

LIFE.

Come, track with me this little vagrant rill,
Wandering its wild course from the mountain's breast,

A CONTEST WITH THE WEATHER BUREAU.

By F. E. C. ROBBINS.

The young man in the linen suit, after attending to the slight errand that had brought him to Lufkin's store at Hardhack Corner, lingered for a little chat with the proprietor, who looked as if he might be a "character."

absorption characteristic of the specialist. Every day the rival forecasts were placed conspicuously on the wall, and every day Mr. Dole, according to his promise, called to compare them, and to discuss the degree of fulfillment of those of the day before, after which it became quite a habit of his to make a social call at the storekeeper's pleasant house nearby.

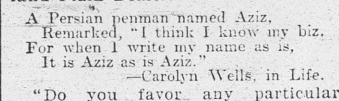
ready, did you say, Fannie? Well, I'll go right in. And you must come, too, Mr. Dole, and have a bite with us."
The invitation was accepted, and the simple 12 o'clock dinner finally assumed quite the proportions of a banquet, at least so far as time was concerned.

WATERING THE ELEPHANT.

Whenever I think of the farm of my childhood,
And there let my fancy delightfully dwell,



"She let fall a few remarks—"
"Is that why she spoke in such broken tones?"—Baltimore American.



"Do you favor any particular school of music?" asked the lady.
"Yes, indeed," replied the young man who lives in a flat. "I favor the pianissimo school."—Puck.

Mrs. Newcome—"My husband has been a collector of curios and old relics for a number of years."

The man wore a badge with the legend, "I am an undesirable citizen."

The ladies stopped a little boy whose legs were braced.

The Scientist—"There is every reason to believe that the ancients used illuminating gas. In fact, I once dug up an article which I have no doubt was a primitive form of gas meter."

"I feel," he said, as he laid the morning newspaper aside, "that my country has called me!"

"Shopping by mail," quoted Mrs. Gaddie, quoting from the advertisement in the paper.

Jigley—"We were talking about suburban cottages, and Subbubs remarked that the only thing in Boghurst ever dreamed of out his way in Boghurst was Queen Anne."

"The idea! Is that the way he pronounces it now?" Jigley—"Pronounces what?"

Extremes in Envelopes.
"That's the first time I ever sold a single envelope," said a young woman at a big stationer's store in the city's center.

At present but one-fifth of the total forest area of the United States is embraced in National forests.

Sauce for the Gander.
The modern wife is beginning to astonish the modern husband.

New Erie Bank Approved.
The Comptroller of the Currency has approved an application to organize the Citizens' National Bank of Union City.

Two Miners Killed.
By the bursting of an air motor at No. 14 colliery of the Pennsylvania Coal Co.

The Mesta anti-bucket shop bill, the Tustin pure food bill, the Husher trolley eminent domain bill, and a mass of other important measures passed by the last Legislature were signed by Gov. Stuart.

KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS

STATE STILL WEALTHY

Balance in General Fund is Larger Than Ever Before.

According to a report issued June 4 by State Treasurer Berry the general fund of the state at the close of business May 31, contained \$14,120,801.19, probably the highest total known.

The sinking fund was increased to \$1,879,463.34 from \$1,854,144.86 by payment of interest on deposits and \$5,000 quarterly interest on government bonds owned by the state.

5,000 PER CENT PROFIT

Experts Find That Cheap Plaster Was Substituted for Marble in Capitol.

The enormous profits John H. Sanderson collected from the state for marble work in the new capitol are revealed in a voluminous report submitted before the probers.

Marble mantels which cost Sanderson from \$100 to \$200 each were charged to the state at from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

NEPHEW GETS \$500,000

Westmoreland County Court Sustains the Contested Will of the Wealthy Old Farmer.

The jury at Greensburg returned a verdict sustaining the will of Jacob Byers, the aged and wealthy farmer of Mt. Pleasant township, who died three years ago.

Other claimants, mostly from western states, contested the will. They alleged that Byers was mentally incapacitated when he made it.

Tragedy at Pittsburg.
Accusing them of having caused a woman to leave him and return to her husband, Patrick Reardon, aged 28, probably fatally shot his uncle, Thos. Norton, aged 35, and M. N. Moorehead, aged 65, at their home, 411 Larimer avenue, Pittsburg.

Robbed and Killed.
The mangled body of an unknown foreigner was found on the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad at Meadowns, Washington county.

Altoona Officials Accused.
Upon representation made by taxpayers that the board of city assessors and the board of revision and appeals showed favoritism in making property valuations, city councils of Altoona chose a committee of five to conduct an investigation.

Naptha Explosion Follows Wreck.
A broken brake beam on a fast freight westbound train on the Nickel Plate railroad derailed the train at Harbor Creek shortly after midnight.

By the bursting of an air motor at No. 14 colliery of the Pennsylvania Coal Co. at Port Blanchard John Munley and Richard McCawley were killed and Michael Dillon and Henry Waters fatally hurt.

Gov. Stuart signed the Sheatz bill, increasing the pay of registrars and changing the hours of registration, and the Bluestone bill, continuing the Allegheny registration commissioners in office after Greater Pittsburg becomes a fact.

The Mesta anti-bucket shop bill, the Tustin pure food bill, the Husher trolley eminent domain bill, and a mass of other important measures passed by the last Legislature were signed by Gov. Stuart.

Australia has started a new industry. Nearly half a gallon of oil possessing lubricating qualities has been obtained at Gilgandra, N. S. W., from 73 pounds of rabbit skins without lessening the commercial value of the latter.

W. F. Fernald of Old Orchard, Me., has a big scrapbook which contains nothing but newspaper clippings treating of appendicitis. All phases of every case he can hear of are noted.

The Common House Fly.

Whence He Comes and Whither He Goes.

By HAROLD SOMERS, M. A.

The common house fly (Musca Domestica) is a creature of such secretive habits that although from the very earliest times he has been with us, and the most ancient writers have mentioned and described him, still very little was known of his origin and history.

It remained for the eminent Boston biologist, Dr. A. S. Packard, in 1873, to make known his origin, habits and transformations from the egg through the larva state with its two changes to the pupa state, then to the perfect fly.

Near the first of August the female lays about 120 eggs of a dull gray color, selecting fresh horse manure in which to deposit her eggs, and so secretes them that they are rarely seen; it takes only twenty-four hours for them to hatch into the first form of larva, a white worm one-quarter of an inch in length and one-tenth in diameter.

The pupa stage when the fly is about to emerge the end of the pupa case splits off, making a hole through which the fly pushes a portion of its head, but here it seems to encounter a difficulty; the pupa case is too stiff and hard to pass through, but nature comes to its assistance, and a sort of bladder like substance forms behind the head, which swells out apparently filled with air; it acts as a means of pushing away the pupa case and releases the fly.

When the fly first emerges it runs around with its wings soft, small and baggy; it is pale and the colors are not set; its head rapidly expands and the bladder formation passes away—within a few hours the wings grow and harden; it is now a perfect fly.

The whole time from the depositing of the egg to the perfect fly is not over ten days in duration. Many persons who observe small flies in midsummer suppose they are the young, but such is not the case; they are flies that are imperfectly nourished in the larva and pupa states, and do not attain full size; in fact, they are the dwarfs of their race. The male fly differs from the female in the front of the head between the eyes, being at least one-third narrower, though in size the female is rather smaller.

Adult flies like most other creatures have parasites of minute size that prey upon them; these can often be seen as presenting small red specks over the body of the fly.

Another enemy in the form of a fungus often attacks the fly in the early autumn. This makes its appearance as a white swelling and the white spores of the disease can be seen penetrating the body of the fly, which it finally distends and ruptures.

The fly hibernates in winter, but with his usual secretive habit it is very difficult to find him in his winter quarters. With the first chill of autumn the flies, feeling the cold, seek temporary warmth in houses, and clustering together form bunches in the corners of walls and other places. They are then sluggish and not so active as in the warm weather. However, they do not make a permanent stay indoors, but on the first mill, sunny day seek the windows to get out and find their permanent winter hiding place. Many prefer to make their homes in the roots of grass on lawns, where they hide themselves so effectively that the ice and snow of winter does not destroy them in their hibernating state. If in the first warm days of spring when the snow is gone and the grass on the lawns becomes dry and warm, long before the yellow dandelion shows its head, a close observer may see numbers of flies crawling up on the grass to get the "welcome" sunshine, their wings standing out stiff and useless, and they soon acquire the power of flight in the warm rays of the sun. A great many days, however, elapse before they appear in the homes of men.

In recent years the medical profession has demonstrated that while the fly itself does not propagate disease, it is one of the most industrious carriers of disease germs, which by contact adhere to his feet, hairy legs and body, distributing them to innocent victims.

If every housekeeper could know all these interesting facts, which have never before been brought to their attention, they would realize the importance of securing the very best fly exterminator.

A New Industry.
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