The Princess of Thule.

In the New York *Tribune* the following paragraph appeared in regard to one of the most pleasing characters of modern fiction:

Mr. William Black's Princess of Thule is said to be a real person. A tourist in the Hebrides was lately directed to a hotel belonging to the King of Borva, which was kept by his royal daughter. It appears that His Majesty, known in common life as Mr. Hunter, keeps an inn and farm at a place called Gawna-hins, on the west side of the Lewis, where tourists and people in search of a holiday go to spend some weeks at a time to fish. He has also taken a hotel in Stornoway, where he may be seen, the tourist says, "In gray clothes, with an imposing full-moon face, well-combed, grizzled beard, pompous, dignified and commonplace, his principal characteristics, or, rather, qualities, for characteristic is too angular a word to be applied to him, being, as far as I could judge, utter insignificance and boundless sense of his own importance. Mairie is just Mairie (her real name is Annie) and makes an awful chatter as she sits at the table. Her English carries her as far as 'yes' and 'no.' She looks mortally insulted if any one addresses a long sentence to her in English.

"As for the Princess Sheila herself, she flitted around on the evening of our arrival, evidently the presiding genius of everything, taking care that we had no opportunity of staring at her. She is very ladylike, more like an ordinary English girl than anything more poetical; not pretty, but sweet, refined and thoughtful. It was disappointing to see a miserable Holland dress with shabby frills. Everything was well arranged; carpets, crockery, wall-paper, &c., were chosen with a taste totally different from what one sees in country or even town hotels. I have since heard that we were fortunate to have had a glimpse of her at all, as but few have an opportunity of seeing the heroine of Mr. Black's story. Thousands of visitors have been attracted to the island of Lewis from reading the novel, and it is said the King is taking advantage of his fame and fast making his fortune by keeping an inn." Since this was written the Princess Sheila has married, and the many admirers of the heroine among the wealthy and fashionable people of London presented her with elegant gifts.

The story is very interesting in itself, but taken in connection with the following letter from Mr. Black to the same paper of later date, there is an added interest. Mr. Black says:

"It gives me great pleasure to find in a paragraph in your paper of this morning some finally definite particulars about the original of the character of 'Sheila' in 'A Princess of Thule.' It is true that I have on several occasions been introduced, when in the Highlands, to young ladies who, as I afterward learned, were regarded by their friends as having suggested the character in question; but there always seemed to me to be some little difficulty about that, as I had not previously had the honor of the young ladies' acquaintance. There is less difficulty about this Princess of Thule, who, as I see, has now been discovered and described by an amiable and ingenuous tourist; for I remember having at least seen and spoken to, before writing the book, the innkeeper, and the innkeeper's two daughters who have thus been satisfactorily identified. To the best of my recollection, the innkeeper was a most worthy person—I regret that the tourist found him rather commonplace—who kept excellent wine; and his daughters displayed a skill and diligence in serving us with boiled salmon and potatoes which demanded and received our sincerest gratitude. That one of those homely but agreeable young people—the tourist does not explicitly say which—was afterward to be represented in a book as a woman capable of producing some brief impression on London society by reason of her unusual beauty and dignity of manner, was an idea that certainly did not occur at the moment either to myself or to my companions; but as we live we learn, and I now accept the information with much meekness. In fact, I suppose everybody who scribbles a bit of fiction has discovered how singularly keen and prompt is the discernment of his friends in ferreting out the unmistakable originals of all his characters. In the present case I am heartily delighted to see that the discovery has been made to some profit. If it is a pity to find that the so-called 'King of Borva' is after all only an innkeeper, and indeed rather a commonplace innkeeper, still it is comforting to know that he is making money; and as for the marriage presents sent by enthusiastic persons in London to his daughter, I hope the young lady wore them on her wedding day with becoming grace and modesty. One parting word, if you will allow me, to my friend the tourist. He ought not to use harsh language about any innkeeper, however taciturn or commonplace he may find him. A landlord may be pardoned for being occasionally reticent—as, for example, when he happens to encounter a guest who is over-inquisitive, and perhaps also a trifle foolish."

Railroad Building.—According to the true reports of the railroad interests of the country it appears that there has been a decided revival of railroad building during the year now closing. Some two thousand miles of new railroads have been constructed so far, which is almost double the amount reported for the same time in 1875. The Railway Age concludes from this encouraging showing that the panic has fully spent its force, and that railway building has already been resumed with new vigor and confidence. If so much new road can be constructed in ten months, while business is languishing, or at least uncertain and hesitating, what is fairly to be inferred for the coming year, after all our present doubts and apprehensions shall have been peacefully removed? It is a cheerful side of the times, and we present it as such with gladness ourselves.

Russia and Privateering.—There is a story current that Russia has asked permission to send her navy to American waters, in which it would be safe in case of a war with England over Turkey. There is also another rumor afloat to the effect that American ship owners will ask Russia for letters of marque and reprisal, with which to fit out privateers to prey upon British commerce in the event of such a war. But by such a step Russia would entirely repudiate the Treaty of Paris of 1856, to which she was a party. That would absolve England and all the other signing powers from their obligations, and lay Russia open to most serious incursions from all sides. It is extremely doubtful if she would take a step like that at this time. She will have enough to attend to without shouldering needless jobs.

Is it proper to call a retired blacksmith an ex-pounder.

From Bombay to London.

Dr. Waters, of the Bombay army, says the Manchester (England) *Examiner*, has done a bold and adventurous deed which entitles him to rank as a celebrated rider, only second to Mr. McGahan and Capt. Burnaby, the heroes of two equally remarkable journeys to Khiva. Dr. Waters, while stationed at Bushire, obtained three months' leave, and he resolved to use it in the usual manner by visiting England, but he determined to vary the monotonous record of other travelers homeward by going overland all the way across Persia, Russia and the Continent, until he reached the shore opposite our "tight little island." He rode first of all through Persia to the borders of the Caspian—a distance of nearly 1,000 miles—in fourteen days, thus making an average rate of progress amounting to seventy miles a day. The work was made one of enormous difficulty by the wretched state of the roads, which were so bad in some places that only twenty-six miles a day could be accomplished; but as an example of his method of making up for lost time, it may be mentioned that on one day, as he drew near the Caspian, he covered 120 miles, and followed that upon the next day by a journey of 100 miles. Once on the Caspian his progress was made easier. He took boat to Baku, thence to Astrakhan, and from there to Czaritzen on the Volga, where he took train to Warsaw, and afterwards went to Berlin, to Calais and London. After a short sojourn in this country, he started back on a journey no less adventurous. He went first to Alexandria, from there to Beyrout, and on to Damascus, from which point he struck out, still riding, on a route which had only been attempted by two Europeans before him, *i. e.*, straight across the great Syrian Desert to Bagdad, after which his return to Bushire was comparatively easy. To have completed this extraordinary journey within three months from which a month spent in England has been deducted, required a combination of qualities of a very high order. The man needed to be a good rider, to have great powers of endurance and a large stock of courage; and all these, it is evident, Dr. Waters possesses. It is interesting to find that though the gallant traveler carried a flask of brandy, he made limited use of the stimulant, for he only says he used half a small flaskful in a ride of nine hundred miles. One of the most astonishing circumstances about the feat is the smallness of the cost of the westward journey. Dr. Waters had a horse to start with, but he was obliged to hire a good deal in Persia. This item of expense amounted, at a rate of about seven-pence a mile for two horses, to 680 Persian krans, or a little under £27. From Ensoli-on-the-Caspian to Czaritzen, first-class by steamer was 55 roubles, and the fare from there by rail through Warsaw to Berlin, 70 roubles, or, altogether, £16 3s. 4d. From Berlin to London cost £8; so that the whole outlay from Bushire to England, including, Dr. Waters says, a liberal margin for incidental expenses, did not exceed £50. The cost of traveling between the same points by the sea is given at £106—that is, £26 from Bushire to Bombay, and £80 from Bombay to England *via* Brindisi. The route of Dr. Waters has, therefore, an economical advantage; but that, he says, is nothing compared with the charming novelty, the varying beauty, and the historical interest of the journey across Persia and thence by the Caspian to the banks of the Volga.

Origin of the "Jersey Blues."

In November, 1776, Washington, with thirty-five hundred soldiers, entered Newark on his retreat through New Jersey, and remained encamped for six days. On the morning of November 28, Washington marched out of Newark in a south-westerly direction, and Lord Cornwallis and his army marched pompously in from New York. The British officers quartered themselves in the best houses, and demanded the best furniture to make their rooms comfortable. When they moved on, they took the furniture along with their luggage. A British garrison was left in Newark until after the battle of Trenton. Both officers and soldiers committed so many outrageous acts that a volunteer company was secretly formed to punish them whenever an opportunity should occur. These volunteers were furnished by the Newark women with tow frocks and pantaloons *dyed blue*—which was the origin of the name "Jersey Blues"—and were commanded by Capt. Littell, who distinguished himself by many daring exploits.

On the day which the British garrison abandoned Newark and marched to Elizabeth, it was noted that a detachment was sent toward Connecticut Farms, purpose not known. Captain Littell and his Blues speedily followed them. Coming suddenly upon the unsuspecting enemy, Littell ambushed a few men in the rear, and appeared in front with the rest of his force, and demanded an instant surrender. They turned to escape, and, finding themselves thwarted, laid down their arms without firing a gun. The British general was exasperated by their capture, and ordered out a body of Hessians to avenge the affront; but Littell goaded them by spirited attacks, without special exposure to his own men, until he had them driven into a wretched swamp, where he compelled them to surrender to greatly inferior numbers. Mortified beyond measure at this second discomfiture, a troop of horses was sent to annihilate the "rebel devils;" but they in turn were routed, and sought safety in flight. A Tory was finally persuaded, through the offer of a large reward, to lead three hundred troops to Littell's house in the night for the purpose of catching him off his guard. As they were preparing to storm the dwelling, they were attacked in the rear so sharply as to be driven precipitately away. While collecting their scattered forces in the road below, Littell, who had formed an ambuscade along a fence line, fired upon them, and the commander fell. In the confusion and darkness they were unable to form any estimate of the number of their assailants, and fled like their predecessors.—***Martha J. Lamb, in Harper's Magazine.***

A German enlisted in the regular army; in the course of a few days he was put on picket duty. His instructions were, when anybody approached, to say, "Who comes there?" three times and then shoot. Before long he perceived a man approaching; he waited quietly till the man came very near, then he suddenly brought his musket to his shoulder and shouted, "Who comes dere dree times?" Bang!

We do not choose our own parts in life, and have nothing to do with those parts. Our simple duty is confined to playing them well.

The Explorations in the Ancient Capitol of Agamemnon.

I find continually the most ancient painted pottery and the very rudest and most primitive terra-cotta idols of Juno in female and cow form. Of course, it is perfectly certain that the rubbish which covers the entrance has been brought there from other places, but as it contains only fragments of the most ancient painted terra-cottas, the filling up of the entrance must have already been affected at a remote antiquity, and the age of the treasure itself probably exceeds by more than three centuries that which I attributed to it in my last report (1250 B. C.). Of the idols found in the treasury, the most ancient Juno idols, in the shape of a woman, are very rudely made, without painted ornaments, and have either an oblong or round head, with or without a diadem, and large eyes; some are with, others without breasts; the hands are either protruding or folded on the breast. No doubt to the same epoch belong the female idols with a very compressed bare head, large eyes, protruding hands and no breasts, or with two breasts, below which a horn protrudes on each side, so that both horns together form a half circle; further, the male idol in Asiatic style, with a bare head ornamented with an incised diadem, showing in front a star, a long, aquiline nose, large eyes and a long protruding Assyrian beard; further, the most archaic cow idols with painted red or black ornaments. Lastly, I have to mention the less frequent female idol with a perfectly modeled cow-head; but this type is only found on handles of vases, and the body of the woman is never complete; it never reaches further down than the breast, and frequently finishes with the neck, on which the necklace is never forgotten. Except a button, with a gold blade, no objects of gold or silver have been found yet, but that these metals have been in extensive use can not be doubted; a porphyry formstone which I found shows on both sides together fifteen different types of ear-rings and other ornaments, all of which must have been of gold or silver. Of bronze objects a treasure was discovered at a depth of fifteen feet; it consists of five knives, two small wheels, two lances, two two-edged hatchets, hairpins, two vases and remnants of four others and of a tripod. There was also found a considerable number of perforated agates, with engravings of animals, which are very archaic, but show in several instances an advanced art; all these agates are evidently derived from necklaces. There is no end to the variety of archaic vase painting; in fact, there are almost as many varieties as there are vases. The most interesting to me are always those which have outside and inside painted ornaments, and, wonderful to say, these are in the majority. In writing this I see before me a vase showing on its outside the common representation of fish spines an the inside of fish. Of pure white glass I sometimes find small white balls, but more frequently small perforated objects of a black glassy substance in the form of buttons, which seem to have served as wall ornaments, and small cones ornamented all over with an impressed screw line.

Of real inscriptions I have hitherto found only two or three; one of them was on both sides of a Juno idol in form of a woman, another inscription was on a mutilated cow idol, and a third is on a disk. Of them all I have sent most careful copies to my esteemed friend, Professor Max Muller, who considers them too indistinct and fragmentary to warrant any expression of opinion for the present, but who hopes that the shape of the letters in a short Greek inscription may serve to fix the date of some of the buildings.—*Dr. Schliemann, in London Times.*

Influence of War on Primitive Marriage.

In a tribe not habitually at war, or not habitually successful in war, no decided effect is likely to be produced on the marriage customs. If the great majority of the men have native wives, the presence of a few whose superiority is shown by having foreign wives will fail to change the practice of taking native wives; the majority will keep one another in countenance. But if the tribe, becoming more successful in war, robs adjacent tribes of their women more frequently, there will grow up the idea that the now considerable class having foreign wives form the honorable class, and that those who have not proved their bravery by bringing back these living trophies are dishonorable: non-possession of a foreign wife will come to be regarded as a proof of cowardice. An increasing ambition to get foreign wives will therefore arise; and as the number of those who are without them decreases, the brand of disgrace attaching to them will grow more decided; until, in the most warlike tribes, it becomes an imperative requirement that a wife shall be obtained from another tribe—if not in open war, then by private abduction.

A few facts, showing that by savages proofs of courage are often required as qualifications for marriage, will carry home this conclusion. Herndon tells us that among the Mahués a man cannot take a wife until he has submitted to severe torture. Bates, speaking of the Passés on the Upper Amazons, says that formerly "the young men earned their brides by valiant deeds in war." Before he is allowed to marry, a young Dyak must prove his bravery by bringing back the head of an enemy. Bancroft quotes Colonel Cremony as saying that when the Apache warriors return unsuccessful, "the women turn away from them with assured indifference and contempt. They are upbraided as cowards, or for want of skill and tact, and are told that such men should not have wives." That, among other results of sentiments thus exemplified, abduction of women will be one, is obvious; for a man who, denied a wife till he has proved his courage, steals one, satisfies his want and achieves reputation at the same time. If, as we see, the test of deserving a wife is in some cases obtainment of a trophy, what more natural than that the trophy should often be the stolen wife herself. What more natural than that where many warriors of the tribe are distinguished by stolen wives, the stealing of a wife should become the required proof of fitness to have one? Hence would follow a peremptory law of exogamy.—*Herbert Spencer, in Popular Science Monthly.*

Bishop Bowman saw an earnest, queer-looking brother following him around for some time, and he avoided him; but finally, weary of the shadow, the Bishop turned around, and said, "What do you want, my friend?" The man said, "I must ask a question. I have sought light on it from many preachers and commentaries, but have found no satisfaction. I must ask you, What was the color of those serpents that bit the Israelites?"

The Frosted Zinc Corinthian Monuments.

Cast from Pure Zinc—Their Indestructibility and Unchanging Color Demonstrated—The Facts in the Case.

To those who have given the nature of Zinc a study, they do not need to be told that it is almost indestructible from the elements, and *does not and cannot change color* by *exposure.* Both *Science* and *Facts* demonstrate that as soon as the film of oxide forms, (no matter by what process), it is the END OF ALL CHANGE. The film of oxide is like a Coat of Paint which the Elements themselves form and can go no deeper than the air penetrates, and as soon as the film is formed, air can penetrate *no deeper.* Science proves that this film can never be dissolved by water, or by air, and hence it is protected for *ages and ages.* No person of intelligence *pretends* to dispute the well known fact (it being a matter of History) that Bronze has stood constant exposure over *Four Thousand Years* and still perfect. Zinc is known by all Scientists and Practical men, to be of the *same nature* as Bronze. Its equal in respect to *fineness* and *impenetrability* from the elements, and hence what is true of *one* is *true of the other.* If Bronze (which is Zinc and Copper) has stood over 4,000 years' constant exposure, Zinc will *do the same.* The color of Bronze after oxidization takes place is always a dark brown, but it will *always remain that color,* while Zinc is a *light gray,* closely resembling (after the Frosted Finish is applied) a *light and sparkling gray Granite,* and is *equally unchanging* in *color as Bronze* or Granite. As Pure Gold is always yellow, so Pure Zinc is always gray,—what is true in the nature of one is true in the nature of the other. Pure zinc oxidized is *always gray*—it *can form no other color*—hence UNCHANGING.

On the other hand, take stone of any kind. It has nothing to protect its surface, and is constantly disintegrating and crumbling to ruin. True, the granites will hold their color, yet will in time become moss grown. But of all the varieties of stone used for Monumental purposes, none is so poorly adapted and so *nearly* worthless as marble. It is Soft and Porous by nature, absorbs the green from trees and easily disintegrates. The *lime,* which is one of its chief elements, soon begins to turn dark and dingy by exposure, and its beauty is soon gone. Within five years usually, Lichen or Rock Moss commences to grow on its surface, and often in twenty years obliterates the inscriptions, while its liability to be cracked and broken by the action of the frost, is apparent in nearly every cemetery in the country. Many resort to cleaning their marble monuments with an acid, but this only makes a bad matter worse. There is but one remedy that we know of—DISCARD THEM ENTIRELY. There is no excuse to put them up, now that you can get a material at about the same price that is free from all of the above objections, and which can *never become moss grown, or absorb the green from trees.* Our most intelligent citizens are fast discarding marble, and many are taking up old and ruined marble and replacing them with the Frosted Zinc. We believe every intelligent mind, capable of reasoning, can not fail to see and appreciate the great advantages these monuments have over marble, namely: BEAUTY, DURABILITY AND UNCHANGING COLOR, and in addition, the back of Monuments equally as ornamental as the front, and all *raised* work or *block letters* for inscriptions, in place of sunk work, *without additional expense.* We suggest to such of our readers as are interested in Monuments or Statuary, to call on Messrs. Gray & Winslow, 103 Stockton street, San Francisco. Send to them for circulars and price lists.

The Old and the New Way of Making Pianos.

Reader, do you know why the Piano as heretofore constructed has been such a troublesome instrument, always out of tune, almost as sensitive to atmospheric changes as a barometer, and often breaking down completely after a few years service? We will tell you. There was one difficulty that no piano manufacturer could obviate. The strings are always fastened at one end to tuning pins, which are turned one way or the other to tighten or loosen the strings during the process of tuning. It is an absolute necessity that these tuning pins should work in wood, because, if they were set in unyielding metal, it would be impossible to turn them on account of the strong tension of the strings. Now, all wood, and especially all seasoned wood, swells and contracts as the air is damp or dry. How could it be expected that perfect reliance could be put upon a block of wood perforated with numerous holes for holding the pins, and subjected to a strain of many tons from the combined pull of the strings? Now for the remedy. In the new invention, called the Rogers Piano, the strings are tuned, not by turning the pins, but by drawing up *both strings and pins,* the latter standing fast in a metal slide which is worked by a set screw. Thus, the wooden pin-block is dispensed with entirely, and we have a Piano in which all the strain is sustained by solid iron, and upon which no extremes of climate or weather can have the slightest effect. If you are interested to know more of this valuable invention, send to Blackmar & Davis, San Francisco, for a circular of the Rogers Piano.

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LOVELL WHITE, Cashier.

DIVIDEND NOTICES.

DIVIDEND NOTICE, NO. 4.—COLLATERAL Loan and Savings Bank, corner Post and Kearny sts.—The regular monthly dividend of 2 per cent. for December is declared payable January 5th, to stockholders of record December 27th.

F. S. CARTER, Sec'y.

DIVIDEND NOTICE, NO. 5.—COLLATERAL Loan and Savings Bank, corner Post and Kearny sts.—An extra dividend of 5 per cent. for the six months ending December 31st has been declared payable January 5th, to stockholders of record December 27th. F. S. CARTER, Sec'y.

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SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.
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When SCRIBNER issued its famous Midsummer Holiday Number in July, a friendly critic said of it: "*We are not sure but that* SCRIBNER *has touched high-water mark. We do not see what worlds are left to it to conquer.*" But the publishers do not consider that they have reached the *ultima thule* of excellence—they believe "there are other worlds to conquer, and they propose to conquer them."

The prospectus for the new volume gives the titles of more than fifty papers (mostly illustrated), by writers of the highest merit. Under the head of

"FOREIGN TRAVEL,"

we have "A Winter on the Nile," by Gen. McCLELLAN; "Saunterings About Constantinople," by CHAS. DUDLEY WARNER; "Out of My Window at Moscow," by EUGENE SCHUYLER; "An American in Turkistan," etc. Three serial stories are announced:

"NICHOLAS MINTURN,"
By Dr. HOLLAND, the Editor,

whose story of "Sevenoaks" gave the highest satisfaction to the readers of the Monthly.

The scene of this latest novel is laid on the banks of the Hudson. The hero is a young man who has been always "*tied to a woman's apron strings*," but who, by the death of his mother, is left alone in the world—to drift on the current of life—with a fortune, but without a purpose.

Another serial, "His Inheritance," by Miss TRAFTON, will begin on the completion of "That Lass o' Lowrie's," by Mrs. HODGSON BURNETT. Mrs. Burnett's story, begun in August, has a pathos and dramatic power which have been a surprise to the public.

There is to be a series of original and exquisitely illustrated papers of "Popular Science," by Mrs. HERRICK, each paper complete in itself.

There are to be, from various pens, papers on

"HOME LIFE AND TRAVEL."

Also, practical suggestions as to town and country life, village improvements, etc., by well-known specialists.

Mr. BARNARD's articles on various industries of Great Britain, include the history of "Some Experiments in Co-operation," "A Scottish Loaf Factory," in the November number, and "Toad Lane Rochdale," in December. Other papers are, "The British Workingman's Home," "A Nation of Shopkeepers," "Ha'penny a Week for the Child," etc.

A richly illustrated series will be given on "American Sports by Flood and Field," by various writers, and each on a different theme. The subject of

"Household and Home Decoration"

will have a prominent place, whilst the latest productions of American humorists will appear from month to month. The list of shorter stories, biographical and other sketches, etc., is a long one.

The editorial department will continue to employ the ablest pens both at home and abroad. There will be a series of letters on literary matters, from London, by Mr. WELFORD.

The pages of the magazine will be open, as heretofore, so far as limited space will permit, to the discussion of all themes affecting the social and religious life of the world, and specially to the freshest thought of the Christian thinkers and scholars of this country.

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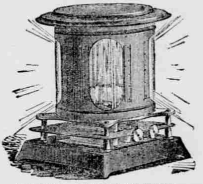

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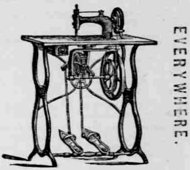

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Extract from a letter from G. H. Simmonds, Unionville, Ia., July 24, 1873.—"I am selling more Gargling Oil than all the liniments put together, and I am keeping twelve different kinds. I think it is the best remedy for horseflesh in existence, and can say it without fear of successful contradiction."

Extract from a letter from Shoemaker & Co., Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 17th, 1873.—"It is the popular horse liniment in this country."

Extract from a letter from Geo. A. Snell, Braman's Corners, N. Y., Aug. 9th, 1873.—"I sell more of your Gargling Oil than of all other liniments combined, and have seen it used on horses and cattle with good effect when others have failed."

Extract from a letter from Pattee & Co., Derry, N. H., Aug. 26th, 1873.—"We think your Gargling Oil one of the best articles for what it is recommended that we have ever used or sold."

Extract from a letter from Snowdon & Gibbs, Concordia, Kan., July 28th, 1873.—"We sell more of your Gargling Oil than of any liniment we keep."

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We are now, and have been for some years, preparing the Oil free from stain, to be used as a common liniment for human flesh, extracting the coloring ingredient which has heretofore rendered it objectionable. This Oil possesses all the medicinal properties of that prepared with the dark tinge for horses and cattle, and will be found one of the best remedies for all purposes where a liniment is required that has ever been manufactured.

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