their attacks on wood, it has been his practice to paint a number of blocks and boxes with various compounds,—some he left unprepared, and some partially painted, and sunk them in the Elizabeth river, in April. About the 12th of June the blocks and boxes were generally lifted and examined, but he never had been able to discover any of the animalcule—young teredo—until about the 20th of June. At this period of the year he generally discovered minute holes in the wood by the use of a magnifying glass. After this, the creature daily *grows ahead*, for it has no powers of locomotion; it grows like an oyster, and has a calcareous or shelly sheathing, which adheres to the surface of its burrow. In Norfolk harbour, Va., they grow from six to 12 inches in length, and from three-eights to half an inch in diameter. The wood excavated by one twelve inches long, in a season, amounted to more than a cubic inch, if in a solid piece. No signs of the teredo were discovered by him in wood deposited after the 29th of September. In the harbor of New York, Mr. Jarvis supposed that the teredo commences to develop about the first of July,* and continues until cold weather arrives; in Charleston, S. C., and further south, they develop during the whole year; whereas, in the colder coasts, such as in the harbors of New England, they do but little injury, because the worm is feeble there, being like a fine thread; it is believed to be a native of the torrid seas. The teredo is not so destructive on piles sunk under water at the New York city docks, as those on the opposite side of the river, on the Jersey and Long Island shores; this is owing, Mr. Jarvis thinks, to the amount of filth carried down in the city sewers. So much for the good offices of dirt. In Boston, and Portsmouth, Me., harbor piles will stand twenty-five years.

Many vessels proceed to sea with parts of their bottoms damaged by these worms, unknown to the captain, owners, or underwriters. One open nail-hole in a sheet of copper, will allow the worm access for its excavating work of destruction. A sheet of copper removed from a vessel, will lead to a whole plank being speedily honeycombed.

Mr. Jarvis tried all kinds of wood used in shipbuilding, and he found all attacked.

Mr. Jarvis concludes his paper as follows, and we would invite special attention to his opinions, especially of our friends in San Francisco, the piles of whose harbor have been so rapidly destroyed by this destructive creature.

"If the Hon. Secretary of the Navy would grant me permission to secure the bottoms of ships from the salt-water worm, and from coral deposits, I would put three coats of white zinc paint on the *dry bottoms* of all ships in the Navy, then copper the bottoms; and, to make the whole invulnerable to the worm and to coral deposits, I would put three more coats of white zinc paint on the outside surface of the copper.

To preserve piles, I would drive all I could with the bark on. There is no danger whilst the bark is kept on. The barnacle or *pholas* does no injury. Charring is excellent, provided the fissures are well filled with *hot* coal-tar, or some other substance of equal virtue, such as the paints already named. White zinc paint will be found excellent to keep the shell fish from the wood where piles may have the bark broken off before being driven.

I believe that three coats of white zinc paint are next best to copper as a preservative against the ravages of these destructive evildoers.

In conclusion, I do most earnestly hope that this paper may call the serious attention of naturalists towards investigating the origin of the salt-water worm, to lend their aid in discovering a remedy to keep the animal from developing or *entering* into wood."

EXTRAVAGANCE IN DRESS.—ITS EFFECT UPON THE MARKET.—In the city of Belgium, extravagance has assumed such alarming proportions, that the ladies themselves have been obliged to combine for the purpose of arresting its disastrous progress. It appears that extravagance had been for some years a source of constraint in families, and it was noticed no marriages were contracted, since the young men, frightened at the bills that loom up in the distance, preferred to live in celibacy. The mothers recognizing the inconvenience of a state of affairs encouraged by themselves, have resolved to bring about a salutary reform; and with this view they have formed a committee, which meets once a week. They have declared open war with extravagance, and every member announces publicly the retrenchments made in her own household expenses. They say that happy results have already been obtained, and that similar associations are to be formed in the neighbouring towns.—*Cour. des Etats Unis.*

The strong figure of speech with which Corney illustrated the great size of America, has also a hit at the Scotch which they will relish as well as they do punch.

"Where did baccy come from?" inquired Mary.

"Why from 'Meriky, where else?" replied Corney. "that sent us the first petaty. Long life to it for both, says I!"

"What sort of a place is that, I wonder?"

"'Meriky! They tell me it's mighty sizable, Moll, darlin.' I'm told that you might roll England through it an' it would hardly make a dint in the ground. There's a fresh water ocean inside of it that you might thrown Ireland in, and save Father Matthew a wonderful sight of throuble; an' as for Scotland, you might stick it in a corner of one of their forests, an' you'd never be able to find it, except it might be by the smell of the whisky!"

The imitative propensities of Young America are quite equal to those of the monkey tribe. A friend furnishes the Drawer with the following as the latest illustration:

"Johnny, a three-year-old, was at dinner with the rest of the family, which included an aunt on a visit.

"'Aunt Ellen,' asked the hopeful Johnny, 'do you ever say *devil*?'

"'Why no, Johnny, what makes you ask such a question?' replied the lady.

"'Because *Pa* says so. Pa, what made you say *devil* the other day, when you was looking for the hammer and couldn't find it?'

"'Oh!' said Pa, rather cornered, 'did I? Well, so as to find it easier, I suppose.'

Here the discussion ended, the explanation being considered as good as could be given under the circumstances, but Johnny's retentive memory treasured it up.

"A few days afterward, Johnny's cap, as little caps will do, got somehow out of its place, and Johnny forgot where he left it. His mother told him to look till he found it.

"Off he started, up stairs, and down stairs, and soon his treble voice rang through the halls, crying out '*devil!* DEVIL! DEVIL!'

"'John, my son!' called out his frightened mother, 'what in the world do you mean by using that wicked word?'

"'So as to find my cap easy!' cried John. 'Pa says *devil* when he can't find things, don't he, ma?'

"The force of example could not further go, and the anxious mother had to negotiate with Johnny's father to be more select in his use of words in the presence of his children."

There is a hint to parents in that story worth more than a quarter.

THE GROWTH OF ST. PAUL.—The city of St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota, which claims an existence of but seven years, seems to be advancing in population and wealth at a rate scarcely equalled in the West, except by Chicago. In 1849, it contained but 500 inhabitants, and two years since 4500; now its population is estimated at 12,600. Capital, during the last two years, has found its way there from the Eastern States, which has been invested in lands near the city, and in the erection of warehouses, stores and substantial dwelling-houses, for all of which there is a good demand. The Minnesota *Pioneer*, in speaking of the growth of St. Paul, and the increase of population in the Territory, says that "emigration has been steady and increasing the whole season, and that the people are now beginning seriously to entertain the idea of applying for admission into the Union as a State, its population numbering, it is thought nearly 200,000 souls.—*Providence Journal.*

INGENUITY OF WHITE ANTS.—In nothing is the ingenuity of these little insects more remarkably displayed than in the expedient to which they frequently resort to cross a little stream on the sand-beach after a shower of rain. Sometimes their train is cut in two by one of these little streamlets. To plunge into it singly, they would soon be swept away by the rush of the current. They come to the edge of the water, raise their antennæ, point them from one direction to another, as if they were taking a scientific view of all the dangers of the crossing. They wander up and down the stream with the greatest uneasiness, and finding no other way to cross, form themselves into a compact knot or raft of a dozen or more, and launch themselves upon the stream. They have, by previous observation, made sure, that they would strike a projecting point or bluff on the opposite shore, and not be carried by the current into the main river. The moment they touch the other side, they set their claws like anchors, and hold on until the whole company disengage themselves, and march off in single file in the track of those that have preceded them. I have watched them for hours together, and have seen raft after raft of these little creatures go over in safety, when, if they had attempted to get across singly, they would all have been swept into the river.—*Wilson's Western Africa.*

AN OBSOLETE USE OF THE KNIFE.—In early times, Ingulphus informs us, conveyances were made by mere word of mouth, without writing or charter, the grantor delivering to the grantee some movable which was known as belonging to him, such as a sword, helmet, cup, spur, curry-comb, ring walking-staff, a copy of the Gospels, &c., &c. William, Earl of Warren, gave and confirmed to the church of St. Pancras, at Lewes, in the reign of Henry III., certain land-rent and tithe, of which he gave seizin by the hair of the heads of himself and his brother. The hair of the parties was cut off by the bishop of Winchester, before the high-altar. After granting, with the assent of his fair wife Isabel and his children, to the monks of St. Andrew's, at Rochester, his lands in Southwark, called Grimscroft, in perpetual alms, on condition that they should keep an anniversary on the deaths of their fathers, and mothers, and kindred —William, second Earl of Warren and Surrey, confirmed the grant by placing his *knife* on the altar of the church of St Andrew. The same potent act was granted to the priory of St Mary Overy, giving to the church of St. Mary of Southwark, the manor of Kircesfield, by placing a knife on the altar of the said church. The lordship of Brok was given by Edward the Confessor to the monks of St. Edmund, in Suffolk, by falling prostrate before, and fixing over, the high-altar of St. Edmund a small knife, wrapped up, in the presence of his chief nobility. William Rufus granted to the abbot of Tavistock, in 1096, the manor of Warrington, by an ivory knife, which knife was laid up in a shrine at that abbey, and had inscribed on its haft words signifying that donation. Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, also gave his estate in Scipena to the abbey of Abingdon, by placing with his own hands a knife on the altar. The knives used for this purpose were, in all probability, the same which the parties had in common use. Every man then carried such an instrument along with him, agreeably to what Chaucer has told us in his reve's tale—

A Sheffield thwitel bore he in his hose.

Lambard, in mentioning the grant of Alberic de Vere of the donation of Hatfield, describes the knife with which it was effected as a 'short black-hafted knife, like unto an olde halfpeny whitle;' adding, 'and such others of which happily I have seen some and heard of moe.' At the meeting of the Archæological Institute at Cambridge, the Master and Fellows of Trinity College exhibited a broken knife of great antiquity, having a haft of dark-brown horn, attached by a cord of crimson silk (not ancient) to a strip of parchment with a Latin inscription upon it. 'The parchment is not a grant,' says Mr. Albert Way, 'and the knife cannot be regarded as in place of a seal. I consider that the existing parchment is merely a memorandum to record that it was the veritable knife. In all likelihood, there never was any written grant; and the knife was the token of conveyance.'

GREAT FIRES IN THE MICHIGAN SWAMPS. We hear very distressing accounts of suffering in Michigan, in consequence of the dense smoke from the marsh and bog fires. In the vicinity of Battle Creek it is said that consumptive persons have died in spasms, cattle have been suffocated, and poultry dropped dead. Thousands of acres have been burnt over, and immense damage has been caused to property.

D. Copeland, of Lansing, writes to his father in this city:

"It commenced smoking last Monday, and on Thursday the wind went down, and there was'nt a breath of air stirring. The smoke settled to the ground and became almost suffocating Thursday, after 4 o' clock, you could'nt see even the path under your feet. About 3 o'clock, I started to go to the saw-mill, about one quarter of a mile, and coming back I got lost and travelled over a road I know as well as you do to go to G——'s. I passed the boarding-house within ten feet of it, and went to the end of the road, about ten rods and knew not where I was, until I heard the boys laugh in the house. One of our men started from his house to get a pail of water at our well, (the only one near.) a distance of about 60 rods, and a straight road, (there are no fences in this country,) he made a perfect circle and got home without the water. The stage on the plank road came in with a man to each leader; another a-head with a lantern, ran off the plank and tipped over twice at that. About ten o'clock, a man was heard hallooing; one of our men went out and answered him, and there came up two men and two women, and wanted to know where they were. They had been to a neighbour's to spend the evening, but could'nt find their way back. One riding horseback, the horse stopped, the man got off and found he had run against a log; felt around for the road, found it but could'nt find his horse again until Saturday, when the smoke bagan to clear away, and found him just where he left him, To-day is the first that we could see any distance. The woods are on fire all around, and I hear that the big marsh, about 9,000 acres, is all burnt up. One man lost 100, tons of hay. We have been through it, but it did seem, as if we could'nt breathe sometimes."
—*Rochester Democrat.*

A SAFE DISTANCE.—A facetious Irish barrister, who neither acknowledged nor repudiated the code of honour, sent some of his witty shafts so truly home to another braggadocia brother chip of the real Cockney school, that a challenge was the result. It was accepted, and the parties retired to a common near London to settle the matter with the pistols. There happened to be a mile-stone standing on the spot selected, and the Cockney, who was lame, asked the Irishman if he would permit him, on account of his lameness to rest on the mile-stone while he fired. "Most unquestionably," was the reply. The ground was measured up to the mile-stone, and the pistols were being loaded, and the Cockney was taking up his position when the Irishman in, the most bland and polite manner imaginable, asked his antagonest if he would not grant him one request. "Certainly, what is it?" "Just that you will have the kindness to allow me to rest upon the other mile-stone while we are firing at each other." This discharge of genuine humour put an end to the duel and they returned good friends.

The "Westmorland Times" says:—

A few Sabbaths ago, a party of Frenchmen went out shooting somewhere in the neighborhood of Shediac, towards Point De Chene, and after amusing themselves for a while, they came in the vicinity of some Indian Camps, when the Indians came out *en masse*, and took their fire-arms from them, refusing to give them back until the Frenchmen took their oaths, solemnly, on the Book, that they would not again transgress in a similar manner.