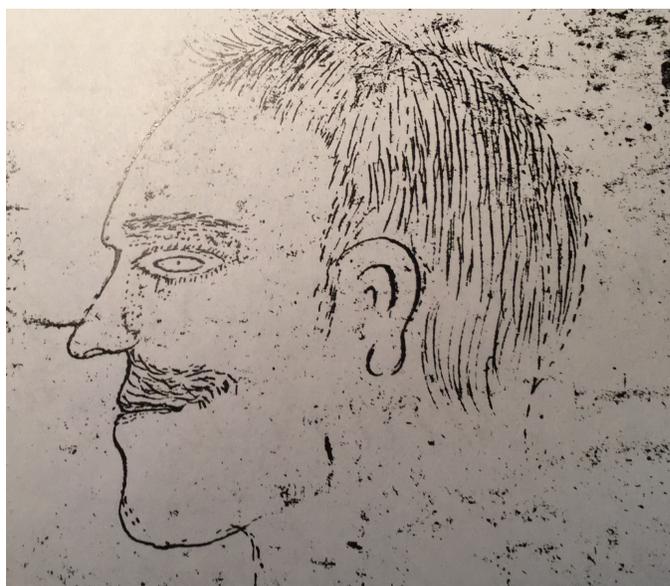


Oliver, John.

John Oliver's Miscellany.



From verso of title page

New Glasgow, N.S.: the author,
March 10, 1881.

Introduction

John Oliver was born in Essenside, Roxboroughshire, Scotland in 1813. His family emigrated to Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1814, arriving in October of that year. Oliver was a man of diverse talents, having turned his hand to farming, iron work and ship carving (the latter involving carving wooden parts of full-size vessels, such as the figurehead).

In 1880, John Oliver created a manuscript which he titled *Sketches and Recollections of the Past: Observations and Reflections, Fun and Frolic*. This was in his later years, as a resident of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. But the text covers farming in New Annan and Middle River, working on the Shubnacadie Canal near Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and teaching Sunday School and fighting for temperance. He documents the death of his wife and the circumstances surrounding various mishaps and accidents he encountered during a very active life.

On March 10th, 1881, John created a companion volume, *John Oliver's Miscellany*, which covers home remedies, practical hints on home maintenance, various wild plants and their uses, and other helpful observations on daily life. When you read in his *Sketches* that the nearest doctor was hours away, that bleeding to death from a cut knee was a very real possibility, and that the settler built, repaired and maintained his own home, treatments for scarlet fever, recipes for chow chow, and what one should consider when visiting the sick were all important practical advice.

This collection is in somewhat random order, and an index has been created to help the reader. Since Oliver did not number his pages, the pagination has been assigned and follows the layout of his text.

John Oliver had an interesting spelling system. For instance, he used "watter" for "water," was inconsistent (usually "hapy" for "happy" but always "apply" with double p's). His spelling has been retained throughout. Occasionally, his handwriting cannot be deciphered; in such instances, bracketed question marks "[????]" are used. Likewise, his text is largely unpunctuated, with a minimum of punctuation marks and capital letters. The transcription reflects John Oliver's writing style.

D. Vaisey,
February 2017

Composition for Orniments¹

Mix Whiting with thin glue to the consistancy of of putty. Have the mold ready rub it over with with sweet oil and press the composition into it. When a good impression is produced, take it out and lay it aside to dry. If it be desired to fit the Ornament to a curved or irregular surface, apply glue and bend it to the place before it becomes dry.

Preventing cracked chimnes²

The [Leifraic] Journal gives a method which it asserts will prevent chimneys from cracking. The treatment will not only render lamp chimeys tumblers and like articles more durable but may be applied with advantage to crokery stone ware and crockery. The chimneys tumblers etc. are put into a pot filled with cold watter to which some common salt has been added and the watter is well boiled over a fire and then allowed to cool slowly. When the articles are taken out and washed they will be found afterward to resist any sudden change of tempermenture.

The ***Lusture of Morrocco Leather*** is restored by varnishing with the white of an egg.

How to Soften Resin. Melt the resin and while in a state of fusion add tar and try the hardness by dropping a little into Cold watter.

¹ This entry is repeated on page 40 of the *Miscellany*.

² Apart from the first sentence, this entry is reprinted verbatim in Charles H. Flint (ed.). *The American Farmer: a complete agricultural library, with useful facts for the household...* Hartford, Conn.: R. H. Park, 1882, p. 999.

Cough Mixture (Beattie)

1 oz. Spruce Gum³
3 Table Spoonfuls Molasses
1 Pint Watter
3 or 4 drops Friars Balsom⁴

Much recomended by those who have tried it. Beattie McLean and others.

Saurkreut - Sour Crout

Let the Barrel be thouroughly scalded cutter and stamper etc. Take of all the outer leaves half and remove the heart cut a half Bushel lay some leaves in the bottom and Sprinkle with a handful of Salt. Then pound down then put in a seccond half bushel salt and so on till the cask is full then cover with cabbage leaves. Then lay a clean over put on a stone of 14 pounds. Stand away from 4 to 6 weeks in a cool place. It will then be ready for use.

Cabbages to Pickle

Chose firm ripe heads. Slice fine place in jars and cover with boiling water when cold drain season with sliced horse radish, salt, black and pepper cinimon and cloves cover with cold strong viniger in two days it will be ready for use it will keep a year.

Bark American Poplar

A tea made of this bark is very useful in cases of debility especialy those of long standing also for feable desgestion. Worms and diseases condition of the urinary organs. Consumptive people have received great benefits from its use.

³ The resin from spruce trees, used in natural healing. First nations people used it to heal deep cuts and sores. It's use in cough syrurp is not surprising.

⁴ Friar's Balsam or Compound Benzoin Tincture (USP) contains, in addition, Cape aloes and storax (liquidambar resin). The latter was invented by Dr Joshua Ward around 1760.

Veneered Work to Polish

No [attempt?] must be made until the glue is perfectly dry and hard. It should be left 24 hours at least in a warm room to dry.

The process for common work in [deal] may be well sized then polished with fine sand paper.

For Mahogany, Walnut and similar [pores] woods, the trees must be filled by [rubbing?] in on a roller of old carpet a mixture of tallow without salt and plaster of paris mixed. The more this filling up process is persevered in the less will the subsequent labour in polishing be quite a surface ought should be got by this alone. The mixture of paris may be darkened by with red lead for Mahogeny or with other colouring matter according to fancy.

Hard close grained wood as Bonewood and ebony.

To polish a surface thus prepared not being hard wood like a ball of cotton wool saturated with methilated french polish cover it with a fold of [?????] cloth on the linen cover put with the tip of the finger a drop or two of raw refined linseed oil. Get on a good body of varnish by rubbing always one way with circular strokes be very [careful] to go over all the ground each time you go round the surface do not go the same place twice before you have gone over all the longer this is done the better niver mind the smears set it by and take another peice shut the doors and windows and have the room warm.

When you resume work use a mixture of half methylated French polish and half methylated sperit or less then one half of the sperit when you commence and put now as little as possable on the wood covering with one fold of fine or cambric⁵ very little oil as before only just enough to prevent the rubber from sticking to the work go over it lightly with a gentile easey touch in circular strokes all one way in circular strokes all one way. Niver mind the smeers. By rubbing up and down when it comes to look something like a good result which it soon will you may take out the smeers by rubing up and down with a mere trace of sperit on wool well covered with linin but avoid going over the same place twice and be very light and gentile or you will remove your polish. Finaly, rub it well with a clean wash leather carefully folded on an Old silk handkerchief breathing on the work ocationaly.

Wood may be polished in the turning lathe in the same way remember oil must be used to prevent from sticking and no more.

French Polish

Gum sandarach⁶ fourteen ounces and two drachms⁷ gum mastic⁸ in drops seven ounces and one drahm shellac fourteen ounces and two drahms alcohol three quarts and one pint. Pound the resinous and effect their solution by continuing agitation without the aid of heat.

If the woods are porus siven ozes and and one drachm Venice turpintine also an equal weight of ground glass.

⁵ Cambric: a light-weight plain weave cloth; also known as batiste

⁶ Sandarac (or sandarach) is a [resin](#) obtained from the small cypress-like tree *Tetraclinis articulata*. Historically, especially in the Late Medieval and Renaissance era, sandarac was used to make [varnish](#).

⁷ Drachm: a unit of weight formerly used by apothecaries, equivalent to 60 grains or one eighth of an ounce.

⁸ Mastic usually refers to the resin from a mastic tree. Mastic is sun-dried into pieces of brittle, translucent resin. When chewed, the resin softens and becomes a bright white and opaque gum. The flavor is bitter at first, but after some chewing, it releases a refreshing, slightly pine or cedar-like flavor.

with the gum added the solution will be more quickly made and otherwise benefited by it. Before using the wood must be made a little linseed oil the excess of which should be removed by an old flannel. The varnish should be applied by sauterating a peice of old soft coarce linin cloth folded into a sort of cushion rubbing the wood softly at first turning the linin from time until nearly dry the linin should be saturated afresh and the rubbing continued until the pores of the wood are compleatly filled.

Two or three coats are generally sufficient do not rub hard if the varnish becomes stickey use a very little drop of olive oil uniformly over the surface of the cushion.

Stain Ebony

Take a solution of the sulphate of iron and wash the wood over with it two or three times let it dry and apply two or three coats of a strong decoction of logwood⁹ wipe the wood when dry and polish with oil.

Stain Rid¹⁰

Water one gallon Brazil wood 1 lb pearl ash¹¹ 1 oz boil for three hours brush it hot over the wood with a solution of alumn 2oz. in water one quart. 2nd light add to each gallon of the last 2 ozes. more of pearl ash. Dark logwood 8 ozes. watter [3] quarts boil till of a deep colour and add carabonate of potash¹² ½ oz. brush while hot over the wood.

⁹ Logwood (*Haematoxylon campecianum*) is a tree originally found in the forests of Central America. The dye comes from the heartwood. Logwood extract produces violets and purples. Logwood was used for a long time as a natural source of dye. In its time, logwood was considered a versatile dye, and was widely used on textiles but also for paper. The dye's colour depends on the mordant used as well as the pH. It is reddish in an acidic environments but bluish in alkaline ones.

¹⁰ The formula provided is for "red" stain, and was already popular in the early 1800s.

¹¹ Historically, pearl ash was created by baking potash in a kiln to remove impurities. The fine, white powder remaining was the pearl ash

¹² Potassium carbonate is the primary component of potash and the more refined pearl ash or salts of tartar. Historically, pearl ash was created by baking potash in a kiln to remove impurities. The fine, white powder remaining was the pearl ash.

Rosewood Stain

Take equal parts of logwood and redwood¹³ chips and boil well in just enough water apply to the furniture 1 two or three. Shortly after the other according to the depth desired.

Black Stain for Wood

Pour 2 qts boiling water over one oz. of powdered extract of logwood and when the solution is effected 1 dr. of yellow chromate to pot ash is added the whole well stirred it is then ready for use as a wood stain or writing ink when rubbed on the wood it produces a pure black repeat with two three or four applications till a deep black is produced which acquires the highest beauty when polished or stained.

To Stain Mahogany Color

Boil logwood in water to a strong liquor and apply to the wood hot give a second or third coating till the desired color is obtained and when dry apply as much linseed as the wood will imbibe and before a film forms rub it well with an old linen rag after drying it may be varnished excellent proved by John Oliver.

Black Walnut Stain

Disolve ashfelt gum in spirits of turpentine not too thick that it may flow easily and and not be darker then the light parts of the wood after having gone over the work according to the light shade rub well in to the process

of the wood and when dry with a deeper shade imitate the greening or shaling of the wood rub of again but do not spoil your shading then varnish it will be difficult to distinguish the imitation from the original. Used and proved by John Oliver. P.S. for Gun Stocks a portion of burnt umber may be used along with the ashfelt¹⁴ and turpentine to produce a brownish shade. J.O.

¹³ Most likely redwood chips.

¹⁴ Ashfelt = Asphalt?

Glue How to use it

To do good glueing the work must be well filled the parts to be glued well warmed and the glue well cooked and brought to a proper consistancy. Having clamps and handscrews ready after applying the glue put together imediatly bringing the parts firmly together leaving no body of glue between. Use only the best glue.

Liquid Glue

Prepared Glue is made by dissolving common Glue in warm watter then adding acetic acid (strong viniger) to keep it. Dissolve 1 ½ lb. of best glue in 1 ½ pint of water and add 1 pint of vinigar. It is ready for use.

Muscilage

Put three ozes. of gum Arabic¹⁵ in an earthen ware vessel containing 1 ½ pint of cold watter. if the liquid is frequently the gum in 24 hours will be dissolved and the mixture is ready for use.

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Pastes that will keep a year

Dissolve a teaspoonful of alum in a quart of warm water when cold sir in as much flour as will give it the consistancy of thick cream being particular to beat up all the lumps. Stir in as much powdered as will stand on a dime and throw in a half dozen cloves to give a pleasant odor. Have on the fire a tea cupful of boiling boiling water pour the flour mixture into it in a few minutes it will be of the consistency of mush pour it into an earthen vessal and let it cool lay a cover on and keep in a cool place. When needed for use take out a portion and soften it with warm water. Paste thus made will last 12 months. It is better then gum as it does not gloss.

Paste for scrap books

Take the best laundry starch in a clean dish wet it with sufficient cold water soft to permit it being stirred smoothely. Pour on hot water stirring slowly untill the starch is clear and jelly like ready for use as soon as cold for many uses prefferable to mucilage or gum arabic.

¹⁵ Gum arabic, also known as acacia gum, is a natural gum consisting of the hardened sap of various species of the acacia tree.

Files and Rasps to recut when old¹⁶

Disolve 4 oz. of salerates¹⁷ in 1 qt. of water and boil the files in it half an hour then remove wash and dry them. Now have ready a glass or stone ware vessel 1 qt. of rain water into which you have slowly added 4 oz. of best sulphuric acid and keep the proportions for any amount used. Immerse the files in this preparation

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from 6 to 12 hours according to the fineness or coarseness of the then remove and wash them clean dry quickly and put a little sweet oil on them to cover the surface if the files are coarse they will need to remain in 12 hours but for fine files from 6 to 8 hours is sufficient. This plan is applicable to black smiths gunsmiths tanners and machinists. Files may be recut three times if required.

Furniture Varnish

This may be finished to look equal to the to the best French polished wood in the following manner take two ounces of tripoli¹⁸ powdered put it into an earthen pot with with just enough water to cover it and take a piece of white flannel lay it over a piece of cork or rubber and proceed to polish the varnish always wetting it in the tripoli water it will be known when the process is finished by wiping a part of the work with a sponge and observing whether there is a fair even gloss. When this is the case take a bit mutton suet and fine flour and clean the work. The above process to other varnished surfaces.

¹⁶ This methodology surfaces much later in an article in *Popular Mechanics*, 7 (4), April 1905, p.437.

¹⁷ Saleratus (essentially potassium bicarbonate) was used in a similar fashion to sodium bicarbonate.

¹⁸ Rotten stone, sometimes spelled as rottenstone, also known as **tripoli**, is fine **powdered** porous rock used as a polishing abrasive for metalsmithing and in woodworking. It is usually weathered limestone mixed with diatomaceous, amorphous, or crystalline silica.

Dark Place to Illuminate

By the use of a mirror to throw a reflection the suns rays down a deep well the bottom is clearly seen and a lost bucket or other object clearly seen that they may be hooked up if there are objects preventing success with one glass take two one to receive the direct rays and the other the reflected rays from the mirror.

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Perry Davis Pain Killer¹⁹

Alcohol 1 quart gum guaiac²⁰ 1 oz. Gums myrrh camphor and cayenne (pulverized) of each ½ oz. mix Shake occasionally for a week or ten days filter and let settle for use. Apply freely to surface pains or it may be taken in spoonful doses for internal pains and repeat according necessity.

Eye Sight To preserve

Niver sit for any time in absolute gloom or exposed to a blaze of light. The reason on which this reason is founded proves the impropriety of going hastily from one extreme to the other whether of darkness or of light and shows us that a southeren is improper for those whose sight is weak and tender.

2nd.. Avoid reading small print and straining eyes by looking at minute objects.

3. Do not read in the dusk nor if the eyes be disordered by candle light.

4. Do not permit the eyes to dwell on glaring objects particularly on firs awaking in the morning the sun should not be suffered to shine into the room in the morning a moderate quantity should be admitted. For the same reason the walls and furniture should not be altogether white. Study natural green.

¹⁹ Perry Davis 'Vegetable Pain Killer' was patented in 1845. It consists mostly of opiates and methyl alcohol, and its bottle indicates it to be "for internal or external use."

²⁰ A tree resin (also known as guaiacum) which was used to treat a variety of medical conditions from cough to arthritis.

Sty in the Eye To cure

Put a teaspoonful of soda in a small bag pour on it just enough of boiling water to moisten it then put it on the eye pretty warm keep it on all night and in the morning the sty will most likely be gone if not a second application is sure to remove it.

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Eye Weak and Sore

Sulphate of zinc 3 grains tincture of opium ten drops water two ounces. to be applied three or four times a day.

An alum lotion is beneficial to weak and watery eyes.

How I cured my eyes when very sore when in New Annan far from Doctors and drug shops by bathing them in cold drawn extract of Hemlock Bark as used in Tanning Skins Oliver.

Razor Strop Paste

Levigated oxide of tin²¹ prepared putty powder 1 oz. powdered oxalic acid ¼ oz powdered gum 20 grains make it into a stiff paste with water and evenly and thinly spread it over the strop with very little friction this paste give a fine edge to the razor.

2. Emery reduced to an impalpable powder two parts spermacety ointment²² 1 part mix together and rub over the strop.

Sick Headache

Take two teaspoonfuls of finely pulverized charcoal in half a tumbler of water will in less than fifteen minutes give relief. Vouched for as excellent.

²¹ Arnold John Cooley. A Cyclopædia of Practical Receipts and Collateral Information in the Arts... London: John Churchill, 1845. Under "Paste, Razor."

²² Spermacety ointment

Heart Burn

A good remedy is a teaspoonful of Carabonate of magnesia or carbonate of soda in a glass of peppermint or cinimon to which a little powdered ginger may added.

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Working Suit for Farmers, etc.

We invented a dress several years since which we have used and recomend to others much to their satisfaction. It is a sleeve vest closed in front and trousers in one peice with only one fastening with a strap behind the neck. The sleeves may be made sufficently large enough to wear over the sleeves of a coat. The material should be of drilling.

In warm weather it may be worn weather it may be worn without any other clothing then the shirt. Be sure to make it large enough to be worn easely over other garments.

Wood Filling

Open grained wood such as black walnut before varnishin or finishing requires to have the pores of the wood filled. **1st.** ½ pint of japan ½ pint of boiled oil ½ pint Turpentine one pound corn starch let it remain after brushing on for half an hour then rub clean of then varnish or French pollish. From John Cumming N.

2nd Take puty and color to the shade of the wood to be filled and rub it over the surface of the wood till the pores are completely filled leave nothing on the surface but what the pores have taken in then proceed with varnishing. "Scientific American"²³

3rd Turpentine in which is dissolved Beeswax. Too soft I think. John Oliver Jos. Kitchin.

²³ Possibly "Artificial production of the coloring matter of madder," *Scientific American*, July 24, 1869.

Finishing with one coat of varnish not using glue Paste or shellac. Take boiled linseed oil and give and give the furniture a coat with a brush then imeetially sprinkle dry whiteing²⁴ and rub it well in with your hand or a worn short stif brush the whiting absorbs the oil and the pores are filled with and watter will not spoil it the whiting may be coloured.

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Files and Rasps

Files and other instruments for the abrasion of various substances may be made by folding up separate peices of wet clay in muslin cambuck²⁵ and linin frocking then by the pressure of the hand into the [?????] of the threads so that on divesting them of the covering and having them well baked a file is produced of a new specis capable of operating on Stele and very useful in cutting glass pollishing and rasping wood ivory and all sorts of metals.

Rasps and Files to recut

Disolve 4 oz of selercates²⁶ in one quart of water and boil the files in it for half an hour then remove wash and dry them. Now have ready in a glass or stone vessal 1 quart of rain water into which you have slowly [molded] 4 ozes. of sulphuric acid keep the proportions for any amount used Imerce the files in this preparation for from 6 to 8 hours according to the fineness or coarseness of the file remove and wash them clean dry quickly and put on a little sweet oil.

This plan is applicable to Blacksmiths Gunsmiths tinnens copper-smiths and machests files. For coarse files allow them to remain in the bath 12 hours.

Files to clean

Holding a file under a steem get at 40 pounds pressure is an effectual way of cleaning the same.

Put them to boil with hardwood ashes will [ensure] well and will generally take out the guming.

²⁴ Calcium carbonate dust

²⁵ Most likely "cambric" [see footnote 3]

²⁶ Possibly silicate of soda (sodium silicate)

Linseed Oil prepared for carriage, etc.

To one gallon of Linseed oil add two pound Shellac [litharge]²⁷ one half pound Umber one ounce boil slowly till the gums are dissolved Grind your paints in this any colour and reduce with turpemntine.

Soap Home made from [Caustic] Soda

It sometimes happens that caustic soda is not within reach to transform this material into a suteable lye for this is a suteable and conviniant process. Dissolve Sal Soda²⁸ say 3 pounds in 2 gallons of warm water. Shake in a firkin²⁹ 3 pounds of good quick lime add to it the soda solution. Stir it thouroughly with a stick and add two Gallons of boiling water Stir again and let it settle. Pour of the clear liquor in a clean boiler placed on the fire Stir into it 6 pound of clairified greace and 2 pound of powdred borax let it boil slowly till it gets thick and ropy about ten minutes boiling and pour it into a tub or tight box as stated above. Soap thus made is an exelent hard soap for famely use after drying a month or so in a dry room and cut into bars is fit to use.

Soap Cheap

Soap for famely use can be made very cheap and of exelent quality with little trouble by the use of a common article sold in all drug stores.

²⁷ Litharge is one of the natural mineral forms of lead(II) oxide,

²⁸ Sodium carbonate

²⁹ A small cask used for liquids

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This is lye put up in a concentrated form in small iron boxes containing one pound these boxes cost 25 cents in ordinary tin the plan of proceeding is to knock off the head of the box and throw it into a gallon of boiling water after standing ten hours the lye will be clean and must be thrown into a wash boiled with another Gallon of boiling water when the contents of the vessel boil four pound of any grease may be added slowly poured in a thick stream and stirred well when [intimately] mixed the boiler should simmer slowly for four or 6 hours. And half an hour before taking off another gallon of water may be added together with a half a tea cup of salt. The later is not however necessary and if too much is thrown in the soap curdles when the soap is thought to be done plunge a case knife in if the [mass] drops clear and rosy and chills quickly it is soap and will be firm and hard when cold. Pour it into a wash a wash tub well wet bottom and sides pour it in and let it set and it will be hard enough to cut out as white as snow this process makes 24 pounds of soap by the aid of the aid of grease. 4 pounds of lye one pound 24 pounds of water less 2 quarts driven off by boiling. One Gallon weighs 8 pounds nearly are converted into soap of excellent washing properties it loses about $\frac{1}{4}$ by drying and will cost about 3 cents a pound.

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Sand Paper Superior

Take a quantity of broken window glass pound it in an iron mortar then have two or three sieves of different degrees of fineness ready for use when wanted. Take any good tough paper fine cartridge is the best level level the knobs and lumps on both sides with pumic stone. Tack it on each corner to a board and with good clear glue diluted with one third more water than is used for wood work go quickly over the paper taking care to spread it equally with your brush then having your sieve ready Sift the powdered glass over it lightly yet so as to cover every part let it remain till the glue is set take it from the board and shake off the superfluous glass into a sieve and hang it in the shade to dry in two or three days it will be ready for use. The paper will be much better than any you can buy sand being frequently mixed with glass and coloured to deceive purchasers.

Sewing Machines hints on using

It is a fact known to all who [use] sewing machines that the prevailing difficulty is the is the breaking of the thread. Nearly all other derangements that occur can be overcome by any person of ordinary iniquity though they have only a short experience in the use of a sewing machine. This breaking which is mostly with the upper thread may occur from an imperfect adjustment of the tension. With new machines this is invariably the case

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but with those that have been in use for several months. But with those that have been in use for several months the breaking when the tension is right is produced by the threads wearing in the guides so that a swelled place in the thread reaches the narrow groove which is worn to the exact width of the regular size of the thread not being allowed to pass through the thread breaks.

Of course this break takes place any place from the point of the needle back to the groove back to the grooved guide which caught it. As it is at or near the end of the needle the real cause is very generally overlooked. Many have been too much troubled with this continual breaking that it has been necessary for them to lay aside their machines. When if this cause had been known to them by simply smoothing the guide holes with a small round file their trouble would have been ended.

China or Glassware - To mend

Take a very thick solution of gum arabic in water and stir into it plaster of Paris until the mixture becomes a viscid paste apply with a brush to the fractured edges. In three days the article cannot be broken in the same place.

Boreing holes in glass

Any hard steel tool will cut glass with great facility when kept freely wet with camphor dissolved in Turpentine a drill bow may be used or even the hand alone a hole may be enlarged by a round file. Window frame may be sawed by a watch spring saw by the aid of this solution brittle glass may be wrought almost as easily as brass.

Metals – Inks for Writeing on

1st Mix one oz. of powdred sulphate of copper and ½ oz. of powdred sal amoniac with 2 oz. of diluted acetic acid adding lampblack or vermilion.

2nd Dissolve one part copper in 10 of nitric acid and delute with ten parts of water. The two above recipes will answer for writeing on Steel Tin plate or Zink.

3rd Werdigris³⁰ 10 oz. Sal ammoniac 1 oz. Lampblack ½ oz. water half a pint mix in an earthenware mortar without using a metal spatula. To be shaken before use and with a clean quill pen. On brightly freshly cleansed Zink.

I think some of the above would answer for writing on Coffin Plates.
John Oliver.

Sage to cultivate

Put out in rows two feet apart and plant a foot apart in the rows cultivate and keep clean it does well in sandy soil dry in the shade hard pressed.

³⁰ Possibly verdigris

Raspberries

Rasbery canes when set out should be planted 3 feet apart in the row and the rows from 3 ½ to four appart cut down to within 6 inches of the ground and set firmly. Prefer a rather moist spot for them and if in the shade for a portion of the day so much the better they can be planted under fruit trees where scarcely thing [grow] they like a cool moist soil put trashy light manure around them and if a foot deep will be an advantage.

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Lime Water very good but hard

Equal parts of lime water and linseed oil which will mix if well shaken when united with any body matter particulary lead form a solid and almost imperishable cement which for firming and second coating or even the last coat is far superior to oil paint. And the painter who supposed who supposed he was cheating his employer was actualy benefiting him. The colour however works badly as it is thick light and creamey and harder to spread. If fifty per cent be saved in therty per cent is lost in time and ten per cent in the extra quanty used so after all there is not much saved by its use.

Ice Chest to make

Take two dry goods boxes one of which smaller then the other to leave a space of about three inches all round when when it is placed inside fill the space between the two with sawdust packed closely cover with a heavey lid made to fit made to fit neatly inside the large one insert a small pipe in the bottom of the chest to carry of the water from the melting ice.

For famely use this has proved quite as serviceable and economical as more costly refrigerators.

Ice to gather

Early ice keeps the best and easlier procured snow must be removed from the surface before cut and injures the quality. Select a clear day

Ice tools should consist of a croscut saw an axe and a pike pole cut of thre feet wide and split of with an axe by chiping out a V or wedge shaped hole at each edge strike a [??????] in each hole untill the block seperates from the mass.

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the ladder for hauling out the ice is about 12 feet long and twenty inches wide the upright pins must be strong and round at one end the ladder is lowered into the watter and the ice floated over then. Then draw out the ladder at the same time lower the handles.

When on the surface it can easely be unloded by raising one side of the ladder. Use a plank to move the cakes where needed when packing.

Venered Work To Polish

No attempt at scraping sand papering or polishing venered must be made till the glue is perfectly hard and dry it should be left twenty four hours at least in a warm room and better still if two or thre times as long.

The processes of French polishing vary somewhat according to the nature of the wood. For common work in deal the wood may be well sized first then papered with find glass paper and polished.

For mahogney walnut and sometimes porus woods the pores must be filled in with by rubbing in on a roll of old carpet a mixture of tallow without having been salted refine it by boiling in plenty of watter mixed with Plaster of Paris. The more the filling up process is percevered in less will be the subsequent labour in polishing quite a bright surface should be got up by this alone the mixtue of tallow and plaster may may be darkened with colouring according to fancy. This filling is not neccery for Boxwood and close grained woods. To polish a surface not being in the Lathe Take a ball of cotton wool saturated with methylated French polish cover it with a fold of linin cloth put on with the tip of the finger a drop or two of raw refined Linseed

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(not boiled oil) get on a good body of varnish by rubbing always one way with circular strokes be very careful to go over all the ground each time you work round the surface and do not go over the same spot twice before you have gone over all [The] longer this is done the better never mind the smears which though they look queer are the very appearance you want at this stage having got on a good body leave your work and go to another piece it is good to leave it a day or two by the way shut all the doors and windows before you begin you cannot do French polishing in a draft or very cold room.

When you resume work use a mixture of half methylated spirit French polish and half methylated spirit or less than half of the [spirit] you commenced with. Put as little as possible on the wool covering covering with more than one fold of fine linen or cambric. Very little oil as before only just enough to prevent the rubber from sticking to the wood. Go over it easily with a light gentle touch in Circular Strokes all one way never mind the smears. When it comes to look like a good result which it soon will. You may take out the smears by rubbing up and down with a mere trace of spirit on the wool well covered with linen but avoid going over the same place twice.

Finely rub it well with a clean wash leather carefully folded (carefully folded) so as to have no hard which will scratch or an Old Silk handkerchief [breathing?] on the work occasionally.

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Metals Writing Incriptions on

Take $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of nitric acid one of Murcitic³¹ acid mix and shake well together and it is ready for use cover the place you wish to mark with melted bees wax. When cold write your inscription plainly in the wax clearly to the metal with a sharp instrument. Then apply the mixed acid with a feather carefully filling each letter let it remain from one to ten minutes according to the appearance desired then throw on water which stops the process.

³¹ Muriatic acid

The Din of Shops To Prevent

A rubber cushion under the leg of the work benches in manufactories is a cheap relief from the deafening din of noisy shops Chambers describes a Factory where the hammering of fifty Coppersmiths was scarcely audible in the room below the benches having under each leg a rubber cushion. We have seen the same effect produced by standing the legs of the bench in nail kegs filled with sand by which means vibration and shock was prevented.

How To Prevent

the ring of an axe in cutting wood or felling a tree wrap your coat round it. So potchers say or wood thieves say.

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Diarhea

The raspings of Logwood in a [Decoction] -- safe and good.

2. Lignum Vitae³² as above.

A Good Salve for Wounds

Purified butter the inner rhind of Eilder Boultree Bark³³ and bees wax simmered together. Old Mrs. Beck

My experience with regard to small wounds or cuts is to bring the devided parts neatly [together] and bind up with linin torn into narrow from $\frac{3}{4}$ to one fourth of an Inch as the case may require and let the binding remain till the parts are united. And no salve will [be] needed with a person whose system is in good order. John Oliver

An Old Wifes Cure for a young child with the Belly acke Sutt tea from the chimney where wood has been burnt. I can vouch for this being an exelent remidy for sucking [babies?]. J. Oliver

P.S. I have seen the above used with very good effect on the scalded parts of infants but it looks bad. A little Creosate and Charcoal [dust]

³² Lignum vitae

³³ The use of elder bark was common in folk medicine of the time.

***Dr. Hendersons cure for colds and coughs
(Late of Mount Tom)***

Boill a cup full of butter a cupful of Vinigar and a cupfull molases together till they are boiled in to one and take at once before getting into bed. And you will be well in the morning. [It] acts like a mericle.

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Dock Root Yellow

This is one of the most valuable remedies in diseases of the skin. The best preparation is to bruse the fresh roots in a mortar and cream or fresh butter enough to make an ointment. [It] may be taken internaly at the same time either in a decoction or combined with such articles as are useful for the internal treatment of bad humors scrofulasis³⁴ conditions of the system. It is a certain and safe remedy for the itch.

Salve Balm of Gilead

Mutton tallows $\frac{1}{4}$ pound Balm of Gilead buds 2 oz. white pine gum 1 oz. rid precipitate 1 oz. hard soap 1 oz. white 1 table spoonful stew the buds in the tallow until the strength is obtained. Press out or strain scrape the soap add the other articles to the tallow using unsalted butter or sweet oil to bring it to a proper consistancy. When nearly cool stir in the rid presipitate mixing thoroughly.

Russia Salve

Take equal parts of yellow wax and sweet oil. Melt slowley at the same time carefully stirring stir in a small quantity of glycrene. Good for all kinds of wounds.

Proud Flesh

Pulverise leaf sugar very fine apply to the part affected. A new and easey remidy.

³⁴ Scofulosis

Clocks To clean and repair

Take the movement to peices. Brush the wheel and pinions thouroughly with a stiff coarse brush. Also the plates into which the [?????]. Clean the pivots well by turning a peice of cotton cloth heild firmly between your thumb and finger. The pivot holes are generally are [??????] by turning a peice of wood into them but it will be found that a strip of cloth or soft cord drawn through them will act the best. If you use two cords the first one slightly oil. And the nixt to dry to clean the oil out all the better Do not use salt or acid to clean your clock it can do no good but may do a great deal of harm. Boiling in water is foolishness.

The holes through which the great arbours or winding axles work are the only ones that require brushing. When they have become much worn the great wheel on the axle before named strikes too deeply into the pinions above it stops the clock to remedy this [????] is necessary of course. The most common way is to drive a [steel] point or punch just above the axle hole forcing the brass downwards. Another way is to solder a peice of brass upon the plate in such a position as to hold down the axle to its proper place. If you simply wish your clock to run and have no ambition to produce a [bush?] that will look workman-like. About as good a way as any is to fil a peice of hard wood between the post that comes through the top of the plate and the axle to its proper place make it long enough to keep to its proper place so that the axle will run on end wood.

Cut notches where the pivets come through and secure by wraping around it and the plate a peice of small wire or a thread there is no post coming through on the stroking but this will rarely require bushing.

To remedy worn pinions turn the leaves or rollers so the worn places will be toward the arbour or shaft and fasten them in that position. If they are rolling pinions you had better do it with a little soft solder.

Oil only very lightly the pallets of the verge the steel pin upon which the verge works. And the point were the loop of the verge works over the pendulum wire. Use none but the best watch oil. Many jobs of clock cleaning are spoiled by oiling all the pivots and probably the pinions. The doing of this causes the accumulation of dust and this dust mixing with the oil by grinding together increases the friction of the parts and sooner or later the stopping of the Clock. This is the reason that clocks stop in cold weather. A clock grinding along in consequence of being improperly oiled will wear out in less than half the time it would under other circumstances. The reason of this must be apparent to all each pivot and pinion has been converted into a grindstone.

If not very cautious in [????] up your clock you will get some of the striking train wheels in wrong and thus produce a derangement in the striking if this should happen press the plates apart on the striking side.

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Slip the pivots of the upper side out and having disconnected them from the train turn them part around and put them back if not right repeat the experiment a few efforts must get them to work properly.

Examine the pendulum wire at the loop of the verge wire. You will generally find a small notch or round place worn there dress it [perfectly] smooth or your Clock will not be likely to work smooth. Small as this defect seems it stops numbers of clocks. ---

Bronchites Acute

This disease begins with chills followed by fever and lightness across the chest difficulty of breathing hoarseness and loss of strength [constitutive] bowels and quick hard pulse water runs from the eyes and nostrils and there is a dry croupy cough after a few days mucus is raised and occasionally streaked with blood. There is more or less pain in the chest pain across the forehead increase by coughing and a pale anxious countenance in severe cases there is a pain across the chest causing the patient calling for the windows to be opened to avoid suffocation. There is difficulty of a paleness and liveliness of the cheeks and lips a loud wheezing and rattling of the throat. ***Treatment*** --- In mild give warm balm or flaxseed tea or hot lemonade at the same time soaking the feet in warm water and on retiring to bed placing warm water in bottles at the sides and feet to produce sweating.

In severe cases an active emetic is needed followed by tincture of a *veratrum viride*³⁵ in full doses so as to reduce the pulse the room should be kept warm and the air should be moist if there is difficulty of breathing a gentle perspiration should be kept up either by compound tincture of Virginia root (small) by tincture of veratrum or by frequent bathing the surface. A mustard paste to the chest and soles of the feet is important and the diet be of barley water toast water rice water or a solution of gum arabic.

The cough may be managed by a tincture of lobelia half an ounce of the syrup of Squills³⁶ half an ounce. Mix and give twenty four or five times a day.

Influenza

Influenza which in its lighter form is simply a cold may become a serious and troublesome complaint begins generally with a tingling and sense of fullness in the mucous membrane of the nose making the breathing through the nostrils difficult and producing sneezing. The eyes become red and watery and the throat is sore and there is a dry cough hoarseness thirst and lassitude and chilliness. The mucous membrane of the nose throat and breathing tubes is red and inflamed sometimes swollen and painful water runs from the eyes and nose and the cough to be accompanied by expectoration of yellow matter pain in the back and limbs alternate heats and chills and loss of appetite accompany the disease.

³⁵ *Veratrum viride*, known as Indian poke, Indian hellebore, false hellebore, green false hellebore or giant false-helleborine, is a species of *Veratrum* native to eastern and western (but not central) North America. It is extremely toxic, and is considered a pest plant by farmers with livestock.

³⁶ Syrup of Squills is made from Squill, a plant found in Sicily and Malta, and was used to treat bronchitis and coughs

Treatment a very mild treatment is only required. Such as bathing the feet in warm water sweating and drinking warm herb teas. Slippery elm³⁷ and taking a very light diet Some slight [lexitive] may also be given. If the disease is very severe it may be necessary to give an emetic of the compound tincture of [lobilior] or the powder of ipcac 10 to 20 grains. If the cough is severe give this tincture half an ounce Syrup of squills half an ounce mix 20 drops four or 5 times a day.

Tempering Steel

Giving the proper degree of hardness to tools is a subject of deep interest to many of our readers so that any light that may be imparted on the subject must be of more or less importance. For tempering many kind of tools the steel is first hardened by heating to a cherry-red and plunging it into cold water afterward the temper is drawn by moderately heating the steel again. Different degrees of heat each of these with the corresponding color will be found in the annexed table.

Pale straw color the temper required for lancets.

A shade darker Yellow for Penknives Razors and surgical instruments

Darker straw yellow for Penknives

Still darker yellow chisels for cutting iron

Brown yellow Axes and plane irons

Yellow slightly tinged with purple Table knives and watch spring

Tools To preserve from rusting

A coating of three parts lard and one part of resin applied to tools of iron or steel will effectively preserve from rust.

³⁷ Slippery elm tea, a popular herbal treatment.

Tools Art of Grinding

More than one half of all the wear and tear and breakage and bother of dull tools comes from a proper knowledge and practise in the art of grinding. All steel however refined is composed of individual fibres laid lengthways in the bar but held together firmly by cohesion. Hence by holding on the grindstone all edge tools as axes [carving] knives knives knives of reapers sythes knives of Straw Cutters etc. hold the edge square across the stone the direction of the fibres will be changed so as to prevent the end instead of the side as a cutting edge.

By grinding in this manner a finer and smoother edge is set the tool is ground in less time holds the edge a great deal longer and is far less liable to nick out and to break.

Plane irons should be ground to a bevel of about 35 degrees chisels and gouges to 30 Turning chisels may sometimes run to an angle of 45. Tools for working iron and steel are beveled to an inclination to the edge from 60 to 70 degrees. And for cutting Gun and similar range from 80 to 90 degrees.

Currant Worm

Dust the leaves with powdered hellebore³⁸ using a pepper [box] found very successful or one pound of copper as to 6 gallons of water Sprinkled on the bushes by a watering pot.

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It is sure and speedy death to the worm. The Scotch method of treatment is with with soot after a slight shower apply early.

³⁸ white hellebore: North American plant having large leaves and yellowish green flowers growing in racemes; yields a toxic alkaloid used medicinally

Alloy Antifriction

1 Zinc 17 parts copper 1 part antimony 1 ½ parts. This possesses unsurpassable antifriction qualities and does not require the protection of outer cases of harder metal.

2nd The best alloy for journal boxes is [composed] of copper 24 pounds antimony 8 pounds melt the copper first then add the tin and lastly the antimony. It should be first run into ingots and then melted and cast in the form required.

Pencil Writing To fix

Pencil writing may be fixed almost as indelibly as ink by passing the moist end tongue over it. Even breathing slowly over the lines will render them much less liable erasure.

Pencils Indelible

Take faber pencil [W?] first and prepare labels of thin cedar shingle rub on a little linseed oil and before it gets dry write what you want. A little white lead may be used in the oil but will do without said to last for years.

Razor To Hone Strop

Let the Hone be seldom and but sparingly resorted to and never unless by frequent

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stropping the edge of the Razor is entirely destroyed. Use the best oil and be careful to preserve the hone clean and free from dust. Previously to the operation of Shaving wash the face well with soap and water. The more you lather and moisten the beard the easier will be the process of shaving become. Dip the razor in hot water before applying to the face use the blade nearly flat always taking care to give it a cutting instead of a scraping direction. Strop the razor immediately after using it for the purpose of effectually removing the moisture that may remain upon the edge of it. Do not employ a poor common strop The strop should always be of the best manufacture and when the composition is worn of it will be found it will be found particularly useful to rub it over lightly with a little clean tallow then put upon it the snuff of a candle. Another excellent mode of renovation is by rubbing

it well with puter and impregnating the leather with the finest metallic particles.

Razor Strop Paste

Levigated Oxide of Tin putty powder 1 oz. powdered oxalic acid ¼ oze. powdered gum 20 grs. made into a stif paste with wates evenly and thinly spread it over the strop with very little friction this paste give a fine edge to a razor and its efficiency is increased by moistoning it. Emery reduced to impalable powder 2 parts Spermacity ointment 1 part mix together and rub over the strop.

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Boils

The skin of a boiled egg is the most efficacious remedy that can be applied to a boil peel it carefully wet and apply to the part affected it will draw of the matter and relive the soreness in a few hour. 2nd it is also good for a crack in the lips as it draws the edges of the skin together.

After dinner Naps

Bismark³⁹ indulges now in after dinner naps he is a great eater and a great worker and a poor sleeper. Physicians are generally recomending it to over worked Statsmen and diplolmatists the nervous system needs it I find it good though not a politision or diplomatist. J. Oliver

Early Rising

Is a crime against nature unless proceded by an early retireing. It is not healthy in any country or at any season of the year or at any time of life to get up early habitually the Old are better rested by lying late even if not asleep while the young require all the sleep they can get. In all latitudes in warm weather the morning air thought feeling cool and fresh is laden with pestiferous misma.

³⁹ Otto von Bismarck, German statesman. "Prince Bismarck, at Kissingen, following the advice of his physicians, now indulges in afternoon naps," *Truth*, 8 (190), August 19, 1880, p. 221.

Lock Jaw

Take a small quantity of turpentine warm it and apply to the wound no matter where it is and relief will follow in less than a minute. nothing better can be applied to a cut or bruise than turpentine.

Turpentine is also a sovereign remedy for the croup apply soaked flannel to the throat and take 3 or four drops in sugar [????????]

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Inflamed Sore Throat or Tonsils

A very good general remedy is to gargle the throat with a teaspoonful of the chlorate of potash. It is well in every house to keep a good sized vial with water and more chlorate of potash than it will dissolve. the clear liquid is then of equal strength and ready for use a teaspoonful at a time swallowing it after gargling it against the inflamed tonsils.

To cure a sty on the eyelid

Apply a poultice of fresh tea leaves moistened with water.

Pens

Before dipping a new pen into ink says an American writer thrust it into a fresh cut potatoe and the ink will never cling. When the pen is thickly gummed with dry ink a few thrusts will clean it perfectly.

When teaching ought to commence

Before the age of seven nothing should be attempted in the way of teaching except what may be taught indirectly by example or almost unconsciously in the ordinary communication of impressions. This may be argued pro and con. J. Oliver

Buttermilk as summer food Drink and Medicine

An American physician asserts that for hot weather nothing equals buttermilk it is he says both food and drink for the labourer and even in fever will cool the stomach admirably. It will cure the dysentery more quickly than any other remedy.

***Gold Thread Root*⁴⁰**

Gold thread root chewed is good for canker or other sore mouth. A decoction is good for sore throat. The tea is useful in cases of general debility and loss of appetite.

Rhubarb

is generally cultivated in our gardens for the sake of the [stalks] which are made into excellent pies the root however is of great efficacy some diseases 6 to 10 grains are astringent and strengthening to the Stomach in larger doses from a scruple to half a drachm it is first purgative then astringent. It is therefore an excellent medicine for diarrhea and dysentery [????] evacuates the acrid matter that may be offending the bowels.

N. Knot Grass*⁴¹ *Diarrhea Diarrhea

Tea made of this grass is beneficial easing pain and is soothing to the bowels.

Spruce

A decoction of the boughs is good for purifying the blood and [Scurvitic] complaints. ***Hemlock ditto.***

Pine

A decoction of pine leaves sweetened with molasses is said to be a good remedy for colds and coughs.

Quicken Grass*⁴² *Kill All

A decoction of the roots recommended for the gravel or difficulty in urinating.

⁴⁰ "Coptis Trifolia, (gold thread,) root; tonic bitter, astringent, used for gargles." Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, III, 1836-1837, p. 32.

⁴¹ Polygonum aviculare, cited in medical and popular works in the mid-1800s as a treatment for diarrhoea.

⁴² Triticum repens, L.

Cure For a runing Leg

I had my leg poisoned and it continued running for about a year. A cure was had by pulicing with carrots. And then applying Burnt alumn and burnt butter. From Old Sandy Horn.

***How I cured very bad scald head
in a child after it had beat the Docter***

I [directed] the mother to make an ointment of Tar and sulpher and burnt Alumn and keep the head clean and applying every other day. And give a small teaspoon of molasses and sulpher daily the cure was compleate I have often recomended in similar cases with like results.

A Simple cure pain in the stomock or bowels

Take a large teaspoonful of Black pepper in Milk. I have recived benefit by its use many times.

Yarra⁴³ and Varr Balsam

Uncle Henry Oliver by overexerting himself himself to save some timber from fire and then lying down fatigued to watch the fire from the lumber fell asleep and awoke with cough and inflameation of the lungs he recovered in some degree but the cough niver left him. After spending much for Docters and trying everything that could be thought of and taking a voyage to Great Breaton He said "that nothing did him more good then Varr Balsam and Yarra" I know from experiance that Yarra is good to stop Diarhea it is said to act upon the liver.

⁴³ Possibly yarrow, whose medical use is documented in folk medicine.

Bark Wild Cherry⁴⁴

The bark and kernels contain a great deal of prussic acid to which their medical values are to be attributed. The bark is a powerful antiseptic and is useful in the preparation of dentifrice. It is also useful in diarrhea jaundice and for worms. Generally taken in infusion an oz of the powder to a quart of boiling water. The Cherrys are also used in medicine. they are used as a tonic and remedy for indigestion. And particularly as a restorative for convalescents from dysentery made in a syrup and given in a decoction.

Burdock

operates gently on the bowels sweetens the blood promotes sweet and urine and is used in rheumatic and sarbutic scrofula and venereal dose of the juse a wine glassful. Of the decoction half a pint three times a day.

Blue Flag

grows by the brink of rivers and in swamps and meddows. It blossoms in July and has blue flowers variegated with white and yellow and purple a teaspoonful of the juce deluted in water is an active cathartic. The decoction for constant drink is used in venereal complaints.

Horehound

a bitter pectoral herb used mostly in syrup or candy used in severe coughs and colds one lb. of sugar to a strong pint of the infusion.

Horse Radish

An antibiotic and stimulating [indecipherable] may be taken in substance or infused [rest of page indecipherable]

⁴⁴ Charles Herman Sulz, *A treatise on beverage, or, the complete practical bottler*. New York: Arundell, 1888, p. 734.

Dandelion

A decoction of dandelion will correct an unhealthy state of the stomach and liver and procure an appatite. It is duertic and very benefical in the jaundice given in the form of an extract from thre to five grain doses 3 times a day the best time of gathering the roots is in August and Sept^r. and press out the juce and expose to a dry warm air in shallow dishes.

Cough Compound

For the cure of coughs cold asthma whooping coughs and all diseases of the lung. One spoonful of common tar 3 spoonfuls of honey the yelks of 3 hens' eggs and a half pint of wine. Beat the tar the honey and the eggs together with a knife and bottle for use. A teaspoonful every morning noon, and night before eating.

Drops Diuretic

Oil of cubebes⁴⁵ 1 oz Sweet sperits of nitrol 1 oz Harlem Oil⁴⁶ one bottle il of lavender sperits of turpentine 20 drops oil of aniseed 15 drops. Mix. ~~Dose one teaspoonful in case of coughs or colds.~~ Dose 10 to 15 drops

Cough Mixture

Take tea cupful of [Molasses] add two tablesponfuls of viniger. Simmer this over the fire when taken off add 8 teaspoonfuls of paregoric and as much refined nitro as can be be put upon the point of a small table knife. Of this mixture two or three teaspoonfuls on going to bed and two or three during the day when you have a [?????] to cough.

⁴⁵ Oil of cubebes is obtained by steam distillation from coarsely ground cubebes, the fruit of Piper Cubeba, Linn. (N.O. Piperaceae), a plant indigenous to Java, Sumatra, and Borneo.

⁴⁶ North, Samuel "Haarlem oil". *The family physician and guide to health, together with some remarks on surgery*. Waterloo, NY: Wm. Child, 1830, pp. 303–304.

Cure Diptheria

Put a teaspoonful of the flour of sulpher into a wine glass full of water when well mixed Brimstone destroys every specis of fungus in man and beast insteed of spitting out the gargle swallow it. In extreem caces Dr. Feilds⁴⁷ recommended blowing dry sulpher through a quill and after the fungus had shrunk then he ordered the gargling and niver lost a paitent from diptheria. Discovered by Dr. Feilds an Englishman.

Willow

Wood if placed in scalding water may be twisted kneaded stamped like a peice of boiled cheese. Worth knowing, J.O.

Worth Knowing

Dip a small peice of rosin in water and set on the stove. It will give relif to persons troubled with a cough the same rozin may be used for weeks. This is preferable to combustion because because the evaporation is more dureable Many stoves are filled with a vessal for water for the purpose of evaporation into this the rosin may be put.

Substitute for a Hot bed

Procure some tin biscut boxes about 9 by four inches 5 in. deep fill thre parts with fine soil covered with a sheet of glass and place full in the sun so that it can shine into the side of the box this causes the earth inside to get quite hot and as it is kept fairly moist is just like a hot bed it is neccessary to cover the glass with a sheet of paper [or it] will burn the plants.

⁴⁷ The use of sulphur as a cure appears in books and journal articles in the later 1800s with a Dr. Fields' name prominent. Fields' full identity has yet to be confirmed.

Good Cheep Vinigar

Good vinegar may be made by adding three quarts of treacle to eight gallons of clear rain water the same put into a good cask if in summer out of doors at the warmest side of the house. But if in cold weather near the chimney where it may be kept warm. In ten or fifteen days place in the liquor a sheet of brown paper torn into strips dipped into treacle and good vinegar may be produced.

Kail Brose⁴⁸

Take some of the water that boiled the greens put in a pot or pan and have it boiling while you get a dish with as much oatmeal as required add salt and pour on the water while boiling stir up and your brose is ready. This is the way they are usually made in Scotland.

Lamp Chimneys etc.

To prevent cracking put them into a pot with cold water thro in a handful of salt and and put them on fire and boil them well then let cool slowly in the water and they will be found to resist any sudden change of temperature.

Composition for Orniments⁴⁹

Mix whiting with thin glue to the consistency of putty. Have the mould ready. Rub it over with sweet oil and press the composition into it take it out and lay it aside to dry. If it is desired to fit the ornament to a curved or irregular bend it to the place to where it is to be attached before it gets dry.

⁴⁸ Brose is a soup, popular in Scotland, that is thickened with toasted rolled oats. It is very savory, fabulous for a cold winter warm up. Oliver's instructions appear to be for the soup base, since recipes generally call for the addition of vegetables and sometimes meat.

⁴⁹ This is a duplicate of the first entry on page one of the *Miscellany*.

An Old Fashioned Polish for Furniture

Bees wax dissolved by heat in turpentine to the consistency of cream and then applied with a cotton or wollin rag is a good old fashioned way of pollishing furniture. It takes a deal of elbow greace but it lasts well and is considered by many worth the extra rubbing it costs.

A Good Sharp Rake

A good sharp rake among newly set plants will destroy weeds with greater rapidity then almost any gardin tool you can imploy.

J. Oliver

Scotch Broth

Take four pounds of mutton. Part of the leg is the best add one gallon of water and one tea cup full of peril barley⁵⁰ (Pot) two carrots sliced two turnips sliced two onions cut small three carrots grated the white part of a large cabbage chopped very small and a smal grated of parsely season with pepper and salt. Boil very gently for thre hours and a half I was fond of it my mother used to make it. John Oliver

How to Act in visiting the Sick

Do not stare at them do not whisper do not impose upon them the necessity of keeping up the conversation but the instant it ceases take your leave. Their effort to keep up a conversation is an expenditure of strength while either reading or talking let every word be plain and distinct holding the hand of the very sick and dieing gives great comfort and when [text become illegible]

⁵⁰ Pearl barley

***Scarlet Fever*⁵¹**

An imminent physician out of Chicago says he cures ninety nine out of a hundred of scarlet fever by giving the patient warm lemonade with gum Arabic dissolved in it a cloth wrung out of hot water laid on the stomach should be removed as it becomes cool.

Never go to bed with cold feet

Never go to bed with cold feet without being perfectly certain that you will be able to keep warm. If you do you will pay for it sooner or later.

Sliced Onions

If onions are sliced and kept in a sick room they will absorb all the atmospheric poison. They blister and decompose rapidly but will prevent the spread of disease.

Raw Cotton

Surgeons in Europe and America are now using raw cotton spread over a wound or over a surface exposed by amputation.⁵² I have tried the above on man and beast and have found it fully answer the purpose.

What I did for my Horse in a time of need

I struck upon limb of pine with the expectation of breaking it off with the pole of the axe it did not break but rebounded with such force that it threw the axe some feet up and fell with face or edge down making a deep cut the whole width of the edge on the upper part of his lip that gaped fearfully.

⁵¹ This passage appears verbatim in *The Rural Carolinian*, 6 (13), October 1875, p. 727 in a column labeled "Simple Remedies." The statistics about 99 of 100 cases were widely cited in homeopathic literature.

⁵² See "Raw Cotton as a Dressing for Wounds," *Eclectic Magazine of Foreign Literature, Science and Art*, 23 (1), January 1887, p. 124

It opened and closed every sleep he It was a cold frosty day. So I tore out the lining of my cap which was padded above with cotton wool. I filled the gaping wound till it was level with skin I then got pine balsam which was at hand and plastered it over the lining of my cap and laid that over and above all. And strange to say there was no festering and this was the only dressing it ever got and in a fortnight time it was healed filling up from the bottom and pushing the cotton out.

Road Dust

Every person in the countrey during the drouth of summer ought to fill a number of barrels of road dust it is good it is worth many times its coast as an absorbitant those who keep poultry by its use secure an fertiliser as valuable as guano when the poutrey house is cleansed Spread an inch dipth after it has been some time cleanse out and add more so on.

Hen manure as made above is an exelent manure for Onions.

Furniture Polish

Equal proportions of turponine and linseed oil and vinigar thouroughly applied and rubbed with flannel is an exelent furniture polish.

Boot Blacking

To make good cheap blacking the ivory black two ozes. sweet oil one half tablespoon brown sugar one and a half pound mix them well and then gradually add one half pint of small beer. Perhaps [????] would sute

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For Diphtheria

The following is said to be an infallible remedy for diphtheria. Four drops of carbolic acid in half a wine glass of water.

Chapped Hands

The surest remedy is to rinse them well after washing with soap. And dry them thoroughly by applying Indian meal or rice powder.

Nuralgia

Two drops laudanum in a half a teaspoonful of warm water dropped into the ears will give immediate relief.

Croup

Powder about a tea spoonful of Alum mix it with about twice its quantity of sugar to make it palatable and administer as quickly as possible. Its effects will be truly magical in the almost instantaneous relief it will give.

Bronchitis

Syrup of [????] one ounce syrup of squills half an ounce wine of opiac two drachms paragogic three drachms mucilage of gum arabic one and a half ounces mix take a teaspoonful three times a day. Simple and efficacious.

Bathe weak eyes before retiring at night with a little sugar dissolved in water.

Sore Mouth

An excellent remedy for sore mouth is sage tea sweetened with honey. Is good for chapped lips.

Frosted Feet

To relieve the intense itching of frosted feet dissolve a lump of alum in a little water bathing the part with it and warming before the fire one or two applications Sure to give relief.

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For Slight Burns

The best treatment for slight burns is to apply cotton batting soaked with a liniment made of equal parts of linseed oil and lime water. Be careful not to break blisters should any form.

The Rays of the Sun on Sleeping children

Strong light is very injurious especially if they are inclined to wakefulness.

Sick Headache

Two tablespoonfuls of powdered charcoal drank in half a tumbler of water will often give relief. When there is a superabundance of acid in the stomach. An Old Scotch wife cure was to scorch a peice of Oat cake very brown or nearly burning and drop in a little water and drink immediately. I know this is an exelent remedy. John Oliver

To Cure Hoarseness

A pleasant remedy is furnished by beating up the white of an egg adding the juce of one lemon and sweeting with white sugar to the taste. Take a teaspoonful from time to time. I will sometimes restore the voice when it is lost.

How to Transplant Trees

“The [Buildes]” recommends people who plant trees to mark the north side with chalk before it is taken up and replace it in its natural larger proportion of them live. As by ignoreing this many transplanted trees perish.

Apples – a Cure for Dyspepsia

This fruit is admireably prophylactic and and tonic as well as very nourishing and easely digested article of food. Recomendded by an eminent French physician.⁵³

Cure for Burns

Charcoal has been discovered to be a sure cure for burns. By laying a peice of cold charcoal upon the burn the pain subsides immediatly by leaving the charcoal on one hour the wound is healed as has been demonstrated on several ocations.

Rusty Nails

Every little while we read of one who has struck a rusty nail in his foot or some other portion of his person and lock jaw has resulted therefrom. The remedy is simple. It is only to smoke or any wound or bruse that is inflamed with burning wool or woolin cloth. Twenty minutes in the smok of wool will take all the pains out of the worst case of inflameation we ever saw arising from a wound.

Stammering

The remedy is to read aloud with the teeth closed. Go into a room where you will be quiet and alone get some book that will interest but not exite you sit down and read two hours to yourself aloud keeping your teeth together do so again and again taking care to read slowley and when convercing with others speek slowly and make up your mind that you will not stammer.

⁵³ A common assertion in the books and journals published in the 1870s, but the “eminent French physician” is never named.

Stammering Robert Olivers Story

Father, a person who had a habit of stammering to such an extent when excited that no person could understand him yet was gifted in music and could sing well has his horses foot caught and was unable along to relive it. Ran to his master to get help but failed to make himself understood his master told him to sing it. "The horses foot is caught in the brig and I canna free him and a sorry song it is."

Fathers cure for stamering was to sing insted of say. In my opinion a person who has an impediment in speach may be thinking over his subject and speeking slowly over come his dificulty. There is an old proverb that says "Think twice before you speak and you will speak twice the better of it."

How to Draw Rusted Nail

Before drawing it strike it a blow on the head a blow or two this lossens the rust and it will be drawn with ease. J. Oliver

Baked Beans⁵⁴

Lumber men cook beans as follows. The beans are soaked over night in water in the morning the water is poured off and the beans stewed gentily till soaft but not broken a little soda added improves them. They are then drained and put in an iron bake pan with a nice peice of half boiled pork on the top of them. The pan is put on the fire hearth and the hot coals are drawn over the kettle and in half an hour beans and pork are ready and very good they are to a hungry person.

⁵⁴ This recipe omits any reference to molasses, mustard, salt or pepper. It would be quite plain.

To Make Hard Water Soft

The quickest way to make hard water soft without the aid of soda potash or borax is to boil it this causes the lime to be deposited hot water will hold only a small portion of lime in solution after the water is boiled for some minutes it should be powered [off] cooled and exposed to the air. Exposure to the atmosphere for a length of time will soften hard water by causing it to absorb carbonic⁵⁵ acid which precipitates the lime.

How are Chalk and Pencil Drawings Fixed?

Procure some thoroughly skimmed milk put it in a flat dish and lay the drawing face side down in it. Then take the drawing by one corner and lift it up carefully drain it and when dry apply a solution of isinglass⁵⁶ with a soft brush if it desired to give it a coat of varnish a second coat of isinglass must be applied. The varnish used is gum mastic dissolved in turpentine.

Flexible Varnish

Take a sufficient quantity of pure rubber cut it into small pieces and melt it in an iron ladle at such a heat as will only make a white smoke if the smoke is black the heat is too great the fire should be of clear charcoal and without flame. When the rubber is melted add twice the weight of boiled oil linseed oil and stir until well mixed. When settled and clear it may be used either cold or hot.

Sweet Fern⁵⁷

Sweet fern is a powerful medicine to expell the tape worm in a dose of a pint a day of the decoction or two teaspoonsfuls of the powdered. It is good for chronic rheumatism and is good for St. Anthony's fire⁵⁸ and cutaneous affections.

⁵⁵ Carbonic acid

⁵⁶ Isinglass is a substance obtained from the dried swim bladders of fish. It could be cooked into a paste for specialised gluing purposes or used in the preservation of parchment.

⁵⁷ *Comptonia asplenifolia* as treatment for tape worm documented in *New York Lancet*, 1 (6), February 1842, p. 91.

⁵⁸ St. Anthony's fire, an inflammatory disease known since the eleventh century, is labeled "gangrenous ergotism" in some mid-Nineteenth Century literature.

Water Proof Boots and Shoes

Melt three ozs. Spermacitic in an earthen pot add 6 drahms of india rubber the pure gum sliced fine then add 8 ozes. of tallow 2 ozes. of hogs lard 4 ozes of amber varnish mix these thoroughly while melted two or three coats are given with a common blacking brush and a fine polish which is perfectly waterproof and flexible is obtained.

To Preserve Cabbages from cut worm

Take peices of newspaper 6 inches square tare or cut a slit to the centre and insert the plant bring the slit edges together and place a little earth or peables on the corners and the work is done. A platform of paper is formed around the plant which the worm cannot penetrate.

Salt the plants and they will grow better a quart of salt is sufficient at one time for 500 plants.

To make a nice black for picture frames

1. Take lampblack and thin glue and and rub in with a wollin rag till the grain is filled rub smoothe and clean then varnish.
I belive any colour may be used instead of black. John Oliver
2. John Robert Fraser filled with a coating of thin glue but I did not think it very satisfactory. J.O.

The first is very good I have proved it. J.O.

Common Black Pepper

Common black pepper for pain in the stomach and bowels. Take a tea spoonful of ground black pepper in half in half a cupful of milk and swallow. Generaly proves a cure. J.O.

The Use of Borax for Washing

The washerwoman of Holan and Belium so proverbially clean. And who get up their linin so beautifully white use refined Borax as a washing powder, instead of soda in the proportion of one large handful of borax powder to about ten gallons of water (boiling) they save in soap nearly nearly one half.

For laces cambrics and [lawns?] an extra quantity is used for crinolines requireing to be made stiff a strong solution is necessary Borax being a neutral salt does not in slightest degree injure the texture of linnin its effects is to soften the hardest water.

An Exact Acre can be found by the following table of distances⁵⁹

80 yards wide by 69 ½ long contains 1 acre⁶⁰
5 yards by 258 contains one acre⁶¹
10 feet wide by 484 yards long contains I acre⁶²
40 yards wide by 121 yards long contains 1 acre
220 feet long by 198 wide contains an acre
440 feet long by 99 wide contains an acre
110 feet long by 395 long contains an acre⁶³
240 feet long by 181 feet wide contains an acre⁶⁴
1 acre contains 150 square rods⁶⁵

4,840 square yards
43,560 square feet
Use a pole 16 ½ feet or a four rod tape line.

To Prevent a Lamp from Smoking

Soak the wick in strong vinigar and dry thouroughly before you use it. And it will burn sweet and pleasant and give great satisfaction.

⁵⁹ Check the footnotes. Oliver's calculations are off in some places.

⁶⁰ 80 x 69.5 equals 5560 square yards. Too big by 720 sq. yds.

⁶¹ 5 x 258 equals 1290 square yards. Too small by 2990 sq. yds.

⁶² Oliver probably means 10 yards, not 10 feet.

⁶³ This calculation falls short by 110 square feet.

⁶⁴ This calculation falls short by 120 square feet.

⁶⁵ 1 acre contains 160 square rods.

A Strong Solution of Soda

A strong solution of soda is a relief for a burnt finger if you have not the solution sprinkle some soda on the burn and put a moist cloth over it this should not be tried where much of the body is injured A skilful physician must be called.

Salt in Diphtheria

Dr. Day⁶⁶ stated that having for many years regarded diphtheria in its early stage as a purely local affection characterized by a marked tendency to putrefaction he trusted most to the free and constant use [antiseptic]. Dr. Day has often prescribed diphtheritic patents living far away from medical aid the frequent use of a gargle composed of a tablespoonful or more of salt dissolved in a tumbler giving children who cannot gargle a tea spoonful of two to drink occasionally. Adults to use the gargle three or four times a day.

How to Hold a Cold Chisel

Hold a cold chisel firmly to its cut without removing it at every blow. This will increase its effectiveness and there will be less danger of breaking by a foul blow.

To Fit a Key

Smoke the blank over a candle. Insert it into the key hole and press it hard against the wards of the lock the indentations in the smoked portions will show where to file.

⁶⁶ "On the free use of salt as a prophylactic against diphtheria." *Australian Medical Journal*, June 1880.

Fire Escapes

To a steaple driven firmly in the wall over each window attach a rope or chord say thre eights in size and long enough to reach the ground the cord should be well made and pliable and might be knotted at intervals of about fifteen inches. The cord should then be roled into a coil or ball and tied in place by a small cord or strap ready to be untied and thrown out of the window.

How Rusted Screw Bolts

How rusted screw bolts may be saved from breaking oil them well with parafine oil and make a little funnel built round with clay or putty and filled partly with any of the [searching] petroleum oils and let them rest for a time and you will part them easely and save your bolts.

Good Waterproof Stove Polish

Purified black lead (graphite) reduced to a very fine powder one pound perchloride of iron half an ounce moisten with just enough water to make a stif paste. Mix intimately by tileration in a mortar gradually add water to reduce the paste to a thin cream. Shake before using.

Dr. Peabody⁶⁷ Cure for Neuralgia

Internal remedy. Sal amoniac $\frac{1}{2}$ drahm dissolve in water one ounce Doze one tablespoonful every thre minutes for twenty minutes at the end of which time if not before the pain will have disapeared.

⁶⁷ Cannot pin down this doctor or his cure.

Indgestion Remedy for

Half an ounce of green Turkey rhubarb one drahm of sulphate of quinine one drahm of extract of sarsaparilla Put the sarsaparilla into a cup with thre or four tea spoonfuls of water let it stand till dissolved then add the other ingrediants. Make into a stiff paste it will then be ready to make into pills with a little flour. The whoe cost but a small sum and makes nearly a 100 pills. The dose is 2 pills every other night.

Hoarseness Remedy for

Take one drahm of freshly [scraped] horse radish root to be infused in four ounces of water in a close vessal for three hours and made into a syrup with double its quantity of [vin???] A Teaspoonful has often proved effecual.

Lime Water How to Make and Use

Lime water is made by puting a peice of fresh lime as large as an egg in a gallon of water the clear lime above the water is used as medicine to relive acidity of the stomach and indigese the doze is a tablespoonful thre times a day persons of week stomachs who cannot bear milk add a little lime water to it can then take it without trouble.

Lime Water A Little Different

Lime $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lb. distiled water 12 pints shake the line with a little water add the remaining water and shake and set the covered vesal aside for thee hours keep the lime and liquor in stoped glass vessals and when it is wanted decant for use. Antiacid [lithontrific] allays vomiting in disentry Doze 1 to 3 ozes combined with milk.

Cuts How to dress

Much of the money spent for salves and liniments is utterly thrown away a cut is healed by nature just as well without the aid of the various nosterems A cut generaly nothing but to have its edges drawn together with small strips of sticking plaster and a simple linen cloth diped in cold water to relive inflameation. I would rather do without the water if it can be dispensed with. (Olivers experience)

A Burn

Relieved by immediate exclusion of the air unless it be severe and wide spread enough to require medical attendance. This may be done by covering it with flour sweet oil cotton tar or scraped raw potatoe.

Charcoal

Charcoal is a great disinfectant and sweetens offensive air if placed if placed in shallow trays around apartments. Charcoal forms an unreveled poultice for malignant wounds and sores arresting mortification it is a safe sweetner and disinfectant.

A teaspoonful in half a glass of water will often cure the sick headache.

It absorbs gases and relives the distended stomach. It often relives constipation pain and heartburn.

Sweet Tomato Pickles

8 lbs. of Tomatos 4 lbs. sugar Boil together stirring together frequently to prevent burning boil till about the thickness of molasses then add one quart of sharp vinegar one teaspoon of ground mace a teaspoon of ground cinimon and a half teaspoon of ground cloves. Boil 5 minutes longer.

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Chow Chow

Take one peck of green Tomatoes scale till they will skin readily then cut into quarters. Place in a clean porslean kettle. Take 6 large onions 6 large green peppers with the seeds out chop all fine and mix with tomatoes adding three quarts of viniger two cups of brown Sugar one cup of mustard seed 1 table spoon of ground cloves 1 of alsprice 2 of cinimon 3 of salt boil 30 minutes.

Hints those calling upon the sick

Only at the door unless you are sure your is able to see your friend without harm.

2d. Enter and leave the house quietly.

3 Carry a cheerful face and speak cheerful words

4 If your friend is very sick do not fall into gay and careless talk in attempt to cheer him

5 Do not ask questions and oblige your friend to talk

6 Talk about something outside not about the disease or circumstances of the patient

7 Tell the news not the list of the sick and dieing

8 Never whisper in the sick room

9th Carry with you something to please the eye after

10 If desirable some little delicacy to tempt the appatie will be well bestowed but nothing harmful.

How to Make Wooden Fence Posts Last

Coat them with fine coal dust and boiled linseed oil like paint said to last as long as a life time and longer then iron and will only coast about two cents a peice. Great if true! John Oliver.

Home Sweet Home⁶⁸

Midst pleasures and palaces though we may roam
Be it ever so humble there no place like home
A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there
Which seek through the wide world is ne'r met with despair.
 Home home sweet home
 There is no place like home
 There is no place like home.

An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain
Give me my lowly thatched cottage again
The burds singing galey that came at my call,
Give me them and peace of mind dearer then all.
 Home home sweet home
 There is no place
 There is no place like home
 There is no place like home.
 For the opera

Mid pleasures and paleses though we may roam
Be it ever so humble there is no place like home
A charm from the skys seems to follow us there
 Like the love of a mother
 Surpassing all other
Which we seek through the wide world is neer to be meet elsewhere
 There is a pall in the shade
 Where our infancy played
An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain
O give me my lowly cottage again
The bird and lambkins that came at my will
 Those who named me with pride
 Those who played by my side
Give me them with innocence dearer then all
They joys of the palaces through which I roam
Only swells my hearts anguish
There is no place like home.
 John Howard Payne.

⁶⁸ Original lyrics at <http://www.musicanet.org/robokopp/usa/homeswet.htm>

Clean Money

As a Merchant lay upon his dieing bed, he spoke to his children of the little property he had aquired. And was leaving behind him. It is not much, said he. "But there is not a dirty shilling in it."

There is such a thing as clean money. It may be earned by diligence in busness by honest labour of hand or mind or by sevearest toil in ocupations which are not esteemed as ether easey or gentell. But there is money even in the purses and coffers of many who proffess to be the followers of Christ wich all the watter of Jordan could not not make clean. These are the wages of unrighteousness Gains of ungodliness the horded spoils wrung from the thin hands of the poor and needy.

There are revenues from the traffic in strong drink there are rents paid to church members for places used as traps and pitfals to ensnare the unwarey. There are gains acquired in a thousand ways which are blackened with the stain of sin. And with the curse of God –

Thousand and thousands which shall curse them in life and death which shall ensnare their children and bring them to ruin and which shall finealy eat their flesh as it were fire when the shade that standeth before the door shall come to make inquisition for blood and punish the ungodly at the last day. "Word and Work"

John Oliver's *Miscellany* : Index

References in this index are to the page numbers of the transcription and not to the pages in the manuscript. Since Oliver did not put page numbers into his manuscript, the page references (e.g. "Page forty-two") which appear throughout the transcription are to help anyone navigating the hand-written text.

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