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IMPORTERS IN NEW YORK who were sued for seventy-five thousand dollars, for undervaluation of aniline dyes at the customs, managed to make a settlement with the District Attorney for ten thousand dollars. The solicitor of the Treasury, however, de- clares to such wholesale compromising, and recommends a law forbidding such settle- ments before trial, as Government loses millions yearly by the practice.

THE BOARD OF EXPERTS of the American Agricultural Department, who investigated the diseases of cattle, have made a startling report. They find that entire herds of blooded and graded cattle in the Western and Eastern States have been swept away by Texan fever, brought among them by a single bullock from the Southern States. The disease is said by the experts to be only propagated in summer and early autumn, and hardly ever occurs after a heavy frost.

A PANIC occurred in a Roman Catholic church in New Haven, Connecticut, on Sat- urday, caused by some of the altar adorns- ments taking fire from a candle. Accord- ing to report the audience of fifteen hun- dred people in their hurry to get out of the building wedged themselves in and increased their danger a thousand-fold, but the priest kept cool, put out the fire and restored calm to his flock. On the Sunday following, the priest, Father Fitzpatrick, denounced a local newspaper for having, as he alleged, exag- gerated the account of the occurrence, and advised the congregation not to have any dealings whatever with the offending sheet. It is said this action of the priest caused much excitement in the congregation, and it will not be surprising if the clergyman will have to pay substantial damages for using his position to destroy private property that had become obnoxious to him.

THE LEGISLATURE of New York State met last week, and was addressed by the Governor in a lengthy message. The finan- cial and numerous other matters under State jurisdiction were dealt with, and a recommendation was briefly made that the Legislature consider the subject of civil ser- vice reform and make a law to regulate ap- pointments to office and removals therefrom. Including above five and a half millions of a balance from the previous year, the re- cepts of the State Treasury for last year were nearly seventeen and three-quarter millions, and the expenditure amounted to nearly fourteen millions, leaving a balance not far short of four millions in funds. The increase in canal tolls collected was twenty- three and a half thousand over the previous year. Since the opening of the session the Judiciary Committee of the Senate has passed a resolution to amend the law so that no person can be confined in an insane asylum without the privilege of a trial by jury.

A MINER'S WATCH.

A watchman in one of the Comstock mines, having no watch, borrowed one for a night, and on returning it the next day told his friend that he was all right now, as he had a timekeeper of his own. He then unrolled a strip of paper four inches wide, from a stick, and exhibited it as his clock. He had marked on the paper, as they rose above the horizon, all the stars and con- stellations within a narrow belt. Opposite each star was the time of its making its ap- pearance. The watchman says his watch is a fine timekeeper. He has recently im- proved it somewhat. The slip of paper now runs on two small rollers that are placed in a small box, which has a sliding lid of glass. As the night wears away and the stars pass over, he now turns the crank of his watch and looks at the time marked by the side of each.

MARRIED WOMEN IN THE ENGLISH MILLS.

Married women seldom think of forsaking the mill while their family is increasing, un- less, indeed, the number of little children—who must not be left altogether without some one to take care of them—should be so large as to make it as cheap to stay at home as to pay a substitute, and their only hope of release is from some of the elder children being able to supply their mother's place. I could name more than one case where the aggregate yearly earnings of the family are nearer three hundred pounds than two hundred pounds. Still, the mother trudges off to the mill daily along with her husband and her grown-up sons and daughters. The other day, in my pastoral rounds, I called on a woman who had lost her daughter from dyspepsia—a very common ailment among the families of the mill hands—and in the course of conversation it came out that her age was forty-eight (of which forty had been spent in the mill), and that the death of the girl had disappointed a long-cherished hope of release from her life-long drudgery, which was now indefinitely postponed until at least a little girl of ten had grown old enough to take her place. The mill is the unfailing resort for employment, and is preferred by the female section of the com- munity to domestic service, on account of the greater freedom and better pay, for a smart young weaver or spinner is worth an expert enough to earn eighteen or twenty-one shillings per week, besides having her evenings and Sundays all to herself. Talk of money-hunters in the better classes of society, the "lads" with the sturdy frame and the left hand to earn big wages, like the boy with the cake, will have many friends anxious to be placed on even a more familiar footing!—*Good Words.*

A RAT SHUTS OFF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

A peculiar incident occurred on Saturday night last at the store of Willoughby, Hill & Co. The firm use a large number of electric lights in their building. At 11 o'clock, when the store was crowded with people, the light was suddenly turned off, and all were left in utter darkness. As rapidly as possible the gas jets were lighted and everybody looked surprised, none more so than the members of the firm. The en- gine was running as rapidly as usual, and the dynamos were working elegantly when an investigation was made, still no electric light was visible above. Under the dynamo there stood a rat, with one leg raised up as if about to take another step. The rat was dead and rooted to the spot. He had leaped on one of the copper conductors under the brush, and in stepping on the other closed the current so that it passed through his body, killing him instantly, the rat remain- ing nailed to the spot, while the entire cur- rent from a forty-light Brush machine passed through him and prevented it from ascending above. The machinery was stop- ped, the rat taken off, and then everything was all right again, for when the machinery was again started the lights burned as well as usual.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A CURE FOR PERJURY.

The increase of perjury in English court suggests to *The Spectator* a story of the way a Danish magistrate once suppressed per- jury under his jurisdiction: One day an English friend seated beside him on the bench noticed that every witness jumped immediately after uttering a palpable lie. "He asked the reason, and the magistrate, after a caution, revealed his secret: "My orderly stands behind the witness, and whenever I put my left hand to my ear, that indicates that the evidence is false, and he runs a pin into him." The sting of con- science in this material form proved effec- tual, and the magistrate, who died honored and the magistrate, in three years turned Alsatia into one of the most orderly and law-abiding of communities. He could al- ways get to the truth.

A WRITER on the health of London re- commends that trees be thickly planted be- tween that city and the swamps of Essex and Kent. The idea is not merely to re- claim these marshes, but to make the trees a barrier against the winds which now drive malarious air into the city. The trees may be set out without danger, provided the work is not done at night.

THE PASSING AND COMING YEAR.

Never does the present time sink so much out of sight as at the point where the old year and the new seem to touch each other. The past, with its memories sweet and sad, the future, with its hopes and fears and hid- den mysteries, are enough to fill every mind and absorb every feeling. Of course the young are chiefly engrossed with what is in store for them in the future, and the aged love better to dwell in by-gone scenes, and to live over past experiences, but to the large majority of people both these tendencies have at this time an attraction that they do not commonly exert.

It is well that this should be so. In a simply material point of view one day does not differ from another, and the mathemat- ical divisions of the calendar cannot invest either the last or the first day of the year with any intrinsic sacredness. But just as the mountaineer needs to pause at times in his ascent, not only for rest, but to look backward upon the expanded views which his past efforts have opened up to him, and forward with fresh hope to the regions be- yond, which await his approach, so do we all need occasional pauses in our life-long climb, where we can do the same; and certainly no time can be more fitting for this purpose than when we reach the milestone which tells us that one year is passing away and another entering into view. We have not too much, but too little poetry and sentiment in our busy everyday life, and we may safely accept the few breaks that occur from time to time as welcome seasons for exercising dormant faculties.

A mere reverie, however, upon the past and a curious wonder as to the future, will not avail us much. There are ways of re- viewing a past year that are simply over- rating and destructive to future welfare. To brood upon its misfortunes, to bewail its errors, to despair of ever retrieving its losses, to indulge in loud lamentations, or secret repinings over what can never be altered, is a folly which can only produce evil. Of course there are sorrows which may pale the cheek, and sad memories which may dim the eye; there are sins to be re- pent of and mistakes to be regretted; but their only mission to us, now they are past, is for the better guidance of our future. As far as they bring to us lessons of improve- ment we may welcome their recollection; but, beyond this, they should be laid sadly, perhaps even reverently, away. On the contrary, all that the past year has brought to us of pure happiness, of rich experience, of growing power, of tender affection, should be made prominent. Such memories will not only gladden our hearts and re- fresh our energies, but, when cherished in a spirit of thankfulness, will form germs of perpetually increasing good in the future. The coming year will be happier and better for every joyful memory and every added power we can carry it to it.

And how shall we look upon the year which is just upon us? Not, as we have said, with mere curiosity as to the events it shall bring to us, but rather with earnest thoughtfulness as to what we are to bring into it. It is doubtless a natural desire to look into the future to see what is to befall us there. Few, if any, would be able to re- sist the temptation to do so, were it possible. Yet there is a prophetic power that we do possess, to some degree, and might have in larger measure, were it cultivated. We crave the knowledge of what is to come to us, and that we cannot by any magic discover, but we think little of what is to come from us, and yet that is the most important, and its general results a fairly good judgment can foretell. In our business, for example, we long to know whether we shall gain or lose; whether fortunate chances shall favor us, or unlooked-for disasters overwhelm us. The artist, perhaps, longs to know if his picture will be honored; the author, if his latest volume will be in demand; the clerk, if his salary will be raised; the physician, if his practice will increase. They long in vain, however. No prophetic voice answers these questions. But if, instead of this, they re- flect on the earnestness, fidelity and honest labor they are going to bestow upon their work—if the artist is chiefly interested in the character of his forthcoming picture, and the author in the value of his message to the world, and the physician in the fresh knowledge he hopes to gain and the increas- ing skill he hopes to exercise—then each one may fairly expect success in the best sense, in proportion to the measure of these quali- ties that he puts into his work.

So in our domestic and social life. We cannot predict what special events shall come to gladden or to grieve us, but we may safely prophesy that if we cultivate home affections, we shall reap home happiness, and if we are sympathetic and friendly, we shall enjoy the sweets of friendship. In our national affairs, the wisest statesman cannot predict the particular events that will check the coming year; but he may pro- phesy with accuracy that all the intelli- gence, fidelity, and ability that is brought to bear upon affairs of government from the weightiest decisions of Congress down to the smallest primary meeting, will issue forth in the form of national prosperity, while everything which sains the honor or degrades the moral character of the citi- zens will as surely contribute to national disgrace.

As we look backward, then, at the year just leaving us, and forward to that which is approaching, let us avoid both idle lamenta- tions of the past and idle wonder as to the future; let the thoughts of the one give us the guiding wisdom of experience, and of the other, the courage, hope and energy to put into the New Year those forces and qualities which shall render it a better, happier and more valuable one than any of its prede- cessors.—*Philadelphia Public Ledger, December 30th, 1882.*

COOKING BEEFSTEAK.

A member of my own family has brought the cooking of this article of food to what we consider perfection. The first require- ment is not so much a tender and juicy steak, though this is always to be devoutly desired, but a glowing bed of coals, a wire grilliron—a stout one with good-sized wires; a double one, so that you can turn the steak without touching it. The steak should not be pounded, only in extreme cases—when it is cut too thick and is "stringy." Attempt nothing else when cooking the steak; have everything else ready for the table; the potatoes and vegetables all in their respec- tive dishes in the warming-closet or oven, with the door left open a little way. From ten minutes onward is needed to cook the steak. The time must depend on the size, and you can easily tell by the color of the gravy which runs from the steak when gently pressed with a knife, as to its condi- tion. If the master of the house likes it "rare done," when there is a suspicion of brown gravy with the red, it will be safe to infer that it is done enough for him; if, as is generally the case, the next stage is the favorite one, remove the steak from the grilliron the instant the gravy is wholly of a light brown. Remove it to a hot platter, pepper and salt it to suit your taste, put on small lumps of butter, and then for two brief moments cover it with a hot plate, two mo- ments being sufficient to carry it to the table. One absolutely essential factor in the pre- paration of a good beefsteak is that it must be served at once. The steak should not be permitted to stand and steam while other work is being accomplished.—*Exchange.*

BE INDUSTRIOUS, daughter. Thus the best women have ever found the best of husbands at the post of duty. Rebecca went to the well to water the cattle, and caught Isaac's matrimonial agent. Rachel went out with sheep and found Jacob and a kiss waiting for her. Ruth wrought in the wheat field and married rich Boaz. Abigail hustled round and baked two hundred loaves of bread, and loaded up a whole com- missary train, which she personally led out to David, and got a second husband within a week after her first one was petrifed; and if you persistently buckle down to the wash- tub you may feel assured that no man will marry you for your money.—*Selected.*

IN ENGLAND very rich, hairless men are apt to leave "a lot to wife," absolutely. Thus Mr. Ashteton Smith, the famous hunter, left two hundred thousand dollars a year to Mrs. Smith. She, in turn, left half to his nephew and half to her nephew. Mr. Meynel-Ingram, also a mighty hunter, left two grand seats with deer parks and two hundred thousand dollars a year absolutely to his widow, then twenty-six.

AN OLD MAN who had been badly hurt in a railway collision, being advised to sue the company for damages, said: "Well, no, not for damages, I've had enough of them, but I'll sue them for repairs."