

LIGHT AND AIRY.

The Reason. "Get married," say my friends, and I...

He Told the Truth. Spilkins came home the other day with a new coat on.

Earth's Vernal Awakening. Now the nights are growing shorter, and the shining sun is sorter climbing higher in the heavens as it makes its daily round.

An Eloquent Motto. First Domestic—Come and join the kitchen ladies' federation, Mary. It's tin dollars a week we'll be getting soon.

A Modest Wish. I am not covetous nor I And never was done better; For one thing only do I sigh, And that is not the earth.

Postprandial. "My good man," said the worthy lady who had given the tramp a large plateful of victuals, "pardon me for making the suggestion, but would you not enjoy your repast fully as well, if not better, if you should follow the custom that has always prevailed in this household and invoke a blessing on your food before you begin?"

Combines Them All. There was once a young man quite unique, For forty-four tongues he could speak; But one day for love, He put them in one, And he christened that one "Volapuek."

Devoted to Music. He (to Miss Breezy, of Chicago)—Which do you prefer, Miss Breezy, the Italian or German school of music?

Advice to the Careless. When the winds blow cold and fields are hoar With frost when'er you make a call, 'Tis better far to slam the door Than not to shut the door at all.

A Matter of Business. Tailor—No, sir, I won't let you have this suit of clothes until you pay for it.

No Chance with Her. "Let's play a game of cards," said she "To pass away an hour or so."

An Awful Blunder. Druggist (in alarm, to boy)—James, run to Mrs. Snijth's at once. I've made an awful mistake!

Won't Have to Go Far. Brown—Dumley, I want to buy a dog. Dumley—That's a good idea, Brown. I think every man ought to own a dog.

A New Version. Woodman, chop that tree! I'll burn it, every bough. In youth it sheltered me, But now it's eight dollars now.

Security of Buffalo Robes. In the year 1875 60,000 buffalo robes were shipped from Renton, M. T. their value being \$300,000. This year only a dozen or so were procurable there, the buffalo having become almost extinct.

GASTRONOMICAL TID BITS.

There is a great and constantly increasing industry in crystallizing California fruits of every kind.

Canvas back ducks are a shade cheaper, now that the time draws near for their disappearance.

Smoked beef for tea is as regular a thing at country hotels as the presentation of all bills weekly.

As a rule, the hotel and restaurant mince pie is never too rich for any one's blood or constitution.

Turkey begins to taste as if it had been very much fatigued before it was slaughtered by the farmer.

He or she is not much of a gastronomic writer who recommends canned goods for "Lenten dainties."

Cook books continue to multiply, and nearly all give receipts as if 500 people were to dine at one time.

Spring lamb is obtainable, also green peas to go with it, they coming from the suburbs of Charleston, S. C.

Three weeks hence hot cross buns will be in great demand, even among those who have not "kept the fast."

Southern shad, sent north packed in ice, tastes when it gets here about as cotton batting would if broiled.

Nine out of every ten northern visitors in Florida try to see how many oranges they can eat at one sitting.

The modern sandwich has the crust of the bread removed, and at very few places is it "filling for the price."

"Beef a lay-mowed" is the way they printed it on the bill of fare of a Texas hotel, and it tasted that way, too!

Piscatorial patties of all kinds obtain at this, the sackcloth season, and show the progress in the culinary art.

Beefsteak pie, away from home, is as dangerous to experiment with as dynamite in connection with a lighted match.

An epicure is never known by the way he tucks his napkin under his chin before eating, or calling for a cup of tea in the middle of the meal.

Nothing quicker will stop a crying baby on a railway car than one of the leather figs sold by train boys. Indeed it is doubtful if, having eaten one, the baby ever cries again.

Southern and Bermuda vegetables are in good supply now, and the quality is praiseworthy, too. The premature strawberries are better, and sell at lower prices by the quart.

BY THE BY.

Easter cards and souvenirs are already temptingly exposed for sale.

Society carries its nonsense to filling pet dog's teeth with "real gold."

Alleged Dutch hall clocks no longer command the high prices of a few years ago.

"Knickerbocker buff" is given the name of a color to be fashionable in spring goods.

A new kind of bracelet has a watch set in it, but not necessarily one to keep railroad time.

Jewelers say there is an unusual demand for black pearls and that they bring fancy prices.

Silver ornaments for the person of all kinds are more fashionable now than ever before.

Braid in almost Bloomingdale profusion is to trim the tailor made and other kinds of spring suits.

Some of the handsomest of the India wraps are trimmed with black marabout feather trimming.

People have found out that fancy ornamental thermometers are no criterion of the temperature.

Cold snaps continue to delight the hearts of women who have sealskin sacques or a Russian wrap.

What is known as the Marie Antoinette fichu has been revived, and London correspondents give Lady Churchill the credit of the revival.

There is a superstition that the green tinted or decorated china is always quickest to meet with destruction at the hands of the hired girl or butler.

Hats for Flora McFlinsey will be very striking and effective in style, and of the kind to make people in the theatre struggle for front seats.

CURIOUS THINGS OF LIFE.

A Berrien Springs (Mich.) family of four persons live on nineteen cents a week, exclusive of house rent.

A Japanese boy's composition on the whale closes: "The tell of the whale is more, but I do not know fully well to tell."

Anthony Parslow, of Albany, N. Y., ate ten feet six inches of corn cakes three inches wide and one inch thick the other day.

A Philadelphia man, who was discharged from his position as street car driver two years ago, borrowed \$10, invested it in a bucket shop, and is now worth \$40,000.

The Richmond postmaster locked the office cat in the safe over night recently and in the morning she had a brood of kittens, nicely nestled in a \$300 bed made of postage stamps.

There are three dead trees in Tattnell county, Ga., whose branches are so twisted as to form the figures 1888. The ignorant people thereabout regard it as a sign that the end of the world comes this year.

Regular printed invitations were recently sent to a funeral at Frogmore, Ia., that read: "There will be a large funeral at Frogmore, the grandmother of —'s wife. You are invited. Ice water and soda. Come one, come all."

A Buffalo man hung his watch at night over a pan of dough in the kitchen, and the next morning it was missing. He of course thought it had been stolen, and was considerably surprised at supper time to see the lost timepiece roll out of a loaf of bread his wife was cutting.

A Macon merchant of somnambulist habits found one morning that \$195 was missing from his store. He sent for a detective, who suggested that the gentleman had probably hidden the money while asleep. A search was instituted and the missing bills were found securely hidden away in a corner of the store.

WHAT THEY WEAR.

Apple green is the latest French color. Prophecy says that yellow will be the most fashionable color this spring.

The pretty textiles called Neapolitan silk crepe-lines are very popularly worn for dancing toilets.

The new, elegant and expensive cash ribbons are made into fichus that cover the waist and shoulders almost entirely.

Jaunty costumes imported for the first warm days are of Suede colored homespun or of canvas, with a full skirt and an outside coat.

Cloth jackets imported for early spring days are of plain, plaid or striped cloths in higher colors than are usually worn for wraps.

Striped wool jerseys with sailor blouse front, fitted back and deep sailor collar are pretty negligé corsages for wearing out partly worn skirts.

Long raglans for traveling cloaks are made of striped and plaid chevrons, homespun and serges of very rough surface in gray, tobacco brown and copper colors.

Some of the elaborate French gloves are embroidered on the backs with gold or silver thread in designs of fleur de lis and sometimes with the monogram of the wearer.

Most of the spring jerseys have the sleeves slightly full at the wristband, and some are tucked at top and bottom, while others are shirred around to match the shirred yoke of the bodice.

Cashmeres in the grayish green reseda shades, made up with darker green cashmere, or else draped over the copper red Bengaline, are prepared for afternoon toilets for the early spring months.

On the new bonnets all the trimmings are lowered, though they are by no means flat. But the towering pointed bows of last year have given place to soft, wide loops, put on to give a broader effect.

Double breasted corsages are becoming too long for slender figures, as they have the effect of making them appear shorter in the waist. Irregular arrangements are preferred for double breasted bodices.

A new idea for bridesmaids is the use of very fine, soft, cream velvet, trimmed with otter. The skirt falls in easy, graceful folds, and the material is soft as doeskin. The bodices are arranged so that the fur crosses in front.

A novelty is the Tosca mantle, made very short in the back, but very long in front, and almost covered with lace and jet; this is worn with the Tosca hat, with long, projecting front of brim, short, close back and nodding ostrich plumes.

Braiding has by no means had its day of favor as a trimming on jackets, and is done with both metal and mohair braids, some of which are flat and others tubular, while the twisted cords of silk or of metal are used in most elaborate designs, hitherto done only in soutache braid.

The stylish coats of smooth faced cloths for dressy occasions come in copper colors, in the new green shades, in tobacco browns, Suede color, the odd blues with green tints, and in bright red shades, while the rougher homespun jackets are in stripes or bars or megalanes of two or three of these colors together.

A pretty demi-season gown has white and brown checked skirts, the second skirt looped up, made of brown silk, the brown silk bodice with lace fronts opened over a white waistcoat with chased gold buttons, large, round, brown felt hat, turned up on one side, lined with velvet and trimmed with tufts of brown and white feathers.

STRAY BITS.

There are 172 known species of creatures that are blind.

A facetious man in Howell, Mich., put overalls on a mare he owns, had his picture taken and sent it to Anthony Comstock.

There is in the vicinity of Vaughnsville, S. C., an infant two months old whose mother is 17, grandmother 32, grandfather 37 and great-grandmother 51.

Charles Strong, a clockmaker and miser, died recently in Boston, leaving a fortune of \$65,000 and a miscellaneous collection of clocks and watches, numbering several hundred. Nobody knows who his heirs are, if any.

A farmer in Accomack county, Va., a few days ago, while digging a post hole, came upon a pot full of gold and silver coins. It is supposed to have been buried by a Tory who went to England at the outbreak of the revolution.

Scientists tell us that a man's brain decreases in size as he grows older. The human brain, it appears, weighs the heaviest between the ages of 14 and 20. This explains why young men know so much more than their elders.

A new rule for removing a cinder in the eye is given by an engineer. It is: "Let the injured eye alone and rub the other one, and the cinder will be out in two minutes." It is a simple remedy, though it sounds unreasonable, and worth trying.

Of 600 tornadoes of which record has been made in the United States, not more than seventy-five were east of the Alleghany mountains. The warm air tempestuously driven from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi valley is caught by the Polar winds and driven in gyrotary tornadoes across the prairies. The Appalachian range serves as the Atlantic slope as a barrier against storms of that sort.

How It Feels to be Wounded. The next day, just before Longstreet's soldiers made their first charge on the Second corps, I heard the peculiar cry of a stricken man utter as the bullet tears through his flesh. I turned my head, as I loaded my rifle, to see who was hit. I saw a bearded Irishman pull up his shirt. He had been wounded in the left side just below the floating ribs. His face was gray with fear. The wound looked as though it were mortal. He looked at it for an instant, then poked it gently with his index finger. He flushed redly and smiled with satisfaction. He tucked his shirt into his trousers and was fighting in the ranks again before I had capped my rifle. The ball had cut a groove in his skin only. The play of this Irishman's face was so expressive, his emotions changed so quickly, that I could not keep from laughing. "Recollections of a Private."

SLEEP.

Come, sleep, oh sleep, the certain knot of peace, The baiting place of wit, the balm of woe, The poor man's wealth, the prisoner's release, The indifferent judge between the high and low. Take thou of the smooth pillows, sweetest bed; A chamber deaf to noise and blind to light; A rosy garland, and a weary head. —Sir Philip Sidney.

Wealth of the Rothschilds.

The Rothschilds believe in enjoying their wealth, and like to have nice things about them. One of the Frankfort barons not long ago paid \$160,000 for a silver cup, which he wished to use as a center piece of a table service which he was making up, and one of the Vienna barons has a stable which cost him \$80,000. This stable has marble floors, encaustic tiles painted by distinguished artists, and its walls are frescoed with scenes done by well known painters. The rings, chains and fittings of the stable are silver, and one box stall for a favorite horse cost, it is said, \$12,000. The income of the owner of this stable is about \$5,000 a day.—The Argonaut.

Crows Versus English Sparrows.

A fight between about 100 crows and perhaps 200 or 300 English sparrows was witnessed at Cumminsville, O., just before sundown some time ago. The crows were returning to their rookery from feeding, when they were attacked by the sparrows. Four or five of the latter would get after one crow and pick it so badly as to almost disable it. In fact, three or four fell to the ground, being so badly injured as to be unable to fly. The fight resulted in the complete rout of the crows, and they seemed only too anxious to get away. One of them which was picked up was found to have had both its eyes literally picked out.—Boston Budget.

Overcoats as Pneumonia Breeders.

Judge Tillman, chairman of the congressional committee investigating the Reading strike, is 60 years of age, strong and active, and has never worn an overcoat. Like Hannibal Hamlin, he has a great prejudice against this garment. "An overcoat," he says, "is a pneumonia breeder. When I am cold on the street I button my coat, and the blasts have no terrors for me. When I was at Harvard college—that was forty years ago—I tried to wear flannels, but I've never worn 'em since."—New York World.

Climate and Brain Weight.

The average weight of the brain of man apparently bears a definite relation to the climate a higher brain weight being found in cold than in warm countries. In proportion to their stature, the Lapps have the largest heads in Europe, the Swedes, Danes, Germans, French and Italians. In the Arab the head is found to be smaller than in any of these, while in the far north there exists a people known as Chugathes who possess remarkably large heads.—Globe-Democrat.

A Luxury in Paris.

Fires are considered a great luxury here. We have immense andirons, and the fires are built on the stone or tile floors. They generally burn a sort of brick made of pressed coal, called a briquette, warranted to last five hours. As I tell sister, a common brick would last longer and give as much heat. The French people are so economical they jump up and pour water on the fire to keep it from burning up too quickly.—Elizabeth Nourse in Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette.

A New Kind of Oars.

Oars are coming into use in which the blade is made from the best sheet steel, lightly tempered, and is alleged to be much stronger than the ordinary wooden one, and cannot be broken without undue violence; the handle fits into the socket, running nearly the whole length of the blade, and forming a backbone of great strength; and the oar, being much thinner in the blade than the wooden one, enters and leaves the water cleaner. The handles are made separately, of spruce or ash.—New York Sun.

A Boy on a Farm.

It is my impression that a farm without a boy would soon come to grief. What a boy does is the life of the farm. He is the factum, always in demand, and always expected to do the thousand and one things that nobody else will do. Upon him falls the odds and ends, the most difficult things. After everybody else is through he is to finish up. His work is like a woman's, perpetually waiting on others. Everybody knows how much easier it is to cook a good dinner than to wash the dishes afterward. Consider what a boy on a farm is required to do, things that must be done, or life would actually stop. It is understood, in the first place, that he is to do all the errands, to go to the store, to the postoffice and to carry all sorts of messages. If he had as many legs as the centipede they would tire before night.

He is the one who spreads the grass as the hen cut it; he stows it away in the barn; he rides the horse to cultivate the corn up and down the hot, weedy rows; he picks up the potatoes when they are dug; he brings wood and water and splits kindling; he gets up the horse and turns out the horse. Whether he is in the house or out of the house, there is always something to do. Just before school in the winter he shovels paths; in the summer he turns the grindstone. And yet, with his mind full of schemes of what he would like to do, and his hands full of occupation, he is an idle boy who has nothing to busy himself with but schools and chores. He would gladly do all the work if somebody else would do all the chores, he thinks; and yet, I doubt if any boy ever amounted to anything in the world, or was of much use as a man, who did not enjoy the advantages of a liberal education in the way of chores.—Charles Dudley

One of the Oases.

We see it stated that the Chinese have 873 holidays every year. Either the Chinese year has more days or else the Mongolian counts time by the fun he has and gives the calendar the go by.—Burlington Free Press.

There were lynched during the year 1887 in these United States no fewer than 123 persons.

BASEBALL TALK.

Latham's salary for this season is to be \$2,800.

The League umpires are to wear a new uniform.

The New York team will go through before returning home.

Indianapolis has made a reduction in price of admission for ladies.

Pitcher O'Day and Catcher Mack signed with the Washington club.

The new grand stand on the grounds will be opened on May 23.

The report that Ewing will play third is not true. He will play behind the bat.

Kansas City is negotiating with Chicago for Pitcher Mike Morrison and Outfielder Allen.

Base running is to be a most important feature of the Cincinnati's play.

The American association has, as per intention, rented an office for the Metropolitan Baseball club in New York.

The New York club will open five grounds this spring. A brass band will feature on each occasion.

The Texas league is making a determined effort to secure a half rate fare from the roads for the coming season.

Morris, it is said, is not dissatisfied with salary. He was joking when he made that statement that he signed too soon.

President John B. Day, of the New York club, says he is the sole owner of the Jersey City club. Pat Powers is merely a salaried manager.

The New Orleans club is great on pitching. It has Widner, Weber and Dunn for regulars, and Powell, Werden, Bradley and Geiss brothers can twirl effectively.

The Detroit and St. Louis clubs have arranged five exhibition games for the spring. Two games will be played at New Orleans April 2, 3, one at Nashville April 4, and at St. Louis April 12, 14.

The St. Paul team will open its season at Cincinnati April 4, 5 and 6, go to Louisville on the 8th, to Indianapolis on the 9th and 10th, Davenport on the 11th and 12th and thence to Omaha.

Arthur Irwin says that Borchers and Lagan, the California pitchers, are both good ones. He does not believe that the former could be induced to come east to play, as the parents, who are very wealthy, are opposed to his playing ball.

All of the Texas league clubs have been incorporated. Each club has a paid up capital of \$60,000, except Galveston, which starts with \$12,000 in its treasury. The salaries of players are limited to \$1,000 for the season. The umpires will be paid \$75 per month each. The regular season will open April 1 and close Oct. 31.

The Browns will leave St. Louis on March 29 and go direct to New Orleans. On the 1st of April they play the New Orleans club in the Crescent City; the two following days (April 2 and 3) the Browns and Detroit play in New Orleans. The Browns then go to Birmingham and from there to Memphis, where they play exhibition games with clubs of the Southern league.

SPORTING AND ATHLETIC.

Billy Dacey, the New York light weight, is out with another challenge to fight any 133 pound man in the world.

E. C. Carter, of the New York Athletic club, will sail for England early in June to run in the five and ten mile championships of Great Britain.

Arrangements have been made between Conley, the Ithaca giant, and John P. Cox for a six round fight at Ashland, Wis., on April 7. Each man has deposited \$250 and the winner to take 75 per cent of the receipts.

After carefully looking at Sullivan recently when he attended the Kempton race, two of Smith's principal backers, Charles White and John Percival, openly declared that the Englishman was no match for the champion.

The American champion pigeon shot, Capt. John L. Brewer, is creating quite a sensation among the knights of the trigger in England. He has won a great many sweepstakes and several matches. Having displayed such good form, he is now unable to get a match for suitable stake money, and is barred out of many of the handicap sweepstakes.

St. Paul, Minn., is to have a big athletic park. At a recent meeting it was proposed to organize a stock company on a basis of \$50,000 as the capital stock, divided into shares of \$50 each, 35 per cent to be paid in advance to make the first payment, improve the grounds and erect a grand stand and the necessary fences. The intention is to have a bicycle track and conveniences for cricket, lacrosse and baseball clubs.

A Thrifty Son.

"See, father," said a son, with the proud consciousness of duty done, "I have saved \$500 from my year's allowance."

"Good!" exclaimed the old man; "you are a wise young fellow, Charley."

"Yes, father; and I wish you would add \$500 to it; I've got to pay some debts."—The Epoch.

The Lord Will Provide.

Country Editor (to office boy)—Get a brick and prop up this stove.

"There isn't a brick around!"

"There are several. Where are the ones that were hurled through the window as you last night?"—Nebraska State Journal.

The Dogs of War.

In the next war, we may expect to see dogs take a prominent part. The French are training a pack of large and fierce mastiffs to attack dummies clothed in Prussian uniform. The idea, if successful, will doubtless draw attention to the use of other animals for special purposes. American news feeds, clothes and arms foreign nations when they wish to fight, and lends them money when they get hard up, and doubtless we can also supply them with all kinds of animals for war purposes. Perhaps the American skunk might prove even more efficacious in battle than the dog. At all events it would be interesting to watch what the Prussian army would do when attacked by a pack of trained American skunks.—Philadelphia