AN OLD SCHOOL DOCTOR.

Oh, a wee man is my doctor,
And he is wise as wise can serve,
He has a cure for all my ailings
But he cures none but curs.

All unscrubbed is his forehead,
And he wears his long hair curled,
His eyes are blue and shining
And he sees as all the world.

He goes in frosted fashion,
Prim, to suit a dingied town,
He's one they call that parson,
Parson minister courtesy.

When the mudlark dark is falling,
And my home again I am,
Through the lowered gaslit lattice
And his tapping waits for me.

All my wounds he binds up softly,
And he pours in oil and wine,
Drops them with his prayer upon them,
As about my neck they twine.

He gives hope of bright tomorrows,
As he thinks on mine he pays,
Wounds are in all impatience
Cheery grow the darkest days.

Ah, the magic of his healing
Can't be learned by book or rule!
Reserve has taught his little young doctor
Of a very sad, old school.

—William Hathaway Hudson in Good Housekeeping.

Rich Men of the Future.

A leading newspaper, not generally known to be a rich man, died in New York. A lawsuit arose from his will, which distributed great legacies among a score of colleges. The suit was compromised, and the legacies will be paid. Out of the estate of this unknown millionaire nearly $1,000,000 will be given to thirty-five colleges; half a million more will be divided between several hospitals.

It is impossible to estimate the good to students and the sick that these bequests insure for years and years to come. There is no doubt, however, that in general a rich man's money had better be given away before his death than after it.

Many years may pass between the making of a fortune and the carrying out of the maker's will. Besides the useless delay there is the danger that bequests will be diverted from their intended purpose. While a man is alive he can see that his money is spent as he wishes. After his death there is no telling what legal contentions and unforeseen difficulties may bring about.

Money in itself is worth nothing. Its only value lies in what one can do with it. Many young people are going to make fortunes within the next generation or two. If they will devote a share of their wealth while they can still control it to the wise, generous service of their fellow men the value of money will be realized as never before.—Youth's Companion.

He Felt Embarrassed.

A passenger on a Woodward avenue car was trying to crowd out by the front door when an acquaintance stopped him and said:

"You act as if you were making a break."

"So I am," was the reply.

"Who from?"

"Colonel ——, out there."

"One of the nicest old fellows in town."

"Yes, I know. I've just built a new house. He'll ask me all about it, and as he's got a load waiting everybody will hear every word he says."

"But what if they do?"

"Why, hang it, man, he'll ask me what it's mortgaged for the very first pop! Lemme out!"—Detroit Free Press.

Civilizing Influence of Cotn.

That original thinker, Dr. Felix Oswald, writes in The Open Court a paper on cotton that frost and freedom go together. In cold countries men raised wheats with the wild, fierce forces of nature to pet his living. Consequently he is little afraid of things and cannot easily be subjugated. Until the time of the sixty-fifth parallel of latitude is reached the forest peoples are those that live in cold countries. When it becomes so cold that wheat will not grow, then man as a civilized being must yield to a force stronger than his own. Frost is a good thing for freedom, but there is a line where frost is too strong to be fought.

At present the highest civilization is reached in countries that are comparatively cold in climate, and this is not because the warm countries are overpopulated either. It is the result of other laws. Perhaps Dr. Oswald does not lay sufficient stress on race development. There certainly were no free or brave peoples than the ancient Greeks and Romans, or even the inhabitants of India and Egypt, before the days of their degeneracy, but the cold climate offers the best field for the development of the peculiar powers of the Teuton and Anglo-Saxon.

Dr. Oswald also binds that in his view of the case even religion is a matter of climate. Inhabitants of cold countries are natural Protestants, owing to their dislike to rendering obedience to anybody or anything. Dr. Oswald says further:

Hence the latest Protestantism of the north European nations, even the Greek Church was at first of concrete as Italy. The precept of absolute obedience was always tempered by a call on it to have motives more generous, and the divine right of kings is felt to be a thought by men who had hunted and fished in their struggles with cave bears and fearless robbers. "Here is a poor dog going somewhere, who so fast is running? Have allegiance to thousands of state fathers!" Kingcraft was once taken by an Italian priest. "Hate not to time to be a Christian, the citizens of Florida's to be subjective in a minute like mere," said the Italian Dominican, and Henri Rochester is probably right that the cause of never succeed in freeing not the virility of open minds, and that it is impossible that such as a cheap part subsistence, is for ever.

Dinner to Have Left Unsaid.

A friend "thing one would rather not have said" was overheard in a Sixth avenue elevated train the other evening. A man and a woman were discussing Mr. Howells' works, and the latter was reading them. The man asserted that he invariably found something regrettable in any page of them he turned, whereat the woman innocently questioned, "Don't you think that is because he always writes of such commonplace, everyday people and happenings?" When you come to think of it that was rather severe.—New York Times.

Freezing Fruitless of Louisiana.

A curious phenomenon is to be witnessed at the Amos' crevasse, and, indeed, is one of the causes of the great damage it has done. Under any circumstances the water from this crevasse would overflow the rich country lying between it and the gulf of Mexico, causing damage to the amount of several million dollars; but to the surplus of money, not content with running from crevasse and overflowing the country below, it has taken to running apparently up stream.

Some curiosity was felt over this phenomenon, and the case on examination shows it to be due to the peculiar construction—the floating or trembling prairies of southern Louisiana. All along the gulf coast the large border of land floats on the surface of the water. The land is made by fallen timber and grasses. It probably accumulates dirt and becomes in the course of time sufficiently firm to support bushes and even trees, but the soil is only three inches or little less thick, and below it is the water, upon which it floats on account of its lightness. Occasionally pieces of floating prairie are detached and become floating islands.

There are quite a number of these in Salvador, these lands, floating from side to side, being frequently carried at a rapid rate by the breeze, towed by sails to catch the wind. The current from the Amos crevasse has carried these floating islands down stream and been a matter of others from the trembling prairies.—Cor.St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mr. Tilden's Disputed Will.

Two judges have decided in favor of the Tilden will and two judges have decided against it. The case will now be argued before the New York court of appeals, which will finally decide whether New York is to have the $5,000,000 library or whether Tilden's great bequest is to be absorbed by his nephews.

No man doubts that it was Mr. Tilden's purpose and intention to found a great public library with his money. He carefully executed a trust for that purpose, and died in the belief that the bequest was so well guarded that his heirs could not have it set aside by any quibble of the law. And yet a purpose so plain and unmistakable has been defeated twice by two judges, who interpret a law which is described as "the perfection of common sense."

It is this extremely technical interpretation of the laws' provisions on the part of law judges that justifies the pressure of by judges on the bench of New Jersey court. Among the by judges of the New Jersey court of appeals there would not be two opinions regarding the intention of Mr. Tilden in the testament he executed prior to his death. They would unanimously decide in favor of the will. And so, in fact, would our law judges, who have on some notable occasions demonstrated that with them law is, indeed, the perfection of common sense.—Newark Journal.

Costly Litigation.

A case involving seventy-five cents claimed by a man in Toledo to be due him from another Toledoan for one bed has just been appealed from a justice's court in that city to the Lucas common pleas. The plaintiff says he will spend his last dollar to collect the money by process of law, and the defendant says he will sacrifice every cent he has in the fight to resist payment. The result will probably be that the litigants will spend several hundreds, perhaps thousands, of their own money and involve the county in the expenditure of a large sum, all to gratify their personal ill feeling. There ought to be a provision of law covering such petty cases, making the decisions of justices final. It is an outrage on the taxpayers to permit the appeal of such insignificant cases to a higher court, where valuable time is consumed by men that should be devoted to more important matters, and the county is involved in a great expense simply to gratify the personal spite of obstinate litigants.—Sandusky Register.

Spontaneous Homage to an Artist.

A city scene took place on Tuesday at the art exhibition of Bude-Pesth. A competition had been opened for a monument to the Hungarians who fought for freedom in 1848, and nine models are at present being exhibited pending the decision of the jury. Tuesday a fashionable crowd was discussing the merits of the works, when a pretty young lady, following a sudden impulse, took a little bunch of violets from her dress and laid it on the pedestal of one of the models. All the women present crowded round, applauding her choice, and each in turn laid the flower she was wearing on the plaster model, which is the work of a young sculptor named Joseph Kossa. Whether he gains the prize or not he has certainly been distinguished in a very delicate fashion.—Cor. London News.

Miss Parker, Architect.

Miss Minerva Parker, the architect of the Woman's Century club building, in Philadelphia, and the Isabella pavilion of the World's fair, is a slight, willowy young woman with a Madonna face, from which the dark hair is combed back smoothly, and beautiful dark eyes. Nothing in dress or demeanor would indicate that she was an unusual woman or know so much more about Doric arches and Corinthian columns than about fancy work and calm recipes.—Exchange.

Strawberries.

According to tests made at the Ohio experiment station there is about as much difference in strawberries as there is in cows—the one that produces its yield over the longest period gives the best crop and returns the most profit. As a rule, the earliest varieties have the shortest season and yield the lightest crop. The same is true, to a greater extent, with the very late varieties. The medium varieties—neither early nor late—give the biggest yield and best profit. Again, the varieties that ripen their berries in one are not as profitable as those that produce only fruit. Division of labor counts here.

The production of pollen is as much of a task on the plant as the production of fruit. "Give a plant nothing to do but grow and bear fruit and the work will be better done than if an additional task is imposed." This is more observable than it was a generation ago, when the Wilson was in its prime. These rules apply only to the varieties that are generally grown. There are some apparent exceptions, but much valuable time has been lost because these principles have been ignored.—D. D. T. Moore in Independent.

The Race for Enforced Publicity.

Special legislation has attained with less for wider range than it ever had in England, and our problem is complicated in a much more difficult in consequence. Our lobby evils have also grown to much more formidable proportions than those some years ago. Our lobby agents had an almost unrestricted field for growth both in Congress and in our state legislatures since their first appearance in the former in 1790, until they have attained a stage of development extraordinary in the ingenuity and intricacy of its manifestations.

In most cases nowadays the lobby's real work is no longer done in the state house or capital, but in the primaries and nominating conventions at which the men who are to act as the lobby's agents in the legislative body are selected. The lobbyists for their services in made that, their election expenses paid for them, and in instances of the correct compact the people elect them, supposing they are to be the public's servants. Neither is the work of corruption, which may be necessary later, when the members are in session, done directly, as formerly, about the capitol, but indirectly by means of hotels and receptions and in various other forms of personal solicitation carried on in quarters all safely removed from the publicity of the lobby lounges.

In fact, nearly all the most pernicious lobby work at present is done elsewhere than at the state house or capitol, and the only kind of lobbying about it that will be detected, and therefore effective, is the kind which can be found, as Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, suggests, at the earliest of any moment before it is to come up for final passage. If at that point every one concerned in the bill's welfare—author, sponsor, agent, corporation, lobbyist—would be forced under oath to reveal all that he had done for or against it, in and out of the halls of legislation, there would be publicity of considerable value. This, combined with general laws removing all the private and special legislation possible of such classification from the control of legislative bodies, would give us no complaint so England has been freed from lobby evils.—Century.

Testing the Oysters.

A Chicago lady called upon Health Officer Walkenshaw upon a mysterious mission. She brought with her half a dozen fried oysters. "They have been trying to poison me again, doctor," she said, as she laid the oysters before him.

"Oh, no, I guess not," replied the official. "Yes, they have," said the visitor, "but I've outwitted them this time, you see. I have brought the poisoned oysters right to you to be analyzed. There they are."

The doctor agreed quietly with the lady, trying to convince her that she was the victim of an hallucination, but his labors were vain. Realizing the fruitlessness of argument under these circumstances, the doctor chatted pleasantly with his visitor till she became quieter, and then said, "Shall we proceed to the business, or not?"

"Yes, I'm certain of it."

The doctor picked up one of the bivalves, nibbled at it cautiously for a moment, and, with a sigh of satisfaction, slipped it into his mouth.

"My stars! that was good!" he exclaimed, smacking his lips. "Your cook understands his business. That was fit for a king!"

And without more ado the remaining oysters, one after another, went to satisfy the hunger of the health department of the city of Chicago.

There was a long period of silence, broken at last by the woman, who said, very meekly, "Doctor?"

"Yes m."

"I've been a fool. I'm very sorry I'm so, and for the trouble I have caused you."

"I assure you that I am most delighted, madam," politely replied the doctor. "It all my professional analyses were as agreeable and satisfactory as this seems likely to be I should be much better pleased with my position."—Chicago Mail.

Buying His First Silk Hat.

He walked into the big hat store and looked about him timidly. He was rather undersized and it was evident from the manner that he was about to take a very important step in the matter of headgear. He was. His mission was to purchase his first silk hat. It is passing how dainty most men will continue to that step before they take it. The particular person now under discussion thought that he had screwed his courage up to the sticking point, but he hadn't. A clerk approached him and his courage failed him. Three times he made a desperate effort to speak to a dealer, he said. The polite clerk observed several dealers, which the young man hastily tried on.

None of them suited him, of course. Finally he said: "I wonder how a silk hat would become me. Do you think I could wear one?" "Wear one! Of course you could," said the clerk. "We've just like everybody else who buys a silk hat for the first time. They all ask the same questions. They want the silk hat themselves, but they fear that a dealer in the sale of headgear will be the signal for their friends to begin guying them. This feeling wears off after the first day or two, and then you are happy." He bought the silk hat.—New York Times.

A Story of Webster's Daughter.

Mrs. Appleton, of Boston (the daughter of Daniel Webster), was dying after a long illness. The great lawyer, after pleading an important case in the court room, on his way home stopped at the house of his daughter and went into her sick room. She said to him, "Father, why are you out today in this cold weather without an overcoat?" The great lawyer went into the next room, and was in a flood of tears, saying, "Dying herself, yet thinking only of me!" Oh, how much more beautiful is care for others than this overburdening taking care of themselves.—Dr. T. De Witt Talmage in Ladies' Home Journal.

In recent Russian trials to test the adaptability of snow trousers as a guard against an enemy's fire, it was found that a little more than an inch of snow is a perfect protection against bullets fired at 400 paces. Packing the snow and pouring water over it to make a crust of ice was found to keep bullets out when the thickness was only three feet and one-half.

Men Who Have Acted Hamlet.

The last Hamlet of the past twenty years is that of Edwin Booth. Among the greatest impersonators of the character in same days were Betterton, Garrick, John Philip Kemble and Edmund and Charles Kean. Richard Burbage, who was one of the first men to take the part, is said to have pleased his contemporaries, among whom was Shakespeare himself, but, as far as we know, no critical estimate of his powers has come down to our time. Many gained some little distinction in the part, such as Betterton, Garrick, John Philip Kemble and Edmund and Charles Kean, Richard Burbage, who was one of the first men to take the part, is said to have pleased his contemporaries, among whom was Shakespeare himself, but, as far as we know, no critical estimate of his powers has come down to our time. Many gained some little distinction in the part, such as Betterton, Garrick, John Philip Kemble and Edmund and Charles Kean.