#### CETTING CLOSE TO NATURE

As One Who Understands It, Jehn Burroughs Writes of the Beauty of the Country.

To take the birds out of my life were the lopping off so many branches from the tree; there is that less surface of leafage to absorb the sunlight and bring my spirits in contact with the vital currents. We cannot pursue any natural study with love and enthusiasm without the object of it becoming a part of our lives. The birds, the flowers, the trees, the rocks, all become linked with our lives and hold the key to our thoughts and emotions.

I certainly have found "good in everything"—in all natural processes and products—not the "good" of the Sunday school books, but the good of natural law and order, the good of that system of things out of which we came and which is the source of our health and strength. It is good that fire should burn, even if it consumes your house; it is good that force should crush, even if it crushes you; it is good that rain should fall, even if it destroys your crops or floods your land.

Plague and pestilence attest the constancy of natural law. They set us to cleaning our relations to outward mature. Only in a live universe could disease and death prevail. Death is a phase of life, a redistributing of the type. Decay is another kind of growth:

The show and splendor of great houses, elaborate furnishings, stately halls, oppress me, impose upon me. They fix the attention upon false values, they set up a false standard of hearty; they stand between me and the real feeders of character and thought. A man needs a good roof over his head winter and summer, and a good chimney and a big woodpile in winter. The more open his four walls are the more fresh air he will get, and the longer he will live.—John Burreughs, in the Century.

#### CURIOSITY OF MODERN SLANG

English Journal Comments With Some Sharpness, and Admiration, of American Slang.

Time was—and not so very long ago, either—when the only distinc-tively American expression known in this country was "I guess." To say "I guess" and endeavor—not always with success to speak it through Four nose, was the recognised way of impersonating an American. It was always sure of an appreciative and understanding laugh-the laugh that indicates, "Yes, yes; I'm just as intelligent as you, and know exactly what you intend." Nowadays, we don't know why, our common speech is well flavored with transatlantic idioms. Not always slang we mean. American slang has its uses, though the only one... we can think of at the moment is that it saves trouble. When one has classifed one's friends and acquaintances as "the limit" and "the goods," one has been spared much labor of characterization. Otherwise the argot of the Bowery is more curious than beautiful. But we go further. "We fix things up." Instead of finishing a task we are "through with it." We do not begin, but "start in." This habit is spreading like a canker through allclasses of the community—even to those conservative gentlemen, the dramatists, who mame their new productions "The Glad Bye" or "Looking for Trouble." No doubt we shall be told by applicate for the hight that all the expressions we have noted are to be found in Shahespeare or Militon. That may be, but we doubt if Mine Corelli's predecessor at Stratford-on-Avon ever caused one of his heroises to be called a "lallapalesea."—London

Her Grace Effective.

An English woman of rank, a duchcos, was very apt to forget to pay her
bills. A milliner, whose large bill
had been repeatedly ignored by the
duchess, at last determined to send
her little girl, a pretty child of ten
years, for the money which was so
much needed.

"Be sure to say 'your grace,' to the fluchess," said the saxious mother; and the child gravely premised to remember.

When, after long waiting, she was inshered into the presence of herr grace, the little girl dropped her a bow of courtesy, and then, folding her hands and closing her eyes, she said, softly:

"For what I am about to received may the Lord make me truly thank-

As she opened her eyes and turned her wistful gase on the duchess, that person turned very red, and without delay, made out a check for the amount due her milliner.

Good Tooto. Good taste is the most delicate and refined philosophy of action and manmers, and comes from a high poble mind being acted upon by good breeding in the home, in the first place, and in early good, kind, gentle surroundings. Lincoln was the son of poverty, was a master of good taste, but all his infancy was enfolded in goodness, gentieness and Quaker-like peace. Good tame, like humor, it a great saving salt and is the most delicate product of the times. A great coarse mind may have wit and humor, say, like Aristophanes, but it takes a truly gread, noble mind to have in manners the good taste of Washington, Lincoln and Jackson. The manners of Jackson where wemen and children were econcerned were without compare and this day they loom up as a good light in the greatest republic's history.

#### POOR AS A CHURCH MOUSE

Since Confetti Came Into Use, the Saying Has More Meaning Than at Former Times.

The sexton of a fashionable New York church was sweeping into a large mound the bright purple, red and yellow discs of confetti which littered the church entrance and steps.

"This month," he said, "I have had already 35 weddings in my church. And at every one of these weddings.

paper confetti was thrown at the bride instead of rice.

"The confetti fushion is very welcome to us sextons. When rice was used our churches were overrun with mice. The saying, 'As poor as a church mouse,' was then meaningless. Why in my church where weddings.

why, in my church, where weddings are so popular, several hundreds of mice—fat chaps they were, too—found an ample food supply in the rice that was sprinkled over the brides.

"Now that rice has been abandoned for paper confetti, these mice

have all disappeared. They were starved out. They couldn't live on paper."

Bending with difficulty to collect a few obstinate pieces of the bright pa-

the old sexton added:
"Of course, these bits of paper are
much more awkward for me to sweep
up than rice. But, even so, I hope the
confetti fashion has come to stay."

per confetti that stuck to the floor,

#### HER SHARE OF THE BUREAU

Girl Visitor's Idea of a Division
Seemed to Be to Take All the
Space You Could Get.

"A friend came to visit me last week," said the Girl Flapper, "and as there is only one bureau I told her I would have to share it with her. So I pushed my things out of the way and she began to unpack. This is what she put out:

"A bottle of spirits of camphor, a bottle of camphor water and boracic acid that she uses for her eyes, a bottle of witch hasel, another of benmin, a box of face powder and a tin of talcum powder, a make-up box, sixteen ivory toilet things, four Stevenson texts in frames, an atomizer, a bottle of ammonia, another of oil of pennyroyal for mosquitoes, nine hatpins, a sewing bag, a jewelry box,

some perfumery and an alcohol lamp.

"'Now, I'll unpack my bathroom things,' she said, and she took out three sponges, large, medium and small; a rubber bath glove, a bottle of liquid soap and four kinds of tooth powders and mouth washes, a patent exerciser, a bathrobe and slippers, an antiseptic bathbrush, a rubber spray, a thermometer and a whishbroom.

"Then she borrowed my buttonhook."

Surprise Boxes in Shark Stomachs. Fishermen in the Caribbean sea recently found in the stomach of a shark which they had killed a good sized bottle in which was a half-decipherable letter from a shipwrecked sailor. Many such relics have been found. In one case a lady's bracelet was found in a state of perfect preservation, together with a silver spoon and a thousand Spanish reals in money. The curious feature of the finding of the money was that it was in an official receptacle lost in the city of Spanish Town (Jamaica) during a negro uprising in the seventeenth century. Where had it been meantime? Surely not in the shark's stomach, unless the shark lives a much longer time (or some ofthem) than science has any reason to suppose possible. On the other hand, if in the sea it would have been readered unrecognizable in a few weeks. Had it been in the possession of some one shipwrecked, why had it been left intact? The conclusion was inevitable that the shark must have fished it out from a compartment of somelong-submerged vessel. - Harper's Wookly.

Suspended Animation.

As we descend in the scale of animal life we find that what kills the higher animals does not injure the lower. Cut a polyp in two, and you have two living polyps instead of one dead polyp. Break off a lobeter's claw, and another will grow. You, may, it has been said, freeze a fly, but you cannot freeze it to death. There are infusoria called "wheel-animalcules." These rotifers have many curious qualities, among which is that of suspending animation for an in-

definite period without ceasing to live.

Colonies of rotifers may be desiccated and rendered apparently lifeless,
and in this conditions they may be
kept for months and years, and possibly centuries. A single drop of water will restore them to life, and the
wheel-bearers will instantly resume
their functional activity precisely at
the point where it was broken off.—
Harper's Weekly.

Nest!

A Washington man called upon a charming but homely woman, who had not long before had her portrait painted. The artist had done his work well, from a friendly point of view, and the lady was correspondingly pleased. She was not, however, so blind as not to see that the portrait was, as one might say, a trifle "idealized."

said: "What do you think of it? Has not the artist rather flattered me?" The visitor looked at the picture, then at the lady, and with an eloquent sigh answered: "Ah, my dear indy, how could a painter sit in your company and not flatter you?"

As she exhibited it to her caller she

#### WANTS PICTURES OF KITCHEN

Present Day Cooks Like to See Future Working Place Before They Engage Themselves.

"A phase of the servant girl question that was new to me was sprung the other day when I called at an employment agency to hire a cook," said the nervous woman. "A preposessing looking girl was brought forward for an interview. Her first question was: Have you any pictures of your kitchen?"

"It is always best to bring them," said the girl loftily. It saves time and trouble, for with them to look at a cook can see at a glance the position of the sink, the tubs, the range, and the cupboards, and can tell if the place will suit her."

"While I was adjusting my mind to that phase of the proposition another woman with a wider experience than mine piped up that she had brought views of her kitchen. From that minute I was out of it as far as that particular cook was concerned. The pictures met her approval, and the other woman hired her on the spot. I asked the manager if it was the custom for housekeepers to produce views of their home when hiring servants.

"'The custom is not yet universal,' he said, 'but it is growing. In one sense the girl is right; it does save time and trouble.'"

#### HITHERTO STRANGER TO FEAR

But Now He Had Run Against Something That Caused His Nerve to Forsake Him.

"I came, sir, in answer to your advertisement. You said you wanted to employ a man who was a total stranger to fear."

"Are you a brave man?"

"I am, sir. I have given proof of my courage in many parts of the world,"

"Yes?"

"I have faced bullets in Mexico and machetes in Cuba."

"I helped to defend the missionaries against the Boxers, and I was present at the slege of Port Arthur."
"Fine."

"I have fought the infuriated walrus of Baffin bay and the maddened built elephants of Central Africa, and I went through an Armenian massacrewithout losing my nerve."

"You seem to be the man I want. Would you be willing to go out on a field in front of 20,000 fair-minded, sport-loving Americans and umpire a baseball game honestly, deciding against the home team when necessary?"

"Se that's the job, is it?" replied the man of courage, and broke into a cold perspiration and a run for the door simultaneously.

# Clever Fat Men.

It is frequently averred that fat is deadening to the brain, and consequently a foe to intellectual activity. But is this so? Some of the greatest men the world has ever known were plump even to obesity.

Napoleon was decidedly embonpoint. Dr. Johnson was fleshy even to flabbiness. So was his biographical shadow, Boswell. Baixac, the great French novelist, was so stout that it was a day's exercise to walk around him, and he was encircled with bandages as if he were a hogahead. Rossiul, the compeser, was a regular Jumbo, since for six years he never saw his knees. Jules Janin, the prince of critica, broke every sofa he ever sat down

Jules Janin, the prince of critics, broke every sofa he ever sat down upon. Lablanche, the great singer, was charged three fares when he traveled. Dumas pere was steut, and flainfe-Beuve carried the stomach of a Paistaff. Eugene flue had such aversion to his growing corpulency that he drank vinegar to keep it down, and yet he wrote "The Wandering Jew."

yet he wrote "The Wandering Jew."

A man is not necessarily fat-witted because he has a boundless stomach.

"A pet monkey that I shipped uptown this morning was bound on a most unusual mission for a monkey," said an animal dealer.

"He was bought by a woman who runs a furnished room house in which three persons have killed themselves with gas recently. Those suicides have upset her nerves. Now she is going to try the same preventive means adopted by three of her friends,

They too, keep roomers. Also they keep monkeys. There have been several attempts at suicide in their houses, but they have always been frustrated by the monkeys, who have smelled gas and set up such a chattering that they woke everybody up.

"Monkeys are extremely sensitive to the odor of gas. This customer of mine hopes to utilize hers as a new kind of life preserver."—Philadelphia Record.

# Insuring Identification.

"Persons who expect to receive money orders in a strange town take infinite precautions to identify themselves," said a postal clerk. "One way that particularly commends itself is for the stranger to call on the paying teller in the money order department before his own order arrives and present a bunch of correspondence abowing pretty clearly who he is. He then explains that he is expecting a money order from a certain person; can the clerk remember him when he presents it for payment?

"Afte that impressive introduction the cierk usually can remember, and when the order is presented he caches

#### CLING TO OLD DESIGNATIONS

Sporting Language That Was Used in the Middle Ages is Still Good Form Today.

Much of the language used in various sports is our inheritance from the middle ages. Different kinds of beasts when in companies were distinguished by their own particular epithet, which was supposed to be in some manner descriptive of the habits of the animals. To use the wrong form of these words subjected the would-be sportsman to ridicule.

Many of these terms have passed away, but some of them are still retained. This list from the middle ages is still good usage today. A "pride of lions," a "lope" of leopards, a "herd" of harts and of all sorts of deer; a "bevy" of roses, a "sloth" of bears, a "singular" of boars, a "sounder" of wild swine, a "route" of wolves, a "harras" of horses, a "ray" of colts, a "stud" of mares, a "pace" of asses, a "barren" of mules, a "team" of oxen, a "drove" of kine, a "flock" of sheep, a "trite" of goats, a "skulk" of foxes, a "down" of hares, a "next" of rabbits, a "clowder" of cats, a "shrewdness" of apes and a "labor" of moles.

Also of animals when they retired to rest, a hart was said to be "harbored," a roebuck "bedded," a hare "formed," a rubbit "set." Two greyhounds were called a "brace," but two harriers were called a "couple." There was also a "mute" of hounds for a number, a "kennel" of raches, a "litter" of whelps and a "cowardice" of curs.

This kind of descriptive phraseology was not confined to birds and beasts, but was extended to the human species and the various propensities, natures and callings.

### SALT PUT TO VARIED USES

Invaluable to Mankind Though as a Condiment it Should Be Employed Sparingly.

If food is tasteless without sait, it is ruined with too much. Unappetizing cooking is often due to guesswork. A level teaspoonful of sait is sufficient for a quart of soup, sauce, or vegetables.

Sait used once a day is an excellent dentrifrice, tending to keep off tartar. It is said to retard receding gums.

A half teaspoonful of sait added to a cup of hot water—which many persons take each morning—will make it palatable.

Do not gargie with sait water. Throat specialists consider it injurious to the tender mucous membrane of the nose.

Salt water rots the hair, so never fail to rinse with fresh water after sea bathing.

To set color in wash materials and

embroidery cottons soak them in strong salt water.

An excellent tonic for nervous people is to take salt rubs twice a day.

As sea salt dissolves slowly, some of

it can be kept in solution in a glass jar to be ready when needed. When a child is inclined to bow legs or to have a weak back, rub it night and morning with strong sait

water.

A faded carpet is fresheaed if wiped off with a wet cloth wrung from atrong sait water. Sprinkle floor with

dampened sait and sweep well.

Bad dyspepsis can be helped by dissolving pinches of sait on the tongue after esting, or when there is a sense of oppression.

Dental Training.

Fifteen years from now if I have any teeth left for anybody to fool with I shall hire a certain Chinese boy to de the fooling," a New York salesman said. "He will be grown up then. I saw him the other day down in Chinatown. He was pulling pegs out of a board with his fingers. The pegs had been driven pretty tight into holes in the board, and it took a good deal

of strength to get them out.

"That is a funny game for him to play," I said to a white man who knows the quarter.

"Game!' said he. That is not a game. The boy is going to be a dentist. His folks have made up their minds about that, and he has commenced early to strengthen his fingers. They train them that way in China because there they pull teeth with the fingers. He will not pull with his fingers here, but the strength and skill will come in handy, just the same."

Dog Policeman Travels Best.

An Irish terrier named Jerry, which has developed a wonderful capacity for police work, is now stationed at Burbiton, England. The terrier, owned by a sergeant of the Metropolitam police, knows all the "bests" in the district, and always accompanies his master when making patrol by cycle. Jerry's "speciality" is in the capturing of stray dogs. These he lures in a friendly manner to the police station, and then mounts guard at the gate until the derelict receives official attention.

Boen to Those of Weak Heart.

A German army doctor, M. Schurig has put on the market an invention which he declares will be the greatest boon of the century to sufferers from heart disease. Those who will be benefited are such as cannot afford a ground floor or a house with an elevator. The invention consists of a slipper has a very thick and soft sole, and it is maintained that when worm its properties are so wonderful that it is easy to ascend flights of stairs.

# CHEER OF THE OLD HOME

Something Which Every Man and Woman Should Be Able to Look Back Upon.

It would be a blessing if we parents could just reflect that it may be that the only cheer in life which our children will get is the cheer of the old home, writes Frank W. Gunsaulus. They are hurrying out into the world which has no time to make them happy. If they are fortunate, as the world says, they will probably have homes, where old-fashioned and romping cheerfulness would skin its shins against the furniture or break the Louis XIV. cha'r. Blessed old days, and most wholesome to look back upon, are those when the hearty laugh of father would not split the lace curtains, and when mother could have two big, healthy children upon her lap while she was sitting down, with safety to all parties, in her rocker. No coin on earth costs so little to mint and goes so far in paying life's heavy expenses as Good Cheer. Pessimists are made before children are ten years of age, and pessimism comes, when a child cannot turn a golden laugh into ready cash for life's poverty and its relief. We talk about the cruelty of a father's depriving a child of sufficient clothing. It is too bad; but a child's toes would better be ruddy and his ears tingle with cold than to have a home with winter in the atmosphere and the smiles all freezing to death.

No child is prepared for the supremely serious things of life who cannot laugh away all the goblins and ghosts and break with the shining wand of Good Cheer the circle drawn around him by any giant.

#### LETTING THEIR LIGHT SHINE

But College Girls as Expert Laundrosses Do Not Appeal to One New York Housewife.

College girls who have studied laundering in their domestic science course may some time find an opportunity to apply their knowledge without inconveniencing anybody, but they have not yet reached that idyllic stage.

"Just at present they are an intolerable nuisance," said a woman who has had indirect dealings with the young graduates. "Since they have undertaken to uplift the world through the medium of the washtub I haven't had a stitch of clothes fit to put on.

"That is because they are trying to teach my laundress how to wash and iron. The poor soul has made a living at the washtub for 13 years and has brought up four children, yet those scientific laundresses have concluded that she doesn't know her business.

"There isn't a laundress in town that is safe from intrusion. Some women with Irish tempers won't be bothered, but my washerwoman is too gentle-mannered to refuse instruction, so for the last month she has been turning out her weekly wash with some sweet thing just out of college pottering around bossing the job.

"The poor woman is nearly crasy, and so are her customers. Maybe if left to themselves the girls can do a decent job at laundering; I know my washerwoman can, but when their methods clash both make a botch of the job and linen comes home button-less, scorchod, and torn." Now York Times.

Wycliffe's Prayers. Among recent sales of relics and curios in London was that of Wycliffe's "Prayers of the Bible." of the date of 1527 or thereabout. "The rare old black letter of this work puts it," says the noted authority on curios, J. F. Blacker, "at once among the scarcest examples of old "Flete Strete" printing. The noble old divine died in 1834, shortly after be had completed his translation of the Bible into English. These prayers were 'impryated' just about the time when the first English Bible was published by Tyndale in the years 1526-1532. The six parts realised £250, though a copy of each of the first four parts sold some time ago for £406."

Destroying Woods in Pends. Copper sulphate is often used for destroying the scum-like weeds in ponds. But precautions must be taken, for unless the right proportion of sulphate is used any fish which may be in the pond will be injured. The proportion of copper sulphate used in the ponds at Kew Gardens is one part to from 750,000 to 1,000,000 parts of water. Sulphate of copper in a pulvertised state is placed in a poreus bag and dragged through the water until dissolved. The water in St. James's Park, London, it might be mentioned, has for two summers been kept free from scum by this method.—London Mail.

No Steel Pens in Tropics. The ordinary stel pens used in temperate climates, particularly those jused in the United States, are not adaptable to the tropics on account of rusting. This is especially true during the rainy season and at seaports. Bronse or brass pens, or those coated with bronze, do not seem to be thus affected. Ink deteriorates very quickly in tropical climates and often has the consistency of gum. On the ordinary steel pens this side the rust and ishard to wipe off if left for a short time. With the broase or brass pen or with a pen coated with bronze the coated ink is easily wiped or burnt off.

#### FINE TEST OF CLEAR SPEECH

Conversation with the Blind Will Test
One's Power of Making Listeners
Understand You.

Let no one boast of his descriptive powers until he has tested them in conversation with a blind person," said the city missionary. "I used to think that I had the knack of making things pretty clear, but after 1 began to escort the blind on their walks I found that I had not the slightest conception of concise, comprehensive speech. My first experience of the kind was at a naval parade. I guided two blind men down to Riverside to 'see' the ships. I described to the best of my ability what was going on, but I soon found from the questions they asked that I had given them no idea of what the pageant looked like. I reasoned that the fault must be mine. The men had been blind a good while, but they had retentive memories and an active imagination, and with that material to work on I should have achieved better results.

"From that day I began to cultivate the gift of accurate description. Even when out alone I talked to myself trying to put into words the pictures I saw. By degrees I acquired the art of seeing my blind charges see through my eyes. My biggest stumbling block was women's clothes. No woman I met anywhere show a keener avidity to keep up with the fashions than those I take out from the blind asylum, and it requires every one of my newly acquired gifts to convey an adequate idea of the season's styles,"

#### TAVERN ALSO A PAWNSHOP

Establishment in the City of Lendon, England, is in Enjoyment of Unique Privilege.

A time-honored London (Eng.) city tavern, the Castle, as the corner of Cowcross street, facing Farrington street, enjoys the unique distinction of being also a fully licensed pledge shop. Over the door in the bar, which gives access to the landlord's private room, and thrown into bold relief by the official document behind it, the historic three-sphered symbol is discernible. Any one may here negotiate a loan upon his personal belongings without being under the necessity of first calling for refrahment. Formerly the house had a special piedge counter resembling the modern Bottle and Jug" department, but this is no longer in evidence.

This strange combination of business dates from the reign of George IV., who, after attending a cock fight at Hockley-in-the-Hole, applied to the landlord of the Castle for a temperary accommodation on the security of his watch and chain. By royal warrant a few days later he invested that obliging boniface with the right of advancing money on pledges, and from that time down to the present a pawnbroker's license has been annually granted to the Castle. This hostely is mentioned once or twice by Dickens in his novels.

Testimony of the Blind.

Before the trial was half ended it was apparent that most credence was placed in the testimony for the defendant.

"That is because he has two blind men testifying for him," said a man who has served on many juries. When it comes to a question of momory the word of a blind man goes further in a courtroom than that of a person with good eyes. It is with the jurymen that his testimeny really counts, but the judge and lawyers are also impressed. This is taking into consideration, of course, that the blind man has a reputation for veracity. We assume that with the loss of one faculty others have developed. What a man cannot see he hears, and his mind stores up. Our faith in the retestiveness of a blind man's memory has been frequently justified. Where a person with all his senses would be a person with all his senses would become confused and testify vaguely. the blind man can repeat a conversetion verbatim."

Aid to the Uniovely.
"I try to be an efficient city directory," said the hotel clerk, "but balk of recommending a beauty doctor to women guests.

"That is one of the first things they want to know. Churches, theaters, even dressmakers can wait a few days, but the beauty doctor is an immediate necessity. Unfortunately, they do not get much satisfaction out of me. Any number of beauty specialists leave cards for distribution, but so many of them have been mixed up in lawsuits that I feel squeamish about delivering their cards. To satisfy my own conscience and the women at the same time I hand out a bunch of advertisements with the remark that I guess they are about all alike.

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"Then they can pay their money and take their choice, and if they lose their hair and complexion they can't come back on me for damages."

Latest in House Building. Spanners and screwdrivers are the only tools required in up-to-date house building. This latest development inan important craft comes, as might be expected, from the United States, says London Tit-Bits. Blocks of concrete cement are cast according to the desired pattern, with a wire spiral passage through the center. When ready for erection steel pins are passed through the center of the castings, and the whole bolted together over a wooden frame. The work of building or dismantling a house so constructed is stated to be simple in the extreme.

# L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

the families of the line in the state of the