Ancients Who Were Well Fixed.

Thousands of men have envied Astor, Stewart, Vanderbilt, Mackey, Keene, Gould and the other fellows who can buy strawberries at one dollar per box, but the richest of them are mere vagrants when compared to some of the ancients. There was Ninus, for instance. He was the son of Nimrod, the old hunter, who made lions scratch for holes and tigers take to ditches. Old Nim left his boy about £130,000,000 in cash, besides 120,000 cattle, a piece of land about as big as Arkansas, and 14,000 likely slaves. There were no lawyers in those days who made a specialty of breaking wills and gobbling estates, and young Ninus quietly took possession and cast about for some plan to keep himself out of the poor-house. He was considered a poor young man, and had he been seen lugging his girl to an ice-cream saloon or riding out in a livery rig his friends would have said he would bring up in a garret. By a lucky capture of territory from the Assyrians, together with 20,000 slaves, 125,000 cattle, ten wagon loads of silver and jewels and a few other trifles, Ninus walked up the social ladder until big-bugs asked after his wife and babies, and he could lose three games of billiards without wondering if the owner of the saloon would take a "stand off." He was worth £350,000,000 when he died, and yet for the last five years of his life he went without mutton because the price had raised to three cents per pound.

The heiress with a $50,000 bank account considers herself some pumpkins, but what a three-cent-piece she would have been alongside of Queen Semiramis. She not only had the lucre left by Ninus, but in ten years she had increased it four-fold. Just multiply £350,000,000 by two and you have the amount of her bank balance, to say nothing of jewels and clothing and furniture and palaces and slaves and cattles. Had she sold out and cleaned up she could have drawn her little check for about £700,000,000. She didn't worry about where her spring bonnet was to come from, and when a new style of dress goods came out she didn't sit up nights for fear some neighbor would secure a pattern first. While she made it lively for her enemies she was soft on her friends. She gave her waiting maid half a million dollars in a lump for dressing her hair in a new style, and she tossed the same amount to her dressmaker as a reward for the excellent fit of one particular dress. One day when she saw a poor old man traveling the highway on foot she presented him with 500 asses to ride on, and insisted on his accepting £50,000 to pay his toll and tavern bills.

Cyrus, King of Persia from the year 538 to 580, had some little change to begin with, and in ten years he could draw his check for £500,000,000. He didn't haggle over the price of a slave when a man came to buy, but presented him with 1,000. He at one time owned 30,000 horses, 40,000 cattle, 200,000 sheep, 15,000 asses and 25,000 slaves, and when he got tired of a palace costing $1,000,000 he gave it away to some poor washwoman with seven children to support. He one day sat down to a dinner which had cost £30,000, and in the afternoon he went on a £50,000 drunk. The police didn't run him in, or he would doubtless have insisted on paying a fine of £20,000 and presenting his Honor with a corner house and lot in the toniest part of Babylon.

King Menes was another well-heeled man. It was too much trouble to count his cash, and so he weighed it. One day when an old friend asked him for the loan of a few dollars until Saturday night, he sent him a procession of sixty asses, each animal loaded with 150 pounds of gold coin. He paid £100,000 for a bird which could whistle, the same for a trick dog, and he had such a fondness for white oxen that he shelled out £25,000 apiece for them, and at one time had a drove of 2,000. When he got out with the boys he made things lively. During one spree in his city of Memphis, he gave away $500,000, and didn't get dead drunk at that. At one time he had 600,000 gold chains, 1,000,000 finger rings, 100,000 costly swords, 300,000 daggers, and land only knows how many fish-lines, jack-knives, corkscrews and tobacco-boxes. His wife had £1,000,000 a year as pin-money, and when his eldest son went up to Thebes to see the elephant, he was followed by 500 friends, 1,000 slaves, 2,000 horses and £500,000 for fare, checks and beer-money.—*Detroit Free Press.*

In Fly Time.

It is one of the unfathomable mysteries of nature that a fly is unable to turn to account his many good qualities, for he is blessed with an abundance of them. He is under a natural ban which compels him to devote all his talents to making a nuisance of himself. The fly's energy is simply indefatigable, and in any useful pursuit could not fail to make him wealthy and respected. He starts at daylight every morning, and proceeds at once to business, and throughout the livelong day he keeps it up, always acting, always ready, always apparently cheerful, and always seeking to annoy somebody. His perseverance, too, is on a par with his energy. He rather enjoys being driven away from the end of his victim's nose; it breaks up the monotony of existence, and the persistence with which he returns to the attack again and again has an evident spice of enjoyment in his malice.

A fly never acknowledges the broadest hint that he is not wanted. When he has set his affection on an individual he sticks to that unhappy mortal like an office-seeker to Washington, and is equally hard to be gotten rid of. He is indifferent to threats, easily evasive of blows, almost impossible to entrap, and quite impossible to eradicate. Although too wary to be caught by any of the methods which suggest themselves to his enraged victim, he is courageous in the extreme, and never hesitates to risk his life in the pursuit of his object. It is said that he sometimes loses it, and many persons are ready to testify that they have killed flies, but the assertion is open to some doubt. The alleged corpses exhibited as proof always disappear in a short time, and no matter how many are thus disposed of, the surviving hordes never show any diminution; while individuals bearing a suspiciously close resemblance to the supposed dead flies buzz vindictively about the would-be muscacide soon after the deed is supposed to have been accomplished.

It is not yet settled, indeed, to everybody's satisfaction, that flies are not immortal. They disappear at the end of every season, and where they go nobody knows, and very few care to inquire, for fear of rousing them from their presumed hibernation and bringing them back before the time. Next season, however, they reappear in full force, and with an apparently lively memory of their former haunts, pursuits and victims. So far as anyone can see, they are the same flies that disturbed the previous summer's naps; they display a keen remembrance of the sensitive points discovered then; they know where the sugar bowl is kept, and can go straight to the preserve closet; can tell with an accuracy that must be due to experience just when to start and how far to go to escape the avenging hand, and they make themselves at home with the ease and familiarity of old habitues. Flies may die and be succeeded by new generations, but, as we have said, the fact is not fully proved; and if it is a fact, the new brood is never an improvement on the old one. Josh Billings' despairing anathema will be as true a thousand years hence as it is now and was a thousand years ago:

"I hate a fli. Darn a fli!"—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

Meat-Eating and the Fire-Escape.

Our spleen against horseflesh has been handed down from generation to generation with such unabated intensity that none of us could "stomach it" except under the direst necessities. Nevertheless the flesh of horses and mules has been proved by the French to be as wholesome as that of other animals. The effect of "much pork-eating," about which a friend inquires is the same as that of eating much animal food of any kind. The indications which usually follow are those of excessive alimentation—inflammation, biliousness, scrofula, colds, catarrhs, rheumatism, dyspepsia, etc., etc., the weakest excretory organ giving way first to over-action. The "notion that hogs are naturally scrofulous" may or may not have a foundation in fact. The ease and frequency with which their livers become affected shows that their greatest liabilities to disease are of a bilious character. Wens, tumors, lameness, swelled joints and other swellings indicative of scrofula in the human subject, are more frequent in cattle than in hogs. The fact that the English word scrofula is a derivative from scrofa, an old Latin word signifying a sow, is not sufficient authority for the inference that scrofula is so called because the disease was common among swine. It may have proceeded from some other fancy analogy. Webster intimates that it might have come from a supposed resemblance between the form of glandular swellings in the neck and the shape of a pig. The ancients were "great" on relations and analogies, and they sometimes took some singular freaks, such as the fancied connection between the forms of constellations in the zodiac and certain parts of the animal body, which is believed in by many to this day, and annually finds a place in our almanacs.

Under the unnatural conditions in which domestic animals are raised, disease has become so common that there is no safety in using their flesh uncooked. Trichinæ are liable to be carried in pork, the foot and mouth disease and anthrax in beef, tapeworm in fowls, and even milk becomes a vehicle for conveying infectious diseases, such as typhoid fever, kinepox, smallpox, scarlatina, etc. The liabilities are about the same in one class of animals as in another. They are certainly not greater in pork than in other flesh. Indeed, beef might be more reasonably suspected than pork, since the introduction of pleuro pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, malignant anthrax, Texas fever, etc., and especially when the deleterious effect upon beef from fright and cruel treatment of live stock in transportation by rail are taken into consideration. The hog, it is true, often lives under conditions which would prove destructive to other animals, but, then, his unsusceptible nature and the powerful digestive ability of his omniverous stomach, enable him to ward off and digest and destroy foul and infectious matter which might easily take effect in others and become a source of danger to those using their flesh. Fortunately, thorough cooking kills all infectious matter and renders it harmless. It is the only safe-guard on which we can confidently rely. When this is properly done there is no reason for rejecting the flesh of swine from our tables that would not lie against all the rest of our domestic animals.—*Prof. L. B. Arnold, in N. Y. Tribune.*

—A dying thief was compassionately released from the Rhode Island State Prison and sent to pass his remaining days at home in Providence; but before his death he crawled out and robbed seven houses.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

—About a thousand Hindoo children are attending the American Sunday-scoools in Lucknow, India. These schools were first introduced by Mr. Craven, a young American of great enterprise.

—Three Methodist ministers were recently sentenced by the Magistrates at Belfast, Ireland, for singing hymns in a public street. An appeal was taken from the decision of the Magistrates, and the result has been a complete victory for the ministers.

—The Baptist churches of Central and Eastern Europe have formed a union or convention, embracing Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Russia, Poland and Turkey, and reaching into Africa. There are nearly 30,000 Baptists in this vast region, where fifty years ago there were hardly any.

—Mr. Spurgeon, though a Baptist, is not a strict close-communionist. He allows Christians of other churches to commune with his church three months if desired, and then, if everything is satisfactory, invites them to be baptized, and in such cases, he says, they almost invariably accept.

—Bishop Littlejohn, who is now in Europe, is credited with the remark that "the Church of England is further than ever from disestablishment," and that it has spent $200,000,000 during the last thirty years in building and repairing cathedrals and churches, and $30,000,000 in church schools.

—Bishop Scott, the senior Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is seventy-nine years of age, and has been in the Episcipal office twenty-nine years. Bishop Payne, senior Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, is eighty years old, and has been in the Episcopal office thirty-five years.

—The President of the Central Turkey College at Aintab recently addressed a large audience in London on the subject of Christian education in Asia Minor. He referred to the large number of educated American ladies and gentlemen now engaged in missionary work there, and said that as a result of their labors 400 schools for the instruction of children existed.

—The President of Harvard University recently said that the expenditure of students ranged from $470 to $2,500, the highest figure being that of a young man of independent property, whose outlay included a saddle-horse, an expensive summer journey, liberal subscriptions to athletic clubs, and contributions to aid the poor students. In the opinion of the President, "the great majority of students, whose parents are neither rich nor poor, spend from $650 to $850 per year," and he further expresses his opinion that "the number who spend more than $1,500 a year is very small."

Three Men Burned to Death at an Oil Well.

At Clarendon, a new oil town, a few miles north of this city, three men were burned to death last Monday.

When a well is drilled to the spot where the oil-bearing sand is tapped, the drilling tools are removed from the well and a torpedo, made of about forty to sixty quarts of nitro-glycerine, put in and exploded for the purpose of loosening the sand. A well, known as the Grover well, had been "shot," but as is quite often the case, it "bridged over;" that is, the loosened rock and sand formed in the shape of an obstruction which would not allow the oil to pass off, as it would be forced to do by the gas, were it not for this bridging over. The work of cleaning the well was at once commenced. The usual precautions against accidents were taken. The boiler had been moved sixty-five feet beyond the engine house, which was sixty-five feet from the well, making 130 feet between the boiler and the mouth of the well. Ashes had been banked up around the furnace, a barrel of water stood near by, with which to extinguish the fire when the well should begin to indicate a flow, and the steam jet was in readiness for an emergency. Your correspondent was sitting in a little shanty a short distance away. There were present and working about the well Stephen, Henry and Joe Grover, and a young man called Eddie Sterner.

The tools had been run down for the purpose of agitating, when it was noticed the well showed symptoms of flowing. The men all made a dash for the boiler to extinguish the fire under it. Suddenly I noticed little jets of flame surrounding the men. Their clothes were completely saturated with crude oil, from which a gas arose which readily ignited. In an instant the whole air in the neighborhood seemed to be in flames.

I started to run, but was knocked down by the explosion. When I got up I could see the well flowing furiously, the flames rising to the height of 200 feet or more. Henry Grover was lying on the ground between the boiler and engine house in a blaze. He tried to get up, but the burning oil which flowed from the well poured down upon him and prevented his escape. Running around on the other side, I found Stephen Grover and young Sterner with their clothing all burned off, and their bodies completely blackened. They were dead. The body of Henry, when it was recovered, was hardly recognizable. The other two, Edward Sterner and Stephen Grover, lived a few hours, suffering great agony. They were rational and conversed freely, though they well knew all the time they could not live. They were all residents of Frybury, Clarion County, Pa. None of them was married, with the exception of Stephen Grover, who leaves a wife, to whom he was married about a year ago, and a son about two weeks old.—*Oil City (Pa.) Cor. N. Y. Sun.*

Singular Illness of a Young Girl.

A remarkable case of hysteria and epilepsy has been brought to light in the northeastern section of the city. Louisa Fuerst is the name of a young woman, nineteen years of age, who was left an orphan, a mere child. Compelled from early youth to earn her own livelihood, she worked incessantly, sometimes engaged in domestic labor or in sewing from early morning until late at night. At last she found a home with a family on North Dallas street, near Gay, where she worked on a sewing-machine, supplying a clothing store in the central section of the city. She applied herself to this employment with energy, labored hard and ate little, and, as the attending physician expressed it, "became overworked and under-fed." This brought on a depression of spirits, and finally developed into the maladies from which she now suffers—hysteria and epilepsy. During this illness, which has already lasted four weeks, the patient has been deprived of sight and hearing, and has had her teeth tightly clenched almost continuously. For some days those at her bedside were at a loss in what way to administer food to her. It was discovered that one of her front teeth was missing, and a tube was inserted into this open space through which the patient has since been fed. The food consists entirely of liquids, and, during the four weeks of her illness, has amounted to an almost insignificant quantity. Although deprived of sight and hearing, the patient is very loquacious, sometimes talking for several hours through her closed teeth without stopping. Her conversation at such times is mainly directed to her deceased parents, whom she fancies that she sees, etc. She is very sensitive to touch on one side of the body, and recognizes her physicians, and frequently persons whom she has seen but once, as soon as they come in contact with her hand. Some of those who have been watching at her bedside assert that strangers who have pressed her hand have been astonished to hear her state who they were; but this may be an exaggeration. The other side of the body is devoid of this fine sense of touch, and her doctor states that a paper on fire does not cause the slightest movement. The young lady's existence has been maintained only by keeping her constantly under the influence of chloroform. Her friends state that two days ago, while in her talkative moods, she asked her friends to be present at her bedside at two o'clock on Friday (yesterday) morning, as she expected that something strange would happen. They accordingly assembled at that hour, impressed with the belief that she had a presentiment of her death. But, it is said, she began to improve about that hour, and yesterday felt much better than at any time within the last four weeks. Dr. Abraham Arnold, who attends her, declined to say anything on the subject when questioned regarding the matter. He remarked, however, that this case was not without a parallel, but that such cases were exceedingly uncommon.—*Baltimore American.*

Fashion Notes.

Watered ribbons are the present fashion.

Summer silks and washing silks are much in favor.

The waists of young ladies' dresses are very much shirred.

Crinoline is gaining ground with the approach of the autumn toilets.

Cashmere lace is still freely used, especially on matinees and petticoats.

Lace and embroidery are the principal trimmings on the summer dresses.

Grenadines are so heavily brocaded as to closely resemble brocaded satin.

Handkerchiefs are tucked in the belt, showing the embroidered and fancy edges.

Fans representing pugs' heads are among the atrocious shapes presented to view.

Children's dresses show a combination of checked material with plain or striped.

The skirts made in either black or white Spanish lace are exceedingly popular in Paris.

Among the latest vagaries of Parisian women are velvet ear-rings of the same color as the dress.

Small bouquet-holders are worn at the left corner of the square corsage in the shape of a fern leaf.

Black and white check dresses are trimmed with small silver buttons, and silver jewelry is in keeping.

Black velvet grenadine worn over a skirt of black satin makes an elegant summer toilet for full dress.

A large sash bow is worn at the back of basques, and forms a conspicuous feature in imported dresses.

The very large straw hats are tied down and wound about in a most picturesque manner by long tulle veils.

Bows or knots are not worn at the throat by young ladies as much as a simple pin or even small silver pin.

Children's shoes are now made very high at the back, with a succession of straps showing the fancy hosiery.

The broad linen collars worn with the gingham suits are embroidered with a narrow vine or dots to match the dress.

Black watered silks are to be made up into dresses for autumn wear, and will be combined with plain silk also.—*Andrews' Bazar.*

—Classes in New Testament Greek for Sunday-school teachers have been started by the Glasgow Sunday-school Union.

—Rev. H. W. Beecher thinks there are two things that the Gospel is powerless to touch—fashion and the use of tobacco.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

—A European lady in Japan has collected 700 teapots of different varieties and kinds.

—The semi-annual dividends payable in Boston in August aggregated $3,698,675.

—The average man measures about five feet and one-half inches, and weighs 140 pounds.

—During June four steamers reached San Francisco from China, bringing 3,156 passengers, the largest number for any time since 1874.

—The experiment of running a locomotive without brakes has just been successfully tried by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway Company. The locomotive is of ordinary pattern, but has an extra pipe leading from the boiler to the steam chest, by which power can be applied against the piston, checking the engine and enabling the engine to reverse without "hauling over."

—A Newfoundland dog, owned in Bethel, Conn., broke his leg two or three years ago. Dr. W. C. Bennett, residing in a neighboring town, was called and set the broken bone. While driving through the village a few days ago, he recognized the dog. He had occasion to stop, and the dog immediately came up to him, smelt of him, and was almost wild with joy. It was with difficulty that the Doctor could keep his feet. The dog jumped upon him, and by every possible way in his power tried to express his gratitude, showing that he knew the Doctor and remembered the setting of the bone.

—A new locomotive on the Boston & Providence Railroad has no counter-balance in the driving wheels, but has double cylinders, double cranks, and double connections on each side. The cylinders lie abreast, instead of over each other. The steam is admitted and exhausted into both cylinders by a single slide valve. The inventor expects to make high speed without as much strain and wear and tear as with the old way of connecting; his idea being that the shackle-bars, connecting rods and pistons will absolutely balance each other, and, admitting steam as well as exhausting it by the cylinders upon either side simultaneously, will keep the whole thing from sailing or weaving.

—It is estimated that nearly 2,000,000 pounds of paper is produced annually; one-half of which is used for printing, a sixth for writing, and the remainder is coarse paper for packing and other purposes. The United States alone produces yearly 200,000 tons of paper, averaging seventeen pounds per head for its population. The Englishman comes next, with about twelve pounds per head; the educated German takes eight pounds, the Frenchman seven pounds; while the Italian, Spaniard and Russian take respectively three pounds, one-and-a-half pounds and one pound annually, the consumption of paper being roughly in proportion to the education and intellectual and political activity of the people.

WIT AND WISDOM.

—Two tramps with a single thought beat as one.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

—Michael Angelo said that genius is eternal patience. Michael evidently published a newspaper when subscription dues didn't come very fast.—*Syracuse Standard.*

—In Flint Mich., there is a piano that was built in 1810. It is still capable of putting the next door neighbor into spasms when the right girl is present to do the pounding.—*Louisville Courier Journal.*

—A watermelon which weighs twelve pounds has five pounds of rind and six ounces of seeds, which must be wasted. The times demand a melon with a tissue-paper cover and rattan ribs in place of the seeds.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—A flatterer strikes a snag: "Madam" he gallantly observed, "I have your image photographed upon my heart." "Indeed," she said, "a sort of a negative impression of me, I suppose."—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

—An Albany man has rented a vacant lot near his residence, fenced it in, and fitted it up as a playground for the boys of the neighborhood. In other words, he furnishes a playground to avoid having a plague round.—*Boston Post.*

—When a Cleveland reporter discovered the hanging body of a suicide, the situation was surrounded thusly: "An owl hooted lonesomely; an old clock on the shelf ticked with terror; a dog howled; it was midnight outside; the wind sighed; a cat crouched on the cold hearth in fear, and a sound like the laugh of a maniac came from the garret." That was all. There wasn't even a sign on the wall recommending anybody's stomach bitters.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—Yesterday Colonel Fizzletop met Colonel Gilhooly, who is a prominent Knight of Honor. Said the former: "I've made application to become a member of your noble order, and I want you to see that I am elected. I want to join on account of my wife." "Yes, that's a good idea, to leave her an insurance policy that will secure her against poverty and distress." "That's not what I mean. I want to join your noble order on account of my wife, because unless I've got some lodge to go to, or some other good excuse, she won't let me come down town at all at nights. Just as soon as I am a member there will be called meetings almost every night that I'll just have to attend, and I'll always set 'em up," and the admirer of the noble order winked a wink that had beer in it.—*Texas Siftings.*