

Towanda, Pa., Wednesday, Nov. 30, 1881.

EDITORS. S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD

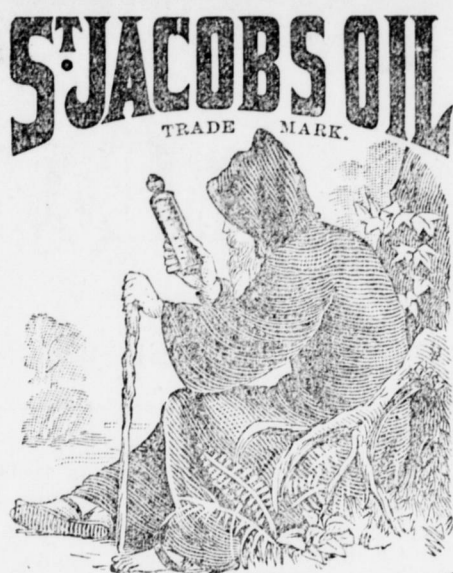
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It is generally conceded that an open winter is not so healthy as a steadily cold one. But this theory was collapsed by the experience of last winter, a season long and of uniform coldness, the mortality of which was much in excess of the ordinary broken or open ones. Now for this departure from a long established theory there must be a reason and if it be anything to guard against and thus divert the sickness and death experienced during the past winter we ought to do it. We are of the opinion that much of the mischief lies in the arrangement or construction of our houses as built these days. Buildings now-a-days are made with an eye to warmth, regardless of ventilation, a point decidedly essential in a dwelling. We purchase and use stoves and furnaces whose heating capacity is their leading recommendation, we stuff them with coal, the family rooms become furnaces in which we sit, toast and enjoy a Turkish bath before the glowing anthracite, breathing a vitiated atmosphere of 100 degrees heat, fairly blue with gas from coal and kerosene, while outside the mercury is shivering away in the frigid latitude of zero. In this sort of a torrid climate we pass much of our time allotted to the family circle and when we go out into the freezing outside world we take the precaution to bundle up in a felt hat and light overcoat. We may ride a long ways or go into a cold barn or shop and spend hours, during which we shake and shiver, the system receiving a severe shock, a few repetitions of which would use up an Esquimaux as it is quite sure to ourselves. Our forefathers stood such winters and came out in the spring hale, hearty and in better condition than after an open one. They had houses well ventilated with a huge fireplace, a cat-hole, air passages about the doors and windows and the heat of the room rarely ran so high as to produce a winter sweat. They inhaled no coal gas nor kerosene vapor and the transit from the sitting room into the outside world was not followed with a chill that upset the whole system and paved the way for pneumonia and kindred diseases. Give us better ventilation and more open fireplaces and no doubt we will get through all winters, open or steady, in a better condition.

Under date of last Sunday a dispatch from Memphis, Tenn., says: A powerful, strange bull dog last evening, while the colored people of Mount Olive church were assembled therein for worship, entered the building leisurely, walked down the main aisle, and made his way to the pulpit, which had just been ascended by a visiting minister who was about to begin his sermon. The dog sprang upon the dominie, and sinking his teeth into his body dragged him down stairs, out of the pulpit, and did not release his hold until his brains were beaten out with a club.

At the same hour a colored congregation in Avery chapel were thrown into a panic by the loud report of a suddenly broken bench. The church being built over the bayou, they readily believed it was falling, and rushed for the windows on the side furthest from the water, many being seriously and a few fatally injured. To-day the colored people are greatly excited and insist that the Devil is in town.

It is reported that gold, in paying quantities, has been discovered in a ledge of rocks nine miles north of Deposit, New York. The discoverers have filed their claims with the State Controller.



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