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THE PUBLIC SPIRIT

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POETRY.

Sunset's Hour.
Evening's still and holy hour;
The sun's last beams are pouring
Bright,
The wind, and vale, and vine-clad bower,
In brilliant floods of golden light.
Listen to the bird's sweet song.
The moon will close the happy lay;
The breeze 'tis borne along,
And then the soft notes die away.
How lovely are the emerald trees,
And in their robes of burnished gold,
Whose branches play the breeze,
And holy angles concert hold!
How rosy is yon cloud, how bright!
How like an heavenly cherub's wing!
Smiling with rays of scarlet light—
The smiles of day's departing king!
Only the sunset fades away,
The fire fades out the crimson west,
The sporting kid has ceased to play,
The mocking-bird is in her nest.
The twilight lets her mantle fall
Upon earth's breast, so fair and green,
Phantoms stalk through forests tall,
Where night's first shadows may be seen.
The peace and love are here
Trapped in the folds of twilight gloom,
And still they hover near,
Blowing the air with sweet perfume.

SELECTED.

An Essay on Fish.
(from the Detroit Free Press.)
Fish may be divided into classes
of fresh and salt. The propriety
of dividing them into classes will
be apparent when we reflect
that they are usually found in schools.
The mackerel is not exactly a cod-
fish, but he comes so much nearer
a cod-fish than a fresh fish that
for the present classed with the
cod.
There exist in sizes to suit the pur-
pose, from minnows to whales,
and are not fish strictly speaking.
The alligator is a fish. But
attempts to tell what are not
fish will far exceed its in-
cluded limits.
The herring is not absolutely a
fish, it is a suggestion of departed
fish. But the strongest suggestion
of a fish is *smelt*. The her-
ring maintains the same relation to
smelt as the Egyptian
man to the human race.
Fish are caught by measure and
by weight—that is, they are
sold by the *gill* and sold by the
weight. But they are sometimes
sold by weight—wait till you get
the measurement is the chief respite to
successful fishermen.
The best way to be good fish-
ermen, because their lines and angles
are to be all right.
The mermaid and fish-woman may
be mentioned in this connection.
The mermaid is a good illustration of
a man by the ideal and the
fish represents the real.
The fish and animals are reproduced
in nature. Thus we have the dog,
the lion, and sea-horses, but no
whales. None of the above have
legs, and say manner of mule
and legs would be a con-
siderable failure.
There can be out of place to men-
tion a fish in this connection. He
is a fish, but was once included
with the inhabitants of the deep.
There has been considerable dispute
as to the name of the fish that swam
with the gentleman above mention-
ed, some perhaps arguing that the
name of a whale is not large enough
to follow a man. This objection
is to be inconsequential.
There might have been made in
this matter than any other man
before, it is certain that he was
swallowed before being swallowed.
There has been much speculation
as to the cause of Jonah's ex-
perience from the whale's interior, but
the most generally accepted
theory is that he was scoured on the whale's
back.
A very fortunate in reaching
the shore he had no pilot. If he
had a pilot with him into the
mouth of the whale he would doubtless
have been scoured out.
The first man who retired
from the department of the interior
was the last one. But

HUMOROUS.

we digress. Let us return to our
fish.
The cod-fish is the great source of all
salt. In this respect Lot's wife was
nowhere, however, it would be well
to remember Lot's wife.
The saline qualities of the cod-fish
permeate and precolate the vasty
deep and make the ocean as salt as
himself. Weighed in his own scales
He is found wanting—wanting con-
siderable freshening. He is by na-
ture quite sociable, his principal re-
creation being balls—fish balls.
The cod fish was worshiped by the
Greeks; but he is only half as
well treated by the inhabitants of
Cape Cod—he is simply shipped.
Hence the difference between the
Greeks and the inhabitants of Cape
Cod.
Small fish are usually harmless, but
parents can't be too careful about
permitting their children to play
where large fish abound, as it is an
established fact that the big fish fre-
quently eat up the little ones.
The jelly-fish is perhaps the best
understood of all the finny tribe,
because being translucent it is easy
to see through him.
The greatest number of fish is
eaten on Friday, and the next great-
est number on Saturday, because
those that are left over are warmed
up for Saturday's breakfast.
Argumentative persons are fond
of stating that it is grammatical to say
that the five loaves and three fishes
were *not*, since five and three were
always eight. They should be treat-
ed with silent contempt.
Fish are provided with air bladders
so that they can rise from the sea by
simply filling these bladders with
air. If any one is disposed to ask
where they get the air for such in-
flation let him understand in advance
that this article is not intended for
the solution of petty conundrums.
There are many interesting rumors
about fish, which might be mentioned,
but the foregoing facts may be con-
sidered of fish at.
A WIFE'S POWER.—A good wife
is to a man, wisdom, strength and
courage; a bad one is confusion,
weakness and despair. No condition
is hopeless to a man where the wife
possesses firmness, decision and eco-
nomy. There is no outward prop-
riety which can counteract inde-
licence, extravagance and folly at home.
No spirit can long endure bad influ-
ence. Man is strong, but his heart is
not adamant. He needs a tranquil
mind, and especially if he is an intel-
ligent man, with a whole head, he
needs its moral force in the conflict
of life. To recover his composure
home must be a place of peace and
comfort. There his soul renews its
strength and goes forth with renew-
ed vigor to encounter the labor and
troubles of life. But if at home he
finds no rest, and there is met with
bad temper, jealousy and gloom, or
assailed with complaints and con-
ceits, hope vanishes and he sinks into des-
pair.
Buying a Farm.
When business is depressed and
times are hard, city people are apt to
wish themselves settled in the coun-
try, and seriously think of buying a
farm. It is the universal panacea
for pinched pockets and metropolitan
misfortunes. Let a merchant fail,
and the first thing he proposes is to
save money enough out of the wreck
to buy a farm. If a broker suspends,
if a financier's pretty bubbles break
or float away in the air, if a lawyer's
clients withdraw their patronage and
leave him without bread—in short,
if anybody experiences a business
collapse, he immediately turns his
thought countryward, and as the
last and unfailing resource proposes
to buy a farm. It is assumed that
anybody can run a farm, as anybody
can edit a newspaper, and it is also
taken for granted that a farm is a
sack of horse that not only takes
care of himself but feeds and clothes
his rider. It does not seem to occur
to any of these men that farming is a
business requiring special knowledge,
experience, and skill for successful
management, and that the average
city man is quite as much out of
place and at his wits' ends on a farm,
after he has bought it, as he would
be at the head of a manufactory or
in command of a man-of-war.
A Delaware man who was arrest-
ed for murder, proved that on that
night and at the hour of the murder,
he was at home mauling his wife,
and this fact saved him. A word
to the wise is etc.

DOMESTIC.

MOCK APPLE PIE.—Over one and
a half cups of bread crumbs, pour
four cups of boiling water; add one
cup of sugar, one grated nutmeg,
small piece of butter, add an egg
well beaten. Bake with two crusts.
This is an excellent substitute when
apples are scarce.
CORN CAKE.—Six cups of good
buttered, one egg, salt enough, and
a tablespoonful of saleratus; make
this as batter for frying, heat quickly
and only long enough to free from
leaven; pour into buttered pan,
and bake half an hour. This is light,
with a nice tender crust.
MARYLAND BISCUIT.—Take three
pints of flour, in which put a tea-
spoonful of salt and a teaspoonful of
lard, and mix it thoroughly; then
moisten it gradually with half a
pint of water, then work it for half
an hour, until the dough becomes
perfectly smooth, then mold it in
balls the size of a walnut, flatten
them with the rolling pin, pick with
a fork, and bake in a quick oven
about twenty minutes.
A hot shovel held over varnished
furniture will take out white spots.
Ribbons should be washed in cold
suds, and not rinsed.
If your flat irons are rough, rub
them well with fine salt.
If you are buying a carpet for
durability, choose small figures.
Scotch snuff put on holes where
crickets come out, will destroy them.
Half a cranberry bound on a corn
will soon kill it.
**A TRUTHFUL AND CHEAP BAR-
OMETER.**—Take a clean glass bottle
and put in it a small quantity of
finely pulverized alum. Then fill
up the bottle with spirits of wine.
The alum will be perfectly dissolved
by the alcohol, and in clear weather
the liquid will be as transparent as
the purest water. On the approach
of rain or cloudy weather the alum
will be visible in a silky spiral cloud,
in the centre of the fluid, reaching
from the bottom to the surface.
Thus a cheap, simple, and beautiful
barometer is placed within the reach
of all who wish to possess one. For
simplicity of construction, this is
altogether superior to the frog bar-
ometer in general use in Germany.
PUMPKINS FOR MILK COWS.—
A recent experiment was tried in
feeding pumpkins to a New England
farmer, who says: "I first fed my
cows one week with one large or
two small pumpkins to each cow
twice a day. Their milk decreased
two or three quarts to each cow a
day from what they gave the week
previous. I then fed them one week
with the same quantity of pumpkins
as before and took out the seeds.
They increased in a greater propor-
tion of milk than they had decreased
the week previous. I fed them
alternately three or four weeks, and
they varied in their milk very much
as the first weeks.
To CLEANSE FACE AND EMBROID-
ERED MULLIN CURTAINS.—Wash
carefully, rinse thoroughly, and
starch them. Then have two nar-
row boards, as long or longer than
the curtains, with strips of cloth or
wide tape tacked on their entire
length. Place them out of doors on
chairs, as you would quilting frames
and carefully pin the wet curtains
between, stretching it until it is en-
tirely smooth. Every point and
scalloped should be pulled in shape and
fastened down. When one curtain
is dry fill its place with another.
This method of drying them is bet-
ter than pinning them to a sheet fasten-
ed to the carpet on the floor.
Drying in the open air, they are
clearer and sweeter.
SOW EATING HER PIGS.—A sow
that has this habit should be given
an ounce of gunpowder occasionally
in her food. The charcoal, sulphur,
and nitre of the powder are all use-
ful, and in this shape may be con-
veniently given. Or in the place of
this a few hard wood coals may be
quenched in water and then given
with a spoonful of sulphur and half
as much saltpetre in the food. This
mixture of the gun powder should be
given for a week or two before the
sow farrows, and continued a week
or two afterward. When the sows
are shut in pens they are more sub-
ject to the vice than when running
at large in a field.
Subscribe to THE PUBLIC SPIRIT.
Only \$1.50 a year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

**A Wife Deliberately
Starves Herself.**
(Bloomington, Ind., Correspondence.)
For many years past there has
been living in Indiana Creek town-
ship, this (Monroe) county a married
couple named Dicks. About a week
ago Zachariah Dicks, the husband,
made a will in which it was provid-
ed that should he die first, all of his
property should go to the children,
and they were to provide for their
mother until her death. Mrs. Dicks
very strongly objected to such a dis-
position of the property, and deman-
ded that the will be changed, but her
husband heeded her not.
Becoming convinced that coaxing
would do no good the old lady be-
gan to threaten, and finally left her
husband's roof. She never would
taste another morsel of food. This
threat did not move the old man, but
the old lady kept her word. For
fourteen long days she ate not a
mouthful, and only occasionally would
she wet her lips with water. Friends
and neighbors called on her often to
try to turn her from her dreadful
purpose, but she would not even see
any of them. At the approach of
footsteps to her house she would
crawl under the bed, or hide in some
other manner, and thus she finally
adhered to her vow until death came
to her release. The deceased was
65 years of age.
A Hint for Bored.
Some time ago there lived a gentle-
man of indolent habits, in Sussex,
who made it a business in the winter
season, to visit his friends extensiv-
ly. After wearing out his welcome
in his immediate vicinity, last winter,
he thought he would visit an old Quaker
friend, some twenty miles distant,
who had been a school-fellow of his.
On his arrival he was cordially re-
ceived by the Quaker, he thinking
his visitor had taken much pains to
come so far to see him. He treated
his friend with great attention and
politeness several days, and, as he
did not see any sign of his leaving,
he became uneasy, but he bore it
with patience till the morning of the
eighth day, when he said to him:
"My friend, I'm afraid thee'll never
visit me again."
"Oh, yes, I shall," said the visitor,
"I have enjoyed my visit very much;
I shall certainly come again."
"Nay," said the Quaker, "I think
thee will never visit me again."
"What makes you think I will never
come again?" asked the visitor.
"If thee never does leave," said the
Quaker, "how canst thee come again?"
The visitor left.
A Currency Famine.
It is stated at the Treasury De-
partment that there is only currency
enough on hand to last two months.
It seems that none of the currency
received at the Department is paid
out again, but is destroyed, and new
notes are issued to take its place. If
the appropriation of \$300,000 asked
for to resume operations in the bureau
of engraving and printing is not made
very soon, it is anticipated that there
will be a currency famine, as the
Treasury will soon have none to pay
out.
Silver Currency.
It is thought that in a very short
time the work of substituting silver
for fractional currency may be in-
stituted. Wednesday it was said at
the Treasury that it is possible that
the work of paying out silver may
be commenced in ten days or shortly
thereafter.
Philadelphia, during the Centenni-
al is to be honored with a visit from
Don Pedro II, the Emperor of Bra-
zil and the Empress Teresa Chris-
tina. They will sail for America about
first of April with a numerous train
of attendants and \$1,000,000 of pocket
change. The Philadelphians are
doubtless shrewd enough not to let
such an opportunity pass but will
deceive the Emperor of much of his
change.
WONDERFUL TREES.—The finest
timber in the world is found in the
Black Hills, according to a Chyenne
paper. Some of the pinetrees are
ten feet in diameter and so tall that
the man working at the butt can't see
the man who is chopping the top up
into cord-wood.

One Hundred Years Ago.

One hundred years ago wedding
tours were not fashionable.
One hundred years ago farmers did
not cut their legs off with mowing
machines.
One hundred years ago our moth-
ers did not worry over disordered
sowing machines.
One hundred years ago horses
which could trot a mile in 2:14 were
somewhat scarce.
One hundred years ago it took
several days to procure a divorce
and find a congenial spirit.
One hundred years ago there were
no disputes about the impoliteness of
street car drivers.
One hundred years ago "crooked"
whiskey was not known. Our fore-
fathers took their's straight!
One hundred years ago every
young man was not an applicant for
a position as clerk or book-keeper.
One hundred years ago kerosene
lamps did not explode and assist wo-
men to shuffle off their coil.
One hundred years ago men did
not commit suicide by going up in
balloons and coming down without
them.
One hundred years ago there were
no Turkish harems at Salt Lake, and
no Ann Klizas suing for the nine-
teenth part of a divorce.
One hundred years ago England
was not very far behind the United
States in all that goes to make a na-
tion powerful and progressive.
One hundred years ago a young
woman did not lose caste by wetting
her hands in dish water or rubbing
the skin off her knuckles on a wash-
board.
One hundred years ago the physi-
cian who could not draw every form
of disease from the system by tap-
ping a large vein in the arm was not
much of a doctor.
One hundred years ago men were
not running about over the country
with millions of fisheggs to be hatch-
ed to order. Fish superintended
their own hatching in those days.
One hundred years ago the condi-
tion of the weather on the first of
January was not telegraphed all over
the continent on the evening of De-
cember 31st. Things have changed.
One hundred years ago people did
not worry about rapid transit and
cheap transportation but threw their
grain across the backs of their horses
and uncomplainingly "went to
mill."
**Things not Generally
Known.**
Glass windows were used for
light in 1180.
Telescopes invented by Ports and
Johnson, 1590
Tea first brought from China to
Europe in 1501.
Circulation of blood discovered
by Harvey in 1610.
Cotton planted in the United
States in 1795.
Stenotyping invented in Scotland
in 1785.
Chimneys first upon houses in
1236.
Tallow candles for lights in 1290.
Spectacles invented by an Italian
in 1249.
Paper made from linen in 1305.
Woolen cloth made in England,
1341.
Art of printing from movable
type, 1440
Watches first made in Germany,
1447.
Newspaper first established in
1629.
Pendulum clocks first invented in
1659.
Pride of Authorship.
"I am going to fly," said the gigan-
tic ostrich, and the whole assembly
of birds gathered around in earnest
expectation. "I am going to fly," he
cried again, and stretching out his
immense pinions he shot like a ship
with outspread sails away over the
ground without, however, rising an
inch above it. Thus it happens when
a notice of being poetical takes pos-
session of unpoetical brains; in the
opening of their monstrous odes they
boast of their intention to soar over
clouds and stars, but nevertheless re-
main constant to the dust.
In a collection of fans in London,
is one made by a lady of Normandy.
The beautiful lace work is woven of
her golden hair, and the sticks are
inlaid with delicate polished cre-
cents made of her finger nails.