## THE WAY SHE MADE THE CAKE

My rule! Why certainly! It's queer—
But no one ever eats that cake,
Who doesn't ask me for my rule.
(How much to use—how long to bake—)
I've given it to scores, and yet,
My knack there's no one seems to get.

I take my flour—sometimes a pint—
Though several cakes require a quart,
And sift it twice, or may be thrice,
Or only once, if time is short,
Three eggs (or four, if under size),
If scarce, two large ones might suffice.

A coffee cup of sugar, then,
With just enough of butter, beat—
Or, add more sugar, if you wish,
Should you prefer it very sweet—
With milk, the butter I increase,
With cream. I use a smaller piece.

Don't let your baking-powder make
Your cake too tender or too tough;
Flavor the whole to suit your taste,
And stir it till it's stiff enough;
And now, your work is wasted quite,
Unless your oven's heat is right.

If you should have good luck, I'm sure
You won't regret the pains you take—
But, after all it's judgment, more
Than quantity, that makes the cake;
For scores have had my rule, and yet
My knack there's no one seems to get.
—Mrs. George Archibald, in Good Housekeeping.

## SHOOTING STARS.

### Wonders of the Great Fire-Balls That Visit Our Planet.

**Their Tremendous Velocity and Intense Brilliancy—A One-Pound Meteor Contains the Energy of a Ton of Powder—Startling Figures.**

Great fire-balls are much more numerous than any one would suppose who had not paid attention to the subject. Nor need this be a matter of surprise if it be remembered that when a fire-ball does arrive it is only by a favorable combination of circumstances that any particular individual is privileged to witness the exhibition.

As to the brilliant light from some of these great fire-balls, there are numerous statements. We are not infrequently told that even the beams of the full moon are ineffectual by comparison with the blaze of the meteor; and we find a high authority asserting that one of these bodies displayed a flash as "blinding as the sun." But our knowledge of the actual illuminating power of meteors is almost unavoidable of rather an inaccurate description. We could measure the light, no doubt, with all practicable precision if we knew when and where to expect it, for then we could bring a suitable photometric apparatus to bear at the critical moment. In the absence of any precise information, we are forced to make the most of such occasional comparisons as may be available. On the 20th of July, 1878, a fire-ball was seen which created so splendid an illumination that "the smallest objects were visible at Manchester." An eye-witness states that when at its best the fire-ball had the luster of a powerful electric light seen from a distance of thirty or forty yards, though at the moment the fire-ball must certainly have been forty-five miles away. We can make a comparative estimate of the intrinsic intensity of a light which, when received from a distance of forty-five miles, has a brilliancy equal to that of a known source thirty-five yards away. It is thus shown that the fire-ball must have emitted more light than five millions of the electric lamps.

Fortunate indeed would the astronomer have been who, guided by some miraculous presence, had gone to the ancient city of York on the evening of the 23d of February, 1879, and on the tower of the glorious minster spent the night in observation of the heavens. It would have been his privilege to have witnessed a majestic meteor under circumstances of almost unique magnificence.

It was at seven minutes before three that such few stragglers as the streets of York still contained saw a pear-shaped ball of fire traveling across the sky. It drenched the ancient city with a flood of light. The superb front of the minster never bef re glowed with so romantic an illumination. The unwonted brilliancy streamed through every aperture in every window in the city, every wakeful eye was instantly on the alert, every light sleeper started up suddenly to know what was the matter. Even those whom the blaze of the midnight light had failed to awaken were only permitted to protract their slumbers for another minute and a half. Only until an awful crash, like a mighty peal of thunder, burst over the town, shaking the doors, the windows, and even the houses themselves. The whole city was thus alarmed. Every one started at the noise. But that noise was not a clap of thunder. Nor was it produced by an earthquake. It was merely the explosion of the fire-ball which flung itself against the atmosphere after its unmeasurable voyage through space.

Let us imagine a wayfarer in the streets of Newcastle on the same morning. He is struggling on his way in dense darkness, and through a raging storm of snow. An instantaneous transformation scene takes place. Suddenly there was light above and around which rendered the white mantle of the city as bright as a summer day. The observer will at once see that this wondrous illumination is not lightning. A flash of lightning lasts for an inconceivably small fraction of a second. But while a man could count fifty the town glows with this strange illumination. And strange it is, for the source of the light is not visible. As the snowstorm would have hidden the sun itself at mid-day, so in the dead of night it hid the great meteor. An exquisite phase of the phenomenon was presented by the changes in the hue of the light which passed from a brilliant white to a beautiful blue ere it disappeared.

Perhaps the most remarkable instance of the *explosion* of a meteor is recorded in the case of the great fire-ball so widely observed in America on the 21st of December, 1876. The movements of this superb object have been carefully studied by Prof. H. A. Newton and Prof. D. Kirkwood. For a prodigious span of a thousand miles this meteor tore over the American continent with a speed of some ten or fifteen miles a second. It originated in Kansas at a height of seventy-five miles. Thence it glided over the Mississippi, over the Missouri; it passed to the south of Lake Michigan; it made a short voyage over Lake Erie, and it can not have been very far from the falls of Niagara, when by becoming invisible all further traces of its movements were lost. While passing a point midway between Chicago and St. Louis a frightful explosion shivered the meteor into a cluster of brilliant balls of fire, which seemed to chase each other across the sky. This cluster must have been about forty miles long and five miles wide. The detonation by which the explosion was accompanied was a specially notable incident of the meteor. It was not only heard with terrific intensity in the neighborhood, but the volume of sound was borne to great distances. Bloomington, in Indiana, is one hundred and eighty-five miles from the actual point in the sky where the meteor was rent in pieces, yet about the neighborhood of Bloomington not only was the sound of a frightful explosion heard, but the shock of the concussion was actually felt to such a degree that some of those who experienced it thought an earthquake must have happened.

The tremendous volume of sound that must have been emitted is forcibly presented to us when we consider the interval of time that elapsed between the moment when the inhabitants of Bloomington saw the gorgeous procession of fire-balls streaming over the heavens, and the moment when the appalling crash burst on their ears. Every one is familiar with the fact that the flash of the gun is seen ere the report is heard, and the greater the distance of the gun the longer is the interval by which the light and the noise are separated. Sound takes five seconds to travel a mile; light travels so quickly that the time necessary to traverse a mile, or a hundred miles, or a thousand miles, is utterly inappreciable by ordinary measurement.

The superb spectacle had been seen at Bloomington. It had excited the utmost astonishment; doubtless it had been discussed and notes had been compared by those whose good fortune had permitted them to see it. But the immediate excitement was over, friends had parted for the night; some of them had entered their houses; others had renewed their walk homeward, and had traveled nearly a mile on their journey; vehicles had driven a couple of miles; trains had run half-a-dozen miles; columns of newspapers had been read. Many who had seen the meteor had already forgotten it, when their ears were deafened by the arrival of the awful explosion.

Nor need we feel much astonished at stupendous phenomena, both of light and of sound, which accompany the advent of a splendid and detonating fire-ball. I must here give a few figures which will show how great is the store of energy possessed by a meteor in virtue of the amazing velocity with which it is animated. I shall suppose that the material element of the meteor consists of a mass of stone or of some more or less metalic material which weighs one pound. We shall examine the circumstances under which we must endeavor by mechanical agents to project this small body with the meteoric speed of, let us say, twenty-five miles a second. Our utmost attempts with a cannon could hardly produce a speed of one-hundreth part of the required amount, and even for this a charge of gunpowder, certainly not less than a quarter of a pound, would be consumed. If a cannon of amazing strength and of ideal efficiency could be conceived, in which all the energy of the exploding powder should be usefully concentrated upon communicating velocity to the projectile, we should find that to double the speed the charge must be quadrupled. To treble the speed we should have to increase the charge ninefold. If the speed were to be increased ten times, we must put one hundred times as much powder into the cannon. Finally, if we could procure a piece of ordnance strong enough and gunpowder rapid enough to impart meteoric velocity to the missile, a charge would be necessary which is ten thousand times as great as the quarter of a pound that is sufficient under the conditions of ordinary artillery. This argument shows us that the energy of an entire ton weight of gunpowder would be required to impart to a stone one pound in weight the liveliness of an ordinary fire-ball.

Whatever may have been the original source whence the meteor acquired its energy (and this is a point on which I do not at present make any remark), that energy will be retained so long as the meteor retains its velocity. Even if the meteor moved through empty space for a million years, it would still be able to restore, if its motion were arrested, the precise quantity of energy which it had originally received. Hence, when the supreme moment has arrived, the meteor expands in the throes of its dissolution all the energy it contains. Every thing that the energy liberated by the explosion of a ton of gunpowder can do, that meteor weighing only a pound is competent to accomplish. If the weight of the missle were greater than one pound, the velocity remaining the same, the available energy would be increased in the same proportion. For example, if the meteor weighed ten pounds, one hundred pounds, or one thousand pounds, it would discharge as much energy as could be awakened by the detonation of ten tons, of one hundred tons, or of one thousand of gun-powder. Need we wonder, then, that gorgeous lights and that majestic thunders have occasionally accompanied the annihilation of large meteors.—Sir R. S. Ball, Astronomer Royal for Ireland, in Good Words.

## HOMES OF CASTAWAYS.

**Thoughts Suggested by a Recent Discovery at Palmerston Island.**

The recent discovery by a British bark that the small Polynesian island known as Palmerston Island is inhabited by men of our race, will revive the hopes of those who have long mourned for relatives lost on the Pacific. There is hardly a person in California who can not recall the memory of some one who went to sea long ago on the widest of the oceans, and has never heard of again. Spiritualists and other impostors have reaped a Eving by deluding survivors with stories of the happy life of the supposed corpse on some sunny isle, where, as the poetess sang, the skies forever smile and the beaches forever weep. Now that we are actually finding crews long since wrecked on islands far out of the track of passing vessels, it must be expected that these sanguine hopes will be revived.

Palmerston island is only one example. It was found to be occupied by an English sailor, who had lived there for twenty-five years. He had deserted from his ship at Tahiti in a small boat, had picked up a wife on a passing island, and had made himself a home on Palmerston, where he was lord of all he surveyed. The nearest land is three hundred miles away; his subjects number thirty-three, of whom fifteen are his own children. In two years it will be a century since the mutineers of the Bounty established themselves on Pitcairn's island. They lived there eighteen years before they were discovered, and even now one only hears of them at intervals. Three-quarters of a century ago three sailors established themselves on Tristand Acunha. They got wives from St. Helena, and led happy lives, seldom communicating with the rest of the world.

"In the tropical zone an island which bears cocoanuts and plantains, and on the shores of which fish are to be found, will sustain human life indefinitely without imports from the civilized world. But little clothing is necessary, and food, with but slight labor, can be made abundant and varied. What sort of life the inhabitants would lead we can learn from "Robinson Crusoe" and Charles Reade's "Foul Play." To one who is accustomed to his daily papers and to the hum and stir of the busy world, life would be a trifle monotonous, but there are persons in every age for whom the career of a hermit has charms. It is quite possible that many islands which sea captains class as uninhabited are really the home of castaways, and it might be worth the while of the schooners which sail out of this point to Polynesia in quest of copra to keep a look-out as they pass them.—San Francisco Call.

## EASTER "LIFTING."

**A Peculiar Custom Observed in the Northern Counties of England.**

A peculiar Easter-Sunday custom is still in vogue in some of the northern counties of England. On that day the men parade the streets with the privilege of "lifting" every woman they meet three times from the ground, and demanding in pay either a kiss or a sixpence. On Easter Monday the tables are turned, the women being entitled to the chance of recovering their kisses or the sixpence as the case may be.

Chambers' "Book of Days" thus alludes to this custom of lifting: "In Lancashire, and in Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire, and perpaps in other counties, the ridiculous custom of 'lifting,' or 'heaving,' is practiced. On Easter Monday the men lift the women and on Easter Tuesday the women lift, or heave, the men. The process is performed by two lusty men or women joining their hands across each other's wrists; then, making the person to be heaved sit down on their arms, they lift him up aloft two or three times, and often carry him several yards along the street. A grave clergyman who happened to be passing through a town in Lancashire on Easter Tuesday, and having to stay an hour or two at an inn, was astonished by three or four lusty women rushing into his room, exclaiming they had come 'to lift him.' 'To lift me!' repeated the amazed divine; 'what can you mean?' 'Why, your reverence, we've come to lift you, 'cause it's Easter Tuesday.' 'Lift me because it is Easter Tuesday? I don't understand. Is there such a custom here?' 'Yes, to be sure, all us women was lifted yesterday, and us lifts the men to-day. And in course it's our rights and duties.' After a little further parley the reverend traveler compromised with his fair visitors for half a crown and thus escaped the dreaded compliment."—Table Talk.

—Cholly (jocularly) — "Take that pencil out of your mouth." Billy—"Say, mister, who owns this mouth?" Cholly—"A syndicate, probably, judging from the size."—Grip.

## CURRENT ITEMS.

—Four hundred and eighty-two works on theology and religion were published in the United States during the year 1888. Of these 339 were made in the United States.

—The clergyman in an English town, having published the bans of matrimony between two persons, was followed by the clerk, reading the hymn beginning with these words: "Mistaken souls, who dream of Heaven."

—Phillip Frank Thomas, of Maryland, and H. M. Watterson, father of the editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, are the only two now alive of the 241 members of the House and fifty-two Senators who composed the Congress of 1839.

—A Kingston, N. Y., minister married a couple one night recently, and when signatures were asked to the certificate it was found that neither the bride, groom, best man nor bridesmaid could write their names. They all signed by making marks.

—The Texas umbrella tree is becoming a favorite for shade and ornamental purposes in California. It is a large and beautiful tree, resembling an umbrella in the spread of its foliage, which is so dense that it affords perfect protection from either rain or sun.

—The iron grasshopper which for 147 years has marked the vacillations of the wind from his perch on the tower of Faneuil Hall, in Boston, and one day last month toppled down into the street, was restored to the scene of his glory with touching ceremonies. This ancient relic is very dear to the loyal Boston heart.

## "A LITTLE NONSENSE."

—Most persons who cross the ocean for the first time pronounce it a very swell affair.—Baltimore American.

—She—"Did your uncle leave you any thing, Henri?" Henri—"He did." She—"Henri, I am yours." He—"He left me his blessing." She—"Henri, I am not yours."

—Diplomacy.—Mrs. O'Kay—"I'm going to Cutlet's, Horace. Shall I order the Sunday dinner?" Mr. O'Kay—"By all means, no! Just ask for it. Last month's bill is still due."—Time.

—A clam was walled up in a building at Syracuse ten years ago as an experiment. When taken out the other day it was found alive and reasonably well, but not much given to talk.

—Fond mother—"Tommy, darling, this is your birthday. What would you like best to do?" Tommy, darling (after a moment's reflection)—"I think I should enjoy seeing the baby spanked!"—Paris Figaro.


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For age and want save while you may, no morning sun lasts all the day.

**STONE IN THE KIDNEY.**

I was taken with sharp pains in the lower part of my bowels in the region of the bladder. Shortly blood appeared mixed with my urine, and a few weeks later I had an attack of gravel. I tried a number of doctors. One said it was gravel, another inflamation of the bladder, and another stone in kidneys. For three months I was under the care of an eminent doctor at Albany, but constantly growing worse, went home to die. At this time I was induced to try Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, of Rondout, N. Y., and am now robust and strong. A remedy which can do this for one so near death as I was should be known everywhere. I hope this statement will cause others afflicted as I was to use the Remedy. C. W. Brown, Petersburgh, N. Y.

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