

Our Superstition.

WHAT OLD LADIES SAY ARE THE 'SIGNS.'

The following superstitions, handed down by tradition, are fervently believed in many parts of America:

White specks on the nails are luck. Whoever reads epitaphs loses his memory.

To rock the cradle when empty is injurious to the child.

To eat while a bell is tolling for a funeral causes headache.

The crowing of a hen indicates some approaching disaster.

When a mouse gnaws a hole some misfortune may be apprehended.

He who has his teeth wide asunder must seek his fortune in a distant land.

Whoever finds a four-leaf trefoil shamrock, should wear it for good luck.

Beggars' bread should be given to children who are slow learning to speak.

If a child less than twelve months old be brought into a cellar he becomes fretful.

When children play soldier on the roadside it forbodes the approach of war.

A child grows proud if suffered to look into the mirror while less than twelve months old.

He who proposes moving into a new house must first send in bread and a new broom.

Whoever sneezes at an early hour either hears some news or receives some present at an early day.

The first tooth cast by a child should be swallowed by the mother to ensure a new growth of teeth.

Buttoning the coat awry, or drawing on a stocking inside out, causes matters to go wrong during the day.

By bending the head to the hollow of the arm the initial letter of one's future spouse is represented.

Women who sow flax-seed should, during the process, tell some confounded lies, otherwise the yarn will never bleach white.

When women are stuffing beds, the men should not remain in the house, otherwise the feathers will come through the tick.

When a person enters a room he should be obliged to sit down, if only for a moment, as he otherwise takes away the children's sleep with him.

Useful and Practical Hints.

To whiten ivory—Boil in lime water. To clean zinc—Rub on fresh lard with a cloth and wipe dry.

Never put a pudding that is to be steamed in anything else than a dry mould.

To give stoves a good polish—Rub them with a piece of Brussels carpet after blackening them.

The water used in mixing bread must be tepid. If it is too hot the loaves will be full of holes.

A mixture of oil and ink is good to clean kid boots with; the first softens and the latter blackens them.

New linen may be embroidered more easily by rubbing it over with fine white soap; it prevents the thread from cracking.

A CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS.—The Scientific American publishes the appended prescription, which, it states, has proved a practical and efficient remedy for the chronic appetite for strong drink. It is described as follows, and we suppose, from the authority on which it is given, is worthy of notice:—There is a prescription in use in England for the cure of drunkenness, by which thousands are said to have been assisted in recovering themselves. The receipt came into notoriety through the efforts of John Vine Hall, commander of the "Great Eastern," steamship. He had fallen into such habitual drunkenness that his utmost endeavors to reclaim himself proved unavailing. At length he sought the advice of an eminent physician, who gave him a prescription which he followed faithfully for seven months, and at the end of that time had lost all desire for liquor, although he had for many years been led captive, which he afterwards published, and by which so many drunkards have been assisted to reform, as follows: "Sulphate of iron, five grains; peppermint water, eleven drachms; spirits of nutmeg, one drachm; twice a day." This preparation acts as a stimulant and tonic, and practically supplies the place of the accustomed liquor, and prevents that absolute physical and moral prostration that follows a sudden breaking off from the use of stimulating drinks.

Astonishing Success.

It is the duty of every person who has used Boschee's German Syrup to let its wonderful qualities be known to their friends in curing Consumption, severe Coughs, Croup, Asthma, Pneumonia, and in fact all throat and lung diseases. No person can use it without immediate relief. Three doses will relieve any case, and we consider it the duty of all Druggists to recommend it to the poor dying consumptive, at least to try one bottle, as 40,000 dozen bottles were sold last year, and no one case which it failed was reported. Such a medicine as the German Syrup cannot be too widely known. Ask your Druggist about it. Sample Bottles to try sold at 10 cents. Regular size 75 cents. For sale by all Druggists.

February Work and Plans.

(Extracts from the American Agriculturist.)

A late beginning makes a late season, and to regain time lost now, may be found impossible hereafter. A farmer who is behindhand is a prey to accidents and misfortunes of the season, and often finds his labor increased, and the results lessened by reason of his own carelessness. On the other hand, the forward man gets the benefit of every advantage, and many disadvantages of season are safely passed over, because he is ahead of them.

Hauling out Manure.—While the ground is hard or covered with snow, the manure heaps can be hauled to the fields with the least trouble.

The finest manure is made by turning the heap over twice. To do this, begin at each end of the pile, and throw off the manure to a distance of three feet, building up the new heaps, and placing the coarsest manure in the center. Then proceed until two heaps are made. These will soon heat, and a month or so afterwards the process may be reversed and the two heaps made into one again.

LOOK AHEAD.—A farmer should always think in advance of his work. The whole plan must be laid out in the head, before the hands are put to it. There is time yet left for thinking over what should be done in the next two or three busy months.

WHY CANNOT WE GROW LARGER CROPS?—There are localities where it may pay to grow small crops cheaply, where one may skin the land for a few years and leave it, just as in some places cattle are or have been killed for hides and the carcasses left to decay. But every year these localities are growing more and more distant in the West, and in time land will be too valuable to be used in so wasteful a manner. In central and eastern localities the future prosperity of the farmers will depend upon the growth of larger crops by the expenditure of more labor on the land. To reach this end will be a work of time, but it will never be reached unless a beginning is made, and that was never a more propitious time to begin than now.

Poultry in France.

No nation devotes so much attention to poultry as France; fowls are treated there as an important branch of farm economy, and made to contribute largely to the profits of the farmer. A French journal avers that France keeps about 45,000,000 hens, producing 300,000,000 eggs. It is estimated that the annual value of fowls killed is \$30,000,000 and the value of the eggs \$36,000,000.

England alone receives more than 80,000,000 eggs annually from France. It is an accepted fact in France that the ovary of the hen is not renewed, that is, that the hen can lay so many eggs during her life and no more.

A longer or shorter period may elapse before she will lay these eggs, according to the treatment she receives. If she is badly fed and poorly housed, four or five years are required; if, on the other hand, she is highly fed and kept warm, her eggs will be developed more rapidly and quicker succession.

The hen, for egg-producing, must be treated as a machine. Fine eggs, collected daily and sent to market while undoubtedly fresh, command a high price, especially in autumn and winter.

The brown varieties sell in the London markets at fifty cents per dozen, and great difficulty is experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply.

In France scarcely a meal is complete without chicken in some form; poultry feeding is therefore a great business, and magnificent fowls are reared. The secret of this excellence is that the animals are fed from the day they are hatched, and not allowed to hunt for a living as on most of our farms. The consequence is that at three or four months old a good chicken is ready for the table, and at six or seven it has become a fine, heavy fowl, and fit for the poultry show.—N. Y. Evening Post.

FOOD AND DIGESTION.—The value of a food does not depend entirely upon the amount of nourishing ingredients it contains, and a chemical analysis, while it may, does not of necessity show the exact feeding value of fodder, roots etc. It may be that in the influence that the food has over the digestion its greatest value lies—stimulating it to healthy and vigorous action, etc. Thus turnips are a poor feed in themselves, worth only \$2.80 per ton so far as the food elements go; but they are worth much more, as a matter of practical experience, in the relish they give the stock for dryer and more substantial food. Another reason may be found in the fact that in much food—especially the different kinds of fodder—the nutritive portions are in the cell of the plant—shut up as it were in little wooden cases. The chemist who takes all needed time for an analysis, can work at the fodder until he gets out all the nutritive matters there are in it, and use various methods of doing it. On the other hand, in the laboratory of the animal's stomach the fodder can remain but a limited time, and only the same process is used for all kinds of food, hence the animal generally is not able to remove all the valuable ingredients that the chemist has shown it to contain.—Am. Agriculturist, Feb. 1.

MINIATURE ALMANAC. SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7th, 1880 SUN RISES... 7.21 HIGH WATER... 8.49 pm SUN SETS... 5.03 FULL MOON 25, 9, 9 a m

Weather Bulletin.

Probabilities for the next 24 hours for the Maritime Provinces. TORONTO, Feb. 6, 10 a. m. Moderate to fresh winds; partly cloudy to cloudy weather, possibly light snow in some localities.

The Rink Carnival.

The Rink Carnival is always anticipated as one of the most delightful entertainments of the winter season. There is a fascination in the graceful movements and the fanciful dresses of the skaters, as they move to the sound of music through the decorated gas-lit room, which irresistibly draws men and women alike from the cosy fireside into the chilly air. We were not surprised, therefore, to see— notwithstanding the stormy day preceding—the balcony well filled with spectators. Indeed, the bright frieze of faces which surrounded the scene was perhaps the most pleasing feature of the occasion. We are quite certain that it was eminently pleasing to the Rink Directors, who could be seen regarding it in evident expectation of the prospective dividend. We feel tolerably sure that it was pleasing to many of the skaters as they

glided by with upturned eye," seeking the admiring glance of friend or lover. Even to the not particularly interested spectator it must have been pleasing; for what more pleasing study than the human face divine? And here there were hundreds of human faces, forming one grand living circle!

The other adornments of the Rink were not, perhaps, quite so elaborate as those of past years. But, as a set-off to this, the descendants of Jubal were present in double force—the Band of the 82nd Battalion and St. Patrick's Band vying with each other in friendly rivalry. The music was excellent.

The ice was in good condition, and the performers both larger in number and, on the whole, better dressed than at last year's Carnival. But there were no gods or goddesses. The unseen worlds were represented by but one, solitary, wicked, but very attractive and tastefully dressed fairy. We are inclined to think that this fairy, with a perversity characteristic of "the fair," called herself "a wicked fairy," when she should instead have called herself "a witching fairy." However this may be, "February," appropriately dressed in a handsome light suit, with feet only in black—we suppose to represent the "February Thaw,"—presented a pleasing appearance. The "Silver Thaw," too, came in for a large share of attention, and in the reflected light of the gas jets, shed a mild radiance over the scene. Nor must we forget the deft and graceful "Silvia," and the beautifully trimmed "Christmas Tree,"—both much admired. After these come the Kings and Queens in godly array. There was the "Forest Queen," to match, with "sweet attractive grace," the fine, tall muscular appearance presented by the heroic "Coeur de Leon." The brave "King Harold," all in magnificent attire, found none of equal rank to be his queen; but the proud young "Gipsy Princess" seemed not unworthy of his love, and the "sweet little buttercup, dear little buttercup" was certainly good enough and pretty enough to claim the admiration of any king. The miniature "Earl of Essex" was "just perfect"—so the ladies say. "An old Gentleman of the Last Century" and "Some Eighty Years Ago," are entitled to our "best respects;" and the little Quaker and Quakeress have an air of quaint and quiet self possession, which render them specially interesting. The young "Indian Chief" and the "Indian Girl" were remarkably well-dressed. "Methuselah's Widow" was indeed a great mystery, and "Rags" was as impenetrable as he was active and funny. The clowns were all excellent in their way. There were many other very good characters which we have neither time nor space to notice particularly.

LADIES' LIST.

- Broad Miss Indian Girl
Brown Miss Forest Queen
Cary Miss A Spanish Dancer
Danzel Miss A Flower Girl
Davies Miss Kate A Charity School Girl
DesBrisay Miss Maud Minnie-Ita-Ita
DesBrisay Miss Rosa Priscilla the Puritan
Douse Miss Julia Maiden
Dunn Miss V "A Gleaner"
Dunn Miss Nellie A Charity School Girl
Gahan Miss A Gipsy Princess
Hazard Miss An Ancient Dame
Laveland Miss Blanche Five o'clock Tea
Henderson Miss Maud Little Red Riding Hood
Hobkirk Miss Pastry Cook
Hobkirk Miss Maggie Sylvia
Ings, Miss Evergreens
Ings, Miss Constance Priscilla the Old Fashioned Girl
Lea, Miss February
Lockhead, Miss Bianca
Longworth, Miss Fannie Prudence, the Old Fashioned Girl
Longworth, Miss Eliza Rustico French Girl
Longworth, Miss Bell Red, White and Blue
McLeod, Miss Georgie Highland Lassie
Peters, Miss A Wicked Fairy
Rankin, Miss Maggie Needles and Pins
Richards, Miss A Polish Lady
Roberts, Miss Edith A Shepherdess
Roberts, Miss Fanny A Reaper
Saunders, Miss H. Anne of Gierstein
Saunders, Miss A Polish Peasant
Strickland, Mrs. Silver Thaw
Strickland, Miss Lottie Liberty
Wilson, Miss Sallie A Quakeress
Wright, Miss Katie Little Butter Cup
Youngusband, Miss Lilly Christmas Tree

GENTLEMEN'S LIST.

- Allan, John Drummer Boy
Bevan, Fredk. A Fireman
Boulton, Cap. Old Gentleman of Last Century
Boulton, Fredk. Earl of Essex
Bourke, Crilly Man-o'-War Sailor
Bremner, Ben. Rags
Brown, Charles A Brigand
Crabbe, Otto Tony Lumpkin
Davies, Daniel, jr. Some Eighty Years Ago
Davies, Harry D. Jo Key
Davies, Willie Man-o'-War Sailor
Davidson, Wm. An Engineer
DesBrisay, Delacour. Quaker
Devine, Alex. A Turkish Gentleman
Doyle, Thos. A Coal Miner
Farquharson, R. S. An Irish Swell
Fraser, James A Clown
Gormley, James A Cullud Artilleryman
Harris, W. C., jr. King Harold
Higgs, Robt. C. Brother Jonathan
Hobkirk, Percy Clown

- Hobkirk, Harry Little Boy Blue
Kennedy, Frank A Spanish Don
Laird, Rene An Indian Chief
LeLacheur, Walter Sailor H. M. S. Pinafore
Longworth, B. F. Cour de Lion
Longworth, John A Harlequin
Longworth, R. Knight of the Golden Cross
Moore, Thos. A Persian Magician
Moore, John A. Ruy Blas
McEachern, A. Skidmore Guards
McLeod, Frank LaCrosse
MacQueen, D. A. Cape Ann Fisherman
Newberry, Arthur Indoor Livery, 18th Cen.
Norton, E. H. A Colored Clergyman
Owen, L. C., jr. Sailor H. M. S. Cadmus
Owen, Wm. Sailor H. M. S. Pinafore
Palmer, Robert A Page
Palmer, Willie Snow-shoer
Peters, Arthur Prince Charmer
Reddin, D. O'M., jr. Lorenzo
Rice, Stephen J. Methuselah's Widow
Robins, Thos. Man-of-War Sailor
Sloggett, Harry Page
Smith, Wm. H. Court Jester
Strickland, Wm. L. Fairy Prince
Watson, A. F. Lozorandico the Mask
Watson, L. W. Music
Wright, John Man O' War Sailor
Wyatt, G. W. Naval Officer

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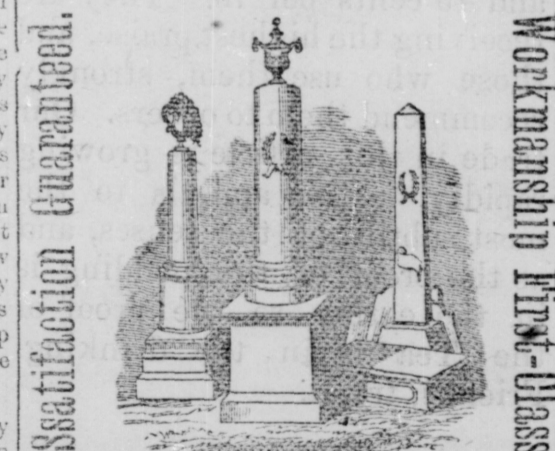
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