

MARCH.

Who's afraid of your cold and blowing,
Of your wind and hail and blowing,
March?
Do the worst that you can do, sir,
Have and blow!
But don't I know
That the spring is just a-spring?
That song, sparrow, you're singing
Told me so.
While you're howling, yowling, squalling
I can hear the robins calling,
Spring!
Something new comes with each corner—
Bluebird brings a bit of summer
On his wing.
Have, old bird, your roar and bluster
Can't scare pussy-willow's cluster.
Drowsy woodchucks rouse from sleeping,
Wild arbutus vines are creeping,
Snow-fed mountain brooks are leaping
To the lake,
All the world stirs, shyly peeping,
Half awake.
—Farm Journal.

Mineral Waters a Menace to Health.

Dr. Richard H. Lewis, secretary of the State Board of Health and one of the most widely known physicians in North Carolina, is presenting a Senate bill that looks to the eventual suppression of the sale of certain mineral waters that are a menace to health. The bill passed the Senate by a unanimous vote and Dr. Lewis is now directing his attention to the House. In a communication addressed to its members he made this statement, which will surprise even the best informed of the medical profession.
"Analysis of forty-four samples of bottled waters on the market has shown thirty out of the forty-four to be infected with the intestinal bacilli and, therefore, according to water standards, dangerous to health. These samples came from twenty-nine different springs and of this number fifteen springs were infected."
"The present law requires our own springs to be analyzed and to pay a tax of sixty-four dollars a year. This does not reach the waters from springs out of the state and the tax is not fair to large and small springs alike. This bill graduates the tax down to fifteen dollars a year and puts outside springs upon exactly the same footing as our own."
"I know of nothing more likely to spread typhoid fever than these infected springs."

Fought For Silk Stockings.

About 1,000 women started a small sized riot in the lobbies of the Garden Theatre in New York last Thursday night, the cause being a distribution of silk stockings to every woman who bought a ticket for the hundredth performance of Mr. Henry E. Dixey in "Mary Jane's Pa."
Mr. Dixey's last words in "Mary Jane's Pa" are "There is nothing so much worth fighting for in this world as love." And every woman in the house made the mental addition, "and silk stockings," for the curtain had not begun to come down before the whole feminine half of the house was on its way toward the box office. Talk about your bargain sale crushes! Talk about your weaker sex! The ushers were swept away like chaff as the crowd made for the doors.
With fire in their eyes and silk stockings on their brain, the women fought it out. As each one reached the box-office and presented her card she shouted out the size she wanted and got a box. Most of them called for 8's. "My size is 6, but give me 9, they are for a friend of mine," was a common request.
One woman, who had lost hat and coat in the skirmish, begged her husband to take her place in the line. She knew she was going to faint.
"Not for a million silk stockings," was the answer.

An Amazing Statement.

Charlotte News.
Dr. H. Q. Alexander, president of the county and state Farmers' Union returned last night from Washington where he went to attend a conference of the state presidents and national directors to protest before the agricultural committee against speculation in wheat, corn, cotton and other farm products. Dr. Alexander stated that he thought the majority of the committee was in favor of their recommendations.
"I was astonished," said Dr. Alexander, "to hear that ours was the first delegation of farmers to appear before a committee of the congress of the United States to ask for anything. No wonder we have never got anything."
This is really a remarkable statement and furnishes food for thought.
Says Earth Will Be Smothered.
"A collision of an unknown dark planet with the sun will terminate life on the earth," said Prof. Percival Lowell, director of the Lowell Observatory at Flag Staff, Ariz., in a lecture last week before the students of Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston.
"The event will be prophesied fourteen years before the catastrophe occurs," continued the astronomer, "and chaotic confusion will reign in the world during the days preceding the calamity."
The chance of the catastrophe happening in the near future was declared to be very slight by Prof. Lowell, however.
The State Senate Thursday, by a vote of 13 to 33, voted down the Lockhart anti-trust law, containing sub-section A, and passed the modified bill of Senator Manning.

PARAGRAPHS.

The Texas Legislature has before it a bill forbidding profanity over the telephone. If the long-distance of the sweet-voiced telephone girl cannot prevent eruptive language, mere law will be but a vain vexation of spirit.

Mr. Bryan does not believe that Congress will do anything to the tariff. Why, Willyum, it will at least blow the dust off, and that's a good deal for a Republican Congress, in these strenuous times.

Boston calls Dr. Edward Everett Hale "the chaperon of the Senate." The Senate needs a chaperon. It "sure do."

Senator Knox is the only man who was ever practically elected to a Cabinet office by both houses of Congress, but a century ago Secretary Gallatin was practically elected by the Senate to remain in the Cabinet.

An exhibition of the works of Missouri artists to be held in New York. These Missourians insist upon being shown.

Texas is to have a humming-bird banquet. This looks like a direct bid for a Taft visit.

If it takes only \$1.80 worth of wool to make a \$50 suit of clothes, it might be a good idea to get out the old looms and return to homespun.

No reports come of Mr. Pulitzer being affected with palpitation of the heart.

Mr. Delvan Smith says he won't come to Washington to answer that libel charge, so there now.

Senator Bailey refuses to resign and Frye says he will stick till he dies. You can't scare a Senator out of his job.

Two days ahead of schedule time. The battleship fleet is a wonder.

For the time being everybody has forgotten John D. Rockefeller.

Mr. Roosevelt was mighty glad to see that fleet of "hisn."

Whenever Congress feels tempted to view the growing Treasury deficit with alarm, it can point with pride to the reduction of the next Secretary of State's salary.

"A new crack has been discovered in the old Liberty Bell," says the Buffalo Express. Still, the old Constitution remains many cracks ahead of its nearest competitor.

"The pros are full of fight," says the San Antonio Express. It would therefore, seem high time for the cons to get busy.

Little Serbia's frantic appeal for a big brother to pummel Austria has fallen on deaf ears.

"Inaccurate" seems to lack the usual vigor and directness of President Roosevelt's message. The "shorter and uglier word" has been laid aside.

After they had all had their joke anent the Barringer resolution, recently introduced in the Legislature and providing for the removal of the capitol from Raleigh to Greensboro, Capt. Sam Ashe, of Raleigh, calls attention to the fact that the State constitution provides that the seat of government shall be at Raleigh. There was nothing serious at present, of course, in the talk of removing the capitol but it is just as well to know that any change would require a constitution amendment, approved by a vote of the people.—Statesville Landmark.

Ex-Gov. Glenn has been misrepresented in what he is reported to have said about our mountain people, but he will find that it is wisest not to say anything at all about them to Northern audiences. We hope the Governor, who means well, will not beg our friends of the North for a cent, for the price we pay for their contributions is a little too high. They are perfectly willing to help us if we will confess that we are poor ignoramuses, unable to help ourselves.—Charity and Children.

The Legislature has killed the proposition to take from the railroads the right to make purchasers of mileage books present them at ticket offices to be pulled, and now the Senate has passed a bill to allow through freight trains to traverse North Carolina on Sunday. The present General Assembly at least shows no disposition to persecute the railroads.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Mrs. Eastman says Carmack never fired. She had no motive except to tell the truth. Those who testify that Cooper, the elder, was going on a peaceful mission and his son fired to save his father only after Carmack fired, insults the intelligence of the smallest calibre man.—News and Observer.

J. A. Taylor, of Memphis, president of the National Ginners' association, Friday announced his opinion that the boll weevil will reach the Atlantic coast in 1914, two years earlier than his former estimate. He predicts the boll weevil will invade the cotton fields of the entire state of Arkansas within two years.

PHILOSOPHICAL FACTS.

The greatest height at which visible clouds ever exist does not exceed ten miles.

The violence of the expansion of water when freezing is sufficient to cleave a globe of copper of such thickness as to require a force of 27,000 pounds, to produce the same effect.

During the conversion of ice into water one hundred and forty degrees of heat are absorbed.

Water, when converted into steam, increases in bulk eighteen hundred times.

In one second of time—in one beat of the pendulum of a clock—light travels two hundred thousand miles. Were a cannon ball shot toward the sun, and were it to maintain full speed, it would be twenty years in reaching it—and yet light travels through this space in seven or eight minutes.

Strange as it may appear, a ball of a ton weight, and another of the same material of an ounce weight, falling from any height will reach the ground at the same time.

At a depth of forty-five feet under ground, the temperature of the earth is uniform throughout the year.

The human ear is so extremely sensitive that it can hear a sound that lasts only the twenty-four thousandth part of a second. Deaf persons have sometimes conversed together through rods of wood held between their teeth, or held to their throat or breast.

Sound travels at the rate of one thousand one hundred and forty-two feet per second—about thirteen miles in a minute. So that if we hear a clap of thunder half a minute after the flash, we may calculate that the discharge of electricity is six and a half miles off.

Lightning can be seen by reflection at the distance of two hundred miles.

Skinning Live Snakes.

Very few of the people who are the proud possessors of belts, pocket-books, card cases, and numerous other articles of snake skin, realize the agony that the demand of civilization for fads has meant to the original owners of the material from which these articles are made, says the March Popular Mechanics.

It is difficult to skin a dead snake, and the skin is often spoiled in the course of the operation, while, on the other hand, it is a simple matter to skin a live snake, and the skin thus gained is worth much more. Dead snakes bring from 2 to 5 cents, according to their size, and live ones from 25 cents to \$1.

One of the largest snake skin companies has factories in Sumatra. When a snake is received from a hunter it is seized adroitly by an operator, one hand squeezing the neck and the other holding the tail. It is then attached by the neck to the trunk of a palm tree, an assistant holding it by the tail. With the point of a knife the operator cuts the skin just below the head and pulling with all his strength peels it from the writhing reptile in the same way that a woman peels a pair of gloves from her hand. While this is taking place the assistant holds the body as rigid as possible. A series of illustrations vividly portray the process.

Limit of Laziness.

Two darkies lay sprawled on the levee on a hot day, says Judge. George Washington drew a long sigh and said: "Ah wish Ah had a hundred watermillions."

Dixie's eyes lighted. "Hum! Dat would sutenly be fine! An' ef yo had a hun'd watermillions, would yo' gib me fifty?"

"No, Ah wouldn't."

"Would't yo' gib me twenty-five?"

"No, Ah wouldn't gib yo' no twenty-five."

Dixie gazed with reproachful eyes at his close-fisted friend. "Seems to me yo's powerful stingy, George Washington," he said; and then continued in a heartbroken voice, "Wouldn't yo' gib me one?"

"No, Ah wouldn't gib yo' one. Look-a-hyar, nigger! Are yo' so good-fer-nothin' lazy rat yo' can't wish fo' yo' own watermillions?"

How Pat Got the Ditch Dug.

Pat was digging a ditch. On the first day of the job he dug and dug, but made small progress. He went back next morning only to find that what he had done the day before was entirely wiped out by a cave-in. Then a brilliant idea occurred to Pat. Half burying his pick and shovel in the earth, leaving only the ends sticking out, he carefully threw his coat and dinner pail over the edge of the cave-in and then hid. In a short while people came along, took in the situation at a glance, jumped at the conclusion that the laborer had been caught in the fall of the bank and went to work hastily, trying to uncover his body. Half an hour later three sweating and puzzled men stood by the nearly completed ditch and wondered where the buried man was. Then Pat came out from his retirement and said: "Thank ye, gentlemen. I knowed you'd bite on that."

An Irishman stood watching an elephant drinking water one day. Suddenly the animal put his trunkful of water all over the Irishman. After looking at the elephant for a moment Pat remarked: "Sure, an' if I knew which end was yer tail, begad, I'd shlap yer face."

When debts increase the devil laughs.

HOW THE SOUTH SECEDED.

Uncle Remus's Magazine.

From the very beginning of the presidential campaign of 1860 there seemed to be little or no doubt but that Lincoln and Hamlin would be elected, and this gave the people all over the South much concern. So much so that the best men of the South at once began to consult as to what measures should be adopted in the event that a president and vice president so decidedly opposed in principle to the vital interest of the South should assume charge of the affairs of state.

The election took place November 6, 1860. As was expected, Lincoln and Hamlin were elected by a large majority.

In seventeen of the free States—Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, California, and Oregon—all the Lincoln electors were chosen. In one of the free States (New Jersey) the choice resulted in four electors for Lincoln, and three for Douglass.

The will of the people as expressed in this popular vote was in due time carried into execution. As the law prescribes, the presidential electors met in their several states on the 5th of December, and cast their official votes. And on the 15th of February, 1861, the congress of the United States, in joint session, made the official count, and declared that Abraham Lincoln, having received a majority of the votes of presidential electors, was duly elected president of the United States for four years, beginning March 4, 1861.

On the 5th of October, Governor Gist, of South Carolina, wrote a confidential letter which he dispatched by a secret agent to his colleagues, the several governors of the cotton states, whom the bearer, General S. R. Gist, visited in turn during that month of October. Governor Gist wrote that, in view of the almost certain election of Lincoln, it became important to have a full and free interchange of opinion between the Southern states, that concert of action might be obtained. It was the desire of South Carolina that some other state should take the lead.

Answers were received from Governor Ellis, of North Carolina; Governor Moore, of Alabama; Governor Pettus, of Mississippi; Governor Moore, of Louisiana; Governor Brown, of Georgia, and Governor Perry, of Florida. Nearly all expressed, without equivocation, the opinion that their state would join South Carolina in any move "looking to the vindication and maintenance of the rights, interests, honor and safety of the South."

Consequently upon the election of Lincoln and Hamlin, South Carolina, in convention assembled, on the 20th day of December, passed the ordinance of secession. Mississippi was the next to follow; she seceded January 9, 1861, and Alabama and Florida on the 11th of the same month. Georgia followed in fourteen days thereafter. Up to the last hour there were serious doubts as to what would be the final step taken by Georgia, as a very respectable minority—led by such good men as Hill, Stephens, Johnson and others—kept her fate in balance to the very last hour.

Exterminating Rats in Japan.

Realizing that the bubonic plague is a disease of rats, carried by them into the homes of man with frightful fatal results, the Japanese government is waging an extraordinary war against them with wonderful success.

Not only has a price been set on the head of every rat, but every person who brings in a rat receives a numbered ticket which might entitle the holder to a large prize in a special lottery, and rat poison is being supplied free to all who apply. During the periods of house-cleaning, superintended by the sanitary authorities, more than usual precautions are taken to see that not a rat escapes. When a house, shop or warehouse is found to be thickly populated by the rodents, the place is disinfected, a rat-proof zinc fence being placed around it to cut off their escape. These fences are embedded in the ground so that the rats cannot dig their way beneath them.

In Tokio the government laboratories are kept busy dissecting the dead bodies of the rats, so as to ascertain just how many are infected with the plague and in what localities the most so affected are. The bodies are labeled when brought in.

Rats Waste Millions.

The world-wide crusade against rats has attracted great attention of late. Popular Mechanics for March says:

"A deputation from the British Incorporated Society for the Destruction of Rats, headed by Sir James Crichton Browne and the Duke of Bedford, is urging the British board of agriculture to appoint a commission to inquire into the subject of the destruction caused to crops by rats. The deputation pointed out the enormous damage done by rats, which amounts, on a moderate computation, to nearly \$75,000,000 annually in Great Britain. This figure was arrived at by allowing only one rat to every acre of land, assuming that each rat does damage to the extent of one-half a cent per day. There are 40,000,000 acres of land in Great Britain."

WHAT SORT OF A TITLE SHOULD A MARRIED MAN BEAR?

What sort of a title should a married man bear?

This is a question that is being agitated in Chicago, State Senator Ertelton having been approached by a tumber of unmarried women who complain that they are being imposed upon as it is impossible from a plain introduction of "mister" to tell whether they are married men or not. The senator sees the wisdom of the idea. An unmarried woman is "Miss," a married woman "Mrs." If the thing works one way, why not the other? It would protect susceptible unmarried women and at one blow abolish all the married firms.

The Chattanooga Times has the following to say of the proposed legislation:

"The average married man will see in the proposed legislation a most unnecessary waste of time and wind. Since the 'new woman' made her appearance, the married man's badge is his countenance, to say nothing of the odor of fried onions on his apron, and the very apparent, though accumulated interest displayed in children wherever he may meet them. He has the trade mark of the kitchen eternally displayed. If not the scent of dish-water one can readily discern the lines of care which come of wrestling with the servant problem and confinement in the nursery."

"Yet there are women who need protection; to this proposition all will agree. Since this is a potent fact, why not pass a law to force married men to wear rings in their noses and ruffles on their pants? By all means, if there be one designing married man who has, by dint of constant use of cold creams and rouges, staved off the wrinkles and the generally depressed appearance, then protect the dear girls from this monster, even if it is necessary to pass a law requiring all married men to go on all-fours when they venture beyond the confines of the kitchen."

Only One.

During the course of a stump speech delivered in Mississippi some time ago by John Sharp Williams, the Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, he was interrupted by a yell from a man in the audience:

"I have been robbed by pickpockets!"

"I did not know there were any Republicans present," promptly suggested Mr. Williams, in order to get a laugh.

"Oh, there ain't, there ain't!" roared the unhappy man. "I'm the only one!"

He Believed in Colds.

While waiting for the speaker at a public meeting a pale little man in the audience seemed very nervous. He glanced over his shoulder from time to time and squirmed and shifted about in his seat. At last, unable to stand it any longer, he arose and demanded, in a high, penetrating voice, "Is there a Christian Scientist in this room?"

A woman at the other side of the hall got up and said, "I am a Christian Scientist."

"Well, then, madam," requested the little man, "would you mind changing seats with me? I'm sitting in a draft."

Bryan to Write a Novel.

William J. Bryan will become an author, novelist and dramatist, according to a dispatch received from Mission, Texas.

Mr. Bryan is erecting a fine residence upon his tract of land which he recently purchased near Mission, and he has advised friends there that he expects to retire from lecture platform for a year and devote himself to writing a novel and dramatizing the same. He will do this work at his new home at Mission.

'Possums Bring \$10 Each.

So great is the demand for 'possum in the North and West since the Taft banquet at Atlanta that the marsupials are bringing \$10 each, irrespective of what they weigh or how old they are. Dealers are unable to secure half enough to supply the demand.

One order was received at Atlanta Friday morning for 250 'possums at \$10 each, and that afternoon an order came from Hartford, Conn., for 140 'possums. 'Possums could be secured for 50 cents each, and were retailed for \$1, prior to the visit of Mr. Taft.

We have again and again commended President Venable for the policy he has always pursued as president of the University. He is in no sense a lobbyist and remains at Chapel Hill attending to his business instead of hanging around Raleigh "advising" the Legislature how it should act. We have always greatly admired Dr. Venable and his attitude toward all the other colleges of the State has removed much of prejudice in the popular mind against the University.—Charity and Children.

How is the bill in the Legislature to provide the State with the Torrens system for registering land titles coming along? This is a matter that should not be overlooked. There is no politics in it and the Legislature could afford to approach it boldly.—Charlotte Chronicle.

THE REAL FARMER.

He Makes Every Move on the Theory that He is in the Business for Life.

Yorkeville Enquirer.

A wise old merchant of Yorkville, the late M. Strauss, used to tell his clerks: "It does not require a salesman to sell a plug of tobacco. Anybody can do that. The sale is already made in fact. The customer merely calls for the tobacco and the salesman only takes the money. The real salesman is the man who can take up a useful article about which the customer knows nothing, point out its merits and its value and make a sale." There is lots of valuable food for thought in this observation, which can be applied with equal propriety to various other lines of endeavor. It does not take a farmer, for instance, to raise ten bushels of corn on fresh, new ground. Anybody can do that. The real farmer goes in for making ground for forty to sixty bushels of corn on comparatively poor land, and he does not think of stopping there. After raising the corn he goes in for saying and utilizing every penny of value that comes with the crop. The corn, fodder, shucks or stover, to hand, he does not want to sell them as raw materials, if instead he can put them through horses, mules, cows, hogs and pigs, and thus derive still greater value from them. The real farmer makes every move on the theory that he is in the business for life, and along with products that are directly exchangeable for money values, he looks out for things that promise value in the future. The possibilities open to the farmers—any farmer—are limited only by his industry, perseverance and capabilities.

The Joker.

In a New York street car recently a young man attracted the attention of the other passengers by suddenly leaping from his seat and picking something from between the slats of the floor. For a moment he examined his find. Then he asked, "Did anybody lose a five-dollar gold piece?"

A ministerial-looking man got up from his seat at the other end of the car and started toward the young man with outstretched hand.

"Yes," he said, "I dropped a five-dollar gold piece when I got on, but owing to the crush I couldn't find it."

"Very well," said the young man, gleefully, "Here's a nickel toward it."

English Pot and Kettle.

One day a learned professor was accosted by a very dirty bootblack with, "Shine your shoes, sir?"

The professor was impressed by filthiness of the boy's face.

"I don't want a shine, my lad," said he "but if you'll go and wash your face I'll give you a sixpence."

"A right, sir," was the lad's reply as he went over to a neighboring fountain and made his ablutions. Returning, he held out his hand for the money.

"Well, my lad," said the professor, "you have earned your sixpence. Here it is."

"I dinna want it, auld chap," returned the boy with a lordly air.

"Ye keep it and get yer hair cut."

Tried to Whip the School Teacher.

Our Home.

Mr. B. H. Griffin, who is teaching at Black Jack, in this township, was attacked Thursday morning on the school grounds by Mr. R. A. Hamilton, who had become enraged because Mr. Griffin whipped his boy. It is stated that while Hamilton pelted the teacher with his fist, Oscar Gaddy, a brother-in-law of Hamilton, and also one of Hamilton's boys, stood nearby with pistols. Mr. Griffin received several scratches about the head and face, but is not seriously hurt. The assailants are held under bond and a preliminary hearing will be given next Saturday.

STATE NEWS.

The Department of Agriculture at Raleigh has set aside \$100 to be divided into several prizes to be donated to the boy who raises the most corn on one acre of ground.

The largest man who ever lived in North Carolina was Miles Dardin. He was seven feet, six inches high, and in 1845 weighed 871 pounds. He was born in North Carolina in 1898 and died in Tennessee January 23, 1857.

The Yadkin Lumber Company has sold 63,000 acres of timber lands along the Yadkin river in Wilkes county to Pennsylvania capitalists for \$900,000. The new owners will develop the property and extend a railroad from North Wilkesboro to that place.

Walter H. Woodson, receiver for the Yadkin Valley Fair Association, of Salisbury, has announced that the grounds, buildings, track and other properties of this company will be sold at public auction in Salisbury on Monday, April 5th. It is hoped that the affairs of the association will be adjusted at an early day and that arrangements will be made for the holding of a fair next fall.

"Say, old man, I have a confession to make. Last night, in the dark, I kissed your wife, not knowing it was she."

"Don't mention it, old fellow. I once made the same mistake myself."