

TOPSY.

Dolly was going into the country to stay for a whole summer. There were plenty of green fields and cool, running brooks at Uncle Will's and Dolly was a happy little girl the morning that she stood on the front steps of her city home, waiting for James to come around with the horses to take them to the depot.

"Are you sure that you have every single thing, mamma?" asked Dolly, as papa lifted her into the carriage; "my doll with the pink sash, and the sandwiches—and everything?"

"O, yes," said mamma, "I'm very sure nothing has been forgotten." So James touched the horses with the whip, and away they trotted down the road. When they reached the depot there was only just time to buy tickets, when the train came around the curve a little distance off.

"O, mamma! O, papa! I've left topsy shut up in the pantry!"

Topsy was the black cat, and Dolly was going to take her into the country, too, and there she was shut up tight in the pantry at home, after all! The train was very near by this time, and poor pussy's chance of getting out seemed very slight indeed; while Dolly was crying some real tears on the sawdust baby's pink sash.

"I'll tell you what," said papa, "I've some business in town, and I really ought to attend to it; so I'll stay and come down on the afternoon train and bring Topsy with me."

"You dear old kind papa," cried Dolly. But she didn't have time for many thanks, for the train was at the station. A minute later the engine was puffing away at a great rate, and the cars were whirling along so fast that the trees outside the windows seemed to be dancing round and round.

By and by the conductor came into the car. "Tickets!" he shouted, and everyone began to feel in his pocket for his purse, as the conductor passed along the aisle, people began to laugh, and if I gave you a thousand guesses, you couldn't tell me why they did it. He had something in his arms—or rather on one arm, for he had to punch the tickets as they were handed to him.

"Why, there's Topsy!" screamed Dolly—and all the passengers turned around to see what little girl that could be with such a big voice.

"It's my Topsy," cried Dolly, again, "and she's shut up in the pantry at home."

This made every one laugh, of course, but they didn't know, as I know, that the pussy jumped out of the pantry window when she heard the carriage drive off, and ran all the way to the station and sprang on the train just as it was moving off. What do you think of that for a pussy cat!—G. M. S. H., in *Tribune*, Jr.

HOW HE KEN'D WEEL.—Doctor Thomson, taking once for his text, "Look not upon wine when it is red in the cup," enlarged upon the evil effects of drinking upon the head, heart and purse. As the congregation departed, two old cronies, given to taking more than a "wee drap," talked over the sermon. "Did you hear you, Johnnie?" quoth one. "Did I hear? Who didna hear? I ne'er winked an e'e." "Aweel, an' what thocht ye o't?" "Adeed, Davie, I think he has been a lad in his day, or he couldna ha' ken'd aae weel about it; he's been a sly hand has the minister!"

MANY years ago a certain Rev. Dr. Stewart, famous for his long sermons, was in charge of a parish in Broughshane, four miles from Belfast. An old woman emerged from the church door before the service was over, and one of the livery servants, in charge of one of the numerous vehicles outside, addressed her in County Antrim Scotch: "Well, Jinny, is the doctor nearly din' yet?" "He's in nae action of bevin' din'. He's spinnin' awa' and spinnin' awa'; but the tow's din' half an' oor ago."

WHAT NAMES MEAN.

The study of men's names is interesting, as it shows that they all had their origin in some fitting fact. A writer in the *New York Times* presents some of the facts which gave birth to the more common names now in use:

Many English surnames express the county, estate, or residence of their original bearers; as Burgoyne, from Burgundy; Cornell or Cornwallis, from Cornwall; Fleming, from Flanders; Gaskin and Gascoyne, from Gascony; Hanway, from Hainsault; Polack, from Poland; Welsh, Walsh and Wallis, from Wales; Combs, Compton, Clayton, Sutton, Preston, Washington, from the towns in the county of Sussex, England.

The prefix *atte* or *at*, softened to a or an, has helped to form a number of names. Thus, if a man lived on a moor, he would call himself *Attemoor* or *Atmoor*; if near a gate, *Attegate* or *Atgate*. John *atte* the Oaks was in due time shortened into John *Noaka*. Peter at the Seven Oaks into Peter *Noaks*.

In old English, *aplegarth* meant orchard; whence *Applegate* and *Appleton*; *chase*, a forest; *clive*, a cliff; *ough*, a ravine; *cobb*, a harbor; whence these names.

The root of the ubiquitous *smith* is the Anglo-Saxon *smitan*, to smite. It was applied primarily to blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, masons, and smelters or strikers in general.

Baker, Taylor, Butler, Coleman (coachman), Draper, Cowper (cooper), Cutler, Miller, and the rest, plainly denote occupations.

Lorimer is a maker of spurs and bridlebits; Arkwright, a maker of cheats; Lander, contracted from *lavandier*, a washerwoman; Banister, the keeper of a bath; Kidder, a huckster; Wait, a minstrel; Crocker, a potter.

Such names as *Baxter* and *Bagster* are the feminine of *baker*; *Webster*, of *webber* or *weaver*; which shows that these trades were first followed by women, and that when men began to take them up they for some time kept the feminine names.

Steward, Stewart, or Stuart, Abbot, Knight, Lord, Bishop, Prior, Chamberlain, Falconer, Leggett (legate), either signified what the persons so styled were, or they were given them in jest or derision, like the names *King*, *Prince* and *Pope*.

The termination *ward* indicates a keeper, as *Durward*, doorkeeper; *Hayward*, keeper of the town cattle; *Woodward*, forest keeper.

Red, *Reed*, or *Reid*, is an old form of spelling red, and was bestowed, as *White*, *Brown* and *Black*, were to denote the color worn or the complexion had.

Hogarth, from the Dutch, means generous, high-natured; *Rush* is subtle; *Bowen*, ready; *Bonner*, kind, gracious; *Eldridge*, wild, ghostly.

Many Welsh names naturalized in English are from personal traits, as *More*, great; *Duff*, black; *Vaughan*, little; *Lane*, slender; *Mole*, bald; *Gough*, red.

Surnames, now apparently meaningless, had meaning in old English and provincial dialects. *Brook*, for instance, signifies badger; *Talbot*, mastiff; *Todd*, fox; *Culver*, pigeon; *Henshaw*, young heron; *Coke*, cook.

Two old Texas rangers, who had just helped bury a neighbor, were talking about religion, and one asked the other how pious he thought it was possible for a man to get in this world, if he was in earnest. "Wa'al," said the other, reflectively, "I think if a man gets so he can swop steers or trade horses without lyin', 'at he'd better pull out for the better land afore he has a relapse."

In Sumatra, when telegraph messages are delayed or fail to be transmitted, it is because the wires are down or won't work, as elsewhere, but it is not attributed to storms. Elephants and tigers upset the poles and monkeys break the wires by taking gymnastic exercises on them.

PETROLEUM IN PULMONARY DISEASES.—The following is extracted from the *Bulletin de Therapeutique*: "Dr. Blache states that a refiner of petroleum having been prohibited by a *prohibit*, at the request of some *pharmaciens*, from the distribution of petroleum in medicinal doses, this led to an inquiry being made as to its alleged utility in affections of the chest. The native petroleum from Pennsylvania and Virginia was that experimented upon first. It is a very safe substance, for even large quantities, when drunk by error, have caused only a little nausea. In chronic bronchitis, with abundant expectoration, it rapidly diminishes the amount of the secretion and the paroxysms of coughing, and in simple bronchitis, rapid amelioration has been obtained. Its employment in phthisis has been continued for too short a time as yet to allow of any opinion being delivered as to its efficiency, beyond that it diminishes the expectoration, which also loses its parulent character. The petroleum is popularly taken in doses of a teaspoonful before each meal, and after the first day any nausea which it may excite in some persons disappears. M. Gardy, a Paris *pharmacien*, has prepared capsules, each containing 25 centigrammes of petroleum, or, as he calls it *huile de Gabion*, from the name of an ancient petroleum spring, and this Dr. Blache considers as the most favorable mode of administering it."

REPAIRING THE EYE.—Some curious facts have come to light about the regeneration of the eye during experiments made by M. Philippeaux; facts of a very pleasing kind if we only infer that what applies to inferior animals is applicable also to man. M. Philippeaux has been, it seems, anxious to discover whether on completely emptying the eyes of young rabbits and guinea pigs, the vitreous humor would be reorganized, and whether even the crystalline would be reproduced. With this view, he has been conducting his operations, always, of course, taking care not to touch the crystalline capsule, for experience has shown that in order that an organ shall regenerate, a portion of it must be left in its place. It seems that a month after the mutilation was effected, the experimentalist was able to state that the eyes, which had been emptied, were filled afresh, and that the crystalline was reconstituted. He operated on 24 animals, and in each case the mutilated eye revived. This would seem to show that the optic organ has the same capabilities as the bones. The organic process repairs an evil and reconstructs, more or less completely, that portion which has been struck off from the whole.

DOING UP LACK CURTAINS.—Put the curtains to soak in lukewarm water, turning over and clapping between your hands two or three times during the 24 hours that they remain in the water. Then if you have a wringer, fold smoothly and put through loosely; repeat for two or three days if very much soiled and smoked. The last time they are put to soak, add to every gallon of water two ounces of pulverized borax, after which put them on to boil in this water. When scalded a short time rinse thoroughly, and make a thin starch, with a trifle of bluing in. Now pin or sew to your carpets some sheets, which done, wring out the curtains, and pin right side down upon the sheets, putting the pins in every two inches. Stretch them evenly, but take care not to draw out of shape. Let them be until dry, when go over with a hot flatiron, keeping a thin cloth or paper between the iron and curtain; then remove the pins, and your curtains are ready to hang.

MR. EADY says that no dredge boat has been used at the South pass jetties during the past ten months, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. The channel is now able to take care of itself.

THREE HUNDRED skilled ribbon weavers have left Mulhouse, Alsace, for the New Jersey silk manufactories.