

## THE PINE KNOT.

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B. A. GOODRIDGE, - Editor.

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Two wealthy Mexicans fought a strange duel at Tampico recently. They shut themselves up together in a dark room in which 100 poisonous tarantulas had been let loose. Instead of killing the tarantulas, the tarantulas killed them.

The decline and fall of the Saddle Rock oyster are thrillingly described by New York Fish Commissioner Blackford. The Saddle Rock bed was once famous and its product was a most toothsome luxury. Now it is in such a condition that it produces few oysters, but an unlimited crop of "roller skates, bottles, ashes, pasteboard and refuse." Yet there is probably not a New York restaurant where, in the winter season, Saddle Rocks cannot be obtained—by paying a large enough price.

A sensible correspondent from Europe advises American parents to educate their children in their native land. He says: "There are here in Europe multitudes of American children who can speak French and German better than their own language. I met the other evening a family from Ohio, and I found the son, a boy twelve years of age, reading Cooper's novels and 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' in German. 'I understand them better in German than in English,' he remarked, with a strong foreign accent. The parents spoke of the fact with evident satisfaction. Another American family, in which are five daughters, who have made a great success in science, medicine, painting and music, employ German or French in their home circle and cannot pronounce an English sentence without making a blunder of some kind."

The foreign trade of the United States for the last fiscal year was larger than that for the year before in all directions. In other words, we exported more domestic merchandise (exports of foreign merchandise were but slightly less than before) and imported more foreign merchandise. Including the figures representing the movement of coin, it is found that the totals of imports and exports, merchandise and money, balance within \$240,000, the excess being on the side of the imports. The merchandise account alone shows that we sent abroad products, goods and wares valued at \$24,000,000 more than the imported articles. An analysis of the export account shows that about 75 per cent. was agricultural products, including dairy manufactures, and 20 per cent. manufactured articles, including refined petroleum. A review of the import account shows that nearly half the increase of the total is due to a large importation of undutiable goods, principally coffee, tea and raw materials. Steel and iron, in various forms, contributed the most to the increase of dutiable imports.

Bishop William Taylor has established in Africa a new line of missions extending seventy miles from the coast on the Cavalla river. They are seventeen in number, and the principal ones are at Euiloky, Yawki, Beaboo, Tobo Tatepa, Gerrobo, Wamleka, Fahleky, Baraka, Garaway, and Grand Sess. White men and women are preferred by the natives as teachers in preference to natives. He has negotiated with the inland kings and chiefs for the establishment of industrial schools and missions along the banks of this river, and calls for workers to aid him. To each missionary and his wife a good sized dwelling, ground, and agricultural implements will be given. The missionaries have been well received, and many requests for missions have been set aside for want of workers.

Some features of Western land improvement were explained to a New York Tribune reporter in a brief talk by John W. Bookwalter. He has been detained from a contemplated foreign trip by the rapid growth of country about his large farm in Nebraska, through which the railroads are pushing their way. He has cut up his land into farms of 160 acres each, and has leased 125 of these farms on long term leases. The leaseholds vary in price according to location. The farms near the railroads are, of course, more valuable than those remote from the line of transportation. The rentals average about \$200 per year for each farm. "This is much better," said Mr. Bookwalter, "than farming on a large scale, for several reasons. In the first place, it develops the country and makes the property more valuable. In the next place it makes each farmer an eventual settler, who will want to buy the farm that he has been improving and making valuable. Then it is more remunerative."

### Raising Telegraph Poles.

"It looks easy enough," said a superintendent of the construction department of a telephone company, the other day to a New York Commercial Advertiser reporter, "to put up one of those sticks, but it isn't so simple as it looks, by any manner of means. One of the first things we meet when we start out is the public spirited citizen. He don't want to have a pole in front of his house, and he generally declares he won't have. We don't argue with such men, we simply get around bright and early in the morning, and when Mr. Man gets up he sees a pole towering up some eighty feet in the air. When we get ready to sink a pole we drop what we call a sheer pole and hold it in place by four guy ropes. On the top of this pole is a block and tackle. The rope is then made fast to the centre of the big pole on the ground, and the horse to which the other end is attached starts up. The pole rises in the air, and when it gets up a certain height half a dozen of our men take hold of the butt end and sink it into the hole. It takes about twenty men and a horse to put up one of these monsters, and we can put up from eight to ten per day in the city. In the country, where we erect poles all the way from forty to fifty feet, we can raise anywhere from fifty to seventy-five per day. As to the pay of these men, some get \$30 per month and board, and the more expert climbers \$40 per month and board. The hanging of the wire is quite a trick. The horse does his share in stringing the wire also. We attach the copper wire to a rope and then throw the rope over a dozen poles. The horse is at the last pole, and when he starts up the wire is drawn just as tight as can be. The whole business is now right down to a science, even to gripping the poles and stringing the wires."

### He "Busted" Up.

Jessie—"Oh, by the way, Uncle, how's your cousin John getting along here in New York? He came down to the city to make his way in the world by his wits, you know."

Uncle George—"Yes. Well the last I knew of him he had busted up for want of capital."—Texas Siftings.

Parents sometimes need instruction as much as the children need education.

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## THE HOME DOCTOR.

### Beds and Bed Clothing.

The covering of a bed ought to be light as well as warm. Woolen blankets are far more healthful than are heavy comforters which admit of no ventilation, but instead, absorb and retain the exhalation from the body. Beds and bed clothing should be aired frequently. Many housewives consider the airing of the sleeping room all-sufficient, but this is a mistake. Not only should mattresses be turned and aired at least three times each week, but pillows and bolsters ought to be beaten, shaken and exposed to the sun every two or three days. If beds and their furnishings are not carefully cared for the bedding soon comes to have a stuffy, disagreeable odor, and that odor means sleepless nights, for perfect rest is gained only in a bed that is fresh and clean.

### Treatment of Insect Stings.

The sting of insects, such as gnats, mosquitoes, etc., says *Le Pharmacien Populaire*, are often painful. In such a case apply spirit of hartshorn or volatile alkali to the part. Spider bites are not only painful, but often venomous, and it is necessary to wash them with salt water or diluted vinegar. The sting of the bee is harmful only when the sting remains sticking in the wound. So the first thing to be done is to press the wound in order to make it bleed, since the blood that flows will carry along a portion of the poison. Then suck the wound and wash it well with water, and then with a solution of knos powder. This latter, which is much used in England, consists of three parts of chloride of lime to eight of common salt. An ounce of this powder is to be dissolved in a tumbler of water. If this composition is not to be had, Goulard's extract may be used. For the sting of the scorpion, volatile alkali should be used, and after the pain subsides, an emollient cataplasm may be applied.

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