



New Year's Duck.

"Oh! Nellie, you should see the lovely duck I got as a present this morning—it's a perfect beauty—I am going to have it for our New Year's dinner," said Mrs. English to her friend Mrs. Lane, who had come in to see her during the afternoon and talk over the Christmas celebration of a few days before.

I don't know what all that duck didn't do to cover itself with. "No wonder ducks never get wet when they go into the water. Why, this one's skin was one sheet of fat and feathers."



I PUT IT IN THE OVEN. us to entertain her all the time or she annoys the family on the other side of the house—every time she cries some one comes over to see "what ails that baby."



HERE was an expectant smile on Grandma Bartlett's face. She pulled the shade over the lamp and drew the curtains, shutting her room in cozily. The clock on the mantel was ticking the Old Year away as fast as it could hurry him off. It was dusk and New Year's eve, and that was the time for the Pincushion Ceremony at Bartlett's.

"Come, dearies," she called out to Arthur's subdued knock. They filed in, laughing. "Stools of repentance," cried tall Belle, dropping into her hassock. "O grandma, my cushion is full of pins. I broke my resolution every other day. I resolved to keep my temper, you know, and I got so tired of poking in a pin for a slip, nights at bedtime."

"Clean cushions again," said grandma happily, picking up Letty to hug her. "Now for grandma's New Year's presents."

The Julian Year. The error of the Julian year was corrected in the Gregorian calendar by the suppression of three intercalations in 400 years. In order to restore the commencement of the year to the same place in the seasons that it had occupied at the time of the Council of Nice, Gregory directed the day following the feast of St. Francis, that is to say, the 5th of October, to be reckoned the 15th of that month.

Three Ecstasies of 1896. Eighteen hundred and ninety-six will always be memorable in literary annals as ending the lives of three great female writers—Harriet Beecher Stowe, the novelist, Kate Field, the journalist, and Gail Hamilton, the versatile authoress.



KNOW a little temple, Its walls are dim and low, Yet up and down its darkened aisles The blessed angels go.

Thirsty Lands. The enormous basin drained by the Missouri river absorbs, as Mr. Greenleaf has lately shown in the American Journal of Science, no less than eighty-eight per cent of all the rain that falls upon it, whereas the basin of the Ohio river absorbs only seventy per cent.

Garden Spots of the South. The Passenger Department of the Louisville & Nashville R. R. has just issued a hundred page book with the above title. It is descriptive of the resources and capabilities of the soil of the counties lying along this line in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Southern Mississippi and West Florida.

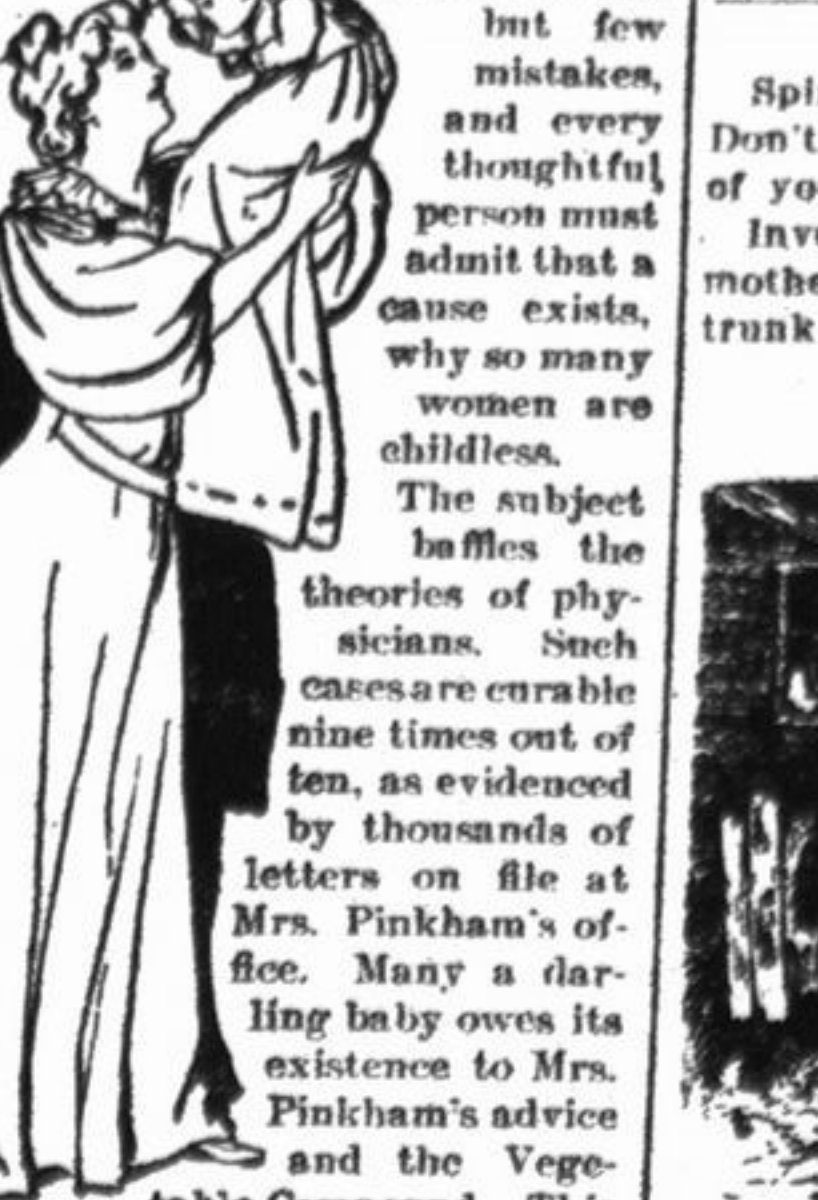
Struck by a Cloudburst. The pretty little seaport town of San Pedro, Cal., narrowly escaped being washed into the Pacific ocean Tuesday night by a cloudburst. Several streets were cut to a depth of twenty feet by raging torrents and a number of dwellings were undermined and in some instances carried down grade and stranded on adjoining lots.

Low Rates for Homecomers Going South. On the first and third Tuesday of each month tickets will be sold to settlers from Chicago to points in Virginia and the Carolinas at greatly reduced rates, both one way and round trip.

Caution. Esie sat listening to the muttering of thunder that preceded a summer shower. "Listen, mamma!" she said, with tiny, cautioning hand uplifted: "zey're tackin' down carpet up in heaven."

The Modern Mother. Has found that her little ones are improved more by the pleasant, Syrup of Figs, when in need of the laxative effect of a gentle remedy than by any other, and that it is more acceptable to them. Children enjoy it and it benefits them.

JOYS OF MATERNITY. Vigorous Mothers and Sturdy Children Are Always Admired. Why so Many Women Are Childless—A Problem That Has Puzzled Physicians for Centuries.



is not to be wondered at when such testimony as the following explains itself: "I have taken three bottles of your Vegetable Compound, one package of Sensitive Wash, one box of Liver Pills; and now I have a dear little babe four weeks old, and I am well. I have to thank you for this."

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.



Willie (crying)—For goodness sake, papa, don't go in the house. Mamma's just thrashed me, and you'll be next!

A Druidic Rite. The yule log in England is a relic of Druidism. Its name is believed to be a corruption of the wheel log, a wheel in Druidical symbolism typifying the march of the sun.

California. If you will send your name and address we will send a representative to your home to explain all about the advantages of Phillips-Rock Island personally conducted Tourist Car Excursions to California.

The lighthouses on the Denmark coast are supplied with oil, which is pumped on the waves in time of storms.

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.—Dhræll.

Three children of the late ward Parsonage of Broadview, stepped on their way to school on the ice on a mill pond, the boys and all were drowned.

Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable.—Benson Alcott.

A French peasant has constructed a wooden bicycle, of which even the nails are made of wood.

Holes in Your Health. What does that mean? Suppose you are taking in money all day, and drop it into a pocket with holes; you will find yourself a loser instead of a gainer by the day's business.

Advertisement for SWAMP ROOT, The Great KIDNEY, LIVER & BLADDER CURE. Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

Advertisement for BACKACHE, THE MAIN MUSCULAR SUPPORTS OF THE BODY WEAKEN AND LET GO UNDER. ST. JACOB'S OIL.

Advertisement for Baker's Chocolate, The only genuine "Baker's Chocolate," celebrated for more than a century as a delicious, nutritious, and flesh-forming beverage.

Advertisement for CALDWELL REMEDIES, POSITIVELY CURE THESE DISEASES. Lists 30 ailments including Stone in bladder, Burning or scalding sensation during and after urination, etc.

Advertisement for HEADACHE THIS MORNING, Shows you did not take a tablet of Candy Cathartic last evening. Candy Cathartic.



I PICKED AND PICKED AND PULLED. I picked and picked and pulled until my fingers ached—it seemed as though feathers were grown in to stay, and so long I was beginning to get so, when ma wasn't looking I some boiling water over the hurry up matters.

Some people never find out that there is joy in giving, because they never give enough. "I think it's a shame, Cyrus, that we've let Esmeralda grow up without trying to give her some kind of musical training. She can't sing at all."