

rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum — M. Collas maintains that the color is due to the presence of hydrated silica in a very finely divided state carried into the atmosphere with the aqueous vapor. The blue color of the Lake of Geneva is referred to a similar cause.

A Petrified Forest.—A very interesting account is contained in Nature of a petrified forest recently discovered in the Libyan Desert. Mr. Dixon and Dr. Grant of Cairo determined to visit a large mound commonly considered to be the ruins of a pyramid, and known as Lelider's Pyramid; on their arrival they found that it was only a hill, but that round the base, and stretching for some distance over the country, were masses of petrified wood. The trees were all exogenous, or having successive additions of growth to the outside of the wood; beds of flint nodules and oyster shells were also abundant.

EAST INDIAN METHOD OF CLEANING SILVER.—East Indian jewelers never touch silverware with any abrasive substance. For all articles of the kind, even the most delicate, the method of cleaning they adopt is as follows: Cut some juicy lemons in slices; with these rub any large silver or plated article briskly, and leave it hidden by the slices in a pan for a few hours. For delicate jewelry, the Indians cut a large lime nearly in half, and insert the ornament; they then close up the halves tightly, and put it away for a few hours. The articles are then to be removed, rinsed in two or three waters, and consigned to a saucopan of nearly boiling soap-suds, well stirred about, taken out, again brushed, rinsed, and finally dried on a metal plate over hot water, finishing the process by a little rub of wash-leather (if smooth work). For very old, neglected or corroded silver, dip the article, with a slow, stirring motion, in a rather weak solution of cyanide potass.; but this process requires care and practice, as it is by dissolving off the dirty silver you obtain the effect. Green tamarind pods (oxalate of potash) are greater detergents of gold and silver articles than lemons, and are much more employed by the artisan for removal of oxides and firemarks.

HINTS TO FARMERS.

CUCUMBERS.—Plant seeds in frames and in the open ground, using plenty of seed to allow the bugs a share.

GET a thoroughbred boar of some of the improved breeds. This, with good care and feed, will soon give you a superior stock of swine. The small cost is nothing compared with the benefit.

POTATOES as a rule are not planted early enough. Plant early and deep, and use the harrow freely to kill small weeds before the potatoes come up, or just at the time they are coming through the soil.

SUCKING pigs when from three to four weeks old should be fed separately from the sow. Fresh skimmed milk is excellent. Give also some oats, either whole or ground, or corn-meal, or soaked corn, or, in short, anything they will eat.

MATERIALS FOR MORTAR.—The proper proportion for mortar for plastering is one cubic yard or 18 heaped bushels of stone lime, double that quantity of sand, and three bushels of hair. This quantity will cover 70 (±) inch yards on lath.

CRIBBING is a vice, and not an unsoundness. The coil of a cribbing mare may not necessarily be a cribber. The vice often springs from indigestion, and this being often a hereditary complaint, such a coil should be carefully guarded against acquiring the vice.

MULCH.—A good mulch around newly-planted trees will be serviceable in keeping the roots from drying out. Salt-hay or anything which will prevent the sun from striking the soil around the trees, will answer, even if it be only a small heap of stones.

BEANS.—Put in the early sorts of snaps when night frosts are over, and by the middle of the month it is usually safe to plant the pole varieties. The poles should be set first, and the beans then planted around them. The rows should be four feet apart, and the hills the same distance.

STRAWBERRIES.—Plants mulched in the fall should be looked to see that their crowns are properly uncovered, and those which were not covered will need a mulch of cut straw or leaves to prevent the rains from washing the soil upon the fruit, thus making the berries for the most part unsalable.

ARTESIAN WELLS.—There is no certainty of procuring water by an Artesian well without an experiment. The fact of a boring being made below the level of the bottom of a river or lake is no surety that water will be procured, because there may be a bed of porous rock or gravel existing through which the water percolates; this can only be ascertained by trial or geological knowledge.

GRASS and clover may be seeded in the spring. If sown early, without any protecting crop. The ground should be well prepared, made very fine, and the seed either brushed in with a bush-harrow or covered by rolling. A dressing of all-weather fertilizer, as guano or wood-ashes, would be useful. As it is now too late for such a seeding, a crop of late oats cut for fodder might be sown with the grass seeds.

PLANTING corn is the great work of this month. We have written so much on the subject that it is unnecessary to give further directions here.

Aim to put the land in good condition, and plant early. If you must plant late, select the small, early varieties of corn. Whatever you do or fail to do, do not neglect to keep your corn free from weeds. Clean, mellow land is the great secret of success in growing corn.

GOLDEN GRAINS.

WINE has drowned more than the sea. THE experience of a man ceases only with his life.

WE can do more good by being good than in any other way.

TALENT, like beauty, to be admired, must be unostentatious.

HE is the happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.

THOSE who live on the fallings of their neighbors will never die of starvation.

ENVY is an insult to a man's good sense, for it is the pain we feel at the excellences of others.

IF the best man's faults were written on his forehead, he would draw his hat over his eyes.

THE best society and conversation is that in which the heart has a greater share than the head.

PEOPLE would soon be astonished at results if they would all work together for the common good.

NO one need stand in fear of brave men but the wrong-doer; it is only cowards who stab in the back.

GIFTS from the hand are silver and gold; but the heart gives that which neither silver nor gold can buy.

HYPOCRISY is folly. It is much easier, safer, and pleasanter to be the thing which a man aims to appear, than to keep up the appearance of being what he is not.

WHAT duration do you expect for the immortal fame you would win—one, two, three, or four thousand years? How many fames have survived the latter date?

WHEN a woman possesses talent, it should be recognized and employed. More exact than most men in the details of things, she does better than they do what she knows as well.

LOVE is woman's teacher, developer, guardian. It sheds light upon her past, as well as her future.

To love one that is great is almost to be great one's self.

WHATEVER may be the means, or whatever the more immediate end of any kind of art, all of it that is good agrees in this, that it is the expression of one soul talking to another, and is precious according to the greatness of the soul that utters it.

BY him who can look with firmness on difficulties the conquest is already half achieved; but the man on whose heart and spirits this, so heavily will scarcely be able to bear up against their pressure. The forecast of timid, or the disgust of too delicate minds is a very unfortunate attendant for men of business, who, to be successful, must often push improbabilities and bear with mortifications.

A GOOD character is to a young man what a firm foundation is to the artist who proposes to erect a building on it; he can build with safety, and as all who behold it will have confidence in its solidity a helping hand will never be wanted. But let a single part of this be defective, and you go on hazard, amid doubling and distrust, and ten to one it will tumble down at last, and mingle all that was built on it in ruins.

JOSEPH BILLINGS says: When we can think that there isn't on the face of the earth even one bat to much, and that there hasn't been since the duxo of Adam a single surplus musketeer's egg laid by accident, we can form some kind of an idea how little we know, and what a poor job we would make of running the machinery of knowledge. Man is a fooler any how, and the best of the joke is, he don't seem to know it. Bats have a destiny to fill, and I will bet four dollars they fill it better than we do ours.

FAMILY MATTERS.

TO MIX MUSTARD.—Two ounces of mustard, boiling water, half a teaspoonful of sugar. Mix the mustard and sugar with boiling water till it is thick and smooth. Add the water slowly to the powder. The sugar may be omitted, but we prefer it, as it softens the mustard.

GREENS.—In spring everybody seems seized with an appetite for "greens." The various plant sold under that title in the city markets are gladly welcomed, and the country folks send the children out to dig dandelions. It is quite safe to presume that the producer and the merchant will detect any very injurious weed, and that the cook will only need to examine with care to prevent unpleasant discoveries at the table, but among wild greens noxious plants are not infrequently gathered, and severe and sometimes fatal illness occasioned by their use.

VEAL CURRY.—Cut a Spanish onion, or two small ones, into very small pieces, and a large sour apple into thin slices; put them into a stewpan, with a piece of butter the size of a

large walnut, and stir it about until lightly browned. Then mix in two dessertspoonfuls of curry powder, one teaspoonful of flour, and a pint of water; add one pound and three-quarters of lean veal cut into very small square pieces, seasoned with salt, and stir it round several times, that it may be well covered with the curry mixture. Put it over the fire to stew slowly for an hour and a half, or until the veal is tender. Squeeze in the juice of half a lemon strained, stir it round, and serve with rice in a separate dish.

MARKING Ink may be made by dissolving separately an ounce of nitrate of silver, an ounce and a half of carbonate of soda in distilled or rain water. Mix the solutions, and collect and wash the precipitates in a filter whilst still moist; rub it up in a marble or wedgewood mortar with three drachms of tartaric acid; add two ounces of distilled water, mix six drachms of white sugar and ten drachms of powdered gum arabic, half an ounce of orohll and water to make up six ounces in measure. Apply with a clean quill pen. Marking ink may be removed from linen by a saturated solution of cyanuret of potassium, applied with a camel's hair brush. After the marking ink has disappeared, the part should be well washed in cold water.

A PERFECT WATER-PROOF.—A writer in an English paper says:

By the way, speaking of water-proofs, I think I can give travellers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn India rubber water-proofs, but will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scottish tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain, and, moreover, I have learned how to make it so; and for the benefit of readers I will give the recipe. In a bucket of soft water put half a pound of sugar of lead, and half a pound of powdered alum: stir this at intervals, until it becomes clear, then pour it off into another bucket, and put the garment therein, and let it be in for twenty-four hours, and then hang it up to dry without wringing it. Two of my party—a lady and gentleman—have worn garments thus treated in the wildest storms of wind and rain without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they were really water-proof. The gentleman, a fortnight ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain and wind such as you rarely see in the South; and when he slipped off his overcoat his underclothes were as dry as when he put them on. This, I think, a secret worth knowing, for cloth, if it can be made to keep out wet, is in every way better than what we know as water-proof.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

If three miles make a league, how many make a conference?

THE fashion of wearing the front hair low on the forehead, now in favor with many of the fair sex, is known as the Skye ter style.

A POCKET boot-jack has been invented in New York. You put your foot into your pocket, give a spring into the air, and it comes your boot.

WHEN Brigham Young's children sing, "Father, dear father, come home," the effect is said to be wonderful. The old man comes home without delay.

A SHERIFF in Florida, who was called upon to resign, wrote back:—"Your communication is received, stating that my resignation will meet the approval of the Governor. It does not meet mine."

A UTOPIA paper says, "A cow on Corn Hill kicked the pump over yesterday, and broke her leg. The cow must die, but the milkman hopes to be able to continue in business. He thinks he can repair the pump."

A FORGETFUL young woman out West, the other night, aroused the inmates of a hotel to which her bridal trip had led, on account of finding a man in her room. The trifling circumstance of her marriage that morning had quite escaped her memory, and it was not until summary justice was about to be visited on the offender, that she happened to recollect it.

A BRAVE little boy in Ohio found a broken rail on the railway line, and perceiving the peril in which the train would be placed if it should come dashing past without warning, sat out on the fence for five long hours in the bitter winter cold, in order that he might carry the first news of the accident to his father, who is local editor of a paper published in the neighboring village.

A NEW York gentleman, who has lately been badly blind in Wall street, tells this old joke as upon himself:—"When I first came down in Wall street I was called Stockwell; then, when I began to make money, I was called Mr. Stockwell. Then it was Captain Stockwell; subsequently I became known as Commodore Stockwell. Now it is that red-headed cuss from Cleveland."

A ROBIN red-breast sat upon a pole in Detroit one day last week, and a boy named Clyhamer brought out his father's revolver, leveled it at the bird, and pulled the trigger. The ball missed the robin by about ten feet, went through the window of a house and brought up in a pile of crockery. Some excitement was occasioned, and the boy was taken home and made to chase the boot-jack around his mother.

A LITTLE boot black picked up a five cent piece on the sidewalk the other day, and was crowding over his prize when a burly carman demanded it, saying that he had just dropped it.

"Your five cent piece had no hole in it," said the boy, defiantly. "Yes it had," said the roguish claimant. "Well, this one ain't!" said the boy, as he walked off in triumph, leaving the opponent to be jeered at by the crowd.

THE SNORE.

O, the snore, the beautiful snore, Filling her chamber from ceiling to floor! Over the coverlet, under the sheet, From her dimpled chin to her pretty feet! Now rising aloft like a bee in June; Now sunk to the wall of a cracked bassoon! Now, flute-like, subsiding, then rising again, Is the beautiful snore of Elizabeth Jane.

A CRUEL barrier-pigeon "amateur" condemned one of his pets to convey to his country seat the following laconic passage: "Send a basket of early green peas by express train; pack the bearer of this in with them, as he is a plump bird, and I intend to eat him with them!"

NEVER turn around with a ladder on your shoulder.—Old Mr. Watson on Nelson street, has got a nice little bill to pay. He sent a man down town for a pot of paint and a ladder. The man got the paint and went to a lumber yard after a ladder. Then he tied the paint pot on the end of the ladder, and put the ladder on his shoulder. This was a very smart arrangement, and the man himself admired it very much. He stated for home this way, and didn't find much trouble in getting along the first block, because people had an impression that a long ladder with a pot of yellow paint dangling on the end of it wasn't exactly the thing to trifle with, so they balanced along on the curbstone, or rubbed up against the buildings. Pretty soon the man saw somebody in a store he knew, and he turned around to speak to him, and he drove one end of the ladder into a millinery case, and knocked the crown out of an \$18 bonnet. Then he backed off in affright and knocked down two sewing machine agents with the other end. Then he started to turn around, and an old gentleman who was desperately endeavoring to pull his wife out of danger, saw the peril, and shouted—Hi, there! But it was too late. The pot struck against an awning post and the entire contents went over the aged couple. This so startled the man that he completely whirled around, smashing an entire store front, frightening a milkman's team, and knocking over some thirteen persons who were actively dodging about to get out of the way. Then he dropped the ladder, and fled into the country shouting murder and fire at every jump. A regular ordained painter is now engaged at Mr. Watson's house. —Danbury News.

OUR PUZZLER.

80. CHARADE.

Wild was the night, and the billows were dashing
To pieces my first, as it drifted to shore;
The crew to the timbers themselves were seen
Lashing,
All thinking of homes they would never see more.

But one on the sea-shore was silently praying—
Though my first was my next—that no lives
Might be lost;
The cold moon between flying clouds was betraying
How vain her request, as she found for her cost.

Death-like she stood in the dawn of the morning,
Death-like the form at her feet she bewailed,—
Hoodless of friendship, all sympathy scorning,
That bark was my whole, which her lover had sailed.

R. A. I.

81. PUZZLES.

I.

With piece of paper, or a slate
(Sit round the fire both large and small),
A letter make, almost an eight,
And now you have what covers all.

2.

If six and half of nine
Correctly you combine,
You quickly see
A useful tree,
Whose branches intertwine.

R. A. I.

82. CROSS PUZZLE.

A female name; a piece; an animal; habit; flying from the centre; a river; glimmering; part of a fish; an animal; plural of the reverse of down; kindred. The central, read down and across, name a large river.

W. G.

ANSWERS.

66. DOUBLE ACROSTIC.—Palestine—Sepulchre—thus:—1, Patroclus; 2, Anemone; 3, Lamp; 4, Esau; 5, Samuel; 6, TumC; 7, Ipwich; 8, Nestor; 9, Exile.

67. CONUNDRUM.—Can I stir? (canister).

68. CHARADE.—Peabody.
69. BIBLICAL QUENTIONS.—1. Nehemiah, c. xiii, v. 16. 2. II Kings, c. xvi, v. 10. 3. II Chronicles, c. xxvi, v. 14 and 15. 4. II Samuel, c. iii, v. 27.