

THISTLEDOWNS.

They tremble gently o'er us,
And waver with the breeze
To flutter fair before us—
But if we think to seize
Those bits of lightness, floating
Ethere, fairy-wise,
Beneath our fingers darting
They quiver toward the skies.
They sail along serenely,
And then, like tricky elves,
Dart swift aside, and meekly
Evade our longing selves.
And if perchance we win them
The touch must subtle be
Which holds the grace within them,
Yet lets them poised as free.
Such are those rare creations
With fleeting beauty fraught,
Our airy inspirations,
The thistledowns of thought.
—Housewife

Fads of the Footlights.

The fads of actresses and actors form
a curious study. Nearly every person
on the stage any length of time betrays
a leaning to some particular thing outside
of her or his profession, a conspicuous
weakness. The lovely Sadie Martinot,
whose imported dresses excite the
woman world, has a weakness for her
pretty self. She uses paper with an
etching of herself in one corner. George
Cayvan has a collection of thirty scrap-
books. Emma Cerson and Marie Jansen
like cats. Rose Coghlan spends a
great deal of time on a couple of big
dogs given her by Lester Wallack. Herbert
Kelcey, who divides time with Bob
Hilliard as a stage beauty, never wears
an overcoat.

Lillie Alliston has rare bric-a-brac
picked up in the Orient. Minnie Palmer
goes in for etchings. Stuart Robson is
said to love old books. Francis Wilson
is crazy on the subject of Napoleon. He
has a big bronze bust of the emperor,
given him by some Columbia college
students whom he coached in amateur
theatricals. Wilton Lackaye has a
unique collection of fencing foils. Langtry
has many fine photographs with auto-
graphs. Mollie Thompson is proud of
her four banjos. Harry Edwardes goes
in for bugs. He is an authority on entomology. Mines Levick is in love with
pipes.—Cor. Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Bowie Knife.

Much has been said and written regarding
the origin of the bowie knife. The fact
is that Rezin P. Bowie, not James, conceived
the idea of the knife. The invention was
the result of an accident. Col. Rezin P.
Bowie was a planter in Opelousas, La.
While hunting wild cattle he attacked a
young steer, which in throwing up its
head struck his hunting knife in such a
way as to knock it through his hand,
making an ugly cut between the thumb
and the forefinger. On returning from the
hunt he repaired to the blacksmith shop
on his plantation, determined to have a
knife which would be a protection against
such accidents. Picking up an old file he
ordered the blacksmith to make a knife of
it having a cross piece betwixt hilt and
blade, so that it would be impossible to
be entirely driven through a man's hand.
In this way did the bowie knife originate,
and it was never intended for other than
a hunting knife; but James Bowie improved
the original weapon, and brought his
own knife so prominently into notice
by the use he made of it in personal
encounters that the improved weapon
became known as the bowie knife.—New
York Ledger.

The Oldest Vessel Afloat.

The oldest sailing vessel afloat!
What must she look like and what is
her history? She is 110 years old, built
in Baltimore in 1780. Her name is the
Vigilant. She has since then been a
coaster, a peaceful common carrier of
merchandise, a slaver and a pirate, and
now today she does good service as mail
carrier between St. Thomas and Santa
Cruz, in the West India Islands. Her
owner, Mr. S. Penthaney, of Santa Cruz,
was in Bangor and displayed a picture
of the old craft which was taken as the
vessel was rounding a coral reef under
full sail. The picture is a good one and
the lines of the craft are well brought
out. "How much of the original craft is
there now?" asked the reporter.
"The keelson and main tributors of
the hull which are laid in the construction
of her are still there," said Mr. Penthaney,
"and they are good for many years
to come."

What a story would the history of this
old craft make!—Bangor News.

Exorcising a Ghost with Holy Water.

For some time there has been a great
deal of talk regarding a haunted house
which stands on the Oregonia and Har-
veysburg pike, about eight miles from
Morrow, O. The house is the property
of Dan Gallagher, who is one of the
noted characters of Warren county.
The fame of the ghost rapping in the
house spread far and near, and investigat-
ing parties were organized, which sat
up to meet the ghost. The rappings in-
variably occurred shortly before mid-
night, and continued several minutes.
Some of the boldest of the investigators
rushed out to the window, but could see
nothing. The tapping, however, would
at once cease on their approach.
Finally Gallagher declared that he
would fix the ghost. He secured a vessel
containing holy water from the church
at Oregonia, and the ghost was
exorcised in the presence of many curi-
ous spectators, several of whom had
come from a distance.
The scene was a most dramatic one.
Dan approached the window and re-
moved his hat, which was the signal for
the others to uncover. Sprinkling the
window profusely with the holy water
Dan in tragic tones thus addressed the
invisible visitor:

The rolling mill department of the
United States Rolling Stock company at
Anniston, Ala., has completed a piece of
shafting 95 feet long, 7 1/2 inches in diame-
ter and weighs 3,640 pounds. It is to
be used in the works at Anniston.

"Misfit photographs for sale!" is writ-
ten up over the door of a certain photog-
rapher's. Why "misfits?" One might
be more inclined to set them down as
mis-taken!—Judy.

An Infant Prodigy in Anatomy.

At the regular meeting of the South-
ern Medical society, Saturday evening,
Master Albert Verner Fensch, of Fort
McPherson, was unanimously elected to
honorary membership in that organiza-
tion, as the youngest medical student
known to the profession.

Dr. J. E. Price, of Virginia, president of
the society, who introduced this
young gentleman, stated that though
he had barely attained the age of 5
years, he was possessed of a knowledge
of anatomy, especially of osteology,
equal to that of many graduates of medi-
cine.

In his exhibition before the society
the child was able, not only to give the
technical and scientific names of each
of the two hundred and odd bones of the
human skeleton, but to describe their
various functions, divisions, tubercles,
tubercles, etc.

The little fellow prefers to amuse him-
self by fitting together and adjusting
the bones of the human body (of which
he has been presented a complete set) to
playing with blocks, drums and whistles,
and delights in tracing on anatomical
charts and cuts the various blood vessels
of the human anatomy rather than
amusing himself with picture books.
He intelligently listens to and appreci-
ates a scientific lecture on anatomy
while scornfully Mother Goose's melodies,
and chooses his friends and acquaint-
ances among physicians and medical
students rather than from children of
his own age.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Remarkable Poem.

The following poem of three stanzas
of four lines each has often been alluded
to as one of the most unique of literary
curiosities. Each stanza contains every
letter in the alphabet except the letter
"e," which all printers will tell you is
one of the most indispensable of the let-
ters, its relative proportion of use being
120 times to j, k, s, g, l, r and i, 40. The
one coming next to "e" in number of
times of use is "a," which is used 80
times while the letter in question is be-
ing used 120 times.

The poem which has caused the above
digression is entitled

THE FATE OF NASSAU.

Bold Nassau quits his caravan,
A hazy mountain grot to scan;
Climbs jaggy rocks to spy his way,
Doth tax his sight, but far doth stray.
Not work of man nor sport of child
Finds Nassau in that mossy wild;
Laz grows his joints, limbs toll in vain—
Poor wight! Why didst thou quit that plain?
Vainly for succor Nassau calls,
Knows Zillah that thy Nassau falls;
But prowling wolf and fox may joy
To quarry on thy Arab boy.
—St. Louis Republic.

A Statue for Washington Irving.

It is more than probable that Mr.
George William Curtis's suggestion that
a statue of Washington Irving be erected
in Central park will soon be acted on in
a very practical way. Two or three
members of the chamber of commerce
have interested themselves in the mat-
ter, and they have the means and the
influence to make any enterprise that they
may take hold of successful. It is prob-
able that a committee will soon be organ-
ized to give the project definite form,
and there is scarcely a doubt that a fund
of \$30,000 or \$40,000 will be raised in
short order among the members of the
chamber of commerce. The great statue
of Washington in front of the sub-
treasury was paid for and erected by
members of the chamber of commerce,
who raised \$35,000 without an effort. In
fact, one man—and he is now interested
in the proposed Irving statue—wanted to
pay the whole bill, but his fellow mem-
bers would not allow him to do so.—
New York Times.

The Yosemite Bill.

The proposed Yosemite national park
has become a reality by the enactment
of Gen. Vandever's bill. By this result
not only an important addition is made
to the area of wonderful scenery reserv-
ed for public use, but an end is put,
within considerable limits, to the depreda-
tions of lumbermen and sheep herders.
Another important gain, and one of
great practical value, is the protection
which this new reservation insures to the
headwaters of the San Joaquin, Merced
and Tuolumne rivers, thus not only in-
suring a larger and steadier flow of the
cataracts and falls of these streams, but
conserving the water supply of the foot-
hills and valleys below. Not less im-
portant was the passage by the senate of
the resolution directing the secretary of
the interior to make a prompt and care-
ful report in regard to the spoliation of
the Yosemite.—Century.

He Doesn't Like to Be Interrupted.

While Moody, the evangelist, was
thundering strong truths into the hearts
of his hearers a few Sundays ago, an
aged deacon who sat near him on the
platform kept interjecting audible and
fervent "Amen's" and "Goods." "A
man with principle is a man to be ad-
mired above many others," roared out
Mr. Moody. "That's true," mumbled
out the deacon in tones of rapture. The
evangelist turned instantly and shouted
in his mellow voice: "True! of course
it's true. What do you suppose I'm
telling here to-night—lies?" The poor
old deacon subsided.—San Francisco
Argonaut.

A gunner in the Royal artillery has
just died at Woolwich who, a few years
ago, was left a legacy of £10,000. He
was quite a young man, and spent the
whole of his fortune in three years, at
the end of which time he was absolutely
peniless. As a last resort he enlisted
in the army and was sworn into the
Royal artillery.

In the debate on the navy estimates in
the French chamber M. Raspoll stated
that France had fewer fighting ships
than in 1871, although between then and
now she had expended on the navy \$200,000,000
in excess of that spent by the
powers of the triple alliance.

The bed of the Feather river in Cali-
fornia, which is being laid bare, will
yield from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 of
gold if the ground proves as rich as that
which has been worked.

An Incident of the Wall Street Depression.

A man wearing a slouch hat, ill fitting
clothes and having the general appear-
ance of a countryman entered the office
of a prominent Wall street broker.

"Is this here one of the places where
you buy stocks?" he asked. He was in-
formed that it was. No one, however,
was encouraged by his appearance to
make a customer of him. He looked
around curiously for several minutes
and then said: "Well, I came in from
the country to buy some of them cheap
stocks. I read in the papers that Jay
Gould was buying lots of railroads now,
and he's pretty smart, I guess, and I'm
going to be with him."

"But you can't buy less than 100 shares
at a time," he was told. "All right," he
replied: "I guess I can stand it if the
rest can."

"We don't take checks on out of town
banks," he was again informed. It was
thought that would settle the matter.

"Well," he said, "I brought the money
along with me."

Then began a wondrous display. Bills,
gold and silver coins came out of one
pocket after another. Trousers pockets,
vest pockets, coat pockets, were all filled
with every variety of money. The bills
were of a small denomination, and when
the farmer had emptied his pockets a
large table was covered with money,
mostly of very old issue.

"They told me up country that I'd
better put money in every pocket, so if
them pickpockets got the best of me
they'd only get part of my savings.
There's just \$7,000. Count and see if
you don't believe me. Now, you just
go and buy some of them stocks old
Jay's been buying, and I'll be around in
about a month and put my profits in
some more of the stocks. I ain't slow,
you bet, and I'm in with Gould every
time, don't you forget it!"—New York
Telegram.

Old Fashioned Watch Chains.

Among the presents showered on
blushing brides this season figures the
old fashioned watch chain, more than a
yard long. After many years of sus-
pending watches from chatelaines, from
short chains hanging from a brooch and
from ribbons secured by monograms;
after wearing them in breast pockets or
tucked into the bosoms of dresses with
short chain pendants; after carrying
them in leather straps or slipped into
the clasp of a bag or using them as de-
corations for the handles of parasols and
umbrellas, card cases and portemonnaies,
as clasps for bracelets or concealed be-
neath a miniature in a brooch or behind
the heart of a floral pin—fashion has
gone back to the ancient style of chain
thrown around the neck that our mothers
and grandmothers affected.

The new chains are very fine and gen-
erally are divided at intervals of three
or four inches by pearls, turquoises or
garnets, strung like beads, or by small
diamonds, rubies, sapphires or moon-
stones, set clear. As for the watch, it is
hidden in the folds of the dress or car-
ried in a side pocket. It is small in size,
and the back should be encircled or en-
tirely incrustated with gems similar to
those on the chain.—Paris Cor. Jewelers'
Weekly.

A Co-operative Farm.

S. A. Fetter, of Alabama, says: A
colony of about twenty-five families
from the north, for the most part farm-
ers, have recently secured about 8,000
acres of choice farm land in Cullman
county, Ala., on which to locate a co-
operative farm. It is to be organized as
a joint stock company, with a capital
stock of \$200,000, limited to 200 shares of \$1,000
each. No person can purchase, own or
control more or less than one share of
the capital stock. The labor is to be
performed by themselves and their fam-
ilies at stipulated wages, the profits to be
distributed as dividends. They propose
to introduce manufactures as soon as
practicable, as they possess a tract of
valuable timber as well as an inexhaust-
ible supply of coal. This county is the
only farming territory in any of the
southern states in which there are no
negroes.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Turtles Eat a Baby.

It is reported that a child was eaten
by turtles in Hangchow, China, a short
time ago. There is a large pool of water
in front of the yamen or the provincial
treasury. In this pool a number of large
turtles are kept, in order, as it is said,
to keep robbers from burrowing into
the vaults of the treasury. Some of the large
ones have shells that would measure 2
feet by 3 feet or more in width and
length.

People are constantly standing about
the pool watching them as they come up
to feed or to take breath. One day a
nurse with a child in her arms was
standing there, when the child suddenly
sprang into the water. The turtles soon
gathered around it, tore it to pieces and
devoured it. The nurse fled.—North
China Herald.

A Child's Strange Mishap.

Julia Beddick, aged 7 years, met with
a peculiar accident Wednesday after-
noon that may cause her death. The
little girl was coming home from school
and had a slate pencil about six inches
long in her mouth. As she crossed the
street she fell in such a way that the
pencil was forced through the roof of her
mouth and the point penetrated to the
base of the skull. She was taken to the
Pennsylvania hospital, where Dr. Leidy
removed the pencil by means of a pair
of forceps. She is now in the hospital in
a dangerous condition and the physi-
cians are afraid blood poisoning may set
in.—Philadelphia Times.

Killed by Her Comb.

Mrs. Semmner, wife of a publican at
Watton, Norfolk, met with her death
recently under distressing circum-
stances. While ascending a staircase
she fell head foremost to the bottom,
and the teeth of a large ornamental comb
she was wearing were deeply imbedded
and broke off in the skull. Medical aid
was at once procured and the broken
teeth were at once extracted, but death
resulted, owing to the depth of the
wounds and shock to the system.—Gal-
vani's Messenger.

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