WARNED BY BEETLE'S KNOCKS.

It Meant Death According to an Ancient Superstition.

A curious superstition has causedor at any rate accelerated-the death of Mrs. Bellamy, the wife of a Huntingdonshire fen farmer, living at Rammey, says the Manchester" Chronicle. Hearing in the stillness of the night mappings in an old family deed box, the woman, who had been slightly indisposed for a day or two, was terrormtricken, as her mother-in-law had maid that when a "knocking" came" from the box a death in the house Kollowed. She aroused her husband, serying, "It's knocked! You know that's the warning!" The farmer says that he then heard tapping in the box and states: "I knew what it meant; amy wife was to be taken from me!" adding: "The message which the box gave brought such a dread on my wife that she took to her bed and gradually pined away." Asked if he chought the rapping brought about her end, he replied: "There is no doubt about it," and they were heard, the said, when his father died. Now at turns-out that the rappings were made by the common wood-boring inmeet known as the death watch beetle -a name it derives from the superstizion attaching to it-which is to be Hound in old houses and ancient furnisture. It taps with its head against the wood in signalling to its mate, and the sharp sound it makes in the milence of the night has none of the mignificance with which superstition has surrounded it.

GAVE THEM FAIR WARNING.

Congregation Apprised of the "Ottermatic C'lection Box."

A negro preacher, whose supply of hominy and bacon was running low, decided to take radical steps to impress upon his flock the necessity for contributing liberally to the church exchequer, says a writer in Human Life. Accordingly, at the close of the sermon he made an impressive pause. and then proceeded as follows:

"I hab found it necessary, on account ob de astringency ob de hard times an' de gineral deficiency ob de circulatin' mejum in connection wid dis chu'ch, t' interduce ma new ottermatic election box. It is so arranged dat a half dollah or quatah falis on a red plush cushion widout noise; a mickel will ring a small bell distinctually heard by de congregation, an' a suspendah button, ma fellow-mawtels, will fiah off a pistol; so you will gov'n yo-selves accordin'ly. Let de c'lection now p'oceed, w'ile I takes of ma hat an' gibs out a hymn."

The amateur photographer slid the milk-colored plate into a tray and poured over it a pint of water. Magically then in the mysterious ruddy light fine black lines began to appear. They ran this way and that; they crossed, deepened, spread; soon the plate had turned from white to black. "It has developed itself, you see," said the photographer. "But how? You put nothing but water on it." "I'll tell you. Just as the surface of this plate is coated, so there is a coating on the back—a transparent coating of extremely soluble developer. You meed only pour on water, when the deweloping chemicals at once dissolve and in that developing solution the Amage begins immediately to appear. A good idea, isn't it? No, these selfdeveloping plates are not yet on the market. They are still a little imper-Zect. Soon, though, they will be as perfect and as common as self-raising

Utilization of Waste.

The United States Steel corporation is installing 12 monster engines at vagrious plants, the unique feature about them being that they do not require coil, coke, coal, wood or ordinary gas for fuel. They are to be operated molely with the gas which is generated An the company's blast furnaces during the process of steel manufacture. This gas has heretofore gone to waste but hereafter it will be made to turn all the wheels. For a steel plant to be able to save the cost of its fuel is taking a very big stride toward economy. To be able to abolish smoke at the same time will add to its popularity in communities where the smoke-belching stacks have smothered the air with blackmess. One more real triumph for the American restless brain.

Tainted Money in England.

The man who is charitable, or who joins heartily in the steady warfare mow waging against poverty, is the man who is good—that is for the moment the decision of modern opinion. He may sacrifice the nobler objects of life to a rushing chase of fortune, may even pursue business methods which have in them an appreciable taint of cruelty, but if he is "benevolent," in the sense of readiness to make large charitable gifts, the world condones his action, or even regards him with mdmiration.—Spectator, London.

Awful Break.

The man of the house had shown The caller the leaky roof, the insecure Moundation, the unfinished upper frooms, and the generally wretched "scondition of the premises. "Now," he said "I think you ought to make the massessment about half what it was last year." "You must have misun-"derstood me, Mr. Himpswitch," remarked the caller. "I didn't say I was the assessor. What I said was that Emp name is Elsessor I am thinking of buying some property in this neighborhood."

SAILOR SIGNS AND TOKENS.

The Strange Superstitions of Those Who Meam the Oceans.

There is a general idea that the sailor labors under more than the one pet superstition popular tradition assigns to each individual. J. D. J. Kelley, although he declares that "tars" are no more superstitious than any of their equals in training and opportunities, cites in "The Ship's Company" many of the signs and tokens in which those "who go down to the sea in ships" put their faith. In the past superstition was a part of every ship; it entered into its keel. climbed to its flags, ran at its launching, controlled its crew and cargo, evoked portents and governed its ventures and arrivals. A bit of stolen wood was always mortised into the keel to make a ship sail fast. A silver coin was placed in the mainmast step to insure lucky ventures. The modern christening by the wine bottle arose from the ancient libations poured on the deck by priests. Ship bells are blessed and to this day if a mistake is made in striking one it is immediately struck backward to break the spell. The belief in the desertion of a sinking ship by rats is founded on reason, for rats like to be dry footed and when a vessel is unsafe it becomes leaky under deck and too wet for the creature's comfort.-Youth's Companion.

THINGS WE DO NOT SEE.

Proof That the Majority of People Are Unobservant

A man who had recently been in Europe was entertaining his friends with stories about Paris, and in the course of his talk mentioned several places which were unknown to his listeners, although they had all frequently visited the French "capital. People go through the world with their eyes shut," was the story teller's comment. A quiet little man in the party then said that even the most observing people did not always see, and, addressing the traveler, said: "You have read the same paper daily for 30 years. Do you know how many columns it has on a page?" "No." "You look at your watch many times every day. Can you tell me, is: the six on its face a Roman or an Arabic figure?". "Why, Roman, of course." And he looked, and found that there was no "six" on his watch dial. "All of which demonstrates," said the little man, "that the most observing do not always see."

Play a Necessity of Life. The gospel of play will, we are confident, win for itself a hearing as the gospel of wholesomeness and a fuller life. It will go far to create a better race of manly beings, a better social state and throw a new light on the piety of grimness and "other worldliness." What we have said has been applied mainly to city life, to the overpacked and unnatural crowd; but it is applicable in a modified form to country life. The people who live among the trees and brooks do get, in spite of themselves, a certain relaxation, yet they need what they do not get-the useless sport, the utter relief for a portion of each day from "trying to make ends meet."-N. Y. Independent:

Movements of Flying Fish.

The fish that have solved the problem of M. Santos Dumont are found in the Mediterranean, and in all seas of the tropics. Particularly in the Red Sea it is one of the chief amusements of the passengers of the great steamships to watch the flying fish. One sees them here singly and there ir shouls to the number of over a thousand, leaping suddenly from the water, raising themselves into the air and darting like arrows for a long distauce, to dive once more into the sea. Sometimes they ricochet along the surtace just as flat pobbles do. This is only seen when the water is rough.

The Other Woman.

A certain mother-in-law had stopped so often with her daughter as to cause a quarrel with the husband, and one day, when she again came to stay, she found her daughter in tears on the doorstep. "I suppose George has left you," she sniffed. "Yes"-sob. "Then there's a woman in the case?" she asked, her eyes lighting up expectantly. "Yes"-sob. "Who is it?" she demanded. "You"-sob. "Graclous!" exclaimed the mother-in-law; "I am sure I never gave him any encouragement."—The Bellman.

Very Queer Newspaper.

The oddest newspaper in the world is one named the Wochenblatt, published in Grunningen, a small town of some 1,200 inhabitants, in the Canton of Zurich, in Switzerland. It is the only newspaper in the place, and is at one and the same time the organ of the liberal-conservatives and the social-democrats. Pages one and two belong to the liberals, and pages three and four to the socialists, and the two parties abuse one another finely in its pages.

Might Be Contagious.

A young matron of Baltimore, upon entering her nursery, found her youngest in tears. "Why, what's the matter with Harry?" she asked the nurse. "He's mad, mum," explained nurse, "because I wouldn't let him go to the Simmonses' acrost the strate." "And why wouldn't you let him go, Norah?" "Because, mum, they're havin' charades, so he said, -an' i wasn't sure whether he'd had thim or net."-Harper's Weekly.

PAID TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON.

English Journal Extolled Virtues of the Great American.

The melancholy account of the death of Gen. Washington was brought by a vessel from Baltimore which arrived off Dover, said the London Courler of January 24; 1800. Gen. Washington was, we believe, in his sixtyeighth year. In voluntarily resigning the magistracy which he has filled with such distinguished honor be enjoyed the unequaled satisfaction of leaving to the state he had contributed to establish the fruits of his wisdom and the example of his virtues. It is some consolation amid the violence of ambition and criminal thirst of power of which so many instances occur around us to find a character whom it is honorable to admire and virtuous to imitate. A conqueror for freedom of his country, a. legislator for its security, a magistrate for its happiness. His glories were never sullied by those excesses! into which the highest qualities are apt to degenerate. With the great est virtues he was exempt from the corresponding vices. He was a man to whom the elements were so mixed that "nature might have stood up to all the world and owned him as ber work." His fame, bounded by no country, will be confined to no age.

MENIAL OFFICE HELD HIGH.

Man of Ability Willing to Be Scullion to Young Queen.

In the court of Louis XIV., to hold the candle at night for the king to get into bed by, and to help him on with his shirt in the morning, were the two highest honors to which his nobles could-aspire. In the court of Queen Victoria the office of chief scullion to her majesty was hardly less honorable. Fancy the great philanthropist, Lord Shaftesbury, being offered, when Lord Ashley, by Peel this imposing post! Lord Ashley, having served in the Wellington administration, and having been offered by Canning a prominent administrative post. was during the ministerial crisis of 1839 asked by Peel to become chief scuilion to the queen. The formation of a cabinet. Peel explained was nothing compared with the composition of the royal household: while Lord Ashley's connection with the religious societies "marked him out as a proper attendant on a young woman upon whose moral and religious character the welfare of a million of human beings depended." Lord Ashley replied that if Peel really thought he could serve this purpose by becoming the queen's chief scullion he would accept the office. But the negotiations fell through.

First Note of Color Blindness. Color blindness has probably existed ever since the time of Adam, but it has been recognized for only 130 years. Those who are color blind sometimes discover the fact through ludicrous blunders. The first to describe his own case (in 1777) was the quaker Dalton, a prominent chemist in England. Attending a meeting of the Society of Friends arrayed in scarlet hose, he nearly received excommunication for his rankly offensive affront and made matters worse when he denied the charge. He was red blind. When he received from Oxford the "investment of the scarlet gown" be was able to appreciate the honor, but not the gown. He came near having his name given to color blindness, but he did not quite measure up to the standard required, as he was blind only in one color.—Century.

Facts as to Birthrate. Sir William Dubar, English register

general in a report recently submitted, inclines to the belief that the increasing low birthrate in England does not indicate decay. His statistics indicate that infant mortality decreases inversely with low rates of birth. When children come rapidly they are less likely to be strong, and if other parents are poor, difficulty of securing proper environment and nurture is enhanced. His tables on high birth rates show that it is attended by sickness and weakness in infancy, in a majority of cases. The large proportion of the offspring of smallfamilies survives, while the opposite too frequently is true of large families. It would be interesting to learn if similar conditions obtain in the United States.

Novelist Set a Limit.

When the Norwegian novelist Bjornson was in this country he was on one occasion the guest of a club at dinner. A man with a wide reputation as a brilliant talker and speechmaker told an exceedingly funny story, at which the Norwegian novelist laughed heartily. The man told a second story and Bjornson smiled. Then came a third story and the novelist sat unmoved, even gloomy. "It was a very good story," chided the novelist's mentor. "Why didn't you laugh?" "I am 40 years old," said Bjornson, firmly, "and two stories are

A Careless Traveler.

A man had occasion to ship a mule by rail to another county, says a writer in Harper's. He sent the animal to the station in the care of a darky. When the freight was put on the car the darky looked through the bars and saw the mule was eating the tag upon which his destination was marked. The darky at once ran home. "Massa! massa! dat mule he don gone and et up de place where he's gwine to!"

MADE STIR IN THE HOUSE.

Lady's Presence in British Commons . Caused Consternation.

A lady appeared in the house of commons one night, and members feared for a moment that the dreams of the suffragists had come true. The tall, broad, and stalwart Sir John Kennaway pushed his way through the swinging doors and made toward the bar. There was a gasp of surprise when in his bulky wake was sighted a demure little lady in a fawn coat. Instant visions of a suffragist plot for a woman to force entrance into the Parliamentary holy of holies under the expansive shadow of Sir John Kennaway's coat tail! "Lady, lady!" shouted two door guardians dashing in. A big attendant, dozing in a corner, jumped forward to block the way. Mr. Gosset, the deputy sergeant-at-arms, gripped his sword and looked like business. Pellmell was the female intruder hustled into the lobby, looking very frightened, for she had been an unwitting sinner. Members smiled, settled themselves and soon lapsed again into slumbrous attitudes.-St. James' Gazette.

MONEY SPENT FOR SODAS.

Ten Thousand Dollars a Day Not Unbelow usual in Big City.

"Ten thousand dollars' worth of soda water a. day-well, probably, said a city druggist whose trade in the effervescent fluid is a considerable part of his business. "In summer the day's bill for this city is doubtless all of that and more. Take the average price of soda at ten cents per glass, figuring that the Sundays and other 15-cent concoctions off-set the fivecent drinks, and \$10,000 means a hundred thousand glasses of soda, not an excessive estimate for a million and a half people, allowing for the visiting strangers, who are generally thirstier than the natives. Oh. yes, it has opened, but prabably this day's sales over the whole town won't exceed \$5,000, or perhaps they will be less than that. But, all told, allowing for good days and bad, winter and summer, this city probably drinks at least a million dollars' worth of soda water a year; and, what's more, never misses

Too Much Frankness.

Dr. Hollis B. Frissell, the learned principal of the famous Hampton institute, in the course of an eloquent appeal paused, smiled and said:

"But I must not lose my head. I must not let emotion run away with me. I must not be like the young lady at the bazaar.

"This young lady besought an elderly man to take a chance on a meerschaum pipe.

Thank you, the old man said. I'd

be glad to take a chance, but, unfortunately, I don't smoke." " Oh, but you can learn, said the young lady. 'Come, take a chance, do!

It's only a quarter.' "'No,' said he. 'Tobacco doesn't agree with me. I'd have no earthly

use for that meerschaum nine."

'Take a chance anyway,' pursued the young lady. There isn't the slightest probability of your winning it, you

Gamin Broke Up Scene.

"James Brace," said a Chicagoan, "crossed with me on the Oceanic, and on the promenade deck one morning the talk turning to Napoleon, he told me an amusing story. He said that in Paris during the Napoleonic craze of some years back he attended a Napoleon play at the Odeon. In this play one act hinged on the birth of the little king of Rome. If the child was a girl one cannon shot was to be fired; if a boy, two shots. Well, in the night in question a cannon shot rolled forth and there ensued a long silence on the stage.

'It is a girl,' said Josephine, tensely. But just then a second shot was heard and the empress oried: "No, a

Then, through some error, a third cannon shot thundered forth. In the awkward pause that followed a gamin in the gallery shouted: 'Parbleu, it's

Chicken Obstinacy. A police court story which is said to illustrate "the indifference of the average chicken to good advice." was told recently at Kingston, England,

when a carter was charged with stealing a fowl. "I am guilty of stealing the fowl." admitted the prisoner. "It was eating the corn out of my horse's nosegay. and I said to it, 'If you don't go away

I'll make you, and struck it with the

whip. When I saw it was dead I put

it in the wagon; I didn't know who owned it." "I judge it was the chicken's fault." remarked the prosecutor, "and I'll not" press the charge against the man."

Too Much.

"That man Richerndirt is the most conceited, insufferable, vain, arrogant insolent, purseproud individual that trammels the earth," said the man with the automobile goggles.

"Why, I heard that he towed your runabout in for you yesterday." said the man with the gasoline on his coat.

"Towed it in! Darn it! He happened along in his big touring car when my little machine broke down, and I'll he hanged if he didn't rig up a derrick of some sort and swing my runabout into his tonneau and haul it in!"-Judge.

Edition applementales \$5.00.

IT MADE HER LAUGH.

Husband Could Not Tell Difference Between Sawdust and Oatmeal.

There was a worried look on the grocer's face as he rushed hatless down the street ran up the steps of Acacia Villa and gave a nervous bell-

pull says London Tit-Bits. "I-I'm sorry to say there's been a slight mistake," he panted, as he wiped the perspiration from his forehead with the frayed end of his apron. "You ordered two pounds of outment yesterday and by mistake my apprentice put up some sawdust that our grapes came packed in."

"Oh," replied the lady, "then my 'usban' must 'ave got through about arf a pound o' wood for breakfus'.' "Course he did," was the reply.

Then the lady leaned back on the doorword and for three minutes indulged in a laugh that brought all her neighbors to the scene.

"Funny?" queried the grocer. "Yes, fuuny. Ere we've been mardied 13 years come 4th o' December, and George's never paid me a compliment till this mornin' at breakfus', when blest if 'e didn't pass up 'is place for another go o' that sawdust, and told me it reminded 'im o' the porridge 'is mother used to make.'

HAD MADE AN IMPRESSION.

Effect of Improvised Sleeping Accommodations on Weighty Senator.

Ex-Senator Billy Mason tells of a political campaign wherein he had been called upon by the state committee to take a part. When Mason arrived at his first town, where he was to deliver a speech the next day, he found that the two so-called hotels were crowded to the doors.

Not having telegraphed for accemmodations, the Illinois man discovered that he would have to make shift as bect he could.

He was compelled for that night to sleep on a wire cot that had only some blankets and a sheet on it. As Mr. Mason is a man of considerable avoirdupois, he found his improvised bed anything but comfortable.

"Well," asked the proprietor when the politician appeared in the morning, "how did you sleep?"

"Fairly well," answered Mason, "but I certainly looked like a waffle when I got up."

Sleep and Old Age.

There is no question that the quan tity of sleep required steadily diminishes from infancy to old age. This is a rather interesting exception to the general rule that, as in so many matters, old age returns to the needs of infancy. As regards sleep, old age is more remote in its needs from infancy than is any other period of life. If elderly people obtain good sleep during the first few hours and if they have not lost that delight in reading which we all had in youth, but which so many of us curiously lose, their case is not to be grieved over. The special value of the earliest hours of sleep, by the way, has been proved by psychological experiment. The popular phrase "beauty sleep" is well warranted. It is the early (the deepest) hours of sleep that make for health and beauty.

His Most Thriffing Time.

When a teacher asked her pupils to write an account of their most thrill ing experience, one of them hesitated Then he raised his hand.

"I've had two," he said, "pretty much alike. I don't know which to write about. They were the San Francisco earthquake and the Britt-Nelson "Well," the teacher said encourag-

ingly, "take the one you think was really the most tremendous, the most exciting." A little later he turned in the theme.

"The doorkeeper wouldn't sell me a ticket because I was so young," it be gan, "but I--"

Clergyman's Complaint. Collier's Weekly quotes of New York clergyman as saying: No one outside the clergy can know how sorely I am beset by the bysterical. the weak, the feebly sensimental. I listen to the gushing, yo the complaining, to the petty from week's end to week's end. I am held as infallible authority by the incompetent, and regarded as unworthy by those whose society I would seek. Shall I, who would be a strong man among men, be known by the fluffy, the morbid, the weak, who take up my time? Such judgment is unjust to a man who often regrets his calling."

Indictment of Wheeled Traffic.

Of the noise of London streets, caused by the hackney coach, Taylor, the old water poet, wrote: "It makes such a hideous rumbling in the streets by many churches' doors, that people's ears are stopped with the noise, whereby they are debarred of their edifying which makes faith so fruitless, good works so barren, and charity as cold at midsummer as if it were a great frost. By this means souls are robbed and starved of their heavenly manna."

Realism on the Stage. "The most realistic play I have ever

seen." "What is there so realistic about

"There are four acts and they are supposed to occur on four successive 

"Well, did you not notice that they have a different servant each act?"

KEPT THEM BOTH BUSY

Two Secretaries None Too Many for Visitor to America.

At a supper given in Chicago sev. eral months ago, at which James K. Hackett and Henry B. Irving sat side by side, irving said something about the American habit of writing to actors for autographs. Hackett replied that this reminded him of a story told him a number of years ago by Beerbohm Tree, when the English actor was touring the United States. Tree had spoken as follows: "Do you know when I was about ready to come over here to the States I met Oscar Wilde, who asked me whether it was true that I was coming over. I told him that it was true. Wilde offered me some good advice, and one of the things he spoke of was the master of autographs. He said: 'My dear Tree, if you go to America-to the States. you know, you must be sure to take along enough private secretáries. You want to take along at least four: You see, when I went over to the States I took only two, so that I could comply with the requests for my autograph and a lock of hair. One of these chaps wrote my autographs and the other provided the locks of hair. Now, what do you think, my dear Tree, before I had been over there a month one of those chaps was suffering from writer's cramp and the other was bald."-Exchange.

MAKE HOMES FIREPROOF.

Precautions Now Taken in the Most Modest Dwellings.

Within the last few years the price of lumber has increased to such an extent that the fireproof home is no longer the expensive luxury it used to be. Now-the man of modest-means, even the day workman, can have a home as safe from fire as the palatial dwellings of the ultra-wealthy. Private residences recently built and now under construction in New York city show that it is becoming the practice to use the same fireproofing precautions in houses as in lofty hetels and skyscrapers. It seems th every owner is determined that fiome shall not be swallowed up flame and smoke. In Charles N Schwab's house, at Riverside drive and Seventy-third street, Manhattar there are more than 100,000 square feet of terra cotta hollow tile blocks in the arches, partitions and roof. In the new residence of Harry Payne Whitney, son of the late W. C. Whitney, at 972 Fifth avenue, in the same borough, there are some 40,000 square feet of fireproofing material. This is distinctly a departure in the construction of private dwelling houses.-Fireand Water Engineering.

Great Pigeon Cities in the Swamps. Each spring, in May, all the rosy gulls of a wide region somehow agree to resort to a particular one of various marshy lakes for the purposeof rearing their young. Just how they decide this important question is not for us humans to know. At any rate, what they do select is a great area of grass, reeds, or rushes growing out of the water, and there, out of the Abandance of dry stems, each pair builds a partly fidating nest, side by side with others, thousands upon thousands of them. These great "cities" of the prairie pigeon present one of the most dramatic, spectacular sights in the bird-life of this continent, comparable in a way to the former breeding "roosts" of the real weld pigeou.-Herbert K. Job, in Outing

She Was Taking No Chances. Ian Maclaren, the noted novelist and clergyman, was talking in New York about traveling.

"Your baggage men here," he said, "are gentler than our English on Over there it is-but let me tell y a story.

"An Englishman said to a friend: "'Why den't you have your husband help you with your | moving

"'Oh, no,' the other answered. quickly; 'I wouldn't dare to. Jim, you know, is a baggage man on the railroad and very absent-minded. In the excitement he might forget and think he was handling baggage."

Wanted More Room.

A man who was doing his best to convince the world at large and himself in particular that he was perfectly sober, tried to purchase a theater ticket seat and was told that there was only standing room. He bought an admission ticket and made another one of the crowd standing up in the back watching the show. After a few minutes he returned to the window and gravely handed over another dollar. "Gimme 'nother standing ticket," he said thickly, "I want more room to see."--Joe Weber. in Bohemian.

Experience.

It was Sunday afternoon, and the infant class teacher was trying to impress the children with the beauties of the Garden of Eden. "But, children," she said, "there was one thing in the garden that Adam and Evemight not touch." "I know," said a little boy, who

had evidently had some previous knowledge of beautiful gardens; "It was poison ivy."-Harper's.

A Sardonic Definition. "Father," said the small boy, "whe

"A scientist, my son, is a man who ealls ordinary things by such long names that you can't recognize them."

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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