# THE FARM.

## THE UNUSUAL WHEAT YIELD OF THE STATE.

### Preservation of Shade Trees—The Value of Poultry Raising—General Notes in Point.

The latest reports of the wheat crops in this State are somewhat phenomenal, as in nearly all cases the yield is found, when the grain has been thrashed, to be far in excess of all estimates thus far made, even after heading had been completed, and in many cases the yield is double the amount anticipated. This is especially the case on the west side of the Sacramento valley, north of Woodland. In Colusa county such a yield has never before been known. The heading has but just been completed, and while all the thrashing machines that can be obtained are being used to their utmost capacity, so small a proportion of the grain stacks, or sittings, have been reached, that a person riding through that section on the cars can hardly see that the work has been commenced.

At Willows the total amount of wheat stored in the warehouses last year was 8,000 tons, whereas there had already been received ten days ago, at that place, over 6,000 tons, and the lowest estimate of the storage capacity that will be required when thrashing is completed is 30,000 tons. One gentleman remarked that he had expected about 400 sacks from a certain portion of his ranch where thrashing had just been finished, but about double that number of sacks, he said, were finally required. Others around him, he stated humorously, "are being very similarly disappointed by the thrasher."

As an explanation of the increased tonnage this year, it is stated by extensive wheat-growers in Colusa county that the late rains were so beneficial in that section that excellent full crops were produced on many fields which were standing the second year in "volunteer"—that is, the third crop since plowing, or second volunteer crop. The fact is, that much which was lodged or broken down by the late heavy rains necessitated cutting lower upon the straw than usual, in order to secure all the grain, and this is making the working of the thrashing much slower, and in some sections will no doubt protract so much that thrashing will not be finished before the fall rains commence.

The disposition of wheat-growers is at present not to accept the low prices offered, but to hold through the winter, if need be, for better rates, and this, with the unusual yield, will tax the warehouse storage capacity to the utmost.

There is too much disposition in California, as well as generally elsewhere, to cut down trees which stand about the farm, as "needless cumberers of the ground," and as worth more for the small amount of wood they will make than as shade for stock and conservators of desirable climatic condition. The RECORD-UNION has very frequently urged the necessity for preserving our forests and growing timber, upon the ground of their effect upon the rainfall of the State. The *American Agriculturist*, in a recent number, makes the following plea for shade trees upon the farm, with the benefits to be derived from them. It says:

A few well-formed trees along the fence rows, and even scattered here and there in the open fields, add greatly to the appearance and value of a farm. Cattle, sheep and other farm animals suffer greatly from the hot sun when confined, in a shadeless pasture in midsummer. They will seek the slight protection from the broiling sun a fence may afford, or stand huddled together for hours, with their heads shaded by each other, in a most unhealthful manner. Animals thus exposed do not give the best returns to their owners, and for this reason, if not for comfort's sake, they should be provided with shade. Some farmers object to trees in the pasture because their shade is too inviting and keeps the live stock from feeding. Farm animals need not graze all the time, and, with good pasturage, can get all the grass they need in the cool portions of the day, between which they should have refreshing shade for chewing the cud of contentment. Men are not the only creatures that may be sunstruck; cows unduly exposed to heat frequently become sick, quickly falling off in milk, and may require weeks of expensive nursing to bring them back to good health. Trees are an obstruction to the cultivation of a field, and occupy the soil for several feet around them, to the exclusion of grain or other crops, and therefore it is best to plant most of the trees along the line of boundary fences. The tired laborer is glad of a few minutes of rest and shade, and doubtless will do more work by taking an occasional "breathing spell" under a tree. A tree in midfield may be a chestnut or hickory, and make good returns for the space it occupies in nuts, as well as refreshing shade. In many fields there is a low place, with a spring or small running stream, and is well fitted for a group of trees. In short, any part of a field not suited to cultivation may profitably grow a few trees, thus affording a retreat for the live stock from the midday sun and driving storms. If the pasture has no shade trees, it will pay to provide a temporary shelter. Four small posts with forks at the top may support two poles; across these lay smaller poles for rafters. The top may be covered with straw, swale hay, or, if more convenient, brush may be cut and laid upon the skeleton roof.

For the amount of capital invested, says the *Poultry Keeper*, there is nothing on a farm that will return so large a profit as poultry. As a source of national wealth a comparison of figures shows that the sum derived by our people from poultry and eggs is much larger than from some animals, and strange to say, despite all we can do to supply the demand for eggs, there are importations of them being made from Germany. France, with a limited area, compared with ours, produces eggs to the value of $40,000,000 annually, and considering that this vast sum is the production of those of limited means, the raising of poultry is one that is not exclusively in the hands of the wealthy, but within the province of all. The annual production of chickens is $0,000,000, valued at $24,000,000, while the capons and fatted fowls bring over $2,000,000 more. The total value of the productions from poultry reach but little below $100,000,000. The above facts impress upon those interested the importance of poultry as a source of wealth, not only to the private individual, but also to the nation. The sum derived is enough to pay half the interest of our national debt, and is more evenly distributed than that derived in any other way. There is no limit to the demand for poultry, not only that which comes from farms, but for pure breeds. Within the last ten years there has been more attention paid to the breeding of poultry than during any previous fifty years, and the more the people become familiar with the value of poultry as a source of profit the greater the demand, the larger the profits and the wider the field of operations. There is not a city, town, village or hamlet that does not possess some specimens of the feathered tribes, and the poultry journals have done much to increase the interest.

In Professor Saterlee's "Planting a Nut Grove," in which he advocates the growing of nut trees for shade trees, in place of those that are not nut bearers, he says: "Every farmer boy and girl should have a yearly fill of all the pleasures of nut gathering. In many sections of the country there is a boy for each nut produced, which is bad for both the boys and the trees. Let us plant nuts, and, in ten years, gather from roadside and fieldside the fruits of such labor. The children will watch the trees grow, and bless the hands which planted them."

A dispatch from Vera Cruz, Mexico, says: Myriads of locusts have appeared in this State, and notwithstanding immense quantities have been killed, great destruction to crops has resulted. In Yucatan and southern Mexico one hundred square miles of country is covered with the pests, and corn, grass and other crops utterly destroyed. It is said that thousands of families dependent upon small crops will have to be supported by the Government during the next six months.

It won't do to "hasten slowly" in milking, says a writer upon dairying, for milking should be done rapidly and thoroughly. Slow milking of cows never secures the full product. The cow becomes tired of relaxing the udder muscles, and after a time resumes the more natural position of contracting them. This makes much stripping necessary, and a slow milker will never have patience to strip a long time. Partial milking soon dries the cow, and greatly reduces her value.

It is stated that S. C. Coltrin, of Calistoga, has invented an instrument for picking grapes, fruit, roses, or for pruning blackberry and other thorny vines. The instrument consists of a pair of pruning shears provided on the under side of the blades with grippers that are intended to hold fast to the stem of the fruit while it is clipped, and thus to enable the operator to pick and deposit the fruit with one hand.

A Vermont sheep-raiser says that the best method for doctoring sheep for foot rot is to wet the foot of every sheep in the flock, sound or lame, thoroughly, with kerosene or coal oil, and put what sulphur you can take in the thumb and finger between the hoofs of each foot. Keep them in a dry place for twelve hours. Repeat the operation in about two weeks, to make sure work.

P. N. Trebeck, of the Linnæan Society, New South Wales, says the whole of the region on the western water-shed of Australia is eminently suitable for raising Merino sheep, and he predicts for the wool production, both as respects quantity and quality, a front rank in the world's supply in the near future.

An exchange says that B. Biggs, of Riverside, proposes to exhibit a pyramid of the native grasses of California, twenty-five feet high and twenty feet wide at the base, at the World's Exposition at New Orleans. This mammoth bouquet will contain seventy-five varieties.

### 'TENTMENT.

De little log cabin whar mammy and me
Has lived now for nigh outer twenty year,
De happiest darkies you ebber did see,
Wid plenty obsmiles an' heaps ob good cheer.
Is clus by a pon'
Ob w'ich we is fon'
For a lot ob good reasons I'se gone ter relate,
'F I kin git 'em all out ob my woolly pate.

I likes for to set on de sell ob de dore,
An' cas' my eyes round' on de wavin' sedge,
De tremblin' sedge on de beautiful shore
Dat bends way ober de water's edge.
P'raps eben do grass
Likes to look in de glass
An' say, "Howdy to?" to de picture dere,
An' "Isn't I lookin' pretty fair?"

I hones' beleeb, w'en de win' goes by
He stops to res' in de piney tree;
For many's de time I's keerd him sigh
In a way dat tetched de heart in me.
An' I say: "Poor Win',
Has you 'mitted some sin,
Dat you play sech a moanin' tune in de pine,
An' don' seem to know any odder kin'?"

Den de ducks in de water I likes to watch:
Dey ain't ober graceful on de groun';
W'at you s'pose dose fellers is tryin' to cotch
W'en dey makes a dive, an' turns upsy down?
I laff all my might,
At de funny sight.
But dey goes "quack, quack," wid a wink ob de eye,
An' dey looks very wise; but I don' know 'on.

I has read, though I dunno w'at book it was in,
Dere's a palace an' fairies down, down far away,
Who shells out de corn in a great big bin,
An' feeds all the ducks in de world ebery day.
So, dat's why dey dives,
An' dat's why dey thrives.
No wonder dey "quack, quack," wid a wink ob de eye.
And looks very sollum, but won't tell why.

I could look from de morn to ebenin' gray,
W'en de fleecy clouds goes skurryin' by
As though de good Lord had trabeled dis way,
An' emptied de cotton fell's into the sky.
De almos' seem
Like clouds in a dream
As dey float along in de bright sunlight,
An' suddenly vanish out ob sight.

Well, de rich man has his joys, I 'fess;
And odders may envy him, if dey will;
But he ain't no happier'n me, I guess,
For one can't hab no more dan his fill.
He has wagons and hosses,
Has gains an' has losses,
Wile I hab de cabin, de mammy, 'n de sky,
An' nebber a fear for de by an' by.

Only gib me my little free acres of groun',
Wid de ducks, an' de pon' an' de bluesome sky,
'N a faith soarin' up from de grassy moun',
Whar two little darlin's in slumber lie.
You may hab all de res',
For I'se got de best.
An' I nebber will ask for anything more,
Till I tetch the san's ob de gol'en shore.

—[Rev. Plato Johnson, in N. Y. Independent.

### Senator Thurman's Fish Story.

Once upon a time, when crowded about his Presidential aspirations, Mr. Thurman replied: "I really have no ambition in that direction." A look of incredulity on every face was the only response. The Judge took in these looks and related a little story. "One summer I was at the Oakland House, Maryland, spending a little vacation up in the cool mountain region. We got telling fishing stories. I related something of my own experience when I was present and saw caught a catfish weighing 90 pounds. When I told the weight their was a general laugh, and I was humorously awarded the prize for telling fish stories. I quietly remarked to my incredulous friends that I hoped soon to convince them of the correctness of my story that in Western waters there were catfish of 90 pounds weight. When I returned to Columbus I went to the leading restaurateur and instructed him to procure me the largest catfish that could be secured. He reported in a few days that he had one. I walked over, and found an excellent specimen, weighing seventy-five pounds. I had him boxed and carefully packed in ice, and shipped him by express to my disbelieving friends at the Oakland. From the restaurateur I got all the recipes I could for catfish chowder, catfish steaks, stuffed catfish, roast, etc., and sent them by mail. I telegraphed as follows: 'Skin your fish before you cook him,' a catfish's skin being so rank as to spoil the flesh when the fish is cooked with it on. They got my telegram and were puzzled. When the box arrived, dripping from the melting ice, they were more puzzled. The letter, which arrived by the same train as the fish, explained all. They had a fine feast, and at it formally organized with a President and Secretary, and passed the following resolution, which was sent to me: 'Resolved, That the truth of Allen G. Thurman's statements should never be questioned; that his fish stories are always absolutely true, especially his catfish stories.'"—[Cleveland Press.

### Wood and Glass Veneers.

The increasing costliness of the better class of woods has reduced the thickness of veneer to the utmost limit, until at length it has come to be about the thickness of paper—a limit which can scarcely be passed so long as wood is used for the purpose of veneering. The primary object in reducing this thickness has been to get as many veneers as possible out of a given quantity of wood, the cost decreasing proportionately as the number of sheets is increased. But a collateral additional advantage is found in the fact that in proportion to the thinness of the veneer is its adaptability to cover uneven surfaces by reason of its increasing elasticity. An excellent process, which was recently introduced in England, dispenses with wood by substituting glass, to carry on which a company with a large capital was rapidly formed. The two principal features which present themselves in the manufacture, according to an expert, are its adaptability to every form of ornament and its remarkable cheapness. In explanation of the former, it may be hinted that a varnish of glass in the process of manufacture, so to speak, is coated over the surface to be veneered, however intricate the design may be; and when subsequently finished off it forms a glazed veneer upon the wood, of any desired pattern. It may be made to imitate costly woods by a chemical process analagous to photography, and the imitation being on the inner side of the glass, the outer surface of the finished veneer is always clean, and impervious to atmospheric effects. The veneer is applicable to exterior as well as to interior decoration, is not liable to injury by scratching or staining with ink, acids, etc.; while its cost is one-half that of ordinary polished wood veneer, and the process of application is one of the simplest possible.—[The Keynote.

FACTS ABOUT SPOOLS.—Spools are made in immense numbers. One factory turns out 100,000 gross a day, and consumes 2,500 cords of birch wood annually. The wood is first sawed into sticks four or five feet long and from seven-eighths of an inch to three inches square, according to the size of the spool to be produced. These sticks, after being thoroughly seasoned are sawed into short blocks, and the blocks are dried in a hot-air kiln. At the time they are sawed a hole is bored through them. The spool machine is managed by a boy, who throws out the knotty or defective pieces. The spools polish themselves by their contact in revolving drums. Some of the spools are dyed yellow, red or black; others are ready for use when they leave the drums. The number of yards of cotton on a spool is determined by the size of the spool. The cotton is never measured; but the spool is gauged to contain 100, 200 or 500 yards, as the case may be. Silk and linen firms always send to the spool-makers patterns giving the size and shape of the barrel and of the head and bevel, which determines the amount of silk or thread that the spool will hold.—[Wood and Iron.

EARLY FISH CULTURE.—It shall be good for all gentlemen and others hauing the gouernment of any riuers, brookes or standing pooles to replenish them with all such kinde of fish as they may be preserued or bred, as well of straying as others. There is a kinde of fish in Holland, in the fennes beside Peterborrow, which they call a poult, they be like in making and greatnesse to the Whiting, but of the cullour of the Loch; they come foorth of the fenne brookes into the riuers nigh there about, as in Wansworth riuer there are many of them. They stirre not all the summer, but in winter when it is most coldest weather. There they are taken at Miles and Welles, and at the wayers likewise. They are a pleasant meate, and some do thinke they would be as well in other riuers and running waters, as Huntingdon, Ware, and such like, if those waters were replenished with them, as they may be with small charge.—[A Booke of Fishing with Hooke and Line. L. M. 1509.

Napa will soon be connected in the telephone circuit.

# ENTOMOLOGICAL.

## AN HOUR WITH OUR INSECT PESTS AND FRIENDS.

### Use of Arsenic as an Exterminator—Yellow Mites—Butterflies—Red Humped Caterpillars—Etc.

[Specially prepared by Matthew Cooke for the RECORD-UNION and WEEKLY UNION.]

As to the efficacy of arsenic as an insecticide for the extermination of many species of caterpillars, beetles and other leaf-eating insects, there is no doubt. A solution of one pound of arsenic dissolved in 125 gallons of water, sprayed upon the foliage of trees and vines, will destroy canker-worms and any other species of caterpillars that feed upon the foliage so treated. Effective results have been obtained by increasing the water to 150 and 200 gallons to each pound of arsenic. The effectiveness of this remedy results from the poison being retained on the leaves, so that the pests eating the leaves are destroyed. Reports reach us from the Eastern States that an arsenic solution consisting of one pound of arsenic dissolved in 200 gallons of water, sprayed upon the apple-tree when it is in bloom, is an effective remedy against the codlin moth. I will not attempt to question the reported success in the Eastern States, but will say that there exists in my mind grave doubts of its utility and efficiency in this State as a remedy for this pest. My reasons are as follows: First, the codlin moth does not appear in the orchards of this State (at least the central portion) until the fruit of the early varieties of apples and pears are well set. Second, the use of arsenic, Paris green, London purple, or any other poison, upon any fruit used for human food, is a dangerous experiment. Suppose the blossoms of the apple tree to be sprayed in March, and the codlin moth appears about the 15th of April. If the remedy was effective it would result from the skin or epidermis of the young fruit being impregnated with the poison so that the young larva just hatched from the egg would be destroyed by eating its way into the fruit; or it may be claimed that arsenic is volatile, and its fumes prevents the moth from going on the fruit to deposit her eggs.

It either of these theories are correct the presence of poison on the fruit is admitted, and therefore dangerous. It may be claimed that science informs us that arsenic being volatile, when exposed to heat in open air its strength escapes. This statement is partially correct; when it is exposed to a heat of 356 degrees Fahrenheit it volatilizes and will not melt.

OBJECTIONS TO ITS USE.

I would advise fruit and vine-growers of this State that notwithstanding the reported success in exterminating the codlin moth which reaches us from the East, they should not under any consideration use arsenic, Paris green, London purple, or any other poisonous solutions, on fruit-bearing trees or vines until the effects of using poisons on fruits are better understood. Admitting, for argument's sake, that the application of such solutions to fruit-bearing trees are effective in the Eastern States, and that those eating the fruit have not experienced any dangerous effects from the use of such poisons, at least so far as known, would such success warrant the use of these remedies in the orchards of this State? I think not. In the Eastern States the summer showers are frequent, and are liable to wash off any particles which lodge or form on the skin or epidermis of the fruit. In this State summer showers are the exception, not the rule. So that any poison put on the fruit would be likely to remain there, and might be the means of fatal consequences to those using the fruit for food. Plausible arguments may be given for the use of arsenical solutions, but a thorough investigation is absolutely necessary before they can be adopted in this State with safety.

ARSENICAL SOLUTIONS CAN BE USED

On trees infested by cancer-worms, with De Long's caterpillar, snout beetles, etc., to such extent as to destroy the crop of fruit and the foliage; on young orchard trees (non-bearing) and nursery stock infested by leaf-eating pests; on non-bearing grape-vines infested by the vine caterpillars, flea beetles, etc.; on nursery plants attacked by curculio (snout beetles), cut-worms, etc. In the above cases the foliage will bear a solution of one pound of arsenic to 150 gallons of water (potash is a solvent of arsenic; an equal weight of potash will dissolve the arsenic thoroughly by boiling). Paris-green is made by a combination of arsenic, potash and blue-stone (sulphate of copper); one pound to 25 or 30 gallons of water will be effective. London purple is a residue procured from dye-stuffs after being used, and is said to contain about 40 per cent. arsenic. Use one pound to 50 gallons of water.

FUNGUS AND YELLOW MITE.

George West, Stockton: The grape cions at hand; some of them are attacked by a fungus, which has caused the leaves to wither, and has discolored the bark. The balance of the leaves are infested by yellow mites, which have been prevalent in vineyards and orchards in some districts for two years past. They appear to be general feeders, as they have been found upon oak trees, and also upon weeds growing on the plains. They are very destructive to any foliage which they infest; their attack causes it to wither and become perfectly dry.

Description: Color, yellowish; length of male, one one-hundredth of an inch; female, one seventy-fifth of an inch. The male has two bright, vermilion-colored spots upon the anterior portion, or shoulders.

By carefully gathering the fallen leaves and burning them, or by grazing sheep in the vineyard a great deal of the ova can be destroyed. Clean cultivation is also necessary.

Remedy: Two pounds whale-oil soap, three pounds of sulphur, dissolved in twenty gallons of water. To this add one gallon and a half of kerosene (mixed as directed in issue of this paper of August 16th). Spray the vines with this solution when the sap is dormant, and it will destroy the eggs (ova) of this mite and any germs of fungus on the vines, and will be assured death to all vine-hoppers that it touches. Successful results can be reached by spraying with the above and clean cultivation.

ABOUT A BUTTERFLY.

Editors Yolo *Mail*: The package with specimens of pupæ received. It is difficult to determine the species to which an insect belongs by examining the pupa or chrysalis. However, I have no hesitation in stating that these specimens are the pupæ of a species of butterflies belonging to the family *Nymphalidæ* (these butterflies are readily identified by their fore legs being very short and held close to the breast, like a tippet, and are never used in walking) and to the genus *Limenitis*. From the description you give of the caterpillar having a cocoon-like dwelling on the branch, in all probability the species is the *disippus*. The caterpillars of this species feed upon the plum, apple, oak and willow trees, and are very destructive to the foliage on the branches infested. They rarely appear in such numbers as to do serious damage. When first noticed, the pruning off of infested branches is the best remedy. Any pupæ found on the trees should be destroyed.

RED-HUMPED CATERPILLARS.

J. H. Lewis, Sacramento: The specimen of a caterpillar that you have sent me is known as the red-humped caterpillar, and is produced by the moth, *Notodonta concinna*. The caterpillars (Fig. 1) of this species feed in communities on the foliage of the apple, cherry, pear and plum trees.

Fig. 1.

Description: Length, when full grown, about 1¼ inches; color, reddish, and are striped lengthwise with yellow, brown and red lines; on the upper part of the fourth ring or segment is a coral-red hump, on which are four black spines; head, coral red. When full grown they leave the trees and conceal themselves beneath the leaves, etc., and spin themselves a whitish parchment-like cocoon, in which they remain until the following spring before changing to pupa. The moths emerge in March and a second brood in August. These caterpillars are found in several counties of this State at the present time.

### The Revised Bible.

The committees engaged on the Anglo-American revision of the translation of the Old Testament have completed their labors, says *Leslie's Weekly*, and it is expected that the work, which is now in the hands of the printers, will be issued early in the fall. The English and American committees have worked independently of each other, but constant correspondence and interchange of views has been maintained, and no change will be incorporated in the revision which has not met the approval of both committees. It is understood that the changes in the Old Testament text will be less marked than in the revised edition of the New—mainly for the reason that the original text of the former remains substantially the same as that used by King James' translators. With the New Testament the case was different. The purpose of the revisers of the Old Testament has been not so much to ascertain the correct text as to find out the true meaning of the old text, the origin of which is lost in antiquity. "In this work"—we quote the Philadelphia *Record*—"they have been assisted by the great advance made in the knowledge of the Hebrew language since King James' time. In many instances the old translators wholly mistook the meaning of words, and they were ignorant of much of Hebrew grammar that is now the common property of scholars. Thus the children of Israel did not, as stated in Exodus xi., 2, by Divine direction 'borrow' of the Egyptians what they never intended to return, but they 'asked' for and received gifts. In other cases the tenses of verbs are confused and the sequence of thought contained in the text is lost in the translation." Much light has also been shed on the meaning of words by the study of Arabic and other Semitic languages, which, since the excavations at Nineveh, has made great progress. "Some improvements in our translation may be expected also," says President Chase, of Harvard, one of the revisers of the New Testament, "from the greatly increased knowledge in recent times of the ways and customs of Oriental people, and of the geography, flora and fauna of the Bible lands. The mythological satyrs should be veritable goats; and that fabulous beast, the unicorn, should no longer exalt his horn in the Bible, though he may continue to do so on the royal arms of England, but will doubtless give place to the wild ox—the same wild ox, or *urus*, which Cæsar describes in Germany, and which has been preserved with great care even to our time on a nobleman's estate in Great Britain."

### The Latest Arctic Discovery.

Another sheaf of brave lives thrown into the insatiate maw of the polar monster! Another spectacular tragedy enacted before the curious world, in those icy halls of death! Is it not time that the sacrifice and exhibition cease? At least, if Government may not interfere to prevent this form of suicide, is it not time that it ceases to be an aider and abettor? The spot where the brave Captain Hall, in 1871, laid him down and died, is called "Thank God Harbor." Now that a remnant of the Greely expedition is rescued, and the relief party itself is happily safe at home, has not the time come for Arctic exploration itself to find its Thank God Harbor, and be content to rest there henceforth and forever?

The curtain has rolled up once more, and what is our latest Arctic Discovery? A lut twenty-five by seventeen feet, roofed with a whalebout and sails, banked with snow to the eaves, and barely high enough to allow the men to sit up in their sleeping-bags, an icy gale cutting like the very scythe of death about them. At a little distance a wild figure with blackened face, feebly holding a flagstaff for two minutes and then dropping it from weakness, and tottering forward to meet the relief party. Before the door and within the hut, six poor fellows with hollow checks and gleaming eyes and faces black with dirt, in the last gasp of starvation by cold and innutrition, and unable longer even to boil the nauseous stew of sealskin boots and coats on which they have been prolonging the agonies of inanition. On a ridge behind the hut ten slight mounds of gravel, under each of which lies a stark and frozen body. Here seventeen men have spent a long winter of despair, from the first of November, when the daylight departed, till the first of March, when the sun reappeared. But it brought no life and little of hope. One had died of scurvy. On the 4th of April starvation had begun its work of death, and its last victim was gathered on the 19th of June, only three days before the relief came. Forty-eight hours would have left nothing to tell the tale, but the ghastly morgue into which the wretched hut had been transformed.

And these were no "common trash" of humanity. Some of them were men of scientific attainments, of literary and social culture, of true chivalric mold alike in their courage and gentleness. They had beguiled the tedious weeks and months, and had sought to divert each other's minds during that awful winter under the polar night and the shadow of death, by lectures and discussions of historical, scientific, and other literary topics, by story-telling and narratives of personal experience, by celebrations of one another's birthdays, by imagining bills of fare and the possible events of days to come. And "on the seventh day we rested quietly, each one with his own thoughts!"—[N. Zabriskie, D. D., in Christian Intelligencer.

### A Romantic Scene.

One of the most starling and romantic features of border life occurred recently on the Wild Horse prairie, thirty miles north of Los Angeles, when a band of wild horses, under the lead of a noble sorrel stallion, came galloping over the plain to reconnoiter a company of surveyors engaged in making a survey of the tract. The band dashed toward Captain Keller and his party of surveyors till within about 500 feet, when the leader halted in a grandly proud and defiant manner, with neck curved, nostrils distended, erect, and tail on dress parade, and all the band ranged themselves on each side of him like a squad of cavalry in a battle charge. After surveying the scene for a few moments the leader galloped proudly away, followed by the band in the most graceful and dignified manner. The scene was most romantic, and the picture of the lordly leader, with his most obedient subjects in their fleet and graceful motions, was worthy of an artist's pencil. There was another band of the wild horses on the same prairie, under the leadership of a dark mahogany bay stallion, with black mane, tail and knees. In this band there are two white horses, while the rest are bay and sorrel mainly. Few people are aware that at the northern base of Sierra Madre, only thirty miles from this city, wild horses roam in their native beauty and crop the rich grasses that grow on Wild Horse prairie, between Rock creek and the Southern Pacific Railroad at Alpine station. Yet such is the fact, and their slick appearance and graceful motions are the admiration of all beholders.—[Los Angeles Express.

### Paying an Old Debt.

An aged couple walked into a prominent dry goods store in Syracuse recently, and asked to look at some carpets. While the clerk was showing them some patterns of ingrains the proprietor of the store noticed the old people, and approaching the clerk, told him to show them some of their best body brussels. As he rolled out several pieces of the rich carpets, the old lady held up her hands and exclaimed, "Oh, we can't afford that!" The merchant asked her which pattern she liked the best, and as she said, pointing to one roll, "That is just lovely;" the merchant asked her the size of the room and told the clerk to cut and match the carpet, and have it made up in time for the train in which the old people were to return. Seeing the blank look of astonishment that overspread their faces, the merchant asked: "Ain't your names so and so?" "Yes," they replied. "Didn't you keep a tavern at such a time and at such a place?" They replied in the affirmative. "And didn't you have a boy, at one time, who tended bar for you, named ——?" "Yes, yes; and we have often wondered whatever became of the little cuss." "Well," said the merchant, "I am the boy, and when I tended bar for you I stole money enough from you to carpet your whole house. Take the carpet and say nothing more about it." It is needless to add that they took it.

### Sayings of Great Men.

Grover Cleveland—"Put yourself in my place."

Henry Ward Beecher—"I'm with you, Cleve, for I've been there."

Thomas A. Hendricks—"The Democratic ticket this time is a case of the tail wagging the dog."

General W. S. Rosecrans—"I flatter myself that I am still an available candidate for almost anything."

Samuel J. Tilden—"What a d—d fool I was to let the Democratic Convention take me at my word."

John Kelly—"Heap big Injun, me! Me cut 'em off Cleveland short. Ugh!"

Charles A. Dana—"Will the Democratic party allow me to have a piece of the pie?"

Benj. F. Butler—"I'm having a h—l of a good time."

Geo. W. Curtis—"Give me more of the blankets, Schurz. It's terribly cold in this Independent camp."—[Not identified.

Generald Butler made a visit to the White House the other day. He is very much exercised to know where he will put that new bath-tub which a Connecticut editor has promised to loan him during the Presidential term.—[Burlington Free Press.

# MUSIC AND ART.

## INTERESTING DISCOVERY IN ART MARBLE WORK.

### Another "Craze" Called Metallization of Plants—The Musico-Electograph.

#### Schubert's Symphony in B Minor.

I shudder at the awful airs that flow
Across my soul; I hear crushed hopes that wail
And flutter their brief wings, and sudden fail—
Wild, tender cries that sing and dance and go
In wonderful sweet troops. I cannot know
What rends within my soul what unseen veil,
And tells anew that strangely well-known tale
Of infinite gladness and of infinite woe.

Was I long since thrust forth from Heaven's door,
Where in that music I had borne my part?
Or had this symphony its birth before
The pulse of nature turned to laws of art?
Oh, what familiar voice, from what far shore,
Calls to a voice that answers in my heart!

—[H. H. Ellis, in Academy.

#### A Musico-Electograph.

It is not generally known that a machine was invented some two years since by means of which a musical improvisitor is enabled to record his thoughts as he gives them utterance through the medium of the piano-forte. The invention is due to Herr J. Fohr, Secretary of the Telegraphic Administration at Stuttgart. The mechanism of the *Electro-chemischer Notenschreib-apparat*, as he terms it, is so simple that but a few words are necessary to describe it. The *Keynote* describes it thus: There are a series of contact buttons running through a long rail or register placed over the back part of the piano-forte keys; these buttons, by means of insulated wires, are in connection with platinum styles or points which press on a band of paper, stored on a drum from which it is unwound by means of clock-work. The paper, as it passes through the machine, is saturated with a chemical solution of ferrocyanide of potassium, ammonia, sulphuric acid and water; it is afterwards ruled by means of an inking roller with the usual lines of the staves, and some dotted ledger lines above and below. On a piano-forte key or keys being depressed, what electricians term a circuit is completed, and the current runs from a Leclanche battery, passing through the saturated paper by the particular style or styles in connection with the keys struck, and staining it a bluish color, This is owing to the electric current decomposing the salt with which the paper is charged. The length of the stain depends on the precise time that the piano-forte key is held down, a semibreve, for instance, appearing as a long streak, while a quaver would be but a dash, and a demisemiquaver a mere dot. The blank spaces on the paper represent the periods of silence, viz., the rests; thus, marks are formed by the current, and rests are indicated by its absence. In the first apparatus, Herr Fohr distinguished the sharps and flats—or, to be more correct, the black keys of the pianoforte—by red stains, the white keys appearing with blue stains. He obtained this result by using styles of different metals; but, though the plan certainly possessed a pictorial advantage, it presented certain disadvantages which induced him to prefer the employment of one color only, distinguishing the stains representing the white notes by making them twice as broad as those standing for the black notes. Thus, ▬ indicates a white keynote, and ▬ a black one. There is no great difficulty in translating this species of musical shorthand; with a little patience and intelligence it can readily be done, either by the composer or his amanuensis. A method of marking the bar-lines has been adopted in the instrument. It consists of a pedal in electric connection with two platinum studs placed at the extreme top and bottom of the stave. On depressing this with the foot, as in the ordinary mode of beating time, the place of the first (or indeed any) beat of the bar is indicated by double lines stained at the moment of depression on both sides of the stave. The rate of motion the paper is required to pass at is governed by a sliding lever, which also starts and stops the clock-work arrangement.

### New Art Work in Marble.

"Endolith" is a new term in art phraseology, and is calculated to puzzle the intelligent reader whose smattering of Greek enables him only to derive the term from Greek words signifying in, or under, stone. Such is really the nature of this new process, which is nothing more nor less than the production of colored designs beneath the surface of marble. A London correspondent of the Boston *Transcript* gives the following account of an exhibition of "endoliths" recently given in London by Dr. Hand-Smith, the discoverer of the process: "Thanks to our Consul, Mr. Moffatt, I made the acquaintance of Dr. Hand-Smith's 'endoliths,' a couple of days ago. His exhibition is the first of its kind ever seen in London. His endoliths are the development within the substance and below the surface of marble, of paintings and designs in monochrome or color, whereby the art of painting is combined with the durability of sculpture, a result never before attained in ancient or modern art. Do not imagine that the marbles on which he works are painted or designed on their surface; neither brush nor pencil ever touches them. They are made to reproduce drawings and paintings by a process discovered by Dr. Hand-Smith, by which he moves and controls the molecules or atoms of color within marble, ivory, and other dense substances, whereby designs of color in every variety and power are induced to penetrate, unchanged, to the depth desired, until they become imperishably combined with the stone itself, and form real endoliths or pictures in stone. They may also be developed in the rough marble, and be afterward ground down and polished, or left with a dead surface, if preferred. A cross section may also be cut off, if desired, making one or more duplicates. Quite plain marble also by this process is converted into malachite, and every other precious marble known in modern or ancient times."

### Metallization of Plants.

The same writer tells of still another new "craze" which has come recently into vogue in London, and which appears to be, from the description, of a sort not so worthy serious development and attention as the one just described. It seems naturally to fall under the head of such ephemeral art products as spatter-work and leather flowers. He says: "Curiously enough, whilst writing of Dr. Hand-Smith's art work, I have heard of another. This is a new kind of *repoussé* work, called at present the metallization of plants. The inventor is Italian. I suppose that he could not find a scope for his talent in Italy, and so he came here to utilize it. Here the art consists in the arrangement of boughs and trees, with leaves and berries, or of reeds and grasses, and then to coat them over with a composition which makes them look as if made of metal. This work will be beautiful for house decoration, for door panels, picture frames, furniture, etc. Ladies will here find a new art work to employ their leisure hours. But they must wear gloves, as the chemicals which have to be used soil the hands and stain the skin."

### The One-armed Pianist.

Count Geza Zichy, the one-armed Hungarian piano-player and composer, has just completed one of his extensive concert tours, the proceeds of which he invariably devotes to charitable purposes. Count Zichy lost his right arm at the age of 15 by the discharge of his gun while hunting. He has trained his left so marvelously as to deceive by his play the ear of the listener, who can scarcely be persuaded that such brilliant effects may be produced with one hand only. His compositions have met with equal favor. They are all intended for the left hand, and Liszt has declared that they are better in style, more delicate in taste and stronger in effect than many compositions for two and four hands. He finds them, however, exceedingly difficult, and only adapted to players of the author's skill and training. Count Zichy is also a writer of great ability. A collection of his poems and tales, in his native Hungarian, was published last year and well deserves translation into other languages. In a humorous poem entitled "The Twenty-fourth of September" the Count says that on the anniversary of the accident which deprived him of his arm he invariably goes hunting, and, nothing daunted, sounds the horn in honor of St. Hubertus. If on that day his right arm should suddenly grow again, he would seize it with his left and put it in his pocket; but first, he adds, in a different vein, he would lift up both his hands in prayer for his country. He only regrets the loss of his right arm from patriotic motives.—[New York Post.

### Some Interesting Instruments.

Visitors to the Hohenzollern Museum at Berlin will find the four flutes formerly possessed by Frederick the Great, and from which may be noted the improvements made in that instrument during the lifetime of the music-loving monarch. The oldest of these flutes is made of ebony, and is fitted with ivory. It had six holes, but only one key, the so-called D sharp key. The next in age has two D sharp keys, and is provided with a screw-head, by means of which it could be tuned. The third has seven holes, of which four are in the upper middle joint, the fourth hole being intended to be manipulated by the thumb of the left hand. The fourth instrument is the State flute of his majesty, and is made of amber with gold fittings; this has a larger bore and is fitted with two keys. In the same museum is also preserved the concert grand piano of Frederick the Great; it has two key boards of five and a half octaves each, and a so-called tangential action. It was built in 1766 by Bukart Tschudi, of London. As far as external decoration is concerned it is of very modest appearance, being constructed of veneered mahogany, with a small amount of gold inlaid work, and gilt corners and fittings.—[Key Note.

COULD NOT PLAY IT ON ELKINS.—"Yes, sir, I was up to the Chicago Convention," replied one drummer in response to the inquiry of another, as they both looked around in vain to see if there were any pretty girls on the cars; "had a royal time, too. Walked about the hotels and made people think I was a big politician. Tried to make Steve Elkins believe I was a delegate from the South, and hard up for stuff to pay my hotel bill with. But he was too flip for me—couldn't work him." "How did he catch onto you?" "Well, I'll tell you. He took me into room 46, Grand Pacific—clear into the little back bedroom. 'Now,' says he, 'we want all the friends we can get in the South. We're going to have a glorious foreign policy, and—but let's take a drink first,' says he. 'Certainly,' says I. 'Whitelaw,' says Steve, 'pass the bottle.' They gave me the bottle, but I hesitated. 'What now?' says Elkins. 'A glass, if you please,' says I. 'Young man,' says Steve, as he took me by the collar, 'your name may be Brown, and you may be a delegate from Georgia, but I believe you are an infernal liar. You're the first man from the South I've seen—and I've seen about all of 'em—that asked for a glass to drink whisky out of. Now you get out of here.'"


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