FIFTY-TWO.

BY A CYNIC.

Bright is the morn, but I am blue.
Alas! this day I'm fifty-two.

What can a creature say or do
That's joyful at grim fifty-two!

I'm cursed with corns, despite a shoe
As old and worn as fifty-two.

Where once my unthinned grinders grew,
What dismal gaps at fifty-two!

Stern warnings—ah, how oft!—renew
My dread of gout at fifty-two!

Though all Muses I should sue,
They'd stint their fire at fifty-two.

Beauty and grace may fill my view;
They tempt in vain; I'm fifty-two.

Nature! Alack! 'tis "mountain dew"
One prizes most at fifty-two.

Ideals!—pshaw! I marvel who
Dotes on the moon at fifty-two!

Taste! Art! One tries with racier gout,
"Pates de foie" at fifty-two;

Or even a piquant Irish stew
(Just lashed with wine) at fifty-two.

Pass on, O world; your false ado
Moves not the phlegm of fifty-two.

Your sweets, soon changed to bitter rue,
Deceive no more at fifty-two.

Come, friend, a modest game of "loo;"
Mild stakes, mild port, at fifty-two.

Diversions not too flushed of hue
Just suit the nerves of fifty-two.

Habits of the Hair.

A prematurely bald physician in Thirty-fifth street was asked a number of questions about the growth and habits of the hair.

"In the first place," he said, "do you know what hair is, anyway?"

"Only in a general way, perhaps."

"Then let me tell you in a word. It is an elongated epidermic appendage. Its essential structure consists of an assemblage of epidermic cells, at the bottom of a flask, shaped foliate, in the substance of the skin, supplied with blood by vessels distributed to its walls."

"Can hair be made to grow on a bald head?"

"Not as a rule. In debilitated persons the hairs sometimes fall out spontaneously, or with slight assistance, and if the bulb alone comes away, and the sheath and germ remain behind, they are capable of reproducing the hair, under proper treatment or favorable circumstances. The short and pointed hairs on the scalp of old people show that new shafts are constantly forming. The nutrition of hair is affected through vessels which are in contact with their tissue, without entering into their structure, so that causes affecting the general health, or affecting the health of the skin, also affect the nutrition of the hair."

"What causes premature baldness?"

"In a great measure the violation of hygienic rules, and the excess of mental and physical labor in a climate foreign to the race."

"Is there a greater disposition to gray-headedness in this country than in others?"

"Well, some well informed people think that it is about the same in all civilized countries; but, if there is any difference it is because of the hurried and unhealthful habits of life and mental exercise among Americans."

"What is the chemical action which produces gray hair?"

"Accurately speaking, that's one of those things that no fellow can find out. The color of the hair depends partly on the presence of pigment granules, and partly on the existence of air spaces, which causes it to appear dark by transmitted light. In Albinos and gray-haired people this coloring matter is simply absent."

"It is the case that hair may, from extreme fright or other strong emotions, turn white; as it is said, in a single night?"

"It is an undoubted fact. Just how the change occurs is a matter of conjecture. But it may perhaps be explained by some chemical action upon the only coloring matter. This oily matter would be withdrawn from the hair under conditions of cold, debility, or insufficient food."

"Does gray hair then become dead?"

"Not by any means. The loss of vitality does not necessarily follow the loss of color, for gray hair often grows vigorously. For that matter the hair will grow after the body's death. One of the causes of premature baldness and grayness is tightly fitting and unyielding hats."

"Are any of the thousand and one preparations for restoring the hair of any value?"

"Tonics and stimulating applications are sometimes beneficial. When the hair is thin and falls out easily, shaving the scalp will often produce a thicker, firmer and darker growth.—[N. Y. Sun.

Poor Jerome Collins.

The saddest part of the ill-fated Jeannette expedition is now being told in the investigation instigated by Dr. Collins, brother of Jerome Collins, who accompanied the expedition as correspondent of the New York Herald. Dr. Collins says:

"I have found that for some reason Melville hated my brother. The charges brought against Jerome were puerile to the last degree, and evidences are numerous of De Long's harsh and unwarranted treatment of my brother. One of the survivors states that Jerome was the strongest of the party, and yet was denied the privilege of accompanying Ninderman and Noros. He weighed when he left San Francisco 204 pounds, was fully six feet eight inches in height and of the most rugged constitution. When found, his hair had turned snowy white through his mighty anguish. When I called on Judge Lumley he said, 'Here are two papers I wish you to read before we go into this matter.' I refused to see them until I had his promise that they would be presented with all other pertinent matter in evidence at the investigation. The promise was given and I opened the papers and found the charges against Jerome preferred by De Long and given to the Secretary of the Navy by Melville. In brief the charges were:

First—Not always up in time for breakfast.

Second—He hunted a bear without permission.

Third—He did not remain on the ice the full time ordered for exercise.

Fourth—Too much time was occupied in making observations.

Fifth—He smoked in the cabin with his fur coat off, and talked to Danenhower. It was during the latter event that De Long came in and roughly charged him with disobedience. My brother refuted the accusation. De Long repeated his charge. Jerome replied that he treated him with all the deference required by the naval law.

"Do you know who I am?" cried De Long. "Consider yourself under arrest, and by ——, you'll do no more work on this expedition."

Danenhower heard this. Among my brother's papers I find a long letter, which was a draft of a letter written to De Long, in which he arraigned him for cruel treatment. The letter must be in existence, but cannot be found. Newcomb and Collins were required to sign articles on shipboard as common sailors before the ship had left her berth, and from that hour the persecution was unbroken. Melville declares they were the happiest lot of men he ever saw. Newcomb says it was a perfect hell for three years. Danenhower states that were he subjected to what they were he would have jumped overboard.

A Chance for Inventors.

A machine is greatly needed in many parts of the country for twisting together swamp hay, the straw of grain, bushes and the smaller branches removed from trees in the operation of trimming them, for the purpose of utilizing them for fuel. Such materials are extensively employed in many parts of Europe for heating houses and for cooking food. They are twisted together or tied by hand. Although this country is well supplied with wood and coal, and the facilities for transporting them are excellent in most sections, still there are places where the inhabitants are obliged to rely entirely on the materials at hand for fuel for warming and cooking. They have an abundance of hay and straw, and sometimes bushes and the branches of trees that have been planted. If they are twisted together and bound, they form very good and convenient fuel for domestic purposes. The materials as prepared should be nearly in the form of stove wood. In addition to being twisted they should be bound so that they can be conveniently handled. A machine that would accomplish these results would be of very great value in many portions of the West, and especially so in the treeless, coalless sections of the wheat growing region. It should be of ample construction, not liable to get out out of order, and cheap. Large machines might be constructed that could be moved from one house to another, as threshing machines now are, but small machines are more desirable, so that every settler could have one. The machines would be valuable in places where there is a supply of coal out no wood that can be employed for kindling purposes or for supporting brisk fires that are often required for cooking meals. With a suitable machine, a substitute for wood could be obtained from materials now wasted, at the expense of little labor.

The Fast Judge and the Slow Juror.

When I was a young man I spent several years in the South, residing for awhile at Port Gibson, on the Mississippi river. A good deal of litigation was going on there about that time, and it was not always an easy matter to obtain a jury. One day I was summoned to act in that capacity and repaired to court to get excused. On my name being called I informed his honor, the judge, that I was not a freeholder, and therefore not qualified to serve.

"Where do you live?" inquired the judge.

"I am stopping for the time being at this place."

"You board at the hotel, I presume?"

"I take my meals there, but have rooms in another part of town, where I lodge."

"So you keep bachelor's hall?"

"Yes, sir."

"How long have you lived in that manner?"

"About six months."

"I think you are qualified," gravely remarked the judge, "for I have never known a man to keep bachelor's hall the length of time you name, who had not dirt enough in his room to make him a freeholder. The court does not excuse you."—[Tioga Agitator.

Eight Noteworthy Trees.

An elm tree near Lawrence, Tenn., is 105 feet in diameter from tip to tip of its branches, and 329 feet in circumference.

A Pennsylvania walnut tree that was hollow and nine feet in diameter was sawed down lately, and the stump is used as a pen for a number of hogs.

A cherry tree in Carter county, Ky., is 13½ feet in circumference and 60 feet high, and its branches shade a plot 43 feet across.

Near the Fair street depot, Kingston, New York, is a grand old elm. It is of bonquet shape, and during the present season over 200 birds built nests in its branches.

At the mouth of Grassy Run, in Springhill township, Pa., there stood a sycamore tree that was hollow at the butt, and Joshua Brooks used it as a stable for his horse.

In Green county, Miss., is a double pine tree which has two distinct trunks twenty feet apart, uniting thirty feet above the ground, forming at that point one solid trunk, round and symmetrical.

A tree recently cut in Mexico, Mo., measured nine feet through near the ground, and was 110 feet high. The first limb grew out at a height of thirty feet from the roots. The tree was at least 300 years old. When it fell twelve squirrels and one coon were killed.

TOO MUCH PEPPER.—One of the most prominent preachers tells the following anecdote as a fact whenever he hears a story too incredible for belief: "A very wicked man became converted and in course of time it came his turn to pray in class meeting. Not being used to speaking in public, of course he was very much embarrassed. This is the subject of his prayer: 'Oh, Lord, thou Giver of all good things, look down with pity on poor people. You are rich and can spare them plenty to eat while on earth. Send every one of them a full barrel of flour, plenty of lard and a side of bacon, a ham or so and a pound of butter. Send each one of your starving, hungry creatures a barrel of sugar, a barrel of salt, a barrel of pepper—oh, hell, that's too much pepper. Amen.'"—[Centreville (Md.) Record.

GRASSHOPPER GRUEL.—In the Sierra Martis valleys the Indians gather together on particular occasions to gather grasshoppers. The squaws carry cone-shaped baskets of great capacity, and scoop the grasshoppers with a fan-shaped implement into their baskets, and when loaded, carry the wriggling mass of insects to camp and prepare them for food. The grasshoppers, killed and subsequently dried, are mixed with mashed pine nuts or cracked wheat, and made into a kind of flour, which is afterwards made into a bread, most delicious to the palate of the Indian. White visitors to the camp are always invited, in accordance with Indian hospitality, to partake of the compound, and great is the astonishment of poor Lo at the disgust expressed by the white man for this kind of food.

Value of a Rich Man's Bones.

Talking to a New York detective officer to-day I asked him what had become of the body of A. T. Stewart.

"The best information I possess," said he, "is that it not only has never been recovered by the family and executors, but that it is not in the possession of the original thieves."

"Well, who got it from them?" said I.

"It is the understanding at police headquarters," said he, "that a second band of thieves, thinking the body was a good thing, stole it from the first. Probably some of the persons privy to the robbery took the body away from those who had been at the pains to dig it up and spirit it off."

"Well, how was Mrs. Stewart appeased?"

"Why," said the officer, "I suppose that she thinks that the bones have been recovered. She either thinks they have been recovered or does not inquire concerning them. The fact is," said my friend, "that after the robbery of that grave it became a question among numerous wealthy persons in New York what to do to prevent a spoliation of other tombs of the same class. You know that immediately after the robbery of St. Mark's Churchyard the tombs of the Vanderbilts at Staten Island were watched, and so were several other tombs of conspicuous persons. They all got tired of paying special watchmen, because it looked as if they might have to watch the tomb for a period of years, and every rich man that died would require two live ones to look after his bones—a thing not very palatable to heirs. Consequently, a notice was sent to Hilton that he ought not to pay any reward for the return of Stewart's bones, whether Mrs. Stewart wanted to or not. The understanding is that Judge Hilton and other gentlemen pacified Mrs. Stewart in some way. You know the coffin of Stewart was not carried off by the thieves at all; they merely took the plate from the top and a piece of the cloth, and took out the body; so we presume that the coffin has been set in the new cathedral at Garden City, without the real bones, but nobody wanted to look into it."—Correspondence Cincinnati Enquirer.

How He Saved the Train.

They were sitting around the stove when a little blear-eyed, weazen-faced individual sneaked in by the back door and slunk into a dark corner.

"That's the chap," said one.

"Who is it?" asked several at once.

"Why, the man who saved a train from being wrecked," was the reply.

"Come, tell us about it," they demanded, as the small man crouched in the darkness, as if unwilling that his heroic deed should be brought under the glare of the blazing kerosene lamp.

After much persuasion, he began:

"It was just such a night as this, bright and clear, and I was going home down the track, when right before me, across the rails, lay a great beam. There it was—pale and ghastly as a lifeless body, and light as it appeared, I had not the power to move it. A sudden ramble and roar told me that the night express was thundering down, and soon would reach the fatal spot. Nearer and nearer it approached, till just as the cow-catcher was about lifting me I sprang aside, placed myself between the obstruction and the track, and the train flew on unharmed."

The silence was so dense for a moment that one might have heard a dew drop. Presently someone said:

"Well, what did you do with the beam?"

"I didn't touch it," he replied, "but it touched me."

"Well, persisted the questioner, "if you couldn't lift it and didn't touch it, how did the train get over it?"

"Why, don't you see?" said the sad-faced man as he arose from his seat and sidled toward the door. "The obstruction was a moonbeam, and I jumped so that the shadow of my body took its place, and the train flew by unharmed."

The Boss Eulogy.

The peach stones ceased rattling around the hall, the windows went down, the munching of peanuts was hushed, and Brother Gardiner had a firm hold of the platform with his toes as he arose and began:

"A resident ob de nayburhood died de odder day, and dis ebenin' de committee 'pinted to write an eulogy on his character war showing me a draft ob what they had prepar'd. De eulogy am in secksuns, an' I will quote it to you:

"He was a man who did not gib to de poor with one hand an' steal from the taxpayers wid de odder.

"He nebber gin a dollar to de heathen in Africa, but he always paid his debts in America.

"While he did not profesh to be a parfeck Christian, he remembered dat only one seat belonged to him when he trabbled.

"He made no great adoo 'bout his honesty, and yit he remembered when and whar' he borrowed a hoe or a shovel.

"He did call hisself better dan his fellow man, an' yit he had a kind word fur a boy wid a sore toe, and a ton of coal fur a naybur wid a broken leg.

"He felt that he had a duty to do by de church, and yit he entered a circus by de front doah, and de sound of a fiddle put new speerit into his feet.

"If he did not sing his hymns from de housetop, neither did de world h'ar what he said when he arrove home an' found his wife sick abed, de hired girl gone an' the baby howlin' wid a paper of pins in his mouf."

Trying to Steal a Coffin.

An old man giving the name of Chas. Bailey, who said he was a seafaring man from Erie, Pa., purchased a coffin, shroud and ice-box from Edward F. Quinn, undertaker, of No. 336 West Twenty-fifth street, on the 27th ultimo, and ordered the articles sent to the Grand Central depot. In payment of the goods he presented a check for $45 on the Mercantile National Bank, purporting to be drawn by William H. Hart. The check was discovered to be a forgery and Bailey was arrested. On being arraigned in the General Sessions, yesterday, the prisoner pleaded guilty.

"Bailey," inquired Recorder Smith, "what did you propose to do with that coffin?"

"I was put up to it," replied the prisoner.

"You were to be put into it," said the Recorder, who did not hear the answer distinctly.

"No, sir," replied Court Captain Linsay, "he says that he was put up to steal it."

"Ah! the same old story," continued the Recorder. "One year and six months in State Prison."—[New York Times, November 14th.

What the Farmer Should Study.

The farmer should study the laws of concentration. He learn should how to concentrate his crops into the best paying articles. Does he consider that butter, beef, pork, mutton and cheese represent only a certain amount of grass, hay and grain that his farm produces? That instead of selling the raw commodities, he can by patting them into these articles get much better returns for his products? His study should be how to transform the raw products of his farm into something that is concentrated and that will bring him most money. What he raises has to go to some market. By condensing it, little freight will have to be paid and thus much will be saved. A farm is not only a farm; it is, or should be, a factory for changing raw products into articles of general consumption that a commercial value the world over—that are of the best quality, that keep well, and bring prices that will pay well for the skill, labor and capital employed in propucing them.

NO NEED OF DEFENSE.—A gigantic negro who had crippled up half the police force in their efforts to secure him, was brought from the jail to the office of the justice for trial. Not observing that the accused had any counsel employed, the justice asked: "Don't you want a lawyer to defend you?" The accused glared at the justice, and pounding on the table, roared out: "I don't need anybody to defend me. I kin defend myself against a dozen sick lookin' men as you is. If you don't be'ieve me come out in the back yard and see if you ain't the man what needs to be defended."—[Texas Siftings.

NOTICE.

To the Farmers and Mechanics of Oregon, Washington Territory and Idaho:

We wish to call your attention to the fact that our annual Catalogue and price list for 1882-83 is now ready for distribution. It will be found very valuable and instructive reading, and will be furnished gratuitously. Send your name and postoffice address to FARMERS and MECHANICS' STORE, 184 First street, Portland, Oregon.

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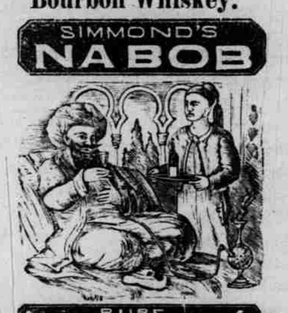

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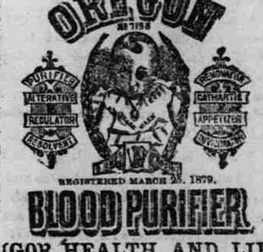

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