WINTE DAYS OF OLD.

Let s to back. O brother mine. To the precious ways of the 'days gone by----

Back to the gleam of the glad sunshine. When we were children you and I. We are growing old, but I long so much For the grasp of a mother's hands te

hold Me away from sin and its solling touch As they used to do in the days of old

I'm tired of dogma of Church and

State: Let's trail with our feet the dust of

the lane. As we wander down to the pasture

gate. And bring the cows for mother again and nee once more the woodlark di From stake to stake of the ridered

fence: And feel the old-time fellowship

We felt in our boyhood innocence.

Let's climb to the rafters overhead, And build a swing on the old barn

floor. Let's "hide and seek" in the wagon shet And be "knee high" again once more

Let's part the weeds where the truand hen

Has stolen her nest; then stoop and fold

The sheltering weeds o'er the nest again

As we used to do in the days of old

Oh, the endless joys of the days of old! With the path that led to the fruited

trees, Where the dandellons their coins of gold

Had scattered to bribe the burnblebees.

Down in the grass was the oricket's chirr

And overhead was the dragon fiy: and round about us everywhere

Was the dreamy gleam of the days gone by.

And oh the years and tears since then! The miles and smiles that have

lured us on! The graves we have passed and the mo-

ments when The cradie and coffin seemed almost one!

Bo let's go back. O brother mine.

Forgetting to-night our greed of gold, And talk awhile of the glad sunshine That glided the ways of the days of

-Alfred Ellison in Chicago Record.



When I arrived at the station Lady Mannington, Molly and the French maid had collected their chattels and stood round the immense heap in attitudes denoting various degrees of impatience. I apologized

"It is of no consequence," said Lady Mannington, in a tone signifyig that it was one of the greatest. Molly shook her head at me and smiled. I loked at the two indies and the

French maid, and then I looked at the ministure mountain. "The brougham is only seated for

two." I hinted.

to marry him. I do hope I am clear. She got him into a quiet corner, and somehow or other my friend found out she had hold of his hand. I-I don't know how it happened. It just occur-

red." 'How clever of your friend to find it out," said Molly, sarcastically. I went on hastily-"And then he saw her head coming nearer and nearer to his shoulder, and he didn't know

what to do." "I wonder," said Molly. "he did not call for help."

"You see," I went on, "he was afraid she would propose, or-or-the mother might come. He guessed the mother: now." was pretty near. Then he thought of the other girl, and he got into a dread-

ful panic. In fact, he lost his head." 'It could not have been a great loss," said Molly, disdainfully.

"No-o; but it was the only one he yo'self." had, and he was accustomed to it. He didn't know what to do. So he said he

was already engaged." Did he say, 'already?' "

Molly uttered a peal of silvery laugh-"I am really almost sorry for that inquired : ter.

girl. but it served her right. "The girl didn't turn a hair. She simply straightened herself up and

asked to whom he was engaged." "Well?"

"He blunted out the name of the other girl. He couldn't think of any oth- Bible" er name.

"To whom, of course, he is not engaged?" "No; and I don't suppose she would

him.

"Is that your whole story?" "Very nearly. The girl went away

gushingly and congratulated him. She is a true sportswoman. Afterward she went about telling everybody of the en-

receive congratulations ever since." "How awkward!" said Molly, meditatively. "Has the other girl heard of

1t?" "Not yet. This all happened yester.

day."

'Yesterday.' I nodded. "And the worst is the otn-

er girl is expected to arrive at the Towers almost immediately." "Dear me," said Molly "So your

friend is at the Towers now?" "I didn't mean to let it out," I re-

plied, a triffe abashed. Molly began to laugh. "It is most

amusing; but why did you tell me about it? "I want your advice "

"Who is the other girl?" asked Molv curiously.

"Please don't ask for names," I implored.

"But my advice must depend on the other girl's disposition " "She is everything that is perfect," I

replied fergently. "No doubt," retorted Molly, satirical-

17. "You might almost be the other girl

yourself," I went on, with careful carelessness.

"Really!" said Molly. "I believe that must be considered a compliment, som. Thank you very much."

"What," I asked, with elaborate in-

som

| twenty?

different.

me

HE WAS BROUGHT LOW.

According to seripture and Must 28 Was He Done-

Away up on the creat of the Cumberand range I sat taking and smoking with a mountaineer in front of his sabin after the humble meal called supper, when a "native" came down the trail on a mule and halted to say: "Howdy, Dan? Folks all peart?" "Yes, rather peartish," was the reply

"Got a Bible yit?" "Noap." "I'm a-sellin' Bibles fur a dollar

"Hain't got no dollar to buy with." "Shoo! Say, Dan Hawkins, yo' orter nev a Bible in the house. It's monstrous like a heathen not to hev a Yo' jess orter be ashamed of Bible.

"I reckon I kin git along." The man on the mule was a combination of preacher, circuit-rider and colporteur, and he seemed considerably "Yes." It was a cold day, but I mop- :hagrined at not making a sale. He ped my brow with my handkerchief. | presently got off his mule and began to

take off his coat, and then mine host "What yo' gwine to do. Tom?" "Look-a-yere, Dan Hawkins, yo' has gin out that no man in this country has ever laid yo' on yo'r back!"

"That's true." "If I fay yo' thar' will yo' buy a

"I will." "Then, with the help o' the Lord, I'm

goin' to do it! The scriptur' says that the stiff-necked and high-headed must have him. She is far too good for be brought low, and that's whar' I'm goin' to bring yo'. Come out yere and

be laid!" "Tom, yo' can't do it-can't do it noand told her mother, who came up how!" replied the settler as he rose up and prepared for the conflict.

'I've got to, Dan!" said the preacher as he pulled off his vest. "I'm comgagement, and my friend has had to manded by the Lord to sell yo' a Bible, and the Lord will strengthen my arms all.

to lay yo' flat!" They dodged around for a minute, the edge of the root. looking for an opening, and then the preacher suddenly rushed in and got a back hold and Dar didn't last fifteen seconds under the strain. It was a fair pany dashed back to i's house, having fall, and as he rose up he took a silver

dollar from his pocket and handed it out in exchange for a Bible. 'Didn't I say the Lord would help

me?" asked the preacher as he mounted his mule to ride on 'Yes, but it wasn't quite fa'r!" growl. Harris.

ed Dan as he stood with the Bible in his hands. "But the stranger says it was. What

ar' yo' complainin' of Dan?" 'Of the Lord, I've lived right vere

fur twenty-five y'ars and this is the face. fust and only time He has cum within twenty miles of this cabin' Tain't you?" right to jump right in on a man ell of dinarily did a great deal of shouting a suddent, and vo'know it hain't and the fust time I catch yo' without the and not much work, run to the door-Lord on yo'r side I'll make all yo'r Way.

ribs crack and yo'r heels draw $up!'' \rightarrow$ Detroit Free Press.

How He Hoew

Blossom (handing him a twenty)-

Bloomer (greatly surprised)-You cer-

Bloomer-Well, then, how did you

Blossom-By the way you addressed

Bloomer -- That's what you said the

last time, and I addressed you entirely

Bad Luck With Meal Tickets.

sidewalk ten feet or so away, and be-

maining twenty squares."-Chicage

Jones' Self-Restraint.

She-"Mr. Jones, look at that immu-

but you ought not to follow me up and

girl. She has got lots of money, and if

I succeed you will not only get your

money, but also an order for a wedding

Still No Outbreak.

He (sotto voce)—"Another was scare

Snip goes off satisfied.

Times-Herald.

suit.'

the last ten blocks.'

'Yes," said the reformed miner "1

Blossom-That may be, but I've no-

Blossom - No; I don't claim to be.

tainly must be a mind reader.

Bloomer-Good morning, Mr. Blos-

B.ossom (handing him a twenty)-Here you are.

FREAKS OF A TORNADO. DAUNTLESS FIRE COMPANY

Capt. Steven of the Dauntless hook,

The truckmen glanced up bravely

"Get up close, there!" he shouted.

Capt. Steven turned the faucet.

"Don't be afraid of the fire."

cloth coats.

shed.

citedly.

red flannel.

a single day.

met.

Kany Strange and Scenaringly Improb able Tales of Tornadue

SECRET DRAWERS.

THEY WERE FORMERLY MADE in

The Custom Died With Furniture Makers

of the Colonial Period-The Spaulah

Have Expended Much ingenuity in

Little if any modern furniture is

made with secret compartments, such

as those that gave kindly aid to our

ancestors, and often, even in the repro-

ductions of antique desks and bureaus,

these drawers are omitted. This is

probably owing to the added labor and

expense that are necessary to produce

Among the desks that have secret

receptacles are those that have come

down from colonial times, when the se-

cret drawer came flauntingly into fash-

ion. A typical colonial desk is owned

by a prominent woman in New York,

who declares that it came over on the

Mayflower. Its secret drawer is shown

with much pride, for in it was once

hidden by the Lair Priscilla a letter

from John Alden. The desk is very

cumbersome, and the locality of the

drawer could hardly be doubted by the

But of all nations that of Spain has

undoubtedly expended the most in-

genuity in secret drawers, and it is

quite safe to say that all their fine

pieces of furniture are made not only

with one but with many such places.

About two years ago a superb speci-

men of Spanish mystery and fine work.

manship in the shape of an escritoire

was renovated and overhauled by an

expert there were found to be not less

than twelve more such places, complet-

ing in all a number of thirty. Many

were arranged within others. For m-

stance, by pushing to one side a column

that appeared to be simply for orna-

mentation and necessary to the design

a small slide was found, which, when

also pushed, revealed a little chest of

five drawers, most exquisitely fastened

and finished with carved ivory knobs.

In their turn they could be lifted out as

a whole, when a much larger and deep-

er space was found that could be used

for hiding almost any object of value.

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most unsuspicious.

Making Secret Drawers.

them.

CABINETS.

ladder and fire company came in for Many strange and scemingly improbthe second time during the day, put able tales are told of the freaks of toron his red helmet, and, stepping to nadoes, of how straws have been driven :he corner of the fire company's house, pulled charply on the bell-rope. There through boards, and of chickens entirewas an answering "clang, clang," and ly shorn of their natural covering of a moment later a sound of hurrying feathers, and of houses being lifted feet in the alley. In dashed the three bodily and being set down upon mothtruckmen, breathless with excitement. er earth apparently unharmed, after They ran to their lockers, put on their having been carried through space for helmets and shrugged into their oila considerable distance. Other tales

tell of glant oaks being torn up by "Go!" roared Capt. Steven, and down their ruots and twisted into a mass the alley dashed the Dauntless boys. of splinters by the terrific force of the Truckmen Ford and Harris acted as horses and Capt. Steven drove, clangcyclone. ing the gong wildly all the way down

For some time past an interesting to the street. Here he ordered a halt, spectacle of the tornados work has sprung to the ground and looked to the been displayed in a show window. It top of Grandmother Morton's woodis what was the iron spokes and hub of a cultivator wheel, and it is bent and "See the flames!" he shouted, extwisted into such intricate shape that

it is hardly recognizable There on the top of the woodshed lay It is a relic of the Norman, Oklahoma a long piece of red flaunel held down tornado, which occurred in the spring by two bits of broken crockery. It of '95, killing twenty-nine people, deseemed to inspire them with a frenzy molishing hundreds of houses and leavof valor. They dragged a piece of old ing bleak and horrid desolation in its garden hose from the wagon, hitched path. it to the water pipe in the garder, and

A few days after the long-to-be-remembered tornado this interesting object of the storm's fury was found two The brave truckmen charged toward miles east of Norman. It was taken the woodshed with their heimets down. into the city where it attracted a great dragging the hose after them. Instantdeal of attention, and photographs were ly a stream of water was drenching the made of it and sent over the country.

The wheel to which these crooked "It's spreading, it's spreading," calland bent spokes and battered hub beed the captain. "Harris, climb up with longed was four and one-half feet in your ax. Steady there with the hose." diameter, within an iron tire two and They are always so well concealed that With a rush the ladder went up, and one-half inches across and three- it is taken for granted that finding brave Harris climbed to the roof. Behind him Ford dragged the hose. The fourths of an inch thick. This tire was them would be impossible, and a chart stream was trained on the red flannel. torn completely off and no trace of it is therefore provided by their designer and it was washed off, crockery and has ever been found. The spokes look as a ciew to their locality. as if they had all been gathered in a "Out, said Ford, stepping proudly to bunch and then mashed. No information has ever been found as to where Then the gong clanged, and the the thing came from or to whom it was consigned to an antique dealer. Dauntless hook, ladder and fire combelonged, and it will probably never be It was bought by former Mayor Grace, known whether the storm tore the of New York city, and probably has saved the town for the third time in wheel away from the cultivator, as no a rival in this country. The chart some peaceful farmer was plowing his the, accompanied is, and which was a "That was a pretty exciting fire," commented Harris, hunging up his helground or whether it was picked up modern one, showed the location of from a blacksmith shop in Norman. As eighteen secret drawers. But when it "See where I burned my har. 1," said it now is, it weighs twenty-four and one-half pounds, an ordinary wheel of Just then the members of the Dauntthe sort weighing sixty-five pounds. less company were startled by the People who have seen it have expresssight of Aunt Deborsh running down through the garden her skirts flying ed amazement that a wind should be in the wind and a look of terror on her, so strong and violent as to carry an object several miles and mash and bend

5.212 Tona; 3.877 Beet.

City Times.

it into the shape it appears.-Kansas

Europe has been profoundly impressed by an event which passed almost unnoticed in America. This was the suc-"Støven," cried Aunt Deborah. wringing her hands, "run and turn the cessful run of a railway train threequarters of a mile long, by far the long-Without a word Capt. Steven pulled est and heaviest on record.

It is sometimes strangely true that The train was run from Altoona to The truckmen flew to their places, Columbia over the Pennsylvania Railthe more open and frank the characteristics of a nation, the more many road. Its total length was exactly 3,-

"Celeste can walk," said Lady Mannington. "I shall be glad of her company," I

responded politely. Lady Mannington glanced at me

doubtfully. "Perhaps she could manage by the coachman," she suggested.

"His wife is most putticular," I interposed quickly.

'I shoud prefer to walk, mamma.' said Molly, with an air of much good nature.

"Perhaps that will be best," said Lady Mannington, reluctionally: "I am sure of it." I endorsed heartily.

"If only your aunt had sent the ornpibus-" Lady Mannington began, aggrievedly.

"It was most careless of her." I admitted instantly. I caught Molly's eye. She had a curious way of smiling at nothing.

So Molly and I started to walk over the crisp snow. Just outside the station I helped her over the stile. "We may as well take the short cut," I observed; "it is not so very much longer, and I have so much to say to you. "What about?" asked Molly.

I hesitated. "It is about a friend of mine," I replied at length.

"Oh!' "He is in the deuce of a mess," I began, confidentially. "I want your

.help. "What can I do?" asked Molly, open-

ing her eyes. 'You can advise me," I replied, tak-

ing courage. "A woman's wit-Molly was pleased. "Go on Mr. Tre-

cor.' "I fear you will think my friend par-

ticularly foolish,"I said sorrowfully. "Very likely," replied Molly, indiflerently.

I assure you he has many good points. But it happened a girl wanted . to marry him."

What!" exclaimed Molly,

"I can't think what she saw in him," I replied, uncomfortably,

"I hope," said Molly "you are not going to tell me anything that is not proper."

"Oh no," I replied, earnestly. "The girl was quite respectable. All the parties are more respectable."

"She could not have been quite nice," said Molly decisively.

I stopped to test the strength of the ice over the pool.

"I have seen her look quite nice," I replied, thoughtfully.

"You know her?" asked Molly quick-Jy.

"Oh. yes; it wasn't really the girl who wanted to marry my friend; it was her mother. I mean the mother wanted the girl to marry my friend. I hope I make myself clear."

"I don't think that improves matters," retorted Molly.

She had a large family of daughters." I explained. "Go on." said Molly, with a severely

Indicial air. "My friend was in love with another

zirl-a really nice girl. In fact, a quite splendid girl. One of the very best," I said, kindling.

"You know the girl, too?" said MoIly, coldly. Ye-os

· IIIIIrus Luzz Well?" My friend was staying at a course

house, and so were both the girl and her mother, and she----" g "Who?" asked Molly, "The girl whose mother wanted her

difference, "would you do if you were the other girl?" "Molly stopped and broke off a sprig twenty?

of red berries. They were not so red . as her lips. "Of course," she said, "I mĕ should be very annoyed."

"Ah, of course," said 1 forlornly. time "At any rate I should pretend to be Bloomer (the next t'm.) Hello, Blos-

very annoved.' "But really,"-I began, delighted. "Oh, that would depend on the man." Take it.

"Supposing, for the sake of illustra- j tion," said I, surveying the white expanse of a neighboring field, "I was the

man?" "This is nonsense" said Molly. "We know I was going to ask you for a

can't make believe to that extent." "Why can't we?"

"You would never be so foolish." "But if-

"Let us talk about something sensible," said Molll with decision.

"But my poor friend is depending on me for advice." She thought. "Of course your friend

must get away from the Towers before the other girl arrives." "You are quite clear he ought to get

away?" I asked mournfully. "There can be no doubt of that, Just

fancy everybody rushing to congratu- is the best of my luck. I got away late the other girl, and your friend being present at the time. There migut to contend with: I struck the camp be a dreadful scene.'

"I can picture it." said I, repressing a groan.

We had arrived at the entrance to best he would do was to get me a meal the avenue. I stopped and held out my ticket at the Blue Bell-one of those hand.

"Good-by," I said.

"What do you mean?" she exclaimed. "I-I am going away. I ain the man." I do not think I am mistaken. The color faded slightly from her face.

"And the other girl?" she queried, faintly. "You are the other girl." The red replaced the white. She stood quite still, with her eyes bent

downward, and then she began to trace figures in the snow with the toe of her tiny boot.

"Good-by," I repeated. She looked up. "Of course, I am

very angry," she said. And then she smiled and held out her hand. I took it humbly and forgot to relinquish it.

"Mamma will be getting anxious," she remarked. "We must hurry."

But we did not hurry.-Pick-Me-Up

Lived to Grumble.

The deaf man got out of the tramca on to the other line of rails. "Lool out! there's a car coming!" said the a lesson." conductor.

"What?" said the deaf man. "There's a car coming."

"What?" The car caught and knocked down the deaf man, and as he picked himsel

dun me when I'm trying to capture that up he sid: "I wonder what that fool kept me there talking about."-Truth.

After the Whist Party. Hicks-Look here, old boy, what it time did you put that old woman of to me for?

Wichs-I put her on to you? I had don't think he will ever stare at you nothing to do with it. You chose her again. I had great difficulty in refor your partner.

Flicks-But you was the cause of it You told me she had won a prize at ev ery whist party she had attended. Wicks-So she has. I didn't think i would interest you to tell you thet not come." were always booby prizes .- Boston blown over!"--- Up to Date. Tramerint.

on their way up the alley Bloomer (surprised)-Why, how did In vain Aunt Deborah called after you know I was going to ask for a

them: "No, no, this is a real fire." And when she could not make them Blossom-By the way you addressed understand she ran on up the street to find some one else. Bloomer-Well, I'll fool you the next

the bell cord, "Clang, clang."

"Here we are " he called.

fire alarm. The house is on fire.'

and a moment later they were again.

At the back gate the Dauntless fire company turned in, almost tipping over the wagon. Right up the path they charged to the door of the summer kitchen. Capt. Steven looked in and then looked out again with his face white and scared. It was no red flannel fire that time, but a real fire that was running from the cook stove up tin shelves to the roof. And there were | brakes. real red flames and lo's of smoke. The truckmen of the Dauntless company, who had crowded up behind, stepped back, awed and solemn. Little Dick, the engineer, began to whimper. But Capt Steven threw back his shoulders.

"Ford, Harris, Steven where are

Little Dick, the engineer, who or-

"Man the hose!" he shouted, "quick ticed you address me only when you there!" and without waiting for the want a twenty .-- San Francisco Wave . truckmen to not he dragged the hose from the wagon and fastened it to the on the water and Truckman Ford, | class.

am back from Cripple Creek, and that with his helmet down, plunged into the smoky kitchen. A moment later Here is a sample of the ill fate I had Capt. Steven was beside him and together they trained the stream of wawithout a cent, for I hadn't done any ter right on Aunt Deborah's cook thing but lose all along the line. 1, stove. They spattered the wall and hunted up Johnnie Costello, and the they drenched the floor and they washed down Aunt Deborah's pans and sent shem rattling and clattering in every your birds in cages. twenty-one meals for \$4 affairs--and direction.

every time you eat they punch a figure By and by there was the louder clang I wasn't long using it, and stepped out of a gong in the street and in came on the sidewalk containing the first two big firemen carrying a chemical semblance to a square feed I had held hand extinguisher. in some days. A gust of wind came

Capt. Steven met them in the middle down from between Tenderfoot and of the floor. Mineral Hills, where all the puffs orig-

"It's out." he said with dignity. inate, and blew the meal ticket out of And out it was to the last spark, and my hand. It landed face up on the when Uncle George came in with Aunt Deborah crying behind him the fire fore I could recover it a big 200-pound

captain was saying to Capt. Steven: Cornish miner stepped on it. He wort "You did well, my boy. If it hadn't heavy boots, with hobnails in them been for you the whole house would and as sure as I am a living man the have gone. nails in his heel punched out the re-

Aunt Deborah tried to gather Truck man Ford up in her arms and cry ov er him, but he wriggled away and followed the clanging of the gong down the alley to the fire-house. A few minutes later the Dauntless fire company came back as private citizens and they were then ready to discuss the fire. "Course we put it out," said Capt

Steven, indignantly. "What's a fire company for?"

vitality.

The sparrows in Washington park have discovered a great source of supplies for themselves and their families. During the evening while the electric lights are burning thousands of insects, hovering near the glare, fal into the white globes and lose their lives in the heat of the carbons. The sparrows have found this out, and firs thing in the morning hundreds of then may be seen hopping into the globes, out again with a good, fat beetle or i bug in their bills. They will fly away with their treasure to their nests, and a little later, back they will come for a afreed I couldn't stand de cold." new supply—for there are plenty of lit.

way the whole sparrow community other park birds do not seem to have See?-Chicago News. discovered the arclight storehouses.

877 feet, its weight behind the tender and engine 5.350 tons.

There were 130 open coal cars. They weighed 1.519 tons, the coal weighing 3,693 tons. As delivered to householdfireman were thus enabled to do a stupendous task. But few trainmen were the wall and through Aunt Deboran's necessary, owing to the use of air-

time and coal of starting and stopping and one fireman doing perhaps a quarter of the actual work performed by the garden plug. Truckman Harris turned battery of engine No. 872, Giant H 5

Care of Birds.

In a state of nature, says a writer in Harper' Round Table, small birds flit about and sing only during daylight, and always retire to rest at sundown. You must look out for this, if you keep

They do not understand that they had better keep silent after the lamps are lighted. They instinctively keep on singing, as if it were still daylight. The immediate effect of this is that the birds become over-fatigued; they are apt to moult, grow thin, suffer from

exhaustion and quickly perish. The cage should be removed to a darkened room at nightfall; or, if this is not convenient, cover up the cage with a dark cloth before lighting the lamp.

In covering the cage care should be taken so as to arrange the cloth that the bird can have pleaty of air. If removed to a different temperature there is a strong chance that they will

hegin to moult, which generally leads to something serious. Remember that Nature supplies a coat to suit the heat or cold in which her creatures are placed, and that sudden and frequent changes in temperature are a severe tax upon a bird's

It is well to have a night covering of dark cloth which covers the top of the cage and extends half way down the sides as many birds are likely to take cold.

Wasn't Taking Chances.

Lady-Now that you have finished a good substantial dinner, I suppose remaining a moment, and then hopping you will not object to sawing a few sticks of wood?

Tramp-I'd like ter obleege yer, lady, but me togs is so thin dat I'm Lady-Cold! And the thermometer tle sparrows at home to feed. In this at ninety in the shade? Are you crazy? Tramp-Nope. I knows it's hot, but fares sumptuously every day, while the den it'll be a cold day w'en I saw wood.

of their belongings abound in secret was 5,212 tone, or, including tender places. This was illustrated by their having been so fashionable in Puritan times in this country. A traveler through New Engalnd tells of his astonishment at the caution displayed by ers in New York or Brooklyn it would one of its inhabitants in providing for be worth \$17,541. The engine itself himself as well as his goods and chatweighed only 118 tons. Besides its ten. | tels a secret hiding place in case of der it pulled more than forty-two times necessity. Upon examination he found its own weight. One engancer and one | that an old colomial bureau that stoodagainst the wall in an upper room had been used for this purpose. The partition between the two lower drawers as well as the backs were provided with Such a heavy train would not be grooves and springs to assist them in profitable for short hauls or for runs gitting out of sight. The space was involving many stops, as the cost in then so large that the owner could easily crawl in and pass through a hole would be so great. In England, how- in the wall that connected with a dark ever, and on the Continent even freight closet. The closet, in its turn, opened trains are always short, one engineer upon an outer shed, from which an eecape could be made .-- Chicago Inter Ocean.

Pepper in Old'Times.

Dr. Adolph Miller, of Philadelphia, president of the Pennsylvania Mycological Club, in a dissertation on the pepper plant, says that during the middle ages in Europe pepper was the most esteemed and important of all the spices. Genoa, Venice and other commercial cities of Central Venice were indebted to their traffic in pepper for a large part of their wealth. Its importance as a means of promoting commerdial activity and civilization during the middle ages, can hardly be overrated. Tribute was levied in pepper, and donations were made in this spice, which was frequently also used as a medium of exchange in place of money When the imperial city of Rome was besieged by Alaric the King of the Goths, in 408 A. D., the ransom demanded included 5,000 pounds of gold, 30.000 pounds of silver and 3,000 pounds of pepper, illustrating the importance of this spice at that time.

So-called pepper rents, common during the middle ages, consisted in an obligation imposed upon a tenant to supply his lord with a pound of pepper at stated times, showing how acceptable was this favorite condiment and how great was the desire of the wealth. ier classes to secure a regular supply of it. Spice dealers were known as piperarii; in English, pepperers, and in French. poivriers. As a fraternity, or guild, they existed in London in the reign of Henry II. (1154-1789). They were subsequently incorporated inte the Grocers' Company, and had the control of the trade in spices, drugs, dye-stuffs and metals.

The price of pepper during the middle ages was always exorbitantly high, as the rulers of Egypt extorted a large revenue from all who were engaged in the spice trade. The high cost of this important condiment incited the Portuguese to seek for a sea passage to India. Some time after this discovery (A. D. 1498) there was a considerable fall in the price of pepper.

Returning to the young lady, Jones says: "I am glad you called my atten. tion to that cowardly scoundrel. straining myself."-Texas Sifter. She-"Mamma writes that she can-

dent man on the other side of the strept. He has been following us for Jones-"Why didn't you tell me so before? I'll teach the impudent puppy Walking boldly across the street Where the Sparrows Get Breakfast. Jones says to the man: "Look here Snip, I am very sorry I've not got the money to pay you for that last suit

