

The Herald.

PLATTSMOUTH, DEC. 25. 1879.

All Dead.

St. Louis Free Press.

Six months ago a colored man living on Indiana street gave a white man living on Third street his note of hand for \$20, due in six months. A white man living on Beaubien street indorsed it, and the holder soon sold it to a man living on Twenty-fourth street. The note fell due last Saturday and was in the hands of a widow, whose husband died four weeks ago. In tracing up the note it was found that the maker, the indorser, and the two men who had held it were all dead, though every one was in good health when the note was made. Learning of this state of affairs, the widow made no effort to collect payment, but tore the note in pieces, fearful that some bad luck might come to her.

Silvering Mirrors.

An improvement in silvering mirrors, by which excellent results are obtained, and which at the same time spares the workman the danger of the exposure to the effect of mercurial vapors, says the Scientific American, has just been accorded a price of 2,500 francs by the French Academy. The inventor is M. Lenoir, and his procedure is substantially as follows: The glass is first silvered by means of tartaric acid and ammoniacal nitrate of double cyanide of mercury and potassium. When the mercurial solution has spread uniformly over the surface, fine zinc dust is powdered over it, which promptly reduces the quicksilver, and permits it to form a white and brilliant silver amalgam, adhering strongly to the glass, and which is affirmed to be free from the yellowish tint of ordinary silvered glass, and not easily affected by sulphurous emanations.

A Dog's Joke on His Master.

Palmyra (Wis.) Enterprise.

A gentleman connected with the U. S. Lake Survey in this city was engaged one day on the skirt of a wood in Indiana. Near him, sleeping lazily in the sun, lay his faithful dog, Tiger. Thinking to have some fun with the dog, he gave a shout and a jump into the thicket as if all the game ever protected by game laws from marauding hunter was dashing through the bushes, as he expected, Tiger came bounding and barking to the fray, and soon detected the trick that was played upon him, sneaked back to his lair, and laid down again. The Surveyor resumed his duties, and was hard to work for two or three hours, when, all at once, the dog rose from his sleep, set his ears and eyes in the direction of the woods, gave a bark, and made a rush for the former depths. The Surveyor followed the noble brute to a tree, up which he was sending amine congratulations to the prey; but when he Surveyor came, and began anxiously to scan the boughs for the hiding game, Tiger gave a satisfied "ah-wooh!" bestowed a glance of contempt at the Surveyor, and, striking a dignified gait, stalked back to his couch with the appearance of a dog that had squared up all accounts with the Lake Survey, and had left nothing due on either side.

A Plea for Smoking Husbands.

A lady writes as follows to a western newspaper: "Make a home a home, and make it one in every sense of the word. My husband is a great smoker; he loves to play cards, dominoes and chess; he is at liberty to smoke in any room in the house, and I am always ready and willing to join him in any of the different games. I endeavor to be not only a helpmate, but a companion to him, and the result has been that I have and enjoy his society. I cannot understand why women will run the risk of losing their husband's society and love merely for the sake of gratifying an overfastidious taste. If they do not like tobacco did they object to his using it in the days of courtship? And if they objected then and failed why did they marry? If men will not give up such habits at the solicitation of their sweethearts, it is not likely they will be persuaded out of them by their wives; therefore I think it unwise for a woman to risk her happiness by quarreling with her husband over a fault, the existence and extent of which she knew and perfectly understood before she took upon herself the duties of a wife."

Relations of Flowers and Insects.

For some years past—since the publication of Darwin's researches—we have been accustomed to look on the forms, colors, perfumes, and nectar-like secretions of flowers as so many adaptations and contrivances to secure the visits of insects, and the consequent fertilization of the flower. Recently however, an observer has been found who is bold enough to challenge these opinions of Darwin, Delpino, Mueller, Lubbock, and others. M. Gaston Bonnier, after having observed during the last seven years some 800 plants in various parts of Europe, comes to the following conclusions, the details upon which he founds them being given in recent numbers of the Annales des Sciences Naturelles and of the Bulletin of the Botanical Society of France:

"1. The development of colors in flowers has no relation to the development of nectar. In closely allied species of the same genus, the most conspicuous flowers are not those which are most visited by insects.

"2. In diœcious flowers provided with nectar the insects do not visit first the male and afterwards the female flower.

"3. Bees become accustomed to colors, but as much so to those which are inconspicuous as to those which are brilliant. For the same weight of honey a green surface is as freely visited as a green surface with a background of red.

"4. The development of spots and stripes on the corolla has no relation to the production of nectar."

M. Bonnier, who has studied the anatomy and disposition of the nectar-secreting organs in a great number of plants, points out that these accumulations of saccharine material occur usually in parts of the plant where development is going on actively; as in young leaves or young ovaries. When the emission of liquid ceases, the saccharine matters contained in the nectaries return into the plant, and are probably used up by the neighboring parts in the course of this development. In fact, the nectaries, whether floral or extra-floral, whether they excrete liquid or not, act as reservoirs of nutriment which is in direct relation to the life of the plant.

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