POOR COPY

Dept. Public Works

THE BEST.
This is the verdict of all who have tried The Gleaner as an advertising medium.

The Gleaner.

FOR $1.00
The Tri-Weekly Gleaner will be delivered at any house in the City for four months.

VOL. V. FREDERICTON, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1888. No. 93

Professional Cards

E. A. McKAY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
OFFICE: PHOENIX SQUARE, - FREDERICTON, N. B.
(Opposite Upper Side City Hall.)
Fredericton, Dec. 5, 1888—w tw 1yr.

GEORGE W. ALLEN,
BARRISTER,
Winslow's Building, St. John St.,
FREDERICTON.
Fredericton, Oct. 4, 1888.

G. D. CARTER,
Dentist.
EXTRACTION AND PROSTHETIC DENTISTRY A SPECIALTY.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
DENTAL ROOMS OVER A. McCAUSLAND'S JEWELRY STORE, 260 QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON.
Fredericton, July 17th, 1888.

FRED ST. JOHN BLISS,
Barrister, Notary, Etc.
OFFICE:
QUEEN STREET, OPPOSITE POST OFFICE.
Fredericton, May 5th, 1888—1yr.

DR. H. D. CURRIE,
Surgeon Dentist,
104 QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

WILLIAM WILSON,
SECRETARY-TREASURER, YORK,
Barrister and Attorney-at-Law
CONVEYANCER, &C.
OFFICE: QUEEN STREET, FREDERICTON
OPPOSITE POST OFFICE.
ACCOUNTS COLLECTED, LOANS NEGOTIATED.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

GEO. F. GREGORY,
(OF LATE FIRM OF GREGORY & BLAIR.)
Barrister and Attorney-at-Law
NOTARY PUBLIC.
OFFICE: NEXT BELOW QUEEN HOTEL, LATELY OCCUPIED BY GREGORY & BLAIR.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

B. H. TORRENS, D. M. D.
Dentist,
FISHER'S BUILDING,
Queen Street, Fredericton.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

DR. CROCKET,
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE,
CARLETON STREET.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

F. J. SEERY, M. D., C. M.
LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH;
LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH;
LICENTIATE OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.
SPECIAL CERTIFICATE IN MIDWIFERY.
OFFICE: FISHER'S BUILDING, COR. PHOENIX SQUARE.
RESIDENCE, 109 BRUNSWICK STREET.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

GREGORY & GREGORY,
Barristers and Notaries.
OFFICES: CARLETON ST., FREDERICTON
ALBERT J. GREGORY, FRANK B. GREGORY,
Registrar of Probates.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

C. E. DUFFY,
Barristers and Attorney-at-Law.
Notary Public, Etc.
SEC'Y-TREASURER OF SUNBURY.
ACCOUNTS COLLECTED, AND MONEY TO LOAN ON REAL ESTATE SECURITY.
Offices: West Side of Carleton Street, Second Door from Queen.
Fredericton, Nov. 1st, 1887.

Auctioneers

H. C. C. WETMORE,
AUCTIONEER, &c.
Has taken a Store on the Upper Side of
PHŒNIX SQUARE,
Next to L. P. LaForest, Tin Smith, where he is prepared to receive Furniture and Goods of all kinds for Auction or Private Sale. He will also give attention to Auction Sales of every description.
Terms Moderate. Returns Prompt. All business confidential.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th, 1887.

ENGLISH OAK
FALL GOODS,
IN
Toast Racks, Biscuit Jars, Salt, Mustard and Pepper Boxes.
The above Goods are beautifully finished, and of Latest Designs, the only goods of the kind in the City, and will be sold at a Small Profit.
F. J. McCAUSLAND,
CORNER QUEEN AND CARLETON STS.
Fredericton Oct. 27, 1888.

Insurance

The North American
LIFE ASSURANCE CO'Y,
OF TORONTO
HON. ALEX. MACKENZIE, PRES'T.
Gauranteed Capital, $300,000.00
Full Government Deposit.
New business for 1886 over - $2,500,000.00
THE various popular plans of the "NORTH AMERICAN," embracing Life, Return Premium, Endowment, Tontine, Semi-Tontine, and Commercial Plan, have proved so acceptable to the insuring public, that the Company can to-day present a showing unequalled by any other home Company at the same period of its existence, and its progressive record and sound financial standing, coupled with its prompt and satisfactory settlement of death claims, are the recommendations which this Company offers for public patronage.
The Company's rates are, according to their various plans, so arranged as to suit the convenience of all, as by the commercial plan insurance is given at the actual cost, while by the endowment and tontine the attractive investment feature is combined with insurance.
All information given and applications received by
O. E. DUFFY,
Agent, Fredericton.
Oct. 29, 1887—w tw—1yr.

THE ATLAS
FIRE
ASSURANCE CO'Y,
Of London, Eng.
Established in the Year 1808.
CAPITAL, - - $6,000,000.00
Risks against loss or damage or by fire taken on all kinds of insurable property in both town and country at the lowest rates and losses adjusted in the most prompt and liberal manner. Unsurpassed security given to policy holders by this Old and Reliable English Company.
C. E. DUFFY, Agent.
Fredericton, Oct. 6th 1887.

Hotels

BARKER HOUSE,
QUEEN STREET, - - - FREDERICTON.
NEWLY REFITTED, AND NOW ONE OF THE LEADING HOTELS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.
SAMPLE ROOM AND LIVERY STABLE.
Modern Improvements constantly being made
F. B. COLEMAN, - Proprietor.
Fredericton Oct 6th, 1887

QUEEN HOTEL,
FREDERICTON, N. B.
J. A. EDWARDS, - Proprietor.
FINE SAMPLE ROOMS IN CONNECTION.
—ALSO—
FIRST-CLASS LIVERY STABLE.
Fredericton, Oct 6th, 1887

Livery Stables

BARKER HOUSE STABLES.
COACHES AND CARRIAGES
Furnished with all Possible Despatch.
HORSES BOARDED AT MODERATE TERMS.
JOHN B. ORR, - Proprietor.
Fredericton, Oct 6th, 1887

New Advertisements

WEST END
SAW MILL AND LUMBER YARD
SEASON 1887.
THE Subscriber, intending to pay greater attention to the RETAIL LUMBER BUSINESS than for the last few seasons, begs to inform the public generally that besides the usual stocks of SPRUCE, PINE, and HEMLOCK LUMBER on hand or sawn to order, will keep constantly on hand
DRY SPRUCE FLOORING AND SHEATHING,
PINE SHEATHING, DRY HEMLOCK
SPRUCE AND PINE BOARDS, AND PLANK PLANED ON ONE SIDE.
Also intends to keep LATHS and PICKETS constantly on hand,
and all sorts of CEDAR SHINGLES well and Smoothly Sawn and Very Carefully Assorted.
☞ Office on QUEEN STREET, directly opposite mill
R. A. ESTEY.
Fredericton, Oct 6th, 1887

JUST RECEIVED:
BATH SPONGES,
Assorted Sizes.
CARRIAGE SPONGES,
Assorted Sizes
FINEST TURKEY SPONGES,
Assorted Sizes
SLATE SPONGES,
All Sizes.
OUR STOCK IS COMPLETE.
DAVIS, STAPELS, & Co.
DRUGGISTS,
Cor. Queen & York Sts., Fredericton
Fredericton, Oct 6th, 1887

Girls Wanted.
THE HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR GOOD GIRLS AT THE BARKER HOUSE
Reference Required.
Fredericton, Sept. 6th, 1888.

New Advertisements.

XMAS IS COMING.
We want every Boy and Girl in Fredericton that wishes to improve their time during the long winter months, to ask their Dry Goods Merchant for one of our
DRAWING BOOKS,
Which will be furnished free of charge.
LADIES, USE BELDING'S
Unequalled Spool Silk,
And find a Treasure in that one name.
BELDING, PAUL & CO., Is on the End of every Spool.
Fredericton, Nov. 13.

WANTED
IMMEDIATELY
—AT—
GUNN'S
COAT AND VEST MAKERS.
Steady Employment, and Highest Wages Paid.
ALSO:
A Few Smart Girls, wishing to Learn Dressmaking can have a good chance.
MRS. J. G. GUNN.
Fredericton, Oct. 18th, 1888. tw. tf.

WE WANT POTATOES.
WE HANDLED 60,000 BUSHELS POTATOES LAST SPRING.
And made money for our Shippers. Having decided to sell in small lots from Store, to get outside prices, we want a few more good shippers. Write us and ship to
HATHEWAY & CO.
General Commission Merchants,
22 CENTRAL WHARF, BOSTON, MASS.
Members Chambers of Commerce, Established 18
Boston, Oct. 4th, 1887

THIS SPACE BELONGS TO
STANLEY'S ENGLISH SPECTACLES
THE BEST IN THE MARKET.
GEO. C. HUNT,
Agent, - - - - - Fredericton.
See later Advertisement.
Aug.

NOW IN STOCK
FOR FALL TRADE
—AT—
WM. JENNINGS
Merchant Tailor.
WIDE WALE WORSTED OVERCOATINGS IN A GREAT VARIETY OF PATTERNS.
ALSO:
A Fine Selection of Fashionable Trowserings and Suitings.
WM. JENNINGS
COR. QUEEN ST. AND WILMOT'S ALLEY.
Fredericton, Sept. 4th, 1888

IMPERIAL HALL.
FALL AND WINTER, 1888-9
NEW GOODS.
CALL AND SEE THEM.
OVERCOATINGS
In Naps, Meltons, Sataras, Tweeds, Elysians, Diagonals, Pilots, &c.
SUITINGS
all the Latest Shades and Patterns. Prices low. Also
Gent's Furnishings, Gloves, Caps, &c, &c.
THOMAS STANGER,
280 QUEEN STREET.
Fredericton, Nov. 1.

BARGAINS
READY-MADE.
The Subscribers are constantly receiving New Goods direct from the manufacturers, which they are offering at remarkably low prices. Read the following:
Men's hand custom Boots, - - $3.50;
" Canadian Clump Sole, - - 2.00;
Boys' Strong Boots " - - 1.60;
Youths' " " - - 1.25;
Women's Prunella Elastic Sides, 50.
LUCY & CO.
Fredericton, Oct 31, 1888.

JACKSON ADAMS,
PRINCIPAL UNDERTAKER.
Coffins and Caskets of all kinds, Sizes and Prices. Robes, Shrouds and Funeral Goods of Every Description kept in stock.
Telegraphic orders promptly attended to. Day or night orders will receive prompt attention.
RESIDENCE OVER WAREROOMS.
COUNTY COURT HOUSE SQUARE, - - - - OPP. QUEEN HOTEL.
A Full Line of Furniture Kept in Stock! Repairing and Upholstering Done!

R. COLWELL,
FREDERICTON, N. B.
Carriages, Wagons, Sleighs and Pungs built to order in the latest and most durable styles. Material and workmanship of the best. Particular attention given to painting, trimming and repairing Carriages, etc. Terms, etc., to give satisfaction.
FACTORY
KING STREET, FREDERICTON.

GENTS' SCOTCH L. WOOL
UNDERWEAR
All Qualities and Sizes.
TENNANT, DAVIES & Co
202 Queen Street, Fredericton.
Fredericton, N. B., Nov. 22 1888.

NEW STORE,
Corner King and Westmorland Streets.
I beg to thank my many customers for past patronage, and to inform them that I am
Back at the Old Stand,
WHERE WITH UNEXCELLED FACILITIES, AND
Choice Fresh stock,
I am better able than ever to supply their wants. I shall always aim to keep
THE BEST AND THEREFORE THE CHEAPEST
Goods, and cordially invite all my OLD customers to call, and each one to bring or send as many NEW customers as possible, and see
The Nicest Grocery in Fredericton
J. W. TABOR
Fredericton, N. B. Oct.

THE YOUTH OF NATURE.

For, oh! is it you, is it you,
Moonlight, and shadow, and lake,
And mountains, that fill us with joy,
Or the poet who sings you so well?

More than the singer are these

Yourselves and your fellows ye know not; and me,
The mateless, the one, will ye know?
Will ye scan me, and read me, and tell
Of the thoughts that ferment in my breast.
My longing, my sadness, my joy?
Will ye claim for your great ones the gift
To have rendered the gleam of my skies,
To have echoed the moan of my seas,
Uttered the voice of my hills?
When your great ones depart, will ye say:
All things have suffered a loss,
Nature is hid in their grave?

Race after race, man after man,
Have thought that my secret was theirs,
Have dreamd that I lived but for them,
That they were my glory and joy.
They are dust, they are changed, they are gone!
I remain

—Matthew Arnold.

MANUFACTURE OF DOLLS.

A Thriving Industry in England and Switzerland—Dolls' Eyes.

Dolls, like other toys, have gone with the times, and even as the animals in Noah's ark have become almost artistic, and now tend to real skins, glass eyes and other luxuries in place of the yellow paint and blue spots of the antediluvian animals of our childhood, so the doll has risen in dignity and realism. Long ago dolls were chiefly imported into Great Britain from the Netherlands, and hence not an unusual name for a doll was a "Flanders baby." These Dutch and German dolls possessed perfectly round heads, a little stuck out nose, invariably parted their black painted hair in the middle, pointed their toes, stuck out one thumb, and were so curiously jointed and articulated that every attitude they were made to assume at the will and pleasure of their owner was of a mildly mediæval sort.

They are disappearing before the new race; still, though in England doll making has become a manufacture, large importations are yet made from the countries on the Rhine, from France and from Switzerland, where the industrious people make dolls all the long winter when there are no tourists to be guided up and down mountains. The villagers, as a rule, subdivide their labors; some carve heads and bodies, others paint faces, and others are manufacturers of arms and legs, while another group cut out, sew and put on the dresses; then the dealers come round, collect the scattered members and have them put together in a wholesale way. All these dolls can be made and imported at a cost far below that at which they could be executed by hand labor in England.

When, however, we come to the real high class doll, the aristocracy of the nursery, so to speak, with beautiful pink waxen neck and fat, curved arms, with golden locks and real eyebrows and eyelashes round their large lustrous orbs of dazzling beauty, we find the English trade can hold its own. In London there are all sorts of doll-makers, workers in rags—and there is a certain charm in the old rag doll, though she cannot well be counted among the "upper ten" of her race—in wax, gutta percha, India rubber—in which there is a special trade in black dolls made for export to America to delight little negresses—and compositions and papier mache of all sorts.

Here, too, there exists an economic division of labor, for we have dolls' head makers, leg makers, wig makers, eye makers, and so forth; and recently there has been established a veritable dolls' hospital, whereto can be brought the poor thing with a battered head or a disfigured nose, produced by the incautious placing of dolly near the fire to warm herself. Thither also repairs the dolly whose eyes refuse to close when told to "go to by-by," or who suffers from internal disorders of her wires; and her wants are sympathetically attended to—a very wise and proper feeling to foster in children, who take a long time to learn to love a new doll, and cling passionately to their battered old friend. Dolls' eyes, it may be mentioned, are a regular trade in themselves, and in evidence given before the house of commons a Birmingham manufacturer stated that he had received at one time an order for £500 worth of glass eyes. Of course the cheaper dolls' eyes are simply small hollow glass beads made of white enamel and colored with black or blue, without any attempt at variety or expression; but the grander dolls have iris and pupil and sclerotic constructed on the highest lines of ophthalmology.

There are some curious trade secrets in connection with dolls' eyes which follow certain fashions. For instance, since her majesty came to the throne there has been a distinct run on blue eyes, and blue eyed dolls are specially made for the English market. On the continent, however, and particularly in Spain, black eyes are in greater request. Much might be said concerning the dolls who walk and raise their glasses at intervals; the little haughty duchesses in long trains, who say "papa" and "mamma" of their own free will and accord, and never condescend to an undignified and, indeed, illiterate squeak; and the musical dolls and the gentleman doll who smokes cigarettes. The small public have little love for this last personage, and, indeed, the best authorities rather pronounce against the male doll altogether, for he finds small favor in a well regulated doll's house, where the tiny menage, as seen in section, is, as a rule, exclusively feminine.—London Telegraph.

Generosity of Millionaires.

Stephen Girard gave eight million to Girard college, Asa Packer gave three million to Lehigh university, J. B. Colgate gave $500,000 to Madison university, George I. Seney gave $450,000 to the Wesleyan university; Benjamin Bussy gave half a million to the Howard university; Cornelius Vanderbilt gave $1,000,000, and William H. $500,000 to Vanderbilt university, and the family lately gave another million to further medical science; Leland Stanford gave $20,000,000 to establish a university in California, in memory of his deceased son. Johns Hopkins gave over three million to the university that bears his name, and gifts for benevolent purposes amounting to over eight million. Once a Week.

The World's Highest Bridge.

The Keystone Bridge company has a contract to erect at St. Paul a bridge which, it is said, will be one of the highest in the world. The bridge will extend from the end of the bridge spanning the Mississippi river at St. Paul across a flat to the top of a high bluff. There will be about 20 spans, 4 of which will be 230 feet each in length, one about 170 feet and the remainder from 40 to 90 feet. The ends of the spans will be supported on trestle bents, some of them being 150 feet high. The bridge is to be of iron and steel, and the work will be especially heavy.—Boston True Flag.

He Wasn't Idle.

"You don't appear to have much to say this morning, Mr. McGinnis," remarked the landlady.

"No, ma'am," said the boarder, plying his knife vigorously on the warmed over steak. "I'm not doing much talking, but I keep on sawing wood, ma'am, just as hard."—Chicago Tribune.

Cure for Literary Dram Drinking.

The habit of dram drinking, it is said, leads to fatty degeneration of the heart—i. e., excessive fattening around the heart and weak action of the heart in consequence. So, too, the habit of exciting novel reading leads to fatty degeneration of the literary mind—i. e., to an unhealthy and spasmodic action of the imagination and a general weakening of the power of entering thoroughly into the solid interests of real life.

So far as we know, the only effective cure for this habit of literary dram drinking—a cure not always forthcoming—is a moral shock of some kind which exposes the hollowness of all these unreal interests and makes them appear artificial and melodramatic as they actually are. That, however, is a cure which is an extremely painful one, almost cruel in its disillusionizing power. There are, we believe, some happier mortals who can cure themselves, as the grocers' shop boys are said to be cured of their taste for sugar and raisins and such dainties by an early surfeit of them; but that is a kind of cure which it takes a very healthy mind to operate upon.

As a rule, even where the surfeit destroys the zest of novel reading, it also leaves the mind too languid to take eagerly to plainer and more wholesome food, and so at once destroys the pleasure taken in the poison, and leaves the mischief produced by it.—London Spectator.

Methods of Keeping Grapes.

E. P. Roe kept Catawba, Isabella, Diana and Iona by picking on a clear day, using grape scissors so as not to handle much, removing all imperfect berries and placing in clean, dry earthen jars, in layers a bunch deep, and filling the jar in this way: Place a double sheet of paper over the top layer and put on the lid. Strong unbleached muslin is pasted entirely over the lid or cover of the jar; when the covering has fully dried and hardened the jars are buried on a dry knoll beyound the action of the frost, a stake being placed over each jar to locate it accurately. Charles A. Green says: "I have kept Concords up to January by packing in dry sawdust in market or bushel baskets. A simple method is to place grape leaves between layers of grapes as you pick them, or sheets of paper. Handsome clusters are preserved by cutting a piece of vine with them and placing one end of the vine in a bottle of water, also by covering a stem of the cluster at the point where cut with wax. Grapes should be kept as near the freezing point as possible and yet not freeze."—New York Graphic.

Electricity for Domestic Purposes.

Professor Dyth, of Glasgow, has been experimenting with wind power to generate electricity for domestic purposes; and it now looks as though there would be no difficulty in the way of an electric light for our houses, however remote from cities and from steam power, or from water power. He used an old fashioned four armed wind mill—a good deal less efficient than the mills that our western farmers use for drawing water. The dynamo was belted directly to the fly wheel of the mill, and charged twelve cells of a storage battery. The electric current produced was used for both mechanical and lighting purposes. For light, ten eight candle power lamps were supplied. With a good breeze for half a day, electricity enough could be stored for twelve hours' use, or say for two nights. These experiments are invaluable in the way of helping on the economic and simple application of electricity to domestic purposes.—Globe-Democrat.

Imitation Chinese Hall Vases.

It is said that Chinese hall vases and kindred bric-a-brac are now made in this country, and answer decorative purposes just as well as the imported article. One with an eye for such things would need to see these native imitations, and have their nativity vouched for before quite accepting the report that they were as good in effect as the imported. But if they can pass muster at all it may, perhaps, explain the prodigious number of such things now in the market. The stores are filled, every auction room is crowded; in short, they meet the eye with the frequency almost of the fruit stands at street corners. But the rugs! These Oriental poems in needlework are almost as frequent, and yet we fancy no one has ever attempted to duplicate them with success.—Boston Advertiser.

Good Work for Little Squaws.

The House of the Good Shepherd in Denver, a school for Chippewa girls, conducted by Roman Catholic nuns, is doing a good work for the little squaws. Twenty-five have recently gone to their homes in northern Dakota, after finishing a three years' course, and thirty more have come to take their places. It is said that the parents of the girls are very proud when their daughters come home able to read and write and versed in many of the ways of the pale faces. And the influence of the girls is considerable in changing the habits of the old folks and bringing about an era of cleanliness hitherto unknown in an Indian tepee.—New York Sun.

The Prayer of the Moslem.

The prayer of the Moslem does not depend for its value on its length. "Better," said Ibn Abbas, "are two rekahs with fixed attention than a whole night's standing with a wandering heart." Nor is the worshiper confined to the use of certain prescribed forms, but he may at a certain point offer up any prayer in his own words, which he does, holding his hands before him like a book; and many examples might be given of original prayer of this kind.—Good Words.

The lady who is reputed to be the most beautiful woman in San Francisco is the mother of two children, and although 30 looks like a girl of 18. She indulges in a sponge bath every morning and takes a brisk four mile walk after lunch.—Chicago Herald.

Unter den Linden Strasse.

Unter den Linden Strasse in Berlin is talked of all over the world, but it is by no means the handsomest or most attractive street in the world. In the first place, it is far too wide. For that reason, and because rows of trees are planted in the middle of the street, the view in certain parts is confined to one side. Nor are the buildings uniform in size and style. They include palaces, small shops, large and small private dwellings and third rate hotels, as well as hotels of the first class. Between the sidewalks there are a couple of driveways for vehicles, an equestrian road and a footpath—many features but none distinctive.

Then the street is not kept clean nor in good condition. Fallen leaves are allowed to lie and rot in the middle of the street. Unter den Linden might be made attractive for a park thoroughfare, but for a principal avenue in the center of a city it can scarcely be considered fit or beautiful. Avenue de l'Opera in Paris, and Regent street, London, are both more attractive in almost every respect. And so is the deservedly famous Ring Strasse in Vienna. Indeed Broadway, New York, and Boulevard Anspach, in Brussels, although both much narrower, are both to be preferred to the highly praised Unter den Linden.—"M. P." in Home Journal.

FORTY YEARS AGO.

Comes a dream of a quaint old town,
Lift my waking eyes to fill;
Through its dear streets, up and down,
In fancy I wander still.
Ah, the merry times that I had—
That I never again shall know—
When I was a careless lad,
Just forty years ago.

I remember the seat by the beach,
And the castle washed by the tide;
And I list to the prattling speech
Of a dear one at my side.
For a young face made me glad,
And set my heart in a glow;
When I was a lad—a lad,
Just forty years ago.

But at length came a weary day,
When the farewell words were said,
And I snatched, ere I sailed away,
A kiss from the lips so red:
When the fair young face grew sad,
And its roses forgot to blow,
For love of a sailor lad,
Just forty years ago.

And the dreams of bliss, alack!
That was never to take its flight—
They are here, for they will come back,
In the silent hours of the night;
And tears—well, well! am I mad,
That I babble of trifles so?
Ah, me! for the lass and the lad,
Just forty years ago.

—Matthias Barr in Cassell's Magazine.

A MINERAL CURIOSITY

Indestructible Cloth and Material of Which It Is Made.

"Do you see anything remarkable about this bit of cloth?" asked a Pittsburg gentleman, who has quite a collection of curiosities, addressing his question to a Dispatch reporter.

"Can't say that I do."

"Throw it in the fire."

The newspaper man obeyed, thinking the owner regarded it as valueless.

"That piece of cloth was one of the most curious things in my collection. It cost me a neat little sum, too."

"If I had known that," began the reporter, "I would not"——

"Oh! it's all right. Fire won't harm it," interrupted the gentleman. "See I will pick the fabric out with these tongs and let it cool. You will then see that it is just as strong as ever."

"What sort of stuff is it?" asked the wondering visitor.

"Asbestus. That is a fragment of a piece of cloth woven in France, I don't know how long ago. There was a time when it was thought that the making of asbestus cloth would become an important industry, but so many difficulties were encountered by those who experimented with the stuff that very little was ever made, and such cloth is now a rare curiosity. The ancients wove this curious mineral substance into fabrics which were used to wrap the bodies of mummies.

"The name is applied to particular forms of various minerals, especialy to certain varieties of hornblende and pyroxene. The word is Greek, and means a substance indestructible by fire. It can be fused, however, but not readily. The fibrous varieties of asbestus are readily picked to pieces with the fingers and look very much like flax. There are various colors, some specimens being white, some blue, others gray and brown. There is a variety known as mountain cork, which is found in thin sheets and so light that it will float on water. Asbestus is found abundantly in the mountains of Italy and Switzerland and in several states of this country. It is chiefly used in the manufacture of fire proof roofing, steam packing and for other purposes where a light, uninflammable, non-conductor is requisite."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

ITEMS OF VARIOUS KINDS.

It's not a good plan to take off the cover of the stove to toast or boil anything when there is a dish in the oven.

Never throw away cold potatoes, as there are so many delicious ways in which they may be warmed over and made into new dishes.

A Chanute (Kan.) minister prayed that "the Lord would not withhold his blessing from this congregation, even if some of them were looking round at some one else."

James Payn, the present well known novelist, it is said, has turned out as the product of his pen in thirty years over 100 volumes, mainly fiction, but embracing some other topics.

The greatest span of a cantilever bridge is that of the Forth bridge, which will be finished in October, 1889. It has two of 1,710 feet each. Its extreme height will be 361 feet above high water, the foundations going ninety-one feet below high water.

The right of tendering a bill of exceptions to a judge's charge, as to his definition of the law, at a trial between parties, obtained a place in the English statutes in 1284. This right was abolished in England in 1875, but it is still maintained in this country.

A Nebraska man has settled the question of how prairie dogs obtain the water they drink. He says they dig their own wells, each village having one with a concealed opening. He knows of one such well 200 feet deep, having a circular staircase leading down to the water.

The first patent ever issued in America was given to Samuel Hopkins, of Philadelphia, in 1790, for an improvement in the manufacture of potash.

It has been found that a goose can bear the weather until the mercury falls to 64 below zero, but succumbs if it goes lower. It takes a fall of 19 degrees more to kill a wild duck.

Causes of Cancer.

Dr. Mackenzie in his little book about the crown prince and his treatment has a few pertinent words about the causes of cancer. He says:

"There can be no question that the determining cause of its appearance is in many cases an injury, such as a blow, or a condition resulting from an injury, such as a scar, or the persistent application to a particular spot of something that keeps the tissue inflamed and angry, such as a jagged tooth which chafes the tongue. Workers in paraffine and petroleum are peculiarly liable to cancer of the parts which are habitually exposed to the action of these substances. It is well known that a particular form of cancer which formerly was common enough in England is now almost extinct, simply owing to the fact that the cause which produced it has ceased to exist. When soot commanded a good price it had to be sifted. This operation naturally involved much of friction against the skin, whereby irritating particles were rubbed into it, and 'chimney sweep's cancer' was a frequent result. Nowadays it does not pay to sift the soot, and the disease to which it gave rise has disappeared.

"Among the causes of local irritation least is certainly one of the most active. By far the most common seat of the malignant disease in men is the mouth, which is more exposed than any other part of the body to irritation by hot substances. Every surgeon is familiar with this fact. Whether it be a lower lip, on which the hot stem of a clay pipe or the smoldering paper of a cigarette has rested day after day, or a tongue exasperated by the frequent contact of acrid tobacco smoke, or the mouthpiece of a foul pipe, or made raw by ardent liquors, or stung and blistered by fiery condiments, the cause is essentially the same—viz., the searing of the superficial covering by prolonged heat. In some places, where hot brasiers are often applied to the abdomen and thigh, cancer of these parts is not uncommon, though all but unknown in either of these situations elsewhere."—M. L. Holbrook, M. D., in Herald of Health.