THE HIDDEN BROOK.

BY JOHN TROWBRIDGE.

What is this melody beneath the grass?
Come hither, stoop and listen—nearer yet,
And push aside the thick and tangled net
Of bending rushes and the brakes' green mass.

It tones the shrilling of the locust's glee,
And, like a harper's touches falling in
With high notes of a master's violin,
It binds a jarring strain to harmony.

Hush, bobolink! and cease to emulate.
Gay bird, thou hast not caught 'he gentle song;
Too many roguish thoughts together throng,
And mingle in thy carols to thy mate.

But, fresh from graver forest-symphonies,
The winds, in varied movement, low and sweet,
Within the pines and birch-trees may repeat
This sweetest of the meadow's melodies.

—*Scribner's Monthly.*

The Fur Seal.

From Mr. Henry Elliott's report on the condition of affairs in the Territory of Alaska, the following new facts in regard to seals are extracted. Mr Elliott is employed now in the Smithsonian institute, and is a young man of most superior attainments:

"The male fur seal at the age of six or seven years is described as an animal that will measure six and one-half to seven and one-quarter feet in length from tip of nose to end of tail, and weigh at least four hundred and sometimes as much perhaps as six hundred pounds. The head in comparison with the immense thick neck and shoulders, seems to be unproportionately small, but as we come to examine it we find that it is mostly all occupied by the brain; the light frame work of the skull supports an expressive pair of large, blue-hazel eyes, and a muzzle and jaws of nearly the same size and form observed in any Newfoundland dog, with the difference of having no flabby, hanging lips; the upper lips support a white and yellowish-gray moustache, long and luxuriant, composed of heavy stiff bristles. The fore-feet or hands are a pair of dark bluish-black flippers, about eight or ten inches broad. The shape of the flipper is strikingly like a human foot, providing the latter were drawn out to a length of twenty or twenty-two inches, the instep flattened down and the toes run out into thin, membranous oval-tipped points, only skin-thick, leaving three strong cylindrical, grayish, horn-colored nails, half an inch long, back six inches from these shining toe-ends, without any nails to mention on the big and little toe.

As we look on this fur seal's progression, that which seems most odd is the gingerly manner in which he carries these hind flippers. They are held out at right angles from the body, directly opposite the pelvis, the toe ends and flaps slightly waving and curling above the earth. The neck, chest and shoulders of a fur seal bull comprise more than two-thirds of his whole weight, and in this long, thick neck and fore limbs is embodied the larger portion of his strength; when on land with the fore feet he does all climbing over rocks, the hind flippers being gathered up after every second step forward. These fore feet are the propelling power when in water, the hinder ones being used as rudders chiefly.

The females or cows, like the males, vary much in weight, but are much lighter, only weighing from eighty to one hundred and twenty pounds. The strong contrast between the males and females in size and shape is heightened by the air of exceeding peace and amiability which the latter class exhibit. They are from four to four and a half feet in length from head to tail, and much more shapely in their proportions than the male, the neck and shoulder being not near so fat and heavy in proportion to their posteriors. The head and eye of the female are really attractive; the expression is exceedingly gentle and intelligent; the large, lustrous eyes, in the small, well-formed head, apparently gleam with benignity and satisfaction when she is perched upon some convenient rock and has an opportunity to quietly fan herself."

Squandering Priceless Gifts.

Among the numberless marvels at which nobody marvels, few are more marvelous than the recklessness with which priceless gifts, intellectual and moral, are squandered. Often have I gazed with wonder at the prodigality displayed by nature in the cistus, which unfolds hundreds or thousands of its starry blossoms, morning after morning, to shine in the light of the sun for an hour or two, and then fall to the ground. But who among the sons and daughters of men—gifted with thoughts which wander through eternity, and with powers which have the godlike privilege of working good and giving happiness—who does not daily let thousands of these thoughts drop to the ground and rot? who does not continually leave his powers to draggle in the mould of their own leaves? The imagination can hardly conceive the heights of greatness and glory to which mankind would be raised, if all their thoughts and energies were to be animated with a living purpose. But, as in a forest of oaks, among the millions of acorns that fall every autumn, there may, perhaps, be one in a million that will grow on into a tree—somewhat in like manner fares it with the thoughts and feelings of man. What, then, must be our confusion when we see all these wasted thoughts and feelings rise up in judgment and bear witness against us!

Corporal Punishment in the Schools.

Within a few years some of our communities have forbidden all resort to corporal punishment for refractory pupils. It is denounced as barbarous and degrading. An indiscreet administration of it arouses an excitement as indiscreet as the original sin. Instead of removing the one offender, we remove from all hands the weapon with which he has offended. It is always so much easier to generalize than to discriminate.

Nevertheless I relapse into barbarism sufficiently to suggest that, in the present state of our civilization and our school organization, corporal punishment is a means of grace which we cannot abolish, and have not abolished without injury. The necessity of using it is very, perhaps increasingly rare. The teacher who frequently and freely resorts to it is presumptively unfit for his situation. But the power to use it should vest in the teacher, and is a preventive of mischief. Corporal punishment has never been abolished in the kingdoms of nature or of grace. Every teacher knows that there are boys, who, by some inward conformation or some defect of home training, do not respond to the ordinary motives of the schoolroom.

We give the little victims over, unhelped and hardened, to the cruel indulgence, to the fatal unwisdom of their untaught, uncapable guardians. To turn many of these boys out of school is to turn them upon the street, is to let them loose into a life of idleness and lawlessness. It is unjust to the parents, as well as ruinous to the child. The former have paid their share of the taxes which support the school and they have a right to all the benefit which the school is capable of bestowing. When they send their children to school, the school ought to teach and govern them, not send them home again. This is just what the naughty boys want. In very many cases the rod would not need to be used. If the boy knows that by playing tricks, or by prolonged idleness, or contumacy, or rebellion, he will be only sent adrift, he will play the tricks and wrench himself free from restraint. The sweeping away of corporal punishment from schools is the flowering of that tare of weakness which springs to vigorous growth side by side with the wheat of kindness in your rich American soil. It is the same vague, blind, emasculate, injudicious complaisance which winks at crime and shrinks from punishment and pardons out, and is not so far removed from cruelty to the community as it is from beneficence to the criminal. And always and everywhere it is, to the full measure of its influence, subversive of manhood and fatal to character.—*Gail Hamilton, in Independent.*

A Plea for the Wild Elephant.

A correspondent of *Land and Water* calls attention to the slaughter of elephants, arranged to take place at Trincomalee, in Ceylon, on the occasion of the Prince's visit. The elephants are described as roaming about in large herds in the most tame and inoffensive fashion, almost heedless of man, for none have been shot for upwards of twelve months. There is at present such a large class of society in England, who advocate kindness to animals in all its forms, that we venture to predict that, when the battue and shooting down of these semi-tame elephants occurs, the accounts will be received in England by the humane and thoughtful portion of the community with feelings the reverse of satisfactory. It seems a pity to destroy, for the sake of simple sport, such useful intelligent animals as elephants. In destroying tigers and other strictly wild and destructive beasts, the sportsmen perform a public service, and this knowledge doubtless adds additional zest to the enterprise; but the wholesale destruction of these huge and valuable assistants to man, on the plea of sport, when their hunting and capture for domestication would be equally exciting and far more instructive, is a proceeding repugnant alike to the teachings of our flag, and to our humane ideas of advanced civilization. If the risk of life from the furious charge of a wounded bull elephant is required to establish the courage of their future king in the eyes of his Eastern Empire, let some other plan be devised, and let his millions of half civilized subjects practically associate his visit with recollections of mercy rather than with the wanton slaughter of animals almost idolized for their utility, and tractability—the most powerful, and yet the most docile, creatures in the universe. Wanton waste brings woeful want. The commercial loss, though large, in an elephant battue is not of so much consequence as the example. The wanton slaughter of buffaloes of late years on the American prairies, and of moose deer in Canada, has already excited the action of their respective Governments, and nearly every State of the Union has been compelled to pass severe repressive game laws to prevent the extermination of many of the indigenous birds and beasts, and this, too, in a wild country with almost unlimited range. We trust to hear that the royal party will have plenty of sport in every legitimate sense, but elephant battues are not legitimate sport. Sport is a misnomer: it is simple butchery.

Teaching Children Courage.

Courage is a vital element of Christian chivalry. Without it indeed neither truth nor fidelity to promise can be hoped for. The coward is sure to lie when truth means punishment, and sure to retreat from his engagements when they involve peril. We need valiant souls that have learned to endure and scorn pain, and to face danger fearlessly and promptly when duty requires. Some parents evade this vital part of training by glosses and deception. A mother who has taken her boy to the dentist's to get a tooth out will often say, if he is shrinking, "Sit still, my my boy; it won't hurt you." Now she knows it will hurt him, but thinks if she can only get him by this device to sit still and let the dentist get hold of the tooth, then his discovery of the pain will not hinder its extraction. This is a double mistake. It destroys her boy's confidence in her; for he detects her in a lie. And though it gets the boy this time, to sit still, it is under the delusion that there is to be no pain, whereas he should be taught to face the pain and to scorn it. This makes the difference between cowards and heroes. A regiment of poltroons could march up to a battery as cheerfully as a regiment of heroes if they thought there was no enemy at the guns. The difference is that heroes know the danger and yet face it valiantly.

Moral Courage.

Sidney Smith, in his work on moral philosophy, speaks in this wise, of what men lose for want of a little courage, or independence of mind:—"A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to the grave a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making the first effort; and who if they could be induced to begin, would in all probability, have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is, that to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand shivering, and thinking of the cold and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating tasks, and adjusting nice chances; it did very well before the flood, where a man could consult his friends upon an intended publication for a hundred and fifty years, and then live to see its success afterwards; but at present, a man waits and doubts and hesitates and consults his brother, and his uncle, and his particular friends, till one fine day he finds that he is sixty years of age; that he has lost so much time in consulting his first cousin and particular friends, that he has no more time to follow their advice.

Something to Set us Thinking.

Ninety years hence not a single man or woman, now twenty years of age, will be alive. Ninety years! Alas! how many lively actors at present on the stage of life will make their exit long ere ninety years shall have rolled away! And could we be sure of ninety years, what are they? "A tale that is told;" a dream; an empty sound, that passeth on the wings of the wind away and is forgotten. Years shorten as man advances in age. Like the degrees in longitude, man's life declines as he travels toward the frozen pole, until it dwindles to a point and vanishes forever. Is it possible that life is of so short duration? Will ninety years erase all the golden names over the doors in town and country, and substitute others in their stead? Will all the new blooming beauties fade and disappear, all the pride and passion, the love hope and joy pass away in ninety years and be forgotten! "Ninety years," says Death; "do you think I shall wait ninety years? Behold to day and tomorrow, and every day are mine. When ninety years are past, this generation will have mingled with the dust and be remembered not!"

Wait.

Wait, husband, before you wonder audibly why your wife don't get along with the household affairs "as your mother did." She is doing her best—and no woman can endure that best to be slighted. Remember the long weary nights she sat up with the little babe that died; remember the love and care she bestowed upon you when you had that long spell of sickness. Do you think she is made of cast iron? Wait—wait in silence and forbearance, and the light will come back to her eyes—the old light of the old days.

Wait, wife, before you speak reproachfully to your husband when he comes home late, weary, and "out of sorts." He has worked hard for you all day, perhaps far into the night; he has wrestled, hand in hand with care, and selfishness and greed, and all the demons that follow in the train of money making. Let home be another atmosphere entirely. Let him feel that there is no other place in the world where he can find peace and quiet, and perfect love.

AGRICULTURAL.

FODDER CORN AND HUNGARIAN GRASS.—Prof. Atwater ends his lesson in the September number of the *American Agriculturist* by saying: "To economize in feeding, see that the fodder contains plenty of nitrogen. And this for two reasons: because stock cannot digest their food completely without it, and because they need albuminoids for their nutrition." The "walks and Talks" lesson begins by giving a table compiled by Dr. Harlan, of Wilmington, Delaware, showing the amount of nitrogen in a ton of different crops.

"A ton of Hungarian millet has twenty pounds, a ton of green clover twelve pounds, a ton of green corn four pounds. If by Hungarian millet is meant what we call Hungarian grass, or millet, then by mixing equal parts of green corn and millet we have in the mixture a food as rich in nitrogen as green clover. If there is no mistake about this, it is a very important lesson. Fodder corn, which has not nitrogen enough to make it a first-class food, finds, in Hungarian grass, a friend that has more of that material than the law, as laid down by Prof. Atwater, allows good fodder to need: but, by putting their nitrogen into a common purse and then dividing equally, they can both stand in the presence of clover which has been considered both king and queen of fodder.

"Some experiments in feeding fodder corn this season satisfied me that the same law which governs the time for cutting rye, oats and grass, to get the most milk, governs green corn. When in leaf and before it tassels, is the time to cut to have the cows give the most milk from what they eat of it. A lot of cows that averaged eight quarts a day on sweet corn fodder, tasseled and silked, when fed on ground seed corn in leaf, not tasseled, though it stood six feet high, other conditions, as far as I know, being equal, gave an average of nine quarts per day.

PASTURING MEADOWS.—I know of some farmers that almost as soon as the hay crop is removed turn stock upon them and let it remain there during the growing season, and the consequence is, that a productive meadow will become impoverished by this ruinous course, so that in a few years it will not produce one-half what it did formerly. Then the owner begins to find fault and thinks it has run out and wants ploughing up, never once taking a sensible view of the matter. Some meadows are naturally rich in fertilizing properties, or perhaps have the wash of a stock-yard, or by some means are kept up in a high state of productiveness that will bear to be pastured to a certain extent. But cattle should not be allowed to come on a meadow until the second growth has attained considerable size, and then they should be removed before eating too close. And I tking another important matter is in keeping up the fertility of the soil, and to keep the grass before the seed is ripe. The hay is better and the fertilizing properties required from the soil to mature the seed it retained. I have three acres of meadow and one year I decided to leave the second growth on to rot down. Now, what do you think my neighbors thought about it? Some said I would go crazy; others said, "O, it is too bad that you leave so much nice grass on your meadow;" but I told them they should wait till the coming summer, that we would talk the matter over. The crop realized from my meadow was six tons of hay. The best crop before was about four tons. We would advise farmers not to be afraid to leave on a little grass in the fall.—D. N. Kern is *Practical Farmer.*

THE TRUE TEST OF VEGETABLES.—Large vegetables may indicate good strong soil, thorough culture and high manuring, but it is a question in my mind whether the mammoth things should always receive the first award. At the table where we give the true test to vegetables size does not rank as a very important attribute. I was astounded to see so little tasting and examination of texture by the committee that judged the vegetables. No man is thoroughly capable of passing upon the relative merits of specimens in this class unless he can go more than skin deep in the matter. I never saw so perfect an exhibition of garden products as was shown at the State Fair. There was earnest and close competition. Still in the awarding of prizes I saw no judging of quality by taste, which is the true test. The prizes may be awarded correctly, but not as the result of careful comparison of quality. A man may know vegetables so well as to judge from the constant surface attributes that accompany first quality, but I have failed to meet the man yet who considers himself so skillful as this. The judges of apples would consider it absurd to pass upon the value of an apple by its size and complexion alone. Is it not equally unjust to pass upon beets, potatoes and turnips in this way? The quality of these vegetables is just as apparent to the connoisseur in its raw state as that of an apple. I do hope there will be progress in this matter, and that men who judge will have a solid foundation for their decisions.

TO ASCERTAIN if a plant wants fresh potting, turn it carefully out of the pot with the earth attached to it, and examine the roots. If they are matted about the sides and bottom of the ball, the plant evidently requires fresh potting. Then carefully reduce the ball of earth to about a third of its original bulk; single out the matted roots and trim away all that are moldy and decayed. Probably the same pot may then be large enough, but if it requires a larger one, it should be about two inches broader for a middle-sized plant; three or four for a large plant. If the roots are not matted but the pots are filled with fibers, keep the ball entire and carefully plant it in a larger pot. At the top of a large pot, and a small one, half an inch should be left for the reception of water, without danger of overflow. A little gravel, charcoal, or pieces of broken pots should always be placed at the bottom for drainage.

SHEEP on a farm yield both wool and mutton. They multiply with great rapidity. They are the best of farm scavengers, "cleaning a field" as no other class of animals will. They give back to the farm more in proportion to what they take from it than any other animal, and distribute it better with a view to the future fertility of the soil. Prove this? There is no need of proof to those who have kept sheep, and know their habits and the profits they yield. To prove it to those who have not the experience, it is necessary they they should try the experiment or accept the testimony of an experienced shepherd.

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THE best plan for storing cabbages is to lay down two rails 4 to 6 inches apart, and then place the cabbages head downwards on them, leaving the roots exposed; then turn a furrow towards them on each side, and by the aid of the spade cover the head with 4 to 6 inches of earth; select a dry place where water does not stand.

THERE are over 2,700 varieties of apples known by over 1,800 names; 2,200 of pears, 200 of cherries, 150 of plums, 300 of our native grapes, 50 of currants, 80 of raspberries and 30 of blackberries, according to a counting up of somebody.

A MALE egg, one that will hatch out a rooster, has on its pointed end, small folds and wrinkles, while a female egg has no wrinkles and is perfectly smooth at both ends and well rounded.

SCIENTIFIC.

How House Air is Spoiled.—The following facts will show how the air in houses becomes contaminated:

1. An adult person consumes 34 grammes of oxygen per hour, a gramme being equal to 15 grains.
2. A stearin candle consumes about one half as much.
3. An adult gives off 40 grammes per hour of carbonic acid. A child of 50 lbs. weight gives off as much as an adult of 100 lbs. weight.
4. A schoolroom filled with children will, if not well ventilated at the beginning of the hour, contain 25 parts in 1,000 of carbonic acid, at the end of the first hour 41, and end of the second hour 81.
5. The air is also spoiled by the perspiration of the body, and by the volatile oils given out through the skin. An adult gives off through the skin in 24 hours from 500 to 800 grammes of water mixed with various excrements, poisonous if breathed.
6. A stearin candle gives off per hour 0·4 cubic feet of carbonic acid, and 0·03 lbs of water.
7. Carbonic oxide is a much more dangerous gas than carbonic acid, and this obtains entrance to our rooms in many ways, through the cracks in stoves and defective stovepipes, or when the carbonic acid of the air comes in contact with a very hot stove and is converted into carbonic oxide. The dust of the air may, on a hot stove, be burnt to produce it; or it may flow out from our gas pipes when the gas is not perfectly consumed.
8. Another form of air injury is the dust of a fungus growth which fills the air in damp and warm places. We call it miasm from a want of a true knowledge of its character.
9. Accidental vapors are the crowning source of air poisoning. These are tobacco smoke, kitchen vapors, wash room vapors, and the like.
10. When we heat our houses and close them from outside air, the heat turns the mixture into a vile mess unfit for breathing. The only remedy is ventilation. Now that it is cold weather and our rooms are closed from free currents of outside air, let us look after the matter thoroughly and do our best to prevent injury to ourselves from polluted air.

Disease and the Faculty of Memory.—The faculty of memory is one of the first to be obviously affected by disease. When disease for a time seems to suspend the action of this faculty, or visibly to diminish it, the result is not looked upon as phenominal, for it is common and expected. But when disease increases the power of this faculty, a thing not uncommon, the patient is not unfrequently regarded as possessing more than human wisdom, and the case usually excites comment as one of great mystery. Dr. Steinbach mentions the case of a clergyman who, being summoned to administer the sacrament to an illiterate peasant, found the patient praying aloud in Greek and Hebrew. The case was deemed wellnigh miraculous. After the peasant's death, it was found that he was accustomed in youth to hear the parish minister pray in those languages, and it was inferred that he must have been repeating remembered words without understanding their meaning. Dr. Abercrombie relates the circumstances of a more remarkable case. A poor shepherd-girl was for a time accustomed to sleep in a room adjoining that occupied by an itinerant musician. The man was an artist by education, a lover of his profession, and often spent a large portion of the night in practising difficult compositions. The violin was his favorite instrument. At last the shepherd-girl fell ill, and was removed to a charitable institution. Here the attendants were amazed at hearing the most exquisite music in the night, in which were recognized finely-rendered passages from the best works of the old masters. The sounds were traced to the shepherd-girl's room, where the patient was found playing the violin in her sleep. Awake, she knew nothing of these things, and exhibited no capacity for music.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Ever since Schoenbein showed that a mouse shut up in an atmosphere of ozone died in about five minutes, a notion has prevailed that ozone acts in an energetic way on the animal body; but until these experiments were made, scarcely anything was known of the subject. The conclusions, as stated by the experimentalists, are: 1. That the inhalation of an atmosphere highly charged with ozone diminishes the number of respirations per minute. 2. The pulsations of the heart are reduced in strength, and the heart is found beating feebly after the death of the animal (experimented on). 3. The blood is always found in a venous condition in all parts of the body, both in cases of death in an atmosphere of ozonized air and of ozonized oxygen. (In this particular the action resembles that of carbonic acid.) 4. Ozone exercises a destructive action on the living animal tissues if brought into immediate contact with them; but it does not affect them so readily if they are covered by a layer of fluid. 5. Ozone acts as an irritant to the mucous membrane of the nostrils and air-passages, as all observers have previously remarked.

What makes Water Hard.—But, though insoluble in pure water which is already charged with carbonic acid, and as all rain-water brings down carbonic from the air, it is capable of taking up carbonate of lime from the soils and rocks through which it filters; and it thus happens that all springs and rivers, that rise in localities in which there is any kind of calcareous rock, become more or less charged with carbonate of lime kept in solution by an excess of carbonic acid. This is what gives the peculiar character to water which is known as "hardness;" and a water hard enough to curdle soap may be converted into a very "soft" water (as the late Prof. Clark, of Aberdeen, showed) by the simple addition of lime-water, which, by combining with the excess of carbonic acid, causes the precipitation of all the lime in solution in the form of insoluble carbonate, which gradually settles to the bottom, leaving the water clear.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Makaroff's Mats.—As a substitute for sails in stopping leaks in ships, Lieutenant Makaroff, a young officer serving in the Russian navy, designed a mat of peculiar construction. The Makaroff mat has for its basis a closely worked structure of rope about ¾ inch in diameter, made of the finest hemp, while the matlike surface closely resembles that common to all mats of the kind used for street doors. The texture of the mat is wonderfully close; and as the whole is treated with a water proof composition, it may be regarded as practically impermeable to water. The hairy side of the mat is that applied to the ship's side, and it is stated—and we see no reason to doubt the statement—that these mats may be dragged over jagged edged holes in iron plates without sustaining any injury.

Pneumatic Pontoons.—Knapp's open-bottom pneumatic jacks or pontoons are attached by chains passing under the wreck, and the chaining is ingeniously effected by means of a small tube passed under the wreck, through which a float and line attached to the cable are drawn. Compressed air is then admitted to the pontoons, which instantly give the lifting power. The advantages of this system consist in easy management and the possibility of being used in exposed situations; and it appears to be extensively patronized.

Among the best bearings for water wheels are those composed of good oak, rock maple, or lignum vitæ.

Shingle roofs can be made doubly durable by giving them a coat of thin oil before they get wet.

—The castor bean is now cultivated in Kansas, and a castor oil factory has been erected at Fort Scott.

DOMESTIC.

RECEIPT BOOKS.—Allow me to suggest to all thrifty housekeepers that they make their own receipt books. A blank book having its pages numbered can be obtained for a small sum of any dealer in stationery. Do not write any receipts save those that have been tried by yourself or friends. Have it arranged systematically, by being divided into different departments, as one for meats, another for vegetables, breads, pies, puddings, &c. Have an index, and allow space at the end of every different department, both there and in the body of the book, in which to make entries at future times. Any obliging housekeeper will be not only willing but glad to give you receipts and rules for making different dishes; then write them out *definitely*, for it is of fully as much importance that a dish be properly mixed and cooked, as that the proper proportions be used. It may, at first thought, look like a hard task, but have it lying handy and write in it at odd moments, and you will be surprised at the progress you will make, and then, when made, you will have such a feeling of reliability about it, for you *know* what it is; no experimenting there. I have one which I commenced fifteen years ago, and I would not give it for any one I have ever seen published. And what a treasure such a book would be to a daughter commencing housekeeping—all written in mother's handwriting, and tested by her good judgment and mature wisdom!

THE FUMES OF CABBAGE.—Many persons are fond of cabbage, but not at all fond of the unpleasant fumes which penetrate the entire house during the process of boiling. Therefore we recommend a manner of cooking that renders the vegetable so pleasant to the taste as to obliterate all prejudice against its free use. Reduce the cabbage to small pieces nearly fine enough for slaw, then stew for half an hour in a covered saucepan with not enough water to cover it; when done, drain off the water and season with salt, pepper, and a liberal quantity of butter, using vinegar on the table. Served in this way, you have a nice vegetable, much more delicate than boiled cabbage, and suitable to eat with any kind of meat you may chance to have on hand.

PURIFYING CIDER BARRELS.—A correspondent of the Boston *Cultivator* accomplishes it this way: I cleansed a cask that had boiled cider in it; it is as sweet as a new one. I put about two quarts of lime in it and filled it with water and let it stand 24 hours, then turned it out and rinsed thoroughly with water. Then I took a piece of sheet iron and made a funnel shaped cup that would go into the bung hole, riveted a narrow piece of hoop iron to it, about 18 inches long, then put a red hot bolt into the cup and filled it with sulphur, and put it into the barrel and cleansed the vents and bung. I let it stay about five hours then rinsed well and it was all right. The handle to the cup makes it easy to fumigate barrels.

WHOLESOME PIE CRUST.—The most healthy pie crust is made of thin, sweet cream and flour, with a little salt. Don't knead. Bake in a quick oven. Another way is, sift a quart or two of flour in the pan. Stir in the center a little salt and half a teaspoonful of soda well pulverized. Put in the hole a cup of soft (not liquid) lard, or butter and lard mixed; stir it thoroughly with the flour; next add two scant cups of good sour milk or buttermilk. Stir all quickly with the flour in such a way that you need hardly touch it with your hands till you can roll it out. Bake quickly. This will make three or four pies.

AN IMPROVED DUMPLING FOR CHICKEN, STEWS, &C.—With one quart of sifted flour mix one teaspoonful of salt, two of cream of tartar, and one of soda. Pour in sweet milk and stir until the mixture is just thick enough to form into biscuit. Place them upon the largest sized round baking tin, and set the tin in a steamer over the kettle where the chicken is boiling. Steam about forty minutes. Thicken and season the broth, break the biscuit apart and drop them in the gravy, boil ten minutes and serve. These are said to retain their lightness not falling as they become cool.

OFFENSIVE CISTERN WATER.—The bad odor so often complained of is mainly due to the presence of fine particles of decaying vegetable matter. The best way to avoid it is to pass the water through a filter before it goes into the cistern. What is termed a double cistern is the most convenient method of filtering—that is a partition of brick is put in, which answers for a filter. For temporary relief from offensiveness, sink a bag of charcoal in the water. This will not purify it, but remove in a great part the unpleasant smell.

FRUIT PUDDING.—Chop six apples fine, grate six ounces of stale bread, add six ounces of brown sugar, and six ounces of currants, washed carefully and floured. Mix all well together with six ounces of butter, a cupful of milk, and two cupfuls of flour in which two teaspoonfuls of baking powder have been thoroughly mixed. Spice to taste. If necessary, add more milk in mixing. Put in a pudding bag, tie loosely, and boil three hours. To be eaten with cream sauce.

SALVE FOR CHAPPED HANDS, ETC.—The following is a well-tested, excellent remedy for chapped hands and sores of this nature. Put together equal weights of fresh unsalted butter, tallow, beeswax, and stoned raisins; simmer until the raisins are done to a crisp, but not burned. Strain and pour into cups to cool. Rub the hands thoroughly with it, and though they will smart at first they will soon feel comfortable and heal quickly.

THE best way to admit pure air in the night (where windows are the only mode of ventilation) is to open the sleeping-room into a hall where there is an open window in order to avoid the draught. A window with a small opening at top and bottom ventilates more than one with one opening only.

THE BEST WAY TO COOK CODFISH.—Strip it of its skin, and cut it in pieces about the size of ones hand; place it in water, and allow it to simmer on the stove until it becomes tender. It should never be allow to boil. Boiling hardens and darkens the fish, and deprives it of its flavor.

TO EXTRACT INK from cotton, silk and woolen goods saturate the spots with spirits of turpentine, and let it remain several hours; then rub it between the hands. It will crumble away without injuring either the color or texture of the article.

TO CLEAN WALL PAPER.—The appearance of old wall paper will be very much improved by rubbing it with a woolen cloth dipped in dry Indian meal. It removes the dust and smoke. Pieces of stale bread are equally efficacious.

CORN MEAL GRIDDLE CAKES.—Scald half a pint of Indian meal, half a pint of the same dry; flour, and stir all into a pint of milk with a tablespoonful of butter and one egg. Spread very thin on the griddle.

CREAM ON ONIONS.—Putting cream on onions instead of butter (or even a little milk if one has no cream) removes much of the strong flavor and renders them less likely to affect weak stomachs unpleasantly.

INDIAN RUSK.—Two light cups of Indian meal, one cup of white flour, one teaspoonful of saleratus, enough sour or butter-milk to dissolve, one cup sweet, stir in three-fourths of a cup of molasses.

WASHING—TO STIFFEN FINE LACE—Dissolve a lump of white sugar in a wineglassful of cold water.

HUMOROUS.

PERTINACITY.—A Newspaper publisher being about to engage an advertisement canvasser, thus interrogated the applicant, who stated that he had never been in that line before. "Now," said the publisher, "it is most likely that you will meet with many rebuffs and short answers. What will you do in that case?" "Why, call again till they become civil to me." "Perhaps you will be denied admittance or access to the principals. What then?" "Why, I should sit down on the doorstep till they came out." "Perhaps you would be put out at the front door." "Then I should try to get in by a side one." "Most likely, in such a case, they would threaten to call the police." "Then I should make myself scarce, and try to meet my gentleman on Sunday when he came out of church."

THE WRONG PLACE.—An old man entered a Detroit shirt store yesterday to get himself a pair of mittens. He saw some chest-protectors there, and after looking them over he said:

"Well, I'll be mashed if I know what these things are."

"They are capital things for the winter," replied the clerk; "they are chest-protectors."

"Put 'em on the chest?" asked the old man.

"Yes, right over the lungs. I will sell you one very cheap, if you want it."

"No, I guess not. My old woman never strikes out from the shoulder, but always hits a down blow, and one o' these things wouldn't be worth a cent!"—*Free Press.*

THE doctors were just as polite and gentle in those pioneer days as they are now, and, catching the spirit of the rapidly growing country, they felt that time was the great desideratum. A doctor living in Macomb county, when called upon to set a broken leg for a laboring man, examined the limb and said: "If I set this limb, it will be five or six months before you can walk. If I saw it off and make you a wooden leg, you'll be out splitting rails in less than three months." The man declined the generous offer, and the doctor sighed drearily as he rolled down his shirt sleeves.—*Detroit Free Press.*

THE assurance of the lightning-rod man has always been looked upon as something appalling in its dimensions. It was never better illustrated than the other day when one of them applied to the President of the South Side Railway Company and wanted to put lightning-rods in all his bob-tails. "Lightning-rods on our cars?" asked the latter. "Why, certainly." What in thunderation do we want 'em for?" "Because they make such good conductors," replied the imperturbable lightning-rod man. It took him right where the backbone leaves off.—*Boston Globe.*

A DETROIT BOY surprised his father the other day by asking:

"Father, do you like mother?"

"Why, yes, of course."

"And she likes you?"

"Of course she does."

"Did she ever say so?"

"Many a time, my son."

"Did she marry you because she loved you?"

"Certainly she did."

The boy looked the old man over, and after a long pause asked:

"Well, was she as near-sighted then as she is now?"

TO BE TAKEN TWO WAYS.—"How are you getting on at your new place?" asked a lady of a girl whom she had recommended for a situation.

"Very well, thank you," answered the girl.

"I'm glad to hear it," said the lady. "Your employer is a very nice lady, and you can not do too much for her."

"I don't mean to, ma'am," was the innocent reply.

WHEN a dentist is buried he has filled his last cavity.—Among the liabilities of all firms should be put the liability to fail.—When people write open letters the public generally wishes they would shut up.—The burning of coffee plantations in Cuba will certainly overdo the business of coffee roasting.—*New Orleans Republican.*

AN OIL dealer sold some winter oil that was warranted to stand the severest cold. Shortly afterward it froze stiff. The purchaser went to the vendor with loud complaints. "I told you it would *stand* the coldest weather," said he; "I didn't tell you it would *run*. You see that it stands perfectly still, and you can't make it budge."

"SHE never told her love." That is, she never told him that all the beautiful golden hair she wore was false, and that the pearly teeth he praised were of the same deceptive character. But he discovered the fact soon after he married her, and now his faith in the honesty of the sex is considerably weakened.

A CASE came up for trial in a French court, and as the evidence was expected to be of a certain character, the Judge intimated the fact, and requested the decent women to withdraw. Not a soul moved. "Usher," said the Judge, "now that the decent women have all withdrawn, turn the rest out."

FATHER," said a lady of the new school to her indulgent spouse, as he resumed his pipe after supper one evening "you must buy our dear Georgiana an English grammar and spelling book. She has gone through her French and Latin, and now she must commence her English studies."

A WHIMSICAL comparison being made between a clock and a woman, Charles Fox said that he thought the simile bad; "for," said he, "a clock serves to point out the hours, and a woman to make us forget them."

PERSONS who have devoted much attention to the habits of domestic animals are generally agreed that a cat manifests its sagacity by never getting its back up at a red-headed woman.—*Brooklyn Argus.*

WHAT word is that in the English language the first two letters of which signify a man, the first three a woman, the first four a great man, and the whole a great woman?—*Heroine.*

A RETIRED schoolmaster excuses his passion for angling by saying that, from constant habit, he never feels quite himself unless he's handling the rod.

ROMANCE of the kitchen.—Cook (from the area): "O, 'Liza, gi' me my winigrette. I've 'ad a—offer—from the promenade sweeper!"

AN OHIO BOY swallowed four or five of the wheels of an eight-day clock and he has kept the whole family running ever since the event.

IN SOUTH BOSTON a sign adorns the front of a tinsmith's store which reads: "Quart measures sold here of all shapes and sizes."

LITERARY men can never be sure of having said a smart thing unless they see the "proof."

WHY is a solar eclipse like a woman whipping her boy? Because it's a hiding of the sun.

THE man who "couldn't find his match" went to bed in the dark.

VESTED interest—money—money in the waistcoat pocket.

THE cheapest of lawyers—Keeping one's own counsel.

IT IS said soda water taken alone shows a fizzical weakness.

SWEETS in adversity—A sugar-house failure.

SWEETNESS and light—A love match.

—The tobacco-growers up the Connecticut valley say that the crop of tobacco on the poles appears better this year than ever before.

The Centennial Year

opens with a Great Centennial Concert at Fort Scott, Kansas, JANUARY 1ST, 1876. Tickets $2. First Prize, Davidson's Opera House, worth $50,000; Second Prize, $20,000; and 7,686 prizes, from $5,000 down. The enterprise is endorsed by the best citizens of the State, and is the most liberal ever offered to the public. For particulars address J. S. EMMERT, FORT SCOTT, KANSAS.

Symptoms of Catarrh.

Dull, heavy headache, obstruction of the nasal passages, discharges falling from the head into the throat, sometimes profuse, watery, and acrid, at others, thick, tenacious, mucous, purulent, bloody and putrid; the eyes are weak, watery and inflamed; there is ringing in the ears, deafness, hacking or coughing to clear the throat, expectoration of offensive matter, together with scabs from ulcers; the voice is changed and has a nasal twang, the breath is offensive, smell and taste are impaired; there is a sensation of dizziness, mental depression, hacking cough, and general debility. Only a few of the above-named symptoms are, however, likely to be present in any one case. There is no disease more common than Catarrh, and none less understood by physicians.

DR. SAGE'S CATARRH REMEDY is, beyond all comparison, the best preparation for Catarrh ever discovered. Under the influence of its mild, soothing and healing properties, the disease soon yields. The Golden Medical Discovery should be taken to correct the blood, which is always at fault, and to act specifically upon the diseased glands and lining membrane of the nose. The Catarrh Remedy should be applied *warm* with *Dr. Pierce's Nasal Douche*—the only instrument by which fluids can be perfectly injected into all the passages and chambers of the nose from which discharges proceed.

These medicines are sold by Druggists. 3

Schenck's Mandrake Pills

Will be found to possess those qualities necessary to the total eradication of all bilious attacks, prompt to start the secretions of the liver and give a healthy tone to the entire system. Indeed, it is no ordinary discovery in medical science to have invented a remedy for these stubborn complaints, which develop all the results produced by a heretofore free use of calomel, a mineral justly dreaded by mankind, and acknowledged to be destructive in the extreme to the human system. That the properties of certain vegetables comprise all the virtues of calomel without its injurious tendencies, is now an admitted fact, rendered indisputable by scientific researches; and those who use the Mandrake Pills will be fully satisfied that the best medicines are those provided by nature in the common herbs and roots of the fields.

These pills open the bowels and correct all bilious derangements without salivation or any of the injurious effects of calomel or other poisons. The secretion of bile is promoted by these pills, as will be seen by the altered color of the stools, and disappearing of the sallow complexion and cleansing of the tongue.

Ample directions for use accompany each box of pills.

Prepared only by J. H. Schenck & Son, at their principal office, corner Sixth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, and for sale by all druggists and dealers. Price 25 cents per box.

A FORTUNE NOW! Seven dollars worth of money making Samples sent by mail for ten cents and one postage stamp. Address J. T. SMITH, 437 E. 117th St., New York. 12-10-1t

$77 a week to Agents, Old and Young, Male and Female, in their locality. Terms and OUTFIT FREE. Address P. O. VICKERY & CO., Augusta, Maine. 11-23-6m

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