

# South-Jersey Republican

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NO. 4

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### ONLY A FEATHER.

As I lay dreaming upon my bed,  
An Angel drop'd a feather on my head;  
And as he pass'd I heard him say—  
"Tis only a feather, but it will pay."

Then flying higher, he continued to chime,  
And this was the ditty he put into rhyme.  
And as he went on, the sound was all bliss,  
Far sweeter to me than a lover's fond kiss.

Of the widow's mite the angel told,  
Which brought her more than its weight in gold:

Then hold not back—do all you can,  
And the needy help, 'twill bless each man.

The Lord, who watches each kind act,  
Will surely prove to you this fact—  
Who helps a neighbor in time of need  
Sows his own heart with the best of seed.

Let it grow and ripen, and bear good grain,  
'Twill be to the giver eternal gain.  
Kind deeds invested bring great per cent,  
'Tis only so much kindness lent.

"It's only a feather!"

Is that what you say?

But to each one who drops it

'Twill certainly pay.

For the South Jersey Republican.

### The Bag Worm.

Last winter I called attention to this pest, and directed how to get rid of them easily; but while a few of our citizens followed the advice, I regret to be obliged to say that enough were neglected to keep up and increase the number during the past summer, and it seems necessary to repeat. This worm is particularly partial to the arbor vites, red cedar, and sassafras, but attacks other evergreens, and to some extent almost all our fruit, shade, and forest trees, and I can scarcely pass along our streets anywhere this winter without seeing some of them hanging on the trees. They may be seen along Bellevue, on the silver and sugar maples, chestnuts, tulips, and inside of the hedges or red cedar, apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees, as well as on the arbor vite. They are sometimes mistaken for dead leaves, and the cocoons are really made by attaching bits of leaves to a very strong web work; but they are easily distinguished at a glance, being (the web portion) nearly of the same color as a spider's web and largest in the middle, tapering to a point at each end,—a full sized one measuring five-eighths of an inch in diameter at the center and two and one-quarter inches in length, and are so strongly attached to the tree that considerable force is required to pull them off. The eggs are deposited in these cocoons, sometimes to the number of several hundred, and when hatched in spring the worms generally commence feeding on the nearest foliage, and as they crawl along the leaf they gnaw little bits from the surface and form portable cases by joining them with fine silk which they spin from their mouths. Fortunately, they rarely move far from the tree where they are hatched, unless food becomes scarce, but in that case, as well as by various accidents, they are carried occasionally to some distance, and in this way become gradually distributed over the country. In summer, while the worms are small, it is an extremely tedious job to destroy them by picking off, and I think Paris green has failed to kill them, but they are easily destroyed by collecting and burning the cocoons in winter. The great difficulty is that so many are allowed to remain that those who clear them from their own grounds get a fresh stock from their heedless neighbors, and have to repeat the operation every year. Then, what is everybody's business is nobody's, and along our streets, and especially in the Park they are allowed to multiply to an alarming extent. I must again appeal to all who have any public spirit, or regard to the rights of others, even if they care nothing for their own trees, to commence now and collect and burn all the cocoons on their own premises and along their own street fronts; and some measures should be taken to clear them from the Park. Whenever opportunity offers, I call the attention of our citizens to those on their own grounds, and if every one who feels interested will try and persuade his neighbors to destroy them (explaining how to do it), it will

aid largely in accomplishing this very desirable end.

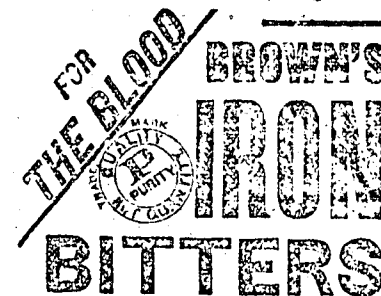
I wish to emphasize the necessity of burning the cocoons. Let none drop on the ground and escape. Probably many of those now hanging on shade trees near the infested hedge of last year, came from those which were dropped on the ground last season. When these cocoons are in positions which are difficult to reach, they can be burned by attaching a torch to a pole.

### THE TENT CATERPILLAR.

This is the apple tree caterpillar, which for the last few years has been so abundant, and after eating the leaves from the apple trees has disgusted every body by crawling about the yard and sometimes into houses. This, too, can be destroyed now. The eggs are on small twigs in masses one-half to three-fourths of an inch long, imbedded in a sort of glue. They glisten in the sun, and appear, when seen from the ground, like an enlargement of the twig. Search your apple trees, now, and especially the wild black cherry.

WM. T. BASSETT.

The railroad and miners' strike is still on, though there are indications that the miners may go to work soon. Already, several small operators have a full force of men.



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