

THE SALISBURY TRUTH.

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J. J. STEWART, Editor and Proprietor.
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Reasonable.

Entered in the Post-Office at Salisbury as
second-class matter.

The French Council has taken off the
Legion of Honor list 157 persons who se-
cured their crosses fraudulently, and has
suspended sixty-six others pending a
more thorough examination.

It is now possible for a traveler to go
direct by rail from the City of Mexico to
British Columbia, a distance of 6,000
miles. This has been made possible by
the recent completion of the California
and Oregon railway.

A redwood tree recently felled near
Humboldt, Cal., measured 16 feet in di-
ameter one way and 20 feet in the other
at the stump. It was 200 feet long,
tapering to a diameter of 8 feet, and con-
tained enough timber to construct a small
village.

Dr. William A. Hammond, the eminent
New York physician, is about to publish
a paper, in which he maintains that there
is no physiological necessity for death,
and that but for ignorance or disregard
of natural laws and conditions man
would never die.

Confederate money and bonds find a
ready sale at good prices in Nashville
and some other Southern cities, records
the New York World. Many of the
purchasers are curiosity seekers, who
buy the bills for relics, but there are
many other buyers who invest in the
notes in the fond hope that they may
some day be redeemed.

The last Chinese "census" was in
1887, and the population was 319,383,
500 for China proper, or 200 to the
square mile. For the Empire, 382,429,
572, or an average of 85 to the square
mile. Rhode Island has 255, Massachusetts
221, New Jersey 161, Connecticut
128, New York 106 to the square mile.
England has nearly 500. China is a very
sparsely settled country by comparison.

According to the St. James Gazette,
the British Viceroy of India rules "more
subjects than the Emperor of Russia,
the President of the United States, and
the President of the French republic,
taken together; he has more real oppor-
tunities of usefulness than President
Carnot or President Cleveland, and his
outward state and dignity in his domi-
nions are scarcely less than that of the
Czar himself.

One case of advertising for a New York
mail and express, and it was an interna-
tional match at that. Miss Gold, of Sus-
sex, in England, agreed in that way to
marry a Mississippi farmer named
Mitchell, and started for this country on
the ship Scholten. In the wreck of that
steamer Miss Gold behaved so bravely
that Mitchell thought she was worth
going to England for, and so they were
married at the bride's home.

Nussbaum, the celebrated specialist,
in a recent work on surgery, calls it an
"accident" when a surgeon, in perform-
ing a difficult operation, leaves in the
body a piece of sponge, or a pair of
pincers, or a piece of India rubber tub-
ing, thereby causing the patient's death
through blood poisoning, and, therefore,
recommends the practice of counting all
instruments, sponges, etc., both before
and after the operation, by way of a
check, for then you can easily ascertain
whether you have forgotten to take out
something or not.

The growth of hotels in this country
is astounding. On an average forty
hotels are destroyed by fire every month
in the United States. But while forty
hotels burn down sixty-five are erected,
so that the gain greatly exceeds the loss.
Two hundred and seventy-three million
seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars
a year are expended by hotels in the
purchase of provisions and supplies. Much
as the community may grumble at the
hotel accommodations of this country,
the fact remains that we have the best
hotels in the world.

For the first time savage Africa is to
figure next year in an International Ex-
position. France intends to set apart
considerable space in the coming world's
fair to the great region in Western So-
dan which it has appropriated. The
veteran explorer, Mr. Colin, has already
begun the work of collecting the prod-
ucts of the country that are of interest
to science and commerce, such as woods,
medicinal plants, dyestuffs and oil prod-
ucts, as well as arms, clothing, musical
instruments and other articles which have
their part in the daily life of the natives.
Mr. Chollet also is making collections in
the French Congo region, and hopes to
contribute to the fair the novel spec-
tacle of a complete native village, with
all its huts and customary surroundings,
and the natives engaged in their usual in-
dustries, such as food preparing, pipe
and pottery making and blacksmithing. A
bit of tropical Africa transplanted to
Paris will be a novel feature, and it is
very fitting that a part of the world that
is now absorbing much enterprise and
capital should be represented in the big
show.

Prof. Blaisdell, of Beloit College,
Wisconsin, has given to the Regents of
Mount Vernon a small volume entitled
"A View of the War," which once be-
longed to George Washington. One of
the fly leaves bears the following inscrip-
tion in Lord Erskine's handwriting,
addressed to Washington: "It has been
my good fortune through life to be asso-
ciated with the most talented and dis-
tinguished men of Europe; but you,
sir, are the only man being for whom
I ever felt a reverential awe, totally un-
like anything I ever felt for any other
of the human race."

David Dudley Field has been impress-
ing upon a Congressional committee
what he believes to be the wisdom of
going to Europe for our State names
when we are so rich in the musical words
of the Indian. New York, he said, was
just about the worst name that could
have been selected for an American
State. President Lincoln, he thought,
ought to have insisted that West Vir-
ginia was too poor a name with which
to admit a new State, when Cumberland
and Kanawha were so available; and in-
stead of New Mexico we should have had
Montezuma. Wherefore he hopes that
hereafter we will have no such misnam-
ings when Territories apply for State-
hood.

About three months ago, some days
before the departure for Copenhagen of
the Emperor of Russia, Baron Hirsch
sent a letter to the Czar, in which he of-
fered the sum of £2,000,000 to found in
Russia primary schools for the Jews, and
£40,000 to be at the disposal of the Czar
for works of charity. On the return of
the Czar he heard the verbal report of
his minister of the interior, and signed
the acceptance of the gift. The £2,000,
000 have been or are to be paid into the
Bank of England, and Baron Rothchild
and Baron de Worms, who are appointed
trustees, and who will be replaced in
case of death, will receive the interest of
the sum so deposited. It is estimated
that with the annual interest of about
£100,000 it will be possible to open 1,000
schools, receiving 50,000 children.

In 1887 the South made a larger corn
crop than ever before. Fortunate as this
would be under any circumstances," ob-
serves the *Manufacturer's Record* of
Baltimore, "it was exceedingly fortunate
in view of the extremely short crop in
the West and the consequent high prices.
The increase in the South's 1887 corn
crop over that of 1886 will keep at least
\$30,000,000 in that section that would
otherwise have gone West. As the
planting season returns it becomes of
great importance that Southern farmers
should be urged to plant more largely
than ever of corn. Before another crop
is raised the West will be almost bare
of corn, and stocks will be at such a
point that an unusually heavy crop for
the whole country would be so greatly
needed to supply the deficiency of 1887
and to meet current wants that prices
would still continue high, even if the
yield were very large. It is very im-
portant, therefore, not only for the good
of the South in general, but especially
for the prosperity of the farmers that
they would again raise a large crop.
The South ought to do even better in
this line than last year, and Southern
farmers will make a serious mistake if
they do not plant for a large crop of
corn and also of oats. We believe that
every paper in the South would do well
to urge this matter upon its readers."

The full accounts of the extent of the
recent flood in North China come by way
of the English papers. The following
extract from a letter to the *London Non-
conformist* is a terrible revelation: "A
stupendous disaster has overtaken an im-
mense and populous tract of country in
North China. About the end of October
last the mighty Yellow River, which in
2,500 years has changed its course five or
six times, has once more burst out of its
old channel at a point about 300 miles
from the coast. Frantic efforts were
made to close the breach in the embank-
ments, which had been sodden and weak-
ened by ten days' continuous rain, but
all was in vain. The breach finally
widened to a breadth of 1,200 yards,
through which issued the whole contents
of the currents. The escaped torrent in
its progress to the sea was swelled by
other rivers, whose channels it invaded,
until, at last, it was a volume of water
thirty miles wide, and from ten to thirty
feet deep. The absence of railways and
telegraphic communication must have
made flight much more difficult than it
would have been in a country of more
advanced civilization. Walled towns and
multitudinous villages were swept away
by the raging flood. In a tract of terri-
tory about thirty miles square, 1,500
villages were submerged. Accounts
necessarily differ as to the number of
persons drowned. A correspondent to
the *London Times*, writing from Pekin,
thinks it can hardly be less than one,
million, and probably is not so high as
two. Still, he admits that the European
in Pekin, who by his relations with the
Chinese Government is in a position to
be better informed than any one else, has
put the number at seven millions."

"Perfect" Butter.
Prof. L. B. Arnold, the famous dairy
expert, says he never judged but one
sample of butter which came up to the
standard of "perfect." That one was
from a dairy whose product sells regu-
larly in Boston for 89 cents a pound.
The cream for this butter was raised by
intense refrigeration, and kept thus till
enough had accumulated for a churning.
It was then ripened and churned. When
properly granulated the buttermilk was
drawn from the butter, which was then
rolled and pressed into solid condition
with the least possible working.

Owing to the high price of coal the
cordwood industry has been revived in
Connecticut, and large numbers of
people have reverted to the old-fashioned
wood stoves.

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

INTERESTING DOTS ABOUT OUR UNITED STATES OFFICIALS.

**Geopolitical White House—Army and
Navy Matters—Our Relations With Other
Countries and Nations.**

CONGRESSIONAL.

In the Senate, among the bills reported
from committees and placed on the cal-
endar was the following: Senate bill
for a public building at Norfolk, Va., \$250,
000. Mr. Berry addressed the Senate on
the subject of the president's message.
The Senate then proceeded to the con-
sideration of bills on the calendar, only
those being taken up to which there was
no objection. The total number of bills
passed is 611, nearly all of a local char-
acter, and only two of interest in the
South. These were bills appropriating
\$20,000 for the completion of the monu-
ment to Mrs. M. M. Washington, at
Fredericksburg, Va., and to authorize
the construction of bridges over St.
Mary's, Satilla, Little Satilla and Crooked
rivers in Georgia and Florida. . . .
In the House Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee,
reported adversely the resolution calling
upon the postmaster-general for the fol-
lowing information relative to sending
seeds through the mail. A report ac-
companying the resolutions states that
the resolution partakes more of a criticism
of the standing law, a protest against its
enforcement, an arraignment of the post-
master-general for enforcing the law,
than of a proper resolution of inquiry.

In the Senate, Mr. Blair called up the
question of the second reading of the
bill introduced by him some time since
to give preference to disabled Confed-
erate soldiers as between men who had
been disloyal, in appointments to civil
office. Mr. Riddleberger said that he
could not see the force of the objections
made to the bill. Mr. Edmunds opposed
the second reading of the bill, and re-
marked that in most parliamentary
bodies in civilized countries, the chief
discussion on the broad merits of
a bill takes place on the question:
"Shall the bill be read the second time?"
Nobody objected to Confederate soldiers
Confederate citizens sitting in either
house of Congress, a protest not occu-
pying such seats nor having been had
Confederates, but because (the period of
hostility having passed away) they stood
just like every other citizen—no better,
no worse. Without disposing of the
question, the Senate took up the House
bill to provide for the purchase of Uni-
ted States bonds by the secretary of the
treasury, the pending question being an
amendment offered by Mr. Stewart au-
thorizing the deposit of gold or silver
bullion and the issuance of coin certifi-
cates therefor. . . . In the House, Mr.
O'Farrell, of Virginia, called up and the
House adopted a resolution of the com-
mittee on elections in the contested elec-
tion case of Wrothington vs. Post, from
the tenth Illinois district. The resolu-
tion confirms the action of the commit-
tee. A bill was reported from the
committee and placed on the calendar
for a public building at Staunton, Va.
Mr. Plumb, of Illinois, from the com-
mittee on railways and canals reported
a bill to provide for ascertaining the prop-
erty and feasibility of constructing a
gulf and lakes water way. Committee
of the whole.

DOTS FOR FARMERS.
HOOGWOOD.
If hogs are fed liberally with Georgia
collards throughout the season, cholera
will be a very rare complaint. Among
the later improved hog crops, the particu-
lar variety of peanut, known as the
"Spanish" peanut, is met with almost
universal favor. It is early, productive
and very easily cultivated and harvested.
SWEET POTATOES.
Nothing is gained by very early plant-
ing of sweet potatoes, except to insure a
larger area from a given-sized bed by
drawing and setting the first slips that
appear and getting them out of the way
of the next crop. Slips planted out in
April require more cultivation and rarely
produce so well as those planted in May
and June. The ground for the first and
each successive planting should be kept
in mellow condition by occasional plow-
ing and re-bedding. By no means should
slips be set out after a rain until the beds
have been freshened by re-bedding, or at
least listing. Slips set in a sodden bed
rarely do well. But more next month on
this subject.

COTTON.
This is a work that many farmers think
should be done "in a hurry," and with
the smallest expenditure of labor. It is
all very well to perform a given job in
good style with the least labor, but it is
well to consider that in taking a little
more time and expending a little more
labor and care at planting, much future
work may be saved. The first requisite
to securing a good stand and subsequent
good yield is good, sound, carefully se-
lected planting seed of an improved kind
of cotton. There is no great difference
in the productiveness of the different
varieties offered for sale. Their chief
general merit consists in an early de-
velopment of the plant, the seed being
selected with more or less care for a
number of years. Farmers often plant
seed that appear to be sound and "all
right," but on account of imperfect de-
velopment or partial heating, it is found
that the vitality of many of the germs is
either originally defective or it has been
impaired. The result is a poor stand of
plants. So new is this that the measure of
good seed, even if no more than en-
ough to plant a small field from which
to save seed next fall, and test the vital-
ity of any that may be doubtful by
planting early a few handfuls in a warm,
sunny exposure in the garden or in a
hot-bed.

FARM STOCK.
On many Southern plantations enough
peas, potatoes and small grain is wasted
to produce, if consumed by swine, enough
 bacon for the family, or the manure
and enough hay dries in the fields, if
harvested and fed in connection with
cotton seed, to produce more value in
beef and milk than the cotton crop upon
the plantation will bring after paying
cost of production of the latter. We fail
to utilize the very forces of nature which
do our bidding most willingly and profit-
ably for the family of the proprietor,
and the fertility of the soil in the
South may be very accurately engaged by
the attention given to stock-breeding.
Stock on the farm often utilize with
profit vegetable growths which would,
unaccounted, not only remain without
profit, but prove a positive injury. The
most prosperous farmers are those who
avail themselves of the most of the
resources of their land, and while the "cot-
ton-tott" is wearing out his land, the
stock farmer is annually and rapidly im-
proving his. The introduction of thor-
oughbred mules all over the South would
in two years double the value of live
stock in the section. A Merino buck
introduced to a flock of "native" ewes
will raise the wool of a half to five pounds
more and *capita*. A Shorthorn
bull will add 200 pounds to the two-
year-old bullocks.—*Atlanta, Ga., South-
ern Cultivator.*

RIOTOUS SWITCHMEN.
The first encounter between sympathiz-
ers of the striking switchmen, and men
who have replaced them, took place at
Chicago, Ill., when a switch engine and
its crew attempted to transfer some freight
cars to the northward tracks. A crowd
of switchmen of other roads were about
the place, and began to jeer at the
new men on the "Q" engine. When the
train reached Kezick street and Western
avenue it ran off; a number of cars were
derailed. The mob then set upon the
crew of the engine and the train, and
getting numerous cuts as they escaped.
The new switchmen followed and were
pursued and roughly used by the crowd,
which was made up of the toughest
kind of men. Six or eight Pinkerton
men were disarmed and beaten, and Di-
vision Superintendent John Bester, of
the Burlington road, who was on the
train, was also attacked. He and ap-
proximately a dozen Pinkerton men
switchman was arrested, and twenty-
eight engineers and twenty firemen on
the St. Paul road, when it was known
that he had been arrested. The crowd
followed him to the station house and
endeavored to get him released. When
the crowd realized that their comrade
had to remain in the police station, the
St. Paul men decided to strike, and im-
mediately deserted their engines. The
whole yard's force of switchmen, engi-
neers and firemen, 227 in all, quit work,
leaving 28 engines standing on the track.
In an hour or two, two officials of the
St. Paul succeeded in having Quirk re-
leased on bail. He went at once to where
the strikers were in session, and his pres-
ence put them in good humor, and it was
speedily resolved that a resumption of
work was the proper course to pursue.

TEXAS ALLIANCE.
The farmers of Texas have got up a
combine worthy of note all over the Uni-
on. They have organized a stock com-
pany with unlimited capital—that is,
more money is offered than can be at-
tended to. The company is to buy land,
houses and manufactories for the sale
of cotton and its manufacture, and the man-
ufacture of all kinds of agricultural im-
plements. The several hundred acres
north of known as the Cole farm
grounds, have been purchased and are
being put in order for the reception of
machinery for making plows, hoes, rakes,
buckets, harness and many other articles,
as well as a cotton factory with 20,000
spindles. A cotton exchange and ware-
house is being erected in the heart of the
city, where, perhaps, half of the crop of
the state will be sold by sample.

ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.
Lawyer Andrews, of New York City,
who is pressing the indictments against
Jay Gould and Russell Sage, says that
George Gould, the son of Jay Gould, of-
fered him a bribe of \$30,000 to betray
his clients, and not press the charge in a
criminal court.

SOUTHERN GOSSIP.

BOILED DOWN FACTS AND FAN- CIES INTERESTINGLY STATED.

**Accidents on Land and on Sea—New Enter-
prises—Suicides—Religions, Temperance
and Social Matters.**

The dry-goods house of John Gilgan &
Co., of Nashville, Tenn., has assigned for
the benefit of its creditors.
Two white men and a negro were kill-
ed by the explosion of a boiler at the
Lucas mills, in Cookeville, Tenn.
Thomas P. Miller & Co., private bank-
ers of Mobile, Ala., failed and made a
general assignment. It is thought that
the liabilities are about \$150,000, and
assets \$50,000.
Mrs. Grebbis, a widow, attempted
suicide in Birmingham, Ala., by leap-
ing into a large storm water sewer,
which had been filled to overflowing by
heavy rain. A colored woman who saw the
attempt, caught the lady's arm and held
her head above water until a policeman
arrived.

Charles E. Cross, president, and Sam-
uel C. White, cashier, of the National
bank of Raleigh, N. C., were arrested at
Toronto, Canada, on information tele-
graphed from Raleigh, charging them
with forgery. Inside the lining of Cross's
overcoat was found \$9,459, and in
White's, \$15,255. Of this amount, \$600
was in unsigned currency bills.
Several houses were blown down in
Greenville, S. C., and four children, who
were in one of them, narrowly escaped
death, being completely covered up by
the falling debris. Chas. Williams was
also badly crippled. The storm was
going in a northeastern direction, its
track being about one hundred yards
wide. It did its work in a moment and
was over.

Deputy Sheriff Ruff, of Spring Creek,
Madison county, N. C., with a posse of
four men, went to arrest Gailther Reese
because he refused to pay a bill of costs,
taxed in a lawsuit. Reese attempted to
escape, and when he refused to halt, he
was fired on and his brains were scattered
on the ground. The posse were arrested
by the indignant citizens and lodged in
jail.

In the trial of Col. Hamilton at Brad-
don, Miss., for the murder of Gambrell,
the editor, this being the sixth week,
one white and one colored witness put
the carriage on the bridge during the
shootings. The question of the day was,
the court ordered the sheriff to search
every person applying to be admitted
into the court room, saying that if any
pistols or any deadly weapons were
found, that he would visit the severest
punishment in his power.

A case of inhuman treatment to pris-
oners in the Pulaski county jail, at Little
Rock, Ark., was brought out in the
trial of Steve Inman, for assault and battery
upon a prisoner. Tom Brooks (colored),
who was confined in the jail on a charge
of insanity. Inman was acting as jailer
or guard at the time, and the insane
negro refused to obey him, when the guard
persecuted himself that it was his duty
to lash the poor imbecile. He according
placed some strong cord or cloth about
the prisoner's wrist, drew him up until
his toes hardly touched the floor, and ad-
ministered the lash to his back. Inman
submitted his case and asked the clemency
of the court, who gave him the highest
penalty the law provides for, \$200
fine. Not being able to pay his fine, he
was himself placed in the jail to suffer
some of the horrors of prison life.

VETERANS' REUNION.

The arrangements for the reunion of
the survivors of the army of the Potomac
with the survivors of the army of
Northern Virginia are progressing very
satisfactorily. Hon. Geo. W. Curtis
will deliver the oration, Gen. Parsons
Lathrop the poem, and Bishop Horatio
Potter, of New York, the address of wel-
come. Some distinguished Confederate
generals will be selected to make the re-
ply to the address of welcome. The re-
union will be on the 1st, 2d and 3d of
July next at Gettysburg and will con-
clude with a grand banquet. The presi-
dent of the United States, Gen. Sheri-
man, Gen. Sheridan, and many other dis-
tinguished officers on both sides of the
contest will be present. The following
is the committee from the Army of the
Potomac and Confederates can address
any of them for further information:
Gen. John C. Robinson, U. S. A.; Gen.
Abner Doubleday, U. S. A.; Capt. James
Beale; Gen. Francis C. Barlow; Maj. C.
H. G. Tarkenton; Gen. G. Howard;
Gen. Charles Devins; Gen. Carl Schurz;
Gen. H. W. Slocom; Gen. H. A. Barn-
um; Gen. Geo. S. Greene; Gen. A.
Pleasant; Gen. J. B. McIntosh; Gen.
John Hammond, U. S. A.; Gen. H. J.
Hunt, U. S. A.; Col. Andrew Cowan,
Maj. James E. Smith, Gen. Nathaniel P.
Banks, Gen. H. A. Williams, Gen. N.
W. Day, Col. R. B. Erwin, Maj. Chas.
Appleby, Gen. E. L. Mollenbaur, Gen.
Benjamin F. Butler, Gen. N. M. Curtis,
Gen. Joseph B. Hawley, Gen. George H.
Sharpe, Gen. E. Tremane, Gen. Maj. J.
B. Fassitt, Officers Army of the Potomac
Society; Gen. Horatio C. King,
Secretary, 33 Park Row, N. Y.; Col.
Samuel Truesdell, Treasurer, 18 Broad-
way, N. Y.

MINE EXPLOSION.

An explosion occurred at Rich Hill,
Mo., that entirely wrecked the mine and
buried in the debris over one hundred
miners, who were cut off from all means
of escape. Rich Hill is located in Bates
county, one hundred miles south of Kan-
sas City on the Missouri Pacific. It is
the center of the coal mining district.
Superintendent Sweeney and his assis-
tants immediately began the work of
rescuing imprisoned miners and had
taken out fifty men when a second ex-
plosion took place, and Superintendent
Sweeney and his aides were imprisoned.
It is thought that the loss of life will
foot up fully one hundred.

FOR A NICKEL.

Nathan Pinckney and Jack Green, two
colored roustabouts of Charleston, S. C.,
became involved in a quarrel over a game
of cards, in the low sailors' boarding
house of Thomas Douglas, corner of
Elliott street and Gadsden alley. Green
won a nickel from Pinckney and Jack
drew knives; the quarrel ending by
Pinckney killing the other by stabbing
him through the heart. . . . In Atlanta,
Ga., Neil Starks, a colored boy, blew out
his little brother's brains, and wounded
his cousin, Tom Crowley, because they
won a nickel from him at a game of
cards.

BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SKETCHES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

**Understood Feminine Nature—A
Poor Blind Man—A Valuable
Animal for Sale—A Degen-
erate Son—Etc., Etc.**

Photographer (to sitter)—"I saw you
at Church last Sunday, Miss Smith."
Sitter—"Oh, did you?"
"Yes, and your friend Miss Brown—
if you could raise your chin to touch
thanks—and what an atrocious looking
hat she had on. (After a pause.) There,
Miss Smith, it is over, and I think we
have caught a very pleasant expression."
—*New York Sun.*

A Poor Blind Man.

Col. Hamilton Milton is celebrated at
Austin, Texas, as being able to eat more
without a rest than any other two men
in the city. Of late his eyesight has
become affected. Gilhooley asked him the
other day if he experienced any serious
inconvenience.
"I should say I did. I can't read the
bill of fare like I used to. Yesterday I
overlooked two kinds of soup and
slipped up on the custard pie. I can
never tell now when I am through with
dinner."—*Siftings.*

A Valuable Animal

"Grigsby, let me sell you a dog."
"What sort of a beast is he?"
"A watch dog."
"Good one, is he?"
"I should say so."
"Strange!"
"Yes."
"Why do you want to sell him?"
"I can't get in the house when he's
around."—*Nebraska State Journal.*

A Degenenerate Son.

Old Crasus—"Tom, I'm disgusted
with you. How could you be such an
ass as to get caught in a defalcation?"
Tom—"I'm very sorry, sir, I thought
I would be able to adjust matters before
the crash came."
Old Crasus—"Bah! How do you sup-
pose I would be able to give bail for you
to-day, if I hadn't been more discreet in
my time, about matters of this sort? But
there, my boy, live and learn, live and
learn!"—*Tid-Bits.*

Explained.

Wife—"What is meant, John, by the
phrase 'carrying coals to Newcastle'?"
Husband—"It is a metaphor, my dear,
showing the doing of something that is
unnecessary."
Wife—"I don't exactly understand.
Give me an illustration, a familiar one."
Husband—"Well, if I did you to bring
you home a book entitled 'How to
Talk,' that would be carrying coals to
Newcastle."—*Boston Courier.*

Leap Year Proposal.

"Leap year is a great snip, isn't it?" re-
marked Snobkins.
"Just why?" queried Smith.
"A girl proposed to me last night."
"No, you don't say?"
"Yes, and I accepted."
"Worse and more of it. How did it
happen?"
"Simplest thing in the world. She
proposed to me to leave the house or she
would call her father, and I left. That
was all."—*Washington Critic.*

Plowing in California.

Southern California Agent—"There,
sir, look over into that field. Did you ever
see a man plow so easily as that?"
Eastern Farmer—"By gum! The
plow does seem to go easy, don't it? The
man seems to enjoy it."
"Yes, sir; keeps jumping and dancing
along like a boy; just see his heels fly."
"Looks a good deal like a jig, I must
say."
Little Boy (native)—"Pop ain't dancin';
he's tryin' to keep open the way of the
tarantulas or rattlesnakes wot he turns
up."—*Omaha World.*

Confession Good for the Soul.

He (holding a skein of worsted while
she winds)—"Do you notice how well
he trembles, Miss Julia?"
She (shyly)—"Yes, Mr. Sampson."
He—"And cannot you divine the
cause?"
She (shyness increasing)—"No, no, Mr.
Sampson."
He—"Miss Julia, I have a confession to
make. Will you hear it?"
She (shyness becoming painful as she
reads a proposal)—"If you like, Mr.
Sampson."
He—"I was out with some of the boys
last night, and it was 2 o'clock when I
reached home."—*Siftings.*

How to Frighten Drummers.

Friend—"Don't you have a great many
drummers coming in and boring you
with their samples and their talk?"
Merchant—"A good many drummers
come in here, but they don't bore me."
"Don't they ask you to look at their
samples?"
"No."
"Don't they ask you to give them
orders?"
"No; they go right out without say-
ing a word."
"How do you manage to get rid of
them?"
"It's the simplest thing in the world.
I put a plug hat and an open grip sack
on the counter every morning. When a
drummer sees these signs of another
drummer being on the premises he goes
off. Every ten minutes in the day a
drummer comes to the door, looks at the
grip sack, and goes away, and I am left
in peace."—*Siftings.*

He Figured on It.

"Got a pencil?" asked a farmer on the
market yesterday of a citizen. "Now,
then, let's figure a bit!"
"What on?"
"Well, I come in most every day with
something, and generally start for home
about dusk. One boy in particular up
Grand River avenue has bothered me a
great deal by hitting on me." The other
said I thought I'd give him a lesson.
When he got on I grabbed his cap."
"And the boy?"
"He sat down on some bags of oats I
hadn't sold and was taking back home,
and didn't seem to care much about it. He
rode about a mile and then got off
without his cap."
"But what about the figures?"
"I'm coming to them. He threw out
six empty bags worth 35 cents each. He
slashed into three bags full of oats with
his knife and let 'em run out. He threw
away a new tea kettle which cost me 89
cents, and he dropped overboard a horse
blanket for which I paid \$1. Add up
these sums, subtract a two-shilling
cap and see how much I came out ahead."
—*Detroit Free Press.*

Son vs. Law.

A Missouri constable rode out to a
farm near St. Joe armed with a subma-
rine for a woman who was wanted as a
witness in a case in court. He found her in
her back-yard, busily engaged in stirring
a boiling, bubbling mass in a large
black kettle. He stated his business,
and she said:
"I can't go to-day."
"But you must."
"Why is the hurry?"
"It's a serious session, and the case
is now on trial. They want you by
noon."
"Well, I ain't going. You think I'm
going off and leave this hull kettle o'
alf soap to sizzle, just to please your old
court? No, sirree."
"Why, my dear madam, you must—
you really don't seem to under-
stand."
"I understand that I've got a big
kettle o' splendid soap grease on to boil,
and it'll make thin, sticky soap, if it
ain't finished to-day. You go back and
tell the judge so."
"You'll be fined for—"
"Pooh! I'd like to see the Missouri
jury that'd fine a woman for not leavin'
her soap-billin' when it was at a critical
point, as one might say. Tell the edge-
lill come to-morrow, if we don't butcher
'em. But I tell you, if we do, I'll come
some of the next week."
"But I tell you that won't do. You
must come now."
"Lookee, young man, you think I'm a
fool? I reckon you never made any
soap, did you? If you had you'd know
that."
"What does the judge care about your
soap?"
"Well, what do I care 'bout the judge,
if it comes to that? Law's law and soap's
soap. Let the judge tend to his law,
an' I'll tend to my soap. The good book
says there's a time for everything, an'
this is my time for a bar'l o' soft soap."
"Well, madam, if you want to be
fined for not appearin' in court, all right.
You will be fined sure enough."
"Bah! I know all 'bout the law, an'
there ain't anything in it, nor in the
Constitution of the United States, nor in
the Declaration of Independence, nor in
nothin' else, that says a woman's got
to leave a kettle o' half-cooked soap, and
go off to court, when she ain't a mind
to. I guess I know a little law my-
self