Dickens and Diet

No other writer, pile he up never such lists of delicacies fit for Lucullus, has the gusto in describing humble feasts which gives the very reader an appe-tite. Thackeray, for all his "Ballad of Bouillabaise," never touched the hem of his garments in the recording of meals. Who that has read them can ever forget, for instance, Mrs. Gamp's directions to the chambermaid for her nocturnal refection, or the tea which awaited Joe Willett and Dolly on their return to the locksmith's dwelling on the occasion of Miss Migg's final rout, or the unassuming meals recorded in "David Copperfield," or the more pre-tentious feasts in "Pickwick," not for-getting the leg o' mutton "swarry" to which Mr. Weller was invited by the elite of Bath footmen? And has not every reader of "Martin Chuzzlewit" allowed a tender smile to curl his lips over the evolution of that incompara ble pudding in the preparation and consumption of which such damage was done to John Westlock's affect tions? So go and read-and acquire your appetite.-London Chronicle.

Above and Below Proof.

Before the means of determining the true quantity of alcohol in spirits were known dealers employed a very rude method to form a notion of the "strength." A given quantity of the spirit was poured upon gunpowder in a dish and set on fire. If the gunpowder continued dry enough it took fire and exploded, but if it had been dampened by the water in the spirits the flame of the alcohol went out without setting the powder on fire. This was called the "proof." Spirits which kindled gunpowder were said to be "above proof," those that did not set fire to it were said to be "below proof." but this did not fix the strength. Clark in his hydrometer, which was invented about the year 1730, fixed the strength of proof spirits on the stem, at the specific gravity of .920, at the temperature no more than a mixture of forty-nine pounds of pure alcohol with fifty-one pounds of pure water.-London Stand-

#### Case of Too Much Ham.

timore market a dainty little thing out for her first marketing.

"My husband bought a couple of nice hams from you not long ago," she an

"Yes'm," said the smiling butcher; "I remember well. Fine hams, weren't proached the pompous purser.

"They were delicious," said the young wife. "Have you any more like

"Lots," responded the butcher, indicating a row of hams in the rear of the stall.

The young thing surveyed the bams thoughtfully. "Are you sure," she finally asked, "that they're from the same pig as that from which my hus

band bought?"
"Yes'm," answered the butcher without so much as a quiver of an eyelid. "Then you may send me three more of them," she said .- Pittsburg Post.

### The Caspian Sea.

The Casplan sea is, as Herodotus said 2,000 years ago, "a sea by itself, having no connection with any other." Every schoolboy knows that now, but it is remarkable to find Herodotus saying so, because centuries after his time such authorities as Strabo and Pliny believed that it was connected with the northern ocean by a long and narrow guif. Geography seems to have had a setback in the interval through false information received at the time of Alexander's conquests. Herodotus says that the Casplan's length was fifteen days' voyage with a rowboat, its breadth eight days'. Since the actual figures are 750 miles and 400, this shows that a rowboat of the time did fifty miles a day.-London Graphic.

Shank's Mare.

"I haven't got a limousine or any aeroplane; I haven't got a coach an' six, not e'en a special train; I haven't got a bicycle nor yet a boss an' team.

git along all right, by jinks, 'thou gaserline or steam. I travel jest by shank's mare an never hev no fear but what I'll reach my stoppin' place the same day in the year. No artificial rigs for me, no busted tires or bones, no landin' all up in a heap upon the highway stones. I may be slow a gettin' round au' cause the world to stare, but I will git there by an' by all right side up with care,"-Boston

Not Guilty!

The unable seaman referred to by the American Thrasherman probably thought he was being accused of "mussing up the bedclothes."

Enthusiastic Amateur Sailor-Let go hat fib sheet!

Unenthusiastic Landlubber (who has been decoyed into acting as crew)-I'm not touching the thing!

Most Tactless of Men. "Clarence unintentionally offended

he aspiring young poetess." "In what way?" "He sent her a gayly decorated

wastebasket as a birthday present."-

Philadelphia Record.

A High One. Friend-Does the baron, your son-in-law, speak with much of an accent? Richpurse-He did when he discovered how I had fixed his wife's dower .-

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.

#### Why Druggists Recommend Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

Mr. Frank C. Hanrahan, a promient druggist of Portsmouth, Va., says: "For the past six years I have sold and recommended Chamberlain's of 60 degrees. This is the strength at Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which proof spirit is fixed by act of It is a great remedy and one of the parliament, and at this strength it is best patent medicines on the market. I handle some others for the same purposes that pay me a larger profit, but this remedy is so sure to effect a cure, and my customer so certain to appreciate m recommending it to One morning not long ago there him, that I give it the preference." tripped up to a butcher stall in a Bal- For sale by Leon B. Haskins' Phar-

His Air Tight Compartment.

The passenger who was crossing the Atlantic for the first time timidly ap-

"Is it true, sir," he said, "that this whole ship is divided into air tight compartments?

"True as gospel," replied the purser

in surprise.

remarked the passenger gloomily. "I" guess I'll have to put up with the one I'm occupying if I can't better myself."



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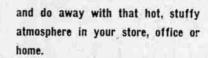


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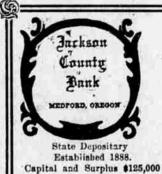
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