SIGNS AND SIGN BOARDS.

HOW SOME FAMILIAR ONES HAD THEIR ORIGIN.

Nowadays the great commercial community pays but little attention to the trading legend which, like the nobleman's armorial bearings, was once upon time a necessary part of every store-keeper's stock in trade. Barbers and pawnbrokers still, it is true, continue to exhibit their well known symbols—the striped pole and the three golden balls; and in addition to three, which still hold their own on this nide of the Atlantic, the curious motions and devices which commonly distinguish the public houses and gin palaces in England are familiar to every visitor to that country. But these are scattered remnants of a custom which, not so very long ago, was almost universal. In the good old days, when few people could read or write, and when the modern system of numbering the houses in the street was a convenience as yet undreamed of by our uninventive race, the sign board flourished in all its glory, and it will be readily understood that in those times it had a far more important part to play then would ever be assigned to it in our own.

Reference has just been made to English public house (or saloon bar) signs, which are interesting because they retain so much of the old world flavor. Everyone who has amused himself by making even a oursory examination of these stranded anachronisms during a stroll through some of the old thorough-fares of London, or has learned something of their character in the pages of Dickens or Thackersy, must have been struck again and again by the extraordinary and often entirely meaningless combinations of ideas which are presented by them. As we turn back to their progenitom in the trademan's tokens of the lamb and anchor? Why should a built be associated with a gate, in the common sign of "The Bull and Gate?" Where is there any conceivable connection between an elephant and a cautie, which yes flourish together over one of the most famous taverns in the English metropolish—between a guar and compasses? What law could have governed the introduction of such anomalous inscriptions as "The Geor

prefer to be called) have long given over the practice of surgery.

The early feshion of exposing shop signs was by hanging them out across the sidewalk, and very frequently they were large enough and heavy enough—one tradesman vying with another in making them striking and attractive—to obstruct the thoroughfare and even to cause serious accidents. Little by little public attention was called to this public nuisance, and in course of time projecting street signs either fell into disuse entirely or assumed the less objectionable proportions which they preserve at the present day.

About Bithing Suits.

A great deal of unmitigated noncense is read and written about the American girl and the fashionable bathing suit.

Last summer possibly a thousand bathers and bathing costumes were seen along formus taverns in the English metropofine to-between a nun and three harealbetween a goat and compasse? What
law could have governed the introduction
of such anomalous inscriptions as "The
George and Cammon?" or "The Green
Man?" or "The Iron Devil." The puzzles
presented to us in these quaint and curious compounds struck an observant
versifier of the last century, who thus
gives vent to his astonishment:

The nunsed at the signs
As I pass through the town;
I see the odd mixture,
A magnis and crown;
The leg and seren stars;
The whale and the crow;
The axe and the bottle;
The capic and child;
The axe and the bottle;
The capic and child;
The axe and the bottle;
The capic and child;
The shevel and boot.

Truly, such "odd mixtures" must at
first sight seem devoid of any sort of
meaning; and it is only as we delve
tack into the past that we become aware
that their apparent absurdity and ex-

of the morning, and then less than 18 minutes is apont in the surf. For the most part these bells and helicease wear black or many blue fiannel, made high neck, with a turned up collar that will, reach to the cars if needed, and long alsover with cuffs that pull down over half the hands, in place of bathing mits. A big harvest hat of platted straw, with cork soled stockings, complete the squatic outfit. To be sure, there are red all stockings, but one only sees them in print, and as for the decollete bodies or blooks, it is all a myth. Then the suits of black ladin silk!

"Salves alive!" said the bathing mistem of Long Beach, "there isn't one in the whole pavilion. Last year we took care of one belonging to a New York lady, and it was the only silk suit that came here the whole season. Blue didn't seem to care for it herself, though it had cost her \$25, she said, and she took it up to the hotel and dried it herself after each listit, for fear of having it sicken from the bath house." This woman stated further that everyhody but the green young ladies had to have a hat and glove to heep the sunburn off. There is no denying the popularity of the divided akirs which has been universally adopted by all the members of the Hew York athletic chubs. This germent is nothing more than a pair of shirts, joined a third of the distance from the band. The fullness conscends the limb. With this is worn flats and tights, a sailer bloome, his his accordings, and cork soles. Blue flames in the only object is the greater freedom in the use of the limbs. With this is worn flats and tights, a sailer bolome, his he should not be desired, the moved uses, in the year deals that the is the liseach of the jearned in the partitude with his liseach of the jearned only of Amengeous, Bermah. In two planted, the moved uses, in the year deals to be able to the liseach way by his intensity of a belief that is in his liseach of the jearned as the partitude with his histories of the partitude of the distort of the firm of the intensity of a beli

with a legend of St. Nicholas, who, on NEW POLAR EXPEDITION.

THE DANGEROUS EFFORT TO BE

final success.

Two expeditions for this purpose are now in the midst of preparations, buoyant with hope, confident of success, willing to hazard all risks. One of these will start from Norway in June, under the command of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, a distinguished Norwegian explorer. He is preparing for an absence of five years. His ship will weigh 170 tons and will be so constructed that when struck by great masses or ice it will be forced out of the water to the top of the mass. It will be manned by a crew of eight men and fully equipped for the long journey. Dr. Nansen will sail straight through Bering Strait into the Arctic Ocean, and then follow the current. He believes that a current runs from the coast of Siberia into an open polar sea. His reason for this belief is that after the ill fated Jeannette was abandoned on the north Bering coast, near the mouth of the river Lena, articles believed to belong to this ship were picked up on the west coast of Greenland. Dr. Nansen's theory is that they got into this Siberian current, were carried toward the pole, and then down through Baffin's Bay to the western shores of Greenland. It will be remembered that various scientific societies in Europe have discouraged Dr. Nansen's theories, but he will proceed with his expedition, and we shall hear of him no more for five years, if ever.

The second expedition is of a very different nature. It is under the direction of Engineer Robert E. Peary, of the United States Navy, who has obtained leave of absence for 18 mouths, commencing May I. He will conduct his expedition overland through Greenland in a northeasterly direction. Three or four men will comprise the party, and they will travel with dogs and aledges. Mr. Peary has previously explored in Greenland, and he is quite certain that these great foe plateaus form the safest and surest route to the Norths Pole. He feels sure that he will reach the northern limits of the land and find a sea of solid ice, upon which he will continue to travel. His plan meet the approval of En

cost of this expedition, and the suppossible to follow the party up with a rescuing expedition, as has been necessary in all previous attempts at explorations.

What lies in that impossible to follow the party up with a rescuing expense of the for the imagination alone to depict. It may be only as sendine expanse of the mendous exercision of an intermediate and the method of the antisfaction of a universal curiosity. But there, has always extented a vision of an open see, an equable elimate, vegetation, and it has even been dreamed that a race of people might live in this wonderland. And restinss, daring, inquiring humanity will continue its reasenarch to the said of time, or until all the mystery is solved.

Teaching Yeav Dog.

The essiont trick to basch a dog is jumping. Pirus put the learner jaio corner, and make a bar of astick—a cans will answer the purpose—on that he can not get out of the corner except by jumping over it. Do this until he jumps or the vicilar vand south of Hattiteburg, Miss.

A charter has been granted at the stotion department in Harrisburg to the Mount Carmel and Stallond Company, in which he cannot get out of the corner except by jumping over it. Do this until he jumps or the vicilar vand south of Hattiteburg, Miss.

A charter has been granted at the stotion department in Harrisburg to the Mount Carmel and Natule Entired Company with a capital of §10,00. The line will be aix miles lung, from the Philadelphia and by apping that he light of the bear any required distance from the floor. After the trick, begin in a corner, Plant to the received with tissue paper many be substituted with good results.

Another easy prick is afting up. As in the first tick, begin in a corner, Plant tissue paper may be substituted with good results.

Another only trick is afting up. As in the little stotic come down upon all force has a decided being the force him to sit up. After some particle with the bear and the botton of his force, and the sould be bear of the second to the corner and the botton of his

Texas has 225 counti

on has 11,000 electric lig

Newspapers use 600,000,600 pounds of paper a year.

Three hundred and ninety-eight millions speak English.

There are 1,000 different religions on the earth, and a out 250 in America

To make one pound of honey the ber must visit from 90,000 to 200,000 flower t In the fiscal year 1890, 52,003 Italiams came to the United States for settlement. The first church and the first saloon started in St. Louis shout the same time

most interesting.

The Congo River is 15 miles wide in some places. Steamest often pass each other, but out of sight.

The greatest ocean depth ever found by measurement was in the Atlantic near Puerto Rico, 4,601 fatherss.

It takes about three seconds for a measurement of the Atlantic of the to the other. This is about 700 miles a second.

in America that family which is be-coming more and more widely known is called bacilli; in Paris, parisite; in Germany germs, and in reland, mio-robes.

robes.

The custom of keeping birthdays is many years old. It is recorded in Genesis xi, 20; and it came to use the third day, which was Pharach's sirthday, that he made a feast unic all his servants."

Both England and Italy have cannons of 17 inches caliber, which throw projectiles weighing 2,000 pounds. These are the largest gues in the world. Their range is understood to be between 10 and 12 miles.

The Washington Monument in Wash-

12 miles.

The Washington Monument in Washington, D. C., heads the list of objects of this sort. It is 655 feet high. The Victoria Tower in London, 340 feet, comes next, and the Bartholdi Statue of Liberty ranks third at 855 feet.

The first sale of land of record was the transaction between Abraham and Ephron. The patriarch deared a place of burial for his family, and bought a field of Ephron for a00 shekels. The details of the transfer are in Genesis.

tails of the transfer are in Genesis.

There are spiders in Geylon that spin webs so strong as to prove a check to any one moving quickly against them. Hats have been knocked off the heads of persons by a single thread. Some of the spiders are eight inches across.

The first water mill ever built was erected on the river Tiber, at Rome, A. D. 50. Windmills were in original use in the twelfth century. Tidemills were operated in Venice about 1708. Sowmills are said to have been in use at Augsberg, Germany, about 1833.

The longest canal in the world is the

The longest canal in the world is the Imperial Canal of China, which starts from Peking, connects the Hoang-ho, Yang-lae-Kiang, and a number of other rivers, passes by the gates of 41 cities, and, with its branches, affords nearly 2,000 miles of water communication in the heart of the empire.

BAILBOADS.

Mrs. Andrew Delaney, of Delphi, Ind., is the mother of three pairs of twins.

Mrs. Andrew Delaney, of Delphi, Ind., is the mother of three pairs of twins. They are all living.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt has had made in London an exact counterpart of the royal crown of England, which she will wear to the theater.

The Boston Pilot announces that George Parsons Lathrop, the author, and his wife, who is a daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, have become Catholics.

The legal adviser of the mikado of Japan is Henry W. Dennison, who formerly lived in New Hampshire, but has been a resident of Japan for 23 years. It is never too late to mend. Millionaire James Robinson, of Phonnix, Ariz, has at last found time to attend night school, so that to his other possessions he may add the ability to read and write.

The Hon. William Heywood, a lawyer of Lancaster, N. H., recently attended the 119th consecutive term of the Vermont supreme court at Guildhall, covering a period of 504 years of practice.

Broker R. B. Davlison, of Philadelphia, is the only surviving clerk of the old United States Bank. He is 83 years old, and was employed in the bank from 1838 to 1838, while Nicholas Biddle was precident of it.

old, and was employed in the bank from 1832 to 1836, while Nichol.s Biddle was president of it.

Senator Ignatius Donnelly, of Minne-sota, in a flight of eloquence the other day waved his hand toward the visitors' gallery and shouted, "There are our superiors!" Whereat the "superiors" cheered so lustly that they were incon-tinguity part out. tinently put out.

The "Ann Aliza" who won some fam and earned a little money by telling about Brigham Young, whose 19th wife she once was, is no longer one-nineteenth of a widow. She has married one Den-

of a widow. She has married one Denning, a local states and lawmaker of Michigan.

"There will be many more Indian wars," said General Nelson & Miles a few days ago. "The same causes which produced the last one will bring about others." General Miles prophesics with all the calm assurance of an almanac foretelling next year's weather.

Lily Langtry is coming back to this country. She has lost money heavily in London, which must be a novel experience with her, for she has been in the past wenderfully successful in real estate and stock speculations. She is said to have dropped \$75,000 on Cleopatra alone.

Colonel John S. Mosby, according to the Savannah Ness, is the manager of a branch of the Louisiana Lottery, established in Mexico, which is literally flooding the country with advertising matter and circulars, which the Government is powerless to suppress, because it has no authority to interfere with he mail compowerless to suppress, because it has no authority to interfere with the mail com-ing from a foreign country. Sir John A. Maodonald, the Canadian

Sir John A. Macdonald, the Canadian statesman, is one of the most distinguished looking men in the Dominion. His face is very striking, and either it or its picture will at once suggest a strong likeness of a different man to every different observer. Some say he looks like Beecher, others that he closely resembles George Washington, others still that his face and Benjamin Dismeli's are alike as two peas, and yet others assert that the likeness of him in a recent number of Harper's Weekly is also a likeness of Edwin Booth. As a matter of fact, Sir John does resemble all matter of fact, Sir John does resemble all

New York has 10,000 artists. The English collection of Meissonier's pictures now on exhibition in London is estimated to be worth \$1,000 per square

GENERAL PARM NOTES.

Land that has produced a crop has lost a portion of its fertility. This fertility must not only be restored in some manner, but the soil should be made richer than before.

No matter how well fed the stock may be, the greater gain is secured when the food is varied. A mem of green food may contain but little nutrition, but it may promote the appetite and induce an animal to consume more food.

It is not the largest farms that pay. A from of any size can be made to pay a profit if the management is correct. When certain crops do not give a profit try some other. The demands of the market should be considered as much as

Corn is benefited by all kinds of ma-nure. The roots extend quite a distance and feed over the whole of the surface. It is a crop that assists in cleaning the soil of weeds, owing to the frequent cul-tivation required, and it thrives best when the young plants are given a good start.

While some farmers apread all their manure on 10 acres in order to grow a crop of corn and bestow the labor on a large area, others may perform their work on a single acre of celery, cabbage, or small fruit, and realize a larger profit than those who cultivate ten times as much land.

All young animals should be pushed from the start. When a calf makes rapid growth in the behinning it will require less care and labor later on. The weak and puny young animal always is more expensive than the others. Many of the early drawbacks are due to a failure to properly care for the young stock the first few weeks.

When a cow is turned out on a bare field to pick up her food she not only travels over a great distance of ground during the day and secures but a portion of that which she should have, but she also drops her manure where it is wasted. Nothing is saved by compelling the cow to depend on herself. A saving of food in one direction causes a loss in some other way.

Every farmer is familiar with the use of the plow; but there are many kinds of plows, each adapted to some farms better than to others, and it is important to select the right make. There is no best plow for all kinds of work, as level lands, hill lands, light and how soils all require certain plows best adapted for the work required to be done, and also for the crop that is to be planted. Do not be afraid to buy fertilizers. If

Do not be afraid to buy fertilizers. If good results are not obtained the first year the next crep may show the effects of fertilizers. An application of ground bone sometimes gives good sesults for 10 or 20 years after, as bones decompose slowly. Care must be used in making selections of feetilizers when immediate effects are desired, and the farmer should learn which are soluble and which are insoluble. Something also depends on the kind of crop.

cows in some hards is worth twice as much for producing butter as that from

the English collection of Meissonier's pictures now on exhibition in London is settimated to be worth \$1,000 per square linch.

The Academy of the Fine Arts of Philadelphis has appointed a committee of five to arrange for a display of American at at the exhibition in Berlin.

An exhibition of pictures at Barcelons, Spain, which will open in May, will contain a retrospective view of works by: Fortuny. Fronch and Italian works with be shown, but Spain in to furnish the built of the pictures by living artists.

A popular Scottish nobleman, who has a considerable knowledge of set, made agreed with the set of the picture of the set of the set of the picture of the set of the picture of the set of the set of the picture of the set of

has been made by Professor F. H. Sz of Lawrence, Kansas. It is nothing than the introduction of contag diseases among chinch bugs, when they perish by thousands and milli This is the same idea advanced Pasteur for the extermination of rat in Australia, but which has not, as in Australia, but which has not, as yet, proved successful. Kansas has the honor of having found a complete remedy for the chinch bug pest. It seems that there are two or three diseases to which this bug are liable. Professor Snow caught some of the sick bugs, and with them inoculated others. He then sent the diseased bugs to such farmers in Kansas as wished for them, whose fields of corn and wheat were being destroyed. These sick bugs were placed in different portions of the infested fields, and in a few days the disease spread to all the bugs, and they were found to be dead and dying by millions. The disease was also successfully introduced by Professor Snow into Missouri, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio, and Minnesota. In Kansas the bugs were nearly exterminated. Every experiment station and agricultural college is the land should be able to send out diseased chinch bugs, as Professor Snow has done land should be able to send out diseased chinch bugs, as Professor Snow has done in Kansas, so that formers can procure a supply and rid themselves of this great pest. The bugs are sent by mail in glass bottles, with full directions for use. This is a very remarkable advance in the science of entomology, and reflects great credit upon Professor Snow.

FILLER-WALERS

FULLER-WALKER

Early Weeds and Late Weeds, and How

Many of the most valuable crops to the farm are sometimes distroyed before the plants are an inch high by weeds, the dif-ficulty being that the weeds can only be removed between the plants, in the rows, by hand labor, which is too expensive. The beet, carrot, and parsnip are crowded off some farms simply because the seeds of weeds germinate sooner than the seeds of the root crops, and take possession of the ground. Later on the turnip meets with the same masfortune, and where it ould be made an important crop the cost of labor is too gr. .t, owing to the rapid growth of weeds, which can not be pregrowth of weeds, which can not be pre-vented as long as the seeds of weeds re-main in the ground. Some weeds come early and some appear late, but at no season of the year is the farmer safe. The extra cultivation required to prevent weeds from growing in among small and tender plants is sometimes an expense greater than the value of the crop when it is matured, and the only mode of lessening this expense is to destroy the wee as a special work of the whole season order to reduce the labor next year.

As it is not always safe to have tender plants appear before the middle of May, the early preparation of the soil will be found efficacious in destroying a large proportion of the weeds. By plowing early, and harrowing the soil, the weeds Some creamerles make no distinction between farmers who keep good grade cows and those who keep scrubs. But one price is paid for milk, without regard to the oil or butter fat contained in the milk. Such unfairness does not encourage farmers to improve their stock, and it also injures the business of the creamery to a certain extent by lessening the value of all the milk. Milk from cows in some hards is south to be planted. Though all the weeds may not be destroyed the first year by this method, yet the labor of caring for this method, yet the labor of caring for the crop will be greatly reduced, and fewer weeds appear next season if the crop is well and carefully cultivated, An essential point is to destroy the weeds as soon as they appear. Induce the weed seeds to sprout and then destroy them, as the work can be done then at the low-cat cost.

as the work can be done then at the low-cat cost.

An important point is to have the manure well rotted, so as to destroy any seeds that may be in the heap. The manure heap is the source from which a large share of the weeds come, and some attention should be given the heap, with a view of lessening the danger therefrom. During the year all harboring places of weeds, such as the fence corners, etc., should be kept clean. If these precau-tions are observed the labor of destroying weeds will be reduced each year,

The Pineapple as a Pet Pinet.

The pineapple is perhaps one of the most important of all the tropical fruits. In the extreme southern part of Plorida there are immense plantations of them, and from these the people in that section derive almost their entire income from the crop. Great quantities are grown in Europe under glass, and much more intention is paid to them there than in this country. The plant is very easy to grow, and at the north will succeed well in any greenhouse, or even a sunny window. The plants themselves are very ornomental, and to watch them coming into bearing is a very interesting sight to must people; after the plant has attained its full size it begins to turn blood rod in the center, and in a few days you can see the young fruit, which looks like a red resette, way down in the center; this is pushed up pretty rapidly by the central fruit stalk, and the young fruit begins to assume its shape, and is soon one-third grown; at this stage it begins blooming, and from each one of the diamond shaped lobes of the fruit comes a pretty bright blue flower.

Barer in Beskharry Canas.