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Lines Unto Spring

The guileless spring, gentle Annie, is just over the back yard fence. It floppeth up and down at the instigation of weather. Venner, now blowing like a wild politician, next smiling as the festive clerk in the dry goods store; but old Sol will shortly catch her by the arm, just above her vaccination, and yank her on this side of the enclosure, and there to remain until she smiles on the dandelions and the old lady with the poke-bonnet gathering the same for greens, the lambkins sporting on the hills and flip flopping their ungainly tails for joy and milk, and the small boy gathering up old junk in the bottom of the canal, wetting his feet to his knees and giving the aforesaid youngster an awful opportunity to put his angel plume on.

Hail spring! Hail to the robins and blue-birds thou brightest to warble to us at 4:30 a. m., when we are awakened by the neighbor's boy stealing our horse-radish roots. But thou layest bare much unseebliness, old dame; the hack kitchen window presenteth a sight which would baffle a secretary of a Sunday school picnic to name, and in the fence corner low lieth the feline of 1880, em-bowered in the hoopy skirt and garnished with the tomato can.

Now prance forth Aunt Melissa after dock roots for the purifying of the grease and flap-jack saturated family; the young man also goeth out in pursuit of a tailor with a non-committal memory; the gay girl premeditates for openings, and the bill collector walked out armed and equipped with legal power as the law directs, and endeavoreth to find the debtor who is never in.

Once more hail! Soda water now squirts vanilla for one and sour mash for another, and still there is room; the house holder taketh down the stove and catcheth old in union with the entire family the next day. Moving and house cleaning makes numerous candidates for the asylum; the baby swalloweth carpet tacks, and the M. D. shaketh his head as he sayeth "the babe hath malaria."

But with all the desolation thou bringest to the young man whose girl looketh lovingly on the "cream," thou also carriest in thy breath fragrant breezes, and thou watereth the furrow with thy tears; and the vernal grass, and the catfish, and green garden truck, and May flowers, and Canada thistles, and the bold jimson weed, cometh up and crieth in union. Hail! all hail! earth and air and the ten acre lot, and the fat man, are full of thy glory.

Things Learned by Experience.

If your coal fire is low throw on a tablespoonful of salt, and it will help it very much. A little ginger put into sausage meat improves the flavor. In icing cake dip the knife frequently in cold water. In boiling meats for soups use cold water to extract the juice. If the meat is wanted for itself alone, plunge in boiling water at once. You can get a bottle or barrel of oil off any carpet or woollen stuff by applying dry buckwheat plentifully and faithfully; never put water to such a grease spot or liquid of any kind. Broil steak without salting; salt draws the juice in cooking; it is desirable to keep these in if possible; cook over a hot fire, turning frequently, searing on both sides; place on a platter, salt and pepper to taste. Beef having a tendency to be tough can be made very palatable by stewing very gently for two hours, pepper and salt, taking out about a pint of liquid when done, and letting the rest boil to the meat. Brown the meat in the pot. After taking up make a gravy of the pint of liquid saved. A small piece of charcoal in the pot with boiling cabbage removes the smell. Clean oilcloth with milk and water; a brush and soap will ruin them. Tumbler that have had milk in them should never be put in hot water. A spoonful of stewed tomatoes in the gravy of either roasted or fried meats is an improvement. The skin of a boiled egg is the most efficacious remedy that can be applied to a boil. Peel it carefully, wet, and apply it to the part affected. It will draw off the matter and relieve the soreness in a few hours.

Another Bad One.

Capt. E. R. Blakelee, the Lake Shore postal clerk, arrested last week for robbing the mails, appeared before United States Commissioner White and made a clean breast of the whole affair, and gave the history of his thieving operations, explaining everything in detail. "He said that strong drink had more to do with his downfall than anything else. He turned over to the officers nearly 300 unopened letters addressed to Boston parties, and confessed that a large quantity of checks, drafts, postoffice orders, etc., were stored in the barn at his home. Detectives were under the impression that Blakelee lived in Detroit, but he said that his home is in St. Johns, Mich. The officers started for the last named place to search the prisoner's house and barn.

LATER.—The officers who went to search the prisoner's house and barn in St. Johns, Mich., arrived in Cleveland upon an early morning train Thursday, having with them most conclusive evidence of his guilt. In the barn they found, as he had confessed, over 200 opened letters, containing drafts, money orders, notes, etc. to the amount of almost \$8,000, mostly in favor of Boston parties.

A Surgery for Animals.

A correspondent of the Rural New Yorker advises stock-growers not to be in haste to destroy any animal that may break a leg, for by means of plaster of Paris and some bagging strips the limb may be set and supported until the fractured bone unites again. His plan has been, both with calves and sheep, to wind strips of bagging about the limb, plaster over with calcined plaster, mixed to a thin paste, and other strips wound over that, and more plaster applied, the leg fastened to splints of wood until the plaster sets. The animal would limp around for a few days on three legs, but recovered without a blemish.

Those Saints.

The Mormons are still worshipping in what they call the "Tabernacle" at Salt Lake City—a structure that is capable of seating 15,000 saints, and which, in architectural appearance resembles a huge turtle with its head and tail cut off. They have a new one in the course or construction that will require a quarter of a century yet to complete, which was commenced fifteen years ago. At the recent Mormon conference the report said that the structure had already cost \$1,445,581.45. The bosses seem to be in no hurry about finishing the temple, but urge the poor dupes to roll in their subscriptions. The Gentiles say that the head Mormons have a rich bonanza in the management of the new house of worship.

Toughest Story Ever Published.

A correspondent of the Louisville Courier-Journal tells the following story of Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, well known as a summer boarding place: "I once knew a very ridiculous thing to happen there. Several years ago I was coming down from Poughkeepsie by boat. It was a bright morning in midsummer, and we stopped at Cornwall to take aboard the few gentlemen who went early to business in New York. Instead of the usual number there were a great many people who rushed aboard in various stages of indignation and disgust. It was an exodus, and we soon learned the cause. The night before, bread was made up and set in the pantry to 'rise.' Bed time came and all retired—at least save a pet kitten who prowled about seeking a comfortable bed. Kitty got into the pantry, and finding the pan of bread, which she mistook for a nice soft cushion, laid down thereon and went quietly to sleep. The soft dough yielded gradually and slowly, but surely; poor kitty was engulfed, the batter closing over it and leaving no sign. When morning came the bread was baked and brought in hot to breakfast. Imagine the scene—all the boarders seated at the table—when the loaf was broken open! They left in a body.

The Snow Blockade.

The winter of 1880-81 was a hard one all over the country, but especially so in the West and North-west. One of the oldest settlers declared that nothing like it had been seen in that section for fifty years. The first snow fell early in October, and from that time on there were more than sixty heavy storms in various parts. The snow was from six to fifteen feet deep on the level, while the drifts were twice that depth, and in some places they are said to have been over fifty feet deep.

The sufferings of the people were simply terrible. Many houses were buried out of sight, and their inmates completely cut off from communication with the outside world. After tunneling their way out, they were obliged to pull down their barns and fences for fuel, and in some cases the telegraph poles and railroad ties were dug out and chopped up to keep the fires going. One man in Dakota who had taken in two neighboring families, not so well housed, to save them from perishing, was compelled finally to break up their little cabins for fire-wood. The bitter cold continuing, the man's own furniture was sacrificed, even to the bedsteads, trunks and the children's toys.

The railroads were blockaded for miles, and some of the trains were held fast in the drifts for several days together. The work of tunneling through an digging out was immense, and the cost amounted to a large fortune. One company offered \$50,000 and all its receipts to any one who would keep the line open till spring. The Northwestern Railway spent over \$300,000 since October. Thirty-four immense snow-ploughs had plenty of work, and these were backed up by from two to six locomotives each. The power of these ploughs and the great resistance of a snow-drift may be estimated from the facts that one plough weighing 48,000 pounds of railway iron, and driven by six locomotives, attacked a snow-choked cutting, but was defeated. The drift was fifty-two feet high. When the workmen, after the tremendous charge, caught a glimpse of the immense plough, they found that it, with all its 128,000 pounds had been repelled as if it were a feather, and that it had rolled clean over the drift, and had lodged against some forest trees, where it proposes to remain until summer. From one cut 324,000 cubic yards of snow were taken, but in eight hours the wind had piled it up full again. Nine thousand men have been employed from time to time during the winter as shovelers.

News and Notes.

De Lessep's isthmus canal has brought up against an impenetrable swamp.

L. A. Pickles of Newfane, N. Y., still encumbers the earth, headed for his 105 year.

Why not break the Senate deadlock by electing David Davis Senator instead of Gorham?

Leading farmers of Tarrant County, Texas, propose building a \$100,000 cotton factory.

Mrs. Langtry, the Jersey lily, is said to be really very poor and compelled to work for a living.

"Jim" Keene has lost so much by recent speculations that he is worth only about twelve millions now.

Mrs. Kate Ward Burt, a cousin of Henry Ward Beecher, is the "lightning calculator" of the Census Bureau.

Judge Tree of Chicago can branch out a good deal with \$4,000,000 in his treasury—the richest man in Chicago.

Uncle Tom, the 80 year old brush boy of the Grand Pacific, died the other day, leaving \$50,000 worth of property.

Adelia Patti is coming to America next October to earn a little money to pay the costs of her divorce suits.

Said Byron: "I hate a dumpy woman." He meant to say that he hated to see a good thing cut short. That was all.

Parties are trying to induce Jay Gould to buy a Philadelphia newspaper. It is suspected that they want to ruin him.

A Manchester, Vermont, marketman has had to pay \$200 of doctor's bill for customers who were made sick by eating cheese he sold them.

The soldiers at Fort Adams have given Ida Lewis a solid silver teapot for saving the lives of two drowning soldiers in Newport harbor some weeks ago.

Gen. Butler received a great deal of attention at every port at which he stopped during his recent yachting cruise. He is evidently known as a curiosity to the world over.

A company for the manufacture of cold-air machines, by which ice is rendered unnecessary for the purpose of freezing meats, etc. has been formed in New Haven.

A Wisconsin paper thinks that Mr. Conkling wants to force President Garfield to resign so that Arthur will be President. Wisconsin editors have lively imaginations.

The new czar has been overhauling the accounts of the Winter Palace and thinks he can cut the figures down from \$6,000,000 a year to \$2,000,000 and still live quite comfortably.

Senator Sherman is reported as saying "I heartily approve the plan for refunding announced by Secretary Windom, believing it to be the very best thing to be done under the circumstances.

The favorite rose in the metropolis is now the Mabel Morrison. It is as large as the Baroness de Rothschild, with strong clear foliage, but nearly white. Single blossoms are sold for \$3.

Nitro-glycerine is recommended by a medical journal for certain affections of the chest. If there is anything that will still the tumultuous heavings of the liver pad its use should be encouraged.

Jay Gould is said to have bought a half interest in an easy chair invention which promises to realize millions. The fellow who owns the other half-interest will probably have to sit on the floor.

Michigan Matters.

The peaches about Muskegon were damaged by the winter.

Ionia is to be sued for damages caused by a defective sidewalk.

E. R. Kelsey, of Ionia, had his left arm broken, Tuesday, by a kick from a horse.

Monday, Wm. Marshall, near Clinton, Lenawee county, caught an old fox and six whelps in a hollow tree.

Over 200 old settlers of Muskegon held a reunion in Muskegon Wednesday. Every one had lived in the county over 30 years.

Three rascals are said to have been victimizing farmers in Oceana and adjoining counties with a Grand Rapids corn-sheller.

Thursday a pickerel weighing 14 lbs. was caught in the river at Jackson. Immediately the entire city went a fishing, but nobody else caught one.

Mrs. N. Foxen, of West Bay City, Wednesday, stumbled over a defective sidewalk, fell and broke her right leg. \$3,500 is the price in Lowell.

George Dart, aged 40, took morphine at Spring Arbor Thursday and died during the night. He leaves a wife and one son. No cause known for the act.

A man who gave his name as Charles E. Morgan was arrested in Grand Rapids Wednesday for passing a \$100 forged check on the City National bank.

If Kalamazoo wants an opera house she has got to subscribe \$10,000 free gift for it. So say her capitalists, who will put in \$20,000 more to complete the building.

A farm house owned by M. C. Moulton, at Coral, Montcalm county, was burned with all its contents Wednesday morning, shortly after midnight. The family barely escaped with their lives. Partly insured.

Thursday, at Grand Rapids, died Christian Christ, of the firm of Christ Brothers, who has been a resident for the last 25 years. The same day Mrs. Deborah Belle Currier, aged 59, sister to W. T. Powers.

Zela Steele, a small boy of Lincoln, Midland county, caught a large wild cat in a trap last week. The boy was aged 7, and hardly big enough to carry the trap which he placed where it would do the most good.

W. A. Weeks, a lawyer of Harrisville has been elected to the office of prosecuting attorney, judge of probate and circuit court commissioner, all at once, of Osceola county. Now if he can get elected coroner he will have a fair start in life.

Jackson Patriot: Socrates H. Wood, hall-master at the penitentiary, has been appointed deputy warden of the prison in Ionia. As the salary is some \$300 per year greater than that attaching to his present position, he will accept the place and go thither at an early day. His successor is keeper S. C. Drake.

Judge Lovell has passed the following sentences: Franklin C. Upright, wife murderer, state's prison at Jackson for life; Charles Farrer, embezzlement, state's prison at Jackson for one year; Joseph Mayville, larceny, state's prison at Jackson for two years; Jennie Watson, larceny, state house of correction at Ionia, for two years.

The state senate Thursday confirmed the nomination of William B. Williams as railroad commissioner, also the following nominations: Willard M. McConnell and Augustus C. Baldwin, trustees of the eastern asylum for the insane; Charles Kipp, inspector of state prison; John J. Grafton, warden of state house of correction and reformatory; Bela W. Jenks, member of state board of education, vice W. J. Baxter, resigned.

Ionia Sentinel: Mr. Rogers the dry-man was unloading a carload of nails at the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee depot Tuesday afternoon, his team standing on the platform at the side of the track, when a special freight train from the east unexpectedly came along and struck the wagon, making a complete wreck of it, and injuring Mr. Rogers very seriously; but the nature of his injuries, or whether they are likely to prove fatal, we cannot at this writing state.

Michigan Iron and Steel Industries.

The preliminary report on the iron and steel industries of the United States, in the census of the year 1880, has just been made public by the census bureau at Washington, D. C. Among other matters of interest, this report shows on a comparison of the productions of the States in 1870, and in 1880, that Michigan increases its production in 10 years, from 86,679 tons to 142,716 tons or 65 per cent., taking the eighth place in rank, in 1880, Michigan in 1880 had 23 blast furnaces, rolling mills, steel works, and forges and bloomeries, with an invested capital of \$4,175,386, employing 3,066 hands, paying \$922,497 in wages. These establishments used material valued at \$3,279,420, and their products were valued at \$4,591,613.

President Garfield has received a letter from Kutza, a Chicago Socialist, telling him he is "as much of a despot as the czar of Russia," and warning him that he may yet be served with a dose of dynamite. This is a free country, even for idiots.

