

American and English Schools.

The Bishop of Manchester has paid a high compliment to the American school system in his inaugural address...

How the Earth will Perish.

The planet Venus has an atmosphere, and it is said to be at the very least as dense as that of our own earth.

We pass to the moon to answer that question, and here we certainly find no traces of water.

Let us pause to consider some of the stars in this regard. Many of them are too old and many too young to sustain life on their surfaces...

Etiquette in Boston.

Very marked were the tokens of class and rank and social distinctions in the Puritan town and its neighborhood.

"Yes, I kinder think so?" was the reply. "Well, I kinder like tragedy."

A Novel Duel.

A novel kind of duel was fought lately in the Indian Territory, near Atoka, between two Mexicans, called Dorado...

He Wanted to be an Actor.

A citizen whose best weight never exceeds 120 pounds was the other day buying a couple of hens of a farmer on the market...

"So you think you would make an actor?" "Yes, I kinder think so?"

"Not at all. In the first place your ears are too large. Then your legs stick out too far."

"I've thought some of being a nigger minstrel," observed the boy, after a long silence.

"Well, I'm bound to go into theatricals, if I can't be anything else, I'll be the fellow that stands at the door to raise a row, and I'll begin on you! Come over here!"

Listz and Princess Metternich.

Listz is one of the most independent of men, and never acknowledges any control but that of friendship and respect.

"Your first visit to Vienna," she said, looking full in the handsome, stately young man's face.

Stories of an Epicure.

Grimod de la Reyniere, the noted French epicure, was a lawyer by profession, but abandoned this calling to spite his parents for preventing his marriage with the woman of his choice.

"Thus far the 'philosophic breakfasts' were, to say the least, eccentric, and the reverse of epicurean; but little by little they underwent a refining process.

One repast consisted of no less than nine courses, each preceded by two flute-pieces, and served by a procession of white-robed attendants.

"For three hours' drive," coolly replied Grimod. "This is my fate, and it is no more than just that I should receive my fare."

Medieval Superstitions.

Among these last was the mandragora, which was supposed to reveal to its possessor hidden things and future events, and to secure the friendship of all men.

"In the demoniacal fauna of the middle ages were-wolves played an important part. They were supposed to be made when a woman changed herself for a time into a wolf, and roved about hunting for children.

Another ghastly superstition of those times was that of belief in vampires. These were disembodied souls, which re clothed themselves in their buried bodies.

Detected by a Dream.

In the number of Lippincott's Magazine for January was published an article headed "An Old-Time Tragedy," which has been reproduced in a hundred West-coast newspapers.

I have concluded to give you a true statement of the matter: Rebecca McCrory, the murdered girl, and I were cousins.

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The Ways of London Beggars.

Paralysis is often imitated, and so closely that it is not infrequently the impostor. A fellow is directed how to hang the elbow, twist the wrist, and drop the fingers of one arm, and drag the corresponding leg limply after him.

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Some Results of Tidal Friction.

G. H. Darwin has just contributed to Nature's Digest an interesting paper giving the results of a mathematical investigation into the action of tidal friction on the configuration of a planet and satellite, and especially on the earth and moon.

The process by which the tidal action brings about changes of the configuration of planet and satellite is the destruction of energy (or rather its partial conversion into heat within the planet and partial re-distribution) and the transference of angular momentum from that of plane rotation to that of orbital revolution of the two bodies about their common center of inertia.

Big Tree Fossils.

Two large fossil trees are now on their way to Washington from the western part of New Mexico, designed for the new National Museum.

It is not so much the quantity that tells as the quality. The devil has as much brains as an archangel, but he doesn't look at things in the same way, and that's why he is where he is.

Charles O'Connor's Ways.

Mr. O'Connor still keeps his office in Wall street, but his use for it is very little. He has been out of active practice several years, but force of habit still brings him down to the office quite often.

A depraved small boy.—A fearful example of criminal precocity is afforded by a case which recently came before the Assize Court of St. Peter, in Martineque.

A Chicagoan has announced that he has discovered a process by which illuminating gas can be made from water. The Chicago people are ready to believe in it, as they have an idea that water has been made for something or other.

Gorman's success in grasping the Maryland Senatorship is explained. He used to be a good catcher in a baseball club.