The Prayer in the Snow. The snow fell thick, and the snow fell fast,—
A moan from the trees where the winter wind lingers!—
Jack Frost whirled by, and with icy fingers
Shook from his locks the wintry blast.

The fire on the hearth in the cotter's home Fluttered, and out the cinders skurried, As the wind round and round the chimney hurried. Said the cotter, " 'Tis a fearful night to roam

"But the dog whines, and pleads with pitying eye; Mayhap some stranger's lost in the snow.'' So out the collie and cotter go, To list if the wind bears a human cry.

Not far from the door in a drift of snow Two children were lost, and bitterly crying, While the winter wind went mournfully sigh ing, While the icy snow skurried to and fro.

"Dear God"-and the moon peeped out-pray "Dear God, comfort our darling mamma,

And don't forget our own, own papa; And watch our grave in the snow, please do!

But before the children had said, "Amen,"
The cotter's dog gave a joyful bark;
And soon the children were out of the dark,
And soon were safe at their home again,

"Butmamma," said Lulu the wise, "don't yo It was God sent the dog and the man out that

God heard my wee prayer, from his home in the light, and sent back, to comfort you, both of we." -[Myrta B. Castle.

#### A BEAR STORY.

Hugh Arden was 16 years old when he met with the adventure that nearly cost him

From was in the woods all his spare Twenty minutes later two men, armed a guand perhaps more than that, since with rifles, appeared on the scene, attracthis other often chided him for leaving ed by the shots fired by Hugh. "lores" undone to go after a deer or fox. dowever, Hugh was, generally speaking, good boy, and aided not a little, with his rifle, in keeping the home larder filled. His father being a hard working man, was but little at home, as he worked at a saw-mill six miles away, going to his work on Monday morning and not returning until Saturday night.

When Hugh was 16, his father bought him a rifle, with which the boy was more than delighted. He promised to be more faithful than ever to repay his father for so fine a present.

It was not long ere both boy and parents had cause to rejoice at the purchase.

ever now, and was quite successful in bring- that night. You may be sure the boy never ing down game. On one occasion he had forgot that day's adventure, which came so the good fortune to shoot two large bucks, thus supplying the family with meat for a long time.

One afternoon in autumn Hugh was returning from a hunt along the river several miles from home, with his Winchester flung | An American Institution Which is Not over his arm carelessly. His face wore a grave expression, since he had met ill-luck that day, having expended several rounds of ammunition without bringing down any

game. As he emerged into a little settlement on the river bank he was attacted by a crowd of people gathered in front of a house, talking rapidly, and seemingly deeply excited. The lad hurried forward, anxious to learn the meaning of the excitement.

in answer to a question from Hugh.

"It was the biggest critter I ever seed," as ink, an' bigger 'n our cow. I tell ye, an' spilt all my berries."

in pursuit of the bear.

"If you have no objections I will accom. pany you," said Hugh, modestly. "If you ain't afear'd, you can go, of

course," said one of the settlers. Hugh laughed at the idea of fear, armed as he was with a sixteen-shooter, and at once prepared to accompany the men in the hunt for bruin.

It was only a mile to the berry patch, and the three men with Hugh soon reached it. After a short search, seeing nothing of the bear, the four came together for a short consultation. After some discussion it was de-

thoroughly. The berry patch was about half a mile in extent, composed of a dense mass of fallen timber, as well as a thick growth of blackberry bushes. The berry season was nearly over, and bruin was doubtless foraging for the last crop when seen by the settlers'

Hugh found himself skirting the south side of windfall, when he was brought to a sudden standstill by a low, angry growl. At once he dropped his Winchester to a level and peered sharply ahead. Only a minute thus, when the bushes were agitated and a black snout was poked over a fallen tree not ten yards distant. Quickly Hugh raised his gun and fired.

With a howl of pain the bear dropped the brute rushed away. Hugh was deeply | ing of the scandal and gossip that has an excited now, fully believing he had woundthat he might be able to kill the huge ani-

mal before any of the men came up. Pushing boldly forward the boy was soon in hot and eager pursuit. Soon he heard a furious howling and thrashing in the bushes not far distant. Bruin seemed to have become fastened in a treetop, much to the delight of Hugh, who believed that he could now dispatch the animal without danger to himself.

Eagerly the boy pressed forward and soon found himself upon the bear, which was thrashing about madly, in a tangle of limbs

and bushes. Standing within twenty feet of the brute, Hugh leveled his rifle. Aiming at the huge shoulder, the boy pulled the trigger. With

would bring the men to his side, which beautiful.

nade him anxious to dispatch the bear be

ore they should arrive. Seeing the animal fall and flounder in the bushes, Hugh advanced boldly, with the nammer of his rifle raised, ready to send in mother shot the moment opportunity of fered. He was almost upon the bear, when the brute reared upright and confronted him, with open mouth and flaming eyes.

It was evident that the animal was severely, if not fatally wounded, and it was foolhardy in Hugh to approach so near the enraged brute. The lad, however, felt no fear with so many shots in his repeating

"I have you now, you old rascal!" ex claimed Hugh, thrusting the muzzle of his rifle almost against the head of the bear.

He pulled the trigger. No report followed, and Hugh staggered back in dismay. His gun had never missed fire before; to do so now was most unpleas-

Again he pulled. No report. Hastily removing the cartridge, or at least supposing he did so, Hugh pumped in another, and again pulled the trigger. A dull metalic click alone answered.

At this moment the bear seemed to take in the situation, and moved toward Hugh. One more ineffectual attempt to fire convinced the boy that not a cartridge remained in the gun. In his excitement on seeing the bear he had neglected to refill the magazine. He stood unarmed before a wounded and enraged bear.

For fully a minute Hugh Arden stood trembling and faint with terrible fright before his tour-footed enemy. At length he man aged to turn and flee.

He staggered as he moved, and before going ten rods, his foot became entangled in a mass of vines, and he felt himself fall

With howls that were almost human in their agony and rage, the wounded bear Hugh was a tall, muscular boy for his | rushed in pursuit of his foe. Bruin was althe best wrestler among his school- most at his heels when Hugh fell. As he age, and parents moved to the north went down into a hollow several feet in Atario when Hugh was a lad in depth. Before he could move the bear plunged headlong over a fallen tree, and knickshe time he was old enough to carry crashed down upon the helpless boy.

The huge form of the bear nearly covered the hollow in which Hugh lay. The animal was quite still, and an examination showed that he was dead.

"Both on' em dead," said one of the settlers, as he aided in rolling the carcass of the bear from Hugh.

"It do look like it," replied the other. The depth and smallness of the hollow, however, had saved the boy from being crushed, and in a short time he opened his eyes, apparently none the worse for his fainting, although quite sore from numerous bruises.

It was Hugh's bear, the settlers declared, and they assisted him to remove the skin, Hugh frequented the woods more than which he bore in triumph to his home late near terminating his earthly existence.

### THE STORE LOAFER.

# Worth Keeping.

out in every county. Times or seasons was found in a tomb at Ghizeh. make no change in his habits. You find him in Summer ventilating his person and opinions astride a barrel or in spinal proximity to the surface of a dry goods box. In snow blockades the road, but when a rab- as one of the most unique literary curiosi-"My women folks seen a bear down in the foot of the loafer, atter finding its sock, every letter in the alphabet except the letthe berry bushes," explained a tall settler, approaches the grocer's store. Here he ter e, which all printers know to be the whittles and rotates tobacco, evaporates most indispensable of all the letters, its what little steam is left in his anatomy and relative proportion of use being 120 times to put in one of the women. "Twas black adds the knowledge of his neighbors busi- j 4, k 8, g 17, and 1, 40. The letter which ness to what he has forgotten of its duty comes next to e in the number of times of wasn't me 'n Melissy scart, though! We and his debts. He absorbs caloric from a use is a, which is used 80 times on an averstreaked it fur home. Ifell down twice, stove burning another man's coal, the tobac- age while e is being used 120 times. Here co he reduces to ash and nicotine is largely is the famous "e"-less poem :-The woman paused for want of breath, gratuitous, while for the corner he occupies | Bold Nassau quits his caravan, and Hugh turned to the men, who had he pays no rent except in spots on the floor A hazy mountain grot to scan; armed themselves, and seemed ready to start and observations made on sugar, beans and Climbs jaggy rocks to spy his way, armed themselves, and seemed ready to start and observations made on sugar, beans and

It is needless to say that as his eyes are innocent of a bandage and his ears are not blockaded, that what he imbibes through both mediums makes him expert as a social critic and a scandal artist. It is from such gentlemen at ease that 90 per cent. of town gossip finds its insidious way. He enjoys the news as he does his pipe, and generally manages to leave even a newsboy or a sewing meeting in the rear when he unloads his memory and uncorks himself on the public ear. It is not to be supposed that a man addicted to this kind of pastime has much cided to separate and beat up the bushes ambition to wet his own skin with honest perspiration. As a rule he cares more for slicing watermelon than for cutting wood, and has a gift of grumbling when his wife fails to reconstruct the stovepipe or misses connection with the coal house.

In a personal and social sense the store loafer is nothing less delicate than a public nuisance. Everybody but himself is cognizant of this three story fact, and we know of nothing that can make him so excepting conversion or admonitory shoe leather. Few men in business but would rather tolerate a white-faced hornet than a chronic loafer. It is certainly one of the missing planks in modern reform that store loafing should escape criticism and slow death and be allowed to associate itself with dry goods and groceries to the hindrance of business and from sight. The bushes were agitated as injury to the public stomach, to say nothactesian well in the wrinkled vest of the ed the bear. He felt elated at the thought | tounger. There are but few evils in a counsry town, except a want of sidewalks and lewerage, that by weight or measure can discount the nuisance of store loafing.

> Be thy creed or thy prayers what they may, unless thou hast truth within thee thou wilt not find the path to true happiness. The source of final happiness is in the heart, and only the fool seeks it else-

Judge none lost; but wait and see With hopeful pity, not disdain; The depth of the abyss may be

The measure of the height of pain And love and glory that may raise This soul to God in after days!

the report came a cry of pain and Hugh saw | The earth grows more beautiful as men a red stain coursing down the shaggy coat | grow better and wiser. Mark, how thesense of bruin. Another shot will finish him, of beauty reacts upon the nature of all thought the boy, who trembled with excite- savage and civilized alike, disposing to deeds of gentleness and peace. Man treads Hugh realized that the report of his giun more softly as the scene grows more

### CURIOSITY COLUMN

### Some Strange Conditions.

The tenant of a large farm at Broadhouse Langsett, County of York, England, holds the right to the property as long as he shall pay a yearly rental of "a snowball a Midsummer and a red rose at Christmas' to the owner, Godfrey Bosville, Esq.

One of the Scottish Dukes relinquishes his rights to his lands if it should ever get warm enough to melt the snow from the highest peak of the highest mountain in Scotland.

William de Albemarle and heirs hold the manor of Leaston " by the service of finding for our lord, the King, two arrows and one loaf of oat bread whenever the Sovereign shall hunt in the forest of Eastmoor.' Altough the forest is no longer a hunting ground and arrows have long since given way to rifles and shotguns, still the heirs of Leaston Manor, keep the arrows and oat loaf ready tor any stray king that may happen that way, thus holding good the title to their estates.

Solomon Attefield and heirs, or, rather, the heirs of Solomon At efield, old Solomon having went the way of all the world 235 years ago, hold lands both at Repland and Atterten, upon condition "that as often as our lord, the King, shall cross the sea, Solomon or his heirs shall accompany him to hold the royal head in case of sea sick-

ness." John Compes had the Manor of Finchfield given him (and his heirs still hold it) for the service of "turning the spit at the coronation of Edward the Third.'

Geoffrey Frumbrand and heirs hold sixty acres of land in Suffolk on condition that they pay the King an annual rental of two white doves.

#### The Ring of the Cheops.

The most curious and remarkable relix of antiquity in the world, the Holy Coat and the Iron Crown not excepted, now lies among the treasures of the Abbott collection which is temporarily deposited in the museum of the New York Historical Society. This unique memento of the distant past is nothing less than the signet ring once worn by Cheops, the builder of the largest of the great Egyptian pyramids.

The finding of this ring was the crowning effort of the great Dr. Abbott's life of research among the musty tombs of the cradle of the human race.

As noted above, Cheops was the builder of the pyramid which bears his name, and, as though it were his intention to make the structure bear witness to his greatness down through all the ages, the very stones and bricks of which it is composed are stamped with his name. Cheops lived nearly 2500 years ago, his great pyramid being a relic of the days when the great nations of antiquity were in their youth, yet we, of the last decade of the nineteenth century, can have the supreme satisfaction of gazing upon the very ring he wore so proudly upon his royal finger.

The hieroglyphics are very minute yet very accurately and beautifully executed, the ring itself being of finest gold and weighing nearly an ounce. The oval signet bears the name of Cheops, which is in hieroglyphics in perfect accord with the The store loafer is distinctively an institu- stamp on the bricks of the inside walls of tion of this continent. His shingle hangs the Great Pyramid. This remarkable relic

## A Curiosity in Verse.

The following poem of three stanzas of Winter he is only invisible when mud or four lines each has often been referred to bit can walk or a squirrel escape interment | ties in existence. Each stanza contains

Doth tax his sight still far doth stray.

Not work of man nor sport of child, Finds Nassau in that mazy wild; Lax grows his joints, limbs toil in vain-Poor Wight! Why didst thou quit that plain?

Vainly for succor Nassau calls? K nows Zillah that thy Nassau falls? But prowling wolf and fox may joy To quarry on that Arab boy.

## A Watch With a History.

A watch which the Kaiser gave as a wedding present to his sister, Princess Margaret of Prussia, on her marriage with Prince Frederick Charles of Hesse, has a curious history. It originally belonged to Queen Louise of Prussia, the mother of the Kaiser William I. The watch was looted by French soldiers after one of the victories which practically placed Berlin as a conquered city in the hands of Napoleon's troops. Being taken to Strasbourg, it was a year or two later won as a prize in a barrack lottery by the cook of the officers' mess. This man gave the watch to his sister, who subsequently obtained a domestic position in the Palace at Potsdam, where Queen Louise, noticing the watch in the woman's possession, recognized it as her own, and obtained repossession of it in exchange for a generous sum of money. The late Empress Augusta entrusted the watch to the present Emperor, with an expression of her wish that it might always remain the property of a Prussian Princess.

## Curious Facts About the Pump.

The common water pump of to-day is which first came into general use during average farm hand, lived on coarse brown the reign of the Ptolemies, Philadelphos, and energetes, 283 to 221 B. C. The name which is very similar in all languages, is derived from the Greek word "Pempo," to send or throw. The most ancient descrip. tion we have of the water pump is by Hero of Alexander. There is no authentic acprevious to its introduction into the Ger-Sixteenth Century. Pumps with plungers to the buyer of the picture. and pistons were invented by Morland, an Englishmen, in 1674; the double-acting pump by De la Hire, the French academician, some twenty years later.

ound by Belzoni under the base of a sphinx n Karnac, near Thebes; the blade found y Colonel Vyse imbedded in the mortar of one of the pyramids, and a portion of a cross-cut saw which Mr Layard exhumed t Nimrud-all of which are now in the

British Museum. Another piece of iron, an account of which might not be inappropriate in this connection, is the wrought bar of Damascus steel which King Porus presented to Alexander the Great. This bar, which is of unknown antiquity, is still carefully preserved in the National Turkish Museum at Constantinople.

#### Visions.

Whence those wonder-woven visions, Borne on Mystery's weirdest wings, Filling nightly minds of moreals With a world of phantom things?

Do they come from realms of spirits While the body lies at rest, And the spirit free to winder, Speaks to spirit unoppress'd?

As at eve the summer lightning Leaps from out the slumbering cloud; So in dreams the spirit flashes From its clay-encumber'd shroud.

And the visions of our slumber Shed a radiance richer far. Than the moonbeams ever kindled. Or the light of heaven's star,

As at dawn Aurora arising Flings her banners to the sky; So in dreams the spirit ranging Reaches hill-tops heaven-high;

Scales serene, celestial mountains; Roams where mortals never trod: Drinks the cup of love's sweet nectar, And in thought communes with God.

Childhood Visions-Golden Visions! Bright with Joy's angelic wings; Clad with Love's ce'estial garments; Breathing life's divinest things!

Boyhood Visions-Blissful Visions! Reft of every earthly care: Roaming where the golden Morning Sheds his brightest sunbeams there!

Wrought from Fancy's fairy looms, Where the flower of life unfolding, Soon to richest color blooms!

Girlhood Visions-Gleeful Visions!

Youthful Vision-Soaring Visions!
Built on Life's ascending scale Reaching to the highest station From the foot-prints in the vale!

Maiden Vision's-Joyful Visions! Webs of wonder wove above; Coming from the highest heaven To the human heart of love!

J. E. POLLOCK, B.A. Toronto, Jan. 25th, 1893.

### A Sleigh-Ride.

Just room for two-not too much room-I tuck her in all snug and warm : I'm conscious of her hair's perfume And of the nearness of her arm. I shake the lines out free and gay, The sleigh bells chime and we're away.

Across the crisp and glittering snow, Leaving behind the city street, Its garish glare and noise, we go Into the darkness, still and sweet, And here and there a household gleam Flits by us in a flying dream!

How speed the horses gaily driven! The sweet bells clatter silvery mirth, And every star is white in heaven, And every field is white on earth. How dark the brightness seems! -how bright The darkness of the winter night!

We race the open road like wind-But in the dim and shadowy lanes Our wild pace slackens, and I find One hand enough to hold the reins And, somehow, when I try to speak, My words are kisses on her cheek.

Ah, life is fair in many ways, And full of dear, enchanting hours! And love is sweet in summer days, 'Mid blossoming paths and sylvan bowers But let me choose, all bliss above A sleigh-ride with the girl I love.

# The Flying Years.

As a dream when night is done. As a shadow flees the sun; As a ship whose white sails skim Over the horizon dim, As a life complete of days Vanisheth from mortal ways, As a hope that pales to fear— Is the dying of the year.

As the first gold shaft of light Shivers through the wreck of night: As the thrill and stir that bring Promise of the budding Spring; As new thoughts of life that rise Mirrored in a sick man's eyes, As strange joys to hearts forlorn, So another year is born.

Glad or sad, a dwindling span Is the little life of man. Love and hope and work and tears Fly before the flying years: Yet shall tremulous hearts grow bold. All the story is not told -For around us as a sea Spreads God's great Eternity.

## A White World.

I never knew the world in white So beautiful could be, As I have seen it here to-day Beside the wintry sea ; A new earth, bride of a new heaven, Has been revealed to me.

The sunrise blended wave and cloud In one broad flood of gold, But touched with rose the world's white robes In every curve and fold; While the blue air did over all Its breath in wonder hold.

Earth was a statue half awake Beneath her Sculptor's hand. How the Great Master bends with love Above the work He planned! Easy it is on such a day, To feel and under stand

-[Lucy Larcom.

The Spanish peasant works every day and dances half the night, and yet eats only his black bread, onion, and water melon. The Smyrna porter eats only a little fruit and some olives, yet he walks off with his load of 200 pounds.

The Roman soldiers who built such wonderful roads and carried a weight of but an improvement on a Grecian invention armour and luggage that would crush the bread and sour wine. They were temperate in diet and regular and constant in ex-

In France there is an unwritten but immutable law that a painting shall not be exhibited without the artist's consent, no count of its general use outside of Egypt | be. And now a literary and artistic congress in session at Milan, Italy, has decided man provinces at about the opening of the that the right of reproduction does not pass

The Three Oldest Pieces of Iron. Roumania, and her bright blue eyes get of pork. She is also an extensive chicken. The three oldest known pieces of wrought more winning every day. She is a capital farmer, and drives a good trade in poultry iron in existence are the sickle blade that was singer, and, like her father, loves music.

#### BRIEF AND INTERESTING.

Krupp's factory has 2,222 furnaces.

Great Britain has eighty miles as tunnels. The flesh of the oyster is about 90 per

About 2,000 daily and weekly journals are printed in Paris.

The tashion of serving the fish before meats began in 1562.

There are twenty thousand trained nurses n England, Ireland, and Scotland. Salmon was formerly believed to promote

drunkenness. Old manuscripts and autographs are not bringing the prices they used to.

The agitation against theatre hats is spreading; but so are the hats, unfortunate-

Pet dogs are now furnished with shoes for the purpose of protecting the polished

Cuban barbers lather their patrons with their hands from a bowl made to fit under the chin. The profits from the sale of the works of

Charles Dickens still amounts to about £8,-000 a year. The coolie, fed on rice is more active and

can endure more than the negro fed on fat meat. Statistics show that the chances of fatal

accident in railway travel is one in every ten million. Her Majesty is said to be sufficiently

versed in Hindustani to keep a diary in that interesting language. The Cossacks and Circassians of the Russian Guard are mainly Mohammedans, and

consequently strict teetotalers. The largest telephone centre in the world is that in the exchange in Berlin, Germany, where 7,000 wires are connected with the main office.

The newest fad in autograph books is one of cooking recipes. Each formula written in the book has the signature of the contributing friend under it.

An inmate of an American convent has recently died, after being there 98 years, without once going outside the convent walls. Her recorded age was 115 years.

A swimming tank is said to be a cure for lameness in horses. In swimming the horse exercises the same muscles as in trotting, but with no injury to his feet or legs. So extensive are the feeding grounds and so rapid the movements of the wild ostrich that as many as fifty or sixty miles are

often travelled by it between daybreak and It is said that a Spanish firm of publishers once produced a work in which one letter only got misplaced through accident, and this is believed to have been the nearest approach to perfection that has ever been

attained in a book. The salaries carned by average leading ladies and gentlemen in American companies run from £20 to £60 a week, while the juveniles get from £15 to £20, which may also be taken as the salary of good comedians and second ladies.

A person who has totally lost the sense of hearing in one ear, although he may imagine that the defect is of little consequence, cannot locate the direction of a sound to save his life, even when the centre of disturbance is quite near him.

The longest single span of wire in the world is used for a telegraph wire and is stretched over the River Kistuah, between Bezorah and Sectanagrum, India. It is over 6,000 feet long, and is stretched from the top of one mountain to another. Although it may not generally be known, the woods of northern Canada are still in-

fested by a queer species of bison known as the "wood buffale." He is much larger than the buffalo of the plains, which formerly abounded in such numbers. The Kalmucks of Astrakhan, a roving people numbering about 150,000 souls, have at last been freed from serfdom. When the other Russian serfs were freed in 1861 it

was considered dangerous to extend this

privilege to these people, lest their wildness would lead to its abuse. In the British Patent Office, where of all places in the world one would expect to find things ordinarily well "up to date," the steel pen is unknown, and the antediluvian goose-quill absolute and supreme. Verily the ways of Government officials are not as

other men's. Another use has been found for electrici-In Ceylon experiments have shown that it is more economical to dry tea leaves by its agency than by the old method, and extensive plants have been erected for that purpose.

by the manufacturers of silken stuff called atibi or taffety. This stuff is woven with waved markings of watered silk resembling a " tabby" cat's coat. In the Roman Campagna, at the sepulchre of Metella, wife of Sulla, there is an echo which repeats five times, each being in a

different key. It will also repeat a hexe ne-

The term "tabby cat" is derived from

Atab, a famous street in Bagdad, inhabited

ter line, or another sentence which can be spoken in two and a half seconds. The Shah of Persia, who has ten millions sterling stored in his palace, has been borrowing a sum from the State to defray the cost of his summer outing to the distant provinces of his empire. His suite comprises

10,000 people, including 300 wives. Adelina Pattı was the first prima donna who demanded in Paris a nightly salary of ten thousand francs. When it was conceded to her her rivals preferred the same claims; so that to keep her supremacy in the operatic market she persisently raised her prices to fifteen thousand francs, which sum she received for each of the three concerts she gave in one week at the Eden Theatre.

A coloured woman, named Lizzie Young, in Georgia, U.S. A., takes contracts for excavations, and sometimes has thirty carts employed under her direction. When not busy checking off loads she crochets or matter what the wishes of the owner may sews. For six months or so every year she runs an extensive woodyard. She keeps two or three men in the forest chopping, two or three more sawing and splitting in the yard, and four or five delivering and The Princess Victoria Melita of Edin- | peddling the wood. She keeps from forty burgh is only just sixteen years old, yet her to sixty head of hogs on her farm and has betrothal is to be shortly announced. a swill route in the city which sup ries them Though so young, she has a more womanly with nearly all the food necessary. Every look than her sister the (now) Princess of year she sells many hundred dollars' worth and eggs.