

keeps most of it in jugs. One day last week a two-gallon jug of corn liquor was left sitting on the floor behind the counter. Mr. Hatch stepped behind the counter and was surprised to see a large black snake coiled around the jug with his head inside. He watched it for a moment and soon discovered that the snake was drinking liquor. It was not disturbed, and after several minutes it slowly uncoiled itself from the jug and attempted to crawl away, but was too drunk, and stretched itself out on the floor, where it remained apparently asleep, until next day. Mr. Hatch examined the jug and found the snake had drank more than a quart of liquor. Two days later the same snake returned, and when it crawled under the counter Mr. Hatch watched it. By coiling itself around the jug and giving its neck a twist around the stopper it was able to remove the cork, and again thrust its head inside and began to drink liquor. It was allowed to drink its fill again, after which it was killed.—*Birmingham Age.*

Unlucky Days and Numbers.

Discussing unlucky numbers, says the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, a recent writer affirms that over fourteen years ago he found himself dining with twelve others, making the dangerous thirteen; but today they are all alive and well. The probability is that if they had had weak minds full of superstition, several of them would have died before this of worry. The same writer claims that Friday is a peculiarly fine and lucky day to begin a journey, because there are so many less travelers to be met on that day. Is it a fact that any large part of our people still fear to start out for a trip or a venture on Friday? The custom of hanging people on Friday should be put an end to, if it feeds popular superstition, as it probably does.

The Deserted Ohio Village.

"Gone!"

The words came with a deep groan from the lips of the desolate man who stood on the lonely street and looked about him.

The beams of the setting sun shone with a yellow glow on the peaceful village nestling in a lovely plain. The modest spires in the churches glittered in atmosphere free from smoke, and a sound came to the ear of the solitary man who brain was throbbing and whose heart was bursting with a sense of his strange and unearthly isolation.

"Under a sky of unsurpassed beauty," he exclaimed, "in a land where even winter in its most savage mood breathes mildly, in the favored garden spot of a great State, amid fertile valleys and vine-clad hillsides whose vegetation is already leaping into life in response to the creative energy of the vernal sunshine, can it be possible that I have lived to see such a scene as this?"

He paused a moment to kick a wandering and lonesome-looking dog that was sniffing about him in abjectly inquisitive and apologetic manner, and again his voice rang

plaintively out amid the weird solitude.

"Where are they all? Where are my friends, my neighbors, the companions of my youth? What mysterious calamity has swept over this once happy place as with the besom of—you here again, you miserable hound? Get out!"

He drew his hand tremblingly across his pallid brow and once more his voice smote the air:

"They are not here! They are gone! Great snakes! Of course they're gone! Where are ye, friends of my childhood? O familiar faces that filled the horizon of hope in my maturer years and framed the radiant vision that my ambition bodied forth, where the Dickens and Tom Walker do you hang out now?"

With these words he took a fresh chew of tobacco, pulled his hat down over his eyes, gave one farewell glance up and down the deserted and voiceless street, turned his back on the home of his childhood and departed forever.

He was the only human being in that beautiful Southern Ohio town that had not gone to Washington with a petition for an office.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Indian Education.

There is still a difference in opinion in some States regarding the advisability of compulsory education, but it would seem that there could be no dissent from Indian Commissioner Oberly's conclusion that compulsory education is necessary for the Indians. In many cases Indian parents have shown themselves honestly desirous of promoting the welfare of their children. The Indian is beginning to realize the fact that he must "learn the white man's ways," or perish from the face of the earth, but it is still necessary to reckon with a vast mass of prejudice, ignorance, and inherited preferences. In other words, it is inevitable that many of the Indians should be treated more or less like children, and compelled to take medicine necessary and helpful but unpalatable. This education, as Mr. Oberly well says, should be on those principles of compulsion which are recognized as legitimate in the free commonwealths, and which, while requiring the Indians to be educated for civilized life and self support, leave with his parents the liberty to choose between the government and the private school, so long as the latter conforms to the proper standard. The sensible recommendations are made that the standards should be uniform, and that the official tenure of the teachers should be permanent, and removals made only for inefficiency and other unsuitness.

It is certainly true that the Indian must be taught how to labor, and also that it is his duty to work. This means that the schools should include manual training in their curriculum, and the children should be instructed in the use of agricultural implements, the carpenter's saw and plane, the stone mason's trowel, the tailor's needle and the shoemaker's awl. The enervating communism

of the reservation system cannot be allowed to continue much longer; and with the allotment of land in severalty there will come an immediate incentive to work, and this must be made intelligent. "If the Indian will not learn," says Mr. Oberly, "if he will continue to persist in saying, 'I am content—let me alone,' then the guardian must act for the ward, and do for him the good service that he denounces as a bad service. The government must thus, in duty to the public, compel the Indian to come out from his isolation into the civilized way that he does not desire to enter, into citizenship, and into assimilation with the masses of the republic."—*Frank Leslie's Newspaper.*

"The Old Storm King."

In 1843 Prof. Espy was given a position in the War Department where he could pursue his investigations in atmospherical currents and disturbances, and receive reports from distant points of observation. He instituted a service of daily weather reports, out of which our present Signal Service system has grown; and, on the basis of this enterprise, as Mrs. Morehead relates in her book, Prof. Henry once remarked to her that there was no question in his mind that Prof. Espy should be regarded as the father of the present Signal Service of the United States, his "Theory of Storms" having led the way to its establishment and present success. Prof. Henry added that the charts now used in the service were identical (with some modifications) with those that "The Old Storm King" constructed for use in the Meteorological Bureau of the War Department when he was at its head. A similar acknowledgment was made to Mrs. Morehead by General Myer. Prof. Espy was for several years a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, and was brought into close relations and friendship with Prof. Henry. On the occasion of his death, Prof. Bache pronounced his eulogy in the Board of Regents, and the Regents passed the customary resolution in honor of his memory. One of these resolutions describes him as "one of the most useful and zealous of the meteorologists co-operating with the Institution, whose labors in both the increase and diffusion of knowledge of meteorology have merited the highest honors of science at home, and have added to the reputation of our country abroad."—*Popular Science Monthly.*

Curiosities of Natural Gas.

One writer asks whether it is safe to bore the earth too much. He assumes the earth to be a hollow sphere filled with a gaseous substance called by us natural gas, and he thinks that tapping these reservoirs will cause disastrous explosions, resulting from the lighted gas coming in contact with that which is escaping. Earthquakes, he says, are probably caused by vacuums created by the outflowing gas. He compares the earth to a balloon floated and kept distended by the gas.