THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

Entered at Birmingham Post Office as second class matter.

A FOXY THIEF PARADED.

He Pleaded Somnambulism, and Being from Chicago, Got Free.

We had been stopping at a hotel at Des Moines for two or three days when two robs arrived by the same train. One was a drummer for a New York jewelry house and the other apparently a country gentleman of newly-rich ways. That was the way we sized him up; but the drummer, being naturally suspicious of all men, contended that the supposed country gentleman had after his value of valuable samples. To convince him to the contrary, I took the opportunity to introduce myself to the other man and draw him out, and he presented me with a card on which was printed his name, "Rev. Joseph Smith," and he claimed to hail from a town about twenty miles away. His congregation had planned some church entertainment, and he had come up to buy some needed fixings. That's all there was to it, except he hoped and trusted that I was not walking in the broad way of leaded footed sinners, and his offer to come to my room and kneel with me in prayer. I was perfectly satisfied that he was all he said, and a yard wide, and returned to so report.

The drummer had his own ideas, however, and he had me come into his room, but afterward slyly changed it to another. Then he vacated his room for one across the hall, and then the vacated room, just in front of the bed, set a fox trap. He wanted a bear trap, but couldn't get one in town. When all was ready he had me go out, four or five of us having rooms down the hall from the parsons. As we passed his door we heard the good man reading from his Bible; I felt like knocking on his door and apologizing for the pigheadedness of the drummer.

About midnight there was a sudden yell followed by the clanking of chains, when around every one of us, and as soon as we could turn out we discovered that the parson had been caught in the fox trap. He had stepped his right foot into the jaws of the trap, leaving on the bed and staring into vacancy when we found him. He had the cheek to declare that he was walking in his sleep, and was much grieved when we asked him how it was that he had unlocked the door with a skeleton key. He had no idea why arraigned in court, he had a case somnambulism, and what did the Court do but order him turned loose? In doing so Hie Honor said:

Absurdum years ago I was found in a man's barn sadding and bridling his $250 horse. It was a case of somnambulism on my part, but the court forced me to pay $200 to settle the case. I then determined never to do an act of injustice and the pin once is honorably discharged.

Half a day later it transpired that the good man was a noted Chicago thief, but he had cheated the racket and was off. N. Y. Sun.

Types of Tiresome People.

Do you keep a list or a list of the people who are tiresome or worse? We used to call them bores, but as this is always suggestive of getting there eventually, the name has been dropped, though the people exist.

The wise woman is the one who has a book on the cover of which is written in large letters and red ink, "Beware of."

The educated young woman who concludes that the alphabet has been invented since her birth.

The frivolous creature who thinks you are "just dying" to know how her underwear is selected.

The lovely young man who wears three diamond rings and thinks you are "just too sweet for anything."

The horrible old hypocrite who talks about her position in society and the use she is in the world at large, when she could prove it by decorating the inside of a tomb.

The old man who kisses you because he remembers your mother when she was a girl.

The young man who is loud and underbred but who speaks to you and mortifies your family claims as a right of acquaintance because he once lived near you.

The maid servant who wants to talk about the last house in which she lived.

The man, woman, or nondescript, who never fails to tell you how long they have seen better days and who counts on that announcement covering everything in the future, and never making an effort to think how really good this time is after all.

The man with a low-cut shirt, the woman with dyed hair, the lady who hasn't been taught good manners, and the girl who has been educated to believe that impudence and intelligence are synonymous.

The people who flatter, who find fault, and who never know what it is to say a good word for their neighbors. —*Bab in Chicago Journal.*

The Earth Growing Larger.

The earth, traveling in its orbit around the sun and, of course, with the solar system around some unknown and still greater center of attraction, is constantly traversing new regions of space, which it sweeps clean of cosmic dust and meteorites, thus steadily—no matter how slowly—increasing in diameter. And if this growth continue till the earth has gone far enough attractive power which it now possesses, we should then have twice the number of its present size and double the quantity of dust falling annually upon it.

Fortunately for our heads the earth has not yet attained very formidable dimensions, but we may look upon it as an established fact that it constantly gains in weight, and that it is a tendency to such gain its attractive power steadily increases.

The effective force of the sun is so enormous, that a perpetual rain of meteorites and a torrent of dust particles must rush upon it from all directions, and some astronomical observers are now of opinion that these falling bodies are the sole cause of the sun's heat.

In the light of this theory our earth is a young and growing, not an old and dying planet; a planet with a future, which ought to be cheerful news to all of us, although we shall not live to reap the benefit of it, and the sun, far from being on its last legs as an expiring luminary, is steadily gaining in heat and lighting capacity.—*American Geologist.*

A Boston Version of Jack Horner.

Diminutive John Horner remained in a state of repose in the space between two converging walls which met in a point.

Masticating an article of food, consisting of pastry, baked with something under it, especially manufactured for Christmas.

He inserted that member of the outer extremity of his arm, which differs from the others in having only two phalanges, and thereby drew from the interior of the aforesaid article of food a specimen of the fruit of a tree of the genus prunus.

And ejaculated, "Oh, how courageous a boy I am!"—*Boston Transcript.*

ABOUT THE STATE.

A STEAMER CRASHES INTO A BRIDGE.

Thrown Into the Water.

SAGINAW, April 12.—The steamer Handy Hay, of the Bay City line, plying between her dock this afternoon for Bay City, Capt. H. J. Dolsen in charge. It is not known just how many there were on board, but estimates of passengers give the number at from 30 to 50, many of whom were on the promenade deck. She passed through the Johnson street bridge and gathering speed, sped up the river with the swift current, swept rapidly down the river. Just before the draw of the Flint & Pere Marquette bridge was reached, the draw being open full width, either through some carelessness of the fireman or from the craft not answering her helm, she sheered sharply to port and instead of passing through the draw plunged into a span of the bridge sixty feet west of the middle of the draw with a terrific crash, carrying away her entire upper works and sweeping the passengers into the river—at least a number of them, while others caught upon the bridge timbers and saved themselves. In less time than it takes to write it, the accident was over, the boat being held fast between the bridge piers. Search for bodies was at once begun and continued until dark without success. The news of the disaster reached the city orders for the arrest of the crew were issued. Deputy Sheriff Gerrish and Constable Ward and later Edward Trump, the wheelman, were placed in charge of the boat, and though a score of officers have been searching for him, up to midnight he had not been captured. The boat was towed down to Bay City. The loss of life is estimated at seven and those known to be injured number ten.

The Captain Arrested.

EAST SAGINAW, April 13.—Excitement has run high over the wreck of the steamer Handy Hay, colliding with the Flint & Pere Marquette railroad bridge. The crew in the vicinity of the wreck has been dragged, but no bodies have been recovered. It has been established beyond a doubt that four women, all of Saginaw, were drowned: Mrs. Maude Hight, aged 18, from George C. Montgomery; Mrs. Myrtle Owen, aged 16, and Mrs. John Walsh. A traveling man from St. Louis, Michigan, whose name is unknown, is supposed to be lost, besides many who reside in Saginaw, whose names are not yet ascertained. The loss may possibly reach seven. Of the crew, Trumper, the man who was at the wheel is 21 years old. His parents reside on a farm near Caro, where he worked on the farm. He married three weeks ago to a pretty little woman, who is distracted over the wreck. Captain Dolsen is a respectable relatives in this city. He has sailed four seasons, generally as fireman. He has done some sailing. The man at the wheel failed to work, the chain foul. He was drowned. Capt. Dolsen, who did come. He then rang three bells, but a moment later the bell struck the bridge. Dolsen ran to the pilot house and dashed down the river a mile on a board before being picked up. He was unhurt, but was grieved when we asked him how it was that he had unlocked the door with a skeleton key. He had no idea why arraigned in court, he had a case somnambulism, and what did the Court do but order him turned loose? In doing so Hie Honor said:

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NEWS SUMMARY.

A Terrible Ocean Disaster.

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr. 16.—Additional details of the wreck of the steamer Rapidi, off Thurdah Island on the night of March 1 have been brought by the steamship Hatsu from Japan and Hong Kong. The passengers were holding an impromptu musicale when the vessel struck by the whipping of the engine and the grating of the steamer's bottom on a sunken rock. In less than three minutes the steamer had sunk out of sight, leaving 207 people struggling in the waves. Some were borne under by the tangled rigging, and others, more fortunate, clung to the rigging and floated and thirsted lives were lost. Of 126 whites only 30 escaped, while of the 165 Negroes 82 survived, making the whole number lost 213. In the steerage rooms, the rock on which the vessel struck is on the coast of Japan, and is right in the course recommended by the admiralty, which says there are 12 fathoms of water there.

A Very Strange Case.

WICHITA, Kan., April 12.—Insanity is inexplicable case of insanity is that of Simeon and Rose Holton, son and daughter of a wealthy farmer near Derby, who arrived here from Dodge City in charge of the sheriff. Simeon left his home in Southern California. Three days later word reached the parents that she was sick at El Paso, Tex., and he started to see her. Nothing more was heard of them until the sheriff arrived in Dodge City from Dodge City saying the pair were violently insane. Simeon arrived in shackles, and his sister's dress was torn and swooles and bruises on her neck horribly gashed where her brother had attack and tried to choke her. They got off a train at Dodge City on Tuesday and handed over to the marshal. Nor realizing how violent they were, the officer failed to hand cuff his prisoners. In a few minutes both were in the middle of the business section and it took a large posse to recapture the Holtons. They were placed in the same room and locked up. Late in the afternoon, when the shrieks of the girl brought a rescuing party to the floor lay the sister and her brother beating and choking her and gouging her neck with a sharp iron. The whole affair is mysterious. In the more lucid intervals Simeon claims that they were drugged.

Who Killed Lottie Morgan?

HOOWSOON, GREEN CO., April 12.—The murder of Lottie Morgan of Hurley, just across the line, in the state of Wisconsin, has been the talk of this section for days, but more startling than the cold blooded murder of Miss Lottie Morgan, which came to light yesterday in the discovery of the dead and mutilated body of Miss Morgan was discovered in the rear of a saloon on the Main street of that place, she having evidently been struck down and left as she fell by the cowardly assassins of, the age of 21 dead. Three secures to be no obvious object for the murder. Miss Morgan, who was a young woman of more than doubtful reputation, has been in Hurley for about three years, generally been employed as an actress in the variety theater. She has a large number of admirers, and has kept her fairly supplied with money and jewelry. At the time of the murder, she had upon her person a gold watch, $5,000 in money and jewelry, which was not molested. One of the suspects in the murder is a man, it is claimed by some that she was acting as a police spy, and that parties who feared her had taken this method to get rid of their spy. As yet, however, the crime is a deep mystery, and the prevailing question is, "Who killed Lottie Morgan?"

A Bad Minister.

DAYTON, April 12.—Information has been received from Rev. Edward Mason of this city and pastor of the Progressive Brethren church at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, that he is a forger and that he is on his way to Dayton to escape the consequences falling in that, to kill himself. He leaves a wife in destitute condition, he having squandered a small portion of her's. He left home April 3, saying he was going to St. Louis to consult a physician, but instead he went to New York, from where he wrote to his wife and others, making the above statements. He forged notes and borrowed money from a number of banks. The amount is not known, and it is a mystery what was done with the proceeds. Rev. Mason had high standing in religious circles and is the author of sermons. It is said he was addicted to the use of opiates.

Butted the Ox to Death.

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 12.—Tip was a wager of $5 "Big Six," a Negro pugilist, pitted an ox against a bull, the animal by the horns with his hands and butted between the eyes. The force of the rapid succession he struck the ox squarely in the forehead, causing the animal to reel and stagger. Drawing back a full arm's length he ran his head against that of the ox with the force of a battering ram. The force of the butting feast, but he suffered no pain. "Big Six" stands 5 feet 10 inches and weighs 200 pounds, and the muscles of his arms, shoulders and chest stand out in knots.

A Nervy Baby.

LITCHFIELD, Ill., April 12.—The 3½ year old son of Thomas Hamilton, on the step of a sleeping car of the Southwestern limited express Monday evening and was carried to Conneton. The vestibule door was locked and the little fellow could not get out of the car. The train ran full speed 75 miles, at the rate of from 55 to 60 miles an hour, it is a wonder that he was not buried from the train. The conductor of the train put him in charge of the conductor of the accommodation at Cumberland and he was returned to his anxious parents.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS.

The New York Sun says the country has suffered an irreparable loss by the burning of Horace Greeley's papers with his home stead at Chappaqua, N. Y.

It has been reported and denied that Jay Gould is ill.

Anti-prohibition Iowa republicans have formally presented to the Iowa legislature their appeal for the passage of a local option law.

People in Mississippi who have been driven from their homes by the floods are being taken over to the Arkansas side by a steamboat loaded.

Harris A. Smiler, who killed his wife in New York last Thursday night, has two other wives living in Brooklyn. He has intended to kill all three and then commit suicide. He was formerly a Salvation Army soldier.

Chauncey Depew estimates the takings of the south from the invalid travel from the north every year at a half or three millions of dollars, and thinks at least six millions of dollars of Northern money will be believes, reach as high as twelve millions.

Twelve cartloads of crushed eggs, sand with wapers and other rubbish were taken from the White house grounds after the children's egg rolling picnic on Easter Monday.

The aggregate weight of the tail feathers of a bear turkey which Mr. Harrison killed himself, wife and four children is 1,350 pounds.

It is said that Senator Edmunds will soon take a trip to the south for his health.

A court martial at Fort Yates, N. D., adjudged Capt. E. G. Fechet of charges of drunkenness.

Joseph H. Taylor of Evansville, Ind., shot John Osborne, superintendent of the Evansville coal yards, Thursday night, because the latter had refused him permission to visit his friends through the works. Osborne's condition is critical.

The largest sawmill in the world is located at Gilman, Ill. It cost $200,000, and is capable of sawing 400,000 feet of lumber in eight hours. It has seven band and three gang saws and two batteries of ten boilers each.

The men along the Maine rivers fear that if the old law of the state compelling them to carry away all the ice this summer. Allowing this there will be 1,300,000 tons to ship from the Kennebec, and that the rest will carry 500 tons each, there would be 3,000 cargoes.

Although the work of rebuilding Johnstown has gone on rapidly, there are still 1,000 houses less than before the flood.

There is said to be a very large band of wild horses, led by a thoroughbred known as the stockman, as the "outlaw stallion," ranging between Truckee, Nevada county, and Lake Tahoe, Cal. Last fall, after a fine race, escaped in the mountains and has since defied capture.

A farmer of Braintree, Mass., has

NEWS SUMMARY.

The largest sheep ranch in the world is in the counties of Webb and Zapata in Texas. It contains upward of 400,000 acres and yearly pastures 300,000 sheep.

Stagg, the famous Yale pitcher, will play ball this season. He will go into the industry eventually.

Jesse Parrott, who fought under General Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, is living on a farm near Carrollton, Ga.

Eugene Tomberlin, who disappeared from Hartford, Conn., last Friday, is an Italian prison, having been sentenced for leaving Italy to escape service in the army.

It is not generally known that Dr. Tom Walker has become a cripple for life. On Decoration day she fell and broke her right hip.

Mr. Blaine's family will go to Bar Harbor in June.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Death of Congressman Samuel J. Randall.

Various Matters of Interest.

WASHINGTON, April 12

It was a sad and touching scene at the Randall residence on Capitol hill when Congressman Samuel J. Randall expired yesterday just as the bells of a neighboring church were tolling five o clock. Mr. Randall's death has been expected a day or two during the past three days, and his family and friends knew that he could not much longer. The physicians had informed the family that death might come at any hour and last night they told Mr. Randall that his endurance could not prolong life much longer, and that he must die.

Mr. Randall's death was painless, and he was unconscious during the greater part of the last day of his life. There were intervals when from the intelligent and steady gaze of his eyes, and from those about him he must have been conscious, but he seemed unable to speak, and the word "mother" was the only one he uttered for hours preceding his death. This word he murmured so low that the only one who recognized what he said was his daughter who was kneeling just behind him. Around him were Mrs. Randall, Miss Susan Randall, Mrs. Lancaster, the married daughter, her husband, Samuel Randall, Robert E. Randall, the dead man's brother, Dr. Mallan, Postmaster-General Wanamaker and the household servants.

The Pan-American congress has adopted the report of the customs committee recommending international reciprocity between the republics of the western hemisphere each country to admit the peculiar products of every other. The vote on the report was not unanimous, but it is said that the majority in its favor was large and embraces the chief countries of South America. The report is in line with the amendment to the tariff bill advocated by Mr. Blaine to the ways and means committee, but which the committee has not yet seen fit to attach to its bill. Reciprocity between all the countries of the Americas hemisphere is now brought to the front.

The celebrated Neagle habeas corpus case, from California was decided by the United States supreme court today, the judgment of the circuit court being affirmed. This finally disposes of all proceedings against Neagle for the killing of Judge Terry in a railway station at Lathrop, Cal., on Aug. 14 last, to prevent him from carrying the life of Justice Field. The opinion was delivered by Justice Miller.

Mr. Plumb introduced a bill in the senate which provides that the money required to be deposited for the redemption of the national bank circulation shall be carried in United States notes and treasury funds available for the reduction of the public debt and for the current expenses of the government, and that the funds held for the payment of the matured debt and interest, due and unpaid, shall be available for that purpose for such funds available above the sum of $10,000,000 shall be retained in the treasury for such purpose, instead, however, as permanently diminishing the sum of $100,000,000 now held for the redemption of treasury notes.

Mr Plumb argued that this money was needlessly held in the treasury and should be put into circulation at once, thus relieving greater life into the veins of the country. The bill was referred to the finance committee.

The river and harbor bill will carry an appropriation of something like $21,000,000. There will be an appropriation of some thing like $800,000 for the improvement of St. Mary's river and the Hay Lake channel, but with this exception the money to be expended in Michigan waters will be less than was appropriated in the fifteen years preceding. There is still some doubt about the Portage Lake canal estimate.

The senate has confirmed the following Michigan postmasters: F. H. Singer at Sturgis, A. L. Spencer at Belding, A. F. Sunider at Marshall, F. W. Brownson at Ionia, W. W. Clark at West Branch, George A. F. Cook at Three Rivers, E. E. Crahill at Ontonagon.

Senator Colburn has introduced a bill to amend section 5,352 revised statutes in reference to bigamy. The bill provides that no person who is living in what is known as plural or celestial marriage, or who teaches, advises, or encourages any person to enter into polygamy, or who is a member of any church or religious, which encourages bigamy or any person who assists in the solemnization of the ceremony of any such marriage, shall vote, serve as a juror, or be elected to or hold any civil office in the territory.

The condition of the winter wheat on the 1st of April, as reported by the statistician of the department of agriculture averages 91 for the entire breadth. The general average for rye is 92. In the states of the central valleys reports from have cut down the growing wheat plants quite generally, and in wet or water logged areas the roots have been destroyed. There are reports of recuperation by sprouting and renewed growth in the roots. Where the roots are intact great improvement will follow with favorable weather. In many the roots are so well developed is favorable to improvement.

The bill for pensions on invalid pensions has favorably reported a bill to pension Mary Shumway, the widow of David A. Shumway, who was a lieutenant colonel in the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. He died in 1865 from a fever. Her son, William Shumway, was a private in Company K, Eighth Michigan Infantry. He was badly wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, and lost his right arm. He was further cared for him during his illness. Gunshot wounds in the right shoulder causing the wound suffered from blood poisoning resulting in the amputation of the right arm just below the elbow joint. He was pensioned and helped to care for the children prior to his death in 1886. Lack of proof she has been unable to establish her right to a pension. Mrs. Shumway had relatives in the U. S. Grant, who served in the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. He died in 1885.

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THE FOREIGN FIELD.

The Inhuman Flogging of Madam Sinida.

Various Bits of News and Gossip.

The Flogging of Mme. Sinida.

London, April 12.—The well known English medical journal, the Lancet, in this week's number presents at some length such details of the outrage to which the political prisoners at Kara, in East Siberia, were subjected, which have aroused special interest to the medical profession. Most attention is devoted to the famous case of Madame Sinida, who died from the effects of flogging. Dr. Gurvich, the prison physician, was specially opposed to the flogging. He furnished the governor of the prison a certificate setting forth that Madame Sinida was receiving medical care at his hands for heart disease. It had long been customary for prison officers to accept such a certificate as a sufficient warrant for suspending the infliction of corporal punishment. But the order of Baron Korraff, governor-general of the province of Kara, peremptorily ordered that the rules of the prison should be rigidly enforced in the case of political prisoners, the governor in the instance cited ordering the flogging should be administered in spite of the certificate. The medical profession remonstrated strenuously and refused to be present at the flogging. Despite these remonstrances, the order was rudely seized, her clothes were stripped from her to the waist and she was forced to lie upon a bench and held down while a hundred cruel blows were laid on her bare back. The Lancet adds that the effect of the ordeal to be a party to this frightful barbarity, [illegible] Shared by "Cousin Bridges" of the essays and blithely the purchase of rare books and "the old print after Leonardo," in the days when a purchase "used to be triumph" for them.

With people of limited means the frittering away of dimes, quarters and half dollars on this, that and the other thing, that we should often be better off without is a serious matter, and long experience has demonstrated that value money properly, many women are sad wasters in this direction. Seeming luxuries, longed for with a longing unspeakable, they are not to be thought of seriously until their phantom "ship comes in;" while little packages are brought home in a dude's shopping contains cheap gloves, fussy laces, work or materials purchased in the name of Art by one who has not learned to draw.

In the home of the wise shopper we shall find no trash; in its place, are well-chosen objects, few it may be, but each good of its kind. New books of worth we shall find there, and artistic needlework; bright bits of pottery and bronze; photographs and photographs of some of the treasures of old world galleries, all gathered together slowly and fondly with the saved-up money that changed hands. The complete buyer might have been exchanged for trash.

Things of worth and beauty are not alone for those to whom "a purchase is not a purchase," since they "have money enough and to spare." As share in the feast of good things, let us, then, as who will wisely plan and wait for it, instead of snatching up trash. A goodsized photograph of some favorite picture, or a bronze, or bisque, or [illegible] with sweet up-lifting face), may be had for one dollar and a half, and the same amount will glaze and frame the picture.

A simple bamboo frame for a cabinet photograph, of neatest construction, is to be obtained in Japan, and lately found in a Japanese store for one of those dimes that so easily slip from our grasp on the ten cent counter. Knowing that the Japanese is a prudent holder of the slender purse can pass, untempted, the crowded counters loaded with crude wares of various kinds, but, looking at these wares as the result of poor workmanship, and poorer taste, she sees them in their proper light, and finds them only trash.—*Good Housekeeping.*

Private Gorman's Plan.

We hand in our company a very concise but well-meant plan of Gorman, says a writer in the N. Y. *Sun*, and from the day he shouldered a musket he was anxious to invent a plan to make life easier for the general who read that a private soldier gave Napoleon the plan of a successful campaign, and was rewarded by being made a general, and his whole time was taken up in inventing plans, all of which were knocked in the head by our captain. The plan of the sergeant had no dampening effect on Private Gorman, however. The more he was suppressed the harder he thought, and his time came when he was with Hancock moved up to attack at Fredericksburg. Gorman wrote him a letter, saying that he had a plan by which Lee and whole army could be driven into Richmond in terror or captured without bloodshed. The letter was put in such strong language that the general decided to investigate, and Private Gorman was sent for to explain his plan. He came back by us a prisoner, and we learned the secret of his life. All the winter, and it was three months before we got a chance to find out what had happened to headquarters.

He explained that he was ushered into the presence of Gen. Burnside with ceremony, identified myself as the private of a soldier slain at Bull Run. The sight of these spooks, will strike terror to every rebel's heart, and he will fly or surrender. If this don't work I——

But he got no further. He said that the general booted him out of the tent, and he was ordered to camp guard and he spent no more time planning great campaigns.

Feeding Canary Birds.

A good many people don't know how to take care of canary birds, and I, therefore, give them the following advice which I got from a bird-fancier: "Every day give them a piece of figs, or raisins, or anything sweet, except a small piece of sweet apple (peeled) twice a week. Put the apple in the cage in the morning and the figs at night. It should have all the rape and canary seed it wants and gravel should be kept on the floor of the cage. Avoid feeding the bird celery. Twice a week feed it on one-third of a boiled egg, using both the white and the yellow of the egg. Give the egg that is better than putting it in whole. Give it the egg the day before it gets the egg, and give it a piece of the former as of the latter. Let it have a bath every other day, using water with the chill taken off."—*Epoch.*

An Orange Wrapper.

Some genius has invented a machine for wrapping oranges that does the work of three men. He says it can wrap 2,000 oranges in one hour.

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