

AMBIGUOUS SENTENCES.

It is said that when Jacob Boehme, the famous philosopher, was on his death bed some of his pupils came to him to have an obscure passage in his writings explained before he died. After puzzling over it awhile he said: "My dear children, when I wrote this I understood its meaning, and no doubt the omniscient God did. He may still remember it, but I have forgotten."

Klopstock, the German poet, was once visited by some students from Gottingen to have the meaning of one of his stanzas explained. After reading the stanza, he replied: "I cannot recollect what I meant when I wrote it, but I remember that it was the finest thing I ever wrote and you can not do better than to devote your lives to the discovery of its meaning."

A comical sentence appeared in the program of a concert given by M. Gounod, of London. The eight song was printed, "She wandered down the mountain side, accompanied by the composer."

A lady in advertising herself as a teacher referred to the "reputation of teaching she bears."

Instances of "neglecting the antecedent" are amusing. In an old geography we are told that Albany is a "town of three hundred houses and twelve hundred inhabitants, all with their gable ends toward the street."

A furrier once announced that he was prepared to "make up capes, circulars, etc., for ladies out of their own skins."

A match vendor of London used the following street cry: "Buy a pennyworth of matches from a poor old man, made of foreign wood."

Some years ago a member of the noted Savage club of London was standing on the steps of the club-house. A man stopped and asked: "Does a gentleman belong to your club with one eye named Walker?" "I don't know," was the reply. "What was the name of the other eye?"

The father did not speak with clearness when he exhibited a fiddle made by his son and said: "He made it out of his head and has wood enough left to make another one."

We occasionally read in the papers about "terra cotta ladies' gloves," "woolen children's mitts," "octagonal men's cassimere pantaloons," etc. Or that "a snake was killed by a boy twelve feet long," or that a thrifty housewife "washes and irons herself every week," or that a man wants "a boy to drive a horse who lives with his parents."

The power of cold to diminish pain has long been known to country people; but its value as an anæsthetic is only lately becoming appreciated by the medical faculty. Every farmer who has worked at butchering hogs or other animals out of doors in cold weather knows that a cut on his own person will often be unnoticed for some time, or until the flow of blood calls attention to it. There will be no pain, and if the blood be pure a wound thus made will heal very quickly. But woe to the unlucky man if the blood of the animal he is killing is in any way diseased. Cutting himself while dressing it introduces the poison into his own system, and death is often the penalty for carelessness.

Senator Vance gave Senator Sherman a bright retort Tuesday, when he assured the Ohio statesman that the Southern planters had no desire to abandon cotton, at a profit of fifty dollars an acre, without protection, and go into the business of growing ramie, which could be cultivated in India by laborers working for eight cents a day. There is common sense argument in that reply, and calling it free trade talk does not take away the force of it.

Now Mr. Blaine is accused of having a literary bureau, which is busy supplying fancies about the Cabinet. The people are quite capable of a fine variety of fancies on that subject, without help from a bureau. The latest fancy, which places Senator Teller in the Interior Department, is the most injurious to Pacific Coast digestion.

The sugar bounty proposal is nothing more nor less than a proposal to take money from all the people of the country, the greater part of it from poor wage-earners, and to give it to a small class of persons by way of paying them to engage or to continue in an unproductive business.

Thomas M. Edson's capacity for work does not seem to decrease as he goes on in years. He frequently remains at his desk until seven o'clock in the morning, then catches a few hours of sleep in his office and is up again by 8.

Some of the men of Rhode Island tells the story bluntly that if they don't stop their clamor for higher tariff on wool, they will get free wool, and if he does not vote for it, Rhode Island will displace him by a Senator who will. That Presidential message of December 1887 is working.

LITTLE TIN GODS.

The New York World says a despatch from Washington by way of Pittsburg brings the information that the Republicans of the Senate have agreed to lay a duty of two or two and a half cents per pound upon tin plate.

As no tin plate is manufactured in this country the imposition of a duty upon it is not for the purpose of "protecting an infant industry." It is an indignant Republican Congressman remarked when the plan was proposed some time ago, "a project to create an infant to protect, by taxing everybody who uses tin plate." This is Protectionism run wild.

A Pennsylvania iron-maker says that if a tariff of two cents a pound on tin plate can be "guaranteed" he can start a company "with a capital of \$1,000,000 to manufacture it, inside of ninety days." No doubt if a company could be chartered by the Government to tax every canning establishment, every foot of tin roofing every teapot and dinner-pail in the country the capital would be forthcoming.

But what would be the result? Dearer tin and a half dozen or more new millionaires to contribute a barrel of money to campaigns of boodle under the "fat-fry-ing" process and to buy seats for themselves or their agents in the Senate of the United States.

Does the country want to set up a few "Little Tin Gods on Wheels" at such a price and for such ends?

The county court of Lane county has sold its poor farm. Reason: They have kept county paupers for a number of years and now find that it costs the county much more than in the old contract way. This ought to open the eyes of Linn county people who have thought a poor farm would be the cheapest way of providing for the poor. It is not the best nor the cheapest way as the DEMOCRAT has all along maintained.

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