I know not if her eyes were brown,
I can not tell if they were blue;
Body know they could not frowh, and ever shone with love light true. Like radiant starlight on a summer sea, To fair my lady's eyes they seemed to me.

I know not if the rippling hair
That waved above her brow of snow
Were dark as night, or gleamed as fair,
As harvest moonbeams offly glow;
Lonly know like fairy webs to me
My lady's silken tresses seemed to be.

Toas not shape her curving lips,
Nor tell the dimples on her hand,
Nor if her sweet voice would eclipse
The ripples' murmur on the sand.
I only know, like soft winds from the sea,
It whispered love to me—and only me.

Oh, memory sweet! To bring again
The loving voice, like perfume faint;
To bring in all the gentle train
Her low breathed songs, with tender plaint For of all fair things in this world that be, Fairest of all my lady was to me. —R. J. Burdette, in Brooklyn Eagls.

DISAPPEARANCES.

A Few of the Cases Which Have Baffled the Detectives.

Mary Rogers, the Pretty Clgar Girl-The Husband of Mrs. Maynard E. Sangeter-Ralph Keeler and His Sudden Departure.

The mysterious disappearance of Stillman S. Conant has naturally drawn attention to disappearances of that kind in this community. They have been so startlingly frequent here of late that numberless wives are neryous on the subject, fearing every morning when their husbands go away they may not return. This refers, of course, to such women as are harmoniously married. One instance, if prominent and published, appears to produce others, and such an effect is explicable by cerebral laws. Mysterious disappearances have been a feature of the winter. There have been scores of them since the 1st of December, but only a few have attracted any notice because they have concerned persons of some consequence. Men and women disappear here almost every day, but being in the lowest walks of life, their names do not even get into the newspapers. It is hard to imagine that people so poor and forlorn exist, but there are thousands of them in this or cares when they pass away. Helpless, hopeless, friendless-why were they ever born?

It is extraordinary how many persons of position, character and influence disappear. Their disappearance creates a commotion at first; the newspapers are full of it for a day or two. Then some other, perhaps a greater sensation, arises, and the disappearance slips out of the public mind. Stillman Conant's case is very singular. Being a journalist, a club man, and having a host of friends and acquaintances, the newspapers have printed much concerning him. But the dynamite explosion in Grand street and the attempt to kill O'Donovan Rossa threw the Conant incident into the shade. If you should inquire next month, "What "Conant-who is he?"

Twenty-five years ago the husband of a lady, now widely known as an author and editor, went out to lunchexpecting to return in half an hour, and was never seen again alive. Not the least trace of him could be found, although the police and detectives labored for months on the case. The moment he reached the street he seemed to be swallowed up, as if the earth had opened and gulped him down. A good while after, his body was discovered in the bay; it would not have been recognized but for certain papers on his person. Whether he had committed suicide or fallen into the water and been drowned, or robbed and thrown into the river, nobody could tell. There were various theories on the subject, though none of them were satisfactory. We refrain from mentioning names. The bereaved lady is still a widow, and still laments her

The husband of another literary woman, Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster, Much fear has been the result of the disappeared from Brooklyn tifteen years ago, and the mystery has never been dispelled. He had been suffering from a headache-it was the evening of July 4- and the noise of fire-crackers, pistols and small arms disturbed him that we could walk through it anysorely. He said, the weather being hot, that he would go out on the stoop for a breath of fresh air. The hour was nine, and he had on a dressing gown, which was enough, one might think, to distinguish him anywhere. He did not expect to He did not expect to leave the stoop. But where he went or what became of him continues to be a dead secret. Inquiry, search, rigorous investigation were fruitless. Not the slightest intimation of his fate has ever been received. He, too, was a lawyer, a man of contented disposition, the soundest sense, vigorous health and perfect balance. He was devoted to his wife and had every reason to enjoy and preserve his life. It is hardly possible to construct a theory that will explain this case, which is one of the strangest on record. To disappear eternally and untraceably from doorsteps in a crowded street early in the evening, within the shadow of one's own home, and in such garb as anybody must notice, defies all probability. Such an incident put into a work of fie-popularity in England, in this sense, tion would be pronounced absurd. O'Neill, a very well-known boot and shoe dealer on Sixth avenue, middle-

into a blazing lime-kiln. He jumped gossiped about. There were wars and on a passing horse-car to go down expeditions on every side, and every town on business and that was the last plucky young Englishman wished to seen of him by his friends. Liberal re- sail away to find a new inheritance wards were offered for any intelligence with his ship, or conquer an old one of him, but none was obtained. He with his sword. A great many offered was engulfed in impenetrable mystery. their services to foreign powers. One grocer in Third avenue named Digman. Shirley, was employed by the Grand if we remember, started in the evening Seigneur and King of Persia and sent to visit the house of a friend, a few on various missions, the most important blocks away, intending to be absent being a commercial embassy to Engbut half an hour. He had an land. By this time King James was on appointment with another friend at his the throne, and anxious to encourage the own home the same evening and he trade with Turkey and the East, which was one of the most punctual of men. Elizabeth's advisers had begun in a Neither friend ever saw him. After small way about twenty-five years beparting with his wife, to whom he had fore. This shrewd Sir Robert sent over been married less than six months, he a Turkish chiaus, or envoy, in advance Became invisible, so far as known, to of his own coming, to get the good mortal eyes. He was a man of high will of the London merchants in the animal spirits, regular habits, warm Turkish and Persian trade. The chiaus affections and of a thoroughly practical exerted himself so successfully that he turn. No clue was got to his disappear-pocketed some four thousand pounds ance, and its obscurity has deepened of their money (a large sum for that with the passage of time.

Ralph Keeler, a young man who had his master to stand the loss and laugh lived in California and had come East against him as best he could; for the to earn his bread by his peu, after tavern wits were as much delighted to many adventures and varied experget hold of a bit of new slang. riences in different parts of the country, and they adopted "chiaused" (now disappeared some twelve years ago in "choused" in the sense of "defrauded." the most enigmatic manner. He was Johnson and Shirley mention "chouse" at one time an assistant of William D. as slang, and in Landor, two hundred Howells on the Atlantic, and had de years later, it is put down as good cided talent for description. But he English.—St. Louis Globe Democrati

THE JOURNAL. was so much of a rever that he could not be content to stay in one place. He contributed to the pewspapers here and published various articles in the magazines. He finally decided to make a trip to Cuba, and he was traced, it was thought, to the Havana steamer, but after that he could be traced no further, even inferentially. Many persons doubted that he ever went aboard the vessel or quitted New York. Divers opinions were formed about his disappearance—some asserted that he

had destroyed himself; others that he had been murdered—but not one of them rested on a reasonable basis. He was very amiable and agreeable, bubbling over with sanguineness, and had, like most of his tribe, too little money to excite the cupidity of rascals There has never been any solution to

George A. Laxer's disappearance is too recent to require particularization. Nothing could be more mysterious or impenetrable. A girl named Lina Grietman, daughter of a German cigarmaker, disappeared from Avenue C any one acquainted with her after leav-

Young women frequently disappear here, and if they belong to the poorer classes not much effort is made, from lack of means, to discover their fate. -N. Y. World.

THE COMET.

Truthful Wifliam's Idea of the Heaven

The comet is a kind of astronomical parody on the planet. Comets look some like planets, but they are thinner anybody as a planet does. The comet was so called because it had hair on it, I believe, but late years the bald-headed comet is giving just as much satisfaction everywhere.

The characteristic features of the comet are: A nucleus, a nebulous light or coma, and usually a luminous train or tail worn high. Sometimes several tails are observed on one comet

but this occurs only in flush times. When I was young I used to think I would like to be a comet in the sky, up above the world so high, with nothing to do but loaf around and play with there are thousands of them in this good time, but now I can see where I was the permit. This he did, and the next before him: "In five minutes you will their perihelions, their hyperbolas and and perish, and hardly any one knows their parabolas. A little over three hundred years ago Tycho Brahe discovered that comets were extraneous trade is steadier and potatoes run less to tops than they did before.

Soon after that they discovered that comets all had more or less periodicity. Nobody knows how they get it. them day and night and didn't know when they were exposed, but there was no time to talk and argue over the question. There were two or three hundred comets all down with it at once. It was an exciting time.

Comets sometimes live to a great age. This shows that the night air is not so injurious to the health as many people would have us believe. The the average citizen would remark: great comet of 1680 is supposed to have been the one that was noticed about the time of Cæsar's death, 44 B. C. and still when it appeared in Newton's time, seventeen hundred years after its eon from his office in lower Broadway, it was very well preserved indeed and first grand farewell tour, Ike said that seemed to have retained all its faculties in good shape.

Astronomers say that the tails of all comets are turned from the sun. I do not know why they do this, whether it it etiquette among them or just a mere

A late writer on astronomy said that the substance of the nebulosity and the tail is almost inconceivable tenuity. He said this and then death came to his re-

Another writer says of the comet and its tail that "the curvature of the latter and the acceleration of the periodic time in the case of Encke's comet indicate their being affected by a resisting medium which has never been observed to have the slightest influence on the planetary periods."

I do not fully agree with the eminent comet's appearance ever since the world began, and it is as good a thing to worry about as anything I know of If we could get close to a comet with-

strikes we will be ready.

Some worry a good deal about the chances for a big comet to plow into the sun some dark rainy night, and thus bust up the whole universe. I wish that was all I had to worry about. If any responsible man will agree to pay my taxes and funeral expenses, l will agree to do his worrying about the comet's crashing into the bosom of the sun and knocking its daylights out .-Bill Nye, in Detroit Free Press.

TO CHOUSE. The Origin of a Slang Term Very Much is Vogue in Great Britain. This is a slang term, meaning to defraud. It has grown into considerable and is being picked up in the United an of family, sober, intelligent habits, prosperous, disappeared reign of Elizabeth, with the spirit of twelve or fourteen years ago, and left adventure and discovery. The finding many callings of higher repute. I am no more vestige than if he had leaped of America was a new wonder to be purposely putting aside all considera-Seven or eight years ago a well-to-do of these soldiers of fortune, Sir Robert time), and ran away with it, leaving

JOHN PHŒNIX.

The Trick He Played on the Professor Geology at West Point. The following story in regard to Lieutenant Derby (John Phoenix, the humorist) was told me by General William T. Sherman: "You know, there was a few miles from West Point place known as Benny Haven's, where the boys used to go to eat flapjacks and drink flip. Benny Haven's flip had a National reputation, and his flapjacks were delicious. The cadets, however, patronized Benny Haven's te such an excess that the officers of the military school attempted to put a stop to it, and very few permissions were granted them to go outside of the walls of the institution, Derby was in especial bad favor, and he knew that be could not on ordinary grounds get a permit. One time, after he had been a week or more without a drink of Benny Haven's flip, he pretended a great repentance as to his studies and gave out that he was going to do better. The some years ago and was never after- Professor of Geology was a curious old wards heard of or from. She was fellow whom he had cartooned unnearly thirty, quite plain, and not very mercifully, and who had a horror of intelligent. Nothing about her made him. To him Derby went, and with it probable that she could have been | tears in his eyes said that he was sorry abducted. She was employed in a that he had wasted his time in the past, shop in Eighth avenue, and set out to and that in the future he intended to go there in the morning. She never do better. He feared as it was reached there, and was not seen by he would not be able to pass his examinations, but that he wished to use ing her father's house. We might his remaining time in the Academy so name any number of cases if we had that when he went out he would be nt-

ted to battle with the world, and he intended to pay especial attention to geology. This geological professor was an enthusiast, and very simple and innocent withal. He embraced Derby and congratulated him upon his resolution. During the next few days Derby came into the class-room with the best of lessons. He asked many questions and showed great interest in the subject, thus winning glowing opinions from his professor. He remained in the class-room after the lesson of the fourth day, and told the professor that one of the milkmen who supplied the and do not hurt so hard when they hit | Academy had been telling him of some wonderful petrifactions at a point away up in the mountains. He had spoken of fishes and the tracks of birds and other specimens, which Derby, baving carefully posted himself by the books said he supposed belonged to such and such an age. The Professor ruobed his hands dur-

ing the relation, saying "yes," "yes," "yes," "very likely, very likely!" And when Derby concluded by saying the milkman had offered to conduct him to the place, he was eager to have him go. On Derby's asserting the doubt that he would not be permitted to leave the Academy, the Professor said there would be no trouble about that, and the little new laid planets and have a | that he would get the countersign and wrong. Comets also have their troubles, day Derby started out early and struck be in a cell unless you agree to support

Here he lay around alt that day eating flapjacks and drinking flip, and carried on his carouse far into the to our atmosphere, and since then night. Early in the morning he came times have improved. I can see that back to the Academy very mellow indeed, but succeeded in passing the guard and tumbling into his room. As he lay down on his bed he happened to think that he must have an explanation to give the geological professor for All the astronomers had been watching | not having the specimens. He bethought himself a moment and then went down and picked up a couple of stones from a pile which lay by the river side. He brought these to his room and with his chisel cut into them a number of what looked very much like bird-tracks. Going out again he rubbed these with dirt and then came back, laid them on his table, and went

After breakfast he took his stones to the professor of geology, who, by the way, was very nearsighted. He told him that the milkman had failed to keep his appointment, and that he had attempted to find the place himself. He had not discovered the petrified fishes nor the other fossils described by the milkman, but he had found these stones, with their curious tracks, and he thereupon gave the Professor a lucid explanation of the bygone age to which the stones belonged, and how antediluvian birds of a character not now known had made these curious tracks. His disquisition was so well put that the Professor coincided with him. He

took the stones into the class-room that day, and related Derby's wonderful discoveries. The affair was for a few days the talk of the class, but Derby could not keep his secret to himself, and told it to one or two of his friends. It went all over the college, and the result was that Derby was suspended. He got back again, however, and after a time was graduated .-- Cleveland Leader.

THE UNSEEN POOR.

eople Who Go Through Terrible Struggles to Keep Their Little Homes To-It is forgotten that while to the lowest scale of human life poverty is a hard lot somewhat tempered by habit, to higher grades of society poverty is really a crime. They dare not show to their neighbors and acquaintances any outward evidences of their povertythey dare not reveal the terrible pinchings and struggles they go through to keep their little home together or the anxiety they suffer in raising the little rent they have to pay weekly for a humble lodging in a respectable house and neighborhood. The poor gentleman, the poor lady, the poor clerk out of employment, must maintain their respectability, for their pecuniary ruin means also social ruin. There is a point in certain grades of human existence where respectability becomes a burden and a tax. It is all very well to say, . There is menial labor open to them." There is no greater cant abroad than the affectation that menial labor is a disgrace. But menial labor requires skill, and unless a man or woman be reared to it he or she is valueless in that capacity. To be a competent navvy or laborer requires a States. It is well known to readers of certain muscular development and history that England was alive, in the training. To be a skilled carpenter or to France from Terra del Fuego, says bricklayer requires as much knowledge, skill, and nicety of touch as tions of the natural and actual horror and pain felt by all refined natures at contact with sordid surroundings and coarsely vulgar associates. But to the well-bred and educated man or woman all this means trial and sufferings, and it is a species of trial and suffering quite unknown to the inhabitants of a slum. The deserving poor, the poor who get no sympathy, do not all live in slums. The popular journalist can make no sensation articles on the lives of men who conceal their sufferings under decent black coats and nearly starve in dingy two-pair backs. The suffering is silent, it is not advertised. In the privacy of their pourly-furnished rooms, the tears may be bitter, the sighs heavy, but the world knows nothing of all that. The poor tradesman, ruined, perhaps, by no fault of his own—crushed by compet-

paper is worth two miles of letters on a soard fence.—Chicago Journal.

ing with huge capitalists-who will set

him on his legs again? A careful study

of the annual statistics of sui-

cides will show that nearly all

the "cases" found are respectably

dressed. The inhabitants of slums sel-

dom commit suicide. The most power-ful infantives to suicide are shame, anxiety, and mettal suffering.—All the

Year Round.

FAMILY JARS IN COURT.

the Scenes that Recur Every Day There are about forty complaints every day in the police courts of this city by wives against their husbands. The complaints are generally for failure of support. Not infrequently they are accompanied by charges of cruel and inhuman treatment.

The complaints are stereotyped: "Judge, my husband has not given me cent in six months." "My husband comes home drunk and will not give me a cent." "He never keeps a situa-tion for a month." "He spends his money in liquor stores." "He gambles his wages away every Saturday." "He beats me and the children." "He calls me vile names." "He threatens to kill me." "He keeps company with other women." "He knocked me down and

vesterday." "I am afraid to live with These stories come not alone from poverty-stricken and degraded women. They are told by women who are comely, well-dressed, healthy and even educated, as well as by the poor. Not infrequently the Justice asks, "Can you get along without him?" and the woman answers: "I can support myself and my children if he will only keep away. All I want is for him to let me alone. I have worked ever since I was married

and I can work vet." It is a common occurrence for these unfortunate wives to go to the court with babies in their arms, and to stand with the fretful infants awaiting an opportunity to tell their woeful tales. Sometimes they go with scarred faces and bandaged heads, mementoes of the brutal treatment of their unfeeling spouses. Often the mother-in-law brings up the rear, developing the real source of much of the trouble.

What of the fathers? Very often they come with besotted faces, with tattered garments and grimy skins. Some come with smooth-tongued excuses. "Your Honor, I am willing to support her, but I can not bear her rela-"I struck her, but she struck me first." "I did not hit her; she was drunk and fell down." "I give her all the money I can afford." "She left me and went to her mother's." has company that I do not like." "She wants me to be put out of the way so that she may misbehave." "I am willing to support her, but I will not live with her." "I can't give her what I have not got." "I will give her a fair share of what I earn."

Sometimes the offending husband sullenly refuses to say anything, but marches off to jail. Justice Gorman said the other day to a teacher in one of the public schools who was brought will not furnish bail," and marched off to the cell.

Generally the Justices use the utmost power of the law to compel the deinquent husbands to pay a fair share of their earnings. In many cases the man becomes alarmed at the prospect of imprisonment, and gladly gets the required surety, either from some relative, employer, or friend.

Even after most heartrending tales of ill treatment and neglect, women often relent when they see their husbands behind the bars. Then they go to the Justice, with eyes as tearful as before, and say: "Please let my husband out, Judge; he can't earn any money where he is, and he may help me if he comes out." Then the Justice utters a homily on the wrong of thus taking up the time of the Court for nothing, and winds up by letting the man out. Sometimes the man stubbornly serves out his term of six months, only to come out of prison filled with thoughts of revenge.

Occasionally the Justices find the see that there is a possibility of reconciliation, and they send the parties into one of the court rooms to talk it over. Then, as the reunited couple walk out of court arm in arm, the Justice looks on smiling at the happy result .- Philadelphia Press.

AT HIS MEALS. How the Shah of Persia Breaks His Fast

and What He Eats. At twelve o'clock the royal breakfast is served. It is a solitary meal. The King is squatting on the ground, some fifty dishes are set before him. His Majesty selects the simplest, and quenches his thirst with buttermilk or iced sherbets, which are served in delicious profusion in magnificent china bowls. Dead silence is observed by the few favored courtiers who stand around the walls of the apartments. The royal butlers silently hand the various

dishes. As the King eats he addresses those whom he may deign to honor with his notice, and these fortunate ones bow low, and answer in humble affirmatives, "May I be your sacrifice, Asylum of the Universe. So it is.' "It happened exactly as your Majesty ordained;" and so on. The same kind of language is used by the Royal Princes in addressing their father, and they would not presume to attempt to sit in the royal presence; but as in Persia no son would sit in his father's presence unless ordered to do so, this is more due to filial respect than the awe of majesty. The King rinses his mouth and wipes his hands over a golden bowl, and then he rises and the meal is served to the Princes. On leaving them it goes to the courtiers, and lastly the royal farrashes pick the bones, and literally lick the platters clean. The royal dinner, served about nine p. m., is a repetition of the breakfast; generally it is enlivened by the playing of the brass bands, or by the music of the native musicians attached to the court .- Teheran Cor. London

-Dr. Hvades, who lately returned ings in the scale of existence. Their language contains no word for any number above three; they are unable to distinguish one color from another: they have no religion and no funeral rites, and they possess neither chiefs nor slaves. Their only weapons are bone-pointed spears, and, as they grow neither fruits nor vegetables and their country is naturally barren, they are obliged to live entirely on animal food. Even these savages possess, however, some social virtues. They are not cannibals, they ill-treat neither women nor the old and they are not polygamists.

-There is a fashion of wearing moonstones for bridal jewels. The moonstone is a lucky stone, and for that reason a more appropriate gem than either the opal or the pearl, both of which are shadowed by evil traditions. A necklace of beautiful moonstones was recently worn by a bride. which made a great sensation by its beauty, as fine moonstones are somewhat rare and expensive. Those of fine quality have a luminous beauty which is exquisitely soft .- N. Y.

Graphic. -Street cars in Venezuela are always open ones, and are so small that they will seat only twelve persons. conductors carry horns which ther blow upon approaching street cross ings.

PITH AND POINT.

-"A low voice-an excellent thing m woman." Also in a counting-room Chicago Current. -Scientists claim that eigarettemoking leads to id ory. Another instance of getting the cart before the

torse. - Philadelphi i Call. -"How can ; find out all about the young lady to whom I am engaged?" asked a prospective benediot. Has she younger brother? If so, consalt him.

-Music is the sound which one's children make as the romp through the hotel. Noise is the sound which other people's ch ldren make under the same circumst nees. -Boston Post. -Young ladies at a certain Western

college are ta ight how to make bread. When they graduate they are known as coll-ge-bread women, and are in reat demand with housekeepers .-Burlington I r. e Press. kicked me." "He threatens to leave -A writer in a current magazine the country." "He blackened my eye

lescribes the railbird, stating that he s found in the Southern States. He fails to mention that it is occasionally seen in the North and West, where he has his feathers fastened on with tar. -Marathon Inde endent. -"Here's a musical salesman adver-

sed for. Why don't you apply, Ned?' "I? Why, I'm not musical." haps not; but I notice that you can blow your own horn, you're familiar with the bars, your remarks are full of slars, you're always giving notes, and all the rest."-Hotel Gazette. -Stern parent-"Here, my son,

what is this? You were not at school all last week." Astonished boy-"How do you know?" Indignant father-Your teacher told me so." boy-"Did he see me?" Wrathful papa-"No, not once." Triumphant boy-"Then how does he know wasn't there?"-Exchange.

-"A scientific Frenchman says he has discovered a process for making artificial brains," said Mrs. Wigglesworth, looking from the paper she was reading. "Artificial brains!" sniffed Mr. Wigglesworth, seornfully; "that's just like those nonsensical Frenchmen always fool ng away their time making someth ng artificial. What I want is real brains -none of your make-beleve nonsense." Mrs. Wigglesworth, as she resumed her paper, demurely murmured that she had noticed it, too, but she never should have dared to speak of it herself. And Mr. Wigglesworth rubbed his head in a dazed sort of fashion and wondered if he realty had expressed himself just as he meant to. - Rockland Courier Gazette.

ABOUT BOOKS.

The Literature of 1884 and Deductions Therefrom. We find in the Publishers' Weekly the following very interesting tabuyour wife, and furnish surety to do so." lated statement of the publications of The man obstinately reiterated: "I 1884, as compared with the books is- every six months and placed at comsued in 1883:

History...... 119
Fine Arts and Hilustrated Books. 75 Sports and Amusements......
Domestic and Rural..... Humor and Satire Mental and Moral Philosophy.....

It is very remarkable that in a year so bad for trade generally as the last was, there should have been an increase of nearly twenty per cent. in the number of new books published, as compared with the year immediately previous, which was one of much more prosperity in other departments of incauses of disagreement trivial. They dustry. But it must not be inferred that because more books were published, 1884 was a more profitable year for the book trade.

It was instead a very unsatisfactory year, and, although no publishing houses of importance came to grief, it showed decreased profits. The number of new books published may be greater, and yet the total of books sold may be less. Beside, the trade was suffering from a cause that has for several years past tended to impair its prosperity, which was before injuriously affected by a custom of giving discounts to retail dealers so great as to enable them to sell books much below their advertised prices.

The great cause of the trouble is the publication of reprints and translations of past and contemporary English, French and German fiction at ten and twenty cents each. Formerly such books brought fifty cents and a dollar. and the profit on them was large, for they supplied a large part of the demand for reading. three-fourths of which is for novels. Now the profits are insignificant at the prevalent prices unless the editions sold are immense; and houses which make a specialty of issuing such cheap literature draw of business from the general trade. The native novelists also suffer, for, as a rule, publishers are afraid to touch their work, no matter how good it may be, when copyright stories must come

in competition with reprints selling for a few cents each. The works of fiction published were. of course, chiefly foreign; and, probably, of the native novels not a few were issued at the expense and risk of their authors, who could not get their books before the public in any other way. Those who knew most about the subject as, for instance, the experts of our great publishing houses, say that never before was the number of manuscript novels of exceptional merit in their hands so large as it is now. But the state of the book market is such as to deter publishers from venturing to risk money on them They find that the public have grown so accustomed to cheap literature that they hesitate about giving more than twenty-five cents for a novel, unless it comes from ome native author of extraordinary popularity.

It is a bad, a very bad time, for the American novelist who has not already won his spurs; and were it not for the magazines and the fore gn market, even the men of great reputation would fare pretty poorly. At the best, the average yearly gains of even the most successful native novelist are much less than they are commonly supposed to The table shows that works devoted

to specialties are published with especial confidence. If they are well selected, their sale is sure, though it may be limited, and the prices can be made remunerative. For instance, next to fietion the largest number of publications in a single branch of literature were those devoted to the law. Then followed theology and religion, books in regard to which are issued in great numbers by societies supported by churches. Many such works are also published at the expense of their authors, who think that the world needs to know what they have to teach concerning the duty and destiny of man. These authors' books, as they are called in the trade, are very numerous, and doubtless the totals in the table above are much increased because of them.

As it is now, periodicals excepted, the most profitable and the surest business investments of the publisher are those he makes in works of the more serious and more expensive kind. Novels and miscellaneous books are doubtful things to touch.—N. Y. Sun.

OF GENERAL INTEREST. Sacramento County, California, slaims to have the only licories plantation in the United States.

-A Poughkeepsie gossip was fined one hundred dollars for e reulating reports prejudicial to a person in that place. - Troy Times.

-A writer on science says that when the thermometer is at lifty-eight degrees below zero cats' ears become very brittle, and are often broken off. -A four-year-old boy in Clark County.

Mo., smoked a cigarette the other day and in halt an hour dist from blood poisoning, the effects of the tobacco. -An unknown youth who was killed by cars at Penobscot, Luzerne County, Pa., had the following on the bottom of his shoes in brass nails: "A lucky boy, you bet."

-It is said that no one can live comfortably in Washington and keep house and maintain any sort of social footing upon less than live thousand dollars. - Chicago Times.

FREMONT NORMAL -It is a little curious that a few sticks and a little dirt will stop the water from running down a six-inch conductor made for the purpose, but even solder can't keep water out of a sail hole in the roof. West Glester (Pa.) Record -An able-bodied United States

seaman, having become hilarious by imbibing too freely, mistook a Brooklyn awning post for a foremast the other night, and climbed to the top of it. He reached the second story window and was arrested for burglary .-Brooklyn Eagle. -The word "ranch" means a good

deal in the Far West. An Eastern clergyman who is spending the winter in Santa Barbara, Cal., writes of a little boy four years old in that lovely valley who was overheard to pray that when he died the Lord would take him to His ranch .- N. Y. Ledger. -A few days ago some of the practi-

2al jokers of Harshmanville thought they would play a good joke on a fellow by the name of Sam Tietje. Removing the ball from a cartridge they put the shell with its powder in a cigar and gave it to Tietje to smoke. The "business" went off and put out one of the victim's eves .- Dayton (O.) Democrat. -In Berks County, Pennsylvania. ing and Singing are thorough and sucther three-year-old child of James cessful.

Anspach was attacked by rate the other day and fatally injured. The little one lav in a cradle, and the rodents jumped up during the night and bit it in the nose, ears, arms and hands, which swelled to enormous proportions. The rats had to be driven off with a club. -A Hartford man, now aged eighty

years, who has been an inveterate smoker for sixty-seven years, has kept close account of the cost, and places the amount at two hundred thousand dollars, which he might have pound interest the sums he expended in cigars. - Hartford Courant.

-Job Keech, of East Fallowfield, whose death was recorded recently, was for many years a Justice of the Peace in that township, and it is said that he never returned a case to court. Whenever any of his friends had a litigation he always persuaded them into an amicable settlement of their difficulties, and his advice was generally taken .- West Chester (Pa.) Record. -An interesting estimate of the

amount, in weight, of one inch of rainfall on one acre of ground is thus given: An acre of ground contains 6,272,640 inches square. Rain one inch deep would give that many square inches; 1,728 cubic inches make one cubic root. Rain one inch deep would give 3,630 cubic feet. A cubic foot of water weighs 62 1-2 pounds; 2,000 make a ton. This will give 226,875 pounds, or 113 tons and 875 pounds to the acre. of rain one inch deep. -The Japanese, as is learned from

their colony in London, have a novel first-class Fire insurance companies. method of advertising They arrange small rooms along the sidewalks of some of the large thoroughfares, and represent the interior of a student's chamber crowded with pens, ink-slabs, dainty screens and popular literature. Some rooms give an idea of a model kitchen and others show the scene of : tea ceremonial, being adorned with fragile cups and saucers, lacquered tobacco bons, tin tea services and carved travs. -A passenger, Mr. Walter Kobbe,

by the White Star steamship Republic, which left New York April 24, 1884 put a scrap of paper into an empty Apollinaris bottle, corked, and dropped it overboard April 29, 1884. the paper was a promise to pay five dollars on its return. Months afterward, on November 24, 1884, Mr. Kobbe received the paper in a letter postmarked Fayal, in the Azores slands. Many thousands of bottles have been thrown overboard in a like considered especially remarkable because of the great distance traveled in safety by the bottle .- N. Y. Tribune. -The Montreal Witness pays this

tribute to the progress in architecture in this country: "The United States is soon going to take the lead of older countries in the matter of archite ture as it is natural that it should. A rapidly developing country, constantly requiring new conveniences, offers the most promising field for the able-t men of the age, and searce a week passes that the American illu-tra'el papers are not adorned with pictures of some new public building, grand in extent of original design and of surpassing beauty. The young Western cities which have sprung up within the esthetic era are fairylands as compared with the new towns of thirty years ago."

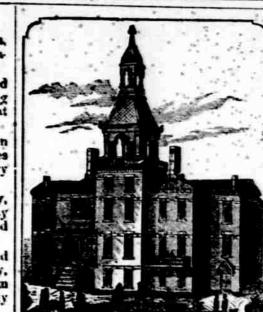
-When flowers have been carried a long distance in close boxes or cases they often appear withered and worthless, but with proper treatment they may be revived and restored to their original beauty. Instead of at once being put into vases and exposed to the hot, dry air of the parlor they flannel or moss, and covered with a dish-cover or an inverted box, or e'se put in pans containing moss and water or wet sand, in which they can be set upright, and then shut up in the dark for a few hours. If they do not regain their freshness under the nursing there is no hope for them; but in all ordinary cases their recovery is certain .- St. Louis Globe.

A Bad Woman.

"Now, the best thing you can do." said the Judge to an old negro who had applied for a divorce, "is to go home and behave yourself." "Yas, sah."

"I do not see why you should not get along all right." "Yas, sah." "We all have to make sacrifices." "Yas, sah, so I heah 'em say, but

mighty few men haster put up wid ich er wife ez l'se got. I ken stan' de common run o' wimmen, but dat pusson, Jedge, is rank pizen. W'y, sah, if she wuz er sleep an' wuster dream dat I wuz enjovin' myse'f, she'd wake herse'f up an' see dat de enjoyment wuz stopped right dar. She like ter died some time ergo. Wuz mighty in hopes dat I wuz gwine ter lose her, but when she foun' dat I wuz pleased, blame of she didn't turn ober an' git well. She's a bad 'oman, sah." bansow Traveler.



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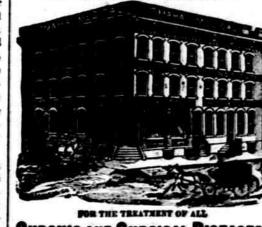
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