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**Fire-side Sparks.**

(From Punch.)

Brown: The concern's as safe as the Bank

Jones: Comparisons are odious.

Why must Russia keep her word? Because

no one will take it.

New name for Afghanistan (after its annexation).

—The United States of America.

You would scarcely expect to find A. Rogne

taking out a patent for "preventing the loss

of purses," yet such is the fact, if we are to

believe the *Patent Journal* for November 2nd.

Carate (visiting a poor cabman down with

bronchitis): "Have you been in the habit of

going to church?" Poor Cabby (mildly):

"Can't say, sir; but—(eagerly)—I've

driven a good many parties there, sir."

Christmas waits.—The Opposition waiting

for office, Directors of the City of Glasgow

Bank waiting for trial. Turkey waiting for

Reforms. Russia waiting for Turkey. The

Ameer waiting for Russia. India waiting for

a scientific frontier. England waiting for a

change for the better.

(From Fun)

When a kettle sings does it find its notes in

the bars of the grate? and, if so, can the tune

in the grate bars ever be in a minor key?

Ardent musical enthusiast: "Yes, I saw an

article the other day running down 'Carman.' I

think it's too bad, don't you?" Young lady

(daughter of eminent cheesemonger): "Oh, I

don't know; if they're anything like cabmen

they quite deserve it."

Invisible travelers—Passing thoughts.

The height of Adversity—Pledging your

word.

An advertisement for a celebrated cough

mixture winds up with this candid confession:

Patients who have once taken it will never

take any other.

A gentleman who has lived for many years

in sight of the ocean says it is an undeniable

fact that the vicinity of the E always makes a

hilly country chilly.

Troth, its true for you, what you say ye've

always kept me with a stick in my back

and a tear in my eye, ever since I first knew

you." Two months hard labor was Mick's

fate.

A crusty old bachelor sends in the follow-

ing conundrum: What is the difference be-

tween a honey-comb and a honey-moon? A

honey-comb consists of a number of small

cells; and a honey-moon consists of one great

cell.

Henri Murger tells of a man who, on being

asked where he was now living, named a very

fashionable avenue, and quite to his friend's

astonishment by adding, "Third tree on the

left-hand side."

The agricultural reporter of a contemporary,

after unfavorably criticising a certain decision

of the judges at a recent rat-till-show, adds,

with fine satire, "The band at this point played

'We are no fun.'"

"Hallow! Lambert, how are you?" Lambert,

who had been in Lancaster Castle three

months for debt, answered: "Very well, thank

you but I have been in trouble, you know."

"What trouble ailed you?" "A trouble just

endurance."

A "Railway sneak" the other day stole the

heaviest carpet bag he could find at the

Chester station, and after carrying it some

three or four miles into the country to avoid

detection, opened it and found the contents to

be half a hundred of Bibles.

An injured husband was once brought up

before Mr. Raffles the well known Liverpool

stipendiary magistrate. "Sure, Molly darlin',

haven't I always been kind and good to you?

Did I ever leave you without wood and water?

Angry wife:—"Your wood and water, is it?"

A fortune-teller was arrested in Paris, and

carried before the Tribunal of Correctional

Police. "You know how to read fortunes?"

asked the President, a man of great wit, but

rather too fond of a joke for a magistrate. "I

do, sir," replied the man. "In that case,"

said the President, "you know the judgment

we intend to pronounce?" "Certainly."

"Well, what will happen to you?" "Nothing."

"You are sure of that?" "Yes; you will ac-

quit me." "Acquit you?" "There is no

doubt of it." "Why?" "Because, sir, if it

had been your intention to condemn me, you

would not have added irony to misfortune."

The President, disconcerted, turned to his

brother judges, and the sorcerer was discharged.

All New.—Old Joe Wattles claims to be

one of the survivors of the American revolu-

tionary war, and possesses a gun which he

says did excellent service for "Uncle Sam"

in years past. It was his delight to show this

ancient weapon to his friends, and recount

the numerous daring deeds which it enabled

him to perform. One day when Joe was ex-

hibiting his gun before an attentive crowd,

and speaking of the conflicts through which

he and it had passed, Sam Pickles,

a shrewd listener, elbowed his way to the

front, saying he wanted to "look

at that 'ere gun." Sam took it in hand and

pretended to admire it, but said the stock

looked very new for a revolutionary gun.

"Well, well, the old stock was badly worn, so

I had a new one made." But Sam thought

that somehow the barrel had a rascally aspect.

"Never mind," said Joe, a little red; "I had

a new barrel put in, the old one was worn."

"But," remarked Sam, "I thought the lock

said Joe; "that's new, too. But you needn't

make so much fuss about so small a matter.

The fact is, there's nothing left of the real old

gun except the touch-hole."

**A Prophetic Son.**

A Kansas man makes known through the

medium of the press, that one of his sons

recently laid an egg containing the legend,

"War, 1880." Some person out there thinks

the man lies—but he doesn't. Hence often

lay such prophetic eggs; hence it will be be-

lieved when we state that a Norristown hen

last week laid an egg ten inches around the

waist, which not only prophesied a "general

war in 1880," but contained on one side a

very elaborate and artistic war map, a thrill-

ing battle scene on the other, and a picture of

a newspaper correspondent writing up the

battle for the *Herald* on the tapering end.

The hen is doing as well as can be expected

under the circumstances, and—so are we.

Persons who doubt this story can see a feather

of the hen by calling at this office after busi-

ness hours. Business hours from 6 a.m. to

11 p.m.—*Norristown Herald*.

EPHRAIM'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.

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laws which govern the operations of digestion

and nutrition, and by a careful application of

the fine properties of well selected cocoa, Mr.

Ephraim has provided our breakfast tables with a

deliciously flavored beverage which may save us

many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious

use of such articles of diet that a constitution

may be gradually built up, and all strong enough

to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds

of subtle maladies are floating around us ready

to attack wherever there is a weak point. We

may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping our

selves well fortified with pure blood and a pro-

perly nourished frame.—*Civil Service Gazette*.Sold only in packets labelled—*EPHRAIM'S COCOA*,  
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4, and 10, Piccadilly, London, W.**Fashion Notes.**

—Muffs are larger.

—Gold braid is modish.

—Garnet red is the color.

—Clack sleeves are wider.

—Hats are wide-brimmed.

—The polonaise is detroned.

—Satin in light colors is popular.

—Bonnet strings are very narrow.

—The high Spanish comb is worn.

—Breton lace is profusely used on suits.

—The coiffure is being gradually de-

pressed.

—Loose wraps are not worn by young

ladies.

—Young girls do their hair Chinese

fashion.

—Black kid gloves are en vogue for the

opera.

—Knitted knee-caps are used for their

warmth.

—Coat-shaped corsets are full-dress for

young ladies.

—Pale yellow tints are associated with pale

blue, violet or rose.

The newest fashions are of fine wire, delicately

painted by hand.

—Deep red belts are permissible with

dresses of colors.

—Ballets of muslin, lisse or lace are pre-

ferable to linen collars.

Burnside loves tea, a music box, a spy horse

and the administration.

—Something new: Embroidered or figured

out-cake cloth for toilet or table covers.

—Opera cloaks are of soft cambré hair,

ulster shape, with a hood and square Hun-

garian sleeves.

—For young ladies basque corsets are su-

perseded by pointed or short round Josephine

waists.

—To get an idea of the new panier style

look at engravings of ladies of the Marie An-

toinette period.

There are fewer plastron fashions than last

month: the fashions in favor being silk muslin,

adorned with Breton lace.

—Lace or ribbon, forming a large A-shape

bow, with strings of the same, are much af-

fected by young ladies for opera costumes.

—Transparent sleeves of crepe lisse, Bre-

ton or Brussels lace, either black or white,

are used to brighten up thick evening

dresses.

—Elbow gloves for full dress have three

rows of high-wedge Valenciennes insertion

around the area between kid hands of the

same width, the end finished with a lace

fill.

—The new paniers are put on a narrow

breadth from each hip. An empty space in

the center, concealed by the skirt, allows,

permits the wearer to sit with comparative

ease.

The newest cut for tulle of brocades for