Albany Register.

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FRESH TOPICS.

"COME, gentle spring; ethereal mildness, come."

D. R LOCKE ("Petroleum V. Nasby") has disposed of his interest in the Toledo *Blade* to his former partner, and gone the way of all rich people—to Europe.

IT is now cheaper to travel than it is to stay at home. The railroad war has made it an object to follow Lord Bateman's example, and "go abroad strange countries for to see."

AFTER receiving $20,000 for their services, spending $8,000 for telegrams, and large sums for the distribution of 700,000 circulars, the detectives engaged to discover Charlie Ross have found a clew—a straw hat worth 50 cents.

GOV. HENDRICKS recently vetoed a bill passed by the Indiana Legislature providing for the incorporation of camp-meeting associations, on the ground that the creation of religious incorporations is not in harmony with the spirit of the government.

DEPRECIATION of values of real estate, stocks, bonds, and other property held in and about New York alone, since the September panic, is set down as high as $1,000,000,000. The estimate is carefully made upon present prices and those of thirty months ago.

THE anti-lottery law is being vigorously enforced in Chicago. The proprietors of all the daily papers have been indicted by the grand jury, hauled up before the courts, and fined for printing lottery advertisements. In nearly every instance a $50 fine, the lowest penalty prescribed by the statute, was imposed.

ACCORDING to Paul B. Sodders of Lafayette, Ind., Beecher commenced business as a revivalist in that town thirty-two years ago. Elder Knapp was doing so much damage to the Presbyterian cause by converting its people to Baptist theology, that Beecher was put up in competition, and soon recalled the straying sheep.

CONGRESS has now taken three long strides toward a revival of the franking privilege. The sending free of public documents and of *Congressional Records* by Congressmen, and of garden seeds by the Commissioner of Agriculture, was authorized. Only one more step remains to be taken, namely, applying deadheadism to letters.

THE express companies have won a victory that will have very substantial results to them. After several years of hard work they have succeeded in having the postage on all packages weighing over four pounds considerably increased. The effect of this will be to compel people to send all such packages by express instead of by mail as heretofore.

PINCHBACK, Collector Casey, and Congressman Sheldon, recently indulged in a quiet little game of draw at the national capital. When the sitting was over, the coffee-colored statesman was richer by nine thousand dollars than when he sat down. After this, who will deny that Pinchback possesses the qualifications necessary to a seat in the national Congress?

THE Force bill, which passed the lower house of Congress, but failed in the Senate, probably excited more bitter opposition than any measure that has been before Congress for years, the Democrats having used every appliance known to parliamentary tacticians to defeat it. On its final passage thirty-seven Republicans voted with the Democrats against it.

A DISTINCTION which has long been an eye-sore to Western dairymen and dealers is wiped out by the action of the National Butter and Egg Association, recently in session in Chicago. There will be no longer a grade known as "Western" butter, a term heretofore implying inferior quality, and the shipments from the West will go upon the market on their merits.

A STOCK company is being organized at Sioux City for the purpose of establishing a regular stage and freight line of accommodation between that point and the Black Hills through Northern Nebraska. It is intended to commence running April 15. Col. Sawyer, who surveyed for the government a wagon road from Sioux City to Montana in 1867, will have the management of the company.

THE House of Representatives at Washington, on the last day of the session, seated George A. Sheridan as Congressman-at-large from Louisiana, his contestant being Pinchback. It also at the same time unseated J. Hale Sypher, of the same State, and gave the seat to Effingham Lawrence. Though the Congressional career of these was very brief—only about six hours—it was sufficiently long to entitle them to draw their salary for two years, amounting, with mileage, to some $12,000 a piece.

CHINA newspapers inform us that the late Emperor died of small-pox. It was at one time thought that he was recovering, and arrangements had been made for a grand festival in honor of the Goddess of Small-pox, when a quantity of paper offerings were to be burned in front of the palace. As the disease appeared on the very day of the transit of Venus, the Chinese attribute it to that event—saying that a small-pox scar, not a star, passed over the face of the sun.

THERE were printed during the year, 1874, over 28,000,000 copies of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, or an average of more than 90,000 a day, and yet you will see people who don't think the *Ledger* much of a paper after all. The secret of its success consists in the wonderful completness of its local news, of which it misses nothing. The appearance of the paper is not attractive; its editorials are for the most part prosy and dull, but in the condensation of city news, and the marked conservatism of its commercial reports, it has no superior anywhere.

AN extreme penalty has been fixed, as the result of the Ross abduction case, in Pennsylvania, against the crime of abduction or concealment of stolen children. Fifteen years' imprisonment and $10,000 fine is the punishment to be imposed upon each and every person who assists in the concealment of a kidnapped child. There is a special clause in the bill which is meant directly to effect the restoration of Charley Ross, if possible, providing for the freedom from penalty of any party who may give information of, or restore the stolen boy, within thirty days.

THAT the farmers of the Great West are deeply interested in the subject of transportation was clearly shown in the United States Senate, just before the close of the session, when Mr. Windom, of Minnesota, presented a monster petition containing the autograph signatures of 48,853 horny-handed tillers of the soil, praying for better and cheaper means of transporting their products to market. Of this number, 13,182 reside in Minnesota, 12,154 in Wisconsin, 17,154 in Iowa, 5,838 in Nebraska, and 1,025 in Dakota—with Illinois and Kansas to be heard from. In presenting it, Mr. Windom very pertinently said that it was but a faint expression of the sentiments and demands of the people of the Northwest. This petition, says the *Inter-Ocean*, is probably the largest ever presented in Congress. Many years ago Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, presented the petition of 3,000 New England clergymen, praying tor the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law, and that, from its great size, attracted much attention. But this monster appeal for some better means of transportation outweighs anything of the kind ever presented to Congress, and happily illustrates the magnificent manner in which they do things "out West."

THE reports that have recently come from the Black Hills will undoubtedly have an important influence upon the colonization of that country in the spring. The Chicago *Tribune* expresses the belief that as soon as the weather becomes fit for travel there will be such a rush to the new Eldorado as took place years ago to Pike's Peak—that the swarm of settlers, adventurers, and gold-hunters will spread themselves over that region like ants, and will go there in such clouds that the whole army of the United States will not be able to stop them, nor all the Indians west of the Mississippi. If the Black Hills country is half that it is described—a region abounding in gold, silver and other minerals, having magnificent and well-watered valleys, a fertile soil, limitless forests of pine, filled with every description of game, etc., there is no good reason why it should not be populated and improved as soon as possible. The Indians are doing nothing for it, and never will. The *Tribune*, however, adds a timely word of caution to those who may be attacked with the Black Hills fever, and recalls the fate of the Pike's Peak victims as a warning against a repetition of such infatuation and headlong haste to get rich.

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS.

CHICAGO thinks it is her turn to have the Republican National Convention.

A JOURNAL called the *Rake* has been started by the Grangers of Louisville, Ky.

OF two hundred and four members of the Illinois Legislature, less than one-seventh were born in the State.

THE Delaware papers are commenting on the fact that the present Legislature of that State, by some strange accident, contains not a single lawyer.

GEN. FRANK BLAIR'S health is not improving. His friends say that, unless a change for the better occurs very soon, they are prepared for the worst.

THE "Independents" propose this Presidential ticket: David Davis, of Illinois, for President; Newton Booth, of California., for Vice-President.

FIVE men of the name of John Smith are members of the Arkansas Legislature, and the coincidence is said at times to be a serious impediment to the routine of legislation.

EX-GOV. DENNISON has declined to be a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Ohio. The proposal to run Hon. B. F. Wade against Gov. Allen, since old men seem so popular, is gaining favor.

THE Hon. Thomas C. McCreery, of Kentucky, is now the only member of the United States Senate who voted against Johnson's impeachment. He entered the Senate on the 27th of February, 1868, and the vote was taken on the 16th of May following.

A CURIOUS error has occured in the revision of the Illinois statutes by which a man stealing exactly $15 can go unpunished, while, should he steal less, he would suffer imprisonment in the county jail, and, if more, in the State Penitentiary.

IT seems a little paradoxical that West Virginia, which, on account of its loyalty to the government, was separated from Virginia and made a State, should now elect as United States Senator a man who during the war served in the rebel Senate

THE 4th of March, 1876, comes on Sunday, and as Grant's term expires on the 4th, and the inaugural of his successor will not take place until Monday, the 5th, the presiding officer pro tem. of the Senate will be President for twenty-four hours. The presedent was established in the case of James K. Polk, and David Atchison, of Missouri, the then President of the Senate pro tem., became that day President of the United States.

CHIT-CHAT FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

Before and After School.

BEFORE.

"Quarter to nine! Boys and girls, do you hear?"
"One more buckwheat, then—be quick, mother dear!"
"Where is my luncheon box?" "Under the shelf,
Just in the place where you left it yourself!"
"I can't say my table;"—"O, find me my cap!"
"One kiss for mamma, and sweet sis in her lap!"
"Be good, dear!"—"I'll try;"—"9 time 9's 81;"
"Take your mittens!"—"All right;"—"Hurry up Bill; let's run."
With a slam of the door, they are off, girls and boys,
And the mother draws breath in the lull of their noise.

AFTER.

"Don't wake up the baby! Come gently, my dear!"
"O, mother! I've torn my new dress, just look here!
I'm sorry. I only was climbing the wall;"
"O, mother! my map was the nicest of all!"
"And Nelly, in spelling, went up to the head!"
"I've got such a toothache;"—"The teacher's unfair."
"Is dinner most ready? I'm just like a bear!"
Be patient, worn mother, they're growing up fast,
These nursery whirlwinds, not long do they last;
A still lonely house would be far worse than noise
Rejoice and be glad in your brave girls and boys!
—*Rhode Island Schoolmaster.*

Be Deaf to Evil Counsel.

Pinkie and Bossy Barney stood almost up to their knees in fragrant clover.

"Isn't this perfectly delicious?" inquired Bossy Barney enthusiastically of her neighbor.

"It *is* nice," replied Pinkie; "but just look there!"

Bossy Barney looked in the direction which Pinkie's eyes had taken, and there was a large field of corn. It did look very tempting, with its lovely green stalks and waving tassels.

"Do you see *that?*" asked Pinkie.

"Yes, I see it," replied Bossy Barney; "it's corn."

"Of *course* it is," said Pinkie, "and I like corn better than clover."

"Do you," remarked Bossy Barney, carelessly. She was a very well-behaved little heifer, and had never thought of jumping a fence in all her life.

"We could get over there very easily," said naughty Pinkie. "I'll show you how if you'll come."

"No indeed!" cried Bossy Barney, in indignant amazement. "I wouldn't *do* such a thing for the world! We're very well off where we are. We don't get sweet clover every day."

Thus repulsed, Pinkie thought best to change the subject of conversation. She said no more about the corn, but discoursed eloquently of the beautiful farm upon which she used to live, where the grass was greener than any she had ever seen since, and more delicious even than the clover which they were then eating. It had been to her the scene of many joys and sorrows. There she was always allowed to roam about the cornfield at her own sweet will, and there, alas, three lovely little ones had been basely stolen from her when they most needed a mother's care.

"That must have been *very* hard!" said Bossy Barney, sympathetically.

"It was dreadful," sighed Pinkie; "I shall never get over it—*never!*"

Bossy Barney lapped Pinkie's face and neck with her rough tongue. It was her way of saying, "I am very sorry for you."

Cunning Pinkie walked slowly along until she reached the fence, knowing well that her companion would follow.

"That's a *very* fine field of corn," said she, artfully.

Bossy Barney looked, and looking, longed. It was indeed a *very* fine field of corn.

"This is not a strong fence," continued artful Pinkie. "I can just put my horn in, so, and lift this bar off, so; and we can walk in without any trouble;" and suiting the action to the word, she was soon crunching the delicate kernels.

"You'd better come," she cried; "you never tested anything nicer in all your life."

At first Bossy Barney resolved that she would not go; but it was very hard to stand there and see Pinkie devouring ear after ear, and to feel that, but for a few troublesome scruples of conscience, she might be enjoying their sweetness too. She was a very good cow, but she felt that she was tried beyond her strength.

Well would it have been for Bossy Barney had she placed the length of the clover-field between herself and temptation; but she didn't. She walked nearer and nearer to the bars, and at last thought she would just jump over and taste. There was no harm in that, surely. She could come back at any time.

Alas! alas! once over, she could not persuade herself to return. Indeed, she did not try very hard. The corn was so very luscious, she really could not bear to leave it.

About an hour afterward, as the cows still stood in the midst of the corn-field, they heard an *awful* voice close behind them. It was the voice of their master, but they didn't know it, it was so changed.

Pinkie made for the bars, as fast as she could go; but Bossy Barney was so frightened she could not tell which way to turn.

"Here! What are you about? Get out of that!" and whack, whack, whack came a heavy stick upon her back. She ran hither and thither, but the blows came thicker and faster. At last she spied the bars, and over them she went, and found herself in the clover-field again. Here she paused to take breath. It was very hard to run, after such a hearty meal.

But her troubles were not yet over. The farmer drove them up to the barn-yard, where was neither corn nor clover, and there they stayed until it was time for them to be milked and put to bed. And the next day, when they appeared in the field, each wore a small square board, which nearly covered her face, entirely concealing her eyes.

"Dear me!" exclaimed Bossy Barney, "this is awful! One might as well be blind and done with it. I can't tell whether the sun shines or not. All that I can do is to eat what grows just under my nose. How I wish we'd let the corn alone; don't you, Pinkie?"

But Pinkie was sullen, and made no reply.

"I should never have done it in the world if it hadn' been for her," thought Bossy Barney to herself. "I should think she might answer a civil question." She had yet to learn that those who tempt their fellow-creatures to do wrong care very little for their discomforts afterward.

It was nearly a week before the farmer felt that his cows were sufficiently punished. Oh, what a long, dreary week that was, and how Bossy Barney rejoiced when the horrid blind board was removed, and she could look about her once more. How blue the sky was, and how tall the grass had grown and the clover! As for the corn, she never even dared to look toward the field.

"Well, Bossy," said the farmer, "will you behave yourself now?"

"Moo!" replied Bossy Barney.

"And let my corn alone?"

"Ooo-oo-oo!" which, being interpreted, means, "Yes, *indeed, indeed* I will."

The farmer was a kind-hearted man. He patted Bossy Barney's red back, and gave her a handful of salt. Then he went over to Pinkie, and asked her the same question, which she answered in the affirmative, with great *gusto*.

I feel sure that Bossy Barny will keep her promise, but I have not as much faith in Pinkie. Neither, apparently, had her master, for he did not attempt to caress her, nor did he offer her even as much as a pinch of salt. The truth is, Pinkie had jumped fences before, and very likely the farmer knew it. Cows are very much like human beings, after all. They cannot keep their evil deeds hidden from the eyes of a curious world.

Let us hope that Pinkie will learn wisdom from experience, and do better in future. Blind boards and "pokes" are neither comfortable nor becoming, Pinkie. "Be good, and you will be happy."—*Congregationalist.*

The Whistling Compositor.

He come into the office about three months ago, with his mouth puckered, and the "Arkansas Traveler" issuing therefrom. It was not a loud or shrill whistle—it was not that lively and joyous whistle that betokens the heart light and the mind free from care. On the contrary, he sawed up and down through the staves like a buzz-saw ripping through a pine log, and verse followed verse without the least variation. This showed that he was thoroughly used to that whistle, and its constant repetition was the principal object of his life.

So he came in whistling.

He looked around the office complacently, never losing a note, and finally sidling up to the foreman, he stopped whistling for an instant to inquire:

"How's work?"

But before the reply could be given, he had picked up that whistle right where he had left off, and was rolling it out—

Tilly tum, tally, tally tum tilly, O!

with his mouth puckered, but his ears wide open.

Well, that fellow was put to work, and he whistled over to his case, whistled around for a stick and rule, whistled up to the copy-hook, whistled off to his case again, and, picking up an em quad, drew a fresh breath and whistled all through the "take" till he whistled over to the galley to empty it. But it was the same old whistle—the "Arkansas Traveler," over and over again, until it would seem that the traveler had worn his shoes out and was hunting a place to rest. Still he kept on.

This thing at first was a novelty, and amused "the boys;" but finally it became monotonous, and as water continually dripping on a rock will wear its surface, so did this everlasting refrain of the "Arkansas Traveler" grate and lacerate the sensitive nerves of his brother compositors. Low, angry murmurs betokened the rising storm, and broad hints uncomplimentary to his musical abilities were thrown out. But he paid no attention to them, and just kept right along whistling and setting type.

He is an easy whistler.

All he has to do is to just pucker up his mouth, and that blasted old "Arkansas Traveler" rolls right out in a steady stream, just as if his mouth was a music-box set to one tune, and wound up every Presidential election, or once in four years.

Finally, human nature could endure no more. Loud cries of:

"Give us a rest!"
"Oh, let up!"
"Hire a hall!"
"Go West!"
"Cheese it!"
"Shet up!"

—mingled with groans, cat-calls and hisses filled the office, and made the composing-room resemble a large and thriving lunatic-asylum.

But it was no use. That fellow never paid the least attention to them, but just went right ahead with his little old whistle, and never missed a note except when he came to a hard word in his copy, when he would dwell on the last note until he found out what it was, and then went ahead again.

He took the storm of old shoes, slippers and boots that was showered upon him with the utmost *sang froid*, and we believe the cuss actually thought it was intended for applause.

The rest of the men became indignant, and held a "chapel meeting," to consider the propriety of a strike.

Now, what could we do? The Constitution as it was contained nothing that would warrant us in discharging a man for whistling, nor neither would he stop his whistle. So the only plan for us to adopt was to let things and the "Arkansas Traveler" have their own way.

Even the landlord came down and made complaint. He said this man would wake up in the middle of the night, sit bolt upright in bed, and whistle the "Traveler" for half an hour in his sleep, until he had awoke the whole house, when he would lie down and go to sleep until he would whistle himself down to breakfast.

At last the hands in the office hit upon a plan to stop this everlasting whistle. One night, when he was asleep, they went up to his room and clapped a tremendous strong sticking-plaster right over his mouth, and then retired, thanking God that the unendurable nuisance was forever abated. The next morning that misguided young man went over to a carpenter shop, borrowed a gimlet, bored a hole through the plaster, and waltzed into the office, where he horrified the establishment by that same old tune in a new dress.

So now he does nothing but suck soup through that hole, and blow the "Arkansas Traveler" out of it.

Does any body want a whistling compositor?—*Sedalia (Mo.) Democrat.*

Billingsiana.

If we expekt to enjoy life we must not be surprised at good luk or bad luk, but treat them both az we would a good of a bad penny,

It iz not possible to offer any excuse for ingratitude.

Exaggeration iz the effekt ov vanity, not malice; how menny people there iz who couldn't see a white rat run into a hole without offering to swear "there was twenty white rats run into that hole, all at onst."

When a woman gits to going down hill, she don't try to hold bak, and never stops until she gits to the very bottum.

He alone iz a wize man who is certain that he kan learn something nu every day.

The man who won't proffit bi the experience of others certainly wont bi hiz own.

Yu may make a servant ov a friend, but yu kant make a friend ov a servant; it ain't natral.

The instinks of wimmin are more korreet than their judgments.

Did yu ever see a bizzy boddy that was hunting for sumthing good?

Fault-finders never suspekt themselfs.

One hour of old-fashioned jumping toothake iz more than a match for one year ov enny kind of plezzure.

Precoshus children iz another name for precoshus fools.

FARM AND DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Farm Notes.

NEVER move fruit trees far north in transplanting.

A DUNCE will do as much damage on a farm as anywhere.

IT is said that apples can be kept free from insects by allowing fowls to run under the trees.

A PIECE of paraffine candle about the size of a nut, dissolved in lard oil at 140 deg. Fah., the mixture applied once a month, will keep boots waterproof.

MANY Ohio farmers claim that seed corn and wheat for sowing, brought from a colder to a warmer country, yields the best returns.

SALT should be furnished to all animals regularly. A cow, or an ox, or a horse needs two to four ounces daily. Salts increases the butter in milk, helps the digestive and nutritive processes, and gives a good appetite. The people of interior Europe have a saying that a pound of salt makes ten pounds of flesh. Of course salt only assists in assimilating the food; it does not make flesh nor muscle.

SEWERAGE water that has had the cruder portion of its impurities removed by imperfect filtration is not only clear and sparkling, but peculiarly pleasant to the taste, from the gases and salts which it contains, but it is, nevertheless, the source of some of our most fatal diseases. The only way to remove this poisonous quality is to filter the water either through a thick and dense bed of soil or a thick layer of charcoal; and, as it very rarely happens that it is convenient to do this after the water has been drawn from the wells, we ought to use every means to keep impure water out.

CLIPPING HORSES.—Some persons condemn the practice of clipping horses as cruel and injurious, and call upon Mr. Bergh to protect them against it; while others contend that it is humane and highly beneficial, Both are right and both are wrong. It depends on the kind of work to which the horse is put, and on the natural coat of the horse—whether the hair is short, fine and thin, or long, coarse and thick. If the former, clipping may be hurtful, and there is no necessity for it, for the horse, unless put to unusually fast work, sweats so little that he dries quickly when returned to his stable, and if properly rubbed then and blanketed, receives no injury. But in the latter case, if the horse be moved out of a walk, he generally sweats so profusely as to completely saturate his coat, and when put back into his stall, he is in the same condition that a man would be in who, after being thoroughly drenched in water, should happen to be left to dry himself standing in a cold room, with his wet clothes still upon him. We all know that nothing can be more likely to give a man a severe rheumatism or a dangerous cold than this. We would therefore say, clip a horse late in the autumn, or let him wear his summer growth of hair, according to these facts. Profuse perspiration in the case of a horse is lessened somewhat by giving his food to him dry, and as little water to drink as is consistent with his comfort. Some persons feed their horses with steamed food, or with hay cut short in a straw-cutter, and then saturated either alone or mixed with bran and meal. This is good feed in summer, but not in winter. Dry oats and hay alone are then the best feed for a profusely sweating horse, or one that is called upon daily for fast work.—*New York Evening Post.*

Household Hints.

SEE that nothing is thrown away which might have served to nourish your own family or a poorer one.

ROAST LEG OF LAMB.—Let the fire be moderate, and roast the joint slowly, basting it frequently until done, when it should be sprinkled with salt, and the gravy freed from all fat before serving.

TO REMOVE MILDEW.—Soak the parts of the cloth that have been mildewed in two parts of chloride of lime to four parts of water, for about two hours, or till the mildew has disappeared; then thoroughly rinse it in clean water.

LAMB STEW.—Take half a shoulder of lamb and boil it in two quarts of water for two hours. Then put in potatoes, onions, turnips cut in quarters, salt and pepper to taste. Ten minutes before serving put in the dumplings.

TO CLEAN old combs, place them in some vessel that will hold water, laying them flat, one on the other, until the vessel is full, lay on a board and a stone to keep them from floating. Now fill the vessel with water and slacked lime. Let them soak twenty-four hours, then take out one at a time, and with a fine broom brush lightly but thoroughly on each side. Next put them into the extractor, and throw out the water. Rinse them in clean water, and use the extractor each time. Then stand them up singly in the shade to dry. Two or three days will not be too long to dry them. Then cut out all the drone comb, and they are ready for the bees.

A Hot Bath.

A couple of gentlemen, John Smith and James Brown, were seated in the ante room of a bath house, awaiting their "turns" for a bath.

After they had got tired of twirling their thumbs, Smith asked Brown whether he preferred a hot or cold bath. Brown, who was remarkably fond of running a rig on any one said he was partial to hot baths, and enjoyed them so frequently that he didn't think there was any other man in creation that could remain in water at the temperature he ordinarily used. Smith was one of that kind of men who never permit themselves to be outdone in anything, and one word led on to another until at length Smith proposed the following wager, to which Brown agreed to at once:

Two baths in rooms adjoining were to be prepared, and cold water to the depth of six inches to be let in. They were to enter at the same instant—the hot water tap then to be turned, and the one that first cried "enough" was to pay for a supper and "fixings." Smith went heartily to work, entered the bath, and turned on the hot water, taking special good care to draw up his legs as far as possible. Brown turned the hot water tap, but instead of permitting the hot water to remain in the bath, he let it out by means of a contrivance he managed to rig up. The tap was to be "turned," but there was nothing said about where the water should go to. Brown said to himself:

"If I don't boil that Smith it will not be my fault."

Presently Smith found the water too hot for comfort, and said, "How is it with you, Brown?"

"Hot enough," was the reply. "I shall have to give up right off, if you don't," he continued, as he lay there cool enough at the bottom of the bath.

Smith was thinking about giving in beat, but Brown's words encouraged him to hold out a little longer.

"I'm perfectly cool yet," said Smith, as he writhed and twisted about, "and can stand out two minutes longer, so you'd better give up, Brown."

"The water is 'tarnal hot, you know, but I shall hold out a few seconds longer," said Brown.

Smith could not. With a half suppressed cry of pain, he sprang from the water, literally parboiled. Hastily drawing on some of his clothing, he entered Brown's room, and saw him lying very comfortably at the bottom of the empty bath, smoking a cigar. He found that he had been done Brown as well as boiled, when Brown insisted that his tap was turned fairly, but as not a word was said about where the water should go, he preferred passing it out through the plug-hole. Smith promises to pay for the supper as soon as he congeals, which will not be just yet.

Hints on Health.

The following valuable suggestions are culled from Dr. Hall's *Journal of Health:*

Dyspepsia means a difficulty in preparing the food eaten so that the nutriment can be extracted from it to supply the wants of the system. Eating too fast and too much are prolific causes; the first because the food, being swallowed in too large pieces, begins to ferment before it can digest, and the second because the stomach cannot cope with the quantity forced upon it. A limited supply of gastric juice is another cause, and this implies bad blood. Out-of-door life, moderate exercise until hungry, and simple food, are the best remedies.

Bitters, the names of the multitudinous varieties of which disfigure the fences and scenery of the country, come in for severe handling, on account of their alcoholic composition. In brief, while persons are using bitters as a medicine, they are often drinking, three times a day, a more concentrated form of alcohol than is found in the purest whiskies and brandies. It should be set down as a settled rule that bitters in any form is alcohol in disguise.

Localities of life should be high. Elevated stations are generally exempt from the ravages of consumptive disease. The air is lighter and contains less oxygen; but as the lungs live on oxygen, as it is the oxygen which they bring in contact with the blood at every breath, it is that which purifies and gives it its life-giving power. If each breath of air does not give a sufficient amount of oxygen, instinct prompts a fuller breath; this distends the lungs more fully, and thus develops and strengthens them. A statement is given of the elevation of several American cities: New Orleans is relatively given as 10, New York and Philadelphia, 35; Boston, 40; Chicago, 585; Nebraska City, 1,000, and Winona, Minn., 1,500.

Many a family mansion has been built with the accumulations of the savings of half a lifetime to make the graves of half the household in a few months, from neglect of the precautions for thorough drainage and proper water supply for drinking and cooking. Never select a house over a filling; prefer sandy soil or the top of a hill.

With reference to winter garments, sufficient clothing should be worn to keep off a feeling of chilliness when about usual avocations. Less than that subjects one to an attack of dangerous pneumonia at any day or hour. More than that oppresses. Steadily aim, by all possible ways and means, to keep off a feeling of chilliness, which always indicates that cold has been taken.

Instinct teaches that less exertive power is required to keep moving than, after coming to a standing, to set the body in motion again. The frequent stoppages of stages and street cars kill off the horses. Instinct also teaches the requisite expenditure of strength according to the circumstances of the season. No one walks as fast in summer as in winter. We get up in the morning with a certain amount of strength, and much may be gained by economizing during the day.

Spectacles become necessary wheny on first notice yourself going to the window instinctively for a better light, or when your eye gets tired by looking at any small thing near at hand, so as to cause indistinctness. First purchase No. 20; and as you observe the symptoms above named, get No. 18, and so on. The glasses should be near enough to the eye almost to touch the lashes; they should be washed every morning in cold water and carried in a pocket by themselves. Brazilian pebble makes the best lenses. Avoid reading before sunrise and after sunset. Read as little as possible before breakfast, or by artificial light; do not sew on dark material at night, and use no other eyewash than pure, tepid, soft water. Babies' eyes are often injured by allowing the glaring sunlight to fall upon them.

Exercise is worth more than all the medicines in maintaining health. If it rains, take an umbrella and let it rain on; if it is cold, walk or work faster; if it is windy, turn around and go the other way; if it rains, hails, snows and blows, all at once, so that you have to stay indoors, then live on bread and water that day, not an atom else, and you will need no exercise to work it up.

It should always be borne in mind that a large share of our little aches and pains would pass off about as soon by letting them alone as by doing or taking something; and the more we "take," the greater is the necessity for "taking."

The best way to enjoy things is to use them, and thus get the worth of our money out of them. There is no use of gorgeous parlors kept in darkness.

Sometimes the reading of a single sentiment in a newspaper makes an impression on the mind which tinges the whole subsequent life for good.

The Temperature at Great Heights.

Prof. Wahl, who accompanied Prof. Wise in a recent balloon ascent, gives the following account of the temperature experienced: "The maximum temperature observed was 97 deg. at starting, and this continued 1,300 feet. At 2,000 feet it was 96 deg.; at 3,000 feet, 85 deg. The fall went on until, at the greatest altitude attained—viz., 8,748 feet—the temperature was but 68 deg. It fell gradually as we descended, but was lower than in the ascent, owing, doubtless, to approaching twilight and the attendant lessening of the sun's power." Observations were also made with a view to estimate the quantity and quality of any mechanical or other impurities of the atmosphere, but it will require some little time and careful work before any information on that point can be made public.

THE *Patron's Helper* thinks the value of narrow gauge railroads has been greatly over-estimated, and as one objection that the little engines cannot keep the track free from snow in winter. It instances the road running from Des Moines to Ames, Iowa, which, it says, has been pretty effectually blocked for three weeks.

IT pays to hire good farm help; men who understand their business.

The Latest Fashions.

SPRING COSTUMES.

The first indications of spring styles are found in suits of plaid and striped wool goods, and in the new lace-figured percale costumes. There is nothing yet very new in the manner of making these. Most of the early imported dresses have a basque and tablier, with sometimes a jacket; the skirt is, as usual, trimmed with flounces, both plated and shirred, headed by puffs. Great variety, however is given to costumes by employing two materials, one of plaid, and the other striped in the colors of the plaid, and the object seems to be to have no two dresses alike. Thus in one costume the sleeves, skirt and flounces are striped, with a basque and apron of plaids, while perhaps the dress hanging beside it entirely reverses this plan, and a third costume is a mixture of both the others. The apron promises to supersede the regular over-skirt, and it is also the objective point for trimming, having triple bands laid on to imitate or outline these aprons, or else there are two deep pointed aprons trimmed separately; at the back are straight wide breadths, hanging in sash loops or else plain, and these are sufficiently ample to dispense with puffs, ruffles, or other elaborate trimming on the back of the underskirt.

PLAID SUITS FOR SPRING.

There is no doubt that we are to have a *quadrille* season, not of high-colored tartans, but of dark brown plaid and soft gray tints well blended. These are in broken irregular plaids, even cross-bars, pin-head checks, large blocks, and every possible arrangement of squares. They are usually shades of some color, but the newest are "illuminated," as dealers say, by lines and bars of vivid scarlet, blue, or ecru. Something of the illuminated lines appears in the trimmings, as pipings, facings and lining of bows, collar and sash ends. De bege will be the popular material in these designs, and a large per centage of the importations is of brown shades.

LACE-FIGURED PERCALES.

The novelty in soft-finished French percales is a lace-like design of white upon a color, blue, brown, ecru, gray or black. This lace figure is in open webs, and in star and compass patterns like those found in Hamburg work and English embroidery. Sometimes the design is in stripes, again it covers the entire ground, and in many cases it forms side bands near the selvage for trimming the tablier, sash and cuirass.

PLAIN-BORDERED PERCALES.

Small checks and plain or striped grounds form the foundation of many percale suits that are trimmed with flounces bordered with plaids of the shades used in the dress. These are in quaint grayish-blue with dark blue, brown with ecru, pink with gray, prune with blue, etc. The material sells for thirty-five cents a yard.

MADRAS COLORS.

Madras colors are the prevailing Parisian caprice for all kinds of fabrics—cottons, linens, batistes, woolens, twilled silks, and grenadines. These are chosen for their oddness and quaintness, and in many instances their ugliness is commended as their chief beauty. The Oxford linens represent the colors shown in bright Madras handkerchiefs, and these will be the fashionable materials for summer dresses.

ECRU LINENS.

Ecru linens are wrought in Hamburg patterns of very open figures, and have lace to match imported with them. Some of these ecru fabrics are in striped guipure designs, and these also have lace to correspond for garniture.

BLACK GRENADINES.

The checks and plaids of black grenadines have grown to great size, the most fashionable being in squares of two inches, though the pin-head canvas meshes of last year will remain popular. These checks are placed in stripes alternating with gros grain stripes, moire, or brocaded stripes. Perhaps the richest of all are the velvet plaid grenadines, having large bars of black velvet passing each way on the sheer grenadine ground.

LINEN LAWNS.

The cool, fresh-looking, linen lawns are the lowest priced, most durable, and tasteful of all cheap fabrics. These cost from twenty-five cents to forty cents a yard. The designs are waved stripes of coral, blue or black. There are also many plaids in color, and the usual dots, dashes, stars, and lozenges.

CHECKED BORDERS.

Pin-head checks cut to form bias bands will be much used for trimming goods of solid color. This will be especially popular for blue and white summer silks, brown and white, and black with white. When the dress is made of these small checks, large blocks are used for borders. Brown and white check silks, trimmed with larger checks, will make pretty traveling dresses for brides.

SPRING SHAWLS.

New square shawls for early spring days have plain centers, with lighter band for borders, and are reversible. Thus a light gray shawl with dark gray border on one side will leave the other center of dark gray with light border. The fringe is richly tasseled.—*Harper's Bazar.*

The Cry of a Cougar.

A gentleman living on the mountain about a mile and a half southwest of this city, was awakened from his slumbers on Thursday night by a strange noise, resembling the wail of a man in great distress. He turned out of bed, intent on playing the part of the Good Samaritan, but, strange to say, the direction from which the noise came seemed to have changed, and it became apparent that the incognito from which emanated the melancholy refrain was traveling on the main road. He went to the house of a neighbor, who, by the way, is an old Oregonian, and calling him out of bed he directed his attention to the noise in question. The Oregonian smiled, a disdainful smile, and remarked: "Well, John, you are badly fooled this time; that is the cry of the cougar or Oregon lion." It is needless to say that John did not wish to pursue the subject any longer, but wended his way back to bed again, trembling at the idea of what the consequences might have been if he had obeyed his first impulse and ran down the road to interview the night walker.—*Portland (Oregon) Bulletin.*

A PORTLAND gentleman is said to have slept so soundly on the occasion of the recent railroad accident at Kennebunk, when seven cars were thrown from the track, that he did not awake, and when the train came out to bring the passengers into this city he had to be aroused. And he hadn't taken anything, either.

IN Illinois the highest salary paid to male teachers is $330 a month; the highest paid to female teachers, $220. The respective averages of the sexes are $48.18 and $33.46; in Massachusetts, $94.33 and $34.34. In Massachusetts one teacher in eight is a man; in Illinois, three teachers in seven are men.

ONE of the healthiest provisions of the French code is that forbidding a doctor to inherit property left him by a deceased patient.