

I guess 'twouldn't happen so agin in a thousand years!"

"'Twon't be in our time then;" and Zachus had good sense enough to stop right there.

It happened that he went to the store that very day—it was about the beginning of the new year—and when he came home he brought a new almanac.

"Now Rhody," he said, "we'll see what the weather's goin' to be this year."

"I should think you were old enough to know't the almanac can't allers tell about the weather," was the rather discouraging reply.

"I ain't so old as you be, by three years, ye know, Rhody."

"It's fortun't, perhaps, that you ain't; for it does seem 's if the older you grow the less you know."

"That's all owin' to the pork, Rhody; I won't lay that up against ye. If 't had only been in the new of the moon, you know, 'twould been all right."

Without saying more, he took Rhody's shears and cut open the leaves of the new almanac. Then, to have it all ready for hanging up, he went and took down the old one, to get the leather string that had alternated with other strings in doing the same sort of service for many years. He had some difficulty in untying the knot in the string, and while at work on it, he suddenly stopped, and gazed silently at the figures on the cover. After awhile he opened the almanac and looked inside, and after another while he looked at Rhody.

"Rhody," he said at last, in a low, fearful sort of voice, "d'ye know what year 'tis?"

"You ain't lost all yer senses, have ye, Zachus?"

"I dunno; but jest come here."

With a curiously alarmed look, Rhody went towards him. "Here, Rhody," said he, "what figgers be these?"

She looked at them. Then she took off her spectacles and wiped them, and looked again. It was quite a minute before she seemed fully satisfied that what she saw was real. "There, Zachus!" she then said, giving him a gentle slap on the shoulder, "this is the old almanac, and I put away the new one instead; I shouldn't wonder if 'twas in the new of the moon, arter all."

"Of course 'twas, Rhody; of course 'twas; that accounts for it; and I'm real glad, for your sake."

To be sure that it was, Rhody went and brought out the almanac that she laid away by mistake, and they found it was even as Sim had said, "the moon changed yesterday."

It was fortunate for both of them; for their lives were becoming miserable, just because they thought they had killed their pork in the old of the moon.—*New England Farmer*.

INCENDIARY SILKS.—The danger of spontaneous combustion, to which weighted silks are liable, during transportation, has lately been forcibly demonstrated in the case of the steamship *Mosel*, which mysteriously took fire recently in mid-ocean. The fire was fortunately discovered and extinguished. On reaching her destination, a careful investigation afforded unmistakable evidence that the fire had originated spontaneously in certain silk goods that had formed part of her cargo. Samples of the silk, under the microscope, presented a remarkable appearance. The fibers ran very irregularly, and were partly covered with scales of a metallic luster, while on other fibers, heavy, sponge-like knots of a dark color were observed. A chemical examination revealed the following remarkable results: One hundred parts of the silk were composed of pure silk fiber, 21.34%; oxide of iron, 13.45%; moisture, 9.15%; fatty oils, 1.85%; organic dye-stuffs and coloring matters, 50.90%; mineral matters not determined, 3.30%. For each part of silk fiber, therefore, it was shown, 0.75 part of oxide of iron and 2.50 parts of coloring matters were used.

WOMEN ON SCHOOL BOARDS.

A Boston dispatch to the *New York Tribune* says: The fact that at least a few women voted in each of these 13 cities for members of school boards—voted for the first time under a legislative act of last spring—gave the elections an interest and an importance they would not otherwise have had. In Cambridge, where 217 women were registered as voters, two out of five members chosen on the school committee are women.

In Somerville the citizens' caucuses in two of the four wards were attended by women, who assisted in making the school board nominations; women distributed ballots in one ward on election day, and were not anywhere disturbed in the exercise of their rights; the one woman nominated for a place on the school committee was defeated by about a dozen votes. In Chelsea, women acted as ballot-distributors at the polls of one ward; two of the four new members on the school board are women; it is stated that every one of the 105 registered women appeared and voted. The 93 women who registered in Newton were accorded one of the four school committee. Their attendance at the polls is said to have kept many of the usual ward-room loungers away. Fall River elected four members of the school committee, two of whom were given to the 78 women voters. Lawrence registered only 22 women, and nominated no one of them on the school board, but their votes saved one of the Republican nominees from defeat. I do not learn that any women were nominated in the other cities, viz.: New Bedford, Taunton, Gloucester, Haverhill, Fitchburg, Springfield and Holyoke. Thus it appeared that in five cities seven women and fifteen men were elected to the supervision of schools.

ACTIVE LABOR AN EVIDENCE OF PROSPERITY.

When the laborers are receiving a fair rate of wages, and are constantly employed, it may be regarded as a sure evidence of prosperity. Labor, intelligently applied, is ever productive. Men cannot work with the determination of succeeding in their exertions without producing something which has advanced the value of the crude material employed in their work. When the fiat was uttered that man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, it was not given forth in opposition to the great principle of the value or utility of labor. It was uttered in full accordance with the law that work is productive, and that a just compensation is consequently due to the worker.

As society is now constituted, it is incumbent upon all to be producers. Those who fail in this duty, become a dead weight upon the progress of the age. If they are willing idlers, they must, and do, suffer the penalties which slothfulness entails upon its adherents. If they are unwilling idlers—idle because no man giveth them work to do—still the pains and penalties of inertia are attendant upon them. Man must work, or must suffer because he does not. If he is a voluntary idler, though possessed of sufficient means of support, nature inflicts upon him a loss of energy, a failure of health, and, in general, a moroseness of disposition, which embitters his existence. If an involuntary idler, he suffers from the privation which his unsupplied wants create.

The law that man shall work is an inexorable one. It is imperative that he shall find occupation. He cannot escape from its imperious necessity. His own vitality as well as the vitality and welfare of others depends upon his fulfilling the necessities of his destiny to work. Thou shalt earn thy bread, was the dictum of Omnipotence. There was no leniency in the strong decree of justice. The mandate was inflexible. It must be obeyed.

Still it was not harsh. It was tempered with mercy. It was commingled with blessings, and adorned with good. It was replete with benefits and overflowing with advantages. Promi-

nent among the benefits is the prosperity attendant upon active labor, and the healthy condition of the worker. These two leading blessings of the human race would not and could not exist without labor.

The nations that have held the largest corps of laborers have always been the most powerful and the most successful. They have lived up to the requirements of the laws of cause and effect, and have fulfilled the exigencies needed for production. Their labor has been materialized into solid wealth. Their wealth has given them power. Their power has produced stability. It is incumbent therefore upon all governments to foster and sustain the cause of labor, for it is the basic stratum of their existence.

WONDERS OF THE TELEPHONE.—Capt. John E. Greer, U. S. A., shows how the flight of projectiles can be measured by the telephone, as follows: Hitherto the accurate determination of the time of flight of small-arm projectiles has been practically impossible at long ranges, owing to our inability to see them strike, even when firing over water. The discovery of the telephone has opened up to us a simple as well as novel means of obtaining the time desired, and has also afforded us the means of verifying the formulas by which these times were formerly deduced. In these experiments two telephones provided with Blake transmitters (a form of Edison's carbon telephone) were used. One was placed within a few feet of the gun and left open to receive and transmit the sound of the discharge. The other was in the shelter-proof, which was about thirty feet in front of the right edge of the target. A stop watch, beating fourths of a second, was used in connection with it. The telephone being at the ear, the instant the sound of the discharge was received at the target the watch was started, and, on the bullet striking, was stopped. A mean of a large number of observations, which rarely differed more than a quarter to half of a second from each other, gave the time of flight. The velocity of sound may be readily obtained with the telephone in the same manner.

CERES, THE RURAL QUEEN.—The kingly prerogatives of cotton were stoutly asserted 20 to 30 years ago. His domination of foreign exchanges was generally acknowledged, and every other export of the farm was frowned upon as plebeian and trivial. When, 64 years ago, \$20,000,000 in cotton gave the nation credit abroad, the foreign shipments of grain were worth only one-fourth as much. In 1850 cotton exports had reached a value of almost \$72,000,000, while breadstuffs, at a slower rate of increase, represented only \$13,500,000. In ten years more cotton, grown imperial in his manners, swollen with the importance of \$192,000,000 in foreign exchange, looked contemptuously upon the slow and sure advance of breadstuffs to the paltry sum of \$24,000,000. How stands now the race of the agricultural hare and tortoise? Cotton has not declined, for the average value of its exports for ten years past exceeds the boasted revenue of 1860, but the grain exports of the fiscal year 1879 make the princely sum of \$210,355,528, greater by \$48,051,278 than the value of cotton exported in the same time. All hail to Ceres the Queen!—*N. Y. Tribune*.

MONSTER BUNCHES OF GRAPES.—The *London Farmer* says: At the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, held on Tuesday last, the Countess of Charleville, of Charleville Forest, Tullamore, exhibited, through her gardener, Mr. Roberts, two bunches of Gros Guillaume grapes, cut from one vine, and which together weighed 42 pounds. This same vine is rather a notorious one for producing large bunches, having a year or two ago borne one bunch which weighed 23 pounds 5 ounces; and in four seasons has produced seven bunches of the aggregate weight of 126 pounds 11 ounces.