

FIRESIDE FUN.

A Delicate Hint.—He: "You have seen these slow matches?" She: "You mean long engagements?"

A tailor who was asked if the close of the year made him feel melancholy, said: "Yes, until they are settled for."

You must be a clever musician to be able to "blow your own trumpet" so as to make the notes agreeable to others to hear.

He: "Oh, I am the flower of the family, beyond doubt." She: "I wonder if that was what papa meant when he spoke of you as 'that blooming idiot.'"

His Pile.—An obituary notice in a Western paper contained the touching intelligence that the deceased "had accumulated a little money and ten children."

Turkey (scratching his head and soliloquizing): "Such is life to the farmer is stuffing me now, and next week the cook will be doing likewise. What was I ever born for?"

That Senior, whose class was studying mental philosophy, certainly won his spurs as a wit who, when asked "Does an effect ever go before a cause?" promptly responded: "Yes, sir." "Give an example." "A man wheeling a barrow."

A clerk in a large bookshop, in his zeal to make a sale to a newly rich pork-packer, asked his customer "Are you interested in etchings?" The man with a roll of gold for a watch-chain replied: "Well, I never read any of his works. My wife is the reader of the family, and she knows 'em all."

It was a Harvard student who, being caught by a college professor at a bonfire in the college campus, after his associates had fled, said, in reply to an expression of surprise that he should be found in such company: "Why, I see nobody here but you and me, professor."

A Pertinent Inquiry.—A Conservative opponent of John Morley was once addressing a Scotch audience in behalf of a larger military policy, when he was nonplussed by the question, from one in the crowd: "Is Maister Wilson in favor of spending £86,000,000 a year on the Army and Navy, and only £12,000,000 a year on education?"—that is to say, £12,000,000 for puttin' brains in, and £86,000,000 for blawin' 'em out?"

One of the wisest, as well as one of the most accurate and accomplished of American scholars was the late Prof. A. C. Kendrick, of Rochester University. Having one day in the classroom remarked that the Greek proposition "eis" invariably means "into," he was reminded by one of his pupils that a professor in another college had asserted the contrary. "Well," was the reply, "if that be true, I can only say that he has slipped upon the 'eis' that is all."

We doubt if Tom Hood could have made a happier reply than that made some fifty years ago by a student in Waterville College (now Colby University) to Martin B. Anderson, professor of rhetoric in that institution. The student had read a sparkling "composition" on the day appointed for that class exercise, and the professor, knowing or suspecting it to have been cribbed from some public print, asked, as he sat down, "Is that essay original, Mr. Jones?" "I don't know, sir," was the prompt reply. "It had 'original' over it in the newspaper I took it from."

London Separate Schools.

The Separate School Trustees of London, Ontario, have been elected by acclamation as follows: No. 1 Ward—P. Mulken (re-elected), by P. Pocock and Jas. Ward. No. 2 Ward—J. D. Lebel (re-elected), by Wm. McPhillips and W. F. Regan. No. 3 Ward—James Ward (re-elected), by Dr. Hanavan and J. B. Murphy. No. 4 Ward—Wm. McPhillips (re-elected), by P. Pocock and John Chapman. No. 5 Ward—Rev. Father McCormick, by James Ward and John Chapman. No. 6 Ward—Dr. Hanavan (re-elected), by W. P. Regan and John Chapman. Mr. John Chapman, the fifth ward representative who retires this year, was nominated for re-election, but declined, stating that he had not the time to devote to the board work. Regret was expressed by the other members that Mr. Chapman should insist on withdrawing.

The present trustees, whose term of office does not expire till the close of 1897, are: No. 1 ward, P. Pocock; No. 2, M. O'Sullivan; No. 3, John Forrestal; No. 4, Rev. M. J. Tiernan; No. 5, J. B. Murphy; No. 6, W. P. Regan.

FAGGED OUT.—None but those who have become fagged out know what a depressed, miserable feeling it is. All rights in gone, and despondency has taken hold of the sufferers. They feel a though there is nothing to live for. There, however, is a cure—one box of Parrelle's Vegetable Pills will do wonders in restoring health and strength. Mandrake and Dandelion are two of the articles entering into the composition of Parrelle's Pills.

DOMESTIC READING.

Conscientious people are apt to see their duty in that which is the most painful course. There are possibilities which our minds shrink from too completely for us to fear them.

Let us bind love with duty, for duty is the love of law, and law is the nature of the Eternal.

Wherever affection can spring, it is like the green leaf and the blossom—pure and breathing purity whatever soil it may grow in.

We learn words by rote, but not their meaning; that must be paid for with our life blood, and printed in the subtle fibres of our nerves.

Hard speech between those who have loved is hideous in the memory, like the sight of greatness and beauty sunk into vice and rage.

Ignorant kindness may have the effect of cruelty; but to be angry with it as if it were direct cruelty would be an ignorant unkindness.

True greatness does not consist so much in doing extraordinary things as in conducting ordinary affairs with a noble demeanour and from a right motive.

It is not the placidity of stupid ease that we should covet, but the repose that is requisite for the renewal of exhausted strength, the serenity that succeeds the storm, and the salubrity that repays its ravages.

Simply to do what we ought is an altogether higher, diviner, more potent, more creative thing than to write the grandest poem, paint the most beautiful picture, carve the mightiest statue, dream the most enchanting communion of melody and harmony.

Oh, the anguish of the thought that we can never atone to our dead for the stunted affection we gave them, for the light answer we returned to their plaints and their pleadings, for the little reverence we showed to that sacred human soul that lived so close to us, and was the divinest thing God had given us to know.

In affliction the weak soul goes to the bottom, however strong may be its physical casing, but the soul of the brave grows only stronger from its conflict with the storm. And the brave is he whose courage springs from the bosom of God; who puts on the armour of a divine patience to battle with his foes; who offers submission to the fury of the blast, bending, but not breaking; who is powerful with the consciousness of a living faith, the knowledge that, though he may be harrowed and ploughed with anguish, and wrong, and misery, bent down in slavery before the eyes of the world, yet there is One who will crown him as a victor when the struggle is over, even while the crowd is applauding his conquerors and deeming him the poorest wretch that ever perished.—Rev. John Talbot Smith.

Abbe Vacandard's Life of St. Bernard. The London correspondent of the Dublin Freeman says: Abbe Vacandard, who is first chaplain at the Lycee Cornaille, Rouen, has received the Montyon prize from the French Academy for his monumental work, the "Life of St. Bernard." The book has a special chapter devoted to the great Irish saint, Malcolmoach O'Moigair, or Saint Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, and restorer of the Abbey of Benchor or Bangor, in the twelfth century. Abbe Vacandard hardly adds anything new to what has been written about St. Malachy by St. Bernard himself, by Sir James Ware in his "Irish Antiquities," and by Alben Butler. He gives, however, an admirable summary of St. Malachy's life to French readers, and such books as his tend to recall a fact apt to be forgotten nowadays by many—namely, that Ireland took the lead in enlightening Europe during the dark ages, by the agency of such men as St. Columban and St. Malachy. Even this day in many parts of France, Austria and Germany, the famous missionary monks from the Island of Saints and Scholars are mentioned with deep respect by all who read and think. To the mass of mankind, however, they make no appeal, except when their actions and influence are recalled by writers like the author of the new "Life of St. Bernard."

unfortunate Cod-liver oil suggests consumption, which is almost unfortunate. Its best use is before you fear consumption; when you begin to get thin, weak, run down; then is the prudent time to begin to take care, and the best way to take care is to supply the system with needed fat and strength. Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil, with hypophosphites, will bring back plumpness to those who have lost it, and make strength where raw cod-liver oil would be a burden.

It is found that when cream or milk is kept at a low temperature for some time a somewhat bitter flavor is often developed, and the organism which produces this bitter flavor may be the reason why the butter made from the milk of strippers is generally considered inferior to that made from the milk of fresh cows. The time necessary for creaming by the gravity process is an essential element in the development of the bitter flavor, and when the separator is used the milk does not have the time to become

FARM AND GARDEN.

It's the common barn yard fowl that most farmers are depending on, and while we are great believers in throughbreds—throughbred everything from men down—we must give the common hen her due, and say that she has done nobly in the past. But her daughters can do better if we give them half a chance. At the Minnesota Farmers' Institute, Mrs. Ida Tison told farmers and their wives how the common hen may be improved. She said: "The common hens are of all the shapes and colors that fowls ever grow, and they are usually neglected, abused, half starved, and left to shift for themselves generally, but for all that they generally pay their own way and more, too—live and thrive and bring up a big family of healthy chicks under the most discouraging circumstances. "Take the same pains with them as you would a stock of throughbreds, and they will respond quickly and generously. There is something—a good deal—in blood and there is an immense deal in care and food. If you have not the cash with which to buy pure bred cocks to mate the hens with to begin with, don't think that you can do nothing to improve the common fowls. "Common fowls can be greatly improved in point of size by always selecting the largest and best to 'keep over' to breed them; and the laying qualities can be improved by sitting only eggs from hens that are known to be the best layers. On some farms where this course has been followed year after year, the fowls have greatly increased in size and rival the Leghorns and Hamburgs in egg production. "In one case, which came under my observation, in five years from the time when the improving process commenced, the average egg product from the hens had increased one third, and the average weight in the same proportion. In that time no fresh blood had been introduced into the flock; the improvement was wholly due to food, care and selection of the best each year. Of course, the same results could be reached to two years with throughbred roosters; but the woman who had these hens didn't have the thoroughbred roosters, nor the money to buy them, yet she went ahead and did the best she could with the fowls she had, and her best was very good indeed. It is a fact that the third winter after her work of improvement commenced, her hens laid more eggs than any other flock in the neighborhood, and there were some thoroughbred flocks among her neighbors. "If size be your object, select your largest common hens and mate them with a rooster of some of the larger breeds; if you desire a better egg production select the hens you know to be the best layers; and for any other special purpose, select males that possess the qualities which you desire. Objections from these crosses will be 'half blood,' and much superior to common fowls. The next year mate the half bred pullets to pure cocks, and keep the best of the pullets from this cross for breeding stock the third year. "In this way always keep your best hens and pullets each year, and, by using only thoroughbred cocks you will, in a few years, have a flock of fowls, that for all practical purposes, will be just as though you had started out with throughbreds."

Many butter makers consider fresh cows an absolute necessity to the making of butter with the right flavor. A recent series of experiments at the Iowa station seems to prove that the period of lactation has no effect upon the butter flavor. In the test made, the cows of the college herd that had been in milk for more than six months were regarded as strippers, while those that had come in fresh since calving in the first class was 289 days, and in the latter 107 days. The feeding and management of the cows as well as of the milk was similar, and the butter, made separately from the fresh and stripper milk, when scored by W. S. Moore, official scorer for the Elgin Board of Trade, scored alike 96 points for each lot. The conclusion from the experiments is that the period of lactation has no effect upon the flavor of butter made by the separator system. Under the gravity system there may be some difference, as many dairymen claim, and the possible explanation is offered that as the fat globules become smaller as lactation advances, more time is required for the cream to rise by the gravity method in the case of strippers than with fresh cows, where the fat globules are larger. It has been found that when cream or milk is kept at a low temperature for some time a somewhat bitter flavor is often developed, and the organism which produces this bitter flavor may be the reason why the butter made from the milk of strippers is generally considered inferior to that made from the milk of fresh cows. The time necessary for creaming by the gravity process is an essential element in the development of the bitter flavor, and when the separator is used the milk does not have the time to become

Chats With the Children.

MEMORIOS BLOWDOWN. (INSTITUTION FOR CHILDREN.) Memorios hallowed, swoot, inspiring yet mournful, Visions fair but strangely sorrowful Of other times, of other climes 'Como again, again this morn To me—a world-worn dreamer—child forlorn.

Memorios of her, our holtest one Our mother dead, the angel bright Who guided our childish footsteps aright, Loved one in thy abode above Dost thou still pray, pray, again to see Thy children dear, thy children three.

Visions of our ivy-crowned old home Away by the stormy sea's beaten side: Of the dim grey chapel on the hillside, Whose in prayer, under mother's care We knelt so oft in the lone age. In those gay good days, our boyhood days.

Awake, my soul awake to the fleeting present, Why linger on the past so pleasant? Has not another morn but dawned? May it be, O God! for Thee, not man. Sleep not, my soul, sleep not, but heavenward soar.

HAPPY AND CONTENTED DEAF CHILDREN.

It is generally supposed that the deaf have a tendency to moroseness and melancholy. This is least true of the orally educated adult, and among the children in the oral schools, is not true at all. I know of no happier or more contented lot of children than are to be found in these schools. The visitor who expects to enter a place of silent halls, quiet play-rooms and noiseless yards is much surprised to hear peals of childish laughter, and cries and shouts as the children romp and frolic out of school hours.—John Dutton Wright in The Century.

NO NEED FOR HURRY. There was a young lady of Crews, Who wanted to catch the 2.2; Said the porter, "Don't hurry, Or scurry, or flurry; It's a minute or 2.2.2."

THE IMPORTANCE OF DELIBERATE SPEECH.

Children should always bear in mind the great importance of correct and deliberate speech. A writer in The Century Magazine shows that a child accustomed to the speech of a person who mouths his words has a difficulty in understanding the correct speaker. He says: "A child in school may learn to understand a teacher who mouths his words, but this ability is of no value to him when he leaves school."

AN UNMUSICAL GENERAL.

The great General Grant was but an indifferent musician according to a story told by General Horace Porter in the Century Magazine: "A drum corps in passing caught sight of the general, and at once struck up a then popular and camp-meeting air. Every one began to laugh, and Rawlins cried, 'Good for the drummer!' 'What's the fun?' inquired the general. 'Why,' was the reply, 'they are playing 'Ain't I glad to get out ob de wilderness?' The general smiled at the waddy wit of the musicians, and said, 'Well, with me a musical joke always requires explanation. I know only two tunes: one is 'Yankee Doodle,' and the other isn't.'

THE IRISH WOLF HOUND.

Rev. Edmund Hogan, S.J., lecturing the other day in Dublin on the Irish wolf-hound stated that the great Irish deer or elk was extinct for centuries, while the Irish wolf-hound was extinct for not more than a hundred years. It was shown by English State records that royalty and prominent politicians were frequently gored by these dogs, which were described by Ohaucer as "snowy, fair, and tall as a stag." The wolf dog also won the praise of Spanish, Italian, and other Continental writers. As he had already indicated, the Irish wolf dog became extinct at the beginning of the present century. He was proved to know that the strain was preserved in several kennels, and of late he had succeeded in reproducing a dog 95 inches in height, in which they believed they had, if not the old Irish wolf dog, at all events his brother.

GIGANTIC ANTARCTIC ICEBERGS.

General Greeley describing the south polar regions in The Ladies' Home Journal writes: The snowfall of each year adds a new stratum to the ice cap, which is as distinguishable to the eye as is the annual accretion of a forest tree. Thus in centuries have accumulated on Antarctica these snows, which, by processes of pressure, thawing and regelation, have formed an ice cap that in places exceeds three thousand feet in thickness. Through the action of various forces—that of contraction and expansion by changing temperature being, perhaps, the most potent—this ice cap creeps steadily seaward and projects into the ocean a perpendicular front from one thousand to two thousand feet in height. The temperature of the sea water being about twenty-nine degrees, the fresh water ice remains unwarmed, and the

ice-barrier flows the ocean bed until through flotation in deep water disruption occurs, and the tabular berg is formed. These bergs are of a size that long taxed the belief of men, but it is now well established that bergs two miles square and one thousand feet in thickness are not rare. Others as large as thirty miles in length and some nearly three thousand feet in thickness, their perpenicular, sun-washed sides rising from two hundred to four hundred feet above the sea.

THE EVENING STARS.

Mercury in this month of January is classed among the evening stars, and he has about reached the extreme eastern point of his career, that is for the present. On the 22nd he reaches the point of conjunction with the sun and then becomes a morning star, where he remains for two months, when he again joins the ranks headed by the Queen of the sky.

Mars is another of the evening stars and is to be found in the constellation north of Aldebaran, the most brilliant of the group, and represented as being in the eye of the Bull, which places him in the eastern section of the heavens, plainly visible during the evening. The years of Mars are almost twice as long as ours, being composed of about 687 days, so that when there is intercommunication between our planet and the warlike one the balance in the interchange of Christmas gifts will be rather against us. We are also told that gravity there is much less powerful than upon the earth, from which it is safe to infer that our neighbors are lighter, less sedate, perhaps, than we are. A man up there who weighed 160 pounds down here would only tip the scales at 60. We now know very exactly the geography of Mars, in which respect, we are told, there is hardly any more mystery for us than in its calendar.

Neptune has conjunction with the moon a few hours later than Mars, but there is nothing in this meeting to attract any particular comment as we can hardly locate the planet by knowing the moon's whereabouts, the two being so far apart. Neptune and Mars come fairly close together in the course of another month, when they interchange their relative positions in the sky.

MR. JOHN DILLON, M.P.

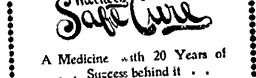
On Catholic Education—Anglicans Want to Throw Catholic Schools Over.

Speaking in Liverpool on Dec. 17, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., referred to the future of the Catholic schools in England. No one can say I think nowadays, though it has been said most falsely in the past, that the Irish Party have not shown themselves determined to fight the battle of the Catholic schools in England (hear, hear). Under somewhat difficult circumstances we fought that battle in the last session. The moment I saw the Government's bill of the last session, I felt sure it had ruined the cause of the Catholic schools. The bill was one of enormous complexity, and the main portion of it was directed toward destroying the School Board system and extending the system of the Church of England in this country. That was the cause of the ruin of the bill last year. I notice that the most unsatisfactory and uncertain notes have been given out by members of the Government as regards their future policy. Mr. Balfour now declares that he will tackle the question in a series of short bills, whereas I hold that one short bill and one simple bill could settle the whole question at the beginning of the session, because on that their majority would be 810, always provided that they would abandon the attempt which in my judgment, is an impossible attempt, to get rid of the School Board system, and put a limit to the advance of National education in this country. I see an inclination on the part of the Government, and of the heads and leaders of the Anglican Party, to throw over the Catholic schools. A proposition has been talked of, and has received a considerable amount of support, that some proportion should be allowed between the amount of the grants and the amount of subscription. A more deadly attempt at attacking the poorer schools could not possibly be made than to make the amount of the Government assistance dependent upon the amount of the subscriptions. That was to go upon the principle the richer you are the more assistance you shall get, and the poorer you are the less assistance you shall get. Our position is extremely simple. I have no doubt our Radical friends would vote against it, but I don't think they would offer to it one-tenth of the bitter opposition that they gave to the Government bill of the last session. My proposition is that the Voluntary schools should obtain for each child to whom they give as good an education as the department requires in secular matters the same amount of assistance from public funds which is given for the School Board children (applause), so that no child shall be, as it were, fined because he prefers to go to a religious school, namely, that Westminster's Grammar School. It has been said where is the relief to come from? We have heard a great deal of controversy as to the relative merits of State and rate aid. We are told that if rate aid is given to the



The papers are full of deaths from Heart Failure. Of course when a man dies, but "Heart Failure" is called, five times out of ten it is caused by Uric Acid in the blood which the Kidneys fail to remove, and which corrodes the heart until it becomes unable to perform its functions.

Health Officers in many cities very properly refuse to accept "Heart Failure" as a cause of death. It is frequently a sign of ignorance in the physician, or may be given to cover up the real cause.



A Medicine with 20 Years of Success behind it. will remove the poisonous Uric Acid by putting the Kidneys in a healthy condition so that they will naturally eliminate it.

Religious schools certain ratepayers would refuse to pay their rates. I don't think there is much in that because two could play that game, but there is a very easy way out of that. A system could easily be devised of an all round grant in aid of all schools, made conditional in such a way that in those districts where the School Boards would not give, or where obstruction was offered to the fair distribution of aid to the Voluntary Schools, that grant in aid would be withheld from the School Boards of that district. It would be very easy to devise a system which would ensure to every Voluntary school equal treatment with the Board Schools of the district, and short of that I don't believe that any settlement will finally close up the question (hear, hear). I believe it is in the interest of education and in the interest of all parties, even in the interest of the Liberal Party itself, that this question should be settled on a fair and just basis (hear, hear). I desire to see it settled on a basis which will do no injustice of any kind to Nonconformists, and neither I nor any other member of the National Party, as far as I know, will support any proposal of the Government calculated to inflict religious disability or injustice upon the Nonconformists of this country (applause). I will impress upon the Catholics of Liverpool and all throughout the country that they should make their voices heard and should watch the proceedings of the Government, and be careful that the Catholic schools are not left in the lurch between the Government and the authorities of the Church of England.

You need not cough all night and disturb your friends; there is a reason for your running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you can get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

Mr. Parnell's House.

The house in which Mr. Parnell died at Brighton, No. 10 Walsingham terrace, says The London Correspondent of The Dublin Freeman, is still untenantable, but the next door one which had also been empty, has now been let for a few months back. The whole terrace has recently been done up, but the fact that it is at the extreme end of the town, in a black and lonely situation, probably has a good deal more to do with the difficulty of securing a tenant for it than any of the sad associations of the great Irishman's life and death there. The house had been untenanted for several years before Mr. Parnell took it. It is now one of the show places of Brighton, and the tripper is always shown the residence of Mr. Parnell when passing by the local cabbies.

FEVER AND AGUE AND BILIOUS DYSPEPSIS ARE POSITIVELY CURED BY THE USE OF PARRELLE'S PILLS.

They not only cleanse the stomach and bowels from all bilious matter, but they open the excretory vessels, causing them to pour copious effluvia from the blood into the bowels, after which the corrupted mass is thrown out by the natural passage of the body. They are used as a general family medicine with the best results.

A Lesson in Intolerance.

The Belfast Harbour Police are under the control of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners, a public board elected on an exclusive franchise. Out of a total of 87 constables, only three are Catholics. Recently seven or eight new appointments were made. Not one Catholic was among the selected few.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old, well-tried remedy, Bickel's Strawberry Syrup. It has been said where is the relief to come from? We have heard a great deal of controversy as to the relative merits of State and rate aid. We are told that if rate aid is given to the