

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

faded flower, that she had worn, were cherished by him as a miser cherishes his gold.

At last he told me in confidence—for her name was sacred and not to be spoken before every one—that they were to be married.

"And when I look back, sir," said he, "and remember the miserable years of my wretched childhood, and think how friendly and forlorn I was, and how there was nothing before me but a prison or the gallows, and think now I have everything to make man's life blessed—the power to win a respectable livelihood by reputable labor, the respect of men and the love of such a girl as Lucy—I can never be too grateful to the kind friend who saved me from a life I dare not contemplate.—God bless Mr. Grimby!" said he, lifting his hat reverently as he might in church, and there was a prayer in his dark eyes as he looked upward.

These were the last words I ever heard him speak, except "Good night." Ah, dear me, it should have been goodbye. Ten minutes after I went one way and he the other. I took my way home, and he, as it seemed afterward, walked just two blocks and then came back here. At twelve o'clock that night I awoke Mrs. Humphries.

"My dear," said I, "I must have had the nightmare or something."

"Goodness," said she, "it seems so. Your hands are like ice. What gave it to you, love? The lobster I'll be bound."

"Perhaps," said I. "I admit I ate a hearty supper. And nothing else could make me fancy young Wade at my bedside, white as a ghost, with both hands on my breast."

"Ah, but the nightmare is always black, not white," said my wife. And then she went to a little cupboard and brought me a glass of wine. After that I went to sleep again.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THINNING OUT GRAPES.—Is the importance of thinning out the fruit of the vine fully considered by the majority of cultivators? I think not. From close observation, and even sad experience, the subject, in my opinion, calls for much more attention than is usually given. In young vines this is particularly the case. Such vigorous and hardy constituted varieties as the Concord may stand it, but even they will eventually suffer. This fault is not only to be found in the vineyards of the novice, but can be seen almost everywhere, in charge of those who know better. This then being admitted, the next question is: how shall it be remedied? Shall we prune it so much shorter, so as not to leave more wood than the vine can carry safely through, or leave more wood, and then thin out the bunches? The latter, in my opinion, will be the best; for, by the first plan, we get our fruit too much crowded and throw too much force into the young canes for the following year's bearing. My impression is that when a vine is pruned to what would seem about right, the pinching out of every third bunch, at the first operation pinching back would be the method. I would leave but two bunches on each bearing shoot, and in some instances it is better to leave but one. We all know the forming of the seed of any fruit is the heaviest tax on the plant. This being the case, do we not give considerable relief when we diminish this tax one-third? I think we would be safe in counting on having the same weight of fruit in the two bunches as if three are left. Some years ago we grew Concord bunches in this way, which the committee, who were to test them, would not admit to be that variety until they tested them. For instance, let one man take Concord bunches that will average three-fourths of a pound to the bunch, and another have them as usually grown, and my word for it, the large bunches will command nearly double price, not only among the wealthy but the masses.—[Grape Cultivator.]

A WRINKLE ABOUT THE AGE OF HORSES.—A short time ago we met a gentleman from Illinois, who gave us a piece of information in regard to ascertaining the age of a horse, after he or she had passed the ninth year, which was new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this: After the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eyelid at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well-defined wrinkle for each year over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles, he is twelve; if four, he is thirteen.—Add the number of wrinkles in nine, and you will get it. So says the gentleman; and he is confident it will never fail. As a good many people have horses over nine, it is easily tried. If true, the horse dentist must give up his trade.—[Field and Fireside.]

LUSUS NATURAE.—A child was recently born in Jasper county, Mississippi, it is said, with the mark, "C. O. D." on its thigh. The officiating *Æsculapius* demanded his fee on the spot, refusing to tell the sex until it was paid. He told them that "C. O. D." packages must be paid for without inspecting them.—[Forest Register.]

"What made you quit the East?" said a man in Nevada to a new comer. "I got into trouble by marrying two wives, was the response. 'Well,' said the other, 'I came out here because I got into it by marrying one wife.' 'And I,' said a bystander, 'came here, because I got into trouble simply by promising to marry one.'"

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PINK EYES,
PEACH BLOWS

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NOTICE.

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