Humorous Department.

ANOTHER THEORY BUSTED.

A widow who was going to leave the city held an auction of her household effects yesterday, and everything went at prompt sale until little but the bedstead was left. Just before this was put up some of the women went to spying around and discovered that it was infested by bed-bugs. This fact was noised around until it came to the ears of the auctioneer who mounted his box and said:

"Words cannot express the poignancy of my sorrow over the base canard which has been put in circulation in this crowd. I have sold goods in this town for twenty-nine long years, and this is the first instance in which bugs have been permitted to step between me and the purchasing public. Ladies and gentlemen, if there is a bug in or about that bedstead I want to see him. I cannot and will not believe there is. It would be a slander—a most foul slander—on the character of this worthy widow, who is about to remove to the State of Ohio."

Being invited to step down and view the bugs for himself he made an inspection. They were galloping in and out and up and down, and it was no use to dispute the fact.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the auctioneer as he resumed his post, "I found bugs. I don't exactly remember the Latin name for them, but they are there. And now let me talk to you as a friend. Bedbugs were not made for gaudy show, nor were they made for a life of ease. It is a law of nature that they should inhabit bedsteads. They can no more go out under the barn and make a living than a dog can become an eagle and float through space. The aversion among you to this insect is founded on false principles. His bite scarcely irritates the sleeper, but it cleanses and purifies the blood. But for bedbugs in this country we should all have boils and carbunkles. They keep down warts. They cause moles to disappear. Give them a chance and they would remove corns without pain. The great——"

"Fifty cents!" called an old woman who remembered that she had a remedy at home.

"Fifty cents! I am offered fifty cents for a $10 bedstead, and as I was going to say, the great Napoleon always asked for a bed with bugs in it. I am offered fifty cents, and yet Cæsar had his bugs. I am—"

"One dollar."

"I am offered one dollar, and yet the poets of Greece immortalized the insects before you. This widow tells me that she has not had an ache or pain since the first bug made his apperance. How many of you have read what Homer wrote of them? What was the fountain of Mozart's twelfth mass? And yet I—"

"Two dollars."

"And yet I hear only $2! Do you have the headache? Are you afflicted with giddiness? Do you have roaring in the ears?"

"Three dollars!"

"My friends let me go home and get my copy of Paradise Lost and read to you one short chapter. What did Milton—?"

"Four dollars!"

"Ah! I begin to see that art and culture are not unknown to the audience. Did Alexander the Great have boils? Never, not a one! And why?"

"Five dollars!"

"I am bid $5. I would like to quote one verse from a well known Latin poet, but time presses and this bedstead is sold for $5 cash on the nail. I will now direct your cultured attention to that cookstove with a cracked oven."—Detroit Free Press.

JUDGING BY APPEARANCES.

There is a tradition in the navy department at Washington to the effect that Colonel D., one of the civilian clerks of that establishment, was once witty. The force of this fact might possibly be lost upon those who do not know this gentleman as a strict adherent to the pomp and dignity to the old school, dry as dust, a firm believer in all sorts of sobriety, a wearer of collars reminiscent of stocks, and the possessor of the style of a Turveydrop. The story is laid at one of those socio-official receptions that are the predominant feature of Washington's winter festivities, where everybody with an office meets everybody who has ever held an office and a great many others who would like offices. It so happened that a bill was then pending in congress providing for a material and comfortable increase in the salaries of certain naval clerks, including the staid colonel, who, as was his wont, was present on this occasion in all the glory of correct attire. Deftly managing to obtain an introduction to a prominent and influential statesman whose services were just then peculiarly desirable to anybody, the veteran diplomatist seized his first opportunity to advance the interests of the bill, and when he had securely corralled his victim in a corner away from the crowd, he proceeded to impress upon his mind the grave necessity of just such legislation as that bill contemplated. It chanced that he inadvertently mentioned the fact that he was one of the would-be beneficiaries, whereat the senator, who was immensely bored, and anxious to avoid the embarrassment of promising his support, thought to discount his assailant by remarking, in a tone of grave surprise: "Why my dear sir, I cannot see why you should want more salary. I am sure I am not exaggerating when I say that you are one of the very best dressed men here."

The colonel was unmoved, and with great dignity he replied: "Quite true, sir—quite true. You may be right, senator, but you should see my under-clothes."

A SOVEREIGN REMEDY.—A young physician commencing practice had among his first patients an uncommonly unclean infant brought to his office in the arms of a mother whose face showed the same abhorrence of soap. Looking down upon the child a moment he solemnly remarked:

"It seems to be suffering from hydropathic hydrophobia."

"Och, docther, dear is it as bad as that?" cried the mother. "That's a big sickness for such a mite. Whatever shall I do for the crathur?"

"Wash its face, madam; the disease will go off with the dirt."

"Wash its face—wash its face, indade!" exclaimed the matron losing her temper. "What next, I'd like to know?"

"Wash your own, madam—wash your own."

☞ One of the oldest colored men who hang around the streets looking for a job recently approached one of the commission merchants on the street, and after considerable shuffling around exclaimed, "Say, boss, I wants ter ax yer a question." "All right, go ahead." "I kin git my furnicher insured for $400." "Yes?" "And it will only cost me four dollars." "Well?" "S'pose I had dat trumpery insured, an de house would catch afire and burn up, what would I git?" "In that case, Sam, you'd get pulled in, and then sent to prison for ten or fifteen years." "What for?" "For setting the fire, of course." "Golly, am dat so? Well, I am werry much 'bliged to yer, an' I guess I will save dat four dollors and let the $400 go. Morning, sah!"

☞ A family consisting of a father and his three sons, by the name of Beaver, hard "pets," had often laughed to scorn a pious though eccentric minister. One of the boys was bitten by a rattlesnake, and was expected to die, when the minister was sent for. He found the young man very penitent. The minister, calling on the family, kneeled down and prayed in this wise: "O Lord, we thank thee for the rattlesnakes. We thank thee because a rattlesnake has bitten Jim. We pray thee send a rattlesnake to bite John; send one to bite Bill; and, O Lord, send the biggest kind of a rattlesnake to bite the old man; for nothing but rattlesnakes will bring the Beaver family to repentance!"

IN THE EYES OF YOUTH.—It is told of Bishop Doane, of Albany, that while dining recently at the house of one of his friends, he was pleased to observe that he was the object of marked attention from the small son of his host, whose eyes were riveted upon him. After dinner the bishop approached the boy, and said:

"Well, my young friend, you seem to be interested in me. Do you find that I am all right?"

"Yes, sir," returned the boy, with a glance at the bishop's knee breeches, "you're all right, but say, won't your mamma let you wear long pants yet?"

☞ An old Scotchwoman who was very fond of gossip and a dram was induced to sign the temperance pledge. Calling upon a friend one day, the bottle was produced, and a glass handed to her. "Na, na, Mrs. Mitchell," said the gossip; "I have signed the pledge ne'er to touch nor handle a glass again, but if ye'll put a wee drap in a cup I'll sample it."

The Farm and Fireside.

FARMERS' OPPORTUNITIES.

One great hindrance to success on a cotton farm is found in the unnecessary delay in sale of products. A merchant sells his goods and realizes at once his profits. A professional man renders his service and receives his reward.

A farmer works his weary twelve months and waits and labors under drought and rain and mildew and blight and then takes his chances with all the misfortunes of crowded markets, low prices and the disadvantages of trade.

Can we not in some way reduce this long suspense—from January to January—hanging as it were between despair and hope, and absolutely beyond the power of any man to forecast? Is there not some remedy for this long waiting? The twelve months are attended with so many chances of failure to the cotton farmer, and the experience of the last twenty years has so plainly demonstrated the adverse chances, that for many reasons we should begin to counsel a change.

There is no more opportune time than now to call attention to the possible changes for the better.

Farmers have just housed their wheat and oats. If a larger area were sown to small grain, and at this season these crops were put upon the markets, the long strain would be somewhat broken by the income of an acceptable amount from this source.

In many sections of the extreme Southern States wheat does not do so well, but in almost all sections, with proper manuring and tillage, enough can be grown to meet immediate family demands, and in this way save expenditure for purchase. Money saved is money made.

Oats do well in all territory reached by The Southern Cultivator. Our farmers do not expend upon the crop proper care. The soil is too thin for good results. If quite a good deal of the manure given to cotton were reserved for oats, and the stubble then burned and the land sown to peas, the fertility of the farm would be greatly increased, and a good many crops secured at a season when farmers need financial relief. Just now, I say, is a good time for farmers to realize how nicely a good sum for oats sold would fill up the necessities on the farm. To this it may be replied that the oats the past season have not paid for the expense of tillage, to say nothing of profit. And I might again reply they never do when they are as carelessly grown as during the past season. I have seen oats and wheat at the Experiment Station this season just as good as farmers could desire to have them. We must catch on to better methods, and we will have better results. Abandon the plan of scarifying some barren hills late in the spring, and scattering oats over them with the expectation of getting a crop. When we improve our plans, we will improve our bank accounts.

Farmers should grow more hay. It requires but little or no care. It improves the soil. It prevents washing, and covers a deal of unsightliness about the farm.

Hay would be in demand at this season. Car loads of it are being drawn through the streets of this city every day. Making hay is an easy way to make money. The methods for saving and handling are so much improved, that there is almost no manual labor connected with it. A few hundred dollars from sale of oats, and a few hundred more from sale of hay, would come in an opportune time on the farm just now.

How about sheep? Wool is always in demand at remunerative prices. Sheep cost but little in this latitude, and an occasional lamb goes well on the dinner table in the spring. Sheep have paid me as large dividends on the farm as any other industry I have tried. $50 or $100 from wool, added to a nice income from honey and poultry grown for market, would make excellent opportunities for farmers. This is the most favorable season to forecast the future in this line, as farmers are just now in condition to know how much pleasant relief a few hundred dollars would bring. Let us change our methods, and make more resources for money.—W. J. Northen in Southern Cultivator.

PLANTING ONIONS IN THE FALL.

If properly mulched before the weather gets too cold onions can be planted in the fall. One of the principal advantages in planting in the fall is that the work is done, the seed or sets have germinated, and when the season opens in the spring they are ready to start to grow. As earliness is necessary in growing a good crop of onions this is quite an item. The sooner onions are planted in the spring the better, and in many cases by planting in the fall they will get several days to grow earlier than if the planting was not done until spring. October is a good time to do the planting, although in a favorable season the planting may be done as late as November with good results.

To grow a good crop of onions, it is very necessary to have a strong, rich soil thoroughly prepared. It is difficult to have the soil too rich, and while it is best, when it can be done, to use well rotted and fine manure, yet when this cannot be done, fresh, coarse manure can be used. Poultry manure is a good fertilizer for onions. A good plan of applying is to prepare the soil all ready for the seeds or sets and then apply the poultry manure as a top dressing, working it into the surface with a a rake; or it can be applied broadcast after the planting is done.

Onions grow very near the surface, and whatever fertilizer is applied should be on or near the surface.

If the cultivation is to be done by hand, either with the hoe or garden cultivator, twelve or fifteen inches is about the right distance to mark out the rows; but if the horse cultivator is to be used, two or two and a half feet apart will be best.

Do not mark out the rows too deep. In nearly all cases shallow planting will give the best result. Press the soil down on the sets after covering so as to get a good start to grow. Before the weather gets too cold a good mulch should be applied. When it can be had fresh, coarse manure is a good material to use for this purpose. Wheat straw can be used; oat straw or hay should not be used, because as a rule they contain too many seeds.

The best time to apply the mulch is after there is a light freeze. By this plan onions can be grown for market several days earlier than if planting is delayed until spring, and in many cases a few days will make a considerable difference in the price.—St. Louis Republic.

POLITENESS AT HOME.—Politeness, a due and proper regard, that is, for the feelings, wishes and pleasures of other people, is the thing that, perhaps of all others, renders life the easiest and pleasantest; it is the oil that enables all the wheels of the complex machinery of social life to work satisfactorily. What a pity it is, then, that it should be disregarded, as it so frequently is, in domestic life, the place where, of all others, its softening influence is the most required. Many of the most bitter and irreparable disagreements in married life have arisen, not from any want of absolute affection, but from a carelessness on one side or the other, frequently on both, as to the manner in which subjects on which there may be a difference of opinion are remarked upon. It is almost impossible that two people can, even though they be husband and wife, think alike on every subject; the probabilities are that on many their opinions will be widely different. Why, however, should they not be as politely tolerant of each other's views in private as conventionality would force them to be in public. Men are the worst offenders, perhaps, because they care less for, and consequently think less of, the small courtesies of life than do women. Still, this reflection hardly consoles a woman, when she finds her husband punctilious in helping other women over the raised stile, while he leaves her to climb a five-barred gate unassisted; nor is she free from a certain mortification when she finds he considers it too much trouble to dress for dinner with her alone, or to vouchsafe an answer to a question should he have the newspaper in his hand.

☞ "It took me five years," said a married man, "to become convinced that the cheapest way for me to run my house was to give my wife so much money every month, to spend as she saw fit. I think that I have saved at least twenty-five per cent. by this plan. I never have any large bills coming in now at inopportune times, for my wife pays as she buys. My house is better equipped and better managed than it was under my old system, and furthermore my wife has a private bank account to which she adds a little every month. I would advise every man who has a practical wife to try the same scheme. It's an immense relief, not to speak of the saving."—New York Tribune.

Wayside Gatherings.

☞ Missouri has 23,000 square miles of coal fields.

☞ A gun is like a mule; when it is overloaded it kicks.

☞ There are 110,579 acres devoted to tobacco in Virginia.

☞ Is marriage a miss-take? Not when you marry a widow.

☞ Some insects are in a state of maturity 30 minutes after birth.

☞ Two mats owned by the Shah of Bareda are worth $2,500,000.

☞ During 1890 there were built in the United States 8,500 churches.

☞ A kind word will go farther and strike harder than a cannon ball.

☞ Tomorrow is the day on which idle men work and fools reform.

☞ The man who never praises his wife deserves to have a poor one.

☞ Cotton having a beautiful red color is being grown in some parts of Georgia.

☞ The great secret of success in life is to be ready when your opportunity comes.

☞ The hand that gives pleasure to a child does something that is noticed in heaven.

☞ Opinions founded on prejudice are always sustained with the greatest violence.

☞ Economy is no disgrace; it is better living on a little than outliving a great deal.

☞ That is a frank notice which a shopkeeper displays: "Goods at cost, and more too."

☞ There are in the United States 200,049.79 miles of railroad track of all descriptions.

☞ It takes 1,000 barrels of water to irrigate an acre of land properly in a "dry spell."

☞ Ladies seldom hit the nail on the head; they are more apt to hit the nail on the finger.

☞ The new 6-inch guns built by the government throw a shot half a mile in one second.

☞ It is estimated that at least 1,000,000 pounds of rubber are annually used for bicycle tires.

☞ It is not what a man doubts, but what he believes, that is an index of his mental strength.

☞ There is plenty of room at the top. The baldheaded man is no exception to the general rule.

☞ Women go further in love than most men do; but men go further in friendship than women.

☞ To dare is great. To bear is greater. Bravery we share with the brutes; fortitude with the saints.

☞ There are 700 Americans residing in the City of Mexico, some of whom own the houses they occupy.

☞ Some people will never learn anything; for this reason, because they understand everything too soon.

☞ Many a man who has had the key to the situation has lost it because he was not in condition to discover the key hole.

☞ Make others to see Christ in your moving, doing, speaking and thinking. Your actions will speak of him, if he be in you.

☞ Two-thirds of the applicants for admission to West Point and Annapolis are rejected because of the cigarette habit and its results.

☞ We are exact in counting the tribulations which afflict us; are we equally so in counting the sins which drew them upon us?

☞ When families have to mortgage their houses to keep up with the procession, it may well be asked if the game is worth the candle.

☞ Turkey red is made from the madder plant which grows in Hindustan. It is probable that the madder it gets the redder it becomes.

☞ The five States of Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, Nebraska and Missouri produce fully one-half of the corn crop of the United States.

☞ There are said to be over 23,000 Indians in the United States who can read English, and over 10,000 who can read Indian languages.

☞ A convict out in Ohio, in giving his wife a parting kiss, slipped into her mouth a note telling her where some of his booty was hidden.

☞ There is one advantage in building castles in the air which does not obtain in other forms of building. There is no architect's bill to pay.

☞ For stings or bites from any kind of insect apply dampened salt bound tightly over the spot. It will relieve and usually cure quickly.

☞ He (seriously)—"Do you think your father would object to my marrying you?" She—"I don't know. If he's anything like me he would."

☞ You will never see God's face through your sins. You must throw down your sins and look over them if you would see the smiles of mercy.

☞ On being asked what a nephew is, a little Boston schoolgirl replied. "It is when your niece is a boy," a statement which it would be hard to controvert.

☞ It is stated that rats, mice, insects, mold and decay destroy at least 10 per cent. of the corn crop, or 150,000,000 bushels of corn, worth $40,000,000, yearly.

☞ The census men found in the United States 14,056,750 horses, 2,296,532 mules, 16,019,591 cows, 36,875,648 oxen and cattle, 43,431,136 sheep, 50,625,106 swine.

☞ All pleasure must be bought at the price of pain. The difference between false pleasure and true is just this—for the true the price is paid before you enjoy it; for the false after you enjoy it.

☞ "The mewl," wrote a school-boy, "is a larger bird than the guse or turkey. It has two legs to walk with and 2 more to kick with, and it wears its wings on the side of its head. It is stubbornly backward about going forward."

☞ "No, Bobby," said his mother, "one piece of pie is quite enough for you." "It's funny," responded Bobby, with an injured air. "You say you are anxious for me to learn to eat properly, and yet you won't even give me a chance to practice."

☞ In a bad fix: "You don't seem to have any barometer about the house. Haven't you always had one?" "Yes; but pa got cured of his rheumatism last fall, and since then we haven't known any more about the weather than the signal-service bureau."

☞ Steam pipes have been made in England from the ramie fiber. This material is subjected to tremendous hydraulic pressure and, having the property of being unaffected with moisture, will neither shrink nor swell, besides being a nonconductor of heat. The pipes are said to have a tensile strength twice that of steel pipes.

☞ A great many people are of the opinion that battles are generally followed by rain. It may surprise them, therefore, to be told that a distinguished writer in Science proves that out of the 2,200 battles of the war between the States, only 158 were followed by any rain at all, and that often was but little more than a shower.

☞ Among the subjects under discussion at the Geographical congress held at Berne is the production by international co-operation, or otherwise, of a complete map of the world on a scale of about sixteen miles to the inch. This map, if printed on sheets of the size of an ordinary atlas, would require more than 3000 such sheets to represent completely the land and sea surface of the globe.

☞ The Milan museum has recently come into the possession of a remarkable clock. This unique timepiece is made entirely of bread crumbs. A poor Italian workman made it. Every day he set apart a portion of his modest meal in order to carry out his curious project. The bread crumbs saved by him he hardened by the addition of salt, and at last his tedius task is completed.

☞ An English merchant and banker named Graham formulated about 300 years ago what is known as the Gresham Law of Finance, which is: "That if two sorts of money, one inferior in intrinsic or representative value to the other, but both invested by statute with the same purchasing power, be permitted to circulate side by side, the inferior will ultimately drive out the superior."

☞ The Maine coast dwellers have peculiar remedies of their own for all sorts of diseases, and among them that prescribed as a sure cure for cancer by an ancient mariner of Harpswell is the queerest. This old salt declares that a poultice made from a piece of the belly of a No. 2 mackerel will draw any cancer out by the roots. A No. 1 mackerel, he says, is too fat, and a No. 3 not fat enough.

Miscellaneous Reading.

MACADAM ROADS.

The System by Which the Highways of York Can be Transformed.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

Old John Macadam was one of the greatest benefactors the farmers of England ever had. He found the highways of Great Britain in a bad condition, and spent the best part of his life trying to improve them. He succeeded in transforming almost the whole of the immense mileage of country roads, and his system is now in operation, not only in England, but throughout a part of the continent of Europe.

The Constitution presents below a description of the Macadam system, as he has seen it in operation in England, and it will be seen, from what he says, that good and permanent roads may be made at moderate cost. Mr. J. Forsyth Johnson, who furnishes the description, is a landscape engineer and garden architect, who was formerly curator of the royal botanic garden at Belfast and horticultural director of the Alexandria palace, London. Here is his article:

MACADAM'S METHOD OF MAKING ROADS.

The quality and permanency of a road depend to a great extent upon the way in which it is made at first, but we are afraid that road making is almost a lost or little understood art. Agents, gardeners and others may often succeed, after much labor and experience, in constructing a tolerably good "permanent way," but it is not every one who understands how to set about it at the beginning, or the first principles of road making. Let us take an example or two of many that could be furnished. A gentleman who has spent thousands of pounds on his parks and estates, among other improvements, laid out some miles of new roads. These were cut out in the ordinary way, and then filled in higgledy-piggledy five inch or six inch deep, with water-worn gravel, fine and rough together, which never settled into a crust, but worked constantly to the surface, leaving the road in a continually uncomfortable state for both wheel and foot traffic. In the other case the road-metal used was of the wrong description, being too soft, and it was laid upon the road before the bottom was settled uniformly, which resulted in the road becoming uneven and full of hollows which had to be filled up afterwards, making the surface appear, if anything, more patchy and uneven than it did before. Eventually the roads were hacked up again after a few years and macadamized properly under the superintendence of one who understood the work, and from that day to this—nigh twenty years ago—they have required no attention save occasional hoeing at the sides and sweeping with a broom. After the heaviest rains or prolonged wet weather, they are soon dry and comfortable, the water disappearing from the surface immediately, and at ordinary times are as smooth as a pavement.

Macadam demonstrated long ago that by his system roads can be made both cheaply and well, if his instructions be carried out as they should be, and perhaps we could not do better than to quote them here. He says: "For the foundation of a road it is not necessary to lay a substratum of large stones, pavement, etc., as it is a matter of indifference whether the substratum be hard or soft; and if any preference be due, it is to the latter. The metal for roads must consist of broken stones (granite, flint or whinstone is by far the best); these must in no case exceed six ounces each in weight, and stones of from one ounce to two ounces are all to be preferred. The large stones in the road are to be loosened and removed to the side, where they are to be broken into pieces of the regulation weight; and the road is then to be smoothed with a rake, so that the earth may settle down into the holes from which the large stones were removed; the broken metal is then to be carefully spread over it, and as this operation is of great importance to the future quality of the road, the metal is not to be laid on in shovelfuls to the requisite depth, but to be scattered in shovelful after shovelful till a depth of from six to ten inches, according to the quality of the road, has been obtained. The road is to have a fall, from the middle to the sides, of about one foot in sixty feet, and ditches are to be dug on the field side of the fences to a depth of a few inches below the level of the road."

Now, Macadam whose system has superseded nearly every other in this and continental countries, speaks of ordinary country roads calculated to sustain heavy traffic and the greatest depth of metal recommended is ten inches. For carriage drives and park roads half that depth is often considered sufficient, and we can state that, if the directions here be followed out particularly as regards leveling the bottom of the road and allowing it to settle, and the spreading of the metal five inches or six inches is sufficient; and for this depth of stones it is not necessary to dig out the road deeply, nor to remove much more than the turf, in fact; this will allow the road to be a little higher in the middle than the ground at the sides which will permit the water more readily to run off. Macadam's object was not to allow the water to drain through amongst the stones and settle in the bottom to make a puddle of the soft soil beneath, but to make a hard and impermeable crust that would throw the water off at the sides.

More depends, it may be said, upon the making of the road than upon the quantity of material used, and the most essential points are a level and well-settled bottom and the regular spread of the stones. Thin macadamized roads have been made over peat bogs, and they stood, and we have seen carriage roads laid with only four inches of stones on a loam bottom that had not budged after years of traffic. It may be added that it is not necesary for the whole of the road to be of hard stone, such as whinstone, if it be not easily procured. Soft stones, or even broken brick will do for the purpose; but these must be laid in the bottom, and the top layer must consist of hard stones, which should be broken small, and the finest saved for spreading on the surface as binding material. Above all, it is essential that the stones should be angular in shape, and for this reason they must be broken. Some use sifted water-worn stones or gravel, but such material shifts under the traffic and then the crown of the road gives way.

MEN GROWING SCARCE.

Statistics show that the male population of the civilized world is falling further and further behind the female.

According to the last British census the excess of women and girls over men and boys in Great Britain is about 900,000, an increase in ten years of nearly 200,000. The German census of last December places the number of females about 600,000 above that of the males in the kingdom of Prussia, or nearly three times the excess of twenty years ago. There are more females than males in the whole German empire. In Sweden and Norway the "weaker sex" are in the majority by 250,000, in Austria-Hungary by 600,000, in Denmark by 60,000, and in every European country they outnumber the males.

In the United States, Canada and Australia the males are in the majority, though not largely so, the estimated excess of males in this country being only 1,100,000 or 1,200,000. It is plain that, but for immigration, which furnishes a much greater number of men than women, the latter would soon be in the majority here. There is a large preponderance now of females in New England and in some other sections of the United States, and if immigration were to materially decrease, undoubtedly the surplus of males would soon disappear in the whole country.

In less civilized countries, where women are lightly esteemed, it is otherwise, India having about 6,000,000 more men than women, while the males largely preponderate in China. The obvious deduction is that the higher civilization is most favorable to the increase of the female sex, and this suggests the interesting question whether civilization is doing the best thing in the world in producing this sult.

A fact of hardly less interest brought out by the British census is the marked decline in the marriage rate, which has been almost steadily tending downward for nearly two decades. Meantime there has been an even more decided decline in the birthrate, so that not not only is marriage decreasing, but marriages are becoming less prolific on the average. There is the same tendency in this country, prevailing chiefly among the better classes. An excess of females in a country is certain to have an unfavorable influence on the marriage rate, and the moral consequences of such a state of affairs can easily be conceived.

☞ It costs something to live, and a good deal to die; in fact, everything costs, says a bright exchange. Some one estimates that getting born costs the people of the United States $250,000,000 annually; getting married, $300,000,000 dollars; and getting buried, $75,000,000. It might be added that getting drunk costs the people of the United States more than $900,000,000 annually, or over one and a half times as much as getting born, married and buried put together, and more than all the bread and meat consumed in the nation.

FASTEST POSSIBLE RAILROD TIME.—Many questions have been asked concerning the highest possible speed that we may ever expect to attain by a railway locomotive. An English magazine, The Engineer, submits statements to prove that eighty miles an hour is the highest possible speed, giving the following arguments to prove its point:

Because no greater velocity has ever been attained.

Because of the resistance of the air

Because of the back pressure in the cylinders.

Because of the amount of power which must be lost in imparting violent motion to masses of metal which can make no return when coming to rest.

Because of the swinging of the engine; the excessive vibrations of its parts, the jar and concussion all operating to keep down the speed.

Because of the extraordinary retarding influence of very moderate rising gradients.

Because of the coupling-rod—it appears that coupling an engine tends to keep down the speed.

An eminent American authority, in reviewing the Englishman's arguments as above given, says: "This scarcely settles the matter. There is not a defect in the mechanism which may not possibly be improved. The whole question depends on the resistance of air and of friction. The resistance of mechanical friction does not increase with the speed, but with the load drawn. With accessions of motive power this resistance may be neutralized and the velocity increased. With a smooth, solid and stable trackway and improved mechanism there appears to be no reason why trains may not attain a speed of 100 miles an hour.

STONEWALL JACKSON'S NERVE.—Since the unveiling of Stonewall Jackson's statue this story about the Confederate general has come to light: On one rainy day, while advancing on Rull Run, he started out to reconoiter in person, and got caught on the wrong side of a bridge guarded by a field piece and some Federal artillerymen. When he discovered this Jackson did not hesitate a moment. Galloping up behind the men he shouted out to the officer in command: "Who directed you to put that gun on the road? Take it away and mount it in the woods on the hill yonder. I never saw such a piece of folly. Here in the open ground your men will be shot down from the brush on the other side." On he went as though in a terrible passion, berating the officer, who colored, saluted, apologized and hastily gave the order for removing the gun.

Jackson, with his staff at his heels, galloped off to the left, as though to pass down the stream, made a sudden turn, thundered across the bridge and escaped. The befuddled officer in command of the gun had not gone far when he suspected something wrong but he did not discover who the stranger was until next day.—Chicago Post.

ROYAL

BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure.

A cream of tartar baking powder. Highest of all in leavening strength.—Latest U. S. Government Food Report.

Children Cry

for PITCHER'S

CASTORIA

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D., 111 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I use Castoria in my practice, and find it specially adapted to affections of children." ALEX. ROBERTSON, M. D., 1057 2d Ave., New York.

"From personal knowledge I can say that Castoria is a most excellent medicine for children." DR. G. C. OSGOOD, Lowell, Mass.

Castoria promotes Digestion, and overcomes Flatulency, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhœa, and Feverishness. Thus the child is rendered healthy and its sleep **natural. Castoria** contains no Morphine or other narcotic property.

December 23 1yto 51Dec. 23, '91

"MOTHERS' FRIEND"

To Young Mothers

Makes Child Birth Easy. Shortens Labor, Lessens Pain,

Endorsed by the Leading Physicians.

Book to "Mothers" mailed FREE.

BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO. ATLANTA, GA.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

March 25 7 eomly

TO TILLMANITES, ANTI-TILLMANITES

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ANY OTHER MAN!

I RISE TO SAY THAT YOUR UNCLE MILES will sell you a

BETTER SADDLE OR SET OF HARNESS

FOR LESS MONEY than any man that ever trod the earth. M. JOHNSON, Commonly called Uncle Miles, Rock Hill, S. C.

September 30 34 2m

EXCHANGE BANK,

Yorkville S. C.

T. S. JEFFERYS,.....President.
JOS. F. WALLACE,.....Vice-President.
FRANK A. GILBERT,.....Cashier.

Organized September 1, 1887.

THE BANK will receive Deposits, buy and sell Exchange, make Loans and do a general Banking Business.

The officers tender their courteous services to its patrons and the public generally.

☞ Banking hours from 9 A. M. to 5. P. M.

January 7, 1890. 48 tf

UNDERTAKING.

I AM handling a first class line of COFFINS AND CASKETS which I will sell at the very lowest prices. Personal attention at all hours.

I am prepared to repair all kinds of Furniture atreasonable prices.

J. ED JEFFERYS.

JOB PRINTING.

THE ENQUIRER OFFICE being now supplied with a SPLENDID OUTFIT OF MODERN JOB PRESSES and TYPE OF THE LATEST STYLES, all JOB PRINTING usually required in this section, will be executed in the BEST MANNER and at FAIR PRICES for the material used and the character of the work done.

D. E. FINLEY. J. S. BRICE.

FINLEY & BRICE,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

Yorkville, S. C.

ALL business entrusted to us will be given prompt attention.

OFFICE IN THE BUILDING AT THE REAR OF M. & H. C. STRAUSS'S STORE.

January 7 1 tf

THE MAN WITH A THUMB

IS THE TITLE OF

Our New Story, to be Commenced in THE ENQUIRER, with the Issue of November 21st, 1891.

THE MAN WITH A THUMB, is a detective story of absorbing interest, filled with THRILLING AND DRAMATIC INCIDENTS OF AMERICAN LIFE in the great metropolis, and is from the facile pen of W. C. Hudson, whose *nom de plume* is Barclay North, the author of *The Diamond Button*, which was published in THE ENQUIRER and which created such widespread interest only a few months ago.

This story is based on facts and is true to life, and it reveals secrets which are locked up in the hearts of numbers of people. W. C. Hudson *writes no poor stories and "The Man With a Thumb," is the best that he has ever written!*

The story is narrated in pure expressive English without a waste of words, and is decidedly a better story than "The Diamond Button." The plot is even more ingenious and is developed with greater skill and nicety. Two profound mysteries are intricately interwoven, and it takes twenty-three chapters of expert detective work to unravel them. The characters are strongly drawn from life, and the incidents, while thrilling and sometimes startling, are perfectly natural and altogether probable. The movements of the characters are rapid and continuous and THE INTEREST NEVER FLAGS! *Every sentence tends to the development of the drama!* There is no wandering by the wayside—no groping for the thisness of the thus. The denouement is a happy and appropriate one, but the astute reader finds his preconceived judgment ruthlessly shattered. He is deprived of the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so!" There is no forestalling Mr. Hudson.

Probably one of the greatest charms of Charles Dickens's novels was the realistic description of places. His characters were living beings and he shows you the scenes where they lived and moved. "THE MAN WITH A THUMB" possesses this same fascinating trait. You may trace the characters through the streets of New York to the very houses where the principal scenes of the drama were enacted.

WATCH FOR THE OPENING CHAPTERS, which will be commenced next week. Read the first installment and you will follow it to the finis.

Again, The Man With a Thumb is Copyrighted and Illustrated, and withal is a story of remarkable power.

TAX NOTICE 1890-'91.

OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER,

YORKVILLE, S. C., September 15, 1891.

IN accordance with law, my books will be open ON THE 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1891, for the collection of STATE, COUNTY AND SPECIAL TAXES, for the fiscal year beginning November 1st, 1890, and will be kept open UNTIL THE 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1891.

For the accommodation of tax-payers, I will attend at the following places on the days named:

At Yorkville, Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th days of October, 1891.

At Antioch, Bethesda township, on Monday, 19th day of October, 1891.

At Tirzah, on Tuesday, the 20th day of October, 1891.

At Newport, on Wednesday, the 21st day of October, 1891.

At Clay Hill, on Thursday, the 22nd day of October, 1891.

At Thompson's Mill, on Friday, the 23rd day of October, 1891.

At Bethel, on Saturday, the 24th day of October, 1891.

At Sharon, on Monday, the 26th day of October, 1891.

At Hickory Grove, on Tuesday, the 27th day of October, 1891.

At Clark's Fork, on Wednesday, the 28th day of October, 1891.

At Bethany, on Thursday, the 29th day of October, 1891.

At Clover, on Friday, the 30th, and Saturday, the 31st days of October, 1891.

At Yorkville, from Monday, the 2nd day of November, until Monday, the 9th day of November, 1891.

At Buffalo, on Tuesday, the 10th day of November, 1891.

At Grover, on Wednesday, the 11th day of November, 1891.

At Blacksburg, on Thursday, the 12th, and Friday, the 13th days of November, 1891.

At Yorkville, on Saturday, the 14th, and on Monday until 12 M., the 16th day of Novembember, 1891.

At Coates's Tavern, on Monday, the 16th, from 3 o'clock P. M., until 12 M, on Tuesday, the 17th day of November, 1891.

At Fort Mill, on Wednesday, the 18th, and Thursday, the 19th days of November, 1891.

At Rock Hill, from Friday, the 20th, until Thursday, the 26th day of November, 1891.

At McConnellsville, on Friday, the 27th day of November, 1891.

At J. W. Carroll's, on Saturday, the 28th day November, 1891.

At Yorkville, from the 30th day of November, until the 15th day of December, 1891, inclusive, after which day the books will be closed and the 15 per cent. penalty will attach.

H. A. D. NEELY, County Treasurer.

September 16 32 tf

LIVERY AND FEED STABLES.

I WOULD respectfully announce to my old friends and the traveling public that I have returned to Yorkville, and in the future will give my personal attention to the LIVERY AND FEED STABLES so long conducted by me. Determined to merit public patronage, I hope to receive a share of the same.

MY OMNIBUS

Is still on the street, ready to convey passengers to all departing trains, or from the trains to any part of town.

FOR FUNERALS.

I have an elegant HEARSE and also a CLARENCE COACH which will be sent to any part of the county at short notice. Prices reasonable.

Buggies and other Vehicles

On hand for sale. Bargains in either new or second-hand vehicles.

HAVE YOUR HORSES FED

At the Yorkville Livery and Feed Stables where they will receive the best attention.

F. E. SMITH.

PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY.

THOROUGHLY fitted up with new backgrounds, accessories, &c., and with a fine sky-light, I am prepared to take a picture in any style of the art, as well executed as can be done elsewhere.

CHILDREN'S PICTURES A SPECIALTY.

By the dry plate process I can take them instantly; makes no difference about fair or cloudy weather.

I do all my own printing and finishing, and there is very little delay in delivery.

ENLARGED WORK.

Pictures copied and enlarged and finished in the highest style to be had, and prices reasonable.

Give me a call and see specimens of work, at my Gallery on West Liberty street, near the jail.

J. R. SCHORB.

January 21 50 tf

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OFFERS his professional services to the people of BLACKSBURG AND SURROUNDING COUNTRY. Work promptly and neatly done. Office over Whisonant Brothers's store.

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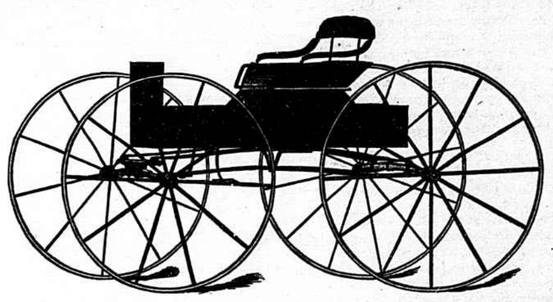

As a Premium for the Largest Club of NEW Subscribers to the YORKVILLE ENQUIRER.

LAST year, by an arrangement with the HOLLER & ANDERSON BUGGY CO., of Rock Hill, S. C., we were enabled to offer one of their popular No. 2 Road Carts as a premium to club makers. We are pleased to announce that this year we are enabled, by an arrangement with the same company, to surpass all previous efforts. In fact we don't believe that greater inducements have ever been offered to club makers by any county newspaper in the South than we are prepared to offer, and we think the above assertion will be endorsed by the friends and readers of THE ENQUIRER after reading our prospectus for 1892, which will appear next week.

We Want to Tell You Something

About the Holler & Anderson Buggy Co. It is composed of thoroughly reliable men and they are entirely familiar with their business. They have only been manufacturing for the wholesale trade for about four or five