

THE PRESERVATION OF LEATHER.

A contributor to the Shoe and Leather Reporter gives some valuable hints in relation to the preservation of leather. The extreme heat to which most men and women expose boots and shoes during the winter, deprives leather of its vitality, rendering it liable to break and crack. Patent leather particularly, is often destroyed in this manner. When leather becomes so warm as to give off the smell of leather, it is singed. Next to the singeing caused by fire heat, is the heat and dampness caused by the covering of rubber. Close rubber shoes destroy the life of leather.

The practice of washing harness in warm water and with soap, is very damaging. If a coat of oil is put on immediately after washing, the damage is afterwards repaired. No harness is ever so soiled that a damp sponge will not remove the dirt; but, even when the sponge is applied, it is always useful to add a slight coat of oil by the use of another sponge.

All varnishes and all blacking containing the properties of varnish should be avoided. Ignorant and indolent hostlers are apt to use such substances on their harness as will give the most immediate effect, and these, as a general thing, are most destructive to the leather.

When harness loses its luster and turns brown, which almost any leather will do after exposure to the air, the harness should be given another coat of grain black. Before using this grain black, the grain surface should be thoroughly washed with potash water until all the grease is killed, and after the application of the grain black, oil and tallow should be applied to the surface. This will not only "fasten the color," but make the leather flexible. Harness which is grained can be cleaned with kerosene and spirits of turpentine, and no harm will result if the parts affected are washed and oiled immediately afterwards.

Shoe leather is generally abused. Persons know nothing or care less about the kind of material used, than they do about the polish produced. Vitrified blacking is used until every particle of the oil in the leather is destroyed. To remedy this abuse the leather should be washed once a month with warm water, and when about half dry, a coat of oil and tallow should be applied, and the boots set aside for a day or two. This will renew the elasticity and life in the leather, and when thus used, upper leather will seldom crack or break.

MODERN ROMANCES.

London Punch is taking off the "Aurora Floyd," "No Name," "Tangled Skein," etc., school of literature very amusingly, in the publication, in weekly parts, of a "Tale of the Times," called "Mokeanna, or the White Witness." It is illustrated in the Pre-Raphael style, so much affected just now by the London Weeklies, by way of enhancing the weird interest of these startling tales, and, of course, the great requisite, a bigamy, is not wanting to make this satire complete. Here is a specimen:

"Sir Lionel's carriage is at the door. 'Farewell, mia Bettina,' he said, pressing his wife to his heart. 'I shall come back when I return.' 'I doubt thee not, Lionel,' was his weeping lady's reply, and the coachman, having embraced the calm but emotionable butler, ascended his seat in the rumble, and the vehicle was soon lost to view.

Two girlish figures, each dressed in a cut de sac, approached. 'Mamma,' they cried, 'will you not trust us now?'

'I will,' replied lady Bettina. 'Agnesia; come, Evelina.' They entered the 'Brown Study.'

'Listen,' said lady Bettina, 'to my Secret. Before I married Sir Lionel I was young and lovely.'

The lid of Agnesia's eye trembled as she looked toward her sister. Evelina, a profusion in the French tongue, murmured 'demon' in her ear.

Without noticing their emotion the mother proceeded.

'I wedded one William Barlow, a man beneath my station in life. Seized with an original idea that my rich brother did not need his money, I induced Barlow to—' she faltered.

Agnesia quickly pressed her delicate hand from one lobe of her exquisitely mouldered ear to the other.

'Yes,' continued lady Bettina, reassured by her offspring's sympathy, 'the property became mine. William Barlow, however, was obliged to fly his country. A warrant was out against him, and in his absence he was arraigned, prosecuted and found guilty.'

'Sentenced?' inquired Evelina, leaning forward.

'Aye, and such is the vaunted justice of English law—executed!'

A groan of horror burst from their pale lips, and lady Bettina hid her face in a variegated handkerchief.

'Sometime after this,' lady Bettina went on, 'I married Sir Lionel, who yesterday informed me that his wife was still living. He has gone away to seek her. I hope soon to have tidings of her decease.'

'Mamma,' said Agnesia, 'we too, have somewhat to confide in you. Are you strong enough to bear it?'

Lady Bettina filled up a silver goblet with sparkling eau de vie and drank it off at a single draught.

'I am ready.'

'We,' began Agnesia, 'are—'

'Break it gently,' remonstrated lady Evelina.

'I will,' returned her sister. 'Mamma, we are not your daughters!'

'I suspected as much,' murmured the Countess.

'Doctor, mother sent me down to the shotary pop quicker's blues, cos bub's sick with the pick chox, and she din't a thimbleful of popy gold in this din't tipper, cos we hadn't bot a pot-tle, and the kint pup's got the bine witters in it—got any?'

THE POISON OF RATTLESNAKES.—Dr. S. W. Mitchell, of this city, has just completed a second carefully conducted series of experiments upon the venom of the rattlesnake. The principal conclusions to which he arrives are as follows: First—There is no antidote to this poison, the remedies usually applied being nearly or entirely useless. Carbolic acid, applied externally, sometimes delays the fatal result—merely, however, by affecting the local circulation. Used internally, it, as well as the sulphites or hyposulphites of soda, so much recommended, have no antidotal power. Second—The poison is absolutely harmless when swallowed. It is even given internally to many different animals, without any detectable effect, while several cases are known, where scientific (we might, perhaps, add foolish) men have taken it themselves without injury. This innocent result is due to the fact that the poison is incapable of passing through the mucous surface, as well as that it is so altered during digestion as to enter the blood as a harmless substance. Applied to the rectum of a pigeon or the conjunctiva of animals, it had no effect. Third—The poison is not injurious to the rattlesnake itself or to any of its own species.

This confirms the conclusions of Guyon, corroborating also the testimony of Charles Waterton, who made a very venomous South American serpent bite itself without injurious results to it.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Mitchell pronounces against the value of any internal remedies, after a discussion of those most gradually accepted. For the best treatment of a case of serpent poison we must refer to his memoir, merely remarking that he attaches considerable value to alcohol stimulants, especially where the patient was not intoxicated at the time of being bitten.—Philadelphia paper.

THE PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL.—The counsel of the President is more numerous and more variegated than might have been expected. First is Henry Stanberry, who resigned his position as Attorney-General to undertake the defence of Mr. Johnson. He was once a Whig, but is now a lawyer and a Johnson man. Second is W. M. Everts, of New York, a decided Republican, and one of the most prominent members of the New York Bar. Mr. Everts tried to succeed Mr. Seward in the Senate in 1861, and was warmly urged on Mr. Lincoln for the position now held by Mr. Chase. Third is B. H. Curtis, of Boston. He was a Justice of the Supreme Court during Mr. Fillmore's administration, but resigned to practice law. No lawyer in New England enjoys a higher reputation for learning and ability. Fourth is J. S. Black, of Pennsylvania, a Democrat of the strictest sect. He is an able lawyer, with much practice in the Supreme Court. He was Mr. Buchanan's Attorney-General, and on the resignation of Cass, his Secretary of State. Fifth is T. A. H. Nelson, of Tennessee, the most disreputable man in the defence. He was originally a bold Union man, and was elected to Congress from East Tennessee. Being captured on his way to Washington by the rebels he recanted, and is now displayed by both loyal and disloyal men. Once his enemy, Mr. Johnson is now his friend.

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HIDES!!!

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BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have borne off the highest premium in the store line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant," away ahead of the heap.

The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a largely increased crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good humor seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old F. H. principle of the best stove in the world. Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Saunders, particularly, glowing with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the engineers had not been changed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in smoke, amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, just as they were (as we might say) rounding the corner, "Cotton Plant" popped in broad; all followed suit as quickly as though life depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started fire with broad already in the stove. Then came the tug, the coals' countenances glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and shutting doors resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, coaxed and poked as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of winning, and the crowd enlivened the scene with numerous and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seemed to be the greatest favored.

At twenty minutes past one "Cotton Plant" threw open its throttle valves and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others shut up and "keeping dark." As the time for the broad to be taken approached, excitement had increased to a baking heat, both within and without the arena. At last Peersless turned out its broad in 42 minutes. Norton's Furnace, E. Wood Perry, broad weighed 7 lbs 8 oz; burned fuel 7 1/2 lbs. Charter Oak, Rice, Bros. & Co., broad weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6 1/2 lbs. Peersless, Campman & Co., broad weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel 6 1/2 lbs. Good Samaritan, broad weighed 7 lbs 3 oz; burned fuel 7 1/2 pounds. Cotton Plant, Levi & Navra, broad weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned fuel 7 1/2 lbs. Buck's Brilliant, Buck & Wright, broad weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned fuel, 5 1/2 lbs. At the conclusion of the trial, the broad was taken charge of by the Award Committee and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it was all eaten by them, in accordance with their duty, and the gold medal awarded for best wood stove to Buck & Wright, of St. Louis, honorable mention being made of the Peersless, Campman & Co.—New Orleans Times, Jan. 16, 1896 & 17—1m & 70-1

SMITH BRO'S. 1850. 1868.

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