

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Boiler explosions form leading topics for the daily papers.

It's rather cool in a San Francisco paper to advise a young man to go west.

Bernhardt refuses to go to bed in a sleeping car. She is afraid she will slip through some crack and wake up on the side of the railroad.

Why is playing chess a more exemplary occupation than playing cards? Because at chess you play with two bishops, and at cards you play with four knaves.

The eleven feet of snow predicted by the "Canadian prophet" has not yet fallen, perhaps he means the aggregate for the season will amount to that.

An American once entered an inn, in Switzerland, and ordered a dinner, he insisted that it should be served in courses, and had his plate changed for each course, finally, after the fifth, inn-keeper braced himself against the wall and exclaimed in utter amazement: "well dish peats all, have you got baridions in your stomachick?"

A Kentucky paper, in telling how a little boy got drowned while in swimming, says that after wading about for some time he "stepped off over his head." Now that was a very careless thing to do. Little boys should be very careful not to step over their heads, for even if they do not get drowned, they may break a leg.

A novel way of catching a swarm of bees was unintentionally tried at Decatur, Mich., the other day by a young man. He ran toward the swarm with a green bough in his hand, over which the queen bee poised, and then alighted on his hat, in a twinkling the others followed, and completely covered him, so closely knit together that he could scarcely breathe. A box was procured, the man's head stuck into it, and the swarm was finally worked off and hived.

Barnum was travelling once on board of one of the river steamers, where they feed you very sumptuously for a moderate outlay, (seventy-five cents a meal), but the portions supplied are usually of microscopic dimensions. He called at tea time for a beefsteak. The negro brought him the usual little shriveled mite of broiled flesh, certainly not sufficient for more than two mouthfuls. Barnum poised the morsel on his fork, scanned it critically, as though it were a sample of steak submitted to his inspection, and then returned it to the waiter, saying, "Yes that's what I mean. Bring me some of that."

A NEW TEST FOR TRICHINÆ.

[British Medical Journal.]

* A Holstein peasant, uneducated in microscopical research, and not possessing the requisite instruments of precision, has devised for himself a new test for the presence of trichinæ in pork. When he killed a pig he was careful to send a portion of it—a ham or a sausage—to his pastor, and then waited the consequences for fourteen days. If his pastor remained healthy, then he felt perfectly easy, and well assured that his pig fulfilled the requisite conditions of soundness of food, and he proceeded to dispose of it accordingly in his own family. This ingenious method of research has not been considered satisfactory by the district physician.

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Riverton Journal.

[Entered at the Post Office, at Riverton, N. J., as Second-class Matter.]

Vol. I. No. 4.

RIVERTON, N. J., FEBRUARY 15, 1881.

50 Cts. per Annum.

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AIMS IN LIFE.

The population of the United States is, in round numbers, fifty millions. Deduct from these the ineligible, and you can compute at your leisure how many million chances there are against any individual who is, so far as birth right is considered, a candidate for President of the United States. Although, as the crabbéd poet, who carped in smooth numbers, says of every mother, that she will "praise her booby son," unhappily, the mothers cannot vote yet. And even when the sex shall be enfranchised, and the election of President is changed to a popular suffrage, there will be as many candidates as there are mothers of sons in the land. The two reforms, woman suffrage and the direct vote, though now being agitated, need agitate none of us. There is time enough yet to settle who shall form the future cabinet of that darling baby whose present investigations are directed to his "little tootsy toes."

It is said that the boy Disraeli, when recommended to a government office, being asked what he wished, replied: "I wish to be prime minister." If he did say that, he was a most unconscionable young prig, with his macassaréd curls and his duplicate vests and barbaric ornaments. "Success is a rare paint, it hides all the ugliness." In Disraeli it has not hid quite all; for at his best, when he poses before the world, as he well may, there is a tag-rag of caricature in the back ground of the scene. Even the Earl of Beaconsfield's unquestioned genius and ability cannot efface all the farce in the wonderful career of the author of Henrietta Temple, the sickliést of all sickly romances. Gladstone stands beside him like a colossal marble statue beside a masked and painted effigy stretched on a rickety frame.

There is something better than to be prime minister or president, and it is open to everybody's competition, and still within everybody's reach. Henry Clay defined it when he said, "I would rather be right than be President." The recent death of a wonderful essayist, Thomas Carlyle, reminds us that to be right yourself does not consist in proclaiming everybody else wrong. Carlyle commenced to grumble at generals and particulars fifty years ago; and with his eyes on the "eternal verities," never established the connection of those verities with practical life in all his "essays;" if that can be called an "essay" or "attempt," which has no possible ultimate direction. He did succeed in one thing, however, and that was in making himself heard. He is dead, and as one wonders, what an unintelligible noise was all about, when the noise has ceased; the world is wondering what the now silent prattler meant by his rough and noisy, yet fascinating abuse of the parts of speech.

Coming to the common sense view of aims in life, the first rule, as to ambition or a desire to rise, is that of Henry Clay, above quoted; and the next is the homely old proverb, as good as any of Carlyle's orphic

sayings, and better than most of them: "Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." To illustrate this we take the history of the General Superintendent of a great American railroad. He commenced as brakeman on a freight train on one of the railways of which Chicago is the terminus. This was a post which it requires no "influence" to obtain. In a few months he was given charge as conductor, of a passenger train. The next advance was to the post of assistant superintendent; thence he was made general superintendent of another road; and next, having his choice between two appointments, he accepted the appointment, which he still holds, at a salary of twice as many thousands of dollars as he had received hundreds when conductor of a passenger train.

All this was the work of about a dozen years, and it was accomplished by doing right and working diligently under each successive, separate condition. His monitor was conscience; and he felt that if the laborer was worthy of his hire, the work must also be made worthy of its wages. If it were worth more, all the better for his employers; and, as the event proved, all the better for himself, too. One such history of a life practically spent is better than any number of Disraeli impertinences. Suppose the young brakeman had announced his desire to be general superintendent? Practical success is better, too, than the most audacious Carlyleism, though the modest sage thus summarised the population and character of the British isles: "about twenty-seven million, mostly fools." The estimate of the world and its people, and of life and its aims is only well done when done charitably; And good humor and modesty pay best, with industry, in the long run.

—AND—

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

It is clearly evident that any custom that is almost universal, dates its origin back through many years, for the mass of people are conservative and prefer a precedent for their actions.

It is, therefore, a study full of great interest, to take any popular superstition or custom and trace it back through its many modifications and changes until you reach the primal cause of such custom or belief.

As yesterday was Saint Valentine's Day, it cannot fail to be interesting to some of our readers to look a little into the history of this saint whose day is so universally observed by "all true lovers."

The word "Valentine," as used in the sense of a sweet-heart or choice made on Valentine's day, is a corruption of the word "Galatin" (a lover, a dangler, a gallant), and it is undoubtedly the fact that one of the reasons St. Valentine was selected as the sweetheart's saint, was on account of his name, there being nothing in his history that would lead to the custom of sending love tokens, being perpetuated in his honor.

Valentine, himself, is called by some ecclesiastical writers, bishop, but, according to others, was only

a presbyter. He suffered martyrdom during the reign of Claudius II, being beheaded at Rome. He was eminently distinguished for his love and charity, which, also, may have had something to do with choosing valentines or special loving friends on his day.

Shakespeare, throughout his writings, frequently alluded to a superstition prevalent in olden times, that on the 14th day of February the birds began to couple. This is somewhat believed to the present day.

It was, also, supposed that on this day Cupid, god of love, kept open court, and all in love were invited to attend, as the following from Spencer's "Fairie Queene" will attest:

"Cupid kept his court.
As he is wont at each St. Valentine,
Unto the which all lovers doe resort,
That of their loves successo they there
may make report."

From the old Scottish mode of celebrating Saint Valentine's Day, viz.: The first person of one's acquaintance of the opposite sex, met in the morning of that day, became his or her valentine for the year, which bargain was usually sealed with a kiss. From this Scott lays the plot of his story, entitled "The Fair Maid of Perth; or, St. Valentine's Day."

The real origin of the peculiar observance of this day is most probably an alteration of a practice in vogue during the celebration of the Roman Lupercalia, which was a yearly festival observed at Rome on the 15th of February, in honor of the god Pan, surnamed Lupercus. This festival was remarkable for the number of ancient customs which were observed, one of them being, that during the feast the names of young women were put in a box and drawn out by the young men.

This ceremony being so long in use, it was impossible to eradicate it, and we ought to be very much obliged to St. Valentine for having conveniently suffered martyrdom just in the nick of time, so that the fathers of the church were able to turn a heathen feast into a Christian festival. To be sure the anniversaries did not quite coincide, but they were near enough for the purpose, and the young heathens who were accustomed to their annual jollification on the 15th of February, got their holiday a day earlier when they became Christians.

The sending of valentine greetings is looked upon by some as "a custom, more honored in the breach than in the observance," but is again coming into general use, there being more of these "love missives" sold, and of a higher class than ever before.

This evening a lecture will be given in the Presbyterian Church, Third street and Lippincott ave., by Rev. J. Egerton Raymond, of Beverly, subject, "Old Time Negro."

This subject, as commented upon by Mr. R., has received a warm welcome from the public and the press, and is exceedingly well adapted to the powers of the gentleman in whose hands its treatment is entrusted.

The admission fee has been placed at the low figure of Twenty-five cents, which will, no doubt, have the effect of drawing a large audience.

RIVERTON JOURNAL.

February 15th, 1881.

The Journal is published monthly at Riverton, Burlington Co., N. J. by A. A. FRASER, JOHN S. BIORN, E. H. EARNSHAW, E. PRIESTLEY.

Single subscription 50 cents per annum, payable in advance.

Advertisements inserted at reasonable rates.

We have received by mail an envelope containing what we suppose to be the advance sheet of some publication.

As this is the first "specimen copy" of anything with which we have been favored, we are somewhat at a loss how to evince our just appreciation of the honor thus conferred upon us. To still further confuse us the name of the publishers does not appear, and no communication of any sort accompanied it. We think that a graphic description of it may be the best notice we can give, and we trust the senders, if by any chance they should see this, may feel fully satisfied with the treatment they have received at our hands.

We are much at a loss as to the classification of this valuable publication, for as far as we can judge we have only the title page before us, or perhaps, an elaborate paper cover, consisting of a very elegant piece of stamping, embossing, lithographing and printing. The design for the outside consists of children, in the minimum amount of clothing, sporting about, carrying in their arms wreaths of flowers, bows and arrows, hearts and such like bric-a-brac. It is chaste and unique being executed entirely without color. A small sheet of green paper being pasted directly on the reverse side adds much to the richness of the effect.

On the inside page surrounded by an exquisite border of roses and forget-me-nots, printed in the highest style of chromo-lithography are these simple and beautiful lines:

"You love me,
And I love you,
No big jack-knife,
Can cut our love in two."

Who is not familiar with the above stanza? What can be more perfect than the assertion, "You love me?" What entire faith and confidence is there displayed—no doubt—no hesitancy—conviction beyond the possibility of refutation—belief positive. Note the following line, "And I love you." How beautiful is mutual regard and how fearlessly and boldly is it admitted—see how the knowledge of being loved gives courage to confess it.

How entirely changed would all this be should an "if" prefix any of the three assertions, but no, there is not a shadow of doubt throughout the entire poem, not a superfluous word—complete.

The elegant simplicity of language and the beautiful metaphor used in the closing lines, by which the author

expresses the idea that "no power on earth can sever their united affections" cannot be too highly commended.

When we first opened the envelope containing this sheet, the idea was advanced that it was a "Valentine," and intended for some individual editor, but as we could not decide for which one it was intended, and as none could or would show proof why he should obtain absolute and undisputed possession, it was dismissed. We therefore put our heads together to try and solve the mystery, and the following theory was promulgated.

Some enterprising publishers are about to reprint in this novel form old and standard poetry and have sent this copy for notice. We would be pleased to hear from anyone differing with us in opinion.

Cleopatra's Needle is at last, for the time being at least, firmly erected on its permanent pedestal in Central Park, and where, notwithstanding the comments of the press as to the advisability of the situation, it is destined to remain. New York may justly feel proud of having in this one curiosity that which fully equals the combined things of interest in any other city.

In one of our exchanges we are informed that the Pennsylvania R. Co. expect to have two new ferry boats next winter, to ply between Philadelphia and Camden, in place of two that are on the line at present. That new ones are needed, is a fact beyond dispute, and it is remarkable that the railroad company have not seen the necessity of action in the matter before now. Let us hope that the new comers will be built on the style of the New York boats, with spacious cabins, and really first-class accommodations, as there is no reason why Philadelphia should not have as fine ferry boats as New York.

The fire at Dreer's nursery on Friday evening should arouse Rivertonians to the consciousness of the fact, that in case of any serious conflagration, they have positively no efficient means of extinguishing it. To be sure Mr. Dreer had provided a fire engine in case of any such contingency, but, this machine, as is frequently the case was found to be out of order, and therefore utterly useless at the only time it was required for its intended purpose.

At all times the utmost care should be taken to avoid the possibility of fire, and more especially should this be in a town so situated as Riverton, without any means of extinguishment within itself, and where it would be impossible to obtain assistance from any neighboring place, in time to render any material help.

This is the second fire that has occurred in Riverton within the last month, and that neither of them were of a more serious nature was "more

by good luck than good management."

Had the fire of Friday evening not been so early discovered, and had it occurred on a night with a high north-east wind, it would be impossible to say what amount of damage might have been done to the nursery or the town.

That it took place on a calm evening, just after a heavy fall of rain, with the building saturated and plenty of snow in the immediate vicinity, to be thrown on the burning building may be regarded as a most fortunate combination of circumstances; but, as this cannot always be the case, we would seriously recommend that some plan be devised in case of similar emergency.

The fact that "too many prophets spoil the weather," has received abundant proof this winter. Mr. Vennor predicted very cold weather and heavy snow storms in the early part of the season, and this turned out to be perfectly true; but the trouble was that after he got the weather started he could not stop it, and when the time came for his big thaw in January, the temperature was quietly resting at about 4 degrees below zero.

This "Vennor thaw" continued until the 8th inst., when the thermometer rushed up to about 50 degrees, without even a change in the direction of the wind; these weather prophets gave old Prob. a great deal of trouble too, as he kept predicting warming weather for a week before the change came; since, on account of the tremendous headway it had gained, the cold could not be expected to stop all at once.

We hope that next year all the Mr. Vennor's will keep their fingers out of the temperature pie, and let us see if we cannot have some decent weather.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD
LOCAL TIME TABLE.

Trains leave Riverton for Philadelphia, at 6.01, 6.49, 7.31, 8.15, 8.57, 11.06, A. M. 2.03, 3.44, 5.09, 6.08, 6.53, 10.14 and 11.50 P. M.

Trains leave Riverton for Burlington at 2.53 and 10.46 P. M. for Bordentown at 4.57, 8.23 and 11.53 P. M. For Trenton connecting with Express trains for New York at 7.56, 11 A. M., 12.33, 2.25, 3.53, 5.46, 7.04 P. M.

For New York via Monmouth Junction at 7.56 A. M., 2.25 P. M.

Sunday Trains leave Riverton for Philadelphia at 8.53 A. M., 12.50 and 5.18 P. M. Leave Riverton for Burlington at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. For Trenton connecting for New York at 6.31 P. M.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Through the efforts of Mr. C. Davis the Riverton Yacht Club House has been provided with a means of defense against the ice, which, if it does not prove to be a perfectly efficient protection, is at least as nearly so as circumstances permit.

On the north and south sides of the building heavy beams have been firmly bolted to the sides of the wharf, at intervals of about 2 feet,

reaching to the roof, where they are also securely fastened; on these beams a sheathing of 2 inch planks has been placed.

It is to be hoped that this bulwark will be sufficient.

On Sunday last, City Ice Boat No. 1 steamed up the Delaware as far as the Pennypack, and then went back again. It shows how the thaw must have rotted the ice to enable her to do so, for a week ago the ice on the river was nearly, if not quite, two feet thick.

Since last Saturday the trains have been running very irregularly, owing to the freshet in the Delaware, the tracks being submerged for the greater part of the distance between Burlington and Trenton.

Wm. Mattis is now in business for himself. He occupies the blacksmith establishment on Railroad avenue, between this place and Palmyra, where orders will be received and promptly executed for horse shoeing and blacksmithing of all kinds.

On Wednesday afternoon, last, the 3.20 train from Philadelphia, when nearing Bideman's station, ran over a colored man named Jim Shaw, instantly killing him. The remains were removed to his home, at Fish House.

The grocery store formerly occupied by James Brown, under its new management is all that can be desired.

Mr. Charles M. Biddle is the possessor of one of the most complete ice yachts on the river. She was launched on the 5th inst., but has not been able to sail on account of heavy snow drifts.

FIRE AT BURLINGTON.

On Sunday evening, 6th inst., a fire was discovered in the barn of Benj. F. Gaunt, Burlington. The fire department was quickly summoned to the scene, where efficient service was rendered in preventing the flames from spreading to other buildings. The barn was totally consumed, though its contents with but one or two exceptions were saved. It is estimated that the loss amounts to \$500, which is partially covered by insurance.

The origin of the conflagration is not known, but it is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

The promptness of the fire department on this, as on many previous occasions, is most commendable. For a city of its size, Burlington is well supplied with the necessary appointments to meet the terrors of the dreaded element.

A TEST OF INNOCENCE.

A poor, pale seamstress was arraigned for theft in Paris. She appeared at the bar with her baby of eleven months on her arm. She went to get some work one day and stole three gold coins, of ten francs each. The money was missed soon after she left her employer, and a servant was sent to her room to claim it. The servant found her about to quit the room with the three gold coins in her hand. She said to the servant, "I'm going to carry them back to you. Nevertheless, she was carried to the Commissioner of Police, and he ordered her to the Police Court for trial. She was too poor to engage a lawyer, and when asked by the judge what she had to say for herself, she replied: "The day I

went to my employer's I carried my child with me. It was in my arms as it is now. I was not paying attention to it. There were several gold coins on the mantle-piece, and unknown to me, it stretched out its little hand and seized three pieces, which I did not observe until I got home. I at once put on my bonnet, and was going back to my employer to return them when I was arrested. This is the solemn truth, as I hope for Heaven's mercy."

The court could not believe this story. They upbraided the mother for her impudence in endeavoring to palm off such a manifest for the truth. They besought her, for her own sake, to retract so absurd a tale, for it could have no effect but to oblige the court to sentence her to a much severer punishment than they were disposed to inflict upon one so young and evidently so deep in poverty.

These appeals had no effect, except to strengthen the poor mother's pertinacious adherence to her original story. As this firmness was sustained by that look of innocence which the most adroit can never counterfeit, the court was at some loss to discover what decision justice demanded. To relieve their embarrassment one of the judges proposed to renew the scene described by the mother. Three gold pieces were placed on the clerk's table. The mother was requested to assume the position in which she stood at her employer's house. There was then a breathless pause in the court. The baby soon discovered the bright coins, eyed them for a moment, smiled, and then stretched forth its tiny hand and clutched them in its fingers with a miser's eagerness. The mother was at once acquitted.

EAGLE THE FIRST.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON.

He clasps the crag with hooked hands,
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world he
stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls,
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunder-bolt he falls.

EAGLE YE SECOND.

BY G. WHILLKINS.

With hooked hands he clasps the
fence,
Close by ye hen-roost; gazing thence,
He spies a mice, what's got no sense.
Ye mice beneath can't well see him,
He watcheth from his lofty limb,
Then jumpeth down and grabbeth
him

P.S. The difference though only faint,
'Twixt that and this I now will paint;
His eagle's wild, my eagle aint.

THE term bric-a-brac probably comes from the old French expression *de bric et de broque*, which means from right and from left—from hither and thither. The word *bric* signifies in old French an instrument to soothe arrows to birds; and some etymologists derive the word *brac* from the verb *brocancer*—to sell or exchange—the root of which is Saxon, and also the origin of the word "broker." Its signification in pure English is second-hand goods, but it has of recent years been used to indicate objects of some artistic value made in olden times, and which are much esteemed by modern collectors. This century is one of collections, ranging in value from defaced postage-stamps and wax impressions of seals to watches and snuff-boxes of rare metals, ornamented with precious stones.

A CHILD TELEGRAPHER.

The frontier telegraph office at William's ranch is managed by Hallie Hutchinson, a little girl nine years of age. A gentleman who returned from there a few days since, says Hallie is the most remarkably intelligent little elf he ever had the pleasure of meeting. She handled her instrument with the success and precision of an old operator. Recently, when election returns were coming in and the whole country were wildly excited to know the result, little Hallie sat at her instrument, her eyes aglow with intelligence; and gathered in the news from all over the Union, while dozens of brawny men crowded around to hear what the lightning brought, and to admire the wonderful skill of the operator. While controlling the wires as she does, Hallie is not unlike other little girls of her age in her habits and inclinations. For instance, one end of her operating table is piled full of baby dolls, and she spends a great deal of her leisure time in dressing and nursing them. Brown county may claim the youngest telegraph operator in the world.—Waco, Texas Examiner.

RUBBING A BOA'S LIPS.

The zoological garden of Antwerp was last month the scene of a very moving drama. A young naval surgeon, a great amateur of ophidians, entered the serpent cage in company with their guardian to attend to an enormous boa which was suffering from an inflamed jaw. In order to rub the lips of the reptile with some ointment the surgeon took hold of it by the back of the head, but the animal, which is fifteen feet long and large in proportion, began to hiss, and coiled itself around the arms, legs and body of its aggressor. The guardian taking fright at the resistance of the serpent and at the threatening attitude of the other snakes, numbering about thirty, ran, leaving the surgeon in a critical situation. The boa was beginning to tighten his hold and to press on the poor man's chest, when he released the serpent's head. The reptile, feeling itself free, took refuge behind the rock-work of the cage, without doing him any further injury.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A new method of producing light from electricity has been patented in England. Small balls of platinum or iridium are arranged at the ends of small platinum rods inclosed in pairs in the centre of a suitable globe, and a rapid succession of sparks is passed between them, whereby they are raised to incandescent heat. A disadvantage is the noise attendant on the rapid sparks.

The following medical sensation comes from Georgia. "A young man of Merriwether County had a tree fall on him while out hunting, striking him on the back of the neck. He was unconscious for thirty-six hours, and then he was found to be paralyzed from his neck down all over his body. His head, all his senses there, his brain and his mind seemed as good and as active as ever, and he lived in this helpless state from August 1879, to December 1880."

A dairy company of London has lately established a laboratory at which samples of milk received from farmers are subjected to chemical analysis. Prizes have been offered by the company, which are to be given to those farmers whose milk supply stands highest in quality during a stated period of time. The samples of milk are carefully examined by the company's analyst, whose analyses and reports will decide the competition for the prizes. It is expected that much valuable information respecting methods for producing the richest possible milk will be secured in this way.

The notion that plants in sleeping-rooms are unwholesome is being exploded. Recent scientific experiments have proved that the carbon supposed to have been evolved from the plants, was evolved from the earth in the pots, and that the plants themselves give out nothing but oxygen, and this in considerable quantities. Along with the oxygen and nitrogen the air contains a very subtle poison, in the form of carbonic acid, and by extracting this carbonic acid from the air, the plants produce the extra quantity of oxygen required. Some scientists say that were the carbonic acid removed from the houses little medicine would be required in comparison with what is now used.

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