

Luck.

It is the shallow who believes in luck: who say of a successful man, "he was always lucky," of an unsuccessful one, "Poor fellow, just his luck." A man's luck is generally the measure of his capacity and perseverance, cause produces effects the world over. Water does not run up the hill nor do we gather even in these edys of progress, grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles. If we would gather golden grain, we must first sow the seed. If we would be wise, we must work for wisdom. Riches, goodness, fame, love—each has its price, and can be purchased for no less. Life is a perpetual auction, where all prizes are knocked down to the highest bidder. The world's great men have tailed early and late. Even genius can find no royal road to its goal. Goethe, and Milton, and Newton, labored as the easy-going, fine gentleman of literature cannot conceive.—If they were great, they achieved greatness—it was not thrust on them. Luck is ever waiting for something to turn up. Labor with keen eyes and strong will, will turn up something. Luck lies in bed, and wishes the postman would bring him the news of a new legacy; labor turns out at six o'clock, and with a busy pen or ringing hammer lays the foundation of a competency.—Luck whines; labor whistles. Luck relies on chance, labor on character. Luck slips down to indigence; labor strikes upward to independence.

How They Pull Teeth in Japan.

Those wonderful islands in the North Pacific that makes up the empire of Japan are full of interest to Americans. They form a rich and beautiful country of hill and valley and vegetation; and among the people there are plenty of bright eyes and ready wits and nimble fingers. But the Japanese are what we call "a great way behind the age." They have been slow to learn new inventions because they thought themselves wiser than the rest of the world, and have kept the arts of the world shut out of their empire.

These singular people, who carve and design so cleverly, are very ignorant of medicine and surgery. Like other people, they have many aches and pains, and, as every body knows, one of the most torturing pains is an aching tooth. These poor creatures in Japan, like all the world beside, now and then want a tooth pulled; and their only contrivances for this are a wooden mallet and a stick. The professor of dentistry, instead of sitting in his office with a stock of mysterious and frightful instruments, goes travelling over the country, carrying a box

covered with brass ornaments, and containing some little mallets and wedges. When he meets with a person who wishes to part company with an aching tooth, the wedges are pressed in between the tooth and the gum, and are then forced down with the mallet, until by hammering and prying, the tooth is made so loose that it can be pulled out with the fingers. The poor patient suffers very much. Sometimes pieces of the jaw are broken away with the teeth, and it is said the patient dies from the wound.

And yet these singular people, so intelligent in some things, so stupid in others, make very beautiful artificial teeth, even complete sets, carved from marine ivory, and mounted on hard gourdshell. They are made to fit the mouth very perfectly, and are kept in place by atmospheric pressure, very much as with us. The invention, however, is their own, and has been one of their arts for many generations. These teeth are not what we would call expensive, a complete upper set costing only about one dollar and a half.

JOHNNY'S CONFESSION.—At night Johnny climbed up to his mother's lap, and laying his head on her shoulder, said in a low, sorry tone: "I took that glass marble, maamma."

"Took it from whom?" asked his mother.

"I took it from the ground," said Johnny.

"Did it belong to the ground?" asked his mother. "Did the ground go to the shop and buy?"

Johnny tried to laugh at such a sunny thought, but he could not.

"I saw it on the ground." "What little boy had it before?" "Asa May's it is, I guess," whispered Johnny.

"When you put out your hand to take it, did you forget, 'Thou God seest me!'" asked his mother. "Did you not hear a voice saying, don't Johnny, don't Johnny?"

"I didn't hear it," said the little boy, sobbing; "I grabbed quick!"

DREAMS.—If a man dreams the devil is after him, it is a sign that he had better pay his subscription bill.

If he dreams of an earthquake, and a turmoil generally, it is a sign that he is going to be married.

If he (being a married man) dreams of some fearful mysterious danger, it is a sign that his mother-in-law is coming to spend a few days with her darling daughter.

If he dreams that his head is in danger, and that his hair falls out, it is a sign that he will have a quarrel with his wife.

If he dreams of being accosted by a stange man who insists on taking him with him, it is a sign that he had better know all the policemen.

If he dreams of speaking familiarly to a ghost with horns and tail, it is a sign that he had better reduce his liquor bill.

If he dreams of making a fool of himself, it is a true sign it is so.

How to Fool Rats.

Let us take the case of a house badly infested with rats, says the Rural New Yorker. How shall we get rid of them? Of course, if they come from some public sewer or other colony, the supply is probably unlimited, and the first thing must be to cut off the access of all outsiders. But if we are troubled by none but natives, it will not require much skill to capture every one of them—old, cunning fellows and all. In the first place, then, we must resolve to take time to it and capture the whole lot, and to this end no attempt must be made to capture single animals, since this will tend to make them suspicious and will put the old ones on their guard. Then provide a large box or barrel; place in it a quantity of old carpet, brush, &c., and also some food, such as meal, cheese, herring, &c. Bore a two-inch hole in the side of the box, and leave it for some days. The rats will soon find it out and frequent it. First a young one will go in and have a good feed and come out all right; the old ones, seeing that he is not hurt, they, too, will go in, and in a short time every rat about the premises will frequent it. When this occurs, see that it is well supplied with food and arrange over the hole a block having a corresponding aperture cut in it but having also a series of wires stuck around the hole and pointing inwards, just as they are arranged in the common wire traps. Every rat will go in as before and not one can get out. Various methods can be adopted for killing them. If you are a sportsman, you can let them out one at a time and shoot them or kill them terriers. A few slips of sulphured paper thrust through the hole and burned, is, however, a very simple plan and will give a most effectual quietus. We have known a case in which sixty-seven rats were caught at one time in a box arranged as described. In this instance the premises were effectually cleared of the vermin.

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