

PITH AND POINT.

Good talkers are like doubts—entertained.
It is hard to fix responsibility will "stay put."
Amors are among the best things world to let run alone.
Some people are so sensitive that seem to have corns all over them.

Walk may do all the shouting, but it is the one that brings in the—*Whitell Times*.

Are you and safe from passion's rage, how calm they glide into the heart of age?—*Shenstone*.

As't what'er man is dat makes happy in dis yere worl'. It's he thinks he is.—*Arkansasian*.

Generally you never value a thing until after you have lost it; it does not apply to bashfulness.—*Wattle Journal*.

Wabash (of Chicago)—"Are ready for dinner, dear?" Mr. sh—"I will be as soon as I can get my coat off."—*Sun*.

At we the hours that our neighbors waste, how many new things we learn, and how much good plish.—*Pomeroy's Advance*.

Nothing but the right can ever sedent," says a penny-a-liner opher, and yet everybody knows Mr. Sullivan is famous for the work that he has got in with.—*Somerville Journal*.

ago of a kind.—A rather sharp gentleman sat opposite to a dressed man on an elevated. The roughly dressed man was shabby for his bow-legs. "My," said the gentleman, "pardon me, but how did you acquire a peculiar curve in your legs?"

en I was a boy, I went in swim one day. When I came out, I fell down on the grass to dry. I fell up, and when I woke up the sun was on my legs," replied the with the peculiar legs. "My," said the gentleman, "allow me to take you by the hand. We are a kind. I prepare the affidavits of circulation of a certain New daily paper."—*Texas Siftings*.

GENERAL VON WRIGHT.
German Cavalry Officer.

the course of conversation with adjutant of a dragoon regiment met at Metz I learned that he, in my with some nine or ten brothers, had been out on a ten reconnaissance under the General commanding the cavalry division.

expenses of the trip came partially out of the officers' pockets. My friend spoke of the tour with great enthusiasm, and I went to General to obtain from him the details of the system followed. Now, General in question, Von Wright, Englishman, whose memory is dear to us officers who made his acquaintance, was one of the most distinguished cavalry officers in the German army. From Major in a cuirassier regiment, he was selected by Von ke, although personally unknown to him, and on professional recommendations only, as his military secretary in 1886; as commander of a cavalry regiment he led the Thirteenth Cavalry; subsequently during the campaign he held important staff appointments, including that of Quartermaster-General to Prince Charles during the trying Lorraine campaign. At the time of this particular visit to Metz was the Lieutenant-General commanding the Fifteenth or Frontier division. The General was always pleased to talk about his profession and to give any information those who asked for it. The following was his account of the reconnaissance.

"The evening before we started I thought out a scheme. At 7 a. m. following morning I met the officer, and to each I gave his day's work, which he returned to me completed at 2 p. m. During the afternoon and the evening I examined the reports, and I delivered my criticisms when the officers assembled next morning. The fact that I have been kept up in the English army must be accepted as an excuse for the blundering I next addressed to

"But, General, how many staff officers, aide-de-camps, Assistant Adjutant and Assistant Quartermasters have you to do the details?"

"None," was the reply; "I do all the work myself." Here was a general of the highest professional standing and reputation—a man who won his position by the hardest of European warfare, and at one time peace maneuvers commanded 4,000 to 5,000 soldiers—deliberately employing his spare time in giving a dozen regimental officers instruction which might fall in our army garrison instructor. It seems impossible to overestimate not merely the value of such instruction, but the value given to professional study of the officers by Generals in Von Wright's position not considering it worth them to become instructors.—*Twentieth Century*.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

General Albert Pike is very fond of birds, and has in his study dozens of them in cages, mocking birds, canaries, robins, bluebirds and others.

The Japanese have a legend that fish are the embodiment of the souls of naval officers, and the African negroes believe that magicians assume the shape of fish and come to their nets to work evil.

A woman in Dalton, Ga., has a breastpin containing a lock of hair which is said to have been cut from the head of George Washington. The pin is oval in shape, of old yellow gold, and within a circle of diamonds is the lock of hair.

The ex-Empress Charlotte, of Mexico, has of late shown great fondness for the company of children. Every morning the two children of her gardener are brought to her, and she spends hours with them playing hide-and-seek, and listening to their songs, and feels unhappy when they leave.

It is said that immediately after the adoption of the Federal constitution Alexander Hamilton planted thirteen trees at his country place in honor of the event, and that they are still standing. The place is now cut up into building lots, however, and the venerable landmarks will sooner or later disappear.

Mrs. A. E. Whitaker suggests in the *New England Farmer* that a girl should be given but one name. Then when she marries let her always keep her surname. If this plan were followed, whenever we saw a woman's full name we should know whether she were married or single, and if married what her family name was. The plan is a good one.

Bismarck not long since caught several ladies in the act of cutting a few branches off the trees in the Friedrichsruhe Park, which belongs to him. "Ladies," said he, "if every one who visits this park would do what you are now doing there would not remain any more leaves on these trees than there are hairs on my head." He has been compelled since to close the park to the public.

A rich speculator in Paris, of "shady" reputation, being very anxious to possess some decoration, boldly asked the Emperor Dom Pedro to bestow one upon him, as he had already done to M. de Lesseps and others. "No," said the old monarch, "I can't do it. People would think me a fool. Well, I could stand that. But they would also think you a knave, and I can not have any persons of such reputation in my order."—*Argonaut*.

Says old Allen Thompson: "When I am in the woods I never use a compass; in fact I don't need any. There are three sure ways that I have of finding the points of the compass. You will notice that three-fourths of the moss on trees grows on the north side; the heaviest boughs on spruce trees are always on the south side, and, thirdly, the topmost twig of every uninjured hemlock tips to the east. You just remember those things and you'll never get lost."—*Mount Washington Among the Clouds*.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

There is more or less sorrow in the word "Good-bye," and yet how we like to hear some people say it!—*Harper's*.

It is said that a small hand indicates refinement, and yet we have seen small hands, and held them, too, b' thunder, that brought out language anything but refined.

"How many runs did you make today, Jimmie?" asked a boy of a member of the New York Club-Breakers. "Forty-four." "Any home runs?" "One; me mudder got there in de fiff innings."

Did your husband see his picture we printed last Sunday?" asked an editor. "Yes, he saw it." "Just gave it a cursory glance, I suppose?" "No, sir; he gave it a cursory swearword."—*Washington Critic*.

The Spanish version of "Old Mother Hubbard" reads:

There went to the cupboard
A lady named Hubbard,
To look for a bone;
But when she found none,
It saddened her so that she blubbered.

English Waiter (contemplating emigration) to American tourist:—"And have you any 'otel tips over there?" American (enthusiastically):—"Hotel tips? You bet! You should just see a cyclone tipping a Western hotel."—*Boston Courier*.

"Never marry a widower," was the advice of a young matron to a friend. "But you married one. Why?" "It's bad enough to have to hear about your husband's mother's cooking, but to have his first wife's biscuits thrown in your face every morning is simply unbearable."—*Tid-Bits*.

Friend (to young author):—"How is your new book going, Charley?" Young author (dubiously):—"It's going pretty fast. I've already given away five hundred copies." Friend—"Five hundred copies! Why, I congratulate you, old boy. I was afraid you wouldn't be able to give away more than half that number."—*N. Y. Sun*.

TERRORS OF POLYGAMY.

The Experience of a Mormon Girl as Related by Herself.

I have often been asked to marry Mormons who had wives. I will tell you about one of them, a wealthy man, now dead. His name was Franklin Neff. One day his wife—the only wife he had—came to our house and had a talk with me. She said she wanted me to marry Mr. Neff. I was only fifteen, but I knew what polygamy was, and I had set my heart against it. "Well, Mrs. Neff," I said, "if he wants me he'll have to summon up cheek enough to ask me himself."

I said this in fun, and then asked Mrs. Neff what she thought about it. She said herself and husband had talked the whole matter over, and she had come to the conclusion that as her husband was obliged to take a second wife she knew nobody she'd sooner have him take than myself; therefore she begged me when he called to give him a favorable answer. The proposition, coming from a woman thirty-five years old, who had been married for years to her husband of about the same age, and who had assisted him in accumulating his wealth, was at once strange and amusing. Mr. Neff called that same night, and in answer to his question, I told him that he must be crazy to make such an offer of marriage to a mere child, but he insisted that he was in earnest, and he went to my mother who, on account of his high position in the church, was afraid to flatly refuse him. Mother said she would not go against my wishes, but if he could persuade me into polygamy she would have no objection; at the same time she warned me not to give my consent for any consideration.

Mrs. Neff came round to see me several times, and was always urging me to marry her husband, saying that he could not live without me, and both of them would be all the happier for it. But the more she talked the firmer I became in my resistance! They invited me to spend a few days at their country home. I wanted to refuse, but mother said I had better go. I went, and I don't think I spent a more miserable time anywhere in all my life. The husband was continually asking me to go buggy-riding with him and the wife was coaxing me to consent. Still, I thought I saw that the woman was unhappy. She seemed to be doing what she did against her will. A ball was given in the neighborhood and I wanted to go. Mrs. Neff asked me to go with Frank (that was her husband's name), but I said no, I would go alone, unless she agreed to go along. She agreed, and we went. That man tried his very hardest that night to dance with me, and his wife even asked me to dance with him, but I kept plenty of engagements ahead with the young fellows and he got no dance.

Some one then told him that I would not dance with him while Mrs. Neff was present, so he told her and she went home. After she went he came to me and said she had gone and he hoped now he would have the pleasure of a dance, but I continued to make excuses and avoided him. The time came to go home, and I refused to allow him to accompany me unless there was a third party along. His brother Amos accompanied us, and after leaving me at the door the two men went to Amos Neff's house. I found Mrs. Neff in her room in tears—more heart-broken woman I never saw. She had been sitting there fretting and crying and moaning for hours, thinking that I was dancing with her husband and that I was coming home alone with him. And only the night before she had sat up with me until twelve o'clock trying to talk me into marrying him, making all sorts of promises, and saying that herself and Mr. Neff would write out deeds for one-half of all the property and possessions they had if I would only give my consent.

She begged me not to say any thing to her husband about the crying scene, as she said he would scold her for it; but I said I thought it my duty to tell him, and also to let him know the opinion I had of him. I told Mrs. Neff not to grieve, as I would never cause her the slightest sorrow, and sent her to bed a much happier woman than I had found her on my coming in. Next morning at the breakfast table Mr. Neff said something about polygamy. That was all the provocation I wanted. I said: "Mr. Neff, if you were any kind of a man at all, or had even the commonest human instincts, you'd let polygamy alone; you have a wife who is too good for you, and who loves you better than you deserve—stick to her and let other women alone." Then I told him the condition in which I had found his wife on coming from the ball. His face grew white, and, laying down his knife and fork, he arose from the table and left the room. I went home that morning, and neither saw Mr. Neff nor heard from him again. He never went into polygamy, and I felt very glad of it for the sake of the heart-broken little woman, to whom a second wife by her husband's side would have meant a speedy death.—*Salt Lake City Cor. Troy (N. Y.) Times*.

SOWING GRASS SEED.

A Subject That Needs to Be Studied by the Great Majority of Farmers.

As a rule, the sowing of grass of various kinds is made with some grain crop, and usually in the fall with wheat or rye. This method, however, is not just to the grass, nor is it favorable for the best results to the seeding. The so-called foster crop very often robs the grass and exhausts the soil of its needed nutriment, and a very poor catch is the result. If the soil is thoroughly well prepared by manuring and sufficient tillage, the two crops may grow together very well, and the grass make a good stand. But this is seldom the case except with a few farmers, who need no advice or suggestion upon the subject. The great majority of farmers need to study this subject, and understand the requirements of grass for its successful culture.

The preparation of the soil should be very thorough. The land should be plowed deeply, and a liberal coat of manure turned under, not buried, but with the furrows laid over at an angle of forty-five degrees, so that the manure lies between the layers of soil standing on edge in a sloping manner. The harrow, run along the furrows, works the soil and manure together, mixing them and making them fine and compact. The harrowing should be continued until the whole surface is as smooth as a garden, and the soil is quite fine. If the land is clayey and lumpy, it should be rolled between the harrows.

Sowing the seed alone is preferable. If any grain crop at all is used, it should be oats in the spring, or buckwheat early in July, as may be most convenient. Excellent seeding has been made early in August with a pound of turnip seed to the acre. This shelters the young grass during the winter, and drying the turnips decay in the spring and afford a most useful fertilizer for the crop. Timothy and clover, and orchard grass and clover, and the three kinds mixed, and orchard grass alone, have been sown in all of these three ways with better results than when sown with fall grain and subjected to the risks of the winter weather.

In sowing grass and clover seed an even stand is desirable, and to secure this, great care is to be taken in the sowing. A very good practice is to make the last harrowing with great care, evenly and with the marks all parallel. Then the sower can follow these marks, first taking the edge of the field and returning six short paces distant from the first course. Then returning on the second course, and always sowing with the right hand to the left. Six feet from each is cast as much as can be taken with light seed, as orchard grass, blue grass, red-top, etc., and as much as should be taken with timothy, and the quantity of seed taken may be readily gauged to the width of the cast. The cast is made with a movement of the right foot. When the wind is blowing, even slightly, the casts should be made low, to avoid irregular dropping of the seed, and when the light seeds are sown it is easier to walk across the harrow marks when the tracks made are easily seen, and as the wind may carry the seed to one side, the sower may go out of the straight track to accommodate the wind, and on returning can easily distinguish the foot marks of the previous track in the soft soil.

A broadcast seeder is a convenient implement, and costs but little, and can be carried by the sower with ease. It drops the seed low, and if the sower goes face to the wind at the start, the seed is not spread unevenly. When, in spite of all care, an irregular seeding is anticipated, it is well to sow half the seed one way, and cross the sowing the other way, when vacant spaces may be covered. An inexperienced sower should practice on the snow, using sand, which can be easily seen on the white surface, and in two or three attempts he will be able to make the sowing quite evenly.

The sowing should be done as soon as the last harrowing is finished, when the seed sinks in the loose soil, or is covered by the first shower. A smoothing plank is a good thing to cover seed with. It may be eight or ten feet long, and is fitted with a tongue and two stiff braces. The tongue is fitted to the plank on the level, so that when it is raised the front end of the plank is elevated a little. This prevents the plank from gathering stones or seeds in front of it, and causes it to ride over them. It leaves a smooth, even surface.—*American Agriculturist*.

A successful balloon trip over the Irish Sea has been made by the well-known English aeronaut, Mr. Simmonds. He started from Preston for a short ascent, but a contrary breeze took his craft directly over the channel, somewhat to the aeronaut's dismay, as he was neither provisioned nor provided with the apparatus for keeping aloft in the balloon suddenly descended in mid-channel. Happily, the wind landed him safely in Ireland, at a farm at Ballyboden, Rathfarnham, seven miles from Dublin, after six and one-quarter hours' journey.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Findlay, O., can boast of the only mask factory in the United States. This factory shipped 120,000 masks during one month recently.

Most of the southern iron shipped north is carried in schooners. Cotton manufacturers, it is said, may save money by forwarding their products in the same way.

Two young electricians of Munich, named Mestern and Helldobler, have invented a sort of telephone which fixes the spoken word on a chemically prepared sheet of paper.

Peat fiber, after being divested of the mud by heat and water, is being used for the manufacture of paper. The sweepings of a house, cobwebs and dust are being utilized for the same purpose.

The National Toothpick Association, of Maine, expects to manufacture enough wooden toothpicks the present year to load a train of fifty railway cars. The number of toothpicks to make up that amount is placed at 5,000,000,000. Most of the toothpicks used in this country are made in Maine.

An instance of the value of photography in detecting the relative motion of stars is given by M. de Gothard. Comparison of a recent photograph with measures recorded by Vogel in 1867-69 appears to show that cluster 4411 G. C. contains an eleventh magnitude star which has changed its position relatively to the other stars to the extent of 2.3 seconds a year.—*Boston Globe*.

In his recently published notes of a naturalist in South America, Mr. John Ball says that at Tocopilla, on the rainless west coast of the continent, about latitude 22 degrees south, he found what he had often heard of, but almost ceased to believe in—a land absolutely without any trace of vegetable life. He could not even detect a lichen, although he examined the rocks with a magnifying lens for the purpose.

It has been asserted by physiologists of repute that the nutritive value of mushrooms was equal to that of butcher's meat. This view, however, is not sustained by the investigations recently made in Vienna by Dr. Stromer, who declares that fresh mushrooms do not possess very valuable nutritive properties, and are difficult of digestion; that dry mushrooms are only slightly preferable, and that both correspond most nearly to cabbage in usefulness as food.—*N. Y. Ledger*.

The production of locomotives in Europe during the year 1886 amounted in England to 2,200; Germany, 2,000; France, 1,000; Belgium, 500; Austria, 400; Switzerland, 120; Italy, 70; Sweden, 50; Russia, 40, and Holland, 20; in all 6,400 engines. The largest works in the world is the Baldwin Locomotive Works, in Philadelphia, which is capable of turning out 600 per year. Borsig in Berlin can produce 200 in that time.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

Bishop William Taylor has named his missionary steamer to be used on the Upper Congo for his wife, Annie Taylor.

The new ladies' club at Boston is called the "Monograph," and its chief intellectual diet will be modern history.—*Boston Globe*.

Theodore Parker once spoke of Beecher as the "preacher of the Plymouth pulpit whose sounding-board was the Rocky Mountains."

The two best female violinists in the United States are Miss Duke, daughter of General Basil Duke, of Kentucky, and Miss Maud Tarleton, of Baltimore.

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