Trifles.

The little joys and little cares,
They come upon us unawares—
And life is smiles, or frowns it wears.

The foes that tramp unheralded,
No banner carried at their head,
These leave the heart dried up, and dead.

A hand-clasp at the garden gate,
A whisper when the moon is late—
And strength is ours to conquer fate.

O trifling acts for weal or woe!
The pain would not harass us so,
The gladness not as sudden go,

If we could draw a freer breath,
If we could push aside dread death,
And hear untired the words God saith.

So much to do, ere hands are cold;
So far to fare, ere limbs grow old;
So much to say, ere story's told—

That we lose sight of better things;
Forget, in all our wanderings,
To use love's buoyant, sweeping wings.

And I, yes, I sometimes forget
To lure away your care and fret
And kiss the cheek that tears have we

Here let us pledge ourselves anew,
Each to the other, open, true—
Lest life lose all its morning dew.

Who knows what day we say good-by?
When one shall in the churchyard lie—
Let us cling closer, you and I!

Wiliam Haskell Simpson

TERRIBLE NAPHTHA EXPLOSION.

A Yachting Party Blown up and Four Persons Killed.

A Wednesday's Buffalo despatch gives the following account of a very sad accident to a pleasure party: This afternoon the family of Mr. L. B. Crocker, Superintendent of the New York Central Stock Yards at East Buffalo, had boarded Mr. Crocker's new yacht, the Cedar Ridge, for a trip down the river. The boat lay at her dock at the foot of Ferry street. The yacht used naphtha for fuel and almost as soon as the engineer had received orders to get ready, two loud explosions were heard and fragments of the yacht were seen shooting skyward. The boat was completely demolished.

The following is a list of the casualties:—

Dead—Ethel and Lancy Crocker, young girls, burned; Howard Crocker, boy, drowned; John Rubenstein, carpenter, working on dock, covered with burning naphtha, burned to death.

The injured are:—Miss Charlotte Crocker, very seriously burned; Miss McLean, a guest of the Crocker family, badly burned; Engineer Coalmeyer, severly burned.

Mrs. Crocker, mother of the three dead children, and the young lady, the latter being perhaps fatally burned, is seriously ill and has not yet been informed of the death of her children.

TERRIFIC GAS MAIN EXPLOSION.

Two Men Killed and Many Injured by an Exploding Main.

A last (Friday) night's Pittsburg despatch says: There was a terrific explosion on the south side shortly after six this evening. Booth & Flynn were testing a thirty-inch natural gas main, which they had laid for the Monongahela Natural Gas Co. Their workmen were testing it before turning on the natural gas by means of compressed air. They ran the pressure up to seventy-five pounds per square inch, when the dead cap on the end of the pipe blew out, scattering debris in every direction. Several hundred workmen employed in the iron mills were returning home and a number stopped to watch the experiment. They were struck by the debris and flying missiles as though a bomb had exploded. The pipe was braced with heavy timbers, and these were hurled into the crowd with terrific force. The workmen and spectators were thrown down, and one, who was killed, was hurled against a brick house and his neck broken. A general stampede followed, and a scene of wildest excitement ensued.

The cries of the injured could be heard several squares. John Miller, single, aged 23, and John O'Connor, single, aged 25, were killed, and several were seriously injured.

Durable Whitewash.

There are several methods of making serviceable wash. The common whitewash is made by putting quicklime into a tight barrel, pouring on water to slake it, and adding water till it is of the consistency of cream. This is used for ordinary work. But a much better whitewash which stands weather well is made as follows: Put half a bushel of quicklime in a barrel and add boiling water till it is covered nearly six inches deep; cover the barrel to keep the steam in, and when the violent ebullition is over; add water enough to bring it to the consistency of cream, allowing four pounds of rice flour to each half bushel of lime, or the rice flour may be mixed with the water for slaking; mixing the flour carefully in cold water before putting it in the hot water until thoroughly set, and then pour it all over the lime, as directed. To improve the above, add two pounds of sulphate of zinc and one pound of salt. To change the color, add yellow ochre for cream tints, raw umber and lampblack for gray tints, and umber, red, and lampblack for fawn tints. The permanence of whitewash thus prepared is remarkable, and, when once tried, will be used to the exclusion of the ordinary mixture.

T. Granger Stewart, M.D., F.R.S.E. Ordinary Physician to H. M. the Queen in Scotland, Professor of Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, writes: "Hypertrophy of the heart is almost always present in cases of advanced cirrhotic disease, and also in the advanced stages of the inflammatory affection. One may trace in patients the gradual development of this hypertrophy advancing *pari passu* (together) with the progress of the renal (kidney affection." In a large number of these cases the kidney disease entirely overlooked and the trouble ascribed to heart disease as a cause, when in reality the kidney disease is the cause and the heart trouble the effect. This error is made easy on account of the kidney disease having no local manifestations in the majority of cases. The kidney disease can be cured by the timely use of Warner's Safe Cure and the consequence avoided.

Charles Arnold, the American comedian, arrived at New York on Saturday after an absence of four years. He made quite a lot of money in Australia.

NEW MIND READER.

Appearance and Doings of the Young Muscovite.

A formidable rival to Mr. Stuart Cumberland, M. Verbeck and other famous "thought readers" has, says a Paris correspondent, appeared in the Salle des Conferences, on the Boulevard des Capucines. The new "mind magician" is M. Onofroff, a tall young man of Muscovite origin, who calls himself, with considerable justice, the "celebrated fascinator and mysterious reader of thought." Notwithstanding the numerous attractions of Paris and the heat which prevailed in the little lecture hall on the boulevards, M. Onofroff attracted a large audience, and his novel experiments were watched with close and unflagging interest. Among the first of the experiments was a "murder scene." A gentleman, completely unknown to the "thought reader," was asked to imagine some particular spot where a murder had been perpetrated, and to fasten on somebody in the hall as a sham assassin. M. Onofroff not only pointed out blindfolded the place of the crime and the imaginary murderer, but also took the knife with which the crime was supposed to have been effected out of the pocket of a third person who had been included in the cogitated combination of the person whose thoughts were under experiment. In another instance, M. Onofroff put out a gas jet which had been the object of the thought of another person in the room. The audience applauded heartily the new "thought reader," and had every reason to be amazed at some of his experiments. M. Onofroff is more brisk in his movements than Mr. Stuart Cumberland, and at times his whole body quivers like an aspen leaf as he is following up the psychological trail and striving to come in contact with objects of thought.

How to Avoid Consumption.

The startling statement that consumption is a contagious disease, and precautions should be taken against it as such, is officially announced by the Board of Health.

Recently the principal physicians of the Health Department were directed by the Board to prepare a brief report on the nature of consumption, with rules to prevent its spread, for popular distribution.

Yesterday the report was presented to the Board and a resolution was passed directing that 10,000 copies of the rules be printed and distributed at once.

"Pulmonary consumption," says the report, "is a disease capable of being communicated from one person to another. The germ of the disease exists in the expectoration of the patient."

The directions for preventing the communication of the disease are given in nine rules, of which the following are most important:

"Do not sleep in the same room with a consumptive patient."

"See that all eating utensils used by the patient are thoroughly cleansed with boiling water."

"In washing do not mingle the clothing of the patient with that of the other persons."

"Consumptive mothers should not be allowed to nurse their children."

"Household pets, such as animals and birds, are capable of contracting the disease and communicating it to other persons, and should be promptly destroyed if even suspected of being infected."

"Rooms occupied by consumptive patients should be thoroughly cleaned—floor, walls and ceiling—at least once a week."

The Board of Health authorities believe that a strict adherence to these rules will do much to check the spread of this most terrible scourge.—*New York Morning Journal.*

Is Ice Water a Healthy Drink?

In the opinion of the editor of the *Sanitary Volunteer*, the official organ of the New Hampshire Board of Health, there is a great deal of sentiment and many opinions regarding the use of ice water that vanish when the light of reason and experience is turned upon them. The fact is that ice water, drank slowly and in moderate quantities, constitutes a healthful and invigorating drink. There is no doubt that ice is a great sanitary agent, and every family ought to be provided with it during the warmer months of the year. It is true that the inordinate use of ice water, or its use under some special conditions and circumstances, is attended with great danger; so is the improper use of any other drink or food. The assumption that iced water is dangerous, and that iced tea, or iced coffee, or iced lemonade is a harmless substitute, is simply a delusion. As the source of danger feared by some is the degree of cold, we fail to see clearly how flavor modifies the effect of temperature. There are individuals, undoubtedly, who cannot drink ice water without injury, and who ought never to use it, but to a great majority of persons it is refreshing and healthful. Its use, temperate and discreet, is in no way to be condemned, which cannot be said of some of its substitutes.—*The Sanitary News.*

A Negro Boy-Preacher.

There is in Brunswick a little negro boy whose years probably do not exceed eight, who has never attended school, but whose natural genius is remarkable. His name is Alexander Washington. He is known as "Preacher," from the fact that, without license and without denomination, he makes his living by preaching to the negroes, charging sometimes 5 cents, sometimes $1, for a sermon, according to the nature of his congregation. On Sunday last a *Times* reporter heard this juvenile exhorter delivering a discourse on the gamblers, near the Pope Catlin's dock. In a quaint but thoroughly sensible manner he condemned them to everlasting death. His use of English so readily, always having words to express a thought, is certainly remarkable. The negroes almost reverence and worship him on account of his unusual intelligence.—*Branswick (Ga.) Times.*

—"Gimme a bite of yer apple, Bill," said a street urchin to his fellow, who was munching a big yellow pippin he had surreptitiously snatched from a huckster's stand. "Naw, I won't," said Bill. "Well, gimme the core then." "Thar ain't goin' to be no core."

Fanny Davenport is on her way home from Europe. So is Emma Abbot.

TWO TIMES TWO ARE FOUR.

How Multiplication Led a Firm to the Verge of Bankruptcy.

Everybody has heard the story of the man who had to give his horse to the blacksmith for shoeing him according to the rule of armithmetical progression—one cent for the first nail and doubling the price for each nail—and of the farmer who gave his farm to the young man who worked three weeks at the rate of one cent for the first day, two for the second, four for the third, and so on, but probably Buffalo furnishes the first case of this kind outside of fiction where the contract was drawn and payment demanded. On account of the recent fire, the Queen City Rag Company had on hand a quantity of rags which they wished to dispose of. Oppenheimer & Co. on the Terrace proposed to buy them, but the terms could not be agreed upon. Finally the Queen City Company offered Mr. Oppenheimer 20 bales of rags on the basis of one cent for the first bale, two for the second, etc., doubling the price of each bale.

Mr. Oppenheimer thought he had a good bargain, and a contract was drawn up. When the purchaser got time to figure up the cost of his purchase, he found that he had agreed to pay $10,485.75 for 20 bales of rags, which were really worth $7 50 a bale, or $150. The following table shows what rags cost according to arithmetical progression:

No. of bale.	Cost of bale
1	$ 01
2	02
3	04
4	08
5	16
6	32
7	64
8	1 28
9	2 56
10	5 12
11	10 24
12	20 48
13	40 96
14	81 92
15	163 84
16	327 68
17	655 36
18	1,310 72
19	2,621 44
20	5,242 88
Total	$10,485 75

It is said that the contract will be contested in the courts.—*Buffalo Courier.*

A Graveyard Insurance Scheme.

About six months ago, at Mahanoy City, Pa., when Squire O'Brien's father was very ill, and not expected to live, a plan was conceived of placing insurances on his life. With whom the scheme originated has not come out yet, but in its execution Constable Pat Foley had a hand. A man named Gallagher, who was perfectly well, was secured to represent himself as old Mr. O'Brien, and Dr. H. A. Klock passed him as a subject for a large insurance policy in the Prudential Mutual Aid Association. O'Brien, senior, died four or five months ago. Then a certificate was presented to the Prudential, and on proofs duly submitted it paid Squire O'Brien nearly $1,200. In the division of the money one of the conspirators was left out. After repeated threats of exposure had failed to bring him any return, he squealed. His revenge took the shape of a letter to the Prudential. The company hired Captain Doughtery, the well-known Pinkerton detective, to investigate the case. He spent a few days in Mahanoy City, and got to the bottom of the scheme. The result of his work was the arrest of Squire O'Brien, Constable Foley, Dr. Klock and Mr. Gallagher as parties to the fraud. All four were taken before Squire Ketner, who, after a brief hearing, put them under $1,000 bail each. Gallagher at the hearing was pointed out by the detective as the man who was examined. The affair created a sensation in Mohanoy City, particularly as all the parties interested are very prominent, politically and otherwise.—*New York Daily Commercial Bulletin.*

Harrison the Nepotist.

(Pittsburg Post.)

Shortly after his inauguration, President Harrison laid down the rule that "the only way to get satisfaction out of a public office is to please yourself while in it." Here is the family list of appointments. It indicates one way in which Brother Ben is "pleasing himself" and "getting satisfaction" out of the office. A very rich list this is:

1. The President's brother.
2. The President's brother-in-law.
3. The President's father-in-law.
4. The President's son's father-in-law.
5. The President's wife's cousin.
6. The President's son's wife's cousin.
7. The President's nephew.
8. The President's daughter's brother-in-law.
9. The President's brother-in-law.
10. The President's wife's niece's husband.
11. The President's son's brother-in-law.
12. The President's brother-in-law.
13. The Private Secretary's brother-in-law.
14. The Secretary of State's son.
15. The Secretary of State's nephew.
16. The Pension Commissioner's two daughters.
17. The Indian Commissioner's wife.
18. The Indian School Superintendent's wife.

Fourteen "Thats."

In thirty-one words how many thats can be grammatically inserted? Answer: Fourteen. He said that *that* that *that* man said, was *that* that *that* one should say; but that *that*, that *that* man said, was *that* that man should not say. That reminds me of the following says and saids: Mr. B——, did you say, or did you not say, what I said? because C — said you said you never did say what I said you said. Now, if you did say that you did *not* say what I said you said, then what did you say?—*America.*

Carefully Brought Up

Lawyer—Yes, I wish to hire an honest young man to do office work. Were you carefully brought up?

Applicant—Oh, yes; I came up on the elevator, sir.

Martin Farquhar Tupper, the author of "Proverbial Philosophy," lives in a handsome country house in England. He bears a striking resemblance to Longfellow in his old age. Tupper does not agree with his old schoolfellow, Mr. Gladstone, on the question of Home Rule.

REGARDING BABIES.

Reasoning in Children is Primitive and Develops Slowly.

In the course of a lecture delivered in Philadelphia the other day a distinguished female physician said that the inability of a abby to hold up its head was not due to the weakness of the neck, but to the lack of development of its will power. The act of standing was instinctive and initiative, while facial expression and gesture were due almost wholly to imitation. A baby's smile, she said, was the most misunderstood thing in infancy. A real smile must have an idea behind it, but the expression resembling a smile, which is so often seen on a very young baby's face, was without an idea, and was due to the easy condition of the stomach or some other physical satisfaction. The smile with an idea does not appear earlier than the fourth week. So, too, with the crying of a baby. The contortion of the features is due to physical causes. The baby sheds no tears, because the lachrymal glands are not developed for several weeks after birth.

The chief pleasure of all children is to change from one condition to another by their own efforts. This is the beginning of the development of the will power, and is often attested in what has been called "imperative intention of tears." This is not disclosed until after the second or third month.

A baby tests everything by its mouth its sense of taste being the surest and most reliable guide it has. The attention of all young children is difficult to attract, and they must attain considerable age before they begin to notice. Then colors and sounds are most potential. Fear has been known to be manifested by a baby only three weeks old, and in all cases the sensation is produced by sound more than by sight. Children of luxurious and carefully guarded homes are almost wholly without fear, but the children of poor and exposed parents always manifest it.

Jealousy and sympathy begin to manifest themselves in the second year. Curiosity also begins to develop here, and proves to be a self-feeder throughout childhood. A little later the ego begins to appear, and the baby has the first consciousness of itself. The ego first appears as a muscular sense, and the infant gradually learns to distinguish itself from the surrounding objects. It is first the hand that is distinguished, and then the foot, and finally the whole body.

Memory does not appear before the child is 2 years of age. All the reasoning of children is primitive and elementary, and develops slowly. Darwin noted an association of ideas in the mind of his child when it was only five months of age.

The lecturer related experiences of babies with the first view of mirrors, and showed that their actions under the new conditions were similar to those of anthropoid apes and dogs under like conditions.

Removing Paint.

The ordinary process of scraping old paint, or burning it off, is hardly expeditious enough for general purposes, and is also laborious. Soda and quicklime are far more thorough, and the paint is more quickly removed. The solution of half soda and half quicklime is thus made: The soda is dissolved in water, the lime is then added, and the solution can be applied with a brush to the old paint. A few minutes is sufficient to remove the coats of paint, which may be washed off with hot water. Many preparations are sold for the removal of paint, all of them having some basis of alkali. A paste of potash and strong lime is far more effectual in operation, and the oldest paint can be removed by it. Afterward a coating of vinegar or acid should be used to cleanse the surface before repainting. One authority on the subject recommends the gasoline lamp, a quart of oil being sufficient to last 3½ hours. The method is considered superior to gas, as the flame is stronger and the cost less, besides which the lamp can be carried to any part, which cannot be done conveniently with a gas jet. But the use of flame of either is dangerous and to be avoided when possible. Many a house has been burnt to the ground from using jets of flame. For removing varnish, spirits of ammonia is used, but it is a slow process, and several applications are necessary. Scraping and sandpapering can be employed; but it must be done carefully by experienced hands, or the surface of wood will be injured. The chemical process of removal has the advantage of leaving the surface in a better condition than burning off or scraping, and for large surfaces of paintwork is to be preferred.

Starting Street Cars.

Three employees of a New York firm have been at work in Bridgeport, Conn., recently on a curious invention which is called a "car starter." A Bridgeport paper says that various experiments with it will be made on a horse car in that city this week. The device "consists of a strong spring, which, upon loosening the car brake, sends the car forward a distance of eight feet, even when the car is heavily loaded. The inventor has just completed the arrangement. He expects to realize a fortune from his invention, as the principal cause of the disablement of horses on horse lines is the great strain brought to bear upon them in starting the cars when they contain a large number of passengers. The spring is so arranged that its force can be strengthened and diminished at will, so that in starting a car containing only a few passengers the force will not be great enough to cause the front of the car to strike the animals' rear legs."

In Deep Water.

Miss Bessie Neater, of Boston—Her books are simply delightful. Indeed, I think she is the most liberal writer I know of.

Miss Hattie Bacon, of Chicago—Well, I don't know. I don't think she is as liberal as Mrs. Southworth. Mrs. Southworth gives you 400 pages for a quarter every time.

An Old Rule Well Applied.

Creditor—Here, I have found you at last, and I want that little bill of $50 quickly.

Debtor (hastily)—Here's your money. Give a receipt in full, please.

Creditor—There is but $25 here.

Debtor—Yes, but you know he gives twice who gives quickly.

GAMES OF CHANCE.

Their Trivial Character and Moral Aspect

What is culpable in gambling is spending on it any sum which you would be ashamed to spend on the most trivial of all distractions of any other kind, says the *Spectator*. For a game of chance played for money is an utterly trivial amusement, of which the best that can be said is that it gives a certain amount of discipline to the understanding and character, in teaching a true estimate of the elemen of chance on the one hand, and cheerful indifference on the other hand. But it seems to us that, if the right limits be assigned to risk at such games of chance, there is at least not less, perhaps we might justly say a good deal more, to be said for them than can be said for spending such sums as are actually spent on the gratification of the palate or the mere dazzling of the eye. In games of chance you do learn to realize practically what it means in life to have the odds against you, as men so often must have them against them in much more serious matters, and matters where it is far less possible to calculate the amount of the odds against them. You might learn, too, and often do learn, how much piquancy is given to otherwise very stupid occupations by the uncertainty of the issue. And you certainly get a very good opportunity of practising equanimity in small reverses and magnanimity in small successes. Take it all in all, we hold that games of chance played for such trivial sums as a man may properly pay for the most trivial of other amusements, are by no means wrong, though it is extremely wrong to encourage in yourself so great a taste for the excitement of risk that you are willing to pay for that excitement as much as you would pay for the most healthful and ennobling of human recreations—recreations which develop the body, or cultivate the mind, or stimulate the soul. We do not believe that there can be any wrong in enjoying in a moderate way in pure play the sort of excitement which all great explorers, all great scholars, all great pioneers, all great soldiers, all great sailors, enjoy in a large way in the pursuit of their various objects in life. But when the element of risk is sought after for itself alone, when it is entirely dissociated from any useful or noble or beautiful object beyond itself, then it ought undoubtedly to be kept, and jealously kept, within very narrow limits, and not permitted so to eat into the nature that everything seems to be tame and uninteresting which is not flavored with risk. After all, the certainties of life are infinitely greater and higher than the uncertainties, and the one delight which it is impossible to connect in any sense with the divine should not be the one in which man finds his most vivid satisfaction.

Eight Uses for Salt.

Salt and water cleans willow furniture.

Salt in whitewash will make it stick better.

Wash the mica of the stove doors with salt and vinegar.

Brasswork can be kept beautifully bright by occasionally rubbing with salt and vinegar.

Damp salt will remove the discoloration of cups and saucers caused by tea and careless washing.

When broiling steak throw a little salt on the coals and the blaze from dripping fat will not annoy.

Salt as a tooth powder is better than almost anything that can be bought. It keeps the teeth brilliantly white and the gums hard and rosy.

If the feet are tender or painful after long standing or walking great relief can be had by bathing them in salt and water A handful of salt to a gallon of water is the right proportion. Have the water as hot as can comfortably be borne.

Buying a Mountain.

It is one thing, says a country gossip, to buy a mountain, another thing to know what to do with it. Sir Edward Watkin cheerfully admits that it was for him Mr. Perks bought the summit of Snowdon. The price paid for the property was £5,750. The hon. baronet was asked what he thought of doing with his bargain, "Oh, nothing particular," he answered with a smile. "It was a little bit of Welsh vanity as much as anything else that prompted me to make the purchase." It presently appeared, however, that there was something else in Sir Edward's mind, for as the conversation went on he revealed that it is his intention to offer a site on the top of Snowdon to the Royal Astronomical Society for purposes of an observatory like that on Ben Nevis. Sir Edward also comtemplates greatly improving the road to the summit.

She Is Engaged.

Miss Caroline Fitzgerald, whose engagement to Lord Edward Fitzmorris, the younger brother of the Marquis of Lansdowne, has been announced by cable, is only 21 years old, but is a fine classical scholar and a clever linguist. She studied Sanscrit under Prof. Whiting of Yale College, and has published a book of poems. A large fortune in her own right has enabled her to fully gratify her taste for study and travel.

George Furnished the Arms.

Emma—So you're engaged to young George Halby.

Sadie—Yes; George and I came to an understanding some weeks ago. You remember the wheat corner in Chicago?

Emma—To be sure I do.

Sadie—Well, that's the time I got caught in the squeeze.

Scandalous.

Jones—"Do you know her?"

Brown—"No."

"I do. She is the main support of a great 'crook.'"

"What, that lovely creature support a crook? Impossible!"

"It's a fact, I tell you. Look at the handle of her parasol."

Ordering Groceries.

Delivery Boy—What shall I bring you for dinner, Mrs. Youngwife?

Mrs. Youngwife—Let me see. Oh, yes! Bring me a quart of strawberries and two bars of soap.

—The water lily keeps its head above water about as well as anything we think of just now.