerned there is almost endless variety. The commonest kinds are those which imitate the domestic animals. Next to these in popularity are the shapes of birds, fish, reptiles and dragons. Beyond these and much less economical, if not less popular, are human figures. These are of all sorts, ranging from a daimio to a grotesque head.  
It is difficult to estimate the number of shapes turned out by Japanese pyrotechnists. One concern in Yedo keeps over twelve hundred different kinds on hand, while another house in Yokohama has a stock of two thousand varieties. These balloons are so weighted as to always keep a natural position. In some cases they are specially weighted with five pieces of metal held by a slow burning fuse. As the latter is consumed it releases from time to time a weight. As this is liberated the balloon will spring upward as if alive. With two leaded fuses the movements of a fish are beautifully imitated.  
Corresponding to these five trails are what may be called smoke trails. The trail is charged with some inflammable substance like pitch, which is so treated as to give out great volumes of heavy dense black smoke, which falls slowly away from the balloon and leave a long, wavy line in the air to indicate the varying currents and eddies in the atmosphere. Some very expensive balloons have trails so arranged as to give lines of smoke in two, three, and even four colors.  
—New York Press.

### A Lucky Shot.

A few days ago as James Knight, of Shelter Point, near Nanaimo, British Columbia, was working in the woods close to his own house and barn, he heard a series of squeals from a litter of little pigs which were running about the garden. Going in the direction of the sounds he discovered a panther of very large proportions carrying off one of the porkers. Running to the house with all possible speed, he secured his gun, his dog in the meantime, chasing the murderer, which took to the trees. Taking aim at the beast, whose glistening eyes shone through the foliage and whose growls made it impossible to mistake his whereabouts, he brought the animal down, preventing him making a dying charge by a well-directed shot into his brain. This brute, and several others of his kind, with the assistance of the bears in the neighborhood, have latterly made considerable havoc among the smaller domesticated animals, and it is proposed ere long to organize a shooting party with the object of exterminating them.—Victoria (B. C.) Colonist.

### Adjusted the Gift to Her Mouth.

Admed Eßendß, the former Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, when entertaining company, was in the habit of distributing sweets among the ladies present. On one occasion he gave a certain lady two or three times as much as the rest. She, vain of her triumph, got an interpreter to inquire the reason of his preference.  
"Because her mouth is twice as large as that of the other ladies," was the reply.  
—Argonaut.

## SYCAMORES IN BLOOM.

Like flame-wing'd harps the sweet blooms lie  
Amid the shadowy sycamores.  
The music of each leaflet's sigh  
Thrills them continually.  
The small harps of the sycamores.  
Small birds innumerable find rest  
And shelter 'midst the sycamores.  
Their songs of love in a warm soft nest  
Are faintly echoed east and west  
By the red harps of the sycamores.  
The dowfall and the starlings make  
Amidst the shadowy sycamores  
Sweet delicate strains; the gold beams shake  
The leaves at morn, and swift awake  
The small harps of the sycamores.  
O sweet earth's music everywhere,  
Though faint as in the sycamores:  
Sweet when as thus there waives in the air  
The red harps of the sycamores.  
—William Sharp, in Harper's Magazine.

## HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The ground-floor—Sardust.  
A good buy-law—Collect on delivery.  
A drawing-room—The dentist's office.  
A two-foot rule—Stand on your own pins.  
An old flame—The light of other days.  
Everybody's business is nobody's business except the busybody's.  
Do not think you can cultivate a man's acquaintance by giving him an occasional dig.  
The paper that says something mean about you is never lost in the mails.—Athenian Globe.  
Poor Fishing.—First Boy—"Did you catch anything?" Second Boy—"No, until I got home."—San Francisco West.  
One thing of Nuth must be said—Now will the trusts be strained; Without a doubt he knew enough To go in when it rained.—Hay Press.  
Bobby—"How did you manage to get the bowl of cream?" Tommy—"Told man I saw the cat put her nose in it!"—Epoch.  
One of the healthiest professions in the world is that of signing wills. Expectant heirs will readily confirm this statement.—Pack.  
When you come to consider the drunkard, there isn't much difference between the ideal and the real.—Binghamton Leader.  
Do not try to take off your hat to a woman on a rainy day; if she carries an umbrella she will take it off for you.—Boston Bulletin.  
The men who become suddenly rich remind us of the whales. They no sooner get to the top than they commence blowing.—Statesman.  
"Now, Johnny, you know what a noun is, do you?" "Yeth um." "What is Jerusalem?" "An ejaculation, mum."—Harper's Bazaar.  
The young man just out of school advertises for a "position;" but after six months of hustling he is mighty glad to get a "job."—Pack.  
The latest distinguished horse on the turf is named Semicolus. It must be rather difficult to bring him to a full stop.—Boston Herald.  
"All that's bright must fade,  
The brightest still the fleetest."  
All we wear is frayed  
Just when we would be nearest.  
—Pack.  
Hostess (to young Spriggins, M. D.)—"Dr. Spriggins, will you have some of the tongue?" Dr. Spriggins (absurdly)—"Oh—er—let me look at it, please."—Chatter.  
It is nonsense to say that there is nothing new under the sun. The man who owns an ordinary fountain pen finds some new trouble with it every week.—Savannah Journal.  
Polite Passenger—"Pardon me, sir! Can I sit down in this seat?" Old Sour-bow—"Well, I presume you can if you try hard enough. I didn't have any trouble."—Boston Times.  
She (enthusiastically)—"Oh, George! don't you think the greatest joy in life is the pursuit of the good, the true and the beautiful?" He—"You bet! that's why I'm here to-night."—Burlington Free Press.  
Little Ethel went to church with her grandmother, and for the first time put ten cents in the contribution-plate. Leaning over she whispered very audibly, "That's all right, grandma! I paid for two."—Judge.  
One morning in a garden bed  
The onion and the carrot said  
"Into a parsley group!  
"Oh, when shall we three meet again,  
In the midst of lightning, or in rain?  
"Alas!" exclaimed in tones of pain  
The parsley—"In the soup."  
—Philadelphia Press.  
The baseball player's business is picking up, the foot-ball player's is rushing, the gymnast's is in the contribution-plate. Leaning over she whispered very audibly, "That's all right, grandma! I paid for two."—Judge.  
The bucket shop known as "The Stockholder" failed yesterday for the seventeenth time this month. The cause of the suspension is stated to have been that a customer was, by an oversight of a clerk, allowed to win \$2.50, and demanded his money.—Judge.  
Old Souvenirs.  
Many capricious New Yorkers are having souvenirs, such as ladies' slippers and locks of hair, covered with a thin deposit of silver and displayed in their homes as mementoes. The substances of the articles thus treated are not injuriously affected, and they attract considerable attention wherever shown.—Argonaut.

### A Curious Ear of Corn.

An ear of corn on exhibition at San Luis Obispo, Cal., is described as being in the exact form of a human hand; the wrist, palm, fingers and thumb being all perfect. It is covered with small grains to near the tips of the fingers, which are bare prolegs of cobs, giving the hand the appearance of being clad in a mitt.