

Kentucky Riflemen.

The renown which Kentucky riflemen have obtained for precision and skill in handling the rifle has become world wide, and excited the attention and wonder of the warriors of other nations. In battle they have stood as cool and collected, altho the first time in action, as the oldest veterans in Europe; pouring in their deadly fire with unerring aim.

"I shot that officer," exclaimed a rifleman as he saw an officer fall at New Orleans.

"I shot him in the right eye," replied the rifleman.

"And I shot him in the left eye," was the response.

After the battle, it was found that the officer, had been shot in both eyes. The unerring precision can only be obtained by long practice and thorough drilling.

At the first settlement of the State, they were compelled to be constantly under arms, as it were, to guard against the wild Indian and the murderous tomahawk. As the father, so the children grew up, taught in the earliest infancy possible, to poise the rifle and direct its aim. As ammunition was not always convenient to be had, the father would dole out to his son a certain number of cartridges for his rifle, for each of which he must bring home some sort of game, or get a taste of hickory for every missing shot.

Many years ago I was conversing with my father on the wonderful skill of the Kentuckians, when he related the following anecdote:—

I was out in the wilds of Kentucky some years before the war, on a surveying expedition, and had an opportunity of studying the character of the earlier settlers for a considerable length of time. It became necessary for me to stop a few days at a long tavern, and to while away the time I took my rifle and explored the woods for game, of which there was an abundance.

The landlord had a little son, about ten years of age, who accompanied me with his rifle, and always had extremely good luck. On one occasion the fates seemed adverse to him, for, perceiving a squirrel on a very high branch of a tree, he up with his rifle and blazed away, and down came the squirrel. The look of dismay with which he viewed the game, I shall never forget. Dropping the butt of his rifle on the ground, he burst into tears. In the utmost surprise, I inquired what the matter was. He answered—

"Daddy'll lick me."

"Lick you!—what for?"

"Because I didn't hit him in the head."

I soothed him all I could, but the day's pleasure was over. On returning to the tavern I interceded for him all in my power to save him from the hickory, but it was of no use; the application must be made, if only for example.

"No, no, stranger; if I let him off I break a standing rule of our State. I was never let off, and what was good for me is good for him. He must shoot right or put up with what he gets."

The hickory was applied, but no bones were broken. Such training as that, which was universal in those parts, tells the secret of Kentucky rifle shooting.

ELECTRICITY APPLIED TO CLOCKS.—We witnessed a few days since the operations of Hall's patent electric clocks, manufactured by and now running at the establishment of Messrs Charles T. & J. N. Chester. These clocks are designed to be all connected with and controlled by an accurate regulating clock, keeping perfect meridian time.

The beats of all the electric clocks connected with the regulator which we saw were in perfect unison, and the hands moved together as if they were but one set and one dial. It made no difference whether these clocks were near together or some distance apart; all registered the same second of time. The arrangement of these time pieces are as follows: One wheel of the regulating clock is made to revolve each minute—and the pendulum is of such length as to beat seconds.

The pinion of this wheel carries another wheel whose periphery is made of thirty pieces of ivory and thirty pieces of brass alternating with each other. On this periphery rests a conducting wire, and the wheel itself is made part of the conducting circuit. This circuit is composed of a galvanic battery, a wire like that used by the telegraph companies, and it takes in each and every electric clock.

As the circuit wheel revolves, it first brings brass, then ivory, against the conducting wire; one second brass, the next second ivory. When the brass segment touches the wire then the circuit is "closed," the galvanic battery comes into action and the telegraph wire charged, and the magnets in each clock working at the same instant by the electricity thus brought to bear upon them, act upon an escapement of peculiar construction which moves the second hand one second.—Every time the circuit is "broken" the same movement takes place within the electric clocks—that is, the hand moves one second. Thus one revolution of the circuit wheel in the regulating clock closes the circuit thirty times and breaks the circuit thirty times, and the "break" or "close" of the circuit advances the hands of the electric clocks one second.

The circuit wheel of the regulator and the second hands of the electric clocks move precisely together. The breaking and closing taking place so evenly and slowly, no difficulty is experienced in making a great number of clocks work all precisely together. It is a very ingenious arrangement.—[Life Illustrated.

THE EVIL OF THE AGE.—Amplification is the abounding sin of the day—the curse of official productions—the lethe that drowns the press, the bar, the hustings, the bench, the pulpit, the legislative halls. This evil is well hit off in a fine article—Cockburne's Memorials—in a recent North British Review: "Year after year there appear bulky tomes from London, New York and Edin-

burg, containing more printed matter than was sufficient previously for centuries of legislation, in which, in the smallest possible type, the bit of gold is beaten so very fine that it sometimes becomes invisible.

Of course, the only escape from this ponderous mass is that of passing it by. Except the unhappy reporters, there was never a human creature who traveled it through. A slave, convicted of murder, was offered the alternative of either reading from beginning to end Guicciardini's History of the Wars in Italy, or the galleys. He stood in suspense only for a moment—he took the latter. An alternative equally frightful might have been put to him had the modern publication of legal reports been at the time in existence.

It is not merely the length, but the number and variety of judicial opinions—the result of the crudest as of the maturest thought—which unsettle the law and imperil every decision when it afterwards comes to be reviewed. The Supreme Court decisions of Alabama are numerous and ponderous enough to fill one with a desire to enjoy the galleys in preference to being compelled to read them all!—[Huntsville Advocate.

THE FORM AND USES OF PAPER.—Light, soft and fleecy as snow, paper protects the finest cutlery; pressed into the form of a roller, it becomes as hard metal, and turned in a lathe, is used as an instrument for manufacturing paper its like. It is a package for the common wares, and a thin slip of it pays for an estate or a cargo of the richest merchandise. It now constitutes the chief money of the world. The bulk of all commerce is carried on by its means. All the wealth of the opulent classes consists of bits of paper.

Preserving the impressions of priceless skill, jealously guarded in portfolios, or surrounded with rich frames, it is among the most valued possessions of the man of genius; at the same time it is proverbially the cheapest of all materials. Playing cards, trays of all kinds, drinking vessels, boxes, moldings and cornices for rooms, panels for apartments, and bulkheads for ships are all made of paper. It covers our walls, and boards for binding books, frames for pictures, toys for children, ornaments for boudoirs, are amongst the few of the countless uses to which ingenuity has applied old rags.

Perhaps the most singular part of the whole is, that paper is made from articles which have no value except as materials for its manufacture.—The vilest refuse—our cast-off garments, the beggar's rags, the waste of cotton, worn out ropes, all of which we should be troubled to dispense of—is converted by the paper maker into an article indispensable to civilized man.

BLUE STOCKINGS.—In the days of Dr. Johnson a number of ladies formed themselves into a sort of club for the purpose of holding occasional meetings, at which they might converse with distinguished literary men. One of the most eminent of the gentlemen who attended the meetings always wore blue stockings and he was so distinguished for his conversational powers that the remark became common—"We can do nothing without Blue Stockings."

Thus the meeting came to be called the "Blue stocking Club, and the title of "Blue Stocking" was applied to the ladies who attended them. The term was then considered highly complimentary to those to whom it was addressed.

Of late years, however, the term blue stocking has somewhat fallen into reproach. Instead of being applied as at first, to ladies generally of intellectual worth, it is now considered to belong especially to those who devote themselves entirely to literary pursuits, to the sacrifice of all other employments—to ladies who make literature the one idea of their minds. A lady may be literary and intellectual, without being a "blue."

FACTS AND FIGURES.—The Czar of all the Russias, as part of the ceremonies of his coronation, gave a dinner at the gates of Moscow, to 200,000 peasants. The following was the bill of fare on the occasion: "240 sheep roasted whole, 480 tarts, 28,800 litres of broth, 480 dishes of jelly, 7,200 fowls, 1,000 turkeys, 1,000 ducks, 24,000 loaves of white bread, 9,600 loaves of brown bread, 9,600 hams, 46,000 apples, 46,000 pears, 46,000 plums, 4,000 pails of beer, 4,000 pails of mead, 2,800 pails of white and red wine. At the head of every table there was a sheep roasted whole, the horns gilt, and the nose tipped with silver. All the fruits were hung upon Christmas trees."

This has a look of plenty; but apply the arithmetic, and divide the food by the eaters, and it will be seen the plenty is all in the look, and that there was hardly a bite to an individual. An English paper, commenting, says that a fat Leicester wether would be but a meager meal for 50 men, and so 240 such wethers would only feed 10,000 men. This furnished a test of the liberality of the Imperial feast. Luckily the Czar's subjects are, most of them, accustomed to vegetable diet, we suppose.

FRENCHMEN.—France is the most easily governed country that can be pointed out. We have the reputation of being headstrong, capricious, and I know not what besides; but this is a calumny. The Frenchman is a sheep, but intelligent and witty, who goes withersoever he is led. If the pasturage is not to his liking, he grumbles, but sings. The shepherd, delighted at having such a tractable flock, rubs his hands, and says with Mazarin: "He sings—he is therefore content; he will pay me, and give me his wool." The shepherd then slumbers in fatal security; he every day pens up his flock more and more closely, until at length the sheep revolt and become furious. Adieu, shepherd! adieu, crook!

The shepherd and his friends hold council together, and they say, "Intelligent sheep! dear comrades! you are right—here is fresh and tender grass for you! You want liberty—here it is!—You want rights—here they are! Calm yourselves, my dear little sheep." And the sheep reply, "It is too late!" It was too late for Charles

X in 1830, and it was also too late for Louis Philippe in 1848! All these historical lessons, so clearly bring forward the character of the French sheep, that henceforward it cannot be mistaken.—[Paris Siecle.

"A LADY."—The word "lady" is an abbreviation of the Saxon Laffday, which signifies bread-giver. The mistress of a manor, at a time when affluent families resided constantly at their country mansions, was accustomed, once a week, or oftener, to distribute among the poor a quantity of bread. She bestowed the boon with her own hand, and made the hearts of the needy glad by the soft words and the gentle amenities which accompanied her benevolence.

The widow and orphan "rose up and called her blessed"—the destitute and the afflicted recounted her praises—all classes of the poor embalm her in their affections as the Laffday—the giver of bread and dispenser of comfort—a sort of ministering angel in a world of sorrow. Who is a lady now? Is it she who spends her days in self-indulgence, and her nights in dissipation and folly? Is it she who rivals the gayety of the butterfly, but hates the industrious hum of the "busy bee?"

Is it she who wastes on gaudy finery what would make many a widow's heart sing with joy, and who, when the rags of the orphan flutter about her in the wind, sighs for a place of refuge, as if the pestilence were in the breeze? This may be "a woman of fashion"—she may be an admired and admiring follower of the gay world.

TO YOUNG MEN.—Young man! save that penny—pick up that pin—let that account be correct to a farthing—find out what that bit of ribbon costs, before you say you will take it—pay that half dime your friend handed you to make change with—in a word, be accurate, know what you are doing—be honest, and then be generous, for all you have or acquire thus belongs to you by every rule of right, and you may put it to any good use you please. It is not miserly to save a pin from loss.

It is not selfish to be correct in your dealings. It is not small to know the price of articles you are about to purchase, or to remember the little debt you owe. What if you do meet Bill Pride decked out in a much better suit than yours, the price of which he has not yet learned from his tailor, and who laughs at your faded dress and old-fashioned notions of honesty and right, your day will come. Franklin, who from a penny-saving boy, walking the streets with a loaf of bread under his arm, became the companion of kings.

A MORAL AND EXAMPLE.—"Listen," said I, "listen, and you shall have a moral and example.—When the wasp now in the window entered the room, you flew at it with all kinds of violence. I wonder it didn't sting every one of you. Now, in future, let a wasp alone when it comes to have its little bout, and make its little noise."

Don't stir a muscle—don't move a lip—be quiet as the statue of Venus or Diana, or anybody of that sort, until the wasp seems inclined, as at this moment, to settle. Then do as I do now." Whereupon, dipping the feather end of a pen in the cruet of salad oil, I approached the wasp, and in the softest and tenderest manner possible, just oiled it upon the body—the black and yellow—like a green waistcoat, when down it fell, turned upon its back, and was dead in a minute.

"There, girls," said I, "see what kindness and a little oil does. Now, here's my moral and example. When a husband comes home in an ill humor, don't cry out and fly at him, but try a little oil—in fact, treat your husband like a wasp."

THE NEW KEY.—"Aunt," said a little girl, "I believe I have found a new key to unlock people's hearts and make them so willing; for you know, aunt, God took my father, and they want people to be kind to their poor little daughter."

"What is the key?" asked aunt.

"It's only one little word—guess what?"

"But aunt was no guesser."

"It is please," said the child; "aunt, it is please. If I ask one of the great girls in school, 'Please show me my parsing lesson?' she says, 'O, yes,' and helps me. If I ask, 'Sarah, please do this for me?' no matter, she'll take her hands out of the suds. If I ask, 'Uncle, please,' he says, 'Yes, puss, if I can,' and if I say, 'Please, aunt,'—"

"What does aunt do?" asked aunt herself.

"O, you look and smile just like mother, and that is best of all," cried the little girl, throwing her arms around aunt's neck, with a tear in her eye.

Perhaps other children will like to know about this key; and I hope they will use it also; for there is great power in the small, kind courtesies of life.

A SINGULAR FISH.—A small fish with four legs was caught in the harbor by a native last Monday morning, which is certainly the most singular specimen of natural history we have ever observed. It is a little larger than a frog, about three inches long, and its feet, which are evidently used for walking on the bottom of the sea or for swimming, are webbed like a duck foot or perhaps seal. In shape it resembles the short sun-fish pictured in natural histories, and has two teeth quite prominent. It has a dorsal fin and also a tail.

Its color is dark brown with spots. We have noticed in the United States papers that Prof. Agassiz has lately received from the California coast a fish with four legs. As no description of that is given, we can form no idea whether this resembles that one. It can be seen at Dr. Judd's drug store.—[Honolulu paper.

MUTUAL FORBEARANCE.—That house will be kept in a turmoil where there is not toleration of each other's errors, no lenity shown to failings, no meek submission to injuries, no soft answer to turn away wrath. If you lay a single stick of wood in the grate, and apply fire to it, it will go out; put on another, and they will burn; and a

half dozen and you will have a blaze. There are other fires subject to the same conditions.

If one member of a family gets into a passion, and is let alone, he will cool down and possibly be ashamed and repent. But oppose temper to temper; pile on the fuel; draw in others of the group, and let one harsh answer be followed by another, and there will soon be a blaze, which will envelop them all in its burning heat.

TRANSFER OF THE HERMITAGE TO THE UNITED STATES.—The Legislature of Tennessee at its last session passed an act authorizing the Governor of that State to purchase five hundred acres of the Hermitage, including the mansion of Gen. Jackson and the tomb where now repose the remains of the illustrious hero and patriot and those of his beloved wife, and to make a tender of the same to the general government, provided a branch of the Military Academy should be established at that place. In pursuance of this act Governor Johnson purchased the Hermitage for the sum of forty-eight thousand dollars, and on Wednesday arrived at Washington and made a formal tender of the property, with the condition annexed, to the President. The President, in reply, stated that this offer by the State of Tennessee would be promptly communicated by him to Congress.

GRAMMAR.—"Jim, did you ever study grammar?"

"I did."

"What case is Squire X—?"

"He's an objective case."

"How so?"

"Because he objected to paying his subscription, which he has been owing for five years or more."

"What is a noun?"

"I don't know; but I know what a renoun is."

"Well, what is it?"

"Running off without paying the printer, and getting on the black list as a delinquent."

"Good! What is a conjunction?"

"A method of collecting outstanding subscriptions, in conjunction with a constable; never employed by printers until the last extremity."

LOTTERIES.—The Providence "Journal" is publishing a history of lotteries in Rhode Island, from which it appears that there was scarcely a church or religious society in the State which did not at some period of its existence, derive advantage from them, however shocking it may now appear.—Some societies built their churches with money raised through lottery grants, others received assistance after their own means had been exhausted, while others merely used the money so raised to build steeples, "which would tend greatly to the ornament of the town," where the steeples churches stood, to set up clocks "for the great convenience of the market people," or otherwise expend it in similar superfluities.—[Woman's Advocate.

THE PROGRESSION OF CORONATIONS.—Now that the new Czar's coronation is over, malignant people are exclaiming against its extravagance. The mathematical amuse themselves by discovering that the cost of Russian coronations has increased in quintuple geometrical progression since the time of Paul. The figures stand:

Paul.....	silver roubles	120,000	\$90,000
Alexander I.....	silver roubles	663,000	450,000
Nicholas.....	silver roubles	3,000,000	2,250,000
Alexander II.....	silver roubles	15,000,000	11,250,000

It was very fortunate for the Russian people that Nicholas lived so long, and long life will be still more desirable in the present Czar, if the next coronation is to carry on the progression, and cost \$50,000,000.

THE FEMALE LOBBY AT WASHINGTON.—The female lobby is now in full strength. There are probably more pretty women in Washington at the present time than at any previous period during the present Congress. There is much to do, and but little time to do it in; hoops, flounces, and other fixings are therefore as busy as a certain familiar but nameless person is said to be in a gale of wind. Many of the members are extremely bothered in their devotion to the fair lobbyists and their fear of the New York Herald.—The struggle is an amusing one, and whether petticoats or public opinion will ultimately prevail it is hard to say. For the credit of our representatives, it is to be hoped that duty will assert her prerogative.—N. Y. Herald.

A GOOD WEATHER ANECDOTE.—Among the many sharp things in Porter's Spirit, is the following, which, considering the present cold spell of weather, is about as sharp as need be:

A heavy fire having occurred in Cleveland, a safe manufacturing firm in New York wrote to one of the sufferers from the fire to ascertain how one of their safes had stood the scorching. The proprietor wrote back that the safe was "safe"—that it was wonderful, one of the clerks placed a Shanghai rooster in the safe for safe keeping. In the morning the safe was dug out red hot, opened, and the rooster found leaning up against the ledger frozen to death!

A NARROW ESCAPE.—In the Criminal Court of Louisville, a man named Burns was arraigned for stealing. His counsel pleaded guilty for him, and then the accused made a statement to the jury.—From this it became evident that he was not guilty, but had actually no complicity in the crime. The Judge requested him to withdraw his plea, which he did, and the examination having been had, the jury acquitted him.

Prisoners would do well to beware how they allow lawyers to enter pleas for them.

JOHN ADAMS was at one time called upon by some one to contribute to foreign missions, when he abruptly answered: "I have nothing to give for that purpose, but there are here in the vicinity six ministers, not one of whom will preach in each other's pulpit. Now, I will contribute as much and more than any one else to civilize these six clergymen."