

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

RAISING TROUT.—The California Acclimatizing Society have raised this year 49,000 young trout from ova obtained from the East, the fish now being from two to four inches in length; they have 40,000 native trout hatched in the spring which are now from one to inches long, besides 220,000 Tahoe about two inches in length.

NO SMALL DUTIES.—Duties seem great or small according to the spirit and way in which they are performed. A mean, ignoble mind loses off with a sneer a deed which a magnanimous soul would perform so sweetly and so nobly as to charm whoever saw it done, and leave the recollection of it as a precious possession for ever. A cold, selfish nature gives a guinea in a spirit so petty, and a way so cruel, that its value shrinks to a farthing; while a generous one gives a farthing so that it is felt to be worth a guinea.

THE NUTTING SEASON.—The nutting season is now in its loveliest aspect, and statements come from various quarters that nuts of all kinds are uncommonly plentiful and good. Nutting has this advantage over berry picking, that it is "in" at a season when Nature is at her loveliest, with soft skies, lingering autumnal flowers, and rainbow tints upon woods and hedge-rows. Ramblers in October woods, too, need have no fear of sunstroke, cases of which very frequently occur in the berry-picking season of midsummer and early autumn.

A STRANGE DELUSION.—The recent death of a singular character at Batignolles, France, is recorded. His name was Joseph Volry, and he imagined that he had, in a prior state of existence, been a dog, and could not meet a dog in the street without talking to him. By degrees he persuaded himself that he was king of the canine race, and gave himself the title of Medor I. As he was very gentle and inoffensive, the police never interfered with him. He has left a fortune equal to 2,000 francs per annum to one of the principal veterinary surgeons of Paris.

LUCK AND LABOR.—Many people complain of their bad luck, when they ought to blame their own want of wisdom and action. Colclen thus wrote about luck and labor: "Luck is everything waiting for something to turn up. Labor with keen eye and strong will will turn up something. Luck lies in bed and wishes the postman would bring him news of a legacy. Labor turns out at six o'clock, and with busy pen and ringing hammer lays the foundation of competence. Luck whines. Labor whistles. Luck rises on chances. Labor on character. Luck slips down to indigence. Labor strides upward to independence."

DAY DREAMING.—Do anything innocent rather than give yourself to reverie. Channing says: "I can speak on this point from experience. At one period of my life I was a dreamer and a castle-builder. Visions of the distant future took the place of present activity. I spent hours in reverie. I suppose I was seduced in part by physical debility. But the body suffered as well as the mind. I found, too, that the imagination threatened to influence the passions, and that if I meant to be virtuous I must dismiss my musings. The conflict was a hard one. I resolved, prayed, resisted, sought refuge in occupation, and at length triumphed. I beg you to avail yourself of my experience."

A SINGULAR STORY.—The cable between Kurrachee and Gwadur having suddenly failed, a steamer was despatched to the point where the fault was suspected to lie. On winding in the cable unusual resistance was experienced, and after some time the body of an immense whale, entangled in the cable, was brought to the surface. Sharks and other fish had partially eaten the body, which was rapidly decomposing, the jaws falling away on reaching the surface. The tail, which measured fully 12 feet across, was perfect, and covered with barnacles at the extremities. Apparently the whale at the time of entanglement was using the cable to free itself from these parasites, and the cable, hanging in a loop over a submarine precipice, he probably, with a fillop of his tail, twisted it round him, and thus came to an untimely end.

OCCUPATION.—What a glorious thing for the human heart! Those who work hard seldom yield to fancied sorrow. When grief sits down, folds its hands, and mournfully feeds upon its own fears, weaving the dim shadow, that a little exertion might sweep away, into a funeral pall, the strong spirit is shorn of its strength, and sorrow becomes our master. When trouble flows upon you, dark and heavy, toll not with the waves, and wrestle not with the torrent; rather seek by occupation to divert the dark waters that threaten to overwhelm, with a thousand channels, which the duties of life always present. Before you dream of it, those waters will fertilize the present, and give birth to fresh flowers, that will become holy in the sunshine which penetrates to the path of duty, in spite of every obstacle. Grief, after all, is but a selfish feeling; and most selfish is the man who yields himself in the indulgence of any passion which brings no good to his fellow-men.

A VENERABLE BLADE.—There is an ancient sword on exhibition at the office of the Providence Journal which was made in the year 1616, making it two hundred and fifty-seven years old. It was worn with honor by Captain Abijah Moore, who commanded a company in a Vermont regiment, under General Starke, in the Revolutionary war. Captain Moore inherited the sword from his grandfather, Elisha Moore,

who was killed by the Indians in 1754, with all his family except one son, who escaped, at the settlement where Burlington, Vt., now stands. The house was sacked and burned, and, with other property, the Indians carried away this sword, but the band was afterwards captured, the stolen sword recovered and returned to the son who escaped, and has since been in the family as an heirloom, and handed down from generation to generation. At present it belongs to Mrs. Charles S. Westland, of Providence, a direct descendant from the Captain Abijah Moore above named.

COBLENTZ.—Coblentz is situated at the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle. A very pretty and not large city, but rich with traditions and histories that go away back into the past full of mystery and poetry. The city owes most of its modern importance to its situation at the mouth of the Moselle—down whose waters the rich and varied products of the great country beyond are freighted—and to its value as a military strategic point. Opposite Coblentz, and connected with the city by a long bridge of boats, is the little village of Ehrenbreitstein, nesting prettily and peacefully under the fortress-crowned heights. For high up on the miniature mountain, bright in the flashing sunlight, is the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, probably not surpassed by any similar military work in the world. The walls of this magnificent fortification, pierced for innumerable guns, are not frowning and dark, but rather handsome and regular, and as beautiful as engineering skill, employed for such warlike purposes, could make them. In peace they are indeed peaceful looking; but in war they would be terrible.

HIS THINKING (NIGHT) CAP.—The season approaches, says the Danbury News, when the boy of the period turns his mind to meditation. As the hour of eight P.M. strikes, he softly withdraws from the table where he has been engaged in digging the putty from a nail head, and unostentatiously deposits himself back of the stove to think. We are particular to emphasize this word, because there is an impression on the part of his parents and his elder sister, who has the honor of escorting him to bed nights, that he is going to sleep. They go so far as to openly express this belief, but he stoutly denies it, and immediately proceeds to demonstrate the gross injustice of the insinuation by humming some familiar piece. Pretty soon the humming ceases; there is a significant movement at the table, and then it is resumed again, and continues for five minutes, when it gradually dies out, and all is silent back of the stove. When the boy comes to again, he is being lifted to his feet by his wristband, and cuffed on the head to indicate that it is after ten o'clock. He makes a desperate attempt to find where he left off on the tune, but ignominiously fails, and five minutes later is stumbling up stairs, with an interested and active sister in his rear, and firmly but faintly maintaining that he was not asleep, but only thinking.

LOVE MATCHES.—Undoubtedly, no one ought to marry for money; but to marry simply from love, without being able to give a sensible, judicious reason for that love—without being able, after a careful analysis, to discover a legitimate foundation for it, would be quite as irrational and disastrous as to marry from mere mercenary or social considerations—perhaps, even more so. In matters of such deep moment, there should be a wise interblending of feeling and judgment. Reason, cautious and sure-footed, is too apt to fall in the rear, while passion, reckless and nimble, takes the lead as guide. A premium on the passion is sure to involve a discount on the rational. Love for a man—ardent, soulful love—is certainly one of the most potent of reasons for marrying him. But there may be equally valid reasons why marriage should never take place. A man addicted to habits of public or private dissipation, a man whose temperament clashes with one's own, a man who is churlish, undemonstrative, and naturally selfish, a man possessing a naturally despotic nature with a native tendency to look down upon a woman as a secondary order of being, at best, a man who shows no chivalric bearing, no delicate courtesy towards women, a man who manifests little or no affection for his mother or sister—a man possessing these characteristics, or any one of them, can never make a woman serenely happy.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

HEAT OF THE MOON.—The Earl of Rosse is the latest observer who has directed his efforts to detect the heat of the moon. By means of most delicate instruments he has demonstrated the presence of heat from the moon, but has not succeeded in ascertaining its amount with any degree of precision. The maximum of the lunar heat appears to be a little before full moon; the unequal distribution of its mountains and plains, perhaps, goes to explain this phenomenon.

PRESERVATION OF NUTS.—Now that the nut season is coming on, we call the attention of our readers to a manner in which those palatable and nutritious productions of nature can be preserved throughout the winter. Chestnuts, hickory nuts, and walnuts may be preserved during the whole winter in nearly the same state they come from the trees, by covering them with earth, having mingled with them a quantity of the earth moderately dry, and sufficient to occupy the space between them.

HYGIENIC USE OF TEA.—The use of tea is recommended in the following cases: after a full meal, when the system is oppressed; for the corpulent and the old; for hot climates, and especially for those who, living there, eat freely, or drink milk or alcohol; in cases of suspended animation; for soldiers who, in time of peace, take too much food in relation to the waste proceeding in the body; for soldiers and others marching in hot climates, for then by promoting evaporation and cooling the body, it prevents in a degree the effects of too much food, as of too great heat.

FISH AS A DIET.—A fish diet is a great humanizer of the tempers of mankind. Its consumption tends wonderfully to render them more kindly to one another, and consequently tames the passionate disposition to crime. As carnivorous animals are always the most fierce and violent, so become human beings who have carnivorous stomachs. Could such stomachs have an occasional respite by the consumption of fish, the world would be all the better for it. I speak as a medical man and firmly assert that many maladies would be mitigated, and perhaps annihilated by such a process.

THE BRITISH HORSEMAN.—France, though etymologically the birthplace of the chevalier or cavalier—who takes his title from the animal he mounts—can in these days display but a burlesque of horsemanship; and though one or two continental nobles air their jockeyship with passable credit annually at Baden-Baden and such reunions of continental racing, the whole force of foreign gentlemen who have the smallest pretensions to horsemanship would not compare with the first flight of the slowest pack of foxhounds in Great Britain. Even in the East, the birthplace of the horse, the natives, though in Arabia and Tartary fairly *au fait* at rough riding, and all more or less at home in the saddle, have no chance either on the flat, and still less cross country, with the *elite* of English horsemen.

HOW TO USE A SPADE.—The man who can handle a spade properly does not find it very hard or laborious work. He first lets the spade fall of its own weight, says *Forney's Press*, down to the spot where the spadeful is to be taken up, taking care that the breadth on the surface ground is not more than four inches; then he draws back the spade a little, which takes off much of the friction of the descending blade. One good thrust of the spade with the foot then sends the blade down its full depth. A backward pressure makes a lever of the handle and heel of the spade, and a dexterous turn of the wrist sends the spadeful upside down just where it is wanted. There is no raking or "sputtering" needed to make the ground level. A slight tap with the corner of the spade makes the work as regular and plane as if laid off with an instrument.

EXCESSIVE USE OF WATER.—In the manufactories of all kinds, water (very often cold) is placed within easy reach of every person, male or female, and the effect of this constant invitation is seen in the drinking of what physicians must regard as unreasonable amounts. The food is thereby diluted, the stomach is oftentimes chilled below the temperature of the blood, and by repeated drafts may be kept in this condition. The process of digestion is in this way interfered with. A certain amount (70 to 100 ounces) of water is required daily for the nutrition of an average adult; but of this total requirement 20 to 30 ounces are contained in the so-called solid food, leaving about sixty ounces to be supplied in some form of liquid, as tea, coffee or water. If this amount is greatly exceeded, it forces additional and needless work on the organs of excretion.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Typhoid fever, when once established in a family generally takes nearly all the members, hence many believe it to be contagious. It is not contagious, however, but like cholera and other kindred diseases, is infectious. The sweepings from an old sewer, leakage from privy vaults, water from cooling sprays, stench arising from decaying vegetables are all favorable conditions to the acquiring and spread of this disease. An instance is on record where a whole neighborhood passed through a siege of this disease, engendered by using milk from cows that habitually drank from water standing over decaying timber. The preventive is to keep the premises clean, drink pure water, and when unpleasant smells arise, trace them out, remove the cause, and apply disinfectants. The person should be washed thoroughly at least once a week.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

MARK TWAIN is travelling through Scotland with Mrs. Clemens. He ought to know better.

It is an error to imagine that woman talk more than men. They listen to more, that's all.

SAN FRANCISCO has a pair of infant gymnasts aged five, and there is nobody there to prevent it.

"THEY put him in a show case," was the remark of a rural lady who recently attended a city funeral.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN is performing on the stage in Worcester. He is no relation of George Francis Train.

MME. NILSSON visited a church choir room in New York on Sunday, just to see how they run church operas there.

THE Dutch have appropriated twenty-six mil-

lions more to carry on the Pepper war. The Dutch are getting spicy.

MORE bread, landlord. I always eat a good deal of bread with my meat. "So I see, sir, and a good deal of meat with your bread."

A MAN that marries a widow is bound to give up chewing. If she gives up her weeds for him, he should give up his weed for her.

WHAT is the difference between a Jew and a lawyer? The one gets his law from the prophets, and the other his profits from the law.

WILMINGTON people don't say liar right out, but remark, "Sir, you remind me of my lamented brother, who could pervert truth with the greatest ease."

A **DETROIT** loafer mortgaged his wife's sewing machine to pay for his grog. There will be a sewing machine accident in Detroit one of these fine days.

A **YOUNG** lady gave this order to her milliner for a bonnet: "You are to make it plain, but at the same time smart, as I sit in a conspicuous place in church."

MCCOOLE is asked to subside into the nethermost strata of eternal obscurity. The man who asked him to do it didn't sign his name, and couldn't be induced to, probably.

A **NEW ORLEANS** jurymen was asked by the Judge if he ever read the papers. He replied: "Yes, your honor; but if you'll let me go this time, I'll never do so any more."

A **LITTLE** American lad who had just commenced reading the newspapers asked his father if the word "Hon," prefixed to the name of a member of Congress, meant "honest."

It is said some of the lager beer glasses in Duluth are made with magnifying properties, so that, when a drinker gets one to his mouth, he is deluded with the idea that he has a big drink.

MR. GREEN, when you said there was too much American eagle in the speaker's discourse did you mean that it was a talented production; and to what claws of the speech did you especially refer?

JOSH BILLINGS says: "I will state for the information of those who haven't had a chance to lay in sekrit wisdom as freely as I have that one single hornet, who feels well, can break up a whole camp-meeting."

"I SAY, Jones, how is it that your wife dresses so magnificently, and you always appear out at the elbows?" "You see, Thompson, my wife dresses according to the Gazette of Fashion, and I dress according to my ledger."

A MAN in Walcottville, Conn., undertook to milk his cow, one recent cold morning, with a pair of woolen mittens on. The startled animal gave him some new revelations in a "cow" style by laying her dexter hind hoof alongside his ear.

THE first time the Abyssinians saw the engines in a steam vessel they were struck with amazement, and said that the English must be a very clever people, for they had captured the devil, and put him into an iron box, and made him work.

DARWIN says that infants do not know how to weep until they are several days old. We do not know whether he can prove the statement or not; but there are a good many happy fathers who will give him all they possess in the world if he will prove that infants do not know how to howl.

SIR MOSES Montefiore, the great London leader of the Jews was negotiating a loan on the Bourse, when a small lot of capitalists approached him. "Oh, dear," says one, "he is going to swallow us all." "No, my dear sir," said Sir Moses, with a caustic smile, "my religion forbids that."

THERE is a dealer in Bangor, Maine, not remarkable for his piety, who keeps the money he takes at his shop in a Bible. On being asked why he chose such a place of deposit, he replied that thieves would never think of looking there for money and the people who read the Bible from choice would not steal.

A **YOUNG** Parisian lately thought to frighten a lady into accepting him. He invited her to take a sail on the lake of Geneva with him, and when some distance from shore he threatened to jump overboard if she refused his suit. But she didn't get frightened, and offered to bet him one hundred francs that he daren't dive in—and he didn't.

A **SERVANT** of an old maiden lady, patient of Dr.—, of England, had been under order to go to the doctor every morning to report the state of her mistress's health, how she slept, etc., with strict injunctions to add, "With her compliments." At length the girl brought the following message: "Miss S—'s compliments, and she died last night at eight o'clock."

AN aged Highland divine having occasionally to avail himself of the assistance of probationers, a young man, very vain of his accomplishments as a preacher, officiated, and on descending from the pulpit was met by the old gentleman with extended hands. Expecting high praise, he said: "No compliments, I pray." "Na, na, na, my young friend," said the minister; "nowadays I'm glad o' anybody!"

RECENTLY, a young woman, evidently "from the country," was seen standing with a very perplexed air at one of the street letter-boxes. She was observed to knock several times at the top of the iron box, and, obtaining no response, she passed around to the opposite side, and, raising the slit in which the letters are placed, applied her mouth to the aperture, and called out (or in), "Can ye let me have a postage stamp, if ye please?"