

**The Bird.**  
"Birdie, birdie, will you, pet?  
Summer is far and far away,  
You'll have slunk quite and a velvet bed,  
And a pillow of satin for your head."  
"I'd rather sleep on the ivy wall;  
No rain comes through, though I hear it fall;  
The sun peeps gay at dawn of day,  
And I sing, and sing away."  
"Oh, birdie, birdie, will you, pet?  
Diamond stones and amber and jet  
We'll string on a necklace fine,  
To please this pretty bird of mine."  
"Oh, thanks for diamonds and thanks for jet;  
But here is something daintier yet—  
A feather necklace, round and round,  
That I would not sell for a thousand pound!"  
"Oh, birdie, birdie, will you, pet?  
We'll buy you a dish of silver feet,  
A golden cup and an ivory seat,  
And carpet soft beneath your feet."  
"Can running water be drunk from gold?  
Can silver dish the forest hold?  
A rocking stool is the finest chair,  
And the rosiest path is through the air:  
Good bye, good-bye, to my lady fair."

**FOR THE FARMER'S HOUSEHOLD.**  
**Kitchen Aids.**  
**A BROWN FRISSER.**—Fry the chicken a light brown in boiling lard; pour off the fat, and make a rich gravy of cream, butter, parsley, and flour.  
**SHAPES CAKES.**—Beat the yolks of four eggs and then the whites to a froth. Then add a quart of flour and a quart of milk. To be baked in small shape tins previously greased.  
**TO FRY OYSTERS.**—Choose the large oysters, lay them on a clean cloth to dry perfectly, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and roll them in grated bread crumbs, and fry them quickly in boiling lard.  
**POTATO OMELETTE.**—Take five ounces of potatoes mashed, pepper, salt, and a little onion; mix it with five eggs previously well beaten separately. Season in a little lemon juice, and fry nicely.  
**KID SAUCE.**—Boil two eggs ten minutes. Chop the whites, pat them with the yolks, and chop together, but not very done. Put in a quarter of a pound of nice butter melted, and pour them into a boat.  
**A WHITE FRISSER.**—Pat the chicken into a stew-pan with a very little water, add mace, pepper, and salt. Beat up the yolk of an egg with a gill of sweet cream, and stir into the chicken when nearly done. Serve hot. Garnish with lemon.  
**OYSTER SAUCE.**—Put the oysters, with a small quantity of their liquor, in a saucepan. Stew them very slowly. Add four or five ounces of butter rolled in flour, a few bits of mace, and half a pint of sweet cream. Stir them one way until they are mixed.  
**FRUIT OYSTERS.**—Take the finest and largest oysters, lay them on a cloth to drain dry. Sprinkle them with pepper. Have ready an oyster fry-pan, over a clear fire. Put them on it, with a very little butter, and cook until they are done and fry without burning.

The farm products of Illinois for 1879 amount to \$200,000,000, said to be double the product of all the gold and silver mines in the United States.  
The *Poultry Bulletin* recommends keeping a lump of alum in the drinking water supplied to fowls, as a preventive of laxitiveness.  
**Making Asparagus Beds.**  
Vick says that the quickest way to obtain asparagus is to purchase the plants, because by doing so the beds are fit for cutting a year or two sooner than would be the case if they had been started from seeds. If, however, you prefer to begin at the beginning, obtain the seed as early in the spring as possible and sow in wide drills, say five inches apart, about as soon as peas are sown. Keep the soil mellow and the weeds destroyed, and in the autumn, if the soil is very good, you will have one-year-old plants plenty large enough to set out. But one-year-old plants are generally rather small, and many prefer to let them remain in the seed bed until the second year. An ounce of seed is sufficient for about twenty-five feet of drill. In making a bed for the plants select a good mellow soil, and make it deep and rich. A bed of the kind once made will keep in good condition for half a century or more, so the work should be well done. The beds should be sufficiently narrow to allow of their being cut to the centre without being trod upon. Set the plants not less than twelve inches apart in the clear, spreading the roots out as naturally, and not crowding them into too small a space, and deep enough that the top or crown of the plant will be about three inches below ground. In removing the weeds take care not to injure the young shoots, it being always best to do the work by pulling out the weeds by hand. Salt is an excellent manure for asparagus, and may be used with great freedom as to keep the weeds pretty well subdued without further trouble. If strong, two-year-old plants are set, a few shoots may be cut the year after. The first used is the young shoots, which commence to appear in early spring, and should be cut when five or six inches in height, and when the head is close and firm. Take them from a little below the surface, with a sloping cut. It is not best to cut the shoots until late in the season, unless the cutting should be unusually strong. At the close of the season the tops should be allowed to grow and bear seed. When the seeds are ripe cut the stalks close to the ground, and cover the bed with a few inches of manure, taking off the center portion of the manure the following spring when the asparagus will be again ready for another spring's work.

**How the Chinese Make Sweet Tea.**  
We have all known from childhood how the Chinese cram their women's feet, and so manage to make them keep at home; but how they contrive to grow miniature pine and oak trees in flower pots for half a century has always been a matter of mystery. They are first and last at the seat of vice as generally, endeavoring to weaken it as much as may be consistent with the preservation of life. Take a young plant—say a seedling or cutting of a cedar—when only two or three inches high, cut off its tap-root as soon as it has other roots enough to live upon, and replant it in a shallow earthen pot or pan. The end of the tap root is generally made to rest on a stone within it. Alluvial clay is then put into the pot, mixed with a bit of the size of beans, and just enough in kind and quantity to furnish a steady nourishment to the plant. Water enough is given to keep it in growth, but not enough to excite a vigorous habit. So, likewise, is the application of light and heat. As the Chinese pride themselves on the shape of their miniature trees, they use strings, wires and pegs and various other mechanical contrivances to promote symmetry of habit or to assist their pots into odd fancy figures. Thus, by the use of a yellow paper, the growth of the tap-root is out of the question; by the use of poor soil and little of it, and little water, any strong growth is prevented. Then, too, the top and side roots, being within easy reach of the gardener, are shortened by his prying fingers or sealed with his hot iron. As the little tree, having itself headed to every side, grows to the top of strong growth, asking only for life, and just life enough to look well. Accordingly each new set of leaves becomes more and more stunted, the buds and rootlets are diminished in proportion, and at length a balance established between every part of the tree, making it a dwarf in all respects. In some kinds of trees this end is reached in three or four years; in others ten or fifteen years are necessary. Such is fancy horticulture among the Celestials.—*Technical*

**Give Hamilton, of Maryland, recommends radical changes in state expenses, in abolishing one of the fish commissionerships and allowing the work to be done by the remaining official; abolishing the office of state tax commissioner, which he considers a sinecure; reducing the salary of the secretary of the senate; abolishing the office of superintendent of the house of correction telegraph line; reducing the expense of the insurance commissioner's department; reform in the system of state printing; repealing the act providing for the advertising of laws in the newspapers; economy in legislative expenses. The message also advises that every effort be made to prevent unnecessary expenditures and asks that the law in reference to the governor's power of veto be as changed as to allow him to veto a portion of a bill without affecting the remainder.**

**The greatest compliment you can pay a man is to call him "an advanced thinker." It means the title of "general" will not of sight.**

**Stories of the Washington Lobby.**  
One of the most powerful and audacious lobbies of the olden times, writes a Washington correspondent, was that which came to Washington in the interest of the Collins steamship line, to obtain a subsidy from the government for running steam vessels between New York and Liverpool. The tactics of this lobby were in those days regarded as somewhat peculiar. Sam Collins, who was at its head, was a jovial, half-fellow well-met sort of person, who weighed 250 pounds, and did everything possible by good feeling to bring up those whom he thought could serve him up to the same standard. He and his small army of assistants for the more scrupulous members of Congress kept open house at Willard's hotel, while for those who were not so particular entertainments of the most lavish character, poker games, and unlimited wines were provided at all hours of the day and night in the headquarters on Thirteenth street. This establishment was literally free to all who desired to partake of its hospitality; there was absolutely no limit to the expenditure of those who conducted it, and by these means, and by occasional judicious "loans" to impetuous members, the Collins forces at last succeeded in obtaining the half million grant which they desired. But they were never successful otherwise. Those steamers, thought to be the first of the kind, proved to have been badly constructed; one of them was lost, and after the failure to obtain a second subsidy in 1858, the company broke up.  
Shortly after Collins had obtained the subsidy, Commodore Vanderbilt, encouraged by his success, came to Washington, hoping that he also might receive a share of the public aid. His manner of influencing public and official opinion was peculiar and characteristic. He caused to be built an immense steamer, which was gorgeously fitted up and was said to have cost upward of \$1,000,000. This vessel, fitted to overflowing with all sorts of wines, liquors, and eatables, he ordered to Washington, and then "to inspect her fittings," as the legend upon the card-board, invited the President of the United States, members of the cabinet, Senators and Congressmen. When the guests arrived at the appointed time, they found the most sumptuous roasts accompanied by the choicest of wines awaiting them in the main saloon. Upon closer investigation, and when the graver members of the party had retired, it was discovered that not only was the main saloon supplied with all the creature comforts, but that all the numerous state rooms were well stocked with food champagne and inviting lunches. For two days this most lavish entertainment was kept up. When it was over everybody declared that the "firings" of the commodore's ship were perfect in every respect; but there was so much scandal in connection with the Collins lobby that, despite this and numerous other bids for Congressional favor, Vanderbilt did not secure the subsidy which he desired.

**Exaggeration in Figures.**  
As a fair example of the curiety of statistics, says *Spartan*, the congressional library, take the army of *Norvege* when it crossed the Hellespont in 1745. Herodotus gives it as 1,700,000 foot, 100,000 horse, and 517,000 naval forces—total, 2,217,000, and adds that this was swollen by the attendants to 5,200,000; and all this to invade a country which in no age known to history contained over 1,500,000 inhabitants. Another favorite myth of historians is the story of the famous Alexandrian library of 700,000 volumes, burned by the Caliph Omar, A. D. 640, with a rhetorical flourish in his mouth. Unfortunately for this highly dramatic tale no writers are agreed as to the circumstances, except as to the single fact that there was a library at Alexandria, in that it ceased to exist in the seventh century. To ask a modern inquirer to believe that 700,000 books were gathered in one body 800 years before the invention of printing, while the largest library in the world, some centuries after the multiplication of books by printing, began, contained less than 200,000 volumes, is altogether too great an extravagance of credulity. Even in reporting the size of modern libraries, exaggeration follows away. The library of George IV, inherited from a book-collecting father and presented to the British nation after he had failed to sell it to Russia, was said in the publications of the time to contain about 120,000 volumes. But an actual enumeration when the books were lodged in the king's library, at the British museum, where they have ever since remained, showed that there were only 69,250 volumes, being little more than half the reported number. Many libraries, public and private, are equally overestimated. It is so much easier to guess than to count, and the stern test of arithmetic is too seldom applied, notwithstanding the fact that 100,000 volume can easily be counted in a day by two or three persons, and so on in the same proportion. Here, as in the statistics of population, the same proverb holds good—that the unknown is always the magnificent, and on the surface of the globe we inhabit the unexplored country is always the most marvelous since the world began.

**Words of Wisdom.**  
Everybody knows good counsel except him that hath need of it.  
He shall be immortal who liveth till he be stoned by one without fault.  
All other knowledge is hurtful—aim who had not honesty and good nature.  
If we would have powerful minds, we must think; if we would have faithful hearts, we must love; if we would have strong muscles, we must labor. These include nearly all that is valuable in this life.  
The man who professes to believe that evil is only the under side of good, the dark side of the moon, and properly a component part of human life, will never have the satisfaction of dying from infatuation of the brain.  
All things must change. Friends must be torn asunder and swept along in the current of events, to see each other again and, perchance, no more.  
Forever and ever in the eddies of time and accident we whirl away.

**The Fashions.**  
The latest design in buttons are mice, lady birds, dogs and owls.  
Colored satin gathered bands are worn half way up the arm, bracelet fashion.  
The newest in hosiery are plaids and Roman stripes, with handsome side-clothing.  
Gilt and silver balls for the hair are the fashion brought in by the Spanish marriage.  
Pretty little caps of jet are called "coats of mail," and are designed to be worn with any costume.  
Pretty shopping bracelets have pendants attached, either silver or gold, and are often richly jeweled.  
Handsome jettied bonnets are worn with carriage, reception, church and fall dress promenade toilets.  
Indestructible French flowers are the best kind for an decorative purposes indoors, as well as outdoors, as neither heat nor cold, storm, rain or snow can harm them.  
A pretty ornament for a writing-desk is the new pen-stand that holds pen holders, paper cutter, eraser and pencil, each with heavy ebony stick finished with a dog's head.  
Merino is used for morning and house dresses; they are trimmed with borders of rich figured cretonne stripes, usually seen only on curtains, with veenings and shadings hand embroidered in silk.—These bands are very handsome.  
The newest lace cravat is a large lace bow, called the *Maxwelline*, in imitation of the bows worn during the French revolution.  
Ball costumes for young ladies are very simple this season, the only ornaments a dress being a few diamons, or a jeweled comb or pognard.  
Ombre and good old lace can be used up in a new way by putting them on to small pieces of muslin and allow them to peep out of the fronts of dresses or the side pocket of a sequin or bolero simulating a pocket handkerchief.  
Artificial bouquets for the corsage are worn both in the house and street, and are seen on the dresses imported from the best Parisian houses. Natural flowers are, however, greatly preferred, and ladies who can obtain them use fresh natural flowers all winter.  
East India nets of gilt and silver cord are worn on the hair, covering the space between the forehead and the Greek knot in the back, but not extending over the knot itself. These nets are finished with a band of gold stars on each edge, and they are drawn to a point under the knot in the top of the neck.  
The large old-fashioned black satin aprons, embroidered with flowers in silks, are now beginning to be seen again, and happy are they who have them among old stores of treasure of by gone years. Some of the modern copies of these "grandmother's aprons," as they are called, are reported to be worked, and are equal with the best.  
It takes a long time to make up a sleeping car, says *N. O. Phoenix*. Not a word. We've known an entire Pullman wake up and get to work all night by a very moderate one. But he was steady.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*.

**Druggist's Testimony.**  
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Why do so many parents think children troublesome because they cry, and why do children cry because they suffer. Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup will relieve at once all pain that babyhood is subject to.

**A White Owl in Mid Ocean.**  
The White Star steamship *Celtic*, which arrived from Liverpool on Wednesday last, brought a strange passenger who had boarded that vessel in mid-ocean. A large white owl dropped on one of the forward spars in an exhausted condition one evening when the vessel was about eight hundred miles off the coast of Newfoundland. When brought to the deck by a sailor the owl was found to be nearly dead from cold and hunger, and almost weak to eat. It had become greatly emaciated, and trembled violently in endeavoring to swallow the first morsel of meat which was placed in its beak. The owl slowly recovered, and is now perfectly well. It is a land bird, and is supposed to have blown off the coast of Newfoundland by the westerly gales which had for some days prevailed there. Finding itself out at sea it had probably ceased making efforts to reach land, and had drifted before the gale, its only effort being to keep above water. The bird must have possessed remarkable powers of endurance, the *Celtic* says, to have kept up so long. The *Celtic's* owl which is 10 or 12 inches long, measures nearly five feet from wing to wing, and is white, with the exception of a few small specks of dark color. It will probably live for some time to come on board the vessel which it selected as its home while in mid-ocean. Land birds have rarely been seen so far out at sea.

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