

## EYES FOR THE BLIND.

An Old Optician's Chat About Spectacles and Those Who Use Them.

A man who makes a good living, and perhaps some wealth in aiding people to read should contribute something for them to read. Thus reasoning, a *Tribune* reporter entered the store of a prominent optician in Broadway for some information about spectacles and eye-glasses.

"I hardly know where to begin answering your long list of questions," said the optician. "Spectacles have to be worn by some children of 5 years and by persons in all ages. It is difficult to state when sight is likely to fail, for sickness, accidents, certain professions, excessive or careless reading, and the natural decay of strength all tend to one result. By careless reading I mean reading in unsteady or dim light. Reading while traveling, especially in fast trains, is a tempting pastime, but it sadly strains the best of eyes. A man should not, as a habit, smoke and read at the same time. The blur of the smoke imposes unequal work upon the two eyes. One should not raise his eyes suddenly toward a strong or vivid light after intently pouring over printed matter. The shock is severe. A number of trades and duties wear heavily upon the eyes. Engravers, jewelers, watchmakers, proof-readers, compositors, and persons who have to handle shining metals all suffer in some degree from poor sight. The sewing-machine has proved a great saving for women's eyes. In former times constant sewing with the ordinary needle upon white fabrics or narrow-striped goods of any color had a damaging and sometimes blinding effect.

"Yes, I've heard that tight lacing and tight shoes spoken of as bad for the eyes, but I guess the old surgeon's remark 'that anything unnatural is bad for anything' about covers this case.

"It is an unsafe plan for people to select glasses from the stock of peddlers or other irresponsible vendors. I am willing that everyone should make a living, but the eye is too delicate and valuable to be trifled with. Some of these vendors may know something of the optician's profession, but as a rule I have noticed that their customers have need to be both purchasers and scientists. Now, when you have got your shoes you do not allow the shoe-maker or seller to make your feet fit the shoes. And I assure you there can be as bad fitting glasses as shoes.

"What is a positive indication that sight is weakening? The failure is most noticeable in reading; when one finds himself throwing back the head and contracting the brow or stretching out the arm, so as to be surer of deciphering the print or scrip he holds there, is unmistakable evidence of the need of optical assistance. The defect, however, may not be permanent; in person under 35 years of age, I have known a case where the normal sight has been restored by the timely use of correct glasses. It would be good economy of vision if many were to begin wearing the glasses early, under the advice of a skillful and experienced optician. People go to the dentist quite regularly about their teeth and to the physician about trifling complaints, while few seem to consider the importance of helping or protecting nature's great gift of sight. The waning action, however, in the most instances so gradual that people don't trouble themselves until compelled to.

"You will here get a good idea of the care required in our work when fitting glasses for steady use. You have noticed how many times the focus of an opera-glass has to be adjusted to suit a group of lookers-on at a performance. Well, the same variation of eye-power occurs on a multitude. By the way, protracted use of an opera-glass is unfavorable to the eyes. Ladies often object to the wearing of glasses for fear of appearing advanced in age; then, again, there are some of both sexes who wear them simply because they are becoming or give an intellectual cast in their faces. So you see, whimsical pride visits our trade as well as others.

"How far does our science date back? China, I believe, is the oldest-known nation having the ingenuity to prepare glass to aid defective sight. They have not advanced beyond their first ideas. The artists of Europe and America have developed wonderful improvements within the last half-century.

"The most expensive lenses for frames or springs are made from 'pebble,' a white, transparent rock crystal found in Brazil. I have known some of these hard-pebble lenses to be polished with diamond dust. As to their being better than the best white glass, that is a matter of caprice. Some of my wealthiest customers prefer glass, and it is the opinion of some opticians that the intense polish of the pebble is not favorable to the wearer. Fine emery-ground glass is good enough. Our glasses are largely imported. Grinding glass is a great industry in France and Germany. England also turns out some fine work. They can be ground here, but it is rarely necessary, as the sizes well assorted can be had cheaper from abroad. Lenses for myopia or near-sightedness are ground concave in shape and for long-sightedness convex.

"Most of the newspapers in this country are trying to do the eyes, owing to narrow columns and small print. The *Tribune* is a valuable exception, with its broad columns, clear type and fairly heavy paper.

"Any eye retaining natural functions, though weak, can be assisted by our art. Why, in my time (I'm 73), I have known individuals who had never been able to perceive the outlines of animals, buildings, or trees, to be supplied with glasses that enabled them to see with ease.—*New York Tribune*.

## A Pair of Shoes.

A great naturalist said: "Show me a snake, I'll draw the fish." Had he been a shoemaker he might have said: "Show me a shoe, I'll tell the wearer." The sandal of the Arab, the tiny shoe of the high-bred woman of China, the wooden dancing shoe of the Dutch,

the high-heeled court slipper, or the sensible walking shoe of the English and Americans, proclaim their nationality to the tyro. An amateur might not readily recognize the characteristics of different districts within a single nation but the practiced designer must know that in the United States, for instance, your northerner wants his shoe comfortable, neat, and stylish; the Southerner asks for something fancy and handsome; the agricultural west demands solidity, fullness, and an article stout to break the land for a coming population. "A pair of shoes" is one of the most typical products of modern industry. To make them the animal kingdom contributes from the herds roaming on western plains or South American pampas, or from the barnyards near at home; the vegetable, from dotted groves of hemlock and oak, or from great forests still left to us. Great textile manufacturers supply cloth and thread; mines, furnaces, and forges combine to furnish nails or wire. A hundred machines have been invented, one of which has changed the whole course of a great industry, and produced large cities. Through scores of processes, the forty-four pieces of a pair of shoes require to bring them together the co-operation of fifty men, women, and children; the division of labor is pursued to the utmost, demanding in turn for its successful maintenance the dispersing of product the world over; until, as a result, you, well-shod reader, can buy for \$3 what would have cost your forefathers \$8. As the reader buys a pair of shoes his next pair may at the same moment be dodging the lasso of the "cowboy" on some far-away plain, or perhaps be in process of slaughter at Chicago. The perishable beef promptly reaches the market, and one day soon you dine from a fat, juicy roast, little thinking as you smack your lips after dinner that the fine delicate morsel which once protected the delicate morsel may at some time contribute to your outward comfort. Stranger things have happened. The skins or hides meantime are salted, and the buyer of salted hides sends part of them, say, to Peabody, Mass., to be tanned for upper leather, and the rest to central New York, to be tanned for sole leather.—*Harper's Magazine*.

## Selecting a Church.

On the question of selecting a church—a question of deep interest as affecting church growth—*The Advance* has the following: "Some Christian men look mainly to the effect which the decision will have on their business. A lawyer, physician, or merchant, entering a new place, is strongly inclined to go to the church that has the largest numbers and the greatest influence. It will give him a large circle of influential acquaintances who may be helpful to him in his business. The temptation is to select a church with an eye to business. Some distinctly avow this as a reason for choosing the strongest church. Others are almost unconsciously influenced by this motive. Some Christians decide the question on the basis of social surroundings. They gravitate to the church where there is the most wealth, culture, fashion, and society influence. Of course these are generally found in the central or first church. Another class is drawn to the church where the crowd goes; where they can hear eloquent preaching and artistic music. This, as a rule, takes them to the central, strong church. The eloquent sermon may be full of the gospel, or it may be a very thin dilution of it, but this matters little to them, providing it is smart and popular. These are self-indulgent Christians. Others consider, not, like the first class, what will come into the pocket, but what will go out, and they prefer the church where their Sunday entertainment will cost them little or nothing. Generally this is the wealthy, central church, where there are many to bear the financial burden. As a rule, then, all these motives operate to draw new comers to the largest and wealthiest church of their denomination. But these motives are selfish. They are unworthy of a Christian man. They surely are not such as our self-denying Lord would approve. Doubtless there are sometimes good reasons why new comers should go to the largest and strongest church, but they are not such reasons as above. The newcomer, or the new convert, should settle the question by honestly asking and intelligently answering these questions: Here can I best help in building up Christ's kingdom? Where am I most needed?"

## A Remarkable Woman.

Mrs. Alice Le Plongeon, now in New Orleans, is a remarkable woman, scientist, and linguist, says *The New Orleans Picayune*. She has accompanied her husband in all his travels, and is a devoted and learned archaeologist. She is an English woman, quite young, with a spiritual rather than a handsome face. During their journeys in Yucatan forests Mrs. Le Plongeon wore always a bloomer costume and carried her rifle and revolver. She is a dead shot and expert hunter and horsewoman, and can cook quite as well as she can talk, write, or make photographs. She is in manner shy, modest, but with that admirable and adorable self-possession without which the charms of the most charming woman are imperiled. At the time Dr. Le Plongeon and his wife discovered the statue of Chaacmal, now in the museum of the City of Mexico, their Indian guards revolted, being superstitious, and did not want the statue to be removed from its hiding-place. Mrs. Le Plongeon, with rifle and revolver, kept the Indians at bay until help could be summoned. This lady is a correspondent of *The Field and Country Gentleman*, and a constant and valued contributor to *The Scientific American*, to several illustrated papers of Madrid, and to scientific publications generally. She is a graceful speaker.

The suspicion exists that the Crown Solicitor in Ireland, the notorious Bolton, against whom atrocious crimes have been alleged, will be left to gerrymander Ireland after his own sweet will.—*L*.

## A NATIONAL MAUSOLEUM.

The Crying Need of the Times—Where the Past Presidents Are Buried.

It would be a good idea for the United States to have a national mausoleum, like Westminster abbey, in which presidents could be buried, and statues of them erected. At present some of them have neither a slab nor a monument to mark their graves. Gen. Harrison's body rests in a brick vault on the top of a little hill fifteen miles west of Cincinnati. A big, flat stone lies on its top, but there is no inscription, and the only beauty about the grave is the pine trees which surround it with their perpetual green. John Tyler's body is buried in the Hollywood cemetery at Richmond, Va., and has not a stone or bust to mark its resting-place. Ten yards away is President Monroe's grave, but he was not buried here until after the centennial anniversary of his birth.

Monroe waited twenty-seven years for an appropriate tomb, and he now rests in a vault over which is a large granite sarcophagus, and on it an inscription testifying that it was erected "as an evidence of the affection of Virginia for her good and honored son."

Van Buren's grave, notwithstanding his wealth, is now bleak and bare, without a flower or shrub, at Kinderhook, and a year or two ago the little granite shaft which stood over the remains of Thomas Jefferson had been mutilated and its inscription destroyed by relic-hunters. Its gates were rusty and its appearance that of a ruin.

George Washington has been twice buried, and Henry Clay showed one day in the senate a piece of his first coffin. Mount Vernon is now his tombstone, and the sarcophagus in which he lies is a brick vault overlooking the Potomac. It has but one word on it, and that is, "Washington."

The two Adamses are buried in the Unitarian church at Quincy. When John Adams died his son, then president, obtained a deed to a burial lot in the cellar of the church fourteen square, and in this he built a granite tomb for himself and his father. Here lie the two presidents and their wives, and on the walls of the church above are long inscriptions commemorative of their lives and worth. John Quincy Adams' inscription commences: "Near this place reposes all that could die of John Quincy Adams." And it closes: "A son worthy of his father."

A citizen shedding glory on his country. A scholar ambitious to advance mankind. This citizen sought to walk humbly in the sight of God.

The inscription devoted to the first Adams and his wife Abigail ends in the following verse of advice, headed "Pilgrims":

From lives thus spent thy earthly duties learn; From fancy's dreams to active virtue turn; Let freedom, friendship faith, thy soul engage.

And serve, live them, thy country and thy age. The most expensive of the presidential monuments are, I suppose, those of Lincoln and Garfield. Lincoln's monument at Springfield cost \$206,550, and the ground devoted to that of Garfield is said to be worth \$100,000, and the monument is to cost \$150,000 more.

There have been a number of stories published in regard to the graves of President Taylor, in that he was first buried at Washington and his body afterward moved about from place to place. The truth is he has never been buried, but was brought immediately, on his death at the capital, to his father's old farm in Kentucky and there put into a vault. His body has lain there ever since, and there is a gray granite monument, surrounded by a marble statue of the general, near by.

Frank Pierce has a monument of Italian marble at Concord, and, strange to say, the name engraved upon it is Francis Pierce, instead of Franklin Pierce, as he was known to the country. It has no inscription, and is, like the monument of Millard Fillmore at Buffalo, simple to an extreme. James Buchanan lies in a vault in the Lancaster cemetery, and chronicles his life in the dates of his birth and death and the fact that he was the fifteenth president of the United States. It takes twenty-three lines to write the inscription on Polk's tombstone, and it lies in Nashville, twelve miles away from that of Andrew Jackson, a much greater man, who sums his record up in three. Jackson's body lies in his garden at the Hermitage beside his wife. The monument above them is of Tennessee limestone, and Jackson's life is given in these words: "Gen. Andrew Jackson, born March 15, 1767; died June 8, 1845."—*Cleveland Leader*.

## Inhospitable New York.

A Western man who has settled in New York declares that it is the most inhospitable town on the face of the earth. He is from Omaha, and two years ago bought a \$40,000 house on Thirty-sixth street and settled down. He says: "We are not country people by any means. Both of my daughters and my wife spent five years of their life prior to 1880 in traveling about Europe, and the girls are bright and rather pretty. The neighbors own their houses on either side of us, and the block is filled with people who have lived there for many years. I am acquainted with several business men who reside on the block, and altogether I felt that I was moving into a decidedly pleasant neighborhood. In the course of two years not a solitary neighbor has called on us. Men I have met down town have visited me in one or two instances with their wives, but the acquaintances have never ripened into friendship, and if either of my daughters should give a party to-morrow it is doubtful if their mother could ask a score of presentable people to the house."—*Boston Journal*.

## Foreign Papers in the United States.

There are 623 newspapers and periodicals published in foreign languages in the United States, the *New York World* says, and of these 483 are published in German. Next in number come the French publications with 41, the Scandinavians with 33, the Spaniards with 11, Italians with 6, the Welsh with 4, and the Poles and Hebrews with 2 each. There is one paper published in the native Irish, one in Cherokee and one in Chinese.

## NEW YORK 134 YEARS AGO.

The City Slave Trade—Queer Advertisements—An Old-Time Theater Notice.

In the year 1751 New York was a queer little place, with a slave market at the foot of Wall street, and public notices of runaway slaves, or of the public sale of men and women, were posted in the streets. Here are some notices from *The New York Gazette* of 1751:

Run away on Sunday night, the 3rd instant, from Judah Hays, a Negro Wench, named Sarah, aged about thirty years; she is a likely wench, of a mulatto complexion; was brought up at Amboy, in Col Hamilton's family; and has had several masters in the Jerseys. She dresses very well, and has a good parcel of cloths, and speaks good English. Who ever takes up the said Wench and brings her to her said Master, or secures her in any County Gaol, so that he may have her again, shall receive 40 shillings reward and all reasonable charges.

The Public Whipper of the city of New York being lately dead, if any person inclines to accept that office, with £20 a year, he may apply to the Mayor and be entered.

A very valuable negro fellow, getting too much liquor, got into a canoe in the harbor, and after paddling about a little, tumbled over and was drowned.

This is to give notice that Elizabeth Boyd is going to remove next door to the Widow Hog's, in Broad street, near the Long Bridge, and will continue as usual to graft pieces to knit jackets and breeches, not to be discerned; also, to foot and graft stockings and gentlemen's gloves, mittens, or muffates made out of old stockings, or runs them in the heels. She likewise makes children's stockings out of the old ones.

Among the articles advertised to be sold by Ebenezer Grant, in Hanover square, are: "Jamacia rum, by the five gallons, Common Prayer Books, Week's Preparation for the Sacrament." Here is an editor's appeal: Kind readers, you have now had gratis three supplements running: O that it would excite such of you who are upward of two, three, four, and five years in arrears to remember the printer.

An Irish servant maid, who has two years of her time; to be sold. Inquire of the printer hereof.

The Albany Post sets out on Saturday next; letters may be left at Mr. McEvers, near the city hall, or at the North River, at the house of the said Post.

Last Monday night several of the glass lamps put up about this city were taken down by persons unknown, and left whole in the meat market. It is thought to be done by some daring rakes in order to convince the owners how easy those lamps might be demolished without discovery.

All our common water carriage being so long stopped has occasioned a vast rise in the price of firing in this city, to the great distress of the poor, as well as others.

A likely negro wench and sucking child to be sold. The wench about 19 years of age; can do all sorts of household work, and very handy.

An Irish servant man, aged about 28 years, to be disposed of for four years' servitude; he will answer either country work or gardening.

The Posts for Boston and Philadelphia will set out on Monday, the 30th inst., at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, precisely, to perform their stages weekly during the summer season.

In an obituary of 1752 of Isabella Morris "Widow and Relict of His Excellency Lewis Morris, Esq., late governor of the province of New Jersey," she is described as "liberal without prodigality, frugal without parsimony, cheerful without levity, exalted without pride, in person amiable, in conversation affable, in friendship faithful, of envy void."

In an advertisement of a race to be run at Hempstead Plains in 1752, there is a notice appended: "If any Foul play, the judges of the race may give the money to any horse they please, as is expressed in the written articles."

A city paragraph runs as follows: "We are desired by several gentlemen, well-wishers of the city, to entertain the respective inhabitants to use their utmost endeavors, during the warm weather to keep the streets sweet and clean, as it is everybody's concern, being the most effectual means, under God, for our preservation from sickness."

It appears that the theater-goers of 1751 had some of the same causes of complaint that exist now, as may be seen by the following: "Whereas, Several reports have been unkindly spread that Mr. Keen, for his benefit night on Monday last, had caused a greater number of tickets to be printed than the house would hold, this is to certify that, according to the best of my knowledge, there were but 161 pit tickets, 10 boxes, and 121 gallery tickets printed in all, and it is well known that a larger number have been in the house at one time."

N. B.—Tho' it was then determined not to receive any money at the Door, it was afterward found to be a measure impracticable to be followed without Great Offence, and such whose Business who could not permit them to come in time have since had their money returned.

Whereas, it has been reported that Mrs. Taylor, in playing her part in my Benefit, endeavored to perform it in a worse manner than she was capable, and that it was done on account of a falling out between us; This is to certify that there was no such difference between her and me, and I believe her being so much out in her part was owing to her not getting the Part in time. THOMAS KEAN.

In an official account of the laying out of new streets for the city in 1807, signed by Governor Morris, Simeon DeWitt, and John Rutherford, commissioners, the following paragraph occurs:

To some it may seem a matter of surprise that the whole island has been laid out as a city. To others it may be a subject of merriment that the Commissioners have provided space for a greater population than is col-

lected at any spot on this side of China. They have in this respect been governed by the shape of the ground. It is not improbable that considerable numbers may be collected at Harlem before the high hills to the southward of it shall be built upon as a city, and it is improbable that (for centuries to come) the grounds north of Harlem Flats will be covered with houses. To have come short of the extent laid out might therefore have defeated just expectations, and to have gone further might have furnished materials to the pernicious spirit of speculation.—*New York Sun*.

## Freedmen's Rights.

Hon. J. Milton Turner, ex-minister to Liberia and agent to the freedmen in the Indian Territory, is in receipt of a letter from his clients requesting him to go to Washington and present the claims of the freedmen before the congressional committee. Mr. Turner says he is an authorized agent of the freedmen in Indian Territory, whereas Phillips, who drew a \$25,000 bonus for a sale of Cherokee lands, had no legal right to act as agent, the United States statutes requiring that before a white man can contract for the Indians he must have a permit from the secretary of the interior and the judge of the nearest United States court. When the Cherokees received \$300,000 for the sale of their lands beyond the 96th meridian they divided it pro rata among the native-blood Cherokees, and refused to give the freedmen of the nation, who were entitled, under the treaty of 1866, to the same rights as the full-bloods, a cent in the divide. The freedmen are now asking that they be paid out of this sum, the same as the Indians. The sum claimed is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000 or \$75,000. Last summer Senator Dawes' commission were expected to visit the Indian Territory and investigate this and other questions in dispute, but they failed to go on account of the presidential election. Mr. Turner thinks that the questions can be explained to the committee so as to save them from the necessity of visiting the Indian Territory. Under the treaty of 1866, it was provided that the western portion of the territory be retroceded to the United States for the purpose of placing thereon other Indians and freedmen. By a subsequent act of congress it was provided that other Indians be placed on this territory, and under the treaty the freedmen could be the only occupants. It has been held by the people of the territory and the courts that the freedmen alluded to in the treaty included only the former slaves of the Indians in the five civilized nations. Mr. Turner takes the ground that according to the meaning of the treaty that provision embraces any freedman in the United States outside the Indian Territory, for the reason that provisions are made in the treaties for giving the freedmen in the several Indian nations the same rights and privileges as the native Indians. It is therefore concluded that, as the former slaves among the Indian tribes are provided for, the treaty does not mean them, but other freedmen outside the territory, the same as it applies to other Indians.

Judge Parker held the former view in relation to the interpretation of the treaty, but now, according to Mr. Turner, the judge agrees with him, and in a subsequent decision the treaty was construed by him as meaning freedmen outside the boundaries of Indian Territory. Under this interpretation, Mr. Turner claims he has a perfect right to go into the territory so set apart "for the Indians and freedmen."

He said that the so-called "Oklahoma colonists" were excluded under the treaty, but he informed Capt. Payne how he could get in there and not be legally liable to expulsion as an intruder, but Capt. Payne was obstinate, and could not see in that light. The plan was this: Mr. Turner proposed that if Capt. Payne would furnish the means, he (Turner) would take a colony of negroes into the Oklahoma tract, in which case they would not be disturbed by the military. Then, after they had effected a settlement, Capt. Payne, with his followers, would come in, effect a joint settlement with the negroes, and should they (the whites) be disturbed or threatened with removal by the military forces, they could legally, under the constitutional amendment, claim the same rights as the negroes, for these rights were reciprocal, and no power could legally remove them, and the courts would so decide, should an issue under such circumstances be made.

The theory, to say the least, is an ingenious one.—*St. Louis Republican*.

## General Grant's Peril.

The latest rumor regarding Gen. Grant is that he is suffering from a swelling of the tongue that threatens to develop into a cancer. It will be remembered that the late Senator Hill, of Georgia, suffered from this terrible malady. Gen. Grant's family physician, Dr. Fordyce Barker, was asked, recently, if the report is true, and said: "Well, I won't say whether there is danger of a cancer or not. I can not state, either, whether the trouble was caused by smoking, but Douglass and I thought that the smoking irritated it and made it worse. By the use of the new local anesthetic, muriate of cocaine, the pain of the tissues has been greatly controlled and the whole appearance as to swelling and to redness has improved. I can not say about the similarity of the general's case to that of Senator Hill, because I do not remember what Senator Hill's trouble was."

## A Gun of Prodigious Power.

Experiments have lately been made by the French government with a new kind of siege gun of prodigious power. It is described as made of steel and nearly thirty feet long, and the tube is strengthened with ten coils of plated steel wire one millimeter, or .039 inch in diameter. The composition is such that the cannon, after a few discharges, becomes elongated by three millimeters. The weight of the gun is 50 tons, and it projects a shell weighing 297 pounds, capable of penetrating armor plates nearly six inches thick at a range of 7½ miles.

## FACT AND FANCY.

There were thirteen homicides in Maine during 1884.

Springfield, Mass., put \$700,000 into buildings last year.

In Tucson, Arizona, the restaurants are conducted by Chinese.

Portland, Me., fish-dealers packed 3,000,000 lobsters last year.

Jeremiah Austin, of South Coventry, Conn., says he is 102 years old.

Six to ten tons of mail matter passes the Augusta, Me., postoffice daily.

A citizen of Pittsfield, Mass., lately invested \$400 in an African gray parrot.

Vermont has 113 Baptist churches, with 9,326 members and 106 ordained ministers.

A New Haven oysterman found an old rubber boot upon which were 2,500 young oysters.

The Agricultural society of South Carolina will celebrate its hundredth anniversary this year.

A Connecticut genius has been granted a patent on a machine for harvesting potato bugs.

At Hill, N. H., a man makes a business of extracting skunk's oil, for which he gets \$4 per gallon.

Fruit trees and vines are rapidly taking the places of the redwood forest in the vicinity of Guerneville, Cal.

Mrs. Ira Jenks, of Lanesboro, Mass., has a pork-barrel, fifty-four years old which has preserved 27,000 pounds of pork.

The frightful condition of many of the tenement-houses of Boston is arousing the citizens of the Hub to the necessity of immediate and radical sanitary measures.

A piece of paper placed between two blankets is recommended by a physician for a light and warm bed-covering. Paper is a poor conductor of heat, and obviates the necessity of undue weight of clothing.

A trout taken out of the water company's reservoir at Virginia, Nev., has two heads and portions of two bodies, these bodies ending in a sort of a bladder, and the bladder culminating in a sort of tail.

The erection of cotton-mills at the south has not been stopped by the general depression. The year will show a considerable increase in both spindles and looms, according to *The United States Economist*.

In a recent letter to a well-known Torontonian from a friend residing a few miles from Los Angeles, Cal., it is said: "It took four of the largest steam thrashers four and a half months to thrash the grain on his farm."

More suicides occur in San Francisco in proportion to its population says *The Alta California*, than in any other city on the continent. The number of suicides in that city for the year ending with June last was over two and a half times as many as occurred in New York in 1880.

At an egg-eating match at Peterborough, Canada, a short time since, one man ate 41 eggs and the other 40. The eggs were raw and taken from a basket in a grocery store. The basket was emptied, and the winner said he could eat a dozen more.

Ants will forsake any food for lard, and they can be exterminated by greasing a plate with that substance and placing it in their vicinity. When the plate is well covered turn hot coals upon it, and a few repetitions of the process will clean them out.

News letters, in manuscript, were sold before newspapers were printed. The Italian name gazette was first applied to these letters, and afterward to the printed copies. Dr. Skeat says the word is either a diminutive of gazza, "a magpie," meaning a chatterbox, or else derived from gazetta, a small coin perhaps paid for the privilege of reading the news.

"What are you doing, pet?" "I am studyin' my Sunday school lesson." "Is it hard?" "It's awful hard. Here's a question I can't answer. It says, 'Who was it said all men are liars?' Do you know who it was, pa?" "Yes; it was David." "David? How did he come to say that, pa?" "Well, I don't know, pet. Maybe he was running for office."

Little boy has been swearing, and mamma, to punish him, washed thoroughly the inside of his mouth with soap-suds, "to," as she explains to him, "clean away the nasty words." A few days later, while passing the bathroom, she sees the youngster with his face one mass of soaps, and his mouth so full that she barely understands his spluttering exclamations. "Getting them all out, mamma! Swore five times yesterday!"

The New York correspondent of *The Troy Times*, says the king of society reporters in that city is a native little Hebrew, who is facially as handsome as a doll and as stylish as a Paris fashion-plate. He has entree to the best society and can describe with rare fidelity all the details of feminine toilet, social innovations, and gastronomical delights. He also has a faculty of distinguishing a genuine aristocratic belle from an imitation one in any assemblage.

It is claimed that England and France can make a better grade of fine paper than this country on account of the quality of water, which is here injured for paper-making by frequent changes in temperature. Acting upon this idea experiments are about to be made in Florida, where the temperature is more equal. If successful, it is said a large mill, especially for the manufacture of finer grades of stock, will be built there by Massachusetts capitalists.

The late Dr. Macadam used to tell of a tipsy Scotchman, making his way home on a bright Sunday morning, when the good folks were wending their way to the kirk. A little dog pulled a ribbon from the hand of a lady who was leading it, and as it ran away from her, she appealed to the first passer-by, who happened to be the innkeeper, asking him to whistle for her poodle. "Woman!" he retorted, with that solemnity of visage which only a Scotchman can assume: "Woman, this is no day for whustlin'!"