

THE EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, December 10, 1870

CURIOS ITEM OF HISTORY.

Now that an effort is making, and with some appearance of success, to introduce into fashionable society the traditional blue dress coat with brass buttons, it may be interesting to note the peculiar history of the buttons, in which consists the special feature of the garment in question.

These buttons were originally an important article of Birmingham manufacture, and a century ago gilt buttons of small size were made there, after which, just before the beginning of the present century, very large and costly buttons, with ornamental devices, became fashionable, and being a decided success in the way of trade, afforded employment to many operatives and profit to many manufacturers during the quarter of a century in which their popularity continued. About the year 1825, the introduction of covered buttons of somewhat the same nature as those now in common use, superseded the metallic ones. The discomfited manufacturers, finding their occupation gone, concluded upon a *coup-de-main*, whereby they might retrieve their broken trade, and forthwith, armed with many elaborate sets of beautiful, bright buttons, forced their way to the foot of the throne, and, tendering their brilliant gifts, besought the King (George IV.), to pity their misfortune and revive their trade by wearing them. The experiment was successful, and many of the nobility also accepted and wore the proffered buttons. The button-makers, however, had but a short-lived triumph, for some of their own people invented or introduced a cheap method of gilding, which, being very beautiful at first, tarnished so soon that in a fortnight's use the beauty would entirely disappear, and thus the fashion was ruined, so that by 1840 the gilt metal buttons had passed entirely out of use.

This is a story not without a moral, and the trade has been down so decidedly since that, in spite of many attempts to revive it in England, the sympathies of Prince Albert having once been assailed and the influence of the press enlisted in its behalf, it has as yet been impossible to galvanize it into life. The fashion has the example of Webster to assist it, but even with this aid will the present effort succeed? We have an opinion upon the subject that we will not express, but will wait and see.—Ex.

MILK AS FOOD.—It has long been our opinion that the high value of milk as food was not generally appreciated, and the same may be said of the nutritive qualities of products made from milk, like cheese. Why is it that the consumption of cheese is so very small in any New England community, if its high value as food is as well understood.

Milk, where it can be had pure as upon the farm, is not only one of the greatest luxuries, but one of the most highly nutritive articles of food. Dr. O. C. Wiggin, inspector of milk in Providence, says:

"The nutritive value of milk as compared with other kinds of food is not generally appreciated.

The quantity of water in a good quality of milk is 86 per cent.—in a round steak 75 per cent.—in fatted beef 60 per cent.—in eggs 68 per cent.

From analysis made last winter, he goes on to say:

"I estimate sirloin steak (reckoning loss from bone) at 35 cents per pound, as dear as milk at 25 cents a quart; round steak at 20 cents a dear as milk at 14 cents; eggs at 30 cents a dozen as dear as milk at 20 cents a quart. Many laborers who pay 17 cents for corned beef, would consider themselves hardly able to pay 10 cents for milk, when in fact they could as well afford to pay 15 cents."

If the money expended for veal and pork were expended for milk, I doubt not it would be an advantage both to the stomach and pocket especially during the warm season.

Relatively speaking, then, milk at 10 cents, or even 12 cents, a quart is the cheapest animal food that can be used."

AWFUL FROG STORY.—A man named Southworth, living in Warren, Penn., has just ejected from his stem-neck a frog which had been living there for fifteen years! Mr. Southworth has had a great deal of trouble with that frog. It used to begin to croak at the most unseasonable hours. When Southworth would go to church, for instance, the frog would remain silent until the congregation engaged in silent prayer, and then it would set up such a terrific wail that the sexton would rush in and collar Southworth, and drag him out to quiet down in the graveyard. Sometimes the frog would give a nocturnal serenade after Southworth was fast asleep in bed, and then Southworth would rise, as mad as anything, and seize a stomach pump and try to draw the frog up. But the subtle reptile had had that trick played on it too often during those fifteen years, and it always abased up the tube a piece out of the drought, and waited until Southworth exhausted himself. Southworth never fooled that frog a great deal. And when frogs were in season, Southworth used to dash for this one with a fly; but it always refused to rise, and the fly buzzed around so in Southworth's alimentary canal that it nearly tickled Southworth to death. So Southworth had to wait until the other day, when the frog thought it would come up and go and see a friend; and when it did come, Southworth killed it with a fork. He says the frog used to eat twice as much as he did; but we have been thinking it over, and it seems to us the statement must be exaggerated somehow.—Ex.

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10