

A Foine Boy.

Fergus O'Brien, of Galway, Ireland, has left the Queen's dominions and crossed the blue waters with his wife and one child, and the good ship which brought them over landed her freight, living and otherwise, safely at Castle Garden on a stormy day, February, A. D., one year ago.

After the usual preliminaries attending disembarkment, the emigrants separated, going to the north, south and west. The Pennsylvania Railroad brought Fergus and his little family to Philadelphia, and after he had found a residence for his wife and child, which domiciliary location consisted of two rooms on Front street, he was not long getting into employment himself.

Now, Mrs. Fergus had a female cousin who lived in a part of the same house, and who was an incorrigible practical joker. Accordingly, when the first of April came around she decided to "fool" her cousin Fergus. She laid her plans so as to have Mrs. O'Brien out of the way for the morning, and then sent a lad with a note to Fergus, where he was employed as a stevedore, which reads thus:

DEAR C. DEER: Accept my congratulations. You are a foine boy. Come up at once. From your faithful cousin, KATIE. P. S.—It's a false boy, and wear a breast twenty pounds.

While the boy was gone with the note, Katie made haste to borrow a negro baby of eight months old, and wrapping it elaborately in hastily extemporized garments, she deposited it in the big clothes basket and sat it before the fire. Then she proceeded to gather in the neighbors to witness the effect of her joke. Not a minute too soon, either, for by the time the last one had got safely stowed away Fergus came up the steps, clearing four at a leap.

"Let me see the spalpeen—the boy," says he.

"Hist!" says Katie, "I'll wake him. It's aiepin' he is. Now, don't make stir an I'll let yer pap at him."

But the caution came too late, for the strong lungs of the eight months old "moke" set up a tremendous racket.

"That's an O'Brien," says Fergus, clapping his hands. "Mither of Moses, fvat an appetite he hev got wid his voice! He could be harkin the hounds airidly in the koud Galway. Be gorra, I'll say of he knows his fvyther."

He had picked the basket up to carry to the window, when the young African, having got his hands loose, made short work of the wrappings around his face.

"Terraan 'ounds!" said Fergus, dropping the basket, "is that my spalpeen! Is that fvat I kin to this blessed country for, to be the fvyther of a nayger, and miself not nateralized. It's my joety to kiss him, yer say! Howly Moses! but it's a hard one."

He stooped to the task, however, but it was too much.

"Be the sod of ould Ireland, but his breath smells like onions and wet dog mixed. Fvat a brither he'll make till his white sister. But where is Aileen! Aileen, aaculla, aaculla! fy did you shake me fvyther of a nayger! Look at his legs, as crossed as two rain-bows spliced together. It's not himself could ever stop a pig in a lane, at all!"

Thinking the joke had gone far enough, the jovial cousin told him it was an "April fool."

"It's no fool at all. Niver an O'Brien was born a fool. It's an O'Brien all over, bharra! the color, and he can't help that."

Aileen made her timely appearance here, and denied the maternity. The house was cleared in a trice, and Fergus has one less of his wife's relations to entertain.

Fighting for a Home.

A woodpecker's home is such a convenient place for a nest, that many other birds are glad to find one unoccupied. Sometimes a pair of wrens will watch the motion of the woodpecker while they are at work until an unfinished hole is left unguarded, when they will take possession of it. As soon as the lawful owners return, the thieves are driven off, but they are so persistent and troublesome that, although a woodpecker is larger and stronger than twenty wrens, the owners sometimes abandon the place and make a new nest. Still, the wrens are not always allowed to keep the house they have stolen, for the bluebirds are equally covetous of it, and sometimes fight fiercely with the wrens in their attempts to gain possession of it. Occasionally both wrens and bluebirds are driven away by the martins, for these birds also seize woodpecker's homes very high. The fierce battles between these various birds over an abandoned nest are very amusing, and often last several days; for they are all very obstinate birds, and as each one is determined not to give up, the matter is not very easily settled.—St. Nicholas.

"Love Always Finds a Way"

Not long ago a Michigean gentleman saw at the theatre a young and pretty dopazetta, with whose charms he was at once smitten. The next night he managed to obtain the box next to hers, and as there is no separation between the tiers except a thin railing of sufficient height for a man to rest his arm upon it was anything but distant. It was the only chance that he might possibly ever have, and there was no way to arrange for a better meeting. Nothing was left but to take the present opportunity to make the most of it. So pulling off his cuff he wrote his proposal on it, detailing his position, prospects, love and other such things as might prove interesting. When written to suit he quietly placed it as nearly before her as could be, and waited until his eyes could direct hers to this tale of a shirt. She read, she smiled, she nodded, and the delighted swain knew that the bow drawn at a venture had told the mark.

"Treat all murderers alike," yells an exchange. Exactly, or, better yet, don't treat 'em at all. Send 'em off on a hemp-tie stomach.

The Dog and Child.

Mr. Eilhu Berritt gives in his book, called "A Walk from London to Land's End and Back," the touching illustration of the affection of a dog in Truro: "I was sitting at the breakfast table of a friend, who is a druggist, when he called into the shop by a neighbor, who had come for medical aid, in a very remarkable and affecting case.

"He described it briefly and simply, but it would fill a volume of beautiful meaning.

His family dog had incidentally made the acquaintance of a neighbor's child on the other side of the street.

"While lying on the door stone, he had noticed this little thing, sometimes at the chamber window, and sometimes on the pavement, in a little carriage.

"During one of his walks on that side of the street, he met the baby, and looked over the rim of the carriage, as a loving dog can look, straight into a pair of baby eyes, and said, 'Good morning!' as well as he could.

"Little by little, day by day and week by week, this companionship went on, growing with growth and strengthening with the strength of the little one. The dog, doubtless because his master had no young child of his own, came at last to transfer frequently his watch and ward to the door-stone on the other side of the street, and to follow as a guard of honor to the baby's carriage on its daily airings.

"With what delight he gave himself up to all the pelting and little romps, and rough-and-tumbings, of these baby hands.

"One day, as the dog lay in watch by the door-stone, the child, peeping out of the window above, lost its balance, and fell on the stone pavement below. It was taken up quite dead! The red drops of the young life had bespattered the feet and face of the dog as he sprang to the rescue. His heart died out within him in one long, whining moan of grief.

From that moment he refused to eat. He refused to be comforted by his master's voice and by his master's home. Day by day and night by night he lay upon the spot where the child fell.

"This was the neighbor's errand. He told in a few simple words. He had come to my friend, the druggist, for a prescription for his dog—something to bring back his appetite.

John Chinaman as a Mariner.

It is stated that the Chinese are manifesting an increasing ambition to acquire a commercial navy. They already not only navigate ocean steamships, but know how to build them. There are two ships in the revenue service of China which are commanded entirely by Chinese, and have no Europeans on board. One of them, a vessel of about 800 tons, was built entirely by the Chinese, machinery and all. There are regular ocean steamers running between Hong Kong and Singapore, which are commanded by Chinamen—and this trip is one which requires as much skill in navigation as that between New York and Havana. There are as many as twelve steamers of about 400 tons each, running for short distances along the coast of China which are owned, commanded and manned by Chinese.

The British insurance companies will not accept these vessels as risks, but they are well navigated, for all that. The China Merchant Steamship Company is a corporation of wealthy Chinamen, managed by Mr. Chan Pat Nam, and running at least thirty steamers inland and along the coast. These vessels, however, are officered by the original English and American captains. The New York Commercial Bulletin argues from these and other facts that "there is no question, either of the capability of these Asiatics building up an ocean steam marine, or that they will not be tempted to try their hands at it just as soon as they can see money in it," and it adds that the fleet of sailing ships which still find profitable employment in the California grain trade under the American flag would, from the nearness of position, be among the first to realize what Chinese competition amount to.—Ex.

Peninsular Virginia.

The soil of peninsular Virginia is rather kindly than rich. Certainly it has not that richness of virgin land of which it is said, "Tickle it with a hoe, and it laughs in a harvest;" but light manuring produces a quick return and ample crops, and that considerably earlier than in other places north of Norfolk. There is still a remnant of the old style of farming to be seen, of which it was said that there were only three crops raised in Virginia—corn, hogs and niggers, of which the hogs ate all the corn, and the niggers devoured all the hogs. One of these "crops," however, is removed from the list.

The "poor whites" is poor—very poor. The small farmers of the North cannot compare with these in absolute destitution of money.

"Doctor," said one of them who had slowly recovered consciousness after being terribly injured by an exploding grindstone—"doctor, I reckon I'm pretty badly bruck up, ain't I?"

"Yes, my man; you are hurt just about as badly, to stand a chance of recovery, as any man I ever saw."

"There's so, thet's so. Wa'd doctor, do you know, thet ez poor ez I am, an' much ez I need money, I—I wouldn't ez hed this happen to me fer—fer twenty-five dollars!"

Many of these poor whites are day laborers on the neighboring farms, but others work a small patch of potatoes or corn on their own account, in ground mostly so filled with stumps and so given to over-growing bushes as to be useless to any but themselves. One sometimes sees them working in their fields. Paterfamilias does the plowing, Filius Minimus does the corn and the rest come in regular sequence, Master leading the hoeing.

The poor are wofully ignorant, as the upper classes are, in many instances indolently progressive, though far less than formerly. In short, the Virginia portion of the peninsula seems sunk in a Rip Van Winkle sleep that has lasted a hundred instead of twenty years, and that as yet shows but small signs of awakening.

Soon the small boy will make his proud boast that he goes in swimming six times daily, and in the early Fall will climb the golden stair.

Funny Ones.

Within the past year eight Mormon girls have married colored men in Salt Lake.

It is only the force of habit that makes a woman, when buying eggs, always ask for the best.

"It's only a spring opening, ma," exclaimed that awful boy, as he exhibited his torn trousers after a leap over a picket fence.

Jefferson said: "We seldom repent of having eaten too little." He never went out to fish all day without taking breakfast before starting.

When Shakespeare built this conundrum, "Tell me, where is fancy bred?" he little dreamed of the shower of Vienna bakeries that our centennial was to bring.

Trade dollars in the East can only be disposed of at church strawberry festivals. A dollar will buy one strawberry and no distinction is made in the kinds of dollars.

"Love's Labor Lost"—Investing one's spare change for candy, gloves and opera tickets for one's girl, and then seeing her promise to love, honor and obey some other fellow.

People who have been eating fish for the last dozen years to secure more brain power may feel somewhat flat to learn that it was all hamboozle. There's no phosphorus in fish.

He came in late the other night, and was rolling into the bed, when his wife woke up and said: "Don't forget your night-caps, dear." "No—a, hadst two night-caps already."

A bright boy was walking along the street with his mother, and observing a man with a peculiar litch in his gait approaching, he droily exclaimed: "Look there, mamma! See how that poor man stutters with his feet!"

A bald Cincinnati woman does not cover the bare top of her head with false hair, or by combing her own hair over it, but appears to be proud of the distinction that it gives her in public assemblages, for she always removes her bonnet. The effect is striking.

Smith, who has always been a "tough one," has just died. The physician is met coming from the house by Brown, who asks, "Doctor, how is Smith? Is he out of danger?" "Physician—No, he is dead, poor fellow, but he is far from being out of danger, I fear."

Nothing is so painful at this season of the year as the disheartening spectacle of a nine-year-old hen looking through the fence at a man digging a garden, while she exercises her rugged legs and incisive claws on the plank walk, just keeping in practice till the garden is ready.

While the lily lifts its chalice toward the stars, and the meadow seems a poem written in perfume and flowers; when the butterflies flutter indolently through the silent windings of the balmy lane, and the humming-bird interviews the daisy, then doth the young man sell his ardent to get money with which to have his Oxford ties resoled for the Summer.

Mrs. Lydia Vanderbeck Ruton died recently at Paterson, at the age of 98 years. Her husband, Abram Ruton was a soldier in the Revolution and in the war of 1812, and for many years kept a grocery in New York, in Pearl street, then known as "Cow land." Her faculties were unimpaired to the last, and she was ill but a few days.

A Valuable Medicine. DR. FRAZIER:—"My constitution was very much broken down for years. My digestion, bowels and nervous system were in a very bad condition. My system was not properly nourished. After eating I was distressed, and my food would not assimilate properly, so that I received little benefit. I was weak and most miserable, but on trying your Root Bitters I seemed to be wonderfully acted upon, and they have given me great comfort while using them. Enclosed find \$5 for six bottles, which please send me soon. J. J. SPINNO, Cincinnati, Ohio.

DR. FRAZIER:—"I have had a splendid trade on your Root Bitters. They entirely cured one of my customers, a weak man, of Dropsy, who had used all kinds of medicines without any good results. A. J. MILLER, Druggist, 284 Southwest street, Indianapolis, Ind. See advertisement headed "Life in a Bottle" in another column.

If you are going to paint your house, barn, wagon or machinery, the wonderful Imperishable Mixed Paint is surely the best, for it is warranted by their agents in your own town not to crack, crack, peel or blister; to cover better and work easier than any other paint. The Imperial Paint was awarded the first premium over all other paints, at the California state Fair, 1875, and the Gold Medal at the Oregon state Fair, 1878. Get a circular from their agents, which explains the wonderful discovery. Try the paint and you certainly would have no other.

All Bitters are whisky in a disguised form. It is far better and more honorable for a man to "brace up" to a bar and call for whisky than to sneak in the back door of his house with a bottle of Bitters under his coat. It's whisky in a bottle—all the same. No whisky in Frazier's Oregon Blood Purifier.

If any druggist will prove by analysis that any patent medicine on his shelves is a better remedy than Frazier's Oregon Blood Purifier, his fortune is made, if he will send the formula to us.

Be in making any purchase or in writing in response to any advertisement in this paper you will please mention the name of the paper.

L. K. G. Smith, Importer and Wholesale Dealer in Cigars and Tobaccos. The largest and finest stock of Mergolman and Amber Goods in the city. Portland, Oreg. Cor. Front and Broadway Sts., Portland, Oreg. Feb 19-19.

DuBOIS & KING, General Agents, Commission and Forwarding Merchants, 105 Front street, 411 Washington street, Portland, Oreg. San Francisco, Cal. Special attention given to the sale of Wool, Flour, Grain and Produce in Portland and San Francisco. Feb 19-19.

J. A. STROWBRIDGE, Direct Importer and Dealer in LEATHER AND SHOE FINDINGS, No. 141 Front St., Portland, Or.

LIFE IN A BOTTLE!

The Most Valuable Medical Discovery Known to the World—No More Use for Quinine, Calomel or Mineral Poisons—Life for the Blood, Strength for the Nerves, and Health for All.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC. Believing that by cleansing the blood and building up the constitution was the only way of banishing disease, and being troubled with weakness of the lungs, catarrh, very much broken down in constitution, etc., and after trying the best physicians and paying out my money for every kind of medicine, I was without finding a permanent cure, I began doctoring myself, using medicines made from roots and herbs. I fortunately discovered a wonderful Bitters or Blood Cleanser, the first bottle of which gave me new life and vigor, and in time effected a permanent cure. I was free from catarrh, my lungs became strong and sound, being able to stand the most severe cold and exposure, and I have gained over thirty pounds in weight. Feels confident that I had made a wonderful discovery in medicine. I prepared a quantity of the Bitters, and had made the habit of giving them away to sick friends and neighbors. I found the medicine effected the most wonderful cure of all diseases caused from humors or scrofula in the blood, impure blood, Bad Stomach, Weakness, Kidney Disease, Torpid Liver, etc. The news of my discovery in this way spread, and I called upon to supply patients with medicine, and I was induced to establish a laboratory for compounding and bottling the Root Bitters in my own house, and I now devote all my time to this business.

Thousands of persons in all parts of the country have used my ROOT BITTERS. They have saved many lives of consumptives who had been given up by physicians, and many old people, who have permanently cured many old rheumatic cases of Catarrh, Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, and Skin Diseases, where all other treatments had failed. Are you troubled with weakness and Skin Diseases, where all other treatments had failed. Are you troubled with weakness and Skin Diseases, where all other treatments had failed. Are you troubled with weakness and Skin Diseases, where all other treatments had failed.

Do not wait until you are sick, but if you only feel bad, or uneasy, use the Bitters at once. It may save your life. It will cure your humors and pimples on your face or skin, and give you the most perfect health, strength and beauty as ROOT BITTERS.

No matter what your complaint or symptoms are, what the disease or ailment is, use ROOT BITTERS. Don't wait until you are sick, but if you only feel bad, or uneasy, use the Bitters at once. It may save your life. It will cure your humors and pimples on your face or skin, and give you the most perfect health, strength and beauty as ROOT BITTERS.

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The Best Spring Medicine and Beautifier of the Complexion in use. Cures Pimples, Boils, Blotches, Neuralgia, Scrofula, Gout, Rheumatic and Mercurial Pains, and all Diseases arising from a disordered state of the Blood or Liver.

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A Wonderful Remedy! There is no comparison between it and the common slow acting porous plaster. It is in every way superior to all other external remedies, including Iodine and the so-called adhesive plasters. It contains new medicinal elements which in combination with rubber, possess the most extraordinary pain-relieving, strengthening and curative properties. Any physician in your own locality will confirm the above statement. For Lung Bore, Rheumatism, Female Weakness, Stomach and Nerve Pain, Headache, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Whooping Cough, affections of the heart, and all the chronic diseases plasters are used, it is simply the best known remedy.

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So large a portion of the Grass and Grain Crops of the Pacific Coast have been cut by the BUCKEYE, that no farmer here can be ignorant of its merits or require argument to convince him of its superiority; as it is too well and favorably known to need comment. It is the perfection of all Reaper and Mowing Machines.

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