

The Cucumber.

The cucumber is a wonderful vegetable and has found its way into the great American heart, the stomach being the medium, and although a great many persons suffer from eating them, yet they never appear to lose their popularity. It is a vegetable which has a terrible prejudice against some persons, and one of them when once it gets a hold on the stomach will wrestle with a man throughout an entire night, and otherwise entertain him with the most improved style of cramps. There are two kinds of cucumbers, one of them being noted for its medicinal properties and its power to pull the flesh from off the bones of a mortal.

It is a very near relative of croton oil, and when a man once takes a dose of it, he ever afterward entertains a deep seated hatred for the whole tribe. The domestic species, however, does not act in the same way, yet its treatment of humanity is very often equally as painful. It has long since been considered as indigestible, and when any one has a first-class cucumber nightmare, it is very apt to destroy his faith in the usefulness of diet. The "loke" once in a thoughtless moment dined on five very large cucumbers, and that night five fiery-eyed demons jumped on him, and stuck their pitchforks into his form and danced upon his breast and stomach in high glee. He tried to kick and cry out, but it was useless; they had him like a vise.

The next morning his frightened friends found him curled up like a fishhook, speechless from pain. Those cucumbers were waging a merciless war and attacking from all points. They marched around his stomach in platoons, regiments and brigades, and became complete masters of the field, and did not surrender an inch until the doctors and half a drug store came to the rescue, and after a terrible struggle of twenty-four hours the "loke's" knees were released from his chin. The relief from the cucumber pangs were heaven-like in its sweetness, and he dropped off into a peaceful sleep, and dreamed that he was a big cucumber and had a scheming enemy who was always seeking his life by devouring him alive.

He thought that one day his enemy came along, and jerking him from the very bosom of his family, deliberately ate him, and after he reached that man's stomach, he determined to sell his life as dearly as possible. The first thing he did he threw his enemy into a spasm, and rolled him out of bed and hauled him over the floor. Then he twisted him into the shape of a gimlet, and wound him up like an apple-peel and jammed his heels back of his ears and made him groan, swear and curse.

Then he pitched him into the middle of a big convulsion and bounced him up to the ceiling, and slammed him against the wall until four men had to tie his legs and send for a doctor, and about the time he thought he had killed his enemy the "loke" awoke and shuddered to think how dreadful was a cucumber in its wrath.

The only harmless cucumber is the pickled one, which is much sought after by boarding-school girls and old maids, but the world is advised to look upon the cucumber when it is green, for it hurteth the stomach like unto a saw mill.

Trees as Weather Prophets.

It is a matter of common observance, says the Oswego (N. Y.) Times, that trees and their branches fall during the prevalence of storms and from perfectly obvious reasons. But close observers among those familiar with the woods, will tell you that oftentimes these things occur just before a severe storm, and are the sign or forerunner of its approach. The phenomenon was witnessed by a farmer of Oswego town, while on his way last Sunday to attend divine service at the Thompson school house, who observed a large limb break and fall off from a tree by the roadside. There was no wind stirring at the time, and no apparent cause for the phenomenon. He says he made up his mind that a severe storm was close at hand. He recalled the circumstances at Hannibal a year ago, during the camp-meeting service, when a large beech tree fell upon the camp-meeting tent, at a time when, happily, the congregation was outside, and only a small child was in the tent asleep. The child was not only not injured, but not even awakened. There was no wind at the time, in fact, the atmosphere was unusually still. There was no apparent cause for the fall of the tree; but a heavy storm followed shortly after, as Monday's storm succeeded the intense heat and quiet of the day before. The falling of the tree and the apparent almost miraculous escape of the congregation were the occasion of much speculation, and the incident was quickly seized and forcibly used by the exhorter to illustrate the protecting care of heaven. The farmer of whom we speak also says that for many years he has observed similar incidents of falling limbs and trees in the stillness which so generally precedes great storms of rain or wind. The relation is more than ordinarily a close observer of things.

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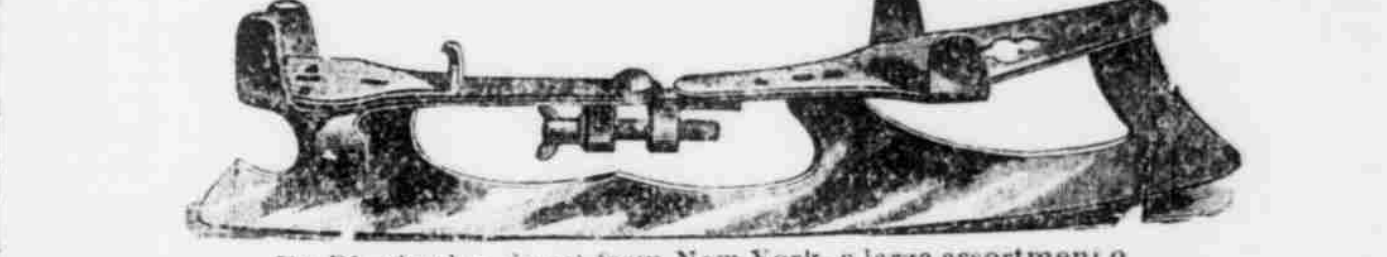
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