

Great December Clearance Sale.

\$10,000 \$10,000

Stock to be sold this month regardless of Cost Prices to suit the hard times. Nothing will be held back or for fancy price, but we propose to sell out our entire stock.

We Need the Money, You Need the Goods.

We must have the money and you cannot go without Clothes and Shoes.

REMEMBER,

We have no goods to give away and to pay you to haul them off, but we have a

\$10,000 Stock

of nice, clean, new, desirable goods to be sold out during this month, and if you will come and see us before you buy, we will sell you what you want.

J. L. McLEOD

THE RELIANCE LIFE INSURANCE CO.,

PITTSBURG, PENN.

Has complied with the State laws of 44 different States, confines its operation to the United States. Issues every conceivable form of insurance and has a number of attractive features that have never been embodied in any other contract.

Is the Only Company that Issues the Famous Self-Sustaining Policy.

1st. It provides for cash loans; 2d. Cash values; 3d. Incontestable after one year; 4th. Paid up values; 5th. Thirty days' grace after the first premium is paid; 6th. Extended values; 7th. The paid up values participate in dividends; 8th. It has a

Total and Permanent Disability Clause.

That is if the insured becomes totally disabled by disease or accident the premium ceases and the policy is automatically paid up for face value, the privilege and benefit remaining the same as if the premiums had been regularly paid by the insured. 9th. It also provides that if the policy-holder should make ten payments on the 20-payment plan and cease paying premiums the company will pay his estate \$1,000 for every \$1,000 applied for should the insured death occur during the second 10-year period and will not deduct a single premium from the face of the policy. 10th. Should the insured continue to pay his premiums during the second 10-year period and if death should occur during the second 10 years the company will pay every premium to the face of the policy that has been paid during this period and pay it in cash plus the face of the policy. 11th. This policy can only be obtained from

Reliance Life of Pittsburg,

the company having the LARGEST ORIGINAL SURPLUS to policy-holders of any COMPANY IN THE WORLD—A SURPLUS OVER THE RESERVE AND ALL OTHER LIABILITIES OF OVER ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Its Board of Directors is composed of recognized financial ability and business integrity. It is offered by practical and experienced insurance men. The right man can secure a position by applying to

JAMES H. REED, President

Reliance Life Insurance Co.,

Pittsburg, Penn.

WE ARE

daily receiving additions to our stock, and it is our intention to bring the brightest and most attractive goods to be had for the money, no matter where we may have to get them. We want to call your attention to our fine stock of staple

CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, TINWARE, AND AGATEWARE.

We have everything in open stock, no need to buy sets, you can get one piece or as many pieces as you want at the very lowest possible price. Our continued sales of

COOK STOVES AND RANGES

is an evidence of the splendid value we are giving in these goods. The excellent cooking qualities of the O. K. Stove or Range, their handsome and massive appearance, their elegant proportions of their make-up, the favorable impression made by them as compared with other stoves all go towards helping us make sales. Anyone with a critical eye can readily judge when they once see our O. K. Prince Stove at \$12.50, or our O. K. Duke at \$15.50. Why they are so popular we will appreciate a call from any housekeeper who has never seen these stoves and will take pleasure in showing where they so far exceed others.

FARMERS:

Don't forget to harvest your hay crop this year the first favorable weather. If you have not got a Mower come and see us at once, we have Mowers and Rakes that do the work anywhere that machinery can be used, and often where others have failed.

SYRACUSE TWO-HORSE PLOWS.

We have all sizes of these well-known and popular plows.

AMERICAN FIELD FENCING.

We have a large stock of this well-known fencing. Let us figure and show you how cheaply you can fence your pasture or farm and raise cattle and make money while you sleep.

Very truly yours,

Why the Indians Masked.

"Among the North American Indians the origin of the use of masks," says a writer, "in the desire to conceal the emotions. Thus should two warriors meet in combat the mask conceals any expression, whether of sympathy, fear or other emotion. For instance, the knowledge that fear was depicted on one's face and that his antagonist knew it would very possibly insure the defeat of the one whose feelings were betrayed to the other. So in religious ceremonies the orator wears a mask that he may speak his inspired words without interference or embarrassment, either of which might arise were his personality not thus veiled. He must not be overawed by anything, a condition which might ensue if he were recognized by friends, relatives or enemies, who might scoff at him. When masked the orator's duty is merely to listen to the orator's duty which comes without effort through the medium of the spirit. And since this inspiration might seize any of the tribe at such times all come masked."

If Men Were Insects.

Out of every five animals in the animal kingdom four are insects, of which there are 200,000 species. In a human world of that sort for every significant man there would be four pygmies and of the pygmies 200,000 distinct races. These pygmies would be made up of a head, a middle body and a hind body, each of which would be composed of hard, shell-like rings, and because their bodies were thus divided or insected they might be called insects. Their legs would grow out of either the middle body or the hind body. They would breathe through holes in the middle body and eat, drink, see, smell, with all kinds of apparatus made for the purpose in various and often widely separated parts of the body. If some of these pygmies were young, weighed a pound and ate like a silkworm, they would in two months devour forty-five tons of food. It is scarcely remarkable, therefore, what millions of grasshoppers will do to a cornfield or grassy meadow to an apple orchard.

Polished and Vigorous.

Observing a passenger with the unlighted butt of a cigar in his fingers, the street car conductor requested him to put it out.

"It is out, you chump," responded the passenger.

"Pardon me," resumed the conductor, "if I have failed to make myself clear. The condition to which I had reference was not one of mere temporary forgetfulness, but of elimination of the eradication, I might say, of the physical presence of your nicotine laden remnant, this process followed necessarily by cessation of the odor now permeating an atmosphere already somewhat deficient, I fear, in the essential element of ozone. I'm a humble conductor, and my aim is to please; but, you big porcine stiff, you throw that cigar through the door or I'll throw you and it both. See?"

"Excuse me, professor," replied the passenger meekly, and the incident was closed.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Newborn and the Dead.

Lavater in his "Physiognomy" makes the following curious remarks: "I have had occasion to observe some infants immediately on their births and have found an astonishing resemblance between their profile and those of their father. A few days after this resemblance almost entirely disappeared. The influence of the air and food and probably the change of posture has so altered the design of the face that you can hardly believe it to be different individuals. I afterward saw two of these children die, one at six weeks and the other at four years of age, and about twelve hours after their death they immediately recovered the profile which had struck me so much at their birth, only the profile of the dead child was, as might be expected, more strongly marked and more terse than that of the living."

Spider Chased a Man.

A story is told by an explorer of a large and fierce South American spider which chases men if they come too near its lurking places. On one occasion he was pursued by one. "Riding at an easy trot over the dry grass," he writes, "I observed a spider pursuing me leaping swiftly along and keeping up with my beast. I aimed a blow with my whip, and the point of the lash struck the ground close to it, when it instantly leaped upon and ran up the whip which was actually within three or four inches of my hand when I flung the whip from me."—London Standard.

Arranging Chrysanthemums.

In the arrangement of chrysanthemums the Japanese guard against certain faults. Their stems must not be of the same length, a single flower must not turn its back or present its full face, the flowers must not be hidden by leaves, or, should they be arranged in the way of steps, a full blown flower should never be placed at the base of the composition, and one odd one must not be allowed to fall between two others alike in color. Three flowers should not appear to form a triangle.

Intending.

"My husband is a brute," said the excitable woman.

"Have you been scolding him?"

"Of course I have."

"Ah, I suppose he talked back and used harsh language."

"Worse than that! He yawned!"

Fiction.

Little Bess—What's the action, Jack?

Small Jack—Pa says it's a story that ends by saying "they married and lived happily ever after."

An unbridled tongue is the worst of diseases.—Euripides.

How Avoid Pneumonia.

You can avoid pneumonia and other serious results from a cold by taking Foley's Honey and Tar. It stops the cough and expels a cold from the system as it is a mild laxative. Refuse any but the genuine in the yellow package. The Arant Drug Co.

Her Intense Sorrow.

He—I called to see you last evening and the servant told me you were not in. She—Yes; I was sorry to have missed you. He—I thought you must be; I heard you laughing upstairs in such grief stricken tones that I almost wept myself out of sympathy.

The Obstinate Cook.

Father—Cooking schools are of some use after all. This cake is delicious. Daughter—Is it? I thought it would be a terrible failure. Father—Why? Daughter—I told the cook exactly how to make it, and she went and made it some other way.

Which Was Shot?

There was a duel between two who was a United States senator and in his day enjoyed the usual senatorial fame—a fame which perishes whether it spring from four years' service or forty. After Jere Clemens' fame as a senator passed away he was still remembered for many years on account of another service which he performed. He shot old John Brown's Governor Wise in the hind leg in a duel. However, I am not very clear about this. It may be that Governor Wise shot him in the hind leg. However, I don't think it is important. I think that the only thing that is really important is that one of them got shot in the hind leg. It would have been better and nobler and more historical and satisfactory if both of them had got shot in the hind leg. But it is of no use for me to try to recall history. I never had a historical mind. Let it go. Whichever way happened, I am glad of it, and that, as much enthusiasm as I can get up for a person bearing my name. But I am forgetting the first Clemens, the one that stands farthest back toward the really original first Clemens, which was Adam.—From Mark Twain's Autobiography in North American Review.

The Great Composers.

At what age did the great composers write their masterpieces? This question is answered in the London Musical Times. The following table gives the composer's name, his recognized masterpiece, the age at which it was composed and the composer's age at death:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------|----|
| Bach..... | Mass in H. m. | 48-55 | 65 |
| Handel..... | Messiah | 62-74 | 74 |
| Haydn..... | Creation | 65-77 | 77 |
| Mozart..... | Don Giovanni | 31-35 | 35 |
| Beethoven..... | Cello Symphony..... | 25-33 | 55 |
| Weber..... | Fischer's | 20-23 | 39 |
| Schubert..... | Cello Symphony..... | 27-33 | 33 |
| Mendelssohn..... | Elijah | 37-38 | 48 |
| Schumann..... | Piano concert | 31-35 | 46 |
| Wagner..... | Meistersinger | 48-54 | 69 |
| Brahms..... | D. Requiem | 42-55 | 63 |

This goes to show that composers between thirty and forty created the greatest masterpieces. Yet the composers above forty should not despair, seeing that Bach composed his mass in H. m. at the age of forty-eight, Wagner his "Meistersinger" when fifty, Handel his "Messiah" when fifty-six and Haydn his "Creation" when sixty-five years of age.

A Turkish Joke.

A certain sultan of Turkey was very fond of gossip and sent for the banker, Abraham Beg, to learn the small talk of Pera and Stamboul. As Abraham was being conducted to the sultan's residence by the master of the household, the latter begged him to subject to say that the funds were at 30, his majesty having been so informed by his ministers.

Poor Abraham consented. He had not been long with Abdul Aziz when he was questioned as to the funds and replied as he had promised.

To the horror of the banker, the sultan expressed himself delighted and handed Abraham a large bundle of bonds to sell for him.

Abraham sold at 12 and paid Abdul Aziz 30. The sultan had originated that little "joke."

Courts of Love.

"Courts of love" were established in the middle ages, when chivalry was at its height, and the serious occupation of life among the higher class of society. The first "court of love" was established in the south of France in the twelfth century and was composed of knights, poets and ladies, and their decisions on subtle questions connected with affairs of the heart were given with great formality.

Spoiled Pleasure.

Mrs. Meyer—What's the trouble, Mrs. Schulz? You are in bad humor this morning.

Mrs. Schulz—You see, my husband stayed at the club every night last week until after midnight. Last night I sat up and determined to give him a certain lecture when he got in late, and what do you think? The fool came home at 9 o'clock!—Fliegende Blatter.

In the Eighteenth Century.

Women needed to be admonished regarding certain details of good manners in the eighteenth century quite as much as today. At the Handel festival at Westminster in 1750 a notice was posted reading, "No ladies will be admitted with hats, and they are particularly requested to come without feathers and very small hoops, if any."

Hence the Tears.

"It is strange how some people cry at weddings."

"Yes, but you've probably noticed that it's never the single people who cry."

"Well?"

"Well, it is only the married ones who realize the tragedy of it."—Houston Post.

A Cynic.

In the "Cynic's Word Book" Ambrose Bierce, himself a cynic, gives the following definition of a cynic: "A blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they ought to be; hence the custom among the Scythians of plucking out a cynic's eyes to improve his vision."

Safe to Love Them Then.

"I like dear little babies before they have learned to talk, don't you, Mr. Smythe?"

"Indeed I do! Before they have learned to talk there is no danger of their parents telling you the remarkable things they have said."—Stray Stories.

Two Poor Gens.

During one of Edwin Forrest's engagements in Boston a poor artist called several times to see the great actor at the old Winter House. Each time he brought a picture which he had painted. He finally left it with a note stating that he was in needy circumstances. Forrest read the note and took the wrapping from the picture. It proved to be a painting of himself as Spartacus. Forrest gazed upon it a moment and then ejaculated to the clerk: "Give him \$10. If he is as poor as his picture, he must be on the point of starvation."

"Uncle Billy's Favorite Blend" of Selected Moyune, Ceylon and Gunpowder

TEA

IS THE BEST ARTICLE AT THE PRICE EVER OFFERED OUR PATRONS.

By a special arrangement we have purchased a fine stock of the above excellent varieties and through scientific blending we are enabled to offer a superior article of tea at

Only 50c. Per Pound.

We have it in two distinct blends—one for iced and the other for drinking hot. Enough said. A trial will do the rest.

YOU'LL FIND IT AT

The Manning Grocery Co.,

Purveyors of Palate Ticklers.

SANITATION.

S. L. KRASNOFF, Undertaker, L. W. COX, Funeral Director.

Open day and night to meet the demands of the needy. Our Undertaking Establishment is complete in every respect. We carry Coffins from \$2.00 to \$25.00; Caskets from \$10.00 to \$30.00, finished and draped in the most artistic manner. We have Hearses for both white and colored people.

Residences, halls, rooms and contents disinfected by the most approved methods of modern science, destroying all contagious and infectious germs of every nature.

Respectfully,
S. L. Krasnoff.

Manning, S. C.

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in stock the best assorted lot of

BUGGIES

ever brought to this market, from \$45. up to \$85., and feel assured we can please anyone who wants a good, comfortable Buggy. We have also

PHEATONS

two seats, for one or two horses; also the best lot of we have ever handled before. The

PIEDMONT WAGONS

is a leader with us. We have a large lot on hand, and will guarantee satisfaction to those who place their trade with us. We have passed now into our seventh year, and to see small periods like the past before we quit the trade with the people of Clarendon and adjoining counties.

W. P. HAWKINS & COMPANY.

Headquarters for Paints and Oils.

WE INVITE

the public generally to come to Sumter and look in on our tremendous stock of Hardware of all kinds, tools of every description. When you need anything in the Machinery supply line, we can furnish just what you want.

We handle the best Beltings in the country.

Our Paint and Oil Departments are full. Try our famous Japalac.

Farmers, you can save money by buying your Wire Fencing from us.

We are headquarters for all kinds of Sporting Goods, and we can beat them all in Harness and Saddles.

Ladies, buy your new Stove or Range from us. Let us show them to you.

Our long experience gives us an advantage, and we can safely say that we can please the trade.

DuRant Hardware Co.,

SUMTER, S. C.

Machinery Supplies, Belting, Etc.

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Big Reductions

Buy now while the chance is here. We are offering Special Bargains that will open your purse.

Shoes, Hats, Caps, Dry Goods, Clothing, Skirts, Jackets, Waists, Notions, Millinery,

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Bakes Kidneys and Bladder Right

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