#### Strange Concetts of Prominent Pol-Iticians-The Crack Walking Craze.

Great men have whims as well as small ones, and public personages are frequently very queer upon some particular thing. Probably ex-Attorney-General Brewster had the strangest conceit of any man who ever came to Washington. He ilked an open-grate fire, but somehow he detested the color of coal. The contrast of the black coal and the red and blue flames was most distasteful to him; as his ser-rants had orders to splash the fuel liberally with whitewash, which he kept on hand for the purpose. If there was such a thing as white coal, Brewster would pay more for it than any other man living. Ben Butter has a whim. Of late years he is seldom without a piece of suppery elm in his mouth, which he declares is an admirable specific for nervoushess. Years ago Butler was a smoker. Then he took what is known as dry smoke—that is, he went through the motions of smoking with an unlighted eigar in his month. From that he was graduated to slippery eim, and there is no telling which higher course he will take next. Congressman Glover, of St. Leuis, who is shout to murre the weakly. is about to marry the wealthy Miss Patten, of this city, is a told field, and the first thing he does in the morning when he gets out of bed is to reach for a wad of his beloved tolu. He chews it all day, and runor says that it is the last thing he removes at night. Glover isn't a very pretty man an way, and the unceasing movements of those jaws hour after hour does not add anything to what little beauty he has. Senator Beck's whim is that he cannot speak unless he arises with a peuhoider in his right hand, which he always slams down upon his desk before he has spoken a dozen words.

There are several members of congress who have what is known as the crack-walking craze. Not one of these men would step upon a crack in a day's walk, unless obliged to do so by the presence of a brick sidewalk. They will walk from the capitol and go the entire length of Pennsylvania avenue as far as the treasnry department and not step on a single crack. There is a certain scientific man here whose name is known all over the civilized world. Knowing him to be a crack-walker, The Traveller correspondent asked him how the habit became fixed upon him. After being assured that his name would not be given he replied: "I have had this crack-walking habit replied: "I have had this crack-wall is tarted for twenty years. In the first place I started just for fun to see if I could avoid stepping on the property of a crack in going a certain distance. I found that I could, and I made up my mind to keep it up for that day. As I had a certain amount of walking to do, at first this craze was a sort of pleasing diversion. Then it became a settled habit. I have tried to break it up time and again, but it has such a hold on me that I presame I will remain a crack-walker to the end sume I will remain a crack-walker to the end of my days. There is one peculiarity about crack walking, and that is that if I should happen, by accident to step on a crack, it would upset me for the day. Whenever I have done this I always go back and step over the crack. I can't tell why I do it, but I do. Several in the crack. eral times I have made up my mind to forget all about my misstep on my way to the office. but I couldn't. I have even sat down here for two hours in a nervous terror, trying to overcome the feeling, and at the end put on my coat and hat and walked down the street to step over the hateful crack. I know others that are as badly afflicted as I am. They are all people of highly nervous temperaments."

Weahington Cor. Boston Traveller.

#### A PERFECT UNDERSTANDING.

Washington dispatch: "A perfect understanding exists between Daniel Manning and Mr. Cleveland," exclaimed a prominent democratic leader of New York today. Secretary Mauning retires now with a good record, and before the end of the summer will be the most prominent candidate for the presidency, and endorsed by the administration. It is conceded that Mr. Cleveland has fully decided not to enter the race next time, and Mr. Manning, as his closest friend, will be pushed to the front. This was the understanding between Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Manning two years ago, and both men are shaping events to carry the plan to a successful what wonder then that the beauticonsummation. At the close of his present term the president will sell his private then in the flush of enthusiasm please him.—New York Mail and Exproperty in Washington at an advance of \$40,000, and accept the presidency of a large New York life insurance company, at a salary nearly equal to his present com-pensation. None of Mr. Cleveland's acts since he assumed the presidential office have been directed towards securing votes a few months was the acknowledged in the future: none of his assertions have been made with a view of increasing his political popularity. Manning and Car-lisle will be the strong democratic ticket for

The intimate friends of Speaker Carlisle advise him in the strongest possible terms to decline the offer of the secretaryship of the treasury, the chairmanship of the inter state commerce commission, other office under the administration. His friends state that Mr. Carlisle's name is pretty certain to be placed on the presidential ticket for 1888, and any change before that time would imperil his chance, for his nomination either for the first or second place in 1888 can scarcely be pre-

PURCHASE OF 60,000,000 ACRES. St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 27, - While Texas was still province of Mexico, Dr. Beales, an emigrant thies were strongly in another groove. from England, married a native of Mexico, became a citizen, and desiring to form a colony upon the frontier, obtained from the Mexican government an immense grant of land, consisting of 60,000,000 acres, known as the Arkansas grant, situated in what are now the states of Texas and Colorado and the territory of New Mexico. Just then the war of Texas independence broke the conflict and for sometime after, to the cepresentatives of Germany as well as out, and Dr. Beales found it impossible to establish his colony. The grant was renewed, however, and the treaty of Guadaloupe Hidalgo being so framed as to protect those holding grants from the Mexican government. Dr. 
Beales retained possession of his land. Before he was able to carry out his plan of forming a colony he died and the grant passed to his minor children. They did not, however, appreciate the value of the land, and no part of it was ever sold. Now a company of American capitalists, Rufus Hatch among the ican capitalists, Rufus Hatch among the number, have obtained the title to the land from the heirs and will, it is said, take pos-session in a short time. The grant covers a district in northwestern Texas, northeastern New Mexico and southeastern Colorado, embracing in all more than 60,000,000 acres, prior grants will reduce this to about 50,000,-000. Those interested in the transfer will not at present make known the exact boundaries of the tract.

LUMBER DESTROYED BY FIRE. HANNIBAL, Mo., Feb. 27.-Fire to-day destroyed eight blocks of lumber belonging to D. Dubach & Co. and the Herriman & Curd lumber company, causing a loss of \$200,000. apportioned as follows: Dubach & Co., \$150,-000; Herriman & Curd, \$50,000; fully insured. Five Missouri Pacific box cars and two St. Louis and Hannibal box cars were also destroyed. One of the latter was loaded with wheat and the consigners not having been otified of its delivery the loss will fall on the

railroad company.

A high wind served to spread the flames with great rapidity and at 3 o'clock it seemed as if nothing could save that part of the city be-tween Sixth street and the river, and Quincy was telegraphed to for assistance. The Quincy boys responded promptly and hastily loading an engine and hose cart on flat cars came by special train, making the run of twenty miles in twenty-five minutes.

By 9 o'clock to night the flames were under

control. Tramps are supposed to be responsi-ble for the origin of the fire.

An art rosa savs: "Painter Lambert always con' wates cats to the Paris Salon." Does Mr. I ambert think the Paris Salon is a sausage factory !- Pitt-burg Chronice.

The fellows who intended to reform next b to still - Philadelphia

#### FACTS ABOUT THE CZAR.

Incidents in His Stormy Life Not

Generally Known. While the provate and public life of every other European monarch has fremore or less, Alexander Alexandrowitch, of Russia, has kept the modern hierophants, to whom every secret is known and who are initiated into to be presevery mystery of life, pretty well at pleasant seebay. What has crept into print about him, off and on, has uniformly been marred by inaccuracles. This is easily explained. The present czar is not vent to the throne especially he has been hedged about so thoroughly that even the intrepid gatherer of news has often lost scent before reaching him. sun of the Neva first on March 10 Feb. hese two princes was put into the real "gonverneur" was Privy Conneilhis post as Russian ambassador at the court of Stuttgart. In Titow's place State Councilor von Grimm was appointed in 1858, when Alexander was 12 years of age. From that time on the boy drank daily deep from the fount of German learning, as nearly all his tutors were professors of that nationality. Grimm, however, in spite

of his German name, was an arch-Russian at heart and the early influence of Titow, a Muscovite of the old school to the finger-tips, had sunk deep into the youthful prince's soul. Gr mm, twenty years before, had guided the education of the Prince Constantine Nicola ewitch. The military training was intrusted to an adjutant general residing in the winter palace, he religious instruction to a learned old pope, and State Secretary Baron Modest Korff, author of several books on Russian h story, taught the highborn twain all of Russian statecraft,

story, and law they were desirous to earn. On April 24, 1865, the death of the Czaorwitch intervened at Nice, and Alexander, then just attaining his maority, was solemnly declared the heir to the throne. In the following year, on Nov. 9, 1866, he wedded with much comp the Danish lady who had been his late brother's hancee, Princess Dagmar, King Christian IX.'s daughter. Baptized in the Greek orthodox faith, she received the names Marie Feodo-

rowna in exchange for her former ones

This princess, as amiable and accom-

-Marie Sophie Frederika Dagmar,

plished as she is beautiful, was born on Nov 26, 1847, and was consequently her spouse's jumor, by two years and eight months. The young consort of the Russian heir came from a court where the loss of a two beautiful provinces, just swallowed up by Prussia, was mourned with tears of impotent wrath, and where pious William by the Spree had been daily anathamatized, so common to heir-presumptives, a sharer in her mortal antipathy to the Hohenzollern dynasty. The palpable effect of these uxorious lessons was not long in coming. The prince within head of the anti-German party at the court, at that time and up to hour of Alexander II.'s death divided into the old Russian and the Russian or German parties. In Berlin they were well-informed about this, and Bismarck, together with his master, indulged in dire forebodings as to what would happen when Alexander II. should close his eyes. The war of 1870-71 came, and the flames burst out afresh with renewed vigor. The czar and his immediate entourage were in full sympathy with Germany at that time, and especial oains were taken to emphasize this state of feeling. The young Alexander, on the other hand, had a well-organized following of his own, whose sympa-The inevitable result was that these sympathies and antipathies frequently clashed, and that snubs and the "cut France. Personal encounters even and duels ensued, and Alexander II. had rather a busy time of it trying to allay the outraged feelings of this embassador and of that attache or sec-

Occasionally, however, he, too, felt provoked, and on one notable occasion the emperor was put into a perfect rage by his son's Prussophobous pranks. It was on the occasion of a court ball. This happened to be given on the night when the telegraphic news of another disaster to French arms had just reached St. Petersburg. The emperor had been speaking of this to several of his intimates early in the evening, and in terms of admiration at the wonderful achievements of German valor. Soon after he had entered the grand ballroom in the winter palace, Prince Alexander came in likewise, almost immediately followed by his circle of The prince, as well as those behind him, had pinned small favors to the lapels of their swallow-tails, those being diminutive representations of the French tri-color. The whole set of ladies belonging to them carried simultaneously bouquets to their lovely little noses, which exhibited even more glaringly the three colors making up the Gallie emblem. The demonstration was so patent that it could not escape the imperial host, and he was considthis unpleasant incident, however, the emperor walked over to where the wife of the German ambassador sat and. or two of a quadrille with her. The ezorowich, nothing daunted, responded by leading the spouse of the French

white, black, red-in their buttonholes, and their ladies in an hour or so had managed to obtain the corresponding thing n flowers. This, of course, did not improve matters, and the ball for the rest of the evening consisted largely in couples of different political quently given the journalist's pen affiliations sweeping past each other occasion to cover a ream of paper, and glowering savagely. A similar occurrence happened on the evening of the day when the Germans triumphantly entered Prs. That was at the opera, but i uperor did not happen emonstrances and untre said to have been quite frequent list about that time be tween fat son. However, it all blew over, and the scenes enacted a few months later on by the commune ir Paris, as well as the repeated attempts readily approached, and since his ad- on the life of his father made by nihilistic conspirators, considerably changed the ezorowitch's views and held it check his sympathies for France, though these sympathies never wholly died with a h m, and still exist to-day Alexauder III. saw the frosty How much of a change time had wrought in him was first obviousl 26 by the Russian calendar), 1845, as shown when Alexander III, after the the second son of Alexander H., and assassination of his father ascended the was educated with his elder brother, throne. Thousands in Russia expected the heir presumptive. Nicolas, by two in h s proclamation to his people some coars his sen or. The education of promise of larger liberties, and if not a constitution outright at least an assurhands of Count S. Strogonow, but their ance from him that the nation at large, through its representatives, should or Titow, recalled for the purpose from have a voice in making and unmaking laws and in administering the finances of the immense empire. But neither in that document nor in the published manifesto of May 11, 1881, did the new emperor say a word about this. Quite the contrary, he accentuated his claims autocratic power even more broadly and absolutely than his father had ever done. Doris Melnikow, a reformer of a mild pattern, was soon given the go-by likewise and Ignatieff appointed in h s place. Schuwaloff followed, and now it is even Tolstoi, a man than whom there can be nobody better qualified to crush every liberal aspiration and retard every sort of progress and popular enlightment. The present emperor's foreign policy is too well known to need comment, and the fact that he has thought a trio of such men as Tolstoi, De Giers and Gourkho worthy of the highest honors and of his special confidence, and that Kaulbars, whom a recent article in this paper sufficiently characterized, has of late likewise found favor in his eyes and has even been promoted to the grade of

lientenant general, speaks volumes. The family relations of Alexander III. have been uniformly pleasant. He is a devoted husband and a fond and dutiful father. From his union with the royal Dane have sprung four children-three sons and one daughter. The latter, Princess Xenia, is now neary 12 years of age, and is a lovely am ade girl, with blue eyes and fair hair of a rare golden tint. The eldest son, Nicolas, was born May 18, 1868, and is a fine, sturdy boy. George, the second, was born in 1871, and Michael in 1878. The empress is still a charming woman and wears her forty years with ease and grace. Though not much of a musician when she wedded the Russian, she perfected herself since in order to gratity his taste for music. The emperor, however, is only fond of fine Italian opera and of the melancholy folksongs of his country. Dagmar sings

# Left-Over Expressions.

ere are certain humorous sidewalk observations that are open to one as a kind of compensation for having to elbow and jostle along the public ways. One of these is the trick people have of looking at you with the left-over remainders of the expression of face just bestowed on the companion with whom they are walking and talking. A pair of persons engaged in lively argument are approaching you. One of them is laying down the law with great vigor of facial and muscular gesture. At the moment he brushes by he glances at you, with the ferocous scowl of fervid eloquence still puckering his teatures. You would think he was your bitterest foe. Of course it would have been opposed to the great law of economy of force to have relaxed and then puckered up again just for the momentary meeting of another face. Perhaps his apparatus of facial expression is not agile enough to have accomplished the maneuver if he had tried.

Shortly after your encounter Saccharissima and Dulcissima, chatting and laughing together as they come. They are entire strangers to you, but as you pass you receive a most captivating smile-from both of them this time, as it happens, for both are talking at once. It produces an effect like those momentary streaks of warm air through which one sudddenly walks on an autumn day .- Atlantic Monthly.

# The Steel Pen and the Quill.

The steel pen is an excedingly modern invention. Any person past middle age can remember when its use became general in America. Before that time the quill pen was un versal, and to make or sharpen it for his pupils was one of the chief tasks of the school master. Many persons still employ this archaic instrument, driving to madness all who are within hearing of its most harrowing sound. The utter inability of the present generation to listen to the scratching of the quill pen is one of the most startling evidences of the increase of nervous disorder among us. The pretended preference for it is generally an affectation.

The name of the person who first used a quill pen has not been preserved, and the loss has not been seriously felt. It was probably some monk or "learned clerk" of the middle ages who found that it could usefully supplement erably angered. To take the edge off | the stylus w th which he was illuminating a manuscript. The quill might have easily been suggested by the bodkin made of the bone of a bird or other against his usual custom, danced a tour animal transmitted from the Romans to the medieval monks, or by the sharpened reed, also used by the Romans and still in use among the Arabs. The Chiambassador to the mazy whirl. Next | neese and Japanese use a sort of brush the gentleman of the German party in writing, and when well instructed write rapidly and with artistle skill,went out, one by one; and resurned with the German colors- | San Francisco Chronicle.

#### HERE AND THERE.

There is a machine out for making finger nails almond shaped. Fresh grass butter, a povelty in Februar,

omes from Cal fornia An eyeless baby was born a few days ago

Favette county, Alabama. "Sitting on ice" is a theatrical phrase for

house that does not applaud. Rice straw shoes are worn by the laboring people in the south of China.

Only 200 of the 10,000 coke ovens in th Connells (Pa.) coke region are now idle. A colony of grasshoppers put in an appear

ance at Corry, Pa., one day last week. A large bounty is paid by the Nicaragus government to farmers who plant india-rub

A hawk, measuring fifty-one inches from the

to tip of wings, was killed a few days ago nea-Turin, Ga. The governor of Panama has issued precau

tionary orders to prevent the entrance of cholera into the country. The court-house at Birmingham, Ala., ha been condemned, and a new one to cost \$250,

000 will soon be built. The Indians on the Siletz reservation, it Oregon, raised and shipped forty thousand bushels of cats last year.

"He's jounced" is the synonym for mashe in the vocabulary of the day. The expression came in with the toboggan. "Let me write the ads, of this town," say

the man in a newspaper counting room, "an I care not who slings the poetry.' A salmen trout was captured in the Coose river at Rome, Ga., one day last week. It was

the first one ever caught in Georgia. A leweler says that some of his best custo mers are colored people, who realize that gem look well against a dark background

There are two married and settled men f the freshman class of Georgia university Their families are in Athens with them

In Germany during a year are made 540,000 real meerschaum pipes, 500,00 imitation meerschaums, and 500,000,000 wooden pipes.

Tree-planting is much engaged in in variou parts of California. During the past year three firms sold 60,000 trees in one count

Hilarious Jennings and Mrs. Julia Joll and Franklin Jennings and Miss Susie Joli were married at Shelby, N. C , one day re cently.

A doctor at Southwest Harbor, Me., the other day cut open a cat's throat and succes fully extracted a needle, that pussy had swall

The 'possum business of Berrian count Georgia, is looking up. A ear-load of big, fa fellows came into Quitman the other day, and found a ready sale.

Hundreds of antlers of the elk are shipped every year from Oregon and Washington ter ritory to England, where they grace ancestra halls as ornaments.

During the recent rough weather in Oregon there were over two hundred fallen trees o the track of the Northern Pacific railroad within a distance of fifteen miles,

A colored man who is 87 years old walks to and from Washington, Ga., a distance of eight miles, to carry the mail for a family, for which they board and clothe him and his wife In Nevada there are some of the largest

lams in the world for storing water for min ing purposes. One is 576 feet long and 75 fee high, another 425 feet long and 100 feet high Bull-fights are growing in popularity in Mex ico, and large prices are paid for superior ani

mals. Three bull fights were recently given at Saltillo in aid of a hospital, and netter A large steel gun can only be used about 200 times with full battering charges. As the

guns cost from \$75,000 to \$375,000, according to size, the cost per charge is from \$375 to An effort is being made in California to re organize the American party in time for the

next election. Last year 7,347 votes were cast in that state for the head of the American On the retired list of the navy there are 5

rear admirals. 15 commodores, 12 commanders 20 navmasters, 14 captains, 20 lieutenant com manders. 41 lieutenants, 72 engineers, and 46 surgeons. The inhabitants of Old Town, Me., are most

ly Indians. The chief offices in the city are occupied by red men, who take as much interest in such affairs as their white brethren in neighboring cities. Only one of the five persons who on their

death-beds last year confessed to great crimes told the truth. It was found that the other "confessors" could not possibly have had any thing to do with the crimes. The devotion of a young man attending a

prayer-meeting in one of the churches in St. Mary's, Canada, the other night, were dis turbed by a mouse running up the leg of his pants while he was kneeling. The first country to issue stamps for cheap

postage was Great Britain-in 1840. An un used one is worth about \$300. The rarest postage stamp known to collectors was issued by the postmaster at Brattleboro in 1846. A foolish woman at Butler, Ga., buried \$110

in bills in the wood-vard for safe keeping, and when she dug them up for use found that they had been so badly eaten by woodlice as to render them almost beyond recognition.

On Jekyl island, Georgia, is a band of horses so wild that they run at the sight of a man William Turner, who has charge of a club house on the island, says that the other morn ing one of these horses came to the barn, ap parently in great pain, allowed herself to be haltered, and showed unmi-takable signs of gratitude when Turner doctored her and gave her relief. Usually these horses are very stubborn and vicious, and nearly die of starvation before they will yield to a man.

The country negroes in the south are beginning to complain that the city negroes are too much given to visiting. Recently a Covington darky who pretends to practice law, went to a neighboring settlement for a vacation. For some time his hosts treated him royally, but finally became annoyed at his long stay, and one night took whips and sticks and went to the house where he was stopping, and invited him to skip. He skipped, aided

now and then by a limber switch. Sicily is the cheif source of manna. In that country the trees are cultivated in plantations, and when about eight years old they begin to yield. Cuts an inch and a half to two inches long are made in the back, cutting through to the wood. One cut is made daily, beginning near the bottom of the trunk, with each suc ceeding cut about an inch above the former one. The thick sirup-like juice exudes from the cuts and hardens on the bark into white spongy flakes, which when hard enough are removed and dried still further before they are parked for commerce. It consists mainly of a form of sugar called manite, and has mild

laxative properties.

### HUSBAND AND LOVER.

I was the daughter of a Memphis physician, and his only child. In my 7th year I lost my mother, but the poignancy of my childish grief was in some measure alleviated when six months later my father brought me a little playmate of my own age. She was his ward, and we grew from childhood to girlhood beneath the same roof, and for my part I can say I loved Natalie Chester as a sister. How beautiful she was, in the first flush of her peerless womanhood.

"I wonder will he be her latest conquest?" I asked myself, when for the first time Landon Stafford and she stood face to face. He was my father's young assistant, and perhaps the only man she ever met who, panoplied in the armor of a cold indifference, seemed insensible to her charms. And I know this indifference piqued a vanity the flattery of many tongues fanned into a passion.

"Does it not occur to you, Myrtle," she said to me one afternoon, "that our young doctor is a man of singularly phlegmatic temperament?"

"He has never made love to you, Natalie," I answered dryly. "Yet it ought to be a novel sensation to meet a man who does not fall in love

and wership you." He cheeks flushed slightly, but she retorted with a laugh: "Would it not be a more novel sensation still to constrain him into idolatry, They say that natures the least demonstative are capable of the strongest feel-

ings, and that the spark once applied to the latent fire you are treated to a conflagration." She spoke lightly, but the glance

hat flashed from the dusky beauty of her eyes convinced me that if all the devices of a tascmating woman did not fail her she would bring Lindon Stafford to her feet. I, who watched Mr. Stafford keenly, saw that he was struggling with a passion that he felt would only bring him unhappiness. But the hour had come when strong men's souls would be tried in the crucible of a great affliction, and Lindon Stafford, stand ing face to face with uncompromising necessity, dare no longer fritter away existence in a dream of love. The terrible scourge of yellow fever had spept over Memphis, and within a week it presuted all the appearance of a city of the dead. In their abject terror the people fled they cared not whither, and fear for the time being crushed all the nobler instincts of humanity from hearts where craven elfishness predominated. My father's first thought was for Natalie's safety and mine, and to this end he telagraphed to Miss Chester's other guardain who was then a resident in a northern state. In due time that gentleman arrived to carry his beautiful ward and me far from the reach of the impending danger, but no remonstrance, no entreaty, could induce me to desert what I conceived to be my post of duty. Shall I ever forget that night when Natalie left us. Before bidding her good-by I had hurried upstairs for a parcel she had forgotten, and in returning in a minute or so to find Dr. Stafford in the room, I paused

outside the door, "Intended to say farewell," she said as, with downcast eyes, she held out

her hand. "You must think me very cowardly to flee from danger while Myrtle insists on remaining."

"Miss Craig's place is by her father's side," he answered; "but it would be worse than madness in your friends to allow you to incur risks that could bring no possible good to any one. And then you are to young and beau-

"And if this parting should be forever what would you say to me, Mr.

Stafford?" "I would say farewell-only fare-

well," he replied, evasively, as he re-leased her hand. Her eyes looked into his, and a cry escaped him as he caught her in his arms, and if a man's love ever went out to a woman it was in that lingering kiss he pressed upon her lips. I turned away, and, with trembling limbs and sinking heart, stole quietly upstairs. For I had learned to love this man even with a hopelessness that intensified a passion which had changed the current of my life into a channel whose source was bitterness and sorrow. I am not going to linger over the days that followed when, as an hospital nurse, I tried to forget my folly. Within two weeks the summons came to the only one that loved me, and I was an orphan. Dr. Stafford was also stricken down, and I nursed him through his illness to recovery, and when the scourge at length had passed away, I found myself alone and almost friendless in world. One day Lindon Stafford, while still pale and emaciated, came to me and asked me to be his wife. knew too well he did not love me. knew his every thought was with the beautiful Natalie in her northern home; but, oh, my God! I could not let him leave me, and in the blind fatalism of a woman's love I cheated myself into the belief that in time I would win his heart. And so we were married, and the bridal kiss he gave me, in its coldness, chilled my lips and heart. But I did not marry him to induige in vain regrets, and Lindon Stat- The bill of fare is as follows: ford was too loyal a gentleman, too sensitive to truth and honor, to be other than the kindest husband. The first year of my wedded life was drawto a close, when one morning I received a letter from Natalie. She was coming south with her guardian for the winter and would spend a day or two with us, she wrote. She remained a week with us-for me a week of torture, for, as I said, my busband lin-gered often by her side. I fear the smoldering fire of an unforgotten love had burned into a flame again within his breast. It was Christmas eve, and Natalie

kissed me in bidding megood-bye. Oh! woman, I thought, as I watched her pects to dark eyes turned to my husband's porting.

face when he took his seat beside her in the carriage to leave her at the depot. Motionless and mute as if grief had turned me to stone, I stood beside the window and looked out on the dismal street. And as the minutes passed this maddening thought occurred to me. Would my husband, the husband that I loved, desert me now for this beautitul Natalie; would his lovaltvand honor be forgotten in an unholy passion? My hands and cheeks and brow were deathly cold, and yet my brain was on fire. The objects on the street had, to my vision, grown indistinct, and I turned to totter to a chair as Lindon noislessly entered the room. There was a tender sadness in his eyes as he looked upon my palid face, and and with the sobbing ery of "Oh! husband!" I sank into his outstretched

"Myttle, wife," said he, "when a year ago I stood before the altar and swore to love you until death there was a perjury on my tongue. Even then an mage that was not yours was enshrined within my heart, and the haunting eyes of Natalie Chester seemed to mock my firm resolve to be at east a faithful busband. You may have known my secret, poor, patient wife, and yet reproach nor taunt has never passed your lips. Well, I've met Natalie Chester again to learn my passion had burnt itself to ashes. And now, this Christmas eve, sweet wife, when every heart-throb that beats against your own is yours and only yours, I ask you to forgive me and forget the past, for I know such love as yours could pardon even a greater wrong.

I brushed the hair back from his splendid brow, and almost as shyly as a girl, kissed his lips. In my husband I had found a lover at last.

### ANTICS OF A PET COON.

How it Had a Mess of Honey, and How it Rode Horseback to Quick Music.

"But speaking of coon," said John Pimpson, of gavannah, "did you ever have a pet coon? I had a pet coon, and he could get into more trouble than all the pets that ever lived on father's farm put together. He would steal thread, thimbles, socks, combs and brushes. Anything that was lost would be looked for in the coon's nest. He had a bed up on the plate of the house, an old-fashioned story-and-ahalf log-house. Everything he got hold of he carried there, and in every trouble he got into he made for that place. Once I carried this coon with me to a quilting at old man Bagley's. Old man Bagley had a heap of bees, and you know a coon loves honey better then anything. The quilting was proceeding nicely; all the women folks sitting around plying their needle, when in dashed the coon, literally covered with bees. He rushed under the quilt, strewing the mad insects. I tell you the quilting moved. and chairs flew and the dresses flapped, and such a dancing was never seen before. Pet coons were not worth much in that market afterward. "This same coon got me into trouble again. He would follow me all around the place. One Sunday Frank and myself went down in the pasture, just be-hind the horse lot, and the coon came along to. In the pasture we decided to take a ride npon a gentle horse that was grazing there. We got the horse by the mane and led him to a stump, and I got upon his back and Frank got up behind me. Then the coon bounced up on the stump and wanted to get up too, so I reached down and took him in my lap. No sooner had the horse started off than the coon, fearful of falling, stuck all the claws he had into the horse's withers, and the fun began. The horse went running and kicking. Frank soon hit the ground and left myself and the coon holding on for dear life. I stuck on till we reached the lot fence. and there, as the horse mounted high and went over, I came down across the rails and left the coon master of the situation. Father heard the racket and soon the whole plantation was trying to catch the horse to relieve it of it's rider. That was the last of that coon. He got killed and I got whipped, and I've never wanted a pet coon since." -Atlanta Constitution.

# A Curious New York Charity.

Of a charity in New York the correspondent of the Cleveland Leader writes:

It seems that in New York, as elsewhere, benevolent enterprises are generally started by women. We went down to Duane street and Park row to "inspect" the "booths" opened by Mrs. Lamadrid, where a supper may behad for one cent. It was at an hour when not many were about, but we were told that at certain hours there was a regular swarm of ragged children, bootblacks, newsboys and girls and the street gamin generally, clamoring for a breakfast or dinner or supper for one penny. Mrs. Lamadrid has means and bears the expense herself. She is always to be found in her kitchen on Madison street, where she prepares the food sold. She is deeply interested in her "booths," and hopes that others of the same kind will be started in the districts of the poor.

From 5 to 11 A. M.—One-half pint of coffee, with milk and sugar, and one slice of bread, one cent. From 11 A. M, to 1:30 P. M.-One-

half pint of soup and one slice of bread one cent. From 1:30 to 7 P. M .- One-half pint

of coffee, with milk and sugar, and one slice of bread, one cent. On Friday, from 11:30 A. M. to 1:30 P. M .- Fish chowder, one cent with

coffee and bread as on other days, same hours. Pork and beans are served every day, one cent a plate. On Sundays the booths are open from 7 to 10 A. M. and from 3 to 5 P. M., with the same fare as on week the treason of a woman's kiss to a days. Mrs. Lamadrid says she expects to make the booths self sup-