GRUMPY STAGE DRIVERS. Fellows Who Have Fallen From Their

High Estate in the Past. on reach Fort Custor by a stage sh runs from Custer Station on the thern Pacific to Rock Creek on the on Pacific, a distance of 430 miles. s is one of the few important stage s that have managed to survive the otive's raids. Its rout takes in mountainous districts of Northern ning, where there are several estowns to which the railroads have yet penetrated. It runs through Crow country, the richest agricula region of all Montana. There are "bottoms" along the Big Horn the Little Big Horn rivers, of from thousand to one hundred thousand in extent, rank with prairie veges, where the grain of a nation ht be grown, now all vacant and ess Every one of them could be gated at an expense of less than cents an acre. The stage drivers that there are just such fertile botalong the Yellowstone and along the mountain streams that course sigh the reservation in all di-These drivers are odd They are the old fellows used to drive the Deadd and overland stages in the early

, and they keenly feel the humilaof their present position. To be nelled after such a glorious past, baving driven six and eight-horse thes through a land filled with galroad agents, chivalrous horseves, and valiant Indians, after leg bern 'held up' a dozen times. having been through "massacres." chings, cowboy fights, and all that serable two-horse route, through a ed country, is almost more than can bear. They sit on their lofty agleomy and taciturn. They raree or talk. You must work If you hope to secure their or engage them in a conversa-The only glympse of sunlight they eatch through the dun clouds that their sky is when a dude, an ishman, or a fussy old lady bes their passenger, Then somelike a smile touches up their burned faces, and by the time a passenger, or what is left of him, ached his destination, they are almost cheerful. The stages no springs. The cushions are with flint. The trail is and crossed continually gullies and deep buffalo trails. e of these melancholy drivers, ing his career to a disappointing nothing is so comforting as to

serving that my driver was in a ve humor I said nothing more to an was necessary to procure peron to sit "up there" with him. rode for twenty miles in dead siand at last when we neared the n at which we were to obtain dinnd a change of horses, he turned and said: "Pardner, I like you I first see you I thort I didn't I do. You're the fust man that rid on the top of my coach that start fer to tell me that gol dernory about Hank Monk and Horace The ice was broken and we ed fast friends to the end of the

adude "tenderfoot" through the

window upon a jag of rocks be-

E BIBLE IN LITERATURE.

nce Upon the Home and the Lansafe to say that there is no other ting an instructive discussion that there is no other literature has fe t this influence so deepfy wn it so clearly as the English. cause of this latter fact is not eez. It may be, as a discon-French critic suggests, that it is coming generation will present much due to the inborn and incorrigidency of the Anglo-Saxoa mind "Yankee school ma'ms" who came, re igion and morality into saw and conquered, being already a ing. But certainly this tend- power in the land. -N. Y. Mail and Exould never have taken such a press. tly Biblical form had it not been beauty and vigor of our comaglish version of the Scriptures. unlities were felt by the people ore they were praised by the Apart from all religious preons, mon and women and chiland grace of the book. The h Bible was popular, in the at sense, long before it was receet as well as molded the lan-of scholars. It has been somenore than "a well of English unit has become a part of the atmosphere. We hear the

not only to the theologians and non makers that we look for allusions and quotations. We td the very best and most vivid in writers professedly secular. like Shakespeare, Milton and gies to great purpose, for she died at the orth; novellsts like Scott, and age of nineteen. - Harper's Bazar. ers like Hawthorne; essayists on, Steele and Addison; critics unsystematic philosophers, like and B. scir -all draw upon the a treasury of illustrations, and a book equally familiar to ves and to their readers. It is ble to put too high a value upon universal volume, even as a literary possession.—Rev. Dr. ke, in Century.

of its speech everywhere, and

sic of its familiar phrases | aunts

rriage may not be a failure, but lots of Mrs. made in matri-Lawrence American.

old that every rich man should son up to a trade or such a training as he himself receivunt it as one of the sad signs alization in civilization to see en going down town in the (if noon may be called morneir coupes, to alight at the some of our exchanges, there make believe at business, by h stocks; to their own ruin, certainly to their demoralizaman wishes to curse his son, better way than to let him -Rev. R. Heber Newton

VALUE OF A RECORD.

Repetition of Captain Cuttle's Advice on Keeping a Diary. Nothing is calculated to interest an ngineer more closely in his business and to make him of greater value to his employer than precision in his methods; and where this precision adds to his fund of experience, and enables him to meet emergencies promptly and in an intelligent and practical manner, it will prove of still greater utility to him in a career in which promptness and presence of mind must go hand in hand to insure success.

Captain Cuttle's advice to make a note of every thing that is really worth knowing particularly applies to the engineer in his daily operations. The most triffing occurrence, though it may attract only passing attention at the time, may prove at some future period of inestimable value in solving a problem that would be very difficult of explanation without the key thus furnished, while a knowledge of what he can accomplish with the appliances he is using may materially assist him in the management of a future plant. There is very little labor required to keep a record of such occurrences as may be outside of the common routine, and the thought it entails can only exercise a beneficial effect on the intelligence, while reference to the diary of extraordinary events, when they have long been forgotten, will prove highly interesting as well as instructive.

Not only this, but a simple record of what you have accomplished, jotted down from day to day, will prove of practical value in case an opportunity offers for an improvement of position. A well-kept diary would interest an intelligent employer far more and bear greater weight than all the letters of recommendation couched in general terms that could be collected.

The work of the engineer who conscientiously endeavors to perform his duty has passed beyond the 'tule of imb" stage. There is a reason for every thing he does that is based on science and founded on facts, and to familiarize himself with them, as he must do if he wishes to be more than a coal shoveler or the manipulator of an oil can and a bunch of waste, his work must be to him as a book of instructions, the daily pages of which teach him all that is worth knowing of his important business, provided he familfarizes himself with cause as well as effect. - Safety Valve.

A COSMOPOLITAN CITY. Buenos Ayres Has Many Languages But

Little Learning. Buenos Ayres, with her 500,000 population, is the most cosmopolitan city in the world, so far as language is concerned. Any one who walks for half an hour along one of the principal streets of this city will have his ears assailed by all known tongues, from Choctaw to Hebrew. The merchant who can not converse with equal faeility in Spanish, Italian, French or German is handicapped in the race for wealth. This state of affairs is very demoralizing to the new comer, who has been accustomed to consider the English language all-sufficient and to look with contempt on any poor foreigner who failed to master any of its many inconsistencies. The shoe is on the other foot, so to speak, as English in this corner of the world avails one little; but because the Argentines are a nation of linguists it does not follow that they are scholars. Force of circumstances has made these people which has had so great an influ- adepts at acquiring foreign tongues I upon the literature of the world as remember recently conversing with a ble. And it is almost as safe—at gentleman, who spoke four languages with no greater danger than that | fluently, who tried to convince me that Chicago lay in the route of vessels plying between this port and Japan.

now?" asked his friend. Geography evidently was not his strong point. The fact is over 80 per cent. of the adult population can neither read nor write, but it is safe to say that the wise. - Once a Week. more flattering figures, thanks to the Anxious to Please.

Wonderful Little Carvings. Properzia di Rossi, a maiden of rare beauty, great refinement and unusual education, gave herself very early in life to the study of art. "Minute tracer;" was her forte. The first work of very fascinated by the native this gifted girl was carving on a peachstore the crucifixion of our Saviour-a work comprising many figures, executioners, disciples, women and soldiers; as one of our noblest classics. It all most remarkable for delicacy and

ored the talk of households and perfection of expression, and an admirable distribution of the groups. In the cabinet of gems in the gallery of Florence is still to be seen a cherrystone on which is carved a chorus of saints, in which seventy heads may be counted. Among other women of the sixteenth century noted as sculptors, fields and groves of our fine lit- fresco-painters and engravers, one of Titian's pupils, Irene di Splimberg, highly educated, surrounded by luxury, and with everything beautiful about

> -A farmer of Torrington, Ct., with the assistance of his hired man, slaughtered thirty-one blacksnakes in a few minutes the other day. The largest was over nine feet long. The reptiles had their nest under an old barn in a sheep pasture.

> her, devoted herself wholly to art

Some of her works are still extant, and

she must have used her time and ener-

Possibly. Friend-Are you going to take a vacation this summer. Hardwaref Merchant-Well, I may step over to Poor man's beach for a few days, if my clerks get back from Europe in time. They are spending their vacation there. - New York Sun.

ot-You'll like the organ, ma'am. Just let me put it in your parior for a few days. Housewife-I don't want it. Agent-It has ten stops, and-Housewife-I don't care if it has fifty.

ean't stop here. - Detroit Free Press. He Could Ftand It. Visitor-So your sister is off on Willief I suppose you feel very loneso

Five-year-old Willie dublously)-Yees, I feel lonesome, but-I'm a good deal more comfortable, -Chicago cournal. THE HOTEL SKIFF.

A Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Piec of Marine Architecture. A man with orange eyes thought he would take a girl with whom he had been playing tennis out for a row. So he engaged one of the public boats at tached to the hotel. He had never used one of these boats before, and did not know that they weigh two hundred pounds apiece, without including the twelve pounds of paint put on every

He was also in blissful ignorance of the fact that no two cars connected with the est blishment came within five pounds of each other in weight, or that the average weight of each was something like twenty pounds.

But when he got out a little way, and found the boat salling about in a circle, he concluded that one oar was about seven pounds heavier than the other and it would be necessary to row much more gently on the heavy than on the light one to attain any thing like a straight course.

The boat, to be sure, was not equip ped with a rudder, and the girl would lean over to allow her lily fingers to trail in the water, and then the wind would come up and cause the waterlogged eraft to head in a different di-

To secure a straight course, it would require a mathematical calculation that no oarsman could work out in his head. or he would have to consider the dil ferent weights of the girl, boat and ars, as well as the force of wind, resistance of water, etc.

The man's orange eyes grew larger while the oar handles took the palms and occasionally cracked his knucklelike so many English walnuts. It ought to have been consoling to

him to know that the girl in the stern of the boat was enjoying the row, and the beautiful surroundings. "Oh, let's go over to that lovely

island," she said. He did his best to appear delighted with the idea, but his orange eyes began to dilate, and his heart felt as sore as his our-bruised knuckles. But he started for the island, which seemed three or four hundred feet distant, when, in reality, it was about two miles. It was the apparent lack of distance that lent enchantment to the way he was turning about he would have to row probably six miles before reaching the island, so he headed the boat for the mainland.

"You are not pointing toward the island at all, now," she said.

"By rowing toward the mainland," he replied, "we shall reach the island sooner, because this boat is turning so continually that we make the greatest headway by going in the opposite di-

"Yes," she replied, "but we are going away from the island all the time. We shall be back on shore in ten minntes if you keep on."

"Excuse me," he went on, "but do you notice my eyes growing larger?"

"Yes." "That confirms me in the opinion that I have a fit coming on, and must get ashore as soon as possible."

So, after a violent effort, during which the girl was frightened half to death, he reached the shore. He had no fit, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that that girl would never ask him to row her again, and that she would tell the other girls, and he would no more be a victim of the hotel boatthe fat poodle of the lake in contradistinction to the Cunarder which is the greyhound of the sea.

"It is lucky I can make my orange eyes bulge at will," he said, after relating the circumstance to a friend. "Let's see you make them bulge

So he bulged his orange eves until they looked like a couple of hard-boiled eggs, shelled and cut in half length-

"Young man," said the editor, severely, "don't you know that your poem was arrant nonsense; the driest drivel imaginable?"

"Yes sir." "Do you realize that they are inexusably faulty as to rhyme and meter besides being dangerous in sentiment."

"Yes, I recognized all that before I brought them to you. In view of your criticisms on former efforts I thought this might meet with your approval." -Merchant Traveler.

Ouite the Contrary,

A merchant, engaged in an attempt to sell a wooden refrigerator to a lady, boasted of the various good qualities of the article.

"But I'm afraid," said the lady, "that these refr gerators will taste the food." "Bless ye, ma'am!" exclaimed the dealer. "Taste the food? Why, they'll take the taste all out o' the food, ma'am, every bit of it!"-Youth's Companion.

He Felt Much Better.

Minister-I'm glad, Bertle, to see that you kept your promise to me and came to church to-day instead of going sehing-Bertie-Yes, sir.

Minister-Don't you feel better than

you had gone to the creek? Yes, sir; 'cos pa said if I follered him to-day he'd lick me good. - Judge. Did His Best.

Henry-So you asked old Growler for his daughter last night, did you, Fred? And how did you come out? Fred-It was a window, I believe, Henry. That was the best I could do. though -N. Y. Sun.

-It amuses us to think that now and than we are vain of some work we have done: there is so much of irony in it. After our best has been accomplished. how poor is the result compared with what it ought to have been, and what, in our better moments, we desire. -United Presbyterian.

-A venerable member of the Carlisle (Pa.) bar was seized with an attack of vertigo recently, during which he svil, widening the skirts of light and swallowed his false teeth. He narrow. making the struggle with darkness ly escaped choking to death.

GENERAL GRANT'S WIDOW.

She Tells How She Welcomed Mrs. Hayes to the White House.

"When the time came for us to leave

Washington my heart was broken. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes to come directly to the White House, but they refused. On the Sunday previous to the inauguration I gave a dinner for them, so that Mrs. Haves would not feel a stranger. was arranged splendidly. There were seventeen of my own family at the dinner and a large number of prominent guests and the Legation and Cabinet officers. I shall never forget Mrs. gether. Hayes when she entered. The large doors was thrown open and the General and I advanced to meet them. She was time the bulk of the selssors used in walking by Mr. Haves, but did not hold his arm. She was dressed in white silk and her dark hair combed smoothly over her ears. Her soft, black eyes shown like diamonds and her cheeks were as red as roses. I took her hand in mine-it trembled a little-and said, Welcome, Mrs. Hayes, to the White House', and then my guests surrounded us and she was soon at home. After dinner the Chief Justice administered the oath of office to Mr. Hayes in the parlor. On Monday I did not go to the inauguration, because I was busy burning old letters and papers that my father had owned, some bearing the date of 1800. I had seen two inaugurations, those of the General, and I did not care to see any more. I had a lovely luncheon ready for them on their return, and I also ordered the dinner and breakfast for the following morning, so Mrs. Hayes would not have that worry the first thing. Then I told the steward he must go to Mrs. Haves for orders after that. After dinner, as I was still hostess, I sald to Mr. Hayes: 'Shall we return to the parlor?' and he gave me his arm and Ulysses took Mrs. Hayes. When we got into the parlor I said: I hope, Mr. Hayes, that you will be as happy here as we have been for eight years,' and then I said 'Good-bye,' and we drove away. I told Ulysses as we were driving away that I had intend d to say to Mr. Hayes what General Buckner said to him when Buckner vacated Fort Donelson, 'My house is yours,' but I forgot it. Ulysses just view, but the enchantment vanished put his arm around me and said he was like his cuticle as he rowed on. By the glad I had not. All the servants who had served me during our term gathered in the hall to say farewell, and they were crying and I cried with them. After two weeks of hourly festivities, I might say, we left Washington on a special train. My car was filled with flowers, and after we had been escorted to it a Senator made a speech thanking me for so successfully filling the position of mistress of the White House. Then another Senator, a dear friend of mine, said it was wrong that we should ever leave it, and somehow I began to think it was. They went out and left me, and I began to cry. All my pentup feelings burst forth at one bound, and, as I tell you, my tears would have floated the ship of State if gathered in a reservoir. I cried for easily forty miles, and then the General came in and said:

". Why, Julia, my dear, what is wrong? "'I feel like a waif, Ulysses,' I sob-

bed; 'I have no home.' "Never mind, we will soon have another one. Remember what a relief it is to me to be released from that posi-Now we can do what I always wanted to do-visit Europe, and maybe travel around the world before we re-

"And so he cheered me, and I never felt domestic care afterward. It washed itself away in the flood of tears."-Nel-

The Wives of Statesmen.

lie Bly, in N. Y. World.

Not long ago, when speaking of his wife, Prince Bismarck is reported to have said: "She it is who has made me what I am." There have been English statesmen who could say quite as much. Burke was sustained amid the anxiety and agitation of public life by domestic felicity. "Every care vanishes," he said, "the moment I enter my own roof!" His description of his wife is too long to quote, but we must give an epitome of it. Of her beauty he said it did not arise from features, from complexion or from shape; "she has all three in a high degree, but it is not by these that she touches the heart; it is all that sweetness of temper, benevolence, innocence and sensibility which a face can express, that forms her beauty. Her eyes have a mild light, but they awe you when she pleases; they command, like a good man out of office, not by authority, but by virtue. Her stature is not tall: she is not made to be the admiration of everybody, but the happiness of one. She has all the firmness that does not exclude delicacy; she has all the softness that does not imply weakness. Her voice is a low, soft music, not formed to rule in public assemblies; but to charm those who can distinguish a company from a crowd; it has this advantage, you must come close to her to hear it."-Louisville Courier-Jour-

-A fashionable lady in New York who recently gave a feast in nice quarters to a small horde of ragamuffins notified her friends in her social circle that she desired waitresses for the occasion from among the members of their families. Within three days the number of volunteers was ten times more than she needed, all of them rosebuds in fashionable society. It is said by ladies engaged in charitable work in New York City that there is never any difficulty in procuring any amount of personal services of this kind.

-Education must embrace a knowledge of God and a knowl dge of his law, which teaches all that is known of truth and justice .- School Journal.

-When we turn to Christianity we find encouragement to prayer and we learn that Christ is sufficient and willing to supply all our need .- Chris-Van Inquirer.

-By desiring what is perfectly good, even when we do not quite know what it is, and can not do what we would, we are part of the divine power against sarrower .- George Eliot.

JCISSORS AND SHEARS.

Where Most of Them Come From and

How They Are Made. Scissors and shears are not uninteresting articles of commerce. They are complex and diverso in shape, and in When Mr. Hayes was elected I invited methods of being manufactured. The point of distinction between them is in the handles. The scissor handle bas a ring each for thumb and fore or middle finger. Shears have also a thumbring, but the other opening is so much elon-The dinner was lovely and every thing gated as to admit two fingers. Here does the manipulator get his purchase for the heavy work of the shears. Shear blades are likewise longer, heavier and more carefully riveted to-

Said a man of this town, dealing extensively in them: "At the present this country comes from Germany. In former days it was England that supplied this market, but now, with the exception of those of the very finest quality and finish, it is Germany. Now, a good seissors ought to be handforged and tempered as well as crocuspolished. What is that? Well, crocus polish is a very fine powder of a deep yellow, principally good for giving that gloss you will see on new scissors. I have said that Germany sends us scissors except of the very highest quality. Now, a great number of these come from France. France's surgical scissors, for example, are among the very best made in the world, and in very fine manicure seissors the French excel. Perhaps, however, this is because they conceived the idea, or more properly speaking, introduced that art or custom to us. As to manufacturing, in a fine scissors about eighty per cent. of the cost is in the labor, while with the lower grades it is just the reverse. In the cheaper scissors, therefore, very

little labor is used." But even if the foreigners do send to this country such quantities of scissors and shears, a variety is manufactured here which, perhaps, they can not, but they do not produce-that is, "laid" scissors and shears. Those of abroad, and many made here, for that matter, are of steel throughout. The "laid" scissors are a combination of malleable iron and steel. Scissors of steel, the best, as has been said, being of hard forging, are made from a bar of flat steel, the end for the bow flattened and punched with a small round hole, which is gradually opened upon the anvil. The iron for the 'laid' scissors is cast in the regular form of handle and blade. Bar steel is hammered into sheets, and the iron blade overlaid or "faced" with it. The process is unknown, but it is said to be by means of heat and extreme pressure. Not very much more than the cutting surface of the blade, or the blade proper, is "faced." The joining of the two metals is so nice that where the steel leaves off and the iron begins is hardly discernible. It can only be seen by holding the blade to the light. There the difference in the tinges of the metals will show the seam or point of junct-

But the composite blades, made in this country for over half a century, have a distinct advantage over the foreign blade of steel. They can be tempered to the greatest possible degree, for the malleable iron of the blade forms a back to the steel facing. Should blades of steel throughout be tempered to the point of the blade, in the fitting together for the riveting at least one-third of them would snap. And this high degree of temper means nothing more or less than a superior exce ence and fineness of edge. "Nothing that is made in Europe will compare with them," said the before-mentioned dealer, patriotic, but also selling imported goods. The "laid" scissors, to speak paradoxically, are principally shears. For the most part they are those used by tailors, paper-hangers, bankers and

barbers, in size from six inches up. Surgical seissors form an important branch of the trade, but they are made independently, rather by surgical instrument makers than the ordinary seissor manufacturer. Their cardinal and essential point is in the great length of the shank. Thereby the operator gets a greater leverage. Their especially careful workmanship considerably brings up their cost, and it is no unusual thing to find a pair of smallsize, but oddly-shaped, worth anywhere from \$5 to \$10. They are, furthermore, always of steel. It is interesting to note that nothing in the way of invention or improvement in this line is of any direct benefit to the deviser. He can not get a patent for it, and it must go for the good of the entire surgical profession. Yet new devices continually come forth, and the inventor at least has the satisfaction of hearing the invention called by his name.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

-Read the Bible when you are fresh and wide awake; when the brain is tlear and you are not pressed for time. Rend it as the only book on earth that has dropped down from Heaven, as your directory for life and your gulde to immortality, and it will become a new book to you altogether .- Rev. J. Thain Davidson.

-Bring thy children up in learning and obedience, yet without outward susterity. Give them good countesance and convenient maintenance acsording to thy ability; otherwise thy life will seem their bondage, and what portion thou shalt leave them at thy death, they will thank death for it, and aot thee. - Lord Burleigh.

-Sin is a very simple word, but it is very awful thing. A little child could spell the word; but no one, not even the angels that dwell in Heaven, could explain the thing, or tell the evils it has wrought. It is a deadly tree, whose fruit and whose shadows have filled the world, and from which everybody has suffered .- Our Young People.

-The man who has a good round in- bim right. come and fares sumptuously every day. and clothes himself and family in the finest material, and spends hundreds of dollars annually in recreation and once at their point of riew. pleasure, and then gives only \$5 for by way of apology, must be sadly lacking in self-respect, to say when a habit is formed, for one to yield nothing about religious principle.— more and more to its influence. It is earning or owning them; they solicit

Christian Advocate. specially true of a bad habit. him to enter and possess.*-

THE CIRCUS.

What the Bill Boards Display-The Truth About It.

The man who designs the works of art that decorate the bill boards throughout the United States at this season of the year should have been consuited before the first agerie was made to order for Adam and Eve and turned loose in the garden of Eden.



He could have given valuable pointers about the proper proportions of the various ani-mals, and would have added to the collection beasts and birds and reptiles which could nov

be used to advantage. The circus artist is a wonderful man, with a phenomenal size of imagination and a su-preme contempt for facts. He looks with disdain upon the modern realistic school of art. He has no use for realism. The circus artist probably knows his business. For many, many years he has been drawing ple-tures of elephants forty feet high tramping their way majestically through scenes of Oriental splendor. Five generations have stood with giaring eyes and open mouths before these great works of the lithographer's art. They have patronized each succeeding circus, and swallowed the rising lump of dis appointment occasioned by the discovery that the seventy-five foot giraffe could stan-i erect in a seven foot cage. One hundred years from now it will be the same.

No man looks at the bill boards after th circus has left town. As he passes by he looks the other way. It is a matter of regret that the circus is so far behind the progress made by the artist and the advance agent. The advance agent is a talented gentleman. with an enthusiastic temperament. As the circus becomes more and more antiquated the advance agent grows more eloquent. announces that all former achievements will be cast in the shade; that the colossal aggregation is grander than ever and that the price of admission will not be increased. The circus artist is equal to the occasion. signs a new elephant, with a trunk thirty feet in length, and draws a vivid representation of a life and death fight between the wild yat of Patagonia and a company of sailors who have stepped ashore from a man



"LA TABOOT." THE HUMAN PLY, DIVING INTO

The Chicago Herald presents a series of netures, reduced from photographs, depicting actual scenes in one of the greatest agthose who have visited the circus recently. Reference is made to the spirited drawing of "La Tascot, the Human Fly," in her daring act of diwing into a net. The artist has evi dently made a mistake in his perspective, for as the picture is drawn the suggestion that the stakes are too short forces itself on all who make a critical analysis of this spirited aketch. The "La Tascot" on the bill boards is a far prettier female, but her face lacks the decision and character portrayed in the original. Many are disappointed that the dive is not made head first, as per advertisement, but this feeling soon passes away.

The artist has shown Signeor Kelly in the

star act of the evening. Signeor Kelly is the champion "bear-buck" rider of the world. Those not acquainted with the dangers which surround the life of a circus performer may fail to properly appreciate the risk taken by Signeor Kelly in the feat undertaken by him as shown in the sketch. There is a chance that the upright so firmly grasped by the rider may break or pull out. What would become of the unfortunate man! He would be dashed to the sawdust track. Then, again, the horse might drop dead. Those not in th business have no right to criticise, but it is pard to keep out of one's mind the recollect tion of a scene shown on the bill boards, where a flying horse dashes around the great ring, carrying on his back a graceful rider, whose toes seem hardly to touch the gallop-



SIGNOR KELLY, THE BEAR-BUCK RIDER There is no use in kicking because the man who was advertised to turn thirteen times over twelve large elephants simply jumps off of a springboard and turns a somersault over one solitary, melancholy pachyderm with a far away look in his off eye. Not half of the people in the vast audience would dare to per-form that act

But in spite of all these petty disappointments it is everlasting fun to see the circus.

A Sister in Name Only. Mrs. Parvenu-Mr. Travis, you know everybody. Who is that pretty girl over there, sitting on the divant Mr. Travis-That is one of my sisters, Mrs.

Mrs. Parrequ-Indeed! You don't look as if you belonged to the same family.

Mr. Track badly)—No, and we never shall. Burtington Free Press.

-A man of sense finds much less difficulty in submitting to one who is wrong-headed than in attempting to set

-Don't despise systems of thought that other men have elaborated because you can not place yourself at

-Men get into grooves of working benevolent purposes, calling it the and thinking so that they become almost automatic. And the tendency is, TEACHING PARROTS.

Different Varieties of the Bird, and Where

As a reporter entered a bird fancier's stablishment a few days ago he was greeted with a series of yells and screeches, a discordant welcome from the parrots of all sizes and colors which were ranged round the room. and appeared to vie with each other in making the greatest racket.

"We have just received a fresh importation of parrots," said the bird man, appearing from the menagerieroom in the rear of the store, "and from all prospects there are a good many fine talkers among them."

"What varieties have you?" asked the reporter.

"At the present we have but three varieties-the double-yellow head, the Cuban and the African gray."

"Which variety leads in intelligence?" asked the reporter.

"I prefer the African gray parrot," replied the bird man, "yet the Cuban and yellow heads make excelent talkers.

"Where does the gray parrot come from P"

"He comes from the west coast of Africa. The colored men take the young birds from their nests and sell them to captains or sailors of trading vessels. The best birds come from ressels plying between Africa and Bos-

"How does the trip across the ocean agree with them?"

Very well. They seem to get acclimated in their voyage and generally know how to talk some when they arrive."

"How do you teach parrots to talk and how long does it take one to learn?"

'That's a hard question to answer. Different birds vary in intelligence. A bird will get accustomed to a place in about two months, and if given a lesson every day can talk fairly well in that time."

"How do you give a lesson?" . "The morning hours are the best for teaching. Cover the cage with a cloth, and then in a clear voice say a word or short sentence until the bird repeats it. Then commence with another, and so on. When once it begins to talk it is only a matter of time and patience before it improves. *Object teaching is a good plan," continued the bird man. "A parrot needs only to see and hear a barking dog, a crowing rooster or a mewing cat a few times before an exact imitation is given."

"Suppose you have a bird that can talk and won't talk, is there any way to make it talk?"

"There is no method that I am acquainted with, unless it be that of , starvation, but that's cruel, and should not be resorted to."-Washington Critic.

THE PRECIOUS RUBY. Interesting Facts About the Most Valua-

To the question, "Which is the most valuable precious stone?" probably nine out of every ten, at least, would without the slightest hesitation reply: "The diamond;" but the value of a good-sized diamond can not approach that of a ruby of correct color and similar dimensions. The worth of small rubies-stones, that is, of less than a carat-is, if any thing, rather less than that of diamonds of a like description; but the rare occurrence of large specimens of that dark carmine tint which is looked upon as the sine qua non of a good ruby causes the value of these gems to increase in a far greater proportion than in the case of diamonds. Rubles weighing more than four carats are so exceptional that when a perfect one of five carats is brought to the market it will command ten times as high a sum as a diamond of the same weight; while a ruby of six carats without a crack or a flaw, and of the proper color, would, in all probability, bring as high a price as £1,000 pounds per carat, or fifteen times as much as a diamond of like size and faultlessness. All over the East rubles are regarded with the greatest possible favor, and so it has been from the earliest times of which we have any rec-

The largest ruby known was brought from China, and forms part of the imperial-crown jewels of Russia. It is the size of a pigeon's egg, and was presented by Gustavus III. of Sweden to the Empress of Russia on his visit to St. Petersburg. The finest ruby that has ever been brought to this country was one which reached our shores in 1875. It was a blunt stone, drop shape, and weighed slightly more than 47 carats. No one in England could be induced to give the price that its owner placed upon it, and it was, we believe, finally disposed of on the continent for a sum between £20,000 and £30,000. The ruby is the hardest of all minerals except the diamond, and by its hardness a ruby may be told from a spinel, which is considerably softer. If, as is often the case, it is not advisable to scratch or otherwise abrade the surface of a stone which it is wished to test, the greater specific gravity of the ruby will show whether it is entitled to rank as one of those gems or not. Curiously enough, the ruby and the sapphire are absolutely identical in every respect except that of color. They are varieties of crystalized alumina, which is usually known under the name of corundum. As a general rule the crystals of this substance are dull in hue and lack transpreancy, but when they chance to be clear and bright-colored they give some of our most valuable gema -Loadon Standard.

-Times of general calamity and confusion have ever been productive of the greatest minds. The purest ore is produced from the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited

from the darkest storm .- Colton. -Our accomplishments are an element of personal strength and power. There is a measure of truth in the assertion: "Give a boy address and accomplishments, and you will give him the mastery of palaces and fortunes where he goes. He has not the trouble of