To My Ancestors.



ERE'S to my ancestors-one Drew a bow with Robin Hood; One of them was hanged, and none Was too virtuous or good.

One came near a throne - ah well! And had worn a crown, they say;

But some person, sad to tell, Caught him ere he got away.

One a splendid scheme had fixed To become a duke, in fact, But the poison that he fixed Stubbornly refused to act.

Knife and hemp and poisoned wine; Kn I haven't lord or duke my whole ancestral line.

here are knaves of every sort, Thieves and rogues of all degree; one drew breath at Hampden Court, ome lost theirs at Tyburn tree.

Some of them untimely died, Some of them had several wives; I say, with proper pride, That the good in us survives!

For with manners circumspect In an humble sphere I shine; What a glory I reflect On a long ancestral line! -Joseph Dana Miller.

narkable Piece of Machinery. remarkable piece of machinery is the ruling engine of Prof. Henry A. wland of Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore, which has just had public attention drawn to it from its having en used to make an important part of a large diffraction grating spectroscope, which was finished lately at the shops of John A. Brashear, Allegheny, Pag for Hansawadit, Magdenburg, Prussia, a wealthy scientist. For the particular work for which this spectrope is to be employed it was necesary to have the lines on the grating as fine and as close as possible. So fine and so close are they that there are stated, no doubt correctly, to be 119,-600 of them to the inch. A simple comarison will enable one easily to realize what this means. In the majority of books there are from 200 to 250 leaves to the inch, when the covers are pressed firmly together. In a very few cases the number will range from of the very thinest of these leaves into 300 layers of uniform thinness the product would be equivalent to 105,000 to the inch, or a little less than the ing as the result of a practical joke. grating. It has also to be remembered name, told him the only thing that tinct from the other. Only a very powerful microscope would reveal such lines. But they are there, and as his stomach followed. A physician smooth, straight and regular as one was called in and adminstered an can imagine. The ruling engine is emetic. Acids were given to dissolve kept in a dark chamber, underground, the hay he had swallowed, which, it

300 to 350. Now, if we could split one number of lines in this spectroscope that there must be a little space between the lines if the one is to be disin a dust-proof glass case, and when in service is guarded with the greatest possible care. No one is permitted to only a very few on other occasions. Some of the most distinguished scientists of foreign lands have made special pilgrimages to Baltimore for this purpose. The principle of the apparatus is very simple. It is the exquisite workmanship on it, and the extraordinary safeguards while making diamond point, whose selection occupied months of time, has been which is driven to and fro over by a hydraulic motor. After each trip side, so that the diamond will cut its next line in a new place. This adjustment is made automatically at the right instant by a screw, which is the crowning glory of the whole mechanism. The screw remains motionless while a line is being engraved, is then turned a small fraction of a revolution by gearing, and again keeps still while the diamond is at work. In several of the best gratings now in use there are only from 10,000 to 40,000 lines to the inch; 110,000 has thus far been attained in only two or three instances. One instrument in which the ruling had this degree of fineness was completed almost two years ago and went to the Royal Observatory, Dublin. Another was ordered for McGill university, Montreal.

Fire Postpones a Church Wedding.

From the Washington Post,-Opelika, Ala., Special.-The First Methodist church of Opelika caught fire tonight at an inopportune momarriage of Mr. E. M. Jones to Miss Suste Greene, daughter of Capt. R. M. Greene, at 3 o'clock. Just as the bride and groom alighted from their carrtage in the front of the church the ery of fire was heard, and flames were d'acovered around the altar.

The rush through windows and doors for the street was fearful. People in their excitement trampled over each other, and little children wors asparated from their parents. Had the fire occurred three minutes later. Mr. Jones and Miss Greens would have been standing before the altar. Two of the attendants had entered the church and were walking down the ging and view As were and

IN THE ODD CORNER. aisle to their pews beside the altar HIS SORROW IS GREAT where the flames were discovered, and Mr. Jones and his bride-to-be had just

The damage to the church will be considerable, the magnificent pipe organ was totally destroyed and the plastering fell from the ceiling in large quantities. The fire department reached the scene in a remarkably short space of time and succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The explosion of a lamp caused the conflagration. The negro who was turning the handle of the pipe organ knocked the lamp over.

Mr. Jones and Miss Greene repaired to the home of the bride's parents, where the ceremony was performed.

Philadelphians Still Buying Gold Bricks.

From the Philadelphia Record .-While working on a building near Forty-fifth street and Chester avenue, Harry Lockwood, a brick-layer, made a valuable discovery in cutting a Pompelian brick, which he was about to put in a large segmental arch. The brick in question was a very hard one and Lockwood was about to throw it down after cutting a few pieces off when he discovered a shiny piece of metal projecting from the inner part. After much cutting he succeeded in freeing the metal, which proved to be the back of a gold watch, on the inner part of which was the inscription: 'Eugene Buzby, Wilmington, Del. for saving the life of my daughter, Aug. 12, 1889, Wilfred Powell." Lockwood took his find to a dealer in old gold, who said the quality of the piece was excellent, and as the inscription made the plate quite a curiosity he offered the fortunate bricklayer \$10 for it, which Lockwood accepted.

Proud of Their Fighting Preacher. From The Philadelphia Record. Leipsic, Del., Special.-A prize fighter received a severe drubbing at the hands of the Rev. Charles I. Stengle, the athletic pastor of the Methodist church here, yesterday afternoon. John Stout of Dover came here and asked the preacher if he could rent the old Methodist church building for a sparring exhibition. The preacher, who recently came from Dover, knew Stout and gave him a lecture for thinking of such a thing. Stout resented the parson's talk and started to attack him.

The Rev. Mr. Stengle was alert, and, seizing the prize fighter by the throat, choked him until he was blue in the face. When the preacher released his hold the fighter slunk away. Mr. Stengle's congregation are congratulating him.

Three Stomachs Short.

From the Chicago Daily Tribune .-Denver, Col., Special.-Hans Hansen, a Swede, who came here a few weeks ago by his physician's advice, is dy-A fellow boarder, John Henderson by would benefit him would be alfalfa. He was given a bunch of the fodder and told to eat it. He followed instructions religiously and pains in is said, had been rolled into a ball in his stomach. If it is not removed in a week he will die. If he had four enter the dungeon at such times, and stomachs, like a cow, there would be no doubt of his recovery, but he is short three and his chances are slim.

Man With a Patent Thumb.

From the York (Pa.) Gazette: Jere Kormeny recently lost a thumb in a planing mill. Mr. Kormeny is said to be the most skillful turner in York, it, which makes it a wonder. A but the absence of the lost thumb was a considerable handicap upon him in his work. He set about repairing the mounted in a tiny carriage, defect in a very practical way by riggiging on to his hand a leather thumb the grating. The carriage runs stuffed with cotton and hardened at the on a set of rails and is propelled end. The experiment proved a big success and the leather member, while the carriage is moved a little to one not entirely replacing the original trol that Mr. Kormeny can largely manipulate it at will and is working and sunshine stream in through the as well as ever on the lathe.

Old Time Hiccough Remedies Fail.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Webster City, Ia., Special.-Saturday night last William Kaufman of Wright county was attacked by hiccoughs. He swallowed the proverbial nine sups of water, and his family attempted to frighten the mild convulsions from him, but he grew worse. He was a man of strong constitution, but was compelled to take to his bed yesterday. Today he succumbed, passing away in terrible agony,

Drowned While Bathing Her Dog.

From the Springfield (Mass.) Union. Mrs. Helen Sayers of Chicopee Falls was drowned in what is known as the Bleachery pond in the rear of Dunn's bleachery. Mrs. Sayers was giving her dog a bath and in some manner ment, and, in consequence, several lost her balance and fell forward into persons are injured. The church was the water. Her head was submerged packed to the doors to witness the and she was unable to call for assistance or to get out.

Death in a Safety Valve.

From the Courier-Journal-Paducah, Ky., Special. Nelson Clark, a steamboat man, was scalded to death on the steamer Jenuie Gilchirst. He placed a plank on the botler and went to sleep, when the safety valve opened with fatal result.

Juvenile Depravity in Paris. Since the year 1880 the Paris police have arrested as many as 29,000 childron who were being trained for beg-

A MAN WHO LIVES IN A TOMB.

The Strangest Vault Ever Erected, and Its Quick and Dead Occupants-Claims to Converse With His Dead Daugh-



ET those who seek not knowledge pass by this grave, but those who fain would learn the secret of life in death

descend!" The above remarkable inscription is engraved on a huge slab of black marble at

the entrance to the strangest tomb in the civilzed world. It is in the Greek all modern business. cemetery at Bucharest, and visitors are free to accept the invitation to enter.

At certain hours every day the visitor is sure to encounter the quick as well as the dead inside the tomb. It stands over the remains of Julia Hasden, a gifted young authoress, who died six years ago. Her father, Prof. Hasden, of the University of Bucharest, has spent several hours of each | tion and the building of chimneys. day ever since by the coffin of his beloved daughter.

But he does not mourn her as one lost to him forever. He believes implicitly that he receives frequent communications from her, and often he surprises his fellow professors and friends by repeating some remark, which, in perfect good faith, he says promoted the early culture of silk and his daughter made to him that day or the day before.

The tomb is not the gruesome place the sides are of the purest white marble, inlaid with inscriptions in letters of gold.

The tomb was constructed, the professor declares, in accordance with plans outlined to him by his daughter after her death. Acting on suggestions from her additional inscriptions and decorations have been added from time to time.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

theme of the Things Which the Great

American Philosopher Did. Lord Jeffrey wrote of the American saventor and philosopher: "He never lost sight of common sense." Philip G. Hubert, Jr., in a sketch of Franklin in his recent book "Inventors," says: "Nothing in nature failed to interest him," and a catalogue of his achievements, showing his activity and resource, is conclusive proof of the truth of both statements.

Franklin inspired and established the Junto, the pleasantest and most useful American club of which we have knowledge, says an exchange.

He founded the Philadelphia library, parent of 1,000 libraries, which marked the beginning of an intellectual movement of endless good to the whole country.

He first turned to great account the engine of advertising, indispensable in

He published "Poor Richard," a record of homely wisdom, in such shape that hundreds of thousands of readers were made better and stronger by it.

He created the postoffice system of America and was the first champion of a reformed spelling. He invented the Franklin stove, which economized fuel, and he suggest-

ed valuable improvements in ventila-He robbed thunder of its terrors and lightning of some of the power to de-

stroy. He founded the American Philosophical society, the first organization in

America of the friends of science. He suggested the use of mineral manures, introduced the basket willow, pointed out the advantages of white clothing in summer.

He measured the temperature of the which the word usually implies. The gulf stream and discovered that northfloor is of black and white marble, and east storms may begin in the southwest.

built upon certain property which the He pointed out the advantage of church owns on Washington Heights building ships in water-tight compartnear 148th street. A visitor to one of ments, taking the hint from the Chithese silent Sunday afternoon services, nese, and first urged the use of oil as a if he arrives before the hour for bemeans of quieting dangerous seas. ginning, will at first notice scarcely

Besides these great achievements, accomplished largely as recreation from his life work as economist and statesman, Benjamin Franklin helped the For instance, on a block of polished whole race of inventors by a remark



EVERY DAY THE FATHER SITS FOR HOURS IN HIS DAUGHTER'S

black marble some lines of music are inscribed in gold letters, and they are believed by him to constitute a melody composed by the girl in the spirit state.

The airtight casket has a sliding giass head cover, and, pushing it back, thumb, is so thoroughly under con- the doting father can sit and look at the face of his child. The fresh air open doors, and with them come the perfume of sweet flowers, and the glad carols of the song birds. There is no suggestion of gloom, and there the old | colonial empire, appears at present to professor passes his leisure hours, often taking his coffee and smoking his cigarette there while he talks to his dead child. In the afternoon his wife sometimes joins him, and they then walk home together. Visitors pressed by his knowledge and his vigcome and are welcome. A large album is provided for them to register their names in, and respecting what they believe to be the old gentleman's delusion, many inscribe the most touching expressions of sympathy. Such are found in every language in Eu-

It must not be supposed that Prof. Hasden has been made insane through grief. He is a man of learning and good judgment, but he could not be convinced that he does not receive daily communications from his daughter. And since in that belief lies his greatest solace, none would try to rob him of it. Most people believe it to be a delusion, but a harmless one. Spiritualits think the communications are really received, and take them as additional proof of their theory.

A Catching Invitation.

Will you take something to drink? With pleasure." The photo was taken and the sitter said:

"But how about that little invita-LEGIS 7"

comfort to theorists and dreamers the world over. When some one spoke contemptuously of Montgolfier's balloon experiments and asked of what use they were the great American replied in words now historic: "Of what use is a new-born babe?"

Founder of German East Africa.

Carl Peters, the German who has done more than any other man to give his country the doubtful glory of a be in disgrace with his government, for reasons that are not obvious. He was high in favor during the opening of the Baltic Canal, and in the many talks I had with him I was much imorous manner of presenting it. He is the founder of German East Africa. and it was he who fitted out the German expedition for the relief of Emin Pasha. Of course in Germany he vigorously abused all things English, especially when they conflicted with the interests of colonial Germany. aside from this pardonable political humbug, no man knows England better, or appreciates her services in Africa more highly, than Carl Peters, He is just now in London fitting out another African expedition, about which he throws considerable mystery. He deserves success, for he has great physical strength combined with mental equipment of the first order. He has traveled in every part of the world, and has a mind ready to acknowledge what is good in different systems. It is melancholy to reflect that this man, only forty years old, and sho yet has lived long enough to see the German flag carried into the heart of Africathanks to his courage and enterprisethat such a man should be by Germany turned adrift, while the colonial office in Berlin is lumbered up with a set of tureaucratic pedagogues, the whole "Oh, sir, that is just a trade ruse of volume of whose learning and trainmine to give a natural and interested ing is practically valueless.—Harper's expression of the face."—Fit-Bira Weekly.

TOMB. that has been of incalculable value and

tions which are descriptive as far as possible of the thought. Thus the laying of the hand on the heart denotes love; the arching of the two hands together, as if encircling a globe, indicates the world; power is expressed by a commanding wave of the forearm with the fist clinched, and the idea of glory is conveyed by raising both hands above the head and sweeping them back and forth horizontally, with the fingers quivering, in semblance of of a shimmering light. It is wholly impossible to comprehend without seeing them the effectiveness of the almost innumerable signs which take the place of sounds. It is, of course, true that this sign language cannot be nearly so rich as a spoken tongue, much difficulty being experienced in conveying delicate and slightly different shades of meaning; but the people for whom it was invented have known no other, and it suffices apparently for their entire happiness and comfort. An essential thing in such a church is a clear, strong light; failing this,

the sight-hearers sooner or later experience trouble with their eyes. It is unfortunately often the case that deaf mutes become blind in later life. owing to the overstraining of the one precious sense which they possess. Music in the services is naturally a useless feature, and is almost never provided, although there have been instances where members of the conaregation objected to the omission, declaring that they were able, in some inexplicable way, to appreciate the vibrations and derive pleasure from them. It has been proved that mutes can distinguish loud from soft notes, but it is only by the stronger or weaker vibrations produced, and, while the sense of rhythm is conveyed, there can be no real sense of tune. There is a social organization for the deaf and dumb in this city, which frequently gives dances for their amusement. On these occasions music is always furnished, and the dancers move in perfect accord with the rhythm. thereby attesting that they can enjoy sound to that extent.

Coldest Hour.

coldest hour of each twenty-four is 5 o'clock in the morning. - Boston Globe.

John Wahrmon, a farmer's boy, who lived near Kansas City, pursued a rabhit that had entered a ground hog hole. The boy was unable to get out of the hole, and perished there.

MUTES AT CHURCH.

OF THE AFFLICTED ONES.

Motions-Eyes Do Duty for the Use-

worship of a congregation of deaf

mutes, says the New York Tribune.

Two such services are held in this

city every Sunday afternoon; one at

the Episcopal church of St. John the

Evangelist, at West 11th street and

Waverley place, where the members

of St. Ann's church are temporarily

worshiping, and the other at the Ro-

Xavier, in West 16th street. To the

Episcopal demnomination belongs the

credit of having first started sign lan-

guage services for the "children of

silence." It is over forty years since

the first one was held in old St. Ann's

church, which has always maintained

the lead in the movement and has come

to be regarded as the especial church

by the majority of the deaf mutes in

this city. By its recent consolidation

with St. Matthew's church, in West

84th street, St. Ann's expects to be able

shortly to maintain two churches-one

for its regular congregation in St.

Matthew's and the other exclusively

for deaf mutes, in the edifice to be

anything unusual. The members of

seat themselves generally in some of

the rear pews, whence, before the open-

ings words of the service, the rector

is accustomed to invite them nearer to

the front, where they may see more

clearly. He makes the request by a

gentle, beckoning motion of the arms, as if he were gathering his hearers

into a group. A stranger soon observes

the look of rapt attention on every

face, which is vastly more intense than any which the words of the most elo-

calling to the faces of those who can

anxious expression is ample proof of

senses. There is a pathetic solemnity

in the tense, strained attitudes of many

of the congregation, and in the wonder-

tongue, so far as its resemblance to

English goes. It does not consist, as

ideas are interpreted by signs or mo-

MONG the many

religious services of

an unusual charac-

ter which are reg-

ularly held in New

York, none, even

in the least Ameri-

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spectator than the

less Ears.

THEY GOT THE BELL. The Grocer Held the Deacon to His Promise. WITNESSING THE WORSHIPING

The trustees of a church near Detroit found it necessary to establish a fund to purchase a bell, says the De-The Effectiveness of the Sermons-All troit Free Press. The membership was Ideas Are Interpreted by Signs and small and composed principally of persons who were unable to do more in a financial way than they had already done toward building the church edifice Grocer Smith, one of the trustees, belleved it would be a good plan to solicit contributions to get the \$200 required among the few well-to-do members of the congregation.

"If Deacon Brierly took a notion," said the greer to another trustee, "he is able to buy the bell. He won't though, because he's the closest man in the village. I'm going to him just the same to do my best to make him see his way clear to give us \$100."

The first man the grocer solicited the next day was Deacon Brierly. The deacon was unusually grumpy that morning and was nearly unnerved when the grocer explained his mission. "I know I'm a member of the church, but things are so close that I can't do

much just now." "How much will you give toward man Catholic church of St. Franics buying the bell?" asked the grocer.

"Well, I reckon I'll give as much as anybody," declared the deacon. "You were always good at your word, deacon, so you and I will buy the bell." The grocer held the deacon to his promise. The grocer was not a wealthy

man, and it came a trifle hard for him to spare \$100 from his capital, but it did him a world of good to hear the bell tolling a few months later.

The Origin of the Wedding Cake. Wedding cake is derived from the most solemn of the three ceremonies observed by the ancient Romans and was called conparreatio. It was performed by the chief priest in the presence of witnesses and the men and women ate a cake of salted wheaten bread, throwing part of it on the sacrifice which was that of a sheep. By this ceremony the woman belonged to the man by sacred laws and became a partner in all his substance. When the the congregation enter one by one and bride arrives at her home in some of the rural districts of England the "infair cake" is broken over her head and bits distributed among the unmarried guests who put it under their pillows to dream on. The first egg laid by a hen is used by the bridesmaids to foretell the professions of their future husbands, the egg being broken in half and the white dropped in a glass of water and guesses made according to the shape which it assumes. The yoke of this egg is then mixed into a cake; one young woman kneels on the floor, a baking board is laid on her back, quent preacher ever succeeded in while another mixes the cake with oat-meal, salt and soot. The mixing is done hear and speak. The eyes must do duty for the useless ears, and their in silence, the mixer being careful to keep one foot within the doorstep and their endeavor to fill the place of both the other without. The cake is then baked, broken and a portion of it eaten, the remainder being kept to dream fully expressive symbolism by which on. On St. Faith's Day a similar cake is made of flour, sugar, salt and spring the preacher conveys his meaning. For the sign language is a foreign water. It is mixed in silence by three unmarried women, turned nine times. three times by each mixer, baked and many imagine, in spelling out the cut into three equal portions. Each words letter by letter; that is done bit is then divided into nine slips, each only in the case of proper names. All of which is passed through a wedding

> eaten with this invocation: "O good St. Faith, be kind to-night And bring to me my heart's delight, Let me my future husband view, And be my vision chaste and true." -American Kitchen Magazine.

ring belonging to a woman who has

been married at least seven years.

While disrobing the bits of cake are

A Slow-Going Postal Card. A postal card that required fifteen years to travel ninety-nine miles breaks the record for slow postal delivery. It was mailed in Leicester, England, in June, 1881, and has just been received in London. The address was plainly written on the card and no one knows where it has been all this time.-New York World.

To Hang for Assault.

Jerry Brown, colored, has been sentenced to death for criminally assaulting Mrs. Isaac Radford, a widow, at Deepwater, W. Va.

HERE AND THERE.

Vermont gained but 17,000 inhabitants from 1850 to 1890. Fewer potatoes are now raised in New England than fifty years ago.

New Hampshire in 1890 had gained but 56,600 inhabitants in forty years. The value of the output from New England factories has quintupled since

Bootmaking is carried on in New England to a degree that eclipses all

European nations. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the silks worn by American women

are of American manufacture. One bleycle has been supplied to

every police station in the suburbs of Paris for the use of the force. The duchess of York was married July 6, 1893. June 23, 1894, Dec. 14,

1895, and April 25, 1897, are the dates of the birth of her three children. Miss Lillian Gordon Pym of Bosto

has just passed the examination of the Royal College of Music in London and received the degree of associate. She is only 16 years old.

Complaints from stockholders have led the Western railroad of France to Taking it year is and year out, the publish some curious facts about free passes given to the press. Passes were issued in 1896, which, if paid for, would have added to the receipts of the company 333,000 france; to counterbalance this the newspapers printed free advertirements for the ratio which would have cost it 1,634,000 franca.