

DROOP NOT UPON YOUR WAY.

Ho! ye who start a noble scheme,
For general good designed;
Ye workers in a cause that tends
To benefit your kind!
Mark out the path ye fain would tread,
The game ye mean to play;
And if it be an honest one,
Keep steadfast on your way!

Although you may not gain at once
The points ye most desire;
Be patient—time can wonders work,
Plod on, and do not tire;
Obstructions, too, may crowd your path,
In threatening, stern array,
Yet blinch not! fear not! they may prove
Mere shadows in your way.

Then, while there's work for you to do,
Stand not despairing by,
Let "forward" be the move ye make,
Let "onward" be your cry;
And when success has crowned your plans,
'Twill all your pains repay,
To see the good your labor's done—
Then DROOP NOT on your way!

BREVITIES.

It is said, and perhaps with truth, that the only time a woman doesn't find much diversion in a looking-glass is when she's crawling into a dentist's chair to have a tooth drawn.

Said the German scholar Niebuhr: "A bad handwriting ought not to be forgiven; indeed, sending a badly written letter to a fellow creature is as impudent an act as I know of."

"Remember, Mrs. B——," said Bogus, in a fluster, one day, "that you are the weaker vessel." "May be so," retorted the lady, "but I'll not forget that the weaker vessel may have the strongest spirit in it."

Talleyrand once complained that the English had thirty-nine religions and only one sauce, which evoked the retort from a witty Englishman, "And the French have thirty-nine sauces and no religion."

"What is that I smell?" screamed the preacher, as the gentle aroma caused by the breaking of Deacon Bimby's pint flask in his pocket diffused itself around. "It's liquid death floating in the air; its the deadly forerunner of sheep-shearing time," added the preacher, and then he collapsed.

The clear, ringing notes of a woman's voice, and at intervals, beseechingly, the piteous exclamations of a man: "Don't do that, don't do that," also the explanation of the neighbor across the way, speaking to a friend, "They're having a spelling match over there—I often hear 'em—the old woman's got one of her bad spells"—only this and nothing more.

This is how Mary Kyle Dallas says it feels: "Take a man and pin three or four large table cloths about him, fastened back with elastic and looped up with ribbons; drag all his hair to the middle of his head and tie it tight, and hair pin on about five pounds of other hair and a big bow of ribbon. Keep the front locks on pins all night and let them tickle his eyes all day; pinch his waist into a corset, and give him gloves a size too small, and shoes ditto, and a hat that will not stay on without a torturing elastic, and a frill to tickle his chin, and a little lace veil to blind his eyes whenever he goes out to walk, and he will know what woman's dress is."

In the civil rights case in the United States district court in Galveston, Texas, June 1, against Manager Greenwald of the opera house, the judge decided that the demurrer be sustained and the indictment quashed on the ground of the act being unconstitutional and the indictment not alleging that the complainant was a citizen of the United States. It is thought that other cases will be decided in a similar manner.

The Church Journal (Episcopal) makes this startling statement: "Is it an exaggeration to say that the professed churchmen of a city like New York, the people who kneel at our altars, spend more on their wines than on their religion? We believe that the statement is far within the truth. Their amusements cost them far more than their churches. Their luxuries receive their dollars; their charities carefully count their pennies!"

BURGLARS IN TOWN.

TERRIBLE ENCOUNTER IN THE DARK.

On Monday night last, one of our citizens, whom we will call Mr. Pepper, for the purposes of this narration, was slumbering. "The dreamy hours away," when he was suddenly aroused by Mrs. Pepper, who grasped his left arm with an earthquake convulsion, and hissed through her teeth, "Pepper, Pepper, there are burglars in the house." "What? where?" ejaculated the stupefied man, as he jumped up in bed and rolled his eyes around wildly in the dark. "Hush, hush, you fool, you," hissed Mrs. P., "You will reveal our whereabouts, and we shall be murdered." "Murdered! yes, there'll be a first-class funeral in the house of that villain if I get hold of him," shouted Mr. Pepper in the ears of Mrs. P., as he bounded from the bed and started on the war path. He seized his revolver lying upon the table, and started for the dining-room, whence the burglarious sounds proceeded. Mr. Pepper had advanced but a few paces in the lark darkness, when he stopped to listen and learn in what part of the room the burglar was located. As he suddenly halted, the tick of the clock was mistaken for the cocking of a revolver, and he wheeled and fired in the direction from which the sound came. The light and flash revealed the time piece in a state of ruin; the unerring ball had done its certain work; and springs and brass wheels strewn the floor. Mr. Pepper became excited, and jumped forward with hasty step to drive the villain from his house. He unfortunately struck the hearth of the stove, raking several inches of skin and flesh from his shins, and throwing him with great force upon the Boston rocker near by, over which he turned a double summersault, the chair following suit rapidly, first becoming the assailant, and then the assailed. While this was taking place Mrs. P., who supposed from the noise that her husband was getting the worst of it, in a death struggle with the thief, armed herself with a hatchet and sailed in. As she advanced to the scene of action guided by the groans and grating of the teeth of her enraged husband, she raised her weapon, and, as he rolled over for the last time, freed himself from the coils of the chair, delivered a heavy blow upon the head of what he supposed to be the intruder. Instantly Mr. Pepper, who, now in his own mind, was sure of his victim, sprang to his feet and struck out wildly to the right and left, in the dark. The first blow, struck in the mouth, scattered false teeth in every direction; the next, delivered with great energy, brought his victim low. On striking a light, he called loudly for Mrs. Pepper, whom he supposed was still in the bedroom. Imagine his consternation at beholding his beloved spouse stretched upon the floor. Her false teeth were "gone where the woodbine twined"; her right eye in full mourning, with a partial eclipse of the left, while a gentle Niagara of claret flowed from her expanded nostrils.

Near the Boston rocker lay his wig, glued to the floor with the blood which followed in the hatchet's tracks, and his bleeding and denuded shins, which looked like slippery elm saplings with the bark peeled off, attested the energy with which he rushed into the conflict, while, beneath the table, with back bristling with defiance, and eyes reflecting the hues of the rainbow, sat the burglar—a huge THOMAS CAT! Sufficient to say, there is mourning in the house of Pepper.

MORAL:—Turn the cat out of the house before retiring, and cultivate less pepper in your dispositions.—*Colorado Springs Free Press, June 5.*

The Origin of Gold Nuggets.

The mode in which the large masses of gold called "nuggets" were formed has long puzzled philosophers. They are found in the loose earth and gravel of alluvial deposits, and it is the general opinion that these deposits are formed by the wearing away of mountains containing veins of the metal. They are in fact solid ores ground up to sand and gravel by natural agencies. But it is a noticeable fact that large nuggets have never

been found in veins. Much as the latter have been explored, uncovering many thousand miles of their length, they have never yielded masses of gold which approached in size the largest yielded by the "placers." The true origin of these nuggets has attracted more attention in Australia and New Zealand than in our own country, and within a few years a line of experiments has been pursued which affords good reason for believing that a more correct theory of the origin of nuggets has been found. The first point established was the solubility of the sulphide of gold in alkaline solutions. As subterranean waters contain both the sulphuretted hydrogen necessary for the formation of the sulphide and the alkali necessary for its solution, we have, in the thermal veins, the necessary materials for the solution of the metal. This part of the discovery was convincingly sustained by Sonstadt's discovery, that the water of the ocean contains gold to the amount of somewhat less than one grain to the ton. Trifling as this proportion is, we have only to assume a uniform strength for the waters of all the oceans, to have a reservoir of bullion containing more metal than all which man has extracted from the earth. There is little doubt that even this weak solution will some day be utilized as a source of gold. The immensity of the quantity thus dissolved in sea water is a proof that the work of solution has gone on for an inconceivable length of time.

The solubility of the metal in water being thus proved, it is next in order to consider how it can be deposited, and the second startling announcement in this series of gold growth, is that they increase by accretion. Several modes of precipitation were suggested, by organic matter, by sulphate of iron, and by pyrite, a mineral containing sulphur and iron in nearly equal parts. Experiment proves that this last substance has the power not only of precipitating the dissolved gold, but also of exerting a nuclear action, by means of which the fresh portions of precipitated metal adhere to that which has already been formed, instead of being disseminated in a powder, as happens when sulphate of iron or organic matter has been the reagent. Pyrite is a very common mineral, and is an almost invariable constituent of vein matter. The soil of all the gold-bearing strata contains large quantities of it in form of sand and gravel, the result of the comminution of solid deposits. If we conceive a stream of weak gold solution flowing constantly through a layer of loose earth which contains nuggets of pyrite, we have the condition of things which it is supposed obtained in the strata where the masses of gold are now found. In such a state of affairs the nodules of pyrite would first reduce minute spangles of gold, which would adhere to the pyrite, and gradually increase by successive depositions, until a continuous film of some size is formed, and a voltaic pair is constituted, of which the pyrite forms the positive and the gold the negative element. The deposition of gold now goes on precisely as in an electroplating bath, a constant and orderly increase of the thickness of the gold plate taking place until the mass of pyrite is oxidized and its acidulating power expended. The amount of gold which any given mass of pyrite may precipitate before exhaustion is easily calculated, and it is found that the largest known nuggets may have resulted from the action of comparatively small pieces of pyrite. Thus the "Welcome" nugget, which weighed 152 pounds, required no more than a twelve-pound lump of pyrite for its formation, and lumps of this size are extremely common.

The formation of the large nuggets having been traced, with so much probability, to chemical action in the place where they are found rather than to a vein origin, it remains to consider whether the fine gold of the "placers" is also due to this chemical action, or whether that has been obtained by the breaking up of veins. Just as the fact that large nuggets have never been found in veins was almost conclusive proof of a different origin for them, so a difference in composition is equally significant of the origin of placer gold. Vein gold is never so pure as that found in the gravel. It contains very much more silver, and this is ascribed to the fact that silver is not so readily precipitated by pyrite

from acid solutions as from alkaline. The subterranean alkaline and sulphurous water holds both gold and silver in solution, and so long as the water is retained in the earth its alkalinity is preserved, so that the precipitation of the two metals goes on with equal thoroughness and rapidity in veins. But when the water reaches the atmosphere its character changes gradually by the oxidation of its own constituents, and by the solution of organic and mineral acids. It steadily loses alkali and becomes acid, in which condition only the gold is precipitated. This would account for the greater purity of surface gold, and this leads to the supposition that the gold of placers is mostly formed *in situ* by precipitation. Such are the conclusions of Mr. Skey, analyst to the New Zealand Geological Survey. The behavior of pyrite towards solutions containing both gold and silver confirms Mr. Skey in the impression that it is to this mineral that we are to look as the principal agent in the formation of nuggets. From such solutions, when alkaline, a coherent alloy can be precipitated either by pyrite or by voltaic action. Any of the alkalies or alkaline earths form a sufficiently alkaline solution, even in the presence of a large proportion of silica, which is only feebly acid. Alkalinity is the normal condition of surface waters, a proposition which is not negated by the acidity of mine waters, since these are the product of the artificial exposure of pyrites to oxidation.—*Ex.*

CRIMES OF CUPIDITY.

All sorts of crime are still common, including those the brutality of which is not surpassed by the deeds of a more barbarous age; but it seems to be true that crimes growing out of what M. Bonneville de Marsangy calls the unbridled passion for money and material pleasures are increasing with greater rapidity than others. M. Marsangy's communication to the Detroit meeting of the Social Science Association declares that they take the character of a wave which for twenty years past has been rising, and now threatens to engulf everything. He proclaims the urgency of "reconstituting the holy alliance between labor, fortune and virtue."

The special purpose of M. Marsangy's paper is to advocate the application of a new principle in the methods employed for the repression of crime, namely, the principle of requiring malefactors to reimburse both the individual and the society whom they have wronged. His theory is that crime proceeds in an increasing proportion from cupidity, wherefore punishment should involve a privation which would operate directly upon that passion. The loss of liberty is less effectual than the loss of property to discourage a predatory inclination.

The proposition is neither entirely new, nor in our opinion capable of exercising the almost unlimited power of repression which M. Marsangy's language supposes it to contain. It appeals, however, to a strict sense of justice. It is quite true that the incendiary who has destroyed property, and the thief who has stolen and squandered it, ought if possible to make good the loss and damage they have caused. The main difficulty lies in accomplishing this object. Blood cannot be extracted from turnips, and thieves are generally destitute of the ability to respond to a pecuniary demand of this kind. M. Marsangy's eagerness to meet and demolish this obstacle, and his triumphant air in contemplation of his success, are calculated to diminish confidence in the practical character of his mind. He admits the pecuniary difficulty, but avoids it by proposing that the convict shall pay his fine by labor. Very well. Perhaps convict labor is remunerative in France, and therefore in that country it might be possible for the debt to be discharged in this manner. In this country, however, the cases are comparatively few in which the convict earns the bare cost of his subsistence and custody. The Albany and Detroit penitentiaries, and here and there a State Prison, pay their own expenses and something over; but in the majority of prisons a sentence of confinement until the convict had repaid by his labor a very few hundred dollars only, would amount to imprisonment for life. If it is answered that the prisoner might be set free to earn his fine,

it would be necessary to reply that the same reasons which render it impracticable to copy the English ticket-of-leave system, or habitual criminals law here, would likewise apply in this case. The country is too large, and the police system too feeble, to retain a hold upon criminal debtors outside of prison walls. Within their labor is too generally unproductive; without, they would snap their fingers at all attempts to enforce a fine or any other penalty.

We regret to conclude, without further discussion, that so admirable a principle, which we should be glad to see put in practice as far as possible, is incapable of immediate general application, and that the ingenuity of philanthropists and statesmen must be further taxed to find any important additions to the existing means of staying the tide of crime.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

Grasshoppers as Food.

It has been suggested, perhaps mainly in jest, that the people inhabiting the grasshopper-infested States might solve the problem by eating their unwelcome visitors. There is a certain prejudice against insects as articles of diet, and no doubt it would be very hard to remove this prejudice. But nothing can be more certain than that locusts are perfectly wholesome food, and that they are quite as palatable as most edible birds and fish. People who eat prawns and shrimps, together with shell fish such as are commonly seen in the eastern markets, have no rational ground of objection to grasshoppers. The latter are emphatically clean feeders, which crabs and lobsters, periwinkles and clams are not. Crabs and lobsters, in fact all kinds of fish, will feed upon carrion, while the locust confines himself to a strictly vegetable diet. Moreover, locust have been eaten in eastern countries from time immemorial, and are eaten in this country by several tribes of Indians. Many travelers, too, have tasted them, and as far as our observation goes all agree in declaring that the flesh is well flavored, and resembles chicken. Prawns are esteemed a delicacy, yet the flesh of the prawn cannot be as fine as that of the locust. Why does not some enterprising Yankee put up works in the grasshopper districts, catch a few millions of the creatures, prepare and put them up in cans? The venture might prove successful and if once a "fashion of eating locusts set in, the Kansas and Nebraska farmers would find grasshoppers crops more profitable than corn.—*Sacramento Record-Union.*

EATING GRASSHOPPERS.—There is an article now going the rounds of the press, headed "Grasshoppers as Food," anent which I have something to say. In South Africa the grasshopper (locust) is eaten by every living thing, from lions down to domestic cattle, and from the asvagai (a species of eagle) down to the most diminutive birds. No does man disdain this article of food; the natives will follow a flight of locusts for days, and become rolling fat, if they can follow them long enough. Some of the tribes roast them in the ashes of the camp fire, but those possessing a greater degree of intelligence have a more intricate *modus operandi*. After the hoppers are killed they put them in a dry frying pan and parch them as we do popcorn, until they are crisp and brown, they are then ground to a powder in the ordinary wooden mortar used in that country, and made into very palatable and nutritious cakes. For a period of two months during which I was detained, by fever, a native Kraal, about twelve hours ride to the north of the Transvaal Republic, these cakes, with wild honey—like St. John's—formed almost my entire food, yet on the diet, without medicines or medical attendance, I recovered from a severe fever that is almost invariably fatal to Europeans.—*L. W. Cincinnati Times.*

Cholera in India is much worse this year than usual.

A Chicago temperance co-operative store has just declared a dividend of ten per cent.

There is one advantage gained by hot weather; very few preachers have strength to preach more than one hour at a time.—*Ex.*