1000 THINGS STORED IN THE GREAT BIG REFRIGERATORS.

ger Mest, Game, Butter, Cheese and Eggs Are Kept in Good Condition All the Year Round-Contents of the Cold Storage Houses in Chicago.

Below the ice bed of a gorge in the Altai positiains some Siberian peasunts once found ne huge body of a mastodon. The find was ident. The pensants were hungry. They ad not the faintest idea that this immens and bad been lying there, buried under are on layer of ice and rock, for many thouands of years-longer at any rate than the penery of man runneth. So they cut off a bulk of this must and boiled it over a fire. and it tasted good and they all smacked neir lips over it. Subsequently big slices of is same mastodon were enten by other peasnts who came in sleights to get family roasts. emainder of the mastedon was finally apped by the government to St. Petersburg. where it forms today one of the chief attrac-

gest in a museum. GROWTH OF THE BUSINESS.

to make a business of preserving large sities of food for the market by means cold is a thing of rather recent date in Dicago. A reporter, who looked the matter h found the first modest attempt was made steen years ago on State street by the Chi frait house. But that was only for but to 1878 the Western Refrigerating supany started on Michigan street, and the besiness increased so rapidly that others is to share honors and emoluments was inch, and today there are five large refreezing concerns in the city. The comhind money value of the articles of food my poserve and keep fit for human use nts just now about \$4,000,000. This aprice eggs, butter, cheese, dry and green trills and in season many other perishable

meat, poultry, game and venison. a employed in preserving differ ferent establishments. So do As a rule, however, half a s per case of eggs (thirty dozen), ents per barrel of apples and from 25 to ( ) to W cont par point of dried fruit. This storkeeping Longo ir on April 1 to Jan. 1, if dered but gone ally the season includes shorter months, tale heated term for butto, ep, cheese, etc., the cold time for pour, game, apples, etc. As to the method of preservation, the Western Refrigeration of preservation, the Western Refrigeration. ng company uses one which it keeps a sec nt, while the Union, at Matter, said State, mice use of the brine commating system nessar to the one in vogue in breweries. The Chicago Refrigerating Company has sipted the direct expansion system, an inus method, by which ammonia expand ght in the pipes while in the cooling rooms, psorbing in its expansion the heat in the promaing air and changing into gas at the ametime. The gas again turns into lique fed or anhydrous ammonin, and is thus made e do continuous duty. At Keppler's cold derage houses in St. Clair, Ills., and in this dry, the refrigerating is done in the simple ad ald fashioned way, usually ice. As to the temperature to be maintained

that is another point of difference. The cold strage men require from 32 to 40 degs. to kep their goods in proper trim. To subject fruit, eggs, cheese, etc., to freezing would injure them. It is different with game and sat. To best preserve that it is necessary tsfreeze it. A Dearborn street dealer keens all the year round about \$20,000 worth of game, venison, etc., in a stiff and lifeless con ition in his huge freezing rooms below his store. The temperature down there is so low that it is hardly safe for an employe to ven ture into the rooms without having sheathed himself in a fur muffler. About ten below pro is the figure, winter and summer, and it is amusing to see in those chambers of death whole rows of black bears, stiff as a ramrod, and deer, mountain sheep, antelope and elk, which give forth a genuine "dull thud," if thamped ever so slightly. The owner main- emergencies do come, and come not intains that game and venison improves in favor and tenderness by this freezing treatment. This, of course, must remain a matter of taste for each one to judge for himself. MILLIONS OF EGGS.

The egg, however, small as it is, per se, is the biggest item in the cold storage interest. The Western Refrigerating company, for instance, which occupies four large buildings on Michigan street, with 2,000,000 cubic feet of cold storage space, frequently holds as much as 100,000 cases of eggs-or 26,000,000 of them-at one time.

In Chicago, it appears, the eggs kept in the refrigerating houses for months and months hardships. He may win it as a scholarare trotted out during winter for fresh ones. "That can't be helped," said E. P. Baker, a old storage man, "because during winter the supply of fresh eggs is never large enough to meet the demand. The commission men for whom we have kept these eggs all through the spring and summer and fall, now get them from us, and they sell these preserved eggs to the retailers at a moderate price. The retailers agai, have their customers ask for fresh eggs. They must sell them these, as being the next best thing. But it is a fact that when eggs are kept carefully in cold storage they have really remained fresh, so resh that even an expert could not tell the difference by sight, smell or taste.

As far as the public at large is concerned, there can be no doubt that the cold storage business has achieved much good, and is continging to do that every day. It equalizes prices all the year around for a number of becasary articles of food. Were is not for cold storage, eggs would not bring more than 6 cents per dozen in May, instead of 10 to 11 and on the other hand eggs would cost 30 to 40 cents per dozen in winter, instead of 16 to 20 cents. Ments, too, have become much more even in prices for the same reason, and so has cheese and butter. Time wasand that was but lifteen to twenty years ago -when butter ranged as high as 50 to 60 cents per pound during the winter months, while ow butter, which was originally the best to to had, and which has but slightly lost its flavor and aroma by reason of its cold storage, can be had at 25 cents.—Chicago Herald.

## OF GENERAL INTEREST.

-Our vasseline is used in Japan to to the the stings of tattooing. -A fifty-year-old grapevine grows in

emantown on a trunk which measures two feet six inches around. -An eccentric Detroit millionaire got

into an argument with a woman, one of its tenants, and she snapped his mouth with a disheloth. -Dentist's advertisement in a Read-

ing, Pa., daily: Teeth filled and extructed without pain by the use of vitalized air, and made fresh every day and perfectly harmless.

-The total Indian population is less than 256,000. Of these 21,232 live in bouses, and 9,612 families are engaged in agriculture. And among these sofalled savages there are 28,663 church members.

A wealthy Nevada man bequeathed his divorced wife one cent as a token of the esteem in which he held her. His will also states that the amount is greatly in excess of the consideration she deserved.

-It is a curious fact, brought out by the New York Commissioner of Labor Statistics, that prison estimates of the amount of food needed to sustain life are more liberal than estimates for persom dependent on public charities.

The town of Cullman, a thriving Alabama village, makes the boast that it has not a negro within its borders. It is named after a rich German who wished to found a colony of his own race in the Alabama fruit growing region. It has a population of 2.500.

### PULLMAN ADVENTURES.

in print as to the adventures of old-

fashioned individuals riding in sleeping

cars for the first time, and I expect

every conductor on the road could nar-

rate one, if not more. The most comi-

cal experience of the kind that I re-

member, happened in 1856. I was run-

ning on the Frisco road, and at Peirce

City a gentleman put his father on the

ar, and telling me it was the old fel-

ow's first railroad trip, as well as his

first experience in a sleeper, asked me

to take good care of him and see him

safely to St. Louis. The old gentleman

was very talkative, told me he lived

away off the road and hadn't left home

any distance in his life. His son was

well fixed and had invisted on sending

him to St. Louis to use some relatives

there. Every time we stopped he hunt-

ed me up and saked whether he had to

get off, and when w left Springfield I

persoaded him to so to bed. He had a

lowe bert and settled down very com-

fortably after extracting from myself

and the porter solemn promises

that he should not be allowed

to oversleep himself. At about mid-

night a drummer, who had exgaged

the upper above the old Missourian, de-

cided to turn in. By some mischance

he woke the latter, and then the fun-

commenced. The old man caught the

young one by the leg, and shouting

'murder" commenced to struggle. Both

colled on the floor, the drummer coming

home the next day, and I doubt whether

he will ever try to reach St. Louis

HOW TO USE MONEY.

Every Wasted Dollar is a New Link in the

The highest value of money is not its

value exchangeable for luxuries-for

nouses, equipage, art, service, and so

forth. It is chiefly prized for the power

which it gives over others-for the old

potency, marked to long ago, which

makes the borrower servant to the

lender. But its highest value—is to

free the borrower from Londage to the

lender. The highest value of money is

in its power to purchase persona! liberty

and independence. There are wher

ways in which men gain emancipation

from personal servitude to other men.

but they are open to but few. A man

who has exceptionally fine talents in

literature, art or applied science of any

kind may be a free man; but the great

mass must purchase themselves with

money. By this we do not mean free-

dom from dependence upon our fellow

men. No man can escape that, and it is

one of the most beneficent of the fund-

amental laws of nature that it can not be

the development of all the finer vir-

tues. But we do mean personal

servitude, the necessity of obeying an

bood-often the sacrifice of conscience

Lack of knowledge of the highest value

of money leads to a very general sacri-

fice of its best use to inferior uses. Peo-

ple buy luxuries-better houses, living,

etc., not knowing that they are selling

their liberties for present gratifications.

Every young man ought to start out

with this one main object in life in

view, to win his freedom. It is an in-

spiring struggle, and one in which the

high motive will lift him over many

win it by the highest possible develop-

by any thing that gives him superiority

in any kind of work. But in lieu of

special talents, money will do it. Every

wasted dollar is a new link in the chain

Told to Dickens by Longfellow.

To Wilkie Collins from New York,

under date of January 12, 1868, Mr.

Dickens writes: "Being at Boston last

the medical school and survey the holes

and corners in which that extraordinary

murder was done by Webster. There

was the furnace and all the grim spouts

and sinks and chemical appliances and

what not. At dinner afterward Long-

fellow told me a terrific story. He dined

with Webster within a year of the mur-

bowl of some burning material to be

night see how ghostly it made them

look. As each man stared at the rest in

the weird light all were horror-stricken

to see Webster, with a rope round his neck,

holding it up over the bowl, with his

head jerked on one side and his tongue

lolled out, representing a man being

-A curious accident which happened

recently in Paris points out a possible

danger in the wearing of combs and

bracelets of celluloid. A little girl sat

down before the fire place to prepare

her lessons. Her hair was kept back by

a semi-circle comb of celluloid. As her

head was bent forward to the fire this

became warm, and suddenly burst into

flames. The child's hair was partly

burned off, and the skin of the head so

injured that several months after,

though the burn was healed, the cica-

trix formed a white patch on which no

hair would grow. The burning point of celluloid is about 180 degrees, and the comb worn by the girl had attained that

Wanten it for a Dividend.

A conductor on a southwestern road

who failed to put a poor woman off

his train because she could not pay

half fare for a sick child 5 years old

was promptly discharged as soon as

the affair was reported. The amount

would have been only thirty-five cents

anyway, but the company wanted it to make a dividend for the stockhold-

Julian Hawthorne, in describing

some unpublished manuscripts of his

father that he is at present editing,

says: "He wrote so small a hand that

he would put 1,500 words on a page

of ordinary letter paper, and when he

had written a word or a line that dis-

pleased him, he rubbed it out with his

ers.-Detroit Free Press.

heat as it was held before the fire.

hanged."-Philadelphia Record.

of bondage.-Interior.

ment of his mental and moral powers-

Chain of Bondage.

WEDDING SUPERSTITIONS. A Sleeping Car Conductor Relates One of His Comical Experiences. Curious Customs Which Have Been in I have seen quite a number of stories

Vogue Many Years. As long as there are fair women and brave men there will continue to be weddings, and as weddings are the fashion there will still be plenty of persons on hand to suggest to a young bride just what she should do to avoid bad luck. and also what she should not do for the

People who are ordinarily sensible about most things let all their superstitious notions creep into their deas regarding the preparations for a vedding,

gagement ring. She is told to avoid opals, as no one quoted to show that this notion has pre- fish man from behind the door. vailed for centuries. August is also looked upon as a disastrous time in quired. which to wed, and those who marry in Lent will "live to repent," according to very old authority.

down very heavily, with his assailant Winter seems to be the favorite season There was sinos and pandefor wedding bells to chime, in our country monium in no time. The old fellow was at least. In Scotland the last day of the an excellent wrestler and it took three year is regarded with great favor, and of us to liberate the bewildered drumshould December 31 full on Friday so mer, who fortunately had too much much the better, as that is the favorite sense to insist on having revenge. But lay of the week for a wedding. Sunday nothing we could say could convince weddings are common in England, and the infuriated farmer that there had in the early history of our country many been no improper designs on his pocketcouples were made one on that day, but book. At last under threats of arrest he recently such a thing is seldom heard promised to let the "assassin" alone, but

he insisted on dressing, and at the next In Norway and Sweden Thursday stop he disappeared in the darkness. I marriages are forbidden by the Church, learnt afterwards that he took the train it being called pagans' day.

After much consideration the day is decided upon, and brave indeed is the girl who will consent to change it, for that is sure to bring ill-luck which all the rice and old shoes of the country could not drive away.

The time arrives and with it much advice in regard to tre color which she shall wear and the manner of arraying is ignorant of the rhyme which urges young brides to be careful to wear something old and something new, something borrowed and something blue." in order that she may live "happy

ver after," as the storybook says. Misfortune is sure to follow the bride who has a speck of green in her costume. second after she is ready, no matter how

# THE BLUE GENTIAN.

It Is One of the Most Beautiful of Late done. Mutual dependence is essential to

Autumnal Flowers.
Among the most beautiful of the late clous eating. autumnal blossoms may be mentioned individual master. Ordinarily this may not be in itself a hardship; but frequently, when this servitude involves the sacrifice of sacred rights and manshaped flowers seen on the streets with- ing this thing right along." in the last week, were principally comflower might be called tube or trumpet -inals." edges of the corolla. This is regularly white.

The closed gentian, or gentiana Andrewsii, does not open its blossoms even as much as does the soapwort gentian. The flowers of the closed gentian might be described as like those of the hare-Sunday I took it into my head to go over bell, only turned straight up instead of drooping. The tip of the blossom is as der, one of a party of ten or twelve. As they sat at their wine Webster suddenly in the soapwort gentian. Moreover, ordered the lights turned out and a placed on the table, that the guests of woods and shady roadsides.

gentians form an interesting family of value,—Chambers Journal, themselves and include a great number of foreign species.—Chicago Herald.

-An Indian on the Cheyenne agency Masonpreferred to die rather than suffer amputation of an injured leg, until a mar with a wooden leg was brought in to show his agility, and then the savage expressed a desire to have both legfeet every winter.

-Attorney-Trhat is your secupation?" Man summoned as juror-"I am employed in an intelligence-office." All the attorneys at once-"Your honor, we challenge this juror for cause,"-Chi-

eago Tribune. -Dog fancier-"Yes, madam, I have all kinds of dogs here. Is there any particular breed you wish?" Old indy who reads the papers)-"O, any thing that's fashionable. Lemme see an ocean

greyhound."-N. Y. Weekly. "Shall I vind the clock, vadder?" saked young Jacob Isaacstein, as they were about to close the store. "No, gald the old gentleman, with a sigh-Pizness was too pad. Choost let it lone, Jacob, and ve vill save the year and tear on the veels."-Norristown Courier. finger and wrote over the inky space Times

CR.TS' ARMS AND CEUS. Their Power of Voluntary Amputation Explained By an Old Gentleman.

A funny-looking old gentleman, with blue cotton umbrella under his arm and goggles to match, stopped at a Washington fish stand yesterday afternoon and attentively examined a lot of healthy crabs, evidently just out of the water, which were scrambling about in 1848. a shallow box with the crackling noise peculiar to this interesting crustacean under such circumstances. Selecting for particular notice the biggest of them all, the aged person deliberately began to tickle it with his forefinger nail on and these whims are made the subject | the second joint of the left large claw, of discussion at as early a stage in the taking care at the same time to avoid onsidering what she prefers for an en- nippers. This he continued for a few seconds, when the claw suddenly dropped off and the animal scrambled ever was known to have any happiness away for a short distance, out who owned one of them. In spite of of reach, while the old gentle this, however, dealers say that there is man coolly picked up the abaralways a demand for rings set with this doned member and put it in his poster beautiful stone. Pearls, the supersti- Then he stepped around to the other tions say, are even worse, but eventually side of the box and began to tickle the the little circlet is purchased and the same crab just as before on the other time for the wedding discussed. Then claw: presently that fell off likewise more complications arise as certain days and was promptly pocketed. It looked are unfavorable and some months are to as though the old gentleman was going be shunned. May is said to be an to repeat the operation on others of the especially unlucky month, why no one crabs, but he was cut short at this point can tell, but many a rhyme could be by the unexpected appearance of the

"What yer doing?" the latter in-Without exhibiting the slightest discomposure or embarrassment the aged stranger waved a polite greeting to the proprietor with his umbrella and put himself in the attitude of learned dis-

by scholastic habit.

"My worthy friend," he said, "I have ust been performing an experiment of | ward the target. the utmost interest. Illustrative of a curious physical function which, so far as science is aware, is possessed by the crab alone among animals. If your own leg is injured so badly as to render amputation necessary the operation must be performed with a saw and knives. Likewise with any other living creature surgery must be resorted to for getting rid of the limb. Theerab is the solitary exception to this rule. If it concludes that for any reason, a leg or arm is no more desirable, it simply cuts off the member by a single effort of its own and goes away without it. Catch a erab by the claw, and, as quickly as it perceives that it is not likely to escape otherwise, it will exert the simple act herself. Probably no girl in her teens of volition necessary, and dropping the imprisoned limb, goes off rejoicing."

Huh!" said the fisherman. "Yes, my good man," went on the old "And, furthermore, this gentleman. act of voluntary amputation may be caused by simply scratching or tickling the claw. The crab is doubtless annoyed by it, and being a creature naturally She must never array herself in all her subject to fits of ill temper, the limb is pretty robes until dressing for the cere- angrily dropped. The amputation, which ony. She must never read the mar- is truly such and not a mere disarticularinge service quite through and she lation of the joint, may also be induced must not stand before the mirror one by the application of an electric current. That the crab's power to accomplish this pleasing the reflection of the happy face curious feat depends upon the central and graceful gown.-Journal of Ameri- nervous system is proved by the fact that when the crustacean is rendered insensible by an anesthetic or the nervous system injured the act of amputation can not be performed. I am very fond of crabs' legs myself. They are deli-

"Indeed," replied the fish man. "And several species of blue gentian. The so, you shad-bellied old beat, you come gentian is one of very few flowers which around to my stand and tickle my crabs may be described as a true blue-most of for a supper! Two or three of my custhose generally called blue being in re- tomers have complained lately that the ality more of a purple order. The hand- crabs they hought of me had lost their some bunches of deep azure, tube- big claws. I suppose you have been do-

"Pray, be calm," interrupted the old posed of the soap-wort gentian, or gen- gentleman, with a deprecatory wave of tiana saponaria. This grows quite the blue-cotton umbrella. "Your speak-abundantly "down Jersey," and is ing in this impolite manner makes me brought to market by the colored peo- fear that you have no regard for science ple who sell quantities of botanical nor interest in the wonders of physioltreasures the whole year round. The ogy. It is worth remembering, howstalks of the soap-wort gentian are tall ever, that the crab has another great and straight and the blossoms are borne advantage over other animals-it can in upright clusters in the axils of the renew the legs and arms it loses by -that is in the joints between the growing others, although the fresh ones eaf-stalks and the main stem. The never get to be as large as the orig-

chaped, but if it ever fully opened it "Well, I'd have you know, my bloomwould be bell or funnel-shaped. It does ingold fossil, that I don't keep crabs on not open, however-only a slight bright my stand long enough for them to grow break at the top shows the scalloped new arms and legs in the place of the ones you steal; and if I ever catch you striped, on the inside, with blue and hanging about here again I'll hand you over to the police."

And the old gentleman, without venturing a response, shuffled off, muttering to himself the while and fumbling with the two crab legs he had secreted in his pocket.—Washington Star.

# A Valuable Pair of Breeches.

The owner of a very valuable pair of much rounded in the flower as it is in trousers was lately advertised for in the the bud, the opening being no bigger French papers by the honest finder of than a pin's head. The flower only de- the same who allowed the individual to velops from a bud, it would seem, by whom they belonged fifteen days in growing a little longer and taking on a which to come forward. After this hade of cobalt blue. These flowers are delay he stated he would consider himarranged in a close cluster at the top of self justified in profiting by this strange the flower stalk, not along the stem as windfall, which, as he was in poor circumstances and about to be married. the leaves are not narrowed and grooved. would be very serviceable to him. On but are broad, smooth and glossy, somethe Place de la Concorde, Paris, he what like those of the lilac. The closed saw one evening a dark object on the gentian is the species most abundant in ground, which he first took to be a Pennsylvania. It grows along the edges sleeping dog. On closer inspection however, he discovered his mistake and The fringed gentian is the species picked up the garment then in his posommemorated by Bryant. It is rare session. He took the trousers with him here, but is abundant further north. It on board a boat which he owned, and on closely resembles its relatives, but the passing them in review noticed that the flowers are few and the stems and leaves buttons seemed different from ordinary simple. Its chief claim to distinction is ones. Prompted by curiosity he undid the its fringed lobes, not petals, as the cloth that covered them and found, inflower is all one piece like a trumpet, stead of wooden molds, gold pieces. The corolla is open and the lobes are Carrying his investigations further he developed so as to resemble petals of a came across some bank notes stitched deep blue with fringed border. The into the waistband with other papers of

-Mr. Mason-"We's kim t' git marri'd." Rev. Mr. Dixon-"Why. Sam: how yo'gwine t' support a wife?" Mr. "We's gwine Inter d" laundry biz." Mr. Dixon-"Yo' caint wash! Mr. Mason-"No, sah; but I's gwine t' funnish d' s'iled clothes."-Judge.

-A St. Paul jury, during a week's sittaken off as he was troubled with cold ting on a recent case, can up a bill of \$27 for Turkish baths and \$35 for shaving, shampooing and haircutting, which bill of \$72 was presented to the county commissioners for payment.

-"trood fleavens, man! your head is laid open, your nose is smashed on the back of your neck, one arm is fractured. and your jaw dislocated! How did it happen?" "Ah, doether, Biddy-rist happen?" her sowl-lammed me wid a motty-God Bless Our Home, Schwate Home. -N. Y. Herald.

-Yellowly-"You've married a rich wife, I understand." Brownly - "I have." Y .- "Well, then, I think you ought to pay me that \$50 you borrowed a year ago." B .- "I'll have to pay by installments, then, my boy." Y .- "Why so?" B .- "She never allows me more than a dollar at a time."-Boston

DUEL WITH POTATOES.

How the Reverend Mr. Bowman Downed a Desperado. "This seems to be a year of duels," said Dr. Morrison, of the First Methedist Church, "but I notice there's far

of a famous duel fought in Kentucky in "Bill Bowman was a noted preacher who lived near Millersburg. He was a typical Kentuckian, tall, angular and uscular. Like Sam Jones, he always said what he thought. In the midst of a revival meeting a well-known desperado came into the church and began making a disturbance. With eyes flashproceedings as when the young lady is being seized by the rather formidable ing with indignation Bill Bowman arose and in a ringing voice publicly reproved the desperado, who at once reired from the church.

"The next morning the desperado sent a challenge to Bowman to fight him a duel. Howman accepted the challenge, and there was no four-column newspaper correspondence, no railroad trips to an adjoining State, nothing but two little notes -one a challenge and the other an acceptance—and then all was ready for the fight. The town was terribly excited, for such a thing as a preacher fighting a duel had never been heard of before.

"Old Bill Bowman being the challenged man had the choice of weapons. He selected a half bushel of Irish potatoes as big as his fist for each man and stipulated that his opponent must stand fifteen paces distant and only one potato at a time to be taken from the measure. The town was wild with delight, for every body knew that Bill Bowman coarse, evidently rendered instinctive could throw with his long muscular arms as straight and almost as swift as a rifle could send a bullet singing to-

"The desperado was furious at being thus freshly insulted and made an indignant protest against such a fight, but Bill Bowman insisted that he was the son for this, but the fact will not, probably, challenged man and had a right to thoose his own weapons and threatened to denounce the desperado as a coward If he failed to come to time. As there was no way out of the box but to fight, the desperado finally consented to face the preacher.

"The fight took place on the out-skirts of the town. Every body in Millersburg was present to see the fun. The seconds arranged the two men in position. by the side of each being a half bushel measure filled with large Irish potatoes as hard as a brick.

Bill Bowman threw the first potato. It struck his opponent a central shot and flew into a thousand pieces. A vell of delight went up from the crowd, which rattled the desperado and his potato flew wide of the tall, bony preacher.

"Bill Bowman watched his chance, and every time his opponent steeped for a potato another one hit him in the side, leaving a wet spot on his clothes, and then scattering itself to the four winds of Heaven. Old Bill hit the desperado about five times, and then the sixth potato struck him in the short ribs, knocking the wind completely out of him, and doubling him up on the grass.

"The people were almost crazy with laughter, but Bill Bowman looked as sober as if he had just finished preaching a funeral sermon. The desperado was taken home and put to bed, and there he stayed for more than a week be- ness of the bud in comparison with the length fore he recovered from the effects of his Irish potato duel.

"The old men in Millersburg still talk about that celebrated duel, but it was the means of breaking up dueling in that section."-Atlanta Journal.

## A RUST-RED DADO.

The first thing that particularly attracted my attention after I entered the leaf may be accounted for. kamera (of the convict quarters of Algachi, Siberia), was a broad band of dull red which extended around the dingy, whitewashed walls, just above the sleep ing platform, like a spotty dado of iron rust. Noticing that I was looking at it with curiosity, Lietenant-Colonel Saltwith a half-humorous, half-cynical smile, that the prisoner's had been "trying to paint their wall red."

"What is it, any way?" I inquired, and, stepping to one end of the sleeping platform. I made a closer examination, The dull red band at once resolved itself into a multitude of contiguous or overlapping blood stains, with here and there the dried and flattened body of a nature and significance of the discoloration. The tortured and sleepless prisoners had been "trying to paint their walls red" by crushing bedbags with their hands as high up as they could reach while lying on the nares, and in this way had so stained the dingy white wash with their own blood that at a little distance there seemed to be a dado of iron rust around the three sides of the kamera where they slept. How many years this had been going on, how many thousand convicts had helped to "paint those "walls red," I do not know; but I had suffered enough in Siberia myse.

from vermin fully to understand and appreciate the significance of that dull swered the young lady, quickly; "they poisoned our dog yesterday."—Musical Courier.

## Milwaukee's Poor Vanderbilt.

Quite a familiar figure on the streets is a little old man who wears a straw hat that once had a band, but long since parted company with it, and now slouches down over its wearer's shoulders, almost covering his head of curly gray hair. He is so round-shouldered that he appears to be hunchbacked, and his face is covered with straggling gray whiskers. He earns meager wages as a collector and lives nobody knows where Yet this poverty-stricken man is a first cousin of Mrs. W. H. Vanderbilt, the widow of the millionaire railroad magnate. His father and Mrs. Vanderbilt's father were brothers. When in an extremity he appealed to his rich cousin for aid, he received a very polite note from her private secretary stating that Mrs. Vanderbilt had so many calls for charity that she was compelled to refuse some.-Milwaukee News.

-A new mixed drink is called a "business brace," but its practical tendency is more of a business suspender. -Baltimore American.

-A New York saloon was to be opened and the proprietor applied to a wellknown florist to furnish him with stands of flowers which should be appropriate for the occasion and yet have some allegorical meaning. The pieces when completed represented Columbus discovering the land of mixed drinks, Balbox refusing to take water when he came to the Pacific, and Ponce de Leon pouring water from the fountain of youth in a glass held above his head, ike a bartender making a gin fizz. For some mysterious reason one of the biggest floral pieces was a scroll bearing the words: "The Press."

THE OAK LEAF.

Poculiarities of Its Shape, Structure and Uses Ably Discussed.

Sir John Lubbock read a paper on the hape of the oak leaf before the British as eciation recently, in the course of which he more duels than blood. It reminds me

We are so accustomed to the form of the ak leaf that it does not strike us as anything peculiar, and comparatively few, per-haps, have ever asked themselves why it suld be as it is. And yet it is possibler, like that of any of our forest trees and these of the evergreen oak so abundant in bot In botanical phraseology, they are decidu-

sinuated, with blunt lobes extending not more than halfway down to the mid-ril sinus between the lobes is generall rounded off at the bottom. Again, though I have not found this mentioned in the botanical works which I have consulted, they are rarely symmetrical, the lobes of the two sides not corresponding. The three points, then, which give the oak leaf its peculiar form are: First, the deep rounded sinuses, second, the want of symmetry of the two sides; third, the oblong or oblanceolate out-

I do not know of any attempt to explain this peculiar form. As regards the sinuse Kerner suggests that they are intended to ermit the passage of light to the lowe caves. I would not deny that the space be tween the lobes may be of some advantage in the manner suggested by Kerner, but I great-Iv doubt whether this is the main primary explanation. That which I suggest is as for

The leaves of the evergreen oak are entire and small in comparison with the English

During the winter and early spring they are protected by a series of brown scales, it side which ties lie, and with which they form the well known bases which are so familiar to us and which are both small and short in proportion to the size of the leaver themselves. In cooler and moister regions, on the contrary, there is, as we know, a ten deney for leaves to become larger and decidnoca. I will not now enter into the rea be denied. These influences do not, how ever, affect the outer scales, which remain as before without any increase of size. But as the leaves have increased in size, and the tain their original arrangement in the bud.

If, for instance, we compare the buris of the ak and of the beech, we see that, while the leaf of the oak is longer than that of the beech, the bud of the oak is, on the contrary, shorter than that of the beech. Under these circumstances what must happen! The leaf grows and becomes longer than the bud. It therefore necessarily bent into a curve. But an entire leaf, if thus thrown into a curve, would necessarily fall into folds, the number being determined by the number of ribs or veins. For such folds, however, there would be no room within the narrow limits of a bud; or, rather, perhaps they would be inconvenient, because they leave more or less

This may be rendered more clear by taking a piece of cloth or of paper, folding it up and then throwing it into a curve. It will then necessarily fall into one or more folds. If it were strengthened as an oak leaf is, by three or four side ribs, there would be a fold be tween each two ribs. As a matter of fact, however, from the absence of space the mem brane where the fold would be is not actually developed. We may imitate this by remove ng them. If this be done, the result will be the formation of sinuses rounded at the base, closely resembling those so characteristic or

These sinuses are due, then, as I believe, to the curvature of the leaf, owing to the short of the leaf. The young leaf is not only curved; it is wrapped round the interior The result of this is that one side of the leaf is folded within the other. The one therefore, being on the outer side, has more space than the other. The two sides of the leaf are, in fact, differently situated, and this, I believe, accounts for the second point -namely, the want of symmetry. The ob-How It Astonished an American Visitor to long form is an advantage, from the way the leaves diverge from the stalk. In this manner the interesting peculiarities of the oak

## Cool Presumption.

One of the leading Pearl street merchants was an eye witness yesterday to the utter demolition of all previous records in the way of cold nerve. He was busy at one of his counters and did not look up as the quick tep of a woman was heard in the front of stein (warden of the prison) remarked, the store, nor as its owner passed him, going toward the rear of the place. He even thought it might be his wife, who is a frequent visitor at her husband's place of busi ness. A minute later he went back himself to his little private office in the rear, and reached the door just as a well dressed and eminently respectable woman, whose name is in the recently published list of Albany "society," and whom he knew slightly, but only slightly, closed his cash drawer with a bang, and looking up as he stopped, thunder bedbug sticking to the whitewash. I struck on the threshold, said coolly: "Well, had no further difficulty in guessing the | you haven't got enough change to change my \$5 bill, so I won't bother you." Then she swept out of the store, leaving the merchant in a state of mental and physical collaps from which he has not yet recovered .- Albany Express.

Did He Play? The following seems to be the latest "thing ne would rather have left uneasit;" A planist recently spent the evening at the house of lady. The company was agreeable and be stayed somewhat late. As he rose to take his departure the lady said: "Pray don't go yet, Mr. Jones, I want you to play something for "Ch, you must excuse me to-night; it is very late and I should disturb the neigh-

### Consumption of Otcomargarine, There has been quite an increase in the deomargarine trade since the enforcement of

the law requiring it to be sold by its proper name. People find it more palatable than 30c dairy butter, and it can be kept such onger without the offensive smell. It is rapidly taking the place of the lower grades of butter in private families, as well as in cheap boarding houses and restaurants.-Produc Dealer in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## The Useful Camel.

Camels can go eight or ten miles an hour, if their load isn't too heavy. The Arabs eat camel's ment and drink camel's milk. They make clothes out of the camel's hair and leather out of the camel's skin. So, you see, the camel is a very useful animal.—Little Men and Women.

### A Morning Call. Mrs. Gadd-I'm nearly tired to death; was

at Mrs. Nabb's party last night. Mrs. Gabb-I didn't go; in fact did not get an invitation. Were there many theref Mrs. Gadd-Oh, no; it was very select --New York Weekly.

-Near Waugeenah, Fla., stands an A. M. E. Church, known as the "old Springfield Church." It was built by a former generation when Indians were aumerous in Florida. The savages were very hostile, but gave no trouble till the house was up and the celling placed overhead, when they furiously came from a swamp and massacred three or four of the mechanics engaged in the work, and while the remaining two escaped and fled for assistance, the Indians dipped their hands in the blood of their vicims and entirely covered the seiling. Although this occurred many years ago the prints of the red men's hands are still plainly to be seen.

### Municipal Gas Works.

Is it better for a town to own its gas vorks? Mr. Bronson Keeler discusses his question in The Forum:

In Europe it is as common for cities to wn gas plants as it is for them to be the owners of water works in America. Without exception, the result is favorale. Eight cities in the United States own their gas plants. Four of them are in Virginia-Richmond, Danville, Alexandria and Charlottesville. The others are Philadelphia, Bellefontaine, O.; Wheeling, W. Va., and Henderson, Ky. The prices range from the highest, \$1.69 it Alexandria, to the lowest, at Wheel-

ng, 75 cents per thousand cubic feet.

The gas works at Wheeling the writer considers a model of excellence. What a city can do with her own plant is well shown here. The municipal authorities bought the gas works of Wheeling in 1868 for \$176,000. Gas was then \$2.50 a thousand. From the profits, under city management, debts were paid and the works rebuilt with modern improvenents without taxing the people a dollar. The plant is now worth half a million. The product has been lowered to seventyfive cents per thousand, and the streets, the markets, school and engine houses, all the public buildings and the Young Men's Christian association are lighted free of charge.

Yet the Wheeling gas works in 1888 urned into the city treasury a net profit of \$27,100. The Wheeling rate for gas is the lowest in the Union. It is because the works are out of debt, and there are no dividencis to pay to stockholders. With modern discoveries and improvements the manufacture of gas is becoming constantly cheaper. The prediction is made that in a few years it can be manufactured to sell for 25 cents per thousand. Then, or even when it comes to be as low as 50 cents, it can be used for fuel the country over. Mr. Keeler finds there can be no such thing as competing gas companies. Customers who do not like one company, in the nature of things, cannot change to another, unless they move their houses. Moreover, a gas company nover yet was started to compete honestly with another. The new company is always founded to blackmail the old company into purchasing it, just as a parallel railway line is constructed.

### Walking Clubs.

How can nature take care of us if we never go to see her? She cannot: that is olain. It is a thought that is at last beginning to percolate the brains of many town people. We live and thrive by the workings of nature within us. Unless we go out now and then to sojourn beneath the sun and sky, and to be in touch with mother earth herself, we can have no long continued well being of soul or

Mindful of this, city and town people are forming walking clubs. They take what they call cross country walks. A party of pleasant acquaintances, whose days are doomed to be spent behind desks and within walls, meet at an early hour of the morning at a designated spot and take a train to a station a few miles beyond city pavements. There they leave the cars and start on their walk. It is anywhere from ten to twenty miles tong. Dinner is taken at some pretty rustic inn. where cream, fresh eggs and milk are plentiful. Sometimes a lunch is carried along. In every case the cross country walkers provide abundantly for

inward refreshments. Men and women both go in the walking parties sometimes, though often each sex tries it alone. Sundays and holidays are chosen for the walks usually. The route is selected beforehand, sometimes on level roads, again in a hilly country. The walkers gain a knowledge of scenery and landscape, and health, gracefulness and good looks besides.

Who - an s the negro? A colored colony from the United States have been preparing to settle in Mexico. They obtained necessary concessions from the Mexican government, but the people of the vicinity made strong objections to having the colony in their neighborhood. Under the circumstances the best thing for the negro to do is to stay right where he is, work hard at anything he can find till something better offers, try with all his might to educate himself and accumulate property, and be an honest, moral man That is what white people have to do who make any permanent success, and the same road is open to the black man in most parts of this union.

The smoke nuisance in Chicago has radually made life a burden almost inolerable to be borne. The same is true of Cincinnati. But Chicago now turns with joyful hope of relief to the natural gas wells of Indiana. In half a year, if all goes well, the people in the great town by the lake will be warming their houses with natural gas, brought in pipes from a field 130 miles away. Then Thicago will be a beautiful and splendid sity. It will give her a better chance for the World's fair.

Owing to continued emigration and to the persistent efforts of philanthropists, pauperism in Great Britain is diminishing at last. This is hopeful. It shows than an impression can be made on the poverty and crime of a nation. Until recently one person in every thirty-three in Great Britain was a pauper. Now the tide has really turned the other way at

## The First in England.

The tirst chrysanthemum, so far as is known, was introduced into England about 1794, and was flowered for the irst time in November of the following year in the famous nurseries of Mr. Cabill, King's road, Cheisea, from which place many plants were test sent out, which have since be ome familiar varieties, among them being the camelia. The first blossoms vere of a deep crimson color and had flower of but two inches in diameter, and the petals were twisted like a porcupme quiil. - Washington Post.