THE VOICE ABOVE.

- the drift, and where the full clouds
 - rop above him looms, winds out of distant regions blow in streaming plumes, ow in streaming plumes,
- he precipice there is no way
- he may surely tread.

 is his foothold on the slippery stay
- That trembles to his troad. nu cuill and terrible the dying day Falls fast about his head.
- Could be but hear some lowing of the herd,
- Some mountain bell ring clear,
- Y some familiar sound one moment stirred.

 To guide him lost in fear! Se dares not move. Some beckening leading
- word, Alas, could be but hear!
- In those waste places of the earth and dim
 No star shines forth at all.
 Through awful loneliness enshrouding him
 He gives one shuddering call.
 Thile horror of great darkness seems to swim
- And fold him in its pall.
- Then like blown breath of music in the height
- A cry comes far and low. He thrills, he springs, he gathers all his might He feels new pulses glow!
- Bis father's voice—he needs not sense nor sight! He knows the way to go! —Harriet Prescott Spefford in Harper's Maga-

REPORTER AND CHINAMAN.

The Newspaper Man Was Very Tired When the Oriental Finished.

Numberless are the tricks which newspaper reporters play upon one another to relieve the somber "grind" of their calling. Two young men employ-4d on a morning paper in a large city were detailed one day to call upon the resident Chinamen and "interview" them respecting some immigration measure then pending in congress. One of the two reporters was a beginner, and the other, an experienced man, oaturally assumed the management of the assignment.

"Billings," be said after they had invaded several laundries without any important result, "here is a tea store. I wish you would go in and talk with the proprietor. I want to know what he thinks about Chinamen voting. I'll go en and pull off an interview with the man who runs this cigar shop next door. Remember to use the very simplest English at your command."

The young reporter went inside the tes store, took out his notebook, and thus addressed the proprietor, who hapgened to be alone at the moment:

"John, how? Me-me-Telegraph, John! Newspape-savvy. John? Newsgape-print things. Un'stan? Me want know what John think about Chinaman vote, see? What John think-Chi-Eaman-vote-all same Melican man? Savvy, John? Vote? What think?"

The Chinaman listened to him with prefound gravity until he had finished and replied:

"The question of granting the right of suffrage to Chinese citizens who have come to the United States with the svowed intention of making this country their permanent home is one that has occupied the attention of thoughtful men of all parties for years, and it may become in time one of paramount importauce. At present, however, it seems to me there is no exigency requiring an subject. You will please excuse me."

The young reporter went outside and leaned against a lamppost to rest and secover from a sudden faintness that had taken possession of him. His commade had purposely "steered him against" one of the best educated Chisamen in the United States. - Youth's Companion.

Reading at Breakfast.

Reading at breakfast is fatal to sociability. In breakfasting alone it is permissible, but not in company. Leigh Bunt wrote in The Indicator: "When we lived alone, we could not help reading at meals, and it is certainly a delidons thing to resume an entertaining book at a particularly interesting pasmage with a hot cup of tea at one's el-bow and a piece of buttered toast in one's hand. The first look at the page, accompanied by a coexistent bite of the toast, comes under the head of intensities." A book at breakfast is no compliment to the cook, but a newspaper is an insult. On the other hand, a newspaper at breakfast is a benefit to the doctor, for it is when one is put off eme's guard by the struggle with the folds and the search for items of interest that the way is made easy for the approach of dyspepsia.

In the old days of The Spectator and Tattler, when papers were of a reasonsble size and reposeful to boot, they did no harm. Now-well, now the largest dreulation in the world may produce the poorest digestion. It has been remarked (by a collector) that the only Sterature suitable at breakfast is bookmillers' catalogues, but since catalogues lead always to telegrams or envy this is doubtful. The line should probably be drawn at private letters.—Cornhill Mag-

Respectability Defined.

British respectability has been defined in a London police court by a prisoner charged with begging, and the definifion seems to have been accepted by the angistrate, for be discharged her. She mid: "I'm a respectable woman, a tailoress. Why, I make trousers for Mr. Newton-Mr. Newton, the magistrate. I mean. If I'm respectation enough to make a magistrate's trousers, I'm good cough for anything."

What They Prefer.

Runting-You often hear of self made men, but never of self made

Larkin-Women prefer to be tailor made. - Detroit Free Press.

In Germany, to prevent poison being chtained for evil purposes, none is allowed to be sold without a written order or certificate from a physician.

in England there are 70,000 girls engaged in public bouses and drinking

A Youthful Reasoner,

"Johnny," exclaimed Mr. Blykins, "what are you doing?"

"Thinking, sir."

"How dare you waste your time thinking, when you ought to be studying your lesson?"
"I was thinking about my lesson."

"What book are you engaged in perusing at this time?" inquired the old gentleman.

"Natural history."

"Ah, a very useful and interesting study! It broadens the ideas and assists in taking the mind from the customary cares of life without the danger of demoralization which sometimes attends frivolous forms of diversion."

"Yes, sir." "How far along have you proceeded in the study of natural history?"

"I'm learning about amphibious animals now.

"And a highly interesting branch of the animal kingdom. Can you name an amphibious animal-one with which we are all familiar?" And Mr. Blykins folded his hands before him and gazed at his son with a look of wise expectan-

"I think so. Is man an animal?" "In the scientific sense, yes."

"And an amphibious animal is one that consumes both air and water?" "Yes.

"Then a man is one. If he weren't, soda fountains?"-Washington Star.

They Love a Fire.

"There are many men in London who have a positive craze for witnessing fires," said an old fireman to the writer. "and they are ready to start at a moment's notice in any direction when news of a fire reaches them. Of course they are men whose time is their own, and many of them are 'west end swells.

"But the craze isn't as fashionable as for an explanation. it was in my younger days. Why, in the early seventies there wasn't a club in the west end that hadn't got its 'fire mandais,' as they were called, and there was a regular system of messengers to carry the news of a big conflawho set the fashion, and whenever there | gin's, an he's death on 'em. was a big blaze he was always there with Lord Amberley or some other friend of similar tastes. No distance was too great and no night too dark or been told that some of them had records of hundreds of fires, from an oilshop to the big blaze at the Alexandra palace.

"The prince lost his taste for this kind of excitement long ago, but there are dozens of the younger 'bloods' who wouldn't miss a big fire for anything." -London Standard.

Of intellectual and spiritual life there is but a feeble glimmer. For 3,000 years the influence of China has been at its dry rotting work. The language, literature and moral teaching of China are the badges of refinement, have depreciated the native tongue, and in consequence the natural mental development, and have drawn a line of demarkation between the aristocratic or Chinese bred the plebeian Korean speaking

Of late there has been some reaction, Japanese prompted, so that official documents and The Gazette are now issued in a mixed script, partly Enmun, the national language, and partly Chinese. This revival of the language is the most hopeful sign of Korea. Necessarily since the mortmain of China has kept the national life at its lowest ebb the religious teaching is Chinese too. Confucianism is the doctrine of the upper classes, its precepts vigorously honored in the breach, just as the Ten Commandments are made conspicuous farther west .-Blackwood's Magazine.

The Doctor Was Out.

A doctor perpetrated a witticism at his own expense late one night last week. He had lost his latchkey, the door was locked, he was cold from a long ride, and the more he clauged the doorbell the more the suspicion grew in his mind that some one had chloroformed the household.

But his sister had been aroused by the bell. "Some one to see the doctor and he's out, and I shall have to answer the bell or they'll ring all night," she said to herself and hurried down to the door clad in light attire and sleepy impatience.

Opening the door a little, not far enough to present her dishabille to any intruding eye, she shouted into the frosty air, "The doctor's out!" and closed the door with the quickness of a

camera slide. "Yes, I know he's out," screamed the irate M. D., "and he wants to get in." -London Answers.

Youthful Marriages In Algiers.

A census was taken lately in Algeria, and it was found that the youngest Arab married man was 12 years old and that there were very many boys who were married at 13 and 14, while some at 15 years of age had several wives. There is a youthful Algerian widower of 15 and a divorced husband of the same age. Girls are still more precocious and are sometimes married when only 11 years old, though 12 is the more usual age. There are 189 widows of 15 and 1,176 divorcees of the same age.-London Sketch.

Qualified.

"So Blix passed his law examinations

with flying colors?" "Yes, the examining committee pro pounded 100 principal laws to bim, and he told how 95 of them could be evaded." -Detroit Journal.

Maxim's cavalry gun, which fires 700 shots a minute, weighs but 30 pounds and can be carried strapped to a soldier's back. The gun he made for the sultan fires 770 shot a minute, but it is a fieldpiece on wheels.

It is said that 60 per cent of the cases of shortsightedness are bereditary.

THE KING SNAKE.

POISON REPTILES.

Rattlers and Copperheads Are the Prey He Loves to Tackle-He Eats a Mouse or a Toad After Each Battle to Prepare Him For the Next Encounter.

The distant murmur of the waterfall, the hum of the bees among the flowers, made me feel lazy, and, laying aside my fishing rod, I stretched mysulf on the soft spring grass under a weeping willow and watched the blue, cloud specked sky. I had almost fallen asleep when I was aroused by a voice inquiring, "Kotched enny fish, mister?"

Looking up, I saw a typical moun-taineer and assured him I had not.

"I say, mister, this here is a powerful bad kentry fur snakes. One bit Jim Sloan's bay mare last night, an week afore last another bit Sally Milligan. Some on 'em air powerful pizen, specially the rattlers an coppers, an that 'minds me, ef I wuz yerself, I'd move a little further from that 'ere copper. He ain't zactly perty to look at, an ef ye was to rile 'im with yer boot he mout git vicious."

Long before that speech had ended I had turned a somesault backward, which what would be the use of having any caused the mountaineer a great deal of ing." A perceptible flutter among the with a stick that I had seized when my companion asked me to wait a few moments, as a king might come along.

he expected a person of that name and failing to see what that event had to do with my laudable desire to smash the big, ugly thing that had presumed to take my leg for a pillow, I asked him

"Air it possible yer town folks dunno what a king air? Why, a king air the boss snake uv the words. He don't do no harm to nuthin, 'ceptin snakes, an be don't pester them as hain't pizen. But he do love a copper an a rattler, gration. It was the Prince of Wales which is the wurst snakes uv these dig-

"T'other day I wuz gwine long a old road, an all uv a sudden I heerd a singin as though a camp meetin had just tuck in. I knowed it wuz a rattler, an lookin stormy to keep them away, and I've round I saw him on a knoll, an a powerful big un he wuz. He wuz quilled up like a corkscrew, an his rattles wuz a-makin the air jingle. But at first I couldn't 'scover the cause, an I knowed a rattler never got ready fur business fur nothin. Presently I seed the grass a-swayin an a-bendin, an then the rattler, he gets nervius an skeered, an unquillin bisself be made a break to run.

"But it wuz too late, fur on came the king like a burricane, an puttin hisself just ahead the rattler showed him his jig wuz up. Seein he couldn't 'scape, the rattler quilled ag'in an showed fight. The king, he commenced to run round his inimy in a wide circle, the rattler watchin, lickin out his tongue an makin his rattle sing like a banjer.

my. "Then the rattler, thinkin he saw sled over the grass, but arter a little I could see the red an black striped king a grapevine on a tree.

the back uv the neck, an I could hear on him. It wuz all over in half an hour, victim, got behind an waited for ten minutes. Then he crept up an put his Humanitarian. nose on the rattler's to see if he wuz breathin. Ye see, other snakes know the king an sometimes possum on him by pretendin to be dead.

But the rattler wuz shore 'nuff gone, an when the king wuz satisfied uv this

until he bites some un ef we didn't, an what I wuz huntin when I seed that varmint a-tryin to go to sleep with yerself."—Philadelphia Times.

Cleanliness.

One of the most important factors in maintaining health in good order is cleanliness. It is comprised in measures that tend to keep the organs clean and in proper order to perform all their functions. The cleanliness of the skin and the air (purity of the air) that we breathe in are essential for the proper keeping of one's health. Any impurities that are taken in breathing find their way to the blood, and thus serve so many centers of disease and are the cause of many infectious diseases. Again, if the skin is not kept clean the impurities that are to be secreted are unduly accumulated in the blood and tend to give rise to severe and often dangerous disorders, such as skin diseases and blood poisoning. -New York Ledger.

A Good Reason

Aunt Maria-What! Mary, cannot you comb your own hair yet? Mary-No'm. I ain't big enough.

Aunt Maria-Your size has nothing Philadelphia Record. to do with your being able to comb your

Mary-Yes, it has. I sin't tall enough to look on the top of my head. -New York Tribune.

Unconventional Lady Aberdeen.

Her ladyship's dinner parties are rather the outcome of a happy thought sud-DOES HARM TO NO ONE, BUT KILLS dealy conceived and equally suddenly executed than the result, as with most people in her position, of careful consideration. And so, instead of the customary note conveying my lady's commands for some night, say a fortnight hence, the telephone is requisitioned to invite Mr. and Mrs. So-and-so to dinner "tomorrow evening," or even "this evening. Now, it so happened that on one of these occasions Lady Aberdeen telephoned her commands for the same evening to a Mr. and Mrs. X., persons of considerable social position, Mr. X. holding an important post in connection with the Hudson Bay company. Mrs. X. was naturally highly incensed -besides, she had a long standing engagement for the same evening-and the result was that she decided, not without trepidation, that she would not

It was not till the viceregal party were seated at dinner that the double vacancy made Lady Aberdeen aware of the absence of Mr. and Mrs. X. "My dear," said Lady Aberdeen at once to her husband across the table, "Mr. and Mrs. X. are not here. They must have got our message this morning." turning to a servant, she said, "Just telephone to Mr. and Mrs X., at --that we are expecting them this evengenuine pleasure to behold. I was about guests followed on this little speech, to exterminate the big, sluggish reptile and then Lord Aberdeen came hastily, if not diplomatically, to the rescue. "No, no, mother," he called across the table, "I cannot have that. We have Not exactly understanding whether all of us had quite enough telephoning for one day. "-Today.

To Prevent Iron Rust.

Among the new and useful metallurgical processes of note the San Francisco Scientific Press speaks of one by which iron may be effectively protected from rust. In this a solution of ferrocy anide is mixed with a flaxseed varnish to which has been added a small quan tity of turpentine or benzol. The evap oration of the alcohol leaves the flaxseed varnish, which forms a coat and protects the cyanide of iron, the same being deposited upon the metal by the use of the ferrocyanide, the only preparation required by iron for such treatment being the removal of any rust that may have formed on it not admitting of the action of such a solution. Another process of interest to workers in metallurgy is that of substituting the use of manganese for German silver, the different metals and their proportions being as follows: Copper, 67.25 per cent; manganese, 18.50 per cent; zinc, 13 per cent; aluminium, 1.25 per cent, the color of this metal closely resembling German silver, being also fully as strong as the best quality of the latter and possessing superior adaptation for

While European Russia will need only 45 years or so, Germany about 65 years, Austria-Hungary 70 years, Eng-Closer an closer the king drawed his land 80 years, Italy 110 years, it will circle as he dashed round until he take France over 860 years to double its wuzn't more'n three feet from the ini- population! What signifies the loss of Alsace-Lorraine's 1,500,000 souls com pared with the loss France suffers every the last show to save his bacon, made a day? In the last five years the German powerful spiteful lunge at the king, population has increased by 3,000,000, an thar is whar he slipped up, fur the who are every one fully German; king he dodged, an quicker'n gunpow- France, meanwhile, has increased her der wuz on to the rattler. Thar wuzn't people by only 175,000, who are not nothin but a ball uv snakes in sight fur even of French nationality. The ina few minutes as they fought an tus- crease of a nation is of the utmost importance to the success of its country. It has meant much in the nineteenth wound round the big rattler just like century; it will mean more in the twentieth. England, Germany, aye, even "Then I seed the king hold 'im by Italy, have millions of representatives on foreign soil; France has none, or too him crushin the rattler as he tightened | few to signify. The Gallic race has felt it and will in the future learn more an the king, unwindin hisself from his bitterly still the truth of the proverb, "The absent are ever in the wrong."-

Forest Veterans.

The largest British oak is the Major or Queen oak, in Sherwood forest (where Robin Hood and his merry outlaws shot the king's deer and robbed the he crawled in a old stump hole an rich and helped the poor and held their presently came out with a mouse's tail revels 'neath the greenwood tree), and stickin out his mouf. But he soon is supposed to be one of a forest planted swallowed the mouse, an, wipin his nose 1,500 years ago. The isle of Man has on the grass, went off sarchin for more the largest fuchsia tree in the world trouble. A king allers eats a rat or a and it constitutes one of the notable toad after a fight to make him strong sights of Ramsey. England's largest willow tree on record was grown at "An now, mister, I could tell ye a Borcham, Essex, and the smallest Britpowerful lot more'n that, fur I knows ish trees are the two inch dwarf wil snakes, I do, but I'll help ye kill the lows of Ben Lomond, Clwnag, whose copper, which mout not meet a king orthography proclaims the land of the leek, boasts of a tree without roots, and then I must burry on after my oxen, the oldest trees in Britain are the famous Bentley and Winfarthing caks, which were two centuries old when William the Conqueror's oak at Windsor burst from its acorn. - Philadelphia

Her Advice.

There were two women saying goodby at the corner. One was round and plump and healthy, the other was thin and apparently ill. It was evident that the one who was not in health had been telling her troubles to the one who had probably never been in any other state, and she was receiving sympathy and advice so cheerfully given that no passer could fail to overhear it.

"There, goodby," said the well one, "and don't take any medicine. You are perfectly well, you know, and God is love."-Boston Budget.

Crushed.

Nell-So you're really engaged in

Belle-Yes, and to think that I should do it, after rejecting almost a hundred proposals!

Nell-Indeed. What a very persistent young man he must have been .-

They Scatter.

So many people talk at random that half of what is said never makes a hit. -New Orleans Picayune.

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