

PARLOR READINGS.

(Under this heading we shall give each week some choice readings, original and selected, for literary societies and social circles.)

The Old Farm-Gate.

The old farm-gate hangs, sagging down,  
On rusty hinges, bent and brown;  
It's latch is gone, and here and there  
It shows rude traces of repair.

The old farm-gate has seen, each year,  
The blossoms bloom and disappear;  
The bright green leaves of spring unfold  
And turn to autumn's red and gold.

The children have upon it clung,  
And in and out with rapture swung,  
When their young hearts were good and pure—  
When hope was fair and faith was sure.

Beside that gate have lovers true  
Told the old story—always new;  
Have made their vows; have dreamed of bliss,  
And sealed each promise with a kiss.

The old farm-gate has opened wide  
To welcome home the now-made bride,  
When lilacs bloomed, and locusts fair  
With their sweet fragrance filled the air.

That gate, with rusty weight and chain,  
Has closed upon the solemn train  
That bore her lifeless form away,  
Upon the dreary autumn day.

The lichen grey and mosses green  
Upon its rotting posts are seen;  
Initials, carved with youthful skill  
Long years ago, are on it still.

Yet dear to me above all things,  
By reason of the thoughts it brings,  
Is that old gate, now sagging down,  
On rusty hinges, bent and brown.

—Selected.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

"Spirit photography" is explained by a Rochester photographer: "I take a piece of glass and on it paste the photographed heads of such 'spirits' as I wish to produce in hazy outlines about the head of the sitter—so. In the centre of the glass I put nothing, but arrange the 'spirits' in a semi-circle. Then from this prepared plate I take a negative, and afterwards a positive. When a sitter comes for photographs I take a negative just as would any one. When the printing is done I place the positive plate of the sitter under the positive plate of the 'spirits,' and allow the sun to print them both. The 'spirits' being in a semi-circle; the finished photograph appears as if the sitter were surrounded by heads in the air."

EXCHANGE JOKES.

Beware the bar-room's hasty crunch;  
Beware the dreadful "ave-a-lunch."  
—N. Y. Commercial.

If you would have a clear vision, never put your "rye" in your mouth.—N. Y. News.

When you rob Peter to pay Paul, remember what is Deuteronomy.—Cin. Sat. Night.

Democratic ticket, 1880—For President, Edward Hanlan. Republican ditto—For President, Charles E. Courtney. This will postpone the election indefinitely.—Buffalo Sunday Times.

NATURAL HISTORY.

A HUGE DETECTIVE.

Every now and then one reads a new story of the sagacity of elephants. At a celebrated circus recently performing at Perth, the attendant was started from sleep by the elephant's rising to their feet and trumpeting in a shrill tone, significant of great mental agitation. Looking about in the dark to see if some stray dog or cat had got admittance, he discovered a stranger with a dark lantern attempting to enter the property room adjoining. Without a moment's hesitation, he loosed the biggest of the three elephants, who marched solemnly out upon the would-be burglar, seized him by one arm with his potent trunk, and held him fast until the police, whom the attendant had promptly brought from a neighboring station came up and took the elephant's prisoner, who had in the mean time swooned with fright, into custody. Having consigned him to the authorities, "Kivaly," like a virtuous citizen, returned to sleep, conscious of having done his duty.

CURIOUS FACTS.

Serpents are said to obey the voice of their master. The trumpeter bird of America follows its owner like a spaniel, and the jacana acts as a guard to poultry, protecting them in the field all day from birds of prey and escorting them home at night. In the Shetland Isles there is a gull which defends the flock from eagles; it is therefore regarded as a privileged bird. The chamois, bounding over the mountain, are indebted for their safety in no small degree to a species of pheasants; the bird acts as the sentinel, for, as soon as it gets sight of a man, it whistles, upon hearing which the chamois, knowing the hunters to be near, sets off at full speed. The artifices which partridges and plovers employ to delude their enemies from the nest of their young may be referred to as a case in point, as well as the adroit contrivance of the kind for the preservation of her young, for when she hears the sound of dogs she puts herself in the way of the hunter, and starts in a direction to draw them away from her fawns. Instances of the effect upon animals are no less remarkable. A writer says: "I knew a dog that died of sorrow at the loss of his master, and a bullfinch that abstained from singing ten entire months on account of the absence of its mistress; on her return it immediately resumed its song." Lord Kaimes relates an instance of a canary, which, while singing to a mate, hatching her eggs in a cage, fell dead; the female left the nest, and finding him dead, rejected all food, and died by his side.—Liverpool Mail.



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FAMILY BREAD,  
BROWN BREAD,  
SNOWFLAKE ROLLS.  
CRUMPTON'S BAKERY, 171 King Street East.  
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