Calchas he was tired of fooling around here. and if he couldn't tell him when they were going to have good sailing weather, he'd discharge him in a minute, and hire old Professor Tice, or else depend on the United States signal service reports. And ten minutes later the revenuful Calchas had cooked up a plan for cutting Iphigeneia's neck off.

It appears, from the teachings of history, that it was just as hard to build a conundrum that would stay, away in prehistoric times

as it is to-day.

RECREATIONS IN MYTHOLOGY.

'Have some yourself,' shouted the unhappy son of Eolus, pausing in his professional duties with the big stone, to look at his neighbour in the water, who was doing his level best to take a modest quencher, but was always frustrated by his enforced and perpetual red-ribbon vows. 'Drink hearty, Tantalus, you're welcome.

Thank you, good Sisyphus, replied the disconsolate Phrygian, with an equally fine play of delicate sarcasm; 'put a brick in der the stone to hold it, and come down and have some of the fruit. Don't tire your elf out working all the time. Come down and

have a cool bath.

' Not any,' replied the Corinthian, 'I don't like a plunge bath; I prefer asking our patient friend with the sieve there for a shower bath, when I perform my ablutions. But don't you get awfully tired of so much

water and fruit?

'Oh, not to speak of,' Tuntalus said, lying with the easy grace of a paragrapher: 'I must prefer this quiet, meditative solitude to the active cares and the fatigues of a life of labour. It is a source of amazement to me, at times, to watch your persistent struggles with that rough, grimy, and unstable stone.

'Oh, I'm fond of action : I live by exercise,' replied Sisyphus, as calmly and un-blushingly as though he was a witness in a whiskey case. 'Look at my muscle,' he added, displaying a biceps as big as a watermelon, 'you bet your boots I could burst the jaw of all the-Furies this side of the Styx. But I say, he continued, with a shout of laughter, as Tantalus made a sudden but ineffectual duck at the receding water with his chin, 'when you try to take a drink you remind me of President Hayes reaching after popularity with a policy scoop. You come about as near getting it,

'And when I see you trying to get that stone to some place on the bill where it will

stick.' shouted the indignant Tantalus, 'vou make me think of the republican party.

'And why for?' asked Sisyphus, as he leaned against the stone and held it in place with his back while he spat on his hands.

Because, said Tantalus, 'it has only to carry fourteen democratic congressional districts next election in order to get a ma-

jority in the next house.

And just then the boss Fury came along and stirred up the menagerie with a live snake, and the convention let go of politics and resumed the consideration of the business on the speaker's table.

INSURANCE ON THE TIBER.

'Marcus Cælius,' Cicero said to his legal friend, meeting him one morning on the other side of a screen under the capitol. what shall it he ?'

Calins said he would take a little spiritus fumenti optimus, straight, and the orator remarking that that was about the size of

his, went on :

I wish you would get out the necessary papers some time to-day, and bring suit for me against the Yellow Tiber Fire and Marine Insurance Company, for the amount of its policies on my villa at Tusculum and my town house.

M. Cælius looked up in amazement. 'Why,' he exclaimed, 'when did they burn down? And what was it? Accident?

Mob? Some of Clodius' people?'
'No,' Cicero said, 'they are intact as yet, and in fact, I haven't insured them yet, but I am going to do so to-morrow, and I want to bring suit against the company now, so that if they ever should happen to burn, I won't have quite so long to wait for the money.

Cælius saw that the orator's head was level, and brought suit that afternoon. Eleven years afterward the villa at Tusenlum and the town house were both destroyed by fire. The suit had by that time been in five different courts, and had been confirmed, and reversed, and remanded, and referred to the master to take proof, and stricken from the docket, and amended, and rebutted, and sar-rebutted, and impleaded, and rejoindered, and filed, and quashed, and continned until nobody knew what it was about and Cicero was notified, three weeks after the fire, that he would have to prove wilful and long continued absence and neglect, as he could not get a decree simply on grounds of incompatibility of temperament. And when he went to the secretary of the company, that official told him the company didn't know anything about the fire and