Miscellaneous.

AT LAST! AT LAST!

A REAL SIMON PURE SEA SERPENT, AND ALL ABOUT HIM.

From the Greenwich, Conn., Observer Aug. 1.]

Captain J. H. Merritt gives this description of it:—

"While off Rocky Point in a sail-boat we observed an unusual commotion in the water fifty or sixty yards from us, but thinking it might be caused by a whale, which, though scarce, are not altogether unknown in the Sound, we proceeded on our way, at the same time keeping a lookout to the leeward. What was our amazement, however, when we beheld shortly after the darnedness-looking specimen of a fish we ever saw or heard tell of floating on the water right abreast of us. I tell you, Sir, it almost made my hair stand on end, and the other fellows were in a worse fix than me. I've sailed in most every ocean and sea, lake and river, dared death in all its shapes, passed through storms and scenes of danger of the greatest magnitude unscared; but, sir, I never felt I was so near going to the kingdom come as I did last Tuesday. I should say the sea serpent (for such I believe it to have been) was between seventy and eight feet long, of a dark, dull, green color on the back, gradually getting lighter towards the belly, which was perfectly yellow; the head of the monster, I should judge, was about three feet long and two feet broad, with a diameter of probably one foot through the flat side, and resembled the head of a frog, with the exception that it had fierce, fiery eyes that seemed to electrify one; the neck was long and round, a shade lighter in color than the body, and had the appearance of that of a snake—in shape I mean; but heavens how much larger! The thickest part of the body was over nine feet in circumference, and terminated in a tail, the length and breadth of which I could not tell you, for it kept lashing the water until it became a seething, boiling mass for a number of yards around. It makes me shudder to think of it now. The head was poised in the air as the monster sailed or rather wriggled along on the surface of the water, which it did for a considerable distance and then disappeared from our view, and we were not sorry for it, either. The object remained above water only a few minutes, consequently I won't swear to the accuracy of my description, but I give it as correctly as my brief observation of the monster will permit of. I tell you, sir, there's a sea-serpent in the Sound if there ever was one anywhere. Some folks may and some may not believe it; but, believe it or not, it's true as sure as my name is John Merritt. I have no object in telling a lie, and would not do so were I to be benefitted thereby."

IN THE DEVIL'S CLUTCHES.

A DIVER GETTING EVIDENCE OF THE TERRIBLE POWER OF THE DEVIL FISH.

From the Warrnambool (Australia) Standard.]

Mr. Smale had fired off a charge of dynamite and displayed a large quantity of stones at the bottom of the river. He went down to prepare for lifting these stones by the aid of chains into the punt. While engaged in rolling over a large stone he saw something which he supposed at the time was a piece of clean looking kelp moving about in front of where he was working. In a few seconds this object came in contact with the diver's arms, about which it quickly coiled, partly holding him. Immediately Mr. Smale touched what was coiled round his arm he became aware of his position, and tried to extricate himself, but he found it more difficult than he anticipated. Catching hold of the part hanging from the arm he walked toward the end of it, when he saw he was firmly held by one of the feelers of large a octopus, better known among sailors as the devil fish.

Mr. Smale tried to pull the fish off from its hold of the rocks, but without effect for some time. At last the fish, perhaps thinking he had not got sufficient hold or power over his prey, loosened itself from the stones and quickly transferred its feelers, or arms, around the diver's legs and body. In this position, Mr. Smale thought the best thing for him to do was to get on deck as soon as possible, and he quickly made tracks for the ladder which reaches from the deck of the punt to the bottom of the river.

The diver was certainly a curious-looking object when he came up. This huge, ugly looking thing appeared to be entangled all over him, holding him in a firm embrace. However, Mr. Smale's fellow workmen were not long in freeing him from the unfriendly hug of his submarine companion.

The body portion of the octopus was only about the size of a large soup plate, with eyes in its head like those of a sheep, but it possessed nine arms, each four feet in length, at the butt as thick as a man's wrist, tapering off at the end to as fine a point as that of a penknife; that it could spread over an area of nine feet in diameter. Mr. Smale declares it was powerful enough to keep three men under water.

☞ Nurses being scarce in Texas, a number of ladies who attended a ball recently were compelled to carry their little cherubs with them. But when the dancing began they had to dispose of the babies somehow, and some of the gallant young men volunteered to act as nurses. Their services were gladly accepted, and they took the little ones into another room and immediately changed all their clothes. It took the mothers several hours to get them sorted out again, and there are, even yet, some doubts.

☞ It must be a great satisfaction at the close of life, to be able to look back on the years which are passed, and to feel that you have lived, not for yourself alone, but that you have been useful to others. You may be assured, also, that the same feeling is a source of comfort and happiness at any period of life. There is nothing in this world so good as useful-[illegible]nds your fellow creatures to [illegible]ou to them; it tends to the [illegible]t of your own character, and [illegible]eal and importance in socie-[illegible]eyond what any artificial sta-[illegible]tow.—*P. E. I. Paper.*

☞ The greatest hail storm, accompanied with thunder and lightning, ever experienced in Toronto, occurred on Sunday the 4th inst. The damage is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars. The Toronto "Globe" thus describes the storm and its results:—

The day was rather cool, the highest temperature having been 83°. Shortly before 3 o'clock the sky became still darker, rain fell, and then with very little warning the hailstorm broke forth in all its fury. An ominous rattling sound preceded the appearance of the storm. Some people aver they heard the noise forty seconds before they saw the ice. Those who heard the noise, and looked out, saw what appeared to be great white clouds impetuously driven on by the wind. The rattle became louder and the noise nearer, and then followed the hailstones, which mercilessly beat upon the glass of northern exposures, and on all sorts of plants and trees. People who were sitting in the upper stories were alarmed when they heard thy clatter on the roofs. The stones were hurled with great force against the boards in the lumber yards, causing the noise to be even more pronounced. Whoever was on the street sought immediate shelter. For ten minutes the pitiless attack was kept up. In that time thousands upon thousands of window panes had been broken and garden after garden destroyed.

Hailstorms are not a uncommon thing in Canada, and there have been some of which it has been reported that stones as large as pigeon eggs have fallen; but these latter have been few and far between, and the general public have always taken the report of the size of the stones as an exaggeration. Any doubt the citizens of Toronto may have entertained on this score must have been rudely removed by the occurrence of yesterday; people were to be found all over the city last night asserting that they had seen and picked up hail stones as large as a hen's egg, and others larger. Some even said that potatoes, apples, turkey and goose eggs, were the only articles of size sufficient to institute a comparison by. There is no doubt about stones five inches in circumference having fallen in great abundance. No such icy fruit was ever gathered in Toronto before. The stones were of even shape and every size. The rain accompanied the hail and continued for long after. Crash after crash of thunder and flash after flash of vivid lightning filled many a mind with fear. And all this time the water was coming down in torrents. The observatory reports the rain fall as three and a half inches in four hours — a very rare occurrence. The street channels were overflowing in a few minutes, the creeks and sewers could not accomodate the water, and generously turned the surplus into the cellars of unfortunate citizens. About six o'clock the storm abated for a while, and the temperature rose several degrees."

The whole of the streets in the city are more or less injured, many places being scooped up large enough to put a small house in. A lamp post was washed clean out of the ground where it stood. All the churches suffered, nearly every pane of glass in them being smashed, and the building slightly damaged.

A MYSTERY.

A Quebec despatch of the 2nd, states that the whole city is in a state of excitement over a mystery which baffles inquiry. For days and nights past shrieks of agony, plainly the cries of a woman in distress, have proceeded from a residence on Rampart street. The residents of the Grand Battery, an aristocratic quarter, have been thrown into consternation by the sounds, which at night are appalling. The residence in question has been ostensibly vacant since May last. It communicates by a garden with the house of Madame Metivier, who has long had the reputation of keeping a private lying in hospital, and practicing abortion. In several cases daughters of wealthy families, concerning whom it was whispered that they were about unnecessarily to become mothers, had been traced to Madame Metivier's whence they never emerge, at least to the knowledge of man. Several mysterious disappearances of ladies in society, in the past ten years, were talked about here, but the local press never dared mention the facts, for the families were wealthy and could purchase journalistic silence, and being influential, politically and otherwise, could enforce the closing of the mouths of the common people. The families whose members have thus disappeared are never non-plussed when the missing are spoken of. The statement is usually made that they are in convents in France or Belgium. Eight or ten years ago, a young lady, daughter of a wealthy French gentleman, who had been engaged in a desperate and long continued flirtation with an officer of the garrison, gave evidence of approaching maternity. She danced one night at a ball in Music Hall, and when it was over entered her carriage and was driven away, but she did not reach home that morning, nor was she ever seen in Quebec afterwards. Her parents made no inquiries, but her love was frantic. Some years later, in second-hand clothing shop kept by one Gale, a dress and some under linen, marked with the name of the missing lady, were found, which Madame Metivier claimed to have been stolen from her by dishonest servants. The police authorities, at the request of the father of the girl, dropped the case. A reporter who had got hold of it, prepared a statement for the press, but it never saw the light and all enquiry was stifled. Madame Metivier brought the linen and dress back again from Gale, and resolutely kept her mouth shut. Quebec lives in pretty much the same control of the leading familes now as it did two centuries ago.

Madame Metivier has always enjoyed a complete immunity from police supervision. She is a license midwife and is very wealthy. She is never seen out of her own house except at early mass on Sunday.

The theory of the reporters, whose attention has been called to the hideous noises above described, is, that one of Madame Metivier's abortion patients has been transfered from her house to the vacant one on account of her screams. There is a chance of a large sized scandal coming to light now, as it is impossible that the truth can be much longer concealed.

☞ Three attendants of the Gloucester Count Lunatic Asylum, in England, have been committed for manslaughter. A patient had died in the institution from ill-treatment, and it was proved that he had nine ribs and his breast-bone broken from being jumped upon by these attendants. Clearly, the novelists have not exposed all the horrors of English asylums yet.

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HUGH FRASER.

Bridgetown, July 19th, 1876. 6m n15

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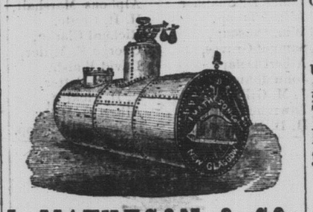

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AT LOW PRICES, to suit the times.

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Lawrencetown, Nov. 7th, '77 y

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WHITE, BLUE, RED, ORANGE AND GREEN.

Made of Good American Cotton with great care. Correctly numbered and Warranted Full Length and Weight.

WE would ask the purchasers of Cotton Warp to remember that our Yarn is spun on Throstle Frames, which make a stronger yarn than the Ring Frames, used in making American yarn.

It is also better twisted and more carefully reeled; each hank being tied up in 7 leas of 120 yards each. This makes it much more easy to wind than when it is put up without leas—as the American is—and also saves a great deal of waste.

Those acquainted with weaving will understand the great advantage it is to them to use yarn put up in this manner.

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Each 5 lb. bundle containing 10,000 yards in length and will make a length of Carpet in proportion to the number of ends in width.

We have put more twist into this warp than it formerly had, and it will now make a more durable Carpet than can be made with any other material. Since its introduction by us, a few years ago, it has come into very general use throughout the country.

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THE Subscribers have lately received per "Atwood":—

100 bbls. Choice Flour.
100 do. K. D. Corn Meal, "Gold Drop,"
100 Bags Fresh Graham Meal,
50 " Cracked Corn.

Arrived to-day per "T. B. Harris," direct from Mills:—200 bbls Flour, "Mistletoe," "White Eagle," and "Avalanche." Also in stock—50 Boxes Layer Raisins, do. ½ boxes. "Porto Rico" Sugars, Teas, Biscuits, Spices, &c.

Salt, coarse and fine, Pickled, Dry and Smoked fish. A few casks of Kerosene, by cask 25 cents. Agent for Higgins, Crow & Co's. Confectionery.

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LAYER RAISINS BY BOX OR RETAIL, VERY LOW.

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WILL RESUME BUSINESS

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SOUTH SIDE UNION STREET,

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GOODS ARRIVING DAILY

June 22nd, '77 a11tf

HOW DIAMONDS WERE FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The modern discovery of dimonds came about in this wise. In 1867 a certain John O'Reilly, trader and hunter, on his way from the interior, reached the juuction of the rivers and stopped for the night at the farm of a Dutch farmer named Van Niekerk. The children were playing on the earth floor with some pretty pebbles they had found long before in the river. One of these pebbles attracted O'Reilly attention. He said, picking it up, "That might be a diamond.' Niekerk laughed and said he could have it; it was no diamond; if it was, there were plenty around there. However, O'Reilly was not to be laughed out of his idea, and said that if Niekerk didn't object he would take it down with him to Cape Town and see what it was, and if it proved to be value he would give him half the proceeds. On the way down, a long journey, he stopped at Colesburg, at the hotel, and showed the pebble, scratching with it a pane of glass. His friends laughingly scratched glass with a gunflint and threw the pebble out of the window, telling O'Reilly not to make a fool of himself. However, he persevered, got it to Dr. Atherstone, near the coast, who announced that it was in truth a diamond of 22 1-2 carats. it was sold for $3,000. I am glad to say that O'Reilly divided fairly with Niekerk. The latter remembered that he had seen an immense stone in the hands of a Kaffir witch-doctor who used it in his incantations. He found the fetish-man, gave him 500 sheep, horses, and nearly all he possessed, and sold it the same day to an experienced diamond buyer for $56,000. This was the famous "Star of South Africa." It weighing 83 1-2 carats in the rough and was found to rival any Indian stone in purity and brilliancy. After it had been cut it was brought by the Earl of Dudley and it is now known as the "Dudley" diamond. The native crawled over the ground and found many more, and the excitement grew and became intense. By 1869 parties in ox-wagons had worked their way over the weary plains to the Vaal River. From all parts of the colony and soon, like the creation of a dream, a tented city of twenty thousand and more grew at Pniel and Klipdrilt, in the opposite banks of the stream they were found plentifully and of good qualtity by sorting over the boulder-drift. Soon hundreds of cradles, like those used by the Australian gold-diggers, were rocking on the edge of the stream, supplied with the precious gravel by a large force of diggers, sievers, and carriers. People were thunderstruck at their success. Poor men with a turn of the hand became rich. Hotels, bakeries, drinking saloon and shops were erected and reaped rewards quite as large as did the diggers. It was a marvelous scene at night when the opposite camps were lit up with the warm glow of lights shining thorough the tent cloth buildings and the brilliant campfires of their twelve thousand inhabitants glinted across the water, from bank to bank. Far into the night were kept up the shouts and laughter and singing and music, and the crossing and recrossing of the boats. The excited crowds shifted their quarters up and down the river, making new discoveries during 1870 and 1871, over an area of from forty to fifty miles of tho stream, and and forming many camps.

☞ Lord Beaconsfield, when departing from Berlin, left $250 to be distributed among the servants at the Kaiserhof, the hotel where he stopped. This hotel reaped quite a harvest from the Congress. The staff of the British Embassy, who inhabited nearly all the front rooms on the first floor, had to pay altogether about $10,000, or about $250 per day. Including the officials and servants attached to Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury numbering about fifty, sixty-three rooms had been taken by the British delegates at the Kaiserhof. The premier occupying some really magnificent apartments was charged $7,000. His lordship, whose table was always furnished with the delicacies of the season, was very well satisfied with the catering of the manager whom he especially thanked on leaving the hotel.

DOMESTIC ITEMS.

Make a paste of soft soap and emery for polishing steel.

Use carbolic acid and water to purify sinks, drains, etc.

When washing cambrics, do not allow soap to come in contact with the fabric.

A small quantity of turpentine added to stove blacking will make the stove easier to polish.

Sprigs of wintergreen or ground ivy will drive away red ants; branches of wormwood will serve the same purpose for black ants.

A very good dust-brush may be made by cutting a crosswise strip of bed ticking into fringe, and tacking it around a wooden handle.

To keep insects from birds, scald the cage with hot water, if not brass; replace you bird therein; at night cover the cage with white flannel. In one week you will be rid of them.

STALE BREAD MADE NEW.—Soak a stale loaf of bread or some rolls in cold water for a moment or two, and then rebake for more than half an hour, and they will be in every respect equal to newly-made bread.

Save the bags and pieces of wrapping-paper. It is a good plan to fold them smoothly when you have emptied their contents, and lay them together in a box. Put away all the strings. They are great conveniences.

To clear a cellar of flies, close up a cellar as nearly air-tight as possible, and burn two or three pounds of brimstone; keep closed for twenty-four hours, and then open everything to ventilate; must be burned in the centre of the room, and not on a wooden floor.

Never allow a rip in the carpet or a loosened place on the stairs to remain without attention a single hour. A stitch or a tack in time saves nine, sometimes twenty-nine. Never let servants leave dust-pans or brushes lying on the stairs, and never set them so bad an example.

Joker's Corner.

A BOY'S AND GIRL'S POCKET.

Tommy is twelve years old His sister Mary is sweet sixteen and a half. The other morning Mary accosted her mother with:—

'Ma, see what a lot of stuff I found in Tommy's pocket.' And she deposited on the table the following articles, to wit:—Eight marbles, one top, a broken-bladed knife, a leather strap, a buckle, a bunch of keys, a fishing line, pieces of lead, a smooth stone, four pieces of slate-pencil, a worn-out pocket-book, an oyster shell, a wounded jewsharp, a piece of blue glass, a rubber ball, lump of chalk, two dried fish worms, a sling shot, piece of India rubber, two corks, a fractured comb, piece of licorice root, a song book, two medals and a juvenile land tortoise. Tommy looked thoughtfully as the contents of his pocket were deposited before the eyes of his mother, and sullenly remarked that "it was none of Sis's business, and he just wanted her to let his trousers alone.'

Next day Tommy captured the outside pocket of his sister's dress, and carrying the contents to his mother, sarcastically observed in the presence of Mary:—"Ma, just see what a lot of trash I founnd in Sis's pocket!' and he produced from his hat the following knick-knacks, viz:—Three hair pins, a soiled glove, a piece of chewing gum, three cards, a broken locket, elastic garter, a piece of ribbon, two slate pencils, another piece of chewing gum, photograph, a piece of orange skin, a love letter, broken tooth-brush, more chewing gum, spool of silk, a thimble, a piece of cotton saturated with white powder, one nickle, two sour balls, gaiter heel, ivory ornament belonging to a parasol handle, handkerchief perfumed with jockey club, gaiter buttoner, withered geranium leaves, ivory-handled penknife with broken blade, a fan, five visiting cards, belt buckle, box of rouge, another piece of chewing gum, fragments of looking-glass, a peach stone, a cigar holder stolen from 'Charley,' a piece of damasse silk of the pattern of her friend Lucy's new dress, an artificial flower, horsehair ring, a long brown hair entangled in a hunk of taffey, and a slip of paper containing directions for handkerchief flirtations.

Tommy placed the last article on the table and slid from the room with a grin of triumph on his roguish face. His sister made an ineffectual grab for him and as he passed into the street he heard her voice calling, 'You nasty little pup, if you get at my pocket again I'll slap your face.' Tommy thinks honors are easy. — *Temperance Union.*

CONVERTING THE HEATHEN BY WEIGHT.

The old man was oiling the hinges of the stove door and carelessly singing one of Beethoven's best, when a middle-aged woman entered the station and began:—

'My Joy, are you a good man?'

'Wall, tolerable—tolerable,' he replied. 'I never dropped a bad nickel into the street-car box, and I don't go fishing on Sunday.'

'Mr. Joy, I am canvassing for money to buy Bibles and so forth for the African heathen, she continued, and she showed a pass-book.

'Are, eh? Does he seem to want a Bible?'

'He does. He sits on the sands of his native shore and looks longingly this way.'

'Does, eh? Sitting right there this morning I 'spose?'

'He is. How much will you give Mr. Joy?'

'Madam, I've got to lift a mortgage before noon to-day, and—'

'You will certainly give me something,' she interrupted.

'And I've got to meet fire and life insurance, pew rent, taxes, gas, and—'

'Put down what your noble heart dictates, she said as she handed him the book.

He reflected for a moment and then asked:—'Will five dollars convert a heathen—a great big two-fisted heathen, with a stiff knee?'

'I—think so.'

He figured with a pencil on the bottom of a chair and said:—

'Five dollars into 200 pounds of heathen is forty pounds for a dollar. This is, less see—um—ten pounds for for 25 cents and none to carry. Divide the divident by the divisor cut of the cubic root, carry nothing, and, madam, you take this quarter and convert ten pounds of heathen for me. That's all I can spare — no use talking—here comes his Honor.'

She went away puzzled and amazed at his figures, and Bijah looked after her and mused:—

'I ough to have taken a mortgage on my share of that heathen, but I am just that careless in business affairs.'

TRUTH TELLING.

Ten or a dozen men were enjoying the hot weather which baked the shingles on a ferry deck saloon yesterday, when a stranger stalked in and enquired of the bar-tender:—

'Have you any mint?'

'Yes, sir,' was the reply.

'And you have sugar, lemons, gin, brandy, and so forth?'

'I have.'

The stranger turned around to the crowd, noted the sudden increase of interest in each face, and kindly said:—

'Gentlemen, I'm going treat every liar in the room—let the liars—the monstrous liars—come forward.'

Not a foot moved.

'Gentlemen,' continued the stranger in a plaintive tone, 'don't be backward. Juleps wait for all. Every one of you who is known as a liar will please stand up.'

Not a man stood. The stranger's face betrayed keen disappointments, he ordered a rousing big "mint" for himself and not a word was spoken in the place while he slowly sipped the cooling liquid through a straw. When he had finished he wiped off his mouth and said:—

'Well, every truth teller in the crowd will now stand up.'

Each man rose up with the promptness of a soldier.

'And sit down again,' softly said the man as he made for the door.

They would have sat down on him, but great truth-tellers are poor runners.