

ADVICE is not the cheapest thing in the world—that is, if you get it from a lawyer.

THE size of the man's salary does not necessarily indicate the amount of work he does.

TO PULL the wool over a man's eyes has a tendency toward making him feel sheepish.

A FARMER in Connecticut has been married six times. His rule seems to be "the more the merrier."

If Mr. Edison would bring his inventive genius to bear on a fire-escape he would receive blessings and ducats.

CHICAGO groans because it has a "gang" council. Throw out the gang and let the offenders walk it.

EVEN Greece is having a little Cabaret matinee and party feeling runs very high in the classic environments of Athens.

AND now a coffin trust has been formed. In the face of this can any one deny that the trust question has become a grave one?

THE Poorman Mine owners in Idaho say that their electric light plant saves them \$3,000 a year. Why not put in another one?

HOW people dislike to obey the laws of nature! How fortunate a dog is; he never wants to do anything that is not good for him.

THERE may be something in a name after all, for not only the Russian people but the Hungarian people are starving by the score.

It is an indignity placed upon the American hog that it is now sold in competition with mule beef at Persian meat markets. The hog should squeal.

If this country should go to war over a matter of sealskins, the fight will be a bitter one. Heads of families are wrought up to the last pitch of endurance already.

SOME writer, struggling to get out of the worn rut, has been dilating upon the antiquity of gloves, yet every one knows that a majority of them are "kids" yet.

THE folding bed promises to succeed in prominence the use of kerogen as a fire kindler and the deadly family pistol that is always supposed to be without a load.

The groundhog, the lion, the lamb, and their relations to the freckled character of weather we are having cause more newspaper talk than anything outside of politics.

MR. DEACON and Lieut. Hetherington must not be accepted by foreign nations as typical Americans. The sanctity of the American home is not guarded by the husband's pistol, but by the wife's loyalty.

THE Dubuque News is said to be the smallest full-fledged weekly paper in the country. Its size is about 6x9 inches, and it has two editors. Persons who dislike "blanket sheets" should try the Dubuque News.

If John L. Sullivan can be persuaded to put himself in good shape and knock the everlasting mouth of one Mitchell before he dies he will confer an immense relief on a tired country and can die as soon as he pleases.

A BOSTON lady writes to one of the papers of that city: "Will some of your readers be kind enough to tell me what to do for a canary bird that has lost its voice?" Keep it, dear madam, care for it tenderly, and be thankful.

It was the consensus of opinion among sporting men that Maher was a coward because he refused to be "finished" by Fitzsimmons, but the greatest evidence of cowardice appears in his subsequent attempt to commit suicide.

PHILADELPHIA has at last "got the bulge" on New York. The latter has always sneered at the former as slow-going; but in the matter of aiding the famine-stricken Russians it is miles ahead of its "fast" sister. New York ought to apologize and hurry up its Russian contribution.

PROFESSOR JOHN L. SULLIVAN's arms have been tied up for some months by a contract which required his exclusive devotion to the histrio-nomic art. But now Mr. Sullivan's arms are free and have begun to swing. Gentlemen seeking a fight need not go to the expense of advertising. Call early and avoid the rush. Also, look out for that tremendous Sullivan-esque rush when the fight opens.

MONTREAL has a very interesting lawsuit over the responsibility of a theater manager. When the Abbey-Grau Opera Company went to Montreal the manager advertised that Mme. Scalchi would sing in a certain performance. As Mme. Scalchi is very popular in Montreal, there was a big sale, and a great many people were disappointed when it was announced that the favorite contralto was too ill to take her part. Their disappointment changed to indignation when they found that Scalchi was well enough to sing in Boston that same night, and that she had no

intention of singing in Montreal. Several wealthy patrons of the theater have brought suit against the management for obtaining money under false pretenses, and they propose to test the law as to whether a theater manager is responsible for his announcements.

ETHEL OSBORNE, the unhappy London society woman self-convicted of perjury, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment at hard labor. The deplorable scandal has served at least to show in Captain Osborne, who has loyally and gently sustained and cheered his wife throughout the whole affair, a gentleman such as London society seldom offers for the admiration of the world. The trial and its end have also demonstrated that English law is inflexible and remorseless—when the culprit does not wear a tunic.

THE NEW YORK Court of Appeals has rendered an opinion which shows that married women in that State are still in bondage. A woman fell down a coal-hole and sued for damages, recovering \$500. The defendant asked for a new trial on the ground that the woman was working for her husband, and that the court had taken into account her loss of wages. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision and sent the case back for a new trial. It held that the services of a wife belonged to her husband, and she cannot recover any wages even if she holds his written promise to pay. He cannot compel her to perform any work for him except household duties, and if she does any other she can not compel him to pay for it. Therefore, all the plaintiff is entitled to recover is such sum as will compensate her for personal injuries, but nothing for loss of wages.

SCHWEINFURTH, the unspeakable leader of that refuge at Rockford impiously called "heaven," is defendant in the Circuit Court to a charge of alienating the affections of a Chicago matron, and will be called upon to defend a suit for \$50,000 damages. The false prophet announces as his line of defense the "showing up" of the husband's character. That husband, the plaintiff, is a man of wealth and comfortable income, whose home has been ruined by the influence of the bogus christ. His wife has gone from him in a manner worse than death. His daughters are poisoned with the baneful doctrine, and all the earth holds dear for him is sinking in the bottomless slime of that "prophet's" following. The mormons at Nauvoo were never more dangerous to society than is George Jr. Schweinfurth. Within or without the law there should be some method of whipping him out of the country. The admitted right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences grants to no man immunity in this wholesale debauching of women.

TWO CITIZENS of Chicago have returned to this country after an enforced absence of twenty years. When they went abroad in 1872 they embarked in extensive financial transactions, making the Bank of England their base of operations. After a brief period of prosperity their careers as financiers were abruptly terminated, and they were compelled to resort to the business of oakum picking, which was not so agreeable as bank plucking, though attended with less risks. They would be picking oakum at this time if it had not pleased the British Government to grant them tickets-of-leave, which have enabled them to secure greatly needed recreation. It is possible, of course, that Messrs. George and Austin Bidwell have since repented of the crimes which condemned them to penal servitude for life in British prisons. All things are possible, and their repentence may be included among the possibilities. But nothing in the conversation of the Bidwells points to penitence. Austin Bidwell is reported as even boasting of their crimes, and he takes pride in the fact that "they taught the great moneyed institutions of the enemy of their country a lesson." One certainly would desire to interfere with honest efforts by these men to accomplish a reformation of their lives, or to atone as far as possible for the mistakes of the past. But it is not out of place to suggest that under all the circumstances they would do themselves and their cause no harm by being a trifle more modest when speaking of the operations which have made them notorious. An affected modesty, no matter how patient its insincerity, would become them better than the boasting in which they indulge.

A Geological Puzzle. Rev. Owen Watkins has been prospecting in Mashonaland in the interests of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. In a recent letter he says he is presumably the first white man to see the Mount of Footprints, which he thus describes: "At last we came to one large mound of rocks on the top of the hills. Here are thousands of impositions on the granite rock. Hundreds of human footprints, thousands of footprints of animals—lions, jackals, wolves and antelopes. On the top of the mound the appearance is as if a crowd of animals and men had rushed together in flight. At whatever period these footprints were made, it must have been before the outer surface of the rock had hardened. The distance from where the footprints begin to where they culminate on the mount is 200 yards."

—St. James Gazette.

Only for Visitors. Miss Breezy (of Chicago)—How many times have you been at the top of Bunker Hill monument?

—Miss Beauchamp—I was never there; I live in Boston. —Jester.

In spite of the fact that the Cordage

THE CORDAGE TRUST.

AN ABSOLUTE MONOPOLY OF PRODUCTION.

It Manipulates the Markets and Gets from Its Tariff Tax an Enormous Profit—Where's That American Tin Plate?

A Veritable Octopus.

Hemp and its substitutes, manila, sisal grass and jute, constitute the raw material of two important industries, those of cordage and bagging manufacture. The most important of these is the cordage industry, which comprises the production of all classes of ship and other cordage, rope and binding twine. It is seldom that these products are manufactured in separate establishments. Nearly all the materials used are imported, and the establishments in the industry are quite widely diversified throughout the country. A scheme to combine all these establishments into a gigantic trust would have been considered impossible several years ago. Now, however, after the people have become accustomed to the sight of trusts and combines, its successful accomplishment excites little comment.

The growth of the present Cordage Trust from the so-called association which loosely bound the manufacturers together previous to 1887, when the present trust was formed, has been so gradual that except among the interests directly affected it has excited but little interest.

Previous to October, 1887, the cordage manufacturers were in a combination or pool, the object of which was to fix prices. But, like other loose arrangements of this kind, the members were not slow to break the agreements made when they found it to their advantage to do so. Early in 1887 this pool fell to pieces of its own weight and an era of free competition followed till October, when the nucleus was composed of the following concerns: Elizabethport Cordage Company of New Jersey, and the Tucker & Carter Cordage Company, L. Waterbury & Co. and William Wall's Sons, all of Brooklyn.

Around this nucleus of four concerns have been gathered forty-five other establishments in the United States and Canada, until now the trust controls over 90 per cent of the production of cordage, rope and binding twine.

At the time of its organization in 1887, the trust announced as the object sought by its formation, an increase in the profits to be derived from a lower cost of materials by the removal of competition in the market, and from the economies to be derived from a decrease in the cost of production. It was assumed time and again that no attempt would be made to raise the prices of its finished products.

These claims were repeated at the time of its reorganization as a corporation, and finally in February last in the annual report to the stockholders in the following terms: "Through these advantages secured by the control of many mills, and their management under one direction, the company hopes to be enabled to secure an increased margin of profit without increasing the prices of its product to the consumer."

Has the trust up to the present carried out this promise, or, if not, is there any likelihood that it will do so in the future?

In the following tables are shown the average monthly prices since 1885 of the raw material and finished product. The articles, the prices of which are given, are manila, hemp and manila cordage 7-16 of an inch in diameter and larger: MANILA HEMP.

MANILA CORDAGE.

MANILA HEMP.

MANILA CORDAGE.