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Cash Capital..... \$1,250,000.00
Reserve for Reinsured (legal standard)..... 6,708,504.68
Reserve for all Unsettled claims..... 1,300,716.33
NET SURPLUS over Capital and all liabilities..... 3,000,855.44
Total Cash Assets..... \$12,259,076.45

Losses Paid Since Organization:
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A Vacuum Pressure Experiment.

Chemical science has taught us how to overcome the dreaded diseases that have swept away whole cities in the past. It has taught us the manufacture of explosives and munitions of war and has made possible the greatly improved modes of travel, and it may be truly said that to chemistry we owe the most material progress the world has made.

While this little experiment will not deal with the hidden secrets that live in the famous laboratories or treat upon the mystic powers of viscosity and repletion, it will show what power the absence of air has in attracting movable substances into the place that has been vacated by the air. Few think when they breathe the atmosphere that surrounds them that it has a pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch or that it can attract even a piece of iron into the space which it leaves.

For an example of the strength of air take any tumbler, fill it about half full of tissue paper, set fire to the paper, turn over the glass in a basin containing water about one-half inch deep and then watch the water ascend the interior of the glass.

Didn't Know His Own Child.
At Antietam, just after the artillery had been sharply engaged, the Rock-bridge (Va.) battery was standing waiting orders. General Lee rode by and stopped a moment. A dirty faced driver about seventeen said to him:

"General, are you going to put us in again?"

Think of such a question from such a source to the general of the army, especially when that general's name was Lee!

"Yes, my boy," the stately officer kindly answered, "I have to put you in again. But what is your name? Your face seems familiar somehow."

"I don't wonder you didn't know me, sir," laughed the lad, "I'm so dirty. But I'm Bob."

It was the general's youngest son, whom he had thought safe at the Virginia Military Institute. "God bless you, my son; do your duty," and the general rode on.

Spoke Too Soon.
Alexandre Dumas was one day the guest of Dr. Gistal, a leading practitioner in Marseilles. After dinner, while the coffee was being handed round, the host requested the great novelist to enrich his album with one of his witty improvisations.

"Certainly," replied Dumas, with a smile, and drawing out a pencil, he wrote under the eyes of his entertainer the following lines:

Since Dr. Gistal came to our town
To cure diseases casual and hereditary
The hospital has been pulled down—
"You flatterer!" here exclaimed the doctor, mightily pleased; but the poet went on:

And we have made a larger cemetery.

Mrs. Hamilton's Ice Cream.
Mrs. Alexander Hamilton had the first ice cream in the city of Washington. She used to tell with amusement of the delight with which President Andrew Jackson first tasted it. Guests at the next White House reception were treated to the frozen mystery, and great was the fun of the initiated when they saw the reluctance of others to taste the cold stuff. Those from the rural districts especially eyed it suspiciously, then melted each teaspoonful with the breath before swallowing it. The next time they had a chance they ate it with delight.

It Wanted His Tongue.
At an auction sale in a Scotland village the auctioneer was trying to sell a number of domestic utensils, including a porridge pot. As usual, he was making a great fuss. Finishing, his keen eye caught a well known worthy, the headle, standing at the back of the crowd, and he shouted out:

"Maister McTavish, make me an offer for this pot. Why, it would make a splendid kirk bell."

"Aye," replied the headle, "if your tongue was in it."

Waited Twenty Years For a Solution.
A bit of pure and harmless mischief at recitation at Yale was the device of a member of the class of '72, who introduced at recitation a turtle covered by a newspaper paster on the shell. The tutor had too much pride to come down from his perch and solve the mystery of the newspaper movement, but twenty years after, meeting a member of the class, his first and abrupt question was, "Mr. W., what made that paper move?"

Our Cooks.
"I believe," said the young physician, "that bad cooks supply us with half our patients."

"That's right," rejoined the old doctor, "and good cooks supply us with the other half."—Chicago News.

Dolly's Explanation.
"Mother, what are twins?" asked Little Bobbie.

"I know," chimed in Dolly. "Twins is two babies just the same age; three babies is triplets, four is quadruplets, and five is centipeds."

His Peripatetic Lunch.
Waitress (at quick lunch stand)—Do you want to eat this sandwich here or take it with you?
Gentleman—Both.—Harvard Lampoon.

Pure Selfishness.
Mae—How did Bessie raise the money to go abroad and study music?
Ethel—The neighbors took up a subscription. I believe.—Puck.

Gold nuggets from the Klondike present a structure and appearance quite different from those of any other locality.

To Judge a River's Breadth.

It is necessary to make use only of the eyes and the brim of a hat to measure the width of any ordinary stream or even of a good sized river, and here is the way to do it:

Select a part of the river bank where the grounds run back level and, standing at the water's edge, fix your eyes on the opposite bank. Now, move your hat down over your brow until the edge of the brim is exactly on a line with the water line on the other side. This will give you a visual angle that may be used on any level surface, and if, as has been suggested, the ground on your side of the river be flat you may "lay off" a corresponding distance on it. To do this you have only to hold your head perfectly steady, after getting the angle with your hat brim, supporting your chin with your hand, if necessary, and turn slowly around until your back is toward the river. Now, take careful note of where your hat brim cuts the level surface of the ground as you look over the latter, and from where you stand to that point will be the width of the river, a distance that may readily be measured by stepping. If you are careful in all these details, you can come within a few feet of the river's width.—Detroit Free Press.

Her Latest Break.
"My six-year-old girl is an awful chatterbox," said a broker, "and the worst of it is that when we have guests at the house she is continually making breaks of the worst sort—breaks that tend to rattle the dry bones of the family skeleton in the closet. Recently when we had company at dinner she allowed her tongue to run away with her, as usual, the result of which was that she very much embarrassed both her father and mother, although the guests, I am free to say, seemed delighted. I had a very serious talk with her and impressed upon her, or tried to, that she must not tell any family secret. The next time we had company she was permitted to come to the table only by promising that she wouldn't utter a word. She behaved beautifully and had nothing to say until the dessert was about to be taken away. Then her lips began to quiver, and finally she burst into tears. 'Why, what's the matter, darling?' her mother asked. 'I want some more ice cream, if that isn't a family secret!' she wailed between sobs."—Philadelphia Record.

Nutritious Value of Oysters.
The popular belief that the oyster is a most nutritious article of diet does not rest upon any scientific basis. The oyster as a food could not satisfy the demands of the human body. While the oyster, when not steamed, is very palatable, wholesome and easily assimilated by weak, impaired stomachs, it cannot be contended for a moment that it contains such elements and nutrition as may be found in beans, rice or potatoes. There is very little, if any, fatmaking or muscle building material in the oyster. Its composition is largely nitrogenous, and, being rich in phosphates, it is generally regarded as an excellent food for the brain, but a man reduced to an exclusive diet of oysters would soon find himself deficient in adipose tissue and in those elements that go to make up physical force and vitality in the human body.

Rossini's Memory.
The composer of "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" was blessed with a very retentive memory, especially for names of persons introduced to him, a forgetfulness which was frequently the cause of much merriment whenever Rossini was among company. One day he met Bishop, the English composer. Rossini knew the face well enough and at once greeted him. "Ah, my dear Mr. Bishop, but he could progress no further. To convince him that he had not forgotten him Rossini commenced whistling Bishop's glee, "When the Wind Blows," a compliment which "the English Mozart" recognized and would as readily have heard as his less musical surname.

Optical Illusion.
A firm which was sued in an English court for the price of a sign defended the case on the ground that the "o" in their name was smaller than the other letters. It was proved by measurement, however, that it was a sixteenth of an inch larger, allowance having been made for the fact that, owing to an optical illusion, the letter "o" always looks smaller than the neighboring letters. Judgment was given for the signmakers.

But They Use Them.
The danger of carrying an argument to its logical conclusion is thus set forth by the Chicago Post: They were at a picnic. "Fingers were made before forks," she laughed as she helped herself in democratic fashion. "Yes," he admitted, "and people were made before clothes." She hastily reached for a fork.

His Jubilee.
Judge—Are you aware of any mitigating circumstances in your case?
Criminal—Yes, your honor; this is the fiftieth time I have been arrested for vagrancy, and I thought that perhaps we might get up a little jubilee.

Brevity.
Irate Author—What did you do with that article of mine on the American forests?
Editor—Well, sir, to make a long story short, I cut it down.—Baltimore American.

← MILLER'S →**New Year's Greeting.**

The Christmas season is drawing to a close, and with it the old, old year. I wish to extend to my friends and patrons

Many Thanks

and the very best wishes for a Happy and Successful New Year.

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With best wishes to one and all,

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