

**THE LAST DEFENDERS OF JUDEA.**—The stars twinkled just as they had done in happier days over the burning walls of Masada. Beneath rolled heavily the Dead Sea, the monument of former wrath and woe. In the distance, as far as the eye could reach, the desolate landscape bore the marks of the oppressor.

Before them was the camp of the Roman, who watched with eager anxiety for his prey and the morrow. All was silent in Masada. Defence now seemed impossible, and certain death stared the devoted garrison in the face. Despair settled on the stoutest heart, deepened by the presence and the well-known fate of the women and children. Nought was heard but the crackling of burning timbers, and the ill-suppressed moans of the wives and children of the garrison.

Then for the last time Eleazar summoned his warriors. In language such as fierce despair alone could have inspired on his, or brooked on their part, he reminded them of their solemn oath to gain freedom or to die. One of these alternatives alone remained for them, to die.

The men of war around him had not quailed before any enemy, yet they shrunk from the proposal of their leader. A low murmur betokened their disapprobation.

Then flashed Eleazar's eye. Pointing over the burning rampart to the enemy, and in the distance towards Jerusalem, he related with fearful truthfulness the fate which awaited them on the morrow; to be slain by the enemy, or to be reserved for the arena; to have their wives devoted to their sight to shame, and their children to torture and slavery.

Were they to choose this alternative, or a glorious death, and with it liberty, a death in obedience to their oath, in devotedness to their God and to their country? The appeal had its effect. It was not sudden madness, nor a momentary frenzy, which seized these men when they brought forth, to immolate them on the altar of their liberty, their wives, their children, their chattels; and ranged themselves each by the side of all that had been dear to him in the world.

The last glimmer of hope had died out, and with the determination of despair the last defenders of Judea prepared to perish in the flames which enveloped its last fortress.

First, each heaped together his household gear, associated with the pleasures of other days, and set fire to it. Again they pressed to their hearts their wives and children. Bitter were the tears wrung from these iron men; yet the sacrifice was made unshrinkingly, and each plunged his sword into the hearts of his wife and children.

Then they laid themselves down beside them, and locked them in tender embrace, now the embrace of death. Cheerfully they presented their breasts to ten of their number, chosen by lot to put the rest of their brethren to death.

Of these ten one had again been fixed upon to slay the remaining nine. Having finished his bloody work, he looked around to see whether any of the band yet required his service. But all was silent. The last survivor then approached as closely as possible to his own family, and fell upon his sword. Nine hundred bodies covered the ground.

Morning dawned upon Masada, and the Romans eagerly approached its walls, but within was the silence of death. A faint was apprehended, and the soldiers advanced cautiously, raising a shout, as if the defenders on the wall implored the help of their brethren.

Then two women, who, with five children, had concealed themselves in vaults during the murderous scene of the preceding evening, came forth from their retreat to tell the Romans the sad story. So fearfully strange did it sound that their statement were scarcely credited.

Slowly the Romans advanced; then rushing through the flames, they penetrated into the court of the palace. There lay the lifeless bodies of the garrison and their families. It was not a day of triumph even to the enemy, but one of awe and admiration. They buried the dead and withdrew, leaving a garrison.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent to thee, how often would I have gathered thee as a hen gathereth her chickens, but ye would not! Therefore, behold, your house is left unto you desolate."—[History of the Jewish Nation, by Alfred Edersheim.]

**HORSE SHOEING.**—In shoeing horses, the frog of the foot should never be cut, only trimmed very sparingly.—The life of the foot is in this part, and if it is cut it dries up, becomes small and pinched, and essentially injures the foot. I have observed that this is the practice invariably with the best horse shoers.

Some blacksmiths pare the heel strong, and the toe light; such men do not understand their business. If the heel is cut away too much and the toe left long, it forces the animal to bear too heavily on the heel, which sometimes occasions tender feet.

Both the heel and the toe should be pared so as to give a handsome form to the foot, and to let the horse find equal support on the whole surface of the foot. A good shoer gives the horse a heel sufficiently high to make it strong and firm.

Not uncommonly are shoes set on a horse without any regard to the anatomy of the foot, by driving in nails too far back on the heel. Nails should not enter a horse's foot back of the quarter; if they do they deprive the foot of its elasticity, which nature has provided for, in order that the body of the horse may not be shaken severely by the force of the blow, when he sets down his feet.

The thickness and weight of the shoes should be determined by the size of the horse. When the roads are stony and there are long and hard hills, as we have in this country, it is desirable to have a solid substantial shoe for a horse to travel on. If the shoe be not unreasonably thick, the horse does not find himself burdened any more with a heavy shoe than a light one.

A person of the least reflection must see at once, that large and clumsy calks under a horse's foot, must be unnecessary in summer, as well as uncomfortable. Let a person imagine himself raised up in the same manner as horses are, with three calks on each foot an inch in length, and think how he could travel in that condition, and he will perceive that those long calks are a nuisance in the summer for ordinary business.

Draft horses require shoes thus furnished, but horses for the road are better off without them. "Slipper" shoes are now much in use with lively stable keepers. Such shoes have a small toe calk, but no heel calk on the forward feet. The hind feet shoes should be properly calked.

The slipper shoes are comfortable for the horse, and he can accomplish a journey with them much more easily to himself, than with the old-fashioned shoes. A horse is not so liable to trip or stumble with such shoes, as with those that have long calks. The only trouble with the "slipper shoe" is in going up and down clayey hills soon after a rain. Even in such cases the two calks hold on, and the calks on the hind feet. Have only low calks for summer use, at any rate.—[Maine Farmer.]

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK—AS IT WAS.**—1626.—The island of Manhattan purchased from the Indians for twenty-four dollars.

1633.—The first schoolmaster, church, and pastor.

1643.—The houses in the city at this period were mostly one story cabins, with roofs of straw and chimneys of wood.

1650.—The first lawyer (Dirk Van Schelluyne) commenced practice in this city.

1656.—The first house built in Wall street.

1657.—The 'chest' being empty, the town drummer's salary could not be paid. Average price of the best city lots, fifty dollars.

1658.—Rent of an average good house, fourteen dollars per annum.

1659.—A day of prayer set apart in New Amsterdam on account of the progress of Quaker doctrines.

1660.—Made the duty of the sheriff to go around the city in the night; but he complains that the dogs attack him; also, that people occasion frights by hallooing 'Indian' in the nights; also that the boys cut 'koeckies.'

1664.—Population of the city, fifteen hundred.

1684.—No swine permitted to run in the streets. The shipping belonging to the port consisted of three ships, three barques, twenty-three sloops, and forty-six small boats.

1685.—The city takes upon itself the support of public paupers, and, in the first place, Top-Knot Betty to have three shillings per week, and Scarbank to have a new suit.

1691.—A ducking-school (for punishment of criminals) erected on the wharf in front of the City Hall.

1695.—The streets cleaned by contract, at thirty pounds per annum.

1697.—Lamps first hung out from every seventh house, upon a pole extending from the window.

1703.—Population of the city, five thousand two hundred and fifty.

1711.—A purchase made of eighteen rush-bottom chairs and an oval table, for the use of the Common Council.

1714.—City watch increased to six men.

1718.—The first rope-walk (on the present Broadway, between Barclay Street and Park Place.)

1725.—The first newspaper, published by William Bradford.

1731.—Rip Van Dam, Lieutenant Governor.

1740.—Snow six feet on a level; the Hudson frozen at New York.

1752.—The East River frozen over, so that a double-horse sleigh passed over to Long Island.

1759.—Dey street regulated and paved.

1761.—The Narrows frozen over.

1764.—A butcher disfranchised for saying he would sell beef at four and a half pence per pound, 'in spite of all the wiseheads.'

1779-80.—This winter was very severe; a beaten track for sleighs and wagons across the Hudson; horsemen crossed as late as the 17th of March. Eighty sleighs with provisions and a large body of troops crossed the ice to Staten Island.—[Valentine's Manual.]

**A SPORTING-FISH—A DEAD SHOT.**—An interesting account is given in the eleventh number of the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal of the Jaculator fish of Java, by a gentleman who had an opportunity of examining some specimens of it in the possession of a chief.

The fish were placed in a small circular pond, from the centre of which projected a pole upwards of two feet in height; at the top of this pole were inserted several small pieces of wood, sharpened at the points, on each of which were transfixed some insects of the beetle tribe.

When all had become quiet, after the beetles had been secured, the fish, which had retired during the operation, came out of their hiding-places, and began to circle around the pond.

One of them at length rose to the surface of the water, and, after steadily fixing its eyes for some time upon an insect, discharged from its mouth a small quantity of water-like fluid, with such force and precision of aim as to drive the beetle off the twig into the water, where it was instantly swallowed.

After this, another fish came and performed a similar feat, and was followed by the rest, till all the insects had been devoured.

The writer observed, that if a fish failed in bringing down its prey at the first shot, it swam round the pond until it again came opposite the same object, and fired again.

In one instance he remarked one of the fish returned three times to the attack before it secured its prey; but, in general, they seemed to be very expert shots, bringing down the game at the very first discharge.

The Jaculator, in a state of nature, frequents the banks of rivers in search of food. When it spies a fly settling on the plants that grow in shallow water, it swims on to the distance of from five to six feet of them, and then, with surprising dexterity, ejects from its tubular mouth a single drop of fluid, which rarely fails to strike the fly into the water, where it is immediately swallowed.—[Chamber's Journal.]

**PRACTICAL PREACHING.**—'We have no doubt that a rigorous landlord, having sharked it all the week, would be better pleased on Sunday, to doze through an able Gospel sermon on Divine mysteries, than to be kept awake by a practical sermon that, among other things, set forth the duties of a Christian landlord.'

A broker who has gambled on a magnificent scale all the week, does not go to church to have his practical swindling analyzed by the 'New Testament spirit.'

A merchant whose last bale of smuggled goods was safely stored on Saturday night, and his brother-merchant, who, on that same day, swore a false invoice through the custom-house—they go to church to hear a sermon on faith, on angels, on the resurrection! They have nothing invested in these subjects; they expect the minister to be bold and orthodox. But if he wants respectable merchants to pay ample pew rents, let him not vulgarize the pulpit by introducing commercial questions.

A rich Christian brother owns largely in a distillery, and is clamorous against letting down the pulpit to the vulgarity of temperance sermons.—Another man buys tax titles, and noses about all the week to see who can be slipped out of a neglected lot.

A merchant that plies his craft with unscrupulous appliances of every means that win, he too wants 'doctrine' on the Sabbath, not those secular questions. Men wish two departments in life; the secular and the religious. Between them a high wall and opaque is to be built. They wish to do what they please for six long days. Then stepping the other side of the wall, they wish the minister to assuage their fears, to comfort their consciences, and furnish them a clear ticket and assurance for heaven. By such a shrewd management, our modern financiers are determined to show that a Christian can serve two masters, both God and mammon at the same time.—[H. W. Beecher.]

**PERFORATED OR SOLID BRICKS.**—Some experiments have lately been made on the comparative sustaining power of patent perforated bricks, and bricks of the ordinary kind. In each case, a pier of four courses of the bricks to be tested, was built in Roman cement, on the table of a powerful hydraulic press, and allowed at least twenty-four hours thoroughly to set. A light scale-board was suspended to the safety valve lever of the press, on which there were placed successive weights, until the pier of bricks on the table of the press was crushed.

The number of weights was increased a quarter of a pound at a time—being equivalent to an increment of 10 tons upon the press—commencing at 30 tons, this starting-point being the effect due to the united weights of the lever and scale-board. The pumps were worked very slowly, to eliminate the concussion produced otherwise by the inertia of the water. The first experiment was made with good ordinary brick in a pier 18 inches square, built in four courses. This showed symptoms of failing with 110 tons, and was crushed with 150. A pier of the same dimensions of perforated bricks began to crack with 270 tons, and was crushed with 350 tons.—[Ex.]

**BOOTS AND SASSENERS.**—'Nancy, my dear, did John black them boots?'

'How should I know? I hain't got nothing to do with your boots. This is washing day.'

'But, my love, you needn't speak so cross.'

'Speak cross! I didn't speak cross.'

'Oh, yes you did.'

'I didn't.'

'I say you did.'

'I say I didn't.'

'By gracious! I won't stand this! it's too bad to be treated in the way. I'll leave you, madam. I will have a separation.'

'Was ever a woman so abused! Here I've been washing and scrubbing all day long as hard as I could, and then you come home and act so to me—just 'cause I don't know nothin' 'bout your boots! Oh, it's too bad, it is—loo hoo! boo hoo!'

'Hem! Well, Nancy, I didn't mean to make you cry. Never mind—I reckon John has blacked my boots. Is them 'ere sasseners to be fried for supper?'

'Y-e-s, my dear; I got 'em for you particularly.'

Ahem!

**A PRETTY PROCESS.**—Among the machines lately on exhibition at the agricultural exposition in Paris, was one for hulling wheat. It is said that by the methods now in use the bran, when it is separated from the wheat, carries away with it at least twenty per cent, of nutritive matter. The new process reduces this amount to four per cent. The hulled grains of wheat, seen through a microscope, present a perfectly smooth and polished appearance, something like that of potatoes when the skin has been removed by washing.

The bran itself is but a pellicle, of which excellent paper is now made. The inventor of the

machine, M. Besniré de la Pontonarie, affirms that if this process had been applied to the grain consumed in France the past year, the crops, instead of presenting a deficit of seven million hectolitres, would have shown a surplus of three million hectolitres. (The hectolitre is a fraction over  $2\frac{3}{4}$  bushels.) The cost of hulling a hectolitre of wheat by the new process is about four cents.—Ex.

**VENTILATION.**—It would be well if, taking advantage of opportunities, managers of places of amusement would endeavor to improve the almost universal fault of want of adequate means of exit for the foul air generated in them.—Science would surely show how this could be done, without creating 'draughts.' Managers, as caterers for the public are morally bound to provide that most necessary of all things—air that may be breathed; so as to prevent their audiences undergoing a *PEINE FORTE ET DURE* while passing the ordeal of a modern 'entertainment.' Yet scarcely is this deemed worthy of passing notice; and the atmosphere is, generally speaking, in such places, so compounded of bad gases, as not only to render respiration difficult, but to inflict a certain and ineradicable injury on the audience.—[The Builder.]

**COLLODION.**—A gardener has just discovered that collodion may be made of great utility in producing plants and shrubs from cuttings. On making the cuttings, the varnish is applied to the part cut, which immediately becomes closed, or, so to speak, healed; the cutting is then planted in the ordinary way. Out of twenty-six cuttings of hot-house plants to which the collodion was applied, twenty-three struck root; whereas, out of the same number to which it was not applied, only twelve succeeded. With plants kept in green houses, and in those in the open air, even more satisfactory results have been obtained; and also in grafting, the article has been most advantageously employed. Collodion is made by dissolving cotton-powder in ether, and it then forms a varnish which sticks fast, dries quickly, is impermeable to water, and impenetrable to air.—[Ex.]

**ATMOSPHERIC IMPURITY AND DISEASE.**—Those warm climates in which consumption is really less frequent than in cold, derive the comparative immunity simply from the people being forced by the great heats to live more in an unpopulated atmosphere. It is not sending people to warm climates that always cures consumption, it is sending them to pure air. To confine consumptive persons to close, heated apartments, is but to hasten the ravages of their disease. On the contrary, they should live as much as possible in the open air. It is illusory to think of curing the consumptive by means of food or even medicine, without the amplest access to the free, fresh air. An ounce of oxygen is worth tons of fish oil or iodine, or any amount of respirators.—[Ex.]

**A PETRIED INDIAN.**—While engaged in excavating recently, upon the Milwaukee La Crosse railroad, Schlesengerville, Iowa, the workmen came upon a petrified Indian, and with the remains some singular relics of olden times. His body was perfect, not having suffered decay. His height, at the present time, would be considered gigantic, measuring seven feet two inches. On his breast was a plate of copper, on which were engraved numerous hieroglyphics, the meaning of which can hardly be imagined. An arrow of considerable strength and curious construction was also found with him.—Cleveland Herald.

**Judge Kellogg,** a venerable citizen of Michigan, arrived in Washington last week. It was his first visit to the Federal Capital, and when the cars stopped he was a little uncertain where he was; but as he noticed that all the passengers were leaving the cars he followed suit. As he entered the main hall of the depot, he saw a man engaged in caning another ferociously all over the room. 'When I saw that,' says the Judge, 'I knew I was in Washington immediately.'

**TO CLEAN SILK.**—Place the piece of silk to be cleaned on a smooth clean board, then take a sponge, and dip it into liquid ammonia diluted with one-half its measure of water, and rub the surface of the silk well on both sides. After this rub it in the same manner with whiskey, or diluted alcohol, then hang it over a cord until it is nearly dry; then iron it on the wrong side. This is the most simple way to clean silk dresses.—[German-town Telegraph.]

**MARCH OF INTELLECT.**—'Sammy, dear, hold up your head, and tell the gentleman how much twice nine makes.' 'Ten!' 'Oh, fie! guess again.' 'Eleven!' 'No.' 'Twelve.' 'No.' 'Thirteen!' 'No.' 'Fourteen!' 'No.' 'Fifteen!' 'No.' 'Sixteen!' 'No.' 'Seventeen!' 'No.' 'Eighteen!' 'Right! mother's own darling!—That boy, I'm thinking, will make a figure in the world!'

**ANTIDOTE TO STRYCHNINE.**—Mr. C. Leavitt, of Rockville, Connecticut, says a friend of his had a valuable dog, which was poisoned with strychnine and was fast sinking under its influence—being unable to stand—when Mr. L. saw him, and being informed of the cause, suggested that a strong decoction of coffee be given to the animal. About half a pint was administered, and it soon began to get better, and ultimately recovered entirely.—[Ex.]

**RECIPE FOR THE CURE OF STIFF JOINTS FROM THE EFFECTS OF RHEUMATISM.**—Beat quite thin the yolk of a new laid egg and add by degrees, three ounces of water; shake it well, that the egg and water may be well mixed. This is to be applied to the contracted parts, either cold or milk warm, rubbing it well three or four times a day.

**SUNFLOWER SEEDS** are said to be the best known remedy for founder in horses. As soon as ascertained he is foundered, mix one pint of the seed whole with the feed, and an entire cure may be expected.