H. B. MERRITT, Pontiac, Mich.

A Word from Our Shoe Store---

Science has joined the ranks of the shoemakers and today it is possible to get ready-made Shoes of better material, more perfect form, and more comfortable fit than ever before. In best shoe-making this country leads the world. But there is no class of merchandise in which there is so much deception as Shoes and hence it pays to buy of a reputable dealer. Our stock of Ladies' and Gen's Shoes is larger this season than ever before but the strength of our fine shoe stock lies mainly in our

$3.00 and $3.50 Lines.

We can give you different styles in French Calf, Box Calf, Patent Leather, Vici Kid and Winter Russets, Welt soles, Bulldog Toes, all up-to-date. Large line of Ladies' Warm Lined Shoes 90c to $2.50 a pair.

Everything warranted as represented.

H. B. Merritt, 17 N. Saginaw St. Pontiac.

NO SPECIAL SALE!

An every-day sale for the next three months of Up-toDate Goods for wide-awake people. Taking advantage of the best is your duty. NOW for the greatest sale in the history of my business. My store is packed from basement to garret with the

BEST GOODS

that money can buy and I propose to give the customers the benefit of my 27 years' experience. Buying my goods direct from the manufacturer for CASH, I am prepared to give you better value for your money than any house in Birmingham, Pontiac or Detroit.

They are for

CASH---

No Credit given

with these prices!

Unbleached Cotton, 36 inches wide	3½c
Bleached Cotton 36 inches wide	5c
Outing Flannel	5c
Men's Woolen Hosiery, per pair	10c
Misses' Woolen Hosiery, per pair	10c
Men's Underwear, pair	25c
Men's Wool Fleeced, pair	50c
Men's Night Shirts, pair	75c
Men's Gloves, pair	25c
Men's Canvas Jackets	$1.00
6x4 Pattern Oil Cloth	75c
8x4 " " "	$1.25
1 lot Ladies' Shoes, plain toe, 2½ to 3, former price $2.00, $2.50 and $4.00, to close, per pair	50c

Men's Felts and Rubbers, per pair. This is a great value.	$1.50
Men's Felts and Snag Rubbers at. Others will charge you 50c to 75c per pair more.	$2.50
Boston Rubber Boots	$2.50
Snag Proof Boots	$3.00
Bay State Boots	$2.25
50 pairs Ladies' Tan Shoes, all sizes, regular $2.00 and $2.50 Shoes, to close	$1.25
1 lot Men's Shoes, the latest, at	$1.25
1 lot Men's Over Shirts. These goods would be good value at 75c.	50c
Men's Grain Shoes, high cut, at. Are worth $3.00—every pair warranted to give satisfaction.	$2.50

My line of Boots and Shoes are the best money can buy. Men's full stock Kip Boots at $2.00—would be good value at $3.00 per pair.

Everything Guaranteed as Represented.

V. NIXON,

BIRMINGHAM, - MICH.

ROYAL OAK.

Warm time here next Tuesday.

House cleaning is the order of the day.

Hallowe'en was observed by "Young America."

A school social contemplated in the near future.

Glad to see Dr. Lathrop out on our streets once more.

Silas Jarvis and wife, of Troy, spent Sunday at S. B. Alger's.

D. P. Davison, of Detroit, was a guest of Mrs. L. A. Phelps a part of last week.

Mrs. E. E. Lewless entertained the Ladies' Aid Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Fred White and daughter, of Detroit, visited Mrs. C. G. Wilson one day last week.

Rather chilly waiting for the electric cars since the depot has been closed to the public.

Mrs. Phoebe Elwood and niece, Mrs. Byron Hollister, have been visiting at Sand Beach.

Miss Sarah Hammond has returned from a several weeks' visit with friends in Poole, Ont.

Dr. and Mrs. Lathrop have been entertaining several guests from Detroit and Canada lately.

Chas. Regan and wife have moved from a farm to the village and are occupying the house vacated by Wm. Close.

Mrs. Ernest Reibel, who has been ill for several weeks past, was able to be out and spend Sunday with her mother.

Mrs. Frank Richards has returned from Redford, where she was called by the serious illness of her daughter, Mrs. Vilroot.

A pleasant time was the verdict from those present at the informal reception tendered Rev. and Mrs. Ling, in the parsonage last Wednesday evening.

The last lodge meeting of the Maccabees, in Store's hall was an enjoyable one. The Sir Knights treated the Lady M.'s to a repast of oysters and coffee.

The ladies of the Congregational society will serve warm meals in the church on election day—next Tuesday, November 8. Ye voters, don't forget it.

Rev. S. Masada, a native of Japan, will preach in the M. E. church Sunday morning, Nov. 6th; subject, Buddhism, life of Buddha and his doctrines. In the evening—Japanese Home and Home Life.

Are you going to vote for Mitchell next Tuesday? Yes, indeed, I am not acquainted with his opponent, but do know George and as he is an accommodating sort of a chap and has favored me often I will give him my vote on Tuesday.

Joseph Quick who had his foot amputated recently had not sufficient constitution to rally. He was buried from the family home last Friday, Rev. Ling officiating. Mr. Quick was an esteemed citizen of this place and will be missed in this community.

A pleasant event occurred at the home of H. P. Beck, who resides a few miles southeast of this village October 24, it being his 67th birthday anniversary. A bounteous oyster dinner was served to friends of his own age and in the evening the young people gave Mr. Beck a genuine surprise. The genial host was a recipient of several presents.

TROY.

Guests from Detroit at Mrs. C. Harris' Sunday.

Carman Skinner of Detroit Sundayed in Troy.

Miss Mae Cone is visiting in Tuscola county.

Mrs. E. M. Clark has returned from Grosse Point.

Rev. Clack and wife spent Thursday in Detroit.

Julia Lakie was the guest of the Misses Williamson Sunday.

Steve Nott and family were Sunday guests at Will Jennings'.

John Harper and wife attended Waite Bros. opening in Pontiac last Saturday.

The entertainment at the Troy schoolhouse Friday night was well attended.

Chas. Hadsell has had a beautiful east window put in their dining room for Mrs. H.

Mrs. Depew returned from Utica Sunday. She will be at Mrs. Lydia Blount's—her daughter's— for the winter.

Mitchell for County Treasurer is the promising candidate from this section of the county. Vote for him Tuesday next.

The Arthur J. Wager Memorial Association is duly organized. Officers: President, Mrs. Geo. Elliott; Vice Pres and Cor. Sec., Miss Rhobie Niles; Rec. Sec., Sam Jarvis; Treas., Frank Blucher; Trustees, Miss Clara Burrows, Mrs. Elliott and Frank Clark. Members at this writing, 25. The first meeting will be held the first Saturday evening in January, '98. The society wish to raise $50 and everybody interested please pay to Miss Niles or Sam Jarvis a fee of 50 cts and become a member.

COUNTY LINE

Joiner Bros. have built a little house for Geo. Rivard.

Miss Ballmyer, of Ohio, visited C. Wilson's people recently.

S. Martin is putting up a new Cyclone wire fence around the schoolhouse.

Wm. McBride moved Mr. Jassup's house up to his daughter's, Mrs. F. Wilson's last week.

Both parties have held political meetings in Warren, but we have heard of no converts up to date.

L. Bush and Miss Anna Lyons were married Tuesday at the Lutheran church. The young couple are going to live on the Wm. Schrader place.

Miss Bunker, living on the Centre line, was married Sunday October 23, in the Lutheran church at Warren. 150 couples attended the wedding. The happy man was from Roseville.

FRANKLIN.

Potatoes are proving an abundant crop.

A vote for Mitchell for County Treasurer means an honor to Bloomfield and locality.

New school desks are being placed in the school building here and in adjoining districts.

After a life-long residence in our village Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Midgely and family have decided to locate in Pontiac, and will move there in a short time. This family will be greatly missed and many friends regret their departure.

BIG BEAVER.

Ed McBride and wife spent Sunday with Will Ebling and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry George spent Sunday visiting his brother near Utica.

Ross Lamb has bought a new corn husker and is doing good work with it.

Geo. Engle and wife started Saturday morning for a visit with friends in Flint.

Will Baldwin and C. W. Flinn bought 500 bushels of potatoes of Geo. Campbell and are drawing them to Detroit.

Fred Smith, who has attended school at Birmingham since the term commenced, has been obliged to stop going on account of poor health.

Messrs. Warren, James, Will West, Jim Dungrow and Stephen Dungrow left Tuesday morning for Midland Co. where they intend hunting deer.

It has been some time since Bloomfield has had a representative in county offices. Let us send Mitchell to the County seat for two years, as Treasurer of our County.

Mrs. Anna Hill and children arrived at her parental home last Wednesday from Virginia, where she has been living the past four years. Her husband will follow in the distant future.

Mrs. Anna Harvey, of Utica, while visiting her mother, Mrs. Pearsall, had the misfortune to lose her gold watch. While returning from Colerain to her mother's, later on, it was found by Harry Schultz and returned to its owner.

SOUTHFIELD.

Mrs Carl Tibbits is on the sick list.

T. C. Williams has several nice Poland China pigs for sale.

Miss Maude Lavery, of Royal Oak, is clerking at S. M. Beddow's store.

The Gleaners Society will meet with Mrs. Robt. Douglas, Wednesday Nov. 9, at 10 a. m.

Vote for Mitchell for County Treasurer it won't hurt you and will do him a power of good.

Epworth League meets next Sunday evening at 7 o'clock sharp; topic—"Childhood of Jesus;" leader, Mrs. Etta Wright.

Rue VanEvery and wife have returned from Pontiac and have moved to Frank Iin, where they will reside with his mother.

THE STAGE.

AT WHITNEY'S.

Lincoln J. Carter's Apia hurricane drama "Under the Dome"—written to scenically describe the awful disaster of March 15, 1889, in the harbor of Apia, is running at Whitney's this week, with several members of last season's company in the cast. The two villains, Howard Considine and Seth Baldwin, are well played by G. W. Kerr and Chas. J. Harris, but the favorwinner of the group is that downright, straight-from-the-shoulder, main brace, spliciug old sea dog, Bos'n Dave Bowers, who is capitally personated by T. J. Condon. The chief incident of the play is a thrilling representation of the great storm with the U. S. S. S. Trenton plunging to her doom. It is a magnificent bid for applause and it carries Mr. Carter's play to high success.

AT THE LYCEUM.

Any one who saw the Rogers Brothers last season at the Lyceum, in "One Round of Pleasure," will go to the theatre again this week for one of those dyspepsia-killing, blues-dispersing laughs which these unique and altogether clever comedians always provide "to the queen's taste." It matters little to us whether they appear in "One Round of Pleasure," or "A Reign of Error," or in specialty or vaudeville, it's they themselves that we go to see, and we feel that we get all that we went for when they're on the stage.

Vaudeville comedy, burlesque and opera, interpreted by fifty of the best artists ever organized for this style of entertainment will be the stage offering of Black Patti's Troubadors," on the occasion of their performance at the Lyceum next week.

Parsnip Complexion.

It does not require an expert to detect the sufferer from kidney trouble. The hollow cheeks, the sunken eyes, the dark puffy circles under the eyes, the sallow parsnip-colored complexion indicates it.

A physician would ask if you had rheumatism, a dull pain or ache in the back or over the hips, stomach trouble, desire to urinate often, or a burning or scalding in passing it; if after standing there is an unsatisfied feeling as if it must be at once repeated, or if the urine has a brick dust deposit or strong odor.

When these symptoms are present, no time should be lost in removing the cause. Delay may lead to gravel, catarrh of the bladder, inflammation, causing stoppage, and sometimes requiring the drawing of the urine with instruments, or may run into Bright's Disease, the most dangerous stage of kidney trouble.

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great discovery of the eminent kidney and bladder specialist, is a positive remedy for such diseases. Its reputation is world-wide and it is so easy to get at any drug store no one need suffer any length of time for want of it.

However, if you prefer to first test its wonderful merits, mention the Birmingham Eccentric and write to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle and booklet telling all about it, both sent absolutely free by mail.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

"Don't you think you have a good mamma to spread such nice, large slices of bread with jam for you?" said little Eth-l's grandma. "Oh, I don't know," replied the little miss, "it would be a heap sight gooder if she'd let me spread the jam myself."

Little 4-year-old Gage, having just been put into knickerbockers, was naughty, so his mother said, "Gage, if you do that again, I'll put you back into your dresses." He answered quickly: "You tant, 'cause you've diven them all away." Which she had

It is said that Olga Nethersole will have to do a tremendous business with "The Termagant" in America if she hopes to retrieve the losses she has sustained with the piece in London.

Charles Wyndham, in view of the recent accident to the Prince of Wales, will provide in his theater in London an elevator running to the royal box, so that his royal highness may see the play without imperilling his limbs on the stairs.

Wilson Barrett is reported to have discovered an infant prodigy in Australia—a little girl of the name of Clitheroe, who played the child in "The Silver King" with remarkable power. It is not improbable that Mr. Barrett will take the child to England with him.

Mme. Melba has been spending her summer holiday on the upper Thames, but has now left England for France. She sails soon for this country. M. Jean de Reszke, with his wife and his brother, were recently in Paris for a short time, but are now on their way to their estates in Poland.

It is estimated by those who ought to know that J. M. Barrie's royalties from "The Little Minister" will ultimately amount to $250,000. The piece, in addition to playing to between $10,000 and $12,000 a week in America, has begun its second season in London at the Haymarket theater, where the audiences are enormous, and it is also going in Australia to very large houses. It seems, however, to be a permanent kind of success.

"Now, children," said the teacher of the juvenile class, "can any of you tell me the' meaning of 'vice versa?'" "Yes'm, I can," replied the youngster at the foot of the class. "Well, Bobby, what is it?" "It's when you sleep with your feet toward the head of the bed," answered Bobby.

A little fellow in the public schools, while engaged in defining words, made a mista e that was hardly a mistake after all. The teacher asked what a demagogue is and he replied: "A demagogue is a vessel that holds whisky, wine, beer or any other kind of intoxicating liquor."

While, aged 5, was told of an arrival in his uncle's family and earnestly inquired if it was any relation to him. "Why, certainly," replied his mother. "he is your first cousin." After thinking it over for a few minutes the little fellow said: "Well, perhaps you know, but I should think he was my last cousin."

Little Dot was very fond of Bible stories, and one day after her mother had read the story of Lot's wife, she asked: "Mamma, what did Mr. Lot do when his wife was turned into a pillar of salt?" "What do you think he did?" asked mamma. "Why," replied the practical little miss, "I s'pose he went out and hunted up a fresh one."

"Tommy," asked a mother of her 4-year-old son, "where did that hole in the screen door come from?" "I don't know, mamma," replied the little fellow. "Are you sure you don't?" she asked. "Course I am," answered Tommy. "I throwed my ball awhile ago, and then I saw the hole, but, honestly, I don't know where it came from."

One of the homeliest men on the north side has a very pretty little 4-year-old daughter. One day she was sitting in his lap, appreciating a large mirror. She looked at her father's reflection a moment, then at her own, and, turning to him, she asked: "Papa, did God make me?" "Yes, dear," was the reply. "And did he make you, too?" "Yes." "Well," she said, again glancing at the mirror, "he's turning out much better work lately, isn't he?"

Little 4-year-old Tommy was visiting his aunt in the country not long since. One day at the dinner table the lady complained that a small jar of preserves had mysteriously disappeared from the pantry. Each one present disclaimed any of them except Tommy, who remained discreetly silent. At last he was asked if he knew anything about the missing fruit. "You'll have to excuse me," he replied. "My papa don't allow me to talk at the table."

THE NEW STORE.

KERN'S.

CORNER WOODWARD AND GRATIOT AVENUES.

THE ATTRACTIONS OF THIS STORE ARE ITS LOW PRICES.

New Silks

Taffeta Silks

Both plain and changeable colors, a quality that cannot be matched for less than 89c, for

75c.

Satin Duchesse

All silk, a quality usually selling at 69c Special at, per yard,

59c.

Fashionable Stripes

A handsome Assortment of beautiful stripe effects, everyone entirely new. Special at, per yard,

75c.

Where do you buy your YARNS?

We have the largest and most complete assortment in this city. All kinds, all colors, and nothing but the most reliable qualities at the lowest prices. All who have used our "UTOPIA" use no others.

German Knitting Yarn, Saxony Yarns, Spanish Yarns, Germantown Yarns, Zephyr Yarns.

OUR NEW

Dress Goods

HAVE WON IMMEDIATE APPRECIATION, BECAUSE WE ARE SHOWING THE HANDSOMEST and MOST STYLISH FABRICS, QUALITIES and PRICES THAT CANNOT BE MATCHED ELSEWHERE. Here are some exceptional good values.

Camel's Hair Cheviots

Very new and desirable, 43 inches wide all colors, at, per yard,

75c.

Kersey Meltonettes

In all the stylish blue, green and brown shades, at, per yard,

89c.

Broadcloths

In every new shade, a quality and finish that cannot be matched else where for less than $1.25. Our price,

$1.00

Our Granite Cloths

There is nothing to equal it at the price. Strictly all wool, 30 coloring, at per yard,

50c.

SECOND FLOOR.

UNUSUAL VALUES IN

Wrappers

Of heavy fleece-lined cloth, neat, dark, styles, trimmed yoke, sleeve and collar, $1.25 value, for

89c.

STYLISH

Fur Collarettes

Astrachans and French Seal. Some Astrachan yoke and Seal corded. An exceptional good value at

$3.50.

Sateen Petticoats

Of heavy black Sateen. Umbrella ruffle. Three rows of cording. A splendid Skirt for

$1.25.

THIRD FLOOR.

Blankets and Comfortables

10¼ Cotton Blankets, 50c value, at per pair **39c.**

Scarlet all wool Blankets, special at, per pair **$2.89.**

ERNST KERN,

Corner Woodward and Gratiot Aves. - Detroit.

AFTER THE QUARREL.

"Go!" she exclaimed, "and never speak to me again!"

He passed out into the unsympathetic night, but paused when he reached the sidewalk and drew something from one of his inside pockets. As he did so the beautiful girl, who was watching him from the vestibule, uttered a shrill scream and ran toward him.

"Albert!" she cried, "what would you do? Pray do not kill yourself! Throw your revolver away and let us forget our quarrel!"

"It isn't a revolver," he replied, as he caught her in his arms. "It is a monkey wrench I borrowed from you that day my wheel broke down. I have been wearing it next to my heart ever since."

Then they returned to the parlor and took up the thread of love's young dream where it had been broken.—Chicago Daily News.

Housekeepers Should Be Methodical

Housekeepers often waste their energy and make their lives thoroughly uncomfortable by neglecting to plan out the work that lies before them. The good housekeeper looks forward, and before retiring to bed at night she has arranged her plan of campaign for the following day, and when the time comes she carries it out methodically. The poor housewife, on the contrary, exercises no forethought, and does not trouble about anything that has to be done until the moment comes for doing it. The consequence of this mental indolence is a lamentable loss of peace and comfort in the house, and a perpetual hurry to get done in time, which could easily have been saved by a little careful planning.

Another very common mistake of housewives is to over-estimate their strength. The question of economy is never more of greater importance than when applied to our energy and powers of endurance. It is no good for us to practice the most rigid economies, if at the same time, we overtax our strength. Some women with more energy and ambition than prudence will crowd into one day the work that ought to occupy two. You may perhaps feel inclined to admire their powers of despatch, but probably if you called the day following you would rather lament their want of discretion. Almost invariably you would find them tired and exhausted, and very likely fretful and peevish, a source of discomfort to themselves and to their households.

Results of a Bachelor's Observations.

A well-known gentleman in Skowhegan, Me., one of the oldest citizens, himself a bachelor, gives the following as the result of his observation along matrimonial lines in Skowhegan: There are fifty-seven men who have married twice, thirty-four who have married three times, and sixteen who have married four times.

BOWS.

The Romans carried the bow to Britain, where it at once obtained favor, and during the middle ages was extensively used, forming an important element of the armies of that period.

While universally used by the ancients the form of the bow varied with different nations. The Scythian bow was in the form of the letter C and the bow of the Tartars—descendants of the Scythians—still keeps that shape.

The English archers were said to be the finest in the world and their skill decided the battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt. The bows used were of two kinds, the long bow and the arbalest or cross bow. The arbalest was made of steel or horn, and was of such strength and stiffness that it was necessary to use some mechanical appliance to bend it and adjust the string. The arbalestiers carried a quiver with fifty arrows and were placed in the van of the battle.

The Greek bow was not more than three or four feet in length, but so stout and stiff that it required considerable strength and skill to use it, says Lippincott's Magazine. It is said that the first Greek bows were made from the horns of a species of goat, the bases being united by means of a metallic band. Afterward other material was used in their manufacture, but they still retained their original shape. These bows were too short to be of much use, and, comparatively speaking, but a small portion of the troops were armed with them.

Love, like ice, is awfully slippery and it soon thaws.

A GENIUS IN ADVERTISING.

But He Surprised by the Odd Effect of His Capitalization.

"When I was a youngster, say of 21," remarked the veteran journalist of a western city, "I was the editor of a country paper in a town of about 5,000 people, and having lived for a year in New York, I had an idea that I was really the only person in town who knew anything. I had a pretty hard time making things come my way, but youth and enterprise are hard to down, and I kept at it. There was one firm in town, Smith Bros., which was the strongest and most conservative there, and I knew an advertisement from them would be the making of me, but they were very slow in letting me have it. However, I persisted, until at last I had it in my clutches, and I grasped it as a drowning man grasps at a life preserver. The senior partner, who was a most austere and particular old chap, and a deacon into the bargain, was anxious to impress me with the fact that they were doing a great deal for me, and I must return value received. All of which I agreed to do; and then the old gentleman surprised me by telling me he would give me the copy and leave it to my newfangled notions, as he called them, to make up the ad. He would show the Smith Bros. to be as progressive as any other merchants in town and quite as ready to meet the modern ideas. Well, this was more than I could have asked for if they had begged me to do so, and I went out of the place almost shouting. When I reached my office I read the copy over again to find its strong points of display. It was as follows, for I can never forget it: 'Smith Bros., the well-known dealers in groceries, are pleased to make the announcement that they are in receipt of the biggest stock of canned goods ever seen here, and they will be sold at prices hitherto unknown. Some advertisers may be liars, but Smith Bros. are happy in knowing that they have a reputation for veracity which is worth more to them than gold.' That was good, plain stuff, with not much of a margin visible for the play of my versatile fancy, but I was expected to do something that would attract attention, for the old gentleman had been especially strong on that point. He was tired of the plainly severe, he said, and wanted something that would set fall to stir things up. I sat up more than half the night with that copy, and when morning came I had in all in shape to fill a column, the amount of space he wanted it to occupy. He told me, when he gave me the copy, that if he didn't get around to see the proof, just to let it go and take the chances, which I did when he didn't appear, and when the paper came out, there, in the biggest and blackest letters I could set up, was the advertisement for a full column of the size:

SMITH BROTHERS,
the well-known dealers in groceries,
ARE
pleased to make
THE
announcement that they are in receipt
of the
BIGGEST
stock of canned goods ever seen here,
and at prices hitherto unknown.
Some advertisers may be
LIARS
but Smith Brothers are happy
IN
knowing that they have a reputation
in this
TOWN
for veracity which is worth more to
them than gold.

"Well, when the Smith Brothers saw that ad. fairly shouting to them and at them, and about them, they were only restrained by their religion from shooting me on the spot. However, they sued me, in spite of all my defense of the attractive qualities of the display, and I would have gone to the wall for my genius and Napoleonic brilliancy had it not been for the fact that before the time of hearing the suit the ad. had actually given the Smith Brothers a boom that almost frightened them by its tremendous popularity, and though they never repeated the ad., and always made me submit matter before it was printed, we became great friends, and each of us did much for the other in financial and other ways."—Washington Star.

Big Families in Berlin.

The Municipal Year Book of Berlin shows that one woman in that city, 41 years old, is the mother of twenty children. In 1896 there were five families with nineteen children, sixteen with eighteen, seventeen with seventeen, thirty-two with sixteen, sixty-three with fifteen, eighty-three with fourteen and 126 with thirteen. Two hundred pairs of Berlin parents counted a dozen children each, the mother in one case being only 26 years old. A mother of eighteen offspring was 35 years old, while women of 23 and 40 had borne eight and five children respectively.

Electric Railways in Europe.

Out of 204 different lines of electric railways in Europe 172 lines are operated by the overhead trolley, eight have the underground trolley, eight the third-rail system, thirteen storage or accumulator cars, and three lines a mixed system of overhead trolley and accumulators at certain points in the line. The break is caused by the restrictions against trolleys in a few European cities.

WON'T SAVE FROM DROWNING.

Strange Antipathy to Rescuing Folk from the Water.

A strange antipathy once prevailed to rescuing a drowning man, the idea being that the person saved would, sooner or later, do some soft of injury to the man who preserved his life. Sir Walter Scott, in the "Pirate," tells how Bryce, the peddler, refused to help Mordaunt to save the shipwrecked sailor from drowning, and even remonstrated with him on the rashness of such a deed. "Are you mad?" said the peddler, "you that have lived she lang in Zetland, to risk the saving of a drowning man? Wot ye not if ye bring him to life again, he will be sure to do you some injury?" This prejudice, which was deeply rooted among our sea-going community in many parts of the country, existed not very long ago in Cornwall. It is found, too, among French sailors and the boatmen of the Danube, and is very widely credited in Russia. Mr. Barry, in his "Ivan at Home," gives a striking instance of the Russian repugnance to saving life from drowning. One day a drunken man walked into the water and disappeared. A number of spectators stood by and gazed on the scene with the utmost indifference, but no one tried to rescue him. A court of inquiry was held, but as on examination no cross was found on his neck, a verdict was quickly agreed upon by the villagers, who declared that the man was "drowned because he had no cross upon his neck." The Bohemian fisherman shrinks from snatching a drowning man from the waters, fearing that the water demon would take away his luck in fishing, and drown him at the first opportunity. This is a lingering survival of the ancient significance of this superstition, the explanation being that the water spirit is naturally angry at being despoiled of its victim, and henceforth bears a special grudge against the unlucky person who has dared to frustrate him. Thus, when some one is drowned in Germany, the remark is made, "The water spirit claims his yearly sacrifice," or "The nix has taken him." Out of Europe, also, the accidental drowning of a person is attributed to a similar seizure, and the Siamese dreads the Phauk, or water spirit, that seizes bathers and drags them under to his dwelling. The Sioux Indians have a similar fancy, and tell how men have been drowned by Unk-Tahe, the water monster. For the same reason, it appears, the Kamtchadals, far from helping a man out of the water, would drown him by force. If rescued by any chance no one would receive him into his house or give him food. The Chinese reluctance to save a man from drowning arises from quite a different belief—it being supposed that the spirit of a person who has met his death in this way continues to flit along the surface of the water until it has caused by drowning the death of a fellow-creature. A Chinaman, therefore, who attempts to rescue another from drowning is considered to incur the hatred of the uneasy spirit, which is desirous, even at the expense of a man's life, to escape from its wanderings.—Boston Globe.