THE NIGHT "AFTER" CHRISTMAS.

A COMPANION POEM TO "THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS."

'Twas the night after Christmas, when all through the house
Every soul was a-bed and as still as a mouse;
The stockings (so lately St. Nicholas' care),
Were emptied of all that was eatable there.

The darlings had duly been tucked in their beds,
With very full stomachs and pains in their heads.

I was dozing away in my new cotton cap,
And Nancy was rather far gone in a nap.
When out in the nursery there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my sleep, crying "What is the matter!"

I flew to each bedside, still half in a doze,
Tore open the curtains and threw off the clothes,
While the light of a candle served clearly to show
The piteous plight of the objects below;
For what to the father's fond eye should appear,
But the little pale face of each sick little dear,
For each pet that had crammed itself as full as a tick,
I knew in a moment now felt like Old Nick.
Their pulses were rapid, their breathings the same;
What their stomachs rejected I'll mention by name:
Now Turkey, now Stuffing, Plum Pudding of course,
And Custards, and Crullers, and Cranberry Sauce.

Before outraged Nature all went to the wall,
Yes, Lollypops, Flapdoodle, dinner and all.
Like pellets which urchins from pop-guns let fly,
Went figs, nuts and raisins, jams, jelly and pie,
Till each error of diet was brought to my view,
To the shame of mamma and Santa Claus too.

I turned from the sight, to my bed-room stepped back.
And brought out a vial marked "Pure Ipecac,"
When my Nancy exclaimed, for their suf ferings shocked her,
"Don't yon think you had better, love, go for the doctor?"

I went and was scarcely back under my roof,
When I heard the sharp clatter of old "Jalap's" hoof;
I might say that I hardly had turned myself round,
When the doctor came into the room with a bound.
He was covered with mud from his head to his foot,
And the suit he had on was his very best suit;
He hardly had time to put *that* on his back,
And he looked like a Falstaff half fuddled with sack.
His eyes, how they twinkled! Had the doctor got merry?
His cheeks looked like *Port* and his breath smelt like *Sherry;*
He hadn't been shaved for a fortnight or so,
And his beard nor his skin wasn't as "white as the snow;"
But inspecting their tongues in spite of their teeth,
And drawing his watch from his waistcoat beneath,

He felt each pulse, saying, "Each little belly
Must get rid"—here he laughed—"of the rest of that jelly."
I gazed on each, chubby, plump, sick little elf,
And groaned, when he said so, in spite of myself;
But a wink of his eye, when he physicked our Fred,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He didn't prescribe, but he went straight to his work,
And dosed all the rest, gave his trousers a jerk,
And adding directions while blowing his nose,
He buttoned his coat, from his chair he arose,
Then jumped in his gig, gave old "Jalap" a whistle,
And "Jalap" dashed of as though pricked by a thistle;

But the doctor exclaimed as he drove out of sight,
"They'll be all well to-morrow—Good night, Jones! Good night!"

Domestic.

NOVELTIES IN DECORATION.—Almost everybody collects something, and one hears of odd things sometimes. Lately I have made the acquaintance of a gentleman who has been for many years collecting slippers, unmade, and in great variety, and I have seen in his own private room (which much resembled a lady's boudoir) the use he has put them to. Wherever he went he bought a pair, perhaps more, of unmade slippers. India has supplied him with some and most of the others had either been made for him by ladies or had been purchased at bazars, where he had been obliged to buy. These he converted into a valance for his mantelshelf, receptacles for allumettes to hang on the wall, and table-cover borders. The effect was really very good indeed. The slippers were carefully arranged, according to color and design, and matched as to size. They were cut out round the outside, but not between the two sides, sewn close together, and then on to a foundation. The toes formed vandykes. Most of these slippers were on black or colored cloth, but now and then came a canvas-worked one, and this was filled up with cross-stitch in wool that matched the work, but did not take away the worked shape of the foot. At the top, round the table, was a cord of various colors, forming a heading. One small table had a border composed entirely of unmade Indian and Turkish slippers mounted on dark red velvet, and looked beautiful. Two of these were lined with satin, made up on cardboard, without a heel, like bed-room slippers, and attached to a nail by means of a bow of satin. They hung on each side of the fire-place and held allumettes. The mantel-shelf valance was made in much the same way, only all the slippers were cut out, and all mounted on the same red velvet as that which covered the mantel-board. There were two brackets covered thus; each had three slippers, a pair and an odd one in the centre. Perhaps this may be an idea for any one who has many pairs of unmade slippers lying by them, which they had been obliged to buy at bazars or for charity. Talking of slippers, very capital bath ones can be made of white, soft sheeting or felt, by cutting out the shape, binding it with red braid, and sewing it on to a sole, previously bound with white or colored braid. The other day I saw some small square white bath blankets, made to look pretty by button-holing them round the edge with very coarse red wool, working stars at intervals in red and blue, and between the stars feather stitches of yellow wool. These had been embroidered by the lady of the house. There was a jug cosy made out of one of these white blankets (an old torn one) in the room, worked with coarse colored worsteds, and lined with red flannel. It kept the water hot for a late riser. Some flower-pots in a drawing-room appeared to me very pretty. They were composed of pieces of wood glued together to form the shape, and ornamented with leather work. Leaves, clusters of filberts, oak, apples, etc., were beautifully copied in the leather and arranged on the wood; the real pot containing the flower stood inside. One, which had been gilded, stood in the centre of the dining-table and looked beautiful, with a maiden-hair fern hanging over. The same would look very well silvered. Some skulls of animals, gilded and mounted on velvet medallions, looked effective hanging on a wall. The teeth and tusks were not gilded, only the skulls. An ornamental cover for a large photograph book was shown me the other day. The cover was dark blue stamped velveteen, the same as is now used for covering small tables. In the centre there was a small but perfect imitation of a lace fan, with gilded sticks. First the lace—two pieces of Valenciennes—delicately laid on, one below the other, and joined, formed the fan; then the gilded card-board, previously arranged, was laid on and secured with a small white silk cord and tassel. The fan was put on in a slanting position, and looked so real that one felt inclined to pick it up. On the first stick (or the outside one) was the monogram of the worker, in colors, laid on thick, with Chinese white in dots, looking like pearls. The same design might be carried out in satin, with a small crewel worked pattern on it. A cluster of roses and leaves, worked in silk on serge, looks very well, and makes a book very ornamental for a table. Only the side which is uppermost need be worked. The cover is fastened on by lacing it across with thread from side to side on the inside of the cover of the book itself. A beautiful album cover I saw was of the new color "old-gold" satin, with three peacock's feathers tacked on, the stalks downward. They looked as if they were tied on in the centre by a bow of an odd dark red satin. A tea cosy (when the tea appeared) was made in the same way, only quilted, and the small thick soft muslin tablecloth had a band about five inches wide of the satin, with an edging on either side of the smaller neck feathers of the peacock—it was very effective. The teaset was uncommon, for the china was black, with gold handles and rims. A good many specimen glasses, with scarlet geraniums, enlivened the appearance of the tea table. The teapot, sugar basin and cream jug were silver gilt. At the same house, the red druggeted up some of the stairs and along the passage had good-sized stars of white worsted, worked at equal distances on either side, which had a good effect. It had been done by the children.—*London Queen.*

Scientific.

A peculiar kind of locomotive engine has been contrived to meet a special need in England. The railway for which it is constructed is designed to be laid upon the surface of the ground wherever it may be necessary to undertake earthworks or to transport material, the ordinary methods of reducing irregularities by cuttings and embankments being out of the question in field operations. The engine is therefore intended for ascending and descending sharp gradients, and is also fitted with an apparatus for hauling up and lowering loaded trucks. A hill too steep to be ascended with a load behind may be surmounted by the engine alone, and it may then wind up the load after it.

A new industry to be added to those now located in Mansfield, Mass., is that of the mining and manufacture of ocher. The deposit covers twenty acres, and appears to be of an average depth of three and a half feet. The business is to be prosecuted immediately.

Scientific Notes.

The underground cable from Strassburg to Kiel is now working with complete success.

M. Pasteur has received the decoration of a grand officer of the Legion of Honor. Edison and Elisha Gray are made chevaliers.

The principles of acoustics are but poorly understood. As a general rule the ceilings of halls and churches should be at a moderate elevation only. Sometimes the hanging up of flags or draperies will improve the acoustic properties, sometimes a hood or false ceiling becomes necessary. The whispering gallery of St. Paul's, London, offers an interesting example of one of the principles of aeouscits.

Vegetable ivory is the hardened kernel of the nut of a species of palm, of which there are several kinds. The Brazilian palm (*phytelephas macrocarpus*) grows freely in Central America and Peru, and yields what is known as the corosus nut of commerce. When shipped, the kernels are quite milky and soft, like white wax, and during the voyage they ripen and become hard. The nut is chiefly used for making buttons and other small articles.

According to recent reports, there is now great enthusiasm over educational matters in Japan. There are 24,000 common schools in the empire, with an average attendance of 2,000,000. There are 216 high schools, with an average attendance of 18,000, and 90 normal schools, with an attendance of 8000. The course of study in the common schools is similar to that in this country, and the schools, generally speaking, have been modeled on the American plan. The teachers number 45,000, and are licensed by the Government Board of Education.

The article known as vegetable isinglass, and which has hitherto been derived from eastern Asia, is now extracted from French factories. It is, in its crude state, a yellowish gelatine, but which, after repeated experiments under the auspices of the Industrial Society of Rouen, has been successfully converted into what bids fair to prove the best sizing for cotton cloth known. Macerated in water for twelve hours, boiled for fifteen minutes, and stirred till it is cold, the article gives a clear solution, which, as it does not again become a jelly, can be laid in its old state upon any textile fabric, and be left to dry. One invaluable property it possesses is that of defying, at common temperatures, damp and mildew, and is therefore being applied to give luster not only to French prints and muslins, but to woolens and silks.

Humorous.

—William Augustus to sleepy roommate; "Come John Henry, why don't you get up with the lark, as I do?" John Henry, grimly, "Been up with him all night."

—"Falstaff asks 'What's honor?' as though it was hard to tell. Just let my wife sit behind another women at church and she'll tell *what's on her* in less than ten minutes."

—Did you ever hear a hogshead speak? If so, what was it the hogshead? —*Boston Transcript.* Can't say that we have, but we have seen hogshead in tiers.—*Norristown Herald.*

—A lady remonstrated with her butcher for his cruel treatment in putting little lambs to death. "Why, madame," said he, "you would not eat them alive, would you?"

—A retired detective, in writing up the records of his twenty-five years experience, was greatly surprised to discover that on two or three occasions he had come very near catching somebody.

—The lad who accidentally sat down on a red-hot stove, pensively remarked that he was reminded of the retreating general who burned his breeches behind him.—*Cincinnati Saturday Night.*

—When a man is hanging by his toes from the cornice of a high building, and expects momentarily to drop, nothing so completely reassures and so thoroughly satisfies him as the sudden discovery that he is safely at home in bed.

—A policeman, who had offered his hand to a young woman and had been refused, arrested her and took her to the station-house. "What is the charge against this woman?" asked the Lieutenant. "Resisting an offer, sir," was the reply. She was discharged and so was the officer.

—An irascible old gentleman who formerly held the position of Justice of the Peace, was recently accosted in the street in a manner that did not come up to his honor's idea of the respect due to him. "Young man," said he, "I fine you twenty shillings for contempt of court." "Why, judge," said the offender, "you are not in session." "This court," replied the judge, "is always in session, and consequently always an object of contempt."

—The Boston *Transcript* informs us that Miss Frances E. Willard has returned to Chicago, and will devote herself to temperance this winter. We are glad to hear this, for while we have never seen Miss Willard intoxicated, it certainly is a rueful spectacle to see a handsome young woman in this condition. It occurs to us, however, that she might have found a better place than Chicago in which to turn over the new leaf.—*D——Derrick.*

—Advice to those going gunning: Don't point your gun at yourself. Don't point your gun at any one else. Don't use your gun for a walking-stick. Don't climb over a fence, and pull your gun through muzzle foremost. Don't throw your gun into a boat so that the trigger will catch in the seat and the charge be deposited in your stomach. Don't use your gun for a sledge-hammer. Don't carry your gun full-cocked. Don't carry your gun with the hammer down. Don't be a fool. Don't you forget it.—*Forest and Stream.*

—Five years ago there were living in Williamstown ten young ladies, beautiful, highly educated, intimate friends, and moving in the best circles of society. And since then? Ah, our pen almost shrinks from telling the fate of these girls, but we must print it as a warning to others. Two of them married Congressmen, another linked her fate with that of an editor, the fourth wedded a clergyman, another writes poetry for the *Waverly Magazine*, the sixth married a humorous paragrapher and looks as sad as an orphan asylum, and the remaining four joined a croquet club and everlastingly ruined their sweet tempers thereby.—*Nor. Herald.*

AN ESSAY ON FOODS.

The two great duties which food has to perform in the body are to maintain the heat of the body and to supply material for its growth and renewal. Hence foods are divided by writers on the subject into carbonaceous or heat-producers, and nitrogeneous or muscle-makers. This division, however, is arbitrary and of only partial application, since nearly all carbonaceous foods contain nitrogen, and nearly all nitrogeneous foods contain carbon. In lean beef, which ranks with nitrogeneous foods, there is more or less fat or carbon, and in vegetables richest in nitrogen, as beans, peas, cabbage and onions, there are sugar and starch. So that all foods are more or less nitrogeneous, all foods are more or less carbonaceous, and those terms are used with relation to foods simply to indicate which quality they possess in the greater degree. The chief function of the three great carbonaceous foods—sugar, fat and starch—is to keep up the animal heat, and if more of these substances is used than is necessary for this purpose, it is stored up in the body and produces corpulence. Hence all foods containing large proportions of these elements must be avoided by those who do not wish to increase their weight. In the potato, for example, the composition is, for every hundred parts, water 75, nitrogen 2.1, starch 18.8, sugar 3.2, fat 0.2, salts, 0.7. It will be seen that the proportion of starch is nine times as great as that of the nitrogen, and the sugar also largely exceeds the nitrogen.

Wheat flour contains in 100 parts, water 10.7; phosphate 0.96, nitrogen 2.4, albuminoids, 15.4, starch 63.4, cellulose 9.3. Wheat flour, therefore, contains more starch in proportion than potato does, but the conversion of a large part of the starch into dextrine by toasting bread, neutralizes, in a degree, the fat-producing quality. Then, as four-fifths of all we eat supports respiration, there must of necessity be in our food four times as much carbon as there is nitrogen. The wheat alone will supply this matter sufficiently for persons tending to fatness, so that the starch in the potato is surplus, and should, therefore, be declined. In new milk, though the constituents vary with the kind and quality of food given to the producer of the milk, there are in every hundred parts, water 86, nitrogeneous matter 5.5, sugar 3.8, fat 3.6, salts 0.66. So, adding the fat and sugar together, they exceed the nitrogeneous matter, and hence milks rank among carbonaceous foods. But from the lime it contains, milk is the growing food, and better for children than any other food, since its constituents are blended together in just the proportions required by the growing child. Milk is also very grateful to men and women of large osseous development who are not inclined to corpulence, while small-boned and plump persons complain that it makes them "bilious." An egg weighing 1¾ ounces, contains 15.25 per cent. of carbon and two per cent. of nitrogen. In the classification referred to, eggs would rank next with carbonaceous foods, but they are so rich in the various salts required by the body that they are permitted, even in the diet of corpulent people. On the scale of nutrition beef has always been regarded as the kind of flesh which gives the best nutriment to the eater, while mutton and poultry are softer in texture and more delicate in flavor.

Fish is richer in phosphorous than flesh, but on the whole, less nutritious. It is recommended, however, that fish form a part of one meal every day. Next to the fish in nutritive qualities, eggs deserve mention, and then comes caseine or curd, which is strained from milk, but exists also in seeds, as peas, beans, almonds. Of all vegetables, peas and beans rank highest in nutritive qualities, as they contain from twenty-three to twenty-five per cent. of nitrogeneous matter. Of the grains, oats are the richest in nitrogen; wheat comes next; then, in order, maize, millet, rye, barley and rice, the latter being the least nutritious seed in extensive use. Fruits are nutritious to a greater or less degree, but are valuable chiefly for their flavors, the relish they give to food, the acids they contain which promote digestion, and the various salts which render them peculiarly grateful, not to the palate alone, but to the whole body. It is impossible in the space at command to do more than outline the subject. What has been said is intended to answer inquiries already made and to stimulate research in those who read. In the preparation of this brief article, Edward Smith's book on "Foods," which is a volume in the International Science Series, has been consulted, also Pereira on "Food and Diet," and also the articles on various kindred topics in the cyclopædias. To these we refer those who wish to pursue these inquiries further. In all these books the chemical composition of articles treated of is given, and there are tables showing the comparative values of foods with respect to their power to produce heat in the body, to promote its growth, and to restore its wasted tissues.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

CHANGE OF LIFE.

Change is the common feature of society—of life.

Ten years convert the population of schools into men and women, the young into fathers and matrons, make and marry fortunes, and bury the last generation but one.

Twenty years convert infants into lovers, fathers and mothers, decide men's fortunes and distinctions, convert active men and women into crawling drivelers, and bury all preceding generations.

Thirty years raise an active generation from nonentity, change fascinating beauties into bearable old women, convert lovers into grandfathers, and bury the active generation or reduce them to decrepitude or imbecility.

Forty years, alas! change the face of all society. Infants are growing old, the bloom of youth and beauty has passed away, two active generations have been swept from the stage of life, names once cherished are forgotten, unsuspected candidates for fame have started up from the exhaustless womb of nature.

And in fifty years—mature, ripe fifty years—half a century—what tremendous changes occur! How time writes her sublime wrinkles everywhere, in rock, river, forest, and cities, hamlets, villages, in the nature of men, and the destinies and aspects of all civilized society!

Let us pass on to eighty years—and what do we desire to see to comfort us in the world? Our parents are gone; our children have passed away from us into all parts of the world, to fight the grim and desperate battle of life. Our old friends—where are they? We behold a world of which we know nothing and to which we are unknown. We weep for generations long gone by—for lovers, for parents, for children, for friends in the grave. We see everything turned upside down by the fickle hand of fortune, and the absolute destiny of time. In a word, we behold the vanity of life, and are quite ready to lay down the poor burden and be gone.

GIVING GIFTS.

There are customs which are ever honored by their proper observance. Among these is the annual remembrance of friends, in courtesy, and of the necessitous by good-will offerings. Aside from the time-honored associations which come with the closing weeks of the year, the air itself, which already has an occasional "nipping and eager" sharpness upon its edge, is full of premonitions of the season for giving gifts. As the weeks close, the thoughtful are admonished. Preparation is wisely being made in this city for the proper diffusion of general relief to the destitute, insuring, it may be hoped, the greatest good to the greatest number, and preventing waste and improvident distribution. Aside from this systematic and general work, everybody has to look after especial clients.

The coming of the gift season is usually full of delightful bustle to some people, of trouble and anxiety to others, and of confusion, pleasant and unpleasant, to many. A little provision will meet these claims "without rebate." The custom, both of *exchanging* presents and of giving gifts where one does not expect a return, transforms holiday leisure into a busy work. It is usually not entirely satisfactory even to the generous, and, perhaps, it is least satisfactory to the most liberal. So many things are overlooked or forgotten until too late, that the season runs away with a sort of self-reproach, and with the purpose to "do better next year." This is a deferred annuity, which is not agreeable. Judicious planning, careful selection, and quiet examination as to *who* and *what*, go a great way toward preventing forgetfulness of those whom the giver is sometimes pained to find have been forgotten, and, what is of considerable importance also in these times, will make a little money go a great way, and more money go farther. The dealers are always ready to wait on purchasers, and if you know what you want, it can be found more readily now than when the rush of purchasers begin.

Among seasonable duties the payment of debts, if you have any, and the settlement of accounts are imperative. Debts, especially small ones, and accounts, particularly the personal, are always best avoided. Yet a habit has grown up of postponing and forgetting them until the inexorable New Year's date demands settlement and brings forgotten transactions to memory. Business arrangements marking specific dates for specific payments and collections are not here alluded to; though even in these the work of preparation will make the settlement a mere easy formality. It is a mistake, however, to confound personal and family expenses with business transactions, properly so called. The furnishers of personal and household articles to consumers do not—or should not—deal on time. And if you are indebted to those whose wages are their living, or whose transactions involve small demands on many people, be sure to get out of the list of small debtors before the old year is any nearer its close. To small creditors the debts due them are often of the largest consequence.—*Ledger.*

A WORD FOR THE WOMEN.

Women, of all others, especially those who have the cares of housekeeping and management of children, are subject to annoyances much more grievous, in the long run, than the greater sorrows of life. When the child cries, the father, unless he be a paragon of fathers, finds business suddenly calling him to meet a party, he remembers a very important engagement that he had forgotten, until the cross child refreshed his memory. The mother is a prisoner in her bedlam, and what wonder if at some time the patience fails, and if, with some long-tried and heavily-burdened soul, heart and hope give out at last? The great heroes are not those who have carried heaviest sorrows meekly, but those men who have endured daily contradictions of people and daily embarrassment of circumstances with meekness; the great heroines are those women that, under the incessant wear and tear of little vexations, have borne in obscurity the flower of patience and the fruit of long-suffering.

In great trials there are compensations. All the world of our acquaintance is looking at us, perchance, and the large stage upon which our fortitude or our integrity is exercised affords us some stimulus; or, at least, our egotism finds a satisfaction in conscious heroism. But there is a meanness about little cares that shut out this consolation. The great heroes are not those to whom the world builds monuments, and whose memoirs stand on all our shelves. We stumble over their unmarked graves in every cemetery. Only God's transplanting shall reveal them in their glory.

—"Who Art Thou?"—When Dr. Beadon was Rector of Eltham, in Kent, England, the text he one day undertook to preach from was, "Who art thou?" After reading the text he made (as was his custom) a pause, for the congregation to reflect upon the words; when a gentleman, in military dress, who at the instant was marching very sedately up the middle isle of the Church, supposing it a question addressed to him, to the surprise of all present replied, "I am, sir, an officer of the sixteenth regiment of foot, on a recruiting party here; and having brought my wife and family with me, I wish to be acquainted with the neighboring clergy and gentry." This so deranged the divine, and astonished the congregation, that though they attempted to listen with decorum, the discourse was not proceeded with without considerable difficulty.

—Kissing the baby may result in deforming its nose or bringing on near-sightedness. The safest plan is not to kiss a baby of the feminine persuasion until it attains the age of sixteen years. The cartilage of the nose is much stronger then.

—The Bishop of Melbourne, Australia, has given up a fifth of his income rather than abandon some outlaying stations where, owing to the distress, funds for the clergy were not forthcoming. He has given the $5000 sent him by his friends to found a theological scholarship in Trinity College.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

Frogs live from twelve to fifteen years (if not eaten.)

Ducks can fly at the rate of ninety miles an hour.

The crow can fly at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour.

The sparrow can fly at the rate of ninety-two miles an hour.

The falcon can fly at the rate of seventy-five miles an hour.

Hawks can fly at the rate of one hundred and fifty miles an hour.

Fair winds may make their flight three times greater.

The Australian dog and the shepherd dog of Egypt never bark.

In Spain there are 10,000,000 fine wooled merino sheep tended by 50,000 shepherds and guarded by 30,000 dogs.

Queen Isabella's jewels have been sold for $720,000 and she kept a few of the neatest bits just to show off now and then.

The old Alexandrian library contained 700,000 volumes, the largest ever brought together before the invention of printing.

Each square inch of skin contains 3,500 sweating tubes, or perspiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a little drain-tile one-fourth of an inch long, making an aggregate length of the entire surface of the body of 201,166 feet, or a tile ditch for draining the body almost forty miles long.

The skin is composed of three layers, and varies from one-fourth to one-eighth of an inch in thickness. Its average area in an adult is estimated to be 2,000 square inches. The atmospheric pressure being about fourteen pounds to the square inch, a person of medium size is subjected to a pressure of 28,000 pounds.

Leuwenhock has computed that 10,000 threads of the full-grown spider are not larger than a single hair of the beard. He calculates, further, that when young spiders first begin to spin, 400 of them are not larger than one of full grown—allowing which, 4,000,000 of a young spider's threads are not so large as the single hair of a man's beard.

The average weight of the brain of an adult male is three pounds and eight ounces; of a female, two pounds and four ounces. The nerves are all connected with it directly, or by the spinal marrow. These nerves, together with their branches and minute ramifications, probably exceed 10,000,000 in numbers, forming a "body guard" outnumbering by far the greatest army ever marshaled.

—Norwich, Conn., is laughing at one of her leading citizens who has an eye for economy. While walking along the street the other night, he heard what he supposed to be the hiss of escaping gas from an adjacent lamppost. Thinking it a pity to allow the gas to run to waste, he climbed laboriously up the post, and hanging on there in an uncomfortable attitude, he vainly applied match after match to the tip, a large crowd assembling to watch his movements. At last he gave up the attempt in disgust, and on reaching the ground discovered that the sound proceeded from the escaping steam of a peanut-roaster three doors below.

—Vermont is said to stand at the head of the New England States in the relative proportion of her agricultura population. Over fifty per cent. of all who are engaged in occupations are engaged in agriculture, while the percentage thus engaged in Maine is less than forty, in New Hampshire thirty-eight, in Massachusetts less than thirteen, in Connecticut about twenty-two, and in Rhode Island about thirteen per cent.

—"George," cried the elder Washington, "George, my son, did you fasten the front gate last night?" "Father," replied the faithful George, edging off toward the back fence, "I did, I cannot tell a lie; I did it with my little latch it."—*Hawkeye.*

—The business of rag gathering is picking up.

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