The Elephant "Empress."

Speaking of the recent death of the monstrous elephant, the Empress, at the Zoological Garden in Fairmount Park, a Philadelphia paper says: "The Empress, it will be remembered, created quite a sensation here a couple of months ago by settling her body down to the earth and giving every indication of serious illness. From this position she was raised, but her gait was tottering, and occasionally when walking for exercise her knees would double up and she would be seized with an inclination to lie down. The huge beast improved, however, and it was thought that she would recover altogether from her indisposition. The sequel shows that her frame was shattered, and that the illness referred to was the herald of a speedy death. The Empress was purchased by the society on the last day of December, 1874, being taken from the winter quarters of O'Brien's menagerie at Frankford, to which she previously belonged. She was an aged animal, that had experienced a checkered career in the service of many masters, and had pressed her broad foot on almost every soil. She was the admired of the menagerie for her great size, and more particularly for her wonderful instinct, having frequently conducted herself in a manner which would be well worth the study of her peers. The deceased elephant was always of a gentle disposition, and never showed any of those dangerous eccentricities which have been incident to others of her species. She was one of Barnum's finest show animals, and when his large menagerie in New York was burned she caught her companion dog, Carlo, in her trunk and carried him safely from the flames, evidencing throughout the fearful scene almost human intelligence and presence of mind as well as the highest type of animal sagacity. She was an invaluable feature of the garden, and her loss will be great in this respect."

A Hard Job in Railroad Building.

Anyone desiring to obtain any idea of the stupendous accomplishments of railroad engineering should spend a few days in Tehachape Pass, investigating the operations of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. About twenty miles of the road is a succession of cuts, fills and tunnels. Within this distance there are thirteen tunnels ranging from 1,100 feet to a few yards in length. For the greater portion of the way the road-bed is cut through solid granite. The elevation is so great from the present terminus of the road at Caliente to Tehachape Valley that the first mile and a half out of Caliente is attained by laying down eight miles of track. Higher up in the pass the road runs through a tunnel, encircles the hill, and passes a few feet above the tunnel. After completely encircling the hill and going half round again, the track doubles on itself like a closely-pursued hare, and after running several miles in the opposite direction strikes up the canon. This circling and doubling is for grade. Once the track crosses the pass, and this involves the building of a long and very high bridge. We doubt if a more difficult and expensive piece of engineering was encountered in the building of the Central Pacific over the Sierras than that with which the Southern Pacific is now struggling in Tehachape Pass. Another tremendous piece of work is the San Fernando tunnel, which, when completed, will be over a mile and a half in length, and in places over 1,000 feet beneath the surface. Yet the company will accomplish this great work and run cars through from San Francisco to Los Angeles by the 1st of next July. All the force that can be used is kept at work on the San Fernando tunnel. In the Tehachape Pass 5,000 men are employed, and the force is being increased at the rate of 1,000 Chinamen per week.—*Los Angeles (Cal.) Herald.*

The Koran.

We are told by all Arabs that the Koran is the most perfect poetry in the Arabic language; and yet, when we come to read it as translated into English, we find it dull and tedious. It is a difficult thing for a European to read through the whole Koran in a translation. He soon realizes it to be very different from what he imagined it. Very possibly he dreamed of finding therein long and luscious descriptions of the so-called "Mohammedan Paradise," that he should read about houris and the tree of life, the beast Al-Borak, rivers of wine, and all those visions of the different heavens usually attributed to the prophet. He finds not a word of all this. Instead, there is boundless devotional enthusiasm, all the vocabulary of praise to God, long moral lectures, Old Testament stories in a different form, a familiar reference to all the Jewish patriarchs, prophets and Kings; an equally constant reference to the facts of the Gospels, but in a somewhat different dress; and, finally, severe denunciations, in a strain of the most awful solemnity, of the infidels who will not believe in the truths of God. Of doctrine he finds no subtlety. Mohammed proclaims but one fact, and reiterates it for all time. As the Koran opens with Al-Fatihat, "The Preface," so it naturally closes with the simple and sublime "Declaration," a chapter of itself. The words of those chapters are texts for all the rest of the book. It enlarges, dilates, amplifies, illustrates, reiterates the one grand declaration, "*La Ilaha il Allah*"—"No God but God." All the rest is written only to give that weight. The fact that Mohammed is the prophet of God is a mere incident, like the "Thus saith the Lord" of the Hebrew prophets. It is to show whence came the message. That message is the one thing of importance to man, and it is of the simplest: "No God but God." When that message is believed the morality of the Koran follows with equal simplicity. Prayer and charity are the whole duty of man. Not prayer as an importunate begging for favors, but prayer which is only praise and anxiety to be kept in the faith of God; not ostentatious alms-giving, miscalled charity, but a charity as complete and genuine as that described in the Corinthians. Such as we find Al-Fatihat we find the whole book.—*The Galaxy for August.*

Fight With a Snake.

A SILVER LAKE (Pike County, Pa.) letter to the New York *Sun* says: A fourteen-year-old servant girl in the employ of Jerome Brockway, who has been spending a few days in the wilds of Pike County, had a narrow escape on Saturday last from being strangled to death by a black-snake. She was sent by her mistress out into the woods to pick whortleberries. She crossed the lake in a small row-boat, and, accompanied by a Newfoundland dog, walked about three-fourths of a mile into the woods where the berries were plenty. After filling her basket she sat down on a log and ate her lunch. As she was about to start for home a large black-snake sprang about her neck and began choking her. The affrighted girl screamed at the top of her voice for assistance, but there was no one near enough to hear her cries. At length, when she was so exhausted that she was unable to cry out, the snake twisted its body around so that the girl could reach it. At first she was afraid to touch the monster. Then, realizing that she must do something or perish, she caught the snake about the neck and choked it until it relaxed its hold and fell to the ground. The girl then threw it against a rock and succeeded in killing it. She tied a small hickory withe around the snake's neck and dragged it home. It measured six feet eleven inches.

THE manufacture of glucose, or corn sirup, should be very profitable in this country. The foreign article, of which immense quantities have been imported since 1867, is charged 20 per cent. duty, besides ocean freight. This advantage to the home manufacturer is enhanced by the fact that the raw material in the United States is far cheaper than in Europe. A bushel of corn in Illinois costs from thirty to sixty cents, in New York eighty-five cents, while the European manufacturer of glucose and grape sugar has to pay $1.25.

A DAY or two ago, when a young colored man living in the city took a peppermint lozenge in his teeth, leaned over the gate and motioned for his girl to bite off the other half, she gave her head a proud toss and replied: "No, sah! If you wants to mar'y me jist swaller dat candy and spoke up like a white man!"—*Vicksburg Herald.*

What Is the Opposition?

There are some who profess to believe that the result of last fall's elections indicated Republican defeats and Democratic triumphs. It were idle to deny that they resulted disastrously to the Republican party, but it would be fully as ridiculous to attribute the defeat to the Democratic party. That effete organization could not have effected the overthrow of the Republican party, and did not effect it. There were several causes which produced dissension in the Republican camp, and while some, aye, many, joined the Opposition to rebuke their own party, they did not consider their action as total and final desertion, nor as attaching themselves to the Democratic party. There were other Republicans who, like Fitz John Porter at the battle of Gainsville, tamely looked on at the contending forces, declining to render aid, which would have routed the Opposition. Though innocent of designed treason to party, such as acted in either manner spoken of—active or passive—the result gave them to understand that they had given "aid and comfort to the enemy," and they will not repeat the experiment.

The causes which produced dissension within the Republican ranks have been removed. One cause was hostility to certain representative Republicans whose persons do not now repose in official chairs. Another reason was the hard times then prevailing, which produced discontent and indifference. Times are improving, the outlook is encouraging and the breaking away of the forbidding clouds has revealed the disassociation of the Republican party with the dispensations of Providence and the periodical clogging of business wheels. Still another cause was opposition to President Grant, some of his opponents being actuated by honest impulses and many from unworthy and wholly selfish purposes. The President is in the habit of listening to all who approach him, and then following the dictates of his own judgment, without apology or explanation to those who urge different action, thus offending the sensitive, exacting and conventional. Then, too, he has had occasion to use his pruning-knife pretty freely, and the wounded have generally taken their ill-smelling sores to the Opposition for healing plasters. But President Grant's letter has taken the last prop of the enemies of the Republican party from under them and they are now destitute of cohesion, and, like a man so drunk as to involuntarily mistake the law of gravity while lying prone upon his back, it can do nothing but howl and make a noise, and that it is doing.

Last fall the contest was between the Republican party and the Opposition. This year and next it will be between the Republican and Democratic parties, and there can be little well-grounded doubt as to the result. The Republican party is being reorganized, and all that is essential to secure its success is the polling of its full vote. Numerically it is far stronger than the Democratic party, and the indications of a revival of the old-time enthusiasm among Republicans are auspicious. The political heavens are brightening and are spanned by the bow of promise.—*Republic Magazine.*

The Shoe on the Wrong Foot.

The Brooklyn *Union* discloses the contents of one page in the history of Duncan, Sherman & Co. which ought to be very generally known. Hitherto the Republican party has had to suffer very materially from the collapsing of banks which have been managed by Republican directors, or have been favorable to the Administration, one of which during the war held a loyal position and supplied funds for its vigorous prosecution. When the Freedman's Bank went down, and when Jay Cooke & Co. and Henry Clews & Co. collapsed, the Democratic press of this country improved the opportunity, not so much to denounce their reckless method of financiering as to influence the public mind against Republican rule and political financiering. The wild gambling and speculation, the accumulation of rotten securities, the investment in all sorts of balloon schemes and the consequent collapses which inevitably follow this system of banking, which is only another form of gambling, were credited to the influence of the Republican party because the managers of these banks happened to be Republicans or were loyal during the war. These same papers, however, since the failure of Duncan, Sherman & Co., have been strangely silent. We have not learned from them that their fall is due to the corrupting and demoralizing effects of Republicanism. They have omitted to charge the losses of depositors and customers to the Administration. They preach none of their customary sermons on the frauds and corruptions of the Republican party—not even a word on Grantism. The Brooklyn *Union* explains the reason why they have failed to take any partisan advantage of this failure. It appears that the house of Duncan, Sherman & Co. has never had Republican proclivities since the war, and that it had no Union proclivities during the War. They were cotton speculators then, as they have been since, and their sympathies were with cotton, and, this being the direction of their sympathies, their interests were with the South and with English hostility to the North, for where the treasure is there will the heart be also. They bulled Southern securities in Europe, and backed blockade-running. They were the agents of the "Society for the Diffusion of Political Knowledge in the Army." During McClellan's command of the Army of the Potomac they sent down to it issues of the *World* and the Philadelphia *Age* by tons, also packages of tracts and tobacco for free distribution, the wrappers being neatly printed with peace and cotton mottoes. The Copperhead missionary work was carried on to such an extent that at last it began to demoralize the troops, and the Government was compelled to step in and stop the nefarious business by a special army order. They not only never touched an American bond during the war, but they used their influence in Europe against them. This is the politico-financial record of Duncan, Sherman & Co., and these are the reasons why the Democratic newspapers have failed to preach their customary sermon upon the enormity of political banking and its corrupt and demoralizing tendencies. At the same time it is perfectly consistent to ask if the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. is to be credited to the Republican party, why should not the failure of Duncan, Sherman & Co. be credited to the Democratic party?—*Chicago Tribune.*

☞ The Republican journals of Pennsylvania express great confidence that the State will give a good Republican majority next fall. They assert that the confident feeling in the party is rapidly growing; that old feuds are healed; that the Republicans are beginning to work in earnest and in good spirits; while the Opposition is divided, faint-hearted and indifferent.

☞ The Cincinnati *Gazette* says the Republican party in Ohio "has never been more consolidated, harmonious or enthusiastic than now. Hayes is popular, the platform is approved, and there is a prospect of success so bright as to excite to hard work even the most sluggish. We say this after a good deal of inquiry. Persons from all parts of the State bring the same news."

☞ The Albany (N. Y.) *Journal* says "Senator Thurman, of Ohio, occupies the position of a man without a party." Iowa is a long way ahead of Ohio in this respect, in that all who are not Republicans "occupy the position of men without a party." There is not so much as a name to distinguish them.—*Dubuque Times.*

☞ The Louisville *Courier-Journal* tells how Kentucky was carried for the Democrats at the late election: "Votes went freely yesterday afternoon at fifty cents apiece, or, by wholesale, at five dollars a dozen.

☞ Taxation in Maryland has increased from ten cents on the $100, where the Republicans left it ten years ago, to twenty and five-sixteenth cents—more than doubled in a decade!—*Washington Chronicle.*

THERE are 4,000 keys to the vaults of the Safe Deposit Company in San Francisco. No company can expect to get on a higher key than this.

The Dead Sea of America.

On the west of the lake, north of the end of Cedar Mountain, the Great Desert begins—some 5,000 miles of sand and alkali, only a few feet higher than the lake. Doubtless it was once a part of the lake, and possibly it will be again, for the lake surface has risen some fifteen feet since its first survey by Stansbury in 1849, and as much more will cover much of that desert. Straight south the Oquirrh range rises very abruptly from the end of the lake, there being barely room for wagon and railroad to pass; in fact, it is assumed by geologists that Antelope Island is but a continuation of that range, the break between covered by the salt water flowing over a low pass. Twenty miles or so away I can make out the peak on which I stood six weeks ago and took a general view of this and Rush Lakes and the adjoining valleys. It is often said that there is no living thing in Great Salt Lake, but this is not strictly true. There is a minute animalcule at the bottom, resembling a fine shaving of the skin from one's finger more than anything else I can compare it to. As it grows in size it beats in toward the land by the action of the waves, and finally swells up into the likeness of a worm and floats upon the water. The boatmen think that the flies, which are so numerous around the edges of the lake, breed from this worm, and this idea is strengthened by the fact that the empty hulls of the worm, like abandoned shells of chrysols, float on the water in large sections, extending in long, dark lines for hundreds of feet. At first I supposed these collections were merely the bodies of drowned flies, but on examination they proved to be the husks, so to speak, of what had been worms. All sorts of attempts have been made to propagate life in the lake or mouths of the affluent streams, but one and all have failed. Oysters have been planted at the mouths of the rivers, but when the wind was up stream the dense brine from the lake setting into the river's mouth killed them. Jordan was stocked with eels a year or two ago, but they floated down into the lake and died. One was picked up long afterward on the eastern shore completely pickled. The finder cooked and ate it and found it very palatable. Gulls and pelicans abound in places around the lakes, feeding on the flies and worms. Capt. Stansbury reports finding a blind pelican which had been fed by its companions and kept fat. At points where grassy marshes border the lake the buffalo gnats are numerous and troublesome. There are indications that buffalo were abundant in this basin 100 years ago. The Indians say the Great Spirit changed them all into crickets! The latter were very destructive to the first crops of the Mormons, until the gulls came in immense flocks and ate them up. The Mormon historian in pious gratitude says: "There were no gulls in the country before the Mormons came." In one meaning of that word this is on a par for facetiousness with that statement in the Book of Mormon: "Great darkness overspread the land; yea, darkness wherein a fire could not be kindled with the dryest wood."—*Cincinnati Commercial.*

A Wedding Tour.

There came one day to a little inland town in Kentucky a young rural couple who had just been bound by the "silken bonds." Their destination was the depot, and the bridegroom was evidently quite impatient for fear the train should arrive before he could reach the office. Buying one ticket they stood on the platform until the train had stopped, when they entered the car, the bridegroom found his bride a seat, kissed her most affectionately, bade her "good-by," and, going out, seated himself on a goods box and commenced whittling most vigorously. He watched the train out of sight, regret depicted on his face, when a bystander, thinking the whole proceeding rather strange, resolved to interview him. Approaching him carelessly, and chewing a straw to keep up his courage, he said:

"Been gettin' married lately?"

"Yes," said Rural; "me and Sallie got spliced this mornin'."

"Was that her you put on the train?"

"Yes," with a sigh.

"A likely-lookin' gal," said our questioner. "Anybody sick, that she had to go away?"

"No;" but here Rural grew confidential. "You see, me and Sallie had heard that everybody when they got married took a bridal-tower. So I told Sallie I hadn't money enough for both of us to go, but she shouldn't be knocked out of hern. So I jist brought her down here, bought her a ticket and sent her on a visit to some of her folks, and thought I might get some work harvestin' till she got back."

An "audible smile" went around among those who were standing near, but our friend was too much absorbed in remembrances of Sallie to be conscious of it. That afternoon found him busily at work, and when, in a day or two after, "Sallie" came back he welcomed her cordially and affectionately, and, hand in hand, they started down the dusty road to their new home and duties, far happier, perhaps, than those who start out with more pomp and parade.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Length of Roots.

The nature of the soil has much to do with the length and number of roots. In light, poor soil I find roots of June grass four feet below the surface. People are apt to under-estimate the length, amount and importance of the roots of the finer grasses, wheat, oats, etc. A young wheat plant when pulled up only shows a small part of its roots. They often go down four or six felt, or more. The roots of a two-year-old peach-tree in light soil were found seven feet four inches long. In dry, light soil this season we pulled up one parsnip three feet and a half long. Of course smaller roots went down still farther. The noted buffalo grass on the dry Western prairies is described in the agricultural reports at Washington as having very short roots; but Mr. Felker, one of our college graduates, found, where a well was being dug, that the roots went down seven feet. The roots grow best where the best food is to be found. They grow in greater or less quantity in every direction. If a root meets with good food it flourishes and sends out numerous branches. Roots do not "search" for food, as vegetable physiologists now understand it. Many of the smaller roots of trees die every autumn when the leaves die, and others grow in spring.

Near a cherry-tree in my yard was a rustic basket, without bottom, filled with rich soil. On removing the basket and earth, which had been there several years, cherry roots were found in large numbers in this rich soil. Roots in such soil will grow up just as well as down.—*From Forthcoming Report of Michigan State Board of Agriculture.*

—The tendency toward ornamental instruction which has been visible in our public schools has caused some Missourians to petition their State Constitutional Convention that the common school system may be abandoned. They declare that the time of the pupils is taken up with the ornamental branches to the neglect of studies which are really educational, that the taxes are high, and the schools cost more than they produce. There is doubtless a great deal of ground for such a complaint, though the remedy asked for is a very injudicious one. Fortunate is the parent whose children in the public schools do not literally waste half their time over the ornamental features of reading and penmanship, and the unimportant ones of arithmetic, geography and grammar. The remedy does not consist of shutting the school doors, however—a little personal care in the selection of text-books and teachers will bring about a speedy reformation. While book-agents decide what text-books a school is to use, and the parents' opposition is manifested only in grumbling, the school system is evidently not to blame, nor should the same system be abused because personal favor or a mistaken idea of economy places at the teacher's desk an unfit man or woman.—*Christian Union.*

—Prof. Bonamy Price praises our female teachers to the echo, and says that nowhere in the world is so thorough a sympathy between pupil and teacher to be found as in America.

SENSE AND NONSENSE.

NEVER lend money to a genius.

QUEENS of 'Arts—female graduates.

BEAN-EVOLENT enterprise—soup-house.

MERCY-NARY fellows—tenement landlords.

ALL the colors of the 'spect-rum—a tipper's nose.

ACADEMY of Design—a young ladies' boarding-school.

PROF. TICE says we will have a warm winter, and he knows, you know.

THE Chinese interpretation of going to law is: "Losing a cow for the sake of a cat."

HOW to make the largest census report with the smallest number of people is the study of the age.

"GOOD enough in some respects, but too stuck up to bet on a dog-fight," was the eulogy on a Nevada man.

PEOPLE with the colic may not be anxious to know it, but there are over 2,700 varieties of apples in this world.

IT was the grasshopper in the West; it is the tramp in the East, and it is hard to tell which is the greater plague.

THAT silver mine at Newburyport, Mass., it turns out, was "salted" with silver for tricky speculation in the land.

THEY have got to calling Old Probabilities names, and one newspaper disrespectfully refers to him as "Old Perhaps."

THE church at Bethlehem Heights, N. H., occupies the highest point of ground of any church edifice in the United States.

A MISS HANKE, of Allentown, Pa., has six grandmothers, all living. The Hankes take in a good deal of this tangled skein of life.

THE time has now arrived when the average youth starts out of an evening to hunt coons and stops in the first melon-patch he comes to.

THE saying that "reforms never go backward" does not hold true of ladies' fashions, as witness the change from the hoop-skirts to the pin-back.

BANK burglars have had such a poor show of late that they are downcast and discouraged, and some of them talk of studying law in order to get a living.

TENNESSEE talks of building a mausoleum on the Capitol grounds at Nashville, and of depositing therein her three dead Presidents, Jackson, Polk and Johnson.

EXPERIMENTS with boiled linseed oil and hardwood shavings show spontaneous combustion after exposure in a draught ten hours at a temperature of sixty-five degrees.

IT is estimated by a well-known natural philosopher that the average man will be fourteen years about getting around to screw that loose knob on the bureau drawer.

"JOHNNY, is it thundering like rain?" asked Mrs. Jones of Johnny at the window. "No, it is raining like thunder now," came back from reliable young America.

THE New Orleans "Press Club" has passed resolutions against "treating." Good thing. Now suppose, gentlemen, you also go a little further and stop "treating" yourselves.

DON'T lie awake fidgeting all night, thinking a burglar is in the house; either get up and see about it or go to sleep. The burglars of the imagination never steal anything nor hurt anybody, and are therefore not worth lying awake for.

A POET in Coneyville, Kan., has produced the following statistical verse: "Should millions into millions multiplied be, With ten million times ten million more, 'Twould scarcely express a millionth of *the* grasshoppers that pass our door."

A BROOKLYN sick girl cleared space around thirteen ears of green corn at one meal the other day, and, picking the fragments from between her teeth with a hair-pin, observed: "If ever I get well enough again to eat much I think I could live on corn."

ONE of the Siamese ambassadors, on returning home from Europe, gave the following description of a piano-forte, or, as he called it, "a great trunk set upon legs." He said: "A woman sits in front of this and, tickling a sort of tail it has with her toe, produces a variety of sounds by beating rapidly with her fingers on a number of little bits of ivory in front of it."

A PHOTOGRAPH has been forwarded to England which has aroused the astonishment of their distinguished men. It is taken of a branch of pears grown from a tree on the ranch of Mr. Gholson Kercheval, near Sacramento, Cal. The branch was four feet six inches long, carried 265 pears (most of which were about five inches in length), the whole weighing about 110 pounds.

WHEN we look around and see the large number of able-bodied men who spend their money and their time at the beer saloons, while their wives are stitching at home, or go out washing to earn money to keep themselves and children from starving, we naturally wonder why more young men don't get married—and marvel more that so many young ladies do.—*Norristown (Pa.) Herald.*

IT is stated that of the present Congress, composed of 336 members, 200 are lawyers, fifty merchants, and the rest editors and farmers. In the United States there are 40,000 lawyers and 2,500,000 farmers—therefore, there is one lawyer in Congress for every 200 of that profession, and only one farmer for every 130,000, as the latter class in reality only number eighteen in our National Legislature.—*Washington Chronicle.*

BASQUES are more trimmed than they were last season. A collar of some kind reaching low down on the breast is seen on most basques; this may be only a plain revers, either round or square cornered, or else it may be formed of small pleats laid the whole length of the collar and edged with a pleated frill; this fashion is very pretty in grenadine. Another fancy is that of making the front like a vest, covered with very narrow pleats reaching from the throat to the end of the basque.

THE use of ox-tail soup in England, I am told, is not very ancient, the origin being I believe as follows: At the end of the great war there were a great many French prisoners in England; by way of feeding them cheaply the commissariat used to supply them with ox-tails, then considered as offal, and left on the hides. The Frenchmen, with their usual cleverness in cooking, made these tails into soup, and this is the origin of the ox-tail soup—a story which I think should not be forgotten.—*Frank Buckland's "Log-Book."*

MATTHEW VAN DENBURGH, of the town of Mayfield, Fulton County, N. Y., died recently, poisoned by the use of hair-dye. Mr. V. was only forty-three years old at the time of his death, but for twelve or fifteen years he has been quite gray. For several years past he has resorted to the use of hair-dyes to cover the symbols of old age. For several weeks he had not been well, and his physicians immediately discovered the presence of poison as the cause. But all their skill was in vain. The poison from long-continued use had so thoroughly impregnated every part of his system that antidotes were of no avail.

A Practical Father.

BOATING is no doubt a good thing when judiciously indulged in, but an old gentleman residing on Congress street, whose son was a member of one of the winning crews at the Toledo regatta, has rather conservative notions concerning the muscular art. On Sunday the following dialogue occurred between the father and son:

Father—My boy, how much did you weigh when you began to train for this regatta?

Son—One hundred and sixty pounds.

Father—And you pulled at one hundred and forty-five pounds, didn't you?

Son—Yes, I worked down to that beautifully.

Father—And how much is that badge worth that you won down there?

Son—Don't know exactly, but I think I heard some of the fellers say they cost twenty-seven dollars apiece.

Father—Um! twenty-seven dollars. Now then, if you'll work off the same amount of flesh next season by sawing wood I'll give you a badge worth just four times as much as that one, and an order on my tailor for the best suit of clothes you can find.

The young gentleman intimated that he guessed he'd take a little run down to the boat-house.—*Detroit Free Press.*

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

PLANTS in pots—that is, the ordinary varieties usually grown for this purpose, including roses—are greatly benefited by a slight mulch of hot-bed manure. And conifers, too, show the effect of this fertilizing covering by an increased color and a more vigorous growth.

TO KEEP THIN.—If a man inclined to obesity desires to keep reasonably thin he must deny himself some of the luxuries of the table and take plenty of exercise. Horseback-riding, playing at billiards, fencing, swimming and gymnastics are all equally excellent. At table he should abstain from bread, butter, milk, beer, potatoes, pudding and from sugar in every shape. Biscuits or dry bread, every kind of fish except salmon, every kind of meat except pork, and all vegetables except potatoes may be eaten. Plenty of fruit is also recommended. By persevering in this regime a "fat man" may soon become less of a burden to himself and enjoy life more.—*Western Rural.*

A CHEAP FUMIGATOR.—The following will be found to be a cheap and pleasant fumigator for sick-rooms, diffusing a healthful, agreeable and highly penetrating disinfectant odor in close apartments, or wherever the air is deteriorated. Pour common vinegar on powdered chalk until effervescence ceases, leave the whole to settle and pour off the liquid. Dry the sediment and place it in a shallow earthern or glass dish, and pour upon it sulphuric acid until white fumes commence arising. This vapor quickly spreads, is very agreeably pungent, and acts as a powerful purifier of vitiated air.—*Exchange.*

GREEN APPLES.—Housewives tire of the monotony of the dried and preserved fruits of a foregoing season, and are fain always to make use of green apples, even while they are so young as to have little flavor and even a suspicion of bitterness. An excellent way of preserving such new apples is to stew them with very little water, pass them through a colander, and break them up with the back of a spoon. If young apples are cooked too long, and in too much water, they lose their flavor; but in any case, when using the first green apples of the season, they are improved by a flavor of nutmeg or lemon.—*Western Rural.*

COOKING MUSHROOMS—Pipsy Potts, in *Arthur's*, directs how to cook this delicious edible: Cut off every decayed particle, and the end down next to the ground, and wash them two or three times in plenty of water. Then slice and scald them in boiling water in which is a liberal pinch of salt, then let them drain in a colander. Have some melted butter in the hot spider waiting, and fry them until brown. Then pour out into a tureen in which is a slice of soft, buttered toast. Put half a teacupful of cream into the spider immediately after the mushrooms are taken out, and, when warm, pour it over them. Pepper to suit the taste. The salty water in which they are scalded and the salt in the butter is enough without adding any more.

SWEET PICKLES.—These are made up from pears, peaches, plums, apples, and other fruit, as well as from watermelon rinds, the fleshy part of ripe cucumbers, etc. The material is cooked in water until soft enough for a straw to pass easily, and when cool placed in a jar with a few cloves stuck in each. To each seven pounds of fruit take three pounds brown sugar, one quart vinegar, four ounces of cinnamon and two ounces cloves. Boil the vinegar, sugar and spices together for a few minutes, and pour over the fruit. Repeat the boiling for three days in succession, and put away for use. Fruit prepared in this way is by some called by the nonsensical and absurd name of "euchered fruit."—*American Agriculturist.*

Harvesting Apples.

EXPERIENCE alone must serve as a guide to the orchardist as to the proper time for harvesting fruit. We can only give this general direction: Gather the fruit when fully grown, or at the time when it has received the greatest nourishment from the tree. Ladders of different lengths, also stands, are employed for this purpose. * * * The windfalls should first be gathered and converted into cider, or at least kept entirely separate from the remaining fruit. Pick by hand, select and pack with great care, so as to obviate bruising the fruit. In assorting make two qualities for market and a third for cider or for swine.

Pack in new or clean barrels. Pack one kind only in the same barrel or box; also let the apples be of as uniform size and appearance as may be. The upper layer of apples should protrude somewhat above the chine, and be brought down and headed under pressure. Employ for this purpose a clamp, either patent or home-made. Some operate with a screw, others with a lever. The latter is very simple, and may be easily constructed. For shipping the pressure system is particularly desirable, as it retains each apple in its place, and hence prevents it being rattled about and bruised. The fruit being barreled should remain in open sheds till the approach of cold weather. Keep as cool as possible without freezing before removing to the cellar.—*Maine Pomological Report.*

Insects Injurious to Wheat.

INSECTS injurious to wheat are more or less numerous in all parts of the country. Unfortunately, however, the greater portion of these pests are of small size, and therefore readily escape notice until their numbers have increased to such an extent as to cause serious losses to the farmer or dealers in this grain.

Some kinds confine their ravages to the wheat plant while it is quite small, as, for instance, the Hessian fly (*Cecidomyia destructor*), which deposits its eggs in the wheat plant during the autumn, while another brood of the same attacks it again in the spring, the grubs boring into the center of the stalk and causing it to wither and die. This terrible pest of our wheat-fields was first observed on Staten Island in 1776, and from this point it appears to have spread over the country, sometimes increasing to such an extent as to compel farmers to abandon wheat culture entirely for a number of years in succession, and over a wide range of territory, then again disappearing, probably through the agency of parasitic enemies. It is only a few years since the great wheat-growing regions of Central New York were devastated by this insect, and it will doubtless appear again in the same localities, so that the farmer must be on the alert.

Another species of the same genus, known as the "wheat midge" (*Cecidomyia tritici*), is also quite common in many localities, and we have before us two heads of wheat, received from Mr. W. C. Littleton, of Tippecanoe County, Ind., which contain the pupa of this pest. The habit of this last-named species is quite different from the former, the female depositing her eggs in the heads of wheat while it is in blossom. The eggs hatch in eight to ten days, the maggots feeding upon the pollen, also sucking the juices of the young, soft kernels and causing them to shrivel. After reaching maturity the grubs descend to the ground, forming minute, thin cocoons within which they pass the winter, appearing again in time to attack the wheat when in bloom. These cecidomyias are very small, two-winged flies, but they have natural enemies in still more minute species of four-winged flies belonging to the genus *Platygastes*. Were it not for the latter we fear our farmers would soon have to abandon wheat-culture altogether; but as the midge increases its natural enemy also has an opportunity of multiplying; occasionally, however, the wheat-destroyers appear to get the advantage for a few years at least, but their enemies soon become strong enough in numbers to overpower and destroy them.

There is still another insect which is sometimes very injurious to growing wheat. It is generally referred to as the "joint-worm," from the appearance of the maggots in or near the joints on the stems of the wheat. When abundant, great numbers of the wheat-stalks die and break down soon after the heads appear. The name of the species which attack wheat is *Eurotyma hordei*—Harris.

Another species attacks rye in a similar manner; another barley; and, as the pupæ of all of them remain in the dry straw during winter, the best method of checking their ravages is to burn over the stubble in the fall and see that all the straw from which the grain is threshed is either fed out to stock or rotted down in the barn-yard before warm weather in the following spring.

After wheat is threshed and put away in the bins it is not safe from the attacks of insects. Perhaps the most common and destructive kind in this country is the red grain weevil (*Sitophilus granarius*). It is a small beetle of a pitchy red color, and attacks wheat after it is stored, eating out the inside of the kernel; hence it is not easily detected except by handling the grain or submitting it to a slight pressure, the shell readily breaking when touched. This weevil is sometimes exceedingly numerous about old barns in the Middle States, and considerable care is necessary to preserve seed-wheat in good condition for sowing. Infested barns should be well cleaned every season before new grain is put in, even to fumigating with burning sulphur, as well as dusting the cracks about the bins with the same substance.

A closely allied species of weevil, *Sorygæa*, attacks rice as well as wheat in the Southern States. It differs from the former in having two large red spots on each elytron, and is of a dark brown or black color. It is generally known as the "black weevil." There are other species of weevil which infest wheat, besides numerous moths and flies, and it would be well for our farmers to pay more attention to these pests and not only learn how to recognize the different species, but learn what is known of their habits, and how best to destroy them. The longer such things are neglected the more abundant they are likely to become, and it is quite frequently the case that a few dollars invested in entomological works, and a few evenings spent in reading them, would save a farmer hundreds of dollars annually.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Warts on Cows' Teats.

THE *Canada Farmer* recommends the following plan for removing these annoying excrescences:

"If the warts have well-defined necks, cut them off with scissors and touch the places with lunar caustic (nitrate of silver). Or, if horse hair or silk thread is tied tightly around them, they will fall off in a few days. If without well-defined necks, wet them and touch with lunar caustic. In a few days cut off the dead, blackened parts and touch again. If the places be sore after the warts are removed, moisten the surfaces with the tincture of aloes and myrrh; and if ulceration sets in, wash with a solution of sulphate of zinc of the strength of one dram to a pint of water.

"The presence of warts shows a disorganized state of the system. When the cause of them is removed they will disappear of themselves. They may proceed either from a lack or a redundancy of vital force. Where warts are present in such numbers as our correspondent mentions, it will be best to try to obliterate them a few at a time."

Greasing with hog's lard will remove ordinary warts, and we have seen recommended a liniment of equal parts of iodine tincture and glycerine, applied thoroughly. Violent remedies are not to be recommended when milder means will answer.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Dividing Colonies of Bees.

IN August colonies of bees that have been kept strong through the season of white clover and linn blooming may safely be divided. In our experience large colonies with fifteen or sixteen combs do not winter as well as those containing eight or nine. If you want more bees divide your colonies judiciously, and you may depend on having them built up in good, strong colonies, in any location where buckwheat is raised, or where smart-weed and golden rod are found.

For most parts of the West honey, in the fall, is abundant nine years out of ten, and if an increase of bees is preferred to surplus honey there is no better time to divide than now. I need not say that all who have a surplus of queens on hand will make a great gain by giving every new colony a queen.

One correspondent writes: "Last year I had eighteen colonies in large hives, of eight frames. I had them full of bees when linn came into bloom, and it was wonderful to see how fast the honey was stored. I extracted it twice a week (I have no doubt I might have done it oftener), and secured an average of 200 pounds to a hive; yet when the linn went out the hives were all full of bees and honey. I divided ten of them the 8th of August, giving each hive nine frames each, full of comb and some brood, but very little honey. They all did well, and by the last of September I extracted an average of sixty-two pounds each of golden rod honey, with some buckwheat. All of these twenty colonies (nine frames each) wintered perfectly, but not one of the eight large ones that I did not divide came through the winter well. I am not able to tell why; but after this give me large colonies to get great yields of honey from early in the season—but smaller ones to winter well."—*American Bee Journal.*

Insects as Food.

THE Hottentots always rejoice in the arrival of a swarm of locusts, eat them in great numbers, and make soup of their eggs. They are brought in wagon-loads to Zez, in Africa, and are preserved by salting or smoking. The Moors prefer them to pigeons, and a person may eat two or three hundred without feeling any ill effects. They are usually boiled in water half an hour, after throwing away the head, legs and wings, and then fried with a little vinegar. Their use as food is alluded to in Scripture, where the food of John the Baptist is said to have been locusts and wild honey. The ancient Greeks considered grasshoppers as a great luxury, and the Chinese, who are unwilling to waste anything, after unwinding the silk from the cocoons of the silk-worm, send the insect to the table. The Hottentots, again, parch the white ants, and eat them as we do corn. Mr. Smeathman tells us that they taste like cream and sugar, or almond cakes. There are many other instances of insects which serve for food to different nations, though, with the exception of a few individuals, as Lalande, the great astronomer, who was fond of spiders, their use is generally discarded by those whom we consider the most refined. We say generally, for one species, the cheese mite, is often considered a luxury even among these.—*Christian Advocate.*

—The last Presbytery of New York reported nine Presbyterian churches without pastors, some of whom were making efforts to secure a preacher. Measures were earnestly discussed in behalf of church extension in the bounds of the presbytery.

THE science of advertising is one which can be learned by experience only, and, like everything else requiring study and skill, is best understood by those houses whose sole business it is; hence we regard that advertiser as peculiarly fortunate who is enabled to secure the services of a reliable agent conversant with the whole subject, and able, by his experience, knowledge and general reputation with both the public and the publishers, to offer all the advantages and emoluments that can only be possessed by a first-class house. Among those houses of known solidity and promptness whose merits are universally recognized and whose reliability and skill remain unquestioned perhaps that of Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 41 Park Row, New York, is most deserving of mention and confidence. A close attention to business, a watchfulness over the best interests of their customers and a promptness in the execution of all orders intrusted to their care have been the characteristics of the firm from the outset, and have done much to ingratiate them in public favor. They have always possessed the best facilities for doing work both cheap and well, and by promptness and fair dealing succeed in procuring from publishers, in all cases, the lowest cash rates; and by so doing distance their competitors in a majority of cases when figuring upon large estimates.—*Frank Leslie's Illustrated.*

WILBOFT'S TONIC!—UNFAILING AND INFALLIBLE!—This great Chill Tonic cures Chills without the intervention of doctors and their bills. No consulting visits—no prescriptions to be filled—no huge bills, entailing pecuniary embarrassments, added to loss of health. It is the friend of the poor man because it enables him to earn a living, and of the rich because it prepares him to enjoy his wealth. This great boon to mankind is cheap, safe and prompt. WHEELOCK, FINLAY & CO., Proprietors, New Orleans. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

AT this season of the year cramps and pains in the stomach and bowels, dysentery, diarrhœa, etc., are quite common, and should be checked at once. *Johnson's Anodyne Liniment* is the best article that can be used in all such cases, and should be kept in every family.

GREAT harm and discomfort is caused by the use