- Why do we wait till ears are deaf Before we speak our kindly word, And only utter loving praise When not a whisper can be heard?
- Why do we wait till hands are laid Close-folded, pulseless, ere we plac Within them roses sweet and rare, And illies in their flawless grace?
- Why do we wait till eyes are sealed To light and love in death's deep trance— bear wisful eyes—before we bend Above them with impassioned glance?
- Why do we wait till hearts are still. To tell them all the love in ours, And give them such late meed of praise And diva above them fragrant flowers?
- How oft we, careless, wai till life's Bweet opportunitles are past, And break our "alabaster-box Of ointment" at the very last!
- Oh, let us heed the living friend
  Who walks with us life's common ways
  Watching our eyes for look of love,
  And hungering for a word of praise!

  —A. T. Herbert, in Woman's Home Companion.

## \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* The Story of a Forest

By Raymond S. Spears. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

For more than six weeks no rain had fallen along the southwest side of the Adiroudacks. The ground was parch-In every direction from Seaberry Settlement fires had been burning through the forest, but as yet the valley of the West Canada had escaped.

But one night a careless man threw a burning match into a brush heap When morning came the west wind, blowing up the valley, was ash laden and warm with the fir that was coming eastward toward the settlement in a line a mile wide.

Soon after daybrer# Lem Lawson met the fire on his way to Noblesbor and warned the settlement of its danger. One man hastened to Nobleshorough for the fire warden, two went up the West Canada to the lumber camps. The rest of the male population, including boys, hastened down the main road to an old log trail. It was hoped the fire might be stopped at the open the road afforded.

With hoes and shovels the men dug a trench through the loam to the sand, scattering the dirt over the leaves toward the fire. When the first flames came along, they redoubled their efforts amid the flying sparks and suffering amid the flying sparks and suffcoting smoke, but without avail. The sparks and great pieces of flaming birch curls carried the flames over the road into the woods beyond the men, fairly surrounding them with fire.

Beyond the road the fire had a freet sweep. Only the year before that woodlot had been cut over for the spruce pulp. Hundreds of the treetops, brown and dry, needed only a spark to set them off, and it was a wave of flame that ran into each one, instead of mere sparks. In the more open places little tongues of fire darted in a narrow line for yards ahead of the main wave, skipping among the dusty leaves. The fire ran up the curty birches in spirals and darted high above the treetops

The men could only go before it pausing new and then to throw dirt on a spark. Those who lived in the settlement glanced from side to side, wondering if the fire would cross the brook where they now determined to make another and the last possible stand.

The settlement was built along the brink of a steep side hill. The bed of the stream was only a few feet widechiefly sand-bar and dry boulders, at this time-and beyond it, toward the fire, was a flat, or bottom, sixty rods wide, averaging not two feet above the bed of the brook.

The bottom was covered with standing balsams and heads of dead spruce tops, like those on the ridge, only larger and more numerous. It was swampy lowland in all but the dries: seasons; now it was like a great bed of match sticks, and quite as inflammable. Even the mold would burn

Should the fire cross the brook, it would climb the hill and burn the buildings. Then it would sweep across the narrow fields of grass, or go round ends of the settlement clearing, into the "big woods." Lumbering was the main business of the settlement. Should these woods go, the men would be without homes and without occupa-

One of the fire fighters was Will Borson, son of the man who had thrown the match, and as he fought with his hoe along the road he heard the men on each side of him cursing his father by name for his carelessness. More than once these men turned on Will and told him he ought to put that fire out since his father was to blame for The words stung bitterly, but he made no reply to them.

Will did his best. Sparks burned holes in his shirt; a flare of sheet fire from a brush heap singed his eyelashes and the hair over his forehead. When old Ike Frazler cried out, "It's no use here any more, boys!" Will was the last one to duck his head and run for the road up the creek to the settle-

Half a dozen men were detailed to go to the houses and help the women arry the furniture and other household goods out in the fields to the wat ering-troughs; the rest hastened to the brook and scattered along it and throw water on the brush at the edge, hoping the flames would be deadened when they came

ong them worked Will Borson, thinking with all his might and looking up and down the creek as if the dry gray boulders, with the scant thread of water oozing down among them, at of the stream was only a few

the widest pools, over which the flame and sparks would quickly jump.

There were many trout in the stream, and Will knew the pools by heart. When Sol Cardin was planning to make a fish-pond abve the settlement the summer before it was Will who had advised him to dam the gorge. The result had been that instead of the tenacre pond on which the landowner had calculated, he formed a lake two miles long and half a mile wide. The gorge was where the brook, in the course of ages, had worn down through forty feet of rock; here the dam of log crib bing was laid to the height of thirty feet, with a ballast of broken stone. Will was one of those who helped to build it, and up to the night before he had helped to get out stone for the foundation of a house Cardin was to build beside the lake.

The fire reached the flat at the foot of the ridge and came toward the brook in jumps. The men worked faster than ever with their ten-quart palls Old Ike Frazier glanced up the stream and saw Will leaning on his hoe-handle doing nothing.

"HI there!" yelled the man. "Get to work.

"You tell the men they want to be looking out!" Will called back. "Some thing'll happen pretty quick!" With that he dropped his hoe and went climbing up the side-hill toward his home at the top. Mrs. Borson was just piling the lost of her bedding on the wagon when she saw Will coming toward her. He unhitched the horse from the wagon, and had the harness scattered on the ground before his mother could control herself enough to cry:

"Those things'll be burned here! What are you taking the horse forwe-we-"

Then she sank to the ground and cried, while Will's younger brothers and sisters joined in.

Will did not stop to say anything, but leaped to the back of the horse, and away he went up the road, to the amazement of those who were taking their goods from the houses. But he was soon in the woods above the settle-

ment and out of sight of every one. He was headed for the dam. He had thought to open the little sluice at the bottom of it, which would add to the volume of the water in the stream-

raise it a foot, perhaps, He reached the dam, and prying at the gate, opened the way. A stream of water two feet square shot from the bottom of the dam and went sloshing down among the rocks.

"That water'll help a lot." thought. Then he heard the roar of the fire down the brook and saw a huge dull, brick-colored flash as a big hem lock went up in flame. The amount of water gushing from the gate of the dam seemed suddenly small and use-It would not fill the brook bed.

Will sprang to his feet. In a little shanty a hundred yards away were the quarrying tools used in getting out the stone for the Cardin house. To this Will ran with all his speed

With an old ax that was behind the shanty he broke down the door. Inside he picked up a full twelve-pound box of dynamite, and bored a hole the size of his finger into one side. Then to the dam.

He climbed down the ladder to the bottom of the dam, and fixing the fuse to the cap, ran it into the hole he had bored till it was well among the saw dust and sticks of dynamite. He cut the fuse to two minutes' length, and carried the box back among the blg key logs that held the dam. He was soon ready. He jammed the box under water among the beams where it would stick. A match started the fuse going, and then Will climbed the ladder and ran for safety.

In a few moments the explosion came. Will heard the beams in the gorge tumbling as the dam gave way, and the water behind was freed. Away it went, washing and pounding down the narrow ravine, toward the low bottom on which the fire was burning.

The fire-fighters heard the explosion, and paused, wondering, to listen. The next instant the roar of the water came to their ears, and the tremble caused by logs and boulders rolling with the flood was felt. Then every man understood what was done, for they had been log drivers all their lives, and knew the signs of a loosed sluice-gate or of a

broken jam. They climbed the steep bank toward the buildings, to be above the flood-line, velling warnings that were half cheers In a few moments the water was below the mouth of the gorge, and then it rushed over the low west bank of the brook and spread out on the wide flat where the fire was raging. For a minute clouds of steam and loud hiss ing marked the progress of the wave and then the brush-heaps from edge to edge of the valley bottom were covered and the fire drowned.

The fires left in the trees above the high water mark and the flames back on the ridge still thrust and flared, but were unable to cross the wide, wet flood-belt. The settlement and the "big woods" beyond were saved.

Sol Cardin reached the settlement on the following day, and heard the story of the fire. In response to an offer

from Will, he replied: "No, my boy, you needn't pay for the dam by working or anything else. I'm in debt to you for saving my timber above the settlement, instead." Then he added, in a quiet way characteristic of him. "It seems a pity if wit like yours doesn't get its full growth." -Youth's Companion.

Killing Time.

She-I heard you singing in your room this morning.

He-Oh, I sing a little to kill time She—You have a good weapon.-Boston Transcript.

#### PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

No man is wise at all times.-Pliny. A loving heart is the truest wisdom. Dickens.

Let them obey that know not how to rule.-Shakespere. Keep all you have, and try for all

you can -Hulwer Lytton.

A majority is always better than the best repartee.—Disraeli. Trusting to luck is a lazy man's

job,-Florida Times-Union. Old fools are more foolish than young ones,-Rochefoucauld.

Between bridge and stream the Lord's mercy may be found,-St. Augustine. A nickname is the hardest stone

that the devil can throw at a man .-W. Hazlitt. Be not arrogant when fortune smiles, nor dejected when she frowns.

-Ausonius. Do the duty which lieth nearest to thee. Thy second duty will already

have become clearer.—Carlyle What surprises a girl most about a man daring to kiss her is that he didn't do it before.-New York Press.

The man who knows enough to make fortune hardly ever knows enough to teach his children how to spend it. -New York Press.

The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art in life is to have as many of them as possible.—Bouve. To judge human character rightly,

a man may sometimes have very small experience, provided he has a very large heart.—Bulwer Lytton.

To pass out of the great, inspiring thoughts into the personal duties is not to cease to be religious. It need not be, at least. It may be the clothing of religion with reality, the grip and grass on truth and God and light. -Phillips Brooks.

One of Washington's most invaluable characteristics was the faculty of bringing order out of confusion. All business with which he had any concern seemed to regulate itself as if by magic. The influence of his mind was like light gleaming through an unshaped world.-Nathaniel Haw thorne.

#### VIRGINIA CITY TODAY.

The Gold Seekers Have Gone and the Town is Dilapidated.

iVrginia City is indeed a strange town—a living skeleton. In the height of its opulence it boasted a population of 30,000. Today there are less than one-tenth that many. Dilapidation and ruin are seen on every hand.

The chief streets terrace along a great hillside. Further up the slope are wastes of sagebrush growing in stunted clumps that half hide the earth with their gray twigs and foliage. Down below is a valley where the mines have dumped vast heaps of waste.

The entire region is a wild upheaval of hills and around the horizon are seen ranges of snowy topped mountains. The only trees are an occasiona. gnarled scrub pine or dwarf cedar a few feet high.

The town streets are rough and dirty and as I walked about I was constantly encountering old tin cans and getting my feet tangled up in wires from the baled hay. Buildings in good repair are rarities. There are tottering fences and ragged wans and broken roofs and smashed glass and many windows and doors are boarded up.

The search for gold has resulted in tearing the country all to pieces. Everywhere the hills are dotted with prospectors' holes. From any height you can see dozens-perhaps hundreds. They suggest the burrowing of woodchucks or prairie dogs. The region along the Comstock lode abounds too in deserted shafts.-From Outing.

The Sailor and the Parrot.

'We are a bluff lot," said Capt. Pritchard. "Did you ever hear about the sailor and the parrot? Well, an old lady was returning from abroad with a parrot of which she was very She intrusted the bird with fond. many admonitions, to a sailor for the voyage. Seasickness, or something, killed the parrot the third day out. The sailor, knowing how upset the old lady would be, could not bring himself to tell her the sad tidingss, but asked a companion, famous for his skill in such matters, to break the bad news to her very, very gently. The man assented, Approaching the old lady with a tragical face, the famous newsbreaker touched his cap and said. "I'm afraid that 'ere bird o' yourn ain't goin' to live ma'am.' 'Oh, dear!' exclaimed the old lady in alarm. 'Why?' ''Cause he's dead,' was the reply."-New York World.

#### He Consented Then.

Passenger on pay-as-you-enter car: "Conductor, can't that newsboy get on ?"

Conductor-"Not unless he pays." Passenger-"Then how am I going to get a paper?"

Conductor-"I guess if you can't fish one through the window, you'll have to go without."

Passenger-"All right, if I haven" any paper to read, I suppose I might as well sit back here near you and see if you ring up all the fares you

Conductor ( motioning to newsboy on back step)-"O, boy, you can come in."-St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A recent hurricane in Nicaragua drove the water from the river against the houses in the town of Prinzapolca with such force that most of them were destroyed.

### The Origin of Fear.

By GEORGE L. KNAPP.

The average man would sooner face a 200-pound human antagonist than a fifty-pound dog which he could choke to death in three min-I have seen a charging ram scatter half a dozen men, any one of whom could have mastered the brute in a moment, and not one of whom was, in ordinary matters, a coward. There are instances on record of men who with their bare hands have held and baffled an ugly bull, but it was only the pressure of grim necessity that taught them their powers. Put a man against an animal, and the man looks around for weapons or support, whether he needs them or There was a time when he did.

For man, to-day the most lordly of animals, was once well nigh the most humble of them all. He has come up out of a state in which fear was the normal condition of existence; fear of violence, of the dark that gave opportunity for violence; fear of falling, of animals, of being alone. And into the plastic gray cells of our brains are stamped these ancient terrors; a living record of the upward climb of man. The baby shows this record most clearly. In him the prints of heredity are not yet overlaid by the tracks of use and custom, and therefore in him we may most easily read our past history. He is our ancestor as truly as he is our reincarnation, and his every shrinking gesture and frightened cry are chronicles of the Younger World, tales of the Age of Fear. They tell of the days when man was not the master of the earth, nor even a highly considered citizen of the same, but a runaway subject of the meat-eating monarchs whose sceptre was tooth and claw; a humble plebian in the presence of the horned and hoofed aristocrats of woods and fields. They speak of the nights when our hairy sires crouched in the forks of trees and whimpered softly at the dark; whimpered because the dark held so many enemies; whimpered softly lest those enemies should hear.-Lippin-

#### Daniel Webster's Oxen.

Of oxen Mr. Webster was always fond, and was as good a judge of them as could anywhere be found. He knew all his own by name, kept track of their ages and peculiarities. On his return from Washington they were among the first objects of his thought, and, sometimes, after entering the house and greeting the members of his family he would, without sitting down, go out to the barn to see those dumb members of his larger family, going from one to the other, patting and stroking their faces and feeding them from his hands. Equally fond was he of showing them to his guests. On one occasion, as he stood thus with a friend, feeding them with ears of corn, his son Fletcher amused himself by playing with the dog. "My son," said Mr. Webster, "you do not seem to care much for this. For my part I like it, I would rather be here than in the Senate. I find it better company." Every one remembers how, only a week before his death, he had them driven up into the lane before the house, in order that he might see them for the last time, and as they came to his window called each by name. Such glimpses are worth volumes in revealing to us the real character of the man .- Providence Journai,

#### Potato Crop in England.

counties of Lancashire, England, both of them in the Hull consular district, are the eastside potato fields of England. Thousands of acres are planted with potatoes there every year, and in a good season heavy crops are grown. While the land is fertile, perhaps the scientific cultivation and the careful selection of seed does as much as anything to increase the yield. The total crop of potatoes in the United Kingdom averages in value about \$100,000,000 annually, but when the crop is poor, owing to an unfavorable season or a blight, there are large importations from the Continent.

According to the report of Secre tary Wilson, just issued, unfavorable weather made the potato crop only 275,000,000 bushels, or more than 45,000,000 tons-five per cent. below the five-year average, although the value, \$190,000,000, is eighteen per cent. above, and was never equalled by any former crop .- Indiana Farmer.

#### Too Many For Him.

An American traveling in Germany was much bewildered at the large number of distinct and apparently independent countries through which he went.

Just as he became accustomed to Bavaria, with its blue-and-white national colors, he would find himself, without warning, in Wurtemberg, where they have an entirely different king, and entirely different military uniforms, and a strikingly different dialect. Then a few hours' ride on a train whisked him into Saxony, and then it was Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and then Saxe-Welmar, and then Baden, and then Hesse Darmstadt. At last he threw up his hands in despair. "Where are we now?" he inquired.

"Frankfort-on-the-Main." "Who is the local duke?" he asked, wearily.-New York Times.

#### Halcyon Interval.

list. Is there anything new in the line

of cute phrases since 'handing some one a lemon' came out?" "No. not yet, thank Heaven."-New York Times.

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING

There is a noticeable increase of Japanese servants in the rural homes about New York City on account of the unwillingness of the others to live in the suburbs.

A New York woman who is a member of seven card cluos estimates that every day in New York City there are four thousand women playing bridge

A farmer on Long Island, N. Y. says that the potatoes he raised last season were so big that thirty-six of them made a bushel.

The largest lump of anthracite coal ever mined recently was taken from a mine in the Panther Creek Valley of Pennsylvania. It weighs seven tons, and will be placed in a museum, either in Philadelphia or Boston.

The seeds of the parasite plant iin kungo, a native of Mozambique, yield an oil that is said to be superior to the salad oil of commerce.

Being once asked whether he had read any of the books of a popular novelist, Thackeray rejoined: "Well, no. You see, I am like a pastry cook i bake tarts and sell 'em; but I eat bread and butter."

The survey of the Chining-Chang chun line, which is said to be built jointly by the Chinese and Japanese has been completed. The cost of the line is estimated at 9,000,000 tacls (one tael about seventy cents).

As nearly as can be ascertained, the wealthy persons of New York City receive thirty-five thousand begging letters a day from strangers, and the writers stand a better chance of finding money than in getting from them, for even the most liberal philanthropists do not dispense their charity excepting according to careful plans and after investigation.

#### THE WOMAN INTERFERED.

#### She Wasn't Going to Let Any Flirtation Go On in Her Presence.

"I saw an odd case of interference with other folks' business the other day in the subway," said a young "A very pretty and young girl man. got in a local train on the upper West A couple of stations further on, in came a young man who sat where he could see the girl.

"She was good to look at, too. He caught her eye and apparently held her attention. Maybe it wasn' just the right thing for her to do, but after a time she moved her head and obviously tried to smother a smile. "The young chap wasn't a bit back-

ward and before the train got much further along he was sitting in the cross seat with the girl and chatting, There was a middle aged woman the car who apparently had

watched the whole affair just as I had. The car was practically empty and the others in it were reading rewspapers and hadn't paid attention to what was going on.

"First thing I knew the woman changed from one of the lengthwise seats and took her place in the very cross seat where the two were sitting. They didn't notice her until she leaned over and said something to the girl. I could just imagine from her looks that she was asking: 'Do you know this young man?'

"The girl flushed up, looked thre times as pretty and the woman kept on talking and looking stern.

"The upshot of it was that the young fellow got out at the next station, apparently to hide his embarrassment, and the girl stayed where she was.

"After she'd broken up the little party the woman moved out of the seat and back to where she was before. It made me a little sore and I felt like asking her what business it was of hers. But then again it wasn't my business either, so I didn't."-New York Sun.

What the Detective Didn't Know,

Even the lowliest may be able to show you that your fund of information is sadly incomplete. "I well remember," said H. K. Adair, a detective, "a walk I once took down Market street. As I strode along, proud and happy, a rose in my buttonhole and a gold-headed cane in my hand. a drunken man had the impudence 'Ain't you Mr. Adair? to stop me. he said. 'Yes,' said I; 'what of it?' 'Mr. Adair, the detective?' he hic-coughed. 'Yes, yes. Who are you?' I asked impatiently. 'Mr. Adair,' said the untidy wretch, as he laid his hand on my shoulder to keep himself from falling, 'I'll tell you who I am, Mr. Adair. I'm-hic-the husband of your washerwoman.' 'Well, what of that?' said I. My scorn brought a sneer to the man's lips, and he said

#### Alphabetical States.

wearing one of your new white shirts." "-San Francisco Argonaut.

You see, you don't know everything,

Mr. Adair.' 'What don't I know?' I demanded. 'Well, Mr. Adair,' said

he, 'you don't know that-hic-

New Mexico, with Arizona, admitted under its present name, there will be eight States with an initial M and eight Ns. the News and Norths being chiefly responsible for the latter There will also be four Ws, four Is, three Os, three As, three Cs and two each of Ks. Ts, Ss and Vs. while the seven remaining letters of D. P. R, U, G, F and L will be represented by a State each .- Boston Transcript.

# POPULAR SCINCE E INVENTION

tablet which, dissolved in a glass of water, will clarify the air in a room as well as a window left open as

A combination of a lump of soap of the size of a hickory nut, a pint of boiling water and four tablespoonfuls of turpentine is the familiar solution used to transfer newspaper cuts to another piece of paper or to cloth.

Dr. Schlick's apparatus for preventing ships from rolling at sea has lately given fresh proof of its ability. One of his gyroscopes has been fitted on board the mail steamship Lochiel, and tried on the ship's regular route between Oban and Bunessan. While the vessel was rolling 16 1-2 degrees on each side through a total angle of 33 degrees, the gyroscope was started, and immediately decreased the total angle of roll to three degrees. The apparatus is driven electrically and requires but little attention.

A simple blood test has been perfected by Piorkowski, a European chemist. A little diluted serum from a given animal is placed in a very small test tube, into which is then introduced one drop of the fresh or dried sample of blood in a solution of salt. The tube is then allowed to stand 45 minutes. If the blood and serum are from the same species-as the dog-a faint red precipitate of coagulated blood appears under clear liuid, but if blood and serum are from unlike animals the blood will be dissolved in the serum, which will turn red. Old stains placed in fresh hu man serum were conclusively show to be human blood.

S. P. Verner points out that the r cent discovery of the chimpanzee in a part of Africa where it had not been known to exist enables us to define a few regions where the gorilla, the chimpanzee and the pygmies exist in conditions suggestive of the possibility of discovering the fossils of their ancestry in good preservation. The pygmies are now known to have existed practically in situ for 3000 years. and it is probable, Mr. Verner thinks, that the two great anthropoids may have been there for as great, or a greater length of time. He is trying to indicate localities of limited area in which the likelihood of discovering the fossils mentioned is very great

#### FERTILIZER FOR COFFEE DE-MANDED.

#### Problem Submitted for Some Ingenious Chemist.

In the State of Vera Cruz, Mexico. the cultivation of coffee is beginning to assume considerable proportions. Many things there contribute to the success of the industry. The climate is favorable, the soil excellent, and the price of land is reported to be low. Already the quality of the yield is attracting attention. It is asserted, however, that one thing is yet needed-a good artificial fertilizer. On some plantations barnyard-manure is used, and it increases the product greatly, but it can be obtained only in large cities. William W. Canada. American consul at the city of Vera Cruz, declares that if some chemist devise a cheap conid great blessing would be conferred on the coffee planters. After a few crops have been taken the soil shows exhaustion. The choice then seems to lie between abandoning the older plantations for new ones and applying a

fertilizer. The problem is probably not so simple as it seems, . Experiments would seem to be necessary in order to judge the value of any article which might be offered, and all experiments do not turn out well. On the other hand, if something was found which could be supplied in large quantities without great cost it ought to sell well in other countries than Mexico. which raise coffee.

#### Sharks and Fruit Trees.

The use of fish fertilizers has proved a success for the large apple orchards in Tasmania. Other fertilizers are scarce and fish are unusually numerous in the waters around the island, and are caught in immense numbers.

The directions for use have a novel appearance. One writer recommends "three sharks or ten barracouta" for each tree. The growers have been in the habit of using the fish almost as caught, but the objections to this plan are evident, and a company is now formed to work up the fish, extract the oil and grind the waste for fertilizer.-American Cultivator.

#### Among the Missourians.

"A most peculiar effect was produced by the announcement in the advertise ments of a county fair to be held my state," says Congressman Champ Clark. 'Among other things, the announcement said that 'attractive features of this great fair will be highly amusing donkey races and pig races. Then to the amazement of the tudiclous, this note was added: 'Competition in these two contests will be open to citizens of the county!"-Lippincott's.

His Successes. She-I understand that drinking is

one of your failngs. He-You have been misinformed. It is one of my most pronounced successes.-Chicago Journal.