THE RED CLOUD CHIEF.

E. L. THOMAS, Publisher.

RED CLOUD, - - NEBRASKA.

HOME AND FOREIGN GOSSIP.

THE debt of New York City, on January 31, amounted to $114,302,291 37

A MAN living in Battle Creek, Mich., by smoking 20 or 30 cigars a day has become a victim of delirium tremens.

ONE night recently at Andover, Mass., a woman gave birth to triplets, and one day after, in the same house, her married daughter followed with twins.

MRS. DR. AMES, of Minneapolis, has a lemon tree planted in 1857, in full bloom, and bearing 30 full-grown lemons of fine quality pendent from its branches.

MISS MARY J. WADLEIGH, of Sutton, Mass., has no fewer than 100 pet cats, and when one of them dies she has it buried, and its grave marked by a neat monument.

A LADY in Hungary has the distaff used by Marie Antoinette in spinning during her imprisonment. It is of wood and ivory, inlaid with silver, and still bears the hemp left upon it by the ill-fated queen on the eve of her execution.

IT is a curious fact that no attempts have been made to tame and utilize the African elephant for draft purposes. It is now proposed to import trained Indian elephants and experiment with a herd of wild elephants which are now in the neighborhood of Port Natal.

A BUCKSKIN pony, which, it is said, Gen. Cushing rode in Mexico and brought back with him to Newburyport, is now owned by a resident of Ipswich, Mass. He is represented to be 44 years old, and still ready for his share of work when called upon.

THE World's Fair at Sydney, Australia, to be opened on the 1st of next August, will be chiefly contributed to by the mother country and the United States. Two ship-loads of American machinery and products are to be exhibited.

CANADA has abandoned special efforts to induce immigration, and her agents abroad, who have for years been holding out all sorts of inducements, are to be recalled. The trouble about the business has been that, while Canada paid the heavy expenses, the United States received a large share of the benefit.

MISS CHLOE LANKTON, of New Hartford, Conn., has just completed the collection of one million canceled postage stamps. She began in October last, a gentleman in Philadelphia having offered her $200 if she would get the stamps for him, the money to be used in getting for her a life residence in a home for the friendless.

THE Sultan's private palace is the only part of the Turkish domains in Cyprus which the English have not purchased. This will be a good place of refuge for the owner when Constantinople becomes too hot for him, as is likely to be the case if the recent reports of conspiracies be true.

NEW ORLEANS is happy over the establisnment of a line of fruit steamers to the Mediterranean. There will be four steamers, which will land their cargoes in a month after leaving Messina and Palermo, and will restore to New Orleans her old supremacy in supplying the West and South with fruit and Mediterranean produce.

THE Society of Adventists at Battle Creek, Mich., purpose to set up an independent kingdom. They are building a paper mill, and already possess a sanitarium costing $125,000, a tabernacle worth $50,000, a college worth $40,000, and a printing-office and bindery worth $25,000. Hard work and freedom from fashionable expense have made them rich.

THE ladies of Virginia are to erect at Winchester, June 6, a shaft memorial to the Confederate dead. It will be in height 22 feet, the base four feet broad. The column will be made of the finest Italian marble, and surmounted by a funeral urn and drapery, and the base of Richmond granite. On its front will be the coat-of-arms of the State, and on the different panels will be appropriate inscriptions.

ONE of the merchants of Bartow, Ga., recently contracted with the son of a farmer to deliver him an unlimited supply of 'possums at 50 cents a head. He thought the boy could not capture more than two or three at the outside, but what was his surprise when four days afterwards the young man drove up with 30, and excused himself by saying that he had only hunted two nights, and they were not good nights for catching 'possums, either. The contract was forthwith rescinded on the ground that the market was already overstocked.

MRS. ELIZABETH LEONARD, widow of Thomas Leonard, lately died at Graniteville, S. C., at the great age of 107 years. At her funeral was her only surviving son, over 80 years of age, and there also stood around the grave a grandchild 56 years old, several great-grandchildren over 40 years of age, great-great-grandchildren 25 years old and a number of great-great-great-grandchildren—five generations in all. There are living at present 80 of her descendants and 210 have died.

GOV. JARVIS, of North Carolina, thus describes himself: "In my childhood I read about the Governor of North Carolina, and invested him with the highest honors that befall mankind. As I toiled and labored on a little farm by the side of the sea, in noble old Currituck, I wondered if it were possible for me to reach that high and exalted position. The prospect then seemed gloomy, but I said I will try. Guided in all things by the lessons of honesty and integrity taught me by a pious mother and a holy father, aided by devoted and generous friends, and favored by a noble and chivalrous people, I have to-day reached the goal of my youthful ambition."

THE Piutes believe that a physician ought to be killed as soon as five of his patients have died. A few years ago an Indian named Moses learned to write his own name, and that accomplishment was so highly regarded by his tribe that he was made a medicine man. His practice, however, did not prove satisfactory, for his fourth patient died recently. This last victim was a chief, and it was thought that a dose of poisonous herbs killed him. Under the circumstances, the Piutes deemed it just to stone him to death, without waiting for the fifth patient to die, and would have done so if some white men had not rescued him.

PRINCE BISMARCK is a great eater, but he can not be called a delicate or scientific diner. Beer, champagne, turtle soup, boar's head, and a mess of mustard and raspberry jelly formed only a part of a repast in a day when he was recovering from a slight illness. He could, at one time, dispose of 11 hard-boiled eggs at a sitting. He is fond of middle-sized trout. Besides his favorite drink—porter mixed with champagne—he strongly recommends another compound, said to be the invention of Field Marshal Moltke, consisting of hot tea, sherry, and champagne. He enjoys good mutton, but he has little appetite for filets of beef or beef in general.

THE Indian Territory contains a vast extent of the best agricultural lands. It embraces something over 41,000,000 acres, 26,000,000 of which have been surveyed and set apart as reservations for the Five Nations, leaving more than 15,000,000 acres unsurveyed and belonging to the Government. The population includes 48,736 Indians, 8,767 white and negro members of the tribes, 5,000 negroes not members of the Chickasaw or Choctaw Nations, 1,200 railroad employees, and 5,000 other white residents of the five civilized nations, making a total population of 68,708.

A VERY singular shooting accident occurred in Macon, Ga. As a gentleman was walking along the street, carrying a double-barreled shot-gun with the muzzle down, the gun came to pieces, the barrel falling on the ground and the stock remaining in his hands. As the barrel struck the bricks the caps on the tubes exploded simultaneously and the double charge of buckshot took effect in a group of convicts working not more than thirty feet away, and two of them were severely wounded. Medical aid was summoned at once, and so great sympathy was felt for the unfortunate men, that on account of this mishap, an effort will be made to effect their release.

A MARKED effect of the failure of public life insurance companies is the increase in the mutual beneficial association among secret societies. As a rule, the assessments per death amount only to one dollar. Some of the older associations, having a considerable fund invested, pay stated sums at death, from $500 upward, the average being $1,000. A compilation of annual reports for the year 1877 places the number of such associations in the United States in that year at 204, with a membership of 155,086, divided as follows: Masonic, 55,758; Odd Fellows, 38,280; other similar societies, 61,648. The total number of deaths was 5,476; the death rate per cent., 1.03; average amount paid by deceased members, $18 02; average amount of insurance paid, $710.24, and average cost of insurance, $6.93 per $1,000. The sum paid to beneficiaries by Masonic organizations was $3,996,704.85; by Odd Fellows, $1,457,400.50, and by others, $2,113,136.74—making the handsome total of $7,567,332.00.

THE wife of a miner in Hopewell, Pa., had yellow hair of wonderful length and abundance. It was so heavy as to be a bother, but her husband would not let her cut it off, even when offered a good price by dealers in hair. Lately work became scarce with him, and he did not know how to make a payment soon coming due on his little house. The loss of his home seemed probable. Then a stranger came along and offered $200 for the treasured yellow hair. That amount of money would raise the mortgage on the homestead, and the husband reluctantly made the sale. He could not help shedding tears when he saw the stranger's shears despoiling his wife's head of its beauty, and she wept when she looked at herself in the glass; but they consoled themselves with the crisp bank notes, and the buyer went away with the hair. A few days afterward the miner went to pay the debt, and learned that the bills were all counterfeit.

THE Indians of Nevada rely mainly for food on the pine cones, or nuts, that grow in great abundance in the pine forests. The trees are small, rarely exceeding 15 feet in height when full grown, but in fruitful seasons yield enormous quantities of cones. These are dried and made into bread, or roasted whole. The Indians go to the harvest in large parties, mounted on ponies, and make a pleasure excursion of the work. "Arrived at some central point where water and grass are found," says a correspondent of the San Francisco *Bulletin*, "the squaws with baskets, and the men with poles, ascend the ridges to the laden trees, followed by the children; beating begins with loud noise and chatter; the burrs fly right and left, lodging against stones and sage brushes; the squaws and children gather them with fine natural gladness; smoke columns speedily mark the joyful scene of their labors as the roasting fires are kindled, and at night, assembled in circles, garrulous as jays, the first grand nut feast begins." Sufficient quantities are obtained in a few weeks to last all winter.

Population-Density and Rates of Mortality.

Some curious and interesting results are developed by Dr. Farr, F. R. S., from a study of the rate of mortality in connection with statistics of population-density. He finds that the rate of mortality increases as density of population increases, and this he proves by arranging the 619 districts of England and Wales in groups according to the rates of mortality, and showing that all the groups follow this law. Thus in the 10 years 1861-'70, at one end of the scale the deaths per 1,000 of population are 15, 16, and 17; at the other end, 31, 33, and 39. The acres *per capita* in the corresponding districts are 12, 4, and 3, and 1·01, ·05, 1·01. The intermediate rates of mortality are 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25, while the acres *per capita* are 4, 3·3, 2·9, 2·1, 1·1, ·05, and ·02. Now, excluding the London districts, about which there is some difficulty, we have 7 groups of districts where the mortality ranges thus: 17, 19, 22, 25, 28, 32, and 39. In the same districts the number of persons to a square mile is 166, 186, 379, 1,718, 4,499, 12,351, and 63,823. Thus, in Liverpool, the densest and the unhealthiest district in England, there were 63,823 to an acre; of whom 39 per 1,000 died annually. This series of facts may be put in a different way: The nearer people live to each other the shorter their lives are. Thus the proximity of people in 53 districts is 147 yards, the mean duration of life is 51 years; in 345 districts the proximity is 139 yards and the mean duration of life is 45 years; in 137 districts the proximity is 97 yards, and the mean duration of life is 40 years; in 47 districts the proximity is 46 yards, and the mean duration of life is 35 years; in 9 districts the proximity is 28 yards, the mean duration of life is 32 years. In Manchester district the proximity is 17 yards, and the mean duration of life is 29 years; in Liverpool district the proximity is 7 yards, and the mean duration of life is 26 years. This is a determined law, and, the duration of life being given in one set of conditions, the duration of life in another set of conditions is determined from the proximities.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

THE CONVICT'S TALE.

A Modern Wandering Jew—A Long Travel in Search of Rest.

[From the Des Moines (Iowa) Register.]

A year or so since a well dressed, well bred man came to Des Moines and sought employment as a teacher of music or organist. He was a skillful performer on the instrument as well as a competent instructor. He secured a few scholars and had about concluded an engagement to play the big organ at the Presbyterian Church when, suddenly, and without giving any warning or reason therefor, he removed to Council Bluffs. There his career was about the same that it had been here, and after a brief stay he left the place and went to Atlantic. There, too, he remained but a short time and then departed for St. Joe.

The spirit of unrest seemed to possess him. He paid his bills promptly and was a man of excellent habits. No scandals attached to him, and to those that learned of his frequent migrations the cause of them remained a profound mystery.

A few weeks or months since—it matters not which—a citizen of Des Moines happened to be called by business to the town in which is located one of the Iowa penitentiaries, and while strolling along the streets, killing time until the departure of a railroad train to bear him home, he chanced to meet the mysterious musician. The gentleman is himself gifted with no small share of musical culture, had frequently admired the skill of the organist as displayed in this city and was personally acquainted with him. He also knew something of his wanderings. A conversation took place beteen them, and during it the organist unraveled the mystery of his frequent change of base. He had been convicted on doubtful, if not entirely false testimony, and sentenced to the Penitentiary in the town where this conversation took place. There he had served a term of imprisonment. The Warden was kind to him and gave him all the liberties consistent with his situation. Learning of his musical skill, that officer detailed him to play the organ in the prison church. His execution was so excellent that it attracted the attention of the other musicians in the town, and when his term of service had expired they offered to procure him a situation there and a class. He, however, remembering the convict life, could not endure the thought of remaining in sight of the Penitentiary walls, and declined the proposal.

By the aid of some friends he procured enough money to supply himself with suitable clothing and came to Des Moines, where he engaged in teaching, as before related, and was in a fair way to thrive and prosper in his profession when one day he met on the streets a discharged guard from the prison, where he had been confined, and learned that the latter had become a resident of this city. Then the dread of exposure oppressed the organist and hastily settling up his affairs he fled to Council Bluffs. There he was again recognized, and at every place some former acquaintance that had known him during his dark days would appear; and he would abandon all and attempt to escape beyond the sphere of recognition. In no place did there appear to be any unkindness shown him by any one of the discoverers, or any indication of revealing the mystery of his past life, but ever before him rose the specter of that past, and he feared exposure. At length he abandoned the vain wanderings in search of a place where acquaintance could not reach him, and determined since he could not escape exposure to return to the Penitentiary town where his history was so well known that he would be free from suspicion. He did so, established himself as a teacher of music, was engaged as organist of the principal church there, and is contented and happy. All that ever was bad about him is fully known where he is, and his life since he became a free man is substantial proof among the citizens where he resides that his reformation is complete.

Three Sisters Married at One Time.

The village of Greene, Chenango County, N. Y., recently wisnessed the marriage of three sisters at one time and in the same church. Two of the bridegrooms were clergymen. The triple ceremonies were performed in the Congregational Church in the presence of a large number of guests, a number of whom were New Yorkers, and parties came from the country for miles around to witness the scene. The brides and bridegrooms were Miss Mary H. Grant and the Rev. Smith T. Ford, pastor of the Baptist Church in Greene; Miss Flora R. Grant and Mr. H. H. Scott, a New York shoe merchant, and Miss Jennie L. Grant and the Rev. William N. Ritchie, of the Forty-fourth Street Presbyterian Church, New York. The three sisters, standing together at the altar in their bridal robes, made a striking picture. After the wedding there was a brilliant reception, and then the three bridal parties started together for the East on an extended tour.

THE SHOCK OF A RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—Accounts of railroad accidents frequently state that although the engine and cars were much damaged, the passengers escaped without serious injury. Yet many persons can recollect instances of men whose health steadily declined after they had passed apparently unharmed through some mishap to a train, and whose sufferings were terminated by death more or less sudden. Some light has been cast on cases of this kind by a paper read last month, before the Medical Society of the King and Queen's College of Physicians, Dublin, by Dr. MacSwiney. In a railroad collision there may result to a passenger (1) shock merely, or (2) concussion, or (3) contusion of the cerebro-spinal system. In shock the functions of the nerves are impaired, and the action of the nervous system thus lowered. It has been found that great confusion and injury, either temporary or permanent, to the nervous functions sometimes follow from a shock, to the cerebro-spinal system, when the soft cerebral and spinal mass is struck violently against the bony case in which it is inclosed. That slight blows often cause serious results is now well established. An apparently trifling injury to the back or sacrum may give rise to an inflammatory process, which may, after the lapse of years even, end fatally. And often a slowly creeping-on paralysis will ensue upon a shock to the cerebro-spinal center, when at first no ill result was apparent. In such cases the seeming contradiction may sometimes be noticed that, whereas the more severe and dangerous phenomena often result in the very cases in which the injury appears to be trifling, on the other hand, it occasionally occurs that the severest primary lesions present to observation only slight and unimportant symptoms.

IT costs about $1,000 to give a "rosebud party" in New York.

THE PLAGUE.

Danger of the Introduction of the Disease Into the United States—Ravages in the East.

Dr. John M. Woodworth, Surgeon-General of the United States Marine Hospital Service, says in an official report to the Senate Committee on Epidemic Diseases:

I am constrained to invite your attention to what I conceive to be a matter of sufficient importance to claim the attention of the Committees of Congress on Epidemic Diseases. From the imperfect accounts which come to this country of the prevailing epidemic in the Province of Astrakhan, there seems to be little room for doubt that the disease which has broken out there with such deadly effect is the plague, a singularly fatal infectious disease, accompanied by swelling and sometimes gangrenous condition of the glands of the body, and in many respects resembling malignant typhus fever.

The account of the outbreak, which is generally credited in Europe and in this country, is to the effect that a Russian soldier returning from the war brought a shawl with him and gave it to a girl, who sickened and died two days after from this supposed infection. The disease spread with great fatality. About three weeks elapsed before the Russian Government was officially notified of the facts, and another week passed before any measures were adopted to check its spread. The Russian Government, as well as the people, are now thoroughly aroused. Sanitary lines and quarantines have been established, and cordons of soldiers have been placed around the infected villages. Europe has become alarmed, and commerce with Russia has been interdicted except under strict quarantine rules, but in spite of the expenditure of money and the strong military arm of the Government the measures of prevention appear to have been too long delayed, and the plague is rapidly spreading.

Should the plague appear in the countries of Europe with which the United States has commercial intercourse, there would be great danger of the disease reaching our shores. In fact, the danger exists at present through ships from the Caspian and Black Seas. The latest arrival at New York from the Black Sea was in December last.

Considerable danger may be apprehended from the introduction of infected clothing into this country, brought by Russian emigrants, especially the Mennonites from Southern Russia, large numbers of whom ship at Liverpool.

The board of yellow-fever experts were unanimous in opinion that United States medical officers of health should be stationed at Liverpool and at some point in the Mediterranean, and that they should be subject to orders to visit places of outbreak of infectious epidemic disease, so that definite, reliable, and prompt information may be given to the health authorities of our seaports. Twelve thousand dollars per year would maintain two such medical officers abroad and pay their traveling expenses, and in my opinion it would be an investment worthy of a great commercial nation.

The people of this generation have considered the plague a scourge belonging only to the past, and a few words in reference to its former ravages may be of interest. The great epidemics of this disease have followed as a sequence to wars in unsanitary countries or to great religious pilgrimages. The plague prevailed in earliest historic times. The first epidemic of which we have any definite record occurred nearly 3,000 years ago, in the time of David. Next is the great plague which commenced 767 years before Christ, which is said to have spread over the whole world. The epidemic which commenced in the time of Justinian, 541 or 542 years before Christ, is said to have "almost consumed mankind." It commenced in Egypt and spread to all parts of the then known world, "making destruction its only business, and sparing neither island, cave, nor top of mountain where mankind inhabited." When the pestilence was at its height in Constantinople as many as 10,000 perished in a day, so that the dead lay without burying. Procopius compares the number who perished to the sands of the sea. Another general epidemic of the plague prevailed in the year 430 B. C., and was especially severe in Athens. During the Christian era the plague has frequently visited Europe with great fatality, unequaled by any other epidemic disease. It is estimated that there were 45 epidemics of the plague during the seventeenth century. Fourteen of these are referred to Holland and 12 to England. The one which occurred in London in the year 1665 was as terrible as the great fire of 1666, which put a stop to its ravages. The lowest estimate of deaths in London alone in 1665 is given as 68,500.

In the present century the plague has occurred chiefly in the countries of the Lower Danube and the Black Sea. The last epidemic in Western Europe occurred at Marseilles and vicinity in 1720 and 1721, causing the death of 200,000 people. The same year it prevailed in the Island of Majorca. Europe has been free from the plague since 1841, and it has not occurred in Asiatic Turkey since 1843, nor in Egypt since 1844. In 1858 and 1859 the plague prevailed among the Arabs in the vicinity of Berrazi, a seaport of North Africa. In 1857 an epidemic occurred in Mesopotamia and one in Persian Kurdistan in 1871.

These are but a few instances in the long catalogue of the swift destroyer of human life with which we may have to deal. Viewed from our present standpoint, it may be said that while on the one hand the improved conditions of living which prevail among the Christian nations makes them better able to control the plague, on the other hand the increased facilities for commerce and travel which steam has brought about increases the danger of its spread.

ACCORDING to the latest statistics of the Holy Synod there were founded in Russia last year 137 new sects, of which by all odds the most remarkable is that of the Leeches, which exists among the peasants of Gojasowetz, in the Government of Vologda. Infants and those in riper years received into it are baptized in blood drawn from a woman, and draughts of warm human blood are given to the new-born children of members. The officials of the province declare that owing to these practices the mortality among the females in the district has greatly increased.

ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING.—1 pound stale bread-crumbs, 1 pound raisins, 1 pound currants, 1 pound brown sugar, ½ pounds suet, ½ pound citron, 1 pinch salt, 5 eggs, 1 nutmeg, plenty of good brandy; boil 15 hours.

AN English botanist and chemist calculates that to produce a pound of honey from clover the bees must visit 2,700,000 flowers.

A Big Snake Story.

Some seven or eight years ago, says a Poughkeepsie (N. Y.) letter to the New York *World*, much alarm was manifested along the line of the Housatonic Railroad by the appearance of a tremendous snake, but of what ophidian species he was a sample no one could tell. The reptile made its home in a dense swamp in the vicinity of the railroad track. Time and again the reptile was shot at by hunting parties, but it always managed to get away safely. The track of the Housatonic Railroad runs directly through the swamp named. Early one morning the engineer of a passenger train suddenly discovered a long black object lying across the rails and he shut off steam and whistled for brakes. While the speed was slackening the engineer saw that it was the veritable snake, about which so much had been said, and he pulled the throttle again, intending, if possible, to run it down and cut it in two, but just before the engine reach it the end of the tail slid off the rail and almost immediately the entire snake disappeared. Four or five years ago two men riding in a buggy along a road which skirts the swamp say they saw the now famous snake wriggling slowly across the road. They were certain, from the measurement of the ground where they first saw it, that it was over twenty feet long. Again the snake excitement broke out in the neighborhood, and parties were organized to hunt the reptile down, without success, and the interest in the matter soon died out. The cause of the disappearance of the snake for the last four years has been a great mystery, but it has been completely solved in an extraordinary manner. Some imagined that the snake has found his way to the Housatonic River, and, escaping death by drowning, thence to the ocean, and became a veritable sea serpent. Others held that he had taken to the mountains. Really he never left the swamp of his birth, for his colossal remains have been discovered. On Saturday last two men named Kelly and Smith, both well and favorably known in the neighborhood, went into the swamp with a sled to get a load of wood. After a while they came to a large buttonwood tree which had fallen to the ground. They discovered it was hollow, and in order to handle it easily they attempted to saw it up. They had sawed nearly through one part when suddenly the saw grated as though it had struck a stone. Thinking that it was a curious place to find a stone they at once went to work to investigate. They plied their axes and by dint of hard labor split the tree, when to their astonishment the obstacles which the saw had struck proved to be bones. Then they opened the tree as far as they could find bones, some 21 feet, and the remains proved to be those of the monstrous reptile so often seen but never captured. The ribs measured six inches in diameter and from that tapered down to smaller sizes. The tail of the snake was found imbedded in the upper part of the tree, and both men believe he went in backward. It is believed that the last time he was chased, some four years ago, he sought refuge in this tree and never came out again. The bones and other remains have been preserved and will be sent to the Society of Natural Science, together with a history of the case.

A Bequest for the Benefit of Horses.

The will of Miss Lisetta Rist, late of Odessa Road, Forest Lane, near Stratford, Essex, who died on the 1st ult., was proved on the 14th ult. by Mr. A. G. P. Allt, the sole executor, the personal estate being sworn under £1,500. There are several small legacies, and the residue of the property is to be realized by her executor, and invested, and he is then directed to transfer such investments into the names of four of twelve carmen mentioned, the whole of whom are to be the trustees of the said funds, and are designated "my said graveling trustees." They are to apply the income from time to time in purchasing gravel and sand, which is to be applied in graveling or sanding, when certain roadways in the city and east end shall be slippery, to enable horses or other animals to better keep their footing. The testatrix provided that her graveling trustees shall in the case of violent snow-storms and heavy frosts apply such part of the income (when gravel or sand would not be properly available) in aid of cleansing or otherwise making the said carriage roadways as easy as they reasonably can for horses and other animals to pass up and down; and that they shall cause the graveling or sanding to be commenced at the beginning of November and terminate at the end of April each year; and it is to be done either at night or early in the morning, so that the chief dangerous places may be always graveled or sanded by 6:30 or 7 o'clock, first doing the most dangerous parts where the early traffic begins.—*London City Press.*

A New Incident in Dickens's Early Career.

There is a very attractive room at Ipswich, to wit: Mr. Pickwick's room, at the Great White Horse Hotel, the true history of which is curious and hitherto unpublished. When Charles Dickens was a very young man, and unknown to fame, he reported for the *Morning Chronicle*—which journal lost the services of the future novelist to the *Suffolk Chronicle* on the occasion of the Suffolk assize. Arriving at his destination, the young pressman engaged the comfortable best room of the hotel, the Great White Horse.

But later in the day, as the influx of visitors became great, the churlish landlord, named Brooks—generally called "Old Billy Brooks"—who had much respect for the press, and very limited ideas as to its power, unceremoniously ejected Dickens's bedroom to some legal magnates, assigning to "that newspaper fellow" one far less roomy and comfortable, and placed, in fact, just over some stabling. Dickens was naturally much annoyed, but said little, biding his time. When "Pickwick" took the literary world by storm, its ludicrous and scarcely exaggerated description of the White Horse, "where they sold the worst possible wine at the best possible price," entirely altered Mr. Brooks's notions as to the power of the pen, and much of his later life was spent in raving about the injury Dickens was doing him.

Not long afterwards Brooks died, and the hotel changed hands. But as the years rolled by the landlords began to discover that the brilliant humorist had done far more good than harm by making the hotel one of Mr. Pickwick's resorts. Tourists and travelers of all kinds—especially Americans—flocked to the White Horse to view the scene of Mr. Pickwick's startling adventure with the middle-aged lady. Whether the attendants always point out the same room we can not say—clearly one room will do just as well as another—but it is certain that visitors keep coming to see it to the present day.

THE ALLIGATOR AT HOME.

Hoppered by Tourists for Pleasure and Hunted to Death for Hide and Teeth.

[From the New York World.]

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 15.—Among the throng of people traveling southward to escape our northern winter may be found many sportsmen, armed with rifle and revolver and with plenty of fixed ammunition, cherishing one hope above others of shooting an alligator. Large are the numbers who go forth to shoot, but few are the alligators slain. The rivers, bayous and many of the lakes of the Gulf States are thickly populated with alligators, or lagartos, as they are known by the Spanish-speaking portion of the inhabitants. On sunny days they may be seen stretched upon the sloping banks of streams or floating idly on the glassy water, nothing visible but the top of the head. From the decks of the little flat-bottomed steamers which carry many tourists through the weird beauty of the upper St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers every winter, the alligator receives volley after volley of rifle and revolver balls. There are but two places in an alligator where a shot will prove fatal—in the eye and directly under the forearm. The first, being very small and protected by a heavy casement surmounted by a projecting cap, can be struck only by the best marksmen. Except when taking a sun-bath, the tender spot under the shoulder is never exposed. The chance of shooting an alligator, especially by a novice, is therefore not alarmingly great.

Although very clumsy, their quickness in some cases is remarkable, as when in the water a speed of from five to eight miles an hour is made, and on land they are able to throw themselves over half a circle, using the forefoot for a fulcrum, striking an enemy with their tail with tremendous force. In getting food the alligator displays a remarkable degree of cunning. Fish is acceptable, and to catch them a number of alligators form in line, driving the fish before them into a cove or inlet. Then each alligator makes a rush, catches a fish in his open mouth, rises to the surface, tosses the fish into the air, at the same time expelling the water by a current of air drawn through the nose, and is ready to bolt the fish when it falls. Owing to the formation of the teeth, the alligator can not masticate his food, but bolts it in small chunks. The gullet is not large. Prey of size is concealed until it begins to putrefy, when it is sought and devoured. The largest animals are attacked, if they get into the water, dragged down and drowned. Last spring a large ox went into the waters of Lake Jackson, not far from Tallahassee, to drink. An alligator fastened to the foreleg of the animal crushing the bone. The ox struggled to the shore, dragging his antagonist with him. At this time the shore was black with alligators, attracted by the smell of blood, and some crawled upon the bank. The ox fought valiantly, tossing one of the monsters high in the air, from which fall he lay on the ground stunned a considerable time. But the wounded ox again got in the water, and a mammoth alligator closed on his nose and dragged him under.

Not long ago a Florida paper told a story of the charming of an alligator by a rattlesnake. The latter upon discovering the former attracted attention by sounding an alarm. The alligator turned his head several times as if he wanted to get away, but as often faced the snake again. "Toward the end of half an hour," said the paper, "with fixed eyes the alligator moved slowly toward his terrible enemy, until within striking distance, when the snake curled himself more compactly and struck the alligator. For a moment the alligator shook tremendously, and then as if by magic made a semi-circle backward, and brought his tail down upon the would-be assassin with fatal result." On several occasions captured alligators and rattlesnakes have been put in an enclosure to fight for the benefit of spectators, and in a majority of cases the snake has been victorious, having succeeded in striking his fangs into the alligator's open mouth.

Alligators are oviparous, the females laying as many as two hundred eggs, somewhat larger than goose eggs, in a nest scooped out of the soil near the water. A thin matting of leaves and twigs separates the layer of eggs, which are left to hatch in the sun's heat. When the young alligator breaks its shell it is from eight to ten inches in length, and at once takes to the water and the established ways of getting food. They may often be seen playing together like young kittens. At this stage great numbers are captured by negro boys, who sell them in the towns to northern visitors to carry home as curiosities.

Up to a year or two ago the war on alligators came near to exterminating them. The skin and teeth are the only parts of value. For several years from twenty to twenty-five thousand of the former were annually taken, the hunters receiving 50 cents to $1 apiece for them. The greatest hunter of Florida got one thousand skins in a five months' campaign. The skin from the sides and belly was stripped off and shipped north, and made fine leather for boots and shoes. These were once quite fashionable, but are seldom seen now, and in consequence the alligator lives in greater security. The demand for jewelry and ornaments made from the teeth seems to have been pretty thoroughly supplied, and few are hunted for this purpose.

Occasionally an alligator from ten to fifteen feet in length is wanted for a museum, and there is no difficulty in letting the contract to a colored man. When caught his feet are tied over his back, and the powerful jaws fastened with many wraps of rope. He is then shipped to his destination in a strong box. Stuffed alligators are far oftener exhibited, the mounting being a comparatively easy and inexpensive process.

SOME of the most valuable constituents of the wheat are left in the bran, and the fine flour is not sufficiently laxative to meet the requirements of most systems, so it is advisable to take frequently or systematically a coarser diet. Graham, cracked wheat or rye will generally meet this want, or a fair supply of berries or fruits will answer a similar purpose. Proper attention to the diet will generally obviate the necessity of a resort to physic, and is by far the preferable course in every aspect of the case.

IN Paris, carrageen, or Irish moss, has been used as a substitute for linseed meal and other kinds of poultices, with good results. It does not ferment, and remains moist and inodorous for 16 or 18 hours, when properly prepared by chopping and soaking.

DR. BLACHER has recently reported (in the *Courier Medical*) some excellent results from treatment of pulmonary consumption in its first two periods, with glycerine instead of cod-liver oil.

PITH AND POINT.

THE man who was tossed over the back of an irate bull was reported as not dead, but only gone beef o'er.

PEOPLE are beginning to come out from under the stoves in Buffalo. This is a sure sign that spring is coming.—*Rochester Express.*

THE Marquis of Lorne offers a reward of £1 to every Canadian woman who shall achieve triplets. And how much nobler it is to compete for this reward than to struggle for the empty honors of pedestrianism.—*Chicago Tribune.*

BEECHER says there is ten thousand times more happiness than trouble in this world. There may be, but it is not equally divided. Some people enjoy ninety-nine per cent. of the happiness, and others ninety-nine per cent. of the trouble.—*Norristown Herald.*

WHEN we are young we waste a great deal of time in imagining what we will do when we grow older, and when we are old we waste an equal amount of time in lying about what we did when we were young—in telling about the cold winters and troubles experienced in gaining our knowledge.—*Derrick.*

THE reverend gentleman was visiting at the house of one of his lady parishioners, when the little girl said, "Mr. ——, can you see two ways at once, and is you got honey or sugar on one side of your face?" "Why, what do you mean?" asked he. "Why, ma says you've always got the eye on the sweet side of your face on her in church." Later in the day the abomination of desolation seemed to have settled in that child's heart.—*Yonkers Gazette.*

LITTLE Nellie was looking at "Woolf's Wild Animals" when Mr. Jorkins called, and appealed to that gentleman to explain one of the pictures. "That is a wild boar," said he, and the little lady looked at it thoughtfully and replied: "It don't look like you, does it, Mr. Jorkins?" "I hope not," responded the guest. "Why?" "Because," said the artless innocent, "mamma said when your card was sent up, 'There is that old bore Jorkins again.'" And it was a full minute before mamma's frozen lips thawed sufficiently to inform the nurse it was Nellie's bedtime.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

A WOMAN in a neat little suburban village has not been visited by a single tramp during the winter, nor has her husband had to buy her a revolver and feel alarmed lest he should read in the evening papers on his way home at night, "Another Hellish Deed—Butchered by a Tramp." She had half a ton of coal dumped in a conspicuous place in the yard, and carefully brushed off the snow whenever there was a storm, and the consequence was that whenever an absent-minded or short-sighted tramp did get so far as to open the gate, his eye fell on the coal and he took that back-track as if he had forgotten something.—*Chicago Tribune.*

MARY had a little chill
Which gave her heaps of pain,
And when she tried to shake that chill
It shook her back again.
It followed her to school one day,
Which was against the rule;
It made the children laugh to see
Poor Mary shake in school.
And so the teacher sent her home
And bade her to take some ile,
To reconstruct her system and
To liquidate the bile.
—*St. Louis Times-Journal.*

Mirror Worship in Japan.

Prof. Ayrton lectured last week at the Royal Institution, his subject being "The Magic Mirror of Japan." In Japan there is, he said, an absence of house walls, interior and exterior, the houses consisting of a roof supported on only a few posts enclosing very little but empty space, and sliding screens alone divide off compartments. Why, in this comparative absence of all that we should call furniture, does one article pertaining to the ladies' toilette—the bronze mirror with its stand—hold so prominent a position? This mirror is usually circular, from three inches to twelve inches in diameter, made of bronze, and with a bronze handle covered with bamboo. The reflecting face is generally more or less convex, polished with a mercury amalgam, and the back is beautifully ornamented with a gracefully executed raised design. Some for the rustic population have also polished letters.

The explanation of the fact that the mirror is almost *par excellence* the entire furniture is found partly in the elaborate head dresses of the Japanese ladies and the painting of their faces, and partly from the belief that as the sword was "the soul of the Samouri," so is the mirror the "soul of woman." It therefore constitutes the most valuable of all her possessions, and two mirrors form part of the trousseau of every bride. The characteristic qualities of the mirror must, it is believed, be in accordance with the constitution of the possessor, and "second sight" is resorted to in the selection of a mirror. But why is the mirror so important in the Imperial palace where the Court ladies, still preserving the fashion of old days, comb back their hair in the simplest style? Why does the fortune-teller, instead of looking at a girl's palm, regard the reflection in a mirror? Why, instead of referring to the book of the recording angel, does the Japanese Plato bring before the boatman his evil deeds reflected in a mirror? And why does the mirror hold so important a place in Japanese history than has been supposed; it, in fact, takes the place of the cross in Christian countries.

Prof. Ayrton read the myth of the origin of the worship of the mirror. The main points in it are that when gods alone inhabited the earth, the sun goddess one day hurt her hand with her shuttle, having been suddenly frightened by a practical joke of her brother, the god of the sea. She indignantly retired to a cave. Darkness followed, and the goddess had to be appeased. The wisest of the gods suggested making an image of her more beautiful than herself. The Japanese Vulcan fashioned a mirror in the shape of the sun, and all the gods laughed, and shouted, "Here is a deity who surpasses even your glory." Woman's curiosity could not stand this. The goddess peeped out, and while admiring herself in the mirror was caught and dragged out by a rice rope. The national traditions have it that this sun goddess (Amaterasu o mi Kami), sending her adopted grandson, who was also the great-grandfather of the first Emperor of Japan, to subdue the world, made him three presents: the *maga-tama* (the precious stone, emblematical of the spirit of woman), the sword (emblematical of the spirit of man), and the mirror (emblem of her own soul). "Look," she said, "on this mirror of my spirit, keep it in the same house and on the same floor with yourself, and worship it as if you were worshiping my actual presence."—*London Times.*

ONE hundred and twenty-five families from Sharon, Pa., will locate in the spring upon Government land near Glyndon, Iowa. The heads of the families were former employees of the large iron-mills near Pittsburg.