Miscellaneous.

AN ANT BATTLE.

On a sultry afternoon, the first day of July, I was lazily sauntering in the grove, when, on looking down, I found, to my surprise, that I was in the midst of a battle field. A powerful army of red ants had invaded the dominions of the black colony which for three years past I had had a kind of supervision over. I had often brought plants covered with aphides—the immortal Linnæus called these aphides the ants' cows—and stuck the plants into the earth around their dwelling, and had given them sugar, and had driven and carried toads from their nest which were devouring them. In short, I had become very much interested in and quite attached to this colony, but I was powerless to aid them now. I could only look on in wonder and astonishment.

A yard or more around the foot of the tree the battle was raging, and no place for the sole of my foot without crushing the combatants. I found in every instance a red ant pitted against a black; sometimes two red ones against one black, in which case the black was soon dispatched. For three hours I watched the conflict; all around me the combatants locked in a close embrace, rolling and tumbling about, never separating until one was killed, and often the dead victim had fastened with so firm a hold on his adversary that it was with the utmost difficulty that he could free himself from his death-grip.

The sun went down and the gathering darkness compelled me to leave my post of observation, but as long as I could see, the conflict was as fierce as when I first beheld it. I now picked up several of the warriors, but so intent were they in their terrible struggle that my handling did not divert them in the least. I carried several pairs into the house, placed them under a large oval glass (the cover of a fernery) on a marble topped table, and watched the conflict.

I found I had ten black and ten red warriors, not engaged in a general melee, but each intent upon killing his own adversary. It was fully an hour before the first warrior was killed—a red has at last dispatched his black antagonist; and not satisfied with killing him, he tears his legs from his body and severs his antennæ. After convincing himself that he is really dead, he looks around at the other waarriors which are still closely locked in their dreadful embrace, and now he hurries from one couple to another, as if to see where his services are most needed. He finds a couple whose struggles are nearly over—a black is fastened with a death-grip to his adversary's fore-leg. The red hero soon severs the head from the black soldier, and leaves it hanging to the leg of his dying comrade. He now goes to another couple who are still fiercely contending; he seizes the black' and now all three roll and tumble about together; but the black is soon killed, and, as in the other case, his mandibles are locked on his adversary's leg. But this time our hero does not sever the head from the black soldier, but leaves his comrade to free himself as best he can, while he goes to the assistance of a third less fortunate brother, where the black seems to have the better of his antagonist. Here a long struggle ensues, and now another red soldier has dispatched his opponent, and he comes to the struggling three, moves about them in an excited manner, with his mandibles stretched wide apart, waiting his opportunity to fasten them on the black; he finds his chance, seizes him between the throx and abdomen, and severs the body in two; but the dying black does not relax his hold of the first antagonist, and they die together.

I now leave the fierce combatants for the night. In the morning I find that every black is killed, and four red soldiers are dead, and two others cannot long survive. The legs and antennæ and mutilated bodies of the dead warriors are strewn about, every fragment showing conspicuously on the white marble. Out of the twenty, four teen are dead and two, nearly lifeless—only four have survived. I put some drops of water and moistened sugar under the glass for the surviving heroes: two find the water and drink. I now repair to the battle-field. The struggle is over—not a black to be seen, put a colum of the red invaders is emerging from a large cavity that leads to the numerous galleries and underground chambers of these industrious blacks, and each invader is carrying a larva or papa. I follow the colum which is from four to five inches in width, to the nest of red ants before mentioned. There is a wide opening in the side of this nest, down which they all disappear and leave their burdens, and again start for more plunder. All day long these powerful marauders are engaged in this work. They carry a larva or pupa carefully, and drop it on being disturbed. But what does this mean? Every little while a red warrior comes out with a black bundle, which he carries as carefully as he does the pupa or larva. I stop him to inquire into the matter; he drops his bundle, which immediately unrolls, and lo! it is a lively black ant, apparently unhurt, and, to my eye, no way different from the warrior with whom he, was so fiercely fighting.

The books which I have read on the subject inform me, that 'the red ants carry the pupæ and larvæ of the blacks to their nest, where they rear them for slaves, but they never capture the adult ant, for it would not stay in the new home if they did.' But these ants certainly carried a great number of adult blacks to their nest, and I am quite sure they did not run away, but staid and helped to nurse and feed the larvæ. I capture several of the red marauders with their victims, and placed them under the glass. The reds now pay no attention to the blacks, but simply try to make their escape. I take larvæ and lay them on a leaf, and put them under the glass also, and placed moistened sugar in their reach. Very soon the blacks are feeding the helpless larvæ. I remove the glass cover; the reds immediately run away, but the blacks stay and continue to sip the moistened sugar and feed the young. I hold a magnifying-glass over them, and find the little larvæ raise up their heads and open their mouths to be fed, very much like young birds. I now take the larvæ together with the nurses, and place them near the nest of red ants. I soon lose sight of the nurses, but the larvæ are quickly taken into the nest by the soldiers.—*Harper's Magazine for January.*

ARTIFICIAL PEARLS.

Not only, however, are the processes of nature followed and natural pearls produced by artificial means, but pearls are now manufactured on a large scale without the aid of any shell-fish whatever. About 222 years ago Moise M. Jaquin, a citizen of Paris, a bead manufacturer, one of those inventive geniuses who are not above taking a hint or suggestion from the most casual circumstance, happened to be walking in the garden of his country-house near Paris, when his attention was attracted by a remarkable silvery lustre on a basin of water. We can imagine M. Jaquin at once all interest and attention at what almost any other man would pass, and which undoubtedly thousands on thousands had passed, without giving the matter any thought. 'Ah, ciel!' murmurs the Frenchman, 'if I could but give my beads such a lustre! Pray what has produced this effect upon the basin of water?'

The old servant, who has regarded the sudden interest displayed in such a trifle, we can well imagine, with some contempt as well as surprise, answers his master, speaking for the whole world:

'Master, it is but the fish; some ablettes happened to be crushed in the water; it is nothing.'

Nothing! yes, nothing to the stupid servant, nothing to the rest of the world; but to a practical inventive genius like that of M. Jaquin it is a discovery, it is a fortunc, it is an opening up of a new branch of commerce that feeds, clothes, and supports whole communities, and keeps them busy.

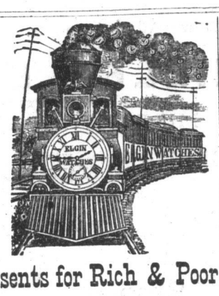
M. Jaquin saw the lustrous sheen he so much admired was indeed produced by the countless scales of the little fish called the bleak — *Leuciscus alburnas.* He at once began experimenting. The scales he dried and reduced to powder and this he used as an enamel, with which small beads of wax alabaster were coated externally. These, though beautiful, were unsatisfactory, and he soon began to use hollow glass beads. He now took the scales of the fish, thoroughly washed and rubbed them successively several times. The different portions of water used in these washings he suffered to settle. The water being carefully drawn off by syphons, our pearl-maker found a lustrous matter of the consistency of oil remaining at the bottom. This substance is called by the French 'essence d'Orient,' or essence of pearl. Our pearl maker, after sundry ineffectual attempts to preserve it from soon becoming putrid, at last succeeded by keeping it in volatile alkali. The further process of pearl-making consists in blowing this essence of pearl, combined with melted isinglass, into hollow beads made of a peculiar kind of fine glass of a bluish tint. These having received an even and perfect incrustation on their inner surfaces, are filled with a mucilage of fine gum-arabic, and having been perforated with a needle and threaded on a string, are ready for sale. For one ounce of the lustrous material used in coating the inside of the shells, no less than a thousand fish are required. Fortunately this kind of fish is very abundant, or there might have been some probability that the bleak, becoming extinct as a fish, would only continue to exist in the form of artificial pearls.

THE FARMER'S DUTY.

One of the principles of the grange is to strengthen the attachment of the farmer to the farm and to increase the attractiveness of home. If farmers wish to induce their bright, active sons to remain on the farm, they must show an active faith in the business themselves; they must indicate by pronounced measures that they believe in the farm and in farming, and that they admit no superior calling in the comparison. When a farmer becomes thoroughly aroused to the importance of better seed, better implements, better cultivation, and, in fine, of better methods throughout, in such an individual is to be found a firm supporter of farmer's organizations for mutual good. A good farmer is always anxious to know more, while many a poor, shiftless farmer is laboring under the delusion that he already knows enough. One can never measure his ignorance or knowledge by his own alone as a standard. It is necessary to compare notes with his fellow-workers in the same line of business. The lower the level which a man is willing to occupy, the less his range of vision, while as he steps up higher his horizon broadens, opportunities present themselves, new fields of discovery appear, and the individual becomes more comprehensive, more intelligent and more successful. There is a pleasure in gaining information, which is a stimulant to greater exertion. The more a man learns the greater his desire to acquire knowledge. Few men are inclined to do their best without the excitement or friction of rivalry or competion. One energetic, enthusiastic, successful farmer is apt to leaven a whole neighborhood with his sterling qualities. A few determined men can influence the tendency of a whole village. How important, then, that every farmer should make up his mind to perform well his part, to fulfil his duty as a citizen as well as the head of a family, to sustain and encourage, in ever so humble way, the noble art of agriculture.

AFRICAN AMAZONS.

It is rather unusual for women personally to participate in war. We live in an age of strange developments, however, for the last account from the seat of war, in South Africa, is that in one engagement the British troops had to retire, owing to the superior number of the enemy, and that, in a second and severe fight, one officer was shot dead and another seriously injured, while the enemy marched off in good order, through the cunning of a body of four hundred women, who can scarcely be called the 'fair sex,' who threw themselves between the Caffres and the English soldiers, in the conviction that the latter would not fire upon them. Nothing like this has been recorded by history since the memorable day, two thousand six hundred years ago, when the Sabine women, who had been forcibly seized by Romulus, and were the cause of a war, rushed down from the Palatine hill with dishevelled hair, and, throwing themselves between their Roman husbands and their Sabine kinsmen, induced a peace to be made, which ended up in the union of the two races.



Presents for Rich & Poor

—AT—

Sancton's Jewelry Store.

XMAS! XMAS!

THE FESTAL SEASON is again near at hand, and friends and acquaintances will want to secure

PRESENTS!

for each other as of yore—if so call at the

Bridgetown Jewelry Store

and select anything in that line you require.

Watches, Clocks, Spoons, Forks, Cake Baskets, Butter Dishes, Call Bells, Brooches, Ear Rings, Sets Jewelry, Finger Rings, Napkin Rings, &c. &c.

These goods have been bought in the very best market and are selling at lew r prices than ever before offered.

JOHN E. SAN 'TON.

Bridgetown

1878. FALL. 1878.

THE Subscriber has just opened a full assortment of

STAPLE AND FANCY GOODS,

suitable for the season, viz:—

Ladies' Cloth Jackets, Ladies' Gossimer Waterproof Cloaks, Felt and Quilted Skirts, Wool, and Paisley Shawls. Cloths in Beaver, Serge, Melton, and Waterproof. Printed, Grey, and Bleached Cottons. Flannels, Winceys, Silks, Velvets, &c. Also a general Stock of Hats, Feathers, Flowers, Buttons, Fringes, Habadashery, Hosiery, Gloves, &c.

All of which will be offered low for cash.

MRS. L. C. WHEELOCK.

Lawrencetown, Oct. 28th, 1878. 4it32

BRIDGETOWN

Marble Works.

ENCOURAGE HOME MANUFACTURE.

FALCONER & WHITMAN

are now manufacturing

Monuments & Gravestones

Of Italian and American Marble.

ALSO:

Granite and Freestone Monuments.

Having erected Machinery in connection with J. B. Reed's Steam Factory, we are prepared to Polish Granite equal to that done abroad

☞Give us a call before closing with foreign agents and inspect our work.

DANIEL FALCONER. OLDHAM WHITMAN

Established 1814.

L. H. DEVEBER & SONS,

ST. JOHN, N. B.,

Will offer at their

New Warehouse, Prince Wm. St.,

On or about the 15th MARCH, a perfectly

New and Extensive Stock

—OF—

DRY GOODS

in all the Departments.

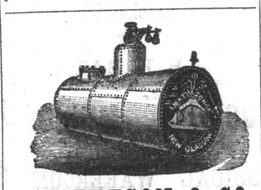
ALSO:

A Very Large Stock of

Groceries,

To which they would call the attention of the Trede.

☞ Special Inducements offered to CASH purchases.



I. MATHESON & CO.,

ENGINEERS

—AND—

BOILER MAKERS,

NEW GLASGOW, N. S.

Manufacturers of PORTABLE & STATIONARY

Engines and Boilers.

☞ Every description of FITTINGS for above kept in Stock, viz:—

Steam Pumps, Steam Pipe, Steam and Water Guages, Brass Cocks and Valves, Oil and Tallow Cups.

dec5'76 n34 tf

NOTICE!

ALL persons having any legal demands against the estate of William L. Leonard, late of Paradise, in the County of Annapolis, deceased, are requested to render the same, duly attested, within eighteen months from this date; and all persons indebted to said estate, are requested to make immediate payment to

JULIA M. LEONARD,
Executrix.

Paradise, Dec. 19th, 1878. 3mt49

Customs Department.

OTTAWA, May 1st, 1878.

NO Discount on American Invoices until further notice.

J. JOHNSON
Commissioner of Custom.

may

Something New Under the Sun!

MR. HARDING W. DODGE of Hampton, Annapolis Co., respectfully announces to the public in general that he is about opening a shop where he will be prepared to manufacture Buggies, Farm Waggons, Panel Doors, Window Frames, Sashes, Shutters, &c. Parties wishing work in his line will do well to call upon him as he has had a number of years' experience in the United States in building all kinds of wheels, and is prepared to warrant his work. New hubs inserted in old wheels, spokes inserted without removing the tyres.

HARDING W. DODGE.

Hampton, Nov. 6th, 1878. 3ms

Ready - Made CLOTHING!

BUFFALO ROBES, &c.

JUST RECEIVED from Montreal, a large and well assorted stock of

Ready Made Clothing & Buffalo Robes.

consisting of

Men's Ulsters, Youths' Ulsters, Men's Over Coats, Reefers.

All a

Splendid Assortment of FALL SUITS

Pants and Vests. Also,

1 Doz. Very Fine Buffalo Robes.

Horse Blankets.

All the above will be sold very

LOW FOR CASH.

BEALES & DODGE.

Middleton, Nov., '78

SPECIAL NOTICE!

IN order to meet the demands of our numerous customers, we beg to announce that, we have added to our extensive

Slipper and Larrigan Factory

the necessary Machinery for the Manufacture of

Men's, Women's, Misses', & Children's

BOOTS AND SHOES

in all the leading styles.

By continuing, as in the past, to use first quality of material, we hope to merit a liberal share of public patronage in our new branch of business, as well as a continuance of public favor in our old business.

Vincent & McFate,

240 Union Street, St. John, N. B.

NOTICE.

ALL persons having any legal demands ainst the estate of ZACHARIAH DANIELS, Esq., late of Lawrencetown, in the County of Annapolis, deceased, are requested to render the same, duly attested, within six months from this date; and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to

WELLINGTON DANIELS,
Executor.

Lawrencetown, Oct. 32rd, 1878. 6m t2

FLOUR.

300 BBLS. FLOUR just received, including the well known brands of:—

Gilt Edge,	Star,
White Pigeon,	Manna,
Major,	Milford,
Avalanche,	Middleton,
Clarksburg,	Rosewood.

J. & W. F. HARRISON,
30 1y Portland Bridge, St. Joh n, N.B.

New Stock!

Dry Goods,
Groceries,
Ready-Made Clothing,
Boots and Shoes,
Crockeryware,

AT LOW PRICES, to suit the times.

FRED. LEAVITT.

Lawrencetown, Nov. 7th, '77 y

MORSE & PARKER

Barristers-at-Law,

Solicitors, Conveyancers,

REAL ESTATE AGENTS, ETC., ETC.

BRIDGETOWN, N. S.

L. S. MORSE, J. G. H. PARKER.

Bridgetown, Aug. 16th, '76. 1y

GILBERT'S LANE

DYE WORKS,

ST. JOHN, N. B.

IT is a well-known fact that all classes of goods get soiled and faded before the material is half worn, and only require cleaning and dying to make them look as good as new. *Carpets, Feathers, Curtains, Dress Goods, Shawls, Waterproof Mantles, Silks and Satins, Gentlemens' Overcoats, Pants, and Vests, &c, &c,* dyed on reasonable terms. BLACK GOODS a specialty.

AGENTS.—Annapolis, W. J. SHANNON, Merchant; Digby, Miss WRIGHT, Millinery and Dry Goods.

may '76 A. L. LAW.

VEGETINE.

An Excellent Medicine.

SPRINGFIELD O., Feb., 28, 1877.

This is to certify that I have used VEGETINE, manufactured by H. R. Stevens, Boston, Mass., for Rheumatism and General Prostration of the Nervous System, with good success. I recommend VEGETINE as an *excellent medicine* for such complaints.

Yours very truly,
C. W. VANDERGRIFT.

Mr. Vandergrift, of the firm of Vandergrift & Huffman, is a well-known business man in this place, having one of the largest stores in Springfield, O.

Our Minister's Wife.

LOUISVILLE, KY. Feb. 16, 1877

MR. H. R. STEVENS,
Dear Sir.—Three years ago I was suffering terribly with Inflammatory Rheumatism. Our minister's wife advised me to take VEGETINE. After taking one bottle, I was entirely relieved. This year, feeling a return of the disease, I again commenced taking it, and am being benefited greatly. It also greatly improves my digestion.

Respectfully,
MRS. A. BALLARD.

1011 West Jefferson Street.

Safe and Sure.

MR. H. R. STEVENS.

In 1872 your VEGETINE was recommended to me; and, yielding to the persuasions of a friend, I consented to try it. At the time I was suffering from general debility and nervous prostration, superinduced by overwork and irregular habits. Its wonderful strengthening and curative properties seemed to affect my debilitated system from the first dose; and under its persistent use I rapidly recovered, gaining more than usual health and good feeling. Since then I have not hesitated to give VEGETINE my most unqualified indorsement as being a safe, sure, and powerful agent in promoting health and restoring the wasted system to new life and energy. VEGETINE is the only medicine I use, and as long as I live I never expect to find a better.

Yours truly,
W. H. CLARK,
120 Monterey Street, Alleghany, Penn.

VEGETINE.

The following letter from Rev. G. W. Mansfield, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, and at present settled in Lowell, must convince every one who reads his letter of the wonderful curative qualities of VEGETINE as a thorough cleanser and purifier of the blood.

HYDE PARK, Mass. Feb. 15, 1876.

MR. H. R. STEVENS.

Dear Sir.—About ten years ago my health failed through the depleting effects of dyspepsia; nearly a year later I was attacked by typhoid-fever in its worst form. It settled in my back, and took the form of a large deep-seated abscess, which was fifteen months in gathering. I had two surgical operations by the best skill in the State, but received no permanent cure. I suffered great pain at times, and was constantly weakened by a profuse discharge. I also lost small pieces of bone at different times.

Matters ran on thus about seven years, till May, 1874, when a friend recommended me to go to your office, and talk with you of the virtue of VEGETINE. I did so, and by your kindness passed through your manufactory, noting the ingredients, &c., by which your remedy is produced.

By what I saw and heard I gained some confidence in VEGETINE.

I commenced taking it soon after, but felt worse from its effects; still I persevered, and soon felt it was benefiting me in other respects. Yet I did not see the results I desired until I had taken faithfully for a little more than a year, when the difficulty in the back was cured: and for nine months I have enjoyed the best of health.

I have in that time gained twenty-five pounds of flesh, being heavier than ever before in my life, and I was never more able to perform labor than now.

During the past few weeks I had a scrofulous swelling as large as my fist gather on another part of my body.

I took VEGETINE faithfully, and it removed it level with the surface in a month. I think I should have been cured of my main trouble sooner if I had taken larger doses, after having become accustomed to its effects.

Let your readers troubled with scrofula or kidney disease understand that it takes time to cure chronic diseases; and, if they will patiently take VEGETINE, it will, in my judgement, cure them.

With great obligations I am
Yours very truly,
G. W. MANSFIELD,
Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

VEGETINE

Prepared by

H. R. STEVENS, Boston, Mass.

VEGETINE IS SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

For Diseases of the Throat and Lungs, such as Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Consumption.

The reputation it has attained, in consequence of the marvellous cures it has produced during the last half century, is a sufficient assurance to the public that it will continue to realize the happiest results that can be desired. In almost every section of country there are persons, publicly known, who have been restored from alarming and even desperate diseases of the lungs, by its use. All who have tried it, acknowledge its superiority; and where its virtues are known, no one hesitates as to what medicine to employ to relieve the distress and suffering peculiar to pulmonary affections. CHERRY PECTORAL always affords instant relief, and performs rapid cures of the milder varieties of bronchial disorder, as well as the more formidable diseases of the lungs.

As a safeguard to children, amid the distressing diseases which beset the Throat and Chest of Childhood, it is invaluable; for, by its timely use, multitudes are rescued and restored to health.

This medicine gains friends at every trial, as the cures it is constantly producing are too remarkable to be forgotten. No family should be without it, and those who have once used it never will.

Eminent Physicians throughout the country prescribe it, and Clergymen often recommend it from their knowledge of its effects.

PREPARED BY

Dr. J. C. AYER & CO., Lowell, Mass.,

Practical and Analytical Chemists.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE.

Thos. P. Connolly's

CENTRAL BOOK STORE.

Cor. Granville & George Sts.

HALIFAX, N. S.

HAS now on hand every description of English and American

STATIONERY!

Bank, Post, Parchment, Cream Laid, Ruled, Plain and Water Lined

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 low. Wrapping Paper, Paper Bags—all sizes and qualities, Taylor's, Carter's and Stephens' Celebrated Inks, Lead Pencils of every stamp, Room paper, Green paper and Paper shades.

Wholesale and Retail.

THE WEALTH OF FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN.

A recent paper by Mr. Giffen, the Government statistician, estimated the wealth of the United Kingdom at the enormous gross total of £8,500,000,000. M. Vacher, a French statistician, has followed suit with an estimate of the wealth of France at £9,220,000,000. If M. Vacher is right, our neighbour has the advantage of us by £720,000,000. If we could by the stroke of the pen sweep away our national debt we should be about £60,000,000 richer than France. The *Saturday Review*, careful for the standing of the British Empire in the plutocracy of the world, subjects M. Vacher's figures to some criticism, and concludes that if the Frenchman had been as careful in his method of investigation and as modest in stating results as Mr. Giffen, the United Kingdom would have been able to boast the larger figure. For example, the French highways are valued at £305,000,000—an extravagant sum—while Mr. Giffen takes no account in his estimate of British highways. Again, M. Vacher appears to have followed Mr. Giffen's calculations in capitalising in every particular, whereas it is incredible that house property commands the same value in France as in England. Taking the figures as they are given, it may be interesting to inquire whether Frenchmen or Britons can be said to be richest individually. Taking the population of France at 36,000,000, and the wealth at £9,220,000,000, we find that the average riches of the individual may be stated at £256. The population of the United Kingdom may be taken at 32,000,000, and assuming its gross wealth at Mr. Giffen's estimate of £8,500,000,000, we arrive at an average possession per head of £265. What is most important is that in France as in this country there has been an enormous increase of wealth during recent years. M. Vacher estimates that the accumulation in France in the last ten years is not less than £1,500,000,000. Thus, says the *Saturday Review*, the war indemnity of £200,000,000 exacted by Germany, which was regarded as so ruinous, meant no more than the national savings of sixteen months. The national debt of France is quoted in the Statesman's Year Book at £937,584,280. The whole sum might be extinguished in six years, and a handsome balance over, if France would consent or could arrange to put aside her entire savings for this purpose for so short a time.

WATER-PROOF BOOTS.

It is not always desirable that boots should be absolutely water-proof, as whatever keeps water out will keep it in, and whoever has worn India-rubber boots for any length of time, knows that retaining the perspiration of the feet soon puts them in a very unpleasant half-par-boiled condition that is not desirable. Still, water proof boots are useful in an emergency, to wear for a short time—as in doing the chores in bad weather. A pair of good rubber boots will answer this purpose, or a pair of common cowhide boots may be made water-proof after the method of the New England fisherman. These people exposed to all weathers, have for a century used the following compound: Tallow, 4 oz; rosin and beeswax, 1 oz. each; melt together: then stir in Neatsfoot oil, equal in bulk to the melted articles. The boots are warmed before a fire and this composition is rubbed into the leather, soles and uppers, by means of a rag. Two applications will make the leather quite water-proof.

— A story of a wonderful memory comes from Sydney, Australia. A prisoner set up in his defence an alibi, claiming that at the time of the robbery he was at home listening to the recital of a novel, 'The Old Baron,' by a man named Lane, who had committed it, with other works, to memory. Lane's recitation, he said, took two hours and a half. The Attorney-General, holding this to be incredible, Lane began, 'In the time of King Henry, when the good Duke Humphrey returned from the wars in the Holy Land, where he had been sojourning for a number of years, there lived—' After the witness had recited several pages the Attorney-General told him to stop, as he was satisfied. But the defence insisted that as the veracity of the witness had been questioned he should be allowed to go on. Finally a compromise was effected, Lane gave a chapter from the middle of the story and its conclusion, and the accused was found not guilty.

GOOD ADVICE.

Young man, if you are going to be a farmer, be a good one. Don't play second fiddle to any one. Be the chief musician yourself. This being second, third, fourth or fifth-rate is not just the thing. It is the first that always wins esteem and respect. Study, observe, listen, and gather information pertaining to your business from every source, and you can soon learn as much as any one. Let no day pass without some increase of knowledge. Whatever you cultivate, do it well. Whatever stock you have, let it be good and take good care of it and improve it as fast as your means will admit. Whatever fruit you have, let it be choice, study to improve it, and how to market it so as to get the highest price. If you have a garden, let it be the first in the neighbourhood. Be at the head of the class, not third or fourth, or at the foot.

— Harness should never be kept in the stables where manure is constantly generating large quantities of ammonia. This ammonia is rapidly absorbed by the leather, and the effect upon the leather is about the same as would result from saturating it with strong lye. In a word, ammonia rots leather, and hence keeping harness in the stable is sure to result in its damage more or less.

☞ One of the ways some of the foreign ministers of Washington eke out their allowances is thus explained:—They are allowed to import furniture for their houses free of duty. They stock up and have auctions nearly every year. The toadies of Washington who are crazy to have even the cast-off clothes of a legation, bid enormous prizes on everything offered for sale. Large sums and fat profits are realized in this way, while the minister enjoys the luxury of fresh furniture every year.

☞ Among the 78,000 criminals arrested in New York city last year were 12 clergymen. Several lawyers were convicted of felony.

Joker's Corner.

A TIGHT SQUEEZE.

A man of 50, shrouded in an ulster and carrying a whip in his hand, and followed by a woman who looked fully as old, entered a Woodward avenue store the other evening to make some purchases. They talked together, the man and wife would, and pretty soon the woman saw something in a show-case to interest her. Her elbows were placed on the glass, and there was a crash which startled everybody in the store. Her husband took in the situation at a glance, and remarked as he made for the door:—

'Well, I guess I won't buy to-day, as I'm in a hurry.'

The wife started to follow, but the merchant called to her, and she in turn called to her husband, who paid not the least attention. The merchant, however, overhauled him as he was unhitching his team, and said:

'See here, sir, you must pay for the damage done by your wife.'

'My wife! Do you call that woman my wife?' exclaimed the man.

'Why, I thought she was; she came in with you.'

'Can't a woman go into a store with a man and not be his wife?' protested the man.

'But I am your wife — of course I am!' put in the woman, coming up just at that time.

'You are, eh?'

'Of course she is!' indignantly exclaimed the merchant. 'Come now I want my pay.'

'How much?' queried the man, looking from one to the other.

'Well, about twelve shillings.'

The man hesitated, but finally counted out the money, while the woman took a seat in the sleigh.

'And you admit she is your wife?' queried the merchant as he pocketed the money.

'I s'pose she's a relative.'

'But isn't she your wife?'

'Why don't you tell him I am, John?' urged the wife.

'Oh! You keep still!' he growled as he kicked the snow off his toes; 'if that 'ere damage had been twenty shillings instead of twelve, I wouldn't have even owned you for a brother-in-law! Hitch along, and bless yer stars that I haint as mean as some husbands.

—*Detroit Free Press.*

TEMPERANCE LECTURE ON THE RAILS.

'Twenty years ago,' said the passenger with the red ribbon in his button-hole, 'I knew that man whom you saw get off at the last station. He was a young man of rare promise, a college graduate, a man of brilliant intellect and shrewd mercantile ability. Life dawned before him in all the glowing colors of fair promise. He had some money when he left college. He invested it in business, and his business prospered. He married a beautiful young girl, who bore him three lovely children——'

The sad looking passenger, sitting on the wood-box:

'All at one time?'

The red ribbon passenger:

'No, in biennial instalments of one. No one dreamed that the poorhouse would ever be their home. But in an evil hour the young man yielded to the tempter. He began to drink beer. He liked it and drank more. He drank and encouraged others to drink. That was only fourteen years ago, and he was a prosperous, wealthy man. To-day where is he?'

The clergyman in the front seat solemnly:

'A sot and a beggar.'

The red ribbon man, disconsolately:

'Oh, no; he is a member of Congress and owns a brewery worth fifty thousand dollars.

Sometimes it will happen that way.

—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

A NIAGARA FALLS SALESWOMAN.

A capital joke is told here of Miss Eva Davis, saleswoman at Table Rock Museum, (Canada side.) A visitor was inspecting the curiosities, and seemed taken with the 'Derbyshire spar work,' which, Miss Eva said, was manufactured from 'Table Rock' stone, which statement he was inclined to question; but this sweet, black-eyed merchant assured him that it was all she represented, and furthermore, they now had sixteen artists in a back room engaged in making the same kind of ware. (Hands him a piece of genuine English spar for scrutiny.)

'Well, said the innocent stranger, 'please show me into this room, where the sixteen artists are at work, and I will believe what you say is a fact.'

'Oh, no, indeed!' quoth his fair *vis-a-vis*, 'that would not do; 'tis against our rules. We never give anybody the 'open sesame' to this secret chamber which contains our wealth.'

'Alas!' said the gent, 'then please set all these Rickshaws back on the shelf, ($150 worth), and do accept this $20-bill as a faint token of my regard.'

'Why, sir,' said she, 'what do you mean?'

'Well, Miss, I must tell you a fact. My name is Bowers. I live in Derbyshire, England, where I manufacture this 'spar-work.' Furthermore, your father is one of my best customers, and you, Miss Eva, his daughter, are the boss saleswoman.

The ways of the merchant tailor are mysterious and past finding out. He buildeth an over coat for a narrow chested youth, and behold a rear view of the young man convinces you he is a Hercules in disguise, but upon closer inspection you conclude it's nothing but cotton stuck in the shoulders of his coat, and you could lick him if he was twice as big.

A young man asked his landlady what kind of a bed the new one in his room was.

'A spring bed,' she replied.

The youth felt the crop of December wheat under his chin as he said:

'Well, I wish you would put more clothing on that bed, and make it a winter instead of a spring one.'

Every man's roof covers a little corner of Paradise, unless he has a scolding wife, in which case the climate changes.