Agriculture.

Young Farmers.

To be a successful farmer, merchant, or mechanic, it is a good thing to commence operations, if only on a small scale, when quite young. What! a *boy* begin to be farmer, merchant, or mechanic? Yes; it is within the reach of every boy to try some little business on his own account, and no boy has a better opportunity than a country boy. It is as much a part of his education as arithmetic or book-keeping, to expand his ideas beyond paper and books alone. On a farm there is generally a corner of an out-building, or an odd patch in the garden, which a boy (with his parents' consent) can turn to account. It not only gives him an interest in his home, but also instructs him in care and industry. There is generally some demand for plants among his neighbors, such as cabbage, celery, hot-bed plants, etc. These can all be grown by any country youth with profit, where they are in demand; taking but little time in proportion to most farm productions; care being the most needful thing.

Another source of profit to boys is keeping a little live stock, such as rabbits, pigeons or poultry. The common rabbit is very easily kept, and all things considered, would probably be the most profitable, as they are hardy. Lop-eared rabbits are very tender, and poor breeders. All through the summer a little grass cut from the roadside, or a corner, will keep them. A few apples, or refuse vegetables (if only sound,) will be all that is required, and in winter vegetables that are not suited to market, or any parings will answer all feeding purposes. A little grain once a day is best for their morning or night meal.

Pigeons are often in demand, but in this line something better than the common varieties will perhaps do better; but that depends on the locality, and one must be his own judge which kind is best before starting. But whatever is commenced let it be strictly honest, and fairly carried on. Now is the time that the foundation of the man is laid. Do not misrepresent anything you have to sell; integrity and a good name are worth more than anything you will ever have for sale. Many a youth has begun dealings not strictly honest, among his companions, and paid so dear for them that he could never recover his standing. When your companions grow up with you, if you are known to be honest, it is likely some may be able to assist you in a more extensive business, and at least they will have pleasant remembrances. —*Rural New Yorker.*

Mixed Farming.

A contributor to the *Rural New Yorker* writes on this subject as follows:

"I am an advocate of mixed farming. I believe it better for a farmer to depend on several crops for his money than on one alone; for, how often does some particular crop become a complete failure? Then where are the funds coming from to meet store bills, pay taxes, the minister and printer? Some years there is so much of one product raised that it is very low, and if you happen to depend wholly on that crop, where are you then?

Now if you practice mixed husbandry it is entirely different; for you are almost certain of some crop selling for a good price; hence, you can be on a surer footing than if you raised simply one kind of crop, especially if your capital is limited; for then you cannot afford to wait until another crop can grow; accordingly I believe it always the surest and best plan, for the young farmer especially, to grow a variety of crops. The most independent farmer is the one who has more than one crop to depend on. The farm is a place where all the different varieties of food can be raised, and it seems to me the object of the farmer should be to grow all, or nearly all of such kinds of food as he will need to consume in his family and feed to his stock; or, in other words, let nothing be bought that can be grown on the farm at a fair cost.

If we can raise wheat at 80 cents per bushel, can we afford to buy it at $1.25? or, if we can raise our pork at $5 per hundred, can we afford to buy it at eight cents a pound? Let a farmer who has practiced mixed husbandry for a term of years, turn his attention to, and labor wholly upon one crop, and if he does not deny himself some of his customary luxuries I shall be very much mistaken."

Shirking.

The poorest of all ways for a farmer (or anybody else) to try to get rid of trouble, is to shirk it. The man who "faces the music" with the most promptness, who "takes Time by the forelock," who never puts off till to-morrow what ought to be done to-day," is the man who will be most successful, have the most leisure, the least worry, the most comfort, and make the most money. Those who see a "lion in the path" when a big job of work rises before them, and cower down, instead of springing up, are not those who will make farming pay. It is as important for the farmer as for the sailor, to keep a good look-out ahead. No man's plans should be more far-reaching than the farmer's. No man should more carefully consider the alternatives of the situation, or be more ready to "about ship," when suddenly occurring changes take place, or to substitute one course for another, as circumstances demand.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Agricultural Notes.

The *North British Agriculturist*, in an article on the past agricultural season, estimates the losses of Scotch farmers, owing to inferior crops, at £10,000,000.

An infallible remedy for smut in wheat is to soak the seed wheat in brine, and then dust it with unslaked lime. This is said to be a sure remedy.—*Minnesota Farmer.*

Corn cobs are said to be an excellent absorbent to place behind cattle in stables; the cobs soak up a great deal of liquid and soon decay in the manure-heap, adding their own substance to increase its fertilizing value.

Good, seasoned muck is of immense service to farmers when used as an absorbent, and the stalls for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a wide passage in the rear, with generous room for the muck to be used daily with the droppings.—*Prairie Farmer.*

The *Iowa State Register* advises in planting trees to recollect they are not a stake to be driven into the ground. Dig a large, flat pit for the tree, and put in the bottom surface loam. Spread the roots out carefully and equally, and place the loose, fine dirt under and among the roots with the hand. Fill up the hole and press it down gently with the feet, but do not stamp it down.

Heaps of corn, the Nebraska *Farmer* says, are nearly as common in the yards of that State as wood-piles at the East, and for the same purpose, to-wit, for fuel. It is on record that Kansas farmers have burned corn, and six months afterward paid seventy-five cents a bushel for corn to feed their stock. And again, that within one year from the time when corn in that State was a drug at seven cents the bushel in the field, there was ready market for it at ninety-five cents. The easy lesson of which is that in years of plenty it is the part of wisdom to provide for possible famine—as Joseph did in Egypt—and not pile corn on the kitchen fire.—*New York Tribune.*

Domestic.

How to Give a Dinner Party.—The pleasantest dinners are those where the hostess suffers no anxiety; where every dish is perfection of its kind, and no awkward mistakes are made by the attendants. The latter should be perfectly well trained in what they have to do, and tolerably familiar with the house and its appointments. The following rules will serve for the guidance of inexperienced hosts. Give dinners within your means. Do not make experiments. Either use the dishes in which you excel, or hire a good cook to give you a variety. Never apologize for a dish. If it is not good, keep it off the table. Always invite people of congenial tastes and friendly feelings. Do not give large parties if you want your guests to enjoy themselves. In the arrangements of the table, a spotless cloth, clear glasses and shining cutlery feast the sight before the substantial meal begins. If it is impossible to brighten the board with a few flowers, ferns or a pretty bit of china it is easy to place the various dishes of food upon it in a symmetrical manner. Every cover should be laid with knife, fork, spoon, glass, bread, salt, and a napkin; and unless the table is closely attended pitchers of cool water should be placed upon it where all can reach them. A dinner service consists of a covered soup-tureen and ladle and deep plates for soup, platter and plates for fish and meat, deep covered dishes for vegetables, a gravy tureen, salad bowl, cheese tray, sauce boat and pudding dish, with small plates for dessert. Some kind of salad is usually placed on the table with the roast, and cheese accompanies the dessert. Plain white dishes of stone or French china are in perfect taste, and, with a snowy cloth and nice glassware, they set a table beautifully. The *epergne* for the center may be composed of two large glass fruit stands—one upon the other—filled with nuts and apples. On either side, toward the ends of the table, put well filled celery glasses and disperse about the table small dishes of chow-chow, jellies, pickles and crackers. A few tiny vases filled with flowers will lend both color and odor to the pleasant scene.

A Remedy for Sleeplessness.—When ready for bed sit down in an easy position, relaxing all the muscles of the body, and let the head drop forward upon the breast, as low as it will fall without forcing it. Sit quietly in this way for a few minutes, letting all the will power off the body, and a restful, drowsy feeling will ensue, which will, if not disturbed, lead to refreshing sleep. If the sleepless fit comes on in the night one can simply sit up in the position described. Stiffness of any part of the body must be avoided, and it is well to bend the body forward after lying down, rather than keep it straight or thrown back upon the pillow. The writer suffered several years from sleeplessness, caused by severe pain and nervousness, and was taught the above by a physician of great experience and ability, and found through it complete relief. Many persons similarly afflicted within the writer's knowledge have tried it, and always with good result. —*Kansas City Sunday Journal.*

Household Receipts.

Cold-water Cake.—Three and a half cups of flour, two of raisans, chopped fine; two of sugar, a cup of butter, a cup of cold water, the yolks of six eggs, well beaten; half a teaspoonful each of cloves, cinnamon and soda, and a little nutmeg.

Wild Plum Marmalade.—Wash, put into a porcelain kettle, with water enough just to cover; let boil until soft, pour into a colander and drain; then press the pulp through and add a pint of sugar to a pint of pulp. Boil from twenty to thirty minutes, stirring constantly.

Tomato Preserves.—With a sharp knife remove the skins from green gage tomatoes; prick each tomato several times; add an equal amount of sugar by weight; let stand over night; then pour off the juice into a preserving kettle; add two or three slices of lemon, and boil until it thickens.

Pepper Chow-Chow.—Cut in half, and remove the seeds from twenty-five peppers; soak in salted water for three or four hours; chop fine and twice as much chopped cabbage as peppers; one tablespoonful each of ground cloves, allspice, mustard seed, whole—and salt; mix thoroughly; cover with cold vinegar, and tie down.

Apple Float.—One pint of good, stewed apples, which are free from lumps, whites of three eggs, well beaten, four tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar. Beat the apple, eggs and sugar together until stiff enough to stand alone. Make a soft, boiled custard; flavor with vanilla; pour into a deep dish, and pile the float on top.

Currant Cake.—Take the whites of six eggs, a cup of sugar, two cups of flour, half a cup of butter, half a cup of sweet milk, a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a teaspoonful of soda, and a cup of currants. Rub the butter and sugar to a cream; beat up the whites of the eggs; add the eggs, milk, and flour to the butter and sugar, a little at a time; spice with nutmeg.

Lemon Meringue.—Beat the yolks of six eggs with a patent beater until they are thick, add the juice of two lemons and their rind, grated, and a cup of sugar. Cook in a farina kettle. When the mixture begins to thicken add the whites of the eggs beaten till they stand alone. Stir constantly till quite stiff. Line a deep dish with sponge cake; pour in the mixture, and cover all with the beaten whites of two eggs, and four spoonfuls of sugar. Brown in a quick oven. This is a nice substitute for jelly cake.

Tomato Catsup.—Wash and remove the stems from one peck of ripe tomatoes; crush, and put on to boil in a porcelain kettle until the pulp is dissolved; press through a fine sieve and boil five hours, adding two ounces of salt, one ounce of mace, one tablespoonful of black pepper, and one teaspoonful of red, one tablespoonful of cloves, seven tablespoonfuls of mustard, one of celery seed—tied in a bag; stir almost constantly. When done, turn into a crock to cool, and when cold, take out the bag of celery seed, add one teacupful of vinegar. Bottle; seal and keep in a cool, dark place.

Sweet Corn Soup.—This is very nice when properly made and seasoned. The outer part only should be cut, and the rest scraped from the cobs, the same as for drying. Add as much water as there is corn, and boil slowly, fifteen minutes, pouring in a little more water should it boil dry. Then add three pints of rich milk to ten ears of corn; add salt; butter as much as you choose; let come to a boil and serve hot. I prefer the use of sweet cream to milk, in which case the butter may be omitted, or at least less used.

A Remedy for Weak Eyes.—A simple remedy for weak or sore eyes is recommended, as follows: Get a five-cent cake of elder flowers at the druggist's, and steep in one gill of soft water. It must be steeped in bright tin or earthenware; strain nicely, and then add three drops of laudanum; bottle it tight, and keep in a cool place; then use it as a wash, letting some of it get in the eyes. Follow this, and relief is certain. If the eyes are painful or much sore, make small soft compresses, wet in the mixture, and bind over the eyes at night. The above is harmless and sure. If the eyes are badly inflamed, use it very freely; and a tea made of elder flowers and taken internally will help cleanse the blood. Pure rock salt and water will strengthen your weak eyes if you bathe them daily in it. Avoid mixtures or washes containing mineral or other poisons.

Scientific.

Tramways.—As early as the year 1676, rails of oak or other hard wood are shown by Mr. Clark to have been in use in the colliery districts of England. Not long after this time it became a common practice to nail down bars of wrought iron on the top of the timber sleepers. It was found that, whereas, a horse upon the common road could draw 8 bolls or 1,700 pounds of coal, his power of draught upon the tramway amounted to 19 bolls or 4,200 pounds. The wrought iron bars not being rigid enough to prevent bending or breaking at the ends under the weight of the trucks, the use of cast iron was introduced by the Coalbrook Dale Iron Company in 1767. The rails were cast in lengths of 5 feet 4 inches wide and 1¼ inches thick, with three holes whereby they were nailed down to the longitudinal wooden sleepers, the whole being kept true to gauge by cross-sleepers of wood of about the length of the ordinary carriage or wagon axle. Here was the germ of the development of the modern locomotive system. On the introduction of steam it became needful that the traffic should be kept from that of the common roads, and that the new tracks should be subject gradients and curves suited to the locomotive. The main lines of communication were thus rapidly occupied by a network of railways. A reaction however set in on its being found that railways, besides their vast expense, were lacking in adaptability to the subordinate lines of traffic which followed roads and streets. The convenient and unpretentious tramway began to be again thought of, worked as of old by horse power upon common roads. It was in the United States that the modern tram-road was earliest employed, the first section of the New York and Harlem line being laid down in 1832 to a gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches. It proved however, unpopular, and was soon taken up. Twenty years later M. Lombat, a French engineer, obtained leave to lay down a line of street tramways in New York, which rapidly expanned and became the distinguishing feature of traffic in most American cities and towns, in which the streets are laid out in a way better adapted to this mode of locomotion than is the narrow and winding streets of our older country, while the number of other vehicles is comparatively far less. —*Saturday Review.*

The Inventor of Gas Lights.—The inventor of gas lights is said to have been a Frenchman, Phillippe le Bon, an engineer of roads and bridges, who, in 1772, adopted the idea of using, for the purposes of illumination, the gases distilled during the combustion of wood. He labored for a long time in the attempt to perfect his crude invention, and it was not till 1799 that he confided his discovery to the institute. In September, 1800, he took out a patent, and in 1801 he published a memorial containing the result of his researches. Le Bon commenced by distilling wood in order to obtain from it gas, oil, pitch and pyroligneous acid; but his work indicated the possibility of obtaining gas by distillation from fatty or oily substances. From 1799 to 1802 Le Bon made numerous experiments. He established at Havre his first therolamps; but the gas which he obtained, being a mixture of carburetted hydrogen and oxide of carbon, but imperfectly freed from its impurities, gave only a feeble light and involved an insupportable odor and the result was that but little favor was shown to the new discovery; the inventor inventually died, ruined by his experiments. The English soon put into practice the crude idea of Le Bon. In 1804 one Winsor patented and claimed the credit of inventing the process of lighting by gas; in 1806 several shops in Birmingham were illuminated by gas manufactured by the process of Winsor and Murdock. Among those who first used this new light was Watt, the inventor of the steam engine. In 1816 the first use of gas was made in London, and it was not until 1818 that this invention, really of French origin, was applied to France.

Simple Fire Detector.—A device for indicating fire in any one of a series or suite of rooms has been made by drawing a long iron wire through all the rooms near the ceiling. One end is fixed to the wall, and the other is secured to a common house-bell hung on a spring. In each room the wire is broken and the gap is closed by a small strip of gutta-percha. Under each piece of gutta-percha is a short, slack piece of chain, so that when it melts the ends of the wire will still be held secure. In case of a fire in any room the gutta-percha melts (at one hundred degrees Fahrenheit), and the wire is drawn apart by a weight at the end where the bell is placed. This frees the spring and the bell rings. The bit of chain prevents the weight from falling, and, as each room is provided with a different length of chain, the distance the weight has fallen records the room where the wire parted. This is a very cheap and simple device. —*Sacramento (Cal.) Record-Union.*

The Utilization of Weeds.—Ralph Waldo Emerson has described weeds as plants whose use has not been discovered. Too often men are content to call a plant a weed and then proceed to exterminate it without making any attempt to find out its possible uses. An Indian writer, Mr. George W. Strettell, considers from his experience gained in the Indian Forest Department, that a large revenue might be derived from such plants, especially those yielding fiber—plants which require no care in cultivation, which will grow in land utterly unsuited to any other crops, and which yield fiber practically proved to be well adapted to the manufacture of paper and textile fabrics. He advocates the cultivation, at first if need be experimentally, and on a small scale, of several different plants, and especially of one, the *Calotropis gigantea*. The fiber of this plant has been pronounced by paper makers and manufacturers of textile fabrics, as excellent; and he shows convincingly that after allowing for the cost of cultivation and of extracting the fiber, the raw material might be sold at such a price as to add considerably to the Imperial revenue.

Next to the discovery of plants yielding products now in demand for industrial or medical purposes, we may rank the invention of new uses for the products of plants now considered useless. But a small portion of the vegetable world has yet been made tributary to man; and from past experience it is safe to predict that even the most noxious of weeds may yet prove to be of the highest utility.

Humorous.

—Cincinnati is as celebrated for its vineyards as it is for its wine.

—For what port is a man generally bound during courtship? Bound to Havre (have her).

—Who pacifies the cross tree on board a ship?—*N. Y. Mail* When she gets very cross the spank-her is called in, we believe.—*Phila. Bulletin.*

—Young mother gives her child a stick of candy, and, to teach it politeness, says, "What do children say when they get candy?" "More!"

—Cider may be a good temperance drink, but i can manage to git so drunk on it that i kant tell one of the 10 commandments from a by-law of a base ball klub.—*Josh Billings.*

—Hand-to-hand encounters are superseding the deadly knife and pistol in affairs of love. A lover with a bloody nose is not quite so romantic an object as one on a stretcher, but he wears better.—*Nycum Adv.*

—Nice old gentleman he was; big white waistcoat, low cut shoes, bald head and silver bowed spectacles. He led in the singing on Sunday evening in the hotel parlor, and sang that old-fashioned bass in "Coronation" and "China" in that sonorous up-and-down style which country choirsters used to practice in accompanying big fiddles, and withal had the bland, benevolent look of a good old up-country deacon.

He was "looking round the house" next night, and stepped in where some of the boys were playing cards—something where they were talking of "calls and raises and seeing" The boys looked a little disconcerted, but the old man didn't say anything till the hand was played out, and one of the party, under pretense of having an engagement, winked to the others and said he must go, intending to break up till the old man had gone away and then resume the game, but he had scarce turned his back when the aged visitor remarked:

"I wonder he didn't 'raise' ye with the hand he held."

"Do you understand the game?" asked one of the party, taking a cigar from his mouth.

"Wall, a leetle; I've seen 'em playing on it, an' sometimes thort I'd like to take a hand jes' for fun."

"Just so," said another; "suppose you try a game or two with us."

"Wall, I don't mind, jes' for the fun er the thing." So the old man sat down and with a good deal of instruction managed to get through with the game and won on the penny ante. "Thar," said he, "if that fellar that's gone had been spunky and put in $5 he'd get it, instead of these eight cents, wouldn't he?"

"Why, certainly," said one of the men; "certainly; it's your deal, uncle. Now, why don't you go in for a $5 ante?"

"Wall," said the old fellow, throwing around the cards, "I dunno but I will; but I haint got nothing but a $20 bill that I drew outen the bank to come here with."

"Well, uncle," said the other, gathering up and glancing at his cards, "I'll go yer twenty, and you can put it in the missionary box when you win it if you like."

"Sho! so I kin," said the old man; "I don't think it would be gambollin' at all ef that's the case."

"Not at all," said the other, winking to his companions.

"Wall, then I don't care if I do go yer this 'ere other fifty—but I 'spose you'll think I'm doin' on this to skear ye—but our denomination's tarnal poor, and a big contribution is just what they're hankerin' arter."

"Oh, no; I cover your fifty, uncle; we ought to be liberal, you know," and so the game went on till finally the old man remarked: "Wall, I'd no idee I had this ere roll of bills in my pocket—so ye call, do ye?—$500 up! yes, you hev got three picters—three queens and a jack! Well, 'tis kinder queer I got the tother queen—haw! haw! haw!"

"Yes, I'm sorry for you, but what are your other cards," said the young man triumphantly.

"Well, three of them iz kings—why darn it, all that ere pot o' money's mine, young feller!" said he stretching out a powerful paw and squeezing the bills out of the hand of the young man, who had already begun to roll them up. "I'raps, mister, you'd like to take your hand again," said he to the other, who had returned meantime; "they are going to sing some sam tunes upstairs before goin' to bed, and I promised I'd jine 'em."

There was a blank look of amazement in that circle as he left, and the thought forced itself into more than one mind of the danger of trusting to appearances.

TERRIFIC STORM.

TERRORS OF A NEVADA CLOUD-BURST.

Yesterday, about 12 o'clock, while the citizens of Reno were wishing for another shower, Thomas canyon, southwest of Reno, was visited by the largest cloud-burst ever experienced in this section of the country. The torrent seemed to gather about Mount Rose and was partly broken at that point. Its main force was spent lower down, at a point between Douglass's camp and what is called the new mill. Douglass is working about one hundred and fifty men, and his camp is two and a half miles below the point where the torrent fell and in Thomas canyon. The line of force was north and south, or across the canyon, and huge masses of earth and rock were hurled down the side of the mountain by the flood. Logs were carried away, and huge stumps, which could not have been moved by ordinary force, were torn up by the roots.

The torrent was at times two hundred yards wide and eighteen inches deep; then as the canyon confined the waters it would be sixty yards wide and probably four feet in depth. This huge volume of water sped down the canyon, carrying all before it; masses of wood, trees, rocks and earth were carried along with it. Two hundred and fifty cords of wood were scattered from where they were awaiting shipment, carried away and partially buried in the sand. In one place the water tore its way directly through the side of the canyon, making a cut fifteen feet deep and twenty feet wide. From these facts some idea of the force of this deluge may be formed. The cloud continued to discharge its burden for three hours, when it ceased, and the waters were soon spread out over the plain below. Two men happened to be near the point of contact when the waters began to fall, and fearing for the safety of Douglass's men, one of these men started down the mountain side at the top of his speed to warn the men. Here ensued an exciting race. The messenger, assured that there was death in the camp below, redoubled his speed, while the angry flood crept along beside him, as if conscious of his intention to warn its victims. Here and there a mass of rocks or pile of logs would stop the flood, and the runner would gain, but soon the obstruction would give way with a crash and he would again be urged to his utmost speed to keep ahead. The camp was at last reached, however, and the few men who were about got out of harm's way just as the angry waters broke in on the camp and carried everything portable down the mountain side.—*Reno (Nev.) Gazette, Aug. 15.*

THE PROFANE PARSON.

A TALE IN FIVE CHAPTERS.

Chapter I.—Once upon a time, in the dark ages of the nineteenth century, there lived a gentleman who held a commission in the army.

Chapter II.—But he had serious scruples as to whether it was right or wrong to kill his fellow creatures at the bidding of others, or, in fact, whether it was not a crime to kill his fellow-men at all.

Chapter III.—He decided that it *was* a crime, notwithstanding the glitter and tinsel thrown about the murderous profession; so he sold his commission and entered the church, thinking that as he was an intelligent man, and not a mere machine, he might do more good to humanity in that line than in the other *line*.

Chapter IV.—One day, discoursing to a rustic congregation on the folly of using profane language, he told them that he himself was once guilty of the same folly, and addicted to the same vice, but that he had completely conquered the habit.

Chapter V.—A flying insect hearing the boast, winked his eye at the congregation, and thought, "I'll put him to the test." So, making a circuit round the old gentleman's head, he 'lit upon his nose.

"See!" said the reverend gentleman; "here is an illustration. At one time I should have sworn awfully at this fly—but look now." Raising his hand, he said, gently, "Go away little fly, *go away.*" But the fly only tickled his nose the more.

The reverend gentleman, raising his hand with some vehemence, made a grab at the offender; and, being successful, opened it to throw the insect from him, when, in extreme disgust, he exclaimed, "Why, d—n it, it's *a wasp!*"

Horror of the rustic congregation, failure of the illustration, and

THE END.

THE OPAL COLLECTON AT THE EXPOSITION.

In admiring the wonderful collection of opals that Mr. Goldschmidt, proprietor of the famous mines at Dubuik, exposes in the Hungarian section, we can hardly believe that these stones once served as playthings for the children of the uncivilized inhabitants of the Carpathian mountains. There is nothing more alluring than this stone, which resembles a crystallized rainbow. It is said that the opal fades with time, if it has remained too long buried in the earth. It changes six months after its extraction; but, if at the expiration of that time it does not lose its brilliancy, then it will never change. It is well known that the English aristocracy go wild over opals, and her majesty Queen Victoria possesses a splendid collection. I believe it is her favorite jewel. In France, lately, it has fallen a victim to an unjust prejudice, and the ex-Empress Eugene (superstitious as the rest of Spaniards) looks opon it with no enviable eye. Besides the queen of England having a love for this calumniated stone, the courts of Austria and Germany adore it. Superstition like that should not be encouraged in this enlightened age of ours; and it is ridiculous that for a foolish notion this beautiful stone should be banished from the female parure one of its handsomest ornaments. We like better the superstition of the ancient Romans, who thought that the opal was the stone of love, and lost its color when the woman who wore it was unfaithful. *En somne*, this stone with its tri-color reflection, seems to be the true stone for the republic.—*North American.*

—Samuel F. B. Morse, of telegraphic fame, studied painting in England, and was the first person to deliver a course of public lectures upon art in America.

Register's Liniment is unequalled for man or animals.—See advertisement in another column.

GETTING UP IN THE DARK.

Did you ever try the experiment of getting up in the dark, and doing your utmost to prevent the people in the house from hearing you? Nobody gets up in the dark, be the object ever so innocent, without feeling a strong desire to perform the operation noiselessly and secretly. Why it is we do not know. It is one of the mysteries of nature. You just try it some night, and note the result. You pride yourself, perhaps, on the order which pervades everything in your establishment. You are in the habit of telling your friends that you have "a place for everything, and everything is in its place"—that you could get up in the darkest night, and know just where to put your hand on anything in the house. But when you come to attempt it, quite likely things may not turn out just as you expected them to. You slide out of bed stealthily, and put one foot down first, and then the other, and feel—to be sure that you have hit the floor, and are not being betrayed into any hidden pitfalls. If there is a cat in the house you will step on her tail the first thing, and the howl she will set up will be as penetrating as the toot of a French horn and the grind of two broken-winded hand-organs. Your blood will curdle, for there is no sound so full of horrors as the yell of a down-trodden cat in the night-time. When you have recovered your self-control you will strike out afresh; and, generally speaking, the first thing you will bring up against will be the rocker of a chair, or "a love of a hassock." If there is a box of buttons, or an ink-stand, or a basket of fancy work, including a score of spools of thread and silk, you will be sure to knock it over; and it will make clatter enough to arouse the whole house, and impress the timid ones with the fixed idea that the mansion has been burglarized, and that everybody is in danger of being murdered in their beds. You grope after the matches, but the match-safe has moved away since you went to bed. Then you remember that there were some stray matches on the mantel a few days ago. You search for them, and off goes a Bohemian vase, or a piece of pottery, and smashes itself all to flinders on the floor at your feet. You stand dismayed—afraid to step lest you step on broken glass; and immediately you call to mind all the stories you have heard and read of lock-jaw and paralysis which resulted from stepping on broken glass. You find a match at last and scratch it on the wall-paper, regardless of the "scratch my back," in perforated board and sandpaper, which you know must hang somewhere in your vicinity, but just where—ah! that is the question. You scratch the wrong end of the match, and you quickly reverse it and try the other; but both are the wrong ends. The days of its usefulness are past—somebody has scratched it before. Before you get back to bed in safety you have stumbled over half the chairs in the room, upset an ottoman, barked your ankles, bruised your feet, exhausted your patience, and roused up everybody in the house; and next morning at breakfast you will be asked by the whole household, severally and collectively, what on earth you were up all night for, tearing the house down!

SEIZED BY AN ANEMONE.

A diver engaged at the Moyne river, South Australia, in removing the reef, had rather a narrow escape from losing his life some time ago. It appears that Mr. Smale had fired off a charge of dynamite and displaced a large quantity of stone at the bottom of the river. He went down to prepare for lifting these stones, by aid of chains, into the punt. While engaged in rolling over a large stone he saw something which he supposed at the time was a piece of clean-looking kelp moving about in front of where he was working. In a few seconds this object came in contact with the diver's arm, about which it quickly coiled, partly holding him. Immediately Mr. Smale touched what was wrapped around his arm he became aware of his position, and tried to extricate himself from the grasp of a "sea-devil," but found it a far more difficult task than he anticipated. Catching hold of the part hanging from his arm, he walked along the bottom of the river toward the end of it, when he saw he was firmly held by one of the feelers of a large octopus, better known among sailors as the "devil fish." Mr. Smale tried to pull the anemone from its hold of the rocks, but without effect for some time. At last the animal, perhaps thinking it had not sufficient hold or power upon its prey, loosened itself from the stones and quickly transferred its feelers and arms around the diver's legs and body. In this position Mr. Smale thought the best thing for him to do was to get up on deck as soon as possible, and he quickly made tracks for the ladder, which reached from the deck of the punt to the bottom of the river. The diver was certainly a curious-looking object when he came up. The huge, ugly-looking thing appeared to be entangled all over him, holding him in a firm embrace. However, Mr. Smale's fellow-workmen were not long in freeing him from the unfriendly hug of his submarine companion. The body portion of the octopus was only about the size of a soup-plate, with eyes in its head like those of a sheep, but it possessed nine arms, each about four feet in length, at the butt as thick as a man's wrist, tapering off at the end to as fine a point as that of a pen-knife. Thus it could spread over an area of nine feet in diameter. All the way along the underneath part of each feeler are suckers every quarter of an inch, giving immense power. Mr. Smale declares it was powerful enough to keep three men under water.

CHARACTER.

The difference of character are never more distinctly seen than in times when men are surrounded by difficulties and misfortunes. There are some who, when disappointed by the failure of an undertaking, from which they had expected great things, make up their minds at once to exert themselves no longer against what they call fate, as if thereby they could avenge themselves upon fate; others grow desponding and hopeless; but a third class of men will rouse themselves just at such moments and say to themselves, "the more difficult it is to attain my ends, the more honorable it will be;" and this is a maxim which everyone should impress upon himself as a law. Some of those who are guided by it prosecute their plans with obstinacy, and so perish; others, who are more practical men, if they have failed in one way, will try another.

—The receipts of flour and grain at the six lake ports of Chicago, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, Cleveland and Duluth, for the first eight months of this year, were 3,873,164 barrels as against 2,893,280 barrels in 1877, a gain of 971,884 barrels. Reducing flour to its equivalent wheat, the aggregate receipts foot up to the enormous quantity of 140,048,804 bushels of grain of all kinds, showing an increase of 53,599,619 bushels over 1877, the figures of that year being 86,449,185 bushels.

—"Leander," murmured she, as she gazed heavenward, "I wonder where all the birds that we see flying above us go to at night?" The voice of the small brother on the doorstep answered: "Go to sleep." The silence could have been cut with a brick.

—They were playing croquet. The balls struck and remained in contact. "Do they kiss," said he. "Y-e-s," drawled she, and looked unutterable sweetness. But the booby couldn't see it, and went on with the stupid game.

—Soliloquy by a tippler: The public always notices when you have been drinking and never when you are thirsty.

—New buckles for belts are of silver, engraved in quaint designs. Others are of pearl, and very handsome ones are of jet.

—A Harrisburg witness fixed an event from "the time the circus was there."

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