

Winter. Sharp winds that bowl in gusts about The scions of the lusty days, In jound freedom laugh and shout Through all the mellow woodland ways. The trees, not all denuded yet, Make ample gifts of leafy gold; Like age with children prodigate, That plays the pelt it cannot hold. What time with sunken cheeks and eyes, And thin-blown hair the trembling sage Beholds the hands of ruthless heirs Anticipate their heritage.

y-e-s!" said Mr. Noakes. "Oh! I see you mean a good match for her. But Arabella Muffit, though a most excellent person, is no longer young, and she's never been handsome, my dear."

"Well, women must be match-makers, I suppose," said Mr. Noakes, as he swallowed his last cup of coffee and glanced at the clock; "but don't calculate too much on success in this affair, my dear."

Arabella Muffit, known amongst her friends as little Miss Muffit, was a very small; black-eyed lady of forty-five years old; who lived in a tiny house, principally furnished with specimens of all the fancy work that had been fashionable for the last twenty-five years.

"Wonders will never cease," said Mrs. Noakes, as she opened a letter she had found beside her plate at breakfast. Here is Cousin Corner coming home after all these years, and such a letter; just listen, my dear:

"If that isn't the most amusing thing," said Mrs. Noakes, "coming home so rich that he is suspicious of his relatives, and afraid of being courted for his money. And a bachelor too! Dear, dear! Poor Obadiah Corner, who used to be the black sheep of the family, and whom we never believed would come to any good! How everything does change about in this world! Life is a checker-board, to be sure! William, what a splendid thing it would be for Arabella Muffit."

Thereupon Mrs. Noakes went calling among the relatives, showing Obadiah's letter everywhere, and creating great excitement.

"I will," said little Miss Muffit, faintly. "Whatever the question is, I'll tell the truth, Obadiah."

"Well, then," said Obadiah, "did you see the letter I wrote to Cousin Noakes?"

"I— Yes, I saw it," she said. "I know no one else did," said Obadiah. "But you—she showed it to you? Well, I intended she should. I wrote it to be seen. I never thought Cousin Noakes could keep a secret. Arabella, I'm a poor man and a rascal! I have met with nothing but failure. You are rich in comparison. You've a home and twelve hundred a year. My letter was only a trap. I wanted every one to see it, and hoped to settle comfortably down among my friends with the reputation of being a rich bachelor with a fortune to leave behind him. You only saw the letter. You only were civil, and I offered myself to you, meaning to impose on you until we were safely married. I cared very little for you then, Arabella! I wanted a home, that was all."

"Oh?" cried little Miss Muffit, as if something had stung her.

"Dear me," she said, "how romantic he must be. He never used to be romantic. I suppose he's changed very much in these five-and-twenty years. He must be fifty-seven now. And to think of his having made a fortune and wanting to prove his friends sincere. Martha, do you think you ought to betray him?"

"No, I do not," said Martha; "and I shall tell no one but you. I had a motive in telling you; and as he says in a postscript he'll be here on Thursday, I want you to dine with us on Thursday and meet him."

"The only thing in the world I love," said he.

"People who ride on the Woodward avenue route have often noticed that among a certain tall, solemn-looking man, aged about fifty, boards a full car, he always holds a whispered conversation with some man, who at once gives him a seat and retires to the platform. The fall man never has to stand and hang by the strap, simply because he understands human nature. Glancing around the car he selects his victim, bends down and confidentially whispers:

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

The Brooklyn Lady who has Laim in a Trance Thirteen Years without Food, Sightless, and yet Reading Sealed Letters—Describing the Dolms of Absent Friends—Sceptical Doctors.

Interest in the case of Miss Mary J. Fancher, of Downing street, Brooklyn, accounts of whose strange physical condition have been published from time to time, has been revived by a very long and elaborate article in a New York paper, containing statements from her friends and physicians. Among the persons who have taken a special interest in her are the Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Dur-

There was no light in the room but that of the fire; and she would have lit the drop-lamp; he stopped her. "I want to talk a little," he said, "and I like talking in a half-light. Arabella, I've a question to ask, and I want you to promise solemnly that you'll tell me the truth."

"Gentlemen, the two tigers in those cages yonder and the one up in that cage, will be sold by order of the collector of customs. The terms are cash. What do I hear for the three tigers?"

The Egyptian pyramids may be classed under the head of "old mades."

When a man begins to take off his coat and vest at you it is a sign that he is resorting to the court of peels.

There are two Americans serving in the army of the ameer of Cabul, but the English go right on making their preparations the same as if there wasn't any.

Every muscle in the body is greatly and uniformly brought into action by the swing of the legs and the arms, and, consequently of the trunk in a vertical direction. The undulations made by the head, chest and abdomen, in a vertical plane, are thus not only according to Hogarth's line of beauty, but also in that tending to perfect health. Every internal organ is gently stimulated to more robust action. Never in a common walk, does a person breathe twice the same air, because he is constantly changing his position. This fact alone is of incalculable advantage.

Tigers at Auction.

A score or more of men assembled in the menagerie in Central park, New York. The king of beasts resented the intrusion and roared with such force that he shook down the monkeys who were hanging by their tails from the wires of a cage in another building. The monkeys rubbed their heads and chattered till they aroused the bald eagles. The eagles screamed so loud that the red little birds in another cage were terrified into a pale pink, and the one-legged storks, who were standing around and speculating on the length of time the seals could stay under water, actually went so far as to let down another leg from underneath their feathers, and looked as though they were going to move into different tracks for the winter.

Calvin Willy started them at \$20. John Nathan, in behalf of Barnum, bid \$30. The tigers leaped to \$70 by ten dollar jumps, when Robert Robertson bid \$80 for the three. They rapidly went up to \$210, where they hung for some time and then went as high as \$250, at which figure they were sold to Mr. Robertson.

Confecioners are now making such a good imitation of cherries that there is no further use for the fruit itself, and cherry trees can now take a rest.

People who growl about poor weather should realize that if we had good weather right along business would be vastly overdone and the community suffer.

There are two Americans serving in the army of the ameer of Cabul, but the English go right on making their preparations the same as if there wasn't any.

The Hindoos have been figuring again, and they now make out that the earth is 4,000,000 years old. What we most care is to know if it is going to stand about fifty years longer.

All the Western wild geese shot this year and presented to editors of weekly papers measure exactly six feet from tip to tip. They were hatched on purpose for the occasion.

Nevada is the State of surprises. A lady going through one of the jails on a tour of inspection discovered her three brothers cozily tucked away in cells, when she thought them in Boston in the milk business.

TIMELY TOPICS.

London, Ont., has an inspector of anatomy, whose business is to take charge of unclaimed corpses, and, if necessary, appropriate them for the advancement of medical science.

The Scientific American announces that half the vinegar now sold is rank poison, and a Massachusetts chemist states that out of twelve jars of pickles, put up by different wholesale dealers, he found copper in ten of them.

Japanese farmers are in distress. Floods of extraordinary magnitude have swept the lowlands; insects have destroyed eighty per cent of the bean crop; small insects have devastated the rice fields; and in various parts of the empire virulent infectious diseases are reported among horses and cattle.

A co-operative store on an extensive scale is to be opened in Boston, under the supervision of Josiah Quincy and other men of wealth and influence. There is to be a storekeeper in charge, but he is to have no voice in the general management. All purchases and sales are to be for cash. The shares are \$4 each, and an effort is to be made to have workmen take them. Two kinds of dividends are contemplated—one to stockholders on their shares and one to customers on their purchases. Groceries, dry goods, clothing, and boots and shoes comprise the stock.

The total number of awards accorded to each nation at the exposition is given by the Paris Liberte, but of course, says a New York paper, the silver and bronze medals and honorable mentions argue quantity rather than quality. The best criterion of the latter, assuming that the judges have been fairly accurate, or that, internationally, their mistakes neutralize each other, is the number of grand prizes and gold medals. Of these France carried off 1,984; England and her colonies, 369; Austria-Hungary, 252; Belgium, 184; Spain, 167; Italy, 157; United States, 145; Russia, 123; Switzerland, 86; Holland, 70; Sweden and Norway, 70; the French colonies, 57; Denmark, 27; Greece, 12. As to the distinctions of all kinds, France, of course, stands first, with 13,569; Spain and her colonies coming next, with 2,500; England and her colonies third, with 2,455; and Austria fourth, with 1,770. The Spanish aggregate exceeds the English by reason of a larger number of minor awards—viz., 821 bronze medals and 964 honorable mentions, as compared with 779 and 647.

On a wager William Ludake, of Vergennes, Vt., undertook to eat in ten hours two pounds of pork steak, four large potatoes, one half of a pie, two slices of wheat bread, each one and one-quarter inches thick, one-quarter pound of butter, half a bushel of apples, and to drink two cups of tea. At seven o'clock in the morning he began his task by eating five apples. He then ate one pound of pork steak, two large potatoes, one slice of bread, one quarter of a pie, one-eighth pound of butter, and drank one cup of tea. The remainder of the forenoon he spent in walking about and eating apples, of which he had devoured twenty-three at 12 o'clock. At noon he ate one pound of pork steak, two large potatoes, one slice of bread, one-eighth pound of butter, and drank two cups of tea. He was then weighed, and found to have gained seven and one-half pounds. For the next three hours he averaged about two apples per hour. At half-past five p. m. he ate the last apple and won the bet with half an hour to spare. His weight when he began was 145 pounds, and at the close 153 pounds, showing a gain of eight pounds in nine and one-half hours. Seven and one-half pounds of this he acquired in the first five hours, the last five hours adding only one-half pound to his weight. The half bushel of apples was "heaping" measure, and numbered just sixty-five apples. Ludake is twenty-six years old, five feet seven inches in height, and has never experienced a sick day in his life. He is a thin, spare man, and has always worked out for his living, usually among the farmers. He experienced no unusual difficulty from his square meal, and offered to bet five dollars that he could eat another peck of apples the same evening.

A Tremendous Eater.

Benefit of Walking.

A Carte de Visite.

A sweet smile as of old Doth repose On your face like sunbeam-gold On the snows; You are warmer than the South, And you have a little mouth Like a rose.

Items of Interest.

A bosom friend—The baby. An old march—The march of time. A trance-action. Walking in your sleep.

The first and most dangerous inroad upon the human system made by strong drink, is on the liver, and is not, at the outset, at all observable, even to the victim.

The young man who will turn up his nose at cabbage in connection with corned beef at a cheap restaurant will consume it with effusion in the guise of pure Havana cigars—"3 for 10c."

A Funny Story about Edison.

Edison's shop was at Newark, in those days, and one night a friend of his, employed in the main office of the Western Union telegraph company, in New York, returning home by the last train, saw a light in Edison's private laboratory, and climbed the dingy stairs to find his friend in one of his characteristic stupors, half awake and half dozing over some intricate point in electrical science which was baffling him.