THE STORY OF A CHECK.

I gave my wife a little check,
A little check to change for gold:
Because she loved to dress herself
In costumes rich and manifold.
And in return what did my wife,
Of all the meanest tricks that be?
She spent the gold quite otherwise,
And gave her bills unpaid to me.

I gave my wife a word of wrath—
A word of wrath to do her good—
Because she had not spent my gold
The way I told her that she should.
And in return what did my wife,
Of all the dreadful things that be?
No gold or word of wrath gave back,
But she divorced herself from me!

Oxford, Cambridge, and Music.

As regards music, the story of her connection with either university can only be described as one of shame and of pain. In the old Catholic days founders left funds to provide for a musical staff in their college chapels. Hence, as the art progressed a set of resident musicians was congregated; and, music seeming to flourish on academic soil. King James I. granted Faculties in that art, constituting the universities, in effect, public examining boards. Alas, however, for poor St. Cecilia! The governing bodies of the colleges filched away in large lumps the stipends assigned by pious founders for the support of musicians. The artists themselves were not only robbed, but trampled upon—consigned to social ostracism insulted. At Oxford—and this, too, in the reign of Queen Victoria—the Doctors of Music were ignominiously turned out of their seats in the theatre at Commemoration, while the very degrees were tampered with by ignorant, unsympathetic, and reckless Jacks in office. These are assertions. Out of the multiplicity of proofs ready to hand it will not be difficult to justify them. Some two centuries back, in the bonnie days of the Merry Monarch, when beauty was beginning to emerge from the black veil of Puritanism which for the nonce had stifled her, one Dr. Benjamin Rogers was organist of Magdalen College, Oxford. This man was not merely an executant, but also a composer of rare merit for the age in which he lived. He may rank fairly between Orlando Gibbons and Dr. Aldrich. His strains still resound in our cathedrals, from Exeter to Carlisle, from Norwich to Bangor. His history may be easily summarized—as concisely, in effect, as that of many another injured soul. He was illegally ejected from his small preferment, because—and the cause itself is significant of the small esteem in which music was then held—his pretty daughter had the hardihood to flirt with a gentleman commoner of the college. Having been thus deprived of subsistence, the poor artist left Oxford, and shortly afterward died in extreme indigence. Than a history so sad as this nothing can read simpler, and it would seem but righteous to condemn the high-handed oppression and cold heartlessness which could thus hurry an artist of eminence to starvation. The universities, however, remain unchanged. A similar spirit to that which animated the fellows of Magdalen in the days of Charles II. prevails generally up to the present hour. Enough to state that Sterndale Bennett, the friend of Mendelssohn, the one English composer who has succeeded in enrapturing, by the force of a splendid genius, nations more æsthetically appreciative than ourselves, received from the great and niggardly University of Cambridge, for shedding lustre on her not very brilliant professoriate, the pitiful stipend of £100 per annum—a sum which would not have been offered without a blush to a college underbutler or an assistant cook. Nor does Cambridge lack a rival in supreme parsimony. The same stipend was the price at which the professorial services of Sir Henry Bishop were assessed by Oxford. The same stipend is all, out of an endowment of £400,000 per annum, she can spare to Sir Henry's successor; Sir F. A. G. Ousely, whose zeal and self-sacrifice for art are only paralleled by his profound knowledge and unquestionable talent.—*Belgravia.*

Sea Serpents.

Speaking of these strange, and by some considered fabulous creatures of the sea, the Hartford *Times* says obstinate incredulity of the newspapers and the public in regard to the existence of creatures called sea serpents, begins to weaken before the steadily accumulating proofs of the fact. During the last twenty years the testimony to this fact has come from a hundred disinterested witnesses, who have had no possible motive to lie about it; sea captains, men of integrity, whose word on any other subject would be accepted without question. Their descriptions generally tally. There are proofs that in past times, and in various parts of the world, the appearance of the marine monsters here spoken of has been about as frequent and as well attested, too, as in the present day; but such things then rarely got into books or newspapers. One singularly favorite region which these creatures love to haunt seems to be that part of the Atlantic on the New England coast between Cape Ann and Cape Elizabeth. It was in that quarter, at a point close by the Isles of Shoals, ten miles off Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that the first recorded appearance of one of these creatures occurred on our shores. That was more than fifty years ago: then men who saw it (two of the rude residents of the island) were out fishing in a small boat, when the monster lifted his frightful head and neck to a height of apparently a dozen feet, so close to the boat that the men could have struck him with an oar—but they were so paralyzed by fright as to be unable to lift a hand or move a muscle. Of late years more than twenty different appearances of these creatures have been noted between that point and Cape Elizabeth. Two years ago such a creature was reported as having been seen and attacked with missiles hurled by a crowd on a bridge, at some point in the bay or harbor of Portland. Sometimes they are seen in winter. During the present summer two or three accounts have been published of the appearance of so-called 'sea-serpents' off the coast of Maine."

Norwegian Hay Harvesting

Judge Cator, in his new book, "A summer in Norway," thus describes the Norwegian hay harvest as seen by him in the vicinity of Trondhjem (about latitude 63 degrees or 64 degrees north):

Already in the Arctic Circle I have been struck with the manner of curing their hay. This is no doubt rendered necessary by reason of the frequent showers to which the grass is exposed, and the little heat received from the sun's rays by reason of their striking the earth so obliquely, which is not compensated by their perpetual action.

The hay is not cured upon the ground where it is cut, but instead is hung up to dry. Strong stakes are set into the ground about six feet high and perhaps fifteen feet apart; these are supported by braces set in the ground and leaning against their tops. Into these posts pins are inserted about a foot or fifteen inches apart, on which long slender poles are laid. On these poles the newly mown grass is spread, hanging down on either side, the lowest pole being first covered and then the other, and so on up, till the whole is completed; that on a lower pole being always overlapped by that on the one next above it. In this position it really sheds the rain and is exposed to the utmost action of the sun and wind, so that no matter how succulent the grass may be, it is rapidly dried to the condition of hay. These hayracks, which at a little distance look like green hedges stuck about the meadows, were to me an interesting feature.

With a single exception (in which an American mowing machine was seen at work) all the hay I saw was cut with the scythe. This implement is shorter than with us, but similarly shaped, and is attached to a straight handle instead of a crooked snath as in this country. With us both handles are placed on the upper side of the crooked snath, inclining well forward. There, with the straight snath, the lower handle is placed on the lower side, and inclined backwards. This constrains the workmen to keep his left arm always bent. In some places I saw them mowing grass which did not seem to be more than three inches high, but the tool seemed to be very sharp, and they shaved it to the very ground.

Everywhere, I saw more women at work in the hay-fields than men; in a few instances only were they mowing, when they seemed to keep up their swathes with the men without trouble. (I wonder if they got the same wages.) They were generally engaged in raking up the hay and placing it on racks to dry, or hauling it away; generally with a single pony on a sort of cart.

Curious Facts.

Fishes swallow their food whole. They have no dental machinery furnished for them.

Frogs, toads and serpents never take any food but that which they are satisfied is alive.

If a bee, wasp, or hornet stings, it is nearly always at the expense of its life.

Serpents are so tenacious of their life that they will live for six months without food.

Turtles dig holes in the sand by the seashore, and bury their eggs, leaving them to be hatched by the sun.

Lobsters are very pugnacious, and fight severe battles. If they lose a claw, another grows out.

Naturalists say that a single swallow will devour 6,000 flies in a day.

The tarantula of Texas is nothing but an enormous spider.

A single codfish produces more than a million eggs in one season.

A whale suckles its young, and therefore is not a fish. The mother's affection is remarkable.

Toads become torpid in winter and hide themselves, taking no food for five or six months.

Serpents of all species shed their skins annually, like sea-crabs and lobsters.

Turtles and tortoises have their skeletons partly outside of, instead of within the body.

It is believed that crocodiles live to be hundreds of years old. The ancient Egyptians embalmed them.

In South America there is a prolific honey bee that has not been furnished with a sting.

In the darkest nights fishes pursue their usual movements, the same as by daylight.

Serpents never feed on anything but animal food, which they themselves put to death or swallow alive.

Seals are as intelligent as dogs, and may be made to perform many tricks like them.

The head of the rattlesnake has been known to inflict a fatal wound after being separated from the body.

If the eye of a newt is put out, another perfect eye is soon supplied by rapid growth.

Fishes have no eyelids, and necessarily sleep with their eyes open.

Alligators fall into a lethargic sleep during the winter, like a toad.

There are agricultural ants in Texas, that actually plant grain, and reap before the harvest.

The Great Auk, an Extinct English Bird.

The great auk, (*Alca impennis,*) though possessing in past years a fair right to be included among British birds, has long been extinct in our islands. Its existence elsewhere may even be questioned. If still inhabiting our planet it is rigorously confined to regions high up in the Arctic Circle. There is no certain English specimen of the bird now existing, although some seventy examples of it may be found in English collections, and of two or three of these there is little doubt that they were blown ashore on our coasts. It may be interesting to gather up the most recent notices of this very rare bird in our islands. Probably the last that has been seen in English waters was picked up dead near Lundy Island in 1820. Thompson states that one was obtained on the long strand of Castle Freke (in the west of the County of Cork) in February, 1844, having been water-soaked in a storm. It is not stated whether this bird was dead. Again, the same author states he had "little doubt that two great auks were seen in Belfast Bay on Sept. 23, 1845, by H. Bell, a wild fowl shooter. He saw two large birds the size of great northern divers, but with much smaller wings. He imagined they might be young birds of that species until he remarked that their heads and bills were much more clumsy, than those of the *Colymbus glacialis*. They kept almost constantly diving, and went to an extraordinary distance each time with great rapidity." All this exactly answers to what is known of the great auk with its curious rudimentary wings. Probably one of the last eggs taken is in the collection of Canon Tristram. It was found in 1834 at Gier-fugleshier, on the south coast of Iceland. The last notice of it which reached civilization from the Arctic regions is that Mr. Hayes was told by the Governor of the Danish settlement of Godhavn, in Greenland, that "one had recently been seen on one of the Whalefish Islands. Two years before one had been actually captured by a native, who being very hungry, and wholly ignorant of the value of the prize he had secured, proceeded at once to eat it, much to the disgust of Mr. Hansey (the Governor,) who did not learn of it until too late to come to the rescue." This happened in 1869. The great auk seems but too surely following the wingless dodo and moa. The type is as unfitted for the present age as would be the plesiosaurus in the valley of the Thames.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

A Shakespearean Mystery.

Grace Greenwood writes from England to the New York *Times* a description of a visit she paid recently to Stratford-on-Avon, in the course of which occurs the following paragraph relating to some mysterious manuscripts which are to be seen at the Shakespeare house:

"Among the odd curiosities is a whole bookcase filled with handsomely-bound manuscripts on Shakespeare and his plays—all the work of an English gentleman, a profound Shakespearean scholar, who has given them to the committee having charge of the Shakespeare house, on the awsome condition that they shall not be examined till after the writer's death. This smacks of stratagem—perhaps treason. What if these gentlemen are housing in those mysterious documents the supplement to Miss Bacon's insane and blasphemous work, aimed at the overthrow of the demigod of Stratford and the idol of the world? If so, there will probably come off, some misty night, a private little bonfire in Shakespeare's back yard, surrounded, perhaps, by a ring of dancing Governors and managers, while a sacrificial smell of burnt paper shall pervade the sacred air."

Denying the Deluge.

Persians and the great mass of the Magians deny the deluge altogether; they believe that the rulership (of the world) has remained with them without any interruption ever since Gayomarks (Gilshey), who was, according to them, the first man. In denying the deluge the Indians, Chinese and the various nations of the east concur with them. Some of the Persians, however, admit the fact of the deluge, but account for it in another way, as it is described in the books of the prophets. They say a partial deluge occurred in Syria, and the west in the time of Tahmurash, but that did not extend over the whole of the civilized world, and only a few nations were submerged in it. It did not extend beyond the peak of Holwan, and did not reach the countries of the east.

—Jackson, Mich., boasts a horse fifty-one years old.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Cheese Industry. — According to the *American Grocer*, our cheese industry is in danger of ruin, and the only salvation, it is said, is to abandon the manufacture of every quality except full cream cheese, which is the only kind entitled to the designation cheese.

So called cheese is made of every gradation of quality, from the poorest skimmed to the richest full cream cheese, and sells in the market from 2 cents to 13½ cents a pound. If the milk is all skimmed the poorest product is the result, and this quality proves an exceedingly unprofitable manufacture, as it costs to make and sell it at least three cents a pound, and nets a loss of 1 cent a pound. The next quality above, with five per cent. of cream, and made of good texture and properly colored, brings a relatively higher price, and so on for all gradations of quality until when the cheese is made with a mixture of morning milk skimmed and evening milk unskimmed in equal quantities, an article may be produced by proper care that will pass very well with those who are not experts for a full cream cheese. Then comes in the oleomargarine cheese, the cream all taken off and the oil called oleomargarine, from the fresh fat of the caul of an ox, substituted in equal weight for the cream. This produces an article which in many respects so closely resembles the full cream as to be readily sold for it.

Last year skimmed-milk cheese sold very well up to the best grades. This year they can hardly be sold at all, from which it appears that, after all, cheating don't pay. All who are interested in the export trade, and nearly every receiver is, tell us that the presence of adulterated cheese in the English market is being felt here, and that it is absolutely certain, if their manufacture or shipment is persisted in, will react disastrously upon our cheese trade, and ultimately drive us out of the market that has cost us so many years and so much labor to establish. Of the 1,905,978 cheese received here during the year ending May 31, last, 1,701,328 were exported, leaving 204,659 for home consumption, about 9 per cent. of the total receipts. Figures like these show the importance of sending good cheese abroad.

How Timber may be Multiplied. — One of our exchanges has the following to say in reference to this important subject:

Much has been written about raising timber, but all the light that can be shed upon the subject by all the arboriculturists in the land, will not be amiss. There is no want in the not distant future which has so forbidding a look as the increasing scarcity of timber. Our forests are not producing one-twentieth of the supply we are annually consuming or are destroying. More attention should be given at once to its propagation and preservation. It was said by some philosopher that he who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, is a benefactor to his race. If this be true, and none will dispute it, how much more credit is due him who makes a landmark by the cultivation of trees? Reference to this subject brings back to our recollection a suggestion we saw some time ago in regard to a simple mode by which timber may be increased on those tracts of land upon which it is being cut away. It is as follows: Plant the ground in the fall with acorns, black and white walnuts, butternuts, the seeds of the ash, etc. The nuts should be covered lightly with the soil and decaying leaves, so that boys and squirrels cannot find them. They will come up in the spring, and if cattle are kept out of the woods—as they should be by all who would preserve the young trees—they will make a rapid growth under the immediate superintendence of Dame Nature herself, who has been pretty successfully engaged in the business of tree culture, more or less, ever since the Silurian age. In the same way cuttings may be put out in the timber in the spring. The mulching of the ground by the falling of the autumn leaves is the best dressing that can be put around such young trees, which, in a year or so, will surprise you with their rapid growth. We would discourage no one who can do so from planting out groves on the prairies, which is one of the best works a farmer can do; but these hints carried out will enable many to utilize places now going to waste, and get a good return for their efforts.

How to Start Melons.—A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* says he raises melons as easily as he does pumpkins and squashes, by the following method: "I start the seed in a hot bed, and as soon as the danger from frost is past, transplant the young plants to the hills where they are to grow. The ground to receive the plants is well enriched and pulverized, and a half dozen shovelfuls of old manure placed in each hill—the hills being four feet apart. Before transplanting, the earth is hoed into mounds over the dressing, some four or five inches higher than the ground around the hills, and two or three plants set on the apex of each hill. If there should be danger from late frosts or bugs, four bricks set edgeways around the plants, and covered with glass, will afford them a thrifty growth. The glass should be removed as soon as the plants are of sufficient height to touch it, otherwise the tender leaves might scorch. By planting on small mounds, more of the surface of the earth around the plants is exposed to the warm rays of the sun, and a more rapid growth is made."

Practical Suggestions.—A cord of stone, three bushels of lime, and a cubic yard of sand will lay 100 cubic feet of wall.

One-fifth more siding and flooring is needed than the number of square feet of surface to be covered, because of the lap in the siding and matching of the floor.

To test the quality of wool, take a lock from the sheep's back, and place it on a measured inch. If the spirals count from 30 to 33 in the space of an inch, it equals the finest Electoral or Saxony wool grown. The diminution of the number of folds to the inch shows the inferiority.

The following is a good cure for scurvy legs among fowl: Take sulphur, two ounces; charcoal, pulverized, one-fourth ounce; train oil, enough to form a paste. Apply with the hand, by rubbing well in. Allow it to remain for three days; then wash off in mild weather, with good soapsuds, and repeat the dressing as often as it is necessary.

To Grow Large Melons.—When a melon gets as large as a cucumber, take a darning-needle and pass a yarn thread (perhaps several threads twisted together will be best) through the stem of the melon, so that the end of the thread will come near the top of the stem. Now place the lower portion of the thread in a bottle and fill with water. The melon will soon drink up the water, when more should be added. It is said that they will thus soon consume a quart or more per day, and will eventually grow to an enormous size. They will not, however, possess the sweetness of those grown in the natural way.

I have never tested the foregoing, but my source of information is such that I place full reliance in the plan. Perhaps by sweetening the water and adding some spices, any desired flavor could be imparted. Who will test the matter by experiment.

Bees.—It is not safe to remove hives of bees from April to December any distance short of a mile, as many are liable to return to their old location and are lost. A good hive of bees should be filled about three-fourths full of bees, as they are packed between the combs, and should have in April not less than ten pounds of honey to render their prosperity sure. The combs and bee-bread in a hive often weigh ten or fifteen pounds, so that must be taken into account in the gross weight of the hive.

SCIENTIFIC.

Diamond Glass-Cutting.—In a recent patent trial concerning the revolving wheel glass cutter, Judge Shipman described the form and action of the diamond in cutting glass as follows: While almost any diamond will scratch or tear the surface of glass, it is a fact that the value and efficency of a diamond to be used for the cutting or severing of glass depends not merely on the hardness, but upon the form, of the cutting surface. Other gems than the diamond will successfully cut glass, provided they can be shaped into forms similar to those of the diamonds used for this purpose. Dr. Wollaston, in the "Philosophical Transactions" for 1816, thus explains the peculiarities required for the glazier's diamond: "In the natural diamond there is this peculiarity, in those modifications of the crystals that are chosen for this purpose, that the surfaces are, in general, all curved, and, consequently, the meeting of any two of them presents a curvilinear edge. If the diamond is so placed that the line of the intended cut is a tangent to this edge, near its extremity, and if the two surfaces of the diamond laterally adjacent be equally inclined to the surface of the glass, then the conditions necessary for effecting a cut are complied with. The curvature is not considerable, and consequently, the limits of inclination are very confined. If the handle be too much or too little elevated the one extremity of the curve will be made to bear irregularly upon the glass, and will plow a ragged groove by pressure of the point. But, on the contrary, when the contact is duly formed a simple figure is effected as if by lateral pressure of the adjacent surfaces of the diamond, diverted equally to each side. The effects of inequality in the lateral inclination of the faces of the diamond to the surface of the glass are different according to the degree of inequality. If the difference be very small, the cut may still be clean, but as the fissure is then not at right angles to the surface, the subsequent fracture is found inclined accordingly. When an attempt is made to cut with an inclination that deviates still more from the perpendicular, the glass is found superficially flawed but on that side to which the greater pressure was diverted, and the cut completely fails."

The Birds and the Insect Pests.—The Western journals are beginning to wake up to the fact that the idea which we broached some time ago, relative to the wholesale slaughter of the prairie chickens and other feathered game having its result in an increase of the grasshopper infection, is founded on substantial truth. It is admitted that the destruction of the birds has been enormous, and that they have been trapped by thousands and fed to the hogs, on the theory that pork can be salted and sold while birds cannot. Now, let the journals suggest to their readers the necessity of game laws, rigorous ones, which will impose heavy penalties not merely for killing the chickens, but for exposing them for sale, and let local authorities see that such enactments are enforced to the letter. If this be done, and if the western inventors will give more attention to devising exterminating machinery, by next year the hoppers, between the scorching from the machines and the hungry crops of the birds, will find life utterly devoid of pleasure, and perhaps may be induced to migrate out of the United States territory, say to Canada or Mexico.

There is another reason why the birds should be spared, and that is the potato bug. Prairie chickens and quail, it is said, will eat the insects, and other birds are said to feed upon them greedily.

A Preventive for Shafting Accidents.—There are no accidents more common in large manufactories, and few more fatal, than those caused by the engagement of some portion of a workman's garments with a swiftly rotating shaft. The loose dresses of female operatives are especially liable to become entangeled in countershafts placed near the floor, or in the revolving shafting of the machines which they may be attending. There is a very simple way of rendering these casualties impossible, and this without necessitating the usual plan of constructing a railing or fender about the moving piece. It is simply to cover the shaft with a loose sleeve along its whole length. The sleeve may be of tin or zinc and made so as to be removable if desired. The friction between it and the shaft would be sufficent to cause its rotation with the latter, but of course, in event of a fabric becoming wrapped around it, it would quickly stop, and allow of the easy extrication of the same. The sleeve should be lined with leather both within and at the ends in order to prevent noise.

The same idea in the shape of loose covers might readily be applied to cog wheels or pulleys, and thus prove a valuable safeguard against loss of life or limb.

A Perfect Brick.—An extensive manufacture of lock and mortised bricks is carried on at Waterbury England. These bricks, while producing workmanship greatly superior to walls built with pressed bricks—being tongued, grooved and locked at intervals and each angle—are also found to be stronger than common hand-made bricks, besides possessing the additional recommendation of effecting a saving of two-thirds in the material used. These lock and mortised bricks, it also appears, are adapted to extensive and varied uses, and are specially serviceable where space and light, with solidity, are an object. Their usefulness is likewise very manifest, it is stated, when employed for the building of or sustaining and retaining embankments, sea, and other walls, quays, and river frontages, as also in the erection of shafts, and, in fact, the formation of all works to which bricks can be applied.

Chloral Hydrate in Neuralgia.—The intimate mixture of equal parts of chloral hydrate and camphor will, it is said produce a clear fluid which is of the greatest value as a local application in neuralgia. Dr. Lenox Browne states, in one of the English medical journals, that he has employed it in his practice, and induced others to do so, and that in every case it has afforded great and in some instances instantaneous relief. Its success, he says, does not appear to be at all dependent on the nerve affected, it being efficacious in neuralgia of the sciatica as of the trigeminus; it is of the greatest service in neuralgia of the larynx, and in relieving spasmodic cough of a nervous or hysterical character. It is only necessary to paint the mixture lightly over the painful part and allow it to dry. It never blisters, though it may occasion a tingling sensation of the skin. For headache it is also found an excellent application.

The Cost of Modern Guns and Armor.—*The Engineer* places the cost of a vessel, protected by the latest modern armor and armed with an eighty-one tun gun, at $1,500,000. Ships carrying this tremendous weapon have yet to come in conflict; but when such combat does occur, it will probably be the question of but one well aimed shot to send either antagonist to the bottom. The same end may be more easily and certainly accomplished by a properly managed torpedo. The war of the future, on the water at least, bids fair to prove expensive to the losing side.

Chemical Filter.—Place inside of the glass funnel used a small filter of parchment paper pierced at the bottom with a fine needle; afterwards place the ordinary filter in the funnel, and filter as usual. Such cones of parchment paper can be used in any required size, are easily obtained, and may be applied to almost all purposes where the more expensive platinum cones have hitherto been used.

To detect sulphuric acid in vinegar, put in a little starch. Then add a minute portion of iodine. If sulphuric acid be present, the starch will not take a blue tint.

Chloride of Barium, as a remedy for boiler incrustation, gives general dissatisfaction.

DOMESTIC.

Vegetables for Family Use.—The long list of varieties of vegetable seeds presented in seedmen's catalogues is bewildering to most people; but after the list is well sifted, it is found that few, comparatively, are of general use. Some varieties are almost exclusively grown by market gardeners, and truck farmers, who require very prolific, large and showy vegetables, to catch the public, eye, and to yield quick and large profits. For these results they sacrifice flavor and all other qualities. The private grower, desirous of affording the greatest amount of gustatory pleasure to the household, ought, on the contrary, to grow only the best quality. To obtain these he can afford to sacrifice somewhat of size and quantity. As it costs no more time and labor to grow choice, delicious vegetables than more common and coarser sorts, we propose to give a selection of the most approved varieties for the guidance of those who, as the season approaches, make up their supplies of seeds for the coming year.

And first, in purchasing seeds, apply to the most reliable seedsmen and avoid those generally sold at country stores, which, too, frequently, are put up for sale only, without any reference either to the quality of the seed or the choiceness of the varieties. By quality we do not mean freshness or vitality. Few seedsmen in this country, be it said to their honor, sell old seeds as new. But no one engaged in the seed business can afford to sell cabbage seed grown from pure selected heads at the same price as he can that grown upon cabbage stalks from which the heads have been cut and marketed. Hence, market gardeners will pay the seedsman from four to eight dollars per pound for cabbage-seed of the best and purest quality, while the common quality can be had for one dollar a pound. It makes a material difference whether we get ninety-nine good solid heads from a hundred plants, or only get twenty from the same number of plants—the yield we have often seen in country gardens. A quarter of a dollar additional per ounce can be no object if we thereby secure a full crop—the labor and cost of cultivation being the same.

Fine Pudding Sauce.—Take a large half pint cup of the best fresh butter, and the same quantity of powdered loaf sugar, put them together in an earthen pan, and beat them to a light, thick cream. Then mix a wine glass of boiling water, and a large wine-glass of the best brandy, with the grated yellow rind and juice of a large lemon or orange; and a small nutmeg, grated. Mix these ingredients, gradually, with the beaten butter and sugar; and transfer the sauce to a small tureen, putting a spoon or ladle into it. If designed for a sauce to a plum pudding or any other large one, you will require a pint of butter, a pint of sugar, half a pint of boiling water with half a pint of brandy, two lemons or oranges, and a large nutmeg or two small ones. Divide the sauce in two tureens. A boiled pudding for company requires no finer sauce than this.

To Distinguish Mushrooms from Poisonous Fungi.—Sprinkle a little salt on the spongy part, or gills of the samples to be tried. If they turn yellow, they are poisonous—if black, they are wholesome. Allow the salt to act before you decide on the question. False mushrooms have a warty cap, or else fragments of membrane, adhering to the upper surface, are heavy, and emerge from a vulva or bag; they grow in tufts or clusters in woods, on the stumps of trees, etc., whereas the true mushrooms grow in pastures. False mushrooms have an astringent, styptic, and disagreeable taste. When cut they turn blue. They are moist on the surface, and generally of a rose or orange color. The gills of a true mushroom are of a pinky red, changing to a liver color. The flesh is white. The stem is white, solid and cylindrical.

Keeping Meals Waiting.—Little things often interfere with our comfort very much, and one small annoyance is for men to delay coming to dinner when called. Sometimes they have an hour or more of work which they will do before quitting, and then they go to the house to find the dinner cold, and the cook discouraged. Nothing is more disheartening to a tired woman than a table full of dirty dishes ornamenting the table an hour and a half later in the day than usual. Punctuality is a virtue that men should learn, if they are in the habit of being uncertain about coming to meals. Any woman worthy the name of housekeeper will be regular with her meals if it lies within her to have them so.

Cold on the Lungs.—If a cold settles on the outer covering of the lungs, it becomes pneumonia, inflammation of the lungs, or what is commonly known as lung fever, which in many cases carries the strongest man to his grave within a week. If a cold falls on the inner covering of the lungs it is pleurisy, with its knife-like pains, and its very slow recoveries. If a cold settles in the joints, there is rheumatism in its various forms; inflammatory rheumatism, with its agonies of pain, and rheumatism of the heart, which in an instant snaps the cords of life with no friendly warning. It is of the utmost practical importance, then, to know not so much how to cure a cold as how to avoid it.

Bromine in Croup.—It is reported that Dr. Schultze, of Prague, has been very successful in treating croup with bromine. His prescription is half a grain of purified bromine and half a grain of bromide of potassium, in ninety parts of water. This is inhaled as well as applied by means of a brush. Dr. Schultze's experience in the use of this remedy has been repeated with successful results by Dr. Gottwell. It is the opinion of the latter physician, that the diphtheretic membrane is disintegrated by the bromine and thus readily removed.

Pickle for Hams.—I find that a good pickle is made of weak brine, from coarse salt, if in cold weather—stronger if in warm; sufficient molasses to perceptibly sweeten it, and soda or saleratus to keep it from souring; boil all together, skimming off the refuse, and when cold pour on the hams, which are to be previously well packed. If a red color is desired, add a small quantity of saltpetre. I never use it, however, except for beef, for which the above pickle answers well.

Remedy for Rheumatism.—Procure one pint of good alcohol; add one pint of water; make it sharp by adding red pepper pods of any kind, broken in small pieces. In twenty-four hours it will be fit for use. Bathe the affected parts well and frequently, warming it in by the stove—the action of the heat being of great benefit. Let those complaining of lame shoulders, wrists, hips, &c., try this simple and inexpensive remedy, and they will find relief.

Kerosene lamps will never explode if properly trimmed. There is an air vent in every lamp, close beside the wick-tube, which, if opened by inserting and withdrawing a slip of tin or other thin material each time the lamp is filled, all danger from confined gas—the cause of explosions—is effectually removed.

To Preserve Cutlery from Rust.—Case knives, scissors, snuffers, watch chains and other small steel articles may be preserved from rust by being carefully wiped after use, and then wrapped in coarse brown paper.

Flavor for Frosting.—In frosting for cakes or puddings a little lemon juice, tartaric acid or cream of tartar is a very pleasant addition to the taste, besides making the frosting much lighter.

An ink stand was turned over upon a white tablecloth; a servant threw over it a mixture of salt and pepper plentifully, and all traces of it disappeared.

To clean a brown porcelain kettle, boil peeled potatoes in it. The porcelain will be rendered nearly as white as when new.

To remove fruit stains from napkins, etc., wet the spots with chlorine water.

HUMOROUS.

The Slave of No "Ism".—He was a self satisfied looking man, except occasionally when he would rub his hip as if in pain, and as he stood there on Dearborn street, yesterday, leaning sideways on his cane, you could tell that he was a man of advanced ideas—a philosopher, a free thinker—a person who could not be caught napping, and who makes no mistakes.

'I am a man,' said he to a puffy jolly-appearing individual with whom he had been speaking, "I am a man who is the slave to no 'Ism,' Doctrines creeds, superstitions—all are as nothing to me."

"So? responded the jolly man, with apparent interest.

"Yes, sir," continued the philosophical individual, as he shifted his position; "what I say to you, I say to every man—I am the slave of *no* 'ism.'"

"I don't believe that a possible thing for a person brought up in the atmosphere of Chicago," said the chunky man with a twinkle in his eyes.

"Well, I want you to understand, sir, *I'm* such a man," earnestly declared the man with the cane, as he readjusted it against his hip, which evidently had a sharp pain in

"You are?"

"Yes."

"Not the slave of Spiritualism, eh?" inquired the jolly one, while his face grew ruby with fun.

"No, sir," answered the other,

"Nor Catholicism?" continued he of the adipose tissue.

"Not any."

"Nor Adventism?"

"Not if I know myself."

"Nor Episcopalianism?"

"None of that."

"Nor Presbyterianism?"

"No sir-ee."

"Nor Methodism?"

"Not much."

"Nor *rheumatism*?"

The infidel had to "subside," and while he limped down the street on his cane, the jolly man went chuckling in another direction.

"*Wiles* Standish Adams," yelled a Boston mother, poking her head out of the window and addressing her eldest born, who was adjusting his fishing tackle in the backyard, "Come right up stairs this instant and get ready for Sunday School." Her voice probably failed to reach him as a few minutes later she looked out again and yelled louder than before:

"Miles Standish Adams, don't you hear me?" You ought be ashamed of yourself to be playing with those hooks and lines on Sunday."

Can't help it," said Miles, going right on with his preperations. "Our boys is going to celebrate Centennial this week; they've put me down as speaker, and I've got to have fish three times a day if I never to go heaven for it."

A Frenchman on the coast of Louisiana was out hunting; got lost but found himself on the river bank far below his residence. Seeing a boat coming he hailed her, expecting to finish his trip at his ease and at a trifling cost, as packets were numerous and fare reasonable. On being hailed, the captain wanting to know if the number of passengers would be equal to time lost, he asked, "How many?" Frenchman: "Three of us." When on board, the captain asked, "Where is the three?" Frenchman: "Here; here is myself, and my dog and my gun. That is three." "Yes," said the captain "and I will charge you five dollars for yourself, five dollars for your dog and five dollars for your gun. That is three."

A story is told of an accident on the New London railroad: An intoxicated Irishman was sitting on the track when the engine tossed him down an embankment. The conductor backed his train to pick up his dead body. The victim was found alive, however, only somewhat bruised, and taken to Norwich. Here the conductor kindly offered to send the man to his home, a few miles away, in a hack; but he insisted on his ability to walk, and refused to be sent home. The conductor pressed the matter, when the Milesian, who had stood the batting of the cow-catcher so well, bristled up with "Go away with your kirridge, I'll go home by myself; and if I've done any damage to your old engine, bedad, I'll pay it on the spot.

A young man of good education and business talent, had occasion to apply to a justice to take acknowledgement of a deed—one of those "knowing" justices who can decide knotty points of law for attorneys, and give instruction to juries after the style of the Circuit Judge. Always ready to impart knowledge, he took up the deed, after filling up the writing, to explain to his young friend the difficult and technical words. "Viz," said the learned justice, "means phiz or face, and signifies that what follows is as plain as a man's face; and this big word, subsequently,"—casting up his eyes from the paper, with a dignified and knowing look,—"means *before.*"

An Old Debt.—A party of wits once stopped at a tavern. When the feast was over one of the members called in the hostess. "Angelique," he said, "I am going to give you a lesyon in astronomy. Have you heard of the great Platonic year, when everything must return to its former condition? Know, then, that in 16,000 years we shall be here again on the same day at the same hour. Will you give us credit till then? The hostess, however, had her reply: "I am perfectly willing," she retorted, "but it is just 16,000 years since you were here before, and you left without paying; settle the old score, and I will trust you on the new."

A Milwaukee belle, attending a theatre in that city recently, complained in one of the scenes that the light was too dim to show the acting properly. Won't you try this glass?" asked her escort, handing her his lorgnette. Hastily covering the suspicious looking object with her handkerchief, she placed it to her lips, took a long pull, and then handed it back in great disgust, saying: "Why there ain't a drop in it."

Unselfish Reasons.—Edwin (languishly)—I feel as is I could sit here forever so long as you were with me. Angelina—And so could I, love, if those nasty odious people wouldn't get in the way and prevent us seeing the race. Their selfish ways quite annoy me! Besides if I don't bet gloves, I shall have to buy some, as I'm right out of them—so come along.

"*When* I married," said Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer Lowe at a London party, "I declared, 'With all my worldly goods I thee endow,' altho gh I hadn't a shilling in the world." "But," chimed in the wife, "you had your splendid talents. "Yes, my dea ; but you know I didn't endow yo w h them," was the right honorable gentleman's reply.

As a negro was painting his house on Watson street, and was nearly at the top of a long ladder, his wife came out and called him to come down. Just at that moment a rung broke and the man came down like a bag of sand, rolled over two or three times, jumped up and said:

"Well, honey, go on with your remarks."

The noble red man cannot understand the civilized female dress. You see, out on the praries the Indian follows the trail, while hereabouts the trail follows the pale face. This is a little lame, but the idea is here, and readers can fix it up at their leisure.

A Boston antiquarian says his eighteen-year old wife is very affectionate, but it puzzles him to understand why she should insist daily on his getting his life insured.

Why is a woman living up two pair of stairs a perfect goddess? Because she's a second Flora.

When is a soldier not half a soldier? When he's in quarters.

Singular—To see a garden walk.

A crystal ghost—a glass shade.

Last Homes.

Probably the first sepulchre, as the earliest dwelling-place of man, was a cave; certainly the most ancient relics of humanity have been found in the caverns of the limestone formation; and this cave burial, after coming to its culminating point in the ancient Egyptian polity, whose pyramids and rock tombs are but an artificial form of the cave, has survived to our own times even among the most civilized races. The vault and the catacomb are but varieties of the cave, and supplemented as they are by various devices for preserving the body from final dissolution, form an unbroken link in human custom, connecting us alike with the empire of the Pharaohs and the primitive cave-dwellers, the companions of the bear, the rhinoceros, the reindeer, and the hyena. It is evident, however, that as the human race spread itself over other formations of the earth's surfree, these underground dwellings and tombs, which the waves had fashioned countless ages before, would not be available. Other modes of disposing of the dead would suggest themselves. In the first place, simple exposure, leaving the body to be devoured by beasts and birds, its elements to be scattered to the four winds. The Magians, worshipers of the sun, one of the primitive human religions, adopted this method, which is still followed by the disciples of Zoroaster; but they have refined upon the practice, constructing towers and platforms wherein the dead are exposed, and their bleached bones collected. One of these Guebre cemeteries in the neighborhood of Teheran, made use of by the remnant of the old people and faith of Persia, is thus described by Mr. Mounsey in his excellent book of Persian travel: "A low round tower perched up among some desolate crags, a circular building about forty feet high and sixty in diameter, having neither doors nor windows. Looking down from a neighboring elevation, we saw that on the top there was a platform of open iron grating, whereon lay the body of a recently-deceased disciple of Zoroaster, and late gardener to the Persian mission." Sundry tribes of North American Indians follow the same practice, exposing their dead upon stages, and the custom may be traced among certain primitive races of India. The Buddhist creed has originated a similar usage. Some of their priests hold it to be a meritorious act to give their bodies to be eaten by vultures after death, their bones to be reduced to ashes and used for manure for the gardens of the poor, as a type of that annihilation which it is the aim of the cultus of Buddhism to secure for its disciples. The alternative, however, of burial, whether by making an excavation or grave, or by the more primitive method of heaping up stones and earth over the body laid upon the surface of the ground, has ever been the most universally practiced. Over the whole European continent the mounds and tumuli of earlier races rise in silent witness of vanquished forgotten people. But we have not yet passed out of the age of the tumulus builders. The nomad Tartars still pile up cairns over their dead chieftains. They also raise votive cairns they call obous, generally at the summits of diffic