

**ONLY.**

Kansas City Times.  
Only a plain ground  
Or mossy shadowed bower—  
Grass and flowers around;  
Sister and song are borne on the breeze  
Birds make mate in the bending trees—  
Please the eye all day through.

Only a cardigan kiss—  
Such as a mother's kiss,  
Light as a maiden's kiss,  
Placed on that every picnic ground—  
Lovers like lambs, a straying around—  
Love in a bird's nest—  
Only a pair of pants—  
With the falling snow—  
Many a maid enchanting—  
Wrought of costly fabric fair—  
Promised a we're and wild despair;

Fated to deathless woe;

Only a sitting down—  
Only a maddening groan—  
Only a painful frost—  
Snow-white pants and custard pie?

Beavens help their mutual misery,

Snows thy charms be down,

**THE KANSAS MAN.**

Burlington Hawkeye.  
One sunny day in hot July  
A beer sazon he wandered by,  
And seeing that he was not seen,  
He entered the swinging screen.

And to rebuke the drinking man  
Whom he observed around him there,  
He ordered, as he knew he'd ought too,  
A glass of pure, clear, crystal water.

He said it down, "Ah, ha," said he,  
"Cold water is the drink for me."

And so, to make it cold and nice,  
He dropped a little lemon in.

And then he said, "Sweet to the sweet,"  
And stirred some sugar in the treat.

To kind of brace the mixture up—  
He dashed some bitters in the cup.

Then just a little whisky—well,  
Say twenty drops of nopsaret.

And while he stirred it with a spoon  
Him sang in gleeful tones, this tune:

"Water, cold water, pure and free,  
Water is the drink for me."

He raised his head, loud, loud he laughed  
And to the dogs the golden quaff.

"This is the new amendment plan,"

Remark'd the temperate Kansas man.

Then set his course, and held that day.

Due west, his calm, imperial way.

**A PIE TOURNAMENT**

**TWO YOUNG MEN EAT THIRTY-TWO APPLES IN THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES.**

The Louisville Courier Journal says:  
Two young men sought to finish the operation which nature had commenced, and make fools of themselves a few days ago at Novelty Five-cent Lunch House on Green street. Ever since Henry Vail won the \$5 off the man who thought he could eat six watermelons, he has been yearning to start some similar undertaking and win some more money. An opportunity presented itself which was taken advantage of. A young man named Charlie Walters, who loafed around the lunch-house good deal, claimed that he could put away more apple-pies than any other man in town, and offered to back his assertion by staking \$5.

"The bet was accepted, and the following arrangements made: Each man was to eat as many green apple-pies, made with a double crust, as he could in thirty five minutes, without drinking any water, the one who ate the most to be declared the victor. The day came, and Vail appeared at the lunch-house accompanied by a small thin young man, who looked as if he had been living on powdered milk for about two weeks. Walters also put in appearance, and the stinging process commenced.

Neither of them had eaten any food during the day, and were in full trim to make logs of themselves.

Twelve pies were placed before each of them to start on, and they commenced.

It was plainly visible from the first that Vail's man had the bulge on his opponent, and he kept until the finish. The twelve pies were put away in less than twenty minutes, and six more were placed before each of them. Walters' inclinations were all right, but his capacity expired after eating his fifteenth pie, and he yielded up his money without a murmur. The other man ate seventeen pies, and only stopped when the supply gave out.

The name of young Vail's companion could not be learned. He was present against entreaties, and is evidently being groomed as the "unknown champion."

**THE BELT-ROOT CROP OF EUROPE.**

The Journal des Pithicaires de Socie reports an improvement in the prospects of the European beet-root crop. The late rains have considerably improved the appearance of the plants in France, the ground having previously been too arid. Worms, are, however, very numerous this year, and are causing considerable damage. A good average crop is now expected, except in certain parts of the departments of Aisne, Somme, and Oise, and the vicinity of Paris, where it seems improbable that the check given by the drought can be compensated. It must be remembered that last year some what similar conditions were experienced.

"Why do so many persons commit suicide?" asks an exchange. It must be because so many people take their own lives. If everybody were to die a natural death there would be fewer suicides.

The Waterbury American says: "It takes a yoke of oxen to draw anything from a New Haven juror." We remember that last year some what similar conditions were experienced.

There was abundant rain preceding by a drought less protracted and heat less intense than have been experienced this year; the crop as a whole was late and irregular, and its quality bad. It is yet, however, quite impossible to form any safe opinion as to the probable saccharine richness of this year's crop. In Germany the plants have been improved by the rains, but the roots cannot be compared with those of last year, which were developed to an extraordinary degree, and gave an exceptional crop. In Austro-Hungary also the plants have been much refreshed by rains, of which they were in need.

London Grocer.

Mrs. Spangles breathlessly said: "Dear, I will tell you an awful, awful thing. Do you know that Mr. Slowbox cannot take his breakfast in the morning until he has had a cocktail? Now my Mr. Spangles never does such a thing as that. He would not think of a cocktail. He simply rolls in bed, looks around the room for his clothes, and says—'Mary, for the love of God, who will give me pants on, I feel as if I had asked the captain.' mouth Give me a mouth! You must be some of your constable's order."

"What's he to be found? It's hear him ask me the way. Look sharp, boss, tons down to the in a mortal hurry, you know."

ing without

**A QUIET LITTLE GAME.**

It is related of the late Governor Bagley, of Michigan, who was a strict Sabatian, that being in Detroit one summer Sunday he was walking with a companion through a little frequented street on the way from church, when he heard sounds that were suspiciously like the clicking of ivory balls. He put his head inside the door, asked to see the proprietor, and when that person presented himself, inquired politely: "Do you make it a practice, sir, to keep your half open on Sunday?" The man glanced quickly around to see that nobody was within easy hearing, then bent over and put his mouth close to Mr. Bagley's ear as he answered, with a significant wink: "Well, no, Governor, not as a general thing, you know; but if you and your friend there would like to play a pleasant game I guess I can fix it for you."

An Irish gentleman recently sent an American dog home to Ireland as a gift to one of his relatives. He gave the animal in charge of one of the stewards with the remark, "O, steer my bark to Erin's Isle." The dog's steering apparatus was rather short, but it got there in safety.

A young man from the country saw a steam fire engine working at a conflagration upon his house to the city and asked his father: "What is in thunder makes you heat the water by steam to put the fire out with?" Cold water's a darn sight better."

It is of no use trying to explain to children the difference between canary birds and women. A lady who was visiting at a neighbor's was asked to go, and said that she really could not do so in any circumstances, when a little girl went up to her and said: "Please, is you a mountin."

A beggar in the streets of Prague claims that he was born in 1757, and is therefore, the oldest man in the world.

There is a grave suspicion that Mr. Vanderbilt has presidential aspirations. There is evidently something under the steady stream of biographies and portraits of the son of his father which fill the newspaper columns. It will probably, however, be many centuries before the United States gets into the habit of electing such men to the Presidency.

The Springfield bridge is an immense structure, towering as high as the tall trees surrounding it. When it receives its roof it will be visible from a great distance on either side of the river. When a flood comes high enough to take that bridge away, it will either be a second deluge or the end of the world.—Ex.

The practice of building bridges above high-water mark might well be followed in this country.

The Boston Journal tells of a young lad of apparent intelligence who, in that city, contributes to the amusement of the passer-by by trying to mail a letter in a private fire-alarm box.

At Coney Island: "Been in bathing this morning?" "Oh yes!" "How long did you stay in?" "Just long enough to come out."

The clam is one of the can't get aways. He is a patient oyster, and doesn't even give vent to an exclamation when poked out of his dwelling house.

It is said that there is no grander sight than a moving log jam; but perhaps, to the youthful mind, the moving of peach jam to the mouth would exceed its grandeur.

Men are as scarce at Cape May that ladies have to dance with each other. It is an encouraging sign of the times that the dancing variety of man is becoming extinct.

Lessons for young house-keepers—How can you tell a young fowl from an old one?" "By the teeth? But fowls have no teeth!" "I know they haven't, but I have."

When a woman tells you, you are just horrid, propose at once. Never fear the consequences. She will not say no.—Box. Transcript. But suppose she says yes, how are you going to get out of it?

A bridegroom slapped his bride's face two hours after marriage, as they were about to take a train at Whiteside, Ill., for a honey-moon tour. She stood still in surprise, but only for a moment. Then she seized his cane, belabored him well, and went back home with her parents.

The scholars tell me you spell fissile with ph. Sigh teachin' As this don't God and must be imprent Stop," wrote an Arkansas school director to one of the teachers in his district.

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"Well," he explained, "those two creatures undoubtedly supposed that this stuff was thick enough to float 'em."

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