Agricultural.

Fruit Growing in Annapolis.

Its past, present, and future described.

BY BENJ. STARRATT, OF PARADISE.

[Special Correspondence Halifax Herald.]

PARADISE, Dec. 25.—Apples are universally used in temperate climates and have been from the earliest times. There is a tradition that old mother Eve took one without leave and contrary to orders; perhaps that is the reason why apples set the teeth of her descendants on edge. If this supposition is correct we have been pretty well punished for her surreptitious enjoyment of that first apple. Loki, the evil spirit of northern mythology, deprived the gods of the apple, and in consequence they became old. This goes to show that the use of fruit is conducive to longevity. Some unbelieving souls may doubt this, but every loyal subject of Her Majesty in Annapolis county is a firm believer in this statement.

Apples were first introduced into Annapolis from France about 1633. Pierre Martin, who settled at Belle Isle in Granville, first set out apple trees to any extent, and it is claimed that some of the old French trees are still living and bearing fruit. Certainly some of the pear and apple trees in that section of the county show unmistakable signs of old age. The settlers who came over from Massachussetts in 1760, and were granted lands and abandoned farms of the expelled French, extending from Moselle to Nictaux, found many apple and pear trees in the gardens where once stood the houses of the former occupants. A great impetus was then given to fruit culture. These men from Medford, Malden, Waltham, Lexington and other towns surrounding Boston, with their advanced ideas and superior knowledge of farming and fruit raising and with a keen appreciation of the rich and fertile lands with which they had been possessed by the government, lands forming a marked contrast to the stony, sterile fields which they had left at home, soon began to plant orchards, and thus lay the foundation of wealth and prosperity, the fruits of which, in some instances, are being gathered and enjoyed to this day by their descendants. This is notably the case in the fine large old orchard of Stephen E. Bent of Bentville, county councillor, and descendant of David Bent, one of the three commissioners sent out in 1758 by the governor of the provience of Massachussetts, to examine and report upon the abandoned French farms. This farm in some seasons produces 1,000 barrels of merchantable apples. Some of those old trees are of immense size and produce a great quantity of apples.

A marvellous advance has been made within the last thirty years. About that time American tree peddlers began to infest the country, and though they are a fraud and a deception in many cases, yet on the whole they have been a benefit to the country. Many of the trees which they sold proved untrue to name and produced worthless fruit; yet they introduced some new and valuable varieties and incited the farmers to increased activity, and the setting out of new orchards, and with the improved cultivation of the old ones, grafting out the old and worthless common sorts, and replacing with improved and well tried kinds. At that time apples were put up in old flour barrels and sold for about $1 per barrel. The principal grafted varieties were nonpareil and greening, but a larger portion of the fruit was of the native or natural sorts and fit only for cider, of which a large quantity was made. Cider mills and cider making were great institutions in those days; they ranked with husking parties and apple bees, all mostly abandoned in these modern times. Very little cider is made. Advanced farmers raise nothing but grafted fruit the small wormy and bruised apples are fed to the stock believing that it pays better than to make into cider. Cider generally sells for $2 per barrel. The barrel costs 50 cts., 50cts., more for making, leaving $1 for the juice, a pretty small balance. Formerly farmers had a weakness for sifting out and grafting a great variety of kinds. Greenings, Vandeveres, Spitzenbergs, Pound Sweets, Bow Apples, Concord Pearmains, Mammoth Russetts, Bishop Pippins, and many other kinds, some of which were entirely worthless, but now the poorer sorts are being gradually weeded out, and Nonpareils, Golden Russetts, Ribstons, Gravensteins, Kings and Baldwins are the prevailing and fashionable kinds. The Nonpareil is the standard apple in this county, supposed to have been brought here originally by the early French settlers. It has outlived all opposition and all new and aspiring competitors and to-day stands at the head of the list. All things considered it is the most valuable apple grown in this county. It is a hardy tree, though rather a slow grower, does not require so high cultivation as some others, does fairly well on grass ground, and bears a fair average yearly crop, unlike the Baldwin which bears only on alternate years. The crop of this year promised well, but the September gale was most disasterous to the apples, blowing off in some exposed localities one [quarter of the fruit, one of my neighbors picked up 160 bbls., after the gale; besides it injured what remained by bruises and discolorations. Last year's crop was a fairly good one, there being shipped from this county about 90,000 barrels. Of these 40,000 barrels were sent to London and 700 barrels to Liverpool.

This year there is quite a falling off, particularly in Nonpareils. Bishop Pippins, however, are a good crop and exceptionally fine. Vandeveres, which were almost an entire failure last season are very good this year, being large and well colored. Assuming that these 90,000 barrels averaged $1.50 per barrel and this I think is a reasonable estimate that would make $135,000 to be distributed in the county, which would be $34 for every family, or $6 for each man, woman and child in the county. Of the fifteen sub-districts which comprise the county, six of these grow very few apples, nearly all being grown in the other nine, namely, Wilmot, Middleton, Clarence, Bridgetown, Belleisle New Caledonia, Annapolis Royal, Carletons and Nictaux, and as a matter of fact, and a large portion of the area included in these districts does not produce apples, only a narrow strip along the valley and protected by the sheltering mountains, so that really only a small part of the inhabitants are actually engaged in fruit culture. My article is growing too long, but it is an interesting subject, a subject in which we Annapolitians are much interested, financially and otherwise. The culture of apples is an interesting and a profitable calling. I claim that $1 per barrel clear of the barrel, pays better than any other branch of agriculture in this county. Our climate and soil is particularly adapted to the growth of the apple. It is true that apple trees do not mature as quickly with us as on some parts of the Pacific coast, where they come into bearing in four years. Neither can we grow as handsome fruit as Ontario and some of the Western States. Nor can we compete with Boston or New York shippers, being heavily handicapped in the matter of ocean freights, yet it is only a question of time, when this noble old county of Annapolis with its wealth of marshes and orchards will hold its own against all comers. B. STARRATT.

Miscellaneous.

A Little Girl in Maine who Knew How to Raise Money.

A good story is told by the Portland (Me.) *Press* of a little girl, whose mother is a member of Bosworth Relief corps which goes to show that even at her tender age she is smart enough to run a fair. The little miss is only 9 years old. She is very pretty and ladylike. When the relief corps decided to hold a fair, the ladies as is customary, asked the friends to contribute articles to their various tables. Now, our little miss thought she would do business on her own hook. So she called on many ladies she knew, interested them in the fair, and, when it was time to open the fair, this little miss had secured so much and of such variety that a cart had to be sent to collect the contributions.

This little miss was very active during the fair. One evening Mayor Deering came into the hall. The young lady was waltzed up to him and said—her bright face and sparkling eyes attracting the attention of the listeners—'Mayor Deering, I am collecting some money for the fair; won't you contribute?'

The mayor put his hand in his pocket, took out some money, and, without looking at it, handed it to the little miss. She thanked him and went off, but in a few moments was back again and said:

'Mayor Deering, I forgot to tell you that we proposed to print the names of those contributing the money I am collecting, and when you gave me seven cents, because I didn't believe you would want it printed that the Mayor of Portland gave seven cents to the fair.'

A broad smile overspread the mayor's face, and drawing his pocket-book, he handed the little miss a crisp $5 bill.

'Now,' says our little miss, 'I hear Gov. Robie is here, Mr. Mayor and I would like ever so much to be introduced. Won't you introduce me?'

'Certainly,' replied his honor always gallant, 'come with me.'

So the couple walked up to where the Governor was, and the mayor, addressing him said:

'Governor, here is a little girl who is very anxious to know the chief magistrate of the state.'

The Governor turned, shook hands with our little miss, asked her her name, patted her head and asked her what he could do for her.

'Why, Gov. Robie,' she replied, 'I am collecting some money for the fair. Won't you contribute?'

'Of course I will,' replied the Governor; 'what shall I give you?'

'Well, you see,' said our little miss, 'Mayor Deering has given me $5, and of course the governor of a State would wish to give more than the mayor of a city.'

The Governor was quick to see the joke, and laughingly drew his wallet and handed our little miss a bill to add to the other contributions for the relief fund.

THE WIDOW'S WIT.—A dashing Washington widow, who had received marked attention from a very popular and gallant physician, found herself suddenly deserted. Her Esculapius, aged 52, was completely enthralled by a beauty of 18, and on Christmas morning the wedding took place with all due pomp. Wormwood for the widow! She swallowed it bravely, wore an undaunted front, and was among the first to offer hurried congratulations to the happy pair. The conversation turned upon Christmas gifts, and the bride said, laughing gaily, all my wedding presents were just sent before Christmas, so on Christmas morning I had not a single gift.' 'Ah! my dear that is cruel, you had me,' said the bridegroom, reproachfully. Before the pretty bride could answer, the widow's eyes grew dangerous and swinging slowly her large fan, she murmured. 'Surely, my dear Mrs. X., you should be more than satisfied, for you know antiquities are all the rage.' In the awful silence following the widow rose, carefully arranged her draperies, and bowed adieu in stately serenity. Dr. X., and his bride never returned her call.—*Boston Herald.*

A SMART SIX-YEAR-OLD.—Over in Dayton's Bluff is a schoolhouse. The school is presided over by a very pretty and interesting young lady teacher, who is a great favorite with the juveniles instructed to her care, and the boy scholars are constantly in a turmoil as to which shall have the privilege of escorting her home after the close of school. Last week one sagacious 6-year-old man determined to be ahead of his competitors, and during the afternoon he raised his hand to attract the teacher's attention. When asked what he desired, he arose, and in a polite manner, asked the teacher if 'he might have the pleasure of escorting her to her home after school.' The girls laughed, the boys looked cross and the teacher accepted the offer.

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30 PARLOR SUITS
30 PINE BEDROOM SUITS
20 ASH AND WALNUT SUITS;
12 BLACK WALNUT SUITS.

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Notice of Change of Partnership.

The Law Firm of

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Office on Queen Street, Bridgetown, N. S., will henceforth be known under the name and style of

T. D. RUGGLES & SONS.

consisting of T. D. Ruggles, Q. C., Edwin Ruggles, B. A., and Harry Ruggles, B. A.

Dated December 16th, A. D., 1884. tf

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT!

Edward Fales,

of Wilmot, in the county of Annapolis, trader, having by deed dated the first day of October, A. D. 1885, assigned all his real and personal property to me, in trust, to dispose of the same and after payment of certain preferential claims, apply the proceeds thereof toward the payment *pro rata* of the respective claims of the creditors, who shall execute said deed of assignment, within six months from the date thereof.

Notice is hereby given, that the said deed lies at the office of John Ervin, solicitor, Bridgetown, N. S., for inspection and signature of all parties interested, and the duplicate thereof is on file and recorded in the office of the Registrar of deeds for the said County of Annapolis.

ANSLEY ELLIOTT,

Notice.

ALL persons having legal demands against the estate of the late JOSEPH CLARK, of Granville, in the County of Annapolis, Farmer, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested to, within twelve months from this date, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to

HANNAH CLARK, Executrix.

Granville, Nov. 14th, 1885. 3m.

Administratrix Notice.

ALL persons having any legal demands against the estate of the late CHARLES E. MORTON, of Centreville, in the county of Annapolis, farmer deceased, are requested to render their accounts duly attested, within three months and all persons indebted to the said estate, are requested to make immediate payment to

LUCY A. MORTON, Administratrix.

Centreville, Oct. 13th, 1885. 3mpd.

Administrator's Notice.

ALL persons having any legal demands against the estate of the late JOHN W. BOWLBY, of Victoria, in the County of Annapolis, farmer, deceased, are requested to render their accounts duly attested within three months' and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to made immediate payment to

GEORGE ROACH, Administrator.

Victoria, Nov. 20th, 1885. 3mpd.

NOTICE!

ALL persons having legal demands against the estate of JOHN B. PARKER, late of Granville, in the county of Annapolis, farmer, deceased, are hereby notified to render the same duly attested to, within twelve months from this date and all persons indebted to said estate, are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

CHARLES W. PARKER, W. FLETCHER PARKER, } Extrs.

Bridgetown Jan. 4th, 1886. 3m

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TAILOR,

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Bridgetown, Oct. 16, '83. tf

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ANNAPOLIS LINE.

Commencing Oct. 1st, the Steamer, "NEW BRUNSWICK will leave Annapolis for Boston Direct, calling at Digby, every Thursday, p. m., after arrival of W. & A. Ry. Express from Halifax. Passengers from Yarmouth and other stations on the W. C. Ry. connect with this Str. at Digby. Returning, will leave Boston for Annapolis every Monday, at 8 a. m., connecting with the trains of the W. C. Ry. and W. & A. Ry. the following day. The Str. "SECRET" leaves Annapolis and Digby every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, p. m., for St. John, connecting with the regular trips of I. S. S. Co's., new and elegant Steers. "State of Maine" and "Cumberland," which now leave St. John every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 o'clock, a. m.

For tickets or further information apply to your nearest ticket agent or to

GEO. E. CORBITT, Agt., Annapolis, N. S.

November 3, 1885.

MRS. SOPHIA POTTER'S BONE RHEUMATIC LINIMENT.

SPRINGFIELD MINES, CUM. CO., Sept. 3rd, '84.

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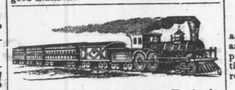
MRS. SOPHIA POTTER. — Dear Madam.— Twenty years ago I hurt my chest which has troubled me ever since, at times laying me up entirely. Pain about the heart was severe. Doctors said the skirts of the heart and lining of the stomach were torn. Over a year ago I tried your Bone Rheumatic Liniment a few times and have felt no pain or trouble since. I would recommend it as a good Liniment. DAVID RICE.



Windsor & Annapolis Raiw'y

Time Table.

Miles.	GOING EAST.	Express Daily.	Fas. and Freight Tus. Thurs. and Sat. only.	Passengers and Freight Daily.
		P.M.	A. M.	A.M.
0	Annapolis—leave	1 30	6 15	.....
6	Round Hill	1 50	6 40	.....
14	Bridgetown	2 13	7 10	.....
19	Paradise	2 28	7 30	.....
22	Lawrencetown	2 38	7 45	.....
28	Middleton	2 58	8 10	.....
32	Wilmot	3 10	8 26	.....
35	Kingston	3 19	8 40	.....
42	Aylesford	3 37	9 15	.....
47	Berwick	3 52	9 35	.....
59	Kentville—arrive	4 25	10 30	.....
	Do—leave	4 40	11 15	5 40
64	Port Williams	4 55	11 35	6 00
66	Wolfville	5 03	11 44	6 10
69	Grand Pre	5 13	11 57	6 25
77	Hantsport	5 39	12 30	6 58
			P. M.	
84	Windsor	6 05	1 00	7 25
116	Windsor Junct	7 23	3 25	9 50
130	Halifax—arrive	8 05	4 30	10 45

Miles.	GOING WEST.	Express Daily.	Fas. and Freight Mo. Wed. and Fri. only.	Passengers Freight and daily.
		A. M.	A. M.	P. M.
0	Halifax—leave	7 00	.....	3 30
14	Windsor Junc—leave	7 37	6 52	3 10
46	Windsor	8 57	10 05	5 15
53	Hantsport	9 22	10 37	6 03
61	Grand Pre	9 44	11 10	6 33
64	Wolfville	9 54	11 25	6 46
66	Port Williams	10 10	11 35	6 55
71	Kentville—arrive	10 15	11 55	7 10
			P. M.	
	Do—leave	10 30	12 25	.....
83	Berwick	11 03	1 17	.....
88	Aylesford	11 18	1 40	.....
95	Kingston	11 36	2 10	.....
98	Wilmot	11 45	2 23	.....
102	Middleton	11 57	2 38	.....
108	Lawrencetown	12 15	3 23	.....
111	Paradise	12 25	3 37	.....
116	Bridgetown	12 40	4 00	.....
124	Roundhill	1 00	4 30	.....
130	Annapolis—arrive	1 20	4 55	.....

Trains are run on Eastern Standard Time. One hour added will give Halifax time.

Steamer Secret leaves St. John at 7 a. m., every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, for Digby and Annapolis, Returning, same days for Digby and St. John.

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Kentville, Nov. 14th, 1885.

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will cure the worst cases of it, or money refunded. Try it.

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will cure the Seven Year Itch or any other Itch. Has never failed for over forty years to do so.

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Fruits and Ornamental Trees,

FRENCH ROSES,

And Clematis,

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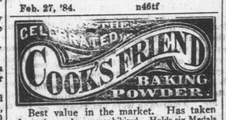
Feb. 27, '84. n46tf



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best in town.

THE SIGN OF BLACK BOOT, QUEEN ST. BRIDGETOWN.

Bridgetown, April 8th, '85. 6m.

Eagleson's Hotel!

THE subscriber has leased the premises formerly occupied by JOSEPH BUCKLER as a Hotel, and intends to keep up the old stand as a Hotel, with a stable attached, for the accommodation of the public. The stand is situated on the corner of

Cranville & Queen Streets,

and is too well known to require further description. The best attention given to guests. Passengers conveyed to all parts of the county.

TERMS, moderate.

THOS. J. EAGLESON. Proprietor.

Bridgetown, June 2nd, 1885. tf.

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ORANGE JUDD CO., DAVID W. JUDD, Pres 751 Broadway, New York.

For the Ladies.

—The housekeeper should never be without a bottle of lime water. To have it always ready and in good order, with little expense, place in a tall quart bottle of any kind a gill or so of good lime just slacked with water. Then fill the bottle with rain or other pure water, and allow it to stand quietly, well-corked. The lime will settle, leaving clear lime water at the top. Pour this off gently as wanted, adding more water as needed. Lime water, even when closely corked, often deteriorates, the carbonic acid in the air unites with the lime and settles as an insoluble carbonate on the sides of the bottle, which is nearly impossible to remove. This will spoil the bottle for any other use. Therefore select one from the storeroom which is not valued, but which has a good tight cover. A wide-mouthed bottle preferable.

The lime should be removed and fresh put in once a year or so, unless kept very tightly corked. A pint of cold water dissolves less than ten grains of lime, and warm water still less. The uses lime water may be put to are innumerable. If good milk disagrees with a child or grown person, three or four tablespoonfuls of lime water added, to it will usually help digestion and prevent flatulence, it also counteracts pains from acid fruits. Over-eating of candies and other sweets will sometimes cause acidity, for which this is a sovereign remedy.

A tablespoonful for a child of two years old to a gill or more for an adult is an ordinary dose, while considerable will have no bad results; in fact it is a simple anti-acid and slightly tonic. A small quantity put into a tooth-mug with the water in cleansing the teeth will harden the gums and prevent soft decay, which is a serious evil which many desire to avert. For burns or scalds, to two parts of linseed oil, add one part of lime water, and apply with some linen.

EDUCATION OF GIRLS.—Louisa M. Alcott says of the education of girls: 'I can only hope that with the new and freer ideas now coming up some of the good old ways may be restored. Respect shown to the aged, modesty, simple dress, home-keeping, daughters learning from good mothers their domestic arts, are so much better the too early frivolity and freedom so many girls now enjoy. The little daughter sent me by my dying sister has given me a renewed interest in the education of girls and a fresh anxiety concerning the sort of society they are to enter by and by. Health comes first, and early knowledge of truth, obedience and self-control; then such necessary lessons as all must learn, and, later, accomplishments as taste and talent lead her to desire—a profession or trade to fall back upon in time of need, that she may not be dependent or too proud to work for her bread. Experience is the best teacher, and with good health, good principles, and a good education any girl can make her own way and be graver and better for the exertion and discipline.'

—To dry pumpkin, some people cut them into rings, peeling the outside and scraping out the inside pulp, and hang the rings around the stove; but we consider the nicest way is to cut up and stew, then spread on plates and dry quickly in the oven, before souring. Dried in this way it is easily soaked out and prepared for pies when wanted in spring or summer. Calculate enough at every stewing of green ones for pies this fall, to have some to dry, and there will soon be sufficient for future use, and the work not felt. Observe the same rules in regard to scalding before packing, as are given for dried apples; also the same for dried sweet corn. Boil it on the cobs as for eating; cut off and dry quickly same as pumpkin. We use tin cans for storing these things in. Large baking powder cans are nice, or smaller ones will answer if one has a plenty; but be sure to scald and dry them before using.

BABY'S AFGHAN.—To make a cheap afghan for a baby carriage, for the right side of the afghan, get basket cloth, and pink it around the edge. Work in the cross stitch or any pretty fancy stitch the word baby or a flower near the center. For the under side get double-faced canton flannel, cut one inch larger all around, and pink same as the top side. If this is not heavy enough, lay several thicknesses of cloth, or lining cotton is better, on this and tack with a blind stitch. Put together by stitching several rows on the machine, or prettier still, make a fancy stitch about one inch from the edge.

—A tiny rip in the sheet, if not mended may result in a hopeless tear at the next wring. In making sheets use rather fine thread; then when worn they can easily be ripped and turned. Pillow slips will wear twice as long if the ends are changed when about half worn. Night gowns will have their time of service doubled if you put in new sleeves and neck binding, having first put a new facing inside the yoke.

—A lady's conduct is never so entirely at the mercy of critics, because never so public, as when she is in the street. Her dress, carriage, walk, will be exposed to notice, every passerby will look at her, if it is only for one glance, every unladylike action will be marked, and in no position will a dignified ladylike deportment be more certain to command respect.

APPLE WATER.—This is a refreshing beverage when a bad cold has the effect of making one thirsty. It is especially appreciated by children. Cut four slowly baked apples in quarters, put them in a jug with a couple of cloves. Pour a quart of boiling water on them. In three hours strain and sweeten to taste.

SPICE CAKE. (very fine.) 1 cup molasses, 1 cup sugar, ½ cup butter, 1 cup sour milk, 3 eggs, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon nutmeg, 1 teaspoon cloves, 1½ teaspoon cinnamon, 3 cups flour.

LEMON JELLY.—½ oz. gleatine 1 pint water, 1½ cups sugar, whites 2 eggs, lemon.

Joker's Corner.

—The following good thing is told of Ald. Harry Piper, of Toronto, when he was out west, at St. Louis, a few weeks ago. During his stay in that city he attended a public banquet, and when the toast of the United States of America was proposed, Harry's name was coupled with two others to reply. The first speaker referred to the boundless extent of the United States, extending from Maine to California and from Wisconsin to Florida. The second speaker referred to the same subject and averred that the United States extended from the frozen regions of the north to the torrid heat of the tropics, laved on one side by the Atlantic and on the other by the equally mighty Pacific. Then it came to Ald. Piper's turn, and he sought to follow the customs of the country. He said: 'Mr. Chairman—when I think of the boundless extent of these United States of America; bounded on the north by Aurora Borealis, on the south by infinite space, on the east by the procession of the equinoxes and on the west by the day of judgment—'Right there thunders of applause drowned the rest of the sentence and Harry was engaged on the spot to come back to St. Louis and deliver the next fourth of July oration.

A MISTAKE WAS MADE.—A young lady gave her 'young man' a beautifully worked pair of slippers, and he acknowledged the present by sending her his picture in a handsome frame. He wrote a note to send with it, and at the same time replied angrily to an oft-repeated dun for an unpaid-for suit of clothes. He gave a boy ten cents to deliver the package and notes, giving explicit directions as to the destination of each. It was a boy with a freckled face, and he discharged his errand in a manner that should give him a niche in the temple of fame. The young lady received the note in her adored one's hand-writing and flew to her room to devour its contents. She opened the missive with eagerness and read: 'I'm getting tired of your everlasting attentions. The suit is about worn out already. It never amounted to much anyway. Please go to thunder.' And the tailor was struck dumb when he opened a parcel and discovered a picture of his delinquent customer, with a note that said: 'When you gaze upon these features think how much I owe you.' When the unfortunate young man called around that evening to receive the happy acknowledgements of his sweetheart, he was very ostentatiously shoved off the steps by the young lady's father.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

A Good Investment.

A genteel but somewhat shabbily dressed man called at the office of an Austin Banker, to whom he had previously addressed a note.

'You say you wish to talk with me about an arrangement by which I can make money?' asked the banker.

'Yes sir, that is the object of my visit.'

'Well, proceed.'

'I take it that you are a public-spirited man, and charitably disposed?'

'Yes, moderately so.'

'Well, I intend to commit suicide and leave my family utterly destitute. Of course a collection will be taken for my surviving family, and you will be called upon to subscribe. You can not get out of it decently under $20.'

'Well.'

'Now, I'll agree to postpone my rash act indefinitely. I'll compromise the matter for $2. That is only 10 per cent of what you would have to pay. All I ask is the ordinary commission. By this arrangement you make $10 offhand, without investing a cent.'—*Ex.*

What She Meant.

(From the Detroit Free Press.)

A woman ran out of a house on Beaubien street the other day crying 'fire' as loud as she could yell. A pedestrian who was passing by sprang up the steps and into the hall, and being unable to see or smell smoke he turned to the gasping and excited woman and asked:

'Where is the fire? I can't see any signs of one.'

'I—I didn't mean fire. I—I meant murder,' she replied.

'Is there a man in the house?'

'No, sir.'

'Who tried to murder you?'

'Oh, I didn't mean murder, I guess, but the awfulest, biggest rat you ever got eyes on chased our cat across the kitchen and then stood and glared at me like a