

Tracks of a mastodon have been found in the sandstone in Arizona, but it is useless to follow them up. The animal that made them is probably dead.

English jurists are noted for their longevity. There are sixteen judges now on the bench whose aggregate age is 1,127 years. Lord Escher is 80, Baron Pollock 72, and six others are over 65.

The rates at the hotels of Atlanta, Ga., to-day are not exorbitant, but prior to 1851 they were only \$12 per month. In that year one hotelkeeper advanced his price to \$15, and many of his boarders left rather than submit to the "extortion."

The Sultan of Morocco is about to take for his second wife the daughter of one of his most powerful vassals. The people of Morocco are much discontented, as every one of them is obliged to send a wedding present to the monarch.

Germany is forging ahead in an altogether phenomenal manner with her mercantile marine. In 1871 it consisted of 147 steamships, with a total tonnage of 82,000, whereas last year the government returns showed a total of some 1,200 steamers, with a tonnage of over 1,000,000.

Mr. F. C. Selous, the famous African hunter of England, confesses to have slain twenty-five lions with his own unaided hand, and to have assisted in the slaughter of eleven others. He has also knocked over a few elephants, which is exciting work, but not so much so as hunting the king of beasts.

Paper is now being used for underground gas-pipes in England. The material is cellulose paper, soaked in asphalt. The pipes are said to be impermeable to water and air, capable of resisting heavy pressure, not subject to the ordinary causes of deterioration, and not affected by the action of electric currents.

Maguire Hines, railroad builder, has just returned from a visit to England. He went there to raise three millions of dollars for a new line in the South. "The people I met believe that the late war over met was between North and South America," he said, recently, "and their notion about Venezuela is that the Confederacy has started the war again."

Russia's big cruiser Rossia, the largest ship in the navy, which ran aground last November while being taken from the shipyard at Cronstadt after it had been launched, has just been floated. It was expected that the vessel would have to remain in its position till the ice broke up in the spring, but a passage was opened for it by steam ice-breakers. It took fifty-one days, working continuously day and night, to get the ship afloat again.

The agitation recently in progress in France in favor of the liberation of the Pole Berzowski, who in 1807 was sentenced to life imprisonment for shooting at the Czar in the Bois de Boulogne at Paris, has led to the discovery that the man, who has been languishing for just thirty years in the penal colony of New Caledonia, has now become insane, and that his release therefore would be of no benefit whatsoever to him.

From Guthrie, Okla., comes the tidings that the mismatched ones from the East who went there to obtain divorces went away, in many cases, without paying the costs, a fact which the court officials declare nullifies the decree. It is now proposed to cancel such decrees the costs of which were not paid. Considering the charges of Oklahoma, hotels and divorce lawyers it is little wonder the divorced ones jumped the costs of the suits.

There is at least one person in Boston who does not believe in the efficacy of advertising. He is a dog fancier, and having a very lively canine to dispose of he announced that fact through the columns of one of the daily papers in that city in the following way: "Buildog for sale; will eat anything; very fond of children." After waiting a week he has become profoundly skeptical as to the power of the press and its availability as a disseminator of commercial information.

One of the finest houses in Southern England is Penhurst Place, the birthplace of Sir Philip Sidney, now for sale. Under the trees of its park, says the New York Tribune, Edmund Waller paid his addresses to the haughty Lady Dorothea, whom he celebrated as Saccarissa. But the heart of Lady Dorothea Sydney—who was the most beautiful woman of her time—was untouched by Waller's amatory verses, and she rejected the poet in favor of the Earl of Sunderland. Many years afterward the Countess met Waller, and, reminding him sentimentally of the old days at Penhurst, asked him when he would again write verses about her. "When, madame," said the poet, rudely, "you are as young and as handsome as you were then."

The Italian government, having real-ized the impracticability of raising from the bottom of Lake Nemi, near Rome, the two huge ships which the Roman Emperor Tiberius was wont to use as floating palaces, and which have been

lying submerged for nearly 2,000 years, is now considering a scheme recommended by its archaeological and engineering experts for the draining of the lake in question until its waters shall have been lowered sufficiently to bring the ships to the surface. It is estimated that the cost of such an operation as this would not exceed \$50,000.

The Macon Telegraph compiles some interesting facts from the report of the Controller-General. Eighty-three counties in Georgia returned for taxation 722,265 fewer acres of land in 1896 than they did in 1895; fifty-one counties returned 430,154 more; not one returned the same number of acres for the two years. The value of the land returned in 1895, and which was not returned in 1896, was in round numbers \$2,400,000, and would have paid in taxes between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The question is, where have those 700,000 and more acres of land gone?

The police of San Francisco have recently been enforcing the law prohibiting work on Sunday, especially against Chinese laundrymen. Last Sunday, as a large load of these offenders was being carried to jail in the police ambulance, a resident of the Western Addition asked the reason, and was informed by a policeman, "Yep," grunted a disgusted Chinese, who stood near, "man workee Sunday, he go jail—'gainst law workee Sunday. Man no workee, he go jail—vag. America great country."

Everyone knows that there is an affinity between actresses and millionaires or the sons of millionaires, but probably the best instance of it is found in the Gould family. George, the eldest son, married a woman from the stage. Then Anna, a daughter, became engaged to an actor, but threw him over for a French count, and now comes Howard, another son, who, it is said, has either secretly married or is engaged to marry an actress. There is another daughter, Helen, but she is engaged only in charities, and a son, Edwin, but the only matches he is concerned with are of the lucifer variety.

There is no fashionable cane at the present day. A few years ago every other man on the street carried a cane. As a general thing it had a more or less elaborate silver head. The demand for these articles was great, and to meet it the manufacturers turned out cheap plated-silver heads in all the styles of the genuine article. Then came the affectation of slim bamboo crooks that could be had for a dollar. They were light and unassuming, and were very popular. These are out of date now, and the cane-makers say that there is no standard design for walking sticks. The reason is that they are out of fashion. Businessmen have seen the folly of lugging a cane about with them, and in fashionable circles it has been decided that it is a lack of courtesy to carry a cane when one goes to call. In fact, the cane is relegated to walking expeditions.

The newspapers of New York have been indulging in ponderous jests over the domestic infidelities that have come to the surface in certain other cities, and having become so ardent in exploiting this vein of humor they are furnished now happily with a broader field for their exercise. The fact has just come to light that "by actual count there are 15,000 husbands within the limits of New York now under bonds to support their wives. These deserted wives, pinched with want, besieged by the city courts and block the machinery of the law with their clamors for redress." The quotation is made from a New York newspaper. This is a condition that presents practically boundless possibilities for the humor of any one who can see anything funny in it. New York newspapers need not go afield any longer for food for merriment. These 15,000 "deserted wives pinched with want" dwarf the pretensions of any other community in the same line.

Evangelist Moody seems to have allowed himself to drift into the sensational methods of Sam Jones during his revival work in Boston, and has received a very sharp rebuke from the Rev. Dr. Lortimer, a popular minister of that city. Mr. Moody has repeatedly asserted in his public addresses that there are men in Boston "who occupy leading places in the membership of wealthy churches, and pay their big pew rentals and get the money for generous and various benevolent contributions to send the gospel to the heathen, and to carry on other church work, by letting buildings for immoral purposes." Dr. Lortimer calls upon him either to name these wicked sepulchers or to keep silence, at the same time expressing the belief that he has no actual knowledge on the subject to disclose, and is indulging in the stock in trade of cheap sensationalists, which he should be above using. It is rather remarkable that evangelists, great or small, should ever allow themselves to so traduce the church which they are constantly urging people to enter. It does not recommend the church to sinners to be told, on at least semi-official authority, that it contains rascals of high degree. No doubt every religious organization contains some hypocrites, some wolves in sheep's clothing, but these persons do not give character to the church. They are in the minority, and they keep their evil doings hidden as far as possible. It is cheap criticism of the church to charge it with harboring sinners when to harbor them and help them to better ways is its only mission. Mr. Moody hurts rather than helps his cause by such preaching.

A toast given at a meeting of a woman's club in Springfield, Mo., was "The Men We Left Behind Us."

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Skunks and Squirrels Are Friends of the Farmer—Unhusked Corn Makes Good Feed—Cause of "Cold" Soil—Table for Sorting Apples.

Farmer's Friends. Last spring I planted a sixteen-acre field in corn. Part of the field had been mowed the year before and part had been pastured after harvest. The cutworms cut a great deal of it off. Some of this was replanted and some not, being afraid I would get it too thick. To give you some idea how thick they were I will relate a little incident which occurred one morning when I went out to see if the squirrels were taking up the corn. I was on the point of returning home when I saw a little ground squirrel running up a stump and sitting down to snuff himself. I thought it was my chance. I shot him, but before he died he threw everything out of his bowels which he had secured for his breakfast, and much to my surprise I failed to find any corn but numerous worms. Upon counting I found exactly twenty-one; mostly cutworms. I have not killed any ground squirrels since. And I, therefore, think that the squirrel is the farmer's friend.

The corn did not do well all summer and began to dry up very early. When we were cutting it, I noticed wherever the grub-worm had bored a hole had been dug around the stock, and I wondered what could be the cause, when some one suggested the skunk as being the cause in its search of worms. I have come to the conclusion that had the ground squirrels and skunks been a little plentier we would have had more than 350 bushels of corn on sixteen acres. What do the readers think?—New York Witness.

Feeding Unhusked Corn. Some farmers have learned that ears of corn merely broken from the stalk and unhusked are eaten by cattle with less likelihood of injury than if corn is husked and fed on the ear, the usual way. The husk makes a porous addition to the ration and prevents the grain from fermenting. But when corn is snapped from the stalk, there is a hard, rough stub at the butt of the ear that has little nutrition, and may very easily be injurious. If the stock is valuable, it will pay for the extra cost of husking and grinding the corn. In the greater amount of nutrition the animals will get from their food.

Cold Soil. What is usually called "cold" soil is due mostly to excess of water which finds no outlet by sinking into it, and is forced to evaporate from the surface. This takes so much heat from the soil that vegetation will not grow readily in it. Hence the cold soil is very often thin as well, coming quickly to the clay on which it rests. If this clay is undrained air and frost will pulverize it, enabling deep-rooted plants to penetrate the soil and enrich it. So long as soil is filled with stagnant water it will only support ferns and mosses, whose roots run near the surface.

Sorting Apples. The ease and convenience in assorting apples can be greatly enhanced by using a table constructed for the purpose as follows: Length, feet, width 3 1/2 feet, height 3 feet. The top should consist of canvas or oilcloth securely nailed to the frame, strips three inches wide of inch stuff, and, for convenience, openings should be left in each corner large enough to admit a half bushel basket. These rest on supports fastened to the legs of the table, the latter being made three inches wide and two inches thick, all well braced. The writer can vouch for the ease, comfort and facility of the work performed by its aid, and could not be induced to return to the tiresome, back-aching method of sorting on the ground. Not being patented, they are free to all, and are truly a great acquisition, not only in the apple orchard but are desirable for handling pears and quinces as well.—Farm and Vineyard.

Burying Loose Rubbish. It is well to have in the garden in winter an open trench, into which may be thrown the waste from the house that would otherwise lie around as rubbish. The earth thrown out of this trench may be used to receive the waste from chambers, and being exposed to frequent freezing and thawing, this soil, when thrown over the rubbish in the trench, will be an excellent place to plant the very earliest vegetables. By having these trenches made in different parts of the garden each fall, in time the soil of the entire garden will be deepened, thus greatly increasing its productiveness.

Snow in Forests. There is no place on the farm where a uniform level of snow is so sure as in the forest, and hardly anywhere it does more good. The uniform depth of snow melting and sinking in the soil supplies the trees with water, and at the same time prevents the deep freezing which injures the roots of trees and often destroys them. Whenever wood is to be got out of forests sleds on a good snowfall can be loaded much easier than wagons, and can be got out of the woods with less labor and danger of breakage. Snow in maple groves delays the beginning of sugar making, but it also protracts the flow of sap, besides making it more abundant. After a cold winter, with little snow, there is always a short and poor maple sugar crop.

Early Potatoes in Gardens. Almost every farmer's garden has its patch of early potatoes, planted there

because usually the garden is plowed earlier than any other land equally rich. It often happens that these garden potatoes come year after year on the same soil. No amount of manuring will make this successful. In fact, the excessive amount of stable manures predisposes the potatoes to rot, especially as the spores of the disease may be left in the soil from the previous year's crop. Besides, these garden potatoes are always an early mark for the potato beetles, which have probably wintered under the rubbish and weeds that the garden too often furnishes, or under the fence that surrounds it. The better way is to plant potatoes on some rich land away from the garden, choosing a clover ley, with which not much manure will be needed to make a good crop. On a clover ley the early potato beetles will be only the scattering ones that have flown from a distance. The crop will also, in most cases, be more easily cultivated and kept from weeds than in its cramped quarters in the garden.—American Cultivator.

Marketing Grapes. Grapes, like other fruits, need to be carefully handled to bring the best prices. The vines need to be gone over frequently during the ripening season, gathering only those with full color, because grapes do not, like other fruits, color after being gathered. The bunches should be cut off with a pair of scissors and so handled as not to disturb the bloom. Ordinary varieties may be at once packed from the vines into the basket that is intended for sale. Choice varieties should be gathered in shallow trays or baskets, in which they should stand a day or two on shelves in the fruit house, and then re-packed. By this treatment the stems will wilt, and the bunches will then keep without molding and pack more closely than when green.—Canadian Horticulturist.

Fruit Trees by the Roadside. Tell us if you know any good reason for planting maples, elms and the like along the roadides in place of the practically useful cherries, chestnuts, walnuts and other fruit trees, especially out in the country where the depredations of fruit-hungry city boys are not much to be feared. Of if one must have forest trees, why not the lindens, that will after a while enable our bees to gather the choicest honey in abundance? When a Spaniard eats a peach or pear by the roadside, wherever he is, he digs a hole in the ground with his foot and covers the seed. Consequently, all over Spain by the roadside and elsewhere, fruit in great abundance tempts the taste and may be picked and eaten by anybody. This fruit is a great boon to tired and thirsty travelers.—The Gardener.

One Dollar the Average. Experiments made in different sections show that the cost of feeding a hen one year is about \$1, and that the profit is about the same, the gross receipts from the hen being about \$2 a year. Of course, this varies according to the breed, cost of food and location, being sometimes more and sometimes less; but it is accepted that \$1 pays the cost and \$1 profit is made from each hen. With small flocks, where table scraps are put to use and when the labor is of but little value, the cost is reduced and the profits larger.—Poultry Keeper.

Poultry Pickings. Always select the cream of your flock for breeders. It pays to improve. There is not one-half the amount of labor in keeping fowls in health as there is in trying to cure disease. Do away with condiments and condition powders; each tends to weaken instead of strengthen your poultry. Don't fail to supply your birds with plenty of grit. Bear in mind it takes push and grit to make poultry profitable.

Farm Notes. Wherever there is a low place beside the road accumulating the wash from the roadbed the soil will probably be rich enough to pay for plowing up and curting into adjoining fields. This will improve the road as well, as it makes a place into which its surplus moisture will flow. A sheltered yard would be very serviceable in winter. This may be secured by the use of boards or by growing an evergreen hedge around the inclosure, to serve as a windbreak. If the cold winds can be kept from stock they can stand quite a low degree of cold and enjoy themselves in the open air. A Pennsylvanian has a simple plan of feeding bees. As he has never lost a colony that had a queen and enough bees to keep it warm, the plan is worth testing. He makes candy of granulated sugar and pours this into shallow pans. When cool he lays it on top of the frames right over a cluster of bees.

Low-down wagons with wide metal wheels are being used with good results, as they are more easily loaded and the wide wheels do not cut up the roads, but assist to pack the surface. Wide wheels are not necessarily heavy, as improvements in wheels have gained width and lightness, metal being substituted for the heavy hubs and spokes to be found in wheels made of wood. There is much work on the farm that can now be more cheaply done by steam power, even though it leave horses idle in the stable. The horse has saved man much labor now let man use the cheaper device of modern invention to save the horse whenever this is possible. There is no danger that steam power will supersede horse power, for the latter can be used in ways that will be pleasanter for the farmer, besides being less expensive. There are plenty of uses for the horse that the steam engine cannot fill.



WOMEN RULE A BIG FACTORY.

FOND DU LAC (Wis.) women have demonstrated the fact that woman is not out of her sphere in the manufacturing world, and that she is able to hold her own in a field in which heretofore the sterner sex has held full sway. Last spring twelve Fond du Lac young women conceived the idea of establishing a shirt and overall factory, and after a few preliminary meetings they finally incorporated themselves under the name of the Fond du Lac Shirt and Overall Company, with a capital stock of \$1,200 divided into twelve shares of \$100 each. Subsequently the stock was increased to \$2,000, and the company now has twenty shareholders, all of whom are employed in the factory, erected for the industry by Samuel Level. The women were given encouragement and every assistance by W. W.



Mrs. Anna Micklejohn, Miss E. L. Brown, Miss Carrie Hersey, Miss Anna Stroup, Forelady.

Collins, a local merchant, who rendered considerable service in the disposal of the goods at the start. The capital stock was invested in sewing machines and special machinery for making buttonholes, sewing on buttons and for fancy sewing, the machinery being of the latest patterns. The power is furnished by a gasoline engine. The only man employed in the factory is the cutter. The young women now turn out twenty-five dozens of shirts daily, the product being entirely negligee shirts, which retail at from 50 cents to \$1 each. The outlook is that the capacity of the plant will soon be doubled. There are orders now on hand which will take the entire output of the plant for over two months ahead. Marshall Field & Co., of Chicago, are the largest purchasers of the goods. Miss Anna Stroup is forewoman and has entire charge of the factory. The incorporation guarantees its shareholders 7 per cent. on their investment, which is put in the expense account. A piece scale has been established, and the wages earned vary from \$4 to \$11 and \$12 a week, according to the skill possessed by the operator, the work being done by the piece. Thus far there has been a balance each month above the expenses and wages, which is turned into the treasury to be apportioned out in dividends.

Care of the Hair. To assume a new coiffure in these days requires a little thought. Now that the inevitable "part" is bidding farewell one ventures to ask, "What next?" for there seems no really new and becoming arrangement of the tresses which can so readily be acquired as that of the now dying fashion.

For evening wear a pretty style, and one which may be adopted by young and old, is that of drawing the hair high on the head and arranging in soft puffs, the front to be slightly waved a la pompadour, though showing a slight part. In each side of the hair use one of the new pompadour combs, pushing the teeth toward the face. This will so catch the hair as to make a small puff behind the ear, which lends charm to a thin face. In using a curling iron care should be taken that no signs of its use should be noticeable. For waves it is far better to braid the hair over night in tight and moistened plaits, allowing the hair at the same time to grow, for nature demands the freedom from hair-plaits at times to relieve the roots of the hair from an all day task of being twisted and pinned to suit the possessor's taste. The fashion now demands that side combs and elaborate pins shall be worn by lady of fashion and of these styles for the day wear must be simple, while those for evening must possess rare jewels and plenty of them.

Spring Walking Gowns.



Why Women Live Longer. The Boston Globe has been investigating this subject and has discovered from statistics that the percentage of feeble-mindedness is much greater among men than among women. Dr.

Ogle of the English registrar general's department reports that out of every 1,000,000 persons 225 females and only eighty-two males are alive at the age of 100. Generally speaking, the centenarians among the females outnumber the males nearly two to one. How are these facts to be accounted for? Some assert that the propensity of women to talk and gossip, being conducive to the active circulation of the blood, is a source of health. Other statisticians say that women have less wear and tear of their nervous systems than men, as well as less toll and trouble. Yet many of these long-lived women are hard toilers from the poorer classes and mothers of large families. It would not be very easy to show that women live longer than men because the latter think harder and work harder. The more evident explanation is that women live longer because they are not so addicted to certain habits as men are, and that it comes as a reward for being less worldly and less fierce in the struggle for wealth and fame.

Shoe Don'ts. Don't fail to rub patent leather shoes, particularly new ones, with the palm of the hand until quite warm before putting on, and it will prevent splitting and cracking.

Don't wear overgaiters unless to protect the upper part of your shoes from the swish of your wet skirts in stormy weather. This fashion is out of date, looks unwholesome and makes the feet look much larger.

Don't have fancy pointed tips on your shoes these days—they are quite passe. Don't polish calfskin with liquid dressing; it will crack them. The paste that men use is the thing, and don't put too much of this on.

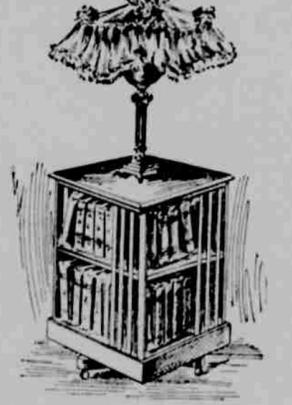
Don't forget to turn the uppers of shoes down and put them by an open window for an hour or two to air after wearing.

Don't wear a shoe run down at the heel.

Don't wear a low-priced shoe; they are not cheap. Economize on something else. Shoes made to sell at a bargain are seldom good shaped, therefore not as comfortable, and certainly do not wear as long.

Don't fail to take good care of good shoes.

Bookcase and Lamp Stand.



Good for Them. It is not always a bad sign when babies cry, and unless the walls are drawn from them by physical suffering is good for them—for their lungs, their digestion and their eyesight. The model babies who never cry are unnatural specimens. Crying is the only exercise a young baby gets; it expands the lungs, causes a better circulation of the blood and helps on muscular growth. Of course, fretting when there is discomfort is to be promptly attended to; and screaming (which might cause rupture) must not be allowed; but a really healthy little cry, when nothing particular in the matter save that baby needs that mode of expression for his pent-up feelings—this is not the thing to make everybody run and try to divert the little one's attention or to stop him, or get out of the way as if there was a fire, or a runaway locomotive coming.

Where Daughters Dress Alike.

In Yucatan, Central America, sisters dress precisely alike, even to the tying of a bow, the turn of a button or the flower in the hair. In the tropics large families are the rule, and any day you may see in that country girls in groups of from three to a baker's dozen who belong to the same family, as their clothes will show. It is thus easy to distinguish the members of a family anywhere, and not infrequently sisters are called by their favorite flower or color. In Annam men and women wear their hair in the same way, and dress almost alike; ear rings and finger rings are worn by women only. Lapp men and women dress alike. The men and women of the Cree tribe of American dress alike, but can be distinguished by the ornamentation of their leggings, that of the men being vertical and that of the women horizontal.

It is not generally known that the word "dollar" appears in Shakespeare's works, being used in "Measure for Measure," written in 1603, in act I, scene 2, "To \$3,000 a year;" in Macbeth, written in 1606, act I, scene 2, where burial is refused to Sweno's men until "Ten thousand dollars to our general use" have been paid.

When a woman is first married she wonders what takes the place of marriage in heaven. After she is married a few years she isn't particular what it is.—New York Press.