

applied to it. Hot water is very injurious to it; either of them—soap or hot water—being sure to injure the oil cloth more than the wear of it. When washed over, wipe it off with a soft, dry cloth, and it will always retain a bright look. In purchasing an oil cloth, it is very desirable to obtain one that has been made for several years, as the longer it has lain unwashed the better it will wear—the paint becoming harder and more durable. An oil cloth made within the year is hardly worth buying, as the paint will be defaced in a short time.

HINTS.—Lard should be kept hard and white, and that which is taken from a hog over a year old is best.—Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in a cellar, and should not be used for three months after it is made.—When a keg of molasses is bought, draw off a few quarts, else the fermentation produced by moving it will burst the cask.—The best way to enjoy things is to use them, and thus get the worth of your money out of them. There is no sense in gorgeous parlors kept in darkness.—Two small arteries branching up from the main arteries on each side of the neck, and passing over the outside of the jaw-bone, supply the face with blood. If the nose bleeds from the right nostril, for example, pass the finger along the edge of the right jaw till the beating of the artery is felt, press hard upon it five minutes, and the bleeding will cease.

SWIMMING RIVERS.—If a traveller can swim pretty well, it is a good plan to make a float, and to throw himself down in the water with his breast upon it, while his clothes and valuables are tied in a huge turban on his head. In this way broad streams can easily be crossed, and great distances of river descended. He may adjust paddles on to his hand. His float may be a faggot of rushes, a log of wood or any one of his empty water-vessels; for whatever will keep water in, will of course, keep it out, while, as to bags, the air that may ooze out through their sides may be blown afresh into them while afloat. Empty bottles may be corked and made fast under the armpits or stuffed under the shirt or jersey, with a belt tied round the waist below them. It is an easy matter to make a moderately effective life-belt simply out of holland, ticking, canvas, or other similar materials; and the crews of a vessel aground some way from the main land, and who must prepare to swim for their lives, might avail themselves of this plan:—Cut out two complete rings of 16 inches outer diameter and 8 inches inner diameter; sew these together along both edges, with as fine a needle as possible, and double threads, and the chief part of the belt is made. What remains, is to sew strong shoulder-straps to it so that by no possibility it can slip down over the hips; and, lastly, to sew a long narrow tube to it, out of a strip, a foot long and two inches wide, from the same material as the belt. For the mouth of this a bit of wood, an inch long, with a hole bored down its middle, should be inserted as a mouthpiece. Through this tube the belt can be inflated by the swimmer while in the water, from time to time, as often as may become necessary; and by simply twisting it and tucking its end in the belt, its vent can always be closed. After canvas, &c., is thoroughly drenched, it will hold the air very fairly. The seams are the weak parts. For swimming in clear water, a collar is as good as a belt.

ROMANTIC NOTIONS AS TO THE WEIGHT OF WOMEN.—In romance we read of heroes rushing off with fainting maidens from blazing houses, or “carrying” them off on their shoulders for purposes of revengeful abduction. Let any one out of training, or under six feet high, and proportionate strength, attempt to run away with a fairly well-composed girl of eighteen or twenty, and give us his opinions of these vaunted knights. A woman weighing a hundred and forty pounds of kicking womanhood is not to be carried at all. Even a slight girl will weigh one hundred pounds, and “our hero” will stagger under her lovely but encumbering figure. There are plenty of buxom girls who weigh up to a hundred and seventy pounds, and it is not given to every man to “hurry off with such baggage.” When the victimised one faints on the stage, the robust tenor takes care that the fainting shall be accomplished as close to the wings as possible. He knows what she weighs by sad experience at rehearsals. Let any of our readers carry his sister up three flights of stairs without stopping, and forward to us his sentiments on the occasion. At Vienna we saw a little tenor struggling to carry off a fat soprano to the amusement of the house, while she made stentorian mirth by turning round, whipping up the tenor, and making her exit with him kicking under her arm.

FREEMASONRY.—The installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand-Master of the Freemasons, calls forth the following protest from the ‘Friend of India’:—“It is hard to read without impatience the accounts in the newspapers of the installation of the Prince of Wales as ‘Grand Master of the Freemasons.’ Freemasonry is at the present day the most purposeless, unmeaning, and fruitless of all associations into which men can enter, being, in fact, nothing more than frippery tempered by feasting and self-adulation. Nobody can understand its ends any more than its ‘mysteries;’ but all that outsiders are allowed to know of it breeds a vehement suspicion that both are merely nonsensical. If its purposes are moral or religious, there is no need for secrecy, but the contrary; if the relief of distress, it is inferior to any benefit society extant; if anything more tremendous, and hitherto unknown, then it might be challenged in its very existence. But in reality it has no purpose in England; and this, which is made its excuse, is in fact its condemnation. It may be very well for private individuals to covet the putting on of apparel and the laudatory speeches in which distinction in the craft appears to consist; but a Prince who will one day be called upon to reign over our Empire would do well to hold himself aloof from such vanities.”

BOOT JELLY.—The reader may stare, but science smiles superior, and asserts very euphatically that a toothsome delicacy can be made from a dilapidated foot-covering. Some time ago, says the ‘Scientific American,’ Dr. Vander Weyde regaled some friends not merely with boot jelly, but with shirt coffee, and the repast was pronounced by all partakers excellent. The doctor tells us that he made the jelly by first cleaning the boot, and subse-

quently boiling it with soda, under a pressure of about two atmospheres. The tannic acid in the leather, combined with salt, made tannate of soda, and the gelatine rose to the top, whence it was removed and dried. From this last, with suitable flavouring material, the jelly was readily concocted. The shirt coffee, incidentally mentioned above, was sweetened with cuff and collar sugar, both coffee and sugar being produced in the same way. The linen (after, of course, washing) was treated with nitric acid, which, acting on the lignite contained in the fibre, produced glucose, or grape sugar. This, roasted, made an excellent imitation coffee, which an addition of unroasted glucose readily sweetened.

IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.—One of the places I most love to linger in is the Beauchamp Tower, where so many sad prisoners have waited for the guard which was to lead them off to the block on the Tower Green. It was the prison of poor Anne Boleyn, Lord Guilford Dudley, and many others. Poor creatures! without hope or occupation, they have spent weary hours in carving their names or thoughts on the stone walls. . . . One look we must take at this room in the White Tower. It is full of Spanish arms and armor; at the end is a figure of Queen Elizabeth, reviewing her troops at Tilbury. She is mounted on a carved horse, dressed in crimson velvet trimmed with gold lace, rings on her fingers, and pearls, spangles, and embroidery everywhere; she looks as though she might be saying, “Though mine a woman’s form, yet mine the heart of England’s king.” . . . Here, too, is bluff King Hal’s walking staff, with which we are told, his majesty sometimes walked round and about his good city to see that the watchmen were at their posts. It has three matchlock pistols in it and a short bayonet or dagger in the centre of the barrels. I should scarcely have cared to anger his most gracious kingship while he held the weapon ready, or to have stood near while he flourished this battle-axe, contrived to cut four holes in an enemy’s skull at one blow. But come, pass by the axe and the block, so conveniently shaped for the noble heads that have lain on it, the mass of thumb-screws and their horrors intended to torture people with, near the clumsy spears, pistols, and banners of gone-by days. The old Boyer Tower, with its vaulted roof, is so called from the days when Englishmen fought with bows-and-arrows, for here dwelt the master and provider of the king’s bows; and here, too, it is said that a Duke of Clarence was drowned, by his own brother’s orders, in a butt of malmsey wine. The last strong tower which we reach is called the Byward Tower.” Once there was a gate and a portcullis here, and long narrow loopholes, through which arrows went flying at the unruly crowd of citizens—for king and subjects often fell out in the old bow-and-arrow days.—‘Little Folks.’

ECCENTRICITIES OF GREAT MEN.—Ferdinand II., Grand Duke of Tuscany, was, it appears, the slave of his infirmities. He was often seen walking up and down his apartment between two large thermometers, at which he anxiously and continually glanced; putting on skull caps, of which he had five or six in his hand, according to the degree of cold or heat that the instrument pointed towards. So, too, with the Abbé de St. Martin, who in the seventeenth century was so notorious for his monomania. He had always nine skull caps on his head to keep him from the cold, and on the top of these he put a wig, which of course was never by any chance in its proper position! More than this, he wore nine pairs of stockings one over the other; his bed was of brick under which was a furnace, where he had a fire in order to obtain just that amount of warmth that he desired. The Jesuit Ghezzi wore seven caps under this wig. Fourier, the mathematician, who had returned from Egypt nearly dead with rheumatism, suffered severely when he found himself in a temperature below twenty degrees Reaumur, and a servant followed him about everywhere, in readiness to offer him additional coats for wrappings. During the latter years of his life, when rendered *hors de combat* by the asthma from which he had suffered since his youth, he lived almost entirely in a kind of box, which allowed no deviation of the body, and allowed nothing to pass except his head and arms.—‘Shilling Magazine.’

The existence of a race of giants was largely based on the discovery of bones supposed to have been those of human beings; but which, on examination, proved to be the bones of mastodons. It has, however, been proved beyond a doubt that a height of even more than nine feet has been attained. In the museum of Trinity College there is a skeleton 8 feet 6 inches high; in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England there is another, 8 feet 2 inches. The causes that produce this extraordinary growth in some persons are not well understood. According to Geoffrey Saint-Hilaire, Bishop Berkeley undertook to manufacture a giant. He reared an orphan boy, named Magrath, on certain hygienic principles, and succeeded so well that at the age of seventeen the boy was seven feet in height. He, however, died with all the symptoms of old age, when he was twenty years old, at which time he was 7 feet 8 inches high.

“In Silesia,” says Nature, “a new glass was invented a few days ago, by Herren Lubish and Reiderer, in Count Solm’s glass-works, Andraeshutte, Kiltshodorf, near Bunzlau. This glass, which the inventors call ‘metal glass,’ is so hard that when a pane lies on the ground and a leaden ball of 40 grammes weight falls upon it from an elevation of 12 feet it receives not the slightest impression, nor is it in the least affected when dipped whilst red-hot into cold water. Window panes, lamp cylinders, and other articles made from this metal glass can therefore almost be denoted as unbreakable.”

An English inventor makes shirt collars, cuffs, and similar articles of wearing apparel by cementing together two or more layers of muslin by means of a mixture of starch, spermaceti, and washing blue, and passing them through rollers. The articles are then cut to the desired shape with suitable laps at the exposed and wearing edges, whereby the same effect is produced as by linen articles.