

To the Editor of the Scientific American: Sir.—In your issue of the 7th inst. I noticed an article on the above subject by Henry Pemberton, jun., as also some editorial remarks by yourself. With respect to Mr. Pemberton's remarks, I would state that it is evident he formed his opinion on entirely a theoretical basis. His opinion is one which would very probably be expressed by any number of persons who rely on theories instead of on facts. Mr. Pemberton states that when an alum baking powder is used in baking, the alumina of the alum is precipitated and becomes insoluble by heating. A very distinguished scientific man writes to me, and says: "This is a matter of experiment, and facts thus obtained are undoubtedly worth far more than conclusions derived from theoretical considerations." This last paragraph has embodied in it my views on this subject, and it strikes me it would have been proper for Mr. Pemberton to have made a few experiments with bread or biscuits made with an alum powder, to see if the alumina was really in an insoluble or in a soluble condition, before expressing so decided an opinion. I am perfectly well aware that when an alum baking powder is used in baking, the alum is transformed into another alumina salt, provided the constituents of the powder are combined in exact chemical equivalents. If, however, the constituents are not in exact equivalent proportion (which is more probable than otherwise, as chemical weights are seldom, if ever, adopted by manufacturers), there will be a certain per cent. of alum left unaltered. There would, therefore, be present in the baked product in either case an alumina salt; and in the last, or more probable, case, in addition to the alumina salt, some unaltered alum. So that, supposing a portion of the alum was transformed into an insoluble alumina salt (which has not been proved as yet in the baked product), it is evident persons eating the baked product would run the risk of taking into their stomachs the unaltered alum. It is true the per cent. of this would probably be small, but by its continued use would certainly bring about serious disorders in the system. As regards the alumina salt, let us stop a minute. Wagner states: "The active principle of alum is evidently the sulphate of alumina, not the sulphate of potassa and ammonia." That alumina is the poisonous element of alum, I think the following provings clearly demonstrate which I take from my Encyclopaedia of Materia Medica: "It destroys the appetite, produces sour cructations, heartburn, pain in the abdominal ring, the rectum is rendered inactive, constipation or loose bloody discharges are produced." From these provings it will be seen that the effects of alumina on the system are substantially the same as alum. That is to say, that alumina bears the same relation to alum (being its active principle) as morphine does to opium or nicotine does to tobacco. Supposing, again, that the alumina salt formed in baking was in an insoluble condition (which I have already stated has not been demonstrated), and not considering the amount of alum left unaltered, I doubt if the public would be willing to run the risk of eating the baked product, for fear that the heat of the oven was not in the proper condition to render it all insoluble. Supposing, on high scientific authority, I should state that a salt of antimony (take for example tartar emetic) if added to a cup of tea would be completely neutralized by the tannin or rendered "insoluble" for instance. How many persons would I find willing to drink the tea? Not many. I am quite positive; and this is the view I think the public will take about alum baking powders. When they can obtain a number of powders on the market composed of wholesome constituents, I think they will not care to run the risk with alum powders. As to the alumina salt being in an insoluble condition, I shall, in a future article, have something more to say, to satisfy the scientific men; but I think the public will have received, after carefully reading the above, sufficient satisfaction or explanation to convince them that alum baking powders are most dangerous to use.

HENRY A. MORR, JUN.
Ph. D., E. M.

New York, Nov. 28, 1878.

KNOWN, THE WHISTLER.

His Private Opinion of England and Englishmen.

Alexander Brown, colored, known as a wonderful lip-whistler has been a prisoner in the Jefferson Market Police Court, New York, under a 10 day's sentence for disorderly conduct. His history is a remarkable and romantic one. He is considered by many to be the best whistler of his kind living. His ability to imitate the songs of birds, the noises of fowls, the grunting of pigs, the music of stringed and wind instruments, the screeching of wheelbarrows, noises of railway cars, and even steam-boat whistles, is marvellous. "Brown, the Whistler," was one of Jarret & Palmer's first troupe of colored jubilee folks which went abroad to play "Uncle Tom's Cabin." One of his principal parts in the play was to imitate the whistles of river steamboats, and few foreigners ever learned that the noise was made by a colored man's lips and not by a genuine steam-pipe. Brown says he contracted to go for \$30 a month and find himself. He soon discovered when on the other side that he had made a sorry bargain. He says the English flecto Americans at every point. They charged him an English shilling for every shirt he got washed, a shilling "for looking crosswise," and two shillings for every ordinary and very villainous lunsches. In such an expensive country this meagre salary wouldn't support him and he couldn't get it raised. Besides, he couldn't stand the London fogs. He often bruised his head bumping it against posts and things during the damp days in London, and was frequently astonished that he didn't knock his brains out in the fog. So he and fifteen other members of the troupe returned home. He says he was arrested because he whipped some bad boys in the street "for spitting a brick on his head." He is put at white-washing in the prison and is welcomed there by the other inmates on account of the liberal whistling performances he gives them.

H. R. H. Princess Louise very sensibly favors the giving of special attention to the subject of domestic economy as a part of a young lady's education.

A large trade in oysters is being done at Winnipeg.

The U. P. Presbytery of Edinburg has adopted a resolution condemning the Government for waging war against the Ameer of Afghanistan, on the ground that it was "un-called for and iniquitous."

The mail steamer which arrived at Leith recently from Iceland, brings intelligence of the loss of five vessels on the coast of Iceland in the end of October during terrific weather. Three violent shocks of earthquake were felt in Iceland in October.

A letter has been received from the Dumfries Town Council from the Queen's Remembrancer to the effect that the Lords of the Treasury, in reference to the Hannafield gift, had now settled that the whole personal property, which will afford a fund of £10,000, shall be applied to the improvement of education in Dumfries and Galloway.

Two fishermen while out fishing recently off Portinercross caught in their nets a large bottle-nosed shark. With some difficulty they managed to get the monster beached, but not before he had damaged their nets to the extent of several pounds. The rare capture at once became the object of attraction, and was shortly after purchased by a local fishdealer from Saltcoats, who had it on exhibition at Dally. This is stated to be the only specimen which has been caught on this part of the coast, although sharks have of late been seen in the neighborhood. The fish measures seven and a half feet long, and weighs over four cwt.

A letter has been received from Sir G. Campbell, at Kirkcaldy, who is at present in America, in which he states "that Sunday closing in America is universal and no party raises and cries against it. It is carried out for all classes equally. There is no traveller, bona fide or others, allowed exemption. I used to like a little whiskey and water at night to settle anything down and make me sleep, but in America I found that on Sunday I simply could not get it. I sleep, however, quite as well without it, so much so that this experience made me give it up from choice on other nights. So, for the present at least, I am reformed."

One of the heaviest snow storms experienced in Skye for many years fell a few Sundays ago. The fall was very heavy after nightfall, and the ground in some places was for a time covered to a depth of about eight inches. It is seldom snow falls to such an extent in Skye, or, indeed, that the extensive sheep farmers of the Island have any cause of concern for their sheep from the danger of snow drifts, as their brethren have in the uplying districts of the mainland. This year, however, the summer was exceptionally fine, and the old people cherish the belief that a severe winter—particularly one of frost and snow storms—is invariably the precursor of an excellent summer and an abundant harvest.

Recently experiments were made in a sugar refinery at Greenock with one of Siemens' patent dynamo electric light apparatus. At present extensive alterations are being made on the refinery, and the electric light apparatus has been procured for the purpose of enabling the alterations to be proceeded with by night as well as by day. The machine for creating the electricity, which works at the rate of 1,000 revolutions per minute, and is driven off the ordinary shafting of the refinery, is placed 150 feet from where the carbons are burning, and which are kept in their position by machinery in a small glass case. The experiments with the apparatus were of the most satisfactory kind. The place where the alterations on the refinery are going on was lighted up most brilliantly, and the smallest objects could be distinguished.

SPORTING.

THE DETROIT DOG SHOW.

The Detroit Free Press of Wednesday, speaking of the International Bench Show, which commences in that city on Tuesday next, thus alludes to the Canadian entries:—Mr. Arnold Burgess, owner of the Rob Roy Kennel, has entered his famous stock of imported English setters, including the two cracks, Rob Roy and Druid, both field trial winners, also his Queen Mab and Nilsson, who have won several first prizes. Nilsson is newly imported, and has not been shown in this country. Mr. Burgess paid a very high price for her. The dogs which are entered by Mr. Burgess are valued at \$20,000. The great Canadian Kennel, owned by L. H. Smith, of Strathroy, enters the very choicest of the Kennel, including Leicester, Paris (the great Centennial winner), Clip, Temple Bar, Lass o' Gowine, and several others. Mr. Smith is well known as the pioneer of imported "blue bloods," or, as they are now called, "Llewellyn setters." No doubt he will send his best here, as Detroit was the first to give his setters the splendid reputation they have since sustained on many hard-fought fields. The Big Point Kennel Club, of Chatham, enter their famous Mike and Bridget, both pure bred Irish water spaniels. They have taken first prizes in this country since their arrival, and they had obtained numerous prizes in England before being shipped. Wm. B. Wells, jun., of Chatham, sends a fine string of English setters, including his celebrated Star, who obtained first prize at the London show. Mr. Duncan C. Plumb, of Toronto, sends two entries of very fine blood. Major Milligan, of London, enters a very fine Newfoundland. The performing trick dogs will be an especial feature of the show. The contest for the prizes takes place every afternoon and evening. The committee now feel assured in saying that this will be a finer collection of dogs than was ever before brought together. A telegram has just now been received claiming entries of fox terriers, Scotch deerhounds, etc., all from London.

Phosphorescent Dials for Clocks and Watches.

In a French journal, M. Olivier Mathy, a chemist of Neufchatel, explains the method of preparing phosphorescent dials for watches and clocks, so that the hour can be ascertained at night. The dials are usually made of paper or thin card-board, enamelled like visiting cards. They are covered with an adhesive varnish, or with white wax mixed with turpentine, upon which is dusted, with a fine sieve, powdered sulphide of barium. The sulphides of strontium and calcium possess, like the sulphide of barium, the property of retaining their phosphorescence, but not so long. After the dial has remained in darkness for several days it loses its phosphorescence, but this is easily restored by exposing it for an hour to sunlight, or to the light of a few inches of magnesium wire.

Six Days' Solitary Wanderings Without Food or Fire—Painful Experience of a New Brunswick.

NEWCASTLE, N. B., Jan. 8.—A man named George Brown, a machinist, came here from Fredericton last week in search of employment. Leaving here on Wednesday last he started for Bathurst through the woods by a route taken by fishing parties in the summer, and with which he was seemingly not familiar. The first day he followed the highway as far as Anthony Cain's, twelve miles in rear of Newcastle, where he lodged all night. On Thursday morning after breakfast he left Cain's, and after following the highway for two or three miles struck into the woods along a track leading to some clearances. Early in the evening he reached Mitchell's meadows, about twelve miles from Cain's, where the by-track terminates. Here he camped for the night in a summer or bush camp, without food or fire. During the night or early next day heavy snow fell, and Brown tried to regain the highway, but failed. On Sunday evening he came to a halt two or three miles from the highway, and within six or seven miles of where he camped the first night. Unable to proceed, being exhausted and badly frozen, he remained in the same place until Tuesday noon, when he was found by a settler. Brown was brought to town and promptly transferred to the county almshouse, where he is receiving medical attendance. His hands are swollen, and the toes of one of the feet, both of which are badly frozen, are black and will probably be amputated. The weather was unusually mild for the season, or he would not have been found alive.

A BREACH OF PROMISE SUIT.

A Young and Beautiful Lady Deserted by a Faithless Lover.

Some seven months ago a young and beautiful lady, by name, Miss Cecille Greenbank, arrived in this town from New York. She was the daughter of a Protestant German pastor in Neufchatel, Switzerland, and having married and become a widow, was advised to visit a relative who resided in the Swiss colony settled in Pennsylvania, U.S. Upon this advice she accordingly acted and was well received by her maiden aunt, who took a great fancy to her. She endeared herself to all her acquaintances by her pleasing and winning ways. While there she became acquainted with one James Holland a native of Montreal, and he induced her under false promises, to visit Montreal. Here, while pending the fulfilment of a promise of marriage, she was engaged as a milliner in a first-class establishment on Notre Dame street. After several ineffectual attempts to prevail upon Holland to fulfil his bargain, and thinking all he had promised was deceit, Miss Greenbank entered an action against him for breach of promise, which case was to come off in the Superior Court next session. Holland, fearing the consequences, fled to Cincinnati, from which place word was received by telegraph this morning that he had committed suicide in a bar-room by a pistol bullet, while under the temporary influence of alcohol. Thus ends Miss Greenbank's breach of promise suit.—Montreal Post.

The outbreak of small-pox in the village of Embro, Oxford county, has caused some of the citizens to pack up and leave for neighboring towns. The churches and schools are all closed, and many of the stores are also shut up and the clerks discharged. So far as we can learn the village paper has not been issued for sometime past, and there appears to be a general secession of business. The correspondent of a contemporary says the doctor is to blame for bringing the disease to the village. A nephew of his was the first to take it, and after his death the doctor burned infected bedding, etc., in daylight in his garden. The disease has since spread rapidly, with the result above mentioned.—Clinton New Era, Jan. 2.

RAPID POST-HOLERY.—A new method of planting telegraph poles has been introduced in Pennsylvania. The ground is staked off at distances of 200 feet apart, a man starts off with cartridges of "electric powder," and with a crow bar in his hand. The bar is driven four or five feet into the ground, a cartridge with a lighted fuse is dropped into the hole, and the man proceeds to the next stake, but before he reaches it the cartridge has exploded, making a cavity as big as a flour barrel in the ground, and a gang of men who follow plant a telegraph pole in the spot. In this way four men will set up 100 to 150 poles per day, and at a cost two-thirds less than by the old way.

HIS REASON.—A negro minister, who married rather sooner after the death of his first wife some of the sisters thought proper and becoming, excused himself as follows: "My dear brethren and sisters my grief was greater than I could bear, I turned every way for peace and comfort, but none came. I searched de Scriptures from Genisee to Revelation and found plenty of promises to de widder, but nary a one to the widder. So I took it dat de Lord didn't waste sympathy on a man when it was in his power to comfort himself; and habin a fuss rate chance to marry in the Lord, I did so and would do so again. Besides, Bredern, I consider dat poor Betsy was just as dead as she would ever be."

Prof. C. F. Thwing has collected very valuable statistics of the religious life in American colleges. The majority of professors in nearly all American colleges are communicants of Christian churches. As to the students, nearly half of the total number in the United States—2,000—are reported as decided Christians. The proportion of Christian students to the whole number is, in Harvard, one to five; Dartmouth and Bowdoin, one to three; Yale, two to five; in Michigan University and Western Reserve, one to two; in Princeton, Brown, Marietta and Ripon, three to every five; at Amherst, Williams, Wesleyan University and Berea, four to five.

LOST AND FOUND.—A curious case of restitution is mentioned in Belgium journals. In August last a box containing 18,000 francs' worth of securities was stolen from a farm house at Ronquieres, in the Commune of Hainault. A short time ago the box was found to have been deposited during the night in the garden belonging to the cure of Henripont, who at once handed it over to the police. It still contained 16,000 francs.

Mr. Spurgeon is credited with this design on hubby's happiness: "When I am marrying young couples I generally tell the young lady to let her husband be the head, for that is according to Scripture and to nature; but I always advise her to be the neck, and twist him round which way she likes."

HORRIBLE DEATH OF A BOY AT PARKVILLE, LONG ISLAND.

A great many visitors were drawn to one of the minor hotels on Coney Island during the past two summers by the antics of two trained bears chained to stakes in front of the house alluded to. One peculiarity of the bears, and one which provoked much mirth and proved most profitable to the proprietor of the hotel, was their inordinate capacity for beer. The male bear, an animal of unusual size and beauty, for a bear, who was known as Big Ben, has frequently drank as many as fifty bottles of lager beer a day. He used to stand on his hind feet, and holding the bottle with his fore paws, swallow its contents. Like many animals of a higher order, Big Ben never knew when to stop, and would often become very drunk. While in this condition he was frequently kicked and cuffed about by the men who had given him the beer. In the winter time the bears were taken to Parkville and chained in a yard opposite Thom's Road House. On Monday afternoon a party of boys commenced snow-balling the bears, and were driven away by Mr. Thom. About an hour afterward a lad named Samuel Stretch, thirteen years of age, who had frequently played with the bears, approached the larger of the animals for the purpose of petting him. When young Stretch came sufficiently near, Big Ben suddenly sprang on him. Rendered furious by the snow-balling which he had received sometime before, the animal clasped the boy with his fore paws, and hugging him tightly crushed his ribs. At the same time the bear sank his teeth into the boy's neck, severing the jugular vein, and inflicting a wound which proved almost instantly fatal. When young Stretch first found himself being drawn into the fatal embrace of the bear he cried out in terror. A stable man working near by heard the cry, and armed with a pitchfork, rushed to the lad's assistance, but the hug and bite which ended the boy's life, were the work of an instant. The tragedy occurred in full sight of the neighboring hotels, and in a moment a crowd of men came running toward the bear. The brute growled furiously and showed a disposition to fight. Mr. Thom, armed with a hatchet, struck the brute on the head, and Mr. Peter Ravenhall plunged a dirk-knife into Big Ben's body several times. When young Stretch was carried to Thom's Hotel he was quite dead. Notwithstanding the stabs from the dirk knife and the blows from the hatchet, it took five shots from a revolver and two shots from a shot-gun to kill the bear. The female bear, which was chained some distance away, exhibited no excitement during the attack on the boy or the subsequent killing of her mate. The deceased boy resided in the Village of Parkville, about two miles south of Prospect Park.

Maud Granger's Experience.

Miss Maud Granger, the actress, who came near dying from the effects of a dose of laughing gas, on Monday last, was found yesterday in a daintily furnished apartment—half parlor, half boudoir—in West Twenty-fourth street. A bright coal fire burned on the hearth, and lit up the room and its appointments with a cheerful, ruddy glow. By the light was revealed Christmas ferns and greens, a dressing table loaded down with costly knick-knacks in gold, silver and velvet, pictures, bric-a-brac, and bijouterie, heaped together in artistic confusion, and last, but by no means least, the mistress of all this inviting disorder. She sat by the fire, in evening dress, and toyed with the ears of a sleek little terrier, who snapped viciously at the new-comer from behind the folds of her dress.

"I had a narrow escape indeed," she said, "although it was not so much the poor dentist's fault. He has given me laughing gas frequently before; but last Monday I was out of sorts and very nervous, and I suppose I should not have gone to him at all. I had a wisdom tooth which had troubled me greatly, and the doctor told me I must have it out, so I went. Dr.—(you must excuse my not mentioning his name) gave the usual amount of the gas, but it had the most remarkable effect. They told me afterwards that I lay for fifteen minutes as though I were dead. I lost all sensation for a time, could see, and hear, and feel nothing. They told me that I stopped breathing and that my heart did not beat. When I recovered, I lay as if in a dream more than two hours, while five doctors did everything they could for me. I could see them working around me and hear every word they uttered, but I could have no more moved hand or foot than if I were dead. I don't know how I dressed for my part that evening, or how I looked, for that matter. I remember saying a few lines of my part and coming on and off the stage, and that is all. I was so weak that they had to carry me into the green-room after the last act, but the audience were very kind, though some of them must have suspected that I was intoxicated."—New York Sun, Dec. 26.

Liquor-drinking in Scotland has been told a blunt truth by the Lord Provost of Glasgow: that the loss of £5,000,000 which has fallen on the shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank represents but its six months' expenditure for strong drink. He then indicates to his countrymen who are devising means to relieve the calamity, that they could wipe it off by reducing their liquor bills one half for a year. What if they should make a clean sweep, and with heroic self-sacrifice give up the other half!

WOODCUTTER WILLIAM.—A firm in Sheffield recently abandoned the design of the old-fashioned traditional sort of axe and adopted the form of the American axe. A specimen of the improved axe was sent to Mr. Gladstone, from whom the inevitable postal card was received, acknowledging receipt of the implement and praising its qualities. The firm now does a good business with what has been called the "Gladstone Axe," orders coming in for twenty to thirty dozens at a time.

THE OLDEST FRONTIER TOWN.—The advance vessel of La Salle's exploring expedition entered the Niagara River on December 6th, 1678—200 years ago last month. It was a few days later that Father Hennepin first visited the Falls. At that time—200 years ago this week—the river was so full of running blocks of ice that La Salle feared the destruction of his vessel at Lewiston, where the expedition began the erection of a building. Lewiston may, therefore, claim to be the pioneer town of the frontier—200 years old.—St. Kitt's News.

Whatever your lot in life may be,
Let sweet contentment rule;
Though joy's or sorrow's cup ye see,
Ye mauna play the lute.
Your crosses aye will seem a ban,
But never o' them tire;
Fouk aft forsake the fryin' pan
An' fa' into the fire.

Our sorrows are but shaded joys
An' come to gie us sense;
To mak' us men aye humbly wise
An' free frae a' pretence.
When lashed wi' care, wi' few to cheer,
Relief ye find desire,
Ne'er lea' your fryin' pan for fear
Ye fa' into the fire.

The lass ye lo'e may humble be
An' hae a faut or twa;
Ne'er lightly her although ye see
Anither rich and braw.
The outward sicht is a' ye scan,
The inward ye acquire;
See nae mae left their fryin' pan
To fa' into the fire.

Ye canna see the light ayont
The cloud that hides your way;
A gleam may come and bear upon't,
The hope for which ye pray.
Whatever your ill, be sure ye get
Nae mair than ye require;
See bear them a' without a fret
An' shun some ither fire.

Sunderland. WILLIAM ALLAN.

A Division in the House of Commons.

The division proper is a curiously-managed ceremony—very roundabout in the estimate of many persons. After the Speaker has cried "order, order!" the Sergeant-at-Arms, with his doorkeepers and messengers, close and lock all the door-leads into the lobbies, corridors, passages, etc. No member outside can enter, nor can any within make their exit; the number within the chamber is thus strictly definite, and all must vote. Until 1836 it was the custom for one party or section to go into a lobby, while the other remained in the house; but since that year the ayes have been directed to pass into the lobby at the Speaker's right hand, while the nays walk into the lobby at his left. The Speaker names members to act as tellers, selected impartially from among the supporters and opponents of the motion, two each; and the members named are not allowed to shirk the duty. They place themselves at the lobby doors, two and two, each to check the counting of the other. Two clerks, as well as two tellers, are placed at each door, holding alphabetical lists of all the members of the house printed on large sheets of stiff paste-board or cardboard. As the members return into the house from the lobbies the clerks mark off the names, while at the same time the tellers count the total number without noting names. (If any one is disabled by infirmity from entering and quitting the lobbies, he is counted at his seat in the house.) When all have re-entered from the lobbies the four tellers approach the table; one of them, belonging to the majority on this particular question, announces the numbers, and when the Speaker has indorsed or sanctioned this announcement, the important but slowly-managed ceremony ends—often amid loud cheers from those members who constitute the majority on that particular occasion. A member sometimes goes into the wrong lobby through inadvertence; then there is no escape for him; *no-tens volens* his vote is recorded according to the lobby in which he finds himself. During the past sessions, instances of such misadventure were not unfrequent. Instances have been known in which even a cabinet minister's vote is recorded on the side which he really intended to oppose—much to his own mortification. A member thus awkwardly placed usually takes some mode of making the facts known to his constituents and the public; but the official record remains unalterable. It has occasionally happened that only one member approves of a particular question or motion; he is the only aye; and as he is not allowed to count himself, the house at once decides that "the nays have it." Many sessions ago a stranger was described in one of the lobbies after the door had been closed, and was counted by two of the tellers; but the clerks found him out and reported the case to the Speaker, who duly admonished the intruder.

Scientific Intelligence.

Great interest has been excited in scientific circles in England by the startling announcement that Mr. Norman Lockyer, the well known astronomer and spectroscopist, has realized a portion at least of the dream of the alchemists, in the transmutation of one metal into another. Mr. Lockyer has not yet himself made the discovery public, though he has sent a short preliminary note to the Paris Academy of Sciences, and is preparing a paper to be read shortly before the Royal Society. The statement is that, by the aid of a powerful voltaic current, Mr. Lockyer has, in the presence of some of the most eminent English chemists, volatilized copper within a glass tube, dissolved the deposit found within the tube in hydrochloric acid, and then showed, by means of the spectroscope, that the solution no longer contained copper, but calcium. The experiment was repeated with other metals with corresponding results, nickel being transmuted into cobalt. Assuming the absence of experimental error, two conclusions only are possible—that the substances hitherto assumed to be elementary are in reality altoproic modifications of one primordial substance, by that all spectroscopic analysis hitherto relied on as absolutely trustworthy must be altogether abandoned. It is not stated that the results were tested by ordinary chemical reactions. In either case there has been none among the many chemical and physical discoveries of recent years more pregnant with results for the future of science than this, should its accuracy be confirmed.

A convenient form of portable glue is given by Mr. Cherrill and is based upon the use of shredded gelatine. A small portion of this is placed in a wide-mouthed bottle, to which a little water and about one-fourth part of glacial acetic acid are to be added. The gelatine will swell up into worm-like pieces and will be quite elastic. It will keep in this condition indefinitely when properly prepared. When required for use, take a small portion of the swelled gelatine and warm the end of it in the flame of a match or candle and it will immediately "run" into a fine, clear glue, which can be applied at once to the article to be mended. If the shredded gelatine cannot be obtained, the best quality of white glue may be soaked for a short time in water and then cut up into thin strips with a pair of scissors.

Mr. George Curtis Band, who died recently in Newton Centre, Mass., printed the first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," of which 300,000 copies have been issued.