AX HANDLES.

Under a gnarled, old apple tree,
Back in the grass-grown orchard lot—
Plain as 'twere yesterday, to me,
Thirty years since I saw the spot),
Stood the old workbench, where Tom and I
With boyish terrors amused ourselves
Wringing from grandpa many a sigh,
As he slowly polished the hickory helves.

Oh, many a wild, uncanny tale
O'ercame our juvenile unbelief,
Till the hair arose, and the cheek grew pale,
At the fluttering sound of the autumn leaf,
And our startled senses were wont to paint
The evening shadows as horrid elves,
While grandpa, humming an old hymn, quaint,
Still plied the glass to the gleaming helves.

And when the thickening twilight shade
Over the ancient orchard broke,
With corncob pipes but rudely made,
We gathered the shavings for mimic smoke,
Till grandpa laughed with a boyish glee,
(And we joined in the mirthful play ourselves),
Yes, he laughed, and cried, as against the tree
He added one to his finished helves.

A mansion stands where the orchard lot
Hallowed the play of my boyish will;
Grandpa sleeps in a sacred spot,
Close by the top of the meadow hill.
Poor Tom is gone, there are none but me
Left 'mid the ancient joys to delve—
But a sweeter memory cannot be,
Than grandpa scraping a hickory helve.
—Cleveland Plaindealer.

WON BY WHISTLING.

Hartley, or rather, his wife, had been giving a musical "at home."

An hour or so later, the "crowd" having dispersed, Birdy Jackson, Hartley and I were idly discussing the events of the affair in the smoking-room. Jackson and I were stopping over night with our host, being old chums of his, and living some distance out of town.

"No idea you could give such a rippling performance, Birdy," remarked Hartley "and when your wife joined in I was perfectly astonished."

Jackson laughed softly.

"No, she doesn't do it at all badly," he admitted. "You know, Dick, there's a bit of romance attached to that whistle of hers; in fact, it was the means of bringing our matrimonial desires to an abrupt point at an extremely critical point in our courtship."

Hartley gave me a gentle kick.

"Then your union had a spice of romance about it?" he said.

"Rather! Unique in the annals of love-making, I should say. But folks are so confounded incredulous nowadays, I've never attempted to tell the yarn but once and then I swore I'd never do it again."

But he had to on this occasion, and soon began to interest us as follows:

"First of all, you must know, Mr. King"—addressing me—"I'm called Birdy on account of having practiced from earliest infancy a cheap form of musical recreation. Though cuffed as a boy, reprimanded for warbling in slack business hours and soundly execrated by the neighbors, I nevertheless persevered.

"A year ago last summe. I came in for a sum of money, which rendered me a practically wealthy and independent man, and to celebrate my good fortune I threw up my business berth and went into Yorkshire to spend a few weeks with a professional bachelor friend and to idle generally.

"While there I was introduced to a Colonel Alton and his daughter Evelyn, aged 22, who lived at 'The Chase,' and were intimate friends of my chum. Nice girl she was; plenty of 'go' without being the least 'fast.' In less than a fortnight I was over head and ears in love with her. The subsequent afternoons at 'The Chase' were too hot for tennis. Colonel Alton spent them snoozing in his study; Evelyn's elderly companion and her father's housekeeper—for Mrs. Alton had been dead some years—nodded in the shade of her favorite elm, and my friend had invariably to leave for an important case before the tea came out. Very nice of him, I thought.

"Thus thrown together, Evelyn and I monopolized the arbor, and I used to amuse her by trilling selections from the operas, latest airs (comic and serious), and she would occasionally join in as a kind of pillip to my performances. Though a woman in every respect, she could whistle. In most of the well-known tunes up to date or pathetically aged, she excelled, owing to the fact that during the winter months for some years past she had always officiated at the piano for the village popular concerts, when the vocal and instrumental items were naturally of an amusing and light order—at times scarcely high class, perhaps.

"Then came the time when the colonel had to be approached. The old man gave me a prompt and curt refusal. He had other views for his child. I tried remonstrance, then dogged persistency, but with no avail. Evelyn stood out like a brick. This burst of independence resulted in her immediate banishment to regions unknown to me, under the surveillance of a relative of mature age and experience, and all communication between us strenuously denied and forestalled. All chances of elopement, even, were reduced to nil.

"A few days later I left my friend's for Bournemouth, there to recruit my shattered health and hopes, and think things over quietly. I was crushed for the time being. As I alighted from my cab at the entrance to the North Cliff, where I had taken rooms, an elderly lady came down the steps. Her face seemed somewhat familiar to me, though I could not at the time recall to mind when and where I had seen it before. When she started as she saw me, and somewhat hurriedly re-entered the hotel, I was further mystified. A thought struck me as I was signing my name in the hotel register of visitors some time later. Two pages back I found an entry: 'Miss Alton and Miss E. Alton.' I tumbled to it in a second, then. The elderly lady I had encountered was, undoubtedly, Colonel Alton's sister, who had been staying at the Chase and left two days after my arrival in the village, and before I knew anything of Evelyn I had once passed her walking with the Colonel, and she must have recognized me again.

"I remarked on the entry to the clerk in a casual way, and he volunteered the information that Miss Alton had but a few moments previously given notice of her intention to vacate their apartments the next morning. The news staggered me. Then Miss Alton did know all and had decided on flight as the only safe remedy under the circumstances.

"Not a glimpse could I catch of Evelyn. After dinner from a search on the pier I returned to the North Cliff and sat disconsolately smoking out on the balcony of my room in the growing dusk. Almost unconsciously I lapsed into melody and appropriately began to warble softly, 'Alice, Where Art Thou? A slight movement on the balcony above mine and one window to the left caused me to glance up. A figure in white met my gaze, with one of its hands, as if demanding silence, pointing warningly to the window behind her. Yes, it was Evelyn, but her attendant dragon of an aunt was evidently close at hand. Verbal communication, as well as writing, was out of the question. It was already too dark for the deaf and dumb manipulation, even provided she knew its working. An idea suddenly flashed upon me. Why not try? No sooner thought than done. Softly I whistled the last lines of 'Whisper and I Shall Hear,' refrain. A slight shake of the head and then a rendering of 'Good-by, Sweetheart, Good-by,' floated down. Then they were really going away.

"'Evelyn, I don't think it's quite proper for you to be standing there,' came a voice from within, and which, by straining my ears, I could just overhear. My heart beat wildly and the girl turned to address her aunt without leaving the balcony.

"'It's almost dark now and I can't stay cooped up all the evening—our last one, too! What does papa want us back in such a hurry for?'

"'Because he wishes it, my dear; that's all the reason I can give you. You really must help me to finish the packing in a few minutes.'

"Then her aunt had revealed nothing and believed her yet to be in ignorance of my presence at the hotel. Luckily, but the case was a desperate one. Evelyn returned to her former position and leaned over again.

"'Where Are You Going To, My Pretty Maid?' I began. There was a momentary pause and then the answer came in a line of 'Home, Sweet Home,' from my darling's lips.

"'I do wish you would drop that vulgar habit of whistling,' again came the voice inside the window.

"'But, auntie, there's no piano to sing to,' was the somewhat lame excuse. 'I must do something, and I can't possibly shock anyone up here.'

"Then there was silence once more.

"Back to Yorkshire again. No chance there. Anyhow, she still cared for me, and I must put her affections to a severe test. It was our only chance of securing happiness.

"'Oh, Nannie, Wilt Thou Gang Wi' Me?' I piped.

"'Where Are You Going To?' was again utilized in reply.

"I was stumped for a minute, but a bar or two of 'Big Ben,' a favorite song of mine, came as a hazardous rescue. She understood, bless her! but a lengthy pause intervened before her answer. Then, 'No, sir; no, sir; no, sir; no!' was repeated four times in succession. She refused, then! Why so emphatically? What a silly idiot I was! The fourth time the girl in the song said 'No,' she meant 'Yes.' I breathed again.

"But about our departure. The morning York train via Bath left at 9:45. The earliest Waterloo was 7:45, and we should be easily tracked and our intentions frustrated in consequence, if we left it until then. I consulted my watch. It was 9:15. The night train up left at 10:20. 'Oh, Why Should We Wait Till To-morrow?' went up without delay. 'All's Well' from above soon settled that question satisfactorily, but was followed immediately by a few bars of 'Bradshaw's Guide' ditty. I knew what she wanted, so, after a slight hesitation, I warbled 'Come Into the Garden, Maud,' and chirped ten times. 'Hope on, dear loved one, we shall meet again,' from 'Dream Faces,' proved that I was clearly understood, and then she turned to address Miss Alton in louder tones than before.

"'I declare you're nearly asleep, auntie. I'm tired, and have a headache, too. We've a long journey before us, so I think I'll go to my room now. Don't disturb, there's a dear; the packing won't take long in the morning. You'd better do the same.'

"The proposal evidently suited Miss Alton down to the ground, for she left her chair inside, and came a little way out on the balcony.

"'A good idea, Evy; so we will,' she answered.

"I crept back, and a minute or two later 'Good-nights' were exchanged, and the subsequent slam of a door notified me that Evelyn had left for her apartment.

"By 9:45 I had settled up, and left instructions that my heavy baggage, fortunately not unpacked, would be called for sent for in the course of a week, or less, dangling an old telegram form in my hand as I did so, to give color to my hasty departure. At 10 prompt I picked up Evelyn under the pines in the hotel gardens, and, with a dressing bag and a small Gladstone between us, walked into the station, and eventually reached London safely, early in the morning. I put her in one hotel, where I knew she would be safe, with strict injunctions not to venture out until I had fixed everything up for the ceremony, and went myself to another. The long and short of it was, that long before we were anything like tracked, the deed had been done by special license, and the colonel defeated for once in his life.

"Come round, did he? Yes, when he afterward discovered that the man he intended for his daughter had already been engaged for two years, and got married shortly after we did. Even I would have told the old fellow that had he been more communicative and explicit in the first instance, for my rival turned out to be no other than the friend I was visiting. He actually admits now that he couldn't have wished her a better match, but, anyhow, he—"

And Birdy broke off into "Can't Change It."

"Listen," he said, "if you can't quite swallow the yarn you will not fail to take this in."

Then he went through "Oh, Come, My Lady Fair," from the "Gaiety Girl" song. Scarcely had he concluded than away from another quarter of the house came an answering chorus of "I'm Coming," from the negro melody, "Poor Old Joe." Half a minute later in strolled Mrs. Jackson and Hartley's wife.

Birdy winked knowingly at us.

"I've just been telling them how you were practically wooed and won by whistling, my dear," he remarked to his wife, "and they want another tune before we turn in."

Evelyn blushed. "No, Sir," etc., she warbled three times.

Then Jackson took up his candle and marched up stairs with the strains of the national anthem on his lips.—London Tid-Bits.

TO CONQUER AN ISLAND.

The Unique Mission of a Company Formed in California.

A number of Los Angeles men have received a concession from the Mexican Government of the Island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California. A company of 300 men is being organized, under the command of I. H. Polk. Each man is to receive $250 and 100 acres of land, after the island is conquered. The money for the expedition is being put up by Col. Bradbury, who inherited a million or so a few years ago. There are only about 100 male Indians on the island, but they are said to be such valiant fighters that the Mexican Government despaired of subduing them, and has offered the island to Bradbury and his companions if they would undertake the work. It is the intention of the Tiburon Conquest Company, as the new corporation is called, to establish a republic of its own, and have the United States establish a protectorate. It is stated that Mexico has consented to this. One of the objects of the company is to establish a great resort, and lines of steamers will be put on from both Yuma and Guayamas.—Los Angeles, Cal., Times.

IMPREGNABLE FOR AGES.

England's Unbroken Hold Upon the Rock of Gibraltar.

Gibraltar is almost an island of rock, its only connection with the main land of Spain being a narrow causeway known as the "neutral ground." This is patroled up to a certain point by English sentries, looking neat, trim and business-like in their short, red coats and white helmets. Just beyond the line of the sentry boxes the Spanish territory begins, and another relay of guards, clothed in the yellow and red of Aragon and Castile, stand ready to see that the realm of his majesty, Alfonso XIII., is not to be encroached upon and that no one crosses the border without first passing through the little Spanish custom house. For nearly 200 years, night and day, these two sets of sentinels have watched and challenged and glared at each other, and seem likely to continue doing so for a good many years to come.

The fortress stands at the end of a rocky promontory, extending about three miles into the sea and about half a mile in breadth. The north end, which overlooks Spain, springs up nearly perpendicular to a height of 1,800 feet. The east and south sides are steep and rugged and extremely difficult of access, even if they were not fortified, so that it is only on the west side, fronting the bay, where the rock declines to the sea and the town is situated, that it could be attacked with the faintest hope of success. Here, however, the strength of the fortification is such that the place may be said to be impregnable. The lower batteries are all casemated and marked by bushes, while higher up vast galleries have been excavated in the solid rock and mounted with heavy modern artillery. The damage which might ensue from the explosion of shells is guarded against by open traverses, and a net work of passages gives communication between the different batteries and protects the gunners from the enemy's fire. Looked at from below there is nothing save an occasional porthole to indicate the deadly character of this huge material monolith, but if it could be looked down on from above, it would be found to present from sea to summit a perfect labyrinth of stone tunnels, bristling with cannon and stored with chained lightning sufficient to shake the earth to its very center.

Gibraltar has been besieged no less than thirteen times. Its possession rested alternately with the Moors and the Spaniards until 1704, when it was attacked during the war of the Spanish succession by the English and Dutch fleets and surrendered after a short resistance. The Spaniards, during the nine years following, vainly endeavored to recover it, but in 1713 its possession was secured to the English by the peace of Utrecht. The last and most memorable siege was in 1779, when Gen. George Elliott and his gallant band of 6,000 half-starved men successfully held the place for four years against the combined fleets of Spain and France. That was a close shave for the English, but they have provided against a recurrence in such a manner that it seems certain that nothing short of an earthquake will ever dislodge them from the rock. It is said that the fortress is kept victualed for a siege of seven years. Aerial railways, telephones, telegraphs, electric searchlights, and a perfect code of signals have united the garrison practically into a fighting machine. The blue waters of the bay are said to be treacherous with sunken torpedoes, and even the elements are guarded against by means of position or rangefinders, whereby the guns above, although enveloped in clouds of mists, can be electrically pointed and discharged from half a mile to a mile below and the enemy made to think that great Jove is hurling clouds at him, from high heaven itself.

A Simile in Smoke.

There's all sorts of grades of tobacco plant. The best comes from Havana. There's all sorts of grades of sarsaparilla plant. The best comes from Honduras. If you want cheap tobacco, all right—provided you get value for your money. Cheap tobacco's not as good to smoke—but it don't cost as much.

If you want cheap sarsaparilla . . . But you don't want it. Of course you don't. You are paying for the best. To pay for the best and get anything but Honduras sarsaparilla is like paying for Havana cigars and getting Pittsburg "Stogies." There's only one sarsaparilla made exclusively from the imported Honduras plant. That's Ayer's. Just keep it in mind that you are paying for Honduras sarsaparilla when you are paying for the best; but you don't get what you pay for unless you get Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Any doubt about it? Send for the "Curebook."
It kills doubts but cures doubters.
Address: J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Topics of the Times

Geographers say that the entire coast line of the globe measures 186,000 miles.

Numerous liquor raids on the hotels in St. Albans, Vt., are yielding heavy returns.

The entomologists have captured and named upwards of 21,000 varieties of butterflies.

Flogging as a punishment for girls is what the London school board wants to introduce into the industrial schools.

Netherlands has made diamond workers capable of boring a hole only one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter.

The snake moves by means of the ribs and the scales on the abdomen to which each rib is attached by a series of small muscles.

The moon moves 3,333 feet per second, day and night, and always presents the same side to the view of the people of this earth.

A Brunswick (Me.) family has owned a piece of real estate for 158 years, and the present owners have the original deed to prove its ownership.

The Pettijohn family of Walla Walla, Wash., numbers ten individuals. The average height of the ten is 6½ feet and the average weight 244 pounds.

In Lewiston, Idaho, a squaw has applied to the courts for a divorce from her husband on the ground that he persistently refuses to attend church with her.

Tramps have formed a compact to rob every house in Norwalk, Conn. This is what a vagrant told an officer who took him to the lock-up a night or two ago.

At Grosswardein, in Hungary, a statue of St. Ladislas has been dug up from beneath the fortress, which is built on the site of the ancient cathedral.

In Salvador a genuine revival in matters of public instruction seems to have taken place. Mixed schools on the American plan have been established in many places.

The Chittenden monument, erected by the State of Vermont in memory of her first Governor, Thomas Chittenden, and located in Williston, is now practically completed.

A concession to build a carriage road from Teheran to Bagdad and also to build electric railroads in the suburbs of the Teheran has just been granted to a German contractor.

At Berlin the Academy of Arts is preparing an exhibition of the paintings of Adolf Menzel, Andreas Achenbach and Julius Schrader, who are now all 80 years old and still painting.

Vinalhaven, Me., claims the most cosmopolitan population of any place in the country. With two exceptions it is said that every nation on the globe is represented among its citizens.

An expedition sent out from St Petersburg four months ago to collect Russian popular songs in the provinces has already secured over a hundred songs, many of them of great antiquity.

All the copper tubes in the English torpedo boat destroyers of the reserve fleet at Portsmouth are to be taken out and galvanized steel tubes substituted. The copper fittings have broken down in a number of the boats that have been tested.

A Parisian had the remains of his brother cremated. The ashes were put in a leather bag and sent by rail to the brother's home. The bag was mislaid, and suit has been instituted by the brother against the railroad company for the value of the dead man's ashes.

A feature of the Tennessee centennial exposition, which will open Sept. 1, 1896, will be a steel tower 100 feet high, with a great revolving crown of incandescent lights on top. As the crown revolves the lights will spell in dissolving shades the words: "Tennessee Centennial, 1896."

Georgia has just made a strong effort toward obtaining good roads. A law has been passed by the Legislature requiring all male persons between the ages of 15 and 50 to work on the roads five days in each year, or in lieu of working to pay to the county road fund $1 a day for each of the five days.

A correspondent on arrival at Ispahan, Persia, found the following notices posted on the walls: "Beware of mosquitoes." Travelers are also advised to have their native servants sleep with them in the same room, so that the insects should settle on them first, and to offer a larger field for their energies.

The rate at which the use of the bicycle is growing is seen in the statement that the League of American Wheelmen now numbers 37,846 members, 9,522 of whom are credited to New York, 5,883 to Massachusetts and 4,412 to Pennsylvania, while the tail-enders of the procession are Idaho and Nevada, with two members each. Both these states, however, are better adapted to walking than wheeling.

The Legislature of Georgia has passed a bill which makes the earnings of a married woman her personal property, and not liable for the debts, or in any way belonging to her husband. The courts of the State had several times decided that her earnings were not the property of a married woman, and there were some members of the Legislature who evidently wanted to keep a grip on anything their wives might earn, and so voted and spoke against the bill. It was finally passed by a large majority.

An interesting relic was discovered near San Bernardino, Cal. It is an immense sculptured arrowhead, four feet four inches long and weighing more than two hundred pounds. It is of bluish granite and shaped in perfect imitation of the smallest arrowheads frequently found in that region. On the mountain side, near where the stone was found, is a natural formation in the shape of an arrowhead many feet in length and conspicuously visible for many miles.

Underfed Germans.

How insufficiently the lower classes in Germany are fed with nourishing, wholesome food is well known. From the annual statistics of the forty-seven large German cities just published I gathered the following illustrative item: In Berlin the annual meat consumption a head of population has decreased from 85 kilos to 69 kilos, or just about 6 ounces of meat a day. An increase is shown in the consumption of horseflesh for human food, while dogs' meat has become a regular staple article for the poor man's diet. In Chemnitz and in Dresden especially this uninviting article of food has been increasing enormously. In Chemnitz some 327 dogs have been slaughtered and sold for human food, to the knowledge of the authorities, to say nothing of the many cases where the fact did not come to their knowledge. Isn't that a vivid illustration to the raison d'être of Hauptman's "Die Weber," the play called revolutionary here, but where the real life of the poor German weavers is but realistically portrayed?

A FASTNET LIGHT.

A Welcome Gleam to the East-Bound Atlantic Voyager.

The first glimpse of Great Britain that the American tourist gets on his European tour is that of the Fastnet lighthouse.

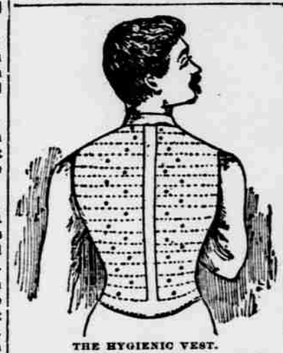
It stands on a rugged and solitary rock, situated nine miles south of Brookhaven, at the extreme southwest corner of Ireland, and is, perhaps, more storm-beaten than any other around our coast. The rock is eighty feet in height, and the lighthouse towers another seventy feet above, yet, in winter gales, the Atlantic billows literally bombard the massive structure and have even smashed in a portion of the lantern at the summit of the erection, the seas frequently sweeping over the rock with tremendous force. Some two or three years ago the stormy weather then prevailing prevented all comunication with the rock for many weeks, so that the store of food was consumed, with the exception of some flour. At last a chooner managed to approach sufficiently near to enable a small quantity of food to be dragged through the sea by the hungry men, and, fortunately, the next day the sea moderated, and the stores were once more fully replenished.

Except in very calm weather, the Fastnet is surrounded by a fringe of foam, and the only means of landing is by the aid of a "jib" fifty-eight feet in length, so placed on the rock that, in a moderate weather, its end reaches outside the surf. When a visitor wishes to land (an unusual occurrence) he is towed in a small boat as near as the waves permit, and the lightkeepers throw out a small buoy, attached to a rope, which is secured by the man in the boat. The jib is then swung out, and the visitor, placing one foot in the loop and catching tight hold of the rope, is hoisted about forty feet vertically, and then the jib, being pivoted at its foot, swings him horizontally about 100 feet on to a safe landing.—London Sketch.

A HYGIENIC VEST.

It Is Designed to Protect the Lungs Against Sudden Changes.

A bad cold comes more easily through the back than through the chest, for the lungs are nearer the surface of the body there. We have noticed that woodsmen, when they lie upon the ground, generally do so with the stomach down, for thus they are less liable to take cold from possible dampness.



THE HYGIENIC VEST.

The accompanying cut shows a vest for the protection of the back. It is composed of two lawers of woolen cloth and one of silk, perforated for ventilation and prepared with a chemical possessing sanitary powers. It is efficacious even without the chemical, and persons with weak lungs should see something of that kind during unusual exposure.

"Been married seven times, has he? Is he a man of leisure otherwise?" "Oh, no! He's a hard-working tailor." "What a remarkable instance of the survival of the fittest."—Chicago Tribune.

Alas, 'tis eighteen ninety-six
And bashful man must falter;
For woman now with clever tricks
Will speed him to the altar.
—Chicago Record.

"Shoes were blacked as early as the ninth century," says an exchange. And we might have added that many of them look as though they had never been blacked since.—Boston Transcript.

Horse Gyp—Are you satisfied that the team I sold you is well matched? Victim—Yes, they're well matched. One is willing to work, and the other is satisfied to let him.—Philadelphia Record.

"Does the old fellow have money?" I rather think so." "Makes a show, does he?" "Oh, no—but his daughter, who is 35 years old, and awfully ugly, was married last week."—Gothamite.

"We have no use for bear stories," said the editor. "Our readers demand something spicy." "Well," said the man with the manuscript, "this story is about a cinnamon bear."—Sports Field.

Scotch and American Beef.

It is a notorious fact that much of the beef sold as "prime Scotch" is simply prime American. The British consumer, it is averred, is unable to detect either by eye or palate the origin of a side of beef or of the roast cut from it.

Dr. Glade—Do you know anybody who has a horse for sale? Drover—I reckon Hank Bitters has; I sold him one yesterday.—Truth.

A Nine-Year-Old Heroine.

There is a little girl 9 years old in Bristol, Conn., who has been granted a bronze medal for saving life by the Connecticut Humane Society. Her name is Grace Colvin, and she was playing with another little girl when a sand bank caved in and buried her companion. Instead of running away the staid and dug away the sand from the little girl's face so that she could breathe.—Poughkeepsie Eagle.

If Kilmer's SWAMP-ROOT cures all Kidney and Bladder troubles. Pamplet and Consultation free. Laboratory Binghamton, N. Y.

Zone shaped belt clasps, incrusted with small stones and receiving additional enrichment from colored enamels, lend distinction to the simplest evening gown.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children, teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 20c a bottle.

The famous savage clubs of Borneo were modeled after a thorny fruit which grows wild in that island.

Floating-Borax being 100 per cent. pure, therefore absolutely all soap, and has nothing in it to turn yellow. Dobbins' Soap Manufacturers, Phila., the manufacturers, guarantee its purity.

The birch bark canoes used by the Indians of the Northern lakes were modeled after the shape of the fish.

Distressed with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye-water. Druggists sell at 25c. per bottle.

Lucindy Bell, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, is a negro woman 105 years old, but she rides a bicycle, and does it well.

The water snail has a gelatinous rope which he can lengthen or shorten at pleasure.

Nervous

People wonder why their nerves are so weak why they get tired so easily; why they do not sleep naturally; why they have frequent headaches, indigestion and

Nervous Dyspepsia. The explanation is simple. It is found in that impure blood feeding the nerves on refuse instead of the elements of strength and vigor. Opiate and nerve compounds simply deaden and do not cure. Hood's Sarsaparilla feeds the nerves pure, rich blood; gives natural sleep, perfect digestion, is the true remedy for all nervous troubles

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. $1.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

6 978

Bee-Hives for Farmers.

Most farmers would have better success with bees if they used only the old straw or box hives. Bee-keeping with the movable-frame hives is an art which few care to learn; the straw hive is a simple tool which any one can use. Before the bee-moth became prevalent, nearly every farmer kept bees in this simple way. The introduction of the Italian bee has done away with this trouble. With the old-fashioned hives, women and children can do most of the work, and bee-keeping, like poultry-raising, can be their special province and profit. Aside from learning to hive new swarms, little knowledge is needed.—Country Gentleman.

Where Did You Get This Coffee?

Had the Ladies' Aid Society of our Church out for tea, forty of them, and all pronounced the German Coffeeberry equal to Rio! Salzer's catalogue tells you all about it! 35 packages Earliest vegetable seeds $1.00 Order to-day.

If you will cut this out and send with 15c. stamps to John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., you will get free a package of above great coffee seed and our 148 page catalogue! Catalogue alone 5c. postage. (A.)

Silver pen extractors are a new accessory for the writing desk this season, and although small, are strong enough to extract the most stubborn pen from its holder and fill a long-felt want.

Forecasters.

Some people are so influenced by the electric currents of the atmosphere that they can foretell the coming of a thunderstorm with perfect accuracy, and others there are with nerves so sensitive that they are sure of having neuralgia from a low and fretful state of the nervous system. Now why can't the latter be warned in time and know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To use St. Jacobs Oil promptly will ward off an attack, or if attacked, will promptly cure. Such people can do for themselves what others do from weather prophecies heed the signals and save the wreck and disaster.

The present mania for Louis XV. styles has added to the sumptuousness of the modern woman's jewel case, for many of the brooches, coronets and watches are copies of the old court jewelry.

After six years' suffering, I was cured by Hood's Cure.—Mary Thomson, 29½ Ohio Ave., Allegheny, Pa., March 19, '94.

In the warship Terrible of the British navy there are eighty-nine steam engines, large and small.

$100 Reward. $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address

F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Canada is conducting a scientific investigation as to the causes of the low water in the great lakes.

The forty-eighth Annual Statement of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Philadelphia, appears in this issue of our paper. The exhibit show that the business of 1895 was the best in the history of this old, enterprising and solid company. In these days of speculative insurance it is a real pleasure to see this great Insurance Company increasing its assets and business year by year, while steadily adhering to the true principles of mutual insurance.

The ball and socket joint is seen to perfection in the upper extremity of the thigh bone.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" are a simple and convenient remedy for Bronchial Affections and Coughs. Carry them in your pocket.

Charley Hoyt's Successful Speech.

The scholar in politics has some odd experiences and is in a position to get lots of fun out of them. Charley Hoyt, the playwright, is a member of the New Hampshire Legislature. Taking in Boston the other night he related an incident that took place in his political career. He said that he never made, to his knowledge, more than one successful speech, and that was when he was endeavoring to get a certain measure, calling for a large appropriation, through the house. Action had been delayed as long as possible, but when the time came a bright young lawyer opposed the measure, attacking Mr. Hoyt in a most savage manner and making many personal allusions. Mr. Hoyt responded very briefly, but the attack had been so fierce as to arouse sympathy, and the measure was carried. Meeting one of his colleagues the next day Mr. Hoyt was asked what action he was going to take about the abusive speech.

"Why, nothing," responded Mr. Hoyt "Are you going to stand calmly by and be insulted in this manner?" the gentleman asked.

"I don't exactly see what I can do," returned Mr. Hoyt, with a little more than his usual drawl. "You see, I wrote that speech and paid the man $25 to deliver it."—Troy Times.

Wolsey's Ring.

Wolsey's seal ring is preserved in the Tower of London. It is set with a peculiar stone, the nature of which is unknown, but which was believed by his enemies to possess magical properties.

Feder—What do you think of this dessert? Needer—What do you call it? Feder—Charlotte russe. Needer—Well, Charlotte knew her business when she named it. In all my experience I never encountered a flimsier ruse for making a man believe he was having something to eat.—Richmond Dispatch.

Czarina and Her Doctor.

Twenty thousand dollars is the fee paid at St. Petersburg to Prof. Ott, the German physician who had charge of the accouchement of the Czarina. This may seem big remuneration, but it must be borne in mind that the responsibility of the physician is something enormous. He is held accountable to such a degree in the event of anything going wrong that the only thing left for him to do is to commit suicide. That was the course adopted by Sir Richard Croft, the accoucheur of Princess Charlotte, of Great Britain, whose death in childbirth through his alleged mismanagement placed Queen Victoria on the throne. And it was to the German accoucheurs who attended the first confinement of the Empress Frederick of Germany that Emperor William is indebted for his withered left arm. This was why Emperor Frederick and his wife always insisted on the presence of English accoucheurs at the birth of their subsequent children.

Dr. Playfair, Lord Playfair's brother, has brought a large number of royal children into the world. It was for him that Punch suggested the name of Lord Deliverus, and he figures on the list of members of the Queen's household as physician-accoucheur to her majesty. That is no bed of roses. In the first place, the royal house of England is so prolific of daughters and grand-daughters of the Queen, and secondly, the office is of such responsibility that the presence of a cabinet minister at the birth is required by statute. Dr. Playfair, by the by, received on the occasion of each of his visits to Sandhurst to attend the confinement of the Crown Princess fees of $12,000, besides his expenses, jeweled snuffboxes and decorations.

The Modern Way

commends itself to the well-informed, to do pleasantly and effectually what was formerly done in the crudest manner and disagreeably as well. To cleanse the system and break up colds, headaches and fevers without unpleasant after effects, use the delightful liquid laxative remedy, Syrup of Figs. Manufactured by California Fig Syrup Company.

Coal dust is successfully used as fuel for boilers by a process invented by a German named Wegener. It is fed to the furnace automatically, and only ordinary chimney draught is needed.

Silver King Barley, 116 Bushels.

The barley wonder. Yields right along on poor, good or indifferent soils 80 to 100 bus. per acre. That pays at 20c. a bushel!

Salzer's mammoth catalogue is full of good things. Silver Mine Oats yielded 201½ bushels in 1895. It will do better in 1896. Murrah for Teosinte, Sand Vetch, Spurry and Giant Clover and lots and lots of grasses and clovers they offer. 35 packages earliest vegetables $1.00. Send for them to-day.

If you will cut this out and send it with 10c. postage to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., you will get free ten grain and grass samples, including barley, etc., and their catalogue. Catalogue alone 5c. (A.)

Compressed air is coming to the front as a means of street car propulsion in France. Three Parisian lines use it.

Wonderful are the cures accomplished by Hood's Sarsaparilla and yet it is because Hood's Sarsaparilla, the one true blood purifier, makes pure, rich, healthy blood.

Hood's Pills for the liver and bowels, act mildly, yet promptly and efficiently.

A microbe—perfectly round—that is believed to be the cause of scurvy has been isolated by Drs. Testi and Seri.

FITS stopped free by Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. No fits after first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and $2.00 trial bottle free. Dr. Kline, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

The bones of flying birds are hollow and filled with air, by this means combining strength with lightness.

PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION

THE AERMOTOR CO. does half the world's windmill business, because it has reduced the cost of wind power to 1/3 what it was. It has many branch houses, and supplies its goods and repairs at your door. It can and does furnish a better article for less money than others. It makes Pumping and Geared, Steel, Galvanized-after-Completion Windmills, Tilting and Fixed Steel Towers, Steel Buss Saw Frames, Steel Feed Cutters and Feed Grinders. On application it will name one of these articles that it will furnish until January 1st at 1/3 the usual price. It also makes Tanks and Pumps of all kinds. Send for catalogue. Factory: 12th, Rockwell and Fillmore Streets, Chicago.

ASTHMA
POPHAM'S ASTHMA SPECIFIC
Gives relief in FIVE minutes. Send for a FREE trial package. Sold by Druggists. One Box sent postpaid on receipt of $1.00. Six boxes $5.00. Address THOS. POPHAM, PHILA., PA.

ITCHING PILES MYERS' Solid Extract Witch Hazel cures them. 25c. and 50c. pots at druggists, or sample mailed FREE. J. J. F. MYER, Tiffin, O.

WE PAY you to sell fruit trees. STARK NURSERIES, Louisiana, Mo.; Rockport, Ill.

OPIUM and WHISKY habits cured. Book sent FREE. Dr. B. M. WOOLLEY, ATLANTA, GA.

OPIUM Morphine Habit Cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. DR. J. STEPHENS, Lebanon, Ohio.

PATENTS 24-Page Book Free. MISHOP & IMIRIE Washington, D. C.

Lots of people go to work in the wrong way to cure a
Sprain, Soreness, or Stiffness,
When ST. JACOBS OIL would cure in the right way, right off.

Forty-Eighth Annual Statement OF THE PENN MUTUAL LIFE Insurance Co. of Philadelphia.

Net Assets, Jan. 1, 1895, less depreciation	$23,779,512 86
RECEIPTS DURING THE YEAR.	
For Premiums and Annuities	$5,371,154 76
For Interest, etc.	1,369 178 18
	$6,740,332 94
	$30,519,865 80
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Claims by Death	$1,586,694 70
Matured Endowments, Annuities, etc.	222,741 95
Surrendered Policies	630,685 09
Premium Abatements	744,441 26
Total Paid Policy-Holders	$3,184,563 00
Added to Reserve	$1,977,907 00
Taxes Paid in Penna	192,792 03
Taxes in other States	79 814 04
Salaries, Medical Fees, Office and Legal Expenses	197,872 88
Commissions to Agents and Rents	687,175 16
Agency and Other Expenses	79,589,95
Advertising, Printing and Supplies	28,347 23
Office Furniture, Maintenance of Building, etc.	36,291 25
	$6,294,425 80
Net Assets, Jan. 1, 1896,	$26,294,429 70
ASSETS.	
City Loans, Railroad and Water Bonds	7,731,867 09
Bank and other Stocks	
Mortgages & Ground Rents (1st Lien)	11,226,35 907
Premium Notes, secured by Policies, etc.	898 155 13
Loans on Collateral, Policy Loans, etc	4,671,447 96
Home Office and Real Estate bought	1,676,282 61
Cash in Banks, Trust Companies and on hand	203,818 19
Net Ledger Assets	$26,294,429 70
Net Deferred & Unreported Premiums	629,737 86
Interest Due and Accrued, etc.	440,895,94
Gross Assets, Jan. 1, 1896,	$27,365,063 50
LIABILITIES.	
Death Claims reported, but awaiting proof	$133 710 00
Reserve at 4 per cent. to Re-insure Risks	22,716,121 00
Surplus on Unreported Policies, etc.	72,951 97
Surplus, 4 per cent. basis	3,442,300 53
	$27,365,063 50
New Business of the Year: 8,061 Policies for	$932,975,884 00
Insurance Outstanding December