THE ALLIANCE.

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BY THE

ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.

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All communications for the paper should be addressed to THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO., and all matters pertaining to the Farmers' Alliance, including subscriptions to the paper, to the Secretary.

H. G. ARMITAGE, Editor.

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DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

Profoundly impressed that we, the Farmers' Alliance, united by the strong and faithful ties of financial and home interests, should set forth our declarations, we therefore resolve:

To strive to secure the establishment of right and justice to ourselves and our posterity.

To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit.

To endorse the motto, "In things essential, unity; in all things charity."

To secure purity of the elective franchise, and to induce all voters to intelligently exercise it for the enactment and execution of laws which will express the most advanced public sentiment upon all questions involving the interests of laborers and farmers.

To develop a better state mentally, morally, socially and financially.

To constantly strive to secure entire harmony and good-will among all mankind, and brotherly love among ourselves.

To suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudices; all unhealthful rivalry, and all selfish ambition.

To assuage the sufferings of a brother and sister, bury the dead, care for the widows and educate the orphans; to exercise charity toward offenders; to construe words and purpuposes in their most favorable light, granting honesty of purpose and good intentions to others, and to protect the principles of the Alliance unto death.

POST OFFICE AT LINCOLN, NEB., June 18, 1889.

I hereby certify that THE ALLIANCE, a weekly newspaper published at this place, has been determined by the Third Assistant Post Master General to be a publication entitled to admission in the mails at the pound rate of postage, and entry of it as such is accordingly made upon the books of this office. Valid while the character of the publication remains unchanged. ALBERT WATKINS, Postmaster.

ALONG THE LINE.

[This department is conducted by the Secretary of the State Alliance to whom all communications in relation to Alliance work, short articles upon various subjects of interest to the Alliance etc., should be addressed. Write plain and only on one side of the paper. Sign what you choose to your articles but send us your name always.]

MISSING.

Any information in regard to the whereabouts of one Geo. E. Crem, who when last heard from, was in the employ of Pratt & Ferris as Wagon Master in Nebraska, will be thankfully received by the undersigned. He is about 5½ feet tall, red hair and beard, blue eyes, weight 200 lbs. Send information to Allen Root, Omaha, or to W. W. Crem, Seyum, Texas.

J. B. Nies, president of No. 435, sends a list of subscribers from Stratton this week.

E. Goble, secretary of No. 648, reports twelve new members initiated at a recent meeting of their Alliance.

Charleston Alliance, York county, reports fifteen new members and writes for more supplies which we send them.

C. S. Wilson, reports Liberty Alliance increasing both in interest and membership and promises a good report next quarter.

The Lincoln county Alliance will meet at North Platte on Saturday, August 31. Every Alliance in the county should send a full delegation.

L. S. Orcutt, one of the Hall county wheel horses, sends greeting with a good club of new readers. He says the ball must be kept rolling and promises to do his share of the pushing. .

J. D. Stockton, of Hitchcock county, sends application for charter for Mt. Joy Alliance with J. E. Thompson, secretary, and P. T. Hudnet, president. The organization goes steadily on.

Alliance No. 403 reports four new members and a total membership of twenty-three. Sec. W. C. Clifton also remits for subscribers and asks several questions. Answers will be found in the colums of THE ALLIANCE.

NELIGH, NEB., Aug. 18.—Find enclosed one dollar for which please send me THE ALLIANCE one year. Think it just the paper for the farmer or laborer. It will open their eyes if they want to see. It should have a place in every family in the Alliance of Nebraska. Our Alliance is in a prosperous and flourishing condition. Glad to see the interest taken that is being manifested throughout the state and elsewhere. L. B. HENDRICK,

THE ALLIANCE AND INSURANCE.

We have been informed that some parties in different sections of the state have asserted that the Alliance had endorsed a mutual insurance company which has been formed at Grand Island. This impression is erroneous. The Alliance has not endorsed or recommended that or any other insurance company in Nebraska.

At the last State Alliance meeting a committee which had been previously appointed, made a report on mutual insurance, and the State Alliance adopted a resolution asking the legislature to remove the unreasonable restrictions in the law of this state upon that class of insurance. This request was only partially complied with, but this was all that could be expected from a legislature dominated and run by Church Howe. Since that time efforts have been made looking toward the establishment of an insurance department in connection with the Alliance. These efforts now bid fair to prove successful. The following letter from A. Wardall, President of the Alliance Insurance of Dakota to the chairman of our executive committee gives much reliable information on the subject:

HURON, DAK., Aug. 17.—J. BURROWS:— In response to your inquiry as to the workings of our Alliance insurance department, would say, briefly, that it was organized by the State Alliance and is under its supervision and control. We have three distinct features, viz: Fire, hail and life, each entirely separate and independent of the other, but carried on in the same office and by the same officers, agents and clerks, thus minimizing expense and increasing efficiency. The fire is a stock company, insuring on the usual plan, and at standard rates, with this difference—a very important one—that only one half the premium is collected, the balance being in a non-interest-bearing note due in one or two years, with a provision that all profits over necessary expenses and losses (the expenses include 10 per cent to the capital stock) are returned as dividends to to the policy holders, thus making it practically mutual with the additional safety of a stock company, the 10 per cent to the stock on our immense business being more than an offset by the great decrease in expense of our combined system.

We also make a specialty of promptness, fairness and spot cash settlement without discount.

Our Hail Co. is purely mutual, and confined to growing grain. We take an assessable non-interest-bearing note for 25 cts. an acre on all crops insured, secured on the crop. Our limit of loss is $8 per acre. We have paid about 2,600 losses in the past three years. Average of cost, 20 cts. an acre.

Our life plan is similar to the United Workmen, Odd Fellows and Masons, and is purely mutual. It is intended to be national in its character. We wish to establish a Nebraska department in all these branches, under the entire control of your State Alliance, and managed in its interest. It can not help but prove satisfactory and economical, and will greatly assist in building up and maintaining interest in your Alliance work. This is intended to be a distinctively Nebraska company and to insure only members of the Farmers' Alliance in good standing. Our company and system are meeting with grand success in both Dakotas and Minnesota, and giving unqualified satisfaction.

I expect to meet with your committee in September and lay the whole matter before them.

Yours, &c.,
A. WARDALL.

Farmers residing near Precept in Furnas county, send for proper blanks and information, which were promptly sent them. They were referred to W. J. Holley for instruction, as he is the county organizer.

H. W. Fellows sends a club of subscribers with kind words to the editor and asks for more copies of the proceedings of the National Alliance. Anyone wishing copies should send to Milton George, Chicago, inclosing stamps for postage, when they will be promptly sent.

J. W. Dorland sends us a large list of subscribers from Elgin, endorses the paper in kindly words and requests a reprint of the memorial adopted at Des Moines last winter. This memorial appears in the printed proceedings of the National Alliance. copies of which may be had from this office or Milton George, Chicago, by sending stamps to pay postage.

In some counties there seems to be a disposition to ignore the organizer and dispense with his services. While we welcome every worker in the ranks of the farmer we must insist on the regular plan of organization in counties where we have deputies. In cases where a new Alliance is referred to the organizer for secret work they are not considered fully organized until the work is received.

The Alliances desiring groceries at jobbers rates should send money with the order. To meet the objection of not knowing how much to remit we will commence your list at the beginning and fill it entire, or until the money is exhausted. In ordering lumber, make out bill stating kind and quality, price of same bill in your home market, so that in case we could not save you money we would not fill your order. We quote good 3 in. wagons at $51, 3½ inch, $53, 3½ inch $54. Address all orders to Allen Root, State Agent, Omaha, Neb.

Alliance No. 517 in making quarterly report shows a gain of five members, the total membership at date being twenty-four, and all wide awake farmers such as will exert a strong influence in the work of reform.

Chas. S. Chrisman writing from Endell encloses four new subscribers. He reports six members for initiation at next meeting of their Alliance, good prospects for crops, and closes by wishing the paper complete success.

W. P. Filbert, who is the secretary of Hitchcock County Alliance, reports a deep interest in Alliance work in that county, and predicts a large increase in membership this fall. He also sends a list of subscribers to the paper.

The Alliances of Hamilton county will have a grand meeting at Aurora on the 21st. Pres. Burrows of the National Alliance will be present and deliver an address. Other speakers are also expected.

The Alliances of Buffalo county are called to meet in delegate convention at Bluff Center school house in Gardner township, to organize a County Alliance. Every Alliance should send as many as possible.

JOHN A. HOGG, Dep. Organizer.

E. A. Draper, the newly appointed organizer for Sherman county sends subscribers to THE ALLIANCE and also requests additional supplies for organizing local Alliances. He reports the organization of an Alliance at Ashton on Aug. 17.

A. W. Graham, president of Deer Lodge Alliance No. 486, in sending list of subscribers from Russell and Orafino, says: We have seen a few copies of THE ALLIANCE and like it first rate, and when our members get more money I am satisfied the paper will be read by every one of them.

UNDERWOOD, Aug. 12.—The Hall County Farmers' Alliance will meet in G. A. R. hall, Grand Island, Thursday, Sept. 5, at 10 o'clock a. m. We hope all the Alliances in the county will be fully represented, and invite those from surrounding counties who can to meet with us.

Wm. H. Fall, acting under instructions from L. C. Floyd of Hamilton county, sends for charter for an Alliance formed in the northern part of the county and instructed by him. M. M. Halleck is secretary of the new Alliance which makes a strong organization. Hamilton county is full of workers and will not take a back seat.

Charter No. 676 is issued to Burtons Bend Alliance of Furnas county, organized by W. J. Holley, the deputy for that county. Bro. Holley is doing some efficient work in his county, and is kept in the field a great deal of his time. J. E. Morrisey is secretary of the new Alliance which starts out with fourteen members and all alive to to the work before them.

T. J. Webb, secretary of No. 526, Custer county, reports seven new members, and also writes: We think this one of the greatest objects ever brought before the people, as it is working not only for onr own interests but the interests of our children and all mankind. We have a township Alliance organized and find it a great help in the exchange of ideas and plans of work.

Robert Gray, the efficient organizer for Holt county, sends for charter for Spring Hill. Alliance with ten charter members. Bro. Gray says: I drove forty miles to organize this Alliance and found live men ready to push the work, men of means that are able to make the movement felt in the county. Never before in the history of the work have so many good men joined our ranks as during this year.

A. B. Bender writing from Clarion, says: There will be several new organizations started in this county just as soon as the rush of the working season is partly over. Our Alliance No. 566 is growing steadily in numbers and interest, and of course its influence is being extended over the other parts of the county. The Farmers' Alliance of Nebraska is just approaching a season when the growth will exceed anything ever witnessed in the state.

NOTICE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Nebraska State Farmers' Alliance will be held at the office of THE ALLIANCE, in Lincoln, on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1889, at 1 p. m.

By order of J. BURROWS, Chm.
J. M. THOMPSON, Sec.

ALLIANCE MEETING.

The Alliances of Adams county are requested to meet at Juniata, Aug. 31 for the purpose of organizing a County Alliance. It is very essential that this meeting be well attended. Let every farmer in the county attend if possible.

A. C. TOMPKINS, Organizer.

Do not allow the young trees to bear fruit the first and second years. The production of fruit will be at the expense of growth. The peach will bear the second year after planting. If kept back in that respect it will be in better condition for next season.

The great contract for supplying the English market with Texas meats has been perfected, and the chill-house at Galveston, in which 6,000 head of beeves a month will be prepared for shipment, is now being erected.

In applying manure the nature of the soil should be studied. For heavy, clay soils, manure from the horse stable is best, as it loosens and warms the soils. For sandy or light, warm soils, manure from the cow stables and hog pens produce the best results.

The hemp companies at Rantoul and Paxton, Ill., have each put in over 300 acres of hemp this year, and the farmers in the vicinity of those towns have put in several hundred acres more. Binding twine, of hemp of American growth, will be an important factor in the trade next year.

The Illinois State Grange offers $10,000 for a machine or device to attach to reapers that will bind wheat or oats with straw. The machine may work and twist its straw direct from the reaper, or it may be separate and twist the straw, wind on large spools that may be re-reeled on smaller spools by the farmer.

Too heavy feeding and want of exercise tend to barrenness, not only among fowls, but among all other kinds of animals. There is little choice in economical results between neglect and fashionable pampering. The medium course is generally best. Enough is better than a surfeit.

Price List of Oils to Alliances.

150 test,	medium white	coal oil,	11½	cents.
150 "	prime "	" "	10½	"
175 "	Y. L. "	" "	13	"
74 "	stove gasoline		" 11½	"

These oils in barrel lots. The best harness oil in either one or five gallon cans, 70 cents per gallon. Pure Neat's foot oil in one to five gallon cans, 60 cents per gallon. In barrel lots, 50 cents per gallon. Axle grease, thirty-six boxes in case, $1.85.

ALLEN ROOT, State Agent.

Coal For The Alliance.

August and September is the best time to figure on the winter's coal supply. We quote the following prices: Pittsburg, Kansas, good article soft coal, $1.65 per ton. Mulberry, $1.75 per ton. In lots of 12 tons or over f. o. b. at mines. Orders should be sent to the state agent right away stating number of cars wanted and time of shipment. Need not be paid for until received at your station.

Omaha Fair.

Omaha Fair and Exposition Sept. 2 to 6 inclusive. Merchants and manufacturers meet during this time at the Coliseum. Attractions the most beautiful. It will be worth a lifetime to visit Omaha at this time. 8tf

Official Notice to Alliances.

All Subordinate or County Alliances wanting coal the coming season from the state agency should send in the number of cars wanted, the grade of coal used, and be sure to state what railroad they are tributary to. This matter must be attended to at once and reports sent in promptly to the secretary of the State Alliance.

Job Printing For Alliances.

We are prepared to do any and all kinds of printing for Alliances. Letter and note heads, envelopes. cards, by-laws, circulars, handbills etc. Send in your orders and we will do the work at prices as reasonable as it can be done.

State Agent's Notice.

It is very desirable and will save some expense, and be better in every way, if the Alliances will bulk their orders so one shipment will do for many parties. It is found that little or nothing can be saved on groceries at retail. If orders are in unbroken packages can be had at jobbers' rates. Price lists are of little account only in a general way. The price on sugar changed three cents in one week not long since. Many other things the same.

ALLEN ROOT,
State Agent.

FARMERS' UNION INS. Co., of Grand Island, Neb. I. N. White and A. Rodgers are Special Agents for Greeley and Wheeler counties. We invite you to investigate the merits of this company and see where the difference comes in. In the first place, you only pay one per cent for your insurance.
8tf WHITE & RODGERS.

FOR INSURANCE.—See or address Swigart & Bush, Mead, Neb., Special Agents Farmers Union (Mutual) Ins. Co., Grand Island, Nebraska.

J. M. ROBINSON,
KENESAW, ADAMS COUNTY, NEBR.

Breeder and Shipper of Recorded Poland China Hogs. Choice Breeding Stock for sale. Write for wants. [Mention The Alliance.

OBTAIN CHICAGO PRICES FOR YOUR

PRODUCE

The way to do this is to ship your Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Veal, Hay, Grain, Wool, Hides, Beans, Broom Corn, Green and Dried Fruits, Vegetables, or anything you have, to us. The fact that you may have been selling these articles at home for years is no reason that you should continue to do so if you can find a better market. We make a specialty of receiving shipments direct from FARMERS AND PRODUCERS, and probably have the largest trade in this way of any house in this market. Whilst you are looking around for the cheapest market in which to buy your goods and thus economizing in that way, it will certainly pay you to give some attention to the best and most profitable way of disposing of your produce. We invite correspondence from INDIVIDUALS, ALLIANCES, CLUBS, and all organizations who desire to ship their produce to this market. If requested, we will send you free of charge our daily market report, shipping directions and such information as will be of service to you if you contemplate shipping. Let us hear from you.

SUMMERS, MORRISON & CO.,

COMMISSION MERCHANTS, 174 S. WATER, ST., CHICAGO.

REFERENCE:—Metropolitan Nation Bank, Chicago. Mention The Alliance.

HAVING THE EVIL EYE.

A Familiar Superstition Among the Italians.

Shortly after his election Pius IX., who was then adored by the Romans and perhaps the best-loved man in Italy, was driving through the streets when he happened to glance upward at an open window at which a nurse was standing with a child.

A few minutes afterward the nurse let the child drop and it was killed. No one thought the pope had wished this, but the fancy that he had the evil eye became universal and lasted till his death. In Carniola, if you tell a mother her baby is strong and large for its age, a farmer that his crops are looking well, or a coachman that his team is good, all three will spit at your feet to avert the omen, and, if you understand the custom, you will do the same as an act of politeness.

A person who wandered through Upper Carniola and praised everything he saw would soon come to be considered the most malevolent of men. In Naples the same feeling exists. The terms of endearment which mothers of the lower class used to their children and the pet names they call them by are often so indecent that it would be impossible to reproduce them in English and always so contemptuous that they would be offensive in any other relation.

The well known habit of Neapolitans to offer a guest anything he may praise has probably the same origin. It is, of course, now to a very large extent only a form of courtesy; but even now another feeling lurks behind, at least in a good many cases. Your host has been delighted at your admiration of his possesions; he would have been disappointed if it had not been so warmly expressed as it was; but still he is a little afraid of the ill luck the kind things you have said may bring. By offering the objects you have liked best to you, and receiving your certain refusal to accept them, he puts them in a bad light, and thus counteracts the evil effects of your praise. He says to fate, you see their value is not great, after all.

This superstition, however, is by no means confined to Naples or Italy; it is said to be common in China and Japan, and among negroes and red Indians. Even in England it is not unknown. In fact, in all countries when visiting a sick acquaintance it is better to say, "I am glad to hear you are a little better to-day," than "I am glad to see you looking so much better." Nor is the belief by any means confined to the lower classes. A person who is highly educated, very intelligent, and by no means prejudiced in religious matters, was once asked whether the words acted as an evil charm or whether they merely foretold evil. The reply was: "I don't know; but I do know from experience that whenever anybody tells me I am looking well I fall ill within three days; and the more intimate I am with the person that says it the worse the illness is." There may be a connection between the superstition and that of the evil eye—we are inclined to think there is—but they must not be confounded, as one is often found in districts where the other is unknown.—London Saturday Review.

Electrical Census Machine.

One of the most recent uses to which electricity has been put is described as follows: "The census collector will call with his printed blank and answers to questions will be written in the usual way. These sheets will then be placed before a person who operates a machine which may be likened to a typewriter, except that instead of the usual ink mark on paper small round holes are punched in a card. The cards, one for each person, are about 6½ inches in length by 3 inches in width, and the particular position of a hole in a card indicates an answer to some one of the questions in the printed blank. As many as 250 items of information can be punched out upon a card, although no one card would ever have more than one-tenth part of the whole number; as, for example, no one person can be classed as both white and black, American and foreign born, and if foreign born he can only come from one country. These cards when punched are placed one at a time in a sort of press and a lever, operated by one hand, is brought down when a series of pins are brought against the card. Whenever a hole has been punched in a card the corresponding pin passes through into a mercury cup beneath, completing an electric circuit. These circuits, one for every hole, pass out to a large number of counters which operate electrically, and add upon their dials all items of the same kind upon the same dials; as, for instance, all white men upon a dial marked white males; all business or professional people upon dials which indicate their particular business or profession. The cards, as they leave the press, are all sorted by means of an electrical sorting device, whereby they may be separated into groups or States of the Union."—Pittsburg American Manufacturer.

The Temporal Power.

A political and historical document of much interest and some importance has just been discovered in the archives of the ministry of public instruction at Rome. This is the rough draught of a speech delivered on the 9th of June, 1848, by Count Mamiani, at that time first minister of Pius IX., on the occasion of the opening of the Roman parliament. Count Mamiana speaking for the pope, told the Roman deputies that the holy father really made but little account of the temporal power. He preferred to live in the high sphere of his spiritual realm, in the calm atmosphere of dogma, and be connected with the lower world only by dispensing to it the word of God, and by his prayers for it and his blessing and his absolution. This statement of his attitude was not long afterward disavowed by Pius IX., in an allocution which he delivered at Gaeta, in which he denied expressly that any authories had been given to Count Mamiani for such an expression. It is, therefore, rather interesting to find that the rough draught of Mamiani's speech had certainly passed through the pope's hands since it shows a number of annotations and corrections in the well-known handwriting of Pius IX. The Italian government considers the new-found document of so much importance that it has had it photographed, the Temps says, and sent a copy to every public library in the kingdom. Doubtless Sig. Crispi feels some satisfaction over the detection of an almost sainted pope in a piece of practical politics.

Trichiniasis.

Raw ham and bologna sausage had for years been favorite articles of diet with Joseph Palmi, aged 34, of New York. Last Wednesday he died at Bellevue hospital of trichiniasis. His muscles were literally alive with parasitic worms.

SET A BEAR ON FIRE.

The Bear Set a Creek to Blazing and There Was a Fiery Time Generally.

"Folks may not know it," was the remark of a man from the oil regions to a New York Sun man, "but bears can swim like ducks. I don't know whether they can dive or not, but if they can one bear that I remember made the mistake of his life once by not diving, and that not only but in not swimming under water from one bank of the stream he was in to the other bank before he came out again. The fate of that bear was a fearful one and a warning to all of the bear family to stick to terra firma in the oil regions.

"I was one of the first seekers after riches that went up along the Cherry Tree run in Venango county to put down oil wells. Good paying territory been found and a number of wells put down in the vicinity of Cherry Tree. Trout fishing was excellent in those mountain streams then, oil not having yet been produced along them in sufficient quantities to mingle with the water and spoil it for fishing. I was an enthusiastic trout fisherman, and one day in June, early in the days of the rush to the Oil Creek valley, a friend of mine and I went very near to the headwaters of one of the small creeks that emptied into Cherry Tree run for a big day's fishing. It was getting along toward dark by the time we had fished to the mouth of the creek, and we were loaded down with trout, and about as near tired out as two vigorous young men could well be. In fact, we were so near tuckered out that we concluded to camp at the mouth of the creek for the night, although we were within three miles of the shanty where we were sinking a well. We ate a hearty supper of trout, built a big camp fire, and lay down on the ground by the side of it to sleep. The fire threw a glare clear across Cherry Tree run, which was wide and deep there.

"I wasn't long in falling asleep. I never knew what woke me up, but I awoke suddenly in the night, suddenly and wide. The camp-fire was still burning brightly, and as I lay there looking at the broad pathway of light it cast across the run I saw the water where the light rested upon it suddenly become agitated, and I soon became aware that some big object was swimming the stream and coming directly toward where we were lying. It was a spooky sort of situation, and, to tell the truth, I was scared, so much so that I couldn't stir. I lay there scarcely daring to breathe, with my eyes fixed on the approaching object. It pulled deliberately across the creek, and as it crawled out on the shore I discovered that it was an enormous bear. He didn't pause for a second, but slouched right on toward the fire, evidently prompted by genuine bear curiosity. The spot where he had camped wasn't more than twenty feet from either stream. The appearance of the big bear and his advance upon our camp broke the spell under which I had been lying and I sprang to my feet, grabbed a blazing stick from the fire, and hurled it at the approaching animal, which was then almost an arm's length of me. The brand struck the bear. If I had been frightened at the first apsearence of the animal in the run I was simply terrified when the burning stick hit him, for like a flash of gunpowder the poor beast burst into flames from snout to tail.

"With a howl that filled the woods with frightful echoes and brought my sleeping friend to his feet in terror, the blazing bear turned and fled to the creek and jumped into the water. If he had expected to find help there he was wofully mistaken, for in an instant the creek from bank to bank and far above and below us became a line of leaping fire, lighting up the gloom of the forest for rods on either side and forming one of the most awful spectacles I ever witnessed and such a one as I never hope to witness again. There came from that roaring stream of flame one long, unearthly wail of agony. For a second we saw the blazing form of the wretched bear writhe in torture in the burning creek. Then we saw and heard him no more. The terrible heat from the fire drove us back into the woods, where we remained for an hour or more, two terror-stricken, trembling spectators of that sudden apparition of flame. Then it died gradually away and became extinct, leaving upon us such a sense of gloom and ghostliness that neither of us had the courage to remain longer on the spot, and we lost no time in making our way in the darkness to our shanty up the creek.

"We learned, on reaching there, that an oil tank had sprung a leak that evening, and before it could be stopped a great quantity of oil had run into the stream and floated down on the surface. The unfortunate bear had struck this inflammable stuff when he swam the creek, and his fur had become saturated with it. My firebrand had ignited it instantly, and in jumping back into the creek, all ablaze, the bear had set the whole oily surface on fire, and met his frightful fate."

Made Fat in Five Minutes.

One of the most amusing and astonishing of pantomime tricks ever originated was that of the fat man, which was done by the Ravels. One of the actors in the pantomime sits at a table and ravenously eats dish after dish of food that a servant brings to him. Presently the man who, like most ravenous eaters, was rather thin and scrawny, begins to grow plump. His clothes fit him snugly. His waistcoat steadily swells out under the very eyes of the audience. All the while he is eating like a sausage machine. In a few minutes he has grown to be a giant eight or nine feet tall, and with the portions of an inflated balloon.

The sight always brought forth roars of laughter. It is comparatively easy to produce it after you know how. The food eaten is all "property food," made of tisue paper, that the actor chews up into little balls and takes out of his mouth whenever occasion offers.

His clothes are all of rubber and made to fit air tight around the rists and neck. In sitting down he puts the heel of one foot over a little trap in the stage. An assistant below couples a tube running from a bellows to a hole in the boot heel. Then he blows him up. It must be a rather unpleasant sensation to the actor to feel that he is nothing more than a wind bag; but actors are made to suffer. By the time that the suit has grown so big that the inhabitant has to have a lantern to move around in it, the wind is cut off and the boot heal plugged up. Then by an ingenious arrangement of springs under the actor's feet the height is acquired.

There is a beautiful chance in this trick for some practical joke-loving property-man to blow in gas that would lift the unfortunate actor off his feet and send him sailing about over the heads of the audience.

"The smashed clown" is another well-known trick of former years that has never been explained. A big millstone falls on a clown, and when it is lifted up the clown is picked up flattened out as flat as a pancake. He is insensible and is placed on a table; another actor places the nozzel of a bellows in his mouth and gradually inflates him to his normal size, when the clown jumps off the table and is himself again.

The trick requires deft work and considerable machinery. The millstone is hollow, of course, and has a strong trap in the bottom, so that when it falls it takes the clown into it. At the same time a trap in the stage opens and lets him down. The dummy clown, all flattened out, is placed on the trap and it is sprung back to its place under the millstone. The actor meanwhile lays himself out at full length on another trap that rises up above the stage to the top of the table where the dummy is placed. Only the outline of the clown's body is exposed above the table. The dummy drops down on another trap behind it, and, as it goes, the body of the real clown is slowly raised above the table to give the effect of being filled out by the bellows.

Another trick is that of a big man standing up in a nonchalant sort of way, while another man dives head first through his stomach. This trifling with the calm repose of his dinner so annoys the big man that he promptly turns into a steamboat and puffs out his disgust in clouds of smoke.

It would be almost impossible to make any one but a stage mechanic understand the complicated workings of the trick. A trick back net is used, so that when the little man dives through him the big man can be lifted up horizontally to the rear, so that his clothes and his head remain in the same position, and to the audience he seems not to have moved.

As soon as he begins to be a steamboat he is jerked out of sight through the back scene, and the steamboat comes up in sections inside his clothes, falls over them and pulls out like a telescope until it becomes a river steamer with its decks full of people, who are shot up to their places by spring traps. The smoke is easily brought up by a pipe under the stage. It requires thirty-five stage hands to work the trick, and they don't have much time for loafing, either.—New York World.

The Late Mrs. Hayes.

During the war Mrs. Hayes now and then went to "the front" to visit her husband, who was colonel of the Twenty-third Ohio, says a Washington letter to the Cleveland Leader. She was an angel of mercy to the sick and wounded, often passing days and nights in ministering to their needs. She was well known to all the soldiers of the Twenty-third, and no favorite general ever evoked more tempestuous cheers than did Mrs. Hayes when she appeared in the camp. Whenever the soldiers wanted to express their esteem for anybody they didn't lift their rusty old hats and make graceful bows—they just yelled.

At one time, while the Twenty-third was laying in camp in western Virginia, a squad of recruits joined the regiment. One of them thought Uncle Sam's tailor did't put pockets enough in the soldier's blouses, and could not be satisfied till he had another in his to carry the gimcracks which every veteran despised but which he had not yet learned to do without. The first day in camp he inquired of the boys where he could get it done. One of the wags of the company sized him up and saw at once a good chance to have a joke.

"Certainly," said he to the fledging, "we have a regimental seamstress for doing just such jobs as that. There she is," and he pointed to Mrs. Hayes, who was sitting on a camp chair in front of the colonel's tent. "Just take your blouse right to her, and she'll do it up brown."

The innocent recruit stalked boldly up to head-quarters, threw off his blouse, and handed it to her, asking if she would put in a pocket for him, remarking with a patronizing air that he would pay her well for it.

Col. Hayes, who was writing in his tent, heard the young soldier and came out. Observing the new uniform and fresh face he took in the situation and his eyes twinkled with merriment, but he said nothing, knowing his wife was equal to any ordinary emergency.

"Of course I will," said Mrs. Hayes, who was as quick as her husband to "see through" it. "Come back in an hour and I'll have it ready for you."

She set to work with scissors and when the young patriot called for his blouse he found in it as nice a pocket as his mother could have made.

"How much?" he asked, taking out his pocket-book.

"Oh, nothing at all! I was glad to do it for you, and you are very welcome."

While the soldier was expressing his thanks Col. Hayes came out of the tent and thought he would carry the joke a little farther.

"Do you know me, my man?" he said, pleasantly, extending his hand to the soldier.

The latter, somewhat abashed by the official presence, said he did not.

"Well, my name is Hayes, and I am the colonel of this regiment. Allow me, sir, to introduce to you my wife."

The young man retired in great confusion—but he had the pocket in his blouse that he wanted.

The Miller's Wooing.

"Love me little, love me long,"
Sang the dusty miller
To his wheat art, and his song
Did a maize and taritll her.

"Bid me barley hope; oh, give
Me one grain of comfort;
I would oat on thee and live,
Holding on to some fort.

"In your eyes now love-looks shine,
There lies cereal pleasure.
Oh! hominy joys are mine,
Filling up my measure."

Came the maiden's corn-ful laugh
At the miller's fawning;
"You can't winnow girl with chaff—
Sir! to you, good morning."
—London Sporting Times.

A Widow's Trousseau.

The trousseau of a widow who is about to be married a second time is the talk of New York just now. It contains no colors that are not white, gray, or some shade of lilac, and wherever it is possible to put a reminiscence of the violet, her favorite flower, there it is. The silk underclothing, either of cream, gray, or lilac, is all embroidered with wreathes of violets—white violets on purple ground, and purple ones on gray and white. Little silken bags, containing very thin layers of cotton wool thickly sprinkled with orris root, are sewn into the bosoms of the gowns. The odor of the ground orris root is more like the faint perfume of a violet than anything else which can be found.