

A CASTLE IN SPAIN.

My dreams I've built for you,
Sweet, a castle grim and grand;
Many nights its turrets grew,
And in Spain its ramparts stand;
(Spain is near to fairy-land.)

And its towers, proud and free,
Look through Roncesvalles to France,
Northward o'er chivalry,
Southward over all romance,
Outspread for a lady's glance.

There between the frowning towers,
Is a space to walk upon,
Strait, yet wide enough for flowers,
Violets, daisies, every one,
When you smile they feel the sun.

There I see you robed and crowned,
As I never saw you yet;
Your hair filleted and bound
In a pearl-embroidered net,
Whence its braids fall, pearl beset.

Your gown's texture I don't know,
But I know that it is white;
Samite, maybe, pure as snow,
Clasped by strange alexandrite,
Green by day and red by night.

In that air-built land of mine
Never lady was so fair;
Little shoes of quaint design,
Silver-furred, I think you wear,
Noiseless on the granite stair.

There's a curious swinging seat
In the upper arches' gloom,
For a refuge from the heat,
In the vaulted Gothic room,
I have placed a lute and loom.

And a pale Christ hanging, stares
From the alcove wall away,
And a missal for your prayers
Shows God's service day by day—
Even in dreams I know you pray.

There I see you, but I see
Even in that enchanted spot,
There is never room for me,
Night or day I am forgot,
Even in dreams you love me not.
—Mary Eleanor Roberts, in Harper's Weekly.

His Latest Improvement.

Kaye is a handy man with tools, and there is nothing he enjoys more than pottering round the house. Now that he owns "Westwind," a pretty summer cottage, he has ample opportunity to indulge his taste. Mrs. Kaye sometimes secretly wishes that he cared for fishing or was a golf enthusiast, for it is not entirely restful or convenient to have one's home in a continual state of alteration.

"Roland," she said one day, when there appeared to be a slight lull in his activities, "now that you have the well-sweep hung and the porte-cochere done, I think I'll have a little afternoon tea on Friday, if you are sure you won't be building another arbor or making over the front porch, or putting any more new windows in the dining room. I'd really like to have company once when the place wasn't littered with kindling wood and shavings, though of course, dear, I like all your improvements."

"Well, I'll try not to let my improvements bother you Friday," Kaye returned a bit grumpily, for he felt that his talents were not fully appreciated. "I'll go in town Friday for the day, and let you and your company have the place to yourselves."

"Why, Roland, you know I'd love to have you here."

"Yes, of course, Nell, but I really should go in town often, and you know I'm not specially fond of tea-fights."

Mrs. Kaye, realizing how true this statement was, made no further protest against her husband's absence. She was really touched by his self-denial in postponing until after her tea the enlargement of the linen closet and the construction of a swinging porch seat, which, of all the work he had in mind, seemed of the most immediate importance.

"I really wish you weren't going, Roland," she said, when Friday morning came. "It just seems too bad for me to entertain when you are away."

"Oh, well, Nell, you'll have a better time without me, and I'll try to get everything arranged at the office so I can stay out all next week and get the place fixed up in good shape."

Mrs. Kaye tried to smile and look cheerful as she waved him a good-by when he drove away, but she felt a little lonesome and doleful, for never before had she given any sort of party at Westwind without her husband's help. A regret, too, of her rather outspoken weariness of his carpenter work added to her discomfort, and she began her preparations with a sad lack of enthusiasm. Even when her gaily dressed friends were merrily chatting on the lawn late in the afternoon, her heart was still a little heavy, and she found herself wondering, as she laughed and talked, if Roland would come out on the five-twenty local or take the six o'clock express.

The weather was so ideally lovely that she decided to turn the affair into a garden-party, and have the refreshments served under the trees on little tables. The two neat maids had brought the tea and chocolate, with the accompanying sandwiches, and had returned to the house for the ices, when Mrs. Kaye and all the guests were startled by a series of loud screams in the house. Before Mrs. Kaye could reach the porch, the maids came running out, with white, scared faces.

"O ma'am," exclaimed Angle, "we couldn't get the ices! There's some awful thing in the refrigerator room! I'm thinking it's a wild animal howling."

"It's more likely some thiev'n' tramp gone crazy while he was stealin' for it's a man's voice raving most fearful, ma'am, and poundin' and jumpin' to," said Sarah.

"Mercy! How dreadful! What can it be?" exclaimed all the ladies at once; and then Mrs. Kaye announced, as firmly as her trembling voice would allow, that she would go to see what the trouble was.

"Do be careful, ma'am!" implored Angle.

"A crazy tramp is dreadful dangerous," added Sarah.

"You shall not go alone," said one of the guests, a tiny woman in a pearl-colored silk. "I'll protect you whatever happens."

"We'll all go with you," announced another; and in a moment the whole party was flocking into the house. Mrs. Kaye led them through the dining room and kitchen to the door of the little refrigerator-room, one of the achievements of which its builder, Mr. Kaye, was most proud.

"Why—don't—you—let—me—out?" cried a terrible voice, in fierce staccato; and then whack, whack at the door so violently that had not its builder made it triply thick to keep in the cold, it surely would have crashed beneath the blows. The women stared at each other for a moment; and as Mrs. Kaye put her hand on the door-knob, they all gasped, for the voice began yelling with redoubled force. Their hostess hesitated only an instant, and then bravely threw open the door to be confronted by the disheveled figure of her husband, whose first almost wild look quickly changed into an expression of chagrin.

"Oh, Roland, how did you come here? I thought you were in town."

"I came home on an early train, and slipped in the side way with a new spring-lock I discovered in the city. It's just what we needed here, and I put it on the door for a surprise for you, and it swung shut. It only opens from the outside. I—" Just then the released captive caught sight of his wife, and bowing, he said, "I—I—hope I didn't disturb the party."

Most of the ladies were too polite to laugh, and they only smiled when Mrs. Kaye said, laughingly, "I'm so glad you came home for the tea after all."

—Youth's Companion.

ANCIENT CHINESE LITERATURE.

How Records Were Kept—Books Cast From Moulds.

It is now absolutely certain that neither clay, leather, parchment nor the papyrus was at any date ever used by the ancient Chinese for the purpose of making records, which fact alone goes far to negative any prehistoric connection with Egypt, Babylonia or Persia, touching which, moreover, there is not the faintest specific evidence to be found in Eastern or Western records.

It seems also equally certain that the Chinese never used a metal style to scratch characters upon wood, bamboo or palm leaves, as natives of India—for instance, Banyan bankers—may be seen doing any day, even now, not only in India itself but also in Singapore and perhaps Hongkong.

What the Chinese used was a stick or style of bamboo, such as one or two of the older historians describe as being very like the Chinese joiners' "ink-stick" or "wooden stick and line" of the sixteenth century (when first mentioned), and also like that of today. As there were and are no bamboos in Khoten the natives, and probably also the Chinese of that place, imitating as best they could their own bamboo slips and styles had perforce to avail themselves of the tamarisk, a tree which the Russian traveller Pizewski found thirty years ago all over the Tarim valley.

From the most ancient times ink had been employed in China chiefly for the purpose of branding the foreheads of criminals, but it had also been used concurrently with varnish, for inscribing bamboo and wooden tablets with written communications. Presumably the ink was the same in both cases.

For books nothing but bamboo seems to have been used, except that records of dynastic importance and state laws were also occasionally cast from moulds upon metal tripods in order to secure permanency. As the bamboo stem is usually no thicker than a brandy bottle it follows that the plane surface available for writing characters could never be very broad; accordingly we find that the most important works, such as the classics, were written upon slips of pared bamboo about two and one-half English feet long and about one inch broad. Works of rather secondary importance were inscribed on narrow strips of half the length.

The number of ideographs on each piece of bamboo varied with the importance and dignity of the subject, but in no case does it appear to have exceeded thirty. These bamboo laths would therefore resemble our variously graded modern boxwood paper knives, and it may be reasonably supposed that four of the smallest would about go to the ounce—say, 100 words to the ounce, or from 1000 to 2000 to the pound, according to the size of the strips. Thus an average book of one volume, as issued by a modern European publisher, would weigh the best part of a hundredweight.—From the Asiatic Quarterly Review.

Slang in England.

Hotten's division of slang terms for inebriety would be useful in police courts if fashion did not so quickly change in this respect. The following were classified as denoting mild intoxication: Berry, bemused, boozey, hosky, buffy, corned, foggy, fou, fresh, hazy, elevated, kisky, lushy, moomy, muggy, muzzy, on, screwed, stowed, tight and viney. In an intermediate class stood poetry, bargered, blued, cut, primed, lumpy, muddled, ploughed, obfuscated, swipecy, three sheets in the wind and topheavy.—London Chronicle.

Those Mechanical Toys.

Fond Mamma—What! broken already? If I'd given it to your father instead of him would he kept him quiet for hours!—Punch.

Crowding the Horse Off the Farm

By H. W. Perry.

CURIOUSLY, England appears to have made more progress in the development of the small internal-combustion-engine farm tractor than America, although thousands of small stationary and portable gas engines are used for feed cutting, grinding, churning, pumping and sawing wood on farms throughout the United States and steam traction engines are common. The first of the successful light gas engine tractors was the Ivel, brought out in England in 1902. This can be operated on gasoline, kerosene or alcohol, and has won twenty-six gold and silver medals in plowing matches and other competitions before agricultural and other societies in different countries. Complete, the machine weighs thirty-two hundred weight (2584 pounds). Motive power is supplied by an 18-20 horse-power double-cylinder opposed engine disposed longitudinally in the frame and protected by a metal cover. A pulley is fitted for stationary work, such as threshing, grinding and driving a dynamo. Hauling a three-furrow plow, the tractor has plowed six acres in nine hours to a depth of seven inches on a 60-inch double blade threshing machine, and at the same time a straw trusser. More powerful tractors are built for plowing and reaping on a more extensive scale, such as the 50-horse-power Saunderson-Universal motor, also built in England. Like the Ivel, it is a three wheeled machine, but it drives by a pair of front wheels and is totally different in construction and appearance, the engine standing vertically between the front wheels. The builders are now bringing out two small tractors of 20 and 30-35-horse power, which will have four wheels and drive by the rear pair.

Agents of the government are looking for new supplies of horses suitable for military use. Usually such purchases have been made by contract in the middle western States, but it is claimed that animals of equally good quality can be bought in the east. The difficulty is that such stock has usually been held at prices too high to compete with the western growers. It is a strange fact that horses raised in the eastern States on land valued at not more than a quarter part of the price of average land in the middle western States are sold at higher prices than western stock. It looks as if there were a chance for a profit somewhere in the future for horse raising on low priced eastern farms.

The Possum Defended.

By One Who Knows.

A native southerner who has been fortunate enough to have indulged in that delicacy on numerous occasions I would feel disloyal not to take up the gauntlet in Brother Possum's defence. My father was particularly fond of the meat and it was a regular dish on his table in season. He became quite well known in his locality as a ready purchaser of live possums and the negroes for miles around brought them to his door. He never refused a possum buy at the market price, and I have seen as many as eight at a time caged in a small house built for the purpose of preparing a possum for food. That way is to capture him alive, which is customary, and then keep him for several weeks to fatten, feeding him on scraps from the table, such as you would feed to a cat or dog. In this way his meat becomes refined, he loses that extreme "gamy" flavor and gets very fat.

After killing by breaking his neck the skin should be cleaned of hair by scalding. After cleaning the carcass should soak over night in a fairly strong brine. When ready to cook he should be taken from the brine, rinsed off in cold water and boiled for about one hour or more, according to size, in water in which have been placed several pods of dried red peppers.

After boiling place in a pan and roast in the oven, basting frequently. There should be placed in the same pan some yam potatoes, and one should adorn Mr. Possum's fried open jaws. Preserve the water in which the possum is boiled and use sufficient to boll enough rice for the meal. This should be boiled until dry and each grain stands apart.

Serve on a large platter with the rice on the bottom forming a bed for the possum, which should be placed back up and be surrounded with the potatoes.

This dish is guaranteed to tickle the palate of the most fastidious, and it fairly makes my mouth water now to think about it.

Those who have eaten possum and have failed to like it are generally those who have not had an opportunity to taste it prepared "according to Hoyle."

Human Nature.

By George A. Thayer.

MAN has been to school from the morning of history, so, these thousands of years! He has been punished for his mistakes; he has been rewarded for his successful finds of what would work for him and for his fellow-men together. That has been the most important of acquisitions of this our human nature, that it has been taught how to do the things which would join it to the greatest possible number of other minds; and so humanity, working in a bunch together, has achieved millions of fold more than a solitary man could have accomplished.

Republican government is superior to monarchies, if at all, in that it gets more people to co-laboring, each for the rest, than a government which serves chiefly and primarily a class, a few nobility aristocrats and princes. If the Christian religion is better than any previous religion, its superiority must lie in its teaching mankind how to be united for the main truths of morality, of righteousness, justice, freedom, which time has developed as the safest and best principles.

Christianity has not conquered even Christendom. Republican democracy has not yet taken command of American manners and morals, nor will these things come to pass until fraud, violence, trickery, intemperance, unchastity, and their kindred anti-social and destructive features of the primitive man have been subdued.

But let us believe that human nature is on the way to its Godlikeness. Now it has much that is beastlikeness, a varnish of spirit over a deep grain of the flesh. But many fair women and upright men have reached the high peaks of idealism of what man should be, and they, if you inquire what human nature is, may be selected as typical human nature. The finest grain of character and intellect is proper human nature. All else is human nature on the road, with a mixture of brute nature, which most of us must work to slough off by degrees.

Jury Service.

A Reluctant Jurymen Deplets Its Inconveniences and Defects.

By "Adequacy."

LIKE the majority of reluctant jurymen, have not a judicial mind in application to other people's quarrels. My soul is fairly screaming for peace, and the interruption by a summons to jury duty perverts my pursuit and makes me mad. I admit that I am fortunate, in my relation to such obligation, in being a somewhat ill-favored-looking fellow, and when called to the jury box, instead of entering it like a sheep to the pen, as common with the average victim, I dart into it, fling myself into my chair, throw my hat under it, told my arms, and glare ferociously into nothingness, having acquired the art through practice before a looking glass.

When the twelve so-called "good and true" men are secured by counsel I am happy and proud in the fact that my art has frequently saved me. I am excused from the case, and perhaps for the balance of the day, while sunshine and warmth suffuse my features.

During my solemn and dismal experience for a third of a century as a jurymen, from which it seems only death can exempt me, I have observed that of twelve men perhaps three or four are earnest enough to discriminate between mere testimony and evidence; an equal number have a misunderstanding of the case and are contentious, and the balance smoke their pipes or cigars and are agreeable to the conclusions of the majority. The whole wretched gang despises both of the counsel for superfluity of verbal gymnastics. It is a bitter ordeal, and then for the sake of supper, fireside and other refreshments, we simply agree to anything, when three judges in less time and cost could adjudicate in equity.

Camel Steaks \$1.25 a Pound.

The latest food delicacy in Paris, or at least what is claimed to be a delicacy, is camel meat. Eight camels, known to the butchers as "meharis," were recently received and a number of them were sold for eating.

The prices asked for the meat ranged from 35 cents a pound for inferior pieces to \$1.25 a pound for the undercut and the hump. The meat is said to be as tough as gristle beef, but the Parisian searches for sensations in the food line as well as in everything else.—Popular Mechanics.

PENNSYLVANIA

Interesting Items from All Sections of the Keystone State.

NO STATE PURE FOOD LAW
Measure Patterned After Federal Regulation Loses at Harrisburg.

Harrisburg.—Through lack of a constitutional majority, the Murphy food bill, which allowed use of limited quantities of benzoate of soda and sulphur dioxide with a guarantee feature for protecting the retailer, was defeated in the senate. The bill would have made the federal regulations on preservatives the law in Pennsylvania.

Sensors Gerberich, Lebanon and Wert, Cambria, attacked the bill because of provisions allowing the use of preservatives. Senators Langfitt, Allegheny and Murphy, Philadelphia, urged the passage of the bill as the best that could be obtained.

The vote was 22 to 18, four votes less than enough to pass.

TO START POTTERY
Canonsburg Plant Taken Over by New Company, to Resume.

Washington.—The plant owned and operated by the East Palestine China Company at Canonsburg since 1900 has been taken over by the Canonsburg Pottery Company, which recently obtained a State charter. The company is capitalized at \$150,000, the stock being held principally by Canonsburg men. The officers are: President, W. S. George; vice president, John George; secretary, James Shaw; treasurer, John C. Morgan.

It is understood the plant will be put into full operation immediately, with 200 employees.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

Harrisburg.—The Herbst medical bill was amended in the senate committee on public health and sanitation so as to exempt Christian Scientists from the requirements for a medical education. Chiropractors also are exempted.

The "one board" feature of the bill was retained, but instead of the "agreement" of two weeks ago for a State examining board of three allopaths, three homeopaths and two eclectics, the committee adopted the original form of the bill, for the governor to appoint eight members of the board without specification as to the medical "school" to which they may belong.

No exception is made for the osteopaths under the provisions of this act. As reported out, their recently enacted separate board bill would be repealed and, with the exception of those who have been practicing for six months prior to the passage of this act their graduates will be compelled to pass the examination of the regular physicians.

Bills Passed Finally.

Bills were passed finally by the Senate as follows:

Authorizing municipalities to unite in the construction of sewage systems.

Empowering colleges devoted to a specific subject in art, archaeology, literature or science (medical and law schools excepted) to work with a faculty of but three regular professors and two instructors without prejudice to their right to confer degrees.

House bill allowing bank clerks to act as notary public for such institutions.

House bill extending the powers of courts over incorrigible children.

Authorizing counties, townships and boroughs to widen State highways.

Amending the property exemption act of 1849 by providing 75 per cent of wages or salary shall be exempt from attachment.

Extending the provisions of the act of 1908, providing that courts determine disputes as to amount of license fees between municipal corporations and telegraph, telephone, light or power companies so that said act shall apply to water, gas, natural and other companies.

Harrisburg.—The House on second reading defeated the bill increasing the salary of the Governor of the Commonwealth from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The House passed finally the following bills:

Including veterans of all wars in the list who may be buried at the public expense and increasing the amount for burial to \$50 each.

Department of health bill providing revised regulations for the control of the communicable diseases.

Authorizing justices and police magistrates to issue search warrants in cruelty to animals cases.

Providing that the real estate of all public service corporations, except rights of way, be taxable for local purposes.

Senate bill authorizing the Homeopathic State Hospital Commission to buy or sell land.

Bank Vault Dynamited.

Danville.—Safe breakers visited the Farmers National bank at Exchange, near here, and blew open the vault with a charge of nitroglycerine. The vault contained over \$5,000, but it is not known how much cash the robbers secured. The burglars escaped.

New Agricultural Chief.

Harrisburg.—James W. Keller, a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural college and for some time first assistant chemist of the department of agriculture has been appointed chief to succeed Professor F. D. Fuller, who goes to Washington to take a government position.

Country Postoffice Robbed.

Oil City.—Thepostoffice at Siverly, a sub-station of the Oil City postoffice, was robbed, the thieves getting \$60 in cash and \$40 worth of stamps.

NEW MEDICAL BILL
Osteopaths Will Have Separate Examining Board.

Harrisburg.—As amended for passage, the Shreve-Herbst medical bill, providing for one examining board exempting osteopathic physicians from its requirements.

With this concession known, Governor Stuart signed the bill creating a separate board of five members for osteopaths.

Therefore, as the one-board medical bill now stands, its provisions will affect in a prohibitory way all Christian Science healers and other practitioners of the healing art not belonging to the allopathic, homeopathic or the eclectic schools.

An important proviso in the amended medical bill is that "this act shall not prevent the administration of domestic remedies or assistance in cases of emergency."

COUSINS MARRIED MUST REMAIN SO
Judge Taylor Refuses to Cut Marital Bonds He Declares Illegal.

Washington, Pa.—While admitting, on the testimony of the principals, the illegality of the marriage of Jesse and Florence McClain, Judge J. F. Taylor refused the couple a separate trial. The McClains are full cousins and were married at Greensburg in 1907. Marital troubles arising, Mrs. McClain brought suit for divorce, pointing out that a State law forbids the marriage of full cousins. Judge Taylor takes the ground that both man and woman knew they were perjuring themselves before the clerk who issued the license.

REFUSE WAGE CUT
Vote Unanimously to Reject Scale Proposed by Company on Lower Basis.

Reading.—A convention of Iron workers of the Eastern district was held here and it was unanimously voted to reject the proposed reduction in wages submitted by the Reading Iron Company.

The scale which is scheduled to go into effect on March 29 reduces the wages of puddlers from \$4.50 to \$3.75 a ton. The reduction would affect 3,000 employes.

National Secretary Tighe of Pittsburgh, addressed the men.

SANDERSON REPORTED ILL
Convicted Capitol Grafter not to Be at Houston Trial.

Harrisburg.—John H. Sanderson, who was convicted in the Capitol graft trials, is at Sherry's, N. Y., where the report is given out that he is suffering from Bright's disease and cannot live.

It is probably prevent his appearance at the Houston trial, scheduled for April 5.

ELEVEN HOMELESS FAMILIES
Export Suffers Fire Loss of \$10,000 on Dwellings.

Greensburg.—Export, a mining town on the Turtle Creek Valley Railroad, was threatened with destruction by fire. Eleven families were made homeless, four double houses were gutted and a loss of \$10,000 incurred.

Historic School Rehabilitated.

Saltsburg.—That the historical Eldersridge academy, near here, has recovered from its recent financial difficulties is evidenced by preparations being made for the coming term. The trustees are making arrangements with John J. Henderson, of Creekside, to take the principalship. Although definite notice has not yet been given, it is expected the date of the opening will be about April 5.

Coke Production Fell Off.

Connellsville.—The production of coal in the Ninth bituminous coal district of Pennsylvania, according to the annual report of Mine Inspector Thomas D. Williams of Connellsville, was 3,152,509 tons less than in 1907, while the production of coke fell off 2,053,205 tons. A total of 4,953 men were employed in the mines in 1908 against 5,607 in 1907. There were 17 fatal accidents.

No More "Favored Districts."

Harrisburg.—The state railroad commission, in an opinion given by President Nathaniel Ewing, has ruled that no railroad can create a favored district in a terminal zone. The decision was given in the case of the New York Manufacturers' Association against the Northern Central and Western Maryland Railroads.

Grief Caused Attempted Suicide.

Connellsville.—Grief of the death of his four children in a fire which destroyed his home last January 27 is alleged to have caused A. M. Kendall to attempt suicide by swallowing laudanum. Quick work by physicians saved his life. For weeks Mr. Kendall has been suffering from nervous breakdown.

Magee Bill Passed.

Harrisburg.—The senate passed finally the Magee bill amending the second class city charter. The bill provides for the establishment of a department of health and increases the police magistrates from 5 to 8 and the assessors from 5 to 9.

William Connell, extensive coal operator, former congressman, banker and philanthropist, died in Scranton.