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A WORD OF WARNING.

FARMERS, stock raisers, and all other interested parties will do well to remember that the "Western Horse and Cattle Insurance Co." of Omaha is the only company doing business in this state that insures Horses, Mules and Cattle against loss by theft, accidents, diseases, or injury, (as also against loss by fire and lightning). All representations by agents of other Companies to the contrary notwithstanding.

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CONSIDERING THE CHANCES.

The Man Who Did Not Have Implicit Confidence in His Wife.

"Well, what is it?" said the money clerk at the United States Express office the other day, as a man with a protruding under lip and defiant contempt for grammar halted before him and put his dinner-bucket on the counter.

"Hain't this the place where you take money that's to be sent some'rs?" said the man, standing on tiptoe and speaking in a low tone, as he leaned forward over the counter.

"Yes; did you want to make a shipment?"

"Huh?"

"Did you want to send some money away?"

"Well, no: not this mornin'; but I reckon I will shortly, an' so I dropped in as I was goin' along to git a few items about it. It was all right for me to drop in, wasn't it?"

"Oh, yes; certainly. What did you want to know?"

"Well, now, s'posen I send forty dollars or sich matter to my sister in Waukegan, an' she never gits it?"

"But she will get it if you send it."

"Yes: but how do I know that, though? S'posen the train runs again sumpin, stands on its head, ketches fire an' burns up, where's my forty dollars then?"

"In that case the company would make it good."

"Huh?"

"I say the company would pay it back."

"But I wouldn't want it back. I'd wan't my sister to have it. That'd be my main reason for sendin' it."

"She would get it. The company would pay it to her."

"That's all right, then. But s'posen somebody bulldozes your man on the cars with a club, as I heard was done some'rs not long back, an' slides out with the money, who stands the racket then—me or the company?"

"The company, of course?"

"Whether they ketch the man or not?"

"Yes."

"Hain't there no giggin' back on that?"

"No: not a bit of it."

"No comin' back at me with drawbacks, or per cents for this'n that?"

"Not at all."

"It's every dollar of it forked over to my sister is it, no matter what happens?"

"Yes; every cent."

"Is it jist the same in case of bein' struck by lightnin'?"

"Certainly."

"My wive's half brother—the one in Michigan—had a barn struck by lightnin' onest, sot on fire an' burnt down, an' I'm switched if the company he was insured in didn't crawl out of it somehow or uther, an' he's hed his nose to the grindstone ever sense on accounts of it. You say your company never takes a man by the nape of the neck even if it gits a chance to?"

"No. The company guarantees to put your money through, and it will do it, or make it good."

"That's all right, then, an' my ole woman hain't so tormented smart as she thinks she is."

"Why so?"

"She said there wasn't no safe way of gittin' the money to 'Liza Ann but to have her go an' take it to her. But I thought I could see through her little game, an' so I concluded I'd git a few items and find out for myself how the thing onraveled. Between you an' me, I've got a bulky sort of a not on the ole woman wants to flare out a little with some new duds, an' if she was to git her claws on to that money I don't b'lieve 'Liza Ann would ever see a red of it, notwithstandin' she was good enough to lend it to me quite a spell ago, when I was considerable hard up. My ole woman is well-meanin' an' a middlin' prump housekeeper, but she's rather too deep sot on tomfoolery to be trusted much in money matters, an' I'd about as soon put money into a bank an' give up hopes of it at onst, as to have her git her hands on it. She don't mean nothin' wrong about it I reckon, but I s'pose she jest can't help it, an' she wouldn't have that money about her ten minutes before she'd go to foolin' it away on bustles an' back hair an' sich other nonsense as she'd happen to get her mind sot on. I'm a good deal much obleeged to you, sir, an' I'll give you the handlin' of that money as I come along to-morrow. Even if you ruled out lightnin' I'd risk it a blamed sight quicker'n I would the ole woman."—*Chicago Ledger*

CHOCOLATE.

The Growth of the Trade in This Article in the United States.

Said a well-known manufacturer to a reporter: "The consumption of chocolate in the United States has had a wonderful growth. In 1878 we manufactured into chocolate goods 24,000 bags of raw cocoa; last year we used 54,000 bags, an increase of 30,000 bags in five years. The next five years will see a still greater rate of increase. When Humboldt discovered the use of the cocoa plant in his travels, he little dreamed of the immense business that was to grow out of the concoction of his first cup of chocolate. It is to-day fairly in the way of becoming one of the principal articles of food throughout the world, and tends eventually to supplant tea and coffee as a beverage. As a flavoring it already stands next to vanilla, which heads the list, and it is used in all branches of cookery, pastry and creams, and for baking purposes generally. Fifteen years ago I went on the road to sell in a small way chocolate goods of my own manufacture, and I was laughed at for my pains. At that time the consumption was limited in this country to the few large cities in which the foreign element predominated. The article was elsewhere comparatively unknown.

"The taste for chocolate is an acquired one, and the public had to be educated to the love for it, and like tobacco and beer it is at first distasteful and even nauseating, but also like them when once the taste is formed it is not easily surfeited. It probably tires the taste less than any other confection, and this accounts for its presence in nearly all the candy that is sold to-day. Chocolate is one of the most healthful foods known, and in its pure state may be used to an unlimited extent without harmful effects. In Europe it has taken nearly half a century of unremitting labor on the part of manufacturers to fairly establish the public taste for chocolate, but Americans take to it rapidly, and in fifteen years have learned to love it and look upon it almost as a necessary of life. The varieties of chocolote preparations are almost legion, for it enters into the manufacture of both food and drink."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

MR. SAMPLAN'S CALLER.

Why a Staid Citizen was Perturbed and Annoyed.

"I was both surprised and grieved," said Mr. Samplan, "when I awoke and found a midnight intruder in my bed-chamber. I do hate to be awakened from a sound sleep, and I had always rather meet strangers by daylight and take a regular introduction.

"Well, this man—this very audacious man—had the impudence to light my gas and point a pistol at me. Yes, sir, and my gas bills are outrageously high, and his pistol was probably loaded. I do hate to see a man so utterly heedless of other men's rights. It might have softened the matter some had he been a gentleman in his speech, but he wasn't so—no, sir, he wasn't. As I opened my eyes and sat up in bed he growled out in a voice like a sea-lion.

"'Be quiet, old man, or I'll bore your brains with a bullet!'

"Do you suppose I'd use a man like that? Never! I'd have some decency about me, especially if my victim's wife was beside him. My wife awoke, of course, and when the burglar saw by her looks that she was about to scream, he turned the pistol at her and said:

"'Come now; but if you open that potato-trap of yours I'll pin your head to the wall!'

"Think of such language from a perfect stranger! Think of the insult to my wife's mouth! No one will ever know how badly she felt. She just fell back on the pillow and cried, and the audacious burglar he clicks the lock of his pistol two or three times to keep us scared and then remarks:

"'Come, old coon, I want you! Git up and pint out the valuables!'

"The brassiness of it! Wanted me to help him rob my own house! I was so amazed at his impudence that I got up. He sat down in a chair near the door, pointed his deadly weapon at my heart, and orders me to go ahead and collect all the money and jewelry and leave it on the stand. Did you ever hear of the like! I wanted to argue the case a bit, for I'm a man as doesn't like to be sent to State Prison for robbing his own house, but he thunders at me:

"'Lively now, old spindle-shanks, or I'll make a corpse of you.'

"I assure you that I was considerably perturbed. Look at these legs—large enough to bear up an ox. Had he any right or reason to use the term spindle-shanks? He was no gentleman—no gentleman, sir. I picked up about $200 in cash, two watches and a lot of jewelry, and when I turned them over to him he further revealed his nature. Instead of thanking me for the size of the contribution he growled out: 'Durn ye, for an old skinflint, but I'm a good mind to bore ye!'

"I'm no skinflint, as all my friends swear to, and I had given him all we had in the house. After growling for awhile he orders me back into bed, threatens us with death if we move even a toe before daylight, and then goes down stairs. Here he eats up our pies and cakes, breaks up all our plated silver, carries off the milk jug and butter dish, and in going away leaves the doors open for cats and mosquitoes and moth-millers to come in.

"I tell you what—such things go far to vex a good citizen and make a bad man of him. I want to be treated like a gentleman, especially in my own house. I don't like to have strange people enter my bed-room at midnight and brow-beat me. No true gentleman will compare his wife's mouth to a potato-trap, and no man fit to appear in good society will call me spindleshanks, old coon, etc., unless we had both been drinking and were having a hilarious time. I feel perturbed, sir—very much perturbed, and if the thing occurs again I shall certainly go to the police about it."—*Detroit Free Press.*

DUTCH CHILDREN.

Youngsters who Ape the Habits and Small Vices of Their Elders.

The middle-class girls of Holland are certainly very pretty. They have soft, clear skins and bright complexions. They are decidedly piquant in appearance, much more so than their sisters over the Rhine. This year the favorite color is parrot green of various shades, which seems to suit their brown hair and eyes amazingly. They wear the high crown, fashionable hat, with a string or two added. As for the back crinoline now the rage, I have seen nothing in size or sway to equal the *achterwit* of the fashionable girl of Amsterdam. The literal meaning of the above word, I am told, is "behind the horse." Everyone smokes in Holland—that is, every male body. One could almost believe that the male bodies are ushered into the world with a cigar in their mouths. The mollifying efforts of tobacco sooth the infant Dutch boy in the cradle, add variety to his youthful sports and pastimes, and when he becomes old enough to run of errands, or, if of well-to-do parents, to sit at *table d'hote* with his father and mother, forms the chief occupation of his life. Walk the streets of Amsterdam early in the morning and observe the most diminutive office-boy sweeping the sidewalk, polishing the door-plate or cleaning the windows with a six-inch cigar in his mouth. It is no uncommon thing for a boy ten or twelve years old to address you seriously, "*A beetye vuur mi jn heer as u beleeft.*" And sober, gray-haired men give them the desired light and pass on. I have seen a boy not over fourteen years of age dining with his parents at *table d'hote* at the Amstel Hotel light a large cigar, when the wax tapers were passed, as they always are in Holland, immediately after dessert, and calmly puff away, much to the astonishment of the British matrons and British papas present. In railway carriages American and English arrangements are reversed, smoking carriages being the rule and "no smoking" the exception.—*Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.*

—Pearls deteriorate by age, contact with acids, gas and noxious vapors of all sorts. A leading importer advises that pearl necklaces, which are liable to deteriorate by coming in contact with the skin, be restrung once a year, as drawing the silk thread out and through the pierced parts tends to clense the pearls. In Ceylon, we are assured on fairly good authority, that when it is desired to restore the luster to Oriental pearls the pearls are allowed to be swallowed by chickens. The fowls with this precious diet are then killed and the pearls regained in a white and lustrous state.—*N. Y. Post.*

—A Solano County, (California,) man has four wives living, has been divorced six times, three times from one woman, and has been married seven times.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

CURRENT ITEMS.

—A good mechanic gets four dollars a week in Holland.

—New Orleans is to have a Castle Garden, which she hopes to make as famous as that in New York.

—Cheese rinds are disposed of by making them into cement for mending glass and porcelain.—*Chicago Herald.*

—The best time yet made between New York and Liverpool is six days, nine hours and fifty minutes.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—A convict in an English prison perfected the style of lawn tennis racquet now the most popular among British players.

—Petroleum was known to the dwellers on the shores of the Caspian Sea, and in some parts of the Valley of the Euphrates, five hundred years before the Christian era. Alexander the Great made use of it in the burning of Babylon.

—There are degrees of excellence even in baked beans. A South End restaurant recognizes grades in this esculent, and advertises, "Baked Beans, ten cents. Choice Baked Beans, fifteen cents."—*Boston Saturday Evening Gazette.*

—There is a peculiar region on the border of the Colorado desert, about 110 miles east of Los Angeles, Cal., called Palm City, where ripe fruit is produced at least four weeks ahead of any other locality in that section of California.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

—Yesterday a little girl did not want to go to school because it was "too awful hot." When asked if she liked winter better she said: "In summer it is too hot to go to school and in winter it is too cold. I like the weather just right."—*Wilmington (Del.) News.*

—A preliminary British company has been formed with a capital of $100,000 to make geological investigations, engineering plans and estimates for a railway tunnel between Great Britian and Ireland. It seems to be assumed that the cost of the tunnel would be $30,000,000.

—The birds of Louisiana, papers of that State say, will soon be exterminated. The colored people there not only make birds an article of food, but have begun to us their eggs for the same purpose. The eggs of the partridges, robins, wrens, mocking birds, and all others that they can get their hands on, are eaten.

—The Berlin Aquarium has at last accomplished the difficult feat of showing a school of live herring in its salt water basin. These fish are so delicate that when caught in their native element even a moment's exposure to the air will kill them. They had, therefore, to be caught under water and to be carefully transported from the seaboard.

—Climate never made a breed of fast horses. The development of racing stock in California is due to a few wealthy men who have been willing to spend their wealth on breeding establishments, where the best imported stallions and mares are kept, and if the business should ever be neglected California horses would degenerate and win no more races.—*San Francisco Alta.*

—Browsing animals are proving as destructive to California forests as fire is elsewhere. Herds of sheep and cattle are driven up to the mountains every year to graze, and they devour every green thing from the foothills to the meadows on the summit of the ranges. When the grass fails the young seedling trees are eaten off, or the bark peeled so that the undergrowth is entirely destroyed.—*Chicago Herald.*

ARCHÆOLOGICAL FRAUDS.

How Indian Graves Are Fabricated to Order.

To discover an Indian grave is, of course, a red-letter day for the archæologist. Now, *Indian graves are manufactured to order*, it would appear. At least the following recently occurred in New Jersey: A Philadelphia Flint Jack secured a half-decayed skeleton from a Potter's field in the vicinity, and placed it in a shallow excavation on the wasting bank of a creek in New Jersey, where Indian relics were frequently found. With it he placed a steatite tobacco-pipe of his own make, a steatite carving of an eagle's head, and beads; with these were thrown numbers of genuine arrow-heads and fragments of pottery. The earth was blackened with powdered charcoal. This "plant" was made in November, and, in the following March, during the prevalence of high waters and local freshets, he announced to an enthusiastic collector that he knew the location of an Indian grave, and offered to take him thither for fifty dollars, the money to be paid if the search proved successful, which of course it did. The cranium of that Philadelphia pauper passed through several craniologists' hands, and was gravely remarked upon as of unusual interest, as it was a marked *dolichocephalic skull*, whereas the Delaware Indians were *brachycephalic!*—*Dr. Charles C. Abbott, in Popular Science Monthly.*

Forsaken.

"Matilda!" he exclaimed, the perspiration irrigating the rootlets of his tawny locks. "Matilda! I love you."

"Henry," she replied, clubbing with her fan the mosquito who was dining off her damask cheek, "Henry, it does you credit."

"And," resumed Henry, with his voice far below the middle stud of his immaculate shirt-front; "and do you, Matilda—do you—er love me?"

"No, Henry," replied Matilda, with a Christian-humility-and-resigned-to-my-lot frankness; "no, Henry, I do not love you, but I esteem you as a—"

"Oh, stew that," vociforated Henry, "none o' your esteem you as a brother; that's too hoary a chestnut for me." And Henry on that same hour the lady forsook. True, he had to; but, never you mind, he forsook her all the same.—*Boston Transcript.*

How it Works.

Mistress—"What? you want your wages raised already? Why, you have not been in this country a month: you know nothing of American housekeeping, and, I am now paying you as much as the most experienced servants get."

Maid—"Yes, mum; I know, mum. But you see times is very dull, now."

"I should say they were."

"Yes, mum. Me brother Mickey is on a strike; me cousin Jim's out of work; me cousin Philip and cousin John and cousin George, they all had their wages reduced."

"Well, what has that to do with it?"

"You see, mum, I must take care of the whole family now, mum."—*Philadelphia Call.*

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THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

Dentition—Bishoping Signs Which Indicate an Animal's Age.

Aphthae or thrush, a disease of the mouth, is very common among young horses. It consists of small red patches and vesicles on the inside of the cheeks; also on the tongue. The mouth is hot and feverish, and the animal will frequently allow the food to fall out of it from inability to masticate. The principal means to be employed are a paste made of equal parts of honey and powdered bayberry bark, or borax; the parts to be anointed every night. To promote healthy action, and purify the blood, give one ounce of flower of sulphur, two ounces of powdered golden seal, and one ounce of powdered sassafras, mixed and divided into four parts, mixing one part in scalded shorts every night. This treatment applies to all classes of stock.

There is no doubt that a colt sometimes suffers considerable pain from teething, in consequence of the resistance which the teeth encounter from unyielding gums. The pain does not arise, as some suppose, from the point of the tooth pressing upward against the gum, but from the downward pressure—the roots of the tooth compressing the dental nerve-consisting in local irritation, which, if not relieved, deranges a part or the whole of the nervous system. The remedy is a sharp gum lancet. Make an icision right down to the point of the tusk or tooth, and the animal generally experiences relief. If he labor under sympathetic fever, appears irritable and nervous, give him a drachm of asafœtida, in thin gruel, keep the bowels soluble and let the diet be light.

Owing to the unequal wear of some horses' teeth, their edges project and become sharp: they are then apt to irritate and wound the mucous membrane on the inside of the cheek. In such cases an increased flow of saliva, imperfect mastication and loss of flesh will be noticed. The remedy is a mouth-rasp.

Bishoping consists in making artificial marks on horses' teeth to give them the appearance of youth. It is a species of imposition so reprehensible that all honest horse dealers have set their faces against it. It is called "Bishoping," from the name of the scoundrel who invented it. The horse of eight or nine years old is cast, and, with an engraver's tool a hole is dug in the now almost smooth surface of the corner teeth, and in shape and depth resembling the mark in a seven-year-old horse. The hole is then burnt with a heated iron, and a permanent black stain is left; the next pair of nippers are sometimes touched to imitate the brown color of the natural mark. However dexterously the operation may be performed, the fraud is easily discovered by those who are in the habit of examining teeth. If the horse is aged, it may be known by the general appearance, such as gray hairs, sunken eyes, deep hollows above them. The bones are prominent, lips flabby and the hippers of the lower jaw, instead of appearing angular, approach, as the animal advances in years, to the horizontal.—*Philadelphia Record.*

BEYOND THE VEIL.

A Path Which Can Be Traveled But Once.

The sun, as it lingered on the edge of the horizon—sinking so slowly that one might say that it regretted to leave the world in darkness—lighted up his face until the grandchild asleep on his knee would hardly have recognized him had she opened her eyes.

Old and feeble and gray—ready to bid farewell to earth—he was a child again, and his mind had the thoughts of a child. The sun had gone down and the dusk had come on for him tens of thousands of times without question, but this time he felt afraid and whispered:

"Oh! sun, do not leave me just yet. Wait until I am a man, and I shall care not whether it is day or night."

And the sun whispered back to him:

"I have seen you pass from childhood to manhood and back. You can not travel the path again."

"But wait a little longer. When I have grown to be a youth the coming of night will have no terrors for me."

"Alas! old man," answered the declining sun, "a grand old tree can not become a shrub again. It may be splintered or uprooted by the hurricane, but it must die as a tree."

"Then remain with me!" pleaded the old man. "My limbs are feeble, and your light will safely guide my footsteps."

"That I can not do, but I will send the moon to cast her rays upon the earth and soften the darkness of night."

And when the moon came the old man's locks were changed from the gold of sunset to the silver of evening, and the furrows of age were melted and softened until they could no longer be seen. And he whispered to the moon:

"Do not leave me to-night, for I am old and afraid of the darkness of night."

"I can not stay beyond my fixed time," answered the moon, "but when I go I will send the stars to keep you company."

"I had a wife—children—friends. Bring them back to me from the mysterious unknown."

"Alas! but the dead are dead!" And the moon went away and the stars came, and the old man pleaded:

"I am old and lonely. Bear me company during my brief stay on earth."

And one bright star answered for all the rest:

"A hand greater than man's controls our movements. Look beyond us."

And the stars drew aside the mystic veil, and the old man's eyes looked behind it. They lighted up with the fires of youth—of hope—of anticipation—of deep satisfaction. His aged face grew young—his limbs regained their strength—his blood coursed as in the veins of a man in his prime. The stars held the veil aside but a moment, and yet he had seen enough.

The child slept on, but the arms around it gave up their strength.

The night-winds toyed with the old man's gray locks, but he gave no heed. A hand was laid on his shoulder and a voice whispered in his ear, but he gave no sign. The grand old tree had given up its life on earth to begin anew behind the veil.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—In Pennsylvania the figures show 170,524 males to 176,465 females. In Virginia they bring to light the fact that there are 745,589 males to 766,976 females. In Illinois there are 1,586,529 males to only 1,491,348 females, or more than 95 000 of an excess of the former.—*Pittsburgh Post.*

TRAVELING IN 1700.

The Vehicles used by the Colonists 200 Years ago.

The Virginia planter of the richer sort, who was said to live with more show and luxury "than a country gentleman in England on the estate of three or four thousand pounds a year," showed a strong liking for the stately six-horse coach, with postilions; but it was not until 1720 that wheeled carriages were recognized in the legal price-list of the Virginia ferries. In the other colonies, also, the coach was valued as a sign of official or family dignity, and some of the richer Carolinians carried "their luxury so far as to have carriages, horses, coachmen, and all, imported from England"; but in Carolina, and everywhere north of Virginia, the light open "chair" or the covered chaise was generally preferred. These were better suited to the roughness and sinuosity of the roads than the coach. The chaise was a kind of two-wheeled gig, having a top and drawn sometimes by one, and sometimes by two horses; the chair had two wheels, but no top; the sulky, which was much used, differed from the chair chiefly in having room for but one person. All these seem to have been hung on straps, or thorough-braces, instead of springs. Boston ladies in the middle of the eighteenth century took the air in chases or chairs, with negro drivers. Boston gentlemen also affected negro attendants when they drove their chairs, or rode on saddle-horses. But in rural regions, from Pennsylvania northward, ladies took delight in driving about alone in open chairs, to the amazement of European travelers, who deemed that a paradise in which women could travel without protection. Philadelphians were fond of a long, light, covered wagon, with benches, which would carry a dozen persons in an excursion to the country. Sedan-chairs were occasionally used in the cities. The Dutch introduced sleighs into New York at a very early date; but sleighs for pleasure, though known in Boston about 1700, only came into general use in the northern provinces at a somewhat later period. The first stage wagon in the colonies was run from Trenton to New Brunswick, twice a week, during the summer of 1728. It was a link in the tedious land and water journey from Philadelphia to New York, and travelers were promised that it would be fitted up with benches, and covered over, so that passengers may sit easy and dry.—*Century.*

AMERICAN FABLES.

Some Allegories, a Good Way after Æsop, Which Teach Healthy Morals.

THE CROW AND THE HARE.

A Crow and a Hare met by chance one day, and were so well Pleased with each other that it was Agreed to form a Partnership.

"The first thing in order," remarked the Crow, "is to select a Home, which will, of course, belong to both of us. Have you got your eye on any particular Tree?"

"Tree!" echoed the Hare, "why, we want a burrow, of course."

"Burrow! But I can't live in a Hole!"

"And I can't Climb a Tree!"

"If you didn't intend to Consult my Wishes why did you Propose this Partnership!"

"And if you weren't ready to give way in these little Matters why Accept my Proposals?"

They were Hotly Disputing and Abusing each other when the Fox came along, and being Appealed to for his Opinion he said:

MORAL:

"My Friends, while you are both wrong, you have still exhibited rare Judgment. The Human Family alone are Fools enough to Marry First and Quarrel over their likes and dislikes and Nature's Incongruities afterwards.

THE BEAR AND THE WOLF.

The Bear and the Wolf had been Warm Friends for many years when the Wolf one day asked for a Loan to help him out of a Tight Squeeze. To his utter Astonishment the Favor was Promptly Refused.

"Haven't we been Friends?" asked the Wolf.

"Truly, we have!"

"And don't you wish to be in the Future?"

"It is for that reason," answered the Bear, "that I refuse the Loan. If you have no Trouble in repaying me you will Depend upon me in all Future Emergencies. If you fail to repay you will Become my Enemy for Life."

MORAL:

Go to your Friends for sympathy—to your Pawnbroker for loans.—*Detroit Free Press.*

OUR FLAG.

The Adoption of the National Ensign by the Continental Congress.

The subject of a flag or standard was considered early in the Continental Congress; and, on the 14th of June, 1777, this resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the Union be thirteen stars, white, in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The admission into the Union, after the establishment of the present Government, of Vermont and Kentucky as new States, caused the number of stars and stripes to be increased to fifteen each; and the subsequent addition of five other States led the following enactment, which is yet in force, approved on the 14th of April, 1818:

AN ACT to establish the flag of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the 4th day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes; alternate red and white; that the Union be twenty stars, white in a blue field.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the 4th day July then next succeeding such admission.

Whenever, therefore, an American sees this glorious ensign of his country, the stripes recall to his mind the birth of the Republic, with the events that surrounded it; the stars suggest its wonderful development in size, in resources, and in power; and, in homage to the national grandeur and protective authority which it represents, wherever he beholds it—whether in mid-ocean floating at the head of a passing ship, or waved aloft in the streets of foreign lands,—he lifts his hat to it with a patriotic feeling of filial love and pride.—*Edmund Alton in St. Nicholas.*

—There is a simple bliss that follows in the wake of frugal and careful habits of life, which even wealth can not buy.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

PITH AND POINT.

—A man down East is lecturing on "Mince Pie." Still he does not tell us what is in it.—*Oil City Derrick.*

—We presume that if General Frank Hatton journeyed to Russia he would become General Frank Hattoff.—*Current.*

—The discovery has been made that the world does not revolve with the same momentum it did a thousand years ago, but it still swings round fast enough to satisfy the man with a heavy bill coming due.—*Chicago Tribune.*

—It is said that a successful typesetting machine has at last been put in operation. We go right smart on machinery, but we want to see it trot around the office hunting sorts and stealing leads before we take much stock in it.—*Chicago Ledger.*

—A dude, who fell off a New York ferry-boat, offered any one who would save his life $1.50. The offer was finally accepted by an old woman who wanted capital to set up an apple-stand, but she didn't make a move until this fact was fully explained to her fellow-passengers.—*Detroit Free Press.*

—Nothing makes a man prouder than to find when he has got his garden nicely laid out and the seeds all in, that every hen within a mile of him seems determined to have a claw in the job, and show him how she would have arranged matters if he had consulted her.—*Fall River Advance.*

—Then and Now.

He called me Popsey, Sweet, and Pet,
When we began our married life,
His guiding star, his loved Annette,
His hope, his joy, his darling wife.

These fond endearments are all o'er,
And though his heart no doubt is true,
I hear those pretty names no more,
For now he calls me "Say there, you!"

—Judge—"Did you witness the accident?" Witness—"I did." Judge—"At what distance?" Witness—"Sixty-seven feet and nine inches." Judge—"How do you know so exactly?" Witness—"Well, I knew that I would be summoned, and I prepared myself for all the foolish questions that I knew would be put to me in a court of law."—*N. Y. Telegram.*

—Tenant (to owner of East Side Harlem flat): "Some of the plaster in my kitchen fell down last night, and I want you to fix it." Landlord: "What caused it?" Tenant: "The man who occupies the floor above sneezed." Landlord: "Well! Some people think because they pay twenty-two dollars a month rent they can carry on just as if they lived in a Roman citadel."—*N. Y. Independent.*

THE NUPTIAL KNOT.

Seven Separate and Distinct Ways of Committing Matrimony.

There are seven separate and distinct ways in which the nuptial knot may be tied, the attending expense of the different modes varying from $1 to $1,000. The least expensive, and the one seldom adopted, except in cases of elopement, is that afforded by the Justice's office. There a couple can be firmly united in the space of a minute for a small sum. It is customary for a groom to dress as he may please when the marriage is to be performed by a Justice, and a dress suit would be sadly out of place in the musty law office. The one great advantage of the justice-shop marriage is cheapness.

As some people object to being married by a Justice of the Peace, preferring the sanction of the church in addition to that of the law, the young people may visit a parsonage instead of a Justice's office with the same preparation. The ceremony may be fully as informal when at the minister's home, the only difference being that not less than $3, and better still $5 or $10, should be paid for the service, although there is no fixed sum charged. The most popular ceremony among people who do not class themselves as in "society," and also among many who do, is a quiet home wedding, where the bride is attired in a suit of plain white or a traveling dress, and the groom in a plain black or brown business suit, and where only a few friends and relatives are present. The affair is informal, perhaps a modest supper or lunch being served after the ceremony is performed, and the entire expense to the groom being covered by a $20 bill, or even less. This is the most popular wedding ceremony, and this is the way in which fully seventy-five per cent. of young people are married.

Next in point of favor and inexpensiveness is the informal church wedding, being similar in all things except that the service is performed within the portals of the church. If the affair is strictly private, the bride and groom may be unsupported or have bridesmaids and groomsmen, as they please. In the latter case full dress suits should be worn, increasing the expense. The "full dress wedding," as it may be called when the ceremony is performed at home, is next in favor. Elaborate trousseau, full dress suits, bride-maids and groomsmen, flowers in abundance, and a host of invited guests are the requisites, followed by a reception, feast or lunch, as the contracting parties may desire.

The seventh and last, and most popular is the full-dress affair performed in church. Among people who desire to create a stir in society this is the favorite. It is expensive, and in many cases unsatisfactory.—*Milwaukee Journal.*

The London Ragamuffin.

The genuine ragamuffin will never complain. He never expects or even hopes that his condition will improve; he is as much a fatalist as the Turk. I once asked an interesting little boy with a pale, careworn face and an intelligent expression, if he had ever wondered why it was that he had nothing but rags; why it was he had no boots, and sometimes no bread to eat, while I had plenty of everything? He looked up at me with a calm, patient expression, as much as to say, "I have never wondered at such things." "Tell me," I persisted, "have you ever thought about this difference?" "It's the Lord's will," he replied tritely; but he seemed reluctant, when I pressed him, to explain what he understood by the Lord's will. At last in a timid, hurried voice he said: "It is all the Lord's doing, this way; you are grand like, and dress nice, and lives in a big house, and you have a pianner, and—and," he looked round the room that he might enumerate all our titles to consideration—"and a sofy; so the Lord sees as how you are gentlefolks, and He think lots of such like as you. But we are very poor, we are. Mother pawns the blankets, and father beats mother, and swears awful. We ain't got no Sunday things; we're all raggety, so the Lord don't take much notice on us."—*English Illustrated Magazine.*