

the three first days of December rule the winter. This month these three days were unusually cold and beautiful especially the third day. On the fourth or rather the evening of the third an east-gale of rain set in with high winds. According to this proverb we are to have a mild winter; but for December—the second January, and the first for February. We will see how true it is. In the year the first three days were unusually cold and the cold winter.

On the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, & 9th days of December were mild—water unfrozen—cattle grazing in the field—wind south-east and south with some rain.

**THE STING OF A BEE.**—In most cases the person can instantaneously obtain relief by pressing the point stung with the tube of a key. This will attract the sting and relieve the pain, and the application of *agua ammonia* (common spirits of ammonia) will immediately remove it. The poison is of an acid nature, is at once neutralized by the application of this penetrating and volatile alkali. A small quantity introduced into the wound on the end of a needle, or fine nibbed pen, and applied as far as possible, will scarcely ever fail.

A spoonful of horse-radish put into a pan of milk will preserve the milk sweet for several days, either in the open air or in the cellar, while other milk will become quite sour.

A machine is on exhibition at Steubenville, Ohio, for the manufacture of matches, which will manufacture matches at the rate of 20,000 per minute, or 1,200,000 per hour.

It is common to regard milk as little else than cream. But real good milk is really an article of food, being coagulated soon after reaching the stomach. New milk contains 13 per cent. of digestible solids and skimmed milk ten per cent; that is, the former fully one-half, and the latter above a third, the nutriment contained in the lean part of mutton or beef.

An undertaking of great interest to scientific persons is now being carried out within a few miles of London. A wealthy country clergyman, named Messrs., is constructing a new monster telescope on an achromatic principle, which will surpass the celebrated instrument constructed by Lord Ross in Ireland. Its total length will be eighty-five feet, and its greatest circumference thirteen feet. The weight of the tube is three tons, and the contrivances adopted to prevent vibration, and to allow of its being raised or turned to any required point, are described as being singularly perfect and ingenious. It is understood that the observatory will be endowed by Mr. Messrs., so that it may be maintained in perpetuity for the advantage of astronomical science. From the date of its completion, which may shortly be expected, it will doubtless draw many persons from all parts of the world. [It is now finished.—Ed.]

**PREVENTING.**—We hope we may not be branded pretensions if, in the matter of sneezing, we pretend to be connoisseurs. As a proof of our taste, we hate the sound of your snivelling, dry-hal-frightened-to-death sneezes—but for one of your full, clear sonorous sneezes, reverberating explosions—one of these remarks that set the wine-glasses on the side-board rattling, and wake pussy—we say, for one of these earthquake sneezes, we have a love inferior only to that which we bear for a woman and—our favorite. A sneeze to be in good taste, should crack like a rifle on a clear morning. A receipt for a sneeze of this genus is as follows:—When you feel tickling at the end of your proboscis, just jump up, you are seated, run to the window, throw your head back till the bump of philoprogenitiveness pres-

ses on your coat collar, open your mouth, snarl like a half starved hyena at a piece of fresh meat, make a deep breath and then—blaze away! The effects will be prodigious—an echo will salute you from the housetop over the way; the good-hou-e-wives will order the clothes to be taken in—your game cock will turn up the red of his eye at the sun, and you will have the best assurance that you have not sneezed in vain.

**STRANGE FREAK OF NATURE.**—A large walnut tree, standing on the premises of Mr. Amos M. Johnson, of Southbury, during the past season, has had the appearance of dying—so much so that no life could be seen, except in one of the smallest limbs, growing near the base. During the early part of the season this limb put forth its blossoms, and now hangs loaded with nuts. And what is the strangest part of the story, the remaining portion of the tree has lately commenced showing signs of returning to life, and as if just awakened from its winter's sleep is now budding and blooming as if in May.—*New Haven Courier.*

**EXTRAORDINARY PRODUCT OF A PEA.**—Mr. David Hamilton, of Clay, has left at our office the product of a common field pea, grown the present season in his garden, which eclipses anything we ever heard of in its line. The vine is five feet in length, and about three inches from the root divides into six branches, each of which grew more luxuriantly than do ordinary vines. There were upon this vine 153 pods, which contained 740 peas—very nearly a pint in bulk. We have never heard of a more remarkable yield, and if any of our agricultural friends have been rewarded by anything surpassing it, in their experience, we should be glad to hear from them. We think our friend Hamilton will hold the palm of "tall" pea growing.—*Syracuse Journal.*

The *Hartford Times* says that the bones of a veritable Mastodon, one of the "Ancients of the earth," have been discovered in New Britain, Conn. They were found in the land of Mr. Churchill, a jeweller, and not far from the main street of that flourishing village. The entire skeleton of the mammoth has not yet been found, but a sufficient number of the bones have been dug up to determine the character of the animal to which they belonged. The discovery is attracting much attention in New Britain, and it has been decided to deposit the remains at the Normal School in that place.

**FIRE ALARM TUBE.**—A tube has been placed in the City Hall, extending from the bell ringer on the top of the hall to the office of the Chief of Police. The moment an alarm of fire is given the bell ringer informs the man on watch in the Chief's office of its location, and he communicates the fact to the nearest policeman on post, who again calls it out to the firemen.—*New York Express.*

**MYSTERIOUS.**—A writer from Parishburg, Giles county, Va. says:—At a distance of some three miles from this place, where some workmen were blasting rock, having made an excavation of some ten or twelve feet, the earth gave way and all were plunged into a large room, apparently dug out. At the farther extremity of the room, a human skeleton was found in a leaning posture, reclining as it seemed against the side of the cavern, and seated upon something resembling a chest. No clue, as yet, is known to get at the history of the human relic.

Some two hundred sewing machines are in operation in New York city. There are about five hundred in the whole country, and orders for them cannot be supplied fast enough. Shirts, coats, books, and shoes can be sewed by them.

Irish butter is being now largely imported for the New-York Market. It is highly commended for its richness of flavor.

**MOTION OF BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.**—The celebrated pendulum experiment of Foucault was repeated in this country, among others, by Professor Horstord of Harvard University. He caused a pendulum to be suspended on Bunker Hill Monument, a structure 221 feet in height and 30 feet square at the base, with an internal cavity seven feet in diameter at the bottom and five at the top. It was found that this pendulum when at rest, did not swing uniformly over the same spot, but that on days when the sun shone it departed from the centre, in the forenoon towards the west, towards the north at noon and eastward in the afternoon, developing the remarkable fact that the expansive power of the sun's heat on a massive structure of granite is sufficient to throw it out of perpendicular. That this is the correct explanation of the singular phenomena, is confirmed by the fact that it did not occur on cloudy days, and that once a counter effect was produced by a sudden shower, which restored the perpendicular by cooling the south side of the monument and equalizing its temperature.—*Buffalo Journal.*

**INSTINCT VERSUS REASON.**—We copy the following interesting story about a parrot from the Boston (Mass.) *Transcript*:—"An incident, touchingly illustrative of the power of attachment in the lower animals is related in *Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal* of a recent date. In a small family in the south part of the city, there was a parrot which had found a home there for years, and had become a pet of the family a child was taken sick last spring, and was not seen by the parrot for some days. The bird had been used to repeat her name, and in the child's absence kept repeating her name so incessantly as to annoy the family. The child died; the repetition of the name was kept up until one of the family took the parrot to the room where the corpse lay. The parrot turned first one side of its head, then the other towards the corpse, apparently eyeing it, and was then taken back. He never repeated the name again, was at once silent, and the next day died.

For the benefit of any of our readers who may require it, we copy the following prescription for the cure of sore throat. It was first published by the author in the *Memphis and Arkansas Christian Advocate*:

**CLERGYMAN'S SORE THROAT.**—I beg permission, through the *Christian Advocate*, to advertise the clerical readers of that paper who are afflicted with sore throat, commonly called Bronchitis—but more properly Pharyngitis, that I have found an efficient remedy in Iodine. Take of the Iodide of Potash, one drachm; Iodine, half a drachm; water, 1 ounce; Gum Arabic, two drachms; White Sugar, two drachms. Mix and keep in a phial with a glass stopper. This wash is to be applied to the back part of the throat, the tonsils, and the root of the tongue, with a camel's hair brush, the tongue being depressed with a spoon handle, or other suitable instrument. The many applications which I am receiving from different parts of the country, for particular information concerning this remedy, must be my apology for making this publication.

"A. P. MERRILL, M. D."

**Wool.**—This is destined to be the leading staple of produce in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Its advantages over Wheat and the common products which have been relied upon, are beginning to be appreciated by the farming community. The prices of this week ranges from 25 to 37 cts. From seven to ten thousand dollars will be paid out this week in the market for wool alone.—*Kenosha Telegraph.*

An immense eagle earned off at Lexington, near Troy, a child five years of age; after the lapse of several weeks, its skeleton was discovered high up in the hill.