

MR. ARLO BATES tells in the *Providence Journal* a story illustrating the extremes to which the worship of literary greatness has at times gone in Boston, whatever may be its present state. "In the latter part of Mr. Emerson's life, when his mind had failed somewhat, his daughter came into his library one morning and found him entertaining a stranger, a Boston woman. As Miss Ellen entered, the sage looked up with an expression of hopeless bewilderment. 'Ellen,' he said, 'I wish you would attend to this lady; she wants some of my clothes.' Trained by long experience to the vagaries of the lion-hunting female, Miss Emerson was yet rather taken aback by this somewhat startling announcement; but the visitor proceeded with a voluble explanation that she was making a 'draw-in' rug, 'a poet's rug,' made of poets' cast-off clothing, Mr. Longfellow had given her an old shirt, and 'if Mr. Emerson had a pair of worn-out pants——.' Whether she got the trousers report sayeth not, 'but surely,' says the *Chicago Standard*, 'such ingenuity of impertinence deserved some reward!'"—*Literary News*.

"AN odd and common error," said a microscopist, "is that every drop of water we drink is teeming with animal life. There never was a greater mistake. It is very rarely, indeed, in water, that any animalculæ are to be found. If a little bit of grass or shred of meat, or any other organic matter be left in water for two or three days, there they can be found. It is supposed that a peculiar kind of organism like eels can be found in vinegar. It may be that away back in the country where they make vinegar out of apples and not out of aquafortis, there may be some, but they don't seem to thrive in city vinegar. Another thing, people think that hairs are hollow. The hair is no more hollow than a fence post, and the coloring matter, instead of being filled in a tube, is mixed up in the cells of the hair. The mistake never would have occurred if it had been recollected that the hair is but a modification of the epidermis. Then there is another idea that the human skin is as full of pores as a sponge." The fallacy of this idea was