Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

HOW A SPIDER SNARES ITS PREY.

Trapping Its Game In a Scientific Manner —Preserving Fresh Meat.

Having an old fern case, with sides and top all glass, we filled the bottom with earth, placing a few sticks firmly in the soil, so that the spiders would have some projections to secure their webs to. The first spider we placed in the case was a very fine specimen, marked on the top of the abdomen. We took her from an old laurel tree in which there were several young ones. The first day she remained crawling about on the ground; but on looking next morning we found a perfect web, spun horizontally across the case, about half way up; and on magnifying the ends of the web that were fastened to the glass—which was very smooth—we discovered the spider had frayed out the ends of the weblines, and had fastened them to the glass by means of a gummy substance, thus giving it a greater power of adhesion than by trusting to a single cord. We placed a small house-fly in the case, where it soon became entangled in the web, the spider immediately rushing down, seizing and killing it. She then carried it to the top of the glass, and in four minutes had sucked all the moisture out of it. She then wrapped it loosely round with web, leaving only one line to it, by which she carefully lowered it for about two inches through a space in the net; then, cutting the line with her hind feet, she let it fall to the ground.

After this we placed four flies in the case, three of which were speedily caught. The spider having evidently eaten enough, she disposed of these flies in a different manner from the first. Running to each in turn, she turned the fly rapidly round and round with her front legs; at the same time two distinct webs kept winding round the fly from the spinnerets, until it was incased in such a bag of web that the fly could not be seen. She then hung them in different parts of the web, eating two of them the same night. Thinking the flies so wrapped up would be air-tight, we detached one from the web, leaving it exposed to the air for three days. Although the weather was very hot we found on carefully opening the case that the dead fly was quite fresh, and, when smashed between the fingers, was in a perfectly juicy condition. This clearly shows their wonderful instinct in preserving food for future meals.

One day we placed in the case a large meat fly, which immediately flew through the web, tearing it in a destructive manner. The spider at once came down and repaired it, and in a few minutes the fly was once more in the web, struggling hard. This time the spider came within about half an inch of the fly, made a strong cord fast to three of the outside lines of the net, and then running quickly over the back of the fly she made the cord fast on the other side. On this cord we noticed tiny beads hanging, of a clear-looking substance, which, as the fly struggled, adhered to its wings, impeding its movements. Leaving the fly for nearly two minutes, by which time he was nearly exhausted, the spider once more drew near, and quickly had him by the back. Swaying her body from side to side, at the same time she soon bound him with three cords, which she guided about over the fly with her hind feet in a wonderfully rapid manner. She then pierced him on the side of the trunk, from which place she did not again loose until the fly was dead. Making a slight repast, she bound the remains securely in the web for future meals.—*Chambers's Journal.*

Dust-Sifters of Peking.

Gold, silver, and other metals, etc., are often found in the most unlikely places. Last year I noticed persons digging in the stream that flows in the moat close to the Chien Men, in search of gold. The situation was explained by the contiguity of the gold-shops, as the sweepings of such places are thrown into the moat. There are in Peking a band of some three hundred men who follow, during the four winter months, a business which consists in brushing up the dry dust of our streets, seiving or fanning it, and make a decent living of 20 cents a day on an average. By far the largest quantity of metal found is, of course, iron, in the form of dust, pellets, nails, etc., which is sold at 4 large Peking cash per catty.

Next to iron they find copper, silver, gold, and precious stones. The latter are almost valueless, being crushed by the carts. After scraping together and winnowing three or four small basket shovels (po-chi) they will secure about a handful of iron debris. This they deposit in a bag which they carry around their waists, and on returning home they use a loadstone to extract all the iron, and afterward submit the remainder to a washing process, when the silver, the main article sought, is at once seen. On the above calculations there is, therefore, an army of these metal-gatherers making $60 daily, and this, multiplied by four months, gives over $7,000. Here is an almost unknown trade proving sufficiently lucrative. The men are scattered over all the city—on the cart as well as on the foot-passage thoroughfares.—*North China Daily News.*

Mrs. Blunt—I can't abide that Smith woman; I believe I actually hate her. Mr. Goode—But, my dear Mrs. Blunt, you ought not to feel so. Doesn't the Bible tell us to love our enemies? "O, yes, it is all very well to say love your enemies; but how can one love them when one's enemies happen to be one's dearest friends."—*Boston Transcript.*

EARLY HOMESTEAD CLAIMANTS.

How The Pioneers of The West Begin Life—The Dug-out.

To begin with, the habitation of the homesteader is either a dugout or a house built of squares of sod taken from the prairie—Nebraska or Kansas brick, as they are facetiously termed. The dugout consists of a hole dug in the side of a canon or any sort of a depression on the prairie which will serve as a wind-break. This hole is roofed across, about on a level with the prairie, with inch boards, and these are covered with sod. A foot or so of stove-pipe protruding from the roof is the sole indication of a human habitation. One room generally serves all the purposes of the homesteader and his family. If he prospers for a season, he adds to the front of his abode by erecting walls of sod on the side and putting in a new front, the old one serving as a partition between the two rooms. This is considered a commodious dwelling. After riding over a quarter section looking for an owner, espying such an abode, and guiding your team carefully down a break-neck descent to the front door, would it surprise you, upon entering this hole in the ground, to find, for instance, a modern organ with an imposing cathedral back towering high in one corner of the room? But this is no cause for astonishment—very frequently organs and ornate designs in furniture are to be found in the dugouts. Or, if the lady of the house should invite you to remain for the meeting of the literary club there in the evening, would you stare at that? Not at all. Literary clubs, which the members ride all the way from five to twenty miles to attend, and where they discuss everything from the latest political problem to the most abstruse point in metaphysics, are quite the regular thing with our homesteaders. But to behold this life so full of paradoxes in the height of its incongruousness you should be a spectator in the dugout when a neighborhood dance is in full blast. The earthen walls have been skilfully tapestried for the occasion with calico, and when the fun begins the clay floor speedily responds to the capering of the many twinkling feet, and there arises a cloud of dust that would stifle an Indian. But, bless you, they don't mind a bit of dust. A polished floor and the most perfect system of ventilation attainable could not add to their enjoyment.

The homesteaders are very honest. You can leave a house unlocked at all times and your stores are perfectly safe—with the exception of what liquor you may have on hand for medicinal purposes. In other words, the homesteader will steal whisky every time. As a class they are neighborly, kind to one in distress, and exceedingly hospitable.

But it must not be supposed that all homesteaders live in dugouts or sleep six or seven in a room; such experiences attach to the first year or two of frontier life more than to any later period. Many sightly, commodious, and comfortable sod houses have been built. The walls are usually two feet in thickness, the roof shingled, doors and windows set into the walls, and the house plastered inside, sometimes outside, altogether making a very neat and desirable residence. These structures, too, are free from the annoyances of dugouts, in which are found all manner of insects and rodents. Occasionally a rattlesnake will burrow through the earthen sides, and coil himself snugly in the bedclothes, where you will find him on a cool morning. Such intruders are rare, but there are some people who strenuously object to even rare visits of this sort; such are usually energetic enough to get out of the old house and into a new one before spending many months in an abode so uncomfortably near to nature's heart.—*Frank H. Spearman, in Harper's Magazine.*

Making Petroleum Solid.

Experiments are still being made under the direction of the Russian government, with the view of finding a process, at once practical as well as desirable on the score of economy and cleanliness, of solidifying the petroleum used as fuel. According to the report made by Dr. Kauffmann, who has had the principal charge of these experiments, a successful method of accomplishing the desired result consists simply in heating the oil, and afterward adding from 1 to 3 per cent of soap. The latter dissolves in the oil, and the liquid on cooling forms a mass having the appearance of cement and the hardness of compact tallow. The product is hard to light, burns slowly and without smoke, but develops much heat, and leaves about 2 per cent of a hard, residuum.—*New York Sun.*

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, asthma and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this receipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

MISSING LINKS.

The day's wages of a skilled mechanic in Astoria, Oregon, will buy a barrel of flour.

Santa Barbaba, Cal., has an artesian well which yields over 1,000,000 gallons of water daily.

During the recent cyclone in Mississippi a negro boy was blown off his mule into a creek.

Colonel Cash, of South Carolina, had seven duels arranged for when he suddenly fell ill and died.

There died the other day at Chili, Ind., a pony of the mustang variety that was foaled in 1837.

Even the Chinese have caught the base ball fever, and they have organized a club at Marysville, Cal.

A St. Louis doctor says that cocaine not only destroys the will power, but will make a villain out of the honestest man in the world.

Roan Dog, the big medicine man of the Sioux, finding his mother dead and his reputation gone, sent a bullet through his heart last week.

The phylloxera is spreading in the vineyards of California. Another disease called root rot has also appeared to aid in the work of destruction.

Joseph Pinion, of Temple, Ala., found a rock about twenty miles from that place in 1868 that would cut iron, and he says there is a great deal of it.

A man in New Jersey, who was in very destitute circumstances, applied to the town for help. He asked for some money and a pair of patent leather slippers.

At Hamilton, Ont., a man who borrowed an umbrella and did not return it has just been sentenced to jail for one year. A timely warning to the wise is sufficient.

The most common stock expression in the language is probably "Well," used as an interjection. It may be given more meanings than any other meaningless word of a few letters.

Just before water was reached in the new artesian well at Montezuma, Ga., some strange articles came from it, consisting of lumps of coal, fish scales and bone, clear amber-colored rosin and bits of soft wood.

There has been a long search for a sunken rock in the Red Sea upon which two British steamers foundered. It has at last been found. It is a very small coral patch with only fifteen feet of water over it.

The French are acknowledged to have the finest guns and projectiles in Europe. Their Ferminy shell has been shot through an armor plate twenty inches thick, and come out with its steel point uninjured.

In the old church of San Miguel, Santa Fe, N. M., is a bell that was cast in Spain in the year 1356. It was brought to Mexico by Cortez, and after the fall of Montezuma Indian slaves carried it to New Mexico.

Americans are becoming more and more popular in Paris. As in London, they are the fashion. The spread-eagle citizen is less conspicuous, and the present quiet, observing tourist is welcomed with admiration.

Ivy planting and tree planting make college commencements the true time of "arbor days." Some love for trees may be the result of the ceremonies, and arbor day orators may be produced from the graduating classes.

An early portrait of the poet Browning, soon to be published in a collection of his poems, is said to represent a youngish man, with dark hair, rather ill-shaped whiskers, and a decidedly Hebraic cast of countenance.

A well-known London firm of refreshment contractors recently advertised for 4,000 additional waiters, and 10,000 applications were received in response, the whole of the candidates claiming to have had experience.

The largest single check ever given was by John D. Taylor, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Company. It was drawn payable to order of Lee Livingston & Co., for $14,256,196 on the National Bank of Commerce, of New York City.

The lumber from which the gallows was constructed on which John Brown was executed is owned by a resident of Harper's Ferry, who is waiting for some relic hunter to come and take it off his hands. The modest sum of $1,500 is asked for it.

One of the finest collections of coins in the South is owned by Captain Bascom Myrick, of Americus, Ga. He started it a number of years ago from a bag of old Spanish and French coins that he received over the counter while cashier of a bank in Forsyth.

There is quite a colony of well-to-do colored men in Atlanta, Ga., numbers of whom have made small fortunes since the close of the war. The majority of them were slaves and started life poor, but pluck and persistence have given them a firm standing financially.

A moccasin was killed near Smithville, Ga., and out of curiosity the boys made a post-mortem examination of his body. To their amazement they discovered that he had swallowed a snake of length nearly equal to his own, less the head, which had been chewed off.

A cordial farmer, who is preparing to receive city visitors, says: "Our poor relations have written to say that they want to inhale the country air for about three months. Well, if they can live on it let them come. We can lodge the last one of them, as we have plenty of house room."

Something that pays better than a gold mine is a large ledge of mica located just west of Moscow, Idaho. It was discovered a few years ago by an Italian, who sold it for a trifle to W. A. Moody. The ledge was next purchased by a Chicago firm, who paid $125,000 for it, and have since taken a fortune out of it every year.

A new process for preparing beans for food has been devised. The beans are reduced to flour, which is boiled until it attains a certain consistency, and the name of "curd" is given to it. The article is simple, cheap and nutritious, and is much relished by the Chinese. It has a large percentage of caseine, and is a good substitute for milk.

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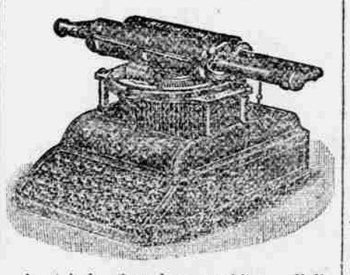

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