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A Storm in the Country.

A storm in the country, writes Bill Arp in the *Atlanta Constitution*, is worth something to see. We can look out and afar off and see it coming, and we can see the lightning flash and zig-zag and coruscate, and have no fear—it is grand, but not fearful—not alarming. The trees are all around us, and have never been struck. They are our lightning-rods, our insulators. Lightning will strike one lonely tree, but it rarely strikes in a grove or forest. It has struck twice in our cotton field and killed the cotton, but these trees all around us scatter it and keep it from concentrating. Neighbor Freeman says that lightning has a liking for a wagon with one steer, for he passed one on the road day before yesterday while there was a storm on hand and the lightning struck the little one-steer wagon and tore it all to pieces, and the steer just went on with nothing but one shaft hitched to him. There was no driver, for the steer had just been turned loose to go home by himself. Cobe says, he never has seen a lightning bolt and lightning bolts, anyhow, "for," says he, "some folks say that it's the lightning that strikes, and some say it's the thunder, but he has noticed one thing, and that is whenever anything is struck they come right smack together and it looks like it takes 'em both to do the work."

We have had a good deal of country life of late, and I have no idea of changing base. I had rather live poor in the country than rich in town. We have been harvesting wheat and oats and rye. We went to see a mill-pond drawn off, and had a big time wading in and grabbing the big fish under the moss and in the hollow stumps, and trying to hold the slickery eels. I go with the children after mulberries and dewberries and huckleberries. I've hived six swarms of bees and got stung only twice. The children have pulled out the peacocks' tails for fly-brushes. The peacock is a dude. I used to think the peacock ought to have the fine clothes, but I don't now, for it would most kill her to give them up. The beautiful feathers were intended for the use of man, and it is all right to strip the vain bird of his ornaments. There is right good fishing in our big spring branch, and every spring some nice trout run up the creek and feed on minnows. We have been watching them and trying to catch them, but they wouldn't notice our earth-worm bait, and so the other day I set out a minnow and got over the fence and watched the pole, and sure enough a big fat fellow grabbed it and hung himself, and was coughing and splashing around, and I had to go over a six-plank fence, and I couldn't do it in the old time way, and just fell over on my hands and feet and galloped on all fours to the pole just in time to pull him out and save him, for he fell off the hook on the grass and had like to have flirled back in the water. Mrs. Arp had fish for supper that evening. She is fond of fish—antiseptic fish, and when we get a trout it is always for her. They say that fish is brain-food, and gives folks sense, and I reckon on the finer fish the finer the brain, and that is the reason folks who feed on trout have so much judgment. Then, again, trout are game fish, and that is the reason why folks who eat them are so game. I wish I had some trout. May be I wouldn't be as meek and humble as I am.

The Volga.

The Volga is the longest, as it is the greatest, river in Europe. It runs from latitude 57 north, through exclusively Russian territory, a distance of over two thousand miles, and falls into the Caspian not far from Astrakhan. In its course it passes by Nishni, Novgorod, Kazan, and Saratov, and is navigable for steamers of heavy class from a point somewhat north of the first-named place, where the great fair of the Russo-Oriental world is annually held. Moscow itself, the ancient city of the caesars, is situated on a tributary of the great river, and canals connect its upper stream with the White and Baltic seas. In all its course, from its source to the Caspian, it is as far removed from attack as is the Mississippi, and it somewhat resembles the latter river in its changeable channel, great length, and vast volume.

Boston's One-Rail Elevated Road.

They now have a charter, which allows them to form a company and build one line of their road in the city of Cambridge. When that is done, if the railroad commissioners approve the new road as practical and safe, the company will be allowed to build into, and upon Boston streets, provided the city government gives permission. The work they have just begun is the building of a 2,500-foot section of their peculiar new railroad, also an engine and a car such as they propose to use. The new railroad is somewhat difficult to describe without a technical knowledge of engineering and the use of technical terms. Its chief characteristic is a single rail elevated upon a line of posts at a height of fourteen feet from the ground. It is called a single, though perhaps a more correct description would be two rails placed one above the other at a distance of four feet and connected by a series of braces. The supports or posts are placed at a distance of forty-five feet and are almost exactly like those of the New York elevated railroad, except that the lower end is firmly incased in concrete and rests upon a solid bed of concrete several feet under the ground.

The track frame of the cars is placed astride the rail like a saddle upon the back of a horse and each truck frame has six wheels. Upon either side two of these wheels run upon the lower part of the rail, inclining upward and outward from the point of contact at an angle of forty-five degrees. The other two wheels are placed horizontally under the car and level with the top of the rail, along the either side, which they run upon either side. By means of hydraulic pressure, applied from the engine, they are made to clasp the rail tightly, and by this power of traction the forward and backward motion is secured. Each wheel has an independent axis of its own, and by a most ingenious contrivance under the car the opposing wheels are always kept at right angles with the rails regardless of curves. Some of the curves may be very sharp; steep grades may be overcome by means of the traction power.

The truck frames of the locomotive are like those of the car, with the connecting rods attached to the horizontal wheels upon either side of the rail. The pressure of the wheels upon the rails is such as to make it almost impossible for them to leave the track. It would simply drop an inch and a half and slide along resting upon the top of the rail, the truck frame serving as a substantial brace on both sides.

The cars are of novel pattern, cylindrical in form and built of iron. In carrying out their plans for this unique railroad, the builders have, of course, to guard against horizontal strain upon the rail, which surface roads have nothing to do with, but they are confident the precautions they have taken will make accidents almost impossible. People are very quick to laugh at the idea of putting an engine and cars fourteen feet from the ground upon a single rail, but the scheme is certainly bearing the rigid inspection of engineers and other scientific men wonderfully well, and nobody has yet risen to prove that the principle upon which it is based are not sound. —*Cor. Minneapolis Tribune.*

The Boston Saturday Evening *Gazette* tells this story of the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Whittemore. One Sunday Messrs. Ruggles and Lucas, his sons-in-law, attended his church. Dr. Whittemore never used notes, and on this occasion was very diffuse. When the sermon was about half through Ruggles pulled out his watch. Whittemore saw him and at once stopped. Looking over the pulpit he said: "Young man, you can put that watch back, for you can not by looking at it shorten my sermon one minute." One can imagine the sensation in the audience and the feeling of Ruggles and Lucas. Suffice it to say that they never afterward attended church when they knew their reverend father-in-law was to hold forth.

Dr. Alice B. Stockton writes in the *People's Health Journal* that unless a woman has tried loose clothing she can not conceive how much she gains for health and strength by a dress that gives perfect freedom to breathe. "Sixteen thicknesses of cloth," she says, "is no unusual number to be found tightly fastened about a lady's waist." Concerning this matter she once heard a Chinese woman exclaim: "Christian woman squeeze God's life!"

The German Government has discharged all women who were employed in its postal, telegraph, and railway service as clerks and in other capacities. As during the last twenty years their nearly monopolized such service in some towns, much suffering has ensued among the discharged. The motive alleged is that women are unfitted for such public service.

The ancients have left as souvenirs of their skill some wonderfully beautiful engraved sapphires. One represents a woman's figure enveloped in drapery. The stone is one of two tints, and the artist skillfully used the dark tint for the woman and the light for the drapery. This gem is among the crown jewels of Russia. The Strozzi cabinet at Rome contains an intaglio representing the profile of a young Hercules by Cweins, and in the Cabinet of France is an intaglio profile of the Emperor's Pertinax.

An amusing scene was witnessed last week in a picture gallery in Berlin. The Crown Prince and Princess were among the visitors, and the officials, in trying to make way for the royal party, pushed back a Pomeranian peasant, who was accompanied by his wife. The Crown Prince, noticing the couple, beckoned them to approach, and familiarly clasped the husband on the back, saying: "How do you do, old fellow!"

peared once in a lawsuit in which one of the chief witnesses on the other side was the mother of Senator Booth, of California. In his free and easy way the Tall Sycamore asked harrassing questions, but not the slightest attention came from the woman. He became impatient and snappy. Finally he demanded, in his oratorical way, whether or not he was going to be answered at all. Then, with a smile, she turned to the lawyer of her friend and asked, with the air of a child, "Must I really say anything to a man who looks like that?" She pointed to Voorhees and shuddered. The counsel addressed her to be brave and answer the questions of his Wabash friend. "Then I'll do it with my eyes shut," she said and she did.

A wonderful fish is becoming numerous in Goose Lake. It is called by some the greenback fish, for it certainly is an intimation. It has the power to flit itself with air until it becomes very much like a ball. Of evenings about sundown they may be seen playing on the surface of the water. They will swell up by taking in the air, and the wind will blow them over the lake. They reflect all the colors of the rainbow, and when sporting over the lake are a grand sight. A hunter several weeks ago saw a crane swallow one of these fish when in its normal condition, but before the crane had got more than fifty feet up above the lake the fish had taken in enough air to explode the crane, which, at the sound of a report like that of a gun, flew all to atoms, and the fish came lightly down on the water, no worse off for the short ride in the air. The fish is a great curiosity, never having been found, I believe, in other waters. —*San Francisco Examiner.*

The peasant was so delighted at the salutation that he actually embraced his Highness before all the crowd. The Crown Prince was much amused at the incident, and talked with the old man good-naturedly for some time.

Paper slippers are the latest form in which paper is introduced in new inventions. An Englishman has patented a system of manufacturing slippers, sandals, and other covering for the feet out of paper. Paper pulp, or paper mache, is employed for the upper, which is molded to the desired form and size, and a sole is provided, made of paper or pasteboard, leatherboard, or other suitable paper material, which is united to the upper by means of cement, glue or other adhesive material. The upper is creased, embossed or perforated at the instep and sides, which renders them somewhat pliable, and prevents their cracking while in use.

Senator Edmunds' new house on Massachusetts avenue is to be a mansion after its own heart, writes *Subrosa* in the *Washington Capital*. It is a house wholly above ground. The first story contains little except the stairway, hall, kitchen, and household offices. The entrance from the street is through a low round central arch, and all the living rooms are above. There is a magnificent double bay window like a pavilion in the southwest corner, running up through two stories. It will be a charming residence. The senator paid \$2 a foot for the land, which he bought from Mr. Frelinghuysen, who paid only \$1.50 for it a few weeks before.

"Ouida" calls attention to the horrible cruelty to animals practiced in Naples. "Old horses," she says, "young kids and lambs, all dogs, cats, and rats are all skinned alive, because the skin when removed from the living creature is considered more supple and sells for a somewhat higher price. Dogs are seized by legalized municipal dog-stealers twice a day; are thrust pell-mell into a court; kept two days without food, and then half stunned with a stick, and while living flayed from neck to tail. Horses in the knackers' yards there are allowed to drop from hunger as being less trouble than killing them, and when utterly exhausted are nailed on planks and flayed."

Daniel W. Voorhees says that he ap-

For Hard Times.

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21 Town Lots in Topeka, Kansas, on the side track of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. A part of these lots front on Eighth Avenue, east. All have a front to the side track in good locality for manufacturing purposes of all kinds, or for storage. I will rent or lease one lot or all of them as the party may desire, or sell all the same way. Better call and see me at 249 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas. C. DUNN.

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situated thirteen miles from Topeka, and one fourth of a mile from the U. P. depot at Kingsville, and two and a half miles west of Silver Lake. The farm is all under cultivation, with good buildings and well watered.

Will be sold in 5 or 10 acre lots for gardening purposes, and part on time.

Topeka, Kansas. C. DUNN.

Shawnee County, State of Kansas. In the District Court of said county.

L. V. Bryan and B. A. Rhy, Partners as Bryan and Rhy, Plaintiffs, vs. E. A. Ford, and J. A. Ford, Partners as E. A. and J. A. Ford, Defendants. No. 7388.
The above named defendants are hereby notified that they have been sued in the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas, by the above named plaintiffs, and the said one third (1/3) of lot No. Sixty-five (65) on Kansas Avenue, North Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, has been attached, and must answer the petition of the plaintiffs filed herein on or before the 28th day of December, 1885, or the petition will be taken as true and judgment for \$75.00-100.00 dollars will be rendered against them accordingly, and their said property ordered sold to pay such judgment.

L. V. BRYAN and B. A. RHY, Plaintiffs, by GUNN & SEABIRD, Plfs. Atty's.

Attest: B. M. Curtis, Clerk, by K. S. Bell, Dep.

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To any one sending us ten subscribers for three months, at 15 cents each, with \$1.50, we will send the Clipper, price 90c. Or, for eight subscribers and \$1.50, we will send the Boy's Own, price 65c. Or, for nine subscribers and \$1.50 we will send the Jenny Lind, price 75c. Or, for fourteen subscribers and \$2.10, we will send the Columbia, price \$1.30. These knives are unexcelled. Well finished and blades of tried steel they can be relied on to retain a clean cutting edge.

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A Warning To Prohibitionists.

The fall elections are now over. We have not received the information which enables us to give the exact vote in the various States, but we are authorized to say that while the liquor parties have fallen off in their vote this year, the Prohibition party vote has advanced very largely; probably about 100 per cent.

When we bear in mind the deadly opposition to our party, this growth should be convincing that the party is here to stay, and is marching on to accomplish its destiny. That we do not grow faster should not be cause for surprise or regret. We advanced from 11,640 in 1880, to 153,128 in 1884, and if the advance in the States where elections occurred this year is an indication, we have doubled since last November; that is, there is good reason to believe there are today in this country two voters who are prepared to make Prohibition the supreme political issue where there was one a year ago.

We are making an appeal to the people. We are not seeking to secure a position where we can act as "a balance of power" party. The opposition to prohibition will be overcome only when the majority of the people are organized to suppress the liquor traffic according to law. Any organization of citizens to exert moral influence, or to use existing laws, we count utterly inadequate. The law must be made prohibitory, and the executive must be in sympathy with the prohibitory law. Hence our constant appeal to all good citizens to come out from the old liquor parties into a new party, being assured that when this issue really becomes the dividing line, it will be found that a majority of the American people in all the States will see the need of a Prohibition party.

Our work for the next few months will be to extend our doctrines through the press and the platform, and by thorough organization. Every Prohibitionist should seek to be associated with some other Prohibitionist. If there is no club, organize one; ten cents sent to this headquarters will secure the needed instructions and material. Our main and almost only danger resides in the possibility that some may yield to the seductions of compromises. It is to be expected that license, tax and regulation will be urged as never before. The Republican party is committed to this policy. The alcoholists are learning that neither tax nor high license possesses any elements of which they need be afraid. In this condition of things we must look for the most vigorous efforts to plan license legislation so as to satisfy Prohibitionists. Against all such efforts which look to an abandonment, even for a moment, of our demand for Prohibition, we must set our faces like a flint. We must fight license whether high or low. Between license of any sort and Prohibition there is an impassable gulf. Be not deceived by specious sophisms; the Prohibitionists should fight high license with just as much energy as they fight "free whisky." Respectable rum-selling is no better than disreputable rum-selling, and high license is the effectual way to make rum-selling respectable. We are enlisted to destroy the liquor traffic, not to entrench it in capital and legal sanctions.

J. B. FINCH, Chairman.
A. J. JUTKINS, Cor. Sec.

Free Papers.

We club this paper with the following periodicals, and furnish the two at the price of one. The prices here given are the regular prices of the papers and magazines named. Send the amount to us, and we will send any one selected and then add this paper one year free.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Scientific American | \$3.20 |
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| Harpers Monthly | 4.00 |
| Harpers Weekly | 4.00 |
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| Harpers Young People | 2.00 |

Spirit of Kansas and Handbook one year 75 cents.
Spirit and the Voice one year, \$1.25
Spirit and the Lever one year, \$1.25
Spirit, Voice and Handbook, \$1.50 or Lever instead of Voice.

Long evenings have come on again and prohibition clubs should be organized in every school house in the state. Organize and agitate. Circulate the Spirit of Kansas and put it into every house possible. Its low price makes this easy.

Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine for December closes the eighteenth volume of this well-known favorite magazine with a table of contents which is attractive and timely. It is especially rich in portraits, containing the Rev. R. T. Thornton, the English cricketing parson; the late Earl of Shaftesbury; Bishop Maglagaan of Lichfield, England, and a view of the Cathedral; Bishop Wordsworth, the new Bishop of Salisbury, England; the Rev. Moses A. Hopkins, the newly appointed Colored Minister to Liberia; the late Bishop Henry C. Lay, of Easton, Md., and the late Cardinal McCloskey, of New York, each with a biographical sketch. The twenty-second of the series of Parables is devoted to "The Pharisee and the Publican," and the Sacred Musicians of this number are Ignaz Assmayer, George Perry, John Henry Greisbach and Johann Van Bree. The interesting series of Glances at Bible History is concluded in this number, as is also Mrs. Farrar's story, "What She Made of Her Life." Miss Mathews' "Dilettante Days" goes on in the same charming manner, and "Love's Harvest" shows signs of nearing its end. Among the other articles are "Old Joseph's," of Philadelphia; "The Home and Grave of Anthony Wayne," Gounod's "Mors et Vita," and many bright short articles, stories and poems. Published by Mrs. Frank Leslie, 53, 55, 57 Park Place, New York city, at 25 cents a number, or \$2.50 a year, postpaid.

Ballou's Magazine for December contains the final chapters of "Lewy and I," or Sailor Boy's Wanderings, by Wm. H. Thomas, author of "The Belle of Australia," and "On Land and Sea; or California in 1843, '44 '45." Here are three of the most entertaining novels of adventure that have been published in this country for many years. In addition the December number of Ballou's has an unusually large assortment of short stories, engravings, poetry, wit and humor, illustrated articles, household, puzzle page, adventures, etc., all one of the best and cheapest magazines published in the United States. The January number will appear in new type, with new features, illustrated stories, heavy white paper, and will be the leading magazine so far as brightness and good looks are concerned, yet the price will remain the same—only \$1.50 per year, or 15 cents single copy. For sale at all news depots. Published at 23 Hawley Street, Boston.

An Excellent Paper.

It seems almost unnecessary for us to call attention to a paper so well and favorably known as the YOUTH'S COMPANION, of Boston. It has been for fifty-eight years a weekly visitor, and each year has shown more clearly its wonderful usefulness for the class of readers for whom it is prepared.

It would be interesting to trace its influence in the case of two families, one of which began, we will suppose, twenty years ago, to provide it for their children to read, while the other furnished the more sensational publications. The contrast would no doubt be a striking one.

Parents can give their children few better things of more value and importance in their growth of character than a wide-awake, intelligent whole-some paper into whose management the publishers put conscience and moral purpose as well as money and ability.

For some years now it has been the practice of HARPER'S MAGAZINE, without stepping aside from its standard of general interest, to make the December issue one of special fitness to the Christmas season. Each year, accordingly editors and publishers combine to present a number which touches the high-water mark of the year, and each year's high water proves to be a little higher than that of the year before. This year, it is announced the special Christmas feature will be the reproduction, in the best work that American engravers can do, of the great Pictures of the Nativity by the old masters and by modern painters. The frontispiece will be an engraving by Clooson after Raphael's "Madonna del Granduca" in the Pitti gallery, Florence, besides which there will be examples of early Christian art—Giotto, Filippo Lippi, Luca Della Robbia, Ghirlandajo, Bernardino Luini, Correggio, Roger Vander Weyden, Albert Durer, Marillo, Deffregger, and Bougreau, the latter from an original sketch not before published. A careful study of "The Nativity in Art," from the pen of Rev Henry J. Van Dyke, Jr., one of New York's most eloquent preachers, will give the literary setting of the pictures. Besides this noteworthy feature, the number will be strong with contributions from such writers as George William Curtis, Charles Dudley Warner, W. D. Cowells, Constance F. Woolson, "Charles Egbert Craddock," Eliza-

both Stuart Phelps, Edwin Arnold, William Black, R. D. Blackmore, George W. H. Boughton, C. P. Cranch, W. H. Gibson, Brander Matthews and others. The Editor's Easy Chair will discourse of "Christmas, Past and Present," and the Editor's Drawer of "A National Christmas."

DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE for December brings vividly before us the happy season of Christmas. It is replete with beautiful stories and poems appropriate to that time; in addition to which there are other articles of great merit and utility. The opening article is the commencement of an interesting serial by Julian Hawthorne, the well known and popular author. Jennie June contributes a paper on "Women Abroad," and an exceedingly amusing sketch is entitled "Joseph and his Brethren." The household department is usually full, and the illustrations good. The frontispiece is an oil picture entitled "Merry Christmas."

A Strong Plea for Total Abstinence.

The reception tendered to the Ven. Arch-deacon Frederick W. Farrar, D. D., by the National Temperance Society, in Chickering Hall, Thursday evening, Oct. 29, 1885, was one of the most wonderful Temperance meetings ever held on this continent. The addresses on that occasion will at once be printed in full by the National Temperance Society, in pamphlet form, as delivered by Rev. Dr. R. H. McKim, the presiding officer; Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler, President of the National Temperance Society; Frederick W. Farrar, D. D., the guest of the evening. Hon. Noah Davis, Chief justice of the Supreme Court and John B. Gough, Esq.

Canon Farrar made one of the strongest, and most eloquent and convincing arguments for Total Abstinence ever delivered to an American audience.

The address of John B. Gough, though brief, thrilled the entire audience. The pamphlet will contain an excellent likeness of Canon Farrar. Early orders solicited. Price 10 cents; \$1 a dozen; \$7 per hundred. Address J. N. STEARNS, Publishing Agent, 38 Reade St., New York City.

Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson's "Young Folk's History of the United States" has achieved such popularity that the author has written the story of the nation over again in a larger History of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, bringing the record down to the close of General Jackson's administration. The volume is not, however, a mere amplification of the former work, but a fresh and more detailed treatment of the subject. A special feature of this work is a series of portraits of eminent American statesmen and other noted characters of our history said to be the finest that has ever appeared in any American book. Harper & Brothers.

A liquor dealer in East Douglas, Mass., has issued his business cards with the following printed on the back: "To whom it may concern. Know ye that by the payment of \$225 I am permitted to retail intoxicating liquors at my saloon in this town, to the wife who has a drunkard for a husband, or a friend who is unfortunately dissipated. I say emphatically, give me notice in person of such a case, or cases, in which you are interested, and all such shall be excluded from my place. Let mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers do likewise, and their request will be kindly regarded. I pay a heavy tax for the privilege of selling liquors, and I want it distinctly understood that I have no desire to sell to drunkards or minors or to the poor or destitute."

We are prepared to do the nearest kind of commercial and small job printing, and can discount any office in the state in prices.

We want some one in every township to send us the name and post-office of every straight Third Party Prohibitionist in his neighborhood. We want the name and address of every one in the state. Will you not help us to this?

The Leavenworth Times is getting to be a very fair prohibition paper, but it is prohibition for revenge and not for principle. We have already had too much of this prohibition without principle. One may never know when it can be trusted.

Get Fresh Buckwheat flour made in Topeka by Downs Mill & Elevator Co. Salesroom 78 Kansas Ave.

Quite a number of people from Topeka went down to Emporia to attend the reception given Mrs. Walkup.

One of a 1000.

Whoever wants to do the best thing possible to promote Prohibition should make haste to be enrolled as one of a 1000 subscribers to the PIONEER BATTLE FUND. For full particulars write to

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Special Business Mention.

Local notices will be inserted under this head for 10 cents a line for each insertion.

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Any one who will, can get a club of 15 cent trial subscribers and so get one of the fine pocket knives we offer. No one who does it will be disappointed in his present, but will find it better than he expected.

Don't fail to call on Mrs. Metcalf 239 Kan. Ave. for your millinery as she is constantly getting in new additions to her stock of fancy feathers, birds, hats, and has none but first class trimming and will try to please the ladies in all ways.

A NOBLE BOY.

The Motive for Johnny's Self-Abnegation.

There was no doubt but that Johnny Fizzlepop was the laziest and most mischievous boy in the whole school. Whenever anything went wrong Johnny was sure to be blamed for it. One day the school-teacher missed his spectacles. He remembered having put them on the desk but a few minutes before. He threatened to punish the whole school in case the spectacles were not forthcoming.

"Now, boys, for the last time I tell you, whoever took those spectacles to come forward and own that he did it. If he doesn't the whole class will be kept in for an hour after school," he said, excitedly.

There was silence for a few minutes, and then Johnny held up his hand, and asked, in an uncertain sort of voice, what the boy who took the spectacles would get.

"A good sound licking," thundered the teacher.

"Please, sir, I took the spectacles," said Johnny.

A painful scene ensued. At last the teacher got through, and out of breath, was about to take his seat, when the door opened and his servant entered, bringing the spectacles.

"You left the spectacles at home," said the servant, "and I thought I would bring them over, as you can't see well without them."

"What! The spectacles?" exclaimed the school-teacher, very much astonished.

Yes, there were his spectacles beyond a doubt. Just at this moment Johnny broke out into a dismal wail, saying, between sobs:

"O Lordy! O Lordy! and I have been licked for other people's spectacles!"

"But, Johnny," said the astonished school-teacher, "how did you come to say you took the spectacles? It is a noble trait in your character, my boy, to sacrifice yourself for the good of the whole class, particularly when you are innocent."

"That's not why I said I took the spectacles," exclaimed Johnny.

"What is the reason?" asked the teacher.

"If I hadn't said I did it," explained Johnny, "I would have been kept in with the whole class, and when I'm kept in I don't get any dinner, and we've got putting for dinner to-day."

—*Times Siftings.*

New Orleans contains seven white women to six men, and four negro women to three negro men.—*N. O. Picayune.*

The acquaintance of the female mind with the mysteries of commerce and finance is extensive and paralyzing.

"Why," said a well-to-do young woman, who had just received a dry-goods bill, "why do you keep on sending me this? I know well enough I got the things last summer, so what's the use of reminding me?"—*Philadelphia Record.*

A wood stove is not made of wood.—*Boston Post.* Nor is a coal stove made of coal. Funny, isn't it.—*Detroit Free Press.* And a snow-plow is not made of snow. Awfully funny, isn't it?—*Bangor Commercial.* Neither is a sponge-cake made of sponges. To hel.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.* Nor a head-dress of heads. Ah, ha!—*St. Louis Sun.*

Nor a chicken-salad of chickens. They make it of veal, usually.—*Oil City Derrick.*

The ideal young people's magazine. It holds the first place among periodicals of the class.—*BOSTON JOURNAL.*

ST. NICHOLAS

An illustrated monthly periodical for boys and girls, appearing on the 26th of each month. Edited by Mary Mapes Dodge. Price, 25 cents a number, or \$2.50 a year in advance. Book-sellers, news-dealers, postmasters, and the publishers take subscriptions, which should be sent with the November number, the first of the volume.

ST. NICHOLAS aims both to satisfy and to develop the tastes of its constituency; and its record for the past twelve years, during which it has always stood, as it stands today, at the head of periodicals for boys and girls, is a sufficient warrant for its excellence during the coming season. The editors announce the following as among the

LEADING FEATURES FOR 1885-86:

A SERIAL STORY by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The first long story she has written for children.

A Christmas Story by W. C. Howells. With numerous pictures by his little daughter, "George Washington," by Horace E. Bond.

A novel and attractive Historical Serial. Short stories for girls by Louisa M. Alcott. The first—"The Candy Counter,"—in November.

"Bits of Talk for Young Folks," by "H. H." This series forms a graceful and fitting memorial of a child-loving and child-helping soul.

Papers on the Great English Schools, Rugby and others. Illustrated by Joseph Pennell.

"Jenny's Boarding-House," a serial by James Otis, dealing with new-boy life and entering into the life of a new boy and entering into the life of a new boy.

Frank R. Stockton will contribute several of his humorous and fanciful stories.

The Boyhood of Shakespeare, by Rose Kingsley. With illustrations by Alfred Parsons.

Short stories by scores of prominent writers including Susan Coolidge, H. R. Boyesen, Nora Perry, T. A. Janvier, Washington Gladden, Rosseter Johnson, Joquin Miller, Sophie May, Heskin Buttersworth, W. O. Stoddard, Harriet Prescott Spofford and many others.

Entertaining sketches by Alice W. Rollins, Charles G. Leland, Henry Eckford, Lieutenant Schwab, Edward Eggleston and others. Poems, shorter contributions, and department will complete what the *Bureau of New York* calls "the best magazine for children in the world."

THE CENTURY CO. NEW-YORK.

WOMAN WANTED

For a business in New York. Salary \$500 per month. For particulars apply to J. B. Finch, 87 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

AFTER DOLLARS.

sharpers Who Fleeced the Innocent and Gull the Guilty.

"The slickest piece of work in the way of a fraud conducted through the mails that has come to my attention recently," remarked Chief Inspector Sharp of the Post-office Department,

"is what we call the bogus medicine lodge. The ingenious author of this scheme now languishes in jail, but, at the same time, he showed himself to be a man of no mean order of ability.

His plan was to send out circulars announcing a great cure for catarrh, which was discovered by himself after many years of study and investigation.

He then proceeds to give, without cost, the prescription for this wonderful medicine and enumerates twelve ingredients which enter into its composition. At the end of the circular is a note which states that if the druggist does not happen to have all these ingredients the prescription will be filled and forwarded upon the receipt of three dollars. The person receiving the circular and desirous of trying the remedy takes the prescription to the drug store, but is told by the druggist that he has three of the ingredients, but not the other nine. He looks through his book, but fails to find even their names, and so, of course, he is unable to furnish the desired medicine.

The discoverer of the remedy is applied to, and if the three dollars has been furnished a bottle of some mixture is sent on, which, of course, is entirely worthless.

"That is one phase of the case," continued the inspector. "Now the man prepares and causes to be published in some paper in New York city an article about the prominent doctors of New York city, with a portrait of each and a sketch giving some account of the life and services of each. All the men mentioned are bona fide doctors, the leading men in the profession, with the exception of a man whose name is, say, Dr. Hart. He is unknown, but the sketch states that he left a practice of twenty-five thousand dollars per year to devote himself to the practice of his specialty—catarrh. The bogus medicine man then procures a large number of copies of this paper, and, marking the picture of Dr. Hart and the sketch, sends copies, together with the circular, broadcast throughout the country. In consequence he receives a mass of orders and registered letters. After the Postmaster General had directed that no more money orders and registered letters should be delivered to Dr. Hart, three thousand dollars accumulated in the Brooklyn post-office that had been sent to him. When an attempt was made to find Dr. Hart, of course no such man could be discovered, but a sign over the door at the advertised number was found, and that was all. A Dr. Lawrence occupied the same rooms, and to him the mail was delivered, and when he was told the letters could not be given to him, as he was not Dr. Hart, he went off and got a power of attorney by which Dr. Hart authorized him to receive the mail. About this time, however, the officers came in and relieved him of further annoyance about his mail matter. This same man was managing some other scheme under the name of Lawrence, while his real name was Connolly. He must have made a great deal of money, as one of the witnesses in the trial testified that he had been offered two thousand dollars to personate Dr. Hart."

"It is a singular thing," observed the Colonel, "how these offers to give something for nothing take with the people, and how rogues fatten upon the credulity of the public. There is another species of fraud, which one would naturally suppose had been given such wide publicity that no one would now be deceived by it. I mean the counterfeit-money dodge, where men propose to forward a large amount of counterfeit money by express or mail on the receipt of a small amount of genuine money to pay for the manufacture, usually all that the victim receives in return is a box filled with sawdust. But a recent operator has devised a new plan. He locates near a small town in a country district and then sends out his letters. He does not invite persons to visit him and inspect his stock and buy what they wish. When the visitor arrives the operator has a large quantity of good bills, which he shows him and allows him to examine. In order, however, to avoid outside interference, the visitor is taken off in the woods, where the business proceeds. The operator produces his money and the visitor examines it and determines how much he will take and what price to be paid. Just as they are about to close the transaction suddenly two men emerge from the bushes, announce themselves as detectives, and proceed to place them under arrest. The detectives do not fail to take all the money from both the men. As they are about to march them off to the town, the operator obtains permission to speak privately with the victim. He asks him how much more money he has than what he was going to use in the transaction, and if he has more, he advises that they had better try and buy off the detectives, for if they don't they will both land in the penitentiary. The victim is ready to pay anything to get out of the grasp of the supposed representatives of the law, and eagerly agrees to contribute to a fund to pay the detectives. The latter, of course, accept the bribe, and pocketing all the money, disappear. The victim gets away as fast as possible, and goes home and never says a word about his loss. He is too much ashamed.—*Washington Star.*

At least four thousand persons are under the management and direction of the Commissioner of Pensions. The salary list amounts to over one million dollars annually, exclusive of pension agents and examining surgeons. The mail received averages seven thousand five hundred pieces daily. The mail sent out is much larger.—*Washington Post.*

SICK FISH.

The Affluents of the Aquarium's Golden Ornaments—How Most Owners Kill Them With Kindness.

"Please sir, our gold-fish is sick," cried a little girl the other morning, as she hurried breathlessly into one of the best known gold-fish emporiums in the city, "and mother wants you to come and see it right away."

The fish-dealer smiled at the girl's excitement.

"What seems to be the matter with it?" he asked.

"It's sick. It won't eat anything, and it is turning white, and won't swim around any more."

"All right; I will be there presently," and the little girl, apparently satisfied, took her departure.

"Is doctoring fishes a part of your regular business?" asked the surprised enquirer.

"Yes, indeed. In fact, I might say that I have a gold-fish hospital here at my place of business just now. All of those tanks on the south side of the room contain sick fishes. The gold-fish is naturally a hardy animal—much more apt to live for years in aquaria than the common pond varieties, because life in captivity has become second nature with the race. But people will not give their gold-fish half a chance. They feed them too much. Every case of disease in the tanks is directly traceable to overfeeding. But do not misunderstand me, please; the fish do not eat too much, they are merely given too much to eat."

"That seems to be a distinction without a difference."

"Not at all. Unlike a human being, a gold-fish will not eat more than is good for it, and when too much food is placed in the tank it putrefies, tainting the water, and very often breeding parasites, which fasten upon the fish, and eventually kill it. One meal a day is enough for gold-fish. It should consist of flies or prepared fish-food, and no more should be put into the aquarium than will be at once eaten up."

"A good idea is to keep two or three tadpoles and snails in the tank, and if the owner should chance to provide a fly or two more of the fish will eat them and take care of it. They are first-class scavengers, and you may rest assured of the fact that the parlor aquarium which does not contain tadpoles or snails is sure, sooner or later, to need a visit from the fish-doctor. Now, let me show you a fish suffering with consumption."

At the extreme right of the row of hospital tanks was one mounted on an iron frame, and containing about two gallons of water. It contained a single fish, which was resting near the bottom of the tank, with its head held much lower than its tail. To an unpracticed eye it was evidently a very sick fish. Its body, instead of being plump and of an even contour, was as emaciated as a dried herring and the rich vermilion color of the average gold-fish had faded into a sickly pink. Its fins were half drawn in toward the fish's body, and seemed to be glued in to a fixed position by a gummy, slimy substance which covered them.

"Do you see it cough?" asked the fish dealer.

"No."

"Well, watch it closely for a minute or two, and you will see what I mean."

The fish began moving about slowly and feebly, occasionally stopping to brush its gills against the stalk of a plant growing in the water, as though endeavoring to brush away some obstruction.

"At these pauses a convulsion sometimes shook the fish from head to tail, and this the dealer declared to be occasioned by a cough."

"There is no cure for that fish," he said. "I keep it here more as a warning to my customers than anything else. After telling them plainly just how much food and fresh water to give their fish, I bring them back here, and let them see the effects of disregarding what I say. Impure water affects the greatest fish first. The gills, you know, are the fish's lungs, and, while disease of the gills is not always consumption, it is always fatal unless checked."

"In the next tank we have a couple of common gold-fish in the first stages of asphyxia, which is perhaps the most common form of disease, and one most easily treated if taken in time. But have no idea their fish is sick until the case is too far gone for cure; and even if they do discover the illness in time and call me in they fail to follow my directions to the letter, and in consequence the fish dies. It was on account of this last fact that I originated my gold-fish hospital. Now when I am called to a sick fish, instead of prescribing for it, if the case is curable, I immediately dip it out of the aquarium, place it in my bucket and carry it here to the hospital, where it receives what it needs, which is plenty of pure water and sunlight."

"The pair in this tank came to me yesterday. The only evidence of disease was the fact that they were losing color and appetite. The trouble was brought on by a sudden change in temperature in the water of the aquarium in which they lived. The only thing to be done with them—and, by the way, it is the best thing for the unpracticed owner of gold-fish to do in every case of incipient disease—is to keep the water fairly warm, to give no food for a few days, and to dissolve a teaspoonful of common salt in the water in the aquarium."

"When your gold-fish begin to grow fat at an alarming rate, and several of them scales loosen and come off, the chances are that they are in trouble. No matter how voraciously they may eat, no matter how plump they may look—in fact, because of both these things—you may set it down as truth that your gold-fish have the dropsy. If cared for at the beginning they may recover, but if neglected death will ensue in the course of about three months."

"Because I have so many sick fishes here you must not imagine that the rearing of gold-fish is attended with greater mortality than the raising of almost any living pet. They may be reared from the egg by almost anyone who will take as much care of them as of an average house plant, and they are quite as healthy as a canary bird."

—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

