

Miscellaneous.

To the Editor of the Scientific American: A few weeks ago, being in a manufactory where hardware of all sorts is made for harness, I was told that pieces of cast iron could not be soldered together; and that if any inventor could devise a process by which cast iron could be soldered, he could get rich to the extent of a million dollars.

Many years ago the cistern pump of a neighbor was allowed to freeze up, when partially filled with water, the result of which was the cylinder was burst for about six inches in length. The part of the cylinder at the crack was placed on the grindstone, and ground away until the iron was clean and bright for an inch or more on both sides of the crack.

Several machinists laughed me in the face for suggesting such a manner of repairing that wheel, but I took all the parts, and went where I could have the use of an emery wheel, and the surface of the iron on both sides of the cracks or breaks was neatly polished for at least half an inch to an inch from the break.

Fortunately she was well known in the shop she had just quitted, and the proprietor came to her rescue, sending the intruder to the right about with a few sharp words and a threat of the police. In another instance more tragical still, a young American girl had left the hotel at which she was staying on the Rue de la Paix, a young man, and was accompanied by her maid, to the Rue de la Paix to take a carriage. It must be premised that the young lady in question is a singularly modest, refined looking girl, remarkably beautiful, it is true, but in a pale and tranquil style of beauty.

The latest Yankee notion is the invention of a Boston man, Laskey by name, for carrying live stock on board ocean steamers. It is somewhat singular that a self-judging floor for the prevention of the effect of the tossing of the sea should have been put into practical use first for the benefit of the lower animals. Such is the fact, for a self-judging cribful of hogs has lately been delivered in England from New York, with an advantage to the shipper that is convincing as to the practical value of the device.

The question of American ladies returning into the Paris streets alone is one that has often been discussed. And while admitting that Parisian customs prohibit such action, on the part of a young girl, especially if she seem rather strange, it is a modern young dame, quickly and simply attired, should not be able to walk a few blocks alone in the most central part of Paris without being followed, or otherwise annoyed. Yet such is undoubtedly the case at present, and matters in this respect have been rather worse within the last few years.

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Two Modest Lines.

'Speaking of shooting ducks,' says Dr. F., 'puts me in mind of the great storm that occurred when I lived on our island was near Casco Bay; and a awful storm arose, and was so fierce that it drove all the ducks in the bay into a pond, covering about an acre, near my house. In fact so many ducks crowded into the pond that I could not see a drop of water.'

'That's what I was coming at. I went into the house, got my double barreled shot gun and discharged both barrels right into the midst of them; but to my astonishment they arose in the air, leaving not a solitary duck on the pond.'

'Good gracious! You don't say so,' says Smith. 'Didn't you have any shot in your gun, or what in thunder was the matter?'

'Well, I was coming to that,' said Dr. F., 'I astonished me at first, but as soon as the ducks arose a few hundred yards in the air, and commenced to separate a little, ducks began to drop, and whether you believe it or not, I picked up twenty-nine barrels full, and you see the ducks were wedged in solid on the pond and when they arose they carried the dead ones in their arms, and when they separated, down came twenty-nine barrels of dead ducks.'

'Oh, says Smith, 'I am not surprised at that at all, or of the big lot of ducks you bagged, for it was an awful storm. I remember it well, doctor! I had at that time a barn full of corn; on the outside was a knot hole and during the storm the wind blew so fierce that it blew every ear of corn right through the knot hole; being just the size of a corn cob, leaving the stalks to be shelled every ear, leaving the corn in the barn, and the next morning I found my barn half full of shelled corn, and not a single cob. I had a curiosity to know where the cobs had gone.'

'I went to the rear of the barn, and followed the line of these cobs over eleven miles, and at a distance of five miles a large, first growth pine tree stood in the track, and down came the wind didn't drive the cobs into the tree from top to bottom. Oh, doctor, that was an awful storm.'

'Yes,' sighed the doctor, 'it was awful.'

'Another Good Day. A Detroit grocer was the other day hungrily waiting for his clerk to return from dinner and gave him a chance at his own grocery store. When the clerk came in with a basket in his hand, he said, 'I need a boy to go out and get a basket from the store and run, and I run after basket and made him give it up.'

'My lad you are an honest boy.'

'And you look like a good boy.'

'Yes, sir.'

'And good boys should always be encouraged. In a box in the back room there are eight dozen eggs. You may take them home to your mother and keep the basket.'

'The grocer had been saving those eggs for days and week to reward some one. In rewarding a good boy he has got eight dozen bad eggs carried out of the neighborhood free of cost, and he chucked a little chuck as he walked home.'

'The afternoon passed, night came and went and once more the grocer went to his dinner. When he returned he was picking his teeth and wearing a complacent smile. His usual regard for middle men' being strictly observed, the fruit is not trusted to express companies, but is brought to the city by regular messengers.'

'The varieties now raised by the hot-houses,' said the dealer above mentioned, 'are known as the "Champion" and the "Jacquia," which are certainly very sweet, delicious fruit. The "Champion" variety was formerly raised in this way, and is the finest colored I have ever seen; and the two kinds I spoke of are now considered best adapted to hot-houses. How long does the season last? Well, this season we begin in January and we will have them up early in May, probably, when they begin to be very plentiful. Last year Florida berries come to market early in February, but we don't expect any before the first of March, this year; they may be later owing to the extreme cold weather, even at the South. We usually get the Charleston fruit by the first of April, but I don't know about this year. Black Hamburg grapes sell at wholesale at \$4.50 a pound.' The retailers charge about \$6 to \$6.50. Raising hot-house vegetables has got to be quite a business, and in some seasons it is very profitable. It costs considerably, though, to raise these things. There are hot-houses at Poughkeepsie and Irvington, in this State; a number in Jersey; some in Boston, Fitchburg, and Mansfield, in Massachusetts; and several in Providence, which send vegetables to New York. They are rather overvalued, the trade in cucumbers, and lettuce almost as cheap now as in the summer. Cucumbers, which a short time ago were worth \$4 a dozen, now bring but \$3 a wholesale, though I have known them to reach \$6 in some seasons.'

'New York Sun. With pleasure, sir; just hold down your head and I'll take your measure.' Tabular.

'A cabin, whose wretched horse had just succeeded in conveying a party to Epsom Downs, being interrogated as to the breeding of the animal at once replied, 'Got, sir, by difficulty out of the Stable.'

'Why should we celebrate Washington's birthday more than mine?' asked a teacher. 'Because he never told a lie,' shouted a little boy.

'Some boy keeps now-a-days can make a sling that will knock the life out of Goliath a good deal quicker than David did.'

Joker's Corner.

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