

## Poetry.

### OLD COMPANIONS.

Where, I wonder, where are now  
My friends of boyhood's days?  
I cannot help remembering how  
I used to sing their praise,  
When, fresh of lip and smooth of brow,  
We trod in common ways.

And now we are a shattered band—  
Hopeful boys were we;  
Some are on a foreign strand,  
And some are on the sea,  
And some on Fame's high summit stand,  
The last refers to me.

Tom, who was the dunce of all,  
Teaches Hebrew now—  
A stern professor, grim and tall,  
With spees upon his brow;  
While Dandy Jim, so nice and small,  
Directs a Western plow.

Brilliant Dick, our morning star,  
Sinks to early fate;  
Beauport Bob now shines afar,  
Mighty man of State,  
Whose bowels of compassion are  
Immensurably great.

And there was Dionysius Jones,  
Strong in dramatic things,  
Who talked in heavy tragic tones,  
And spoke of "flies" and "wings";  
And now he lives by making loans  
On watches, guns and things.

Poor Fred, whose lungs they said were weak,  
Who could not live a year,  
And in a whisper used to speak—  
His cough was so severe—  
Braced up, and by a sudden freak  
Became an auctioneer.

Big Jack, who held such hands at cards,  
And learned to chew at ten,  
Who talked of bowie-knives and pardes,  
And sundry godless men,  
Is now a pastor meek, who guards  
The flock within his pen.

While saintly Charley Channingsay,  
Whose piety was rank,  
Who went to prayers three times a day,  
And never smoked or drank,  
Has drifted from the narrow way,  
And runs a faro-bank!

## Miscellaneous.

K. Kimoners swam eighteen miles Monday, down the East river to Staten Island, winning a wager of \$800. His competitor gave out half way.

Lightning struck a gospel tent in Philadelphia on Sunday and killed a little girl. Preachers attempt to explain the event by saying the electric fluid mistook the place for a circus.

Professor Davis Swing doesn't believe that the act of card-playing injures the moral sensibilities. It's working six or seven aces into the pack that gives Satan the dead wood on players.

A resident of Springfield, Mass., got drunk, stole two eels and put them in his pocket, then was arrested. The policeman who searched him at the station-house was much surprised when he chanced on them.

A Weedsport, N.Y., paper tells this rat story: "A Weedsport man set a trap for a rat in the morning he found a rat's hide turned flesh side out in the trap, but no rat. The conclusion is that the rat was caught by the hind legs and turned his skin over and crawled through it!"

Mr. Rufus Hatch is a fresh illustration of the vicissitudes of Wall street. Some few months ago he failed for the paltry sum of \$2500. After having settled with his creditors, he was readmitted to the board, and is estimated to be worth to-day a quarter of a million of dollars, almost the whole of which he made in the Granger stocks, buying them at the lowest and bearing them at the highest figures.

"Camping and fishing parties," says the Ithaca, N.Y., Journal, "can obtain a good light by soaking a common brick in kerosene oil for ten minutes. The brick absorbs the oil and on being surrounded with wire and ignited, a brilliant light, lasting for half an hour, is obtained. This is said by those who

chanically threw his hand out and caught the snake around the neck just in time to prevent its fastening its fangs in his nose. He held the reptile firmly in his hand and called for aid. A companion ran up and cut the serpent's head off with a scythe. The rattlesnake had wound itself so tightly about Landis' bare arm that a broad red mark on his flesh showed every coil. The snake was three and a half feet long. It had nine rattles."

It has always been a subject of curiosity and enquiry as to how and where prairie dogs, living on the prairie far away from any river or stream, obtain their water. Mr. W. F. Leech, formerly of Mercer county, Pa., and a frontiersman of experience, asserts that the dogs dig their own wells, each village having one with a concealed opening. It matters not how far down the water may be, the dogs will keep on digging until they reach it. He knows of one such well 200 feet deep, and having a circular staircase leading down to the water. Every time a dog wants a drink he descends the staircase, which, considering the distance, is no mean task. In digging for water the animals display as much pluck as in resisting the efforts to expel them from the land of their progenitors.

### GASTRONOMICAL NOVELTIES.

The editor of the London Truth, who having been bound up in Paris during the siege, ought to know something about the taste of the meat of the various kinds of animals which were then used for human food, says: "Horseflesh is like third-rate beef; it cannot be said to have a disagreeable taste, for it has no taste at all. Donkey, on the other hand, is delicious, and infinitely better eating than beef or mutton. This the French soon discovered during the siege of Paris, for a 'portion' of donkey cost about six times as much as a 'portion' of horse. Cats taste exactly like rabbits; it is impossible to distinguish between them. The objection to rats is that when cooked their flesh is gritty. This objection however, is somewhat epicurean, for, except for the grittiness, they are a wholesome and healthy article of food. I am surprised that there is not a society for the promotion of eating rats. Why should not prisoners be fed with these nourishing and prolific little animals?"

### A BIG BITE.

A strange story comes to us from down the river. Mr. Frank Billings, an old fisherman, near the upper lock on the river, while running his trotline a few days since, found that he had hung a monster catfish. In order to make sure of his game, he wrapped the line around his wrist. The fish, making a desperate effort for liberty, upset the skiff and the fisherman being unable to disentangle himself from the line, was dragged under the water and drowned before assistance could reach him. Some neighbors on the bank witnessed the catastrophe, and hastened to the scene, but too late. They recovered the body of the drowned man and then secured the fish, which weighed 225 pounds. This statement comes to us so well authenticated that we cannot doubt its truth.—Hart County, Ky., Democrat.

### DRIVING A COACH THROUGH A STUMP.

The Sonora, Cal. Independent says: "It is well known, or ought to be, that the Yosemite tourist, who goes via Sonora, passes directly through the Tuolumne Grove of the Big Trees, as fine as any in the State. In this grove are two stumps, larger than any others on the coast. W. S. Priest, one of the Yosemite commissioners has had a contract to bore a hole through one of these stumps for the stages to pass through. The stump is thirty-three feet in diameter, and the hole will be cut through it twelve feet wide by ten feet high, and will be completed on the 10th of this month. This fine grove has hitherto been neglected, but will now be put in order for the inspection of tourists. Trails will be cut through it and the underbrush cleared away, so that it can be thoroughly appreciated in all its stately magnificence."

### EXPORTATION OF HORSES.

The following is a statement of the horses shipped from Montreal to various places in the United States during the first seven months of the year. From January 1st to March 31st, there were shipped 1,801 horses, costing \$188,189. The shipments in April were 982 horses,



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