

## IN ALASKA.

### How the Land Looks to an Old Scout and Miner.

San Francisco, June 10.

An old pioneer Californian writes to a friend and former mining partner in this city, from Granville, Burrard Inlet, B. C. It may be said, by a most profane, that the writer has had a most extraordinary and varied experience. About the year 1844, he resided in one of the then border states of the west, and was a student of medicine, and in very poor health—suffering from "consumption," the doctors said, and it was agreed that nothing would save him but a trip across the Rocky Mountains. He joined a party of trappers and came through to Oregon in that year. Afterwards he drifted down into Mexico, and was hunting for aches for the state of Chihuahua. He was on Mexican soil when the war commenced in 1846, and was brought close to death's door with a severe attack of fever. During his sickness he was taken care of by an old Mexican woman, who managed to keep him hidden from the military authorities till he became convalescent, when he eluded the officials and made his way to the American lines, conveying some important information to Gen. Taylor. He then entered the spy service and was kept busy till the close of the war often running terrible risks.

In 1848 he came through to California with Col. Graham's command, and encountered the usual vicissitudes of a miner's life in the pioneer days, in the counties of Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa. He went north in the first Frasier river excitement—then to Cariboo. Returning to California, he joined an expedition and went to South America, crossing two ranges of the Andes, for the purpose of prospecting the headwaters of the Amazon. The enterprise proved rich in natural history, and he secured many valuable specimens of birds, mammals, reptiles, insects and mountain torrents but added nothing to the wealth of the party. He afterwards tried Arizona, failed, and then turned his attention to the frozen north, joining the Russian telegraph expedition as head explorer, and subsequently engaged in several prospecting excursions under difficult and dangerous circumstances.

For several years his whereabouts has not been known to his California friends till the reception of the letter above mentioned. After a brief account of a logging camp, where he had been putting in his time for eighteen months, he gives a chapter of his prospecting and mining experience in British Columbia and Alaska. He went to the Stikkeen-Cassiar mines in 1874, when he met with an accident—getting his right arm dislocated, in consequence of which he came to California for repairs—afterward returning to Cassiar. After two or three seasons of unsuccessful mining, he took up a farm near the head of navigation on the Stikkeen. The land proved productive, and he had good crops of potatoes, cabbages, turnips, oats and barley. Hay was his principal crop. About the time he was fairly under way in his agricultural venture, the mines failed and the packers had to take the trains out of the country—utterly ruining the hay market, and as turnips and potatoes would not sell for money his "years' labor" as a tiller of the soil went for nothing, except to add to the sum of what he knew about farming.

Then went to the Alaska mines at Harrisburg, between Sitka and Chitoot. There were some very fair placer mines in this neighborhood, along the side of a mountain on the mainland and also on Douglas Island, but their extent was very limited, and they were all taken up before he reached the place. He writes that the climate in that region is "horrible—everlasting rain and snow." It is the worst place in all Alaska. The mines are up Gesteau Inlet. The great glaciers near the coast condense the clouds as they come up the inlet, so there is rain or snow nearly all the time.

On Douglas Island there are some good paying quartz mines, and a big mill is now being built there.

In the Basin mines, on the mainland, there is a great deal of galena united with the gold in quartz, and some very beautiful specimens have been found.

The Indians are employed in the mines and they are good workers. They are accustomed to the rains and find no more about being wet than beavers and muskrats.

"In their houses," says the writer, "there is a very strong odor—something like that of wet dog—rather unpleasant till one gets used to it."

The Indians all along the Alaska coast get plenty to eat; their bill of fare including herring, salmon, halibut, codfish, seals and whales. Fine black-tailed deer are very plentiful along the coast—some of them being marvellous of fatness. In the woods there is a great abundance and variety of berries. The bears get so fat they can hardly get about. Mountain sheep, marmots, minks, martin, ermine, weasels, otters, foxes, and all other fur-bearing animals are plentiful. Of the feathered tribe there are geese, ducks, loons and divers and other water birds, several varieties of grouse, eagles, hawks, and jay birds.

In summing up his experience in that territory, he concludes that Alaska is a rough looking country, but is better than it looks. There is an abundance of mineral wealth, but it is a hard country to prospect. The glaciers, the fallen trees, the moss, but, worse than all, the cold rains, are enough to discourage the stoutest prospector. Nevertheless, there are likely to be many important discoveries made, now that the civil law is established in the territory. Sometime in the near future we may expect from the writer something of interest regarding the interior of Alaska.

### Flower Gardens.

The old-fashioned flower garden, with its beds of fragrant, straggling posies, is seen no more except in some quiet country spot. There can still be found the tall, sweet-scented syringa, with its blossoms like orange flowers, golden lemon lilies, delicate lavender and fawn-tinted fleur-de-lis, the spicy

cinnamon, and the faintly tinted blush rose. The damask rose, with its leaves like velvet and its yellow heart, invariably grows beside them. By and by, as the season advances, here and there, in such a garden, blue, white and pink larkspurs and many-colored, tall hollyhocks spring into bloom, and variegated "Lur-o'clocks" open their eyes each day at the appointed hour. Verbenas run helter-skelter in this garden, the old-time hardy, purple variety never ceasing to bloom till frost comes, and even after that putting out flowers. There are great yellow marigolds, and little brown and gold ones. There is a bed of "johnny-jump-ups" in some shady part of this garden, bunches of "live-forever," of pungent "old-man," and thorny sweetbrier bushes. There are single petunias, heavy with perfume, growing sturdily even among the grasses—for the petunia is a bohemian, and flourishes wherever it chances to find itself, rapidly degenerating from a state of double pelated, brilliant hued aristocracy to a single-leaved, plain, white flower, without a home. It will lift its head up among the rankest growing weeds to look the sun in the face. The earth is carpeted in some places in this garden with deep-green myrtle, "Bachelor-buttons" grow wheresoever they will. On the edge of the garden the caraway and dill send up their stalks. There is a place somewhere in the beds for the scarlet flowering bean and the morning glory. Even the wild cucumber-vine is not scorned, and it twines itself along the fence.

The fashionable garden of the period is quite another affair. It is orderly, to begin with, above all things. No stragglers are allowed there. It is close clipped, arranged on a certain pattern, looks as if it were rolled out on oceans on and taken indoors when it is needed to keep it from getting damp. It has a set form, made of perfectly graded hedges, and is called the "or-canal" style of gardening. This style is said to have originated in England, but it has been universally adopted throughout France and Germany, as well as in this country. The plants used most largely to produce the effects desired are geraniums and those comprised under the head of "foliage plants," and small border growers of various kinds. Lettuce is utilized for outside borders to a great extent because of its brilliant blue blossom and continual flowering.

"There is far less attention given to the cultivation of flowers in America than there is in Europe," said a German florist. "In Germany, France and England gardeners are always experimenting to produce different effects in gardening. They give great attention to producing new varieties of plants. Wealthy people there are willing to pay large sums for rare flowers. In this country people who have fine country places think more of a broad sweep of green lawn than of the finest flower beds on earth."

### An Educated Chimpanzee.

I was once the owner of a highly educated chimpanzee. He knew all the friends of the house; all our acquaintances, and distinguished them readily from strangers. Every one treating him kindly he was looked upon as a personal friend. He never felt more comfortable than when he was admitted to the family circle and allowed to move freely around, and open and shut doors, while his joy was boundless when he was assigned a place at the common table, and the guests admired his natural wit and practical jokes. He expressed his satisfaction and thanks to them by drumming furiously on the table. In his numerous moments of leisure his favorite occupation consisted in investigating carefully every object in his reach; he lowered the door of the stove for the purpose of watching the fire, opened drawers, rummaged boxes and trunks and played with their contents, provided the latter did not look suspicious to him. How easily suspicious was aroused in his mind might be illustrated by the fact that, as long as he lived, he shrank with terror from every common rubber-ball. Obedience to my orders and attachment to my person, and to everybody caring for him, were among his cardinal virtues, and he adorned me with his persistent wishes to accompany me. He knew perfectly his time for retiring, and was happy when some of us carried him to his bedroom like a baby. As soon as the light was put out he would jump into the bed and cover himself, because he was afraid of the darkness. His favorite meal was supper with tea, which he was very fond of, provided it was largely sweetened and mixed with rum. He sipped it from the cup, and at the dipped bread slices with a spoon, having been taught not to use the fingers in eating; he poured his wine from the bottle and drank it from the glass. A man could hardly believe himself more gentlemanlike at table than did that monkey.

### Hints on Summer Diet.

Milk is a very important summer diet, but should be used in moderation or it is liable to produce ill effects. Drink it in small mouthfuls and rest a moment between them. Dyspeptic persons are advised to beat the milk a few moments before drinking. That treatment breaks the butter globules and renders digestion easier.

We strongly recommend skimmed milk and fresh buttermilk as summer drinks, instead of ice water. The ice water dyspepsia, a common malady during the summer months, may be entirely relieved by using small quantities of freshly-churned buttermilk, accompanied by what is known as a moderately dry diet.

Breakfast should not be a heavy meal and hot food should be used in moderation. Hot tea and coffee liberally partaken often prevents one from feeling comfortable all day. Radishes, ice cold, oatmeal crackers and milk, a dainty slice of cold lamb, fresh fruit and cold asparagus, present a breakfast that makes hot weather a luxury.

Oil fever has broken out in Morrisville, N. Y., over the discovery of petroleum oozing from a spring a short distance north of the village. Experts are said to have announced the oil to be of fine quality.

## THE SAME OLD STORY.

### How Live Stock in Different Parts of the Country Came Through the Winter.

The long, cold winter is at last over, and farm animals are being turned into the pastures. We are now receiving reports from the various state boards and from the national department of agriculture in regard to the present condition of farm animals and the losses sustained by the owners during the winter. The reports read like reprints of those of former years. They show that farm animals are in the best condition, and that the losses by death have been the smallest in those states where the climate is most severe, and where food suitable for them is obtained with the greatest difficulty. The animals are in the poorest condition, and the losses are the heaviest in state and territories where the winters are mild, and where green forage can be depended on during most of the year. In all the New England states the losses of cattle amounted to less than 2 per cent., but in Louisiana 8 per cent. of all the cattle died. In the southern seaboard states the loss of cattle during the winter was from 5 to 7 per cent. Texas suffered a loss of \$45,566 head of cattle, which amounted to 7 per cent. of the whole number. Massachusetts has the best record, the losses amounting to only 1 1/2 per cent. The losses were quite small in the northwestern states.

From several counties in Georgia very heavy losses are reported. The following are the worst cases: Charlton county, 33 1/2 per cent.; Wilcox, 25 to 65 per cent.; Worth, 20 per cent.; Brown, 18 per cent.; Emanuel, 20 per cent.; Dodge, 15 per cent.; Colquitt, 20 per cent., of range cattle. In many counties the losses range from 10 to 15 per cent., but in a large number they are under the lower of these rates, while in many there have been none. In Florida the losses rate is high, rising in Baker county, to 30 per cent. In Alabama and Mississippi they appear to be much lower than in Georgia, but this may be due in part to the greater care on the part of correspondents to discriminate between deaths from exposure and deaths from starvation, and to report only the former. In Saint Tammany parish, Louisiana, a loss of 50 per cent. is reported, and a loss of 20 per cent. in Bienville parish, in the same state. A correspondent in St. Mary's parish reports considerable loss among cattle ranging in sea marshes. In Texas the losses among range cattle have in many cases been very severe, ranging from 20 to 40 per cent. In Virginia the losses rise as high as 10 per cent. in a number of counties, and in some they are reported as very heavy, but without attempting to express them definitely in figures. In this state, however, the losses from exposure are complicated with those arising from insufficient food, and the same remark applies to all the other southern states. Several correspondents in Virginia express an apprehension of further loss, or a loss where none had occurred up to the date of their report, as a result of increasing scarcity of feed, due to the backwardness of the spring. In the Carolinas the loss reaches 10 per cent. in a few counties. The secretary of the Kansas board of agriculture in his last quarterly report says: "There have been during the fall and winter heavy losses among cattle. There is hardly a county in the state that does not report serious loss from turning cattle into stalk-fields, where an insufficient amount of water and salt was provided. In the western counties 'range cattle' suffered a heavy loss from exposure and lack of feed, probably the largest for several years, owing to the unusual severity of the winter. Cattle were particularly free from disease during the past winter, the only loss being from bad management, as above stated. They are in fair condition, although unusually thin in flesh, resulting from the severity of the winter and the lack of sufficient food and shelter."

In the states where cattle went through the winter in good condition, and where there were few losses, sheep are reported as in fine order. In Massachusetts there was a loss of but 4 per cent., against 14 per cent. in Mississippi. Texas is credited with a loss of 1,137,789 sheep out of 7,938,461. The statistician of the department of agriculture says: "Losses have been heavy in those states where sheep are provided with no shelter, but permitted to run at large all winter, subject to the varying climatic changes. The winter just closed has been especially severe, and the lack of good pasturage in the fall ill prepared the flocks for such vicissitudes. As a consequence, and exposure, united with short food, have caused considerable loss in numbers and more of condition, especially noted in Virginia, Georgia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. In New England, the middle, and western states, where sheep are housed, there has been but little loss from cold. The losses among hogs have been heaviest in the states where the largest number of the same and sheep have died, and the same cause is assigned for their death. The losses of horses and mules that are attributed to exposure, want of care, and lack of sufficient food are comparatively small in any of the states. As these animals are more valuable than cattle, sheep and swine, and as they are constantly required for work or pleasure, they are furnished with shelter, and supplied with suitable food, while they receive good, or at least fair, attention. Shelter is generally provided for a horse that draws a plow or wagon, though the cow that supplies milk for the family is constantly exposed to the cold and storm. The money value of shelter for animals has yet to be learned in many parts of the country. Much has been written about the advantages of the 'sunny south' for keeping stock of all kinds. Still it is evident that raising of any kind of animals there will never be very profitable till the farmers provide better shelter, furnish a more liberal supply of food to eat during the winter, and give the animals better care. Texas may be a very excellent state in which to raise sheep, but no flock-master realizes the profit he should who has his flocks reduced to the extent of one-sixth of

the number during every winter. Economic as well as humanitarian considerations demand that domesticated animals be sheltered during the winter and provided with an abundant amount of suitable food.—Chicago Times.

### Industrial Briefs.

Prof. J. W. Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural college, at Columbia, appends to the report of one of his interesting experiments the following comment: "This farm, during the hard season just passed, paid its manager, and paid every other bill, and gave a balance of \$1,280, although without the equipment for successful management. But schools of instruction, to serve their purpose, should not be expected to be sources of profit in agriculture more than elsewhere. The receipts of the farm are necessary for experimentation and illustration, without which the work is comparatively useless."

There are at present in Mexico 87 cotton-mills, with 249,750 spinnings and 9,758 looms; there are 10 woolen-mills, with 9,364 spinnings and 369 looms. In the state of Puebla there are 21 mills, with 72,000 spinnings. Steam-power is used in 8 mills, water-power in 35 mills, and water and steam in 54 mills. There are employed 12,728 operators, of whom over one-third are women and children. The production of prints of these mills amounts to about 23,000 pieces, but the entire industry is so clumsily managed that American and European makes are being successfully marketed.

Orchard grass is a robust grower and very tenacious of life. It masses its roots so as to resist the encroachment of other grasses, covering much of the ground with its large pendent leaves, that spring out near the base of the plant, to shade, nourish, and enrich the soil not occupied by the plant itself. This, perhaps, accounts largely for its ability to endure excessive drought. It will produce two large crops of good hay on rich soil, and submit to more abuse than any other forage plant, except blue-grass, which is of little value in a very dry season.

An English officer who has seen service in Egypt states that the food of the Arabian horse consists of six pounds of barley, which is given at sunset. This custom seems to agree with the animal, and it enables his owner to carry in a bag food enough—sixty pounds—for a ten days' journey across the desert. The stomach of the horse is small, and for this reason it is the custom in agricultural countries to give him three meals a day. But in Arabia they make a virtue of necessity. Fast is broken but once in twenty-four hours.

The number of fowls kept in France is said to be 43,858,780; the average product of chickens reared is estimated at three to each hen, and the average product of eggs per hen one hundred per annum. The estimation in which a French woman holds her pullets may be realized by the name she gives them, which is poulette, and means not only a pullet, but a darling. Thus giving her heart to her work, she succeeds in it and makes it profitable. This is a lesson for our poultry-keepers.

Kerosene is becoming known as a valuable insecticide. Prof. A. J. Cook uses this mixture: One pint of kerosene, one quart of soap, one gallon of water. The soap and water are heated to boiling, when the kerosene is added, and all well stirred. This prevents attacks of borers in fruit trees, kills all lice on plants, and has been found effective against many insect pests. With whale-oil soap in the mixture, it has destroyed the cabbage maggot.

The Cheshire Dairy Farmers' association (England) is considering a proposal to acquire a pasture farm of two hundred acres, on which to impart special instruction to the sons and daughters of farmers. The secretary of the association, who introduced the scheme, believed it could be made absolutely self-supporting, and the proposal was very cordially received by the members.

Mr. W. S. Loomis, of Holyoke, Mass., recently made a seven days test of his Jersey cow Louise of Lawnfield, 1451. A. J. C. She gave an average of eighteen and one-half quarts of milk per day, and made fourteen pounds eleven and one-half ounces of butter from the milk of the seven days. Mr. Loomis thinks the cow can make at least sixteen pounds under more favorable circumstances.

An eastern paper says: We hear of great losses of bees this winter. The assessors, at least, can find few that are strong enough to tax. What business have assessors to tax bees, any more than the bee in the hive, if it is old enough to tax, is the queen, and nobody knows whether she is alive or not.

Over a hole from which an apple-tree was dug, and which was afterward filled with rich earth from the roadside, a parsnip was grown last season that reached fully thirty inches below the surface and was otherwise large in proportion. For carrots and parsnips the soil can scarcely be made too deep, provided it is fertile all the way down.

The attempt to interest English farmers in the production of caraway seed was not successful, and almost the entire amount used in the country is brought from the continent of Europe.

There is a salt lake in Hidalgo county, Texas, which is one mile in length, five miles in circumference, and from three to four feet deep. Its bed consists of crystals of pure salt.

It is the opinion of cattlemen on the western slope that two-thousand stout saddle-horses more than are now used will be required for the cattle business the present season.

Spring is the best time in which to move bees, because the honey does not burden the combs, and there is no danger of the combs being melted down by the heat.

A Poland sow recently killed by Miller Brothers, in Illinois, weighed alive 520 pounds, and dressed 480, losing but a trifle over 8 pounds to the hundred.

## UPPER CANADA.

### A Country Which Had Slavery Until 1793—The Days of No Stoves—The Old-Fashioned Fireplace—Baking in the Ashes—Leeks as Food—Popular Belief in Witchcraft.

In a former letter, writes a correspondent to *The Toronto Globe*, I briefly spoke of slavery as once existing in Ontario. Many persons who have not looked into the history of our country doubt my statement. The subject is so interesting that I will speak more fully on the point. Great Britain abolished slavery in the British West Indies as late as 1833, and paid £20,000,000 for the slaves to their owners. It is difficult at this time to tell why our forefathers in Ontario were so much in advance of the mother country as well as the United States, for we find that they abolished slavery from Upper Canada in July, 1793. Of course there were not many slaves in Upper Canada at the time; still there were some, but it seems no compensation was ever paid to the owners for such slaves. Just think what a fearful cost of treasure and precious lives the United States were called upon in the late war to stand, in order to rid their country of slavery. Had they abolished slavery at the time our forefathers did, no doubt the great war of the rebellion would have been averted, and besides, in 1793, when we abolished slavery, they could not have had very many slaves at the most, and even if they were paid for they would not have cost anything like so great a sum as Great Britain paid for her West India slaves in 1833.

Then I maintain that our forefathers in Upper Canada in 1793 were far in advance in public spirit and true philanthropy of our American cousins, for we do not find that the Americans at this time made any great agitation to rid their country of the curse of slavery. If there were no other fact to be proud of in our early history or proud of our country, this act of our forefathers is one in which we can justly take pride and makes us more fervently prize our peerless Upper Canada. Not wishing to be too elaborate on this subject, yet I feel that I must insert the act abolishing slavery in full. In July, 1793, the first Parliament of Upper Canada, at its full session, called together at Niagara by Lieut. Gov. John Graves Simcoe, passed an act as follows:

CHAPTER 7. SECTION 1. Hereafter no person shall obtain a license for the importation of any negro or other person who shall come or be brought into this province after the passing of this act, to be subject to the condition of a slave; nor shall any voluntary contract of service be binding for a longer term than nine years.

SEC. 2. This clause enables the present owners of slaves in their possession to retain them or bind out their children until they attain the age of 21 years.

SEC. 3. And in order to prevent the continuance of slavery in this province the children that shall be born of female slaves after the passing of this act to remain in the service of the owner of their mother until the age of 25 years, when they shall be discharged.

Provided, that in case any issue shall be born of such children during their servitude or after, such issue shall be entitled to all the rights of free-born subjects.

By this simple act of our first parliament our country was effectually rid of this pest without shedding a drop of blood or the expenditure of a single dollar in money. All honor to our forefathers and a thrice for our banner free province. Our forefathers at this time and long after had no stoves in their log-houses. All cooking as well as heating was done by the fireplace. A crane swung on hinges into this great fireplace, which could be swung out from the fire at pleasure. Attached to this crane was an iron having notches therein, and fitting over the pendant iron rod was another shorter iron with a link as of a chain on the end thereof. This link fitted into the notches on the first mentioned iron. By this means the lower iron could be raised or lowered. Now, by hanging a pot on the lower end of the shorter iron rod it could be raised or lowered into or above the fire at pleasure. Thus our forefathers did their first cooking in Upper Canada. The corn cake, or wheaten cake, when they had it, was baked in the ashes, and wonderfully sweet old persons thought it. The fact that it was covered with some loose ashes did not detract from its sweetness; these were soon brushed away, leaving the toothsome cake within.

The first improvement in the culinary art of our forefathers came the bake-oven. These were tin trays, as it were, open on one side. They would be set before the fireplace, with the open side facing the fire. Thus the rays of heat would be collected, and in a measure confined within the oven, and the bread or cakes within were soon nicely browned and baked. It was considered an immense stride by our forefathers when they got these bake-ovens, and for years they did not aspire to anything better.

Ovens out of doors were built by some of stone. Such were conical in shape and open in the center. An immense fire would be built in this outdoor oven and, when burnt to real live coals, would be all drawn out. Its stones would thus be thoroughly heated. Into the cavity in which the fire had been the bread would be inserted, and the door stopped up. Enough latent heat would remain in the stones to thoroughly bake at least two batches of bread. But this was done at a fearful waste of wood, which, of course, was of no account at that time. The advent of stoves changed all that, and now a fireplace of wood in an Ontario home is more a luxury than a necessity, and but few are to be found.

Wild leeks were then used as an article of food. As soon as the snows disappeared in the spring they would be found in abundance in the forests, and were gathered as the first spring vegetable. Their unsavory smell, or that imparted to the breath of the eater thereof, seemed to be no bar to their use. When all partook of the leek not one could detect the odor

from the other. Likewise the cowslip a little later in the season, which grew in shallow ponds, furnished a diet of greens to our forefathers. To show how difficult it was at this early day for the poor settlers to obtain money, I will relate an anecdote of about 1807. Levi Annis, whom I spoke of in a former letter, was living at this time with his father in the county of Durham. During the summer and fall of 1806 they had chopped and burned a fallow of thirty-one acres, which they had sowed to fall wheat. As a preparation for sowing the land was not plowed at all, but was loose and leafy and ashy from the burning. The wheat was sown broadcast by hand among the stumps. It was covered by hitching a yoke of oxen to the butt end of a small tree, with the branches left hanging thereto. The oxen drew this to and fro over the fallow among the stumps and thus covered the wheat. This was called bushing in and was the first harrow used by our forefathers among the stumps. However, the fallow upon which the wheat was so bushed in produced as fine a crop of fall wheat as ever grew, falling not much below thirty bushels per acre. Now this wheat could be exchanged for store goods at will, but not for money. Levi Annis, however, took the first load of it to Bowmanville, and was told by his father that he must get \$5.50 on account of the bush crop to pay his taxes, for he must have the money to pay his taxes, but the rest he would take store for. The merchant with whom he dealt actually refused to advance the \$5.50, saying he could get all the wheat he wanted for goods. The young man had to drive to another merchant and state his deplorable case to him and his urgent need of \$5.50, and that if he would advance him the money he should have the whole crop of thirty-one acres. Finally, the second merchant took pity upon the young man in his dilemma and advanced the money. Thus it was with the utmost difficulty that he could get \$5.50 in cash out of the thirty-one acres of wheat. This shows us to-day how difficult it was for our forefathers to get money. Since the early American colonists burnt witches at Salem, their descendants, who came to Upper Canada as U. E. loyalists, brought the belief of witchcraft with them, and many of them who came here about 1800 and before really did believe in witches. I have heard my forefathers relate a witch story in all seriousness which I think worth repeating, as showing to us that the New England people who burnt witches were really sincere in the belief. About 1800 a settler in the spring of the year did not enjoy very good health. Nothing serious seemed to be the matter with him, only a general want of inertia or a general seediness. There was no medical man to consult, so he did the next best thing by consulting his nearest neighbor. The neighbor upon being told his symptoms, at once pronounced him bewitched. An old woman in the locality was at once picked out as the bewitcher. Now for the remedy to break the spell of the witchery. A ball must be made of silver, and they melted a silver coin and made a rifle ball of it. An image of dough must be made to as closely resemble the supposed witch as possible, and it was made. Just as the sun rose the bewitched must fire at it with his rifle and the silver ball, and the dough image was set upon a top rail of the fence, and as the sun rose he fired and just grazed the shoulder of the dough image. In about an hour the old witch came to the house in great haste, and wanted to borrow some article. Were they to lend her the article desired the spell would come on again, but refusing, the spell was broken; of course, like sensible men, they did not lend the article. Even they went on to say further that the witch was hit and wounded slightly on the shoulder, where the dough image was struck by the silver ball. However, be that as it may, they asserted that the sick man speedily got well, and was never again bewitched by the witch in question, nor any other. Of the efficacy of the unerring aim of the silver ball I do not vouch, but I do vouch for the real bona fide belief of the old narrators of the whole tale.

### Muscles and Brains.

One of the strongest arguments that can be brought to bear against the present ascendancy of the athletics in our colleges is their damaging effect upon the studies of the men making up the teams. In the college offices the other day the register kindly showed the records of the university base-ball nines of 1881 to 1884, inclusive. The nine of '81 had an average race of 76 in a class of 100. The nine of '82 averaged 53. The nine of '83 averaged 52, while the nine of '84 averaged 54. With the exception of '81, each nine contained two or three men of high standing, whose record showed that a man can study and play ball as well. Each nine showed also two or three men standing in the middle of the class. Finally each nine contained several professional ball-players with whom every examination must have been the nature of a lottery. Upon the whole, however, the figures were higher than we expected, and were encouraging to one who believes that running bases does not unfit a man for intellectual work. One of the first duties of a captain is to look after the college standing of the men under his charge. A few teams in good standing will silence the critics of college athletics.—Princetonian.

### The Richest Cabinet Lady.

The richest lady in Washington now probably is Mrs. Whitney, whose husband is Secretary of the Navy, and whose father is the millionaire Senator Payne of Ohio. It is said one of her brothers gave her a cool million within a year or two, and as a trifle Christmas gift gave her a \$10,000 ornament of rubies. The diamonds she wore at her first Wednesday reception in Washington were very large and brilliant. Her earrings of solitaire diamonds and the three solitaires which were set in a bar breast pin are unusually large and pure.—Washington Letter.