Premature.

The owl was exhorting the jaybird to reform.

"I know I'm a tough proposition," acknowledged the jay. "But how can you expect me to turn over a new leaf when the trees are only in bud?"

Then with a mocking scream, she went to build a nest that a trusting robin had left half built.

Force of Habit.

"Poor fellow! He studied the French language for three years."

"You don't say?"

"Yes, and then he went over to Paris and tried his best to pass as a native Frenchman."

"Was he successful?"

"No, he was tripped up on one word. When he had occasion to write 'sou' he forgot and wrote 'Sioux.'"—Chicago Post.

Crowded.

Secretary Taft was, on one occasion, in consultation with Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania. The Secretary is gigantic, and the Senator is taller and weighs more than any member of the Senate.

While these two statesmen were in earnest conversation, an aggressive politician endeavored to enter the room, but an alert secretary politely interposed.

"What are they doing in there?" asked the politician, inquisitively.

This impertinent question nettled the secretary, and he answered, tersely: "Holding a mass meeting, I presume."—Harper's Weekly.

Typewriters Catch Cold.

The employer looked on with a puzzled expression while the new stenographer carried the typewriter across the room and placed it on a chair in the immediate neighborhood of a steam radiator.

"I'll be ready in just a minute, Mr. L——," she said. "The typewriter got cold while the heat was turned off, and it sticks dreadfully."

"Does the cold affect them?" he asked. "That's something new."

"Yes, sir. I find that it does, very much. Some machines regularly take cold if left long in a cold room. It's especially hard on old machines that are pretty well worn, making them very unmanageable sometimes. I've known the cold to remain in an old one until it had been several hours in a warm room, when it gradually became better; but usually a machine yields to three or four minutes of warmth."—New York Press.

Speaking of Thaws.

"Thaw——" began Mrs. Stubb the other morning.

"Thaw!" snapped Mr. Stubb, irritably. "Now, look here, Maria, if you begin to talk about the Thaw trial I will leave the house. I am sick of hearing about it and——"

"Thaw——"

"Didn't I tell you to stop? This Thaw argument is a nuisance and——"

But Mrs. Stubb was rapping on the kitchen table with the rolling pin.

"Ignoramus!" she hissed. "Will you give a poor, weak woman a chance to get in a word? I am not talking about the Thaw trial. I was merely telling you to go out and thaw the pipes. Of all the——"

But Mr. Stubb had fled with the kettle of hot water.

Price of Proficiency.

Herkimer James, the well known scientist, was talking in New York about the bill of $25,000 that Dr. Frank Billings presented to the Marshall Field estate.

"It seems a big fee," said Prof. James. "But whenever physicians' fees seem extortionate I think of a certain famous eye specialist.

"A patient of this specialist's coming to pay his bill, growled:

"'Doctor, it seems to me that $500 is a big charge for that operation of mine. It didn't take you over half a minute.'

"'My dear sir,' the other answered, 'in learning to perform that operation in half a minute I have spoiled over eleven pecks of such eyes as yours.'"—Philadelphia Record.

Ox Wagons Against Freight Trains.

In the Cape of Good Hope colony many of the short railroad branches and extensions do not pay on account of ox wagon competition. In the report for the year 1905, recently issued, the traffic manager of one of the lines reports in regard to a new nineteen-mile branch that as there was a very plentiful supply of wagons and an abundant supply of grass during the season ox wagon rates ruled low and the railroad secured little general traffic.

Demoralized.

Friend of Candidate—Bingo, how are you getting along with your campaign? Famously?

Candidate—No; infamously. Haven't you seen the opposition papers?

FOODSTUFFS IN MEXICO.

What the Mass of the People Have to Eat.

In answer to inquiries from the United States relative to Mexico's meat and dairy product supplies, Consul James A. Le Roy of Durango furnishes the following report, says the Washington Star.

While the mass of the people of Mexico subsist primarily on tortillas (corn cake) and beans, it is significant that, in the larger centers of population, wherever the workmen are getting higher wages, as a result of the establishment of new industries, they buy fresh meat and flock to the bakeries of wheaten bread. Indeed, the increased consumption of wheat is one of the signs of the times in Mexico. It has become an article of necessity with families in moderate circumstances, as it always has been with the people of wealth; and these two classes are also great consumers of meat. It may be put down as a rule that while Mexico is still a country dependent primarily upon corn and beans, all Mexicans who can afford to do so daily eat a large amount of meat.

It cannot be expected that there will be any market for fresh meats from the United States, as cattle raising is a pursuit that is followed in nearly all parts of Mexico. There is also a duty of 10 cents Mexican the net kilo (about 2¼ cents in United States currency per pound avoirdupois) on fresh meat. In the capital and in some of the other cities there are small butcher shops, first started to cater to the trade of American residents, which have facilities for keeping meat several days on ice. The industry of refrigerating beef, as it is known in the United States, is practically unknown in Mexico. Lately it has been said that one firm would attempt it in Mexico city; but there will be no shipping of refrigerated beef into Mexico while freight rates remain as high as they are, or until the taste of nearly all the meat eaters is educated not to demand meat just killed.

There cannot, under present conditions, be a great market for canned meats in Mexico. Their price puts them wholly out of the reach of the masses of the people, even if they ever considered their purchase. Fresh meat is still a luxury with them, and they live in a grazing country. Pork, far more than beef or mutton, is the poor man's meat in Mexico, though this is more conspicuously the case in certain regions than in others. Lard is a local product everywhere, on a small or large scale, and forms one of the items most actively bartered in the town markets. It is used by all classes in every-day cooking and in the preparation of a very large proportion of their dishes, yet lard is imported from the United States in considerable quantity.

Mexico cannot be called a butter-consuming country, as bread is commonly eaten without butter. Lard is its substitute to a great extent, where it has a substitute. Nevertheless the use of butter is increasing among Mexicans themselves, and the foreign population, especially the Americans, constitute a growing demand for butter that does not seem to be met by the starting of small dairy farms near cities, mining camps, etc. More than three-fourths of the butter imported comes from the United States, Spain and Denmark supplying nearly all the remainder. It is imported mainly in cans, but the importation of fresh butter in rolls from the dairies in the lower Mississippi valley region has been steadily increasing. The imports of American cheese and milk show constant gains, but in the nature of things the market for these products cannot greatly increase.

False Messiahs.

The defense of different persons claiming to be the Messiah has cost the Jews a great expense, both in treasure and human life. One of these, Coziba, who lived in the second century of our era, put himself at the head of the Jewish nation as their Messiah, and many of that people adhered to and defended him. The Romans made war upon Coziba and his followers, and, according to admissions made by eminent Jewish authority, they lost somewhere between 500,000 and 600,000 men in his defense. The last of these impostors was Mordecai, a German, who first claimed to be of divine origin in the year 1682. When the authorities threatened to punish him as an impostor he fled, and his end is not known.

Tombstone Refuge for Cat.

One day this week, when the snow was rapidly turning to slush, and when St. Paul's churchyard was bereft of its wonted groups of luncheon-hour strollers, one of the churchyard cats, an unusually soiled and wild-looking specimen, was seen perched upon the narrow top of a weather-worn headstone. The space was uncomfortably narrow, and, to keep from falling, the animal was forced to clutch unceasingly. But the stone was dry, the churchyard walks were flooded, so the cat stayed, a soiled bit of white and black fur, suspicious but apparently resigned.—New York Post.

English as Spoque.

A young woman desired a toque,
But her husband responded, "It's no joque,
It costs so much dough,
I'll have to say nough;
If I paid for that thing I'd be broque."
—Philadelphia Ledger.

Poor Papa.

Miss Nearsite—Isn't that a new bonnet on your mother?

Miss Wise—Well, I really think it's on papa.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Pleasant for Mice.

"I never knew before what the little chimney back of the gas stove was for," said the girl as she came out of the kitchen and stood in the doorway, "but I know now. It was built for the mice. There is a nest of them in there now as nice and warm as can be."

Awful Break.

The man of the house had shown the caller the leaky roof, the insecure foundation, the unfinished upper rooms, and the generally wretched condition of the premises.

"Now," he said, "I think you ought to make the assessment about half what it was last year."

"You must have misunderstood me, Mr. Gimpswitch," remarked the caller. "I didn't say I was the assessor. What I said was that my name is Elsessor. I am thinking of buying some property in this neighborhood."—Chicago Tribune.

His Chance.

Young Prof. McGoozle was calling on Miss Gurgle.

"Duckie," said her younger brother, who happened in, "you don't get your hair all tousled up now like you used to do when Mr. Kleengawn was comin' here."

"You impudent boy!" exclaimed his sister, indignantly, but retaining her self-possession. "You go right back to the sitting room, and stay there!"

Companionship of Books.

Will you go and gossip with your housemaid or your stable boy when you may talk with kings and queens, while this eternal court is open to you, with its society wide as the world, multitudinous as its days, the chosen and the mighty of every place and time? Into that you may enter always, in that you may take fellowship and rank according to your wish. From that, once entered into it, you can never be outcast but by your own fault.—John Ruskin.

Signs of Coming Earthquake.

Can an earthquake be "felt" approaching as a shower of rain can be felt and a fall of snow? On the Riviera in 1887 the horses laid their ears back and gave every sign of uneasiness. In Chile the birds have been observed to fly inland just before a convulsion. In Talcahuano in 1835 all the dogs fled from the city. These actions, of course, as a scientist who has collected a valuable list suggests, may be mere coincidences, for birds will fly inland and kittens become nervous when no earthquake is nigh. On the other hand, as the lower animals are singularly sensitive to any changes of weather and to pressure of the air they "may even be conscious of subterranean movements which do not come within human ken or are even not detectable by the most delicate instruments."

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE—The following announcements are from leading business men and firms, and are well worthy your careful reading. The list may contain just the proposition you are looking for.

REAL ESTATE

$10.00 DOWN—$10.00 MONTHLY

Send in for booklet describing our **guaranteed** investment at **Jamieson Park,** a suburb of Spokane.

An investment here enjoys all the security and protection offered by a savings bank or life insurance company, but the returns will net from 50 per cent to 100 per cent on the investment.

Let us mail you full particulars; a postal card will bring them.

BABCOCK & MOSS
Selling Agents

Spokane, Washington National Bank, Ref.

EAST GREENACRES

The only tracts on the market where you can contract to sell your crop. Ten trains a day. Abundance of water. Price $150.00 per acre—easy payments—come in or write for particulars.

BEECHER & THOMPSON

Spokane, Washington. 110 Stevens

ARCADIA ORCHARD TRACTS.

$10.00 a month will buy you a $5,000.00 bearing orchard. We clear, plow, plant, irrigate and care for your orchard four years. The fruit will make your payments after that. Postal card will bring free book.

ARCADIA

Spokane Washington

WE BUY Timber Lands from owners
SPARKS BRO., 14 Bernard, Spokane, Wash.

Coeur d'Alene Reservation will open soon; choice land 25 miles from Spokane. Coeur d'Alene Reservation Agency, 17-18 Exchange building, Spokane, Wash.