

Home Reading.

HOUSE-CLEANING TIME.

"The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year," Of cleaning paint and scrubbing floors, and scouring far and near; Heaped in the corner of the room the ancient dirt lay quiet, Nor rose up at the father's tread, nor to the children's riot; But now the carpets all are up, and from the staircase-top, The mistress calls to man and maid to wield the broom and mop. Where are those rooms, those quiet rooms, the house but now presented? Wherein we dwelt nor dreamed of dirt, so cozy and contented? Alas! they've turned all upside down that quiet suite of rooms, With sops and suds, and soap and sand, and tubs and pails, and brooms; Chairs, tables, stands are standing round at sixes and at sevens. While wife and housemaids fly about, like meteors through the heavens. The parlor and the chamber floor were cleaned a week ago; The carpets shook, the windows washed, as all the neighbors know; But still the sanctum had escaped, the table piled with books— Pen, ink and paper all about, peace in its very looks; 'Till fell the woman on them all, as falls the plague on men, And then they vanished all away—books, paper, ink and pen. And now, when comes the master home, as come he must o' nights, To find all things are "set to wrong," that they have "set to rights." When the sound of driving tacks is heard, though the house is far from still, And the carpet woman's on the stairs—that harbinger of ill— He looks for papers, books or bills that all were there before, And sighs to find them on the desk, or in the drawer, no more. And then he grimly thinks of her who set this fuss afoot, And wishes she were out at sea in a very leaky boat; He meets her at the parlor door, with hair and cap awry, With sleeves tucked up and broom in hand, defiance in her eye; He feels quite small, and knows full well there's nothing to be said, So holds his tongue, and drinks his tea, and sneaks away to bed.

A NOBLE SPEECH.

The longest speech on record is believed to have been that made by Mr. Cosmos, in the Legislature of British Columbia, when a measure was pending whose passage would take from a great many settlers their lands. De Cosmos was in a hopeless minority. The job had been held back till the eve of the close of the session; unless legislation was taken before noon of a given day the act of confiscation would fail. The day before the expiration of the limitation De Cosmos got the floor about 10 a. m., and began a speech against the bill. His friends cared little for they supposed that by one or two o'clock he would be through, and the bill could be put on its passage.

One o'clock came and De Cosmos was speaking still—hadn't more than entered upon his subject. Two o'clock—he was saying "in the second place." Three o'clock—he produced a fearful bundle of evidence, and insisted on reading it. The majority began to have a suspicion of the truth—he was going to speak till next noon and kill the bill. For a while they made merry over it; but, as it came on to dusk they began to get alarmed. They tried interruptions, but soon abandoned them because each one afforded him a chance to digress and gain time.

They tried to shout him down, but that gave him a breathing space, and finally they settled down to watch the combat between strength of will and weakness of body. They gave him no mercy. No adjournment for dinner; no chance to more than wet his lips with water; no wandering from his subject; no sitting down. Twilight darkened; the gas was lit; members slipped out to dinner in relays, and returned to sleep in squads; but De Cosmos went on. The speaker, to whom he was addressing himself, was alternately dozing, snoring and trying to look awake.

Day dawned, and the majority slipped out in squads to wash and breakfast, and the speaker still held on. It cannot be said it was a very logical, eloquent or sustained speech. There were digressions in it, repetitions also. But still the speaker kept on; and, at last, noon came to a baffled majority, livid with rage and impotence, and a single man, who was triumphant, though his voice had sunk to a husky whisper, his eyes, which were almost shut, were bleared and bloodshot, his legs tottered under him, and his baked lips were cracked and smeared with blood. De Cosmos had spoken twenty-six hours and saved the settlers their lands!

TO DETERMINE THE SPEED ON RAILROADS.

Travelers on railroads often want to know the speed at which they are moving, and, as a general thing, are not aware that with the aid of a watch they may readily find out, even when the mile posts are not placed along the track.

This may be done by simply counting the rails which are passed over in any given minute.—On the best railroads, the hammering sound made by the wheels in passing from one rail to another is quite audible, and may be easily noted on whichever side of the car the observer may be sitting. All rails are either twenty-four or thirty-six feet long—the length may be easily ascertained by pacing or measuring with a pocket rule at any station whenever the train stops, then by counting the number of rails passed in thirty-six seconds, the speed may be calculated by any passenger.

Never compare thy condition with those above thee; but to secure thy content, look up on those thousands with whom thou wouldst not, for any interest, change thy fortune and condition.

SCIENTIFIC SLAUGHTERING.

The abattoir system has long attracted the attention of the scientists and sanitarians of large and populous cities where the problem of supplying the people with meat of good quality is of the most vital importance. The superiority of this system over the old slaughter houses may be summed up in a few words:

It centralizes the whole butchering interests by seeking to combine the numerous petty establishments into one, and dispenses with the barbarous practice of driving herds of cattle through crowded streets, to the imminent peril of life and property. Being conducted on a scale of considerable magnitude, it permits of a rigid inspection by the health officials. The waste is reduced to a minimum, and utilized for agricultural purposes. Thus decomposition is, in a great measure, prevented, and the noxious emanations so characteristic of a slaughter house are nearly or entirely suppressed.

Of this description is the new abattoir on the Schuylkill above Market street. This building and the surrounding stock yard are the property of the Pennsylvania railroad company, and have been leased for a term of years to the Philadelphia stock yard company, which company, which company is also interested in the Harmsus Cove abattoir, on the site of the old Manhattan market in New York. This building is well known to many of our readers as having been the subject of the letter of remonstrance (in Nov. 1874) sent by a committee of citizens to the Pennsylvania railroad company against its erection on the proposed site, urging that such an establishment in the heart of the city would prove highly pernicious to the health of its inhabitants. All efforts, however, were futile, and the injunction, which was subsequently applied for, was dissolved.

Philadelphia may now boast of an abattoir as thoroughly scientific in its appointment as any similar establishment in the world.

The Philadelphia stock yard embraces about 21 acres on the Western bank of the Schuylkill, extending north from Market street, and bounded on the west by the machine shops of the Pennsylvania railroad. It is paved throughout with Belgian blocks, filled in with Portland cement, and is covered with numerous sheds, capable of affording shelter to 7,500 cattle and as many sheep. These are brought in cattle cars on a side track to the very gates of the yard and thus all rehandling or driving is avoided. Besides the abattoir and sheds, the yard contains the office of the company, a substantial wooden structure two stories high, the first floor of which is occupied by the counting rooms, the telegraph offices, barber shops, etc., while the second floor is divided into numerous offices, occupied by stock men, butchers, etc. The building is heated by steam and lighted by gas. The total cost of the yard and improvements is estimated at \$600,000.

The abattoir is situated in the center of the yard and faces west. It was built from designs executed by Mr. Thorne, the architect of the Pennsylvania railroad company. It is a brick building, having two floors, whilst a high vaulted roof, surrounded by large transom windows, secures perfect ventilation. The main floor is a spacious apartment, 200 feet long by 100 feet in width. It is paved with asphaltum and abundantly supplied with hot and cold water. In the center of the room are immense iron pens, which communicate with the stock yard by a brick causeway. Into these pens the cattle are driven and here the slaughtering is done. The animals are killed in one of two ways.—First, a rope is fastened to one of the hind legs of the animal, and passing through a pulley, which depends from a beam overhead, is attached to a drum worked by a double geared crank. A few revolutions of this crank throws the animal forward on its shoulders, and in this position its throat is cut, or second, if the animal is unruly, it is stunned by a spear.

This plan was introduced originally from Russia and Lapland, where the natives were wont to kill the reindeer in this manner. Its plan merits a few words of explanation: Crossing the pens, immediately over the animal's head, is a gangway, on which is stationed a man armed with a sharp spear attached to a heavy handle. By one thrust this weapon is made to penetrate the spinal cord, between the upper cervical vertebrae, producing an instant cessation of all the powers of vitality, and the animal falls without a struggle and is bled at once. The blood is caught in suitable vessels, and conveyed to the drying tanks, where it is evaporated to dryness and then sold as a fertilizer.

After skinning, the animal is quartered and hung upon sliding hooks, which may be brought within a few feet of the wagon which is to carry the carcass away. The hides are removed to the lower floor, where they are promptly salted, and thus decomposition is arrested. After the day's work is over, the floor is repeatedly flushed, until every trace of blood is removed. The capacity of this department, when running full, is 1,000 beefs daily, and this will require a force of 75 practical butchers. The basement is also paved with asphaltum, with the exception of the engine room, which has a floor of Portland cement. In the western half of this room is the sheep killing apartment, which has facilities for killing and hanging one thousand sheep daily. The sheep are confined in small pens, separated from each other by a wire screen. Each sheep is brought to the edge of a platform, which extends the whole length of the pens, and has its throat cut. The blood is received into a large reservoir beneath the floor, from which it is pumped into the drying tanks.

The boilers are two in number, and of 50-horse power each. They run a horizontal 40-horse power engine, furnish steam to the drying tanks, and supply the establishment with hot water. The rendering and drying tanks, two in number, are of the celebrated Dr. Craven's patent, and are marvels of scientific utility. They are in the form of boilers, sixteen feet long and five in diameter. They are enclosed in a steam jacket of felt, hair and wire, an outer and an inner tank, between which the steam is admitted from the boilers. These

tanks are for the rendering of the tallow and drying of the blood, etc. On the upper floor they open by a man-hole, and here the tallow is admitted. The man-hole is then closed and steam is admitted around the tanks. The tallow is kept in constant motion by an iron reel, inside the tank, which is connected by a number of pinion wheels with the engine. After the tallow is rendered, it is washed by simply turning a valve and admitting water to the tank. By opening another valve, the tallow is carried away to the cooking tanks, and from them is run into barrels. After the tallow has been disposed of, the blood is admitted and dried.

The company propose to have their establishment in complete running order by the first of May. They have at present no facilities for the slaughtering of hogs, nor do they intend to care that branch of the business.—Philadelphia Herald.

DON'T WORRY.

The most amiable counsel in the world and the counsel most universally given under all circumstances is, "Don't worry." What answer are we to make when, being leopards, we are recommended to eschew spots? There is nothing to say but to imitate the practical Frenchman who, when asked to oppose the infliction of the death penalty, said he would be glad to do so if messieurs the assassins would only set the example. Let messieurs the assassins of peace and mind begin, then, and we'll warrant not to worry any more. But when you come home to tea, after a hard day's work, with that note of Bobb's hanging like a millstone around your neck—it must be paid by 3 o'clock p. m., to-morrow, and how the thing is going to be done you cannot imagine for the life of you—what a world of latent satire there is in madame's composed advice to you, "Don't worry, my dear!" You are all over in a raw and flayed condition, and the balm of Gilead itself would make you flinch as much as a sprinkling of cayenne, yet you are coolly requested not to worry, my dear. In any rational view of it, worrying must be given a large part in the economy of health. It must take the place in the moral hygiene which belongs in the physical to those rashes and sudden eruptive disorders which, coming to the skin and chafing, irritating and itching, act as safety-valves for the escape of diseases necessarily fatal if restrained within the important internal organs.

Your worrying man and woman, however often they may be the cause of insanity in others, do not feel mad themselves. The eruption saves them. It is consequently not proper to endeavor to suppress worrying, and highly injudicious to apply to it that everything but emollient cataplasms, "don't." The best way is to divert the effects of the fretful fit; to turn them away from our fellow-creatures upon whom they now commonly fall, and induce them to expend themselves upon inferior and, if possible, inanimate objects. In other words, we want a moral philosopher of the practical turn of mind of Benjamin Franklin, who will contrive some sort of a conductor to carry off this moral electricity when it is in excess in clouded souls, and disperse it into the earth. A lightning rod man prepared to furnish serviceable conductors of this description could visit every house in the land, and instead of having doors slammed in his face and the dogs set upon him, would be welcomed made much of and enriched suddenly.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS.

Great care should be taken to keep the nails neat and well trimmed. They should be rounded at the top, and not cut too closely. Their polish and rosiness may be increased by brushing and rubbing.

To improve the skin of the hands and arms take two ounces of Venice soap, and dissolve it in two ounces of lemon juice. Add one ounce of the oil of bitter almonds, and a like quantity of oil of tartar. Mix the whole and stir it well until it has acquired the consistency of soap; and use it as such for the hands.

The paste of sweet almonds, which contains an oil fit for keeping the skin soft and elastic, and removing induration, may be beneficially applied to the hands and arms.

For hands that are stained, there is an easy remedy. Dampen the hands first in water, then rub them with tartaric acid, or salt of lemons, as you would with soap; rinse them and rub them dry. Tartaric acid, or salt of lemons will quickly remove stains from white muslin or linens. Put less than half a tablespoonful of salt or acid into a tablespoonful of water; wet the stain with it, and lay it in the sun for an hour; wet it once or twice with cold water during the time; if this does not remove it, repeat the acid water, and lay it in the sun.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE.

The minister's wife, says the Baptist Magazine, ought to be selected by a committee of the church. She should be warranted never to have headache or neuralgia; she should have nerves of wire and sinews of iron; she should never be tired nor sleepy, and should be everybody's cheerful drudge; she should be cheerful, intellectual, pious, and domesticated; she should be able to keep her husband's house, darn his stockings, make his shirts, cook his dinner, light his fire, and copy his sermons; she should keep up the style of a lady on the wages of a day laborer, and always be at leisure for "good works," and ready to receive morning calls; she should be secretary to the Ban of Hope, the Dorcas Society, and the Home Mission; she should conduct Bible classes and mothers' meetings; should make clothing for the poor and gruel for the sick; and finally she should be pleased with everybody and everything, and never desire any reward beyond the satisfaction of having done her own duty and other people's too.

There is no policy like politeness; and a good manner is the best thing in the world, either to get a good name, or to supply the want of it.

EVERY CROWN SE,

Late of the Firm of

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Is now conducting the Retail Business formerly conducted by the above firm at 18 Chenango Street, Binghamton, and is now prepared to furnish

FURNITURE & HOUSEKEEPING GOODS.

In Variety. Special attention is called to his stock of

CHAMBER SETS, COUCHES, MARBLE TOP TABLES, MATTRESSES, AND SPRING BEDS.

In great variety. Buyers will find this the place to purchase, as goods bought for CASH can be sold cheap for cash. Please remember the number. Binghamton, April 19, 1876.

16 Chenango St. Binghamton.

1876 1876

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BOOTS AND SHOES,

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY,

Which will be sold as CHEAP as any fair and honourable competition will warrant.

Our Terms are Cash.

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Our Motto, CHEAP! CHEAP!

Please call and see us, and decide for yourselves in regard to Goods and Prices. We also have the agency for Messrs. DEMOREST'S RELIABLE PATTERNS.

H. & W. T. DICKERMAN.

New Milford, May 10, 1876.—if

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New Store and New Firm

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SILVER WARE,

CLOTHING, WATCHES AND JEWELRY,

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Everything New and Fresh at Popular Prices.

3600 yards of best prints in market, sold during the past two weeks, at 6 p. c. per yard, and still there is more to follow.

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Extensive Furniture Warehouse you will find the largest stock of

FIRST CLASS AND COMMON

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Of all kinds done in the neatest manner.

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Montrose, Pa., Jan. 5, 1876.—not if

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FRESH GROUND GRAHAM FLOUR

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Any quantity of MEAL & FEED of the best quality, at the STEAM MILL.

FINE WHEAT MIDDINGS at the STEAM MILL.

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OLD WESTERN CORN for sowing.

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