

Miscellaneous.

UNITED STATES CROPS.

The United States Commissioner of Agriculture, in his report, shows that there has been great increase in the products of that country. He says: "The wheat crop of the present year has been promising in a high degree during the entire season. The aggregate in Wisconsin was early dispersed, except in a few counties in Minnesota. The losses from winter-killing, the fly, the chinch-bug, grasshoppers, rust, smut, etc., have this season been far less than usual. The heaviest production is in the section of the lightest yield last year—the North-western Spring wheat States, whose product fell off 20,000,000 bushels. The aggregate in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska double that of last year and nearly 20,000,000 bushels greater than in 1875. The entire crop promises to exceed that of last year by 70,000,000 bushels, or nearly 100,000,000 bushels for exportation, with a surplus remaining above the actual requirements of consumption. Other crops have been generally good. Among the "industrial" crops cotton, the most prominent, promised 4,500,000 bales in October, but the weather has since been unfavorable, and may lead to a smaller percentage. The sugar-cane picking season to the end of December might reduce the product 500,000 bales. The tobacco crop promises to be a large one, and may reach a product of 440,000,000 pounds, about 100,000,000 pounds above the estimated product of last year. The season has been unfavorable for fruits of most kinds. The main crop, that of apples is a complete failure. There is an abundance, and greatly reduced in yield and high in price. The grape crop suffered in an unusual degree from rot, and the wine will be reduced in the affected districts. The products of the dairy are abundant and the prices fairly remunerative. A tendency to the enlargement in the West is manifest in a marked degree."

HIGH GAMBLING IN LONDON CLUBS.

Gambling is a vice which thrives and grows in spite of police regulations, legal prosecutions, and daily illustrations of its perils and miseries. A year or two ago hardly a week passed without its club being the scene of some scandal. An officer high in Her Majesty's army had to resign his commission for cheating at cards. A well-known gentleman about town was ignominiously kicked out of a West End Club with two boxes up his sleeve. Two young gentlemen of family were ruined at a club where play was understood not to "run high," and a disgraceful case of card-sharping came before the courts. For a time it seemed as though these expenses had a deterrent influence on high stakes and unfair play, but the old vice is still rampant, and the latest development of club gambling is the formation of a "laccant" proprietor club, which is beginning to excite public attention, and is likely, I hear, to attract the attention of the police. I have in my possession information that a young Scotch Laird, a Colonel in the army, whose name I withhold, for the present at all events, lost at this "laccant" club, at one sitting, \$350,000. His opponent had played with him from nine o'clock on Saturday night till four o'clock Sunday morning, when the losses of the young Colonel stood at this enormous sum. "I will go you double or quits," he said, with all the bravado of a gambler, though lacking the proverbial prudence of such a man. "No," responded the winner. "I don't think I will; let me ask you one question first at all events." "Proceed," said the loser. "Supposing I go you double or quits, can you pay \$140,000 if you lose?" "Frankly, I cannot," was the reply. "Then we will not go double or quits, but we will continue to play until I win, or you lose, or you leave off." "The game went on and at 10 o'clock the young Scotch Laird had reduced his losing to \$30,000 which he paid.—London Letter to N. Y. Times.

AN AUTOMATIC HORSE.

Mr. J. H. Nolan has invented a novel means of locomotion, which the Boston Traveller describes as in the form of an automatic or self-propelling horse, the locomotion of which being produced by the weight of the rider and the weight which is carried. The horse and its appliance are models of mechanical simplicity, and any amount of speed can be produced, in fact he can be made to go a mile faster than the fastest trotting horse of the day. A small "horse," capable of carrying a man or twelve miles an hour, can be built from three to five dollars. The "horse" can carry considerable weight in addition to the rider. The person sits in position as he would upon the live animal, with his feet in the stirrups and the reins in his hand, in which position he can govern the speed and guide the "horse" at will. There was an exhibition made with one of these "horses" recently, in a hall in this city, and although the room was small and unfavorable for either speed or ease of locomotion, a boy weighing thirty pounds propelled the "horse" at from six to seven miles an hour with the utmost ease. The experiment thoroughly established the practical value of the invention.

DEPTH OF THE ATLANTIC.

It appears from the sounding operations of the "Challenger," conducted by Sir Wyville Thomson, that the mean depth of the Atlantic is about 2,900 fathoms. An elevated ridge, with a mean depth below the surface of 1,950 fathoms, traverses the basin of the North and South Atlantic in a meridional direction. This, in combination with a second transverse ridge, separates the ocean into three basins—An eastern, extending from the coast of Ireland to the Cape of Good Hope, with an average depth of 2,650 fathoms; a north-western, occupying the great eastern gulf of the American continent; with an average depth of 2,900 fathoms; and a gulf running up the coast of South America as far as Cape Orange, and open to the southward, with a mean depth of 3,000 fathoms. The deepest hole in the Atlantic lies just north of the Virgin Islands. It has a depth of 2,875 fathoms. Whilst the Bermuda situated up an isolated peak from the ocean bed, the Azores show projections from the summit of the meridional ridge.

TO PRESERVE THE TEETH.

Dissolve two ounces of borax in three pints of boiling water, and before it is cold add one tablespoonful of spirits of camphor, and bottle for use. A tablespoonful of this, mixed with an equal quantity of tepid water, applied daily with a soft brush, will preserve the teeth, extricate tartarous adhesion, arrest decay, and make the teeth pearly white.

PROMPT PAYMENTS.

Few persons are at all aware of the evil done to others, or the injury inflicted on themselves, by the single neglect of punctuality as to the payment of debts. There are many men of business who would not have their names in the rank unpaid at maturity for anything, or a debt of honor forgotten, and yet they will say to their poor creditors go and come again, time upon time. Indeed, with many men, the which balance lying in their bankers' hands so ostentatiously to keep up their credit is made up of small sums long overdue, but out of which the proper owners are kept by various devices. With some it is more carelessness, with others a settled principle, that it is never safe or wise to pay any sum of money so long as the payment can, by any art or artifice be delayed. They are not dishonest. They mean to pay, but not till the last practicable moment. Were it a debt of honor, they would pay it directly; but a mechanic's account or a store account of a few dollars may be sent for and sent for a dozen times, and there is no sense of wrong or even impoliteness in all this delay.

The Queen of England is notorious for her prompt payment of all accounts. Not long since, on the marriage of her daughter, she employed a distinguished artist, at the price of about two hundred dollars, to design the bridal veil to be worn on the great occasion. A piece of forgetfulness or a great mistake, by which that artist was left unpaid for a short time, caused her death, in absolute want, in a garret. She was told to call again and again and again. At last, nervous as a lady of refined sensibilities would be, but weary with a long walk, she was taken sick, with fever, and died before the money came, in absolute want. In the time of George II., tradesmen's bills to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars were left unpaid for years. The result of the present Queen of England borrowed money on the Continent to take her wife to England, for Victoria to be born within the kingdom of Great Britain. That money was never repaid until after the present Queen came to the throne. In this country many neglect their small accounts to the ruin of those who trust them.

FOUR CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH IN A CAMP IN THE WOODS.

From the Bangor Whig.] Last Friday night another of those shocking accidents which cast a feeling of sadness over the community, occurred in the vicinity of Cherryfield, particulars of which are as follows:— "It seems that Mr. Jason Leighton of Cherryfield, is engaged in lumbering on the West River, and when he went into the woods he built two camps, one to be used by the crew and the other by his wife and six children. The camps were situated about twenty-five feet apart, and Mrs. Leighton was doing the cooking for the crew. As four of the children were quite small she had been in the habit of giving them their supper early and putting them to bed, after which she would go and get supper for the crew. On Friday evening she gave the little ones their supper, and after fixing them to the night she went into the other camp to prepare the evening meal for the crew.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY AT JAFFA.

A late English paper has the following: "And order was recently issued by the Sultan for removing the old walls and fortifications of Jaffa (Joppa). In cutting a gate through a water battery at an angle of the sea wall, built by Vespasian, and directly in front of the reputed house of Simon the tanner, the men came on three oval shaped tanner's vats hewn out of the natural rock and lined with Roman cement, down every near the sea, and similar in every respect to those in use eighteen centuries ago. There is also a fresh-water spring flowing from the cliff close by, long known as the town spring. This discovery at least proves that the house on the rocky bluff above and from which steps lead down to the vats, must have belonged to some tanner; and as perhaps not more than one of the trade would be living in so small a place as Jaffa, some probability is given to the tradition that this is the very identical spot where the house of Simon stood, with whom Peter was sojourning when he saw his vision, and received the servants of Cornelius."

ADAM YOUNG.

38, 40 & 42 WATER ST. and 143 Prince William St. John, N. B. Manufacturer of Cooking, Hall and Parlor Stoves, Ranges, Furnaces, &c. Marbleized Slate Mantle Pieces, Register Grates. A large assortment of the above Goods always on hand, at the lowest possible prices. Catalogue on application. August 2nd, 1876. n17 y

A LECTURE TO YOUNG MEN.

We have recently published a new edition of Dr. Culverwell's Celebrated Essay on the radical and permanent cure (without medicine) of Nervous Debility, Mental and Physical Incapacity, Impediments to Marriage, &c. resulting from excess. Price, in sealed envelope, only 6 cents, or two postage stamps. The celebrated name in this admirable Essay clearly demonstrates, from thirty years' successful practice, that alarming consequences may be radically cured without the dangerous use of internal medicine or the application of the knife; pointing out a mode of cure at once simple, certain and effectual, by means of which every sufferer, no matter what his condition may be, may cure himself cheaply, privately and radically. This Lecture should be in the hands of every youth and every man in the land. Address: The Culverwell Medical Co., 41 Ann Street, N. Y. Post Office Box, 4559. n17 y

Important to Butter Workers.

One Good Active Agent Wanted in every township, to introduce the "Victor Butter Worker." Sample Machines free to Agents. Price \$2.00, \$7.00 and \$8.00 each. One Million to be sold in the Dominion. Apply early with stamp, for agents circular to the VICTOR BUTTER WORKER & Co., Brookville, Ont.

THE PETRIFYING SILICATE PAINTS.

As supplied to the Admiralty, Board of Works, Austrian Lloyd's, Woolwich Arsenal, Gunard Company, &c., &c. For House, Ship and General Use, Indoors and Out. And in all Colors. Manufactured by the Silicate Paint Company, Liverpool, England. Will stand any degree of heat without blistering. 1 pint being nearly equal in bulk, and doing the work of 2 of Lead Paints.

Artificial Stone Paint.

For preparing Wood, Zinc, and other Buildings, giving them the appearance of White or Bath Stone, &c. Damp Walls, Damp Churches, &c. Cured by the PETRIFYING LIQUID at a cost of about 2d. per square yard. For Particulars and Testimonials apply to the Agent, at Bridgetown, Annapolis Co., Nova Scotia.

TO PREVENT WHITE ANT.

In Wooden Ships, For SINKING ROOMS, SHIP'S BOTTOMS, BRASS AND IRON WORK, DAMP OF HOUSES, TANNERS, AND WOOD WORK. GRIFFITH'S PAT. ENAMELLING PAINTS. Beery article for the Trade at lowest prices.

Porous Tile Roofs, Wet Walls, Wooden Structures, Ships' Bottoms, &c., made thoroughly WATERPROOF, preserved from Oxidation, by GRIFFITH'S PATENT ENAMELLING PAINT. Manufactured by THE SILICATE PAINT COMPANY, LIVERPOOL, G. B.

Agent for Nova Scotia—HUGH FRASER, BRIDGETOWN.

Refined Scotch and Swedish IRON. BLISTER, CAULKING, TYRE, CAST, DRILL STEEL.

Now in Stock: A Quantity of the Silicate Paints.

(Different Colors) prepared for all kinds of House and Ship Painting, also for all kinds of Iron Work and Machinery. The Anti-Poisoning Paint, for Ships' Bottoms, is an article highly recommended as a complete protection against Worms, &c., and will not foul. It leaves a Hard, Smooth Surface like Glass. All orders promptly attended to, and every information given on application to the agent.

1877. STOCK for 1877. Spring Trade now complete at CONNOLLY'S CENTRAL BOOKSTORE.

Extra Fine Stationery! Bank, Post, Parliament, Cream, Laid, Ruled, Plain and Water Line. ENVELOPES in Great Variety. FASHIONABLE STATIONERY, in handsome boxes—64 varieties to select from. BLANK BOOKS, in Every Binding. NEW NOVA SCOTIA SERIES OF SCHOOL BOOKS. Cheapest and best Series now in use, and every article used in the School Room, for sale. Wrapping Paper, Paper Bags—all sizes and qualities, Taylor's, Carter's and Stephens' Celebrated Ink, Lead Pencils of every stamp, Ruler Paper, Green Paper and Paper Stamps. Wholesale and Retail. THOMAS P. CONNOLLY, Cor. Granville and George Sts., Halifax, N. S. may 23 '77. n17 y

L. H. BEVEBER & SONS. Wholesale Merchants, ST. JOHN, N. B.

Dry Goods Department 93 & 95 PRINCE WILLIAM ST.

Keep constantly on hand a large stock of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, from the English Markets, suitable for the Wholesale Trade.

AMERICAN GOODS.

such as Prims, Grey & White Cottons, Cotton Flannel, and Roll Linings, sold by the case or small quantities.

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A full stock kept constantly on hand, of Tea, Sugar, Molasses, Tobacco, Rice, Soda, Cream Tartar, Nuts, and an assortment of Spices, for sale in bulk at the lowest prices. August 2nd, 1876. n17 y

GROCERY DEPARTMENT, 34 & 36 Water St.

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W. WHYLAT & CO.,

Manufacturers of Sole, Harness, Grain, Wax, Buff, Polish, Oil, Pebble, Welt, Rigging and Split. Importers and Dealers, have now completed their stock of Spring and Summer DRY GOODS, which are placed on the MOST FAVORABLE TERMS, and to which they invite the inspection of buyers. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. Board of Venning, (next to A. J. J. BIRNANS.) Prince William St., ST. JOHN, N. B. may 17 '77.

W. WHYLAT & CO.,

Manufacturers of Sole, Harness, Grain, Wax, Buff, Polish, Oil, Pebble, Welt, Rigging and Split. Importers and Dealers in French Calf, C. D. Fronts, English Fitted Upper, Shoe Findings, Tanners' and Curriers' Tools, Rubber and Leather Belting, Lace Leather, &c. Being the Oldest Established Leather and Fitting Business in the Province, we are enabled to supply our Customers the most LIBERAL DISCOUNTS. The highest cash price paid for Hides. 228 Hollis Street, Halifax. House, Three-mile Bedford Road. June 2nd, '77. n17 y

Lawrencetown, OCTOBER, 1877.

THE subscriber has just opened a fresh supply of Silks, French Merinos, Cashmeres, Lustres, Brilliantines, Pannamatas, Barathras, Plain and Plaid Wines, Velvets, Mantle Cloths, Goggles, Shawls, Saques, &c. Also—Millinery and Dress Trimmings. A good stock of Family Groceries Goods constantly on hand. An early call is solicited. MRS. L. C. WHEELOCK. Lawrencetown, N. S., Oct. 24th, 1877.

June Importation.

Checked Dress Goods; Black Silk Fringes; Seal Brown, Cream and Ecru Silks; Nottingham Lace Curtains; Ecru Lace Curtains; Neck Frillings; Ecru Nets, Ecru Laces, Ecru Scarfs; Muslins of all kinds; Brown Hollands; Irish Linens; Cream Damask; Linen Tea Doyles; Ladies' Linen Collars and Cuffs; New Styles; Black Trimming Velvet; Mantle Velvets; Maltese Cloths; Maltese Brads; Black Dress Buttons; Gentlemen's Linen Collars and Cuffs; Linen Tassels, for Costumes; Narrow Plaid Ribbons; Plaid Sash Ribbons; Ladies' Josephine and Cuff Kid Gloves; Hyde Park Wraps, for Girls; Crumb Cloths; Gentlemen's French Kid Gloves; New Plaid Prints.

Manchester, Robertson & Allison.

27 King Street, St. John, N. B. FARM FOR SALE!

THE Subscriber's poor health induces him to offer for sale a farm formerly owned by Morris Wheelock, Annapolis Co. and N. S. & C. County, containing 100 acres, situated on the line of the Halifax and St. John's Railway, consisting of 50 acres in the village of St. John's, and 50 acres in the township of St. John's, containing 100 young fruit-bearing Apple Trees, House, Barn, &c. W. R. HUTT. Middletown, November, 1877.

Murdoch & Co.

OFFER the following Goods at the Lowest Market Prices, for Cash or Good Credit. Ready-Made CLOTH'G. Comprising Men's and Boys' Reefers, Overcoats, Pants, Vests, Undershirts, &c., &c. Boots and Shoes. Including Children's, Boys', Youths' and Men's LONG BOOTS, and Women's, Misses' and Children's Leather & Prussia Calf Boots in variety. Men's and Women's Carpet Slippers, and a complete stock of RUBBERS AND OVERSHOES. 25 trucks different sizes and quality at cost. Shovels, Spades, Shell Hardware, Cut and Clinch Nails, Spikes, Whips and Thongs, Tanned and Plain Sheathing Paper, American Kerosene, Paint and Lubricating Oils of best quality, Lard, Tallow, Wax, Thread, &c. Also, always in stock a large assortment of GENERAL GROCERIES. ON CONSIGNMENT: 1 Hand Crank Mill; 25 Cider Barrels; 25 Buffalo Robes. MURDOCH & CO. Importer and Wholesale Dealer in Pianofortes and Organs, H. AS now on hand at his Musical Warehouse, FARMINGTONS, WILMOT, ANNOPOLES CO., a very large selection of Splendid Instruments, consisting of: American Pianos of the best makers. —ALSO— English, German, and Paris de France, and Taylor & Farley Organs. Parties wanting to purchase will do well to call and examine. Will take part payment in trade. Am prepared to sell 25 per cent. lower than any other dealer. Farmington, Nov. 1st, 1877. n27

GEO. MOIR,

Importer and Wholesale Dealer in Pianofortes and Organs, H. AS now on hand at his Musical Warehouse, FARMINGTONS, WILMOT, ANNOPOLES CO., a very large selection of Splendid Instruments, consisting of: American Pianos of the best makers. —ALSO— English, German, and Paris de France, and Taylor & Farley Organs. Parties wanting to purchase will do well to call and examine. Will take part payment in trade. Am prepared to sell 25 per cent. lower than any other dealer. Farmington, Nov. 1st, 1877. n27

Queen St., Bridgetown, September 27th, 1877.

JUST RECEIVED. A Fresh Supply of TEA & SUGAR.

Bank's Celebrated BISCUITS! CONFECTIONERY, &c. Also a lot of LAYER RAISINS BY BOX OR RETAIL VERY LOW. MRS. L. C. WHELOCK. BRIDGETOWN, Sept. 26th, '77

Administrator's Notice.

ALL persons having any claims against the estate of SILAS GRANT, of Port Williams, in the County of Annapolis, are hereby requested to render their accounts daily attended within twelve months from the date hereof, and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. CHRISTOPHER GRANT, Administrator. Port Williams, Nov. 15, 1877. [Seal 144]

NOTICE!

ALL PERSONS having any legal claims against the estate of THOMAS JOHNSON, of Wilmot, Annapolis Co., deceased, who died on the 15th inst., are hereby requested to render their accounts daily attended within six months from this date, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. HIRAM JOHNSON, Administrator. Wilmot, Sept. 18th, 1877. [Seal 135]

White & Titus, WILL RESUME BUSINESS IN A FEW DAYS, AT 222 SOUTH SIDE UNION STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B. GOODS ARRIVING DAILY. June 2nd, '77. n17 y

Agricultural. FEEDING HORSES.

For a period of over 30 years, more or less, horses have been under my control. I personally superintended the feeding. During this time no horses have died, and I have had little sickness. A straw-outter, with rawhide rollers, has been in continual use till the present time, in the cutting of the food for two teams, enough is saved in one year to pay for its purchase. While the horses are eating their dinner, enough can be cut for the next morning watered, to moisten it, and destroy the dust, and with it four quarts of meal is ample for each horse. There is one-third corn, one-third oats, and the other thirds. A variety is made by giving a few small potatoes or carrots weekly. The benefits resulting from this manner of feeding, are that we have no sick horses, they being always in good health and order; there is no danger of founder from hired men feeding when too warm, they can eat sooner, and are ready to go out; neither is anything wasted (by throwing from the manger, &c.), and it does them more good, I believe, as no whole grain is passed and lost. Being out of meal for a few days, a number of feeds were given them of small ears of corn, with plenty of cut hay, moistened. Two had to be taken to the city immediately for treatment of colic, and by prompt action at once, they recovered. This is the last of whole grain feeding. Of course the same good quality of hay and grain is given when out as when they eat it themselves.

CARBOLIC ACID FOR INSECTS.

My plan of preparing is as follows: I obtain crude carbolic acid; I use it in this form because it is stronger and better for the purpose, and costs very little (about twenty-five cents per gallon, I think). I pour a quantity of this dark crude acid into a quantity of good, strong domestic, soft soap; stir well together, and allow to stand for a few hours. I then test the compound by mixing a little of it with soft water. If too much acid has been added, oily particles of carbolic acid will be observed floating on the surface. This shows that more acid has been put in than the soap will incorporate or "cut," and more soap should be added to balance the excess of acid. No more definite rule can be given, as so much depends on the soap. Two or three tablespoonfuls of the acid to a quart of soap may be first tried. I prefer to make as strong with acid as the soap will perfectly cut. A very little practice will enable any one to compound it correctly. The refined acid may be used when the crude is not at hand. When prepared as above, make moderately strong suds, then apply with a sponge or sponge. In using on very delicate plants, should use four or five for the plants, they can be rinsed off after a few minutes. Do not allow ashes of any kind to be washed. It will pay to haul leached ashes several miles, when one has his own team, and labor at fair wages. Coal ashes, when spread around berry bushes of any sort, or around grape vines, will aid materially in producing large and fair fruit.

USE THE ASHES.

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DOMESTIC ITEMS.

A little spiritus of turpentine added to the water with which floors are washed will prevent the ravages of moths.

CREAM CAKE.—1 cup of sour cream, 1 cup of sugar, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoonful of soda, flour to make a smooth dough.

RIK PEBBINS.—1 cup of rice, 6 cups of milk, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of molasses, spice and salt to the taste.

PUFF CAKE.—2 cups sugar, 3 cups flour, 1 cup butter, 3 eggs, 1 cup milk, 1 teaspoonful soda, 2 teaspoonfuls cream tartar.

FURNITURE POLISH.—Equal parts of boiled linseed oil and kerosene oil well shaken together; applied with a piece of soft flannel, and polished with a clean piece.

When it is necessary to chop suet for any culinary purpose, if flour is sprinkled over it while chopping, it will prevent the pieces from adhering.

Potash water is the quickest cure for wasp stings; a small quantity should be kept in a glass-stoppered bottle. Open the sting with a needle, and put on one drop of the potash water.

Sewing silk should not be put into the mouth, as it is liable to be impregnated with acetate of lead, which is one of the most active poisons. Sewing stresses have often been rendered dangerously ill in this manner.

CHOCOLATE BISCUIT.—Mix some chocolate with white of eggs and powdered loaf-sugar in a paste. Mould this into biscuits, and bake them at a gentle heat on a sheet of white paper.

APPLE PUDDING.—1 cup milk, 1 egg, 1 teaspoonful cream of tartar, 1 teaspoonful soda, flour to make a batter. Four thin slices of apples, and steam it two hours. Serve with sweet sauce.

BUTTER.—If butter is soft and white it is from lack of proper cooling before churning, and it may be hardened by putting in about three times the usual amount of salt, and work it a little for two or three mornings.

To take grease out of any kind of carpet, spread a thick paste of potash, clay, white wet, over the spots, tacking a heavy brown paper over it. Let it stand eight days. Then sweep out very thoroughly, and if not all removed, make a second application. One is usually sufficient. If the grease has penetrated the floor underneath, you must apply some of the clay to it also.

Joker's Corner. A FIGHT FOR SUPREMACY.

A gentleman residing in this city had occasion, a few days since, to take a journey down the river and several miles back from it, using a saddle-horse. Darkness overtook him in a sparsely settled district, and as the roads were in a very bad condition, and the evening looked threatening, he halted before a forlorn looking hut and asked if he could find lodging. "I reckon you mought," said a sorrowful eyed squatter after hesitating a moment.

"The Vicksburger found little to eat, and his horse found still less. The squatter and his wife were all alone and they had but a few words for the stranger, and scarcely spoke to each other. When the evening grew cold the traveller camped down on the floor on a blanket, and being very tired he fell asleep, while the host and hostess were smoking their black clay pipes at the other end of the room. He had slept about two hours, when the squatter shook him by the shoulder and said: "Stranger, I'm powerful sorry to disturb ye, but I want to ax a favor."

"Yes—yes—what is it?" inquired the Vicksburger, and he rubbed his eyes and sat up.

"Ye like to see fair play, don't ye stranger?"

"Yes, of course."

"Wall me'n the old woman can't agree, she's a tecky, and I guess I'm a triffy ugly. Leastwise we don't hang up our old boots. We've fit an' it; I'm old an' she's chuck full of grit, an' it's about an even thing."

"Well, I'm sorry," put in the Vicksburger, as the squatter hesitated.

"We've been a balkin' since ye cum, stranger, and we've made up to ax ye to hold the candle and to let's go in for a fight—ye know, a regular old sockdolager, which shall settle our fuss. If I like she'll go; and if she likes I'll go."

"I'm sorry if there's any trouble, and I hope you won't fight."

"We've got to do it, stranger," replied the woman. "I won't live with a man who kin lick me, an' he's just as high born. Sam's good as the run of men, and he's lazy and sassy and he wants to wear the hat on his ear."

"She's right, stranger," said the squatter. "This cabin can't hold both of us any longer. It's to be a square fight, no kicking or clubbing, and we won't go back on your decision."

The Vicksburger protested, but the woman placed a lighted candle in his hand and posted him in the door, and man and wife stepped out on the ground together.

"Saks, I'm going to wallop ye right smart in just four boots and a holler!" said the squatter as he pushed up his sleeves.

"Sam ye don't weigh enough into three tons!" she replied in a grim voice and the battle commenced.

The Vicksburger mentally bet twenty to one on the man, but in two minutes more he was betting even. The fight was like a wild cat springing, dodging, striking and clashing, and presto! soon her husband had to stand on the defensive.

"Look out for the Bengal tiger, Suke," he warned as he bowed off the air.

"I kin lick the bows off'n you, Sam!" she replied, and the battler grow fiercer.

One of the woman's sharp nails struck the husband in the eye and blinded him for an instant. As he tried to wipe his eyes she seized both her hands in his hair, yanked him down and in another moment had the 'gouge' on him.

"Sam, do you cave?" she asked as they both lay quiet.

"The's the dead word, Suke, and I'm a licked man!" he mournfully answered.

She let him up and he turned to the Vicksburger and inquired:— "Stranger was it a fair fought?"

"I guess it was."

"Then I travel!"