ARLINGTON L SPARKS.

SEMI-ANNUAL SALE

Our policy is to carry no goods from one season to the next, and to do this we are going to move them by the great lever--PRICE. We carry a line of

Coats, Furs and Millinery

for Ladies, Misses and Children, second to none on the Shore, and they are now offered to you at wholesale cost.

A LINE OF

DRESS GOODS, TRIMMINGS, STAPLE NOTIONS

and everything connected with a first-class Dry Goods business at prices that will talk for themselves. This is a straight-out proposition and

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Come and see us, we will save you money.

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at R. Bergen's old stand.

CHINESE ART IN STONE.

Its Best Examples and Some of Its Greatest Defects.

The spirit of purely Chinese art in stone is shown in work such as the great monolith figures of animals and [illegible] flank the approach to the tombs of the Ming dynasty and in the perfectly plain structures designed for the tombs of the present dynasty.

These are composed of enormous blocks of stone brought with infinite labor from distant quarries over roads and bridges which are hardly capable of sustaining ordinary cart traffic and have always to be specially prepared to prevent the great weights causing their collapse.

The same admiration for the employment of huge blocks of stone is seen in the case of the bridges over the rivers along the coast of South Fukien, where the stone slabs used in the construction occasionally measure sixty feet in length and are estimated to weigh nearly 120 tons, and the bridges themselves have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 yards.

In almost all cases where the buildings are not of solid construction the weight of the blocks employed has placed a strain upon the supports which the architect's skill was not competent to provide against, and with the lapse of time the melancholy spectacle is seen of slabs fallen from their places and of noble and costly structures approaching ruin. In some cases the interdependence of the arches leads to the same result. One notable instance of this occurred during Colonel Gordon's campaign against the Taipings, when to allow of the passage of his small steamers it was necessary to make a gap in a bridge of over twenty arches, and arch after arch collapsed immediately after the passage of his small flotilla. --London Saturday Review.

AVERAGE HUMANITY.

Most People Are Not Very Good Nor Yet Very Bad.

What do we mean by a good man or a bad one, a good woman or a bad one? Most people, like the young man in the song, are "not very good, nor yet very bad." We move about the pastures of life in huge herds, and all do the same things at the same times and for the same reasons. "Forty feeding like one." Are we mean? Well, we have done some mean things in our time. Are we generous? Occasionally we are. Were we good sons or dutiful daughters? We have both honored and dishonored our parents, who in their turn had done the same by theirs. Do we melt at the sight of misery? Indeed we do. Do we forget all about it when we have turned the corner? Frequently that is so. Do we expect to be put to open shame at the great day of judgment? We should be terribly frightened of this did we not cling to the hope that amid the shocking revelations then for the first time made public our little affairs may fail to attract much notice.

Judged by the standards of humanity, few people are either good or bad. "I have not been a great sinner," said the dying Nelson; nor had he—he had only been made a great fool of by a woman. Mankind is all tarred with the same brush, though some who chance to be operated upon when the brush is fresh from the barrel get more than their share of the tar. The biography of a celebrated man usually reminds me of the outside of a coast guardsman's cottage—all tar and whitewash. —Essays of Augustine Birrell.

Budapest.

"Americans know absolutely nothing of one of the greatest cities of all Europe," said a returned traveler. "I refer to Budapest. Do you believe it has over three-quarters of a million inhabitants and is foremost in many of the arts and sciences? Take my word for it. Why, it has a university with nearly 5,000 students and 230 professors. The trolley was developed in Budapest. Most of the population is Magyar. Buda has the finest Jewish synagogue in the empire. The Danube, dividing Buda from Pest, is a beautiful stream, spanned by magnificent bridges. The largest electrical works in all Europe are in this wonderful city."—New York Press.

The Crab as a Fisherman.

The crab sometimes catches a fish, and it catches it without hook and line. It lies in wait, perhaps in some creek, with its jaws extended in front and open. Perhaps a school of killies comes along, and it may be that a killie on the outskirts of the school may swim unsuspectingly along through the clear water between the upper and lower parts of one of the motionless open claws of the crab. When it is well within them the claw suddenly snaps together and that particular little killie goes no farther.

Literary Genius.

"Why is genius so often misunderstood?" asked the literary person.

"Probably," answered the man who doesn't care for poetry, "it's because genius so frequently fails to talk plainly."—Exchange.

Woman's Right.

Mamie—I believe in woman's rights. Gertie—Then you think every woman should have a vote? Mamie—No, but I think every woman should have a voter.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Economy.

"The under crust of this apple pie is too tough to eat."

"That's the intention. It can be used again, you know."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

While one finds company in himself and his pursuits he cannot feel old, no matter what his years may be.

THE GIANT INDIANS.

Peculiar Ways of the Onas of Tierra del Fuego.

The Onas, a tribe of Indians inhabiting the mainland of the Tierra del Fuego island, are physical giants. Their average height is over six feet. A few are six and one-half feet; a few fall below six feet. The women are more corpulent and not so tall. There is no race in the world with a more perfect physical development than the Ona Indians. This is partly due to the topography of the country and the distribution of the game, which makes long marches across the country a necessity.

In mentality they fall far below their physical attainments. In the past their supply of game has been plentiful, and this may account for the lack of inventive genius among them. This lack of progressive skill is portrayed in their home life, clothing and homes. Their children suffer from it, for, contrary to the practice common among most Indians of feeding, dressing and training the children well, the Onas' little ones are mostly naked, poorly fed and altogether neglected. They have abundant material for supplying themselves with clothing and homes, and yet they throw a few branches together, put skins over the windward side and then shiver under the miserable shelter.

Scientists who have made a study of the subject say that the language of the Onas is the strangest ever listened to. Many of the words are not difficult to pronounce, nor is the construction of the sentences difficult, but very few words are interrupted by a sound which it is impossible to produce. The speaker hacks, coughs and grunts, distorting his face in the most inhuman manner, and then passes on to the next stumbling block. The Onas live principally upon meat, which in former years was obtained from the guanaco.—New York Herald.

ST. SWITHIN AND RAIN.

The Legend of the Chapel Over the Bishop's Grave.

The superstitions referring to particular days are very numerous. The legend of St. Swithin is an example that will occur to every one:

St. Swithin's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St. Swithin's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.

St. Swithin, bishop of Winchester, according to the author of "The Popular Antiquities," was "a man equally noted for uprightness and humility. So far did he carry the latter virtue that on his deathbed he requested to be buried not within the church, but outside the churchyard on the north of the sacred building, where his corpse might receive the eavesdroppings from the roof and his grave be trodden by the feet of passersby. His lowly request was complied with, and in this neglected spot his remains reposed till about 100 years afterward, when a fit of pious indignation seized the clergy at the fact that the body of so holy a member of their order was allowed to occupy such a position, and on an appointed day they all assembled to convey it with great pomp to the adjoining cathedral of Winchester. When they were about to commence the ceremony a heavy rain burst forth and continued without intermission for the forty succeeding days. The monks interpreted this tempest as a warning from heaven of the blasphemous nature of their attempt to contravene the direction of St. Swithin, and instead of disturbing his remains they erected a chapel over his grave." "St. Swithin is christening the apples" is the more poetical way of describing St. Swithin's rain.

The Moon's Phases.

The phases of the moon are caused by its relative position to the earth and the sun, so that when it is full moon in one part of the earth it is full moon in all parts of the earth, and so for all its other phases. The moon revolves around the earth once in twenty-seven days, though on account of the earth's revolution around the sun the mean duration of the lunar month—that is, the time from new moon to new moon—is twenty-nine days, twelve hours and forty-four minutes. The "dark of the moon" is that half of the lunar month during which the moon shines least at night.

A Cold, Hard Snub.

"Excuse me, madam," he said, "but—ah—you remember, in the restaurant after the theater the other night you were kind enough to notice me. I hope I am not mistaken in supposing that your interest was—ah—not altogether"—

"Oh, not at all. I remember now. I thought for a moment that you were the coachman my husband discharged a few weeks ago for trying to make love to the cook, and I wondered how you could afford to eat in such an expensive place."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Reminiscent.

The author had written one successful story, and he never grew tired talking of it.

"Don't you know," said one of his friends to another one day, "Riter always reminds me of a pleased dog."

"That's odd. How does he?"

"He's always wagging his tale."

Explained.

Mistress (on the second day to new cook)—Kathi, just be so good as to lend me 5 marks. Cook (aside)—Ha, ha! That's why she said yesterday the cook in her house was treated as one of the family!

It is only by labor that thought can be made healthy, and only by thought that labor can be made happy, and the two cannot be separated with impunity.—Ruskin.

A STORM IN THE JUNGLE.

It Comes With a Roar Like That of a Giant Waterfall.

People who have never been in a jungle talk of the sky as a painter talks of the horizon or a seafaring man of the offing—as if when you wanted to see it you only need use your eyes. But in the jungle you don't see the sky—at least you only see a few scraggy patches of it overhead through the openings in the twigs and leaves. Neither do you feel the wind bolwing, nor get burned or dazzled by the sun, nor even see that luminary except by momentary glimpses about midday, from which it follows that a jungle man does not usually pretend to be weatherwise. If he does he is even a greater humbug than the rest of the weather prophets. On the afternoon about which we are speaking I remember setting forth on my walk in the still glow of the tropical calm and wondering rather at the intense stillness of the surrounding forest. Then the air grew cooler and the green of the foliage in front seemed to deepen, and presently there came a sound as of a giant waterfall in the distance. Waterfalls do not, however, grow louder every second, whereas the noise in front did so. Then there was a loud, angry growl, as of a dozen lions. A minute more and the whole jungle began to roar as if [illegible] irons of heavy cavalry were coming at a gallop. Then came a [illegible] and a peal of thunder which seemed to make the world stop.

Then the storm began. The sky above darkened; the trees [illegible] the brushwood beneath hissed and bowed itself. A deluge of rain [illegible] ted out the narrow view. Down it came, soaking through the dense leaves under which one fled for refuge, striking the grass and sand with millions of dull thuds, dashing furiously against the leaves as if they were so many hostile shields, streaking the air with innumerable perpendicular lines and hurling itself down with the force of bullets.

In such a downpour one may as well walk and get wet as stand still and get wet. Unfortunately one did not know where to walk to. The "circumbendibus system" presupposes the fact that the wagon wheels and bullock tracks can be seen and noted, but when the cart track is no longer a cart track, but "all turned to rushing waters," such tracks cannot be seen, and unless you have a pocket compass you may as well try to fly as to get back to where you came from. When one reads of travelers lost in the backwoods, they always steer by the sun—and probably very badly—but when there is no sun what are you to do?—Siam Press.

The Ice of Greenland.

The largest mass of ice in the world is probably the one which fills up nearly the whole of the interior of Greenland, where it has accumulated since before the dawn of history. It is believed to now form a block about 600,000 square miles in area and averaging a mile and a half in thickness. According to these statistics, the lump of ice is larger in volume than the whole body of water in the Mediterranean, and there is enough of it to cover the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland with a layer about seven miles thick. If it were cut into two convenient slabs and built up equally upon the entire surface of "gallant little Wales" it would form a pile more than 120 miles high. There is ice enough in Greenland to bury the entire area of the United States a quarter of a mile deep.—London Globe.

A Dowry on Approval.

A curious custom prevails among Roumanian peasants. When a Roumanian girl is of a marriageable age, all her trousseau, which has been carefully woven, spun and embroidered by her mother and herself, is placed in a painted wooden box. When a young man thinks of asking to be allowed to pay his attentions to the girl he is at liberty at first to open the box, which is always placed conveniently at hand, and examine the trousseau. If the suitor is satisfied with the quantity and quality of the dowry he makes a formal application for the girl's hand, but if, on the contrary, the trousseau does not please him, he is quite at liberty to retire.

Man and His Valet.

"I never saw a man so entirely dependent on his valet."

"Quite helpless without him, eh?"

"Quite helpless. Mabel told me that when he came to propose he brought his valet with him."

"What was that for?"

"Why, when he reached the proper place his valet spread a hemstitched handkerchief on the floor for him to kneel upon."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Diplomatically Put.

"I am afraid you are absolutely governed by your wife."

"No," answered Mr. Meekton, who had been reading the foreign news, "I'm not absolutely governed by her, but I must admit that I am very much within her sphere of influence."—Washington Star.

A Choice of Evils.

Landlady—Would you advise me to send my daughter to a cooking school or to a music school? Boarder (reflectively)—Well, I think I'd send her to a cooking school. It may be more fatal in its results, but it isn't anything like so noisy.

Stingy.

"It seems strange," said Deacon Mayberry as he counted the money after church, "that a large congregation can be so small."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

All human power is a compound of time and patience.—Balzac.

TORTURING PAIN.

Half This Man's Sufferings Would Have Killed Many a Person, But Doan's Cured Him.

Thousands of grateful people are telling every day how Doan's Kidney Pills cured them of distressing and dangerous kidney and bladder troubles.

Yet other thousands are suffering every day from these same ills. Why? They are either very negligent or very skeptical. Neglect of kidney disorders leads to dropsy, diabetes, Bright's disease and other fatal diseases.

Sincere, honest testimony like the following should convince every skeptic.

A. C. Sprague, stock dealer, of Normal, Ill., writes: "For two whole years I was doing nothing but buying medicines to cure my kidneys. I do not think that any man ever suffered as I did and lived. The pain in my back was so bad that I could not sleep at night. I could not ride a horse and sometimes was unable even to ride in a car. My condition was critical when I sent for Doan's Kidney Pills. I used three boxes and they cured me. Now I can go anywhere and do as much as anybody. I sleep well and feel no discomfort at all."

A. C. SPRAGUE.

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Mr. Sprague will be mailed on application to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Sold by all dealers; price, fifty cents per box.

Guy Brothers Minstrels.

The Utica, New York Herald says:

It was a good house that greeted a splendid performance given by the Guy Brothers Mintrels troupe at the opera house last night, when the programme rendered was richly deserving of patronage. The troupe arrived in the morning, and at noon the splendid band paraded the streets and played a short but interesting programme.

The performance in the evening was opened by the members appearing in costume of red coated hunters returning from the chase. Everything was rendered in fine style.

They appear at Stam's Hall, Tuesday night, January 30th.

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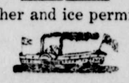
NOTICE

Weather and ice permitting



The Sassafras River Route Steamer will make her last trip to Baltimore December 22d, and last trip from Baltimore December 23rd 1905.

WINTER SCHEDULE.

Weather and ice permitting

Beginning Thursday, December 28th, Steamer will leave Baltimore every Thursday at 7.00 A. M., for Betterton and Sassafras River Landings. Returning leave Fredericktown at 12.00, noon, same day; stopping at Gales and Tolchester on the return trip, arriving in the city about 5.30 P. M.

TOLCHESTER SCHEDULE—
SATURDAY.
Weather and ice permitting

Beginning January 6th, 1906, steamer will leave Tolchester at 9.00 A. M. and 4.30 P. M. Leave Baltimore at 7.00 A. M. and 2.30 P. M.

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Yours respectfully,
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