

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A QUEER CUSTOM.—The custom of coronals in churches exists in the parish of Abbots Ann, Hampshire. When a young unmarried female dies, of unblemished character, a coronal made of some metal is hung up in the parish church, to which crown are attached five white gloves, one in the centre and one at each corner. Nearly forty of these coronals are suspended from the roof.

CARVING FOR HIS DINNER.—The Boston Transcript relates the following anecdote of an old-time New England stage house: "At one of them, day after day, a stranger, apparently a guest, was politely asked by the landlord if he would be good enough for that day to carve the dish before him. Uniformly the well-dressed stranger gracefully complied and as gracefully carved the contents of the platter. Some over-inquisitive person, for there were such even in those famous old times, at last observed that day by day the same dish appeared in the same place at table, and the same polite request was in the same tone preferred and complied with. The well-dressed guest was a neighboring tailor who was famous as a carver, perhaps from practice on the goose, and who got his dinner for his services."

POUND PARTIES.—"Pound parties" are becoming very popular as the season wears on. Their object is the raising of supplies for the poor. Every guest is expected to bring something done up in a package. These packages are sold at auction during the evening, attractive young ladies taking the part of auctioneers. The articles are sold as boys trade jack-knives, "unsight and unseen," and each package must be opened in the presence of the entire company. It is regarded as ungentlemanly to attend a "pound party" and not buy at least one package. Nice chaps must bid in articles for the girls, who want to know dreadfully what is done up in a particular package. A man who has an article knocked off to him at a good round price by the pretty auctioneer, loses caste if he does not pay for it even if he made no bid. In fact, that is one of the ways the joke comes. These pound parties are very fashionable and very popular.

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.—Recently in Poughkeepsie, a lady in the street met a little girl between two and three years old, evidently lost, and crying bitterly. The lady took the child's hand, and asked where she was going.

"Down town to find my papa," was the sobbing reply.

"What is your papa's name?" asked the lady.

"His name is papa."

"But what is his other name? What does your mamma call him?"

"She calls him papa," persisted the little creature.

The lady then tried to lead her along, saying "You had better come with me. I guess you came from this way."

"Yes, but I don't want to go back; I want to find my papa," replied the little girl, crying afresh as if her heart would break.

"What do you want of your papa?" asked the lady.

"I want to kiss him."

Just at this time a sister of the child, who had been searching for her, came along and took possession of the little runaway. From inquiry it appeared that the little one's papa, whom she was so earnestly seeking, had recently died, and she, tired of waiting for him to come home, had gone out to find him.

"AT TWELVE YEARS OF AGE."—The Memphis Avalanche says that an episode occurred at the Christmas matinee performance of the "New Magdalen," which convulsed the house with laughter, and had a visible effect upon Miss Gray and the supporting actors, Messrs. Evans and Knowles, who were on the stage at the time. The usual holiday hilarity was manifested frequently in the suburbs of the audience where the young bloods do mostly ogle, but in deference to public sentiment and the day celebrated no particular interruption was occasioned, and the drama ran smoothly on to the scene in the fourth act where the interest culminates in the story of Mercy Merrick's life, as told by the spurious Grace Roseberry. The recital is amusing, and was so on this occasion, and there were not a few eyes red with unsoftened tears, and even many throats felt choking, despite seductive egg-nogs and less mysterious whiskey straight. Miss Ada Gray, as the penitent Mercy Merrick, had reached her twelfth year in her narrative, when some wicked youth in the parquet, who regarded not the proprieties, changed the whole current of feeling in the auditorium by an unexpected holiday joke. He had blown up one of those artfully contrived bladders, and at the instant when Miss Gray said "At twelve years of age" the infernal thing collapsed, and the sound was like unto a prolonged squall of a horse-baby. Miss Gray averted her face and was convulsed with laughter, and could not proceed. The other two actors shook spasmodically, and the entire audience burst into a loud and uproarious guffaw.

"MILKY" COLLINS.—Poor Philp (says the Washington Capital) was taken considerably back by a new member he invited to his house

to an entertainment he gave to Wilkie Collins. The Hon. Lycurgus Leatherlungs, from the Mill Creek Bottoms of Pennsylvania, had been to a dinner-party at Welcker's, and was considerably "sprung" when he reached Mr. Philp's palatial residence. A few glasses of choice old wine there completed his utter ruin. When he was presented to the celebrated English novelist he seized his hand, and holding it firmly but affectionately, he gazed with intense earnestness in the face of the novelist. At last, finding words, he said:

"How are you, Milky?"

"I am quite well, sir; how do you do?"

"Oh, never mind me, Milky; I am all right; member-elect from Mill Creek Bottoms, and damned glad to see you."

Here Wilkie made an effort to escape, but the M. C. held on.

"I say, old Milky, I know you. I've got all your books and read one every day. I've got 'Hard Cash,' the 'Last of the Barons,' the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel,' and all of 'em."

At this stunning information Wilkie Collins put all his strength into a frantic endeavor to escape. This, however, only resulted in the newly made member of Congress throwing his arms around the neck of the novelist and kissing him on the end of his intellectual nose. The spectacles disappeared in the struggle, and the entire force of the festive throng was brought to bear to throw poor "Milky" into the Committee of the Whole.

Next day, on Mr. Philp proposing to escort his distinguished guest to the Capitol that he might see the Senate and House of Representatives, Wilkie Collins turned pale and said, with a shudder:

"No, I thank you, rather not."

SKIN OF A WHITE MAN ENGRAFTED UPON A NEGRO.—Mr. George Pollock's well-known and successful experiment, by which he tested the success of Reverdin's valuable method of skin-grafting in surgery, has been repeated inversely in America. Dr. Maxwell, of Newcastle, Delaware, reports in the Philadelphia Medical Times of October 18, that in February, 1872, he was called to a negro who had been shot in the face with a bird-shot. As he was only a few feet from the muzzle of the gun, the discharge passed through the left cheek, in as compact a mass as if it had been a ball, and passed out at the posterior portion of the ramus of the lower jaw, just below the lobule of the ear. There was extensive sloughing, and Dr. Maxwell proposed skin-grafting. He conceived the idea of transplanting the skin of a white man; and the consent of the patient having been obtained, Dr. Maxwell cut from his own arm a piece of skin about the size of a dime. He also took from the patient's arm a similar piece, and, having cut them into pieces of the size of a canary-seed, carefully inserted them on the wound. All the white grafts except one died, and this one increased rapidly in size, till it was more than half an inch in diameter. After the wound had healed, Dr. Maxwell thus describes the patient's condition:—"Meeting my patient on the road, I readily distinguished the white patch on the side of the face twenty or thirty yards distant. Upon examination, dark-colored lines, forming a net-work on the white skin, were discovered. These lines increased in size and in number, deepening the colour of the patch, until, at the end of the third month, the whole of the surface of the wound was of a uniform black colour." The experiment is exceedingly interesting, and it is said to be the first published case of the kind.

A NOVEL BEVERAGE.—"One evening last week," says a Utica paper, "the members of a club-room distant about ten miles from this city were making arrangements to receive some distinguished guests from abroad. Now the wine-cellar of the club contains wine good enough for all ordinary occasions. But this reception was something extraordinary, and the regular vintage was not considered nice enough, to tickle the palates of the guests. It might do to commence with, but something unusually fine should be opened to top off with. The members were in a quandary, until one of them happened to recollect that in his father-in-law's cellar was some very fine sherry, sent from Europe by his uncle. He would wait until the folks were off to a meeting that evening, and then go and get a bottle of that sherry. But did he know in what part of the cellar the wine was? Certainly; he could lay his hand on those bottles of wine even in the dark." That settled the matter and the club was happy. Evening came, the guests arrived, and the folks went to meeting. The man who knew all about the wine went to the cellar of his father-in-law, found some carefully corked bottles in one corner of the same and brought one away. The regular club wine was served, and then, as the party was about breaking up, the president of the club arose and remarked that before the assemblage dispersed he wished them to try some very fine old sherry, which was only brought out on unusual occasions. Thereupon the man who knew all about it produced the bottle containing the choice mixture. The guests gathered around the president with glasses in their hands. After some difficulty the bottle was uncorked. Bowing graciously to a colonel in the party, the president asked him to hold out his glass. He did so. The president lifted up the bottle. No wine came out. He lifted the bottle still more. Still no wine. He turned the bottle upside down, when slowly out of the bottle flowed some—tomato catsup."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

BET SUGAR.—A correspondent of the London Times called attention, recently, to the extraordinary development of the beet-sugar production in France, and expressed surprise at the neglect of this industry in England. The figures given by the writer are remarkable. In 1856-7, the production in France was 70,000 tons of sugar by 283 factories. Last year it was 409,000 tons of sugar by 520 factories. Belgium, Germany, Australia and Russia also participate in this industry, these countries with France having last year produced over 1,100,000 tons of sugar, worth fully \$25,000,000.

BRIGHT WHITEWASH.—Take half a bushel of unslacked lime. Slack it with boiling water. cover it during the process to keep the steam in. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve and add to it a peck of salt previously well dissolved in warm water, three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in boiling hot, half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clean glue which has been previously dissolved by soaking it well and hanging it over a slow fire in a small kettle within a large one filled with water; add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir it well, and let stand a few days covered from the dirt. It should be put on hot.—Farmer's Union.

UTILIZATION OF THE TIDES.—Mr. C. R. Huxley, writing to the Globe with reference to utilization of the tides as a motive power for machinery, says a plan is about to be submitted to the Government which illustrates the availability of water as a motive power for all standing machinery, whether for dockyards, arsenals, rivers—in fact, wherever water is within reach. It is calculated that this invention will save the Government \$200,000 in fuel alone, and throw into the market, for domestic use, coal in such quantity as to reduce the price of this costly luxury to one half its present figure, and cheapen considerably most articles of manufacture.

A NEW VENTILATOR.—Captain Wintour, a resident of Bristol, has invented an apparatus, consisting of a metal frame with glass, at each end of a cylinder of gauze wire. The cylinder slides backwards and forwards in a metal shield, by means of which it can be easily fixed in any window, door, or indeed anywhere. The inventor claims for it that it is specially adapted for the windows of private houses, churches, hospitals, and all large buildings; it can also be fixed in carriages, cabins of ships, tents, conservatories, and greenhouses. Its action is to admit air at the sides of the cylinder only, and remove foul air simultaneously and imperceptibly, without the least draught, or admission of dust or insects.

RAPID FILTRATION.—A simple contrivance, acting upon the same principle as Bausen's filter has been proposed by E. Fleischer (American Journal of Pharmacy). A wide-mouthed bottle is closed with a rubber cork twice perforated; into one of the perforations the funnel is fitted, while a short glass tube, bent at a right angle is inserted into the other, and lengthened by means of a piece of rubber tubing with spring clamp attached. The filter is capped with a small filter, then inserted and well moistened so as to rest against the funnel; afterwards the liquor to be filtered is poured upon it, and the air in the receiving bottle rarified by sucking through the rubber tubing, which is then closed by the clamp.

A NEW BOARD FENCE.—I have seen the subject discussed as to the best method of setting posts for board fences for durability. I have devised a plan which I respectfully submit which I think will supersede any other, and do away with the mode now in use. Take three posts of any durable timber, four feet long; lay them on the ground near the line of the fence, nail on the board to each post; imbed a suitable stone in the ground where the post is to be set; raise the section of your fence on the same, and drive two stakes near each post; draw them tight together at the top; take a strong wire of suitable size, loop one end, bring around into the loop, loop in the other end and out off your wire. For the second length or section, nail on to posts, elevate properly, secure the same by stakes and then nail the loose ends to the first section, and so proceed until the fence is finished. I would also recommend the stakes to be cut long enough to drive the second time when rotted off.—Cor. Western Rural.

THE HEALTHFULNESS OF LEMONS.—When people feel the need of an acid, if they would let vinegar alone and use lemons or apples, they would feel just as well satisfied and receive no injury. A suggestion may not come amiss as to a good plan when lemons are cheap in the market. A person should then purchase several dozens at once, and prepare them for use in the warm, weak days of the spring and summer when acids, especially citric and malic, or the acid of lemons, are so grateful and useful. Press your hand on the lemon and roll it back and forth briskly on the table to make it squeeze more easily, then press the juice into a bowl or tumbler, never into a tin; strain out all the seeds, as they give a bad taste. Remove all the pulp from the peels, and boil in water—a pint for a dozen pulps—to extract the acid. A few minutes' boiling is enough; then strain the water with the juice of the lemons, put a pound of white sugar to a pint of the juice, boil ten minutes, bottle it, and your lemonade is ready. Put a tablespoonful or two of this lemon syrup in a glass of water, and have a cooling, healthful drink.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

"KILLED by a visitation of Providence through the medium of a horse," was the Coroner's verdict in the case of a Georgia man who was kicked to death.

A CINCINNATI matron says that there is not a fashionable girl in that city but would rather stay away from church than be seen wearing a pair of single-button gloves.

"THE Israelites Crossing the Red Sea," is one of the paintings exhibited by a professor in Maine, who claims in his advertisement that they were "photographed direct from nature."

MRS. GRUNDY says that if you wish to see a fine display of diamonds upon the human form you must secure an introduction to the ugliest woman to be found at a fashionable watering-place.

A DANDY at a hotel table, who wanted the milk passed to him, thus asked for it: "Please send your cow this way."—To whom the landlady retorted as follows: "Waiter, take the cow down to where the calf is bleating."

THE Governor of Wyoming winds up his Thanksgiving proclamation in this style: "Give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever. In witness wherefore I have heretofore set my hand, and caused the great seal of Territory to be affixed, &c."

A WEALTHY parvenu lately gave the church which he attends two tables of stone, with the ten commandments engraved upon them; whereupon, a member of the church remarked that his reason for giving away the commandments was that he couldn't keep them.

A LADY returning from an unprofitable visit to church, declared that "when she saw the shawls on those Smiths, and then thought of the things her own poor girls had to wear, if it wasn't for the consolation of religion she did not know what she should do."

A GLAZIER was putting a pane of glass into a window, when a man began joking him, telling him to mind and put in plenty of putty. The glazier bore the banter for some time, but at last silenced his tormentor with—"Now, be off with you, or else I'll put a pane in your head without any putty."

A HARTFORD gentleman who had tarried late at a wine supper found his wife awaiting his return in a high state of nervousness. Said she, "Here I've been waiting and rocking in a chair till my head spins round like a top!" "Jess so where I've been," responded he; "it's in the atmosphere."

"THE company will never get another farthing of my money," said an angry lady in a train.—"How can you help yourself? You've got to travel on the road, or move to some other part of the country," sneeringly remarked the guard, who had offended her.—"Why," retorted the lady, "I'll pay my fare to you, and then I'll be bound that the company will never get the money!"

A MARRIED man says a looking-glass affords a woman a marvellous amount of comfort and gratification. He says his wife thinks just as much of consulting her glass when she lies on her apron as when she ties on her bonnet. When there is a knock at the door, he goes there at once; but his wife, on the contrary, ejaculates, "Mercy, Joseph! who's that?" and dashes for the looking-glass the first thing.

A SCOTTISH minister being one day engaged in visiting some members of his flock, came to the door of a house where his gentle tapping could not be heard for the noise of the contention within. After waiting a little he opened the door and walked in, saying, with an authoritative voice, "I should like to know who is the head of this house." "Weel, Sir," said the husband and father, "if ye sit down a wee we'll maybe be able to tell ye, for we're just trying to settle that point."

ANOTHER old citizen of Illinois is prematurely no more. "In life's great game of poker," as the aged minister tearfully observed in his funeral discourse, "he has thrown down his hand which, permit me to say, brethren, was equal to four aces and a queen, he has surrendered his chips, drained his glass to the dregs, and walked out." And, what is most remarkable about it is, the full force of the impropriety of keeping her rat-poison in the tea-pot did not seem to strike the old lady until about the time of the inquest.

THE Detroit man who "knew exactly what to do at a fire," when he saw little flames creeping around the chimney of a house he was passing by, first dashed into the house, then shouted "fire!" next overturned a bureau, and then bid one of the family go and sound the alarm. He then snatched up a table, ran into the yard, sent another boy to sound the alarm, ran in, and began to pull a bed to pieces, and ordered the women to throw every thing out-of-doors. Having got the bedstead down, and ordered a third boy to sound the fire-alarm, he carefully carried out a door-mat and a wood-box. The next thing was to throw a looking-glass out the window, and pull the baby's crib to pieces. Meanwhile another man had put out the fire with one pail of water, and came upon the scene of action just in time to prevent the hero from throwing the piano down cellar to make room for himself to work.