THE GOLDEN SUNSET.

BY LONGFELLOW. The golden sea its mirror spreads, Beneath the golden skies, And but a narrow strip between

Of lane and shadow lies. The cloud-like rocks, the rock-like clouds, Dissolved in glory float, And midway of the radiant flood, Hangs silently the boat.

The sea is but another sky, The sky is a sea as well, And which is earth and which the heavens, The eye can scarcely tell.

So when for us Life's evening hour Soft fading shall descend, May glory born of Earth and Heaven, The earth and heavens blend.

Flooded with peace the spirit floats, With silent rapture glow,
Till where earth ends and Heaven begins
The soul shall scarcely know.

ADVENTURE WITH A BUFFALO. BY CAPTAIN MAYNE REID.

We were near the Arkansas river on a hunt. For several days we had been unsuccessful. One evening, after we had camped as usual, and my brave horse had eaten his "bite" of corn, I leaped into the saddle, and rode off in hopes of finding something fresh for supper. The prairie where we halted was a rolling one, and as the camp had been fixed on a small atream, between two great swells, it was not visible at any great distance. As soon therefore as I had crossed one of the ridges, I was out of sight of my companions. Trusting to the sky for my direction, I continued on.

After riding about a mile, I should think, I came upon a buffalo "sign," consisting of several circular holes in the ground, five or six feet in diameter, known as buffalo "wallows." I saw at a glance that the sign was fresh. There were several wallows; and I could tell by the tracks in the dust, there had been buftalos in that quarter. So I continued on in hopes of getting a sight of the animals that had been wallowing.

I had ridden full five miles from camp, when my attention was attracted by an odd noise ahead of me. There was a ridge in front that prevented me from seeing what produced the noise; but I knew what it was-it was the bel-

lowing of a buffalo. At intervals there were quick shocks, as of two hard substances coming in violent contact

with each other. I mounted the ridge with caution, and looked over its crest. There was a valley beyond; a cleud of dust was rising out of its bottom, and is the midst of this I could distinguish two buge forms, dark and hirsute.

I saw at once they were a couple of buffalos, engaged in a fierce fight. They were alone; no others were in sight, either in the valley or on the prairie beyond.

I did not halt longer than to see that the cap was on my rifle and to cock the piece. Occupied as the animals were, I did not imagine they would heed me; or, if they should attempt flight, I knew I could easily overtake one or the other, so without farther hesitation or precaution, I rode toward them.

Contrary to my expectation, they both "winded" me, and started off. The wind was blowing freshly toward them, and the sun had thrown my shadow between them so as to draw

their attention. They did not run, however, as if badly scared; on the contrary, they went off apparently indignant at being disturbed in their fight; and every now and then both came round with short turnings, snorted, and struck the prairie with their hoofs in a violent and angry manner.

Once or twice, I fancied they were going to charge upon me; and had I been otherwise than well mounted, I should have been chary of risking such an encounter. A more formidable pair of antagonists, as far as appearance went, could not well have been conceived. Their huge size, their shaggy fronts, and fierce glaring eye-balls gave them a wild and malicious seeming, which was hightened by their bellowing, and the threatening attitudes in which they continually placed themselves.

Feeling quite safe in my saddle, I galloped up to the nearest, and sent my bullet into his ribs. It did the work. He fell to his kneesrose again-spread out his legs as if to prevent a second fall-rocked from side to side like a cradle-again be came to his knees, and after remaining in this position for some minutes, with the blood running from his nostrils, rolled over on his shoulder and lay dead.

I had watched these maneuvers with interest, and permitted the second one to make his escape; a single glance had shown me the latter disappearing over the crest of the swell.

I did not care to follow him, as my horse was jaded, and I knew it would cost me a sharp gallop to come up with him again; so I thought no more of him at the time, but alighted, and prepared to deal with the one already slain. While cutting him up, my horse broke his tether and scoured away. At the same moment, the other buffalo came back full drive

Now, for the first time, it occurred to me that I was in something of a scrape. The buffalo was coming furiously on. I had fortunately reloaded my rifle. Should my shot miss, or even should it only wound him, how was I to escape? I knew that he could overtake me in three minutes' stretch-I knew that

I had not much time for reflection-not a moment, in fact; the infuriated animal was within ten paces of me, I raised my rifle, simed at his foreshoulder and fired.

I saw that I had hit him, but to my dismay, he neither fell nor stumbled, but continued to

charge torward more furiously than ever. To reload was impossible. My pistols had gone off with my horse and holsters. Even to reach the tree was impossible; the buffalo was

between it and me. To make off in the opposite direction was the only thing that held out the prospect of five minutes' safety; I turned and ran. The buffalo came after me.

At this moment an object appeared before me, that promised, one way or another, to in-terrupt the chase; it was a ditch or gulley, that intersected my path at right angles, It was several feet in depth, dry at the bottom, and with perpendicular sides.

I was almost upon its edge before I noticed it, but the moment it came under my eye, I saw that it offered the means of a temporary safety at least. If I could only leap this gulley I was satisfied, for I knew that the buffalo

from cheek to cheek-but I had done more than that in my time, and without halting [in my gait, I ran forward to the edge and sprang over. I alighted cleverly upon the opposite bank, and stopped and turned round to watch my pursuer. I now ascertained how near my the verge of the gulley. Had I not made my leap at the instant, I should have been by that time dancing upon his horns. He himself had balked in the leap; the deep and chasm

his glaring black eyes expressed the full measure of his baffled rage. I remarked that my shot had taken effect upon his shoulder, as the blood trickled from

like cleft had cowed him. He saw that he

could not clear it, and now stood up on the op-

posite bank with head lowered, and spread

his long bair. I had almost begun to congratulate myself on having escaped, when a hurried glance to the right, and another to the left cut short my happiness. I saw on both sides, at a distance of less than fifty paces, the gulley shallowed end of it was, of course, passable. The buffalo observed this almost at the same time as myself, and, suddenly turning away from the brink, he ran along the edge of the chasm, evidently with the intention of turning it.

In less than a minute's time we were once more on the same side, and my situation appeared as terrible as ever; but, stepping back for a short run, I releaped the chasm; and again we stood on opposite sides of the gully.

During all this time I had held on to my rifle; and seeing now that I might have time to load it, I commenced feeling for my powder horn. To my astonishment I could not lay my hands upon it. I looked down to my breast for the sling-it was not there; belt and bullet pouch, too-all was gone ! I remembered lifting them over my head, when I set about cutting up the dead buffalo. They were lying by the carcass.

This discovery was a new source of chagrin; but for my negligence, I could now have mastered my antagonist.

To reach the ammunition would be impossible; I should be overtaken before getting half way to it. I was not allowed much time to indulge in my regrets; the buffalo had again turned the ditch, and was once more upon the

same side with me. I took a tree, however, and sprang up it like a mountebank; but the hot breath of the buffalo steamed after me as I ascended, and the concussion of his heavy skull against the trunk of the tree almost shook me back upon his horns.

After a severe effort of climbing, I succeeded. in lodging myself among the branches. I was now safe from all immediate danger, but how was the affair to end?

I knew, from the experience of others, that my enemy might stay for hours by the treeperhaps for days!

Hours would be enough. I could not stand it long. I had already hungered, but a worse appetite began to torture me-thirst. The hot sun, the dust, the violent exercise of the past hour, all contributed to make me thirsty. Even then would I have risked life for a drink of water. What would it come too, should relief not come?

I remained for a long time busied with these gloomy thoughts and fore-bodings. Night was approaching, but the fierce and obstinate brute exhibited no disposition to raise the siege. He remained watchful as ever, walking round and round at intervals; lashing his tail and bellowing.

Good luck !-There was a rope left by some hunter, attached to the trunk of the tree. The first step was to get possession of it. This was not such an easy matter. The rope was fastened to the tree, but the knot had slipped down the trunk and lay upon the ground. I dared not descend for it. Necessity soon sug-

gested a plan. My "picker" -- a piece of straight wire with a ring end-hung from one of my breast buttons. This I took hold of, and bent into the shape of a grappling hook. I had no cord, but my knife was still in its sheath; and drawing this, cut several thongs from the skirt of my buckskin shirt, and knotted them together till they formed a string long enough to reach the ground. To one end I attached the picker and then letting it down, caught the loose end

I could depend upon it; it was a raw hide, and better never was twisted; but I knew that if anything should chance to slip at a critical moment, it might cost me my life. With this knowledge, therefore, I spliced it for a lasso with all the pains-taking that a man, whose life was actually "on the cast," might be supposed to bestow on his last resource, the efficiency of which could be increased or lessened by

his own act. Everything being ready, my next difficulty was to fix myself in such a position that I could whirl my lasso clear of the tree, with some hopes of casting it over the buffalo's neck, and still at the same time not so far compromise my own safety as, in case of an unsuccessful cast, to be in reach of the entaged animal, who would now most surely defeat me in any contest involving a trial of speed; for my long continued and cramped position astride the cotton-wood limb I was perfectly aware, prevented any hope of success by that mode

of escape. Soon I made a clear place from which to whirl my lasso, and clambered out on the projecting limb as far as it was prudent to do so, considering that my stand point must be firm and secure, and having attained a position I deemed most favorable, under the circumstances, I in turn became the watcher, and never did grimalkin fix her keen eyes more warily upon the doomed mouse than did I keep a sharp watch upon every move and turn of the enraged beast who was bellowing below me. At length, wearying of my position, night

coming on apace, and being both hungry and parched with thirst, I determined to make the attempt, which, if successful, would free me from my enemy, or if it failed would entail a fate no worse than death from starvation, from cold, or thirst, from all united?

Gathering the rope carefully in my lap as I sat astride the limb, I coiled it up in rings, held loosely in my left mand; and pulling hard upon the other end, was cheered by the conviction that it was secure around the trunk, and could I but succeed in throwing it as I had often done before, I need have no fears of the

I cast my lasso, the coils of which, after describing enlarged circles in the air, descended greatest well of the kind in the world, except upon the back of the buffalo, while the inner the celebrated one in Paris.

It was a sharp leap-at least seventeen feet | and smaller one, which contained the fatal |

noose, providentally encircled his neck. Quick as thought I lowered myself to the ground, taking care to reach it on the side of the tree opposite to where the buffalo was, in order to gain a moment's time, and also that by his making a circle be must patternly wind. by his making a circle he must naturally wind end I had been; the buffalo was already up to a portion of the rope around the turn and thus strengthen the hold on the end of the lasso.

No sooner had I reached the ground than the buffalo, uttering a most terrific snort, his eyes glaring like balls of fire, bounded at me, and I felt his hot breath close to my cheek, and the very earth shaking beneath my feet with the maddened tread. I had given myself up for lost. And after running a few yards, I realized nostrils, his tail lashing his brown flanks, while the maddening conviction that my limbs were paralized with cold and badly cramped for want of exertion, and I sunk helpless to the earth, expecting the brute to crush me out of existence with his huge paws, when I was as-toni hed to find myself alone and unharmed.

Curiosity, however, or rather a desire to be assured of my safety, prompted me to look around, when to my joy I beheld the huge mon-ster stretched on the plain. I could see the out into the plain where it ended, and either rope as tight as a bowstring; and the tongue, protruding from the animal's jaws, showed me that he was strangling himself as fast as I could desire.

At the sight, the thought of buffalo tongue for supper returned with all its vigor; and it independence- a stout, doughty resolution now occured to me that I should eat that very tongue and no other.

I immediately turned in my tracks, ran toward my powder and balls-which in my eagerness to escape, I had forgotten all aboutseized my horn and pouch, poured in a charge, rammed down a bullet, and then stealing nimbly up behind the still struggling buffalo, I placed the muzzle within three feet of his brisket, and fired. He gave a death kick or two and then lay quiet; it was all over with him. And so it was with my adventure.

THE HISTORY OF A CHAIR.

A Berlin journal has the following strange tale, of which it guarantees the truth :- "An old woman, who lately died in the hospital. left among other things a very old arm-chair of Gothic style, and richly decorated. In the sale of her effects by auction, a foreigner gave as much as 500 francs for the chair, and surprise having been expressed at his giving so large a sum, he made this explanation: The chair, with other things, was offered by the States of Moehren to the Empress Maria Theresa, and for many years figured in her boudoir. After her death it, by her express desire, was sent to Queen Marie Antoinette, in France, and afterwards was one of the principal pieces of furniture allowed to Louis XVI. Temple. The King's valet de Fleury, afterwards became possessed of the chair and took it to England, where it became the property of the Prince Regent, and afterwards the Duke of Cumberland. The latter took it to Berlin, and there it was given to an upholsterer to repair. The workman charged with the job found secreted in it a diamond pin, a portrait in pencil of a boy, and a number of small sheets of paper filled with very small writing. The things he appropriated the pin he sold, and the portrait and papers he gave to a watchmaker, a friend of his. Although the writing was in foreign lauguage, the watchmaker succeeded in making out that it consisted of a series of secret and very important instructions drawn up by Louis XVI or the Dauphin, his son-the portrait being that of the latter. The watchmaker, whose name was Naundorff, some years after gave himself out as Louis XVII, and produced the papers and portrait in question to prove his allegation. After making some noise in France and Belgium, in which latter country he passed by the name of Morel de Saint Didier, this man died in 1849. His son, who called himself Duke of Normandy, went to Java in 1853. The Berlin workman who discovered the documents naturally did not state how Naundorff became possessed of them, but just before his death, which took place lately, he made a full disclosure to his family. They found out that the famous arm chair had remained in Berlin. and had come into possession of the old woman, and they caused it to be bought in order to sell it again in Austria."

ROLLING IN THE DIRT FOR NOTHING .- There is an excellent story extant, of a negro who was desirous of being converted, but who could not resign the power which Satan had over him into ordinary hands. Like St. Christopher he resolved that he would not accept religion from any inferior authority, and determined that the celebrated Whitefield alone should show him the error of his ways. He attended scores of religious meetings, always inquiring "Who's dat?" whenever an unusually vigorous preacher took the stand. At length he was told that a man holding forth to a crowd was Whitefield. The negro at once fell upon the ground and rolled about apparently in an agony of emotion, and rose with the mighty idea that he was a converted man. Not long after, he was told that he had never heard Whitefield; that the celebrated preacher was far distant from the place at the time. "Oh?" said the disappointed fellow, "Den I

rolled in de dirt for nothing !" A FAMOUS LONDON COFFEE HOUSE .- The celebrated Rainbow Coffee House in Fleet Street, London was recently offered for sale by auction. This place has been well known for more than 250 years. Aubrey in his "Lives" speaks of it as a coffee house when coffee first came in. It is recorded that in the year 1657, James Farre, was presented in court as the keeper of the "Rainbow" for making and selling a sort of liquor called coffee, as a great nuisance and prejudice of the neighborhood, &c. The Spectator (No 16) says: "I have received a letter desiring me to be very satirical upon the little must now in fashion, another informs me of a pair of silver garter buckles below the knee that have lately been seen at the Rainbow Coffee House in Fleet Street. (March, 19, 1710-11.

The Independence Belge says that M. de Rothschild has sent, through the representative of his house in the Pontiffical States, the sum of 10,000 francs to M. Mortara to enable him to continue his efforts for the restitution of his child, without sacrificing the interests of his family.

An artesian well lately opened at Bourn, England, sends the water 25 feet above the surface, and discharges 360 gallons per minute. It feeds three mills and is regarded as the COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

There are many poor young men and poor young women, and there are a few rich young account. But there is a point at which the class with means would give out, and leave a very large residuum of indigent persons of both sexes. What are they to do? Are they to remain single? If so, the world would be gradually depopulated. Yet marriage, with all its consequent cares and responsibilities, is a very serious business, and depopulation might be even a less evil than the domestic difficulties and social mischiefs which would grow out of those mesalliances in which the wife on the one hand cannot support a a family upon the slim wages of her industry, and the husband either cannot or will not earn a subsistence for the household. When we speak of the absolutely poor in this connection, we do not, of course, refer to that large devision of mankind intermediate between the extremes on either side-between those who are hopelessly and utterly destitute by virtue not only of inherited poverty, but the incapability of improving their condition, whether by force of personal defects, or the want of opportunity. The man who has nothing but health, talents, and a brave spirit of to make his way in life in spite of fate-is, of all men, the man who ought to be married, and who would be assisted and strengthened by the relation. He is a sound, wholesome, normally developed specimen of humanity, in the main, and, speaking generally, he makes | jects in the pleasant fields of nature. the best husband and father and citizen, and is morally and economically, a pillar in the State. We would recommend all such strong and heroic fellows to marry as speedily as possible, and to choose poor, clever girls, rather than unclever, ill-to-do ones who have come into the world with a silver spoon in their psychological and otherwise, but because a voman who needs that kind of help and protection, ought to be allied to a bold, honest, hard-working, persevering man, who can save her from unwomanly labor, either in kind or quantity, and give the best qualities and affec-

and development. But what shall we say of the matches which are called "love matches," by the way of derision, and which, too frequently, are formed in a thoughtless, unreasoning way, without any reference whatever to what is to follow, between parties who are precisely alike, or suited in no other particular than their outright and complete inability to provide for thempartnership a multiplication of positive goodfor-nothingness and sheer destitution, by two? And is not the probable result of that matrimonial arithmetic, in the next remove, four times the original misery and worthlessness that are multiplied? But what young man and young woman, who get their heads turned with amatory sentiment, and fancy that they were made for each other and must die, inevitably, if they are separated, ever disturb their fond brains with that vulgar, yet very important question-"How will we manage

to live after marriage?" They are apt to fancy that any such calculations are quite inconsistent with a spiritual attachment, and that a connection into which any such sober, and, as they suppose, mean and mercenary speculations enter, never can be happy. This is a mistake. Yet it is very common. It has been repented of, too, by a countless multitude of people, in sackcloth and ashes. The stern cares and duties and necessities of connubial life, soon bring a couple of such lunatics to their senses, and teach them that house rent is not to be paid with lovers' sighs, nor butcher's ment purchased with the tender caresses of Corydon and his Phillis. The truth is, that getting married, as it is called, is a mighty grave and matter-of-fact affair. It has been charged, and with some justice, perhaps, that the extravagance of modern social ideas of respectability, and the costliness of decent subsistence in our large cities, have made it hard for most young men to afford a wife and children, and thus reduced them to celibacy, or the necessity of joining with a poor girl in starving. But those who have not will and faculty enough to win a comfortable maintenance and genuine pride enough to despise the miserable tolly which would sneer at their humble, yet honest competence, had better conclude to avoid the scorn of the world's

snobs, and starve singly. But what we wish particularly in this article to enunciate is, that no poor and prospectless young fellow, who hasn't the sense to take a practical view of marriage, and to realize its obligations and responsibilities in all their stubborn actuality, ought ever to think of the thing. He has no right to think of it. If he cannot support himself by his labor and his talents, he has no business to undertake to support a woman into the bargain. There is no true love in that sort of enterprise. A man who is not able to come honestly himself by plain clothes and frugal diet, is most cruel in attempting to involve a poor girl in his short fare and hopeless raggedness. It is wrong even to engage her affections, and worse still to bind them against better fortune, by express or by tacit betrothal. There are many such courtships and engagements in every community like ours. They ought to be frowned on and forbidden by parents and guardians, as baleful conspiracies by two fools against their own peace and the welfare of society. We have a great and sincere respect, however, for any young man who cultivates the esteem and love of a young girl with a brave and sensible purpose to make her happy by giving her a protector and a home-by lifting her to her rightful and natural position of wife and mother. We care not if he be poor, either in so far as hereditary fortune or present possession of worldly goods may be concerned. But he must have the necessary ability to insure a decent livelihood for his family, and an earnest, manly resolution to put his capacities to practical and efficient use in that direction, before he can fairly and honorably require a young girl to pledge her hand to him, or even engage ber heart in such manner as to render an alliance with him essential to her peace and happiness.

You can always distinguish an Englishman by two things-his trousers and his gait. The first never fit bim, and be always walks as if he was an hour behind time.

DO SOMETHING FOR TRUTH.

How beautiful is truth! No time can be inappropriate for learning it; no season unfit-ting for its reception. The day chants forth its bold, free songs, and the night is luminous with its broad light. It started as a spring at the creation, and has been widening as a river with the centuries that have elapsed. All mankind enjoy it; and the more truth, whether natural or revealed, there is in a nation, the more truly happy are that people.

True happiness consists, not in immediate personal pleasure, but in the possession of knowledge; which simply means the accumulation of facts-the amassing of truth.

Peculiarly beautiful and essentially sublime are the truths of science, for they admit of individual verification on the one hand, and bring us into a closer acquaintance with the Deity, by demonstrating to us the grandeur of

his works, on the other. Few can study unmoved the wonders of insect existence; and observe, with microscopic aid, the seeming infinity of life, and note how perfect and complete are creatures whose size is measured by thousandths of inches, each in its sphere fuifilling all the necessities of its being, with equal, it not often superior, completeness to man; and to whom a drop of water is a world, a teacupful a universe. Nor can any one peer into the vast and seeming illimitability of space, and view the twinkling stars, whose distance we compute by billions of miles, or the planets obeying, in their orbits, the same law which governs a pebble's fall, without feeling awe and devotion for the Creative Intelligence, and wishing to investigate these wondrous ob-

But, happily for us, all the truths of science do not require such grand or minute subjects for our contemplation, in order that we may learn them, for around every household fire, in every family circle, at every meal, and during all our daily avocations, plenty of mysteries occur which require as careful examinamonths. We would advise this choice, not only on the principle of natural fitness, elucidation, before they are placed among the facts that are proved, as did the steam engine or the atomic theory.

The age has gone by when the ordinary cir-cumstances by which we are surrounded require to be catalogued, but the age has come, in which causes must be assigned for every eftions of her nature a decent chance of growth | feet; and to discover "the reason why?" of some phenomena should now be the aim of ev-

ery intelligent individual. The men who lead the van of knowledge have plenty of work on hand; and it is for the people in their winter's leisure to learn and spread what may be truly called home truths. In chemistry, in physiology, in geology, and household economy, in fact, in all the sciences, there is much to be done; and we should like to see the people prove the value of the -of every kind into the common fund. By so doing, each person would not only be contributing to their own and others' happiness, but would also be, in the truest sense, furthering the glory of the Divine Being.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE.

Major Horatio Allen, the engineer of the New York and Erie Railroad, in a speech made during the recent festival occasion, gave the following account of the first trip made by a locomotive on this continent :- "When was it? Who was it? And who awakened its movement ? It was in the year 1828, on the banks of the Lackawaxen, at the commencement of the railroad connecting the canal of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company with their coal mines-and he who addresses you was the only person on that locomotive. The circumstances which led to my being alone on the engine were these :-The road had been built in the summer; the structure was of hemlock timber, and the rails of large dimensions notched on caps placed far apart. The timber had cracked and warped from exposure to the sun. After about three hundred feet of straight line, the road crossed the Lackawaxen Creek on trestle work about thirty feet high, with a curve of three hundred and fifty-five to four hundred feet radius. The impression was very general that this iron monster would either break down the road or it would leave the track at the curve and plunge into the creek. My reply to such apprehensions was, that it was too ate to consider the probability of such occurrences; there was no other course but to have a trial made of the strange animal, which had been brought here at a great expense but that it was not necessary that more than one shoud be involved in its fate ; that I would take the first ride alone, and the time would come when I should look back to the incident with great interest. As I placed my hand on the throttle-valve handle, I was undecided whether I would move slowly or with a fair degree of speed; but believing that the road would prove safe, and preferring, if we did go down, to go handsomely, and without any evidence of timidity, I started with considerable velocity, passed the curve over the creek safely, and was soon out of hearing of the vast assemblage. At the end of two or three miles I reversed the valve and returned without accident to the place of starting, having thus made the first railroad trip by locomotive on the Western hemisphere."

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES .- The Pat rie a French paper, protests against the doctrine that Europe is not to interfere with political affairs on the continent, and scouts the Monroe doctrine," It concludes a long article upon the subject as follows :- The United States will not affect in the world what powerful Russia, with her army of a million of men, with her fleets, with the genious of her Czars, and with the dicipline and the tenacity of her inhabitants has not been able to do in Europe. They will not succeed in contesting her legitmate share of influence wherever she may usefully exercise it. We do not at all intend to oppress them, but they must know that Europe will not allow herself either to be excluded or humilliated. It is necessary that they should know that we will not abandon either in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean or the Black sea the cause of right and of civilization.

Col. Sutter, the man who first discovered gold in California, is poor. He owned 145,000 acres of the richest land in the State, where Sacramento and Maryaville stand, but is now reduced to a small farm with a shaky title. Nevertheless he makes the most of his farm, and has now in his garden, it is said, 38,000 grape vines, besides fig, nectarine, peach, apricot, and almond trees in abundance.

"PASS THE PEPPER."

Of all the aromatics which are partaken of by man as flavorers to his food, there is none more common than pepper, and when unadulterated, its tendency, in small quantities, is rather to aid digestion than otherwise. The three important peppers commonly found on the dinner table are white, black and cayenne, all natives of the tropics. They are much used (to stimulate digestion) by their human brethren—those bot and choleric old nabobs who confer a benefit on the world by living in hot climates far removed from the haunts of civilized life. Thus the chow-chows, curries, and other hot dishes so relished by your yellow-faced East and West Indians, owe their flavor and pungency to the amount of pepper

that they contain. There is one variety of the genus Piper to which the white and black peppers belong (cayenne being a member of the genus capsicum, called so, by the bye, from a Greek word which signifies to bite)—this variety is a great favorite with housekeepers and cooks, and has received from them the flattering name of "allspice," as it combines in itself the flavor of cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon; it grows plentifully in Jamaica and other American islands, where it was first discovered by the Spaniards, who gave it the name of Pimenta de Jamaica.

The French call it the "round clove." Black pepper is cultivated in large quanti-ties in Malacca, Java, and especially at Sumatra, the trade of these places being almost exclusively in these spices. A pepper garden during the ripening of the pod is a lovely sight, being a large plot marked out into regular squares of six feet, in each of which are planted young trees called chinkareens, that serve as props to the pepper vines. When the prop has reached twelve teet high, it is cut off and the vines planted, two to each prop. A vine is three years in coming to maturity, and the fruit, which grows in long spikes, is three or four months in ripening. The berries are plucked as soon as ripe, and spread on mats upon the ground to dry, by which process they become black and shriveled, and are imported here as black pepper. In New York city, and distributed throughout the States, are many mills where pepper is ground, and, we are sorry to say, it often sophisticated with burns crust of bread and other adulterations.

The Sumatrans once did a genuine Yankee trick in connection with pepper, which is worth recording. They steeped the pepper corns in water until their shells or outer coat burst and then drying them without it, sold for three times the price of the black, as a different species, to the East India Company, who then mo-nopolized the pepper trade. The company, having swallowed the story, made the buyers swallow it too, and ever since we have had the two peppers, w knowledge they have aiready received, by paying an interest, by adding information—truth coat, and the other being deprived of that useful appendage, and so weakened in its pungency. The effect of pepper is stimulative and carminitive, and as a condiment it seems not only to add a peculiar flavor of its own to dishes into whose composition it may enter, but also to develop the flavor of the other ingredients. Taken in small quantities it warms the whole systems but if a large dose be placed on the palate, it seems to burn the tongue, and throw the whole month into a perfect glow. As a medicine it has been proved beneficial in cases of vertigo, paralysis, and intermittents. The pungency depends on the presence of an aromatic resin, which can be extracted by ether and alcohol, and partially by water.

Cayenne was first noticed on the coast of Guinea, and has been generally used by the natives of those climes in which it grows as a strengthener for the stomach. It is an extraordinary fact, but still true, that although savages may be unacquainted with the polite arts. they are generally well informed on the subject of gastronomy, and to suit their sometimes pe-culiar tastes, they generally discover, all the edible good things which their native soil affords. It cannot be denied that hunger and the palate are great equalizers, and the stomach, much as we abhor gluttony, does much for civilization; in fact, his stomach and its wants distinguish man from the brutes, for, as Dr. Kitchener correctly observed, "Man is the

only cooking animal." The cayenne of commerce is the grain of seed of the capsicum ground and mixed with flour and then baked into little cakes in an oven; these are again broken up and mixed with more flour and placed in jars for sale. The tree or plant is very beautiful, and forms a great ornament to a garden, but it is very tender and requires much care. It is more pungent than either white or black peppers, and is often adulterated with logwood and ma hogany sawdust and red lead ; this latter can, however, be easily detected by placing a spoon-ful carefully in a glass of water, when, should it contain any red lead, it will form its specific gravity quickly drop to the bottom, while the cayenne will sink but slowly. A very pleas-ant drink may be made for these cold winter nights, and one that is healthy too, from pepper. Here is the recipe :- Place three or four lumps of sugar with half a teaspoonful of pepper in a tumbler and fill up with hot water; when the sugar is dissolved, drink. It is not only pleasant to the palate, but warms the whole body more effectually and quicker than any spirits. Those of our readers who try the recipe once will often, during the coming win-ter, when the fire burns low, and they feel chilly generally, exclaim in the language of our caption, "Pass the Pepper."

A Mr. Gerard, in a speech at New York, a few days since, told the folks that 60,000 children attended the public shools. He then asks: "Have not these 60,000 children 120 .-000 parents? Appeal to them and you will raise a powerful voice which will sweep away anything that opposes you, like the chaff be-fore the wind." This is a specimen of the style in which statistics are manufactured. The orator overlooked the fact that a few of the sixty thousand children were brothers and sisters .- Cin. Com.

ASKING THE QUESTION .- A Vermont editor advises the young ladies of that section to s-bandon the "good old way" of doing up mat-ters in the courting line, and recommends the following summary method: When you have got a man to the sticking point—that is when he proposes-don't turn away your head, or affect to blush-all these tricks are understood now-but just look him right in the face, gir-him a hearty smack, and tell him to

out delay and order the furniture If folly were sein would be grouning in ores