Shelley & Vanduyn,

DESIRE to inform the public that they are still on deck at the old PIONEER CORNER that has an unbroken record of TWENTY-FOUR YEARS.

While many changes have been wrought during all these years, not only in our City, but among their patrons, as well as upon the methods of business, yet with an unswerving policy long years ago established of keeping GOOD GOODS, giving GOOD VALUES and always extending to its patrons, kind and courteous treatment, it has ever occupied a front seat among the Valley Stores, and to-day is a leading factor in the Commercial Circles of Polk County. And while its present Managers,

SHELLEY & VANDUYN,

are proud of the record of the old Corner, and thankful for the patronage THEY HAVE received during the past, they now desire to say to their friends and patrons that their SPRING STOCK is now Complete and will be replenished almost daily with the Latest Styles of GENERAL MERCHANDISE, the items of which are too innumerable to mention, some of which however are as follows:

DRESS - GOODS

CONSISTING OF

Imported Henriettas, Berges, Almas, Cicilian Cloths, Cashmeres, Broadheads, Satteens, Challies, Ginghams, Outing Cloths, Lace Flouncings, Dotted Swiss

And a FULL LINE of WHITE GOODS.

FANCY GOODS

SUCH AS

KID GLOVES, SASH and NARROW RIBBONS, ORIENTAL, TORCHON, and the Famous

⊗ VANDUYKE POINT LACE, ⊗

BUCKLES AND SLIDES, SILK CORDS, ETC

STAPLE ❖ DRY ❖ GOODS,

Sheeting, Muslin, Scrim and Lace Curtains, Ladies' Muslin Underwear, Shirting, Prints,

Ladies' Mens' and Children's Hosiery, Harvest Gloves.

Men's Furnishing Goods, Etc., Etc.

ALSO

Clothing, Hats and Caps,

AND

BOOTS : AND : SHOES

In endless variety for everybody.

CLOTHING

FROM

HENRY W. KINC & CO., CHICACO,

At prices that challenge competition.

SHOES.

Men's Ladies' Misses' Boys' and Children's.

Saller, Lerwin & Co's Factory at Philadelphia, the most reliable goods in the Market.

ALSO A LINE OF

Staple -:- Groceries.

We are now on the eve of a New Era in Polk County and SHELLEY & VANDUYN are prepared for the rush which will certainly come this Summer. They have purchased their immense stock in the lowest markets and have obtained the largest cash discount possible; so walk right in and we will give you straight goods at bedrock prices.

Shelley & Vanduyn.

GENERAL NEWS

Rev. Sam Jones' Opinion of the Year 1890.

THE POPE DEVOTES FIVE HOURS TO NEWSPAPER READING.

Cyrus W. Field's Beginning in Life.—John W. Mackay and his Wealth.

Representatives Henderson of Iowa, Stern of Kentucky, and Botthman of Ohio have only three legs in the party.

Terrence V. Powderly, General Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, is enthusiastically in favor of ballot-reform.

W. C. Shaw of Cincinnati, assistant auditor of the C., H. & D. railroad, has become insane, his hobby being that he is the celebrated Dan McGinty.

The Pope has changed his habits. He now devotes the time between half-past 5 and 10 at night for the ardent perusal of newspapers of all nations.

Edward Atkinson declares that the annual production of eggs in this country equals in money value the country's annual total production of iron.

Speaker Reed is not a great smoker, but in the seclusion of his home puffs a pipe at intervals. He hates the odor of a cigarette and considers chewing bad form.

President Carnot, of France, is a close student of English, but is better acquainted with the English of Spenser and Shakspeare than with the modern tongue.

Empress Augusta left 7,000,000 marks. Her jewels and ornaments are bequeathed to personal friends as keepsakes. One valuable jewel is left to the Empress Victoria.

Mr. T. S. Perry, the writer—who is the grandson of Commodore Perry, and the great-grandson of Franklin—is in Europe, and is busy on his "History of Greek Literature."

Marshal McMahon, of France, it is understood, has completed his "Memoirs," but they are to be printed for private circulation only, and only a few copies in all will be issued.

Richard von Volckmann, the great surgeon, contributed on his deathbed 150 marks to the fund for the erection of a monument of the Emperor Frederick on the battlefield at Worth.

The Rev. Sam Jones declares that he is not an alarmist; but he adds, ominously, "I know the year 1890 is going to be an epochal year, and some things have gone just as far as they can go."

The Duke of Westminster is believed to be the anonymous donor of half a million dollars for a convalescent hospital in London. The Duke's income is $5,000 per day, chiefly from rents in Belgravia.

Cyrus W. Field is now three score and ten years old, but still in active business life. His first employment was as errand boy for A. T. Stewart at $2 a week. His duties required him to open and sweep out the store.

Judge Kelly told a friend of his some time previous to his death that the trouble with his jaw grew out of a habit he had of going to bed with a quid of tobacco in his cheek—a practice which he had kept up from his boyhood.

Joseph Howe, one of the 600 who made the famous charge at Balaklava, lives in Hartford, and is prostrated by the prevailing epidemic. He says he had rather go through a dozen Balaklava experiences than have the grip.

There is a vast deal of public discussion at Allegheny, Pa., as to the organization and management of the library which Mr. Carnegie is founding, which is very pleasing to Mr. Carnegie, who looks for wisdom to proceed from such counsels.

Gen. Jackson, according to a New Orleans antiquarian, appeared on the battlefield at Chalmette togged out in queer style. He wore a full suit of regimentals save and excepting the chapeau bras. Instead of that he wore a silk hat of the "stovepipe" or "chimney-pot" style.

Prince Louis Napoleon is advertising freely his reasons for leaving the Italian army and entering the Russian army. One of his French organs says: "Prince Louis Napoleon told a prominent statesman that Crispi was preparing to fight Erance. This was the reason why the Prince resigned the Italian army."

The late Henry W. Grady was a great raconteur. He was a master of dialect, and was never afraid of giving a good story plenty of coloring. It was considered a remarkable thing in the office of the Atlanta *Constitution* if a week went by without a new yarn from Grady. His stories were always witty but never vulgar.

The town of Abbot, Me., claims one of the best marksmen in the State in the person of Mrs. George Brown. Not long ago she saw a fox crossing the field a short distance from the house. Taking her husband's rifle and raising the window she drew a bead on Master Reynard, planting the ball fairly in the neck. The distance was twenty-two rods.

The Rev. Dr. Collier tells this story of the elder Dumas: He was invited to bring his daughter to a reception given by a Parisian woman who was a little way off the strict line of society. He went, but he did not take Mlle. Dumas. The hostess asked him why the young lady was not present. "There are two good reasons," answered Dumas "the second of which is that she has a bad cold."

John Mount of Covington, Ky., is said to be the oldest criminal in the United States. He is nearly 90 years of age, and fifty-six years of his life have been spent in the various penitentiaries in the United States. He has committed almost every crime except that of murder. He is living a secluded life at present, and seldom goes on the streets.

The Empress Eugenie has just presented to the fathers who have the keeping of the mortuary chapel at Farnborough, where the remains of Napoleon III. and the Prince Imperial are intered, a magnificent altar cloth, made from her wedding gown. The cloth has been made by the Empress herself. It is trimmed with the lace and embroidery which ornamented the dress.

Maj. Serpa Pinto, whose name occurs frequently in dispatches connected with African affairs, is a native of Portugal and about 40 years old. He joined the Portuguese army in 1863, rose pretty rapidly and became an aid-de-camp to the [illegible] Zambesi war in 1869, and commanded the African native troops. During 1877-'79 he crossed Africa from Benguela to Durban.

John W. Mackay, whose wealth has not made him so famous as his wife's extravagance in spending it, is 55 years old. He has a hard face, whose features have not a single redeeming virtue. Mrs. Mackay, who has known much poverty in her life, has a strongly developed genius for spending money in a loud and luxurious way. Mr. Mackay lives three-fourths of the year in California, where he enjoys freedom from restraint and etiquet which makes his elegant residence in London a bore.

To show how abject is the worship of royalty in India the following extracts from a poem written in Bombay to welcome Prince Albert Victor of Wales are pertinent: "A Prince independent in dignity, high in beauty and grace, as lovely as the noon, the world boasts of the abilities of him descended from a royal line most exalted. Born of an heir-apparent to whose feet the highest heavens do reverence, to whom the world far and wide pays homage, the confronting enemy yields readily to his sword," etc.

What queer preparations some actors make for their roles! A member of the Amberg troupe says that Herr Possart, before stepping on the stage bends his body forward until it forms a right angle with his legs, shakes his head vigorously, and then stands up straight again. He has thus thrown off his own individuality and taken on that of the character which he is to play. It is no longer Possart who stands before you, but Fabricius, Shylock, Behrends, Berwick, or whatever his role for the evening may be.

The Neglect of the Yosemite Valley.

"A competent judge has characterized the announced policy of an active member of the Yosemite Valley Commission to 'cut down every tree (in the valley) that has sprouted within the last thirty years' as a policy 'which, if it were carried out, would eventually result in an irreparable calamity—a calamity to the civilized world.' This member is represented as declaring that his policy has the support of the commission; it remains to be seen whether his associates will follow such fatuous leadership. But the history of the Yosemite makes it only too probable that a crisis in its management is near at hand.

"The American people are probably not aware of their proprietorship in the Yosemite. In 1864, by act of Congress, the valley and the grounds in the vicinity of the Big Trees of Mariposa were granted to the State of California 'with the stipulation nevertheless that the said State shall accept this grant upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; shall be inalienable for all time,' etc. This is recognized by law the moral claim of all humanity to an interest in the preservation of the wonders of the world. A citizen of New York is as much one of the owners of the Yosemite as a citizen of California, and his right to be heard in suggestion or protest is as undoubted. There are, unfortunately, few resident Californians who are well acquainted with the valley. An actual count has indicated that one-half of the visitors are foreigners, chiefly Englishmen, while one-fourth are from the Eastern States. The opinion of these 'outsiders' might be supposed to have a special value, being disconnected with the local dissensions which have gathered about the valley. . . .

"It was unfortunate that the first public presentation of the subject and the resultant investigation by the legislature of California were complicated by personal, political and commercial considerations to such an extent as to obscure the important point—Has the treatment of the Yosemite landscape been intrusted to skillful hands? We have before us the report of this investigation, together with a large number of photographs showing the conditions of portions of the valley before and after the employment of the ax and the plow. Without going into the details of the alleged abuses, monopolies, rings, and persecutions, it is easy to see in the above testimony and photographs abundant confirmation of those who hold that the valley has not had the benefit of expert supervision. In saying this we are not impugning the good faith of the past or present commissions or commissioners, appointed for other reasons than their skillfulness in the treatment of landscape. They are certainly to be acquitted of any intention to injure the valley; that would be unbelievable. It is no reproach to them that they are trained foresters. Their responsibility, however, does not end there; it is, in fact, there that it begins; for, in the absence of knowledge of a professional nature, it should be their first aim to obtain the very best man or men available to do this work."—*Century Topics of the Times.*

The Horse-Haired "Snake."

The "horse-hair" snake is a common source of error. The creature that is usually called by that name originates and has a life history as follows: A small flesh-colored mite is in water. It changes to a purplish lead color and comes to the top of the water, where it sports for a time, and when looking across water of a still evening especially if looking toward the setting sun, one can see masses of these tiny creatures that look like smoke on the water. When they reach this stage of development they leave the water and get out on the leaves and grass. Here, as opportunity offers, they attach themselves to the feet of large insects—especially of grasshoppers, katydids, etc. The legs of these insects being hollow they crawl up them, where they grow till they fill the legs and sometimes the cavities of the bodies of these large insects.

This accounts for the fat, clumsy condition of many of these insects. After a rain in which the insects drown the full-fledged "horse-hair snakes" come forth to delight the small boy and to interest the student of nature, after which they lay eggs in the water, if it does not dry up too soon, and curl around them for a time, and about the time the eggs hatch into the little flesh-colored mites first described the "snakes" die.

She Was Vigilant.

A county treasurer in Nebraska went away from home leaving $300 in the house. He told his wife to look out for robbers. She borrowed a gun, sat up until midnight, and then shot a man who was trying a window. After her shot she heard her husband call out, and then found he was the chap she drew a bead on. He is trying to make it all clear to the papers, but his wife carries a look of surprise and says nothing.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Children That Tease.

It is a misfortune to a child to suppose that teasing is essential to his gaining a point that he ought to gain. A result of such a view in his mind is that he looks not to his parents' wisdom and judgment, but to his own positiveness and persistency as the guide of his action in any mooted case of personal conduct; not to principles which are disclosed to him by one who is in authority, but to impulses which are wholly in his own bosom.

Such a view is inimical to all wise methods of thinking and doing on a child's part. And it is even more of a misfortune to the parent than to the child for a child to have the idea that the parent's decision is a result of the child's teasing, rather than that of the parent's understanding of what is right and best in a given case.

No parent can have the truest respect of a child while the child knows that he can tease that parent into compliance with the child's request contrary to the parent's real or supposed conviction. For the child's sake, therefore, and also for the parent's, every child ought to be trained not to tease, and not to expect any possible advantage from teasing. — *Sunday School Times.*

MARKET REPORT.

Ruling Prices of Poultry, Eggs and Diary Produce.

FEED, FLOUR, GRAIN AND LUMBER

Wool, Grass Seeds, Clover Seeds, Miscellaneous Seeds, Etc., Etc.

DAIRY PRODUCE.	
Butter.	
Oregon—	
Fancy creamery	27
Choice dairy	20
Common	8@10
Pickled (Cal.	18@20
Eastern creamery fancy	
Cal. fresh roll	18@21
Cheese.	
New California	11@12½
Oregon Skims and cream	12@14
Swiss Cheese, domestic	15 to 16
Young America Or.	14
Eggs.	
Oregon ₱ doz	20
FLOUR.	
Portland Pat. Roller, p. bbl.	3 75
Salem do do	3 75
Dayton do do	3 65
Cascadia do do	3 65
Country Brands	3 50
McMinnville	3 75
Superfine	2 50
White Lily	3 75
Graham	3 25
Rye Flour	4 50
FEED.	
Bran per ton	$17@18 00
Hay ₱ " baled	$18@20 50
Gr'd Barley, per ton	$30 00
Mill Chop per ton	$22@25 00
Oil Cake Meal per ton	$27 50@30 00
Shorts per ton	$19@$20 00
FRESH FRUITS.	
Apples	
Bananas, p. bunch	2 50@4 00
Cherries	1 00@1 25
Lemons, Cal. p. box	3 75@4 00
do Sicily, p. box new	6 25
Limes per hun	1 50
Or. Oranges, Riversides	4 00
" " Seedless	4 50@4 75
Navels	5 25
Malta Blood	5 00
Pears per box	None.
Peaches per box	do
Plums per lb	do
Prunes per box	do
Watermelons ₱ doz	do
Strawberries ₱ lb	6@7
GRAIN.	
Barley, whole, p. ctl	80@90
Corn, per 100 lbs	1 50
Oats, good, p. bu	52@54
Rye, p. 100 lb nominal	1 20@1 22½
Wheat, Valley, p. 100 lbs	1 20@1 22½
do Eastern Ore.	1 10@1 12½
POULTRY.	
Chickens, large young ₱ dz.	5 50
do broilers	4 50@5 00
do old	6 00@6 50
Ducks ₱ doz	9 00@
Geese, young ₱ dz.	8 00@9 00
Turkeys, young, ₱ lb	17½
SEEDS.	
Grass Seeds.	lb ₱
Timothy	6½@6¾
Orchard Grass	11@12
Red Top	6½@8½
Blue Grass	12@14
English Rye Grass	7½@8
Italian do	9½@11
Australian do	7½@9
Mesquite	7@10
Millet	5@6
Hungarian do	5@6
Mixed Lawn Grass	12@15
Clover Seeds	
Red Clover	10½@11½
White Clover	16@17
Alyske Clover	15@17
Alfalfa	10@11
Miscellaneous.	
Canary	4½@5
Flax	4½@5
Hemp	5@5½
Rape	3½@4½
LUMBER—ROUGH AND DRESSED.	
Rough	Per M $10 00
Edged	12 00
T. & G. Sheathing	13 00
No. 2 flooring	18 00
No. 2 ceiling	18 00
No. 2 rustic	18 00
Clear rough	20 00
Clear D. 4S	22 50
No. 1 flooring	22 50
No. 1 ceiling	22 50
No. 2 rustic	22 50
Stepping	25 00
Over 12 inches wide (extra)	1 00
Lengths 40 to 50 "	2 00
Lengths 60 "	4 00
1¼ Lath	2 25
1½ Lath	2 50
Shingles, cedar, per 1000	2 25
" red cedar, ₱ 1000	45 00@50 00
WOOL.	
Eastern Oregon.	
According to shrinkage	17@20
Valley.	
Spring clip	16@19
Umpqua	18@20
Lambs and fall	10@14
VEGETABLES (Fresh.)	
Spinach	
Turnips per sk	1 75
Tomatoes per box	
Asparagus	6@8
Beans ₱ lb	10
Beets ₱ lb	
Cabbage ₱ lb	2½@3
Cauliflower, per doz	1 40@1 50
Carrots per sk	1 00
do young ₱ doz	15
Celery per doz	90@1 00
Cucumbers ₱ doz	25
Green Peas ₱ lb	6
Lettuce ₱ doz	20
Onions ₱ lb	2½
Potatoes ₱ 100 lbs	2 25
Radishes ₱ doz	15
Rhubarb	5
Prunes.	
Oregon French Petite	7@8
DRIED FRUITS.	
Apples sun dried qrs.	7½@8
do factory sliced Cal.	9@10
do evap. 50 lb boxes	11 to 12
do unbleach	6 to 7
Apricots	13 to 14
Blackberries 50 lb boxes	11½@13
Cherries pitted	40
Peaches halves, unp'l'd new	10@12
do evaporated	12@15
Pears mach dried	9@9½
Plums pitted Oreg	3@4
" factory	5@6
Citron, Currants, c.	
Currants, in bxs or bbls	7½@8½
Dates in boxes	10@11
Fard Dates, 15 lb	11

Growing Umbrella Sticks.

The fragrant German weichsel sticks, now so popular for canes and umbrella handles, are cut from a wild cherry, which, dealers say, grows only in the Black Forest. The natural tendency of the wood is to grow crooked and gnarled. In order to get straight sticks the German peasants build frames around the trees and train the young shoots upon them, fastening strings to the ends of the shoots, passing them over pulleys and attaching weights. The weights are slow at first, but are increased as the branch grows thicker and stronger. A tension is thus produced which insures that the branch will grow straight.—*N. Y. Sun.*

Jute Twine.

Hitherto only hemp twine has been employed by the British postoffice in making up bags and parcels, but experiments with jute cord having proved successful it has been decided to extend the use of jute throughout the country. The hemp twine costs from 6 1-2 pence to 1 shilling per pound, whereas the jute is being purchased at 3 1-2 pence, and it is computed by the change the government will save about £10,000 annually.

WIT AND HUMOR.

It is a wise man who knows enough to keep it to himself.—*Puck.*

A "short" speech—"Lend me a quarter till to-morrow."—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

The bartender spends much of his time in drawing to a full.—*Washington Capital.*

When a man lets his face fall it rarely breaks into a smile.—*Baltimore American.*

If you crack a Kentucky chestnut you are sure to find a Colonel.—*Baltimore American.*

How we admire the man who happens to catch us when we are doing a good deed on the sly!—*Alchison Globe.*

The man who thinks quick and speaks slow will be very apt to get along in the world.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

Don't treat a man with contempt because he is poor. Simply have nothing to do with him.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Strange as it may seem, a man fails to support his wife when he is most disposed to sup porter.—*Binghamton Leader.*

In this age of sharp rivalry the man who permits his wits to go wool gathering is very liable to get worsted.—*Binghamton Herald.*

The rooster is one of the most tidy of all members of the animal kingdom. He always carries a comb with him.—*Merchant Traveler.*

Eulogies pronounced in celebration of the virtues of the departed may be characterized as foam on the funeral bier.—*Boston Transcript.*

Another attempt has been discovered to kill the King of Corea, but the would-be-assassin was frustrated in his mad Corea.—*Boston Herald.*

"Familiarity breeds contempt." Don't acquire the habit of permitting your anger to get you, too often, besides yourself.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Riches sometimes fail to bring popularity. It's not always the man with the fatest roll that sets 'em up the oftenest.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

"Where do you suppose the Sultan gets all the ladies for his harem?" "Dunno. Maybe he patronizes the Merchant of Venus."—*N. Y. Sun.*

"You say your friend died of consumption, quick consumption, I presume." "Well, hardly. He lived in Philadelphia."—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

"Ma, the minister is coming." "What makes you think so? Did you see him?" "No; but I saw pa take the parrot and lock it up in the stable."—*N. Y. Sun.*

Zola announces that in a few years he will devote himself exclusively to the stage. In the meantime the stage should get out an injunction.—*Baltimore American.*

However much the American girl may satirize the foreign "Lord," it is observed that, whatever her profession, she clings with hooks of steel to the title of "Lady."—*Puck.*

Briggs—"What would be an appropriate present for me to give to my typewriter girl?" Braggs—"If she's anything like mine I would recommend a 'spelling-book.'"—*Terre Haute Express.*

It is a little rough on the criminal. They get the weakest minded, most ignorant men possible for the jury, and then speak of trying the poor unfortunate by a jury of his peers.—*Boston Transcript.*

Mrs. Simpson—"So your servant has run off. How foolish in her to leave a good home like this. Don't you think she'll regret it?" Mrs. Simpson—"Yes; my husband went with her."—*N. Y. Sun.*

Marjorie—"Aren't you afraid that your flagrant coquetry may drive some of your admirers to desperation?" Ethel—"It is a matter of indifference to me so long as they don't die in the house."—*Life.*

Wife (to husband at the end of a "spat")—"The fools ain't all dead yet." Husband—"They ain't, eh?" Wife—"No, or I would have the amount of your insurance policy before this."—*Boston Courier.*

She—"You are such a solitary man. Mr. Silby, I should think you would get lonesome." He—"O, no, I enjoy being by myself." She (thoughtfully) "I don't see how you can."—*Burlington Free Press.*

The consistent minister will not preach steadily for two hours upon the iniquity of lying and then blandly ask one of the leading members of the congregation how he liked the sermon.—*Somerville Journal.*

Harry—"And dearest, do you think of me all the day long?" Dearest—"I did, Harry; but the days are getting longer now, and of course—well, you know that that must make some difference."—*Boston Transcript.*

Mr. Lookahead—"Does my daughter give you any encouragement sir?" Mr. Dumthing—"Why, yes, she says your business is increasing so that you can soon support us in the style we both like."—*Munsey's Weekly.*

"I am well aware," said the tramp to the facetious gentleman he had accosted, "that one swallow does not make a summer; but I would like to have enough to mitigate the rigors of the present climate a little."—*Puck.*

Mr. Lushforth—"You never help me on with my coat like you used to in the days of our honeymoon." Mrs. Lushforth—"No? And I never had to help you off with your boots in those days, either."—*Terre Haute Express.*

"I swear by those tall elms in yonder park——" he commenced, but she interrupted him. "Swear not by them," she said imploringly. "Why not?" "Because those trees are slippery elms," she said simply.—*Boston Beacon.*

Husband—"Maria, you are an awful long time in giving me the change out of that $20 bill I gave you last Thursday." His Wife—"You should recollect, Jack, that I used to clerk in a down-town store."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Wife (to hubby, who has been out the night before)—"Why, my dear, what makes you look so sour this morning?" Hubby—"I drank three glasses of milk last night and got caught in a thunder-storm coming home."—*N. Y. Herald.*

"After all," said De Broot's little wife as she sat down to rest after finishing every bit of an arduous round of housework, "there's no place like home." "No," said De Broot as he picked up his hat, "and I'm dog-goned glad of it."—*Merchant Traveler.*

Mrs. Potts—"And you say Mr. Withers never swears when things go wrong around the house?" Mrs. Withers—"Very seldom, at least. The only thing that will make him swear is to find one of Bob Ingersoll's wicked speeches in the Sunday paper."—*Terre Haute Express.*

Lawyer—"You say you think the witness is a wholesale liar. What do you mean by a wholesale liar?" Witness—"Well, he is a man who would not tell a single lie for a nickel, but would tell a dozen for a half dollar; or a dozen dozen—'gross' falsehoods, you know—for $5."—*Detroit Journal.*

McFingle—"Do you know that seedy looking individual over there?" McFangle—"Yes. He's the inventor of one of the most wonderful and useful engines in the world." "Indeed! And who is that handsomely dressed, prosperous looking man to whom he is talking?" "O, he invented an oil can to use on the engine invented by the other."—*N. Y. Sun.*

"I get up at daylight," repeated the early rising crank, for the 999th time. "I can't see how any one can want to lie in bed after they have woke up. Then I——" "Get out of the house as soon as possible, I suppose?" put in the tired listener, for the sake of saying something. "Certainly." "What a relief it must be to your family."—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Worms That Eat Steel Rails.

For the last two years the German government has been making inquiries into the life, history, and ravages of one of the most remarkable worms known to exist, says the St. Louis *Republic.* This wonderful creature, whose gluttonous appetite is only satisfied after a feed on common steel, was brought into notice by an article in the Cologne *Gazette* in June, 1887.

For some time preceding the publication of the account mentioned the greatest consternation existed among the engineers employed on the railway at Hagen, on account of the accidents which always occurred at the same place, proving that some terrible defect must exist either in the material or the construction of the rails.

The government became interested and sent a commission to the spot for the purpose of maintaining a constant watch at the spot where the accidents—one of them attended with loss of life—had occurred. It was not, however, until after six months had elapsed that the surface of the rails appeared to be corroded, as if by acid, to the extent of over 100 yards.

The rail was taken up and broken, whereupon it was found to be literally honeycombed by a thin, thread-like gray worm. The worm is said to be two centimetres in length and of about the bigness of a common knitting-needle. It is of a gray color, and on the head it carries two little sacs or glands, filled with a most powerful corrosive secretion, which is ejected every ten minutes when the little demon is lying undisturbed. This liquid when squirted upon iron renders that metal soft and spongy, and of the color of rust, when it is easily and greedily devoured by the little insect. "There is no exaggeration," says the official report, "in the assertion that this creature is one of the most voracious, for it has devoured thirty-six kilograms of rails in a fortnight."

A DOG AS A MAIL-CARRIER.

The Canine Seems to Realize the Importance of His Mission.

The way the dog became a mail-carrier was as follows, says a letter in the *Ohio Farmer*: One day the postmaster wanted to send a word to his brother at Bismarck, but did not want to make the trip. It occured to him to try the dog. He wrote a letter and tied it around the dog's neck, pointing the dog's nose toward Bismarck and then told him to go. He trotted off a short distance and then turned about to see what else was wanted. Some of the small boys showered stones at him and he ran on to Bismarck. Next day he returned with an answer tied on his neck and he showed that he had been well treated. The experiment was repeated, each time with success and additional dignity on the part of the dog.

As soon as it became known that Dorsey could be depended upon requests were constantly made by the miners to send their mail by him. The loads soon increased, and it became evident that they could not tie on all the letters. The miners then ordered a handsome little mail-bag and fitted it to the dog's shoulders. It is fastened around his chest by one strap, and around his body back of the forelegs, by another. He has never missed a trip for about three years or lost a letter. Now, when the stage comes in, he gets up, stretches himself, walks to the postoffice, waits to have the mail strapped on him, and starts off as soon as he is told all is ready. He will go a long way around to avoid meeting a stranger, seeming to realize the importance of his mission.

Mathematical Prodigy.

Sam Summers, the negro prodigy, was in Shelbyville yesterday, says the Louisville *Commercial*, and as usual entertained a large crowd, who were testing him with all kinds of mathematical problems. Summers is a colored man, 34 years old, without the slightest education. He can not read or write and does not know one figure from another. He is a common, everyday farm-hand, and, to look at him and watch his actions, he seems to be about half-witted, but his quick and invariably correct answer to any example in arithmetic, no matter how difficult, is simply wonderful. With the hundreds of tests that he has submitted to not a single time has he failed to give the correct answer in every instance.

Some examples given him yesterday were: How much gold can be bought for $792 in greenbacks if gold is worth $1.65? Multiply 597,312 by 13 5-8. If a grain of wheat produces seven grains, and these be sown the second year, each yielding the same increase, how many bushels will be produced at this rate in twelve years if 1,000 grains make a pint? If the velocity of sound is 1,142 feet per second, the pulsation of the heart seventy per minute, after seeing a flash of lightning there are twenty pulsations counted before you hear it thunder, what distance is the cloud from the earth, and what is the time after seeing the flash of lightning until you hear the thunder? A commission merchant received seventy bags of wheat, each containing three bushels, three pecks and three quarts; how many bushels did he receive? And so on.

With Robinson's, Ray's, and other higher arithmetics before them, those who have tested him as yet have been unable to find any example that, with a few moments' thought on his part, he is not able to correctly answer.

The Tiber.

Most of the old houses on both sides of the Tiber, at Rome, have been removed, fine embankments of masonry have been erected, slightly deepening and widening the river to an average width of sixty-five yards, and on top of the embankments, on both sides, esplanades are formed as on the Thames embankment at London. One of the new bridges crossing the stream is thirteen yards wide, and near it at either end, stand new buildings seven stories high, completely shutting out the views of the Janiculum and San Pietro hills.

The shoemaker will do work which is beneath other people.

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"SEND DOWN 113."

How a Parrot Caused a Railroad Accident in the Far West.

Out in the far west on one cold night in January a horrible accident occured. Snow several feet in depth covered the ground.

The little town of B—— was perfectly quiet, and not one of its inhabitants dreamed of the scene of disaster that would soon be witnessed. The small station house was for the time deserted, says the Philadelphia *Times*, the station-master having gone to the store not far distant. Poll sat all alone in the cozy little station house, ever and anon talking to herself. "Polly want a cracker; Pretty Poll. Pretty Poll." Then with a wise shake of her head she flew to a shelf that was just above the telephone, rang, and receiving the answering ring shouted, "Send down 113." Then flying back to her perch she was quietly sitting there when the master returned. There was no telegraph in that part of the country and Poll had often watched her master talk through the telephone to the station-master at Jerome, a small town not many miles distant. Is about half an hour the passenger train was due. When it was nearly time for the train to come the station-master thought that he heard the noise of a train in each direction, but concluding that he was mistaken he did not trouble himself to look out. In a few minutes the passenger train passed up, but it did not stop, and in another moment a fearful crash was heard, a piercing shriek rang out upon the night air, and then piteous groans were heard. Snatching up a lantern the station-master hurried out. A fearful scene was before him. The freight train attached to the engine 113 had come into collision with the passenger train.

Fifteen passengers and both engineers were killed and five passengers were injured seriously. In a short time the whole town was astir. The injured were cared for and an engine arrived and pushed the broken cars on a side track. Much excitement prevailed through-out the town. The people wondered who it was who had telephoned the station-master at Jerome. They did not solve the mystery for many a long day and both station-masters very nearly lost their situations, but as nothing could be proved against them they were allowed to remain. One evening in June as the station-master at—— sat dozing in his chair he was aroused by hearing the telephone ring. Looking up he saw Poll sitting on the shelf above the telephone and heard her call out in her shrill voice: "Send down 113."

At last the mystery had been solved.

Nature's Kind Provision.

The color of a great many animals evidently serves to conceal them either in the depths of the forest or in the open plain. Thus, in the arctic regions animals cast the russet coat of summer for the snowy one of winter, and some peculiar Alpine species undergo similar changes. The ermine, the hare, and the polar fox are examples, while the ice bear, which is supreme in the northern waters, and therefore does not require a protection of that kind, by being white is enabled more easily to approach its prey. Several birds, like the ptarmigan, also change their plumage, and the young of seals are born with white pelts, which they change for darker ones as soon as they are capable of living independently of their mother.

On the other hand, the summer feathers of the ptarmigan are well adapted for a bird roosting on lichen-covered rocks, while the heather-hued plumage of the grouse, like the similar coat of the partridge, is equally favorable to their escaping the notice of ruthless enemies.—*London Standard.*

The Timber of Maine.

Five hundred million feet of logs are cut in the State of Maine annually. The name Pine Tree State was acquired years ago, but Spruce Tree State would now be more appropriate. Although there are millins of pine yet standing, the palmy days of that tree, in a commercial sense, long since departed, and the spruce, prolific and hardy, is the mainstay of the lumber trade. Whatever the case may be in other States Maine has nothing to fear from the denudation of her uplands. The spruce is a prolific tree, renewing its growth in a few years, thus filling up the gaps made by the lumberman's ax, and soon producing a second growth or aftermath. Many townships on the Penobscot have been lumbered over twice and some three times, while in Hancock county there is more timber standing to-day than there was twenty years ago.

Fresh Water Pearls.

In the last twenty years more than $100,000 worth of pearls have been found in the United States in that family of mollusks known as "unios," or fresh water mussels, the same that abounded at one time in the rivers of Scotland.

A Big Wildcat.

Peter Skiff, a veteran hunter of North Kent, Conn., recently shot a wildcat five feet long that weighed forty pounds. It was the biggest wildcat that has been shot in the state. Skiff killed the animal in the air as it was springing at him.

A farmer living between Marceline and Brookfield, Mo., found thirty-seven bee trees during last summer and fall, and as a consequence has on had more than a barrel of strained honey.