

The Kettle on the Crane. How many pleasant pictures does the recol- lection bring...

"Yes, I thought of teaching it after I left college." "Very good; I'll put you near Mr. Ferris. He can probably give you a few hints which may be useful; a son of Judge Ferris, you know. Educated as a mining engineer; but he has gone into the works, like any poor lad, to work his way to a practical knowledge of the business.

blast, or of watching the great ma- chinery in motion, and the rush of white liquid metal from the caldron. "Are you ill, Ferris?" he said, com- ing up to the young man, as he sat with his hand upon the lever and his eye upon the fiery fluid. "Your lips are blue."

MADSTONES. One Which Earned a Fortune for its Owner. Curing the Most Virulent Type of Hydrophobia. One of the most celebrated madstones in this part of the world, says the Des Moines (Ia.) Leader, is that belonging to Turner Evans, of Paris, Linn county, this state.

The Career of "Boss Tweed." William M. Tweed was born in New York City in 1823, and died in Ludlow Street Jail April 12, 1878. After re- ceiving a common school education he learned the trade of chair making. In 1852 he was made an alderman of New York, and was soon after elected to congress, where he served from 1853 to 1855. In 1856 he became a supervisor of New York and chairman of the board. He was a school commissioner in 1856-57 and a deputy street commis- sioner from 1861 to 1870. From 1867 to 1871 he was a state senator. In 1870 he was appointed commissioner of the department of public works in New York City. It was while he was in this office that a corrupt "ring," of which he was chief, was formed and vast sums of public money were appro- priated to private use. The building and furnishing of the new court house in New York were taken advantage of for these peculations, and the money represented to be spent on this work amounted to many millions of dol- lars more than was actually de- voted to this purpose. These corrupt practices were exposed, and in October, 1871, Tweed was arrested in a civil suit on charges brought by Charles O'Connor in behalf of the city. Bail was fixed at \$1,000,000, and was promptly furnished. Soon afterward, Tweed was again elected to the state senate, but did not take his seat. In December, 1873, he was arrested in a criminal action on charges of fraud, but was released on \$5000 bail. In January, 1873, he was brought to trial, which resulted in a disagree- ment of the jury. In the following Nov- ember he was found guilty of fraud, and was sentenced to twelve years' im- prisonment in the penitentiary on Black- well's Island; also to pay a fine of \$12,550. In April, 1875, suit was com- menced in behalf of the people for the recovery of \$8,000,000, and judgment was entered for this amount, with inter- est. The view was sustained by the supreme court that the cumula- tive sentence of twelve years' im- prisonment on twelve counts of the in- dictment was contrary to law, in June, 1875, who said the sentence was not lawful beyond one year. Tweed's release was therefore ordered. He was, however, held in jail to the amount of \$3,000,000, and in default of this he was committed to Ludlow street jail. On December 4th he escaped from the custody of two keepers; with whom he had been permitted to ride in the Park and visit his residence. He remained concealed for several months, and then succeeded in reaching Cuba, whence he went to Spain. Here he was arrested by the Spanish government, and deliv- ered to officers of the United States. Late in the autumn of 1876 he was brought back to New York, and again confined in Ludlow street jail, where he died on the date above mentioned. — [New York Dispatch.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS. An English pathologist thinks that cancers may be developed by arsenic eating. Bath, gymnastics, and mountain climbing are prescribed by German physicians for heart disease. It is noted that timber that has been floated down rivers is not subject to dry- rot. The water dissolves the salts and albumen. A new invention, called the "telantog- raph," has recently been exhibited in Paris. It is authoritatively stated that it can reproduce by telegraph any kind of document in the handwriting of the sender. A new method of welding metals has been invented by Nicolas von Bernardos of St. Petersburg, Russia. It is done by direct application of the electric arc between a pencil carbon for one ter- minal and the metal to be welded for the other. The possibility of infection from dis- ease germs escaping from hospital win- dows is attracting some attention, and a special inquiry is recommended. Hos- pital ventilation might be so arranged that the foul air would be drawn through a furnace before mingling with the outer atmosphere. Prof. Tumas, a European physiolo- gist, has shown that vomiting is the re- sult of irritation of a space in the medulla oblongata about one-fifth of an inch long and one-twelfth wide, and be- lieves that the brains of ruminants, rodents, and other non-vomiting ani- mals lack this "vomiting center." Experiments are being made on Prussian railways with axle boxes fitted with bearings of vegetable parchment in place of brass. The claim is made that these compressed paper bearings make a tough material that is superior to metal. Such bearings are also in use in a Ger- man saw mill, with satisfactory results. A powerful disinfectant, adapted to all purposes, has been obtained in Paris from coal-oil. It is a syrupy brown liquid, of a not disagreeable odor, re- sulting from a peculiar saponification of the oil by caustic soda. It destroys moss and fungus on trees, and sponging with a weak solution keeps flies from horses. While considering it doubtful whether ants and bees can hear, Sir John Lubbock believes it to be quite possible that they may hear sounds so shrill as to make no impression on the human ear. A like fact may be true of their perception of colors. To insects the world may be full of music we can- not hear, colors we cannot see, and sen- sations we cannot feel. Torpedo boats find it difficult to con- ceal their approach to the object of their attacks owing to the large volume of smoke which comes from their funnels. At Nantes, France, an invention was successfully operated recently by which the smoke was so reduced in tempera- ture as not to rise, but to spread over the surface of the water. It acts as a veil to conceal the boat from view. The annual loss caused by insects in the United States is estimated at about \$150,000,000, that on cotton alone being \$15,000,000. The insects increase with the advance of civilization, on account, doubtless, of the greater abundance of the food furnished them. Every vege- table product and every variety of fruit and flowers are attended by special parasites, each of which thrives on its respective food-plant. The process for the manufacture of celluloid is little known, yet very sim- ple. Paper is sprayed with acids until thoroughly saturated, then compressed and washed with water and reduced to a pulp. It is next bleached, mixed with camphor, colored, ground and spread in thin layers on slabs. Finally it is placed under hydraulic pressure and passed between heated rollers, coming out in elastic sheets. Rats Tap a Money Till. John Beck, a druggist, of Pittsburg, has been the victim, from time to time during the past seven years, of sys- tematic and mysterious robberies. The thieves, however, have now been dis- covered. They were rats. At the back end of the money drawer an opening of about two inches from the top of the counter, and through which a small-sized rat could climb, was found. Near it was a hole or nest made of a pile of greenbacks and other small articles, occupied by eight small rats, which were too young to make their escape. Several hundred dollars are supposed to have been lost in this way. House Poison. If the condensed breath collected on the cool window panes of a room where a number of persons have assembled be burned, a small as of singed hair will show the presence of organic matter; and if the condensed breath be allowed to remain on the windows for a few days, it will be found, on examination by a microscope, that it is alive with animalcules. The inhalation of air con- taining such putrescent matter causes untold complaints which might be avoided by a circulation of fresh air. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

Her Dough Was All Wedding Cake. In brown holland apron she stood in the kitchen; Her sleeves were rolled up, and her cheeks all aglow; Her hair was coiled neatly, when I, indis- cretely, Stood watching while Nancy was kneading the dough. Now, who could be neater, or brighter, or sweeter, Or who hum a song so delightfully low, Or who look so slender, so graceful, so tender, As Nancy, sweet Nancy, while kneading the dough! How daffily she pressed it, and squoosed it, caressed it, And twisted and turned it, now quick and now slow; Ah! me, but that madness I've paid for in sadness, Was my heart she was kneading as well as the dough. At last when she turned from her pan to the dresser, She saw me and blushed, and said shyly "Please go, Or my bread I'll be spoiling, in spite of my toiling, If you stand here and watch while I'm kneading the dough." I begged for permission to stay—she'd not listen; The sweet little tyrant said: "No, sir! no! no!" Yet when I had vanished on being thus hand- sanded, heart stayed with Nancy while knead- ing the dough. I'm dreaming, sweet Nancy, and see you in fancy. Your heart, love, has softened and pined my way; And we, dear, are rich in a dainty, we kitchen; Where Nancy, my Nancy, stands kneading the dough. — [Brooklyn Citizen.

RICHARD OGDEN'S DUTY Mr. Wagner was superintendent of the great Bessemer Steel Works in Pennsylvania. One morning, about ten years ago, a young man came into his office whom he recognized as Richard Ogden, assistant book-keeper in a Philadel- phia importing firm. Mr. Wagner shook hands with him heartily. He had known Ogden since he was a boy, and liked him thoroughly. He was a keen-eyed, doggedly honest fel- low, and, unlike most young men, al- ways hard at work. He had married lately, too. Mr. Wagner had been at his little house and seen the wife and baby. "Hello, Ogden! How came you here at the busy season, too?" "It is not busy for me, sir," said Ogden, gravely; "I am discharged. The firm, like all other Philadelphia firms, found it necessary to lessen expenses, and discharged one-fourth of their men. I was the youngest book-keeper, and had to go of course." "That is bad—bad!" (It was in the days when the hard times were hardest.) "What are you going to do, Richard?" "I can find nothing to do in Philadel- phia. There are twenty thousand men there looking for work. I came to ask you for it." "Me? My dear boy, our book-keepers have been with us for years!" Richard laughed. "I did not come to oust them from their desks, Mr. Wagner. I do not hope to get any work for my head. I must put my hands to it now. Is there no place in the mill for me?" "Among the hands? You do not mean that, Ogden?" "Yes, I do," coloring slightly. "A man is a man, no matter how he earns his bread. I cannot afford to be idle a week. With the wages which you pay our puddlers or firemen, I can support my wife and the boy in this village, where living is so cheap, at least until times mend." "Very well, my lad," said Mr. Wag- ner, after a moment's hesitation, "you are right. I'll find a place for you to- morrow. By the way, you used to have good deal of knowledge of chemistry,

saved by Swift Running. At Inkermann, one of the most stub- bornly fought battles of the Crimean war, a young officer, who had learned at Eton not much from books but a good deal from his sports, was surrounded and made prisoner. While going to the rear in charge of two stalwart Russians, he looked at their long coats and said to himself: "They can't run." Watching his opportunity, he knocked one soldier head over heels, threw the other, by a wrestler's trick, into the mud, and took to his heels. Before his guardians were on their legs and could fire, he had got over a good piece of ground. A Russian lancer made at him; he ran as if leading an Eton foot-race, and cleared a good-sized fence. The lancer cleared it after him, and with lance fixed pressed the fugitive hard. A swollen brook, running fiercely, barred his way. It was seventeen feet wide, but the old Etonian had won the "long jump" when at school, having cleared nineteen feet over Chalvey ditch. He now jumped the brook; the lancer refused to follow, and the young officer ran back into the English lines. How Gladstone Eats. It is reported that Mr. Gladstone ascribes his splendid health and longev- ity, to having early learned one sim- ple physiological lesson, viz, to make twenty-five bites at every bit of meat. Although the twenty-five bites might not make any impression on the meat, in some cases the interesting process of counting in every mouthful must be a species of rumination very diverting to the mind, and congenial to the statisti- cal bent of the great treasury minister. For the purpose of mastication, how- ever, shaving the meat off this across the fibre with a sharp knife would be more effective and more favorable to sociability at meals. Most people cut it in chunks, and so swallow it, after a treatment that is merely lubricative, like that of a serpent.

A Substitute for the Switch. One day Ernest had been seriously lectured by his mother, and finally sent to the yard to find a switch with which he was to be punished. He returned soon and said: "I couldn't find any switch, mamma, but here's a stone you can throw at me." — [Harper's Magazine.

Natural Woods in Vogue. The great demand for hardwood trim- mings in the interior finishing of dwell- ings has developed the art of staining wood until any variety is now imitated so perfectly that only an expert can distinguish it from the genuine article. The fashion then changed to painting the woodwork and walls in delicate tints, and now an interior is not correct unless it is finished in natural or stained woods. New houses follow the styles very easily, but it is a more difficult matter to keep an old house up to the times. To change the painted woodwork of a parlor to mahogany or cherry requires much ingenuity and skill. The paint is first burned off by means of a gas jet worked with a blow pipe. Then the wood is scraped and rubbed until a smooth clean surface showing the natu- ral grain is produced. Next the stain is put on and rubbed in, the wood is polished, and the room finally has the appearance of being done in solid mahogany. Old English oak, which is the most popular wood now, is very difficult to imitate. The grain of oak is so different from that of other woods that the same effect is hard to obtain. American oak, however, is readily stained to look like the foreign wood, and nine-tenths of the "old English" variety is produced in that way. Walnut and cherry produced by staining are much handsomer than the natural woods. — [Mail and Express.

A Singular Affliction. John Burgess of Eric, Penn., is suf- fering from a singular affliction. He is a railroad engineer, and a short time ago, after stepping off his engine, he slipped on a piece of ice and fell, strik- ing the ground quite violently with the back of his head. He was helped home, and now that he has begun to recover from the first painful effects of his fall and can raise himself up, he is very much alarmed to find that when erect he is totally blind. In a lying posture he enjoys his sight as previous to his fall, but as soon as he assumes an upright position he can see nothing whatever.

A Box on the Ear Lands a Trout. Trout Creek is quite a paradise for anglers. The fish are large, and become quite plentiful when the waters of Lake Ainslie are sufficiently warm to cause them to seek a cooler retreat in the flow- ing stream. One half of the stories which are told of the catches at this place would fill volumes, but none of these has yet reached the sublime height of what is claimed for a small lake near Gaysboro. The narrator's hero is him- self. He says that one winter, being tired of salt beef and wanting trout for a change, he cut a hole in the ice on the lake. He had evidently selected a good day, for the fish took his bait so rapidly that it was downright hard work to keep pulling them out. So eager were they, indeed, that they would jump for the bait before it had even touched the water. Our sportsman was an inventive genius and decided to profit by this phenome- nal appetite. Getting down on his knees, he dangled the bait about a foot above the hole and awaited further de- velopments. Almost immediately a fine trout jumped for it, and promptly re- ceived a dexterous box on the ears which landed him far out on the ice. So numerous and so hungry were the fish that the angler's hand was kept constantly busy slapping them as they jumped for the alluring bit of red pork which hovered over the opening in the ice. Every slap yielded a fish. This continued until sheer fatigue put an end to the novel pastime. A conservative estimate placed the quantity of fish at somewhat over four barrels. — [American Magazine.