

CURRENT DRIFT.

When a party is in the minority, its most active men are called leaders; when it is in the majority, the same men are called "bosses."

A Frenchman in business in California advertises that he has a "chasm" for an apprentice. He had looked up the word "opening" in the dictionary.

A funny man at Jackson, Mich., put a cast-iron bullfrog on a log in the river, and the boys threw stones at it all day without discovering why it didn't plunge.

A St. Louis prayer meeting was broken up by a deputy sheriff, who levied on the church furniture for debt, after allowing "just one more hymn, and one prayer, if not too long."

Schoolmistress (just beginning a nice improving lesson upon minerals to the Juniors): "Now, what are the principal things we get out of the earth?" Youthful angler, aged four, (confidently): "Worms."

One of the allegations made in a Louisville wife's bill for divorce is that her husband, to cure her of jealousy, compelled her to kiss the woman of whom she was jealous, having brought the latter to the house for the purpose.

The bar-rooms of Texas are now required by law to be closed from 9 to 3 o'clock on Sundays. "This arrangement," said an advocate of the measure in the Legislature, "will give liquor and religion just about an even chance, and may the best of the two win."

Mother (to her daughter just seven years old): "What makes you look so sad, Carrie?" Carrie (looking at her baby brother, three months old): "I was just thinking that in about ten years from now, when I shall be able to entertain company and have beaux, that brother of mine will just be old enough to bother the life out of me."

A woman who carried around milk in Paris said a naive thing the other day. One of the cooks to whom she brought milk looked into the can and remarked with surprise: "Why, there is actually nothing there but water." The woman, having satisfied herself of the truth of the statement, said: "Well, if I didn't forget to put in the milk!"

A showing of what constitutes a good claim to the title of Colonel in the South is made by a correspondent of the Yazoo Herald: "I left Jacksonville in the afternoon, and stayed all night on Mound Bayou with Col. Tom Lee. I never met him before, and never heard any one say he was a Colonel, but I know he must be. He has a big plantation, a big house, with a piano, a beautiful grown-up daughter, and a windmill to his well."

"What shall I preach about?" said the visiting minister to the pastor of a colored flock which he was about to address. "Well, mos' any subject will be 'ceptable," was the reply; "only I'd like to gib you one word 'ob caution." "Ah! what is that?" "Well, ef I was you I'd tech very light on the Ten Commandments." "Indeed! and why?" "Oh! 'cos I hab noticed dot dey mos' always hab a dampnin' effect upon dis congregation."

A Cincinnati deputy sheriff had in custody two women accused of shoplifting. They were young, handsome, and fashionably dressed. His duty was to conduct them from the Court House directly to the jail. He started from the former place at noon, but did not arrive at the latter until five o'clock. In the meantime he had appeared at an operatic performance with his two attractive companions, proudly conscious that his acquaintances there would envy him as the escort of two such belles.

MARINE SILK.

Among the many novelties which industry obtains from the sea, one of the most curious is the textile product made with the "byssus" of the *pinna* of the Mediterranean—the fin-shells or seawings as they are called. The shells, which are usually very fragile, resemble in form those of the mussel, being long and tapering, narrow at the back, and gradually expanding to a considerable breadth toward the opposite extremity. There are some twenty or more species of the genus, which produce in large quantities a very fine sort of silky byssus or braid. It is called by the fishermen *lana pinna*, or fish wool. These bivalves are produced with a tuft of delicate fiber, which cannot be better compared than to fine hair, or silk, or spun glass. The ancients made this material an art of commerce, greatly sought after, and the robes made from it, called "Tarentine," were held in high esteem. It is said that the scarf of the turban of Archytas was made of this fiber. In the year 1754 a pair of stockings made of it was presented to Pope Benedict XV., which, from their extreme fineness, were enclosed in a small box about the size of one for holding snuff. A robe of this material is mentioned by Procopius as the gift of a Roman Emperor to the Satrap of Armenia. Even at the present day the fiber is utilized, but more for its variety than for anything else. The women comb the *lana* with very delicate cards, spin it, and make from it articles that are much esteemed for the suppleness of the fiber and its brilliant, burning-gold luster. In Italy the poorer girls and women make from it purses, necklaces, ear-rings, etc., and this proves a no mean source of income to hundreds of families. A considerable manufacture is established at Palermo. The fabrics made are extremely elegant, and vie in appearance with the finest silk. The best products of the material, however, are said to be made in the Orphan Asylum of St. Philomel, at Lucca.

At both the Paris and London Exhibitions there were shown shawls, stockings, gloves, etc., made of this material. The byssus forms an important article of commerce among the Sicilians, for which purpose large numbers of the *pinna* are annually fished up in the Mediterranean, by means of an instrument called the "cramp." This is a kind of iron fork with long perpendicular prongs about six inches apart. Notwithstanding the extreme delicacy of the individual threads, they form such a compact tuft that considerable strength is necessary in separating the shells from the rocks to which they are attached. The tuft of silk is broken off and sold to the country women, who wash it in soap and water. They then dry it in the shade, straighten it with a large comb, cut off the useless root part of it, by which it adhered to the animal, and card the remainder. By these means one pound of coarse filament is reduced to about three ounces of fine useful threads. The web is of a beautiful yellow-brown, resembling the burnished golden hue which adorns the beaks of some splendid tropical flies and butterflies.

METRICAL MELANGE.

THE REVISED VERSION.

Mary had a little lamp
And tried to blow it out;
The paper states that Mary went
Right up the golden spout.

THE DENTIST'S FUN.

There's a dentist named Jones
Who relieves from their groans
The victims of toothache that crazes,
As his forcings he plies,
Bringing snags, fangs and cries,
His optics just sparkle like blazes.

FLIRTATION.

No, I didn't mean to love him,
But I couldn't help it, John;
Ere I dreamed of his intention,
My affection he had won;
Even then I tried to shun him,
Feigning love for you, you know;
But you were not long deceived, John,
And no doubt 'twas better so.

Did I hear you call me "heartless,"
Thinking nothing of your pain?
No! 'tis there that you mistake me,
For I am not all to blame.
'Tis not my fault that I am happy,
Choosing things that suit me best;
And before Frank came among us,
I liked you beyond the rest.

Where's the use of harsh upbraiding,
As throughout the wait we whirl?
Before the season's ended, John,
You will love another girl;
I perhaps may, too, grow tired
Of the fetters binding me,
Give to lover Frank the "mittens,"
And the second time be free.

You say the third fool will know less
Than either Frank or you?
I will not now dispute your word,
For time may prove it true;
But this I will say, dear friend John,
Even though it give to you offense:
The man who wins my lasting love,
Must prove his competence!

A WISH.

Oh, I wish the oysters would go,
And I wish the ice-cream would come;
Then Johnny will be my best beau—
He'll kiss me and always be mum.
Then dear papa can eat his fill
Of the pie that is made of plum,
And swear at the millinery bill
That at Easter is sure to come.

COMPARATIVE.

Sam Woodworth wrote about a well,
Boz wrote about a Weller,
How neter so-well the seamstress fell,
She often loves her feller.
The prison-house contains a cell,
The mansion-house a cellar,
When shaken fruit descends pell-mell,
The first to fall is meller.
The painter's child set up a yell
When she upset his yellor,
Who tolled the bell for lovely knell?
The evident—the kneller.
Whose tricks were Hades-like? And well
They might be. He was Heller.
Who could the wealth of bankers tell,
Unless it was the teller?
Amanda Geradine's a belle;
Her sister Isabella.

POLICY.

Says Bill to Tim: "There's dad!
We must please the ancient ead,
However he may knock around and work us,
For on some future day,
When the band begins to play,
We must strike him for a ticket to the circus."

EVOLUTION OF THE AESTHETES.

Out of the house came the utterly too too,
All dressed and perfumed like a conical foo-foo;
His polished shirt front was agleaming like glass,
And he looked, as he was, an aesthetical ass.
His kinship was plain to a neighboring horse,
And a quick recognition was natural, of course;
So the sociable beast, with a thundering thud,
Saluted his cousin with plenty of mud.

A PARALYZING COMPLIMENT.

"I'm very sure," she sobbed, "you love me not."
"Why so?" quoth I; "say, precious pet."
"Because," she naively answered, "you've forgot
To tell me so, and lovers don't forget."
Ah, then I kissed her lips and cheek and brow,
And hugged her closely to my Sunday vest.
At last released—"There, that will do just now,"
She blushing said: "why, you beat all the rest."

BRIC-A-BRAC.

You may notch it on de pallin's as a mighty resky plan
To make your judgment by de clo's dat kivers up a man;
For I hardly needs to tell you how you often come across
A fifty-dollar saddle on a twenty-dollar boss.
An' wakin' in de low-groun's, you dikkiver, as you go,
Dat de fines' shuck may hide de meanes' nubbun in a row.
I think a man has got a mighty slender chance for Heben
Dat holds on to his piety but one day out o' seven;
Dat talks about de sinners wid a heap o' solemn chat,
An' neber draps a nickel in de missionary hat;
Dat's foremost in de meetin' house for raisin' all de chunes,
But lays aside his 'ligion wid his Sunday pantaloons!

There are two things you can't do. You can't hold an eel by his tail, nor a bad man by his word of honor.
Truth is violated by falsehood, and it may be equally outraged by silence.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Northwestern Marriage Insurance Co.
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INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF OREGON.
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POLICIES OF FROM ONE THOUSAND TO TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH ISSUED TO UNMARRIED persons of good moral character upon payment of an annual premium of \$5 on each thousand for males and females under 10; and \$6 per year on each thousand for all above that age, for the first four years; after which only \$1 per thousand will be charged during unmarried life. In addition to these annual premiums, and commencing next February, a monthly rate, graded according to age, will also be levied upon each \$1000 of insurance, viz.: On females under 10 years, \$1; from 10 to 11, \$1 25; from 11 to 12, \$1 75; from 12 to 13, \$2 25; from 13 to 14, \$2 75; from 14 to 17, \$3 25; 17 upward, \$3 50. On males under 10 years, 75 cents; from 10 to 12, \$1; 12 to 14, \$1 50; 14 to 16, \$2 00; 16 to 21, \$3 25; and from 21 upward, \$3 50.
Those holding policies of \$500 or less are not, under pain of forfeiture, allowed to marry within six months from the date of such policy, and those holding policies of a greater amount than \$500 are not allowed to marry within the first year. Policies are payable at the end of the year in which marriage occurs at the rate of 25 per cent for every year from the date and amount of policy, after which all further interest ceases. For example: A, who is 24 years old, takes out a policy February 1st, 1882, for \$1000, paying \$6; within thirty days from that day he commences paying monthly dues of \$3 50, and marries six months from the date of his policy; he still continues to pay \$3 50 per month until the first of February, 1883, when he receives one-fourth the amount of his policy, less four annual premiums, leaving him \$225 net, having only paid out \$48, and his policy is then canceled. B is of the same age, and takes out a like policy at the same time, but marries the second year, and receives twice as much as A did. C takes out a like policy, and marries the third year thereafter, receiving three times as much benefits as A, or three-fourths the amount of his insurance. D also takes out a similar policy, but fails to marry until the end of the fourth year thereafter, when he receives the full amount, \$1000. E took out a policy of \$500 at the same time, paid five times as much premiums and monthly dues, but received, according to date of marriage, five times as much benefits; and so on for any other ages or amounts.
Parties residing where no agency has yet been established may procure policies by sending direct to the home office or nearest agency, giving date and place of birth, and at the same time remitting by money order, registered letter or check \$5 or \$6, according to age as stated above, for each \$1000 of insurance desired.
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Energetic agents wanted every where. All authorized agents are under bonds, and carry their commissions with them. As to the feasibility of this plan of insurance and the ability of the company to promptly meet all its engagements, or for any other particulars, address
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