WIT AND HUMOR.

BEST thing out—A conflagration.

IN the picture gallery.—Young girl—Say, mamma, when shall we come to another of those pictures where I must shut my eyes?

DOCTOR—"Now tell me, colonel, how do you feel when you've killed a man?" Colonel—"Oh, very well, thank you, doctor—how do you?"

WE have received an exchange called the *Christian at Work*. Ah, ah! Gone back at the old prices, we presume.—[Burlington Hawkeye.

A SWELL who stuttered horribly paid court to a very pretty actress. "Ah! sir," said she, "life is too short. I haven't time to listen to you."

AN Iowa youth tried to take home a widow and three swarms of bees at one load. He and the widow walked—it was so pleasant, you know.

WHEN a man fools with stocks, he generally gets his foot in it. In the old times they had stocks that people sometimes got both feet into.

"YOU'RE a smart fellow," sneered a lawyer to a witness, the other day. "I'd return the compliment if I wasn't under oath," replied the witness.

THE first step toward wealth used to be considered the choice of a good wife; but now-a-days wealth is the first step toward the choice of a wife.

A NEWARK belle, who told her dearest friend that she was going to fly like a bird to the mountains, took seventeen trunks with her when she went.

THERE are three banks in the United States having ladies as tellers, and it is wonderful how quick they change a fifty-dollar bill for a good-looking man.

FIRST New Yorker—"I consider him a man of first-class business talent." Second New Yorker—"Ah, indeed! What was the amount of his defalcation?"

A SCIENTIFIC authority states that "a single female house fly will produce in one season 20,080,320 eggs." Great guns! What must the married ones do.—Ex.

SIGN at a tavern near the cemetery of St. Ouen: "The Mourner's Return!—Choice wines and liquors. Private rooms for guests who wish to weep in private."

AN envious paragrapher remarks: "It has been observed that the lady with the diamond ring will scratch her nose, in a given period, four times as often as any other woman."

IT was a Vassar girl who, when a sailor of forty years' voyaging had been pointed out to her as an "old salt," subsequently alluded to him as "an ancient chloride of sodium."

IT is said that the Nez Perces took their style of ringing the nose from seeing the hook so often in a salmon's nose. We thought they usually speared salmon and hooked horses.—[Ex.

"WELL, my love, what do you think of the gentleman who rooms next to you?" "Oh, he's an idiot. But then he isn't a bit egotistical—not a bit proud. When he's alone he speaks to himself."

IRISH boatman (to timid Teuton)—"Och, never mind what they've been telling ye about the boat. She does capsize aisy, it's true, but that's nothing; she rights herself again in a jiffy."

"IN the sentence, 'John strikes William,'" remarked a school teacher yesterday, "What is the object of strikes?" "Higher wages and shorter runs," promptly replied the intelligent pupil.

THEY were at a picnic. On the ground was a small stand for the sale of watch charms. "Oh, George," she said, "buy me a charm." "Sarah," said he, "you have too many already."—[Lowell Cour.

THE minister was talking of purity of heart, and the boy was dreaming of fruit-cake. So when the good man said, "What more can we have?" the boy replied, "You've had two pieces already."

"ARE you a professional or an amateur?" asked a lady of a young journalist at Long Branch. "Both, madame," he replied. "I am a journalist by profession, and I amateur service as well."

THOMPSON is not going to do anything more in conundrums. He recently asked his wife the difference between his head and a hogshead, and she said there was none. He says that is not the right answer.

WHEN a young woman makes up her mind that a hen shall not set, and the hen makes up her mind that she will, the irresistible meets the immovable, and every law of nature is broken or perverted.

"INCREASE your receipts and decrease your expenditures," is the valuable information sent to the fools who forward twenty-five cents to a New Yorker in answer to the advertisement "How to become rich."

THERE is a hint of outspoken pathos, a hint of patient suffering and resignation in this birth notice from the Marysville "Appeal:" "In this city, August 9th, to the wife of William Lea, a son. Not twins this time."

A BASHFUL young man applied to his village paper for information on the important subject, "How to win a woman's love." The reply was: "Kiss the babies, caress the tomcat, and pay strict attention to the old lady."

THE United States army is being rapidly put upon a war footing. Two more soldiers have reported for duty, and a man in the hospital with a sore leg will be ready for business in less than a fortnight.—[Bridgeport Standard.

"WHY," asked a teacher in the Baptist Sunday-school, "did Solomon tell the sluggard to go to the ant?" "Because," said a thirteen-year-old boy, "he knew his aunt would have him out at the wood-pile or in the onion-bed every afternoon as soon as school was out."

A MAN much addicted to drinking being extremely ill with a fever, a consultation was held in his bedchamber by three physicians how to "cure the fever and abate the thirst." "Gentlemen," said he, "I will take half the trouble off your hands. You cure the fever, and I'll abate the thirst myself."

THE other day, as an undertaker was walking along, accompanied by his son, he took off his hat and made a low bow to a man whom they saw across the street. "Father, why do you take off your hat to such an old codger?" inquired the son. "My son, that man has ten children, some of whom will die before the summer's out, and he pays cash down for everything," was the reply.

AN Ohio political stumper, while making a high-flown speech recently, paused in the midst of it and exclaimed: "Now, gentlemen, what do you think?" Instantly a man in the assembly rose, and, with one eye partly closed, said, with a Scotch brogue: "Mr. Speaker, I think, sir—I dae, indeed, sir—I think that, if you and I were to stump the country together, we could tell mair lies than ony ither twa men in the country, sir; and I'd no say a word mysel' a' the time, sir."

Growing Plump.

CERTAIN INDICATIONS THAT THE TYPICAL AMERICAN WOMAN IS TAKING ON FLESH.

Europeans generally concede that our American women are handsome, though they say they are so fragile that they early lose their freshness, and with it much of their beauty. They particularly remark the tendency of our women to grow thin with years, while we remark the tendency of their women to the accumulation of flesh as soon as they have passed their youth, and often even before that period. While we must allow that our women are, for the most part, lacking in roundness, there are few of us, we imagine, who would not infinitely prefer the New World slenderness to the Old World stoutness. A medium between the two might be the standard of the becoming, and this medium we seem to be approaching, slowly perhaps, but steadily. The opinion of the thinness of the feminine part of the nation is pased rather on what has been than on what is. The majority of our women are still too thin for beauty, but they are less lean than they were twenty-five or even fifteen years ago.

This fact—for fact it unquestionably is—can scarcely have escaped observation. It is noticeable everywhere, particularly in large towns and cities, and is due to different causes, all of which are easily recognized. The fleshiness of a people depends largely on the age and development of their country. Where everything is new, and, in a certain sense, raw, as is this land, their is very little leisure or repose. Our entire energies are directed to our advancement; our minds are absorbed by thought of the future and what it promises. We hardly take time to get flesh; we think and fret off that which we have acquired, instead of acquiring more. Our women do not perform so much physical labor as our men, but they work longer in their way, and worry more; and anxiety or any other form of mental disturbance insures meagerness as nothing else does. These live too much through the mind to live quite comfortable through the body, and the body suffers in consequence. In the Old World everything is fixed. The future is not likely to be different from the present; there is small occasion for wistfulness or solicitude. Material conditions are not usually so favorable as here, but they are permanent, and by their permanence, especially by the clear understanding that they are so, they beget content, whence adipose matter. American women neither work nor worry as they used. The republic is more developed, things are more settled, somewhat of the European feeling is creeping into the national mind, and less thinness is the result.

American women take vastly better care of themselves than formerly. They have more acquaintance with hygienic laws, and hold them in far higher esteem. The days when they exposed themselves to dampness and wintry cold in thin slippers and silk stockings; when they abstained from their flannels next the skin; when they pinched their waists to semi-suffocation; when they sacrificed comfort and health to what they conceived to be their appearances—those foolish and unhappy days are gone forever, have barely been known to the raising generation. Our women now have no mawkish, morbid notions as to themselves; they no longer think that to be unhealthy is to be attactive; that individualism and interestingness are synonymous; that pale faces and compressed lungs are tokens of beauty. They dress seasonably; they wear thick boots and warm clothes in bad and cold weather; they allow themselves to improved, not injured, by the wholesome change. There are exceptions, many of them, doubtlesss, but the rule is as we have described, and the exceptions are constantly diminished. It may be safely said that sensible women are becoming, if they have not become, converts to nature, and that they heed her behests, recognizing the great principle that what is not natural cannot be beautiful.

Little more than a quarter of a century ago young American women were ashamed to show a hearty appetite in public. They were affected with the Byronic philosophy; wanted to be spiritual—as if all true spirituality did not rest on sound physical conditions—and to look elegantly wretched. Many of them had half their wish; they looked wretched, but not elegant. They were charged with drinking vinegar, eating slate-pencils, and committing other monstrous absurdities. They may have been unjustly accused, but their theories warrant the accusation. All such nonsense belongs to the past. American women to-day eat as much as they want, and more wholesome food than they once ate; they walk more, court the open air, cultivate their bodies as well as their minds, believe in perfect digestion, unbroken sleep, the glow and glory of unblemished health. No wonder their proportions are fuller, their cheeks more blooming, their eyes brighter, their steps more elastic. The growth of the country and their common sense are serving them generously.

The scrawny, sallow, peaked woman, if she be educated and fairly placed, will ere long cease to be the type of the middle-aged American woman. With the steady growth of the republic, the increased ease of circumstances, and their complete health, American women will be comelier and rounder than they have been. External and internal conditions assure this. They are not likely to become gross, as so many of their European sisters are; the character of the country, its institutions and its atmosphere, with their own temperament, will preserve them from that.

PHYSIOLOGY protests against the strained and artificial attitude which the horse is compelled to assume, and which must certainly lessen his power of drawing weights. Humanity and common-sense protest against the infliction of this constant gagging strain upon the sensitive mouth of an animal whose mouth is used by the driver as the principal means of guiding and directing him. Nor can any one who has any real knowledge of or pleasure in the study of animal forms feel otherwise than gratified at the free and unconstrained attitude of a horse driven without bearing-reins. No good coachman uses bearing-reins for a horse from which he desires to get the full amount of work, or which he desires to leave at ease. Their employment is, indeed, mearly a senseless fashion which has absolutely nothing to recommend it; and in favor of abolition there are reasons so many and decided that we hope that not many years will pass before they are not only disused but forgotten. —*British Medical Journal.*

Better to have loved a short girl than never to have loved a tall.

Bismarck at Home.

A century ago, when Berlin was surrounded by walls which continued to exist until about 1860, the upper portion of the Wilhemstrasse was the quarter of the town chiefly afflicted by administers and diplomatists. Bismarck's residence, laying exactly half-way between the Leipziger and Wilhelmstrasse, is a one-storied building, devoid of every external ornament. The frontage is extensive, and embraces about twelve windows. The entrance to the house is on the right-hand side. After having crossed through the large portico, one arrives at a staircase, symbolically guarded by two sphinxes' heads. On the ground-floor are official bureaus, and up-stairs the private rooms of the Chancellor. These apartments, furnished at the beginning of the century, consisting of a large dancing-room over the gateway and four large drawing-rooms, reserved for the reception of guests and other social purposes, look out upon the street. The large lofty library or study of the Chancellor is situated at the back, and commands a view of the magnificent garden. Since Bismarck left intercourse with foreign diplomatists to Baron Bulow, the Secretary of the State, he seldom appears within the Chambers really constituting the Foreign Office. Private telegraph wires keep him informed of the course of affairs, and he issues his instructions accordingly. Formerly the hours chiefly devoted by Bismarck to work were in the night. Latterly, however, an increase of his neuralgic pains has warned him not to turn night into day. Imperatively admonished by his doctors, he no longer indulges in heavy drinks—notably, porter mixed with champagne, which used to be his favorite beverages. At his meals only the lightest and most digestable dishes make their appearance. He himself draws up every morning with his *chef de cuisine* the *menu* for the day; and even if ambassadors are waiting in the anti-chamber, the cook is received without delay. At table he notes down such critical expressions on the dishes as "*trop cuit*," "*pas tendre*," for instruction or reproof of his cook. His kitchen is overwhelmed by his admires with special delicacies of the season, and productions in which various provinces excel, such as Westphalian ham, Zauer or Frankfort sausages, Strasburg *pates*. A lively and entertaining host, he possesses the gift, rare in Germans, of *causerie*; and whilst in Parliament on public occasions his speeches are delivered with manifest effort, he is in private an easy and unconstrained conversationalist.

Bismarck leaves Berlin for a spar on his favorite country seat, Varzin, which he purchased after the war of 1866. In the capital he is rarely met beyond the precincts of the Foreign Office gardens. His constant companion in his walks is Sultan, a splendid Danish mastiff, presented to him by a friend in South Germany. His growing corpulence—not, however, disproportionate to his height—has compelled him to give up riding. His personal presence is almost too well known to need description. Small feet and hands, bald head, lofty brow, small gray eyes in deep sockets, almost hidden by bushy eyebrows and martial moustache, now really white, which covers his month, are the features chiefly noticeable in the man. He usually wears uniform—for the most part that of the 7th Cuirassiers—which consists either of a white coat, with a cuirass and a large helmet, or a blue undress coat, with a yellow collar. He only appears at Court on state occasions, alleging, as excuse for his absence, that standing fatigues him. The more correct explanation is that among the leading personages in the encourage of his Majesty are several of his bitterest personal and political foes. More than once he has almost come to blows with some of his fellow-courtiers in the imperial antechamber, and an altercation three years ago with Count Nesselrode, the Lord High Chamberlin of the Empress, a stanch Catholic, was followed by mutual challenges to a duel, which the interference of the Emperor alone prevented.—*London World.*

A wood teamster yesterday had some business to transact with the occupant of a room in the top story of a block on Griswold street, and as he reached the landing of the last flight of stairs his heel caught and down he rolled, bumping from stair to stair, and unable to catch hold of anything. A lawyer leaned over the stairs as he heard the noise, and shouted:

"You'll strike bottom pretty quick—don't get discouraged!"

"Oh, I know just where I am; I counted the stairs when I went up," replied the teamster.

As he landed he rubbed his bruised back, and looking up the stairs he mused: "I counted fourteen steps going up and fifteen bumps coming down. Something wrong with the architecture of this building."—*Free Press.*

THE story of an Oshkosh man who took up a collection at the funeral of his wife, which is going the rounds as illustrating a mean man, says the La Crosse *Sun*, is explained by the fact that the bereaved man is a church deacon, and for twenty years he had always taken up a collection while the choir was singing the second time. At the funeral, when the choir struck up "Old Hundred," before he thought what he was doing he got up and passed the hat as usual, to raise money to defray the necessary expenses. When his attention was called to it after the funeral, and he thought how his motive would be misconstrued, he felt as bad about it as anybody. It was not an evidence of meanness, but a case of absence of mind.

AT a funeral a mourner with a passion for games of chance finds himself in the carriage with the heart-broken parents of the corpse. The procession moves at a snail's pace, and there is evidently a long hour's ride before the cemetry is reached. The mourner stands it as long as he can, then, placing his hands in his pocket, rattles a few coins significantly, and, turning to the sorrow-striken father, whispers: "This is slow, isn't it? I will flip you just once for a five."—*Paris wit.*

THIS is the season of the year when the average clerks talks carelessly for a few days about Saratoga, Long Branch and other fashionable watering places, buys another 25-cent white tie, packs his valise, bids all his friends adieu, and slides carefully up the back streets and takes the stage up to the country to help the old folks to get in hay for a week or two.—*Bridgeport Standard.*

AN old bachelor says that the talk of women is usually about men; even their laugh is but "He! he! he!"

The Centre of Vitality.

The life of the flesh and the brain, the bones and the muscles, is the blood. It is the centre of vitality, the nutriment of the system. Not only must it be pure, but rich, in order to retain health. In the feeble and devitalized, the life current is watery and its circulation sluggish. The muscles of such persons lack solidity, the nerves are weak, the visage haggard, and the eye lustreless. A course of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, however, improves not only the health but the appearance of the debilitated and nervous. Nutrition then becomes complete because digestion receives an impetus from this benignant tonic, which fertilizes the blood, brings back "the rose tint of health" to the wan cheek, brightness to the eye, and gives power of endurance to the muscle. Invalids, hasten to use it!

Epicurean Resort.

The necessity of adding a department for the accommodation of ladies visiting the United States Restaurant has been met by fitting up one of the most tasty and convenient parlors for that purpose in the city. Cleanliness being the first and most pleasing invitation to the appetite, no labor shall be spared in that direction. The most polite and attentive waiters shall always be in attendance. We shall serve the choicest the season and market afford, in a manner to please the most exacting, at prices enabling all to gratify their wishes. An invitation is extended to the ladies, and it is hoped they will avail themselves of the pleasant quarters fitted to their convenience. J. M. Pike's U. S. Restaurant, corner Clay and Montgomery sts., San Francisco.

"What Shall be Done With Our Prisoners?"

A short time since this question was propounded by the San Francisco Evening *Bulletin*, but as yet no satisfactory answers have been given. It is not alone that the 1300 or 1400 convicts at present confined at San Quentin should be employed, but provision should be made for as many more, for, taking the increase for the last two years as a basis, in ten years time the number will be doubled. The State is just now about completing two hundred more cells, whose tenants are now waiting to occupy them. The clay for bricks seems to be pretty nearly exhausted, and it never has been made profitable either to the contractor or to the State.

There have been a number of attempts made to employ the prisoners at different kinds of mechanical work, which have utterly failed. Contractors cannot afford to risk so much upon uncertainties, consequent upon changes in administration, increased insurance rates and additional risks of all kinds. True, the State offers great inducements to those that are willing to embark in the enterprise, but very few have hitherto availed themselves of the offer. The California Manufacturing Company have been successful. They work a large number of men, part of them upon furniture for the million, which looks well and is sold so cheap that the poor can afford to buy it. They have a large number of free men and some prisoners that work on the finest work, which is said to be the only furniture made in the State that will stand the climate of the interior. They have samples of both at their warerooms, 224 and 226 Bush street, and 649 and 651 Market street, San Francisco—the cheap is infinitely superior to the common class manufactured in the city, and deserves the preference it receives.

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From Hon. W. H. Jones, of West Dover, Vermont.

"I have been troubled from my boyhood with chronic or hereditary lung complaint. Some years since, early in the winter, I took cold, which as usual settled into a severe cough, which continued to increase as the season advanced, although I made use of all the cough remedies I had knowledge of. My family physician also prescribed for me, but I experienced no relief. During all this time I was gradually running down, losing flesh and strength, until my friends as well as myself became very much alarmed, thinking I should waste away in consumption. While in Boston, during the Spring following, I was induced to try WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY. After one day's trial I was sensible that it was relieving me; in ten days time my cough had entirely ceased, and I was soon restored to health and strength. I have ever since kept the BALSAM in my house, and whenever any member of my family has a cough or cold, it is immediately resorted to. No family should be without it." Sold by all druggists.

The Machine Was Worn Out.

Why? Not because it was not well built, but it was wrongly run. Thousands of men who have run down long before their three-score and ten years are accomplished, might have been renewed into sprightliness and vim if they had tried the well-known PERUVIAN SYRUP, which contains among its compounds the Protoxide of iron, so combined that it assimilates with the blood and invigorates the whole system. This Syrup has proved efficacious in thousands of cases, and will do everybody good who uses it. All druggists keep it.

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"Durang's Rheumatic Remedy," the great *Internal Medicine*, will positively cure any case of rheumatism on the face of the earth. Price $1 a bottle, six bottles, $5. Sold by all Druggists. Send for circular to Helphenstine & Bentley, Druggists, Washington, D. C. Sold wholesale by H. C. KIRK & Co., Sacramento, Cal.

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I freely write you concerning my cure because I feel it to be a duty I owe to you and to other fellow kind who are similarly afflicted.

You are at liberty to print this letter should you think proper, and if inquirers desire further particulars, they may address me for one month at Woodland, Yolo County, Cal.

I am, most respectfully yours,
J. SIMMS, M. D.

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IF THE LEAST THING PUTS YOU OUT, IT WILL GIVE YOU PLUCK AND ENERGY.

IN A WORD, If Your Blood is Thin IT WILL MAKE IT RICH.

A LARGE NUMBER OF MEN AND OVER half of the women suffer from Anemy or Thin Blood; that is to say, that the quantity of red globules, which predominate in a healthy and vigorous blood, is in their cases too small. The basis of these red globules is IRON, which their internal economy fails to furnish in sufficient quantity.

The basis of this new and wonderful medicine is also IRON, which is easily assimilated by the system, and gives to the Blood that vitality and strength which it so much wants, and which is so indispensable to that real enjoyment of life, commonly called PERFECTLY GOOD HEALTH.

One of the great qualities which will make this precious preparation largely popular is that once the Blood has obtained the quantity of Iron it needs it will not absorb any more of it; there is therefore no fear of bad consequences to be entertained should a person use it when not needed.

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