OLD FOLKS.

Ah! don't be sorrowful, darling, And don't be sorrowful, pray; Taking the year together, my dear, There isn't more night than day.

Tis rainy weather, my darling; Time's waves, they heavily run; But taking the year together, my dear. There aren't more clouds than sun.

We are old folks now, my darling; Our heads are growing gray; And taking the year together, my dear, You will always find the May.

We have had one May, my darling, And our roses long ago;

And the time of the year is coming, my

dear, For the silent night and snow.

And God is God, my darling, Of night as well as day: And we feel and know that we can go Wherever He leads the way.

Aye, God of the night, my darling-Of the night of death so grim: The gate that leads out of life, good wife. Is the gate that leads to Him.

AN AIMLESS LIFE.

NDREW FRENCH was one of those mortals who are so unfortunate as not to be dependent upon their own efforts for support.

Having graduated at college, he passed two years abroad, and returned to his native land uncertain whether he would be a physician, a lawyer, or a minister of the gospel, for either of which vocations he deemed himself equally adapted. For "business" he had no inclination.

As he lazily reclined in an easy chair smoking a fragrant cigar, his eye fell upon the following "ad" in a paper of that day's issue which he had been

"Wanted-Intelligent young man, of pleasing address, to canvass for the sale of a domestic article on commission. References required, but experience unnecessary. Call upon or address Brown & Co., 15 ---- street." For a few moments he remained si-

lent, and then muttered: "I am not destitute of intelligence, and think that I can be pleasing in my address," smiling as he spoke. "I wonder if it would not be advisable for me to confer with Brown & Co.?"

He rose from his seat, started from the house, and wended his way to 15 ---- street, where he learned that the "article" was a kerosene lamp appliance which increased the volume of light at the same time that it decreased the quantity of oil consumed.

He easily-indeed, greatly to the satisfaction of Brown & Co., when they had acquainted themselves with his antecedents-secured a situation as canvasser, and the next day left the city on his bicycle.

The first place which he "worked' was a thriving village, where his sales were few, and, despite his uniform courtesy, he was subjected to the repulsive treatment which agents are wont to receive. His next venture was in a rural district, where the houses were far apart, and he "wheeled" many miles without being allowed to even show what he wished to dispose of, as he was usually confronted at the door by some one who said: "We are not prepared to purchase anything of the kind to-day," or similarly.

"I declare, I pity the poor fellows whose bread and butter depend upon work like this," he frequently remarked to himself, laughingly.

Quite late one showery afternoon he reached a hamlet where there was no hotel, but he finally secured entertainment in a private family.

As he sat on the veranda of the house where he was temporarily domiciled, the first evening of his stay in the place, the tones of some one singing to the accompaniment of a piano were audible, and addressing his host-Thomas Marsh by name-with whom he had been conversing, he asked: "Who is possessed of such a wonder-

fully fine voice?"

"It is the daughter of a man who lives in that house," Mr. Marsh replied, indicating with his finger the house mearest his own, "who is fitting herself to teach music." . "I should think her already fitted to

teach it-vocal music at least," French

For a fe- minutes he sat without uttering a rd, and then be inquired: "Are you willing to go with me a little nearer her house? I wish to hear her more distinctly, and were both of us seen by any member of the family I should not be deemed so impertment

as otherwise I might." "I will conduct you into the room where she is."

"Will she not be offended if we go there?"

"She is not the kind of girl that is so easily offended."

Ten minutes later French had been formally introduced to "Miss Stella Reid" by Mr. Marsh, who said:

"Mr. French heard you singing from my veranda, and desired to hear you at a less distance, so I invited him over here."

"That's it," she rejoined, a flush suffusing her countenance.

"Now, please to favor us with one of your best selections," Mr. Marsh remarked, as he and French seated themselves.

Without a word of objection she played and sang several pieces, for which her visitors complimented her. "Do you sing or play, Mr. French?"

she inquired. "A very little of both," was the re-

"It will be no more than fair for you to take my place at the instrument,' she observed, leaving the piano stool.

"I make no claims to musical ability, but will reciprocate your kindness as

well as I can."

fantasia so skillfully that she nervously said:

"I believe you are a 'professional.' "I assure you that I am not," he rejoined.

"Now you must sing," she said. In a mellow tenor he sang a selection from Mendelssohn, so pathetically that tears filled the eyes of his hearers, four in number, as his unknown voice had drawn her parents into the room.

"You may 'make no claims to musical ability,' but it is yours," Mr. Marsh tremulously observed, "and, having it, I do not understand how you came to be selling--"

"Sh!" fell from French's lips, and the sentence was not completed. He rose from the stock, and was in-

troduced to Mr. and Mrs. Reid. "How long shall you remain in the place, Mr. French?" Mr. Reid inquired.

"I cannot say exactly," was the an-

"While you are here, I hope you will come in to sing and play as often as you can," fell from Mr. Reid's lips. "You must, Mr. French," the daugh-

ter enjoined in an earnest tone. "Thank you; I shall be pleased to do

so," he replied. Soon after he and his host left the house, and on their way back to the latter's home he explained how he chanced to be following his present vocation, causing Mr. Marsh to laughingly exclaim:

"Well, I declare!" After breakfast, the next morning he

said to Mr. Marsh: "I should like to remain here two or three weeks; can you conveniently accommodate me for that length of time?"

"As well as not," was the cordial

reply. "Thank you very much."

For two-yes, nearly six-weeks he was a member of Mr. Marsh's household, during which he discontinued his canvassing and passed most of the time with "Stella," as he soon came to address her, while he to her became "An-

They sang-she to him, he to her, or together; they played for each other, or duets, often having quite an audience. They rode, rambled, read together, until-what?

She was acquainted with his ante cedents, and had been urgently entreated to share his future with him. Responding to this entreaty she said:

"If there is anything which I have always held in contempt it is an aimless life, such as has, confessedly, been yours. I think that my affection for you is as strong as yours is for me. As soon as you are independent of your father's assistance, and have some visible means of support, I shall not hesitate to say yes."

Within three months thereafter he had secured a situation as a teacher on a liberal salary. Then, in her home, at her request, with the hearty consent of her parents, they were quietly married. After the ceremony, grasping him

by the hand, Mr. Marsh said: "It has turned out exactly as I thought it would, Andrew, when you two first met in this room."-The News-

QUEENS OF EGYPT.

Females Who Ruled Over That Country in Ancient Times.

Women always stood on a level with men in ancient Egypt, unlike the custom of other eastern countries. They were allowed to rule as queens as early as the second dynasty. Their palaces were of bricks, adorned with gorgeously painted walls, rich carpets, rugs of fur, ivory and ebony chairs and couches. Till the end of the eighteenth dynasty there was little change in feminine attire, which consisted of a fine and often transparent linen garment extending from shoulder to ankle, supported by straps over the shoulders. Colored robes were not frequently worn -gay plumage was left to the men. Women contented themselves with blackening their eye-brows, letting their hair down and decking themselves with innumerable rings, chains and

To one of these ancient queens there is attached a Cinderella-like story. Nitocris is spoken of as rosy-cheeked and flaxen-haired and was 'doubtless not a pure Egyptian. The story goes the king found on the sands of the Nile a tiny sandal and sought the maiden to whom it belonged and made her his wife. To her is attributed the building or improvement of the third pyramid, in which she is said to have been buried. She invited the murderers of her brother to a feast in a chamber below the level of the ground, caused the waters of the Nile to be let in on them and then smothered herself with ashes -an unpleasant method of committing

The greatest feminine ruler of Egypt ever know was Hatasu. She had a masuline brain, a strong grasp of affairs and a keen intellect, yet her statue shows a smiling, pretty face, well-formed lips and dimpled chin. She built temple and statues and sent out commercial expenditions and exploring parties. She wore male attire, put on ornaments and jewels which belonged to kings only, and, in fact, was often

spoken of as the king. Of course, Cleopatra stands out above all the numerous queens who ruled Egypt, laughed at it and created trouble and happiness at will, from the dim ages of mythology down to the Roman

period.

The Kaiser's American Friend. In spite of Emperor William's dislike of America he has taken a great liking to the naval attache of the United States Embassy at Berlin, Lieutenant Niblack. He frequently invites him to

the palace, and they discuss naval mat-

ters with great informality.

Some men would rather be right than be President, but there are others who Taking the vacated stool, he played a | never make an effort to be either.

HE USES A KNIFE NOW.

Hubby Caught on to the Little Game His Wife Played on Him. George C. Boniface has not been feel-

ing in the best of health lately, and his wife has attributed it to excessive smoking.

good cigars, denied this vehemently, and vowed, with mental reservations, that he only smoked three cigars a day. Not being able to prove to the contrary, his wife, like a wise woman, said nothing. Subsequent events, however, proved that this did not cause her to cease thinking.

Last week the comedian had a birthday, and his wife presented him with a watch charm in the shape of a cigar cutter. It was a cute little thing, and to prove his appreciation of the gift, he used it vigorously the first day. The next morning the wife asked:

"How many cigars did you smoke yesterday?"

"Three," was the reply. "Thirteen, you mean," was the re-

joinder. There was something in the tone of his better half which caused the actor to think he had better temporize, and

so he said: "Well, as yesterday was my birthday, perhaps I did exceed my allowance by one or two, but I am certain I did not smoke thirteen."

"Oh, but you did: no more and no less. I know it and can prove it." "How?" "That's my secret. And now promise

me that you will limit yourself to three Of course he promised, again with

mental reservations, and then went in-

to the woodshed to think it over. Recalling the events of the previous day, he found that thirteen was about the right number, and it didn't take him long to connect his new charm with his wife's knowledge. A close examination of the innocent-looking

ter as well as a cutter. And now dove-colored peace broods over the comedian's household and a loving wife trusts her husband as im-

little thing proved that it was a regis-

plicitly as of yore. The charm registers three every day

About Wedding Rings.

He cuts the others with his knife.

English women didn't always wear a plain gold circlet for a wedding ring. At one time the custom was for the ring to cost as much as the bridegroom could afford to pay. Rings of bone and hard wood have been used; an ivory wedding ring was recently found on the finger of an Egyptian mummy-it is in the shape of two clasped hands. An iron ring, with the design of a hand closing over a heart, was discovered on the skeleton finger of a Roman lady dug up in Pompeii.

In France, wedding rings used to be made of three or more links of quaint design; and in Germany, at the same time, they were engraved with queer astrological characters. Roman Catholic peoples, particularly Italians, had a fashion of embedding in the ring a fragment of some relic, such as a morsel of the true cross. The Greek church uses two rings, one of gold and one of silver. In Spain, wedding rings made of the hoofs of asses are supposed to be possessed of peculiar virtue and insure their wearers against epilepsy. Fashion has determined not only the style of the wedding ring, but the finger on which it shall be worn, and so capriciously has custom altered that every single finger, including the thumb, has been used in turn. Often in portraits of the time of Elizabeth rings may have been seen on the thumbs of mar-

ried ladies. In many parts of Great Britain it is still supposed that a marriage without a ring is not binding, and when the gold hoop has been lost or forgotten, such substitutes as the church key, a curtain ring, even a ring cut from the finger of the bride's glove, have been used.—Boston Traveler.

Dogs of War.

For ten years every military comoany in Germany has included its pack of dogs which are in charge of a petty officer, who is excused from all duties in the afternoon that he may train the animals for their work. The shorthaired German pointer, poodle and shepherd dogs are employed and they are taught to carry messages or ammunition, hunt up the dead and to give signals. First the dog learns to stand in line, to obey "attention," to bark at | dime for you. command, to guard any article and to

go in search of lost belongings. The sender of an army message puts low here. a dispatch—a card is used in the training-in a leather pocket attached to the dog's neck, and upon the dog's arriving at his destination the receiver takes the card out. The dog learns the meaning

and the necessity of this. As soon as a battle begins, the officer in charge of the regimental dogs stands near the ammunition wagon. Each dog is loaded with one hundred and fifty cartridges in a double saddlebag and sent to the fighting soldiers. After having the cartridges removed he trots back. Each dog seems to know what company he belongs to, for he will never allow any one except a member of his own company to touch the cartridges.

Brandy from Plants.

A French chemist has discovered a process whereby wine, and even bran dy, can be made from the leaves of plants. He places, for instance, the leaves of the apple tree in water congaining 15 per cent, of sugar; then he adds yeast. The whole is then left to ferment. A beverage tasting and smelling strongly of wine is obtained, from which "genuine" cognac brandy can be distilled.

Some men's only bad habit is boast ing of their good habits.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SAYINGS AND DO-INGS HERE AND THERE.

The actor, being particularly fond of | Jokes and Jokelets that Are Supposed to Have Been Recently Born-Sayings and Doings that Are Odd, Curious and Laughable-The Week's Humor.

> His 'leepy Hearers. Mrs. Benham-I couldn't hear what the minister said this morning that made all of the people smile. What was it?

> Benham-Instead of giving out his text he said, "The usual nap will now be taken."

> The Governing Factor. He-You say the widow's grief was terrible, and yet you think it won't be long until she marries again.

lovely. Just the Same. "Don't you want to grow up to be a

She-It can't be long. She looked so

man?" "What's the use? All the other boys will be growed up, too, and it'll be just as hard to lick 'em as 'tis now."

Sensible Girl. "Yes," said the soldier, "when we parted she gave me a token of her re gard. I put it in my pocket, and it was

the means of saving my life." "I see," was the response. "It's the old story. You carried her photograph next your heart and it caused the bullet to deflect."

"No. It wasn't any photograph. It was a bottle of malaria medicine."

Button for Weary Waggles.



-New York Telegram.

Spanish Flags. "I suppose," remarked Farmer Corntossel, "that when Christopher Columbus landed in this hemisphere, one of the first things he did was to plant the

Spanish flag." "I should say that 'ud seem the reg'lar thing to do."

"Well," speakin' perfessionally, should say that he managed to raise one of the poorest crops ever known." -Washington Star.

Illusions. "My illusions," said she, "are all

"Why," he asked, with that brutality only manifested by a man who has promised to love and cherish, "don't you go to the drugstore and get some more?"-Indianapolis Journal.

Thankful for That. First Clubman-As you know, old fellow, there are no marriages in

Second Clubman-Then we won't

miss our club so much after all, will we?-New York Evening Journal. As a Bracer. Maud-Poor Hankinson! Mame Garlinghorn threw him over the other day,

but he makes a brave attempt to hold

his head up.

Irene-Is that why he's wearing that four-inch collar?-Chicago News. His Motive.

Watts-I don't believe you ever miss an amateur performance. Potts-Of course I don't. Sitting through amateur performances make me enjoy professional work so much more.—Indianapolis Journal.

The Fence of His Country. Lady-So you received that wound in defense of your country? Here is a

Tramp-Tanks, lady. De fence I got hurted in wuz a barb-wire one jest be-

Anxious to Please.



Mick ("Boots" at the Ballyragg Hotel, knocking at visitor's door at 4 a. m.) -Fwhat toime wud ye wish to be called this morrnun', sorr?-Mail and Ex-

"We are going to have a harder job than conquering Cuba." "What's that?"

Missionary Work.

"Civilizing it."-Detroit Free Press.

The Bad Boy.

"I have noticed that it is the bad boy who seems to get along most rapidly in

"Yes; the teachers promote them to get rid of them."-Indianapolis Journal.

War News. Mrs. Wallace-What do they want to cut all those cables for?

Mr. Wallace-Don't you understand? As soon as the cables that hold the island are cut it can be towed over against the United States and fastened

on to Florida.-Cincinnati Enquirer. Immune.



Old Mrs. Hankypank-Why, ain't you' the same tramp . gave one of my dar ter's cooking-school pies to last year? Lionel Montmorency - Yes'm, but, Lord bless you! it didn't hurt me-I'm an immune.-New York World.

Very Bald.

"Remember, my dear," said the visiting pastor, "that even the hairs of your head are numbered."

"Nunkie Will's are," replied the little one. "I tan tount 'em."-Philadelphia North American. The Worm's Chance,

Mrs. Enpeck—The philosophers tell us that blessings often come to us in dis-Mr. Enpeck (with a sudden show of

spirit)-Say, Maria, when are you go-

ing to unmask?—Cleveland Leader. The Secret Out. "Now, what," asked the interviewer, "led you to come out of Santiago har-

"We were drawn out," said the Spaniard, "by the smell of roast beef on the fire a salute of twenty-one guns, pro-Brooklyn."-Philadelphia North Amer-

Worth Trying. Dick Dashington-I wish I knew something about law.

His Friend-Want to break a will? Dick Dashington-Not that: but I would like to know if I could get an injunction preventing old Bondelips from interfering with my attentions to his daughter.-Puck.

Long and Short of It.

"How could it when Spain was money. In the king's palace in Brusshort?"—Philadelphia North Ameri-

"The war didn't last long."

He Was Convinced. Mrs. Hayricks-It says here in the paper, Silas, that this war has served to bring the people of our country closer together. Do you think there's any

truth in it?" Mr. Hayricks-Yes. When I looked into the parlor last night, Lieutenant Striplings and our Annie was settin' a good deal closer together than I have ever seen 'em before he went away.-Chicago News.



She-I am all alone in the world. have neither father nor mother! He-No mother? Oh, will you be

mine?-Heitere Welt. A Warlike Bird. Mr. Schenley Park-I wish Audubon

vere alive now." Mrs. Schenley Park-Why? Mr. Schenely Park—He could classify and describe the military round robin-Pittsburg Telegraph.

"The die is cas., ne hissed. No wonder he was sore. He had ordered it drop forged."-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Fate.

Explained. Friend-To be frank with you, I can't see how Mrs. Hardcash happened to consent to your marriage with her daughter.

Mr. Slimpurse-She said I was the only young man who showed any consideration for a mother's feelings. You see, when the other fellows took her daughter out riding they seldom got her back until after dark, but when I took her I always brought her home promptly in an hour.

Friend-Humph! How was that? Mr. Slimpurse-The other fellows had their own rigs. I hired mine.-New York Weekly.

As Revised. Teacher-Tommy, into how many classes is the human race divided?"

Tommy-Five. Teacher-What are they? Tommy-Enlightened, civilized, halfcivilized, savage and Spaniards.-ChiSALUTES ON A WAR SHIP.

How the Courtesies of the Sea Are I xtended to Officials.

No salute by ships of war exceeds twenty-one guns, and no salute is ever fired except between sunrise and sunset, when the national colors must be displayed, but it is also usual not to fire salutes before S a. m. Whenever the President is embarked in a ship of war flying his flag all other United States ships of war and naval stations near which he passes fire the national

Side-boys are detailed usually from the apprentice boys. They stand each side of the gangway, in line, and salute by touching their caps as the visiting officials come on board and leave a ship by the starboard gangway. Warrant officers, naval cadets and enlisted men use the port gangway.

After nightfall all boats coming close to the ship are hailed by the marine sentry or by the quartermaster with the words, "Boat ahoy!" A flag officer answers "Flag." a commanding officer answers the name of his ship, other commissioned officers answer "Aye, aye," warrant officers and naval cadets answer "No, no," while enlisted men answer "Hello."

Every officer and man on reaching the upper deck salutes the national flag, and this salute is returned by the officer of the watch at hand.

Flag officers are addressed by their titles of admiral or commodore; captain and commanding officers are called "Mr." and not by their official titles, though in addressing them in writing these titles are always used. The surgeons, however, are usually called "doctor," and paymasters of any grade

'paymaster." Boat salutes are given by tossing oars, which means holding them upright in the air with the blades fore and aft, or by lying on oars, by which is meant holding the oars horizontal as they rest in the rowlocks. Coxwains of boats stand and salute when passing boats containing officers. All officers and men, whether in uniform or not, meeting a senior affoat or ashore, salute by touching the cap.

When a ship of the navy enters a port of any nation where there is a fort or battery, or where a ship of war of that nation may be lying, she shall vided the captain is satisfied that the salute will be returned. The flag of the nation saluted will be displayed at the main during the salute.

National airs of foreign states having war vessels in company with our own will be played by our bands as a compliment.-St. Nicholas.

Electrici y Increases Use of Gas. It has been the experience in Belgium that the use of electricity in lighting has increased the use of gas. Both gas and electric light men have made more

391 lamps. A NATION OF DYSPEPTICS.

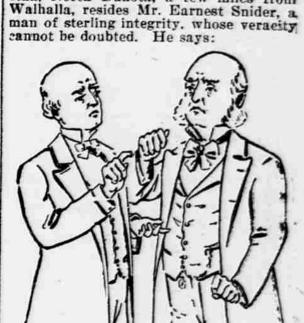
sels 7,500 electric lights have been put

in. In the city lighting system are 47,-

From the Mountaineer, Walhalla, N. Dakota, The remorse of a guilty stomach is what a large majority of the people are suffering with to-day. Dyspepsia is a characteristic American disease, and it s frequently stated that "we are a nation f dyspeptics."

Improper food, hurried eating, mental

worry, exhaustion; any of these produces a lack of vitality in the system, by causing the blood to lose its life-sustainng elements. The blood is the vital element in our lives, and should be carefully nurtured. Restore the blood to its proper condition and dyspepsia will vanish. For example, in the county of Pem-bina, North Dakota, a few miles from



The Doctors Disagreed. "I became seriously ill three years ago. The doctor gave me medicine for indigestion, but I continued to become worse. I had several physicians at intervals who gave me some relief, but nothing perma-

"I read in the newspapers articles regarding the wonderful curative powers of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and finally concluded to try the pills. I purchased six boxes. This was five months ago. The first box gave me much relief. I continued taking the pills, and after using four boxes was cured."

Royal Hair.

A very unique collection of royal hair is the latest temptation which is being placed in the way of the curiosity hunter in London. "A few hairs from the head and beard of Edward IV." (whose locks, it will be remembered, figured long since in the same auction room) "taken from the vault on March 14, 1789," and specimens of the hair of Napoleon, of Princess Charlotte of Wales, and of George III., together with a small portion of the cerecloth of King William IV., are among the attractions.

Case of Long Standing. Mrs. Fillanthrop-If you are a sufterer from nervous prostration, as you say you are, why don't you do something for it?

Tuffold Knutt-I do, ma'am, Tm 1 takin' wot they call the rest cure .-Chicago Tribune.

A Little Chilly.

If the earth were not enveloped with atmosphere the temperature on the surface would be about 330 degrees below tero Fahrenheit.