



A RECOLLECTION.

BY CLAUDE DE HAVEN.

Deep within the curtained vale of green verdure ran the limpid stream known to us children as "Ox Creek." Low under the hills like a channel were broad pastures, wherein grazed the stock belonging to "Sidney Place," acknowledged throughout the parish as being the most beautiful and productive farm in the whole region.

world, will my mind go back to the dear old home on the Ox Creek, and count the days before Thanksgiving, for I never allowed one to pass without going home. Nothing could prevent me from meeting father and mother once a year, if not oftener. Mary is married to a good man, and Harriet remains at home, the comfort and solace of our aged parents.

Familiar Phrases.

Catching a Tartar—Chit in Porridge—Cart and Horse—Humble Pie—P's and Q's—Hokey Walker.

Speculations as to the origin of phrases are very common. From time to time I have received many inquiries on this subject. To-day I shall attempt to answer a few of them. So common a phrase as "Catching a Tartar" has its origin variously stated.

An American Monitor.

The United States iron-clad Dictator, was built during the last year of the war, and reached the sea at the same time with the Monadnock, in 1865.

The Dictator is a monitor of the Monitor class, built at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, and named in honor of the Dictator of the French Republic. She has never seen service. In her race with the Terror from Boston to Portsmouth and thence to Portland, in 1866, she showed excellent speed though she suffered defeat. She subsequently made a cruise to the West Indies, and afterward remained at Key West for several years.

Hardships of the March to Khiva.

A body of Russian troops under command of Colonel Markosoff endured extraordinary hardships while on the march to Khiva from Krasnovodak, a port on the Caspian Sea.

The following account of this march is taken from the French periodical "La Nature." "After unparalleled difficulties, Colonel Markosoff came to some good wells. But still there remained six days' march over the desert before he could reach the wells of Orta Kin, whence he could easily make his way to Khiva. The Russians took up the line of march for Orta Kin on the 16th of April, after having taken every measure dictated by prudence; not only did each soldier take a small supply of water, but also the camels belonging to the expedition were loaded with a great number of casks.

Antiquarian Discovery in the Crimea.

The Cologne Gazette says: "Last year, near Kertch, three catacombs were discovered. One of them is situated on the northern slope of the Mithridates Mount, and its interior is decorated with stucco-work and pictures in fresco, in which various animals and hunting scenes are represented.

At the entrance there are visible on the side walls, where the stucco has fallen off, symbols, monograms, and figures of animals, cut with sharp tools. Mr. Lucenko, the director of the Kertch Museum, has since opened two catacombs, which, however, have proved less interesting. In the opinion of antiquaries, the paintings found in the catacombs belong to an Oriental people. As evidence of this are pointed out the high headresses and helmets of the warriors, which are represented as they are on the Assyrian monuments. As the bright colors of the pictures were becoming dimmed through contact with the damp atmosphere, the entrance to the catacombs has for a time been closed in order to protect the pictures from entire destruction. In the representation of battles fighting men of two different nationalities are clearly distinguishable. One class have round beardless faces and wear armor which covers the whole body and extends down to the ankles. Their arms consist of two lances and a round shield. The other class, their opponents, have beards and thick, long hair. They are armed with bows, lances, and square shields. The bearded men appear to be besieged, whence it may be concluded that these frescoes are the productions of their beardless assailants. On other pictures are represented bears, wild boars, stags, birds of various kinds, and plants with large, broad leaves. Especially remarkable is a picture which represents an animal resembling a lion, and behind in the air a winged Cupid in a sort of Roman drapery. Besides these frescoes there have been found two small statuettes of clay, one of which represents the sitting figure of a woman, who looked in her right hand a flat, cup-shaped vessel, and wears a high, three-cornered headdress. This figure has a remarkable resemblance to the stone figures of women found in the grave-mounds of the steppes. The other statuette, also that of a woman, likewise wears a remarkable three-parted headdress.

Items of Interest.

Griddle-oak sociables are raging in Iowa. Ministers of the Interior—The cook and the doctor. Treasury defalcations have occurred in twenty-two counties of Ohio. The debt of Pennsylvania was reduced \$1,504,673 during the year ending Nov 30. Ashtabula, Ohio, is illuminating itself with gas made from crude petroleum. A wealthy New York lady supports eight poor families at an expense of \$10,000 a year. "We see," said Swift, in one of his most caustic moods, "what God thinks of riches by the people he gives them to." A Kansas preacher has had his salary increased \$50 a year for thrashing three men who disturbed his congregation. Two Pittsburgh surveyors have found a tract of land in that city worth \$14,000,000, which has never been properly entered. A French astronomer thinks that he will be able to find out during the coming transit of Venus whether the planet is inhabited. Miss Grace Battles won a bouquet at a Philadelphia Fair, recently, by 706 votes. And now it is somebody's turn to win battles. A veteran observer thinks that a good many men are valiant in advance, who would not be in the advance where valor was necessary. The City Council of Yeddo, Japan, has passed an ordinance directing all children to be labelled with their parents' names and residence. At Bloomington, Ill., the children of the miners are taken down into the shaft of a mine when attacked with whooping cough, and in a short time are entirely well. The Patrons of Husbandry, according to their latest reports, have 8,335 granges, with 922,555 members. There were 974 of these granges organized during November. A Frenchman professes to have discovered, by experiment on himself, that coffee taken upon an empty stomach rendered the mind abnormally clear and the temper unnaturally bad. A famous rat hunt has taken place at Witt, Montgomery county, Illinois. In one day there were killed six thousand within limits of six miles square. It is proposed to extend the hunt so as to clear out all the "varmints" in the State. A French gentleman, learning English to some purpose, replied this to the salutations: "How do you do, monsieur?" "Do you?" "How do you find yourself?" "I never loses myself." "How do you feel?" "Smooth. You just feel me." The St. Louis Democrat says: "Our experience and the history of the past eighteen centuries incline us to the belief that no matter how well you treat a shot gun, nor how you bring it up, it will bang the stuffing out of you the very first time it gets a chance." A mill has been recently started in England in which flour is made by crushing the grain by small trip-hammers instead of grinding it. It is claimed that a pounding mill, costing \$1,000, will produce as much flour in the same time as a grinding mill worth \$5,000. A gentleman at a dance remarked to his partner, a witty young lady, that the "room was too close—he must get out and get some air." After an absence of half an hour he returned, when she asked him "if he had not been to the graveyard, as his breath smelt of the beer." The ladies of Jamestown, N. Y., made an energetic and partly successful movement on the liquor dealers last week. A procession was formed, and the dealers were visited and requested to close up. A local paper says that it is the intention to keep the ball moving every day for six months, varying the plan of action to suit circumstances. A young man at Madison, Wisconsin, who could not collect his wages from his employer, owed a Shylock merchant \$1.75. The latter commenced garnishee proceedings against the employer, but in the meantime the young man called in the merchant's store in his absence and paid the \$1.75. The cost of the garnishee process was \$3, which the merchant was compelled to pay. He lives in where it costs \$3 to collect \$1.75. The French Editor. The French editor does not produce more than half as much work as his American fellow, and he receives more pay. When the French writer makes two articles in a week, each of about fifteen hundred words, he has performed what is considered fair work; and he receives for this a salary of twenty thousand francs a year, or about seventy-five dollars per week in gold. In New York, the highest grade of salaries in the office of the best papers, as a rule, does not exceed seventy-five dollars in currency, and the writer does double the work of the French journalist. Besides, the work of the American is done under unfavorable circumstances—at night, in haste, based on the latest news by telegraph; while that of the Frenchman is done leisurely in daylight, for the latest news feature, which is considered of such importance in America, is not required here. There are instances where higher salaries are paid, as in that of Edmund Stedman, who is attached to the XIX Siecle, who receives thirty thousand francs a year. Several writers are paid from twenty-five to twenty-eight thousand, and with such compensation they do not stand so far behind men in other professions as journalists do in America; for the professional man outside of journalism is not as well paid in France as in our country, where the leading lawyers and doctors make forty or fifty thousand dollars a year.

How to Save Wood and Coal.

In order to make a house comfortable, its foundation or underpinning should be made air-tight; this will keep the frosts out of the cellar, and cold draughts of air from rushing up through the floors. Banking up the house with branches of evergreen tree is the best method of protecting it. The old habit of disfiguring houses with piles of loam or gravel, held up against them by boards and stakes, has disappeared; branches of spruce, pine, or hemlock, cut from the trees designed for fuel, or from young evergreens which spring up among the pasturage, are now substituted with much less expenditure of time in the putting down and removal of them. But the closely around the stone work, and if needful, lay boards over them, to protect them from the drippings of the eaves. In the early spring, these branches can be burned in a bonfire in the garden, and their ashes turned to some little account. The comfort and health of the family circle depend greatly upon the warmth of the house, and it is all-important to attend to these matters in due season. For if crevices and cracks are left open, and the cool air is suffered to rush in from outside, it is impossible to warm a room without a great waste of fuel; because when a room is warm the air comes in from out of doors with increased force, and thus more coal and wood are required than would be the case were the house well banked up. Double windows will also lessen the bills for fuel most materially, and their cost can often be paid for in one year by the decrease in the amount of fuel burned; and then they are of the greatest comfort to the inmates of the house, and this item should be always of force to the master of the mansion.—Country Gentleman.

Morphine-ist.

The Louisville Courier-Journal says that a young lady in that city "consumes a bottle of morphine every two days. A night or two ago she rushed into a certain drug store and threw a dollar bill on the counter. The clerk, knowing what she came for, instantly handed her a bottle of the deadly narcotic. She instantly jerked the cork out of the bottle, and, exhibiting symptoms of excitement, poured out its contents until the palm of her hand was fairly covered; then, with the greediness of a child eating sugar, licked the powder from her hand and swallowed it. Then she drank a little water and walked from the store with the utmost composure.

Would be Whipped.

The Rev. Josiah Stearns, of New Hampshire, was distinguished for his regard to truth, justice and consistency. Having insisted much to his children on the importance of frankly confessing whenever they had done wrong, instead of making their guilt greater by attempting concealment, on one occasion, when a fault had been committed, one of the small boys confessed when he was not guilty. The truth having come to light, the child, who probably thought to appear meritorious by confession, was enlightened by the father as to the nature of his sin, and then chastised for falsehood. Being exceedingly annoyed that the garden gate was often left open, and cattle came in and did mischief, Mr. Stearns said to his children and servants: "The very next person who leaves the garden gate open must be whipped." Not many days after the unlucky gate appeared in the prohibited condition. Meeting the colored boy, Peter, he said: "Well, Peter, and why have you left open the garden gate now?" Peter hung his head. Mr. S. urged his question, till Peter answered: "I do not love to tell, sir." Mr. S. insisted, when Peter summoned up courage to say, "It was you, sir!" "Me? Are you sure? When?" "When you came out of the garden" (at such a time) "you left it open." "Well, Peter," said Mr. S., "go and cut some sticks and lay them over your master's shoulders." They begged to be excused, but the master insisted, and it was done as required.

Flowers as Disinfectant.

Professor Mantegazza has discovered that ozone is developed by certain odoriferous flowers. A writer in Nature states that most of the strong smelling vegetable essences, such as mint, cloves, lavender, lemon and cherry laurel, develop a very large quantity of ozone when in contact with atmospheric oxygen in light. Flowers destitute of perfume do not develop it, and generally in the amount of ozone seems to be in proportion to the strength of the perfume emanated. Professor Mantegazza recommends that in marshy districts and in places infested with noxious exhalations, strong-smelling flowers should be planted around the house, in order that the ozone emitted from them may exert its powerful oxidizing influence. So pleasant a plan for making a malarious district salubrious only requires to be known to be put in practice.—Saturday Review.

The Arizona Miner is publishing the obituary notices of its delinquent subscribers.

John Ford, of England, drew a prize of \$3,000 in a lottery, and he was so excited that he dropped dead.