

A politician who was kicked down a flight of stairs in a New York office the other day, said he felt as though his seat had been contested.

It seems to be the ambition of all young wives to look well when any one calls. The other day a south-side bride heard a ring at the front door. The maid was out, and she rushed up-stairs to "fix up" a little before admitting the caller. There was a moment of lightning work before the dressing-case. Quicker than it takes to tell it a ribbon was fastened at her throat, a flower stabbed into her hair, a flash of powder on her face, and she was at the door, all smiles and blushes. The gentleman said he had walked from Memphis, and couldn't remember that he had tasted food since he left Cincinnati.

Nellie has a four-year-old sister Mary, who complained to her mama that her "button shoes" were "hurting." Why, Mattie, you've put them on the wrong feet." Puzzled and ready to cry, she made answer: "What'll I do, mama? That's all the feet I've got?"

#### She Left Her Breath Behind Her.

A hater of tobacco asked an old negro woman, the fumes of whose pipe was annoying to him, if she thought she was a Christian.

"Yes, brudder, I 'spects I is."

"Do you believe in the Bible?"

"Yes, brudder."

"Do you know there is a passage in the Scriptures which says that nothing unclean shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven?"

"Yes, I've heard of it."

"Well, Chloe, you smoke, and you cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven, because there is nothing so unclean as the breath of a smoker. What do you say to that?"

"Why, I 'spects to leave my breff behind when I go dar!"

#### Didn't Make a Cent.

An unknown man entered a hosiery store in Detroit, and asked to be shown "a few socks." When he learned the price per pair of wollen ones, he put them aside, and said:—

"I guess I'll keep on wearing cotton ones. They say if you wear 'em right along through the winter your feet don't get cold."

Some cotton socks were handed out, and he persuaded the dealer to drop from twenty to fifteen cents per pair. Then he said:—

"I can buy the same kind as these in Toledo for ten cents."

"It doesn't seem possible," replied the dealer. "Will you swear to it?"

"I will. I'll make affidavit to the fact."

The dealer told him to go around to a justice, make the affidavit, and he should then have four pairs at ten cents per pair. The stranger was as good as his word, and he chuckled and cackled over his shrewdness until the document was made out and he had been sworn. Then the justice remarked:—

"A dollar is the fee!"

Something came over the stranger about that date. His knees wobbled a little, and he swallowed as if something choked him. He handed over the dollar, walked out, and the four pairs of socks are still left on the shelf. If the shrewd chap made any remarks to himself, he probably whispered:—

"Virtue is its own reward, and you are one hundred and fifty pounds of fool!"

IMPORTANT QUERY.—Mrs. Partington is anxious to know, if the compass has a needle and thirty-two points, how long it will take a woman, with such a needle, to make a shirt.

#### A Sister's Plea.

Far from the shelter of the town,  
A little lass and lad  
Towards the shore came stealing down.  
Why should a look so sad  
Touch his sweet face with pensive grace,  
And hers, which should be glad?

Among the rocks they rest anon  
In silence; then the maid,  
"Now, you'll not be a sailor, John,  
And leave me?" softly said.  
The wistful gaze she did upraise  
More strong than language prayed.

"I would have been a sailor, Nell,  
Had it not been for you.  
Our father toiled both long and well  
Upon the boundless blue;  
And though he sleeps five fathoms deep,  
I'd be a sailor too.

But mother told me, as she lay  
Upon her dying bed,  
That I must keep by you alway,  
And work for you, she said,  
When she was gone, and we alone,  
And win your honest bread.

"And so, my dear, I shall obey  
Our mother's last command,  
For I shall keep by you alway,  
Yet have a helping hand  
Ready to lend that hapless friend  
Whose bark may get astrand."

pesious lam." The smile which illuminated the passengers' faces upon this outburst of childish expectation drove away the frown, and brought them out of themselves for the rest of the journey.—*Danbury News.*

#### Conduct in Case of Fire.

The following directions for conduct in case of fire are issued by the British Royal Society for the Protection of life from fire.

"Every householder should make each person in his house acquainted with the best means of escape, whether the fire breaks out at the top or at the bottom.

"Inmates at the first alarm should endeavor calmly to reflect what means of escape there are in the house. If in bed at the time, wrap themselves in a blanket or bedside carpet; open neither windows nor doors more than necessary; shut every door after them. [This is most important to observe.]

"In the midst of smoke it is comparatively clear toward the ground; consequently progress through smoke can be made on the hands and knees. A silk handkerchief, worsted stocking, or other flannel substance, wetted and drawn over the face, permits free breathing and excludes to a great extent the smoke from the lungs. A wet sponge is alike efficacious.

"In the event of being unable to escape either by the street door or the roof, the persons in danger should immediately make their way to the front-room window, taking care to close the door after them, and those who have charge of the household should ascertain that every individual is there assembled.

"Persons thus circumstanced are entreated not to precipitate themselves from the window while there remains the least possibility of assistance, and even in the last extremity a plain rope is invaluable, or recourse may be had to joining sheets or blankets together, fastening one end to the bed-post or other furniture. This will enable one person to lower all the others separately, and the last may let himself down with comparatively little risk. Select a window over the doorway rather than over the area.

"Do not give vent to the fire by breaking into the house unnecessarily from without, or if an inmate by opening the

door or windows. Make a point of shutting every door after you as you go through the house. For this purpose doors enclosing the staircase are very useful.

"Upon discovering yourself on fire, reflect that your greatest danger arises from draft to flames and from their rising upward. Throw yourself on the ground and roll over on the flames—if possible on the rug or loose drugget, which drag under you. The table cover, a man's coat, anything of the kind, at hand will serve your purpose. Scream for assistance, ring the bell, but do not run out of the room or remain in an upright position.

"Persons especially exposed to the risk of their dresses taking fire should adopt the precaution of having all linen and cotton washed in a weak solution of chloride of zinc, alum or tungstate of soda."

"Every man," said Mark Lemon one evening at his club, "has his peculiarities; though I think I am as free from them as most men. At any rate I don't know what they are." Nobody contradicted the editor of Punch; but after a while Albert Smith asked, "Which hand do you shave with, Uncle?" "With my right hand," replied Lemon. "Ah!" returned the other, "that's your peculiarity. Most people shave with a razor."

It wouldn't be a bad idea to pin the little boy's comparison of "cold" to your memory nowadays: "Positive, cold; comparative, cough; superlative, coffin."



A CANADIAN WINTER SCENE.

#### Home Song.

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest;  
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,  
For those that wander they know not where  
Are full of trouble and full of care;  
To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed,  
They wander east, they wander west,  
And are baffled and beaten and blown about  
By the winds of the wilderness of doubt;  
To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest;  
The bird is safest in its nest;  
O'er all that flutter their wings and fly  
A hawk is hovering in the sky;  
To stay at home is best.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

It was quite cold in the car. The passengers were shrinking up in to as small a space as possible, and looking straight ahead into nothing with frowning visages. A very little boy was snuggled up in his mother's arms. The train stopped at a station, when he said:—"Am I goin' home, mamma?" "Yes, dear." "Papa's home?" "Yes." "Are you going to see papa?" "Yes, dear." The child lifted up his head, and looking eagerly into his mother's face, enthusiastically exclaimed, "When papa sees me, he'll say, 'Come here you