THE DEMOCRAT.

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VOLUME V. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1888. NUMBER 3.

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HORSE WHISPERERS.

Their Mysterious Ascendancy Over Vicious Equines.

The Wonderful Achievements of Con Sullivan of Cork.

It is commonly believed, says the Farming World, that there are undoubtedly mysterious influences by which an immediate ascendancy is gained over the horse independent of the process of teaching or promptings of affection. There was formerly living in the county of Cork, Ireland, a family who laid claim to the possession of a secret by which the wildest or most vicious horse could be tamed. This secret is said to have been originally imparted by a Bohemian gypsy to the then head of the family, a century and a half ago, and to have been regularly transmitted, as a parting legacy at the time of death, from the father to the eldest son. Possibly there may be in the county of Cork a scion of the family still practicing, with more or less success, the art of "horse whispering," but it is an indisputable fact that at the commencement of the present century the fame of Con Sullivan, the then head of the family, for miraculous cures of vicious horses, had spread far and wide throughout Ireland. Among the many well-attested accounts of the wonderful achievements of Con Sullivan, "The Whisperer," the services which he rendered to Colonel Wastenra, who afterward succeeded to the title of Rossmore, were the talk of the whole country. The colonel had a splendid race horse called Rainbow, and he was anxious to run him at the races on the Curragh of Kildare, but he was so wild and vicious that his owner found that he must give up all thoughts of bringing him out and running him. He would bite every one who went near him, like the present Lord Falmouth's brute, Muley Edris, who "savaged" the late Fred Archer's arm, and it was necessary to tie up his head when the groom who attended him was with him. If a horse chanced to be near he was sure to bite him or try to; and the legs of the jockey who attempted to mount him did not escape his fangs.

Lord Doneraile said he knew a person who could cure him and a wager of $5000 was laid on the matter. A messenger was despatched for Con Sullivan who was known throughout the country side as "the whisperer," from the supposition that he whispered into the horse's ear, by which means he quieted such as were unruly. When he was told the state of Colonel Wastenra's horse he desired to go into the stable to see him. "You must wait till his head is tied up," was said and repeated by those present. "No occasion," said Con, "he won't bite me." So in he went, after peremptorily ordering no one to follow him till a given signal should imply that they had his permission. He then shut the door for the unenviable tete-a-tete. In a little more than a quarter of an hour the signal was heard. Those who had been waiting in alarm for the result rushed in and found the horse extended on his back playing like a kitten with the whisperer, who was quietly sitting by him. Both horse and operator appeared exhausted, particularly the latter, to whom it was necessary to administer brandy and other stimulants before he could be revived. The horse was perfectly tame and gentle from that day.

In the spring of 1804 Mr. Whaley's King Pippin was brought out to run at the Curragh of Kildare. He has been described as a horse of the most savage and vicious disposition; he had a habit of flying at and worrying any person who came near him. When he could turn his head round he would seize his rider's leg with his teeth and drag him from his back. The difficulty of managing such a horse may be conceived, and on this occasion it was impossible to put a bridle on him. The whisperer was now sent for. He remained shut in the stable all night. In the morning King Pippin was seen following him like a dog, lying down at the word of command, and permitting any person without resistance to put his hand into his mouth, while he stood "gentle as a lamb." He was brought out in the course of the meeting, was run and won the race.

The fame of the whisperer had now spread throughout the country, and his services were in extensive demand. This extraordinary person had been noticed in many and various publications. Crofton Crocker speaks of him in his "Fairy Legends" as an "ignorant rustic of the lowest class," while he bears ample testimony to his extraordinary powers.

The Incorrigible Brother.

Simpkins—Are you fond of cabbage, Miss Lovelace?

Miss L.—Ah! Indeed I——

Johnny (her little brother)—Of course she is. Pa says she ought to be fond of cabbage and greens as long as she keeps company to match.—[Omaha World.

Crab Farms.

The crabs are sent to this city, says the New York Telegram, from Long Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and perhaps from bays and inlets further south. All persons who go to market know how the crustaceans are shipped. They come in flat slatted boxes or crates, wrapped in damp, salt-smelling seaweed or grass. They are very cheap at the water side and rather expensive in market. Perhaps the finest crabs are found in the waters of the Delaware and Maryland peninsula. The Chesapeake and its hundreds of tributaries on one side, and the Atlantic, with its many bays and inlets, on the other, abound in all good things that swim. Not the least of these is the crab. From Havre de Grace to Cape Charles the soft shell crab is eaten in abundance by the inhabitants, and the surplus is shipped north to feed the epicures of New York and New England.

The shallow waters about Chincoteague Island, on the Atlantic side of Accomac county, Virginia, swarm with softshell crabs at this season. Whoever goes to Chincoteague finds set before him at dinner oysters in at least three styles, white perch and crabs. Hot bread is an invariable accompaniment.

Down in Sussex county, Delaware, is perhaps the only crab farm in the world. It is on Indian river, a shallow stream flowing into Indian River bay, and is farmed, oddly enough, by one of the few surviving Indians of the peninsula.

This particular Indian is one of a score or so who farm their own lands and live as civilized a life as any white inhabitant of their native state. Strangely enough, too, they have a special school system of their own, because they will not send their children to the schools set apart for colored children and are not permitted to send them to the schools for whites. The crab farm is a very successful institution, where the farmer studies the ways of the crab, provides for him the most suitable food and promptly takes him out of his native element when the market offers the most inducement. Hundreds of crates of softshell crabs are sent up from the peninsula every season and not a few of them come from the Indian River crab farm.

Shameful Pepper Adulteration.

The pepper of commerce is furnished by the Piper nigrum, or black pepper plant, which grows in the East and West Indies. There are two varieties of pepper, known as "black" and "white" pepper and both are obtained from the same plant. Black ground pepper is the entire berry of the plant reduced to powder, while the white consists of the same berry decorticated or deprived of its outer black husk or covering. The consumer of pepper can be accommodated with an article adulterated to any extent from ten to ninety per cent., and if he prefers to do his own adulteration, a New York "manufacturer of spice mixtures" will supply him with the requisite material, while another New York house will make "goods to order for wholesale grocers and druggists" and furnish "spice mixtures." From inquiry among the trade in this city it would seem that the pepper mixture can be furnished at from two to five cents per pound, while pure pepper will cost about eighteen cents per pound. The United States agricultural department chemists found bran, roasted shells, corn, cracker-dust, charcoal and fibrous matter in samples of pepper—[Baltimore Sun.

Roman Vanity Originated Miniatures.

The origin of the word "miniature" is as follows: In the golden days of Roman literature to be a successful author was to be as great as a king, for kings looked to their poets for immortality, as Augustus Cæsar did to Horace. Hence it was to be expected that authors would feel their importance and display more or less vanity. One of their weaknesses was to see their portraits painted in artistic fashion in their parchment books. This work was intrusted to artists called "miniatores," that is, artists whose work was largely done in vermilion, a color extracted from cinnabar, and called by the Romans "minimum." Those "miniatores" chose the oval form for their beautifully brilliant portraits on the parchment books, and hence the origin of the term "miniature," a small, hand-painted oval or round portrait.—[Philadelphia Call.

Antiquity of Brickmaking.

Brickmaking is one of the oldest trades in the world. The Egyptians taught to the Greeks, and they in turn taught it to the Romans. Some of the bricks made hundred of years before Christ are still in existence and they are better than the modern article. The wages of bricklayers have been steadily increasing. In Babylon a bricklayer got forty cents a day; in Rome, under the empire, he was paid a dollar, and in London in the sixteenth century he got two dollars. The average pay for a bricklayer in this country is $3.20 for a day's work.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A petroleum engine is now being exhibited in England, and is attracting a great deal of attention.

The length of pipe laid in Paris for the distribution of power by compressed air, already exceeds thirty miles.

If the wooden die blocks used in a shoe factory be coated with shellac every night they will last much longer without planing.

A Pittsburg optician makes the statement that gum chewing has a harmful effect on the eyes, and when carried to excess is apt to cause blindness.

An important invention in railway practice is the method of welding of steel rails by electricity, by which tracklayers are enabled to lay a continuous rail.

The new 6-inch gun, throwing a 100-pound projectile, and penetrating thirteen inches of plating at 1000 yards, is a gun of sufficient power to deal with almost anything built and building.

It has been discovered that a large portion of Utah is underlaid with a stratum of water which may be reached by boring wells from 100 to 200 feet. The wells flow so liberally that one of them will water five to six acres thoroughly.

The idea that all microbes are injurious to health, is a very common one even among those who pose for well-informed persons. The fact is that they are now believed to play a not unimportant part in the process of digestion and the transformation of food into assimilable form.

Several inventors are at work upon machines which cast and set type at the same time, each letter being cast when a key is pressed. The principal trouble with this class of machines, and with other type setting machines, is that it is difficult to "justify"—that is, to fit out the lines evenly at the right-hand end and space properly between the words.

A new ship log is provided with a hollow tube running down its centre, which is connected by a canvas-covered india rubber tube to a pressure gauge on board. When the ship is under way the flow of the water past the log establishes a partial vacuum in the tube, and causes the pointer of the pressure gauge to move over its dial, which is graduated to give the speed of the vessel from four up to 25 knots.

The Tay bridge when completed according to the vast and admirable design of its projectors, will be one of the greatest marvels of engineering construction which Europe can show. The Island of Inchgarvie, in the middle of the arm of the sea which it crosses, enables the bridge to be in four spans, only two of which are over water; these two principal spans are each of about 1700 feet, and the height above the sea of each of them is 200 feet, all of the most massive masonry.

In Carlisle, England, tall factory chimneys are being utilized as sewer ventilators with good results, twenty-nine now being used. The velocity of of the rising air has been measured by Surveyor Mekie, and it is found to be 1202 feet a minute in ordinary weather. The owners of the factories make no objection to this use of their chimneys, and the practice seems to meet with general approval. This suggests a plan that probably might be profitably employed in many cities in this country. With chimneys of ample proportions there would seem to be no serious trouble in using them to some extent as ventilators.

Self-Identification.

A novel and ingenious plan to enable a person to identify himself under all circumstances, as when cashing a check or money order or obtaining registered letters or mail matter, has recently been invented. It is in the form of an "identification card," which is inclosed in a morocco case so that it can be carried around by the owner conveniently.

The card contains in one corner a miniature photograph of the person to whom it is issued, with his signature below. Beneath this is the attestation of a notary public to the genuineness of the photograph and signature.

On another division of the card is registered the name, occupation, place of birth, age and citizenship of the possessor, together with an accurate description of him and his place of residence. Room is also left in another column for signatures and addresses of any references that the bearer may have.

A similar but less perfect system of identification card has been in use for some time in Europe and is required by law in some places. Banks and trust companies in this country which have heard of the system say that it is just the thing they have wanted for a long time, and declare that it will do away completely with many of the inconveniences and delays which are now experienced in the daily course of business in identifying persons who present checks and orders for payment and cannot properly identify themselves.—[New York World.

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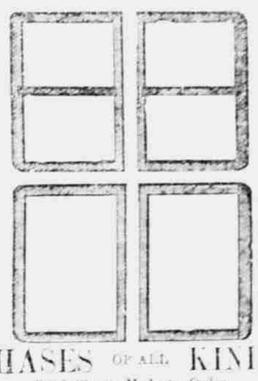

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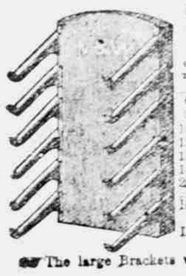

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