TOWN FOUNDED FOR SMELT, KING OF MAIN

Folk Live on the Ice of the Winding Bogaduce, Sheltered in Their Shanties.

catching smelts. It is the one occu- the tides may bring. pation which everybody follows, and, yields more money than all the others combined.

The modern smelthouse, as it is, is a marvel. It is placed upon wide runners, which are made longer than the house, so that the weight may be distributed over as wide an area of ice as possible which proves of great the ice is thin, and none but the wealthy can afford to buy smelts. The house, which is put on top of this sled, is made of thin matched boards and is four feet high at the eaves and six feet in the peak. In front end is a door. At the opposite end is a small stove. The floor is double boarded and sheathed to keep out the cold, except one board midway between the ends, which is left unnailed, so it may be lifted up to allow the lines to drop through to the water.

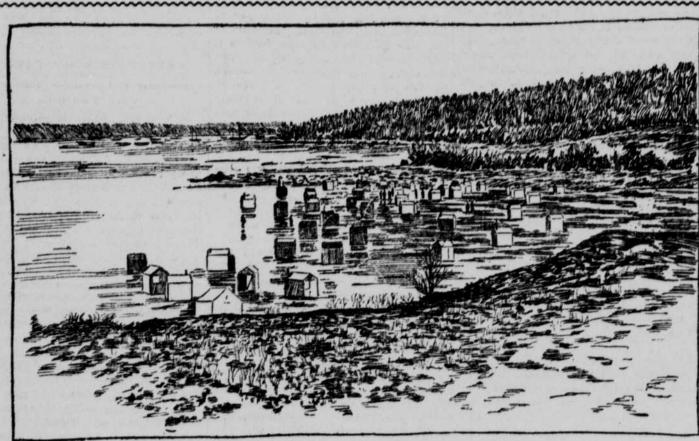
miniature bays of brackish water when which lives there. When a storm or fish and the women knit mittens for

Brooksville, Me., Correspondence: As shoves his sled along until the hole soon as ice forms on the tortuous Bog- in the ice is under the loose floor aduce everybody-men, women and board of the smelthouse, and then, children, the lame and lazy, the rich baiting two lines, each armed with and poor-pushes a little 5x8 board two hooks, he drops them into the shanty onto the new ice and goes to stream and sits down to await what

When smelts are bringing from 10 incidentally, it is the one calling which or 12 cents a pound in the New York markets and the fish are running well and biting greedily, the scene on the frozen Bogaduce is animated. From Walker's Mill to the bridge which crosses into the town of Penobscot the river is dotted with tent-like houses. giving one the impression that a vast army has come along and camped on advantage early in the season when the ice. If the surface is free from snow and no wind is blowing, the houses are ranged face to face, with a street between, along which the children romp and the young people skate from daylight until long after dark. At intervals along the main street are clusters of houses, which mark the place where some family has founded a colony. Many of these contain no more than five or six houses, while others have fifteen or twenty. In the course of a few days these In the shoal places along shore are ville, or Billingstown, or Bickfordshire, around on shingle blocks in the camps depressions in the mud that form according to the name of the family

allow their smelts to freeze in distorted shapes, and who dump them into the hold of vessels with forks and take them to the cities as if they were offal. The true Brookville smelt has its remains decently composed before it freezes, and every fish is packed by heads and points, crossways in the box, so as to make good stowage before the cover is nailed on. It is a local tradition that a crooked smelt from the Provinces is no better than a Yankee tomcod, and while this statement may not be actually true, the man who should come here and dispute its accuracy would get himself disliked.

Living within a mile of their work -for the Bagaduce almost girdles Brookville-the men folk in the families arise before daylight and go to work without breakfast. As soon as the morning meal is eaten at home the wife or some member of the family, relieves the fisherman, who breaks his fast at his own table, after which he attends to his barn work before returning to the ice. He is relieved in a similar manner at dinner and supper. Meantime, some of his family drops in at odd spells, allowing him to go from camp to camp and exchange gossip. After supper great heaps of driftwood that have floated down from the sawmill are lighted on the ice, and the whole town comes out for an evknots of buildings are called Walker- ening party. The older people sit talking and laughing, while the men



THE QUEER SETTLEMENT ON THE ICE.

freezes, the fisherfolk knowing that fore to protect the occupants. when the tide recedes the minnows and mummy chubs, which are used for are laid out straight upon a board and live bait, will seek out these pools exposed to the cold to freeze, and no to await the coming flood. But cutting sooner are they congealed clear holes in the broken ice near the stakes the fishermen can run down small nets and dip up their bait by the pailful.

Having secured his bait, the fisherman cuts a long, narrow hole through and have no patience with the New

the tide goes out. These spots are wind comes up all the houses that face the market. The young people either marked by tall stakes before the river the blast must be shifted hindside be- go skating in pairs, gliding far up the

As fast as the smelts are caught they through than they are nailed up in small wooden boxes and sent to market. Brookville people take great pride in preparing their fish for sale, the ice near the channel of the stream, Brunswick and Nova Scotia folk, who

stream among the dark woods, or if the ice is rough or snowy they get up little dances in the lee of the smelthouses, to a fiddle or an accordion. Suspended from poles, the Chinese lanterns cast ghastly lights upon the gay scene, while overhead the torches of the aurora borealis flash across the sky, and the fixed stars look at one another and wink with a meaning that is too deep for words.

IN THE BERMUDAS.

There Is a Plague of Cats and Sparrows.

New York Journal: People arriving in New York from Bermuda say that the island is overrun by cats and sparrows. The nuisance of the plague has even been discussed in the Colonial legislature at Hamilton. Visitors from the United States seeking the haimy climate of Bermuda are complaining especially of the "cat gangs" which nightly disturb their sleep.

When the dog tax bill came up before the legislature last week, Dr. T. A. Outerbridge, one of the members of the council, proposed an amendment. In doing so he said:

"I should like to see the bill recast and a heavier tax put upon dogs, because we have too many worthless curs in Bermuda. I should also like to see a tax put upon cats. You may laugh, but if there is any useless animal in this world it is a cat. Cats may be of use in some countries, but they are of no use here. They do not kill rats. They do destroy our native birds.

"I have not seen a bluebird in six weeks, and there ought to be plenty of them here now from America. have not seen one this year, and before long all our native birds will be exterminated-between the cats and the sparrows."

Truty Horrible.

Whether it illustrates fertility of resource or force of habit or boththere is humor in the Cleveland Leadnewspapers in the square." He has "horrible" on hand; so it is "All about the horrible suicide;" "All about the horrible murder;" "All about the horrible accident," or all about something back. else that is horrible, day after day. One evening last autumn he stood at

securing a bundle he scrambled to his corner, saw half a dozen men approaching, and cried out: "Here's your extra paper, just out, all about the horrible-horrible-" Then he stopped. He had forgotten to look af the headlines and find out what horrible thing had happened. Hastily turning over one of the papers, he caught a glimpse of the account of the Harvard-Pennsylvania football game. The troubled look faded from his face, a glad light came into his eyes, and he continued, "All about the horrible football game."

Archery in the Heart of the City. The military students at Tung-Chou (China) are a conspicuous nuisance. They have a way of using one of the main streets in the city as a convenient spot for practicing archery, and we have been repeatedly obliged to edge up to the extreme edge of the footpath to avoid possible eccentric flights of arrows. Characteristically, it never occurs to them to suspend operations for others' safety or convenience, and minor accidents must be not uncommon. A lad was brought to the hospital the other day who had by an arrow just below been st. the eye, as he was edging along the highway. He was not badly hurt, and probably regarded his injury as incidental to the ordinary risks of travel on city streets. North China Herald.

Elephants to Siam.

Siamese women Intrust their children to the care of elephants, and it er's story of "an old man who sells is said that the trust is never betrayed. The babies play about the huge learned from handling the sensational feet of the elephants, who are ever sheets that in order to dispose of his careful never to hurt the little creastuck he must always have something tures. And if danger threatens, the sagacious animal will curl the child gently up in his trunk and swing is up out of harm's way upon his broad .

Many a youth who aspires to become his accustomed place when the late an A. M. is in after years glad to great conqueror and bridge-builder for "extras" were brought around. After settle down as the village P. M.

A COSTLY DINNER.

First of Expensive Entertainments in New York City.

Writing of the lavish expenditures tion. She had thought him a proper of New Yorkers, Euretta Van Vorst man, and he had sometimes lingered a recalls, in the Ladies' Home Journal, a little longer at his work than he probdinner given in 1884 by a man of wealth which cost \$10,000, and which astonished his most extravagant associates, as it was the most expensive feast given up to that time. 'Delmonico, the nelpful resource of both those who know and those who do not know how to spend their money, was at a loss to know how to dispose of this then fabulous amount upon a single meal. There were seventy-two guests, and they were entertained in the large ballroom which in Delmonico's Fourteenth street establishment has seen so many social triumphs. The house had been Moses Grinnell's and ever bore the imprint of a gentleman's residence even when transformed into a public place of entertainment. The table occupied the whole length and breadth of the room; the waiters had barely space to move about it. It was a long, oval table, round which a massive wreath of exquisite flowers was laid guarding a miniature lake thirty feet long. The water, by mechanical contrivance, undulated gently, and on its breast floated four living swans, a golden network keeping them in place.

A Bridge 1800 Years Old.

Eighteen hundred years ago, or thereabouts, the Roman emperor, Trajan, built a bridge across the Danube. the piers of which are found by the Roumanian engineers solid enough to sustain a new structure, which will unite the towns of Turnu Severia in Roomania and Gladova in Servia. In the middle of the structure the statue of Trajan will stand, four square, to all the winds that blow, as it well deserves to do, perpetuating the memory of that perhaps another score of centuries.

BLUNDERING.

Mrs. Cramer, a wealthy young widow, lived in a style of simple elegance in a desirable quarter of the city. Her personal attendant, Susie Moore, was half a score of lovers at her heels, so

it is not to be wondered at that she was at times absentminded and

Mrs. Cramer had gone out calling, and Susie was doing two things at once. She was reading for the twentieth time a declaration of love she had received that morning and dusting center of the room. An ominious dignity. crash which followed an unlucky whisk of the duster caused her to drop both the broom and the letter and exclaim:

'My goodness." On the carpet lay the fragments of a costly porcelain cup a valued gift of the dear departed! Instant dismissal was the least she could expect in case of detection, and how could detection be avoided? No one else had access to the apartment, and there wasn't a cat on the premises.

But Susie was a girl of resources. A bright idea struck her and she ran to the back yard, snatched up a stone twice as large as a hen's egg, and dashed it through one of the panes of a rear window. Then returning to the parlor she picked up the stone and laid it among the pieces of the broken

"But will that look right?" she ejaculated. "People don't throw stones through windows for nothing, and this being a back window, why-I have it!"

Her love letter lay at her feet. It had neither address nor signature, though well she knew whence it came. Catching up the missive and the missile she hastily wrapped the one around the other, securing the parcel with a thread and placed it amid the

Having finished her work, Susie closed the apartment and took good care not to be there when her mistress returned.

If Mrs. Cramer was vexed when she saw her broken cup and window, she was indignant when she came to investigate the cause.

"Who can have dared to take such a liberty?" she exclaimed, crumpling the paper in her hand, but she had scarcely asked the question when a dark suspicion took possession of her.

The damaged window not only overlooked her own back yard but the garden of an adjoining proprietor, a gentleman passionately devoted to horticulture, and Mrs. Cramer had occasionally busied herself for a few minutes in looking out upon his labors. The two had often exchanged glances, but never the slightest token of recogni-



"MY GOODNESS."

ably would have done had the bright eyes of the widow been absent.

To suspect was to resolve, and, instantly tying up the stone in the letter, as she had found them, she walked to the window and with all her might hurled back the hated message beyond the enemy's confines and at once re-

treated. The innocent and unsuspecting neighbor, who chanced to be stooping out of sight, digging weeds in the midst of the shrubbery, startled by the sound of what might be some meteoric body whizzing past in dangerous proximity to his head, raised himself just in time to catch a glimpse of the widow's receding figure.

But judge of his surprise as his eyes fell on the strange object which had barely missed knocking him down. With a trembling hand he undid the parcel and, as he read its contents, his heart fluttered worse than Susie's had done in the morning.

The fact is, he had long been in love with the widow and had secretly sighed for an opportunity to tell her so, but to receive an unequivocal declaratior, from her-that was a little more than he had ever dared to hope. Some fastidious people might think such a proceeding indelicate, but the widow had evidently taken pity on his backwardness; besides, wasn't it leap year? True, her grammar might have been better, and her spelling was, to say the least, indifferent. But then he wasn't partial to literary ladica. Domeaticity was what he wanted, and the willow was the picture of that, The note said something about not forgetting 6 o'clock. No, he wouldn't

forget it. And he didn't. At d o'clock sharp Elijah Rogers presented himself at Mrs. Cramer's door and was admitted by Susie.

"Tell your mistress," he said, "that a gentleman desires to see her."

"Please walk in," invited Susie. The fair widow was prompt in making her appearance.

"Mrs. Cramer, I am Mr. Rogers-Elijah Rogers-vour neighbor," said young, pretty, and coquettish, with the caller, arising and introducing himself, with some nervousness and a heightened color.

The widow bowed stiffly, for in Mr. Rogers, though better dressed and of course better looking than she had ever seen him in his garden, she recognized immediately the ruthless trespasser who had broken her window, smashed her china, and been guilty a marble-top table that stood in the of other acts against her peace and

"I scarcely know, madam," Mr. Rogers began, after a painful pause, "how to preface what I am about to say, but the note-

"That, indeed, requires explanation!" exclaimed the widow.

"And yet I had flattered myself that it was sufficiently explicit," returned Mr. Rogers, somewhat disconcerted. "Sufficiently explicit, no doubt," conceded Mrs. Cramer. "But the motive

"Do not say it was to deceive," interposed the caller.

"And the method chosen," cried the widow; "perfectly unheard of--" "Whatever others may think," said

Mr. Rogers, "between us two it can never be misinterpreted." And Mr. Rogers told his love-told it so much better than the stray note could have done that the widow would

have wondered how much his tongue was mightler than his pen had she been in any mood for such compari-She and Mr. Rogers have now been

married for many years, but whether they have even discovered how the broken cup first broke the ice between them is more than I can tell.-New York Evening World.

THE NEXT CENSUS.

Congress will probably pass a bill at this session to provide for taking the next census. The primary purpose of the government in thus counting the people, which the constitution requires to be done once in ten years, is to ascertain how many representatives in congress shall be apportioned to each state. Until a first census could be taken the constitution itself specified the number of representatives allowed to each of the thirteen states. Virginia was assigned ten members, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania were allowed eight each, New York and Maryland six each, and the other states were granted representation in the same arbitrary manner. The total membership of the first house of representatives was sixty-five.

The apportionment based on the first census, that of 1790, allowed one representative for every 33,000 people, as near as the divisions could be made. On that basis the membership of the house became 105. By the next census, ten years later, using the same "unit of population," the number of representatives was increased to 141.

Since that time it has been necessary with every new census to allow a larger population to each district, and also, with the exception of one decade, to enlarge the membership of the house. A part of the increase has been caused by the admission of new states. There are now 357 men in the house, and each congressional district is made to contain as near 173,901 souls by the census of 1890 as is possible.

The forthcoming census in 1900 will, as usual, make a new apportionment necessary. The population of the United States, which was 62,622,250 in 1890, will be, it is estimated, from 74,000,000 to 76,000,000, not including our new possessions.

It is not desirable to have the house of representatives made much larger if its efficiency as a legislative body is to be maintained. Hence, that increase of population will probably make necessary an enlargement of the congressional district-perhaps an increase to 20,000-which would be six times the population of the original unit of apportionment.

Energy to Spare.

"I feel just as though I had been drawn through a knothole," declared a Woodward avenue man of business, and it was only 10 in the forenoon.

"Out late to some party or theater?" laughed his partner. "Can't stand those things as you could when a youngster. You do two men's work here, and that demands regular habits for the rest of the twenty-four hours," reports the Detroit Free Press.

"I'm as regular as a clock. I wasn't out late at all, and haven't missed going to bed before 11 since holiday week. But the old gentleman is visiting me. You don't know my father, do you? He's one of the honest yeamanry of the land. Was reared a farmer, and is disposed to look down upon almost every other calling as too dependent for a spirited American citizen. He's 72, and lively as a cricket. There is many a young man of 30 that might well envy him."

'But what has he to do with your

being used up?" "Everything. He gets up at 5 every morning and paces up and down, whistling like a piccolo player and asking himself aloud where in creation the family is. He goes into the kitchen and hauls the cook over for not having breakfast ready, joilies with the milkman, and then reads the paper in the tones of a stump orator. There is no chance to sleep after 5, but I'm not going to have the old gentleman interfered with, although all of us will be going around in a partial trance as long as he chooses to stay,

Nature is the mother and habit is the stepmother.

"Only the First Step is Difficult."

The first step in Spring should be to cleanse Nature's house from Winter's accumulations. Hood's Sarsaparilla does this work easily. It is America's Greatest Spring Medicine. It purifies the blood. as millons of people say.

It makes the weak strong, as nervous men and women gladly testify. It cures all blood diseases, as thousands of cured voluntarily write. It is just the medicine for you, as you will gladly say after you have given it a fair trial.

Bad Blood-" Although past 70 years of age I am thoroughly well. It was three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla that made me so after spending over \$60 in medical attendance. My trouble was a raw sore on my ankle." Mrs. Louisa Mason, Court Street, Lowell, Mass.

Running Sores—" After worrying four months I gave my children Hood's Sarsaparilla and it cured them of running sores. Hood's Pills cured me of dyspepsia and constipation." Mrs. Kate E. Thomas, 31 Governor St., Annapolis, Md.

Consumptive Cough — "Five years ago I had a consumptive cough which reduced me to a skeleton. Was advised to take Hood's Sarsaparilla which I did and recovered normal health. I have been well ever since." MATILDA BRIDGEWATER, Cor. Pearl and Chestnut Sts., Jeffersonville, Ind.



A newly found letter by T. P. Barnum, one of the last he wrote, advises young men to learn stenography and typewriting, and adds: "Keep your brains free from fumes of alcohol, your blood freed from its taints. Avoid tobacco as poison it really is. Keep yourself clean physically and morally Give your body the care you would give to any machine of which you require much good work."

Coe's Cough Balsam
Is the oldest and best. It will break up a cold quicker than anything else. It is always reliable. Try it.

Statistics in regard to the amount of money brought to this country by European immigrants show that the German is the richest, with an average of 52, 50, while the Englishman is a close second, with \$52. The Frenchman has \$47.25 and the Belgian \$45, while the Irishman brings but \$15, the Russian \$12.50 and the Italian \$10. Probably the Italian takes more back to his native land, however, than any of the others

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrap.
For children teething, softens the gums, reduces frdammation, allays pain, cures wind coile. 25c a bottle-

The Burlington route, advertising from its office in Omaha recently, offered a cash prize of \$100 to the person who would send them the best plan for encouraging immigration to Nebraska. Among the letters received was the following:

"Republican City, neb., January 27, 1899. J. frances, g p: I saw youer add in your paper asken advise of how to settle nebraska, for my 20 years' experience that the grate part of nebraska is old batchus and air longen for a wife or a housekeeper and the eastern world is full of old mades and widoes, now if the railroads wood trasport the old mades and widoes to nebraska free theair woodend bee no further truble about settlers. I tell you the wimen healr that hair't ingaged air scaris then henes teath and most of the girles marey when theair 15, now if theas old mades and old batchus go to keepen house and the men heair that all the widoes healy ship to nebraska, you felowes wood just half to put on extra traines to carray the men.

Health for Ten Cents. Jascarets make bowels and kidneys act naturally, destroy microbes, cure headache, billiousness and constipation. All druggists.

It is hard for the preacher to keep people from the opera in the week when he runs as near to it as he can on Sundays.



THE EXCELLENCE OF SYRUP OF FIGS is due not only to the originality and

simplicity of the combination, but also to the care and skill with which it is manufactured by scientific processes known to the California Fig Syrup Co. only, and we wish to impress upon all the importance of purchasing the true and original remedy. As the genuine Syrup of Figs is manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP Co. only, a knowledge of that fact will assist one in avoiding the worthless imitations manufactured by other parties. The high standing of the CALI-FORMIA FIG SYRUP Co. with the medical profession, and the satisfaction which the genuine Syrup of Figs has given to millions of families, makes the name of the Company a guaranty of the excellence of its remedy. It is far in advance of all other laxatives, as it acts on the kidneys, liver and bowels without irritating or weakening them, and it does not gripe nor nauseate. In order to get its beneficial effects, please remember the name of the Company -

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. SAN PHANCISCO, Cal. LOUISVILLE, Kr. NEW YORK, N. Y.