CURRENT DRIFT.

A highwayman in Texas got a sentence of ninety-nine years. This sentence is nearly as long as one of Mr. Evarts'.

It rains alike on the just and the unjust—and on the just mainly, because the unjust have bor-rowed their umbrellas.

The Howgate is a poor one for defaulting officers to get out at. They should take the straight gate that leads to addition, division and silence.

Somebody tried to excuse a liar to Dr. Johnson, saying: "You must not believe more than half what he says." "Aye," replied the Doctor; "but which half?"

The latest is that Oscar Wilde doesn't look like a poet. This will tend to destroy the lingering traces of an opinion that he might possibly be one.-Lowell Citizen.

Mark Twain, lecturing on the Fiji Islands, of-fered to show how the cannibals ate their food if any lady would lend him a baby. The lecture had to go unillustrated.

Mrs. Spriggins was boasting of her new house. The windows, she said, were all stained. "That's too bad! But won't turpentine or benzine wash it off?" asked the good Mrs. Oldbody. "Mary says you can't come to see her any more," said a boy to his sister's admirer. "Why

not?" "Because you come to see her every even-ing now, and how could you come any more?" An Irish lady was so much on her guard against betraying her national accent that she is reported to have spoken of the "creature of Vesuvius,"

fearing that the crater would betray her again. The sesthetic craze has struck Leadville. A prominent clergyman of that city has written to inquire which is the more correct taste for a horse-thief being lynched-to carry a lily or a

"What do I mean by advising your boy to drink and gamble?" said Gallagher to Ragbag. "Simply this: I am interested in the boy. I want him to be a great and good man. Folks never do as they are advised."—Boston Post.

Christmas cards grow larger, more artistic and more expensive. In a few years a young man who has only a couple of hundred dollars to spend during the holidays will be undecided whether to buy his girl a Christmas card or a gold watch and chain.-Norristown Herald.

It requires no great stretch of conscience to explain why we have had such a vast excess of weather—such extremes of heat and cold, wet and dryness-this year as compared with previous years. Formerly a large part of the appropriation for the weather bureau was embezzled; now it is all expended for weather.

A fond mother leaned from a vine-embowed window the other evening, and in tones soft as a gentle mother's love could make them, called to her beautiful boy: "Clarence, Clarence Plantage-net Jones! Wandering little honey-bee, mother hears your merry prattle in among the flowers. Come to your tea, my honey-bird." And just then the mellow hum of the little honey-bird twittered out of the gloaming: "Dog-gone the dog-gone luck to thunder! I was trying to make a big black ant fight a gray spider in a battle an' you hollered and made me mash a big green worm in my fingers. Dog-gone it all!" And the mother, hiding her smiles behind a well-dissembled frown, came into the garden and said:
"Oh, you nasty little pig, I'll flake the hide off
you with a mop-stick if ever I catch you in the
garden again. Wash your filthy paws, now, and come along to your supper if you want any."
This, children, strongly illustrates the difference
between poetry and blank verse.—Burlington

The mystic letters written on visiting cards are a source of bewilderment to the Congressmen from rural districts, who cannot decipher their meaning. Once that stalwart Kentuckian, Senator McCreery, met a foppish young constituent who had just returned from Paris, and said to him: "I received your card the other day. I recognized your father's name, which is the same as yours "I received your card the other day. I recognized your father's name, which is the same as yours, and supposed that it was his son; but what did the letters E. P., written in a corner, mean?" "Why, Mr. Senator," replied the traveled man, "it is customary in Paris to write the initials of certain words on leaving cards. For example, had I been going away I should have written P. P. C., the initials of pour prendre conge—to take leave. As it was, calling myself, I wrote E. P., the initials of en personne—in person." "Oh!" said McCreery, "I understand." A week or so afterward the two met again and the young man said: "Senator, I received you card, but I could not comprehend what the letters, S. B. A. N., in the corner, meant. Pray interpret them?" "With pleasure," said McCreery, his eyes twinkling with humor. "S. B. A. N. are the initials of 'Sent by a nigger!" The young man tried to laugh, but really couldn't see the point-of the inscription. Others did. the inscription. Others did.

GIRLS, READ THIS CAREFULLY .- There is so much need for something like the following from the Woman's Journal to be said, and it is said so well, that we quote it with the hope that our sensible gitl readers will take it to heart. "Many a girl," says the paper named, "is careless as to how much money a young man spends for her. Three and five dollars for a horse and carriage he can poorly afford, perhaps; yet she will go with him week after week with no particular interest in him, unmindful, apparently, whether he earns the money or takes it from his employer's drawer. He makes her expensive presents. He takes her to a concert, in going to which usually, save for her pride and his gallantry, a horse-car ride for ten cents would be far wiser than a carriage ride for several dollars. A young man respects a a girl," says the paper named, "is careless as to ten cents would be far wiser than a carriage ride for several dollars. A young man respects a young woman all the more who is careful of the way in which he spends his money, and will not permit too much to be used for herself. A thoughtful and well-bred girl will be wise about these matters." And we might add, as a hint for young men contemplating matrimony, that a sweetheart who will permit her young man to spend his money foolishly before marriage would be very apt to make his money fly after marriage on her own account.—San Jose Mercury.

Four insane men disputed the inauguration of Mr. Garfield, claiming the distinction for themselves. Seven claimed to have been selected instead of Mr. Hayes. General Grant had seven rivals at his first and a dozen at his second inaugution, and there were four mad aspirants for the hand of his daughter on the occasion of her marriage in Washington.

METRICAL MELANGE.

THE COUNTRY TEACHER.

These verses are from a private letter written by James A. Garfield to a friend while a young man:

Of all the trades by men pursued, There's none that's more perplexing Than is the country pedagogue's-It's every way most vexing.

Cooped in a little narrow cell, As hot as black Tartarus, As well in Pandemonium dwell, As in this little school-house.

HISTORY OF LITTLE JOHNNY.

Little Johnny went to view The circus and the flip-flap flippers; Johnny tried the flip-flap, too; Now he wears the golden slippers. While they turned these things at will, In the air or any wheres, Johnny turned one higher still-

Turned clean up the golden stairs. -Evansville Argus

WHAT?

How swiftly her needle is going ! Her curls fall neglectfully over Her bended neck. What is she sewing? Some dainty keepsake for her lover?

A shroud? Or a dress for a wedding Not far in the long-dreamed-of distance? Or frock for a being now treading The unexplored shores of existence? -New York Sun

COLLAPSED.

No friend, no fun; no life, no love; No girl to hug by cannel ember; No coin in purse; no hope in heart-I know no month drear as November.

Ah, mocking moon and stolld stars; Ah, sneering sun, in dome celestial; Ah, think ye that I ken or heed The dubiousness of things terrestrial?

I've had my fill from sorrow's spoon; I've drained the cup, at cistern broken; I've trusted all that asked for it-And bankrupt am by this same token.

OUR ELEVATOR BOY.

Who calmly eyes us o'er and o'er, And gets us out on the wrong floor, While o'er some novel he does pore-Our elevator boy.

Who "Empty Cradle" sweet does sing. And practices the "Highland Fling," And never comes when we do ring-Our elevator boy.

Who's cooler far than ice or snow, Whose language runs in constant flow, Who knows where we don't want to go-Our elevator boy.

What we do pray for night and day Is that something may give way, And send him with the angels to st Our elevator boy:

-The Judge.

THE BROOKLYN MAID.

I'm an only daughter young girl, spit-curl and frizzes young girl, A languishing, dainty, all powdery and painty, Sit up at Il young girl.

I'm a would-be sethetle young girl, A dote on the arts young girl, A poet in embryo, don't know a thing, you know, All on the surface young girl.

I'm a novel-reading young girl, A lie awake till 3 young girl, A romantic, half-crazy, but terribly lazy, Let ma do the work young girl.

I'm a look out for a catch young girl, A snatch 'em up quick young girl, A half do the proposing, and bag 'em when dozing, Hold on to your game young girl. -Brooklyn Eagle.

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