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Potato Growing. have ever seen have invariably been may be known by thrusting a stick planted on soils varying between a into the manure. If comfortably sandy and a clay loam. On heavy warm to the touch, it is all right, and land, especially when not under- the seed may be sown. This should drained, the crops have been poor and be done in rows, alloting a certain unproductive, the seed often rotting space to each kind in accordance with in the ground and not coming up, ex- future wants. A good watering to cept in occasional spots. Such land settle the soil is all that will be redesigned for potatoes should be thor quired until the seed is up. If there oughly drained with tiles, as the cost is any indication of extreme heat, or will, in the end, be much less than if the bed appears to fill with steam, a that resulting from an entire failure little air should be given until it subof the potatoes. If the farm is so sides. In case of severe freezing situated that a part of the soil is weather, the bed will have to be well heavy and the other part light, the covered at night with mats, hay or owner would do well to select the soil other material to keep in the heat, which is not quite heavy enough to opening again when the sun begins need draining for his potato field, and to have effect on the glass. Except in a dry or wet season he will then in extremely cold spells, a trifle of air stand a good chance of raising a suc- will be beneficial from the time the I think he's crary. cessful crop.

The ground will need to be finely pulverized with the plow and harrow before the seed is put in. Fall plow- the soil in part where the manure is ing for potatoes will not be of much to go. This saves the heat from bebeneat; it remains, however, optional ing forced out by piercing winds. with the farmer, for it certainly will Two feet depth of manure will be amdo no harm. The ground can be ple for starting any kind of vegetables, worked over in the spring, until it is or for raising lettuce, radishes, etc. devoid of all lumps and sods. Plow deeply, as a deep soil, deeply plowed, is undoubtedly best for petato grow- portion of salt in their food as well sa

In the selection and cutting of seeds | motion of health and thrift. there is one infallible rule to follow that I have found applies in almost all cases. Select the potato with respect to size and quality that comes the nearest to your ideal of potatoes; that is, take the medium and large potatoes for your seed, and not the small ones or the exclusively large and a whole small potato are planted at the same time there will be no appreciable difference in the size of the yield. The best yield is obtained when the half of a good, mediumsized potato is used for seed. If not selected at digging time the preceding summer, they should be picked out at once and placed in a dark place where the sprouts will have a chance to start.

Potatoes for seed should be cut on the day of planting, and not several days beforehand. When kept even for a day considerable risk is run by the farmer. Cut only as many as are needed for one day's planting, and those that are left over feed to the cattle rather than use them for seed. More loss from potato growing is caused by this practice of cutting up

Manuring the potato field properly mix it up well with the lower soil then pores. will require its application in the fall so that it can leach through gradually during the winter months. The rains and snows will work it into the surface of the soil and the plow in the spring will turn it over and put it in the proper place for the roots of the potatoes. The manure should be well rotted before spread on in the fall, so that none of its richness can be dissipated by evaporation or blown away by the winds. If sufficient quantities are put on the field in the fall it will be unnecessary to spread any manure in the hills, as the roots of the potatoes will surely find the nourishing considerable labor.

The relative value of commercial iously estimated for potatoes, but the best results have been obtained from condition. It should be rotten, very Coarse, fibrous substances, such as in the garden. straw, that have not been decomposed sufficiently will be blown off the field in the winter and a material loss occathe result.—Exchange.

## How the Hot-Bed is Built.

into the hot bed. A place is marked own use. off on the surface, one or two feet larger than the frame which is to be will be sufficient for starting seeds, acter of any such commodity as mar the parson, sir, and we shan't want him till etc. The frames are then placed on, garine.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES. and the lights kept closed for two or three days, when the heat should man-ifest itself. Soil is then placed on to the depth of nine inches or so, well presssed down with the rake, and Thomas!" again left until it is well warmed The best crop of potatoes that I through. If the heat is too ranklit young plants are up. It is a common practice with market gardeners before beginning the hot-beds, to excavate

> Poultry should have a certain proanimals, as it is necessary to the pro-

Try crude petroleum, which will cost about 10 cents a gallon, as a wood preservative. Applied to fences and wood that rest upon the ground, it will add years to the wear.

About seven-eights of the European eggs received in this country are ones only. If a whole large potato limed. They are shipped to this country from Antwerp, Copenhagen and Hamburg. Those coming from Antwerp are gathered in Belgium, Italy and France, those from Copenhagen in Denmark, and those from Hamburg in Germany.

> It is a remarkable fact that, although we have in this country the best breeds of cattle to be found in any portion of the globe, yet the majority of farmers have no system of breeding, and use cows in the dairy that give only one-third the quantity of milk and butter that could be derived from an animal from well known milking and butter breeds.

It is true that the longer a hog is kept the greater the likelihood of loss from disease or accident; but so far as tried one before, but he does not see how it the loss from disease is concerned, the | need interfere with his going to Wilkinson's all the seed at once than many risk is rendered more than proportion hop. But mustard leaves have a way of asimagine, and experience has taught ately greater by wintering. The serting their presence, and Mr. O'Brien is large growers that they cannot afford change from green to dry, hard food to run the risk that is involved in the is favorable to the development of diwork, even though it saves time and sease. The severities of the weather are also apt to induce disease.

Once a week during dry weather, if requires judgment and experience, sulphur and powdered charcoal be The soil of farms differ so in their mixed with soft food for the young compositions that the mode of treat chickens, it serves as an admirable ment that would apply to one field cleanser of the stomach; it saves would not answer for another. Some them from becoming crop bound; it crops, such as corn and vines, want aids digestion very materially and astheir manure near the top of the sists to keep away lice; for the sulground; but potatoes can best utilize phur permeates the whole body and it when it is some distance down. To works outwardly through the skin

According to the agricultural reporter of the Australasian, a difference | the nearest market town, and sell him, as of fifteen to seventeen bushels an acre | he cost as much to keep as a couple of pigs. in the yield of wheat can be claimed Josh accordingly retired early one morn to the credit of irrigation in some parts of Victoria, splendid crops beside the Murray having been grown indeed she ejaculated, brightening up at on irrigated lands, whereas there was the good news, "I'm dreadful glad on it; quite a failure in the same district how much did you get?" where irrigation had not been carried shillun." out. Grasshoppers and locusts have done a great deal of damage to the Victorian crops during the past sea-

If early cucumbers, melons and substances if placed low enough down summer squashes are desired, place for them. Besides this method saves pieces of sod three or four inches square in a shallow box, grass side down and close together. Sow seed fertilizers and barnyard manure is var- enough for a hill in the earth of each ments. piece of sod. The box may be in a hot-bed or in a sunny window. The without gloves. the latter when applied in the proper plants will in due time fill the sod with roots, and when the weather will rotten, and all large lumps fined down allow, transfer each piece of sod with are so many drawers. and spread evenly over the ground, its plants to a properly manured hill It is to be hoped the bonnet has about

It is now conceded by many that line from a rejected contribution. Sort of ten pounds of good pressed hay is a passion flower, we suppose equivalent to about thirteen pounds of sioned in other ways. Rotten stable bose hay. This belief carries with it sions of sympathy and endearment when manure will increase the yield of po- the claim that the nourishing qualities you come from work at night and find your tatoes every time, while commercial of the hay are much more fully refertilizers will sometimes fail on cer- tained in the pressed bale. It is certain soils. The best way is for each tainly true that there is a much farmer to experiment in his own way, smaller percentage of waste. The using both commercial and home- storage space for a given number of made fertilizers on a small scale, and tons is also much to the credit of govern his actions in accordance with pressed hay. Where this article of did for the Western Union company down stock food is high priced, this is a ser- in Texas. Mr. Edson had a dog of great ious question with those even who put price named Shep, and wishing to have him up hay for their own use only. There is great need of a machine that is The manure having been thrown cheap enough in price to be within how to spell better than that, and so he cortogether, so as to reach a fermenting the reach of a farmer, to be used for rected him and sent the dispatch as follows: state, it is now in condition to build baling an ordinary crop of hay for his "Send sheep by first train." As Edson

The Butterine bill passed by the used. Over this space, the manure is French chambers is a sufficiently evenly spread. It should not be in stringent measure. It imposes penalmasses, but well shaken up with the ties from \$10 to \$600 and six days to fork, so that there is an equal quan- six months imprisonment on persona He is now suing the company for damages tity of the long and short ones the convicted of selling, importing or ex and is liable to get them.-Philadelphia entire space. The object of this care porting as butter any mixture of mar Press. is to secure an even heat in all parts, garine or other fat or oil with butter, and a uniform sinking of the mass however small the proportion of the as it heats. As the building up pro- adulteration. The extreme penalties the Surrey packs, on a Tuesday, reports a ceeds, it should also be compacted are for several convictions. Fraudu- contemporary, one of the field, who was well either by occasionally treading, or a lent mixtures are liable to confisca- up in the first flight, went a tremendous deft use of the fork, which is action, and particulars of the fraud may cropper into a brook. The master heard quired from long peactice by old hands at the business. When finished, the linquent's expense including notices to the first whip, who was close beside him. back may be slightly higher than the on the doors of his own place of busi said, "Who's that, Wills Hadn't we bet front always facing the south. A ness. There are various regulations ter help him out?" depth ranging from two to three feet as to marking and declaring the char-

Queer Wrinkles. "I see you have got a new trotter, Jones," said Brown. "What do you call "I think of calling him Theodore

"What for?" "Oh, because Thomas beats time." HE PLEADS GUILTY.

Pompous Young Lawyer (to prisoner)-As you have no counsel the court has de-puted me to defend you. Prisoner-Am dat so?

Young Lawyer-Yes. Prisoner (to Judge) - Den I pleads guilty, yo' honab, an' frows myse'f on de mercy ob de court.

Pretty Waiter Girl (to regular boarder)

What kind of soup will you have to-day, Charley (in a fascinating manner)-Well, weally, I hardly know, y' know, What kind would you advise me to take, Jennie? Pretty Waiter Girl (innocently)-Noodle soup, Charley.

A CRAZY TRAVELER.

Con luctor (of Pullman sleeper to porter) You want to watch that passenger, Sam,

Porter-What makes you think so, boss? Conductor-Because he didn't insist upon having a lower berth in the midle of the car.-New York Sun.

What Becomes of Great Thoughts. Talking over the recent McCosh episode at Harvard called forth, the other day, the following story of another Scotch divine who visited once in the vicinity of Boston, Besides his ministerial functions the reverend gentleman had a fond weakness for making incursions into literature proper, One day, when closeted with his books and papers, the housemaid of the family with whom he was visiting broke in upon his meditations with a message. The irate doctor sprang to his feet, and in his heat, giving way to broadest accent, crie1 out severely: "Woman, how dar ye intrude yersel' that sudden? De ye ken me, woman? Yor disturbing presence has banished a great thought into etarnity!"

"The Lard betune us an' evil, sir!" cried the affrighted maid. "An' how was I to know that, or drame that them havin' great thoughts lost 'em that aisy? But sure, sir, If it's to eternity it's gone, you'll be like to find it agin, plaze God!" With which naive rejoinder the humble handmaid left the mighty doctor to cool off at his leisure. -Boston Saturday Evening Gazette.



Mr. O'Brien has a slight cold on his chest and has put on a mustard leaf. He has never



howling for somebody to fetch him an iceberg and two fire engines.-London Judy.

Getting Rid of His Dog.

A lazy countryman, with the bibulous propensities of Rip Van Winkle, was persunded by his wife to take his useless dog to ing, and returned in the evening very "full but without Towser. "Woife said, "I've sold thie there dorg." "Hav'ee, "Matter o' thrity mumbled the old man, shillun! What, for one dorg?" chuckled the wife, "baint I glad; that'll a'most set me oop wi' win'er clothes. Where's the money, Josh, me darlin'y'' "Money!" said Josh, slowly shifting his pipe to the other corner of his mouth, "I didn't get no money; I took two bull terrier pups, at fifteen shillun apiece".-London Judy.

Free Press Wisdom.

The busiest poet will have his idyl mo-

Never attempt to handle a snow shovel

Phasesius imagines the pension bureau must be a massive piece of furniture-there

reached the height of its ambition. "Love is a beautiful blossom," affirms a

Don't be too previous with your expresnewly acquired helpmeet reclining on the lounge with her forehead bandaged. The chances are it's her crimps and not the headache at all,-Detroit Free Press.

A Telegraphic Error.

See what an intelligent telegraph operator shipped to him, he telegraphs home: "Send Shop by first train," The brainy telegraph operator thought Mr. Edson ought to know was a sheep raiser his hired man put his entire flock on the cars, and in a day or two he received notice that they were at hand. Just then a storm came up and many of them fell sick. Before he could get them back to his ranch half of them were dead, and the affair cost him a great deal of money.

Only the Parson.

In the middle of a fast thing with one of

"Ch," returned Will, coolly, "it's only Sunday!"-London Punch.

STORIES OF REPORTERS.

A Class of Men About Whom Most Persons Know Little.

Most persons never saw a reporter to know one. Tens of thousands in private life have seen reporters only at meetings or in public places. Even in New York, where reporting is a very old profession, the business is not clearly understood and reporters are continually meeting persons who say to them, "Do you want an item?" or "Hello! why aren't you at a fire?' precisely as if newsgetting was like fishing or was pursued as collectors search for butterflies-net in hand. To tell the world that reporters (in New York, at least) only seek what their city editors send them to find is to run the risk of being thought an imposter. But in all communities the reporters have experiences almost as queer as any they

There is a gifted news getter in town, whose weight is about 300 pounds, and the quality of whose work is proportioned to his size. He was taking down a speech in shorthand not long ago in Tammany hall when an Irishman in the gallery spied him and said to his neighbor: "Och, will ye luk at the soize av that mon, and him airning his living wid a little pencil!" A New York reporter sent to Newark once, went to a house be should not have gone to, mistaking it for one farther up the street, where he was to interview a man. The man of the house opened the door. "I am a reporter," said the interviewer. The man pulled him in almost by main force. "For heaven's sake!" said he, "how do you reporters get hold of things be-fore they happen?" He led him into the parlor and shut the door. "Now," said he, "tell me how you know what I was going to do. I swear I have never told a soul." The reporter, equally amazed, said he guessed there was a mistake; he was looking for so-and-so. That night the man horsewhipped another mother cat pretty near wild. This seemed to citizen for insulting his wife. He must have afford the old catrish the most unalloyed dethought the reporter was a mind reader who had come to get the news ahead of time. When I was callow I was charged with the

task of exposing to the public the overcrowding of the public schools. I reached the first school house early in the morning, entered the assembly room of the girls' department and explained to the lady principal that I every minute or two, and yelling with rage. was a reporter and desired to look through the building. To my horror, she turned to the pupils and said: "Young ladies, this gentleman is the editor of The Sun, who desires to address you this morning." There was no getting out of it. It was fun, too-for the girls. Kirk Munro's experience must be told, also, even at the risk of his having a burr upon it. He was green at the business when he was sent to report a religious revival in young Dr. Tyng's church. The paster happened to be moving from person to person in the congregation, and reached Munro just as that young man entered the door. "My dear brother," said Tyng, "are you a follower of Christ?" "No," said Munro; "I'm a-a Sun us. In gwine off among strangers, dar' am reporter."

I got a new view of my calling once when the city editor, Mr. Bogart, sent me after something or other on the east side of town. I found my man and approached him with "Are you Mr. Feldsticker?" "Yah," he re-plied. "I am a reporter of The Sun," said 1. "I've been trying ever since to think what he meant by his reply. Perhaps he did not understand me-or else did'nt know what he was saying. At any rate, when I said I was a reporter of The Sun, he replied in a fatherly tone, full of kindly sympathy: "Sof Vell, vell, you can't help dot."-Julian Ralph in The Journalist.

Late, Late, Too Late.

"My dear friend," said a minister at the bedside of a sick man, "I want to call your attention to the blessed consolation which religion brings in hours of suffering and danger to those"-"I'm much obliged to you," interposed the

grateful patient, "but you are too late."

"Yes, sir, my physician says that the crisis is past, and all danger is over."-New York

Item for Baldhended Men.

enborg, men live to an age equal to about 30 of our years. They become bald at the age of 29, and knowing this to be the sure precursor of their death within a year, they instantly set about preparing themselves for that event. When we remember how men act on this miserable old earth after they become hald we don't see how they can ever look at Jupiter without blushing for shame. -Leavenworth Times.

The "Best of Company."

A gentleman, whose long residence entitles him to be called a Bostonian, some time since had the misfortune to lose his wife. In the course of a few weeks he ordered a monument to be placed over her last resting place, with this inscription following the name and customary formula: "She was the best of com-With such a marital tribute to ber mental and moral worth any woman ought to rest in peace. -Boston Herald.

Pretzels. Vhen you cut your ockwaindances dots sesser you done dot on der bias. Oxberience vas a combass dot tolds you

how to get pooty vell along. Moses Beck has at last imparted the information as to the exact location of "Moses when the light went out." He says: "I vas make me some foolishness, by Gretchen."

Not Likely to Recover.

The news editor prepared an article in which he said: "Mr. Dash is hopelessly ill." Before going to press Mr. Dash died, and a hasty alteration was made in the sentence to meet the new condition of affairs. When Mr. Dash's friends read in their paper that of the combination. The coroners became "Mr. Dash is hopelessly dead," they were naturally shocked.—Boston Transcript.

A Disappointment.

Smith (with effusion)-Hello, Brown, is that you? I heard you were drowned, Brown (with sadness)-No, it was my brother. Smith (thoughtfully)-What a pity.-Wash-

Blood Will Tell.

ington Critic.

Father (to rapid son)-My father never gave me money to spend for fast horses, opera tickets, late dinners and the like, Rapid Son-Oh, yes, but you forgot that I come of a more aristocratic family than you

Great Story from Buffalo. A rich business man of this city who died suddenly lately had not spoken to his wife in twelve years, though she had helped him in his business all along, and she did not speak to him even as he lay on his deathbed. A tough family quarrel that.—Buffalo Express.

Another Schoolboy's Production. "Lafatte sined the desecration of independence" was a Lewiston schoolboy's test paper announced last week.-Lewiston (Me.)

A "Buckwheat" Sure Enough. A name in point is that of Farmer Wheat, of Bucks county, whose oldest son is named Buck.-Philadelphia News.

A Cat and Catfish Battle.

Theophilus Skimper is generally sized up as the most incomplete man in Hoxawottamie, but Theophilus has knocked this town silly with his cat story about the tarn. Skimper hasn't but one shirt, and always goes out to the tarn to wash it.

Skimper has just stretched his old shirt out to dry on the end of a sunny log, when he found he'd been followed all the way from Hoxawottamie by his old gray cat with the nine kittens. The blamed thing monkeyed around his ankles awhile, then carried her kittens one by one to the end of a log hanging over the water, and sat down by 'em and began fishing with her tail. She was having pretty fair luck when she spied a whole school or young eatfish swimming up shoal water. The old catfish was probably somewhere out in deeper water.

Puss made one spring and yanked a little catfish out of the water. Then she ran out to the end of the log and gave it to one of the kittens. No sconer had she turned her back, however, to get another little cntfish before the old catflsh jumped from the deep water to the end of the log and vanked one of the kittens away as slick as wax. When puss came back with the second catfish the kitten which had been cating the first young catfish had disappeared and was feeding the old catfish. This made puss mad, and she chewed the second young catfish up before the eyes of the frantic parent.

Insane with rage, the old catfish jumped to the end of the log, and with a shrill shrick bit a kitten square in two.

This internecine and fraticidal strife con-

tinued until the cat had eaten up all the young catfish and the catfish had eaten up all the young kittens. The old cattish hadn't been able to chew all the kittens, but had just swallowed some whole. The consequences was they began mewing and set the light, and sticking her head out of the water with a broad grin, she gave the mother cat full benefit of the post mortem concert.

The mother cat couldn't stand it, and umped right atop the old catfish's back. "O-o-h-h!" went the catfish, and away she started across the tarn, giving puss a bath -From the Strictly Veracious Hoxawottamie Herald.

A Lime Kiln Club Presentation. "Will Judge Consecutive Smith please step dis way!" asked Brother Gardner as the meet-

ing opened with sixteen kerosene lamps shedding their radiance over the hall. The judge advanced in two-four time, and

the president continued: "Judge Smith, you am about to leave us an' take up your home in a distant state. You will not only carry wid you de bes' wishes of ebery member of dis society, but

obsarve: "While it am fashnabul to eat wid a fork, doan' let a good piece of bacon slip away fur want of usin' yer knife.

some rules an' maxims dat it would be well to

"When you has foun' a butcher who will give you credit, you has foun' an enemy. "It ain't de amount of wages you airn, but it am de number of days you am idle.

"Honest an' industrious men-needn't worry about de number of patent jail locks. "De man who lights two candles to think by

am suah' to want fur light to work by. "De time spent in buildin' air castles would purvide de world with taters at a cent a bushel "Honesty am a good policy, but it am wise

to wait and see what de odder fellow am intendin' to do. "You can't cotch pork in a dice box, nor

pay your taxes wid lottery tickets dat didn't "Now, Brudder Smith, on behalf of de

members of dis club, I shall present you wid dis coffee mill. Its intrinsick walue am not great-only fifty cents-but you will prize de sentiment which acktuated de givers. De ole woman kin use it to grind coffee or pop-corn, an' de children kin play hoss wid it an' hurt nobody's feelin's. It am allus wound up. It am prepar'd fur ebery change of weather. On the planet Jupiter, according to Swed- It nebber needs tunin', an' de bellows nebber gits outer order. Take it, Brudder Smith, an' may luck an' prosperity attend you." The judge attempted to voice his feelings, but it was a failure. His chin quivered, a

lump gathered in his throat, and scalding tears fell into the hopper of the mill.-Detroit Free Press.

Coroners' Combination.

The coroners' combination which has so long ruled a certain section of Arkansaw has, by mutual consent, dissolved. The history of this combination would indeed be a contribution to American literature. Its secret proceedings might not rival the famous cabal of Charles II, of England, but it would shed much effulgence on our "coronial" system.

Several years ago, as many public prints have stated, the coroners from Fort Smith, on the Arkansaw river, to the place where the muddy waters sweep over the buried bricks of Napoleon, formed a grand "coronial" floating combination. This monopoly of solemn officials played a lucrative game. This will serve as an illustration. When the coroner of one of the upper counties found a floater, he would haul out the corpse, hold an inquest, throw the corpse back into the river and send word to the coroner below that a piece of business was coming to meet him. Then the coroner below would hold an inquest, throw the corpse into the river and send word to his colleague farther down the river. In this way the coroners flourished. They built fine residences, and, while the county judges ate cornbread and the fleshy breast of the female hog, the coroners drank hand-made sour-mash and feasted off the white meat of the stall-fed turkey. Abuse of privileges caused the breaking greedy.-Arkansaw Traveler.

Art Notes.

"Does your son affect any particular school of art?" asked the visitor. "No-yes-well, he's painting a Balladonna for the religious art gallery," replied the fond

The visitor left.—Hartford Journal.

AN AUCTIONEER IN AUSTRALIA. Auctioneer-Now gentlemen, what shall I say for this magnificent and authentic Paul Veryoneasy! Come, start it at something. Old gentleman-Don't see the painter's name to it anywhere, mister.

Auctioneer-Of course not. A picture like that doesn't want signing; it stands on its merits. No bid! Pass it in, John. and bring out the next. Now, gentlemen, here is a superb Landseer by the same hand.-Tableau.—Melbourne Punch.

Strikers and Railroads.

Judging from the great number of strikers, it would seem that somebody supposes the iron to be hot.—Philadelphia Ledger. DOWN ON ANYTHING WHICH CAN'T KICK.

"Can you tell me," he asked, as he entered an office on Broad street the other day, "why the railroads should discriminate so heavily against dressed meat over live stock?" "Certainly, sir. Dressed meat is dead, isn't

"Of course." "Well, anything which can't kick is always bulldozed by a railroad company."- Wall Street News.

A STRANGE WORLD.

There's the maid who says she will. And the maid who says she won't, But they both get mad alike,

There's the man who says, "No! Nor" And the man who says, "Well—yest" Do they both imbine alikey Well, I guess!

This old world's a funny place, And it's full of funny folks,

They will keep you in a roar With their jokes, They will say all sorts of things With a countenance screee— But they do not always say

What they mean. So, then, do not be misled. By such hypocrites as these, Hear them out-and then believe What you please! Somerville Journal

LOST FOREVER.

The waves roll back on the desolate shore, The ships return over the sea.

And the child returns to its father's door,

And the cattle wind home from the lea And the light esturns with the day, but the each the candidate spent on his boom

Is gone forever and aye! -Lynn Union.

-Dansville Breeze.

## THE TURKISH QUESTION.

A gobbler stood upon the fence, Whence all but him had fled. His form creet; his tail outspread; And stately was his head. The farmer's wife, she wrestled with, And boye him to the ground. And now he hangs heels overhead, At thirteen conta a pound.

## A Kiss in the Dark.

Some Buffalo girls, at a little party, resently, got up a new order, and wished to initiate the young men into its mysteries. They took possession of the front parlor and closed the folding doors, leaving one of their number on guard. The gentlemen found one youth had disapeared and wondered what had become of him. The lodge being in readinesss for candidates, one of the young men was escorted into the room. He found four blushing maidens standing in a row in a corner of the room, with a chair in front of them. Upon this he was seated and blindfolded, and then told that one of the girls would kiss him. If he could guess her name he would be privileged to repeat the osculation. Of course, he made a miserable failure; but instead of being allowed to retire he was compelled to occupy a seat on the opposite side of the room. Just imagine his feelings when the next victim was led in and had been prepared for the sacrifice, to see the missing beardless youth rise up, ghost like, from behind the girls, imprint a good, sound smack on the uplifted and expectant lips of the candidate, and then dodge back to his place of concealment. One after another the young men were victimized. The fun of it was, though to hear some of them demand more than one trial before the removal of the hoodwinks-one a well known physician, not being content with less than three kisses. He was enthusiastic over their sweetness until the sweet was turned to gall as he saw the boy salute his successor on the throne of mystery. - Buffalo Express.

She Preferred to be a Sister.

She was a high spirited Boston girl, and had taught him to call a gnat Nathaniel, and a clambake a bivalve festival, but she would chew gum.
"Maria," he said, desperately, "I love

you, and all that, but you must stop chewing gum. I detest the habit, and you must decide between the gum and me.' "That is, you won't marry me unless I

give it up? "Exactly." She was reflective for a few momenta.

Then she extended her hand. "Good-by," she said, sadly, "I'll always be a sister to you."—Chicago Ledger.

Decisions.

Dar a'n't no med'cine fo' de man bawn a

Sometimes yo' bettah resk de dog dan run in de dark.

De small man at de proudes' w'en he sees 'is shaddah.

De pusson mos' willin' toe do a job am gin'ly de one yo' doan' want. "Merry C'rismus" am pleasant toe de eah, but de po' willow ruddah hab a scuttle

ob coal.-Judge. Recipe for a European Crisis. Take one Bismarck twinge of neuralgia. Add a bonfire at Sofia. Stir in a prince lying round loose. Sprinkle with a few Moscow rumors.

Serve hot.-Boston Record. Brevities.

Season with a French cubinet resignation.

Eyes yet they see not-Potatoes. Ears yet they hear not-Corn. Mouths yet they speak not-Rivers. Hands yet they feel not-Clocks. Brains yet they think not-Dudes.-Whip.

A widow in weeds is not supposed to be out in the garden.—Rose's Toothpick. "What is a hero?" asks an exchange. A hero is a man who can pass a crowd of boys

engaged in making snowballs without turning his head to make sure that they have no de sign on him.-New Haven News. A Harvard professor has made the calculation that if men were really as big as they sometimes feel there would be room in the United States for only two professors, three

lawyers, two doctors and a reporter on a Philadelphia paper. The rest of us would be crowded into the sea and would have to swim for it.-Detroit Free Press. A burglar who was doing a neat job on a safe was horrified, on looking up, to see a man standing quietly beside him. He was about to retire, when the gentleman said: "Go ahead, I am interested in that job,"

"Why?" asked the astonished burglar. cause I have forgotten the combination, and no living person knew it but myself. If you can get that safe open I'll make it worth your while."—Burlington Free Press.

When a native New Zealander proposes to a damsel of the tribe they rub their noses together. If that were the rule in this country, the heroine of the usual multiplicate engage ments would need to wear a thumbstall on her nose.—San Francisco Alta.

A scientific party states that he has invented a steam tram car that "horses and carriages will take no notice of."-London Judy.

A corner man sentenced to ten years' penal servitude for robbery with violence, lately, wishing to propitiate the prison chaplain, said, "Ah, guv'ner! s'welp me! my mind feels great consolashun when I reflects as I alvays took off my 'at when I broke into a church."-London Judy.

The language of visiting cards is that when you throw out your card if she desires to see you she will order you up.- Whitehall Times. A phrenological paper says: "In choosing a wife be governed by her chin." A man is apt to be governed by the same thing after be gets a wife,-Cedar Rapids Gossip.