



"Bixby's wife can converse in five languages." "Yes; and can't keep still in any one of them."—Judge.

She—What are you thinking of, dear? He—The dearest person on earth. She—You conceived old thing. —The Household Ledger.

He—Id like to meet Miss Bond. She—Why? "I hear she has thirty thousand a year and no incumbrance." "Is she looking for one?"—Life.

"I told papa your poems were the children of your brain." "What did he say?" "Said they were bad enough to be put in the reform school."

"That," said Willie, as he launched a heavy volume at his little brother's head, "is the coming book. It's bound to make a hit."—Columbia Jester.

The Anxious Mother—Are you sure my son has appendicitis? The Eminent Specialist—We can tell you better, madam, after the operation.—Life.

Pat—How does yez loike codfish balls? Mike—Faith! an' I niver 'tended one; but it's big toimes I've had down at the fireman's hop.—Lippincott's.

Lord Littlecash (lovingly)—You are my soul. Edith—Yes; I told papa that. "Oh, what did he say?" "Said you didn't earn enough to keep your soul and body together."—Judge.

Patience—Before he married her he couldn't do too much for her, but now he wouldn't lift his hand to help her. Patrice—Well, you know she says she has made another man of him!

"Running an auto must be exciting," said the friend. "It is," said the owner. "Every time you stop you wonder if the machine will start again when you are ready."—Brooklyn Life.

Amelia—You don't seem interested in summer schools. Emily—Summer schools! Oh, gracious, in hot weather it is all I can do to hold on to the little I already know.—Detroit Free Press.

"Father, when I graduate I am going to follow my literary bent and write for money." "Humph! My son, you ought to be successful. That's all you did the four years you spent at college."

Ethel—I saw sister sitting on your lap last night and told mother. Young Man—What in the world did you do that for? Ethel—She told me to let her know when there was any good news.—Life.

"Ah," she sighed, "the great men are all dead!" "But the beautiful women are not," he answered. Then she looked up into his eyes and told him she had said it just to be contrary and not because she thought it for a moment.

"One wife too many!" exclaimed Mrs. Wederly, as she glanced at the headlines of her husband's paper. "I suppose that is an account of the doing of some bigamist." "Not necessarily, my dear," replied her husband, without daring to look up.

"Young man," said the stern parent to the applicant for a job as son-in-law, "I want you to know that I spent five thousand dollars on my daughter's education." "Thanks," rejoined the youth who was trying to break into the family circle; "then I won't have to send her to school again."—Chicago Daily News.

While Arthur was spending a week at his aunt's he chanced one day to place his elbows on the table during dinner. "My dear boy," said his aunt, "don't you know that children of the first families must never put their elbows on the table?" "Oh, well," said Arthur, "that doesn't hit me for my father's been married twice, and I belong to the second family."

Officer, to new servant—Murphy, I have left my mess boots out this morning. I want them soled. Private Murphy—Very good sir. Officer later in the day—Did you take those boots, Murphy? Private Murphy, feeling in his pocket and putting on the table eighteenpence—Yes, sir; and that's all I could get for them. The corporal who bought them said he would have given two shillings if it had been pay-day!

In Earnest Then—"I have noticed," said the off-hand philosopher, "that a woman will get a golf-dress when she has no intention to play golf." "That's so," agreed the man with the incandescent whiskers. "And," continued the off-hand philosopher, "she will get a ball-gown when she cares nothing about dancing, and a tennis-dress when she wouldn't play tennis for fear she will freckle, and a bathing-suit when she has no thought of going into the water, and a riding-habit when the very thought of climbing on a horse gives her the chills, and—" "Yes," interrupted the man with the incandescent whiskers; "but when she gets a wedding-dress she means business. Ever notice that?"—Judge.

HISTORIC ALAMO IN DANGER.

Place Where Travis and His Little Band Made Their Famous Stand. The old Alamo in Texas is in peril. The historic monastery-fortress, dear to hearts of all Texans, around which so many tragic and romantic traditions, true and fanciful, are woven, is doomed, the victim of an iconoclastic commercialism.

An association of eastern capitalists are planning the purchase of that part of the building not at present owned by the State and the inclosing of the grounds around the old mission. It is not known for just what purpose the place will be used, but it is pretty well understood the main object will be the advertisement of some commercial scheme.

The plan leaked out a few days ago and immediately the Daughters of the Republic of Texas banded together to save the old relic, and issued an appeal for financial aid.

Of all the many places in San Antonio that are of historic interest, the Alamo is the most important. Here it was that Col. W. B. Travis and his little band of 172 men held out against the relentless Santa Ana and his army of 3,500 men for 11 days and the fight was only terminated when the entire Texas force was strewn about the old fortress, each man with a Mexican dagger through his heart.

The Alamo ruins stand right in the center of the town at one corner of the military plaza. The mission was originally built by the Franciscan monks in 1718, and it became a military garrison in 1783. At this time the name Alamo was first attached to it. Col. Travis and his men took refuge in the place during the war for Texan independence, and on Feb. 23, 1836, the Mexican force surrounded them and began to bombard the old mission.

The Texan heroes managed to hold the Alamo until March 6, when it was

up and he woke to rag-time. Rag-time was not invented any more than harmony was invented. It is a product of nature. The 'juber,' buck-and-wing dances of the old plantation darty are but improvements on this crude music. No more inspiring strain was ever played than the rag-time which the shovel-footed dancer pats with his hands, shuffles with his feet, or plucks on his banjo. Get into the circle around a vigorous dancer doing a buck-and-wing or a sand shuffle, and if you keep your feet and hands still you have no music in your make-up.

"All the old-time fiddlers were rag-time performers."

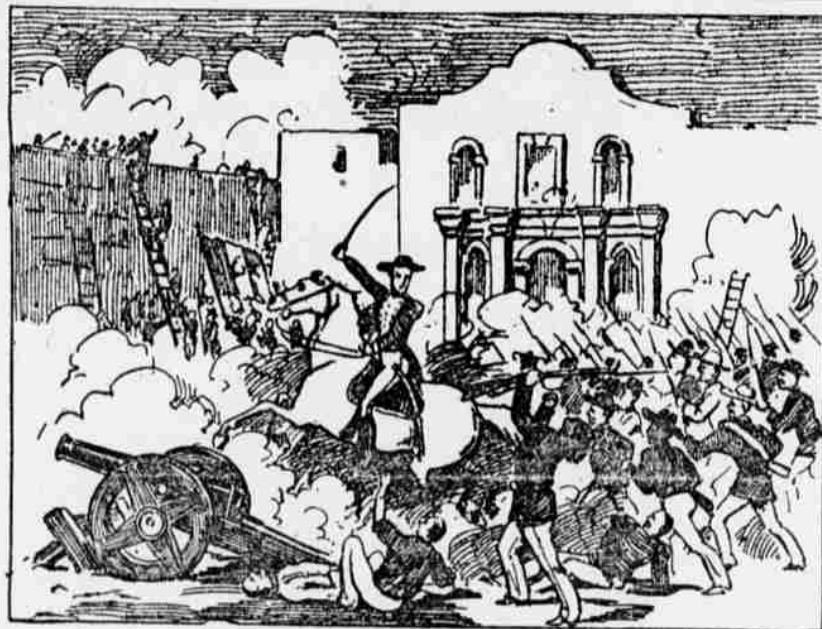
"All the old masters wrote rag-time. Richard Wagner, the great poet and wizard of harmony, was a past master at it. The theme for many of our most popular songs, and some of them are of the most 'raggedy' character, come from his operas. However, when it comes to transposing one of these same operas into rag-time, I am afraid it will be a task beyond any Chicago leader."

"I play rag-time because the people want it. I do not lead a band to educate the public, but to entertain it."

OUR INCREASING TRADE.

Figures Show Growth in Exports to China and to India.

Recent developments with reference to additional facilities for trade with China lend interest to some figures showing the growth of our commerce with that country, presented by the Department of Commerce and Labor through its bureau of statistics. Exports to China in the fiscal year 1903 aggregate about \$19,000,000, against less than \$4,000,000 in 1893. The total value of our exports to China in 1903 exceed those of any earlier year except 1902, when they were above the normal by reason of the light exports to that country in 1901, in which year importations were greatly inter-



STORMING THE ALAMO IN 1836.

finally taken by the Mexicans. Every one within the Alamo except one woman, a child and a servant, was killed. The brave defense put up by Travis and his chief aids, Davy Crockett, Bowie and Bonham, is still the subject of many remarkable illustrations of courage. Bowie was sick in a little room in one corner of the building at the time of the attack and the gallant Travis fell at the cot of his friend, defending him to the last from the Mexican invaders.

The woman who survived the attack was Mme. Candelaria, nurse to Bowie in his last illness. She lived until a few years ago, dying at the age of 115 years.

How highly Texans regard the old ruins can be realized when it is understood that the State building at the St. Louis World's Fair is being modeled after the architecture of the Alamo. It was the stand of Travis and his little band at the Alamo that led to San Jacinto, and at the latter place Texan independence was won.

BANDMASTER BROOKE SAYS RAG-TIME IS NATURAL MUSIC

Thomas Preston Brooke, the great bandmaster, says rag-time is the thing



THOMAS PRESTON BROOKE.

—natural music. He said to a Chicago reporter:

"When the first idea of rhythm came to Adam as he was marching out of the Garden of Eden it was in rag-time. Before that there had been no music in his soul, but the serpent woke him

fered with by existing hostilities in the East.

Comparing this growth with that of our commerce with other parts of the world, it may be said that our total exports to Europe in 1903 aggregate a little over a billion dollars, against six hundred and sixty-two millions in 1893, having therefore increased less than 60 per cent during that period. Those to Asia in 1903 aggregate about \$90,000,000, against \$16,000,000 in 1893, an increase of 275 per cent. To Oceania the total for the year is about \$36,000,000, against \$11,000,000 in 1893; but this does not account for the commerce with the Hawaiian Islands, which is considered as a part of the domestic commerce of the United States and separately stated.

It is apparent from these figures that the growth in our exports to Asia has been more rapid than to any other section of the world except Africa, and the growth in the exports to China has been a very important factor in the growth of shipments to Asia.—Harper's Weekly.

Roman Bricks.

The rebuilding of the campanile in Venice has begun. It is expected that the structure will be finished by 1906. Although the fall of the tower was a deplorable loss, some good attended it in the opportunity it gave archeologists to examine the bricks.

It was found that the bricks had been used in arches, fortifications, the tops of walls and in other ways before they were built into the campanile, and that they are not Venetian but Roman bricks.

The ancient bricks were made in slices, for in many the layers could be seen undisturbed. It is said that bricks made this way can bear a greater weight than modern bricks.

The bricks examined were of the first century. One of them bore the imprint of a horseshoe, which may prove that the Romans used a horseshoe like ours, although it is generally believed that their horseshoes were strapped on, not nailed.

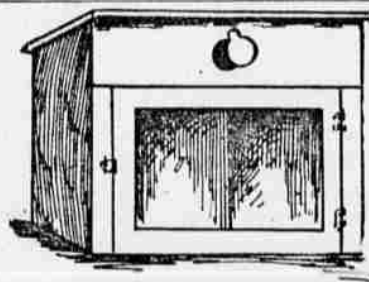
Child Labor in New York.

From facts gathered in the last six months the remarkable condition is revealed of the existence of more child labor in New York City than in all the States of the South combined.



Model Poultry Coop.

It always pays to make coops substantial and keeping the comfort of the mother hen in view. To do this the coop should be of fairly good size, so that the old hen will have a chance to move about. The illustration shows a large coop built especially for a hen turkey and her brood, but quite suited to other kinds of poultry. The foundation of this coop was a dry goods box, the room was cut so that it slanted a little and was then covered with tar



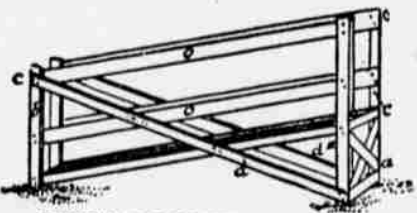
MODEL COOP FOR POULTRY.

paper to shed the rain. A tight board floor should be made in the coop, and it should be slightly elevated, which will prevent dampness, always fatal to young turks and chicks. Ventilation is provided by a hole cut in the top front of the coop; this hole is covered, when desired, by a piece of board held in place by a screw. A novel feature of the coop consists of three removable doors, which are hinged to the coop as occasion requires, using the sort of hinges on which blinds are hung, so that one door may be taken off and another put on in a minute. For wet weather the glass door, made like a cellar window, is put in place (see cut) and keeps the brood warm and dry. For clear, cold days, but dry, the turks are kept in the coop by the wire door. At night all is made secure by the solid board door. When this door and the one of glass is used, the ventilator must be left wide open. Such a coop costs but little and is entirely satisfactory.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Loading Stock Made Easy.

Without railroads provide suitable inclosures and incline for loading animals, the stockman must either provide some arrangement for getting the animal aboard the car, or suffer great inconvenience. A substantial contrivance for loading animals is shown and described below. Two posts, 2x4x3 1/2 feet, a a, two posts, 2x4x4 feet, b b, and two 2x4 floor stringers, the necessary floor boards, four side boards, c c, and two braces, d d, are used.

The length of the chute depends somewhat on material at hand, but 10



DEVICE FOR LOADING ANIMALS.

feet is a good length. Width of chute should be the same as wagon box. Bolts should be used at c c c, on both sides, as nails are almost certain to work loose, or tear the flesh of animals. Double cross pieces should be used under the floor at both ends, and near the center. Two men can carry such a chute and place it in a gate or doorway easily.—E. Hollenbeck in Farm and Home.

Farm Notes.

If weeds do not gain the attention of the active farmer bugs will.

Not one potato grower in ten fully understands the possibilities of this plant.

The census reports show a great loss to the live stock industry of the country. On the range the loss is largely attributed to exposure and disease. On the farms the loss is trifling. The greatest loss is among flocks of sheep, next is that of hogs, and then cattle.

A nice bulletin board may be put on the same post above the rural mail box. The name of the farm can be at the top and one-half of the board given "for sale" and the other for "wanted."

Every grower of small grain has been subjected to all the vexations that go with threshing. He will stack or thresh from the shock as his experience teaches him. It very often occurs that a man will wish that he had done the opposite to what he has done. There is always a feeling that he might have done better.

Farmers would have been much better off if such a thing as a sweat pad had never been invented. There is a tendency to depend too much on the pad and not enough on fitting the collar to the shoulders of the horse. Many old pads should be burned. They are hard, filled with gum and dirt and occupy a space on the collar that is only cumbersome. Better have a canvas collar that will fit a particular horse than all the sweat pads that could be offered.

How many "Indian gifts" are there on your place? A little boy asked his father what an "Indian gift" was. His father told him it was "something that was given away and taken back again." Johnny then said: "Oh, like the runty calves you sell me if I'll feed 'em and then you sell 'em when they get big and pocket the money." It is Johnny's calf and papa's steer. Treating a son in this manner will make him tired of farm life and he will leave the farm quick, and be ought to.

Hay stacks should never be used if the hay can be put under shelter. Hay sheds, which are simply roofs on poles, cost but little, and will save much valuable food in a year. Clover hay does not retain its quality when closely packed, being liable to heat, which is also an objection to baling it. The best prices for hay are obtained only when the hay is bright and clean, and when exposed to the weather it is liable to injury unless stacks are made by experts. The best hay is that which has received careful attention in both curing and storing.

Tarring is still a favorite means of protecting seed corn from crows. Soak seed in warm water 36 hours, roll in coal tar or tree ink and then in land plaster. Crows and blackbirds will let it alone, and the plan is easier and better than lines or scarecrows. Sweet corn is perhaps the most popular of garden vegetables and should be enjoyed as long as possible. By protecting the first plantings with straw and cutting the late crop and storing before frost, green corn may be had from the middle of July until a fortnight after the first killing frost. Crosby and Evergreen are two standard early and late kinds. Excelsior is one of the sweetest. All three are good general-purpose sorts.

Easy Dehorning.

Dehorning calves is described as such a simple operation by the agricultural department bulletin on this subject that it is difficult to explain why it is ever postponed until the horns are fully grown and the necessity arises, if hornless cattle are wanted, for sawing them off. To dehorn secure a pencil of caustic potash at a drug store. When the calf is three to four days old, throw it to the ground, locate the little knot which indicates the young horn, wet it well, and rub it with the pencil, held in a gloved hand. This is all there is to the operation. It constitutes but a few minutes' work and causes no pain to the animal. If after a couple of weeks any signs of growth appear, a second application will complete the job.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

In recent treatment of foot and mouth disease in France some good results were had with outside use of sulphate of iron. It was found that the spread of the disease could be more effectively checked by this treatment than by any other method. The affected animals were sprayed with a 20 per cent solution of sulphate of iron. The mouth was washed with a 10 per cent solution of the same chemical, and in acute cases a 5 per cent solution was administered internally, to the amount of 1 1/2 pints per day for adult animals and half that quantity of a 2 per cent solution for calves. Complete recovery was brought about, and the disease was prevented from spreading.—American Cultivator.

Effect of Cutting Clover.

It is found that red clover produces more aftermath if the first crop has not been cut too close, and especially so, if very sunny weather occurs when the crown of the root has recently been exposed. It is contended that red clover is most permanent, and the aftermath is better when the crop is cut by the scythe than where the mowing machine is employed. This result has been ascribed to the cut surface made by the scythe being somewhat oblique and so running off the rain, whereas the cut of the machine is perfectly horizontal, allowing the rain to enter and to rot the root, but it is probable that the greater length of the stubble generally left by the scythe is the true cause.—Massachusetts Ploughman.

There are many chances to ruin the corn crop ere corn husking time. Improper cultivation, adverse weather, and a number of things will have their influences on the yield even after a good stand has been obtained. One of the greatest dangers comes from ruin by the speculator. These men often ruin a crop at will, but for some reason not known to them they do not always stay ruined.

To see how little one can do and how much he can get for it is not reducing the cost of production.